

NEWS BREAK

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March 2006



MARCH 8, 2006 MEETING

By Special Request - Tips, Tricks and Cool Product Demos

Join us on Wednesday, **March 8**, at 7:30 pm in Hodgdon IRC, lecture hall 4 on the SUNY Oneonta campus for our March MUG ONE meeting.

Program co-chairs John Maas, Brian Foley and Jesse Hogue and President Elsa Travisano will share some favorite applications, gadgets and tips, and cover topics requested by members. The evening's presentations will include:

Jesse Hogue - Introduction to Automator

John Maas - How to print a document in black and white, Websites 101 (what's behind the stuff we see in a browser window)

Elsa Travisano - Delicious Library and Flic Bluetooth barcode scanner, Intego WiFi Locator

Brian Foley - introduction to StickyBrain, the first in a series of presentations on "Getting Control"; software that helps you get things done, schedule, and avoid procrastination.

For "dessert" we'll be viewing more Photoshop training sessions from Photoshop World Boston 2005, courtesy of Peachpit Press.

As always, questions and answers, doorprizes and refreshments will round out the evening.

Everyone is welcome.

For directions, see SUNY Oneonta's detailed campus maps:

<http://www.oneonta.edu/navigation/directions.asp>

or download John Maas's annotated Oneonta map:

<http://www.mugone.com/images/OneontaStreetMap.pdf>

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



INTEL MAC MINIS, IPOD HI-FI INTRODUCED

The Mac mini has joined the growing ranks of Intel chip-equipped Macs. On February 28 Steve Jobs introduced the Mac mini Core Solo 1.5 GHz (\$599) and the Core Duo 1.66 GHz (\$799), which claims speeds up to four times faster than the 1.42 GHz G4 model. The new minis come with iLife '06 and Front Row software and an Apple Remote.

Also new is the iPod Hi-Fi, ready to replace your sound system and compatible with all iPods with dock connectors, for \$349. www.apple.com

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FEBRUARY 1, 2005 MEETING

Macworld Expo Report and Peachpit's Photoshop World Program-in-a-Box

7:30 pm, Hodgdon IRC, Lecture Hall 4, SUNY Oneonta

President Elsa Travisano started the meeting in our new meeting hall and new day of the week by welcoming over forty of us to the first meeting of 2006. Our numbers included two new and two renewing members, many members who apparently were able to attend due to the new meeting night (Wednesday rather than Tuesday), several guests and the stalwarts. Welcome, all! Members received Peachpit offers and a \$50 coupon for the Photoshop conference in Miami in March.

Announcements and Q & A

Elsa asked for officer announcements. Brian Foley asked that anyone who has an interest in e-commerce to contact him (foleymb@dmcom.net 607/988-7031) about setting up a SIG (special interest group). John and Elsa reminded everyone to check our MUG ONE website www.mugone.com to get Newsbreak issues (minus the member-only discount codes), Tiger security and maintenance tips from Jesse Hogue and much more. Elsa is loaning the Total Training CD set on Photoshop for a month at a time to MUG ONE members, so see her to sign it out. If you want (need?) a G5 Tower (\$900) with 17" monitor (\$1075), call Gerry Raymonda (607/433-0690 raymondaphoto@stny.rr.com).

Program Co-Chair John Maas then asked for suggestions for future programs. There was interest in comparing browsers, building Web pages, doing genealogy with Reunion (when Jo Koenig returns in April), using Automator, .Mac and iLife '06 and iChat video. Elsa also reminded us that May is Dave Marra month. Send your program ideas to Elsa at mugone@mac.com. Discussion of educator's discounts for iLife '06, etc. being offered online only (not in stores) morphed into an explanation of why one should keep more than one web browser on hand (for viewing the occasional recalcitrant site) and from there into an impassioned testimonial for WildBlue satellite service. Ask Gerry Stoner (607/652-2665) for details on his WildBlue experience.

Program

Elsa then presented her slide show of the latest and greatest from MacWorld Expo San Francisco 2006, starting with some quick tips for putting together a slide show in iPhoto. She gave a quick demo of how to right click or control-click on a photo from a web page in Safari to add it to your iPhoto library. Next, she suggested turning off the default Ken Burns effect in iPhoto's slide show settings so that images don't pan and zoom. She then stepped through the program, beginning by introducing

us to the presenters for User Group University 2006, the Apple User Group Advisory Board's January 8th seminar for worldwide user group leaders. We saw to David Pogue, New York Times columnist, best selling computer author in the world and gifted pianist; Terry White, North American Product Manager for Adobe and Web site critic; original Apple evangelist Guy Kawasaki, presenting his FilmLoop application, and the answer team of Adam Engst, Bob LeVitus and Christopher Breen, as well as the User Group Regional Liaisons for Japan and China, Chise Mishima and David (Yan) Feng. In the hardware realm, the iMac and MacBook Pro running on the Intel chips were the big news. The power cord connector on the MacBook Pro is now a magnetic, breakaway connector, which will save many repair headaches for laptop owners. She finished with photos from the User Group Advisory Board and User Group Regional Liaisons dinner in the Pope room at Buca di Beppo restaurant and photos from Cupertino with before and after shots of sunglasses added to the group photo with Photoshop. Nice job, Elsa.

A question about the Intel Macs elicited the information that they ship with OS 10.4.5, and that they do not support the OS 9 Classic environment, or Virtual PC. The shift to Intel-based Macs portends a steady stream of product announcements this year, according to Steve Jobs. Microsoft announced at the Keynote speech that they will support Macs with Microsoft Office and other products for at least the next five more years. Watch the Steve Jobs Keynote speech on the Apple website for the details on the transition <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/qtv/mwsf06/>.

Jesse said he was almost positive the kernel for Intel chips is Unix. When an Apple spreadsheet application will appear is anyone's guess (iWork '06 still lacks a spreadsheet and database). It looks like Excel for now.

As Elsa shifted gears and Jesse went to pop the corn for the Photoshop DVD show, we raffled off books and T-shirts, software, CD cases and more, with several special items from Peachpit Press. When the popped corn arrived, Elsa treated us to Photoshop World videos courtesy of Peachpit Press. We watched a demonstration of using "curves" to adjust the light and dark in a photo. The presenter command + clicked a spot on the curve corresponding to a washed out or dark area of the photo with no definition. This put a spot or handle on the line that you could move around to darken or lighten these areas. The take home lesson was to avoid flat spots or downhill jumps in the curve. Thanks, Elsa, for a very entertaining evening.

Join us again for MUG ONE's March 8 meeting in our new home, IRC-4 at 7:30 PM. Note that the first Wednesday in March is a break at SUCO, so we don't meet. What better way to spend a Wednesday evening than joining in the comradeship of MUG ONE?

– TERRY L. HELSER, SECRETARY



Review: Adobe Photoshop CS2

Adobe Systems <http://www.adobe.com>
\$599; Educational price \$299.

Licensed users of any previous version of Photoshop can upgrade for \$149. Adobe Photoshop CS2 is also available as part of Adobe Creative Suite 2.

Adobe Photoshop continues to reign supreme as the image editor of choice for professionals and serious amateurs. **Photoshop CS 2** gains several new image editing features and adds a version of Adobe Bridge, CS2's new file browser and management system. It's a robust upgrade and a worthy purchase for users whose needs go beyond what Photoshop Elements can supply.

The most impressive new feature of Photoshop CS2 is Vanishing Point. Found under the Filters menu, Vanishing Point lets you paint, clone or paste image elements that automatically match the perspective of the surrounding area. By mapping a grid on the perspective you want to match, then drawing or editing on that grid, you can make a building taller, extend the line of a wall or use the Clone tool to remove distracting elements, all while maintaining perfect perspective. It takes a little practice to get the hang of it, but the results are amazing.

Tip: For a quick orientation to this and other new features,

take a look at Adobe's web-based QuickTime videos – they're accessible through Photoshop's Welcome Screen (What's New In Photoshop > See it in Action (video clips) or at <http://www.adobe.com/products/photoshop/new-features.html>

Other new features in Photoshop CS2 include Image Warp, which lets you wrap an image around a shape, one click Red Eye correction and a Spot Healing brush. The new Smart Objects command (chosen in the Paste dialog box) lets you resize, rotate and warp raster and vector graphics without losing detail or introducing "jaggies." For photographers working in Camera Raw format, CS2 speeds image processing by allowing you to batch process multiple Camera Raw images in Adobe Bridge. CS2 also features advanced noise correction, to reduce JPEG artifacts.

Like all of the components of the CS 2 suite (Photoshop CS2, Illustrator CS2, GoLive CS2, InDesign CS2, Acrobat 7 and Bridge) Photoshop CS 2 runs natively on PowerPC processors and uses Apple's built-in Rosetta emulation system on the new Intel-powered Macs. Adobe has stated that they are moving Macintosh software development to Apple's XCode, which will enable them to create Universal versions (compatible with both PowerPCs and Intel Macs) of upcoming versions of their applications. Currently shipping applications will not be rewritten as Universal versions. Learn more about Adobe support for Intel Macs at <http://www.adobe.com/products/photoshop/newfeatures.html>

– ELSA TRAVISANO

Adobe Photoshop CS2 includes Adobe Photoshop CS2 software, Adobe ImageReady software, Adobe Reader software, Adobe Bridge software, royalty-free stock photographs, sample Actions, sample art files and printed user guide.

Requires PowerPC G3, G4 or G5 processor, OS X 10.2.8 through 10.4 (10.3.4 through 10.4 recommended), 320MB of RAM (384MB recommended), 750MB of available hard-disk space, 1,024x768 monitor resolution with 16-bit video card, CD-ROM drive. Internet or phone connection required for product activation.



Photoshop CS 2's Vanishing Point feature lets you add and adjust elements like the windows on the buildings above to match the perspective of surrounding elements.

REVIEW: DELICIOUS LIBRARY AND BLUETOOTH BARCODE LASER SCANNER

Scan, catalog and loan your books, music, movies and games



Delicious Library software \$39.95

Flic® Wireless Laser Barcode Scanner \$174.95 (available when purchasing Delicious Library software)

Delicious Monster <http://www.delicious-monster.com>

You don't need to have been a librarian in a former life to get a positive thrill from cataloging and managing your stuff with **Delicious Library**. The cleverly designed software from Delicious Monster lets you catalog your books, CDs, DVDs and video games with ease, track who has borrowed them when you loan them out, and get purchase suggestions from Amazon.com based on your preferences. You can even sync your library with your iPod so you'll know what you've already got when you go to the store. If you have Mac OS 10.3 or 10.4 and an internet connection, you're good to go.

How does Delicious Library catalog your library? It's all in the barcode. On books that barcode is the ISBN number, and on DVDs, CDs and video games it's the ASIN number. (Aren't you glad to add those tidbits to your fund of knowledge?) Delicious Library checks an item's barcode number against Amazon.com's massive online database and retrieves the item's publication information, cover art and product description. The software figures out whether the item is a book, DVD, CD or video game, and adds it to the appropriate collection of your library.

But what if an item doesn't have a barcode, for example, books printed before barcodes came into wide use in the early 1980s? Try searching the book by name on Amazon's website. If you find it there, simply drag the URL for the page from your browser's address bar into the Delicious Library window and it will be added automatically. If you don't find the item at Amazon or if you want to enter a custom item, you can enter the details by hand.

Delicious Library's main window consists of four panes. On the left in the Collections pane are media icons for your book, CD, DVD and games collections; scanned

items are entered automatically into the correct category. Clicking each icon displays the contents of that collection in the central pane. If you want to further organize your collections (by location or subject matter, for example), you can create custom shelves, which appear below the media icons. A Recent Imports icon tracks all imports by date. If you've chosen to sync to your iPod, an iPod icon will appear when it's connected.

Below Collections is a pane for Borrowers. To get you started, Delicious Library finds the My Card entry in Address Book and places a Borrowers icon for each Address Book entry who shares the same surname. With a few clicks you can delete cousin Seth in Orlando, add new Borrowers from your Address Book, or create new Borrowers by first and last name and email address. For each borrower you can track items borrowed and assign and track due dates in the Checkout Card window. A click takes you to the borrower's Address Book entry for handy access to phone numbers and email addresses. After all, it's generous to loan your stuff but you eventually want to get it back.

The central pane displays the holdings for the collection or borrower you've selected from the left-hand pane, viewable by List or Covers. The iTunes-like List view puts more items on the screen but I prefer the wooden bookshelf look of the Covers view, which can be resized dynamically with a iPhoto-like slider bar.

The right hand pane shows the details about an item, including Amazon-filled fields for publisher, release date, format and genres, plus category-specific data such as illustrator (books), director, stars, rating, features and running time (DVDs) and artists, tracks and conductor (CDs). Fields are editable and Spotlight searchable. Tabs at the bottom switch from the Details screen to My Info and Similar screens. The My Info screen lets you add star ratings and notes and specify the item's location in your building, and gives

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– *Delicious Library, continued from page 4*

check boxes for played/read, used or signed items and a field for condition – very useful for collectors. A click on the Similar tab gives you recommendations selected from Amazon’s prodigious coffers. A built-in shopping cart makes it easy – much too easy – to buy related items that catch your fancy. (Amazon has to be the world champion of co-marketing, and this iteration is a beauty.) Delicious Monster donates 100% of its Amazon.com commissions to charities around the world, so this is one click-through you can feel good about.

To start cataloging your stuff, all you need is the Delicious Library software and an internet connection. However, a barcode scanner (an iSight or DV camera or a handheld barcode scanner) makes the job much quicker – and a lot more fun. Delicious Library is designed to work with an iSight or DV camera, including the built-in iSights in the latest iMacs and MacBook Pros, and with wired USB and wireless Bluetooth handheld barcode scanners.

If you’re willing to splash out, nothing beats a handheld Bluetooth laser barcode scanner. A Bluetooth-ready Mac is required; if your Mac is Bluetooth-capable but the option isn’t installed, a Bluetooth USB adapter like the D-Link DBT-120 can be had for around \$30. The big advantage of a Bluetooth barcode scanner? It’s not tethered to a computer, so you can take the scanner to your stuff rather than bring your stuff to the scanner.

Delicious Monster offers the **Flic® Wireless Laser Barcode Scanner**, a state-of-the-art Bluetooth scanner, for \$174.95 with the purchase of Delicious Library software. If you have a lot of scanning to do, are looking for maximum scanning convenience, or just want the latest in totally cool tech gadgets, go for the Flic. You won’t regret it. The Flic is powered by three triple-A batteries and is smaller and lighter than a TV remote control. It can store up to 500 barcodes, which means you can walk around your house or business scanning books, DVDs, CDs and games to your heart’s content (each scan only takes a second or two). When you bring the scanner in range of your Mac, the magic of Bluetooth loads the barcodes into Delicious Library. You may be surprised by the Flic’s range, as I was. I had Delicious Library set to speak item names as they were added to the library, and was amazed to hear my Powerbook chirpily talking away in my upstairs office as I scanned DVDs in the living room.

Delicious Library leverages the bells and whistles of OS 10.4 Tiger with flair. The software includes a Dashboard widget and is Spotlight searchable on more than 30 custom search attributes. It interacts with iCal and Address Book, syncs your collection information (but not cover art) with your iPod, and supports voice search.

Delicious Library is by far the best personal library program

I’ve seen. It’s robust, fully featured, visually appealing, and most of all it’s just plain fun. Most highly recommended.

– ELSA TRAVISANO

(Elsa Travisano is currently a Macintosh computer consultant and reviewer. She worked as a university library cataloger in a previous life.)

Delicious Library requires Mac OS X 10.3 or higher. It fully supports Mac OS X 10.4 “Tiger” and includes Spotlight support as well as a Dashboard widget that lets you quickly find items in your library.



BOOK REVIEW: FILEMAKER PRO 8 MISSING MANUAL

FileMaker Pro 8, the Missing Manual, by Geoff Coffey and Susan Prosser. 736 pp. Pogue Press/O’Reilly, 2005. \$34.95. ISBN 0-596-00579-2

After bobbing along for years in the stream of incremental updates to FileMaker Pro, I suddenly found myself washed into the rapids by the sweeping changes introduced with FileMaker 7 and 8. Time for this old dog to learn some new tricks. Thank goodness Pogue Press/O’Reilly has come to the rescue with their first book on FileMaker, *Filemaker Pro 8, the Missing Manual*.

The book’s chapters take you from creating your first database to database design, creating basic and advanced layouts and reports, working with multiple tables and relationships, working with calculations, scripting, dealing with security, importing and exporting data, files and formats, sharing a database and available developer utilities. Two very useful appendices cover sources for getting help and a list of Filemaker error codes.

Filemaker Pro 8, the Missing Manual removes the “grit your teeth” element of approaching database design by using lively examples and real-world descriptions and situations. The writing style is enjoyable throughout, and illustrations are ample and well chosen. Highly recommended.

– ELSA TRAVISANO



MAC 911 – HELP DESK

Solutions to your most vexing Mac problems

By Christopher Breen

RUNNING RAID

I'd like to improve my Power Mac G5's performance by using a RAID array as my boot volume. What's the best way to do this? I have two Western Digital Raptor hard drives with a RAID 0 (striped) configuration.

– Miguel Uriarte

For people who aren't in the know, a RAID (Redundant Array of Independent Disks) combines multiple volumes in such a way that Mac OS views them as one. A striped RAID is nonredundant, meaning that it spreads the data among the various volumes that make up the RAID. The danger in using such a RAID is that if one of the hard drives bites the dust, all your data is kaput.

To get started, insert your Mac OS X installer disk and double-click on it. (You'll need Panther or later, as only these versions of Mac OS can boot from a striped RAID.) Double-click on Install Mac OS X, and click on Restart to boot from the disc. When the Installer launches, select Utilities: Disk Utility.

First you'll create the RAID array. In Disk Utility, select one of the external drives in the left side of the window and click on the RAID tab. Choose Striped RAID Set from the RAID Type pop-up menu, drag the other volumes that you want to include in the RAID into the RAID pane, and click on Create.

Disk Utility harbors all the tools necessary to create a striped RAID array that you can use as a superfast startup disk.

Quit Disk Utility to return to the OS X installer. Once there, you can pick the RAID as your installation destination. Select it, proceed with the installation, and you're good to go.

Turning point

I have an LCD monitor that can pivot and rotate. The only problem is that the manufacturer doesn't make a Mac driver that supports portrait mode. Is there a third-party program or even a Terminal command that will let me rotate the image when I turn my monitor?

– Fred Fayaz

Your LCD's portrait mode offers a nifty way to work on a big vertical image or a long text document. In Tiger, Mac OS finally has native support for display rotation, provided

that you have the right graphics card.

One way to tell if your graphics card is up to the task is to open the Displays preference pane and look for a Rotate option. Even if that option is missing, you might be able to rotate your display's image, as long as your Mac has some variety of ATI Radeon card, including the Radeon 7000, 8500, 9000, 9200, 9800, and Mac Edition, and built-in and Mobility variations. To find out which card you have (in Tiger), open System Profiler (/Applications/Utilities). Select Graphics/Displays from the Contents list. The window will update, and you'll see your video card's name at the top of the information on the right.

If you have a supported card, you need a piece of software to rotate the image on screen. Download ATI's ATI Display application and launch it. Click on the Advanced button in the resulting window; in the Versavision tab, click on one of the rotation options (180 or 90 degrees clockwise or counterclockwise).

Really old files, new Mac

I just purchased an iMac G5 after using a Performa 6360 for nearly ten years. I created all my records and correspondence files with Microsoft Works 3.0. I've been able to transfer the files to the G5 via a floppy disk, but I can't get the iMac to open them. Is there a way to do this?

– From the Macworld.com forums

You've already overcome one of the most difficult parts of the operation-- moving your files from what's now considered ancient hardware to a new Mac (for more tips, see Working Mac, September 2005).

To complete the process, you could return to the Performa and save the files in a format compatible with today's software. To do this, launch Microsoft Works, open a document you want to save, and explore the program's Save As command for options other than the native Works format-- plain text or Microsoft Word, for example. You can easily open either of these formats on a modern Mac.

However, that could prove awfully tedious. If you're willing to fork over some cash for convenience, you can do the work quickly on your new iMac by purchasing DataViz's MacLinkPlus Deluxe 15 (\$80). This program can convert files from a host of older applications, including Microsoft Works 3.0 and 4.0 (but not more-recent versions). It's pricey if you need to convert only a couple of documents, but for the hundreds you likely have, it's the best solution I can think of.

Skype's the limit

I want to be able to Podcast live on my radio show. In other

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– *Mac 911, continued from page 6*

words, the calls from my listeners will come in directly to the computer; I'll mix them with my microphone's audio, and then send the whole thing out as my Podcast signal. What do you recommend?

– *Walter R. Haessner*

Many people I know forgo the phone lines for this purpose and instead use the voice-over-IP (VoIP) program, Skype. Why? Skype's results sound far better than those of a phone routed through a recording device or a mike held up to a speakerphone. Plus it's free if you're talking over the Internet to someone who also has Skype. It also doesn't require a lot of convoluted cabling.

You'll need some help, however, capturing the audio from Skype and from your microphone. Two applications can do this--Ambrosia Software's WireTap Pro (\$19) and Rogue Amoeba's Audio Hijack Pro (\$32). Each has its advantages.

WireTap Pro is easier to set up than Audio Hijack Pro. Just launch the program, select File: Mac Audio & Microphone, and click on the Record button; your Mac will record both the signal from your mike and any and all sounds your Mac generates, including the voice of the person you're speaking with over Skype. The disadvantage to this setup is that WireTap Pro isn't choosy about what it records. As I said, it will record any and all sounds your Mac plays, so if iChat makes its bubbly sound or Entourage announces new mail with a chime, WireTap will record that too.

Audio Hijack Pro avoids this issue by recording from targeted applications only. In this case, you can direct Audio Hijack to record just your voice and any audio you receive via Skype. Intercepting Skype's audio with Audio Hijack is a bit more complicated than with WireTap Pro, as you have to muck around within the Effects portion of the program, but Audio Hijack's user manual provides clear instructions.

Orderly icons

I'm running Tiger and I prefer to keep files and folders in Icon view. But when I have a collection of folders that is larger than the window, the set gets disordered. Is there a way to force the folders to stay where I want them?

– *Via the Internet*

When you're in the Finder, you can choose View: Arrange By: Name to sort your icons alphabetically, but that won't necessarily help if you've named the folders randomly. For this kind of thing, I rely on techniques of old--specifically, naming folders so that they appear in the order you want when you sort them alphabetically.

To bump an item to the top of the list, add a space before its name. To make an item appear after a spaced item but before a numbered or lettered item, add a tilde (~) to the beginning of its name. And, of course, to force items to the bottom, precede their names with a z. It's not as elegant as, say, a Finder command that reads "Stay where you are, stupid!" But until Apple invents such a command, you'll have to take matters into your own hands.

Salvaging a spare eMac

Is it possible to connect a Mac mini to an eMac so that you can boot from the mini and use the eMac's internal hard drive as a secondary drive?

– *Stephen Jensen*

Although this is kind of an expensive way to add another hard drive to your setup, it's certainly possible to do via FireWire Target Disk mode. Shut down the two computers, link them with a Fire-Wire cable, start up the eMac while holding down the keyboard's T key to boot it into Target Disk mode, and then boot the Mac mini. When the mini finishes booting, the eMac's hard drive will appear on the mini's desktop as if it were a removable hard drive (which in essence it is). The eMac's screen will display a floating FireWire symbol. While in Target Disk mode, the eMac will be unusable as anything other than a secondary drive for the mini.

Practical contact sheets

Creating Contacts Create annotated contact sheets by exporting your iPhoto images as a Web page.

I am a photographer and would like to use iPhoto to print contact sheets for my clients to accompany their CDs of images. The problem is that iPhoto won't let me print contact sheets with the image numbers--it will print only the thumbnails themselves. This makes the contact sheets essentially useless. Is there a setting I'm missing?

– *Ashley Williamson*

You're printing contact sheets correctly, but, as you suggest, iPhoto doesn't allow you to print titles or file names to accompany these images. Here's a way around the problem.

In iPhoto, select the images you'd like to appear on the contact sheet and choose Share: Export. In the resulting Export Photos window, click on the Web Page tab. Enter the number of columns and rows of pictures you'd like to appear on a page; in the Thumbnail portion of the window, enable the Show Title option (see "Creating Contacts"). Click on Export to save the pictures to a Web page.

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– *Mac 911, continued from page 7*

When you open that Web page in your browser, you'll discover that it carries not only the images you selected, but also each image's title (by default, the image number). Now simply print each page and you've got the contact sheet you're after.

You can continue to put this technique to good use by including the Web page and its accompanying images in a folder on the CD. (The folder should contain an index page and two folders, labeled Web page name- Thumbnails and Web page name- Images.) That way, your clients can browse the thumbnails in your contact sheet and then click on them to view the full-size images.

3 workflows for healthy Macs

If you're like a lot of Tiger users, Automator--Apple's automation application, which puts a friendlier face on AppleScript--intrigues you, yet when you attempt to create an Automator workflow, you're lost. Relax-- you don't have to do it yourself. If you're interested in maintaining a healthier and more efficient Mac, try these prefabricated workflows:

- **Jesse Hogue's Maintenance 3.0** (free): By tapping into Terminal, this workflow can repair permissions on your startup drive, verify system preferences, run OS X's periodic cron maintenance tasks, and update application prebindings (a system for optimizing app libraries so the applications themselves run more efficiently). You can select which tasks you'd like to run or simply choose to run them all.

- **Jesse Hogue's Back Me Up** (free): This workflow uses OS X's rsync command to copy the contents of one folder to another folder. On subsequent backups, it will compare the contents of both folders and copy only the changed files and folders--for example, you might use it to back up a folder that contains files for a particular work project.

- **Batch Apply Spotlight Keywords** (free): If Spotlight spits out too many results whenever you use it, this workflow will help you stop wasting time. It lets you select files or folders full of files and append Spotlight comments to them so you can more easily focus your searches. For example, I've added the comment 911column to my archive of columns so Spotlight can quickly find them without also listing other Mac 911- related items.

Recovering lost users

When I upgraded my home computer to Tiger, I discovered to my horror that my entire family was missing--well, their login user names were, anyway.

After searching for them everywhere, I finally discovered

that if I add a new user--with the same name as the missing user--to the login page, my Mac tells me there is a folder attached to that name and asks if I would like to reattach it. When I click on OK, the old user returns.

– *Gino Del Guercio*

You can also use this tip to recover deleted users. Just open the Deleted Users folder (found within the Users folder at the root level of the startup volume), and double-click on the DMG file of a deleted user-- Mary.dmg, for example. Then create a new folder within the Users folder, give it the name of the deleted user you want to recover, and copy the contents of the mounted disk-image file into this new folder. Now launch the Accounts preference pane and create a user with that name. As Gino indicates, your Mac will ask if you'd like to attach the deleted user's files to the newly created user.--Ed.

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>.



PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS 4 ARRIVES FOR MAC

Adobe introduced Photoshop Elements 4 for Macintosh at the Photo Marketing Association trade show in Las Vegas on February 27. The \$89 software application (educational price @\$65) is available for pre-order on the Adobe website and has a projected ship date of early to mid March.

The Mac version arrives six months after the release of the Windows version of Elements 4, putting to rest speculation on whether Adobe planned to issue a Mac update of the popular consumer photo editing software.

Notable features of Photoshop Elements 4 for Mac include an Adjust for Skintones menu choice that corrects skin tones in badly exposed photos, a single-click Red Eye Fix tool that corrects all red eye problems in a photo, the Magic Selection Brush and Magic Extraction tool for fine-tuned photo editing, and a version of Adobe Bridge file browser. Full details are available on Adobe's website <http://www.adobe.com/products/photoshopelmac/main.html>

Owners of Photoshop Elements, Photoshop LE or Photoshop Deluxe can upgrade to Elements 4 Mac at a discount through the Adobe online store. Note that a product serial number is required for the discount.

Special Offers from the Apple User Group Bulletin

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

TeamSoft: 30 Percent Off TeamAgenda

TeamAgenda is a leading multiplatform group scheduler and resource manager. This easy-to-use and affordable collaboration solution allows work groups to coordinate their activities, set up meetings and optimize their time management.

TeamAgenda's renowned group scheduling power includes multiple calendar formats, integrated address book, to-do list, PDAs synchronization, task, workload management and timesheets production. It also includes Web capabilities and is available in English, French, Swedish, German and Japanese.

TeamSoft is offering Apple User Group members a 30 percent discount on web purchases when using the coupon code.

Coupon Code

<http://www.teamsoft.com/products>

This offer is valid through May 31, 2006.

MacFixIt: 25 Percent Off Mac Guru Tools

Nobody cares for your Mac better than you do. Give yourself the latest information you need to keep all your Macs current and running smoothly. Get exclusive content, troubleshooting reports and expert commentary from leading software developers and hardware manufacturers.

A Year of Fixes, the MacFixIt 2005 Archive CD-ROM is now available for \$14.95, plus \$2.95 shipping and handling. This is a \$5 savings off the regular price.

<http://www.macfixit.com/>

This offer valid through May 31, 2006, while supplies last.

Avery: Special Discounts on Avery Signs

Design and print large-sized banners and signs at your desktop with new Avery Sign Kits and SOHO Signs software by Chronos! Each sign or banner kit comes complete with backing - a poster, sign board or flexible plastic banner.

Choose from Avery Posters - normally \$17.88, Signs, Banners - normally \$34.35 and Ground Stakes to save \$7.50 with purchase of one Sign Kit, or \$15.00 on two Kits.

Coupon Code *****

Learn more or download the software.

<http://www.avery.com/signs>

This offer is valid through June 30, 2006.

AppleWorks User Group: Batteries to Power Your Macintosh

Every Macintosh computer contains a small battery that powers its built-in clock and stores settings. These batteries are vital to the operation of your system, so you should keep a spare handy.

Now you can buy these hard-to-find replacement batteries at a special user group discount. AWUG's lithium batteries have a ten-year shelf life and are identical to or better than the original battery in your desktop Macintosh. Each battery comes with complete installation directions

Select from iMac/PowerMac/eMac batteries for only \$7.00 or Performa/Quadra 630-series batteries for \$10.95, a substantial discount from the standard prices of \$14.00 and \$18.95 respectively. Batteries are not available for PowerBook, iBook or G5 or Intel iMac.

Order from the AppleWorks Users Group.

<http://www.awug.org/shop/merchant4.html>

This offer is ongoing.

The MUG Store: Great Services for User Groups

Let the MUG store know if there something they can do to help. Your user group gets one percent back on everything your membership purchases. When your members buy from the MUG store, your group can get a lot of cool stuff for free.

The MUG Store also has free freight to members, RAM rebates and aggressive pricing on new and reconditioned Macs, plus the largest selection of pre-owned Macs on the planet.

01/31/2006-04/30/06

User ID: *****

Password: *****

<http://www.applemugstore.com>.

This offer is valid through April 30, 2006.

Information about user group vendor offers and more can be found at the UGAB website: <http://homepage.mac.com/ugab/offerss.html> And remember to check the user group members-only discounts page at <http://homepage.mac.com/ugab/offers/vendorcodes.htm> Password: *****

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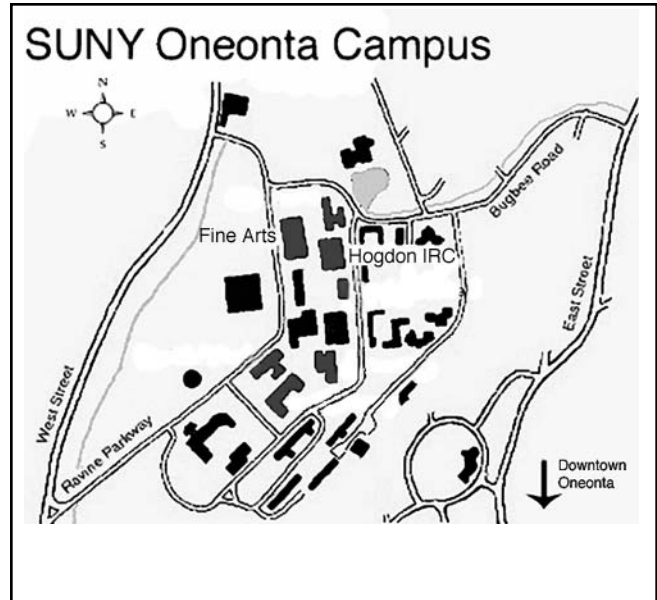
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MUG ONE OFFICERS' MEETING FEBRUARY 17, 2006

President and Newsbreak editor Elsa Trivisano, Treasurer Joanne Johnston, Secretary Terry Helser, Librarian Jo Koenig (Welcome back, Jo!) and Program Co-Chairs John Maas, Jesse Hogue and Brian Foley met at Ruffino's Pizzeria at 6 p.m. on February 17. Our first task was to agree on the pizza. We settled for a plain cheese and an eggplant. The primary agenda items were programs for spring meetings and the library.

Joanne reported the current balance is about \$1,500, more than in prior years. As for spring programs, the topic for March will be Tips, Tricks and Ten Minute Demos. In the notice for the March 8 meeting, members will be asked to send in questions that we can answer. [This will happen prior to the April meeting rather than the March meeting - Editor]. Joanne intends to remind us to update our email addresses in Yahoo! groups at the meeting and in Newsbreak.

The April meeting could be a demonstration of WildBlue satellite internet service. I will check with IRC to ensure he can set up the satellite link. If not, this could be the June meeting, possibly at the College Camp for a picnic. [The WildBlue demo has been delayed as we resolve technical issues. Stay tuned for more information – Editor] Alternatives for our April and June meetings include Sven Anderson's Final Cut Pro demonstration, or a Reunion genealogy demonstration by Jo Koenig and possibly others. A presentation on iLife '06 and iWorks '06 could also take place in June. May, as always, is (Apple's Dave) Marra month.

Brian wants to shepherd a special interest group on e-commerce and will do PR to solicit participants. We then talked

about possible short demonstrations that could be done in the March, and other, meetings. A demo of the newest OS 10.4.5 update with focus on Dashboard Widgets and activity monitor was one suggestion. Elsa wants to show "Delicious Library" and a barcode scanning system. Jesse volunteered to check our non-functioning audio cable and replace it, if necessary.

Other program suggestions included a demonstration of MacLinkPlus Pro software for opening old documents, a section on "What's Holding You Back?" from updating operating systems and other software, and an introduction to Podcasting. Tips for upgrading iLife '06, which makes your your iPhoto library incompatible with earlier versions, would be helpful. Finally, John had some programs he could briefly introduce, as well as give the basics of Web sites and browsing.

Jo Koenig will be working to get updated on the current state of the library (thanks to John for keeping things going in Jo's absence) and is back in the saddle with a new book to catalog and more to come.

– TERRY L. HELSER, SECRETARY

NEW BOOK ADDED TO MUG ONE LIBRARY

Photoshop CS2, Up to Speed, by Ben Willmore.
Peachpit Press, 2005.

Quoted from the back cover: "If you have a working knowledge of Photoshop CS, this book is for you. It's designed to get you up to speed with the new features in the most efficient and useful way possible. Easy to read for upper-level beginners through advanced, but not designed for absolute beginners."

– JO KOENIG, LIBRARIAN