

NEWS BREAK

Volume 21, Number 4

May is Marra Month!

MAY 3, 2006 MEETING

Apple's Latest Hardware and Software – Apple Senior Systems Engineer Dave Marra

Join Apple Senior Systems Engineer **Dave Marra** for his 5th annual visit to MUG ONE on **Wednesday, May 3** at 7:30 p.m. in Hogdon IRC, Lecture Hall 4 on the SUNY Oneonta campus. Dave promises an exciting evening exploring Apple's latest hardware and software products.

According to Dave, we will start with an in-depth look at the brand new **iMac**, **MacBook Pro** and **Mac mini**, all running with Intel Core Duo processors.

For the latest in exciting Apple software, we'll have fun making podcasts with **iLife '06** – featuring significantly updated versions of **iPhoto**, **iMovie**, **iDVD** and **GarageBand**, along with the brand new **iWeb**!

Finally, we will take a look at **iWork '06**, Apple's updated productivity suite featuring **Pages** and **Keynote**, for creating professional-looking documents and simply stunning presentations. Be prepared for an exciting show!

Dave Marra is a phenomenal speaker who packs an amazing amount of information and enthusiasm into a meeting. Come get your questions answered, and be sure to bring a friend. This is a meeting you won't want to miss.

As always, you'll hear the latest news and helpful hints, participate in our drawing for door prizes from vendors with special prizes from Apple, O'Reilly and Peachpit (members only), and share refreshments with us. We'll also be offering a **special incentive** for joining MUG ONE or renewing your membership.

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.

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

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

or download John Maas's annotated Oneonta map:

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

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



Apple Senior Systems Engineer Dave Marra returns for his fifth MUG ONE presentation on May 3.

APPLE TO OFFER COMPUTER RECYCLING

Apple will offer free computer take-back and recycling with the purchase of a new Macintosh system beginning in June. US customers who buy a new Mac through the Apple Store (www.apple.com) or Apple's retail stores will receive free shipping and environmentally friendly disposal of their old computer as part of the Apple Recycling program. Equipment received by the program in the US is recycled domestically and no hazardous material is shipped overseas. For more information, go to www.apple.com/environment

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APRIL 5, 2006 MEETING

“More Tips & Tricks, Font Management and What’s Behind the Screen?”

President Elsa Trivisano began by introducing herself and greeting us while Jo Koenig, librarian, and helpers set up our library on carts. Elsa announced that May is Marra Month! On May 3, Apple Senior Systems Engineer Dave Marra will again take us on a whirlwind tour of the latest and best from Apple, including the Intel based Macs.

Elsa announced that you can now boot Windows on the Intel based Macs using Boot Camp, Apple’s free beta software. Come next month to get Dave Marra’s take on this new software. Be aware that Apple offers NO support for this.

Other announcements included noting that Apple’s 30th birthday went by without any big announcements except for Boot Camp. If you have \$500-600 to register, take a look at “Mac Live,” the graphic arts conference at the Javits Conference Center in NYC on May 11-13. It is aimed at pros, but has excellent presenters. See www.maclive.com.

Questions and Answers

If you aren’t on the MUG ONE members’ only Yahoo! Listserv, contact Joanne to be invited to join. A sign-up sheet was circulated for people to sign up or correct their email addresses. Brian Foley extolled the virtues and cost (\$300 with set up and \$49, \$69 or \$79/month for increasing speeds) of Wild Blue satellite internet service from Otsego Electric Corp. in Hartwick. Call 1-866-wildblue or go to www.wildblue.com to investigate.

A question about connecting a SCSI slide scanner to a new Mac started an extensive discussion on options, but the result seemed to be that it’s best to use an old Mac to run such a device and then transfer the files to your new machine as needed. Other options are expensive or technically difficult. Problems with an inkjet printer cartridge, when you’ve already run the cleaning cycle, could be due to a defective one. Suggestions included putting in a new cartridge, or soaking the clogged ink head in hot water, blotting and reinstalling it (do the latter at your own risk, as it could damage the inside of your printer!) Epson cartridges should not be removed and reinstalled, however. www.oddparts.com was mentioned as a source for old parts. Finally, if you want to replace a battery on an iMac, get help from a techie friend, or look up the instructions for your particular model at www.apple.com/support.

Jesse Hogue is off to Glens Falls to work for Angel Dynamics in tech support. Now **that’s** going to be a drive to attend meetings. His departure breaks our record of sending officers (mostly vice presidents) south for career moves. Good luck in the new job, Jesse!

Brian then asked questions submitted on index cards. Have your cards ready when you come to a meeting, and

the crew will answer at the meeting or research it for you. The first was about how to open old files from friends that don’t open on your Mac. Click on the file name and hold command (Apple) i keys to open a menu that suggests “Open With” options. You can put on the suffix to indicate file type, if you know it; for example, .doc for MS Word, .xls for MS Excel spread sheets, .png for screen shots or .htm or .html for Web pages. Also, try “Graphic Converter” for pictures or MacLink Pro (\$80 program) to open many types of files. A second question about submitting files to newspapers elicited the response that you have to ask each newspaper what format they want.

Program

Gerry Stoner then took the podium to explain how to handle fonts, those files your computer uses to write the characters on screen and print. Since his handout said it all (nice job, Gerry!), ask Gerry for a copy if you missed it. One valuable hint is to keep pristine versions of all your fonts on a CD or other media so when a “file corrupted” happens and it is really the font that is bad and needs to be reinstalled, you have a good copy. Sounds like “backup” to me. Thanks Gerry.

John Maas then gave some tips on Web page design. A common complaint is the font and/or size is unreadable. Command + lets you increase the size. You can go to “Browser Preferences” to set the font and the size you want to read pages that are not set by the page itself. John suggested navigating to User > Safari > Library > Bookmarks to export bookmarks to a folder on the desktop, or making a Web page of them so you can get to them when you travel. See Robin Williams “The Mac is Not a Typewriter” (Peachpit Press) for excellent tips.

Brian then suggested some low-tech ways to control your email. One was to delete it if you read it. To save it, copy/paste or save/export to the hard drive outside the email program. Also, set email preferences to check for mail once a day, not every time one comes in. That way you can concentrate on what you need to get done. Also, buy a cheap kitchen timer and set it to ensure you do what you need to do in a set time. Nifty ideas, Brian, and delivered within 10 minute by the timer!

Jesse then explained the difference between a virus that attaches itself to emails, etc. and a Trojan horse/worm that looks like a picture, but isn’t. The newest one for Macs asks if you want to open an application. You would have to click “yes” to be infected. Don’t. In addition, look in the library for a folder “AppKook” and delete it. Or ask Jesse. Thanks all for a very useful program.

Next, we drew raffle tickets for door prizes from The Hat, and ended with refreshments and conversation. Thanks to everyone who made it a successful program.

– TERRY L. HELSER, SECRETARY

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.

MobileJuice: MacSleeve Group Order Discount

MobileJuice MacSleeve 15.4 inch encases your precious MacBook Pro while offering good protection, as well as integrating an IT lifestyle with technology and art. Extensive benefits include double padding for strong protection, high quality metal zippers with two zipper pulls and colors in black, blue, green and red.

Regularly \$35.00, user groups pay only \$25.00, plus postal shipping and handling. Individual orders must be gathered together (minimum of five) and submitted as a group purchase by the user group: orders will be shipped to the user group address (no P.O. boxes).

Group ambassadors can order by sending an email to chunhua@jchsmedia.com, with number of items and coupon code.

Coupon Code: *****

http://www.mymobilejuice.com/iBook_MacSleeve.htm

This offer is good while supplies last through July 31, 2006.

Quickertek: Great New Connect Antenna

For a limited time, all Apple User Group members can buy Quickertek's wireless performance products, including the revolutionary new PowerBook Connect, at a 20 percent discount. Connect is the newest and fastest way to increase range and it's easy to install - no tools required.

And don't forget to check out Quickertek's great new Point-to-Point Internet system. This is an online-only offer, and the order form must include the discount code.

Discount code: *****

<http://www.quickertek.com>

This offer is valid through July 31, 2006.

Webstractor: Beyond Browsing at 25% Discount

Webstractor lets users capture and edit web-based content. Way beyond a browser, it captures pages in two ways, turning them into offline-readable and quickly-searchable documents. Apart from capturing pages as they are browsed, the new "Radar" feature pings pages the user designates, automatically capturing changed pages or changed pages containing specific keywords.

What then? Webstractor documents transform easily to create perfectly edited custom documents using the complete integrated complement of word processing tools. Tutorials and NFRs are available. With an RRP of \$79.99, Apple user group members pay only \$59.95, a 25 percent discount.

Take a product tour.

<http://www.softchaos.com/webstractor/tour/>

Buy and download.

This offer is valid through July 31, 2006.

Wacom Pen Tablet: Amazing Offer

Wacom's award-winning Graphire3 is wonderful for painting, drawing, editing photos and general navigation on your computer. These tablets come with a one-year warranty and software, including Adobe Photoshop Elements, Corel Painter Essentials and excellent photo filters.

Because of the introduction of the Graphire 4, the white Graphire3 product line is discounted in the 4x5 version from \$99 to \$29.99, and the 6x8 version from \$199 to \$64.99, a greater than 70% savings, when members use the promotion code at Wacom's online shopping cart and apply the mail-in rebate.

Coupon code: *****

Order the Graphire3 4X5.

<http://www.onsale.com/onsale/shop/detail~dpno~644405.asp>

Order the Graphire3 6X8.

<http://www.onsale.com/onsale/shop/detail~dpno~644402.asp>

This offer is good while supplies last through July 31, 2006.

The MUG Store

The MUG store has three main categories for you and your members to browse: specials, blowouts and Apple Products. 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 Apple Products showcases great deals on all the latest Macs, including free freight and RAM rebates as well as other special offers.

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

05/01/06-07/31/06

User ID: *****

Password: *****

<http://www.applemugstore.com>

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



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

By Christopher Breen

DELETE INCORRECT MAIL ADDRESSES

I've entered some incorrect addresses when addressing new e-mail messages in Apple's Mail. Now when I create a new message and enter the first couple of letters of an address, these unwanted addresses appear. Since they haven't been entered on a card in Address Book, I can't find them to delete them. How can I rid myself of these bad e-mail addresses? – *Helen Pressel*

When you create an e-mail message and type the address in Mail, the program puts the address--whether right or wrong--in its cache. To remove cached addresses in the version of Mail that shipped with OS X 10.2.8, select Window: Address History, select the incorrect address in the resulting Address History window, and click on Remove From History.

In Tiger's version of Mail, go to Window: Previous Recipient and do the same. The command's name is different, but it works in a similar way. In the Panther and Tiger versions of Mail, you can remove these addresses by allowing Mail to automatically complete the incorrect entry, control-clicking on the address, and then selecting Remove Address from the contextual menu (see "Boot Bad Addresses").

Raise the Dead Drive

I installed the Tiger (OS X 10.4.3) update, and now my Power Mac G5 can mount DVD movies but refuses to play them. What's wrong? – *Via the Internet*

If you've been using your Mac for longer than the life span of a moderately hearty butterfly, you've heard that after installing an OS upgrade--say from OS X 10.4.1 to OS X 10.4.2--you should immediately dash to Apple's Disk Utility (/Applications/Utilities), select your startup drive from the list of drives at the left of the Disk Utility window, and click on Repair Permissions to put any errant file permissions back in line. I've found doing so to be an absolute necessity for this particular update.

After I installed the update on my brand-new 20-inch iMac G5, the SuperDrive refused to read a perfectly legitimate software CD. Spin enthusiastically, it would, but mount, it would not. When I repaired the Mac's permissions, a slew of out-of-whack ones appeared in Disk Utility's main window. With these fixed, the drive worked as it was supposed to.

I'm aware that a new update may be out by the time you

read this. Regardless, this advice applies from now until Apple says there's a better way. Repair permissions after every update.

Save Your Receipts!

I can't use Apple's Disk Utility to repair permissions on my 500MHz Titanium PowerBook G4. When I try, I see an error that reads "No valid packages." What's going on? – *Ayrton Camargo*

You can't repair permissions if you've moved the BaseSystem.pkg file in your Mac's /Library/Receipts folder. Regrettably, there's a notion floating around the Web that it's perfectly okay to toss the contents of this Receipts folder to free up space. But if you misplace this particular file, which was created when you installed OS X, you encounter this error.

Each package, or .pkg file, in your Receipts folder contains a bill of materials, or .bom file, that keeps track of permissions for the items installed from that package. Disk Utility uses that information to compare the permissions of files on your hard drive with the permissions listed in these .bom files.

If a receipt (and its accompanying .bom file) is missing, Disk Utility can't verify the permissions at all. In most cases, this isn't a huge problem. Disk Utility goes on about its business because it's unaware of the missing receipt. But it becomes a big problem if the BaseSystem.pkg file is missing, because Disk Utility relies on this particular package to do its job.

The solution to the problem is to put the BaseSystem.pkg file back in the Receipts folder. If you've intentionally removed and deleted it, either pull a copy of the file from a backup you've created or find a Mac buddy who's running your PowerBook's version of Mac OS, grab a copy of this file from his or her computer, and plunk it into the Receipts folder on your Mac.

If you're buddyless, you can put things right by performing an Archive & Install installation of Mac OS.

Resurrect Sherlock

My copy of Sherlock appears to be dead, and I don't know how to get it up and running again. It worked well under previous versions of OS X but broke when I installed OS X 10.4. – *Louise Wazbinski*

This behavior could be seen as a fairly broad hint that Sherlock's days are numbered, because most of its capabilities are duplicated by Tiger's Dashboard widgets. (Hold those angry cards and letters, please--I'm not saying that widgets are better than Sherlock; I'm saying only that the writing is on the wall.)

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But that doesn't mean I can't help you. You simply need to clear Sherlock's virtual throat and allow it to start fresh. Dig through your user folder and toss the following folders and files into the Trash:

/your user folder/Library/Caches/Sherlock/

/your user folder/Library/Preferences/ Sherlock/

/your user folder/Library/Preferences/com.apple.Sherlock.plist

Dot Not

I used Panic's news reader, Unison, to download a folder full of files. I can't find that folder anywhere on my hard drive, and Spotlight can't find any of the files. Yet when I click on the Show File icon in Unison's Downloads window, the file appears in the group folder that contains it. Where is everything? – *Bill Phillips*

This quirk from an earlier version of Unison has now been addressed. If you used a utility such as Marcel Bresink's free TinkerTool to make your Mac's invisible files visible, you'd find your folder right where it should be--inside the group folder (alt.binaries.sounds, for example) where Unison stores its downloads.

The problem is that the file or folder's name probably begins with a period (.). You see, the Finder won't allow you to create a file or folder with a name beginning with a period, but it's possible to download one. Unfortunately, that's the naming convention for special items reserved for the system's use. OS X makes all such items invisible so you can't mess with them by accident.

The trick to making the folder visible is changing its name, but the Finder may prevent you from doing so in the normal way--highlighting the name in the Finder and removing the period. Instead, select the folder's name, press Command-I to bring up the Info window, and rename the folder by typing in the Info window's Name & Extension text field.

Change the subject

A friend sends me tons of funny e-mails, but they all have the subject heading "Humor." I save the ones I like in a folder, but I can't tell them apart. If I could change the subject heading, reviewing the items in this folder would be a lot easier. – *Jim Ross*

The most effective solution would be to contact the sender and ask him or her to create a subject heading that reflects the contents of each message. But I imagine you would have contacted Dear Abby instead of Mac 911 if you wanted the social solution to your problem. To avoid what could be an awkward e-mail exchange, try this instead.

Launch Mail, hold down the Command and option keys,

and click on the transparent button in the upper right corner of the window to produce the sheet that lets you customize the toolbar. Drag the Redirect icon to the toolbar.

When you receive a joke that you like, click on the Redirect button. In the message window that appears, enter your name in the To field and type in a subject heading that more accurately describes the yuckfest within. Send the message to yourself.

To more easily file the message when you receive it, add a made-up word to the subject that will help you filter the message with a rule. For example, you could use the fake word Laff in the subject line--"Laff: Chicken Crosses Road." Click on the plus-sign (+) button at the bottom of Mail's Mailboxes pane and create a new mailbox named Laffs. Now choose Mail: Preferences, click on the Rules tab, click on Add Rule, and create the following rule: If Subject Contains Laff, Move Message To Mailbox Laffs (see "Get the Joke").

If you'd rather not e-mail yourself, go ahead and click on Redirect, enter any e-mail address you like, change the subject, and then click on Save As Draft. Mail will move the message to its Drafts folder; then you can move it to another folder.

Shrink slide shows for TV

Tip of the month: You can make beautiful slide shows in iPhoto. But when you try to burn them to DVD to watch on a TV, you'll find that 10 to 20 percent of the image area disappears. Here's how to create a slide show that fits, with Apple's iLife '05 (\$79) and QuickTime Pro (\$30).

Start by creating a slide show in iPhoto and choosing Share: Send To iDVD. Quit iDVD. Open the slide show (it's in /your user folder/Movies) in QuickTime Player Pro. Choose Window: Show Movie Properties, and make a note of the slide show's length.

Using an image editor, create a black image and save it as a 640-by-480 JPEG file. Launch iMovie, create a new project, and drag the black JPEG image into the Clips area. Drag the black image into iMovie's timeline and then double-click on it. In the Duration field of the Clip Info window that appears, enter the duration of your slide show and click on Set. Choose File: Share and, in the resulting pane, click on the QuickTime tab. Choose Full Quality from the Compress Movie For pop-up menu, and click on Share.

Double-click on the black movie file to open it in QuickTime Player. Locate your slide-show movie, and open it in QuickTime Player as well. Click here to download the QuickTime Player scripts. Install the script collection, using the instructions with the file. Return to QuickTime Player and choose AppleScript: QuickTime Player Scripts: Edit:

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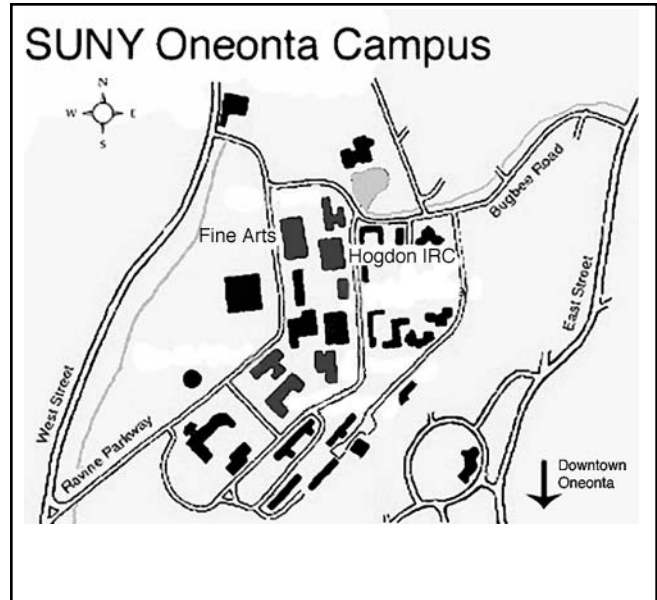
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– *Mac 911, continued from page 5*

Merge Movie 1 Into Movie 2. This merges the contents of both movies into one movie.

Choose Window: Show Movie Properties. You'll see two video tracks. Select Video Track 1 (which should be in the DV/DVCPRO - NTSC format), deselect the Preserve Aspect Ratio option, and enter 640 and 480 into the Scaled Size fields. Enable the High Quality option.

Now select Video Track 2 (in MPEG-4 Video format). Enter 544 and 408 in the Scaled Size fields and 48 and 36 in the Offset fields. Doing this centers the images in the black background field. Enable the High Quality option here, too. Save the file and import it into iDVD. The entire picture will now fit on the TV screen (see "Shrink to Fit").

– *Carl Sunshine*

Rigging a Safety Net

Cool as your Mac may be, without the data you so carefully create and manipulate on it, it's little more than a pretty box. To help keep your data intact, I'd like to recommend a few items that any good office (home, mobile, or otherwise) should have.

• Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS)

A UPS can help protect your data by standing in the way of power fluctuations and providing battery backup should power fail completely. You can buy a UPS from companies such as APC, Belkin, and Tripp-Lite. Most cost between \$70 and \$150, although you can find them for as little as \$35 or as much as \$500.

When seeking a UPS, look at its load capacity, measured in volt amps. An iMac or a laptop will get along fine with a 350VA UPS. If you have a Power Mac G5, look for a 1,000VA model. Also see that it supports Automatic Volt-

age Regulation (AVR)--a feature you won't find on the less expensive models. This helps ensure that the UPS reacts quickly to changes in power, providing your Mac with a steady stream of the right power.

• Hard Drive and Backup Software

You've heard the "some day your drive will die, and without a backup, you're meat" lecture time and again, so I won't repeat it here. But if you really want to protect your data, get an external hard drive and backup software that can copy your data on a schedule. (See our most recent review of external FireWire drives.) You can find 300GB FireWire hard drives for less than \$250. And you needn't spend a fortune on backup software. Some hard drives ship with EMC Dantz's Retrospect Express). Shirt Pocket's \$20 SuperDuper) does a great job for little money. And if you're a .Mac subscriber, you get Apple's Backup 3 for free.

• USB Key Drive

If you can't back up on a schedule, drop a couple of dozen dollars to purchase a USB key drive from a company such as SanDisk. Plug it in whenever you're working on a hot project and make copies of your five most important documents. If you carry the drive on your keychain or around your neck, you'll have the documents whenever you need them. This is also a good way to protect files you're changing quickly. A backup that fires off once a day might not be enough to save the right version.

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/>.