

NEWS BREAK

Volume 24, Number 5

June 2009

JUNE 3, 2009 MUG ONE MEETING SYSTEM UPDATES, MORI AND MORE!

– Brian Foley and Mark Dye

Join us on Wednesday, June 3, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in Golisano Hall classroom 103 on the Hartwick College campus for our final meeting of the spring semester.

Brian Foley will (finally!) show us Mori, and Mark Dye will talk about handling the system updates that your Mac regularly asks you to install. We should also have time for more questions, demos and end of the school year fun.

As always, the meeting will begin with a question and answer session and end with a door prize drawing for current members and refreshments for all. The MUG ONE library will be available for current members.

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

For more information, call Brian Foley at 607-988-7031 or email Elsa Travisano at mugone@stny.rr.com

For directions, download the Hartwick College campus map at <http://www.hartwick.edu/x529.xml>. Golisano Hall is #31 on the map (#2, Arnold Hall, has been replaced by a grassy space). Gerry Stoner has created a gray-scale version of the map with an arrow to our meeting place <http://www.mugone.com/images/HartwickMapBW.jpg>

FRIENDS OF ONEONTA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER SEEK NEWSLETTER HELP

From Grace Smith:

The Friends of the Oneonta Community Health Center, a free clinic for uninsured, low income adults, has been open almost one year.

We are looking for someone with publishing skills to help us start to publish a biannual newsletter to keep our friends and supporters updated. The clinic is a true non-profit, but we would be glad to discuss paying for this professional service.

If you are interested, please contact:

Grace Smith: gsmith6@stny.rr.com 607-433-1277

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



Apple Senior Systems Engineer Dave Marra gave us a first-rate demo of iLife 09 and iWork 09 on May 6.

MUG ONE TAKES A SUMMER BREAK

MUG ONE takes a break during the months of July and August when the colleges are not in session. Enjoy your summer, and be sure to join us at our next meeting in September.

We expect to receive confirmation of our fall meeting location and dates as soon as Hartwick College's fall term classroom assignments are finalized.

Stay tuned, and see you in the fall!

MUG ONE OFFICERS FOR 2008-2009

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Special Discount 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.

Stellar Data Recovery: Free Diagnosis and 20 Percent Discount

Stellar, a market leader in providing data recovery services, specializes in salvaging lost data with over 1,000,000 customers in 137 countries. Equipped with trained and specialized data recovery professionals and an excellent Class 100 clean room facility, Stellar can recover data from almost all operating systems and storage media.

Stellar announces FREE DIAGNOSIS and 20 percent off on laptop and desktop data recovery.

Discount Coupon for this offer:

Request a free quote.

<http://www.datarecoveryervices.biz/quote-request.php>

Register your group and stay informed on offers.

<http://www.macintosh-data-recovery.com/stellar-love-mac-user-groups.php>

Learn more.

<http://www.datarecoveryervices.biz>

This offer is valid through August 31, 2009

Apple User Group Market Report, Resource Blog & Vendor Discount Offers

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

Password until November 15, 2009: *****

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

Continuing User Group Offers

Continuing offers on publications include:

- Mac|Life magazine charter subscription
- Macworld Magazine special subscription offer
- Take Control ebooks – now a 30% discount!
- Peachpit book club
- O'Reilly Publishing discount offers

Apple User Group Market Report podcast

Be sure to subscribe to the Apple User Group Market Report podcast. The AUG Market Report and Resource blog

are great sources for information about Apple user groups, vendor discounts, special events, interesting reviews, stimulating training and more.

Apple User Group Market Report podcast:

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

For public information about vendor offers and more visit:

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



ADAM ENGST'S IPHOTO '09 VISUAL QUICKSTART GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE

Adam Engst's eagerly anticipated guide to iPhoto '09, *iPhoto '09, Visual QuickStart Guide*, is hot off the press from [Take Control](#) ebooks. The book is available in ebook and print versions and, like all Take Control titles, it can be yours for a **30%** user group discount.

Also new from Take Control are *Take Control of Maintaining Your Mac, second edition* and *Take Control of Troubleshooting Your Mac 1.1*, both by veteran Mac author and frequent Macworld contributor Joe Kissell.

Take Control ebooks come in PDF format so that you can read them on your computer or print them out (all or in part) – the choice is yours. Most titles can also be ordered as printed books.

Once you've purchased a title, minor updates can be downloaded for free – just click the link on the front cover to see if any updates are available.

Take a look at Take Control's latest offerings at <http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/> or browse their catalog at <http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/catalog.html>.

Then use coupon code ***** at checkout to get your discount.

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Here are links to these titles, with list prices shown.

[iPhoto '09, Visual QuickStart Guide](#)

Adam Engst, 240 pages, ebook \$15, print version \$16.49

Here are links to the latest Take Control titles:

[Take Control of Troubleshooting Your Mac 1.1](#)

Joe Kissell, 90 pages, ebook \$10, print version coming soon

[Take Control of Maintaining Your Mac 2.0](#)

Joe Kissell, 95 pages, ebook \$10, print version coming soon



MAC 911 – HELP DESK Solutions to your most vexing Mac problems

By Christopher Breen

AUTO-ENABLING SAFARI'S PRIVATE BROWSING

Reader Leo Campo is interested in Safari's Private Browsing feature, but finds with it a measure of frustration. He writes:

I'm using Safari 4 beta on an Intel iMac under Leopard 10.5.6. I use the private browsing feature most of the time. Is there a way to make this Safari feature the default action? It gets old very fast always having to turn this feature back on every time I launch Safari, which for me, is several time a day.

Regrettably Private Browsing isn't a feature you can leave on. When you quit Safari and launch it again, you'll find that Private Browsing is turned off. And no, editing the `com.apple.safari.plist` file does you no good either. Safari just resets the option within the preference file when you next launch Safari.

If you're running Leopard you can, however, automate the process of enabling the Private Browsing option with AppleScript. Like so.

First, launch the Universal Access system preference and enable the Enable Access for Assistive Devices option.

Now, launch Script Editor (within the AppleScript folder inside the Applications folder) and enter the following script:

```
tell application "Safari"
    activate
end tell
tell application "System Events"
    tell process "Safari"
        tell menu bar 1
            tell menu bar item "Safari"
                tell menu "Safari"
                    click menu item "Private Browsing"
                end tell
            end tell
        end tell
    end tell
end tell
```

Save the script as an application and then use that application to launch Safari. When you do, Safari will launch and Private Browsing will be enabled.

Accessing a Mac When You Don't Know the Password

Reader Sabrina has a common, but potentially delicate, question. It goes a little like this:

I was given my mother's iMac because she passed away but I don't know the password. How can I gain access to this Mac?

I suggest this question is a little delicate because you could use the method I'm about to describe to access any Mac. And that may be a problem for parents who want to keep kids out of their stuff (and vice versa). On the other hand, situations such as yours (as well as problems that come up when you purchase a used Mac that hasn't been properly cleared) invite a response.

That response is this in regard to OS X 10.5: Locate that Mac's installer disc or a recent OS X installer disc (a Tiger or Leopard disc, for example). Insert that disc into the Mac's media drive and hold down the keyboard's C key to boot the Mac from that disc.

When the Mac boots you'll be asked to choose a language. Do that and click the right-pointing arrow icon to continue. When the Welcome screen appears wait for the menubar to materialize and choose Reset Password from the Utilities menu. In the resulting window choose the user whose password you want to change from the Select a User pop-up menu. Enter and confirm a password in the appropriate fields and, if you like, enter a hint for the password. Click Save to make the change.

Note that when you've reset the Administrator's password you haven't reset the login keychain password—that password remains as it was when it was originally set. What this means is that you'll be able to do all the things an Administrator can—install applications and muck with all the Mac's system preferences, for example. You can't, however, access keychain items (web site passwords, for example) saved in that login keychain without the password originally used.

Oh swell, I hear parents saying. You've just given my kid the key to taking over my Mac. Thanks so much!

Fortunately, there's something you can do. Boot your Mac from that installer disc again, find your way to the Welcome screen, and from the Utilities menu choose Firmware Password Utility. In the window that appears click the Change button, then enable the Require Password to Change Firmware Settings option and enter and verify a password. Click OK and your Mac is now protected with a firmware password.

Which means what? It means that if your kid starts up your Mac with an installer disc in the media drive and presses the C key to boot from the disc, the Mac will ignore that

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key press and move to the login screen. If the kid's really savvy and presses the Option key to move to the screen where you choose a device to boot from, a padlock icon appears with a text field below. If said kid doesn't enter the correct firmware password in that text field, he or she won't be able to boot from the disc.

However (and this is an important however), if you've logged into your Mac as an administrator and walked away from your Mac without logging out, any passer-by can then shove the installer disc into the Mac's media drive, boot from that disc by choosing it in the Startup Disk system preference, and then muck with the administrator and firmware passwords. For this reason, be sure to log out of your account before leaving your Mac if you fear for your Mac's safety. (The Log Out After X Minutes of Inactivity option in the General tab of the Security system preference can help with this.)

Making Sense of OS X's Folder Structure

Reader Mark Walerysiak is frustrated by what he views as redundancy in OS X. He writes:

I'm very happy with all things Apple but one thing I've never understood about OS X is the multiple Library folders. Today I was looking for the StartupItems folder because I had to delete something. I went to Hard Drive/System/Library/StartupItems. And I found nothing in that StartupItems folder. I then went to my Home folder/Library, only to find no StartupItem folder. Finally, I found what I was looking for in Hard Drive/Library/StartupItems folder. What the heck is going on?

This question goes to the heart of the way OS X organizes users and directories. It breaks down this way:

Items in the **System** folder are for OS X's use—items in its **Library** folder are, for the most part, placed there when OS X is installed or when the OS is updated. Unless you're geeking out, there are few reasons to venture into this folder.

The Library folder at the root level of the hard drive is often populated with third-party items installed by an Administrator. In the case of startup items, they're placed here because they may be needed by every user who has an account on that Mac. If a user doesn't have access to a particular application that uses one of these startup items—because they have a controlled account, for example—no worries. It doesn't hurt to have that item loaded. It would hurt, however, if a startup item was loaded for one account and not another.

This helps explain why there's no StartupItems folder in the Library folder within your user account. (Underscoring this notion is the fact that startup items load before a user

logs in.) Note that StartupItems are not the same thing as the applications you've designated as Login Items for your account. StartupItems work deeper-level background mojo than Login Items.

The Library folder within a user's folder contains, as you might expect, items that apply to that specific user—preferences, audio files, plug-ins, mailboxes, log files for applications used by that user, and so on. This is the folder you want to dig around in when something in your account is acting up.

Spring into Spring-loaded Folders

Today's easy-peasy fix comes courtesy of reader Paul Sarlis, who writes:

With older versions of OSX I could grab a file that I saved to my Desktop and hold it over my hard drive icon. When I did that the hard drive would open so that I could place the file where I needed it. Is this option still available or is there a new way to do this?

Yes the option—called spring-loaded folders—is still there. In your case, it appears that it's been switched off. To switch it on, choose Finder -> Preferences, click the General tab if it's not already selected, and enable the Spring-Loaded Folders and Windows option. With the Delay slider below you can determine how long the Finder delays springing open a folder or volume after you've dragged an item to it.

Easy and peasy though this question and answer are, it's a nice reminder of a feature that far too many people fail to use. If this spring-loaded thing is new to you, it works this way: Drag an item to a volume or folder and continue holding down the mouse button. The volume or folder will blink a couple of times and then its root folder will open. You can let go of the mouse button and the item will drop into this folder. Or, you can hold the item over yet another folder and, sure-as-shootin', that folder will also blink and then open. Continue this process until you dig down into the folder you want to access.

Macworld Senior Editor Christopher Breen is the author of *Secrets of the iPod and iTunes (6th edition)*, and *The iPod and iTunes Pocket Guide (4th edition)* both from Peachpit Press and as well as the *Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard Essential Training Video Training CD-ROM (2007)* and *Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard Beyond the Basics CD-ROM (2008)* (both Lynda.com).

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