

NEWS BREAK

Volume 22, Number 5

June 2007

JUNE 6, 2007 MEETING

ART EXPLOSION, BERLITZ FRENCH AND THE OPTION KEY – Brian Foley and John Maas

Join us on **Wednesday, June 6, 2007** at 7:30 p.m. in Hogdon IRC Lecture Hall #4 on the SUNY Oneonta campus for our last MUG ONE meeting before summer break.

Nova Software's Art Explosion 750,00 software will be demonstrated by our very own magician and Program Co-Chair Brian Foley. Then, Nova's Berlitz French software will be shown by our soon-to-be-ex Program Co-Chair John Maas, followed by a personal tour of the option key. We're gong to miss you, John. Best wishes on your move to Massachusetts!

As always, the meeting will include a question and answer session, door prizes (members only) and delicious refreshments courtesy of the baking wizardry of Terry Helser.

MUG ONE library materials will be available for circulation to members at the meeting.

For directions to our meeting building and room, and for parking information, see <http://mugone.com/pages/map2007.html>

MUG ONE TAKES A SUMMER BREAK

MUG ONE does not meet during the months of July and August. Join us in the first week of September for our next MUG ONE meeting.

We'll announce the date and location as soon as SUNY Oneonta's fall classroom schedule has been finalized. Check the MUG ONE website for details.

Have a great summer, and see you in September!

GEORGE SCHWINN

It is with sadness that we report the death of MUG ONE member George Schwinn on May 25. George was an enthusiastic MUG ONE member who will be remembered for his thoughtful, knowledgeable contributions to our monthly question and answer sessions.

A memorial Mass will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, June 30, at St. Peter's Church, Delhi. Expressions of sympathy can be sent to 4754 County Hwy 14, Treadwell NY 13846.

Visit MUG ONE's web site at <http://www.mugone.com>



The Apple iPhone is scheduled to arrive on June 29

MACBOOK, MACBOOK PRO UPDATED

Faster processors, larger hard drives and more memory are among the enhancements bestowed on Apple's Macbook and Macbook Pro laptops in recent weeks.

Apple's consumer portable, the Macbook, now features 2 and 2.16 GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processors, 1GB of RAM and 80 to 160GB hard drives, for \$1099 to \$1499.

The aluminum-cased Macbook Pro, which comes in 15" and 17" models, offers 2.2 and 1.4 GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processors, 2 GB of RAM and 120 to 180GB hard drives, with an optional high resolution display available for the 17" model. Prices range from \$1999 to \$2799.

The new Macbook and Macbook Pro models include built-in 802.11n wireless networking, which offers up to twice the range and five times the performance of 802.11g.

For more information go to <http://www.apple.com/>

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Special Offers from the Apple User Group Bulletin

These discounts are brought to you by the Apple User Group Advisory Board. You must be a current Apple user group member to qualify for these savings.

iVak 2G nano iPod cases: 20% Off

Vakaadoo is a young company that is having a real impact on the iPod accessories market with its innovative, creative, aesthetically pleasing and accessibly priced iPod cases. Their acclaimed iVak cases are sculptured to fit your iPod, preserving and adding to the original beauty of its own contours.

The New Nano 2G case is offered specifically to user group members for \$19.95, a 20% discount off the normal price of \$24.95.

Coupon code: *****

Order at this user group only page.

<http://www2.vakaadoo.com/nano-2g-softfeel-discount.asp>

This offer is valid through August 31, 2007.

MarinerPak: 27% Off

Replace your copy of Microsoft Office with the award-winning MarinerPak which contains a powerful word processor and spreadsheet for Mac OS X. These streamlined applications offer the features required by most users - features you will use, including the ability to read Word and Excel files.

Regularly \$89.95, user group members can get the boxed edition of MarinerPak for only \$65.66, or the downloaded version for \$58.36, either of which is 27% below retail.

To get this discount, scroll to the bottom of the shopping cart page listed below, enter the promotional code and click Go.

Promotional code: *****

Download a free trial copy.

<http://www.marinersoftware.com/download.php>

Order using this page.

<http://www.marinersoftware.com/shopproduct.php>

This offer is valid through August 31, 2007.

1Passwd: 25% Off Password Manager

1Passwd has browser extensions that automatically save and fill in your passwords and other sensitive information without the need for copy-and-paste. Its ability to fill online forms and provide bulletproof protection from phishing attacks and keylogging attempts makes it the best-selling password manager for Mac. Better yet, 1Passwd provides

all of this with only one password to remember.

Normally \$29.95, user group members can receive a 25%, buying 1Passwd for only \$22.46; additional savings are also available for a Family License and Palm versions.

<http://agilewebsolutions.com/>

This offer is valid through August 31, 2007.

DriveSavers Data Recovery: Limited Time 20% Off and More

DriveSavers, the worldwide leader in data recovery service, has the highest success rate in the industry. The company rescues critical data from all operating systems and all storage devices, including RAID systems, servers, hard drives and digital camera media. Because major drive and media manufacturers authorize and recommend DriveSavers, all data recovery work is guaranteed not to void your original warranty.

DriveSavers is offering user group members an exclusive one-time 20% discount on every successful data recovery. The usual \$200 minimum attempt fee has also been waived; if the data is not recoverable, there is no charge.

Discount Code: *****

Find out how to send in your drive.

(800) 440-1904

Learn more about this amazing service.

<http://www.drivesavers.com>

This offer is valid through August 31, 2007.

The MUG Store: A Resource for Old and New

The MUG Store offers great specials and blowouts your members should scour through every month. It's like an online garage sale on Mac odds and ends with extra special offers and deals!

The MUG Store's consultants are available to talk about the latest and greatest Apple products, including all the great products introduced at the Macworld Expo. Be sure to give the store a try. With one% of member purchases credited to your organization, everyone wins!

Coupon codes – 6/01/07 - 9/31/07

User ID: *****

password: *****

<http://www.applemugstore.com>

This offer is valid through August 31, 2007.

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MAC 911 – HELP DESK

Solutions to your most vexing Mac problems

By Christopher Breen

From VHS to DVD

I have a lot of old home videos I want to transfer to DVD. What software or hardware do I need, and how do I get the process up and running? – *Jerry Nichols*

Usually, the first step in burning your videos to DVD is to transfer them to your Mac. There are a few ways to do that. If you have a MiniDV camcorder, it likely has a pass-through mode, in which the camera will take care of the conversion for you. Plug your VCR's outputs into the camcorder's inputs, string a FireWire cable between the camcorder and your Mac, enable the camera's pass-through mode, and capture your movie in Apple's iMovie. Note that your results may be less than perfect – some cameras perform better than others (and some, I'm told, don't work at all).

Alternatively, you can purchase an analog-to-DV converter box such as Datavideo's \$185 DAC-200 or Canopus's \$229 ADV55 (). Plug the VCR's outputs into the analog input jacks on one of these boxes, string a FireWire cable between it and your Mac, and then capture your video in iMovie.

And if you have a Mac that sup-ports USB 2.0, you can use an EyeTV- compatible video-capture device such as Elgato's \$200 EyeTV 250 (), which has an MPEG-2 hardware encoder. If you need to make only minimal edits – simple cuts to lop out extraneous material, for example – the included EyeTV 2 software will do the job, but it doesn't let you add transitions or effects.

Once you've captured the video (by any of these methods) and opened it in iMovie, you can edit it and then export it to Apple's iDVD to burn it to disc.

If you're simply looking for a way to archive your video on a more durable medium and don't want to bother with all those steps, you can skip your computer altogether. A number of manufacturers, including Panasonic, Toshiba, and Philips, sell VHS-DVD decks for under \$200 – your local electronics store is sure to have at least one of these units on the shelves (Amazon.com is another good source). These decks can dub tapes to writable DVDs (and vice versa) – and as a bonus, they operate like traditional VCRs.

Later, if you decide you want to edit the video you've burned to DVD, you can always extract it from the disc

with a tool such as the free HandBrake. Then pull it into iMovie and edit to your heart's content.

Create the Endless DVD

How can I burn a QuickTime movie in iDVD that loops but doesn't have a menu? – *Jane Williams*

I assume that you need this setup for use in a kiosk. No sweat. Launch iDVD (/Applications) and open a new project (File: New). Click on the DVD Map button (the one just to the right of the Play button at the bottom of the window). At the top of the resulting pane is a box that reads, "Drag content here to automatically play when the disc is inserted." Do as it suggests: drag your QuickTime movie into this box. Then click on the box to select it, and choose Advanced: Loop Movie.

Save your project and burn it. When you shove the disc into your DVD player and press play (or insert the disc into your Mac's media drive, which is configured by default to automatically play DVDs), the movie you dragged into the automatic-play area will play, and play, and play.

Too Much of a Good Thing?

Does having too many applications slow down a Mac? System Profiler lists 375 on my G5 iMac. I could remove tons of them with Austin Sarner's and Brian Ball's AppZapper, but would that speed up my system? – *Stephen Good*

It depends on a few factors: how much hard-drive space those applications consume, the amount of processing power their components use, and the resources your open programs are sucking when they're supposed to be doing nothing.

If your Mac is so crammed with applications (and other kinds of data) that you have very little room left on the hard drive, system performance will suffer. OS X uses free hard-drive space for its virtual memory scheme. At the very least, I try to leave 10 percent of my startup-drive space free so the OS has room for those virtual memory chores (see Reclaim Your Hard Drive).

When an application runs a background job that's placing demands on your Mac's processor, the mere presence of that program could slow down performance. In Activity Monitor (/Applications/Utilities), see which background processes appear at the top of the list when you sort by % CPU. If you can do without any of the top ones, getting rid of those programs may improve performance.

If an application requires a login item – if you have a backup program that requires a scheduling component to monitor your Mac behind the scenes, for example – your Mac may take longer to boot up. Again, getting rid of a program you don't need (and its accompanying login item)

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– *Mac 911, continued from page 3*

may bring you to the desktop a little bit faster when you first start up your Mac.

And don't forget that open applications can suck on the CPU as well. For instance, I often have Microsoft Word open while I'm working with another application. Word's doing absolutely nothing, as far as I can tell, yet Activity Monitor tells me that it's using between 3 and 4 percent of the CPU (see "Stop Processor Hogs"). I've found that if I leave a browser open for days on end, this has an impact on performance as well.

So try quitting applications when you're really and truly done with them. If you find that one of your programs is sucking more of your computer's oomph than you care for, look for a less processor-hungry alternative.

Finally, have you looked at your Dashboard widgets lately? Third-party widgets can distract your processor, too. See what they're doing in Activity Monitor. Clear out any processor hogs that you installed out of curiosity but never use.

Shift Audio Pitch and Speed

I am a dance teacher and need some recommendations for Mac-compatible music-editing programs. The software must be extremely user-friendly (I'm a non-geek) and allow me to slow down the tempo of a track without changing its pitch. I also need to edit a track's length and insert vocal narration between tracks. Any suggestions would be welcome – the simpler, the better! – *Lorelei Coutts Luxton*

If you want the best sound quality in an easy-to-use package, I suggest Roni Music's Amazing Slow Downer (\$45). This Universal app's name nicely describes what it does. Feed the program an audio CD or an audio file, and then adjust the pitch or speed (see "Change Tempo, Not Pitch").

When you adjust only the Speed slider, the track's tempo changes without the pitch changing. Likewise, you can adjust only the Pitch slider to change the pitch without changing the tempo. You can also adjust both, set the start and stop points of your track, and even loop your track.

Once you've modified the music to your liking, save the track and export it as an AIFF, MP3, QuickTime, or AAC file. You can import tracks into Apple's GarageBand (which you likely have in your Applications folder); there, you can array them in a sequence and record narration between them.

You might also try HairerSoft's \$40 Amadeus Pro. This is a full-featured audio-editing application that includes a Change Pitch And Speed command in its Effects menu. This command's results aren't as polished as those of Amazing Slow Downer – audio artifacts are far more apparent. But you can do everything you want to within Amadeus Pro

without changing over to GarageBand. The application can change the pitch and speed of your tracks, as well as sequence them and add narration between them.

Toss Out Unnecessary Languages

I understand that I can recover hard-disk space by removing foreign languages from OS X. The problem is that I need foreign-language support in some applications but not others. Is there a way to selectively remove language support from applications? – *Lane Weiss*

There is, but if you have a lot of applications, you'll find the process tedious. Select an application and press **⌘-I** to bring up the Info window. Click on the triangle next to the Languages entry to reveal a list of languages that the application supports (some applications support only one). Hold down the **⌘** key and select the languages you don't want. Then click on the Remove button. You'll be warned that the program may not function properly if you proceed – so it's a good idea to have a backup, just in case something goes awry.

When you click on OK in the warning dialog box to proceed, the associated .lproj language folders will be moved to the Trash. To permanently slim your application, empty the Trash.

TiVo Transfers

I adore the miraculous digital video recorder TiVo, but I've also been frustrated by the difficulty of moving programs from my Series 2 TiVo boxes to my Mac and iPod. Thankfully, the following tools have made the process a lot easier. (Regrettably, none of them works with Series 1 or Series 3 TiVos.)

Toast 8 Titanium TiVo's long-promised Mac version of the TiVo2Go application is available only as a part of Roxio's \$100 Toast 8 Titanium and has been renamed TiVo Transfer. It works as advertised, easily finding your Series 2 TiVo recordings via Bonjour networking and downloading them to your Mac.

There, you can view them with Roxio's Video Player. You can also bring these recordings into Toast to burn them to disc or export them to your iPod. The only hitch is that you can't edit these protected videos to cut out commercials or any extra material at a program's beginning or end. To do that, you need an additional tool.

TiVo Decoder Nik Friedman TeBockhorst's free TiVo Decoder strips out the protection imposed by TiVo Transfer. Drag a program onto the TiVo Decoder AppleScript icon, and it's converted into an MPEG-2 file. In my experience, these files won't play or export properly with QuickTime Player. But they will play perfectly with VideoLAN's free VLC Media Player.

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Newsbreak is the monthly newsletter of MUG ONE
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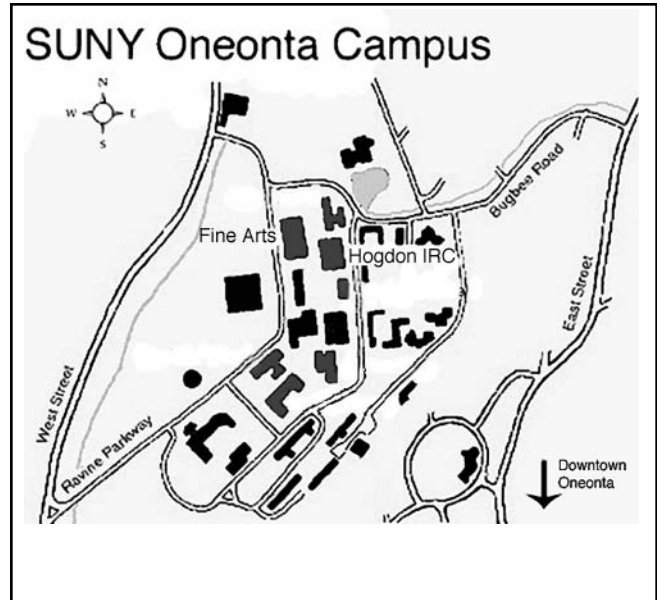
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Once you've used TiVo Decoder, bring the converted files back into TiVo Transfer by moving them to the TiVo Recordings folder in your user folder/Documents. Select one of these files within the TiVo Recordings area of the TiVo Transfer window, and click on the Toast It button. The TV program will appear in the DVD-Video area of Toast Titanium 8.

In Toast, select it and click on Export. You can now export the recording in a format compatible with the iPod, as well as in a variety of other video formats. Then you can edit out the ads in QuickTime Pro Player or iMovie.

TiVoDecode Manager If that sounds like too much trouble, try David Benesch's free TiVoDecode Manager. It can display and transfer recordings from networked Series 2 TiVos via Bonjour, and convert those recordings into MPEG-2 or MPEG-4 video files. You can edit that format in QuickTime Player Pro or iMovie.

Macworld Magazine Senior Editor Christopher Breen is the author of Secrets of the iPod and iTunes, fifth edition, and The iPod and iTunes Pocket Guide (both Peachpit Press, 2005).

Find Chris' books at www.amazon.com and www.peachpit.com.

Get special user group pricing on Macworld Magazine! Subscribe today at <http://www.macworld.com/useroffer>.



– *Offers, continued from page 2*

Apple User Group Market & Apple User Group Offers

Looking for information on a past offer? The Apple User Group Advisory Board also offers a colorful web page with all current offers (some of which have been updated), expiration dates and codes.

Continuing offers on publications include:

- Mac|Life magazine charter subscription
- Macworld Magazine special subscription offer
- Take Control ebooks
- Peachpit book club
- O'Reilly Publishing discount offers

Also, be sure to subscribe to the Apple User Group Market Report podcast, which this month features Rex Covington, the newest member of the User Group Advisory Board, and John Christopher, senior data recovery engineer at DriveSavers. . The AUG Market Report is a great source for information about Apple user groups, vendor discounts, special events and more:

Current Offers

<http://homepage.mac.com/ugab/offers/vendorcodes.htm>
Password - *****

Apple User Group Market Report podcast

<http://homepage.mac.com/ugab/resources.html>

For public information about vendor offers and more visit <http://homepage.mac.com/ugab/offers.html>