

NEWS BREAK

Volume 21, Number 5

June 2006

JUNE 7, 2006 MEETING

Computer Art Lab and Final Cut Studio – Sven Anderson

Join us on Wednesday, June 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the **Computer Art Lab, 321 Fine Arts Center** on the SUNY Oneonta campus (note the special location) for our monthly meeting of MUG ONE.

Sven Anderson, assistant professor of art at SUNY Oneonta and MUG ONE's Program Co-Chair, will give us a tour of the Mac-equipped computer art facilities, then will demonstrate the marvels of Apple's Final Cut Studio.

Sven was honored as an Apple Distinguished Educator for 2000-2002 and is an extremely engaging presenter. MUG ONE's visits to the computer art lab are always a treat.

As always, you'll hear the latest news and helpful hints, participate in our drawing for door prizes from vendors (members only), and share refreshments with us.

Don't miss this meeting!

Directions:

The Fine Arts Center is across the quad from our usual meeting place in IRC. Parking is available next to Alumni Field House and in front of Netzer Administration Building. For directions, see SUNY Oneonta's campus map: <http://www.oneonta.edu/navigation/directions.asp> and John Maas' classroom map: <http://www.mugone.com/pages/FA321.html>

For more information, go to <http://www.mugone.com> or email us at mugone@mac.com. MUG ONE meetings are free of charge and open to the public. Everyone is welcome.

SUMMER BREAK, SEPTEMBER MEETING

MUG ONE takes a break during the months of July and August.

Join us again in September (date and location to be announced) for **"Peachpit's Macworld San Francisco 2006,"** featuring popcorn, special prizes and videos of Peachpit authors Christopher Breen, Jim Heid, Maria Langer, Jeff Carlson and more.

Best wishes for a happy and relaxing summer, and see you in the fall!

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



The 13" MacBook completes Apple's portable lineup

MACBOOK RELEASED – REPLACES IBOOK PRODUCT LINE & 12" POWERBOOK

May 16 marked the introduction of the MacBook, Apple's Intel-based laptop aimed at the consumer and education market. The MacBook features a 13-inch widescreen glossy display, 1.83 GHz or 2 GHz Intel Core Duo processors, built-in iSight camera, an Apple Remote, MagSafe power adapter, built-in wireless, dual display support, scrolling trackpad, sudden motion sensor, and optical digital video input and output. Software includes iLife 06, Front Row media software, Photo Booth, Comic Life, OmniOutliner, Big Bang Board Games and a trial version of iWork 06. AppleWorks is being phased out by Apple, and is no longer included with current Mac models.

The MacBook replaces the iBook product line as well as the 12" PowerBook. Models sell for \$1099 (1.83 GHz, 60 GB HD, combo drive in white), \$1299 (2 GHz, 60 GB drive, superdrive in white) and \$1499 (2 GHz, 80 GB HD, superdrive in black). <http://www.apple.com/macbook/>

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MAY 3, 2006 MEETING

“Apple’s Latest Hardware and Software”

– Apple Senior Systems Engineer Dave Marra

President Elsa Trivisano began by introducing herself and welcoming members and guests, who traveled from as far away as Binghamton to attend the meeting. She invited guests to join MUG ONE with inducements that included an OS X keychain light from Apple User Groups for every joining or renewing member, the evening’s special raffle prizes, and an extended annual membership good through October 2007. Special prizes tonight included a generous offering of books from O’Reilly and Peachpit Press, software, shirts and a surge protector. Treasurer Joanne Johnston took seven new and renewing members’ money, bringing our balance to \$1582.

Announcements and Q&A

Elsa announced a limited time 50% off discount on Take Control ebooks <http://www.takecontrolbooks.com> from Adam Engst. Vice President Sven Anderson warned parents and grandparents to look up their children on MySpace.com. They may be shocked at how much children are revealing about themselves, making them potential targets for predators. The Question and Answer session featured how to use Secure Delete to empty trash and advice to overwrite the contents of a hard drive when recycling an old computer.

Program

Without further delay, special guest presenter **Dave Marra**, Apple Senior Systems Engineer, began the fifth annual Marrathon, the fastest, clearest and loudest un-amplified presentation we have had since he visited us last year. He began by playing commercials from the new Apple ad campaign (“Hi, I’m a Mac.” “And I’m a PC.”) viewable at <http://www.apple.com/getamac/> and showing his new son’s baby pictures in iPhoto.

Dave talked about the iWorks suite, \$79, that can export to iPhoto, burn DVDs and play them on your TV. Dave was using Pages 2 and Keynote 3 to present tonight. iLife ‘06 includes iPhoto, iMovie HD, iDVD, Garage Band and iWeb all integrated as never before. He demonstrated several of the new and enhanced features of the various applications to general acclaim. Podcasting is one of the current trends, and Dave showed how to create a podcast complete with photos and links, multiple voices, and a soundtrack that fades to the background when a speaker is talking. One neat feature is when the author of a podcast modifies his files, all subscribers can be notified and are automatically updated too.

On to iMovie HD, a great application for budding movie producers. Videos created with iMovie HD can be played on a TV via a cable from the computer, or made into a

DVD using iDVD. For wedding videographers and others who film events can set up Magic DVD ahead of time and drop in content to make a DVD very quickly. iDVD now supports external and third party DVD drives, a first in this version of the software.

Garage Band 3 is similarly enhanced with new podcast track, more instruments and tacks, and male and female voice enhancers. There is also “auto ducking” where the background track quiets and swells when other voice or singing tracks need to be heard. Dave went through the features of iChat and iWeb at lightning speed, answering questions as he went. iLife 06 is \$79 or free with new Macs, and Garage Band Jam packs with additional instruments and loops are \$99 each. He talked about creating your own templates for iLife applications, providing feedback to Apple, and answered questions about iWeb creations opening in Text editor (yes) and dropping into existing web sites (yes). Whew!

Hardware was next with the big questions concerning the MacBook Pro, iMac and Mini, which have all transitioned to Intel processors ahead of schedule. The iBook and MacBook Pro have an iSight camera built in for video conferences. Universal applications are those designed to work with the Intel processor; Rosetta is the environment for running older software. On April 5, 2006, “Boot Camp” was released. If you have an Intel Mac, you can go to <http://www.apple.com/bootcamp> to get the beta software which runs Windows XP on your Mac. The upcoming OS, 10.5 “Leopard” will include it. The Mac OS will “see” the Windows partition, but the Windows side can’t see the Mac side at this point.

Mac Books ship with the MagSafe power cord and come in 15.4” (\$1999 and \$2499) and 17” (\$2799) models. The new iMacs are 2 to 6 times faster than a G5 Mac and come in 17” (\$1299) and 20” (\$1699) models. The Mac Mini has 4 USB 2 ports, optical in and out, ethernet, DV1/VGA port for projectors, Airport and Bluetooth included in Intel Core Solo (\$599) and Core Duo (\$799) models.

While Dave began to demonstrate all of this, John and Terry started the silent raffle. Most took home a reward for being a member of MUG ONE. Much more is to come next month at our final meeting.

If you liked his presentation, Dave asks you to write him at marra@apple.com or visit Dave’s Web site at <http://www.marrathon.com>. The presentation is all there, and he needs our feedback to convince Apple to let him continue doing his superb presentations to user groups.

While we finished the raffle, the Pepsi, 7 Up, Oreos and ginger snaps disappeared as we all communed. A very successful evening thanks to Dave, Elsa and our members.

– TERRY L. HELSER, SECRETARY

O'REILLY LAUNCHES PDF GUIDES

From Marsee Henon at O'Reilly:

"As part of O'Reilly Media's commitment to delivering vital technology information to people who need it, when they need it, O'Reilly is launching an ongoing series of PDF publications to address cutting edge technologies. O'Reilly's PDF guides are in-depth, immediate, timely, and authoritative. Readers can purchase and download the PDFs through the O'Reilly online store, with no restrictions on the ability to save, copy, or print them."

This month's PDF offerings include:

"Build Tag Clouds in Perl and PHP" by Jim Bumgardner ISBN: 0-596-52794-2, 46 pages, \$9.99 <http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/tagclouds/>

"Web Services on Rails" by Kevin Marshall ISBN: 0-596-52796-9, 32 pages, \$9.99 <http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/websor/>

"Atlas UpdatePanel Control" by Bertrand Le Roy and Matt Gibbs ISBN: 0-596-52747-0, 56 pages, \$9.99 <http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/atlasupc/>

"Search Engine Optimization" by Harold Davis ISBN: 0-596-52786-1, 41 pages, \$9.99 <http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/seo/>

Other PDFs from O'Reilly can be found in the O'Reilly Store at: <http://pdfs.oreilly.com>

LATEST EBOOKS FROM TAKE CONTROL

Adam and Tonya Engst of Take Control publishing have released several new PDF publications in the past month, including a Macworld Magazine guide to iPods and iTunes.

All Take Control titles are 10% off for user group members – use coupon code *****.

"Take Control of Fonts in Mac OS X: Tiger Edition" 255 pages, \$20

"Take Control of Font Problems in Mac OS X, Tiger Edition" 120 pages, \$10, see the free PDF flowchart on solving font problems: <http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/resources/0037/TakeControlOfFontProblemsFlier.pdf>

"Take Control of Running Windows on a Mac" 104 pages, \$10; comes with a \$10 off coupon for Parallels Desktop.

"Macworld iPod and iTunes Superguide" 88 pages, \$12.95

"Take Control of iWeb" 123 pages, \$10 (released June 5)

For the latest information on all Take Control ebooks, go to <http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/>

LIBRARY CORNER — JO KOENIG

The library has taken up summer residence at my home. This has enabled me to go through everything and straighten it all to my satisfaction. The library will return to the campus and will be available at meetings starting in September. Books and media will be available for loan during the summer months. Details at the end of this article.

Have you borrowed any of these materials?

B508 Genealogy on Line, 6th edition

B510 Photoshop 7, Killer Tips

M197 Kid Pix

These three items are missing. Please search wherever you keep your computer reference materials. I'd be happy to receive them, no questions asked!

During its summer residence, I will be checking the library materials to ascertain those items which are outdated and/or no longer useful to members. You might want to check the complete library list on our website (<http://www.mugone.com/pages/library.html>) and let me know of any favorites you would like to see retained before we discard them.

Using the bar code scanner, we plan to change our procedures so that we can electronically check materials in and out. We will even be able to send out overdue notices!

The following books have been added to the library and are available for your use:

B526 iPod & iTunes, 4th Edition - The Missing Manual

B527 Getting Started with Your Mac and Mac OS X Tiger

B528 iPhoto for Mac OS X, Visual Quickstart Guide

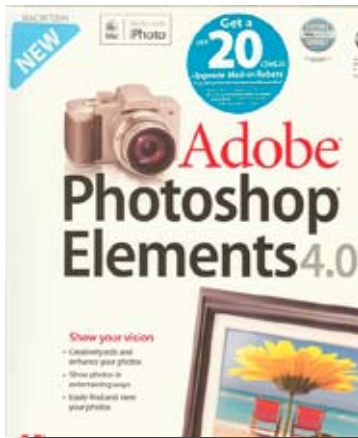
B529 iPhoto 6, The Missing Manual

B530 Mac OS X Help Line, Tiger Edition

That last one is a HUGE book containing over 1000 pages! As computer technology advances, it leaves many of us needing books full of help, such as Mac OS X Help Line.

If you find you need one or more of the available materials in the library during the summer, contact me at 607-432-4975 or 607-286-9898 or jokoening@stny.rr.com.

— JO KOENIG, LIBRARIAN



SOFTWARE REVIEW

Adobe Photoshop Elements 4.0 for Macintosh

Adobe Systems

<http://www.adobe.com/products/photoshopelmac/>

\$90, \$20 upgrade rebate through March 31, 2007; \$80 download. Academic pricing available.

The latest Mac version of Adobe's top-selling consumer photo editing application, Photoshop Elements 4.0 for Macintosh, makes it easier than ever to correct a less-than-perfect photo and to browse and organize your photo collection.

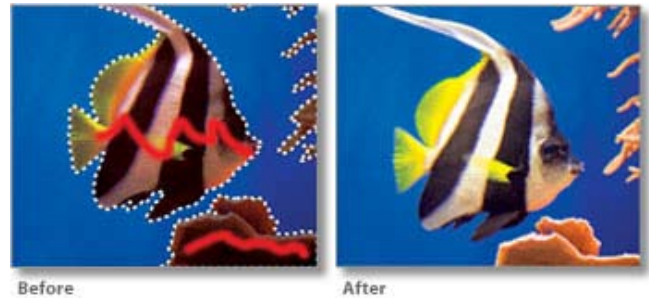
Elements 4.0 for Mac adds several valuable features to an already robust product. Note that the Windows version of Elements 4.0 has a somewhat different feature set, partially to provide functions that Mac users already have as part of the operating system, or can find in iPhoto.

The application includes an enhanced version of Adobe Bridge, the photo management software also used by the professional Creative Suite applications (Photoshop, Illustrator, GoLive and InDesign). And all of this comes for less than \$100.

Among the enhancements in Elements 4.0 for Mac are new brushes and tools that aren't available in Photoshop CS 2. This wouldn't be the first time that specific capabilities of an Adobe consumer product get the jump on a professional product, at least until that pro product is next updated. Pros and serious amateurs who work in Photoshop might want to keep Elements 4.0 on hand to take advantage of several of these technologies, particularly the Magic Extractor tool and Skin Tone Adjustment palette.

New to Elements 4.0 for Mac are smart brushes for selecting parts of a photo for adjustment, and for extracting elements to combine in a composite photo or to use in scrapbooking. With the **Magic Selection Brush** you draw

squiggles or dots to select the parts of a photo that you want to work with. This can make the traditionally arduous task of making selections a breeze, especially when adjacent areas have significant contrast. Once parts of a photo has been selected, you can adjust color, lighting, contrast, sharpness and more, using either the Standard Edit tools workspace or the more automated Quick Fix workspace (click a button on the right of the top Shortcuts Bar to switch between the two modes).



A quick squiggle or dot with the Magic Selection Brush tool lets you select an object or area to adjust.

A relative of the Magic Selection Brush is the **Magic Extractor**, which relies on a series of smart brushes and erasers to extract a person or object from its background. The extracted object can then be pasted into another photo. The process is not instant – it requires several steps and a bit of skill. The “magic” of Magic Extractor is the way that it radically simplifies a task that once daunted professionals.

To use the Magic Extractor, first make a rough selection of the person or object in Standard Edit mode using the marquee, lasso or Magic Selection brush tool. Then go the Image menu and choose Magic Extractor... which opens the selection in a window with step by step instructions and a specialized palette of tools. With the Foreground Brush tool, use the now familiar squiggle and dot technique to indicate areas you want to keep, then switch to the Background Brush tool to mark the areas to be deleted. Add to Selection, Remove from Selection and Point Eraser tools let you capture all of the object's nooks and crannies while eliminating the background, and a Smoothing Brush smooths the edges of your selection. Adjustable feather and defringe functions let you soften the selected edges and remove color fringing. There are also controls for filling holes in the selected object, preview appearance and tool options. Once you've extracted the object from its background to your satisfaction, it's ready to be copied and pasted wherever you choose.

Another notable addition to Elements 4.0 for Mac is skin tone adjustment. The **Adjust Color for Skin Tones** window gives controls for improving the color of skin tones, either in an entire photo or a selected area. The controls are found

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– *Photoshop Elements 4.0, continued from page 4*

under the Enhance menu. To get there, go to Enhance > Adjust Color > Adjust Color for Skin Tones, which opens a new window. Click on a person's skin with the eyedropper tool, then adjust sliders for Tan, Blush and Ambient Light Temperature. Make sure you have the Preview box checked so you can monitor your changes. If you don't like your initial results, click on a different skin tone and adjust until you're satisfied.



The Adjust Color for Skin Tones palette can rescue a poorly exposed photograph.

Other improvements include **WYSIWIG** (What You See Is What You Get) **font menus** that not only display a sample of each type face in the pull down menu, but also indicate whether the font is PostScript, TrueType or Open Type. The Tools palette adds a **Straighten tool** and the Quick Fix workspace adds an automatic **Red Eye Fix** button. You can **order Kodak prints**, photo books, cards and calendars from your photos in Adobe Bridge by choosing Tools > Photoshop Services. Adobe Bridge also lets you save searches, browse multiple file types, and search your photos by metadata.

Information on all of the new and enhanced features in Elements 4.0 for Mac, with links to instructions for using each new feature, is buried somewhat unhelpfully in the Help menu under Help > Photoshop Elements Help > Getting Started > New Features > What's New and >What's Changed. A direct link to these two pages from the startup screen would be welcome, especially for users who don't have "always on" internet access.

All in all, Elements 4 for Mac is a very appealing purchase for first-time photo editors and for users of previous versions of Photoshop Elements. If you're using Photoshop Elements 2 or earlier and your Mac meets the application's modest system requirements (Mac OS 10.3 and above), upgrading to the current version is highly recommended.

If you're using Elements 3 for Mac and are on the fence about upgrading, take a look at Adobe's 4.0 vs 3.0 [feature comparison chart](http://www.adobe.com/products/photoshopelmac/) at <http://www.adobe.com/products/photoshopelmac/> to help you decide. For me, the Magic Selection brush, skin tone adjustment and Magic Extrac-

tor tools make the upgrade a no-brainer. The \$20 upgrade main-in rebate for the boxed product, good through March 31, 2007, makes an added inducement.

Unfortunately Adobe does not offer a downloadable 30 day trial version of Elements 4 for Mac; only a Windows version is available. One hopes that this is just an oversight on Adobe's part and not an indication that the Mac version of Elements is assuming second-class citizen status.

– ELSA TRAVISANO

Photoshop Elements 4.0 for Macintosh

System requirements: PowerPC G3, G4 or G5 processor, Mac OS 10.3 or 10.4, 256 MB RAM, 750 MB of available hard drive space, 1024x768 16 bit display, CD-ROM drive.

O'REILLY PHOTOSHOP COOK-OFF CONTEST

O'Reilly is sponsoring a Photoshop Cook-Off contest now through **August 15**. The contest is open to anyone who shoots photographs and manipulates them in Photoshop, following recipes from any of five O'Reilly Photoshop Cookbooks. Sample recipes from each Cookbook are available online.

For details on entering, go to <http://digitalmedia.oreilly.com/contest/?CMP=BAC-E3D103788183>

MUG ONE OFFICERS' MEETING JUNE 1, 2006

President and Newsbreak editor Elsa Travisano, vice president Sven Anderson, Treasurer Joanne Johnston, program co-chairs John Maas and Brian Foley and librarian Johanna Koenig gathered for an early dinner meeting at Ruffino's Pizzeria amid the cloudbursts that marked the first day of June. MUG ONE secretary Terry Helser and program co-chair Jesse Hogue were unable to attend.

Over pepperoni and sausage pizza (plain for Elsa) we discussed the library, which has been moved from the Instructional Resources Building storage room to Jo Koenig's house while the IRC building undergoes renovation this summer. Jo is taking the opportunity to organize and weed the collection. We discussed ways to streamline the cataloging and circulation process, which could include using Delicious Library software and a barcode scanner and exporting the data to a FileMaker database and/or directly to HTML for inclusion on the MUG ONE website. Several board members will explore the possibilities and report back.

Other topics covered were meeting plans for June and the fall, the location of meetings and the library (Sven volunteered his lab and office, respectively; we need to determine whether we would have enough space), and ideas for using the LCD projector won by Elsa for the group in Microsoft's MacBU survey sweepstakes.

– ELSA TRAVISANO, PINCH HITTING FOR TERRY HELSER

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.

FeedForAll Mac: \$5 Discount

FeedForAll Mac helps users create, edit and publish RSS feeds, podcasts or podcasts for iTunes. It has integrated support for namespace extensions from MediaRSS to iTunes. Existing RSS feeds can be repaired and enhanced with FeedForAll Mac, and multiple RSS publishing scripts are also available for registered users free of charge.

With a regular price of \$39.95 electronic, or \$49.95 for CD, the user group special price is \$34.95 electronic, or \$44.95 for CD, which is \$5.00 off.

Coupon Code: *****

<http://www.feedforall.com/feedforall-mac-order.htm>

This offer is valid until August 31, 2006.

Digital Media: Tutorials at 20% Off

Apple User Group members can now get major savings on all Magnet Media's Digital Media Training Series lessons, including the company's just-released iWork '06 package, created by Macworld's Rob Griffiths. These complete and comprehensive self-paced training DVDs come with project-based media files so users can work alongside expert instructors - perfect for those new to Apple software, or those already familiar with the application.

Save 20% off every purchase from Magnet Media's web site using the coupon code below. Feel free to use this code for all of your training purchases.

Coupon Code: *****

<http://www.digitalmediatraining.com>

This offer is valid through August 31, 2006.

Bluetake Bluetooth Headphone Kit: 15% Discount

Use wireless Bluetooth headphones from Blue Essentials for your iPod or any music player. The Bluetake i-PHONO mini Bluetooth headphone kit is easy to use. Simply plug the included Bluetooth adapter into any standard headphone jack to instantly enjoy the rich sound of stereo music, without being tied down by wires. Wirelessly answer calls on your Bluetooth phone thanks to the built-in microphone, which works with your Bluetooth-enabled computer for VoIP calls as well.

Regularly \$99.99, user group members can purchase the Bluetake Bluetooth headphones kit for \$84.99, a 15% discount.

Promo Code: *****

<http://www.BlueEssentials.com/mug2006>

This offer is valid through August 31, 2006.

O'Reilly: New Discounts for User Group Members

O'Reilly Publishing is offering new and better discounts for groups. User group members can get a discount of 30 percent off a single book or 35 percent off two or more books from O'Reilly, No Starch, Paraglyph, PC Publishing, Pragmatic Bookshelf, SitePoint or Syngress books that are purchased directly from O'Reilly by phone or online. Add in free shipping for U.S. orders over \$29.95 and the offer gets even better.

Order from the O'Reilly Store online or by phone at 1-800-998-9938.

Online Code *****

<http://www.oreilly.com/store/>

PayCycle - Easy Online Payroll: 25% Discount

PayCycle's service lets Macintosh users manage payroll in minutes. With a few clicks, you can run paycheck calculations, do direct deposits, make tax payments and filings. Live payroll experts back you up at no extra charge. As a bonus, PayCycle integrates with most small business Mac accounting software.

With a regular price (for five people or less) of \$42.99 per month for PayCycle Plus, or \$24.99 per month for PayCycle Basic, user group members can click on the "Sign Up Now!" button and receive three months free, which is a special 25% discount.

<http://www.paycyclemacug.com>

This offer is valid through August 31, 2006.

MacTech Magazine: Now For All Mac Geeks, 60% Off

Established in 1984, MacTech Magazine is the only monthly magazine focused on Macintosh technology. Whether you are a power user, tech, sysadmin, programmer, web developer, network guru or just the type who wants to know what's under the hood, MacTech is for you!

Normally \$47 per year, user group members can receive 8 issues of MacTech Magazine for only \$19.95.

Learn more about MacTech.

http://www.mactech.com/misc/about_mt.html

Order.

This offer is valid through August 31, 2006.

Omni Group Products: 40% Off

The Omni Group offers productivity applications exclusively for Mac OS X including:

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– Vendor Offers, continued from page 6

- OmniWeb, a web browser which won a 2004 Macworld Editor's Choice Award
- OmniOutliner, an outlining and organizational tool which was awarded a 2005 Editor's Choice Award
- OmniGraffle, a diagramming application that received a 4.5 of 5 mice rating in February 2006 Macworld magazine.

To get a 40% discount on these products, including standard, family packs and bundles, order directly from the Omni Group online.

Coupon Code: *****

<https://store.omnigroup.com>

This offer is valid through August 31, 2006.

The MUG Store

The MUG store has three main categories for you to browse: Specials, Blowouts and Apple Product. The Specials are new items that are particularly well priced for MUG members, Blowouts are a great "garage sale" assortment of every Mac-compatible item you can think of, and the Apple Product showcases great deals on all the latest Macs, including free freight and RAM rebates as well as other special offers.

Be sure to remind your group to give the MUG Store a peek every so often. When your members buy from the MUG Store, your group receives points toward anything the MUG store sells - with enough points that item could be free!

The passwords to get into this exclusive User Group site are:

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

<http://www.applemugstore.com>

This offer is valid through July 31, 2006.

Make it Easy: All Current Offers in One Location

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

Password - 5/16/06 to 11/15/06: *****

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

Information about user group vendor offers and more can be found at the UGAB website: <http://homepage.mac.com/ugab/offerss.html>. To learn more about the Apple User Group Advisory Board, go to <http://homepage.mac.com/ugab/> and <http://www.apple.com/usergroups/contact/ugab/>

MUG ONE A WINNER IN MICROSOFT MAC BUSINESS UNIT SWEEPSTAKES

Thanks to the generosity of Microsoft's Macintosh Business Unit (Mac BU) and a healthy dollop of good luck, MUG ONE now owns an LCD projector!

Here's how it happened... In April, Microsoft's Macintosh Business Unit (MacBU) conducted a survey of Apple user group leaders through the Apple User Group Bulletin. Elsa Travisano participated in the survey on behalf of MUG ONE.

On May 23 (coincidentally the date of Elsa and Tom's 25th wedding anniversary) Elsa received an email from Chris Kim of the MacBU:

Hi Elsa,
 Congratulations! You have been selected as the winner of an LCD Projector in the Microsoft MUG Survey Sweepstakes. The projector is an Epson PowerLite 76c and it is compatible with Macs and PCs. I hope you will find it valuable for conducting presentations and demos in future User Group meetings!

After checking to make sure that the email was legitimate, Elsa duly mailed off a notarized affidavit to Chris at Microsoft. A week and a half later an Airborne Express driver arrived with the projector box tucked causally under his arm – a little too causally for comfort according to Tom, who knows how fragile LCD projector lamps are from years of chairing Hartwick College's Academic Computing Committee.

What does this mean for MUG ONE? Now that we own our own projector, we will have much more flexibility in our meeting locations. We'll also be able to give presentations out in the community, rather than being tethered to projector-equipped classrooms.

MUG ONE's officers have begun to discuss some of the possibilities that owning a projector will open up for us as a group. If you have ideas, please share them by sending an email to mugone@mac.com or by posting on the MUG ONE members Yahoo list.

LEARN TO BACK UP YOUR MAC WITH BACKUP

Looking for an easy way to back up your Mac? Apple's website has a useful overview and lessons on backing up your Mac's files and settings, including iTunes and iPhoto libraries, with Backup, part of Apple's \$99/year .Mac suite. Backup offers a "set it and forget it" way to schedule backups as well as back up files to CDs, DVDs, a hard drive or your iDisk. Trial .Mac accounts are available if you're not currently a subscriber. Better safe than sorry!

<http://www.mac.com/1/solutions/backup.html>



MAC 911 – HELP DESK

Solutions to your most vexing Mac problems

By Christopher Breen

A CURE FOR MISSING KEY CAPS

I'm trying to figure out how to use special characters in specific fonts, but I can't find Key Caps in my Applications folder or anywhere in Mac OS X 10.4.3. Font Book doesn't allow me to try the modifier keys. Please help! – *Gail Goldyne*

That's what they pay me for, Gail. Go to the International preference pane (Apple: System Preferences). Click on the Input Menu tab and select the Keyboard Viewer option. Select the Show Input Menu In Menu Bar option at the bottom of the window, and a flag representing your current keyboard layout (a U.S. or an Australian flag, for example) will appear in the Finder's menu bar.

Click on the flag. From the menu, choose Show Keyboard Viewer. A small window representing your Mac's keyboard appears. When you type characters, their corresponding on-screen versions appear highlighted in this window (see "Brand-New Viewer"). To view special characters, simply hold down any modifier keys (the option key, for example), and the on-screen keyboard will show you the special characters available for that particular key (or for that combination of modifier keys if you're holding down more than one). To test other typefaces, click on the Font menu at the bottom of the window and select another one. If you find Keyboard Viewer too small, click on the green Expand button in the top left corner of the window.

The Insomniac Mac

My Mac has trouble sleeping. What's going on? – *Via the Internet*

Nothing is more frustrating than a Mac that you have to reset because it won't awaken or a laptop that sucks up the battery charge because it fails to sleep. I wish this problem had a single answer, but regrettably it doesn't. Failure to sleep properly remains one of the great bugaboos of our favorite computer. If your Mac is too sleepy (or sleep deprived), here are a few issues to consider.

System Preferences Settings

Most people have trouble with sleepless Macs. In that case, check a few settings in System Preferences to see whether they might be to blame. First, wander over to the Energy Saver preference pane. Click on the Sleep tab and make sure that you don't have the Put The Computer To Sleep When It Is Inactive For slider set to Never. Then open

the Classic preference pane (if you have it), click on the Advanced tab, and check the Classic Sleep setting. Again, you want that slider set to something other than Never if you expect your Mac to go to sleep automatically while running Classic applications.

If you don't use your Mac to receive faxes, open the Print & Fax preference pane, click on the Faxing tab, and make sure that the Receive Faxes On This Computer option is disabled. Your computer could be keeping a wakeful eye out for incoming faxes.

If Internet Sharing is switched on, a Mac running OS X 10.4 won't sleep. Go to the Internet tab of the Sharing preference pane and click on Stop to disable it.

Corrupt Files

If certain preference files become corrupted, your Mac could refuse to sleep properly. If you have Bluetooth, turn it off in its preference pane (this won't show up on Macs without a Bluetooth adapter), quit System Preferences, and give Bluetooth's preference file the boot--you can find it at /your user folder/Library/Preferences/com.apple.Bluetooth.plist.

A corrupt PowerManagement preference file can also be a problem. Quit System Preferences and toss these files: /Library/Preferences/SystemConfiguration/com.apple.PowerManagement.plist and /Library/Preferences/SystemConfiguration/com.apple.AutoWake.plist. Enter your administrator's password when requested, restart your Mac, and reconfigure Energy Saver.

Peripherals and PCI Cards

Some printers, scanners, Bluetooth devices (mice, in particular), and third-party PCI cards can keep your Mac from going to sleep. Shut down your Mac and unplug everything--including PCI cards your Mac doesn't absolutely require to run--except for the monitor, keyboard, and mouse (surely you've got your old wired input devices around somewhere). Restart your Mac and see if it behaves itself. If so, add devices back one at a time, beginning with a PCI card, restarting after each addition and seeing how the Mac fares. When the problem recurs, cock a suspicious eye at the device you last added. Look for an updated driver for that device. If no such driver exists, you can try replacing the device. In the case of an irreplaceable doodad, you may just have to live with your Mac's sleep disorder.

If a Bluetooth device appears to be the problem, launch System Preferences, click on Bluetooth, and switch off the Allow Bluetooth Devices To Wake This Computer option. (Note that if a Bluetooth device isn't the cause, you may create a new problem by turning off this option, as you need to have it turned on for your Bluetooth mouse or keyboard to wake a sleeping Mac.)

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An Imageless Outlook

I often get e-mail messages that have pictures and text mixed together. If my wife gets one like that on her iMac in Apple's Mail, it displays just fine, but if she sends it to me on my PC, on which I'm using Microsoft Outlook, all the pictures and text change to attachments. We've experimented with the settings in Mail that claim to make e-mails PC-friendly, but nothing helps. Is this a bug, and has a newer version of Mail fixed it? – *Merle Parks*

Although I'm a little embarrassed to troubleshoot what is partly an Outlook issue, this one has stung enough people that I think addressing it is worth our while.

If you use Microsoft Entourage (part of the Microsoft Office 2004 suite, \$499) to embed an image in a message, the image appears just fine when you open it in Outlook on a PC. The same goes for in-line images sent from Mozilla Thunderbird (free). In-line images sent to the PC as part of a Mail message, however, appear as attachments. Yet if you send that same message from Mail on the Mac to Thunderbird running in Windows, the image appears in the message as intended.

This tells us there's plenty of blame to go around. Because Outlook doesn't expect to see the RichTextFormat that Mail uses to send its messages, it refuses to display images in those messages. On the other hand, more-flexible programs such as Thunderbird (and Microsoft's own Entourage) have no qualms about displaying Mail's images in line.

While we're on the subject of Mail, Outlook, and attachments, I should mention that if you add one of Mail's signatures to your message, Outlook receives it as an additional attachment. For example, if you create a message that includes an image called test.jpg and you also append a signature to the message, the Outlook recipient will see the text of the message along with two attachments--test.jpg and ATT00004.txt, a small text file that contains the signature.

Old-School Drives

I have a lot of old files stored on Iomega Bernoulli cartridges. I have my Bernoulli 230 drive. It's a SCSI device, so I purchased an Adaptec USBXchange USB-to-SCSI adapter, but I still can't access the device. I can't locate OS X driver software for it anywhere. Any suggestions? – *Dan Colasacco*

You've got at least two problems here. The first is that, according to Adaptec's USBXchange FAQ, the USBXchange adapter itself isn't compatible with OS X. But even if it were, it's possible that the drive wouldn't mount on your desktop. Although some older drives that use removable media--Iomega's Zip drive, for example--work without a

driver, others don't. So what can you do? Go old school.

Rummage around in the garage for an old Mac with a SCSI port (and if your garage doesn't have one, look for a garage sale or friend that does). This Mac will likely run Mac OS 9. If you're lucky, you still have a driver for your Bernoulli device that will work with the old Mac OS. If you're not so lucky, take a trip to DriverGuide and look for it.

If and when you get the drive up and running, copy the files to a piece of compatible media--a CD-R, for example--or network the two computers and copy your old files across the network (click here for some suggestions).

A More Reasonable Reason

I'm having problems using a music package called Reason. It operates fine, but I can't seem to play most of the demo songs, some of which are only 100KB in size. I get a message saying that my computer is too slow and that I should optimize my songs. I'm using Tiger with a 733MHz G4 processor and 896MB of RAM. Is there anything else I can do before I have to buy more RAM? – *Via the Internet*

I understand that in choosing to answer this question, I risk alienating the 97 percent of my readers who believe MIDI has something to do with mid-1970s women's apparel. To draw those readers back in, let me explain that some of what I'm about to say applies to Apple's GarageBand as well.

First, make sure that you're using the very latest version of Propellerhead Software's Reason (\$499). The first revision of Reason 3 has performance issues. Download the latest version (currently 3.0.4 Build 547), and your problem may disappear. Although you're using Tiger, people using a version of OS X prior to 10.3 should upgrade to Panther or Tiger, as the current build of Reason works better with more recent versions of Mac OS.

Next, understand that the size of the song file has almost nothing to do with how well the song plays back. As with GarageBand (see, I told you I'd tie it in), Reason's drag on the processor (and RAM) comes from its software synthesizers, samples, and effects. The song files simply tell the program what to play.

Finally, with the latest version installed, take a gander at the CPU meter in Reason's transport area. If you see this meter move into the red while songs are playing, you've learned that Reason is demanding more of your Mac's processor than it can comfortably deliver. GarageBand has the same issue. It tells you how it's feeling by displaying different colors in the playhead. When that playhead goes red, GarageBand is struggling (see "In the Red").

While these programs like RAM, they love fast processors. Reason will run on a G3, G4, or G5 processor, but no one

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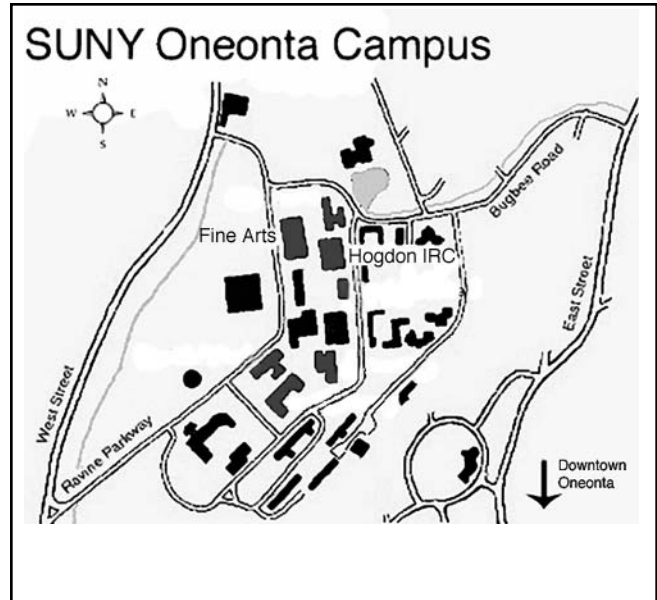
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claims that it will run well. Provide Reason (or GarageBand) with a zippy processor or two, and you'll find that it can play lots of tracks slathered with loads of effects.

If a faster processor isn't in your immediate future, do just as you'd do with GarageBand: quit other applications, delete unused tracks, and cut back on the effects.

In Reason you can also lower the sample-rate setting. Sound quality suffers, but at least the sounds play without audio glitches or error messages. In addition, use mono tracks rather than stereo (and mono samples rather than stereo), because they demand less of the processor. Make sure you have only one song document open at a time. Finally, keep in mind that some of Reason's sound modules demand more of your computer than others. See the "Optimizing Performance" section of Reason's manual to learn more about this and other performance issues.

Doing Diagnostics

Your buddy next door won't stop crowing about his hot new Mac. Feeling the tiniest bit inadequate, you'd like to find out how your Mac measures up. To do so, you need a few tools to evaluate its performance. Here are some of my favorites:

• Broadband Speed Test

If your next-door neighbors are crawling to the Internet with a slow dial-up connection, who cares if their Mac boasts twice the gigahertz rating of yours? To gauge how quickly your Mac can sprint across the Web, try one of the many free broadband bandwidth tests. Seattle-based ISP Speakeasy offers just such a test. Broadband Reports provides links to Speakeasy's tests, along with three other testing sites.

• Compare and Contrast

If you'd like a notion of just how much faster your neighbor's Mac is than yours (or vice versa, if you've got the latest Mac on the block), download Xbench (free). This utility tests CPU memory and disk read and write speeds. If you care to, you can upload your Mac's results and then compare them to those from other Macs of the world. Gloating optional.

• Monitor Your Mac

If you're interested in what your Mac is up to--CPU load, processor temperature, drive read and write speeds, how full those drives are, which applications are occupying its RAM, and what's taking place over the network--grab a copy of the Iconfactory's iPulse (\$13). iPulse is a gauge that reflects all this data in colored bars, in a menu-bar display, and in pop-up windows that appear when you mouse over particular parts of the gauge (see "Taking Your Mac's Pulse" on Page 1). Using iPulse requires that you memorize what all its colors mean, but if you're already fascinated by this kind of arcane data, taking that extra step shouldn't be beyond you.

• Aperture Able

Apple's Raw photo-processing application, Aperture, demands more of a Mac than just about any other program on the planet. If your Mac can handle it, you need bow to no one. To find out whether your Mac is up to the challenge, grab Apple's Aperture Compatibility Checker (free).

Macworld Magazine Senior Editor Christopher Breen is the author of Secrets of the iPod and iTunes, fifth edition, and The iPod and iTunes Pocket Guide (both Peachpit Press, 2005). Find Chris' books at www.amazon.com and www.peachpit.com. Get special user group pricing on Macworld Magazine! Subscribe today at <http://www.macworld.com/useroffer>.