

NEWS BREAK

Volume 22, Number 1

January-February 2007

FEBRUARY 7, 2007 MEETING

Macworld Expo San Francisco Report

Join us on Wednesday, February 7, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in our old stomping grounds, Hogdon IRC Lecture Hall #4 on the SUNY Oneonta campus, for our first MUG ONE meeting of 2007.

MUG ONE president and Apple User Group Advisory Board chair Elsa Travisano will report on the announcements, new products and happenings from January's Macworld Expo 2007 and User Group University.

Highlights will include Apple's newly announced iPhone and Apple TV, coming attractions from Adobe, and reports from User Group University and the show floor.

Questions and answers, refreshments and a drawing for door prizes (current members only) will round out the meeting. Library materials will be available for circulation to MUG ONE members at 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, <http://mugone.com/pages/map2007.html>

DOOR PRIZES APLENTY FROM MACWORLD

Elsa Travisano returned from Macworld Expo with a bounty of door prizes, courtesy of Apple, O'Reilly Xtreme Mac, Griffin and other generous vendors.

You must be a current MUG ONE member to win a door prize. If you haven't renewed your membership, download the form at <http://www.mugone.com/pdfs/MUGONERenewal2006-2007.pdf> or get a form from Terry Helser or Joanne Johnston at the meeting.

REMINDER - IRC #4 MEETING PLACE

Just a reminder that MUG ONE's spring meetings will be held in **lecture hall #4 of the Hogdon IRC building** on the SUNY Oneonta campus.

Meetings will take place on the first Wednesday of the month except for April, when we'll meet on the second Wednesday (spring break). Mark your calendars for:

February 7, March 7, April 11, May 2 and June 6.

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



Elsa Travisano shares the podium with Steve Wozniak and an Woz tee shirt at User Group University 2007

MACWORLD EXPO, UGU 2007 HIGHLIGHTS

Apple's announcements of the iPhone and Apple TV, a bigger and busier show floor and iPod gear everywhere marked this year's Macworld Expo & Conference, held January 8-12 in San Francisco. On the user group front, a superlative User Group University featured Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, the User Group Lounge was filled with luminaries, and the UG Booth and Guides were bustling. Check out Elsa's photos at <http://web.mac.com/elsat/iWeb/Macworld2007/UGU%202007.html> listen to Steve Job's Keynote address at <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/qtv/mwsf07/> and read about user group activities at <http://homepage.mac.com/ugab/>

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DECEMBER 6, 2006 MEETING

“Holiday Meeting and Party”

Wednesday, December 6, 7:30 p.m. Room 132, Human Ecology Building, SUNY Oneonta.

Announcements

Our “fearless leader” Elsa Travisano began by welcoming some 25 members and guests, and describing the Human Ecology building room 132 karma disjunction that has extinguished the lights on us at 9:17 p.m. during each meeting this fall. To avoid future occurrences, we’re moving back to the Instructional Resources building (IRC) where our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 7 at 7:30 p.m. in lecture hall 4. Most applauded our impending return to our old stomping grounds.

For the February meeting, Elsa will take us on a tour of the January Macworld Expo in San Francisco. The remaining spring term meetings are scheduled for March 7, April 11 (to avoid spring break), May 2 (Marra month) and June 6.

Elsa then invited members to enter a special \$1 a chance holiday raffle for a black 2GB iPod nano, and previewed the software programs, hardware and shirts to be won in the raffle (members only). Featured products included Nova Development’s Parallels Desktop (run Windows on an Intel Mac) and Print Explosion Deluxe, and iRemember scrapbooking software from Intriguing Development. Full copies of each were in the raffle and special vendor discounts were available. That prompted several members to pay their dues so they could participate.

Joanne Johnston reported about \$1,350 in the bank and we discussed the proposal to buy a laptop for the group to handle the library and presentations. We decided to defer the purchase until sometime after Macworld Expo, to allow the account to grow and to take care of any Macworld-related expenses.

Questions and Answers

Q&A began with a query about moving files to a new G4 machine. This prompted a testimonial for Adam Engst’s “Take Control of Buying a Mac” ebook for \$7. If you are in the market for a Mac, the January 9th Keynote address by Steve Jobs might announce an upgrade on the iMacs. They are due sometime soon, but if you need a tax write off, the advice was to buy now. Google “MacTracker,” a free program that lists Mac specs so you can know what each Mac model can and cannot do. [Alas, that site seems to have gone out of business. Instead, try <http://support.apple.com/specs/> Ed.] Or ask Sven at anderss@oneonta.edu.

Someone asked if you could download photos from a camera into Photoshop directly. The answer to the question is yes. For the full explanation, see the **Quick Tips**

article on page 3.

Brian Foley reports that he is still losing the contents of his Address Book. Elsa suggested that he seek a consultation if the problems persist after he repairs permissions, restarts, unplugs the peripherals and does the normal maintenance things. To a question about making digital copies of LP records, analog tapes and such, programs such as Peak LE for \$159 and Amadeus (free 30 day trial) were suggested. Do this, however, ONLY if you can’t buy what you need online, since you will spend an inordinate amount of time doing this yourself and you may not be totally pleased with the results. For an in-depth treatment of the subject, see Andy Ihnatko’s latest book, *iPod Fully Loaded* from Wiley Press.

There was a question about opening WordPerfect and other defunct file formats in current programs. Consensus was to first try to open them in applications you currently own, such as Microsoft Word, AppleWorks or ClarisWorks, then try MacLinkPlus Deluxe from DataViz or similar program if you don’t have success.

Program

Tom Travisano began the program by introducing Nova Development’s Parallels Desktop, which allows users to run Windows on an Intel Mac. Its advantage over Apple’s Boot Camp beta software and similar programs is that both Windows and the OS X desktops are open simultaneously on your desktop. Neither Parallels Desktop nor Boot Camp includes a copy of Windows - you have to buy that separately. The only reason use Parallels Desktop is if you HAVE to run Windows-only programs that aren’t available on the Mac. Workplaces that use Microsoft Outlook are one example of an instance where Parallels Desktop would be handy. You shouldn’t need it if you’re working with current versions of Microsoft Word and Excel. These applications do a good job of managing files in a cross-platform environment. Tom suggested using Parallels Desktop to be able to view Windows video file formats like those used for the CNN website. A member suggested “Flip4Mac” which could run those videos on the Mac side. Problem solved?

Elsa then showed us iRemember and Print Explosion software. Copies of both and Parallels Desktop were donated to the raffle by Nova Development and iRemember Software, and flyers were available to obtain discounts on these programs. iRemember is a scrapbook preparation program. You select templates for the style of pages or make your own, and then drag and drop photos from iPhoto into the frames on the pages, add text, size and crop the photos and more. Next Elsa showed Print Explosion Deluxe, which comes on a DVD, but you can swap that for CDs if you want. At about 2 GB, it is a hefty install, but

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– *Holiday Meeting, cont. from page 2*

it will work on G4, G5 and Intel Macs. It costs \$49.95 list, but only \$29.95 with the coupon. Among other things, it can print CD inserts, mail merge from your address book and has over 100,000 images and graphics. In response to a question, Elsa said she'd ask for a copy of Print Shop in January for comparison.

Brian Foley then asked us what Web sites we used, and decided to demonstrate jacquielawson.com, a subscription (\$8/yr.) animated e-card site with lots of special occasion cards, most animated by the artist herself. Many feature her dog Chudleigh, a black lab. Similar to Blue Mountain and Hallmark sites, you can build cards and send them to hundreds of clients or friends all year for that one membership fee. Well worth it from what we were shown.

Thanks Tom, Elsa and Brian for excellent suggestions and demonstrations.

The raffle started with the special drawing for the black 2GB iPod nano which new member, Walter Wagor, took home to enjoy. Someone will have a happy holiday! Elsa asked who had received the full copy of Adam Engst's books on CD at the November meeting, and no one attending had. If you were the winner, please let one of the officers know, so we can let the publishers know. The member raffle then rewarded attendees with the three programs demonstrated tonight, iPod sleeves and dock, cable yoyos, shirts, and hardware and software. When all current members had a prize, we gathered around to enjoy the birthday cake and various holiday treats contributed by members. This is the fellowship and fun that epitomizes MUG ONE.

The first meeting of the new year will be "Macworld Expo San Francisco Report" on Wednesday, February 7 at 7:30 pm in Hodgdon IRC, lecture hall 4 on the SUNY Oneonta campus. Internationally renowned author, editor, speaker and Macintosh pundit, Elsa Travisano [as if! Ed.] will present the latest and greatest from Macworld Expo San Francisco for MUG ONE's February 7 meeting. Be sure to join us for this special meeting in our return home to IRC 4 at 7:30 PM.

– TERRY L. HELSER, SECRETARY



Apple's iPhone - Cingular means it's not for Oneonta yet

TAKE CONTROL EBOOKS - MONTH OF SALES

Adam Engst and Take Control Ebooks are offering four weekly "Month of Apple Sales" offers on Mac-specific Take Control ebooks throughout the month of February.

First up is the Getting Around to It sale, a bundle of 7 ebooks on upgrading to and maintaining Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger for \$22, a 60% savings! The bundle includes

- Take Control of Upgrading to Tiger
- Take Control of Customizing Tiger
- Take Control of Users & Accounts in Tiger
- Take Control of Syncing in Tiger
- Take Control of Passwords in Mac OS X
- Take Control of Maintaining Your Mac
- Take Control of Your AirPort Network

If you want the bundle but already own one of these books, feel free to give your extra copy to a friend.

<http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/offers/moas1.html>

QUICK TIP:

Download Photos Directly into a Photo Editing Application (Photoshop, Elements, etc.)

You can set up your Mac to open a particular program whenever you connect your camera or put a media card in a card reader. Or you can have the card appear on the Desktop without launching an application.

Here's what to do:

Launch the Image Capture program - it's in your Applications folder. Under the Image Capture menu, choose Preferences. Under the Camera heading, you'll see "When a camera is connected, open" and a pop-up menu. The default setting is iPhoto.

* To specify a different application, pull down the pop-up menu and choose "Other...". This opens a dialog box that allows you to set the application you wish, such as Photoshop or Photoshop Elements.

* If you'd rather have no application launch, pull down the pop-up menu and choose "No application." Your camera's media card will simply appear on the desktop, like any other removable disk.

Quit Image Capture, and your changes will take effect.

Note - if you choose the "No application" option, be sure to drag the camera or media card's desktop icon to the trash before you physically disconnect it from your Mac. Otherwise the data on the card could get damaged.

– ELSA TRAVISANO

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.

Softpress & Have|Host: 25% off Freeway 4 and Hosting

Softpress and Have|Host have combined their efforts to offer great discounts for Apple user groups to get Freeway 4, the award-winning web design application and first-class Mac-friendly web hosting. Design your site visually, let Freeway 4 write standards-compliant code and upload automatically to your web space.

Members pay only \$210 for Freeway 4 Pro, \$75 for 4 Express, and get a 25% discount on all full-priced hosting contracts from Have | Host.

To purchase, get the relevant codes from your User Group Leader and enjoy one or both offers; it's up to you.

Freeway software:

<http://www.softpress.com>

Have | Host services:

<http://www.havehost.ca>

This offer is valid through March 31, 2007.

40% off all No Starch Press Books

Check out the new paperback version of the bestselling *Cult of Mac*, a celebration of all things Mac. Also available: the hardcover edition of *The Cult of Mac*, *Apple Confidential 2.0*, *The Cult of iPod*, *Just Say No to Microsoft*, *Steal This Computer Book 4.0* and many more!

User Group members can visit the web site and view the complete online catalog, then use the voucher code to receive a special 40% discount on all No Starch Press books.

Voucher code: *****

<http://www.nostarch.com>

This offer is valid through March 31, 2007.

Miglia: 25% Off Miglia TV Products

Miglia Technology offers innovative audio, video and communications products. If you are interested in watching, recording, pausing or rewinding live TV on your Mac, then Miglia's TVMicro, TVMini HD and TVMax are for you. If you'd like to leverage the power of Internet telephony and make free worldwide phone calls, the Dialog products may interest you. For those into audio, check out the HarmonyAudio, Microsound and Diva products!

Miglia offers user group members the following specials, each at 25% off regular prices:

* TVMini HD: regularly \$199, user group price \$149

- * TVMicro: regularly \$99, user group price \$74
- * TVMax: regularly \$249, user group price \$187
- * HarmonyAudio: regularly \$199, user group price \$149
- * Microsound: regularly \$29, user group price \$19
- * Dialog: regularly \$79, user group price \$59
- * Dialog+: regularly \$99, user group price \$74
- * Diva 2.1: regularly \$99, user group price \$74

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

This offer is valid through March 31, 2007

PocketMac Products: 40 Percent Off

PocketMac makes a variety of productivity tools for PDA and Mac connectivity including syncing your Mac with BlackBerry, PC or Pocket PC Phone, Windows Mobile Smartphone and PSP handhelds. In addition, with PocketMac GoBetween you can sync Entourage to your iSync Phone or PDA, or use any of the PocketMac's 15 other products for additional business functions. Use the coupon code below to receive a 40% discount from PocketMac's website.

Coupon Code *****

<http://www.pocketmac.net>

This offer is valid until April 30, 2007.

Fascinating Arctic Quest: 40% Off Most Products

In Arctic Quest for Mac, your quick wits can stop the coming of a new ice age. The malicious Snow King has chained tropical islands into solid ice, and you must not let him expand his ice kingdom. Break his mighty spell by solving 60 absorbing puzzles and bringing warmth to every island. You will enjoy the superb visuals and variety of bonuses in this fascinating game.

Regularly \$19.95, the company is offering an exclusive user group price of \$11.97, a 40 percent discount. Be sure to purchase using the direct link in this offer. The key will be delivered electronically.

<https://www.regnow.com/softsell/nph-softsell.cgi?item=11295-5&>

This offer is valid through April 30, 2007.

Mobilejuice MacSleeve: 10% Off

Bring your year to a wild start with MacSleeve Jungle! This funky sleeve is targeted at fashion conscious people who want to protect their MacBooks in style. The MacSleeve Jungle features lightweight, water resistant material, with double padding for added protection. Available now in four designs, stained, bold, wrinkled and crinkled. Usually priced at \$24.35, you can buy MacSleeve cases for only

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– Special Offers, continued from page 4

\$21.90, a ten percent user group discount.

Coupon Code *****

<http://www.welovemacs.com/macbookcases.html>

Visit the Mobilejuice website to see more of their products.

<http://www.mymobilejuice.com>

This offer is valid through April 30, 2007.

The MUG Store: A Resource for Old and New

The MUG Store has some great specials and blowouts your membership should be sure and scour through every so often -- it's like an online garage sale on Mac odds and ends, as well as special offers and deals!

In addition, the MUG store consultants are available to talk about the latest and greatest Apple products, including everything introduced at the Macworld Expo. Tell your people to give them a try -- with one percent of member purchases going to your organization, everyone wins!

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User ID: ***** Password: *****

<http://www.appleugstore.com>

This offer is valid through April 30, 2007.

Apple User Group Offers

Looking for information on a past offer? Tom Piper, Apple User Group Advisory Board vendor coordinator, publishes a web page with all current offers, expiration dates and codes.

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

Password: offer

Apple UG Market Podcast - Latest Issues

Be sure to subscribe to Tom's Apple User Group Market Report podcast, a great source for information about Apple user groups, vendor discounts, special events and more.

- * Issue nine contains interviews with Leslie Ayers, Stacey Levy and Mike Basilio of Mac|Life.
- * Issue ten includes an interview with Apple User Group Advisory Board member Lynn Poos.
- * In issue eleven, User Group Regional Liaison George Kopp interviews host Tom Piper.
- * Issue twelve features Voices of User Group University and an interview with UGAB's David Roemer.

Apple User Group Market Report Podcast

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

To learn more about the Apple User Group Advisory Board, go to <http://www.apple.com/usergroups/contact/ugab/>



REVIEW

IVAK iPod Cases, VAKWRAP Earbud Cord Wraps

Vakaadoo www.vakaadoo.com

Vakaadoo is a U.K.-based company that makes innovative, puzzle-lock cases for iPods, as well as a clever little gizmo for keeping your iPod's earbud cords under control.

The iVak cases are available for fourth and fifth generation iPods and for first and second generation iPod nanos. The hard plastic cases come in either a shiny Domino finish or an appealing liquid rubber-coated Soft Feel finish. Cases come in vivid pink, purple, yellow, blue and green, as well as more sedate white, black and silver. The nano cases include a key ring and lanyard.

The first thing that sets apart the iVak cases is the two-piece hard plastic shell design, which fits together on one side like a jigsaw puzzle then snaps securely into place. Once the case is on it feels smooth and virtually seamless. A scratch-resistant plastic window protects your iPod's screen, and the scroll wheel, pause switch, earphone jack and docking port are all accessible without removing the case.

The second notable feature is the cases' weight, or lack thereof. The iVak nano case is so light, I barely notice that it's there. As an added bonus, the second generation nano case works in a regular-sized iPod dock; most cases won't fit.

The VakWrap is a small, vaguely boomerang shaped wedge of rubber with slits at each end that let you wrap and secure excess earbud cord. It comes in an assortment of colors and actually looks stylish.

In a sea of iPod cases – Macworld Expo was awash with them in January – the simple, unobtrusive iVak cases are stand-outs. And the VakWrap is the best solution I've seen to taming earbud tangles.





MAC 911 – HELP DESK

Solutions to your most vexing Mac problems

By Christopher Breen

SMARTER MAIL FILTERS

I get a lot of e-mail from marketers and PR firms. Because these messages come from both new senders as well as usual suspects, there's no way to build an Apple Mail rule that's based on senders that will automatically route the messages to a separate PR mailbox. Any suggestions for building a reliable filter? – *Via the Internet*

I once handled this problem with a Mail rule that directed messages from known flacks to a special Marketing mailbox. Whenever I received a promotional e-mail from a new source, I added the portion of the address after the symbol (so the rule would catch all e-mail sent from that PR firm) to the rule. But this rule became unwieldy because it had way too many conditions.

What I needed was a way to define a class of senders and then use that definition in my rule. And the best way to define a group of senders is to create a group in Address Book. Unfortunately, adding the name of a Mail message's sender to an Address Book group is a pain. It requires opening the message, clicking on the name in the To field, adding the name to Address Book, opening Address Book, and then dragging the contact into the group.

Entourage (which is now my main e-mail client) makes the whole process much easier. First, I created a new Entourage Address Book category, Marketing Flack, and a rule that tells Entourage to move any messages from individuals in the Marketing Flack category to my Marketing Flack mailbox. When a previously unknown marketer flings a press release my way, I select the message and press Command+= (equal sign) to add that individual to my Entourage Address Book. I then go to the Categories pop-up menu and add that contact to the Marketing Flack category. When I close Entourage's Address Book window, that person joins the ranks of marketers, and any future correspondence from him or her will be automatically shunted to the Marketing Flack mailbox.

The Stand-alone Widget

Is there any way to run a widget outside of Dashboard? I have a widget that I use all the time, and I'd really rather not have to keep hitting F12 to launch Dashboard every time I need it. – *R. Gordon Hershey*

Check out Mesa Dynamics' \$10 Amnesty Singles, which

converts widgets into stand-alone apps. You just locate the widget you want to convert (in the /Library/Widgets or your user folder/Library/Widgets folder) and drag it into Amnesty Singles' window. Then click on the Build button and select a location for your new widget-application, and Amnesty Singles will turn the widget into an application you can run like any other, without invoking Dashboard. (Senior Editor Dan Frakes's take on Amnesty Singles.)

Other utilities – I'm thinking of Marcel Bresink's free TinkerTool or Titanium Software's just-as-free OnyX – can move widgets from Dashboard, but they don't truly put widgets on the desktop; the widgets continue to float above the desktop in a widget-y layer. If that's fine by you, check them out, too.

Terminating Test Drive

My Power Mac G5 was running slow, so I decided to run a maintenance utility that does things like throw out cache and log files. A couple of days after doing this, I tried to open a Microsoft Excel document by double-clicking on it. When I did, the test-drive version of Excel launched rather than the real one. What happened, and how can I make things go back to the way they were? – *Damon Tee*

It's likely the utility reset OS X's LaunchServices database, which keeps track of your Open With preferences. When you reset it, your preferences are gone, and OS X then has to guess about what should open your documents. In this case, it guessed wrong.

To set it straight, first go to /Applications/Microsoft Office 2004/Additional Tools/Remove Office, and run the Remove Office application. You should see at least two options – Remove Microsoft Office 2004 (Including Test Drive) and Remove Microsoft Office 2004. (You may see even more if you have other Office installations.) Select Remove Microsoft Office 2004 (Including Test Drive) – which will, confusingly enough, remove just the Test Drive version. Once you've done that, empty the Trash.

Now select that Excel document and press Command-I. From the Open With pop-up menu, choose Microsoft Excel. Click on Change All, and all Excel documents will be again associated with the full version of Excel. Follow the same procedure if Word and PowerPoint documents are just as clueless about the application that should open them.

AppleWorks and the Intel Mac

I have an iBook filled with spreadsheets and databases I created in AppleWorks. I'd like to upgrade from my iBook to a MacBook Pro. But according to someone at a local Apple Store, AppleWorks is incompatible with the MacBook Pro. What software can I use? – *Ernest Arvanitis*

First, let's clear up a little confusion. AppleWorks works

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Newsbreak is the monthly newsletter of MUG ONE
– the Macintosh User Group of Oneonta, NY

Editor: Elsa Trivisano

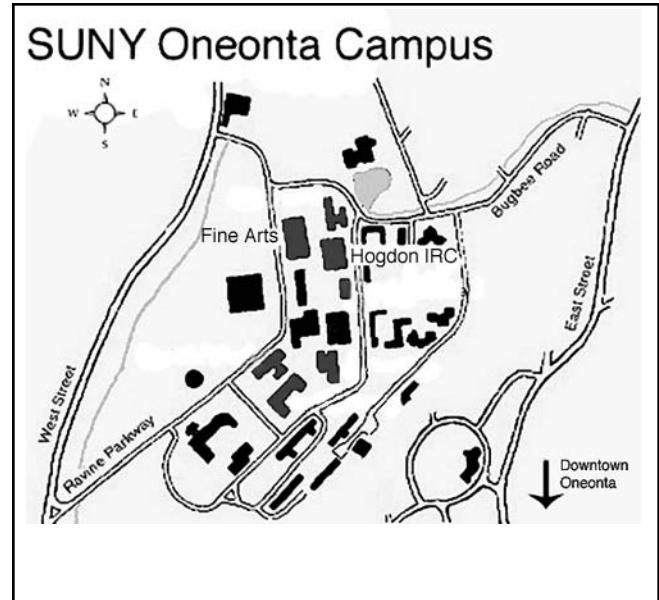
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– *Mac 911, continued from page 6*

perfectly well on Intel Macs – including the MacBook Pro. While no Universal version exists (or is likely to), AppleWorks 6.2.9 runs fine on Rosetta, Apple's PowerPC emulator. AppleWorks isn't bundled with Intel Macs, but you can just copy the AppleWorks 6 folder from your iBook to the MacBook Pro, and you'll be in business.

All that said, Apple abandoned AppleWorks long ago. It's high time for anyone who still depends on AppleWorks to go out and finally find a replacement for it.

Spreadsheets aren't a problem, as AppleWorks can save its spreadsheets in a format compatible with Microsoft Excel. You can then work with these documents in Excel, Mariner Software's Calc (\$50), ThinkFree's Office (; \$50), or the open-source NeoOffice (free).

Databases are tougher, as there isn't a clean way to import an AppleWorks database directly into FileMaker Pro. Here's the not-so-clean-way:

Open the AppleWorks database and choose Organize: Show All Records. Choose a layout that displays every field, select all, and copy the text to the Clipboard. In AppleWorks or Excel, open a new spreadsheet document. Paste the text into the spreadsheet. In all likelihood, your field headings – Address and Phone Number, for example – won't be there. So be sure to leave a couple of rows free at the top of the spreadsheet, where you can add your headings later.

Save the spreadsheet as ASCII text; then open that file in FileMaker Pro. The data should appear in a spreadsheet layout, so you'll have to re-create the original database's layout.

Optionally, if you're only looking for a way to search for existing data and plan to start fresh in FileMaker, feel free to leave the data in a spreadsheet, which you can easily search.

Tip of the Month

Smarter Smart Playlists:

I was trying to create an iTunes smart playlist that would contain all of the house, techno, and dance tracks in my iTunes library that had ratings of three stars or higher. But iTunes doesn't support the Boolean operators AND and OR in defining a playlist. Then it dawned on me that I could solve the problem by using one playlist as the basis for another.

I first created a smart playlist called Dance Music that contained all tracks with the House, Techno, or Dance genre tag, using the conditions Match Any, Genre Contains House, Genre Contains Techno, and Genre Contains Dance. I then created a second new smart playlist with the conditions Playlist Is Dance Music and My Rating Is Greater Than 2 Stars. With those two playlists, I got the results I was after. – *Drew Long*

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.

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