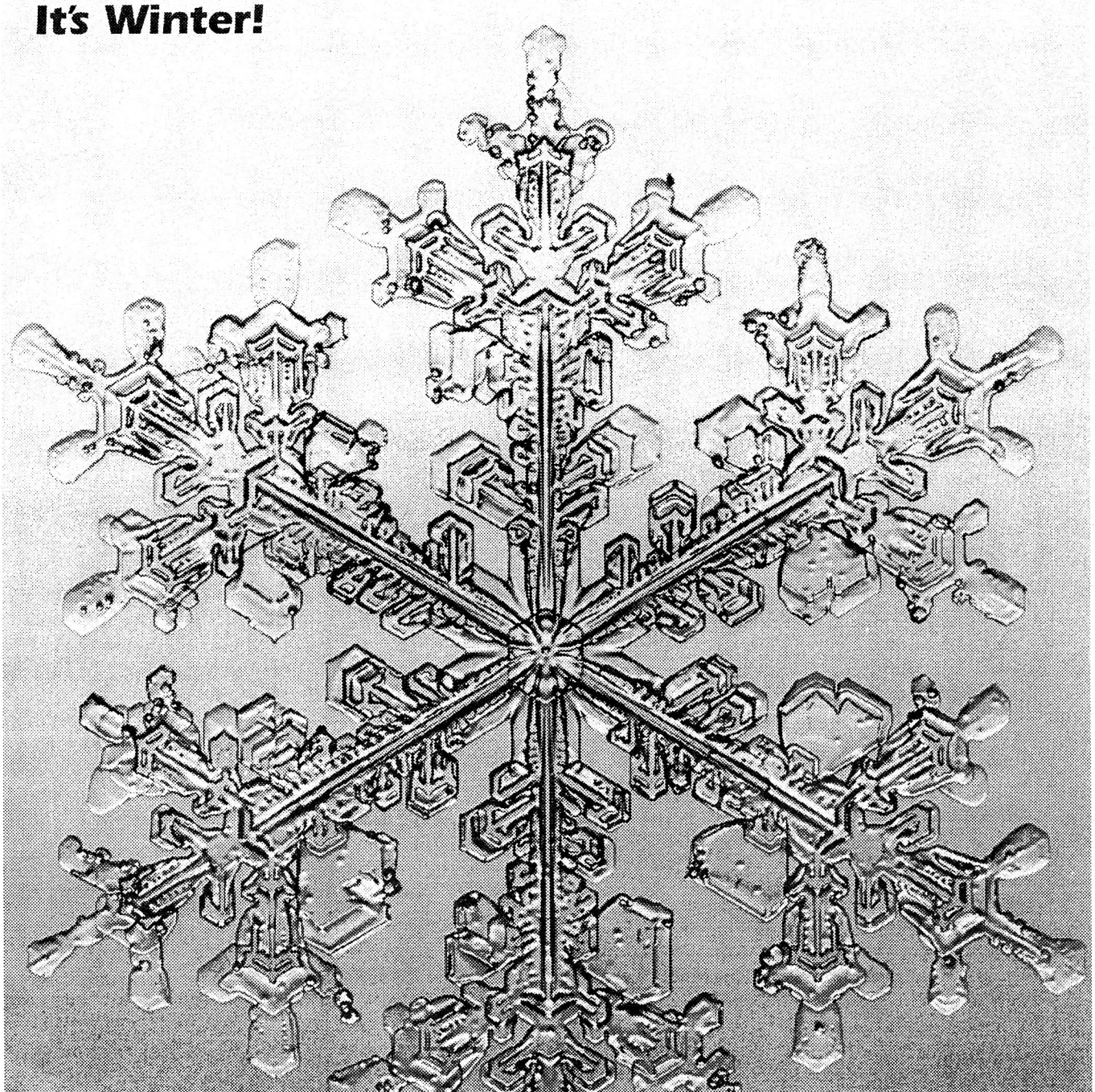
Print Post Approved PP230594/00008

June 2001

MACinations

Club Mac Magazine $4

It's Winter!



Lots on FireWire Graphic file formats Giving Your Computer Directions
Top X Reasons to Move to OS X Magic Keyboard Shortcuts
Better Sounding iTunes Audio Disc Bullets in Word
Firmware Update Disables RAM Without Warning AppleWorks 6
OS X Tips, Tricks and Features MACcess Report more Tips and Tricks

Image found in the book A Drop of Water by Walter Wick, on the Caltech Snow Crystals site (see page 13)

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Club Mac



From the Editor

Andrew Pavey <andrew.pavey@clubmac.org.au>

While I'm away on holiday Bruce Madden has taken on the task of finishing this issue and getting it out to you. Thanks Bruce!

Previously I've commented on the way we, as customers, train our Apple dealers. Everybody wants to buy their Mac, peripherals and software at a low price. On the other side of the equation is the dealer and the margin they earn which keeps them in business. If they keep shaving dollars off the price eventually they get to the point where the business is no longer viable. This appears to have been the case with the collapse of the Buzzle group.

As you may be aware a number, but not all of the recognised Apple dealerships co-merged last year to form Buzzle. The name reputedly comes from the advertising guru Siimon whatsisname and represents the "Buzz in Apple".

Although still trading as I write this, the Buzzle group is being managed by Apple's appointed receivers KPMG, who are looking for buyers for the various stores.

Regardless of the outcome Apple stands to lose a substantial sum from this fiasco. The group is reported to owe Apple over $20 million. But worse is the impact on Apple's reputation, because we as the general public don't see a great deal of difference between Apple and its dealers, even though they are separate corporate entities.

Reportedly Apple dealers are trading on very thin margins these days, no doubt part of Apple's strategy to make Macs more affordable, and increase its market share. Unfortunately this means the dealers are working on a knife edge.

Some of the problems may be directly traceable back to Apple's recent strategies. Apple has set itself up in competition with its dealers by starting the Apple online Store. At least in the US the Apple online Store has taken significant market share. This is good for Apple corporate profits (and they do need some), but bad for the dealers, who see even less sales.

When I bought my Cinema Display screen, I could ONLY buy it from the Apple online Store. A policy since reversed, but for dealers a worrying sign of their future with Apple.

Apple needs its products to be more widely available, and squeezing the dealers margins doesn't seem like good long term sense.

Apple Shows a Profit (barely)

Apple reported a profit of US $43 million for its second fiscal quarter. Revenues were US $1.43 billion, down 26 percent from the same quarter last year, but still better than had been expected - especially given the tough market conditions. The company shipped 751,000 Macs in the quarter, and has US $4.1 billion in cash assets, and CFO Fred Anderson said that they continue to expect "sequential improvements in revenues and profits" over the next two quarters.

With the exception of PowerBook sales - which were fuelled by the impressive debut of the Titanium G4 - all sectors of Apple's product line were down in comparison with the same quarter last year. When looking at the previous quarter, however, the key professional product lines - PowerBooks and G4 desktops - showed strong growth, while the iMac line remained generally flat and the Cube and iBook showed big drops in sales:

- 134,000 PowerBooks (up 173 percent over Q1) - including 115,000 Titanium PowerBook G4s
- 250,000 G4 desktops (up 45 percent)
- 300,000 iMacs (down 3 percent)
- 12,000 G4 Cubes (down 59 percent, although Cube revenue nearly doubled quarter to quarter)
- 55,000 iBooks (down 45 percent)
- Apple sold nearly US $19 million worth of OS X in its first week; roughly 25 percent of the total OS X sales for the quarter were through the Apple Store.
- The Apple Store represented one-third of total sales for the quarter.
- Gross margins were 26.7 percent, close to the company's target of 27 percent; Anderson said that margins should remain strong throughout the rest of this year.
- The results included an US $89 million gain from sales of the company's holdings in ARM Holdings and an US $86 million write-off of equity investments - mainly Earthlink - resulting in a net gain of US $3 million (which puts Apple's net profit at US $40 million, or 11 cents per share).

Anderson said that the company expects revenues in the US $3.2 billion to US $3.4 billion range through the second half of this year.

Club Mac 2001 meeting schedule

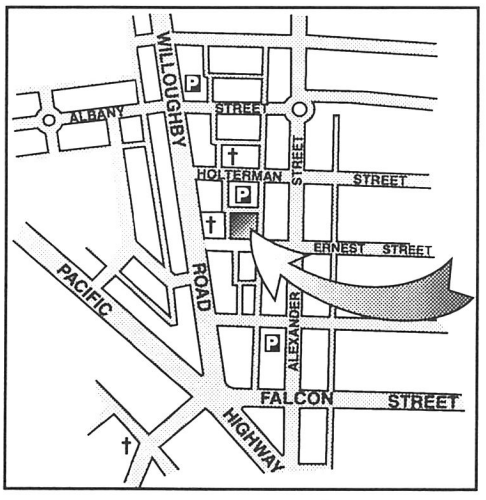
	1st Wed Q&A	2nd Wed Main	4th Wed Databases
June	6th	13th	27th
July	4th	11th	25th
August	1st	8th	22nd
September	5th	12th	26th
October	3rd	10the	24th
November	7th	14the	28th
December	5th	12th	-

The Next Club Mac Meeting is June 13th

Club Mac meets in the Johnson Hall (Level 2) of the Crows Nest Centre, 2 Ernest Place, Crows Nest, from 6:30pm to 9:00pm on the second Wednesday of the month.

The venue is adjacent to the multi-level car park in Holterman Street and behind the Baptist Church in Willoughby Road.

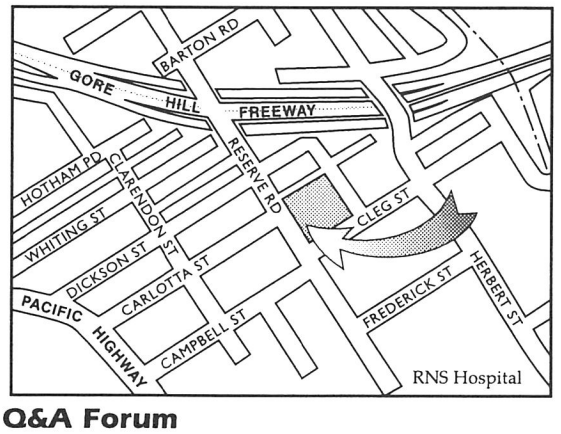
July Meeting: 11th July 2001.



Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

All SIGs meet at:

Unit 11/87 Reserve Rd, Artarmon.



- **Q&A Forum**
  Meets 6:30 to 8:30pm, on the first Wednesday of each month.
- **Database SIG** (largely FileMaker Pro)
  Meets 6:30 to 8:30pm, on the 4the Wednesday of the month.
- **Omnis SIG**
  Contact Reg Paling (telephone 9905 4405) or www.spelean.com.au/OMNIS/meeting.html for more information.

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WebMaster	Andrew Pavey

Club Mac Help Desk (02) 9475 0448

This is both a voice and a Fax service but is unmanned. Please leave a message and someone will deal with your problem as soon as possible. You can also contact the Help Desk at **<help@clubmac.org.au>**. This service is free, but we are **all** volunteers. When you call or fax, give essential information: **Given name and surname**; **membership number**; **full STD number** and **brief details of the problem** or **what is required.** If you don't, you may never hear back from us!

Some individual members have agreed to be resource people for particular areas but please restrict your contact to 6:00–10:00pm on weekdays and 10:00am–10:00pm on weekends. **Membership ,BBS, Telefinder** – Darryl Chrisp (02) 9363 2198; **Databases** – Hilton Brown (02) 9929 7296; **Beginners** – Marshall Ahern (02) 9969 9280.

Any difficulties should be reported to the Administrator at (02) 9363 2198.

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Apple Unveils All New iBook

Apple® introduced an all new iBook™–the lightest and smallest full-featured consumer and education notebook on the market today. Weighing just 4.9 pounds*, the new iBook features the first 1024-by-768 resolution 12.1-inch display in its class, FireWire® for video editing, and up to 5 hours of battery life. Starting at only $1,299(US), the amazingly affordable new iBook fits perfectly in today's active digital lifestyle.

The new iBook offers the choice of a CD, DVD or CD-RW drive for easily burning music CDs, or a "Combo" DVD-ROM/CD-RW drive for both burning CDs and watching movies on DVDs. New iBooks include both iTunes, the world's best and easiest to use "jukebox" software, and iMovie™ 2, the world's most popular and easy-to-use consumer digital video editing software. Every new iBook model has a brilliant 1024-by-768 resolution 12.1-inch TFT display that has as many pixels as a typical 14-inch notebook display.

"The new iBook is wonderfully small and light, and packs in all the amazing features you'd expect from Apple," said Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO. "With iMovie, iTunes and iTools, the new iBook builds on the incredible success of the original iBook and is designed to fit today's digital lifestyle."

Every iBook is powered by 500 MHz PowerPC G3 processors, and offer up to twice the onboard memory, twice the memory expansion, and twice the storage than previous models. iBook's new stunning design is almost two pounds lighter and twice as durable than previous models, and small enough to easily fit into any backpack or computer bag. Made for students and consumers alike, iBook's streamlined impact resistant polycarbonate enclosure has no doors, protruding latches or levers to break or accidentally catch.

The new iBook offers great features such as:

- fast PowerPC G3 processors running at 500 MHz with 256K backside level 2 cache;
- a crisp 12.1-inch (diagonal) active-matrix 1024-by-768 resolution TFT XGA display;
- a CD-ROM, DVD-ROM or CD-RW drive and optional "Combo" DVD-ROM/CD-RW drive;
- either 64- or 128MB onboard memory with increased RAM expansion to 640MB;
- one FireWire and two USB ports;
- AGP 2X Rage Mobility 128 with 8MB SDRAM;
- built-in 10/100 Ethernet and 56K modem;
- full-size keyboard;
- VGA and composite video output;
- AirPort™ ready with integrated antennas; and
- built-in microphone and stereo speakers.

Still the easiest way to get on the Internet, all models offer instant Internet access with a free 30-day trial with EarthLink; Mac® OS 9.1, featuring iTools, Apple's unique suite of free Internet services; and support AirPort, Apple's revolutionary wireless networking for cable-free Internet access. With an optional cable, every iBook also offers video out as either VGA or composite video.

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* Depending on configuration.

WANTED

Good technician who cares for Macs

Xyber has been in the Macintosh business since 1985. Many club members still use our products and many more remember how proud we were when we got our first Macworld award... and three more subsequently.

Well, we stuck with Macs through the highs and lows of Apple's fortunes and the continuous stream of technological changes that this industry demands. Remember when we released our first 20MByte hard disk and many thought that it was far too big! "enough storage for the rest of my life!"...
Haven't things changed.

Over the years, we've accumulated a lot of knowhow about things Macintosh and we provide some very specialised services at down to earth prices. (For the sceptics, please check what a data recovery costs in the US or Europe, yet we often get better results.)

Our services span everything Macintosh:

- Hardware and software
- Your place or ours
- Apple Warranty and AppleCare
- Mac and third party repairs



XYBER
Computer Service Centre

- Scheduled / contract maintenance
- Intranet / Internet and Server installations
- Specialised DATA RECOVERY services (which we have also started offering to Windows users - poor souls).

With all of these, we keep growing and need more hands on deck. So, we hope that you know of a really good technician that you can point in our direction.

Someone who lives and breathes Macs with all the electronics and Apple certifications and no girlfriend would be ideal ;-) but we know that nobody's perfect...

For all the details or more info, please call or email a resume to
service@xyber.com.au
Many thanks from all of us at Xyber.
And may the Mac be with you!

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Tips to Excel

Graeme Nicholas gdnic@ozemail.com.au
Graeme is a former Club Mac Administrator and Treasurer, a former CFO and semi retired MYOB consultant

Intro to Spreadsheet Basics

This guide is meant to tempt members wishing to become acquainted with spreadsheet fundamentals. My graphics below use Excel 98, illustrating a simple worksheet, within a workbook. Spreadsheets are designed primarily for the production of business, personal, financial, or statistical spreadsheets, graphs and data bases.

I am assuming most readers would have a basic knowledge (more or less) of the Mac OS and say some experience using a word processor.

The spreadsheet illustrates a typical grid of column additions, plus a text *(notes)* column, using default 10 point wide *columns* and 13 point deep *rows*.

The *A column* in this worksheet, acts as a page margin. That can be handy too, if you wish to add a column later, say left of column *A*. (The columns are then automatically re configured from the new A column on the left - matching the original on the right in width - that's the rule).

You will note the alpha headings for the columns and the numbering for rows, making for impressive potential for a worksheet grid of 256 columns by 65536 rows. That's more than 16 million individual cells!

However, before you try to unravel the mysteries of the universe on a single worksheet, remember that the number of cells you can use at any one time is limited by the amount of RAM your computer has. Although Excel only allocates memory to the cells in use, you probably would not be able to use all the cells available in one worksheet. Gaw damn it man!

Getting Started

If you do not have a application short cut on your desktop, and aren't familiar with templates, you would start up a *workbook* in Excel from the MS Office folder, or from a stand alone Excel product folder, ex your *Application folder*. A double click will produce a default **blank** file named **Workbook1**.

This blank workbook as shown - now with cell entries - usually contains three sheets via the tabs on the bottom control bar, along with the tab scrolling buttons, plus the split traditional horizontal scroll box to the right.

As I mentioned last month, my *Toolbars* are shown at the top, (organised from the **Tools>Customise** menu) plus the *Formula Bar* underneath. On top is the *Title Bar*, displaying the name of the workbook in which we are currently working.

The Auto Save facility (mentioned last month), has subsequently asked me to save the original Workbook1 title, to the name as shown in the Title Bar. Then I know I am in business with this workbook.

Alternatively, you have the custom **Save** function in the **File** menu; or the **Save As** initially to name the file, or used anon to modify the way Excel saves your document regarding file format etc.

For openers, the worksheet in the first graphic, has no real formatting (yet) to finish it off. I have found it much better to leave the finishing off until last, that is, after the layout, text, sizes, data and calculations are all but finished with. The summations are nothing to crow about but I thought I would keep the initial worksheet within modest proportions.

Selecting Commands

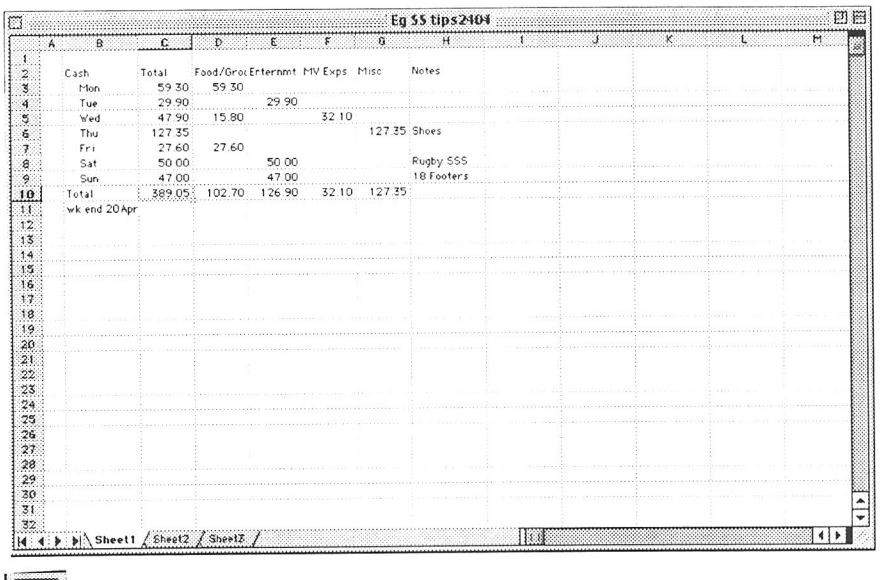
You select commands from the drop down menus in the **Menu Bar** or from the shortcut menus and buttons in the *Toolbar* area. By choice, I have two rows of Toolbar icons giving me as much screen space to work with, without cramping. The **Toolbar** by default, shows the Standard and Formatting Toolbars most frequently used. Other choices are situated on the **Tools>Customise** menu bar for your exploration... for the time being.

Entries into Cells

To enter data in a cell, you will first select the cell with your mouse. The cell becomes active and its reference appears in the name box at the left end of the formula bar. Also note you see the respective row number embolden (on the left side), to give a relative line on where you are at.

After you have finished entering your data, hit the **Return** key. Notice it moves to the next cell.

You may select your **Preference>Edit** choice from the **Tools** Menu to choose which direction - N S E or W (of one cell) - your highlighted cell will move that one cell. Another assist is using the **PgUp** or **PgDn** keys to move along from the active cell. This can be especially convenient when your *preferences* are set for the active cell to move contrary to where you want it to go - say across, instead of down.



On the other hand, hitting the **Enter** key, will leave you stationery in the highlighted *active* cell.

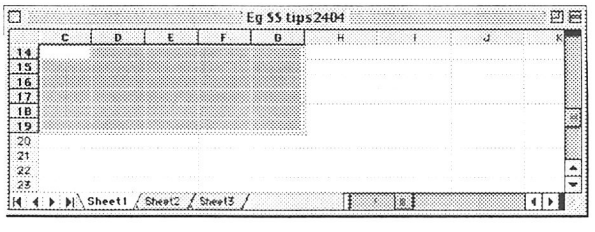
Similarly, the overall area of a worksheet on your desktop is oft labelled the *active area* that usually covers the data you have entered. Using the Geneva 9 point font, Excel considers the default active area as roughly columns A through K and rows 1 through 33, even before you enter any data. This may also depend on how much your Toolbar takes up in window real estate et al.

Selecting a Range of Cells & Getting About

In the graphic below, you will see how I have selected a range of cells from Cell **C14** down to the right to cell **G19** - by the usual *drag method of diagonally using the mouse.*

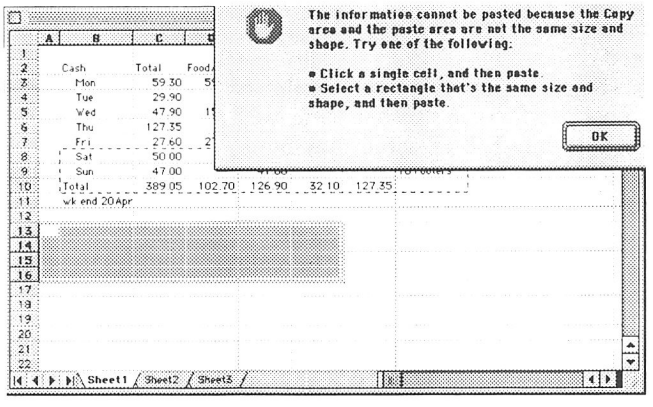
The other method is to hold down the shift key whilst repositioning the mouse out to cell **G19** and *clicking.*

This technique s known as *extending the selection*, and is more effective with larger selections.



These ranges are often used, for example, for cell cut, copy or paste functions to cell ranges.

NB: Just make sure you have exactly the same parameters targeted as the original rectangle (or square) of data, with approximately the same dimensions of columns and rows to make the fit work. Otherwise Excel will disallow it.



A very good feature for everyone to quickly learn is, that when you have a *cut* or *copy* chore to place in another sector of a sheet, or another worksheet, where the column formatting is identical, you need only to click to the the *exact top left cell spot of the targeted range*, for Excel to execute the *paste* in toto, without fuss.

The visual guide coming in to this procedure is, that your original range highlighted, always shows the top left cell of the range *whited out* for ease of recognition. That should be evident in the the graphic above.

Now getting down or across a worksheet, you use the horizontal or vertical scroll bars. Use the scroll bar arrows to move within the worksheet and the scroll *bars* to advance more rapidly. For quicker movement again, hold down the Shift key whilst you use the scroll *bars.*

If you're ahead of the game at this juncture, I will just mention, for the time being, the other menu assisted way to get around a big worksheet, is to use the **GoTo** function in the **Edit** menu.

Now one final Tip. It will not be long before you may wish to put numbers into a cell as Text, ie. rather than have it there beaming a numerical value. All you need to do is to precede the entry with an apostrophe ('). The apostrophe will not show.

We will discuss ways to correct such entries *in bulk* later on. If you have cause to adjust a few of these examples, just delete the apostrophe manually.

Next month we will look at the ways you may enter data such as numbers, text, dates and create simple formuli as illustrated above and then move on to editing such data and formatting.

Graeme Nicholas

The User Group Report

Inaugural Edition!

The Mac Show and The MUG Centre are very pleased to announce the availability of The User Group Report, initially available on The Daily Report site as well as The MUG Centre, it is open to any Macintosh User Group who would like to include it on their web site.

Ronald Forster of Club Mac has been named to the Apple Regional Liaison Team to represent Australia. Formed in 1985 within the University of Sydney, Club Mac currently has about 500 members throughout Australia. It operates an online bulletin board, a shareware library, a help desk and publishes a monthly magazine. It also provides its members with internet access.

Apple User Group Program Managers

After six, fun-filled years of Apple adventure, User Group Program Manager, Diane Cohn, is leaving the mothership to spend more time with her family. Under Diane's watch, Apple's User Group Program has expanded and blazed new trails: User Group University, the User Group Advisory Board, the Regional Liaison Team, and an increased and very active presence at Macworld Expos have all been developed during Diane's tenure. Her participation and inspiration to Apple User Groups will be missed.

Joining Apple as the new User Group Program Manager is Garr Reynolds. Garr is well known in the community as the past president of the Kinki MUG Group (KMUG) in Osaka Japan, a faculty member of two User Group Universities and as the User Group Regional Liaison to Asia.

Join us in thanking Diane for her efforts and in welcoming Garr to his new role in the user group community!

www.mugcenter.com



FireWire Without the Hype

© Greg Sharp 2001 <gsharp@bigpond.net.au>

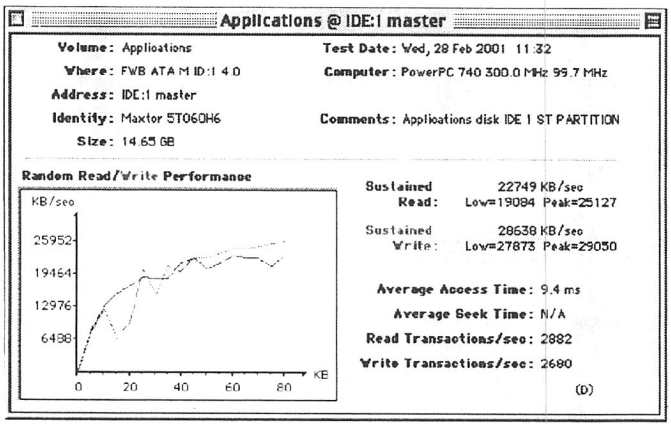
FireWire was a great concept as a replacement for SCSI, but like many of the latest technologies it still has a few problems. Touted by Apple as a wonder technology providing plug and play (hot plug ability) convenience and speed capabilities of up to 400Mb/sec (50MB/sec actually). They just advertise it as 400Mb/sec because they figure most people won't realise there are 8 bits to a byte and thus it is only 1/8 as fast as they think. They talked about how it was a cheaper technology to manufacture and most of the major companies were going to produce a huge range of products to enable customers access to a new world of peripherals. In reality it doesn't quite meet the expectations they tried to portray.

I bought a new Epson 980 Colour Inkjet advertised as having parallel, USB and FireWire interface. When I set it up there was no FireWire port just an expansion bay and when I contacted Epson I was told it would cost me an extra $600+ for the adaptor. In the end I just put it off and had to stick to USB because I wasn't going to pay that much especially after searching their overseas sites and finding that it was available with FireWire adaptor as standard in some countries and not in others and those that did have that option paid only $100 dollars more than I had paid after doing the currency conversion. So much for the first myth FireWire was a cheaper interface. The only other answer is the companies are cashing in on those people adopting the latest technologies and making the assumption if you can afford a new computer you can obviously afford whatever we want to charge you for our products no matter what the markup is.

As far as digital video goes, sure you can transfer your video to your computer without any loss of quality and there is no degradation with making copies from a copy, unlike analogue technology. The problem is if you don't own the latest DV camera you can't access it without buying a DV to Analogue converter which adds an extra $1000 to the cost. If you do have a DV Video camera and you don't have the latest G3 or G4 you will have to use one of your PCI slots to install a 3rd party FireWire card. That's another $300 approx. (Apple dealers) or under $100 on Ebay and you hope it comes with drivers for the Mac. Talking of drivers, Apple implies all you need is to install its FireWire software and away you go. What they don't say is your digital camera requires its own Mac compatible FireWire drivers to be installed, and special plug-ins for video capture in Adobe Premiere etc. There are other concerns with FireWire and video, such as dropped frames but just for now let's think about some of the other uses Apple has suggested for FireWire.

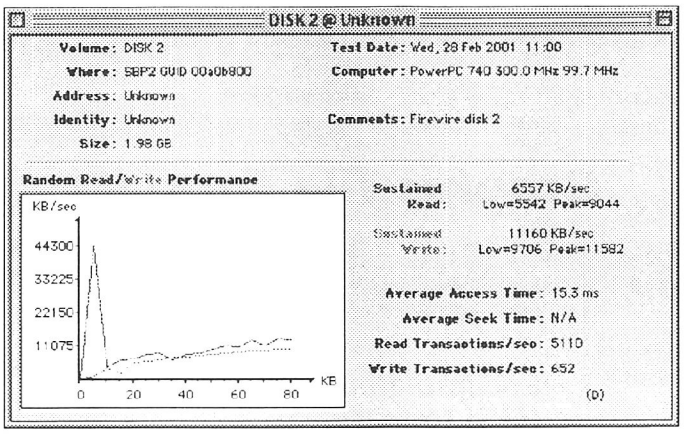
Firstly there is no such thing as a native FireWire hard disk, they all use bridging technology. They have a circuit board in their cases connected to the interface in such a way as to convert the FireWire signal in your Macintosh into a protocol that can be used by the hard disk inside the case. This is either a SCSI or IDE disk depending on the technology used in the bridging board. This conversion unfortunately creates a bottleneck and recently manufacturers have started to adopt an improved chipset much like the interface on the G4's that handles the conversion much better. The original bridging boards weren't reliable and data loss or corruption is quite common. The original B&W G3 FireWire interface also suffered similar problems - it couldn't recognise a lot of hard disks by just using Apple's FireWire v2.5 software. You need to use 3rd party software to force mount the drive. Even the software provided by the manufacturers often didn't work with the new faster Ultra ATA 100 drives which had to sometimes be tuned down by adjusting the Mode and DMA settings using programs such Hard Disk Toolkit or Hard Disk Speed Tools. Many case manufacturers were recommending these faster drives for their external cases having only tested them with G4's, yet they stated on their web sites they worked fine with G3's (but were not tested on these machines) and G4's. The FireWire interface on Macintosh G3's couldn't handle the signal synchronisation properly at these high speeds. The following is a run down on the troubles you can have based on my own personal experience.

I recently purchased a 3.5" FireWire to IDE hard drive case and bought a Maxtor Ultra ATA 100 7,200 rpm 60 GB drive. I went to the FireWire case manufacturers site to try downloading drivers but none of their links worked. In the end after numerous complaints they were able to send them to me as an attachment. I tried to load Hard Disk Speed Tools v3.1.2 (HDST) but it froze my B&W G3 every time I tried. The problem was it conflicted with the drivers already on my G3 internal hard disk which had been formatted by Hard Disk Toolkit v4 (HDT). I found (with no documentation provided) I could manually drag the HDST FireWire Support extension from the disk image to my system folder and restarted. I could see the drive listed in HDT window but not on my desktop. I double clicked on the listing and the formatting dialogue box came up but when I tried to format the drive it failed with the message: Invalid Volume Signature (according to HDT Tech Support note this is a SCSI error code. Very strange since it was an IDE drive). Next the case manufacturer sent me Disk Control 1.0.1 but it did nothing also. I next had a brainstorm and took the disk out of the FireWire case and plugged it in the Mac's internal IDE interface. I



Partition on IDE Drive

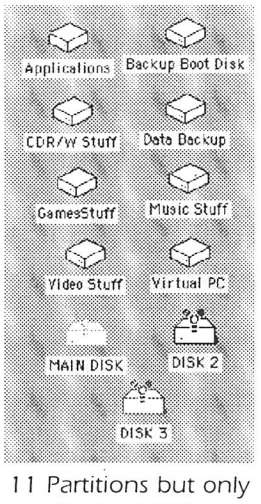
booted from the OS 9.0.4 disk and used Drive Setup v 1.9.2 to format the disk and then set up 8 partitions of various sizes ranging from 3 GB to 15 GB each and then shut down. Next I booted up from FWB Hard Disk Toolkit and updated drivers on this new disk. Then I quit and again booted from the OS 9.0.4 disk and installed the OS. Next I installed HDST FireWire Support extension as well as the FireWire 2.5 update from a Zip disk I had copied them to before removing the original disk. Next I swapped the new drive back over into the FireWire case and put the original disk back in the G3. I thought that was going to work when everything appeared perfectly on the desktop, but when I tried to write to the disk I kept getting disk error messages. From HDT v4 I ran bench mark tests and found I could read the disk at over 28MB/sec but got 0MB/sec writing to the disk. In the end, with a bit of lateral thinking, I realised that the interface couldn't cope with the quantity & synchronisation of the information being sent. I had a think about how the different interfaces were reacting and came up with one last possible work around.



Slow Back up Partition on FireWire Drive

I took my new drive out of its FireWire case again and put it in my computer instead of the original drive the G3 came with. Then I put my old 6 gig ATA 33 5400 rpm disk into the FireWire case since its throughput would be much lower. After booting all was working fine. My new 60 GB drive appeared as 8 partitions, as I had set it up, and the old disk with its 3 partitions showed up, but now with the FireWire icons on the desktop rather than the default icons. I again ran the bench tests from HDT v4 and found the new ATA drive in the G3 was reading about 22.7MB/sec and writing at 28.6MB/sec.

Before putting the 6 GB drive into the new FireWire case it had run at 13.5MB/sec read and 17MB/sec write, but now in the FireWire case it was reading at about 6.5MB/sec and writing at 11.1MB/sec which only went to prove there were bottlenecks in the interface which slowed it down, but at least it worked.



11 Partitions but only 2 actual Disks

The 60 GB drive, although reasonably fast, wasn't quite as fast as it should have been. This is as a result of the poor quality IDE controller on the G3's Revision 1 motherboard (the Revision 2 motherboard was fine), which is not capable of transmitting information as fast as the disk is capable of receiving and it is also unable to use an extra disk as a slave disk. Most 3rd party IDE controllers would have given me a faster drive and slave capabilities which would have made the need for the FireWire case redundant in the first place. The problem was I didn't have an option as all my PCI slots were already taken up with SCSI card (for Scanner, CD-RW and Zip), Wired4DVD MPEG card (since Revision 1 Motherboard G3 B&W's had the MPEG card removed by Apple to save money at the very last moment) and extra Ethernet card for sharing my cable connection over my home network. I copied all my files across to the new bigger drive and could use my original disk, now in the FireWire case, as a back up disk. I then discovered the next problem, - FireWire hard disks aren't bootable on a G3. If you have a G4, FireWire hard disks are bootable, and more compatible, faster and more stable.

Now I use the new FireWire disk as a back up disk, in the external case, but if anything ever happens I would have to take it out of its case and put it back inside the G3 to boot up from it in an emergency. The reality is for owners of G3's adding a second IDE controller would be faster and give you slave drive capabilities but for real speed and data integrity you can't beat a Ultra 3 SCSI LVD 160MB/sec card and drive. For owners of G4's, everything works more or less like the advertisements. For people with 3rd party FireWire cards, as long as they are not old stock, you shouldn't have any troubles.

I also bought a FireWire DVD RAM drive only to find out that my Wired4DVD MPEG card which was supposed to work with DVD ROM and DVD RAM drives, won't work with FireWire peripherals (their answer is FireWire is too slow at transferring information due to bottlenecks with the bridging interface to work effectively and as such they won't support it). I'll have to sell it and buy a SCSI or IDE model instead.

Even if I had bought a later model G3 with in-built MPEG card, this DVD RAM drive wouldn't work because of the inferior FireWire interface Apple used for the B&W G3's. Ironically on a G4 it would show up and work without any problems. The problem is more a matter of the slow & buggy interfaces on the B&W G3's, which were fixed in the G4's. This does shatter Apple's claims of FireWire being the perfect plug & play solution much like their claims OS X will be the most stable OS yet.

The marketing team at Apple must think like politicians - if they can tell us enough times how great everything is, we will believe anything they say. Apple should spend more money on product development, service and general product quality at a reasonable price and a lot less on a marketing staff that is losing more customers for Apple than they are gaining. I personally like to make informed decisions not ones based on misinformation spread by Apple and its resellers which can only result in disillusioned customers. You only have to look at the approved drives for Media 100 or DigiTools systems to notice that FireWire just doesn't cut it yet.



Introducing Macintosh

Andrew Pavey

This is the second in a new series of articles about Macintosh basics. I'll be trying to answer some of the questions that perplex new users in this series.

Graphic file formats

File formats refer to the way information is stored on a disk. There are many common file formats. Graphic file formats are distinguished by the way they represent graphic information. Graphic information can be represented as either vector drawings (where graphics are represented by mathematical descriptions of the shape and fill of lines) or bitmap images (where the image is represented as a series of dots of different colours or shades of grey). Some graphic file formats contain only vector drawings or only bitmap images, but many can include both in the same file.

Amiga (IFF) format

The Amiga™ Interchange File Format is used for working with Video Toaster and transferring files to and from the Commodore Amiga system. In addition, this format is supported by a number of paint programs on IBM-compatible computers, including DeluxePaint from Electronic Arts

AutoCAD Drawing (DWG) and AutoCAD Interchange File (DXF) formats

DWG is the standard file format for saving vector graphics created in AutoCAD(r). DXF is a drawing interchange format for exporting AutoCAD drawings to or importing drawings from other applications. The DXF format is a tagged data representation of all the information contained in an AutoCAD drawing file.

Bitmap (BMP) format

BMP is the standard Windows bitmap image format on DOS and Windows-compatible computers.

Computer Graphics Metafile (CGM) format

CGM is a vector-based file format for the exchange of two dimensional graphical data. The metafile format is primarily for the exchange of graphical images, including complex engineering or architectural images and complex illustrations.

Encapsulated PostScript (EPS) format

The EPS file format is used to transfer PostScript language artwork between applications and is supported by most illustration and page-layout programs. Typically, EPS files represent single illustrations or tables that are placed onto a host page, but an EPS file can also represent one or more pages.

Because EPS files are based on the PostScript language, they can contain both vector and bitmap graphics. Like PostScript language files, early versions of EPS files contain only grayscale vector bitmap graphics, whereas later versions support colour graphics and compressed bitmap images.

In addition to the PostScript language representation of the graphics to be placed, many EPS files contain a bitmap preview of the graphic that the application can display. EPS files intended to be used by Macintosh applications, for example, can contain PICT or TIFF images for screen preview; those intended for use by Windows applications contain either TIFF or Windows Metafile bitmap images.

Not all applications that create EPS files create preview images, however. When you open, or place an EPS file without a preview image, into an application like PageMaker or Illustrator it displays a box with an 'X' or a grey square to represent the EPS artwork. The EPS file will print correctly to a PostScript printer, you just can't see a screen image of the artwork.

Filmstrip (FLM) format

The Filmstrip (FLM) format is an image-editing format used primarily by the Adobe Premier and Adobe Photoshop applications. FLM organises images into a long vertical strip containing numbered frames as well as the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE) time code.

Flash (SWF) format

The Flash format is a version of the Macromedia Flash Player vector-based graphics format for interactive, animated Web graphics. You can view an SWF file in any browser equipped with the Macromedia Flash Player plug in.

PCX format

PCX format, established by Z-Soft(r) for its PC Paintbrush, software, is commonly used by IBM PC-compatible computers. Most PC software supports version 5 of the PCX format. Version 3 files do not support a custom colour palette.

Portable Document Format (PDF)

The PDF format is used by Adobe Acrobat, Adobe's electronic publishing software for Macintosh, Windows, UNIX, and DOS. You can view PDF files using the free Acrobat Reader software, or in any browser equipped with the Acrobat plug in.

PDF can represent both vector and bitmap graphics. PDF pages are identical to PostScript pages, but PDF files can also contain electronic document search and navigation features. PDF files, for example, can contain hypertext links and an electronic table of contents.

Macintosh PICT format (PIC)

The PICT format is widely used among Macintosh graphics and page layout applications as an intermediary file format for transferring files between applications. The PICT format is especially effective at compressing images that contain large areas of solid colour. The PICT format is used when you take a screen shot

using Command Shift 3 or 4, and is readable by SimpleText.

PIXAR format (PXR)

The PIXAR format is designed specifically for exchanging files with PIXAR image computers. PIXAR workstations are designed for high-end graphics applications, such as those used for rendering three-dimensional images and animation. Steve Jobs, current Apple CEO and founder, started PIXAR when he was ejected from Apple in 1986.

PostScript file format (PS)

PostScript is a page description language that is built into many desktop printers and virtually all high-end printing systems. Because it is built into so many printers, most Macintosh, Windows, and UNIX applications can create PostScript files for printing.

The first version of the PostScript file format, PostScript Level 1, represents both grayscale vector graphics and grayscale bitmap images. The second version, PostScript Level 2, represents colour as well as grayscale vector and bitmap images, and supports RGB, CYMK, and CIE-based colour models for both vector and bitmap graphics. (Some PostScript Level 1 files also represent colour with extensions to the PostScript language that were generalised in PostScript Level 2.) PostScript Language Level 3 provides additional functionality to Level 2, including the ability to print gradient mesh objects when printing to a PostScript(r) 3(tm) printer. Since printing to PostScript Level 1 and Level 2 devices converts gradient mesh objects to bitmap images, it is preferable to print artwork that contains gradient mesh objects to a PostScript 3 printer.

PostScript Level 2 supports a number of compression techniques for bitmap images, including the LZW, CCITT (ITU-T), and JPEG methods.

Most applications don't give you a choice of saving a file as PostScript, however if your currently selected printer driver (in the Chooser) is for a PostScript printer (even if you aren't using a PostScript printer), you can use the Print-to-File option in the Print dialog box to create a PostScript file. For best results, Adobe recommends that you create PostScript files with the Apple LaserWriter 8 or Adobe PostScript printer driver.

Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG) and Scalable Vector Graphics Compressed (SVGZ) formats

The Scalable Vector Graphics formats are a World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) specification for a standard, two-dimensional vector graphics language for the Web.

Targa (TGA) format

The TGA format is designed for use on systems that use the Truevision(r) video board and is commonly supported by MS-DOS colour applications.

Tagged-image File Format (TIFF)

TIFF is used to exchange files between applications and computer platforms. TIFF is a flexible bitmap image format that is supported by virtually all paint, image editing, and page-layout applications. Also, virtually all desktop scanners can produce TIFF images, and most fax software can save faxes as TIFF images.

TIFF supports RGB, CMYK, and grayscale colour models. It also supports LZW compression, a lossless compression method that does not discard detail from the image.

Compression

Many image file formats use compression techniques to reduce the storage space required by bitmap image data. Compression techniques are distinguished by whether they remove detail and colour from the image. Lossless techniques compress image data without removing detail; lossy techniques compress images by removing detail. The following are commonly used compression techniques:

- Lemple-Zif-Welch **(LZW)** is a lossless compression technique supported by TIFF, PDF, GIF, and PostScript language file formats. This technique is most useful in compressing images that contain large areas of single colour, such as screenshots or simple paint images.
- Joint Photographic Experts Group **(JPEG)** is a lossy compression technique supported by JPEG, TIFF, PDF, and PostScript language file formats. JPEG compression provides the best results with continuous-tone images, such as photographs. JPEG encoding compresses the file by discarding some image data, thus reducing the quality of output, you have to make a trade-off between a small file size and the quality of the resulting image, depending on the level of compression used when saving the file.

  JPEG files can be saved with the "Progressive" setting to create an image that displays gradually as it is downloaded-in a series of scans (you specify how many) showing increasingly detailed versions of the entire image. Progressive JPEG images files are slightly larger in size, require more RAM for viewing, and are not supported by all applications and Web browsers.
- **ZIP** encoding is a lossless compression technique supported by the PDF and TIFF file formats. Like LZW, ZIP compression is most effective for images that contain large areas of single colour. ▣

Quote

I believe in the Bluetooth fairy. But you have to be careful. Some people are thinking we could be talking to satellites and embedding computers in clothing. The killer application is simply replacing cords.

Galen Schreck, an analyst at Forrester Research discussing the promise of Bluetooth technology. (Detroit Free Press, 8/31/00)

Tips and Tricks

Better Sounding iTunes Audio Discs

If you use iTunes to import music from audio CDs and then burn those tracks to a CD-R (if you're making a compilation disc, for example) make sure that you import those tracks via iTunes AIFF encoder. Unlike iTunes' MP3 encoder, the AIFF encoder doesn't compress the audio tracks when importing files (an action that degrades audio quality).

To select the AIFF encoder, select iTunes Advanced tab and choose AIFF Encoder from the Import Using pop-up menu.

Bear in mind that because the audio files are not compressed when imported with the AIFF encoder, those files will take up a fair amount of space on your hard drive. A 74-minute audio CD typically holds about 640MB.

Bullets in Word

If you're a **Microsoft Word** user, there's no excuse for creating documents that contain plain, drab bullets. Here's how to fix up those black-bulleted lists.

Create a list without bullets and highlight the list. Now choose Bullets and Numbering from the Format menu. Select one of the bullet options that appears in the resulting window and click the Customize button. In the Customise Bulleted List window, click the Bullet button. When you do, the Symbol window appears. Choose an ornamental font from the Font pop-up menu (eg Hoefler Text Ornaments, Webdings, or Wingdings, Zapf Dingbats or Zeal) and select a character that appeals to you. Click OK in the Symbol and Customise Bulleted List windows and the character you chose will appear as bullets in your list.

To employ even more exotic bullets, select Picture in the Bullets and Numbering window and choose one of the colourful bullet patterns supplied by Microsoft.

Translation

Do you have a text segment in a foreign language that you'd like to translate? You can use the **babelfish translator** at http://babelfish.altavista.com/. Just paste your foreign text in and pick the translation you want. Most major language pairs are catered for. There is a limit on the amount of text you can translate at one time. Alternatively you can supply a web page URL to translate.

Firmware Update Disables RAM Without Warning

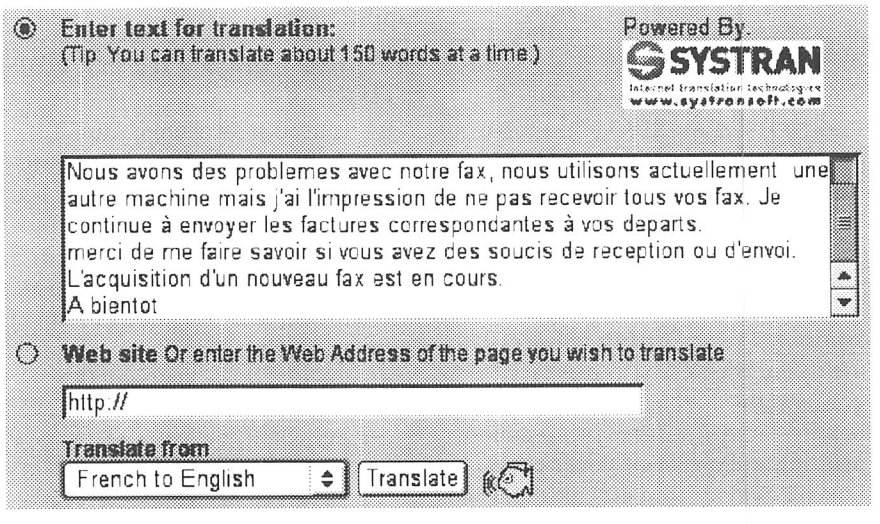
Late in March, Apple posted a series of firmware updates (v4.1.7/4.1.8) for various FireWire-equipped Mac models - Power Mac G4s, Cubes, slot-loading iMacs, iBooks and PowerBook systems all saw new firmware updates. Almost immediately, reports from users began to flood Web sites that the firmware updates could, under certain circumstances, disable third-party memory. Although the memory is still installed, a firmware updated Mac no longer recognises the memory, and Apple System Profiler no longer sees the memory installed.

The problem is not universal, while some users have complained and others have extensively documented problems associated with the firmware update and missing RAM, many have also reported no problems making the switch.

Apple's position is that the new firmware updates are designed to increase stability, and in some cases the firmware has to deactivate installed RAM because it's out of spec — even if problems haven't been detected before now.

Some vendors of Mac-compatible RAM have offered guarantees that their products will work correctly with the firmware updates. Other memory vendors and some resellers have instead pointed the finger at Apple, suggesting that another firmware update should be released to alleviate the problem.

The memory check was added to help alleviate random crashes and stability issues. The new memory test disables memory DIMMs that are found to be out of specification and DIMMs that cannot be determined to be compatible.



The original in French

In English

Dear customer, We have problems with our fax, we currently use another machine but I have the impression not to receive all your faxes. I continue to send the invoices corresponding to your departures. thanks for letting me know if you have preoccupations of reception or a sending. The acquisition of a new fax is in hand. So long

The babelfish translation. Compare it to the original author's translation:

Dear customer, We have a problem with our fax machine, for the moment we receive our fax on a printer machine but it seems that we do not receive everything . I also send as usual all the invoices before departure but once again I am not sure that you receive them correctly. Do not hesitate to tell me. Best regards

Using Firewire to Connect two Macs

You may know that FireWire is a connectivity standard that allows you to transfer data at lightning speeds between your Macintosh computer and another device, such as a hard drive or a digital camera.

But did you know that you could use FireWire to transfer data between two Macintosh computers?

It's true. With nothing more than a FireWire cable, you can take advantage of FireWire Target Disk Mode to link two FireWire-equipped Macintosh computers together and transfer files between them quickly and easily.

http://til.info.apple.com/techinfo.nsf/artnum/n58583

This article explains what FireWire target disk mode (TDM) is, and how to use it.

Description and requirements

FireWire target disk mode allows a Macintosh computer with a FireWire port (the target computer) to be used as an external hard disk. The target computer's hard disk appears on the desktop of another computer (the host computer). Once a target computer is started up as a FireWire hard disk and appears on the desktop of the host computer, you can copy files to or from that volume.

Host computer requirements

Host computers must meet the following requirements:

- Built-in FireWire port, or a FireWire port on a PC card
- FireWire 2.3.3 or later is installed
- Mac OS 8.6 or later is installed

Target computers

The following models can be used as target computers:

- PowerBook (FireWire)
- PowerBook G4
- iBook (FireWire)
- iBook SE (FireWire)
- Power Mac G4 (AGP Graphics) with ATA drive
- Power Mac G4 Cube
- Power Mac G4 (Gigabit Ethernet)
- Power Mac G4 (Digital Audio)
- iMac (Slot Loading) with Firmware version 2.4 or later

FireWire Software

You can download the latest Firmware and FireWire software from the Apple Software Updates Web site at: www.apple.com/swupdates/

How to use FireWire target disk mode

Important: Remove all other FireWire devices from both computers prior to using FireWire target disk mode. Do not reconnect any FireWire devices until after you have disconnected the two computers from each other, or have stopped using target disk mode.

Follow these steps to use FireWire target disk mode:

1. Make sure that the target computer is turned off. If you are using a PowerBook or iBook computer as the target computer, you should also plug in its AC power adapter.
2. Use a FireWire cable (6-pin to 6-pin) to connect the target computer to a host computer. The host computer does not need to be turned off.
3. Start up the target computer and immediately press and hold down the T key until it shows the FireWire icon. Your internal hard disk icon should appear on desktop of the host computer.
4. When you are finished copying files, drag the target computer's hard disk icon to the Trash or select Put Away from the File menu.
5. Press the target computer's power button to turn it off.
6. Disconnect the FireWire cable.

If the target computer's hard disk icon does not appear on the host desktop, check the cable connections and restart the host computer. See article http://til.info.apple.com/techinfo.nsf/artnum/n58207: "FireWire Ports and Specifications" for additional information on FireWire.

Tips and Tricks (continued)

Glenn Anderson stepped into the breach and created an application to check the DIMM to see if it might pass Apple's new tests. DIMMCheck, is available from ftp://ftp.versiontracker.com/DIMMCheck.sit. He then created a small application which can attempt to fix the problem. DIMMFirstAid is available from www.mactcp.org.nz/DIMMFirstAid.sit

If you have RAM installed that your firmware-updated Mac no longer recognises, your best bet is to contact the reseller who sold you the RAM and request an exchange or refund. And if you're purchasing new RAM for a Mac that might benefit from these firmware updates, make sure the dealer guarantees the RAM can be returned or exchanged it if it doesn't perform as expected.

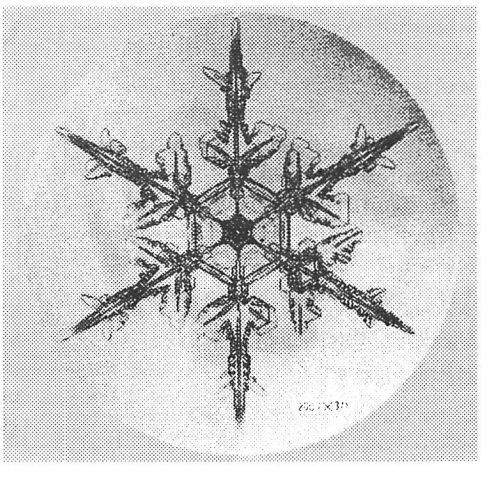
Random Selection of Interesting Sites

Caltech's Snow Crystals site: www.its.caltech.edu/~atomic/snowcrystals/

A large collection of stories and anecdotes about clueless computer users: www.rinkworks.com/stupid/

Fond memories?: www.esmurfs.com/

McAffee's virus hoaxes website: http://vil.nai.com/VIL/hoaxes.asp



Sample Snow Crystal from Caltech (also front cover)

Top X Reasons to Move to OS X

Larry MacPhee
Center for Excellence in Education, Northern Arizona University http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~lrm22/topx.html

X. Fewer choices.

Aren't you tired of all those choices about how the user interface should look? Isn't it annoying when you try to use someone else's Mac and they arrange their files and applications in a different way than you do? Desktops littered with aliases and dozens of windows littering your workspace. Eeeeeewww. Well get ready for X, with new Lockstep™ technology!! With OSX, we've reduced the number of "confusing" user interface options. Looking for something? Anything? It's in the dock. Or in a folder called pub/misc/etc/bin/~usr/root/prefs/my_docs/ Use the new Finder's Column View to drill right down to it. Now isn't that just a better way? Yes, it is.

IX. The Terminal

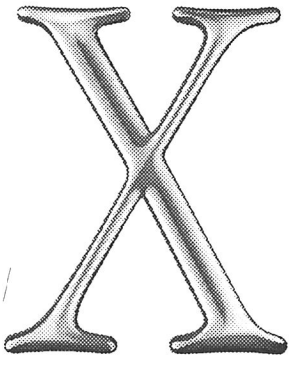
With a truly modern OS (based on the software found in 1960s mainframes), who needs a limited menu system cluttering up your screen? Now Grandma can "get under the hood" and interact directly with her machine instead of having to deal with some bothersome "middle man." Who needs Disk First Aid or Norton Utilities? Just enter the terminal mode and type fsck and you're on your way to liberation.

VIII. The power to work YOUR way

Have you ever been under a deadline? Your boss says he needs that printout NOW! Isn't that stressful? Well guess what Mr. Boss-Man? My Epson printer doesn't work in Classic and my App isn't Carbonized. So cool your jets! You'll get your printout in 20 minutes, after I reboot in 9.1! And NO, cut-and-paste DOESN'T work between Carbonized and Classic Apps, so just leave me alone, OK?

VII. No more system wide freezes and crashes

Remember how annoying it was when your machine got a BOMB or a FREEZE in a program and you lost your work and had to reboot? Well say hello to protected memory! Now



you may get an occasional kernel panic or Classic may get corrupted and become unusable or you may need to reinstall the entire OSX operating system from time to time because, honestly, when this baby goes down we're not even sure that it can be fixed, but isn't that better than Apple-Control-Reset?

VI. Aqua

Like blue things that throb? Well, you're in for a treat! We've got big honkin' throbbing things all over the place. And (because we listen) we're planning on adding a way to turn off throbbing in a future release for our special needs customers with epilepsy. And if you don't like blue, well there's an alternate gray interface that makes all windows look like they're in the background. We call it our "colorblind option" and we wanted you to see how this misunderstood minority sees common everyday objects like traffic lights. Hmmm. Is the red button on the left or the right? You decide.

V. The Dock

Ever been on a sea-cruise in a gale? Well if you look back fondly on that experience, you're gonna love the dock. Things whoosh in and out and get bigger and smaller and wave back and forth from left to right and bounce up and down just the way our team of NeXT user-interface experts told us they should. And lucky for you, nobody's gonna move that trash bucket 'cause we nailed it to the dock, right where you need it.

IV. Easy migration

Got hundreds or maybe thousands of old "Classic" applications? Not to worry, they'll crash just as often in OSX as they used to in OS9, except slower (unless they talk directly to hardware such as digital cameras, scanners, printers, etc). And soon you'll be able to buy brand new versions of all your software that will allow you to use your peripherals again. (Contact the software manufacturer to determine the release date of an OSX compatible version of their software. Contact them repeatedly. Ask them "pretty please make an OSX version!" and tell them you're saving your pennies.)

III. Killer graphics

Have you ever moved your mouse really fast over the OS9 menus? My God, I can't read that fast! Our thoughts exactly. So in OSX, the menus and windows open and close much more slowly, and only after a noticeable time lag, giving you precious moments to think "Is this really where I want to go? Is this truly the file I seek?" (It's very Zen. Especially on our new fanless silent models. Stare into the crystal cube!) And check out our new translucent menus. Have you ever wanted to read a document that's underneath a menu item? Well now you can! You just have to train your eye to distinguish between what's on top and what's underneath. It's kind of like holding several pages of text up to the light and trying to read the middle one. Another Apple first!

II. Memory is cheap

This is a great time to buy memory, and boy can OSX use it. Remember back when a Mac Plus had 4 Megabyes of RAM and it seemed like infinity? Well this isn't your father's Macintosh. With pre-emptive multi-tasking, you can now run all three native apps at the same time (TextEdit and Fetch beta and the Process Viewer and dozens more coming by summer, or fall for the "laggard" software companies) and you can watch the process viewer show you that Stickies is using 87% of the CPU while you type!

I. Windows XP isn't out yet

Windows 1 and 2 sucked. Windows

3 was lame but usable. 95 was a big improvement. 98 not so much. NT increased stability. 2000 is stable and runs more apps. XP will have the duck AND the poppy! But it's not out yet, so get OSX and start migrating your files to the new XP standard: All filenames should have three dots in the middle of the name, and should end in a three letter extension such as .rtf or .doc or .jpg or .psd so you can tell what kind of file they (probably) are. No more double-clicking a file you created in Graphic Converter and having it open in Graphic Converter when you wanted PhotoShop! Duh! Now everything will open in TextEdit and become a .rtf when you save! So much more convenient.

Did we miss something? We'd love to hear from you. We make our products better with feedback from loyal Mac users just like you.
feedback@apple.com

Disclaimer: *I love the Mac, and have been a loyal Apple advocate for 20 years (machines I have bought with my own hard earned money include a VIC-20, a Coleco ADAM (which ran Apple BASIC and ProDOS), an Apple IIc, a MacClassic, Mac LC, Quadra 660AV, PowerMac 6100 (two of them), PowerCenter Pro 180, tangerine iMac Rev. C, PowerBook G3 and soon a Cube and a TiBook) but I couldn't resist poking a little fun. My opinion? Apple is moving in the right direction with OSX (I've been waiting through Taligent/Pink, Copland and Rhapsody) but they've got a long way to go with the GUI before it will be as slick as OS9 already is. If you take offense to anything above, please accept my sincerest apologies. No harm was intended to small animals, vegetarians, or the disabled. If you want to comment on whether this is funny or not, join this forum at MacNN instead of spamming me directly...*

http://forums.macnn.com/cgi-bin/Forum3/HTML/005256.html

File Extensions and OS X

I favour the continued use of Type/Creator codes as the Mac OS has traditionally done. It offers far superior functionality than any other method out there. But, I also recognise the necessity of interoperability with other platforms... which basically requires using file name extensions.

Perhaps as a compromise, applications should have a checkbox in their save dialog labelled "Include Extension", or like Photoshop have a preference for "Include File Extension: (Never)(Always)(Ask When Saving)". That way, if I don't want to deal with extensions... I don't have to! Yet they are still available if I need to use them to maintain compatibility with inferior operating systems. This seems better to me than simply resigning ourselves to the adoption of a "lowest common denominator" technology!

I would encourage everybody who feels strongly about this issue (or any other issue with OS X!) to go to http://www.apple.com/macosx/feedback/ and let Apple know what you think!

Here is my take on the contentious issue of how to support file types and creators.

We are discussing two different solutions to the problem of choosing a program that understands a particular binary file format. The fundamental problem in my opinion is one of file formats and not file types. This problem is going to change in the future, probably within the next two or three years. The reason that the problem is going to change is XML.

The world is moving to XML based file formats. This move is being led by Microsoft for most consumers because of Office XP and Windows XP but make no mistake, the whole computer industry in moving in the same direction. Apple has also started moving to XML with OS X by making most of the OS X specific configuration files as XML formatted.

Why does XML changes the issue? Because XML files are text files with the formatting specified in such a way that literally every XML aware program will be able to open every XML file. Programs will only have the ability to understand the portions of the XML data that they are programmed to deal with, but the XML files themselves will be able to be opened by all other applications.

Once the world has moved to XML, the actual type and creator codes can be placed in the XML file itself. No meta data is needed and the codes stay with the file across platforms unless it is deliberately removed, even if the receiving platform doesn't understand the codes. Even then, most platforms will understand the codes because the codes are likely to be internet standard MIME types. These are already recognised by every internet enabled OS platform and some operating systems (specifically BeOS) already use them exclusively.

Even file formats that are inherently binary, like Quicktime or JPEG files can use XML as a wrapper or an envelope around the binary data. This will allow files to have any sort of meta data (not just file type information) included along with the binary formats. I'm convinced that this change is so universal and so inherently superior to the current mishmash of binary standards that it is inevitable. The only question is how long does it take to happen? I think that with Microsoft pushing for XML and its internet origins, it won't be very long before everyone starts using it.

So, I strongly believe that this is short term issue. Eventually it will be solved in a completely cross platform way. In the meantime Apple is trying to wean Mac users from using HFS type and creator codes because the rest of the world doesn't use them. But like a lot of the changes required by OS X, Apple has built in a mechanism for gradual change. Type and Creator codes continue to work with OS X and the HFS+ file system. Apple has made the file extension complexity an Application issue instead of making it an OS issue. This is necessary for the future success of OS X in a more and more interconnected world.

Editors Note: I found this interesting submission on a web forum but forgot to get the author's name - sorree!

OS X Tips, Tricks and Features ;-(

compiled from various sources by Andrew Pavey

Deleting Invisible Files

It is maybe not necessary to use a utility to delete invisible files, use Sherlock2 to find to find them. In the Sherlock window you can not drag and drop an invisible file to the Trash but by making it active and pressing command - delete ("move to trash") you get a message stating: "Invisible items cannot be left in the Trash. Do you want to delete them immediately?" If you click on OK it gets deleted!

File Locking Problems

When converting a disk to MacOS X, the installer makes all existing (OS 9) files owned by the system. And if they're locked they remain locked. And while default permissions lets anybody manipulate them, only system can unlock them.

Open a new terminal window

> cd .Trash

To clear all files in the current directory

> sudo chflags -R nouchg *

To clear a single file

> sudo chflags nouchg file

Enter your admin password and now you should be able to empty your trash directory. As to the explanation of the command. File locking under MacOS X is handled by some file flags manipulated by the chflags command. Specifically one that doesn't let users change the file. '**chflags nouchg**' says to remove this lock. And the **-R** would be to recurse into directories.



Mac OS X 10.0.1

Mac OS X 10.0.1 is available from
http://til.info.apple.com/techinfo.nsf/artnum/n75125
Software Update 1.3.1 available from
http://til.info.apple.com/techinfo.nsf/artnum/n75126

Where to install OS X?

It seems to matter not one jot as to whether your OS 9.1 (intended to be designated Classic) is in the same partition as Mac OS X or whether it is in a separate partition. I have tried it both ways and have finally settled for using the one partition for both OS's.

If you are thinking, keep OS 9.1 in a separate partition so it can boot the Mac from it, don't bother. Once Classic is invoked in MacOS X, your classic dedicated MacOS 9.1 becomes damaged for further standalone booting. As such it will still boot on its own but is so unstable as to be not worth attempting again.

So just use your classic-dedicated OS 9.1 as that and forget about booting the computer off it. If the only reason for separate partitions was to protect OS 9.1, forget it. You may as well have them in the one partition and you must only use your classic OS 9.1 in that role only. You will need a separate instance of OS 9x for your day to day work and for heaven's sake, don't let MacOS X anywhere near this one.

And I have suspicions that messing about with my Mac OS X and classic mode has got at my workhorse OS 9.1 on another hard disk. OS 9.1 has been messed up to the extent that I've had to do a clean install of everything. I'm seriously thinking of not having Mac OS X + classic in the same computer as my workhorse Mac OS 9.1 - I'll be swapping hard disks in and out when I want to play with X.

Peter Spain

UNIX Command Line

To get to the command-line underneath OS X's pretty GUI, you use the built-in Terminal application.

Click the Apple face icon at the far left of the Dock at the bottom of your screen to bring up the Finder window.

If the toolbar (buttons marked "**Computer**", "**Home**" etc.) does not appear in the top of your Finder window, select **Show Toolbar** from the **View** menu on the menubar at the top of your screen (that's **Apple/Command-B** on your keyboard if you're so inclined).

Click the **Apps** button in the toolbar, select the **Utilities** folder, and double-click **Terminal** to open *Terminal*.

Welcome to Unix! To see the command-line view of your Desktop type **cd Library/Desktop** and get a listing of files by typing **ls** After installing software, type **rehash** in *Terminal* to give your shell a chance to find all the new goodies you just installed.

To *log out* of the command-line, type **exit** and press **Apple/Command-Q** on your keyboard to close the *Terminal* application.

Terminal Tips

Save retyping in *Terminal*. If you type a command in *Terminal* and want to use almost the same command a second time (perhaps just changing the file name at the end or fixing a typo), just press the **up arrow** key. The entire previous line will appear as newly typed text.

Dealing with spaces in file names in *Terminal*. On a related note: Putting a *file name* in quotes easily solves the problem of getting UNIX to recognise a file name that has spaces in it.

Switch Off the Genie

The retail version of Mac OS X includes an effect that causes minimised windows to swoop into and out of the Dock like a genie from a bottle. Some OS X users with only moderately fast Macs have found that this effect is not terribly smooth.

Thankfully, OS X includes two other effects — "**suck**", which looks a bit like the default genie effect, and "**scale**", which pulls the window down into the Dock more smoothly but with less swoop.

To change this effect, you must enter a few commands in OS X's Terminal application (found inside

the Utilities folder inside OS X's Application's folder).

After launching Terminal type the following:
For the "**suck**" effect,
defaults write com.apple.Dock mineffect suck
For the "**scale**" effect,
defaults write com.apple.Dock mineffect scale
To return to the "**genie**" effect,
defaults write com.apple.Dock mineffect genie
then press the **Return** key and type "**exit**" (without the quotes). Close *Terminal* and log out of OS X.

When you log back in, the new effect will be in effect.

Pause for the long name

Most users have discovered that long file and folder names are often abbreviated in Finder windows - with an ellipsis (...) inserted in the middle of the name. If you simply place the cursor over the name, and wait a second or so, the full name will appear - in anti-aliased text. If you hold down the **Option** key, the long name appears instantly.

Speaking of names, note that all applications have a suffix of .app. However, the Finder hides that suffix in most cases, so all you see is the name (e.g., Installer instead of Installer.app). Viewing the file in Terminal reveals the full name. Placing the cursor over an application will not result in the full (.app) name appearing.

OS X Generic Dock Icons

If OS X's Dock displays generic folder icons when it should be showing application icons, try this:

Drag the LSApplications, LSClaimedTypes, and LSSchemes files to the trash. These files can be found inside the Preferences folder inside the Library folder inside the affected user's folder (if Steve is signed on, for example, and the icons are generic, these files will be inside Steve's user folder) inside the Users folder at the root level of the OS X disk.

Now log out of OS X and log back in as the affected user.

OS X Slow Launching

Launching applications is definitely slower than in OS 9. However, applications in the background - with no windows open - take up next to no CPU time and use very little RAM. So rather than quitting an application that you may wish to relaunch later - just close its windows and leave the app open, thereby avoiding the slow launch time the next time you need to use it.

MacOS X Reserved Names

If you find after installing OS X that the contents of a folder you had created in MacOS 9.1 had been filled with lots of junk, the reason is that certain names like "Network" are reserved for use by MacOS X. Unfortunately Apple or the installer don't warn you of this quirk.

The Network folder in OS X is meant to be an area reserved for links to other servers, applications, etc., available over your local network.

Other "reserved" folders in MacOS X include "Applications," "System," "Users," and "Library." This is why you'll notice that installing MacOS 9.1 took any "Applications" folder that you had under MacOS 9.0 and lower and renamed it "Applications (Mac OS 9)" - to theoretically avoid these "reserved name" conflicts. Apple should have made the installation process smart enough to do the same for these other reserved folder or file names.

Other reserved directory names in Darwin's implementation of BSD Unix (at least at the 'root' level of the hard drive), include:
bin => for many/most Unix binaries that are part of a 'standard' installation
cores => a link to /private/cores, for coredump files
dev => where Unix device drivers live
etc => a link to /private/etc, for Unix config files and other stuff
mach/mach.sym/mach_kernel => microkernel goodies
private => pretty interesting ... the idea here, is to provide for a (nearly) diskless machine that can be net-booted from another server. It can keep only the contents of /private (which must vary from machine to machine) on a local disk, while the rest of the files (which can be the same for all users on the network) are served from the disk on the server. Thus, Unix items unique to an individual machine are linked to inside /private, but keep their names at the root level for compatibility reasons with most Unix applications.
sbin => binaries that only the super-user (root) should need to use
tmp => again, a link to /private/tmp; for temporary (scratch) files in Unix
usr => where a *lot* of Unix stuff lives that isn't part of the default installation, including users' files and personal applications, etc. The MacOS X Users directory handles this functionality, but /usr is important for compatibility with Unix apps.
var => linked to /private/var; originally used for frequently-changing ("variable") files like logs, mail or FTP spools, etc.

(Note that this list may not be perfect, since I haven't explored Darwin thoroughly enough and a few of these explanations are "informed guesses." Anyone who has better information or explanations of these items is invited to correct them.)

Under the Hood

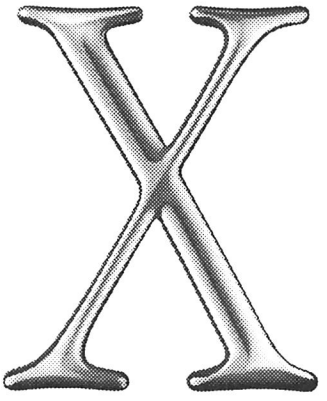
If you're thinking "Using obscure shell scripts to accomplish some trivial task is one step forward and three steps back..."

Consider the other side, this Unix trickery isn't stuff you *have* to do, but stuff you *can* do that you couldn't before. It's only necessary if you want to do things yourself rather than wait for Apple to do them.

Think of the MacOS as it had always been - like a great car which has had its hood deliberately welded shut by the manufacturer. There were tools (like ResEdit) with which you could pry the hood open, but if you wanted serious changes to the car, you had to rely on the manufacturer (Apple) or trained mechanics (third-party shareware or software developers) to do it.

MacOS X is like a car with the hood no longer welded shut. Nobody is saying you *have* to peek at the inner guts of the car, or even that you should, if you don't want to learn how the car works. But - *if* you want to - you now have the ability to fix many of your own problems, make your own customisations, etc., without having to wait for outside help. MacOS X's Unix tricks may seem obscure - but please remember that they're

options that you simply never had before. If you'd like to avoid that complexity, just do what we've always done: wait for someone more comfortable with the complexity to create an easy-to-use fix.



This is not to say that MacOS X's Unix base hasn't introduced plenty of new problems; for example, no one ever had to worry about not having requisite permissions to execute items on their own single-user computer before. But if you want the features that Unix provides and which the old MacOS was pitifully lacking in (a *real* multi-user setup with *real* security, for example), you have to expect that there will be a few glitches here and there while MacOS X is still in its relative infancy and the details are worked out.

My prediction is that as these issues are ironed out, there will be fewer and fewer Unix-related problems which require touching a command line if you want to fix it yourself rather than waiting for an outside software vendor. And, over time, people will stop looking at the Unix part of OS X as an arcane way to fix problems and more as a fascinating way to tweak their OS in ways they had never dreamed possible before.

Jeffrey Carl

UNIX tutorial

Members who are new to using UNIX need more help in decoding the UNIX commands than Apple has been willing to provide. While we try to offer limited basic instructions as needed, we obviously cannot provide a complete tutorial on UNIX. So where do you go for help?

MacFixIt's Using Terminal page (www.macfixit.com/osx/terminal.shtml) offers some background.

For more help, check out the excellent UNIX tutorial at www.ee.surrey.ac.uk/Teaching/Unix/. It walks you through all the basics.

Also look at
http://www.macosxhints.com/
http://www.macintouch.com/
http://www.macfixit.com/

Mac OS X Usability Guide

Rob Griffiths (of Mac OS X Hints) has put together an excellent PDF file called "OS X - A General Usability Guide." (http://homepage.mac.com/rgriff) It offers nine pages of hints and tips, organized in a way that makes it useful as a quick reference.

Amazing info in OS X

Some interesting, and potentially useful information is buried within the OS X installation.

These files are located in /usr/share/misc:

- airport codes (airport)
- all US zipcodes/cities (zipcodes)
- birth stones and flowers (birthtoken)
- ascii chart (ascii)
- international phone codes (inter.phone)
- c++ style suggestions (style)
- units definitions (including "dram = 60 grain") (units.lib)

AppleWorks 6.1

AppleWorks 6.1, which has been available (off and on) since March 24 in a downloadable preview edition, is now available. And it also comes in a special edition, exclusively for educators that supports both Mac and Windows systems.

Fans of the productivity suite will be happy to learn that version Works 6.1 now features DataViz MacLinkPlus translators that let you view, modify, share and exchange Microsoft Office documents. (In times past, the translators shipped with the product, but that ended when version 6.0 shipped.)

"AppleWorks is the ideal productivity application for education, with features designed specifically for teachers and students," said Cheryl Vedoe, Apple's vice president of Education Marketing and Solutions, in a company statement. "With support for both Mac and Windows machines and translators for Word and Excel, AppleWorks now has even greater flexibility for use in schools."

AppleWorks 6.1, available for Mac OS 9 and in a Mac OS X preview version, is targeted to schools and environments with mixed platform environments. It also "works well" in TCP/IP, AppleTalk, and Novell networked environments, according to Apple.

In case you're not familiar with AppleWorks, it combines word processing, page layout, image manipulation, spreadsheets, databases and presentations in a single application. Version 6.1 also includes a library of Internet based education-specific templates, designed by educators.

Minimum system requirements to run AppleWorks 6.1 for the Mac are: Mac OS 8.1 or later, a PowerPC-equipped Mac, 24MB RAM with virtual memory set to at least 25MB, CD-ROM or DVD-ROM, QuickTime and an optional Internet connection for accessing Internet-based templates.

Minimum system requirements to run AppleWorks 6.1 for Wintel systems are: PC with a Pentium processor running Windows 95, Windows 98, or Windows ME with 32MB of physical RAM, CD-ROM, Internet Explorer 5 and QuickTime.

An updater is available immediately as a free download to all Mac users currently running AppleWorks 6.0.4. The updater includes a special preview version of AppleWorks 6.1 for Mac OS X. A retail package including versions for both Mac OS 9 and Mac OS X operating systems is expected to be available in by mid 2001.



AppleWorks 6: The Missing Manual

By Jim Elferdink & David Reynolds 1st Edition May 2000 1-56592-858-X, Order Number: 858X 452 pages, US$19.95

AppleWorks 6: The Missing Manual guides readers through both the basics and the hidden talents of the new version of AppleWorks, placing special emphasis on Version 6's enhanced word processing, Internet, and presentation features.

If you prefer a more streamlined alternative to the bloat and complexity of Microsoft "sport-utility" programs, AppleWorks 6 is the stealth office suite. Hugely popular in classrooms, colleges, and small offices, it's got word processing, graphics, database, web design, spreadsheet, and slide-show functions in a single, beautifully integrated application.

Every year, AppleWorks arrives in the hands of four million Apple iMac and iBook buyers. There it sits on the hard drive, a masterpiece of smooth integration and clever interface design, accompanied by templates, art libraries, and fonts—and no printed instructions. AppleWorks 6: The Missing Manual is the book that should have been in the box.

It covers:

What's new. The authors place special emphasis on easing the transition into the new AppleWorks 6 interface, its Internet hooks, the Starting Points window, and the new Presentation module.

Part by part coverage. The early chapters delve very deeply into the six core AppleWorks modules, including 85 pages on the word processor alone.

Power tools. Much of AppleWorks' power comes from its macros, templates, assistants, customisable Button bar, and web-based clip-art libraries.

Document exchange. AppleWorks 6 can no longer export Word and Excel files. But this book covers exchanging documents with other programs, versions, and platforms—and includes a 25% discount coupon for MacLink Plus, which restores the file-conversion feature.

Troubleshooting. Because this book isn't an Apple publication, the authors freely acknowledge the program's weaknesses—and offer workarounds.

Witty and jargon-free, AppleWorks 6:The Missing Manual treats AppleWorks as the serious productivity tool it is. With over 250 illustrations, a 2,000-entry index, and a menu-by-menu explanation of every command, AppleWorks 6: The Missing Manual is as smoothly put together as AppleWorks itself.

Appleworks 6 Functions

www.missingmanual.com/cds/appc.pdf is a 428kb downloadable appendix to the book which acts as a manual listing all the Appleworks 6 functions.

Order from http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/aplwrksmm/

CONCAT (Concatenate)

Returns a string made up of all the text strings in parenthesis joined together. To insert literal text, surround it with quotes.

Format

CONCAT (*text1, text2, ...*)

Spreadsheet example

Formula	Result
-CONCAT("Hello", " ", "there!")	Hello there!

Database example

Formula	Result
CONCAT("Word1", ",", 'Word2')	Fills the calculation field with the text in the 'Word1' field, a comma and a space, then the text in the 'Word2' field.

Example of function layout in the appendix.

Opening eMail Attachments

The forums on ClubMac BBS, and the summary of them in the MACcess column in MACinations over the last few months may help you do it without needing extra software like Dataviz.

In simple terms if you know what type of application created an attachment (or can work it out) then generally you can drop the attachment on top of the icon of a similar program on your Mac. If the program icon goes dark then it means that Mac application can probably open the attachment. Most attachments in my experience fall in a narrow range of types ie they are word processor documents, spreadsheets, pictures or PowerPoint presentations. If you you have the Microsoft Office:Mac suite of programs then you should be on good ground.

Graphic Converter (a shareware program) will handle most picture formats.

BBEdit (a shareware program) or NisusWriter (an older version is available free) will open most text documents if you don't have Word.

Andrew Pavey

Top Ten Signs You're About to Get Ripped Off

Fred Showker is a designer, consultant, writer and speaker. He has published 60-Second Window and DT&G Magazine online since 1990, and is director of The Graphic Design Network which includes The Design & Publishing Center at www.Graphic-Design.com. (1994) He was a co-founder of both The User Group Forum on America Online (1987), and The User Group Network at www.User-Groups.net. (1994) He originally founded Showker Graphic Arts & Design in 1972, has been an avid computer activist and supporter since 1984. http://www.60-Seconds.com/articles/130a.html

The problem with email these days is it's becoming increasingly difficult to tell the difference between legitimate "offers" and a scam rip-off . The old Madison Avenue adage "If it doesn't sell, they don't keep advertising" is always true — so it's obvious that unsolicited email (aka: UCE, Spam) must be working or they'd no longer be doing it. So, all you folks out there who actually respond to spam, please don't. Here are ten key rules to think about before you click the reply button:

1 — If there are more than two slashes in the domain... trash it

Look at the domain. If you can count more than ONE slash after the dot-com, beware. All of the following said they would send me 25,000,000 email addresses on CD for just $299.00. Here's a flash: you can't get that many email addresses on a CD... SCAM. All four, and many others like them lead to dead ends, only wanting your money:

http://homex.coolconnect.com/member3/justhits/

http://www.megspace.com/internet/justhits/

http://www.stas.net/3/justhits/

http://www.freehost.nu/members/justhits/

(These are also freebie hosting sites, see #9 below.)

2 — If the domain is numeric... it's out to lunch

Any self-respecting and on-the-level business, with an honest offer will NOT use an IP number instead of a URL address. Instead, they use these to avoid detection, and to rip you off... http://207.173.123.243:524 spells trouble.

3 — If they say use this or that... use neither

Con artists these days know they'll be shut down — it's only a matter of time. So in order to sucker in more people they'll list several domains, hoping you'll move to the second one if the first one already got shut down. Many even say "If one doesn't work, use the other!" That's your queue to use neither.

4 — Who sent it is not who gets it... don't let them get you

Look carefully at the address of the sender. Now go through the piece and look at any email addresses in the post, including headers. If they're not the same — beware! They should at least be from the same domain. (That's the part after the "@".)

5 — No real name means no real person

dhckj@msn.com, i27452@compuserve.com? eyzjygeynf@yahoo.com ... who are they trying to kid? These addresses are generated by spam robots who open accounts at the freebie web sites, send mass mailings, change the name, send more, then cancel the account before they're detected. They should be outlawed.

6 — If they tell you to talk to a robot... tell 'em no!

Many get-rich schemers and rip-off artists today tell you to call their toll free number, leave your name, address and phone number so they can call you back. They prey on the very poor, and the elderly. Their yarn is convincing — but don't expect them to call back... in reality all they want is to SELL your address to other marketers.

7 — If there's no address... you don't want to go there!

Check the spammers web site for a physical address. If you don't find one, there's a reason why: they don't want to be tracked down by anyone who they've done wrong... most especially the FBI. If there's a phone number, call it. Ask for their address. A recent spam from "Vortal Toner Supplies" absolutely refused to give an address — another said they didn't give out the address to anyone no matter what. They turned out to be an illegal, off-shore gambling operation owned by a company in LA. Never reply or buy.

8 — If it's off-shore money... don't touch it!

If it has to do with money but they're from another country other than your own — get away quickly. Email has exploded with insurance quotes, bogus stock tips, shady refinancing debt services or home mortgages from the likes of Great-Loan-Rates@6aaa.fsnet.co.uk, whpost10986@avtechk.com.cn. These people cannot fulfil their promises... they're ripping you off.

9 — If they're using a freebie account... you can't afford it

If you think about it for a moment, it's rather obvious that you wouldn't want to do business with anyone using a freebie email account. If they've got nothing to loose, then they've got nothing for you! Several of those below admit openly that their clientele is 88% spammers. All of the following freebie sites are responsible for the majority of spam:

angelfire.com, another.com, arabia.com, bangkok.com, building.com, china.com, consultant.com, email-prom.net email.com, excite.com, golfmail.com, hotmail.com, iway2000.com, loudpages.com, lycos.co.uk, lycos.com, mail.com, megspace.com, metahoo.com, mundomail.net, netcolony.com, netdest.com, netnet.com.sg, newmail.net, oceanfree.net, postmaster.com, prontomail.com, telsurf.net, turbomail.net, usa.com, verizon.net, verizonmail.com, virtualactive.com,

Letter to the Editor

On 12/4/01 4:30 PM, carac wrote:

Your article on OSX was not very encouraging. You say you installed the OSX "on a clean partition..." What does this mean?

It means I prepared a new section of my hard disk as a separate volume. The Mac distinguishes between disks and volumes. As delivered you get a disk with one volume. Using the Drive Setup application you can divide a disk into a number of volumes of different sizes. Each can then be treated independently, and most importantly each can have a System folder without confusing the Mac. So in this case I created a new volume to hold OS X, so I could preserve my existing working System folder, in case it didn't work out I'd have a fall back position.

Further on you write a good article on Quicktime. I often get a message asking whether I want Quicktime 3 now or later. Is this quicktime pro? Then you go on to say Quicktime Pro is US$30. From where?

Yes the $30 gets you the Pro version which allows authoring. From Apple.

And QT.Pro does animation's and movies. but then you say a QT. plug in is needed!

Why did I pay US$30 if I also need a plug in. And how does one get a plugin?

A regular quicktime installation, (what you get if you don't upgrade to Pro), includes the installation of the plug-in in your browsers plug-ins folder. This only allows you to view QT items (like streaming video of Steve Jobs presenting a talk at MacWorld) in your browser, it is completely different from the Pro product.

INTRODUCING MACINTOSH is a GREAT idea, but you people are so advanced that you don't realise how far back you have to go to do the introduction!

The paragraph on QT. track-based architecture is highly versatile went on to describe a number of versatile and modular subjects which I know nothing about, much less their acronyms!

I'll deal with some of the acronyms in the next articles (see page 8).

This gets back to Alan Jones' article last month that many of us have spent years away from new information and we get lost when confronted with new acronyms etc.

If you are going to introduce Macintosh you have to go back a LONG way!

But it will make reading MACinations worth while and keep a number of us who can't get to meetings at the club.

Carl Luther carac@acay.com.au

Q&A SIG

This summary covers some, not all the topics we covered on the night.

How to select a range of cells in a spreadsheet in Appleworks using command/shift/arrows.
Page setup, and Printer Defaults 1.5.8 on the BBS which enables you to permanently set your paper size.
Explanation of file compression including:
sea - self expanding (compressed) archive.
sit - compressed - Stuffit Expander required to open it.
Messageclosing.txt on the BBS.
What's available behind the "Help & Information" icon on the BBS.
Remote Access. configuring for dialling an ISP
Okey Dokey Pro - auto acknowledge OK prompts.
How to select part of the text in a pdf.
Cookies. what they do in a browser.
Saving Bookmarks or Favourites when installing an update of Netscape or Explorer.
The pros and cons of Netscape compared with Explorer.
How to change icons on the desktop files.
Command-Option-W to close all currently open windows on your desktop.
How to find keyboard shortcuts in the online help.
How to set up a RAM disk and how it will speed up the screen re-draw when going back/forward in a browser.
How to load text only, how to set up to click on a picture button as required, or to load all pictures if required.
Question re "Split finder" on desktop. Open it to see what it is or throw it in the trash and empty the trash.
Ways of emptying the trash and whether info is retrievable afterwards.
The expected life of floppies, CDs and hard disks, and why buying the best quality CDs is a good idea.
The difference between sleep modes for the monitor and the hard disk.
Discussion about surge protectors.
How to use Stickies.
How to launch the floating palette for the application menu.
Where to obtain Zmac's QuickLaunch and how to use it.
BlackWatch 1.5.2 screen saver and security application - where to get it and how to use it.
Search engines for the net - what they are, where to find them.
Sherlock - how to use it, indexation and adding further search modules.

My thanks to Kath Harding for the notes

continued from page 20

bigfoot.com, webmail.co.za, wickedspeed.net, yahoo.com, India.com, freehosting.com.

10 — If it's too good to be true... it is!

The other day a UCE told me I could look like Cindy Crawford in two weeks. (Picture that!) Another said I no longer had to worry about the IRS... yet another said it could get me out of financial trouble... dozens of them each day want to sell me millions of email addresses. All of these are blatant lies, and most certainly a rip off. Most spam today wants only to get your email address validated. So never, ever reply. Never. They want to sell the names to other spammers, or poor suckers who actually think they can get rich sending unsolicited email.

These ten warning signs are the main things to watch out for. There are others which I'll explore in a future issue. Just keep them in mind, and laugh at them as you drag them to the trash... where the email, and their senders belong.

Giving Your Computer Directions

Nacny Carroll Gravely
http://www.macobserver.com/columns/firstmac/2000/20001115.shtml

Using the Keyboard

- In AppleWorks 5 and some versions of Microsoft Word, to increase the font size of selected text by 1 point increments, hit **Command + Shift + >**. To decrease the font size of selected text by 1 point increments, hit **Command + Shift + <**.
- To quickly hide the Button Bar in AppleWorks 5, hit **Command + Shift + X**. After hiding, to show the Button Bar, hit **Command + Shift + X** again.
- While in an AppleWorks word processing document, hit **Command + Shift + T** to quickly display the Tools in the document window.
- Also in AppleWorks, to access the thesaurus, hit **Command + Shift + Z**.
- To close an open dialog window in AppleWorks, hit the **escape** key.
- When you want to rename a file you must move the cursor to the beginning of the highlighted name. To do so quickly, hit the **return** key, **left arrow** key or **up arrow** key.
- In lists of files, either in windows or on your desktop, you can find files by typing in the first few letters of the file. So, in a list of twenty items, two of which are Press Release and Product Release, quickly type "p-r-o" and you'll be taken to the second item. Or, type "p" and hit **Tab** to cycle through all the items beginning with "p," then the next available letter, or **Shift-Tab** to go backward.
- Eject floppies or CD-ROMs by highlighting their icons and hitting **Command-Y**. **Command-E** will eject the disk but leave the icon on the desktop in *earlier* versions of the Mac OS, and you'll eventually be asked to put the disk back in if you use that method. In Mac OS 8 & 9, **Command-Y** and **Command-E** work in pretty much the same way.
- To insert a date within an AppleWorks word processing document that will not update, hold down the **Option** key and Select the new menu item **Edit Insert Fixed Date**.
- To see invisible characters in AppleWorks, such as tabs and spaces, hit **Command + Semi-colon**.
- To select an entire paragraph of text in an AppleWorks document, quadruple click on the paragraph. This works in many, but not all Mac applications.

Tips for Making The Internet More Accessible

- Unhappy with the size of the text in web pages? You can change the defaults for your browser. In Internet Explorer v5 first select **Edit Preferences**. Then select **Web Browser Language/Fonts**. In Netscape v4.7. select **Edit Preferences**, then **Fonts** (under **Appearance**). Pick the Fonts and sizes you want and close the window. Note, This will not affect web pages where the web designer chose to specify particular sizes etc.
- In Netscape you can also increase sizes using **Command-Shift-]** (and decrease them using **Command-Shift-[**)
- To access the Message Center in Netscape Communicator 4.7, hit **Command + Option + 1**.
- This is a handy trick. For a quick search in Netscape Communicator, type in your search key words in the Location box and hit return. The location box is the area where you put your Internet addresses, such as www.clubmac.org.au.
- I bet all of us who use the Internet with any frequency have found a page that we intended to save but did not. There may be a way to retrieve the URL. In Netscape Navigator, type in **about:global** in the location/address box and you just might find your site!
- To save an image from the internet do this: In Netscape Navigator or Internet Explorer, drag the image to your desktop; In both programs you can also click and hold your mouse button, then choose **Download Image to Disk** or **Save Image to Disk**.

Operating Tips

- Need to restart but can't see your screen? Try pressing the **power key** on the keyboard + **R**.
- If you choose **Shut Down** from the **Special** menu and quickly realise that you want to stop shutting down, immediately launch any application. Launching a program will force the Mac OS to stop a shutdown.
- If your computer is turned off without going through the shutdown process (i.e., your electricity goes out), you will get a notice when you next turn on your machine that tells you the machine was not properly turned off. To disable the improper shutdown dialog, uncheck the **Shut Down Warning** option in the **General Controls** Control Panel.
- To "relocate" text: Highlight the needed text. Click and hold on the selection and drag it to another part of the document.
- To highlight blocks of text in a word processing document for

instance, **click** at the beginning of the text you want and then **Shift click** at the end. All of the intervening text will be highlighted.

- To get answers concerning your operating system, visit: http://macos.about.com/compute/macos/cs/macos79/index.htm.
- When using Find File (**Command-F**), you can drag files from the Found Items window to your desktop, to other folders, and to the Trash. You can open their enclosing folders in the lower half of the window, though you can't move those folders from there. You can launch items from the Found Items window also by double clicking on the title.
- This is a good tip for those of us who tend to have numerous projects going at the same time. It will help keep your desktop from looking so cluttered. You can make a folder of aliases for frequently used applications and documents and access it through the Apple menu. Just drag an alias of the folder itself into the **Apple Menu Items** folder in the **System Folder**.
- You can find the application to which an alias belongs by single-clicking on the alias, then hitting **Command-R**.
- If you worry about your kids accidentally disabling the family Mac, you can protect both the System Folder and the Applications folder by checking those options in the **General Controls** control panel. That'll prevent files in those folders from being moved.
- File Sharing is a memory hog. If you aren't on a network, you don't need to run File Sharing, so you can disable the extension and control panel and save memory.
- If an image won't display as a desktop picture, it's either too large or in the wrong format. Use either PICT- or JPEG-formatted photos, and try to keep them under 200K apiece. Larger photos may work, but they may not.
- To select several items in a window, start your mouse in the blank space beside one item (but not on the item), hold down the mouse button and drag a box to the opposite side of the last item you want to select. Highlight non-contiguous items by holding down Shift. Once they are highlighted, using either method, you can move them as a group by dragging them to a new site.
- If you encounter a slow Web page, you could wait — or you could load another page in the meantime. Choose **New Window** from the **File** menu in your browser (or hit **Command-N**) and go elsewhere. Or, use the **Go** menu to return to a previous page while the slow page keeps chugging.
- To avoid spam e-mail (unwanted messages), set your e-mail application to automatically trash any message that isn't specifically addressed to you. Many spammers use addresses such as mylist@suckers.com — that address is actually an address group containing thousands of individual e-mail addresses. Be sure to exclude any valid mailing lists to which you subscribe.

New DNS Information for Premium Members

Our new ADSL internet connection is now up and running. In order for you to successfully connect to our PPP Server you need to change the Name Server address details in the TCP/IP Control Panel.

Put these name servers in the first box:
61.8.0.113
210.23.129.34

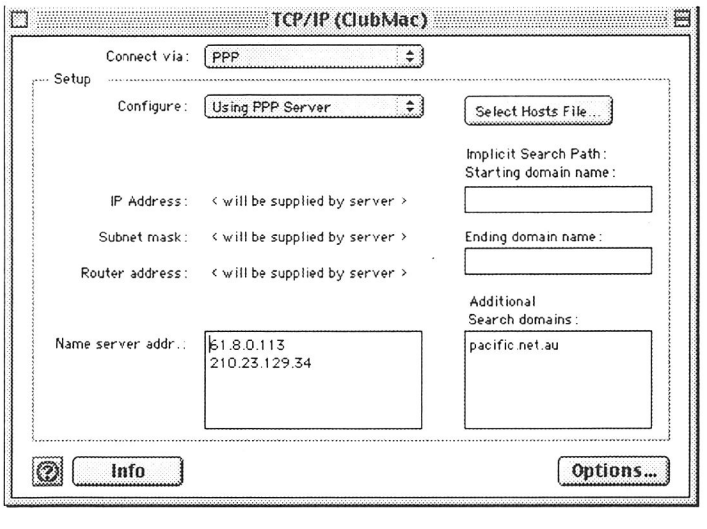
And put this into the search domain box:
pacific.net.au

Or download the TCP/IP preference from the LATEST ADDITIONS area and copy it to your preference folder (located inside your **System folder**).

This information is only for members who call Club Mac for their Internet access.

DO NOT apply this change if your ISP is not Club Mac.

John Agapitos
System Administrator



QuickTime 5 and QuickTime Streaming Server 3

Apple® announced QuickTime™5, Apple's industry-leading software for creating, playing and streaming high-quality audio and video over the Internet, and QuickTime Streaming Server 3, Apple's new version of the standards-based, open source, streaming server. In addition, Apple is demonstrating a preview version of QuickTime with support for industry-standard MPEG-2 and MPEG-4 encoding and decoding.

"QuickTime has been long established as the digital media standard for capturing, encoding and delivering content on the Internet," said Philip Schiller, Apple's vice president of Worldwide Product Marketing. "QuickTime 5 offers incredible new capabilities for everyone who creates or views multimedia content."

QuickTime 5 includes an enhanced user-interface with new audio controls, "Hot Picks" guide and QuickTime TV™ (QTV) channels display; a new DV codec for enhanced speed and quality; the ability for content creators to design custom interfaces for the delivery of their QuickTime content; and a component downloader to add Apple's own enhancements as well as third-party plug-ins on the fly. QuickTime 5 also offers full support for MPEG-1, Flash 4 and QuickTime's new Cubic VR technology.

Apple's QuickTime Streaming Server 3 includes Skip Protection, a patented collection of features that protects the quality of streams from disruptions on the Internet, and a new easy-to-use web-based interface that can be administered locally or remotely to configure server settings. Coupled with Mac® OS X Server on a Power Mac™ G4, QuickTime Streaming Server 3 lets users start up a streaming digital video channel with support for more than 3,000 concurrent streams to QuickTime users. Darwin Streaming Server, the Open Source version of QuickTime Streaming Server 3, offers support for FreeBSD, Linux, Solaris, Windows NT and Windows 2000.

With over 150 million copies of QuickTime 4 already in distribution worldwide, QuickTime is fast becoming the world's leading cross-platform multimedia technology and is today the only open source, standards-based streaming solution. As a co-founder of the Internet Streaming Media Alliance (ISMA), Apple is dedicated to the development of products and technologies that adhere to industry standards to provide an optimised user experience through interoperability. QuickTime was chosen by the International Standards Organisation (ISO) as the base file format for MPEG-4, and Apple is working with other ISMA members to bring interoperable MPEG-4 products and technologies to market.

Availability: QuickTime 5 is immediately available for free download at www.apple.com/quicktime/download. Localised versions of QuickTime 5 will be available in May 2001.

QuickTime Streaming Server 3 will be available in May 2001. For more information on QuickTime Streaming Server 3 and Darwin Streaming Server 3, please visit www.apple.com/quicktime.

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Director 8.5 Shockwave Studio

Macromedia, Inc. announced the immediate availability of Macromedia Director 8.5 Shockwave Studio, the standard for creating interactive, rich media content, including 3D for the Web, CD-ROMs, DVD-ROMs and more. The studio includes a new version of the Shockwave Multiuser Server, Havok physics engine for 3D game behaviours, support for Macromedia Flash 5, and the ability to stream RealMedia content. In addition, through a joint effort with Intel Corporation, 3D support is now included, ensuring that developers can continue delivering the most magnetic Web experiences with the market-leading rich media creation solution.

Macromedia Director 8.5 provides developers with an extensible, robust 3D content creation and publishing solution. Macromedia Director 8.5 is bringing 3D content on-line by working with leading 3D vendors to ensure developers can leverage their existing expertise with their 3D authoring software of choice.

"Macromedia Director 8.5 Shockwave Studio enables Director users to create real world applications that deliver immersive 3D, while existing 3D developers can reach a new Web audience," said Peter Ryce, senior director of product marketing, Macromedia. "With the authoring prowess of Director and the power and penetration of Macromedia Shockwave Player, the platform for delivering high-impact 3D Web experiences is now here."

Director users will not only benefit from the new 3D functionality, but also from other new features such as Macromedia Flash 5 integration - one of the most requested features from customers. Support for RealAudio and RealVideo in Director means developers can now deliver audio and video content using the leading streaming format on the Web. With Shockwave Multiuser Server 3, developers can now utilise server-side scripting capabilities, UDP networking, and can have 2000 users simultaneously using their Shockwave multiuser content. Developers can continue to create and publish magnetic content with the confidence that the free Macromedia Shockwave Player is ready and waiting on a majority of Web desktops to deliver engaging Web experiences to more than 200 million Web users.

"Macromedia Director 8.5 Shockwave Studio is exciting, in that I can take the skills I already have to create sophisticated 3D games and applications," said Gary Rosenzweig, chief engineer, CleverMedia, a multimedia and game development company. "Adding support for Macromedia Flash 5 and a new, more powerful Shockwave Multiuser Server will let me create even more immersive Web experiences. When I think of the possibilities that 3D-enhanced Shockwave content offers, I can't wait to get started."

Availability

Macromedia Director 8.5 Shockwave Studio is immediately available for both Macintosh and Windows platforms. The free, 3D-enhanced Shockwave Player is also available for immediate download from Macromedia.

Toast 5 Titanium Is Now Shipping!

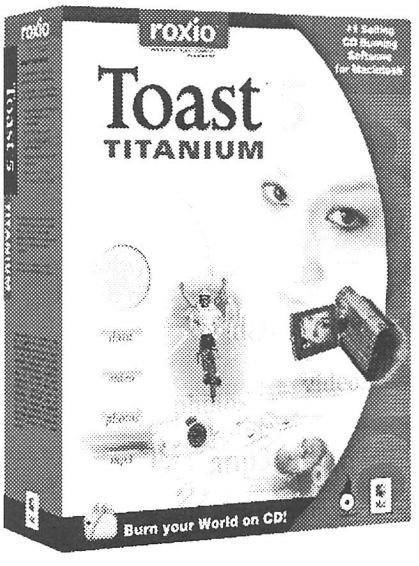
Roxio's Premier CD Burning Software

Roxio, Inc., the digital media company from Adaptec, is now shipping the new Toast 5 Titanium in the US. Customers can purchase the product at their local computer retail store for a suggested retail price of US$99 or direct from Roxio at www.roxio.com.

"Toast 5 Titanium is packed with many new features for users to burn DVD's, MP3's, photos and VideoCDs," said Victor Nemecheck, Toast product manager at Roxio. "It is truly the ultimate CD and DVD burning package."

The new Toast 5 Titanium boasts a totally new user interface specifically designed for use on Mac OS X, the ability to burn CDs in the background, automatic MPEG encoding for burning iMovies onto VideoCDs for playback in most DVD players, and support for most DVD-RAM and DVD-R/RW drives.

In addition to the new features listed above, Toast 5 Titanium now includes all the tools needed for complete CD mastering, including iView Multimedia, the easiest way for professionals and consumers to organise images, photos, movies, sounds, fonts and files. Users can create thumbnail catalogs, create slide shows and video postcards, or publish web galleries of their media on the Internet. Also included is a full-featured version of Magic Mouse Discus, a fun but powerful CD label printing program. Discus includes hundreds of background graphics and clip art images that allow users to create artistic CD labels and jewel case inserts and prints them on over 22 different brands of CD labelling paper.



Tips & Tricks

Symantec Technical Support Knowledge Base

How to use a RAM disk to run Norton Disk Doctor or Speed Disk on the newest Macintosh models
Product(s): Norton Utilities 5.0 - Mac
Operating Systems(s): Mac - OS 9, Mac - OS 9.0.4

Situation:

You have late-model G4, G4MP, G4 Cube, or one of the newest iMacs, and you cannot boot the computer using your Norton Utilities CD.

Solution:

The following solution is for routine maintenance, such as optimising your normal boot volume, and assumes that you will need only Norton Disk Doctor, Speed Disk, and Norton Shared Lib in the RAM disk. If you plan on placing more items in the RAM disk, you may need to resize it accordingly in step #1.

1. Started from your normal boot volume, open the Memory control panel, turn on the RAM disk option, and adjust the size slider to about 5500K.
2. Insert the system software Install or Restore CD that came with your Macintosh, click Restart from the Special menu, and hold down the "C" key on your keyboard through the reboot sequence.
3. Once the computer has restarted from the CD, open the Utilities folder on the CD and launch Disk First Aid.
4. In the Select Volumes to Verify section at the top of the Disk First Aid window, you should see a RAM disk icon; below the icon it should say (name unknown) and below that Internal RAM Disk. Select this RAM disk icon (please be very sure that you have chosen the correct icon).
5. Go to the Options menu, and click Erase Disk. You can give the RAM disk a name such as Norton, or you can leave it with the default name (usually Untitled).
6. Confirm in the Format field that it will be formatted as a Mac OS Standard volume, and that it will be the approximate size that you chose in step #1.
NOTE: The size should be in MB (megabytes), not GB (gigabytes).
7. Click Erase.
8. Quit Disk First Aid. You should now see the RAM disk on the desktop.
9. Locate your installed copy of Norton Utilities, and open the Norton Utilities Folder and the Norton Tools folder inside of it. Copy Norton Disk Doctor and Speed Disk from the Norton Tools folder to the RAM disk.
10. From the System folder on your normal boot volume, open the Extensions folder and locate the Norton Shared Lib file. Copy this file to the RAM disk.
11. Launch either Norton Disk Doctor or Speed Disk from the RAM disk, and proceed with the exam or optimisation.

Adobe Acrobat 5.0

Customers Benefit from Tight Web Integration, XML Support for Easier Data Exchange within Adobe PDF files

Adobe Systems Incorporated, the leader in Network Publishing, introduced Adobe® Acrobat® 5.0 software, a major upgrade to one of the company's cornerstone applications. With Acrobat 5.0, Adobe is enabling organisations to reduce cycle times and increase the efficiency of business processes across their extended enterprises of customers and partners.

True to its heritage, Acrobat 5.0 continues the tradition of allowing users to produce documents that retain the fidelity of the original, exactly as intended. Customers can be certain that Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files they create in Acrobat 5.0 and share online can be viewed and printed using the ubiquitous Acrobat Reader across various hardware and operating systems.

But Acrobat 5.0 functionality goes well beyond this fundamental value proposition: professionals can now work more efficiently as individuals and with teams; customers have enhanced capabilities for creating, digitally signing and sending secure documents; businesses can more effectively use electronic forms to reduce costs and increase the accuracy of information in those forms; users can distribute information in a more accessible manner to people with disabilities; and IT managers can now easily deploy and maintain Acrobat software across an entire organisation.

"In the coming years, as business workflows move to the Web, there will be an increased need to access information anytime, anywhere," said Rita Knox, vice president and research director, Gartner. "Software that allows organisations to save time and money by supporting such ubiquitous access will be key. This involves both technology and management of user requirements and preferences."

Acrobat 5.0 offers a number of key benefits that enable business, graphic arts and IT professionals to excel in this new Network Publishing environment where they must work efficiently at Web speed. Tight Web integration based on WebDistributed Authoring and Versioning (WebDAV) and Open DataBase Connectivity (ODBC) allows teams to simultaneously share comments on Adobe PDF files from within a browser. Support for the eXtensible Markup Language (XML) makes it simple for users to integrate data, such as metadata and forms data in Adobe PDF files, with back-end systems. And stronger integration with enterprise deployment tools enables IT professionals to auto-install and maintain Acrobat 5.0 over a network to thousands of multi-user or lockdown desktop systems.

For a comprehensive list of the new features in Acrobat 5.0 software, please visit: www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/pdfs/acr5nfhs.pdf.

System Requirements

Macintosh

- PowerPC™ processor
- Apple® Macintosh® OS 8.6, 9.0.4, or 9.1
- 32 MB of RAM (with virtual memory on) (64 MB recommended)
- 105 MB of available hard-disk space
- Additional 70 MB of hard-disk space for Asian fonts (optional)
- CD-ROM drive

OmniWeb Browser for Mac OS X

Why OmniWeb is the best browser out there today

OmniWeb was designed to provide you with the best user experience you'll find in a web browser. We think it's important to polish every user interaction to make sure that the browser acts the way you want it to — so you can stop thinking about the application you're using and just get at the information you want, quickly.

Instead of trying to make our browser more like a television, we've concentrated on useful features, from extremely easy to use bookmarks (we were the first browser to allow you to simply drag a page to and from your bookmarks) that can automatically check themselves for new content, to forms that automatically remember their values when they are bookmarked.

How you feel when you use a browser is the product of a thousand little details, and we've sweated over every one: for example, we have keyboard shortcuts for finding forward and backward (and automatically wrapping around), shrink-to-fit window zooms — and (of course!) a fully "Aquafied" user interface. Our Aqua support is not just skin deep: we have slide-out bookmark and history "drawers", a configurable Aqua toolbar, and the system Aqua preferences panel. And, not only do we use native Aqua interface elements for display on web pages, we even make the default submit button in a form throb just like it would if it were the default button on a native panel, so you know what will happen when you hit return.

Of course, none of this matters unless OmniWeb is able to view the pages you want to see. That's why we include support for JavaScript, Flash, Layers, QuickTime, SSL, Cascading Style Sheets, and Java applets. If there's something you think we might be missing, please let us know!

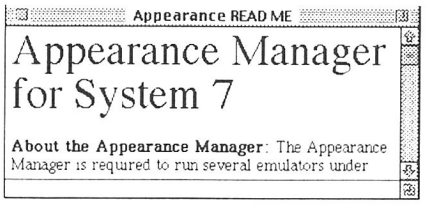
www.omnigroup.com

Appearance Manager for System 7

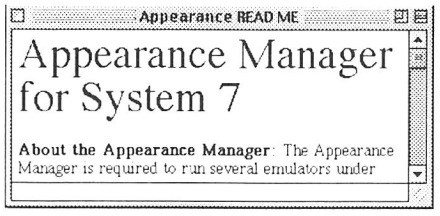
For those who are using System 7 on 680X0 or PowerMac and would like some of the benefits of System 8, this Control Panel and Extension package is available for free on the BBS.

About the Appearance Manager:

The Appearance Manager is required to run several emulators under System 7, including SNES9X, iNES, MasterGear, ColEm, the TI-85 emulator, and others. The Appearance Manager represents Apple's newest innovations in interface development and developers are eager to take advantage of its new features. If you are currently running Mac OS 8.0 or later, you don't need to install this software.



A typical window under System 7



A typical window under System 7 with Appearance Manager

Important Conflict Warning:

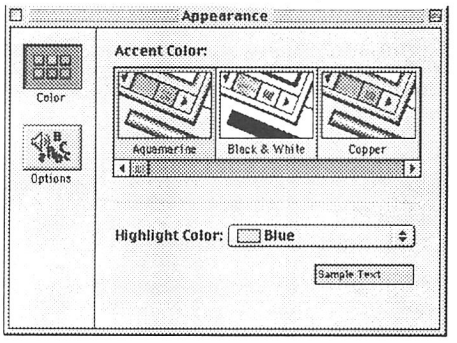
Before installing Appearance Manager, please remove the **WindowShade** and **Color** items from your **Control Panels** folder. The functionality of these control panels has been replaced by the **Appearance Control Panel** and they are known to conflict if both are there. Also, older versions of extensions like **Aaron, Kaleidoscope** and other interface-modifying extensions might conflict with Apple's Appearance Manager. If you are running these, you should disable these extensions before installing Appearance Manager for the first time.

Installation:

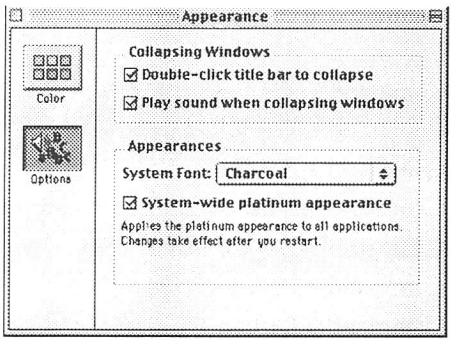
To install **Appearance Manager**, first open your **System Folder**. Drop the **Appearance Control Panel** onto the **Control Panels** folder. Drop the **Appearance Extension** into your **Extensions** folder. Drop the "**.Keyboard**" and "**Charcoal**" extensions onto your **Fonts** folder. Finally, **restart** your Macintosh!

After you've installed Appearance:

The Appearance Manager will make your Macintosh look very different after you restart. Windows will have a thick, draggable border, the menubar is shaded and detailed, buttons are bevelled, progress bars are shaded, Finder icons are three-dimensional, and menus stay down when you click on their titles. If all this progress makes you uncomfortable, open the **Appearance** control panel, and click the **Options** button. Then disable "**System-wide Platinum Appearance**" and set the system font to **Chicago**. After restarting, your Mac will return to the classic style under applications which do not specifically require Appearance Manager elements.



Choose a colour scheme to suit your personality



Collapsing Windows replaces Window Shade (note the collapse button in the top right of all windows)
Choose the System font here

Corel Announces Upcoming Creative Products

Corel Corporation is pleased to announce that it will soon be launching new versions of five of its award-winning creative products, specifically targeting international markets.

Beginning in the *(northern)* Summer of 2001, Corel will release international versions of its latest graphics offerings, starting with Bryce® 5 and followed by CorelDRAW® 10 for Mac®, Corel® Painter™ 7, Corel® KnockOut 2, and KPT® 7, which will arrive throughout the summer and fall. All products will be available in international English and German, with Bryce 5, Corel Painter 7, and KPT 7 also available in French.

"Summer 2001 will feature an impressive lineup of new graphics offerings from Corel," said Ian LeGrow, executive vice-president, creative products, at Corel Corporation. "By releasing the latest versions of Bryce 5, CorelDRAW 10 for Mac, Corel KnockOut 2, Corel Painter 7 and KPT 7, in a variety of languages, we are ensuring graphics professionals worldwide will have all the tools they need to explore new heights of expressing their creativity with the most advanced software applications available."

www.corel.com

Magic Keyboard Shortcuts

The Magic of the Command Key

Command + A (when inside window, desktop, or document) = Select All

Command + C = Copy (what is selected or highlighted)

Command + D = Duplicated (folders and Files)

Command + E (selected disk) = Ejects

Command + F = Find File

Command + I (on selected files or folders) = Get Info

Command + K (in some control panels and installers) = User Mode or Configurations - Uninstall (installers)

Command + M (on selected folders or files) = Make Alias

Command + N = New

Command + O = Open

Command + P = Print

Command + Q = Quit

Command + S = Save

Command + V = Paste

Command + W = Close

Command + X = Cut

Command + Y (selected disk or selected recently moved files) = Put Away

Command + Z = Undo

Command + . = Cancel

Command + Option + E = Eject and Leave Behind

Command + Option + S = Saves All

Command + Option + P = Prints All

Command + Option + W = Closes All

Command + Option at Start up = rebuild the desktop

Command + Option + P + R at Start up = Zaps the PRAM

Command + Option + Shift + Delete at Start up = Forces start up drive to go off-line and start up off another drive with blessed system

Command + Shift + 3 = Screen Shot

Command + Shift + 4 = Selection cursor to select an area for a Screen Shot

Command + Caps Lock + Shift + 4 = Screen Shot of selected window

Command + Shift + Control 3 = Screen in Clipboard

Command + Shift + Control 4 = Selection cursor to select an area to dump in Clipboard

Command + Caps Lock + Control Shift + 4 = Shot of selected window into Clipboard

Command + at Start up = Disables Virtual Memory

Command + Option + E (selected disk) = Eject and leave behind

Command + Option + Escape = Force Quit

Command + Control + Startup Key = Soft Restart

Command + Option + Tab as inserting disk = Initialise Disk

Command + Shift + Clear = Number Pad Mouse Control

Command + Delete Key = Move to Trash

Command + Click + hold inactive window title bar = Moves Inactive Window

Command + up and down arrow keys in save dialog box = Go into and back in directories

Command + D in save dialog box = Desktop

Command + Tab Key = Rotates Applications

Command + Option + Power key = Force Sleep

Command + Option + Power key + Shift = Force Shutdown
Command + Click on Finder Window Title = Disk Backtracking
Command + Option + Memory Control Panel = Startup Memory Test Option
Command + Option + Control + Shift + Apple Menu = About MacOS Team
Command + Option + Mouse Drag = Create Alias where mouse button is released
Command + R with alias selected = Shows original
Command + Up Arrow = Opens parent folder
Command + R with alias selected = Shows original
Command + Up Arrow = Opens parent folder
Command + Down Arrow = Opens selected
Command + Right Arrow = Hierarchal view of selected folders in list view
Command + Left Arrow = Closes hierarchal view of selected folders in list view
Command + Shift + Q = Quits a running 'stay-open' script
Command + Mouse drag in window = Scrolls without going to side bars

The Magic of the Option Key

Option + double click on folder = closes the window the folder resides
Option + click on desktop or other application = hides the current application after switch
Option + click on the date = turns clock on and off
Option + about this Macintosh = about the finder
Option + empty trash = trashes locked items without asking
Option + window shade = window shade all open windows
Option + collapse window = collapses all windows
Option + save = saves all
Option + print = print all
Option + double click on connected user in file sharing monitor = send message
Option + dragging item to another directory or desktop = copy to new location
Option + resize window box = full screen view
Option + eject = eject and leave behind
Option + arrow keys + desktop picture control panel = Moves desktop picture
Option + Command + Escape = Force Quit
Option + Command at Start up = Rebuilds Desktop
Option + Command + P + R at Start up = Zaps the PRAM
Option + Command + Shift + Delete at Start up = Forces start up drive to go off-line and start up off another drive with blessed system
Option + Command + Tab as inserting disk = Initialising Disk
Option + Command + Power = Force Sleep
Option + Command + Power + Shift = Force Shutdown
Option + Command + Memory Control Panel = Startup Memory Test Option
Option + Command + Control + Shift + Apple Menu = About MacOS Team
Option + space bar = non breaking words (when typing)
Option + Command + Control + Mouse Drag = Create Alias where mouse button is released

Other Key Commands

Space Bar at Start up = Loads Extensions Manager before starting extensions across your screen
Shift at Start up = Extensions Off
Tab Key in save dialog box = switches disks to save onto
Shift Key five times = enables Easy Access Control Panel
Mouse Button at start up = Ejects floppy disk with system before system load starts *(older systems, obviously)*



FileMaker Pro Corner

Hilton Brown <hiltonb@jedi.apana.org.au>

Page Boundaries and Split Fields

Have you ever come across the problem, when you print your data which is in a field which extends to a second or more pages, that the tops of the characters on a line appear at the bottom of one page and the bottoms of the characters of the same line are printed at the top of the next page? Annoying, isn't it! Let's look at how the problem can be overcome.

Split Fields

The first (and most important) point to remember is that the overall length of the printed page is determined by your printer. As an aside, therefore, when you change your printer you'll also need to change your FileMaker Pro layouts which are used for printing, to prevent this problem at page boundaries.

Also, it's possible to create layout parts which contain fields varying in length from one line to many lines. In fact, FileMaker Pro does have an upper limit to its layout length of some ten or eleven pages for commonly-used sheet sizes. So for a simple layout which consists of **Header**, **Body** and **Footer** parts, it will usually be the case that the heights of the **Header** and **Footer** will be fixed, but the **Body** may contain a field with so many lines that the overall length of the printout for each record may extend to more than one page.

To examine this in more detail, let's look at the layout for a letter. **Figure 1** shows, in *Layout* mode, the **Header** and the top of the **Body** part. The choice of *Show/Sample Data* has been made. **Figure 2** shows, in Layout mode, the bottom of the **Body** part and the **Footer**. *Show/Sample Data* has been deselected. The **Body** part crosses a number of page boundaries, and those boundaries are shown by the horizontal broken lines in **Figures 3, 4** and **5**. Note that the page boundary in each case is in a different position relative to the text field, and therefore the text in that field will be cut in a different place at the bottom of each page when printed out. This can also be confirmed by viewing in *Preview* mode.

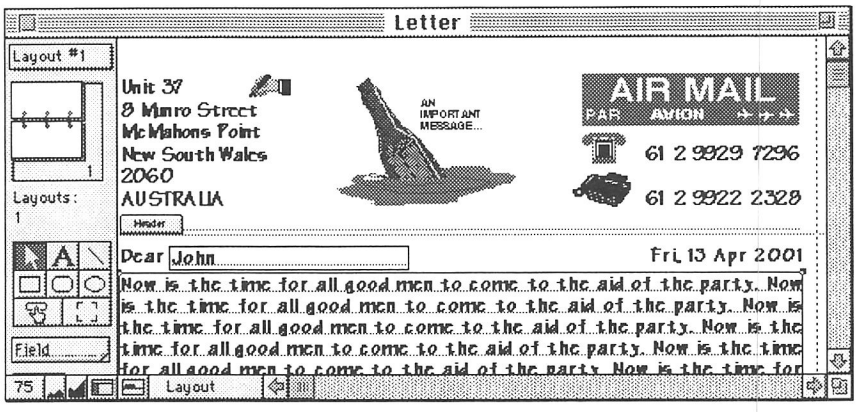


Figure 1: The Header and the top of the Body part in Layout mode

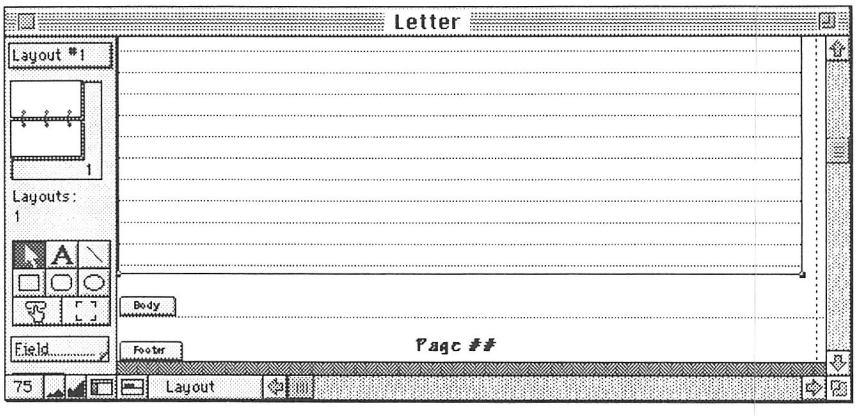


Figure 2: The bottom of the Body part and the Footer in Layout mode

Consistency of Page Boundaries

So, what to do? Well, we know that our page length is constant and unmodifiable from page to page. Normally our **Header** and **Footer** parts will also each be of a constant length, but we can modify them. So we can vary the section of the page which is made available to the **Body** part by modifying the length of one or both of the **Header** and **Footer** parts.

The aim is to have the line representing the end of each page in a consistent position from page to page relative to the field which crosses the page boundaries. Experiment with changing the height of your **header** and/or **footer** (even if you have to insert empty ones) to determine where the end of each page occurs relative to the **body** part. Always work at 100 per cent scale.

Figures 6, 7 and **8** show the consistent results which need to be achieved.

Moving Fields within Body Part

If we now view our records in *Preview* mode, we'll either find that we've achieved a satisfactory result at the bottom of each page (because the bottom line on each page is not split), or that we've achieved a consistent but unsatisfactory result (because the

bottom line is split in exactly the same position). To solve the latter problem, we would now need to experiment with moving the field(s) within the **Body** part, either up or down the page, to determine a position which doesn't cause lines of text to be split.

Sliding Fields

It's frequently the case that large text fields are made into sliding fields using *Format/Sliding/Printing*. . so that the size of the field as defined in *Layout* mode will reduce to the size occupied by the text in that field for any given data record. This doesn't affect any of the foregoing notes... experimentation and confirmation are the keys!

New Break facility

My advice is to never use the undocumented *New Break* facility which is available in *Layout* mode in versions 3 and 4 (check out *Mode/Layout/Layout Setup*... whilst holding down the *Option* key). The probability is that you would lose a complete line of text if the text field is set to slide up and its contents also cross a page boundary. And the lost line wouldn't be immediately obvious, either!

Trailing Grand Summary

There's a significant related question: How can I avoid a group of fields at the end of my printout being split so that some are at the bottom of one page and the others are at the top of the next?

As an example, maybe you have a letter format which ends with the following arrangement:

Yours sincerely
(Your signature)
(Your name)
Secretary
cc (Recipient 1)
cc (Recipient 2)

You wouldn't want any of this to be split over two pages. So I suggest you put it all in a **Trailing Grand Summary** part, for example, and don't check the box for "Allow part to cross page boundaries".

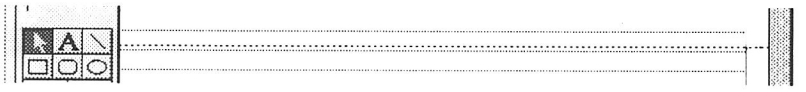


Figure 3: The inconsistent page boundary at the bottom of the first page



Figure 4: The inconsistent page boundary at the bottom of the second page



Figure 5: The inconsistent page boundary at the bottom of the third page



Figure 6: The consistent page boundary at the bottom of the first page



Figure 7: The consistent page boundary at the bottom of the second page



Figure 8: The consistent page boundary at the bottom of the third page

Conclusions

You'll find that you won't have any problems with text fields crossing page boundaries provided that you use only one size and style of one font in parts which contain large fields in any one layout, and you size the height of your **Title Header**, **Header**, **Summary** part, **Body**, **Footer**, and/or **Title Footer** parts to cause your page boundaries to fall in the same acceptable position on every page in *Layout* mode. Try to arrange for it to be just below the "tails" of letters such as g, p and y.

You'll also find that if there is more than one field within the layout parts which cross page boundaries, spacing all the fields at the same line spacing will be helpful.

It's all a fiddle, I know, but you'll find it works!

(Anyone wishing to obtain a PDF version of this article can do so by visiting Hilton's Web site at <www.jedi.apana.org.au/~hiltonb/HOME.HTM> *where this article has been reproduced... Editor)*

2001 DATABASE SIG MEETINGS

Meetings of the Database Special Interest Group (SIG) are held on the 4the Wednesday of every month except December. We meet in Unit 11, 87 Reserve Road, Artarmon from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

27 June
25 July
22 August
26 September
24 October
28 November



MACcess Report

Compiled by Ronald Forster ronald.forster@clubmac.org.au

Mac OSX continues to be the hot topic of the month with some power users and adventurers reporting on their trials and tribulations. They will understand that I am resisting putting these into print in this Report as Andrew Pavey has drawn upon their comments in a Macinations article. Many Club Mac members have learnt from past finger burning experience and prefer "to wait and see" before venturing into the new system and I am sure they are grateful to the pioneers. Anticipating that this will continue be a topic of interest, a new Forum thread has been introduced named, would you believe, Mac OSX.

I thought members would be interested in the following reply by Susie Herrera, Apple Solution Expert and President, Ventura County California, (CVMUG), which claims to be "The World's FIRST Macintosh User Group", to the following query - (I don't know whether the query arose from similar frustrations being experienced by some of our members)

> "After installing Mac OS-X, what is the procedure for removing this new operating system?"

To which she replied:

> "First of all - you don't have to remove it. Just go to the system preferences, and in the startup disk preferences, select to boot from 9.1. That means you are not running in the OS X classic mode, but actually 9.1.
>
> But, if you are bound and determined to remove it altogether. To uninstall OS X, boot from OS 9 and trash these 3 items:
>
> **System** (Not the OS 9 System Folder)
>
> **Mach.sym**
>
> **Mach**
>
> There is not a plethora of applications available for MacOS X yet. But this is a perfect opportunity for power users to get up to speed on the new OS Once the new machines hit the streets with OS X installed - there will be more applications available AND as novices are learning their new machines, user groups will see more and more of a need to be versed in the system."

Members have enthusiastically welcomed the return of "Latest Additions" although puzzled by the source. It is no mystery and is not an immaculate conception. As ever, we owe our thanks to Darryl Chrisp who has temporarily re-taken up the cudgel. Darryl would like a member to contact him with a view to taking over the acquisition of Latest Additions, after some tutorship from him. It would suit a member who already often scours the internet for interesting downloads of freeware and shareware and I can assure him/her that there is some satisfaction in being an active contributor, even if it is only good for the soul.

Selections from the BBS Forum

This month's selections from the BBS Forum begins with the mystery of the return of Latest Additions followed by a warning about Apple's Firmware updates, then saving a document as html; cable or ADSL; Backing up in Telefinder; adding a new IDE hard drive;

To: All
From: Hilton brown
Subject: **Latest Additions**
On behalf of members, thanks be to he who has reinstated Latest Additions.

Replies:

Bruce Madden

I will second that!

Robert Davidson

ME TOO!!

To: All
From: Andrew Pavey
Subject: ****Avoid Current Firmware Update**

Avoid Current Firmware Updates -- Apple's just-released firmware updates (4.1.7 and 4.1.8) for recent iMacs, plus the iBook, G4 Cube, Power Mac G4, and PowerBooks with FireWire ports have caused much gnashing of teeth. The firmware updates, which were released both on the Internet and on the Mac OS 9.1 CD-ROMs that come with Mac OS X, claim to make improvements to FireWire target disk mode, network booting, gigabit Ethernet networking, and overall stability. They also enable password protection of Open Firmware booting to increase the security of Mac OS X (which can protect its files via user privileges, but can't do so when booted from Mac OS 9). The significant problem with these firmware updates is that something in them can prevent the Mac from recognising some RAM modules from third party vendors. Apple has yet to make an official statement about the situation. Our advice don't install these firmware updates until there's word from Apple. [ACE]

Replies:

Colin Lee:

Apple have now commented on the Firmware updates and basically said it was done on purpose and judging by the tone of the release, they have no intention of doing anything about it. This leaves some people with RAM that doesn't meet Apple's requirements effectively rendered useless. It seems the only way to know whether your RAM is affected is to apply the update, which sounds rather dangerous to me. Revolver, one bullet, - roulette anyone?

Andrew Beavis:

PHEW ! ram dimmcheck, no probs ran the firmware updater, all ram still there only for the brave

To: All
From: Jill Riddiford
Subject: **Word to Netscape HTML**
I would like to save a Word document as html in Netscape. Is there a way to do this? It currently saves as an Explorer icon.

Replies:

Colin Lee:

HTML is HTML. The file can still be read by Netscape. Maybe setting Netscape as your default browser in the Internet Control Panel might help.

Jill Riddiford:

Thanks Col. Yes it works, don't know what I did last time. I still have an explorer icon however even after changing the control panel setting to navigator.

Darryl Chrisp:

Launch Navigator

Use the open command to find the file.

Save as Source document in Navigator.

It should have the right icon and open properly in Navigator.

To: All
From: Cees Witsen
Subject: **Cable or ADSL**

Can anyone shed any light on which is the better way to go for broadband, I can get access to both Cable and ADSL, am using G4 with version Mac OS 9.04. any advice gladly accepted.

Replies:

Andrew Pavey:

The ladies from Optus who spoke at the March Meeting showed some graphs which indicated that their ADSL service is faster than Telstra's, and almost up to the speed of the Cable systems. I don't know whether it's marketing hype.

On current analysis I say go with Cable if you can. It's a bit cheaper and a bit faster. I'd only go with ADSL if cable wasn't in my area, or I had need for a fixed IP address. Not all ADSL systems have a fixed IP.

Club Mac has just signed up with Pacific internet which do offer fixed IP on ADSL. In the next month or so it will be installed and then we should see faster connections from Club Mac to the internet.

Cees Witsen:

It sounds as though cable may be the way to go, we have Telstra cable in the street, I'll check RE Optus availability on ADSL, I know I cant get Optus cable.

Andrew Pavey:

Clubmac ADSL connection

I tested at Sysops suggestion the download speeds from our ADSL connection. I'm sitting on the end of a Cable, using VICOM as a firewall and router. I got 12 to 17 kbps for a 1 MB file.

This is 4 to 5 times the speed we used to get.

Anybody getting better speeds?

William Moppett:

Pings were approx. 6_fold faster, initially however speed has dropped considerably, and more recent times are more like twice the previous speed!

I imagine traffic is probably causing the pinch?

Colin Lee:

This morning, the BBS seems quite snappy and quick when accessed via TF over the Internet. Must be the new link.

Matthew Ridley:

I downloaded a 1.1mb file tonight and achieved an average speed of over 4,600cps which peaked at 4,700 and didn't slow down as often used to happen, but just seemed to go on getting faster. Very impressive.

To: All
From: Bob Pulsford
Subject: **Backing up mail in TeleFinder**

With my newly acquired CD burner I attempted to burn the mail listed in my mail box on to a CD-R.

First I established an empty file on the desktop, then holding down SHIFT highlighted all the mail items I wanted to store on the CD and dragged them all together into the empty file on the desktop. Before putting this file in Toast, I opened the file and all the mail files were listed there. When I attempted to open each or any of these mail files I got the same message, let us take the one mail file as an example: Tidbits. this is what happened

"The online-bible-fkey installer document "Tidbits_E 27/02/01 1900" could not be opened because the application program that created it could not be found."

Where did the online bible fkey come from and how do I do a backup and avoid this problem.

Replies:

Bruce Madden:

Hello Bob,

Try this instead:

While online with TeleFinder, go to File - Set Receive Path...

Select your empty folder

Select the files you want

Go to File - Receive

All the files will now be downloaded into your folder

Bob Pulsford:

Hey Bruce it works! Many thanks indeed!!!

I found that if you double click a file so downloaded, you still get the message "cannot be opened because the application that formed it cannot be found" BUT if you go into Telefinder and the FILE menu there and then the the second OPEN that is the one "OPEN ... Command O", it will set up a dialogue box which enables you to find the downloaded file and when you do it will open it! Even long files can be opened by going to Get Info, as is usual when trying to open long files in Telefinder. Now I can put all the many files cluttering up my TF mail box safely onto a CD-R!

To: All
From: Luisa & John Gumieniuk
Subject: **G4 plus IDE ATA/100**

I would like to add a new IDE ATA/100 Hard drive to a G4 MP450 - Can a ATA/100 be installed or does it have to be a ATA/66?

Replies:

Andrew Beavis:

yes, that's what I have. no probs but of course it works at the lower spec (still really quick as far as I am concerned its no bottleneck !!)

Luisa & John Gumieniuk:

Thanks Andrew for your reply

It's great news about the ATA/100...and it's great to buy cheaper products now that Apple are using common platform hardware!!!

To: All
From: Matthew Ridley
Subject: **strange behaviour**

All you computer shrinks out there, I have a machine which needs counselling. First encountered when using Claris 5 on a PM7220, it suddenly decided to insert dozens of pages after the cursor for no apparent reason (sheer joy?). This can only be stopped by closing or quitting, after which it may, or may not, re-offend. It seems unrelated to any other application, phase of the moon, or unguarded comments by the operator. Have trashed prefs to no avail. Could be an extension, but this is hard to confirm as it is so unpredictable, often going for months without misbehaving. Then, the other day, I tried to print a Tex-edit-plus doc and it started inserting random characters at the beginning as if someone was holding a key down. Is my computer going crazy? Am I going crazy? Is it one of William Moppett's aliens?

Any suggestions at all short of a Bex and a good lie down will be gratefully received.

Replies:

Colin Lee:

It could be a 'sticky' key on your keyboard.

Matthew Ridley:

Thanks Col, that's an interesting suggestion and I have found by experiment that the 'enter' key will indeed insert pages. It doesn't seem to be sticking, though, and doesn't reproduce the repeated characters when trying to print a page in Tex-Edit-plus, but I will observe it to see if jiggling the key can stop it.

Club Mac Levels of Membership

	Access Level:	Guest	Basic Access	BBS	Additional e-mail address	Premium Access
	Annual Fee:	**$0**	**$45**	**$75**	**$45**	**$120**
General:						
	MACinations		•	•		•
	HelpDesk		•	•	•	•
	PD on disk or CD-ROM (by post)		•	•	•	•
Meetings:						
	Monthly General meeting including supper	•	•	•	•	•
	Q&A Forum	•	•	•	•	•
	Database SIG		•	•	•	•
	Omnis SIG		•	•	•	•
	Christmas pizza meeting		•	•	•	•
BBS:			(Note 1)			
	Daily connection period	15	90	90	90	120
	Modem dial-in connection	•	•	•	•	•
	PPP connection (through third-party ISP)	•	•	•	•	•
	Telefinder BBS e-mail		•	•	•	•
	Forwarding e-mail to another e-mail address			•	•	
	Full Internet e-mail address			•	•	•
	Domain Name Hosting (Note 2)					•
	5 meg Personal Web Site					•
	Local Forums		•	•	•	•
	Live Chat Rooms		•	•	•	•
	Internet Newsgroups (UseNet) (Note 3)		•	•	•	•
	PD Latest Additions			•	•	•
	PD Library			•	•	•
	PD CD-ROMs			•	•	•
WWW: (through Club Mac)	Daily connection period					60
	PPP connection to WWW					•
	PPP connection to Club Mac BBS					•
	Access to e-mail through browser					•
	Access to e-mail through e-mail application (POP3)					•

Notes:
1. Available to all members by written request
2. Additional ISP charges apply
3. Limited Newsgroups

Club Mac Membership Application Form

Complete this form and send it, together with the appropriate fee, to:
The Administrator, Club Mac Inc., GPO Box 4523, Sydney, 2001.
Please allow time for the Application to be processed.

Surname ..... Given or preferred Name/s .....

Postal Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Phone (Home) (.....) .....(Work) (.....) .....

(Mobile) .....(Fax) (.....) .....

e-mail .....

Does your Mac have a CD-ROM drive? ☐ Yes ☐ No Member No. .....

Does your Mac have a modem? ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ New Member
(Not a current member)

☐ Renewal
(Membership soon to expire)

☐ Joining Fee $10
(payable only once)

☐ Membership $45

☐ Membership+BBS $75

☐ Membership + Premium Access $120

☐ Additional e-mail address $45

Method of Payment (we prefer by cheque)

☐ Cheque ☐ Money Order ☐ Credit Card ☐ Bank Cheque ☐ Cash (meetings)

(BankCard, MasterCard & VISA only. The type of your card is indicated by its number)

Card number ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Name on card ..... Expiry Date .....

Signature ..... Amount $ .....

Winds of Change

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News from the Mac Front

There are some good ways out there to update PCI Macs other than accelerators. One of the ways is a PCI card that allows you to install IDE drives in your Mac rather than SCSI.

I have long been a fan of SCSI, but the price of SCSI versus IDE is not competitive. An 18 Gigabyte SCSI drive is around $US500 and a 40 Gigabyte IDE/ATA drive is around $US300 plus the PCI card for $US100. Not only that, but prices seem to be dropping and hard drives seem to be getting bigger in the IDE/ATA world.

Having just installed one of these cards into an 8500, I can say the hardest part is getting the cable plugged into the drive around all the other cables. Be aware, the drive should not have anything on it, because you will need to format it using Apple's Drive formatter. The drive will show up in the window of the formatter as a SCSI drive on SCSI chain two.

8500 Sonnet

Speaking of the 8500, it now has a Sonnet 400 MHz G-3 daughter card installed in it and a USB PCI card as well as a second monitor card. These machines are a pain to work on due to the fact that you need to remove the mother board to add RAM or remove the Cache DIMM. If you are thinking about installing a G3 card, be sure you remove the Cache DIMM.

Apple's Cache DIMMs are not fast enough to keep up with the new cards and cause the machine to crash or hang on startup. There was a time when I thought three PCI slots were enough for anyone. That has changed with all the new ways of getting information into our Macs.

Do-It-Yourself Upgrades

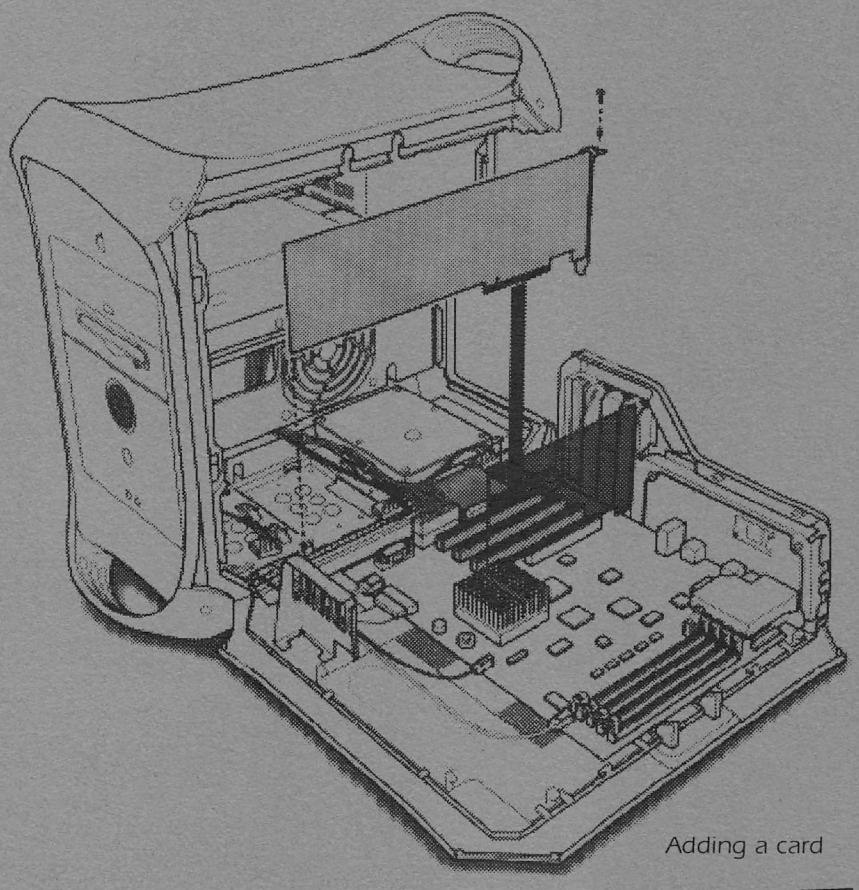
The following is list of things that you need to watch for as you upgrade your computer.

1. Wear a grounding strap to discharge static electricity.
2. Read a book or go to a web site on how to open the computer.
3. Plastic parts break easily, if you need to pry - you're doing it wrong.
4. Do not expect a consultant to talk you through it on the phone.
5. Be sure to seat the cards all the way into the PCI or daughter card slots.
6. Be very careful not to bend pins on SCSI or IDE/ATA drives while inserting the cables. I have seen pins flatten and the drive made unusable due to this.
7. If you have added a new card or daughter card you need to reset the CUDA or PMU switch on the mother board. It is a small round red or grey button that zaps the PRAM. This makes the computer look at all the slots as it starts up, and make changes in settings.
8. If you have no idea what I've said in the first 7 steps, hire a pro to do the work.

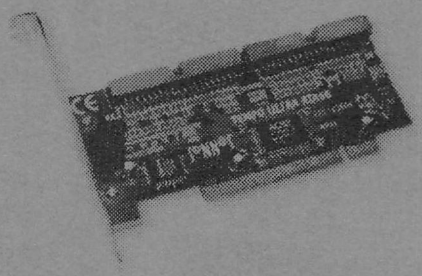
Adding to a PCI Mac

Here are the kind of things you may think about adding to your existing PCI Mac.

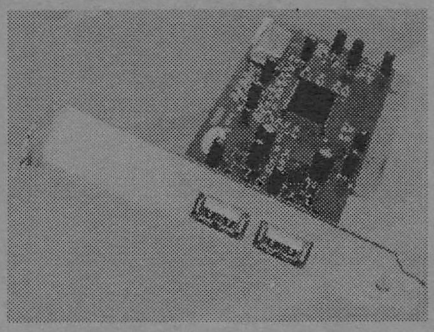
1. Second monitor card. This is great for people who use Photoshop, or programs with lots of palettes. (around $US150)
2. USB card for those who wish to take advantage of the cheap printers, flash card readers, and scanners. (around $US50)
3. Serial *(2 or 4 port)* card for those who have lots of serial devices. (around $US250)
4. FireWire card for folks who want to import broadcast quality video directly to their hard drive. There are also FireWire hard drives, CD ROM burners, scanners, and printers are on the way. (around $US150 and up)
5. SCSI card to allow more or different (wide) SCSI devices or to allow you to use existing SCSI devices on the the B&W G3 or Graphite G4s. These are good cards to add to the Beige G3 due to the poor SCSI hardware that came with those machines. ($US80 to $US500)



Adding a card



Ultra A66 Card



USB Card

Upgrade Warnings

Warning to upgraders! The new installers for most Apple products use what we call self-mounting images. The biggest problem is that it looks like it's installing when actually it's mounting an image on your desktop. After the image is mounted, you double click on it as if it were a disk or folder and then launch the installer. Please, folks, the Read Me files are there for your benefit; please read them before you install. Failing to do so may cause you to reload your System or cause other items to stop working.

Upgrading Modems

Many people own Performa branded Macs with modems installed in them. This also goes for 63X, 62XX, 63XX, 64XX, 65XX Macintosh branded models. Some of these modems are getting pretty slow for today's standards.

In order to use a faster external modem, you must remove the internal modem which is installed in a slot on the motherboard. You will know which slot if you follow the modem phone port and see it is connected to the modem card. The card is removed by pulling straight up. Yes, it is hard to get it out, but it will come out.

After removing the card you need to remove the round plug from the modem port on the back of the machine. This is a small round plastic cover that will reveal a standard modem port. Please note! Be sure to cover the area the modem card blocked with tape or a cut out from a floppy label placed over the hole. This prevents (real) bugs from getting in and directs the air flow to the right parts in the computer. *Note:* before installing another modem be sure to remove any of the modem software that was on your computer. This means all fax software must be removed. Failure to do this may result in your new modem not working or telling you the port is busy.

Apple's New G-4 Cube

To buy a Cube or not to buy a Cube. Who wants one, who needs one? So far the only reason to buy a Cube, in my opinion, is if you're short on desk space and long on money. $US1799 is a lot of loot to put out for a machine that has a small footprint.

There are no PCI slots so forget the internal add-ons. That leaves memory slots as the only internal upgrade to do here. FireWire, Ethernet 10 BaseT, USB, Apple's special monitor port and a VGA port are hidden under the Cube. So adding devices to your machine will be through one of those four ports.

Now if you feel you're never going to need a CD-RW or a Zip drive or printer, your desk will remain pretty clean. However, most people will start adding clutter right away and will lose the Cube effect pretty quickly. My current advice is buy the standard G4 tower, stick it under your desk and leave the way open for expansion in the future.

Rumour has it that the Cube, like the PowerBook, will be a "send it back to Apple or swap the parts yourself" for any expansion. Dealers will not get any money from Apple for working on the Cube. Be sure to ask, and if they say "Oh yes we will!," have that put in writing.

New Monitor, New Mac

Got a old machine? Want a new Apple monitor? Buy a new machine! That's right, if you want one of the new monitors Apple now sells, you will need a new Mac to run it. The cable for these new monitors provides not only the video signal but the power to the monitor itself. Apple says it has no plans to build an adaptor that would allow the monitor to work on older machines. Several third party vendors think they can build one but it's going to be a while till they have a working prototype and an assembly line geared up to get product out. This reminds me of the fancy port on the back of the 6100 machines. You needed an adaptor to plug a standard monitor into it. Just when you think Apple has finally seen the mass production light, they introduce an "Apple only" handicap for monitor sales.

New Keyboards

Apple not only handicaps the monitor market for Macs with their special cable but now we get word that the special keys on the new keyboard will only work with the brand new machines. Apple announced that they would have a software fix out for this with System 10.

Meanwhile, Microsoft has released a keyboard for both PC and Mac that is getting really good reviews. The software for the Mac is on their web site, but the keyboard works well right out of the box. MS Natural Keyboard Elite is the product to look for. You can check out reviews of this product on the web site (http://www.xlr8yourmac.com/archives/sep00/090700.html#S10302).

VST FireWire 250 Zip

My B&W G3 now has a VST FireWire 250 Zip Drive attached to it. The drive works well. Just don't expect any great speeds out of it. Remember you can give it a FireWire case and it will still operate at the slow read and write speeds Zips operate at. This applies to all sorts of devices, most of which are converted IDE/ATA drives placed in a case with a adaptor plugged into it. It will still be a year before native FireWire devices become the norm.

by Charles Devore