

NEWS BREAK

Volume 22, Number 8

November 2007

NOVEMBER 7, 2007 MEETING

FIRST LOOK AT LEOPARD - MAC OS 10.5

– Elsa Travisano and Keith Robisch

Join us on Wednesday, November 7 at 7:30 PM on the SUNY Oneonta campus, Hodgdon IRC, Lecture Hall 5 for the November meeting of MUG ONE.

Elsa Travisano and Keith Robisch will treat us to a first look at **Mac OS 10.5 Leopard**, less than two weeks after the operating system's release on October 26. Keith and Elsa will show highlights from Leopard's more than 300 new features, and will talk about system requirements and upgrading considerations. Come prepared to be wowed, and to share your own knowledge - we're all beginners when it comes to the new OS.

We will also be holding our annual election of MUG ONE officers.

As always, the meeting will begin with questions and answers and will end with a door prize drawing (current members only), refreshments and socializing. The MUG ONE lending library will be available for members before and after the meeting.

MUG ONE meetings are free of charge and open to the public. Everyone is welcome.

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

MUG ONE ELECTIONS - NOVEMBER 7

Elections for MUG ONE officers will take place at our November meeting. For more information or to run for office, contact Elsa Travisano at mugone@mac.com.

OS X LEOPARD UP-TO-DATE PROGRAM

If you bought a new Mac or an Apple Certified Refurbished Mac after October 1, 2007, and it did not include Mac OS X Leopard, you're eligible to get the new operating system for a \$9.95 shipping charge, plus applicable taxes.

The Leopard up-to-date program ends on December 26, and orders must be post-marked or faxed by January 4, 2008.

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

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



Stacks, a feature of OS 10.5 Leopard, organizes files in the Dock for easy access.

MAC OS X 10.5 LEOPARD RELEASED

Mac OS X v. 10.5 Leopard was released for sale amid much hoopla on Friday, October 26. The new Mac operating system includes Time Machine automated backup, Spaces separate work areas, QuickLook instant document previews without launching an application, and major updates to Mail and iChat among its more than 300 new features.

Leopard has minimum system requirements of an Intel, PowerPC G5, or PowerPC G4 (867MHz or faster) processor, 512MB of physical RAM (1 GB recommended) and a DVD drive for installation.

Leopard costs \$129, or \$199 for a five-license family pack. For more information and a guided tour, go to <http://www.apple.com/macosex/>.

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OCTOBER 3, 2007 MEETING

Adam Engst – iPhoto 7 in iLife '08

On Wednesday, October 3, 2007, at 7:30 PM in Hodgdon IRC-5 on the SUNY College at Oneonta campus, President Elsa Travisano started the meeting by welcoming about forty members and guests and inviting them to join MUG ONE or renew their membership (\$24 for family, \$18 for students or \$40 for businesses) or join. Several people did and these were graciously accepted by our treasurer, Joanne Johnston, who reported we have \$1,207.61 in the bank.

Announcements

Elsa announced that free passes were available to members going to the PhotoPlus conference in NYC October 18-20, and a free pass code for January's Macworld Expo in San Francisco is printed in the October issue of Newsbreak. O'Reilly gave us 30% discount bookmarks to distribute. November is officer elections and we need a vice president and other candidates, so consider running for office. There are some useful rewards for your help.

Questions and Answers

For the Q&A session, Elsa and Adam answered questions about when OS X 10.5 Leopard will be released (Oct. 26?) and suggested that a 10.4.11 bug fix might be due. At this point it makes sense to wait a few weeks to buy a computer, since the new OS will not be on it until after the general release. There will be no Classic mode in OS 10.5, so it will finally be time to part with your OS 9 applications. Asked if Macs tend to fail after the three year AppleCare extended protection plan runs out, Adam felt that Macs would not, unlike some cheap Windows models, other than an occasional failed drive or battery. So buying a new machine at the three year point depends on what software and hardware capabilities you need. You can post old computers to give away on Freecycle, and get get unusual/outdated printer drivers at Gutenprint, formerly Gimp-Print. Amazon.com has opened an MP3 store selling music at \$.89 a track to compete with iTunes store. Adam noted the Electric Sheep screen saver running on his computer. It changes continually but needs lots of power.

Program

At this point Elsa re-introduced internationally renowned author, editor, speaker and Macintosh "brainiac" Adam Engst (ace@tidbits.com). Look at Tidbits.com for 17.5 years of articles that are the only coherent history of Macs available now. Adam is adding audio to the website and mentioned "Twitter" for blogging. Visit www.takecontrolbooks.com for a special deal on Take Control books and updates.

Adam then launched into his talk on iPhoto, now in version 7, and apologized for not having it long enough to know it as well as he usually does. Adam declares this version an upgrade worth getting. It shows the photos while still

on the camera, so you import only the ones you want. He suggested never to allow iPhoto to delete the camera photos, since a glitch can lose them all. The "hide photos already imported" check box helps show only new ones on your media card. The old "film rolls" organization scheme have been replaced with "events." When the cursor moves over the image representing an event, all the photos inside are displayed, or you can double click to show them. You can drag and drop a key photo on to the event icon, and hide photos you don't want to see, but want to keep. There is a menu on the left for collecting similar events.

Adam showed how to assign keywords and rename a photo, which does not change the file name except in iPhoto. He demonstrated a search by date or keyword and how to edit photos. The new "rule of thirds" grid is a nifty aid to cropping for a higher impact. He showed how to save changes and undo them, fix red eye and used "reduce noise" to improve a low light photo. You adjust "exposure" now, not "brightness," but it only does the whole photo. He showed how to make a personalized calendar for gifts. Adam suggested burning photos themselves to CD or DVD for backup and storage, not iPhoto libraries, so you don't have to keep that version of iPhoto around in order to view them.

If you command/option/double-click the iPhoto icon you get choices for rebuilding your photo library, and option/clicking the iPhoto icon allows you to choose a library or create a new one. He said printing is radically changed in this version with more themes, borders, mats and choices of number of photos/page, etc. You can recover a print project if it fails to print, and there are new size and borderless choices.

With that, we had to stop for the raffle and refreshments. Many thanks to Adam, Elsa and all for an informational and entertaining program. The next meeting, on November 7, will be a preview of OS X.5 Leopard. Join us then for more of the ideas and fun you expect from MUG ONE!

– TERRY L. HELSER, SECRETARY

AUG MARKET REPORT PODCAST

This month's Apple User Group Market Report podcasts feature Amaya Gergoff Bengoa, the Apple User Group Regional Liaison for Southern Europe, and Panna Gupta, the International Sales Manager for Stellar Information Systems.

The AUG Market Report is produced by the Apple User Group Advisory Board's vendor coordinator Tom Piper and is a great source for information about Apple user groups, vendor discounts, special events and more.

Apple User Group Market Report podcast

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

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.

FirmTek Storage: 15 Percent Off Bundles

FirmTek provides innovative SATA storage solutions for Macintosh users. These whisper-quiet 2-bay and 4-bay external hot swap enclosures are cutting-edge award winners. FirmTek provides SATA host adapters for current and legacy Macintosh computers, as well as PCs. These solutions feature a flexible high-performance interface for backup, audio/video editing and increasing storage capacity. (Hard drives must be purchased separately.)

FirmTek offers user group members 15% off on their External Storage Bundles only, ranging from \$259.95 - \$629.95. For your discount, enter the coupon code into the Comments section of FirmTek's order form when the order is processed.

Have questions? sales@firmtek.com

Coupon code: *****

<http://firmtek.stores.yahoo.net/extbundle.html>

This offer is valid through January 31, 2008.

Stellar Phoenix Macintosh: 25% Discount

Stellar, a leader in data recovery since 1995, proudly announces the new "Stellar Phoenix Macintosh" - quick, simple and powerful data recovery software for crashed Macintosh hard disks. It helps recover data from damaged, deleted or corrupted volumes, and from initialized disks. Stellar loves user groups and is offering a 25% discount to group members.

Learn about Stellar Phoenix Macintosh.

<http://www.macintosh-data-recovery.com>

Coupon Code: *****

<http://www.macintosh-data-recovery.com/buy-now.php>

This offer is valid through January 31, 2008.

Eltima Software Multimedia Products: 20% Off

Eltima Software is a global software development company, specializing in Flash software development for Mac users. All flash users and developers will see the true value of Flash Decompiler Trillix for Mac, Flash Optimizer for Mac and SWF & FLV Player for Mac. With these products, managing Flash files is easy: decompile, compress or just play them back!

Regular prices for Eltima's Flash software range from

\$19.95 to \$99.95. Using the coupon code gives user group members 20% off.

Coupon code: *****

Get your Flash products today.

<http://mac.eltima.com/>

This offer is valid through January 31, 2008.

Entrance: 20% Discount

dbEntrance Software introduces Entrance, the easy to use browser for MySQL databases. Entrance features a table viewer with a "Match Box" tool that makes it easy to find things in database tables. It also includes an SQL editor and tools for making reports and charts. Want to know more? The company provides examples for SQL beginners on its web site.

Entrance is now available to Macintosh user group members for \$32, a 20% savings below its regular price of \$40.

Coupon code: *****

Purchase Entrance.

<http://dbentrance.com/Mugonly.html>

Learn more and see examples.

<http://dbentrance.com/>

This offer is valid through January 31, 2008.

The MUG Store Blowouts

Most user group members love to shop for great deals on discontinued or older accessories and parts. The MUG Store gives you a great place to do exactly that:

<http://www.applemugstore.com/mugstore/blowouts.php>

Remember that everything you buy means points for your group to spend any way they want!

06/01/07 - 10/31/07

User ID: *****

password: *****

11/01/07 - 02/29/08

User ID: *****

password: *****

<http://www.applemugstore.com>

This offer is valid through February 29, 2008.



MAC 911 – HELP DESK

Solutions to your most vexing Mac problems

By Christopher Breen

CONVERTING UNPROTECTED DVDS

Over the past 18 months, I've taken about 15 hours of video of my baby. I loaded the videos into Apple's iMovie and then burned DVDs in iDVD. (I didn't have the hard-drive space to keep the videos on my Mac.) Now I want to make a highlights video – but when I load the DVDs, I can't find the original files. What do you suggest? – *Carrie Roberts*

The data you need is contained in each DVD's Video_TS folder. However, iMovie can't read or edit the VOB (video object) files within, which hold your precious video. You need a different application to turn those files into something editable.

For this job, try Squared 5's handy and always free MPEG Streamclip 1.8. With the help of Apple's \$20 QuickTime MPEG-2 Playback Component, it can convert those VOB files into something you can edit in iMovie (see "Extract UnprotectedVideo"). I recommend opening MPEG Streamclip, choosing File: Export To DV, and then selecting NTSC, 720 x 480, 29.97fps from the Standard pop-up menu. The resulting file is huge, but it maintains the quality of the original footage.

If you're willing to spend some money for greater ease of use, you'll want to check out two programs. The first is DVDxDV's \$25 DVDxDV 1. With it, you can extract movies from a Video_TS folder or individual VOB files and save them in any QuickTime-supported format.

Likewise, Miraizon's \$60 Cinematize 2 lets you export files in a variety of formats from a Video_TS folder, though it can't extract data from individual VOB files. In addition, it breaks movie files into "scenes," defined by areas of black in your movies. Neither utility requires that you have the MPEG-2 Playback Component installed.

Diagnosing the Apple TV

I'm not sure my Apple TV is working properly. It's slow to respond to commands, and sometimes it can't "see" the Mac from which I want to stream movies. Is there some way to check whether it's working properly? – *Matt Graham*

Hold down the menu and minus (-) buttons on the Apple Remote until the Apple TV flashes a yellow light. It will eventually restart and display a Language screen. Select the language you wish to use, and press the play/pause

button.

You'll see an Apple TV Recover screen, which lists three options: Restart, Run Diagnostics, and Factory Restore. Select Run Diagnostics and press play/pause. You'll see the familiar spinning-gear icon along with a message that reads "Running Diagnostics" until the test is complete. At that point, you hope to see the message "Your Apple TV is working correctly." If so, click on Done to return to the Apple TV Recover screen, select Restart, and press the play/pause button to restart the Apple TV. If you see an error message instead, it's time to return the Apple TV to Apple for servicing.

If the Run Diagnostics test is successful but you still have problems, make sure that your Mac is awake and that iTunes isn't locked up or unresponsive. Also check to see that you've got a decent network signal in the Apple TV's Settings screen – two bars or more. You can determine this signal's strength by looking at the Settings: Network menu on your Apple TV. (If the signal is too weak – and you can't fix it by, say, moving your Apple TV or wireless router to a better location – try using a different network connection such as wired Ethernet.)

If you've got a strong signal but the Apple TV remains hesitant to play music and videos, you can try restoring it to the original factory settings. Choose Factory Restore from the Apple TV Recover screen. Doing so wipes out your network settings and removes any media you've synced to the Apple TV.

AirDisk and Apple's Backup

Can I use Apple's Backup in conjunction with a USB drive attached to a new AirPort Extreme Base Station? – *Calvin Johnson*

You can. And there's a good reason to do so if you have a bunch of Macs: using this scheme, you can back them all up to a single drive, because it will be available to any Macs you have on your network.

To start, hook up the external USB drive to the AirPort Extreme Base Station's USB port. Then verify that the Base Station recognizes it by launching AirPort Utility (in /Applications/Utilities), opening the configuration profile for the Base Station, and clicking on the Disks tab. You should see your drive listed there (see "Wireless Backups").

Back in the Finder, choose Go: Connect To Server. Click on Browse in the resulting Connect To Server window, find the name of your Base Station, select it, and click on Connect. Select the drive in the window that appears and click on OK. Then enter your AirPort password to mount the drive. All you need to do after that is launch Apple's Backup and choose that networked drive as the destination for your backup plan. (If you don't have Backup now, you can get

continued on page 5

– *Mac 911, continued from page 4*

it by subscribing to Apple's .Mac service.)

Although this method is generally convenient, it does have a significant drawback. It's slow – really slow. I found that backing up 50GB of data from my MacBook Pro took most of the day over a wireless 802.11n network. If you're backing up just one computer, it makes a lot more sense to connect the backup drive directly to that computer.

Also, be aware that Backup can't mount a drive attached to an AirPort Extreme Base Station. You need to make sure the drive is mounted before you begin the backup.

iSight Alternatives

Now that all new Macs come with a Web cam built in, Apple has discontinued the iSight. But that's a problem for me and my older Mac. There don't seem to be any Mac-friendly Web cams out there – in other words, ones that "just work" without additional software. Any suggestions? – *via the Internet*

The simplest solution is to find an old iSight camera. Some non-Apple retail stores have a few in stock. You can also find iSights on eBay (but be prepared to pay a premium).

If that doesn't pan out, you'll find that tracking down a Web cam that works with the Mac is easier now, thanks to the UVC (USB Video Class) standard – an open standard for video devices. Apple added support for UVC Web cams with Mac OS X 10.4.9.

Just plug a UVC-compliant camera into a Mac running this operating system (or a later one), and it should work. (See a list of compatible Web cams.)

If you're running an earlier version of Mac OS and therefore can't take advantage of a UVC Web cam, try Ecamm Network's \$10 miChatUSBCam 2.2.1. This software allows Macs to use an even wider variety of third-party Web cams. It requires OS X 10.3 or later and is Universal (in other words, you can use it on either an Intel Mac or a PowerPC Mac).

But you might not need to buy anything at all. If you have an old FireWire camcorder with a built-in microphone, you can use it as a Web cam. Just attach it to a free FireWire port and switch it into camera mode. iChat AV should recognize it as a viable source. Read the camera's manual to learn how to keep it switched on – most cameras will turn off after a period of time by default. For example, you may need to turn off an energy-saving setting, remove the tape from the camera, or switch the camera into its single-image capture mode.

Bug: Zinio Reader Rejection

If you use the Zinio reader to subscribe to digital versions of magazines, you may find that it refuses to open or download

your issues after you transfer your data to a new Mac or restore a hard drive. To fix this, delete the Zinio application and a trio of files located in your user folder/Library/Preferences: ContentGuard, com.zinio.reader.plist, and Zinio.plist. Be sure to empty the Trash after putting the files there. Finally, reinstall Zinio Reader, and the application should once again see you as a valid subscriber.

Bug: HelpMate Won't Help

Mac HelpMate 2.0 (free), from Most Training & Consulting, is a top-notch utility offering dozens of performance-enhancing and troubleshooting features. But the program can't help much if it refuses to open – which can happen after you update to a new version. Upon launching, the program may display a "preference conflict detected" error message that asks whether you want to reset the preferences, but clicking on Yes here doesn't seem to solve the problem. Instead, go to your user folder/Library/Preferences and remove the com.most.mhm.plist file yourself. The program should now launch successfully.

Bug: Google Desktop Slowdown

When it comes to helping you search your computer for just the right file, the free Google Desktop () is a worthy competitor to Mac OS X's Spotlight. But in some cases, its excessive CPU usage can slow a Mac's performance to a crawl. If you're having that problem, use the Google Updater application (in /Applications) to uninstall the software. You'll have to wait for Google to release a fix before you reinstall it.

Fix: QuickTime 7.1.6 Hassles

Updating to QuickTime 7.1.6 may break the ability of the free Microsoft Windows Media Components for QuickTime (also known as the Flip4Mac WMV Player) to play movies in a Web browser. Updating to the most recent version (2.1.1 or later) should fix this. Even after updating, you may need to reboot your Mac before movies will play.

The same QuickTime update can also break Safari's ability to play Flash content. If you encounter that problem, the workaround is to open the QuickTime preference pane, go to the Advanced tab, and click on MIME Settings. Find Miscellaneous in the list, and click on the disclosure triangle next to it to reveal the Flash Media subitem. If it's enabled, click on the check box to deselect it. – *Ted Landau*

Macworld Magazine Senior Editor Christopher Breen is the author of The iPhone Pocket Guide (2007) and The iPod and iTunes Pocket Guide, second Edition (2006) (both Peachpit Press).

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

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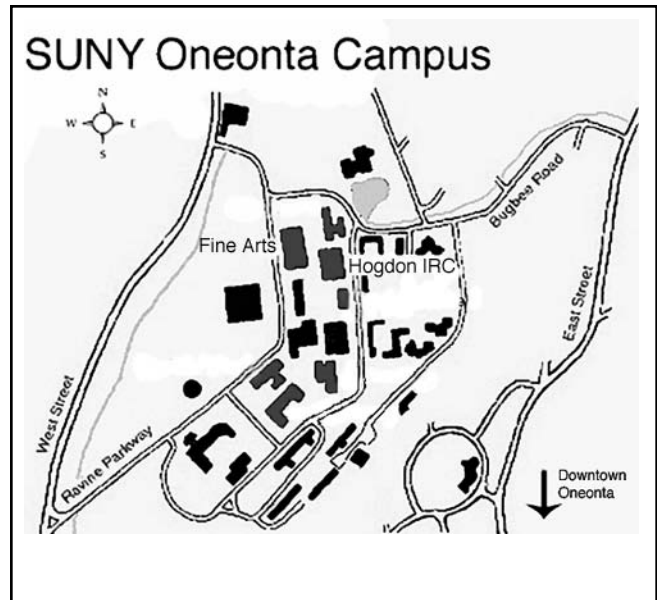
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TAKE CONTROL EBOOKS FOR LEOPARD: Special ebook offers from our friend Adam Engst

Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard is finally here, and Take Control has completely updated five of their most popular ebooks for Leopard. They have three options for you:

1. Buy just the ebooks you want individually. They're all \$10, except for the 217-page "Take Control of Fonts in Leopard," which is \$15. If you've bought the Tiger or Panther versions of any of these ebooks, click the Check for Updates button in your copy to save 20%. MUG members can - as always - save 10% with the links on this page, but the bundles are a better deal.

2. Buy the core "Take Control of Upgrading to Leopard" and "Take Control of Customizing Leopard" titles for \$15, saving 25%. This bundle is linked on the left side of these books' pages on the [Take Control Web site](#).

3. Buy the "I Love Leopard" bundle of all five ebooks - over 650 pages in all! - for only \$38.50, saving 30% off the cover price. Again, the bundle is accessible from the left side of each book's Web page.

You can read more about each of the ebooks on the Take Control Web site, but in short:

- "[Take Control of Upgrading to Leopard](#)" is the latest edition of the title that launched Take Control back in 2003 with Panther. In it, Joe Kissell shares his hard-won advice about the best ways to install, test your installation, troubleshoot problems, and more. 125 pages
- "[Take Control of Customizing Leopard](#)" provides a tour of new and revamped features in Leopard by the ever-opinionated Matt Neuburg. Matt demystifies Time Machine, shows you how to use Spaces effectively, and

explains why Spotlight in Leopard is so much improved over Tiger. 138 pages

- "[Take Control of Users & Accounts in Leopard](#)" describes different types of accounts in Leopard, which ones are right for the different people who use your Mac, how to share files between accounts, and what you can limit with new features in Leopard's parental controls. Kirk McElhearn also explains how to create and use a troubleshooting account should problems crop up. 88 pages
- "[Take Control of Sharing Files in Leopard](#)" explains many new aspects of file sharing in Leopard and makes file sharing easy between two Macs, among a mixed-platform office workgroup, or between far-flung computers on the Internet. Wi-Fi guru Glenn Fleishman explains each of Leopard's file sharing technologies and helps you connect to file servers from a variety of major operating systems. 89 pages
- "[Take Control of Fonts in Leopard](#)" explains everything you need to know about how fonts work in Mac OS X and what has changed with Leopard. In particular, veteran Mac author Sharon Zardetto looks at Leopard's new and updated fonts, along with Leopard's new font activation capabilities, font previewing via Cover Flow, and font sample printing. 217 pages.

FIND ALL UG VENDOR OFFERS HERE

Looking for information on a past user group offer? Tom Piper of the Apple User Group Advisory Board publishes a page with all current offers, expiration dates and codes.

<http://homepage.mac.com/ugab/offers/vendorcodes.htm>
Password until November 15: easy

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