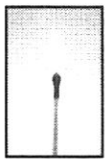


MACinations

Australia's leading Macintosh user group magazine

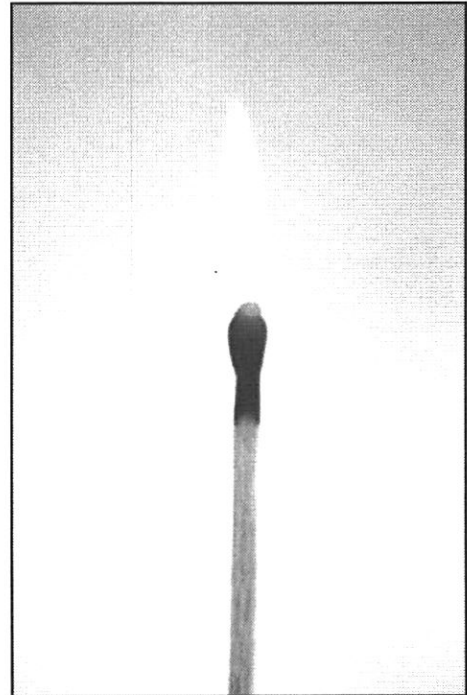
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Our special Summer Hot Tips issue...



- Tips for your keyboard...
- Tips for applications...
- Tips for networking...
- Tips for PowerBooks...
- Tips for OS 8...

Tips to make your Mac even more fun!



20 Years of Apple
Three great recollections to close this series!



Software reviews

- First Accounts;
- FinderPop;
- Hotline; and
- KeyQuencer (popular!)

Plus all these usual features:

- ★ **October and November Meeting Reports**
(The AGM and the Internet night)
- ★ **Get Info Column from the Committee**
(This month by Darryl Crisp)
- ★ **FileMaker Pro Corner**
(Unravelling addresses and job numbers)
- ★ **Sean McNamara's 'Net.files**
(Musashi e-mail)
- ★ **Web Weavers' Corner**
(Interview with MACinations Webmaster;
Web site management and documentation)
- ★ **MACcess Report**
(Chatter from the Club Mac BBS)
- ★ **Dunk's Doodles**
(All sorts of bits and pieces!)



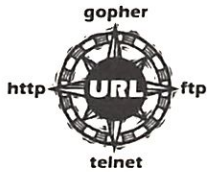
A whole heap of special features

- Mac Evangelism!
- Emulation for games!
- Fun with Photoshop!
- Extensible OS 8!
- Dutch-Australian connection!



Just don't burn out reading it all!

Club
Mac



How to be famous...

©1997 Jo Mulholland

Going back to your home town, even if it is in far away Europe, is not something you anticipate will bring you fame. On his recent return to the Netherlands for the first time in over 40 years, Club Mac member, Jo Mulholland, had his "fifteen minutes of fame" and learned some happy consequences of communication via the 'Net.

...use the Internet!

Earlier this year I noticed that the **Digital City of Gouda** (yes, they make the cheese there), had a new link to the homepage of "Gouwestad", the community radio station. I sent them an e-mail explaining that I would be in Gouda, the city of my birth, between June 13 and August 3rd to enjoy my first summer there in more than 40 years and, could I see their studio?

I said that I'd had a few years with Sydney's **SBS Radio 2EA** Dutch program, and later with community radio in the Sutherland Shire (before it received its broadcasting licence). They were extremely surprised to receive an e-mail from the other side of the earth on their second day of being on the 'Net.

Not only did they say that I could come and look, they also offered me two two-hour programs to participate in. In the months leading up to my trip, we exchanged a few more e-mails in which we discussed ideas about the content of the programs.

The main idea was to take me on a car trip through the town to pre-record my impressions of the changes after more than forty years. They would also arrange some publicity in the local papers, looking for my schoolmates from the early '50s and anyone else who might remember me.

Summer in July in Gouda was like a wet, cool winter in Sydney. Summer happened just after I left and lasted about four weeks! The car trip was done one evening in the pouring rain. The microphone was not as omnidirectional as we believed. I held it and my voice was



loud and clear but my interviewing driver could not be heard so well.

As I had not been in a radio studio since the early '80s, the computerised technical set-up was an eye-opener for me. Rearranging items in programs and seeing what is coming up in the next few hours is now so simple.

I was interviewed by two local newspapers and my photo appeared in both. In the sunny breaks between showers as I walked through the city streets and around the "world famous" (everything is "world famous" in Europe) only free-standing Gothic town hall in the city square, I could actually hear people say, "There goes that Australian." Mind you, thousands of migrants go back to visit their relatives every year – especially from Canada – it's really no big deal.

Through signing Dutch digital guest books and through my homepage, **A Dutch-Australian Connection**, I had built up quite a large number of email-friends, several of them from Gouda. Meeting them in the flesh brought some surprises.

One raced me around Rotterdam where he'd come from. Two others had lovely cakes and other Dutch treats waiting for me. The man from the town's Municipal archives recognised me from my picture on my Web page. (I have a link to the Digital City of Gouda too, to encourage people who have migrated or left Gouda in some other way, to make contact.) My cousin's colleagues, who work with Macs as commercial artists, knew me well through the pages they'd downloaded from my Web site.

I visited a primary school because I had exchanged quite a few e-mails with the mother of a pupil in their Year Two. One day I spent a few hours showing photos of my pupils and explained to 7 year olds how far away Australia is and that, in most cases, Australian children wear school uniforms.

I belong to **ONCE**, a group of Internet users aged over 50 who communicate in Dutch, whether they are writing from Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, Belgium or Holland. My plans to visit ONCE members who live in the Netherlands fizzled out. Because Europeans drive on the wrong side of the road – and over footpaths or tram lines when they have to! – I used public transport to go everywhere, which limited some travel.

I had contact with pupils of my

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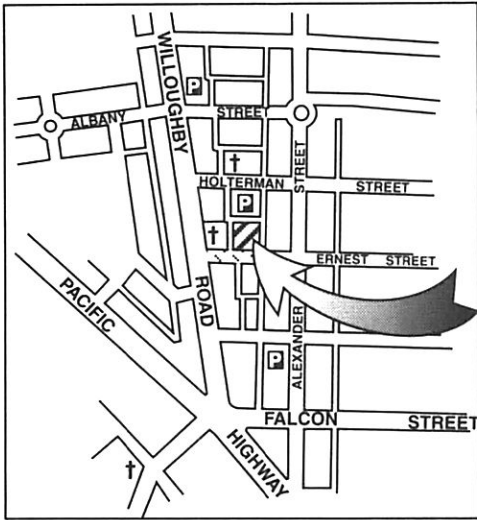
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December Club Mac Meeting at new venue!

Club Mac has a new meeting venue! Regulars will know that the old Fred Hutley Hall is no more. Now, thanks to the zealous activities of new Committee member, Hilton Brown, we are to meet in the **Crows Nest Centre**, 2 Ernest Place, Crows Nest. It is adjacent to the multi-level car park (which is free after 6:00pm) in Holterman Street and behind the Baptist Church in Willoughby Road. Look for the Club Mac banner!



The December meeting will be on Wednesday, 10th December, 1997. It has become a firm tradition now that the December meeting is our annual **Pizza Feast!** As well, this time we are having a **Swap Meet** (see the details on page 52). It is planned that one speaker will be **Lars Marcher** from **Apple Pacific**. Every month the meeting starts with a Q&A session and that opportunity will be available on 10th December as usual.

Club Mac Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

▪ **Beginners SIG**

Meets in the Geddes Room, North Sydney Municipal Council, 6:30 to 8:30pm, Thursdays, eight days after the regular Club Mac meeting.

▪ **Database SIG (largely FileMaker)**

Also meets in the Geddes Room, also 6:30 to 8:30pm, but on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

▪ **Omnis SIG**

Meets at 327 Sussex Street, Sydney (nice and central). Contact Reg Paling (telephone 9905 4405) for more information, including the date of the next meeting.

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Vice-President	Jill Riddiford
Secretary	Piers Dunkley
Treasurer	Darryl Chrisp
PD Secretary	Joe Mithiran
Purchasing Officer	John Agapitos
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Meeting Convener	Robert Naccarella
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Help Desk Supervisor	Joe Mithiran
Marketing Officer	Jill Riddiford
WebMaster	David Kok

Club Mac has a Help Desk 02 9960 5717

Fax or phone and leave your name, phone number and a description of your Mac problem. Another Club Mac member will get back to you and do everything possible to advise you! This service is free, but we are all volunteers. So please be patient! Sometimes we have problems too!

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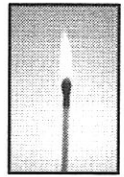
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Hot Tips for your Mac



For this bumper issue of MACinations, we asked nine of our regular writers to list their top hot tips to make life even more pleasant when you are using your Mac. We were amazed at the results and we just **know** you will want to keep this issue close by you for future work for many years to come! The issue is worth it for this set of articles alone! Our writers have very different writing styles and cover a wide range of Mac-related topics. Yet, together, they have given you an invaluable resource. Happy Macking!

Tips on all sorts of things

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Here are Andrew's nine Hot Tips:

Tip 1 Screen capture

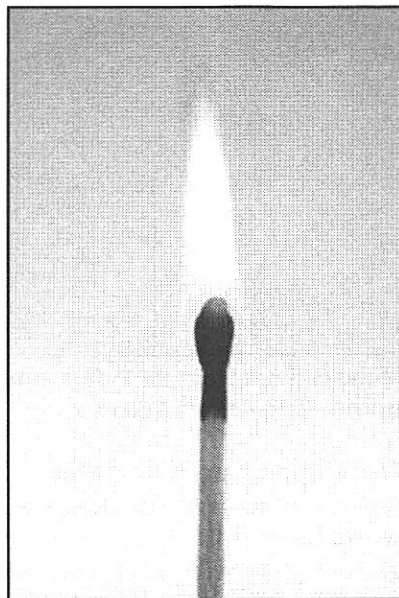
Most of you know that in *System 7.x* you can capture the entire screen to a *PICT* file by pressing **Command-Shift-3**. *Mac OS 7.6.x* and *Mac OS 8* have expanded on that with these new key combinations:

- **Command-Shift-4** gives you a cursor that you can click and drag to capture just a rectangular portion of the screen to a *PICT* file.
- **Command-Shift-4-CapsLock** creates a *PICT* file of a window. After pressing the key combination, click the window you want to capture.
- To save the rectangle or window to the *Clipboard* instead of as a file, press the **Control** key (as well) as you click.

Tip 2 Open anything

Word processors like Microsoft *Word* and *WordPerfect* can open *any* file. You may get gobbelde-

gook if it's an application or a compressed file, but you can often extract relevant text. If the file has come to you from an unknown source – such as a download from the BBS or the Internet – you can,



at the very least, discover which application created the file.

Use the **Open** dialog and, at the bottom of the dialog box, there is a Pop-down menu. In

Word choose "All Files" (Figure 1). In *WordPerfect* the Pop-down is called "Show" and you select "All".

Tip 3 Find any text

Microsoft *Word* also has a powerful search capability. You can search for any text in any file. You'll find it under the **File** Menu (**Find File**) or by clicking on the similarly named button in an **Open** dialog. The results are displayed as a list. Clicking on the forward and back arrows at lower right jumps to the text you searched for in each document (see Figure 2).

Tip 4 Cleaning up docs

Often you get text files with "hard returns" in the text which force line breaks where you don't want them, eg., in text saved from e-mail messages, from Web pages or other documents from the Internet. There are several ways you can remove the unwanted characters. In Microsoft *Word* I search for $\wedge p \wedge p$ (the " \wedge " is the upper case of numeral 6 and the "**p**" has to

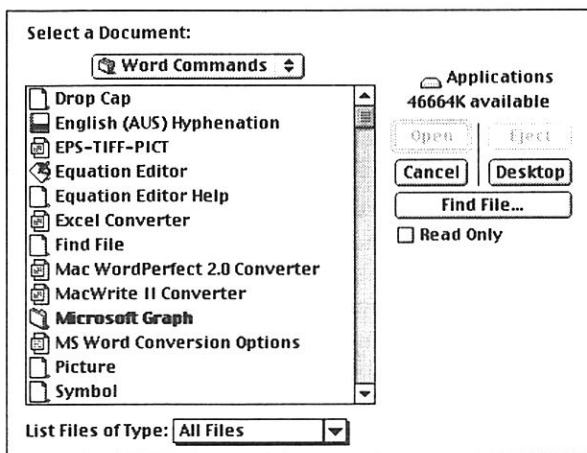


Figure 1. Select "All Files" in *Word* or "All" in *WordPerfect* to open *any* file at all.

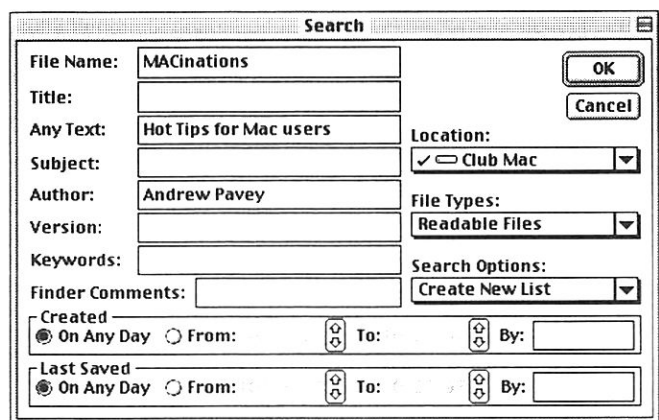


Figure 2. Use *Word*'s powerful search capability to find just the file you want.

Hot Tips for your Mac

be lower case) and replace it with something that's not likely to be in the document like %%%. Then I search for $\wedge p$ and replace it with a single space. Finally I search for %%% and replace with $\wedge p \wedge p$ to restore the paragraph breaks.

In a similar way, you can remove e-mail quote marks like >. I also often want to replace multiple tabs with a single tab. In this case search for $\wedge t \wedge t$ and replace with $\wedge t$, doing it repeatedly until there are no changes. If you use *BBedit*, you can achieve the same results using \wedge instead of \wedge .

Tip 5 Selecting an Excel column and summing it

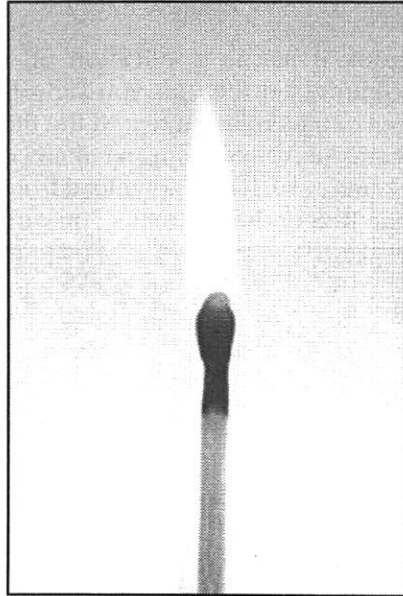
When you have a column of figures to sum in *Excel*, consider putting the result at the top instead of the bottom. It's easier to find and saves a lot of scrolling. Create a new row above the figures you want to sum by **Option-clicking** on the row number on the left of the window.

Then either use the Tool Bar icon (which is an uppercase sigma, Σ), or **Paste Function** and select the "Sum" function in the **Math & Trig** group (make sure you haven't checked "paste arguments"). *Excel* will insert the **=SUM()** and leave the cursor between the brackets ready for the range to be selected.

The easy way to select the range without scrolling to the bottom of the column is to click in the first cell you want to include and then press **Command-Shift-**

DownArrow to select all the cells below which contain a value. It will stop if there is a blank cell – this is usually the bottom of your data anyway!

To select a contiguous range of cells sideways, use **Command-Shift-Left(orRight)arrow**. (See Figure 3. Note that I have split the window so you can see that the selection continues to the bottom



of the column after pressing **Command-Shift-DownArrow**.)

Tip 6 Speed up Navigator

When you press the **Back** or **Forward** buttons in Netscape Navigator's window header, Navigator checks its local cache of files for the information. You can speed this up considerably by setting your cache to a RAM disk. Create a RAM disk of, say, 3MB in the *Memory Control Panel* and

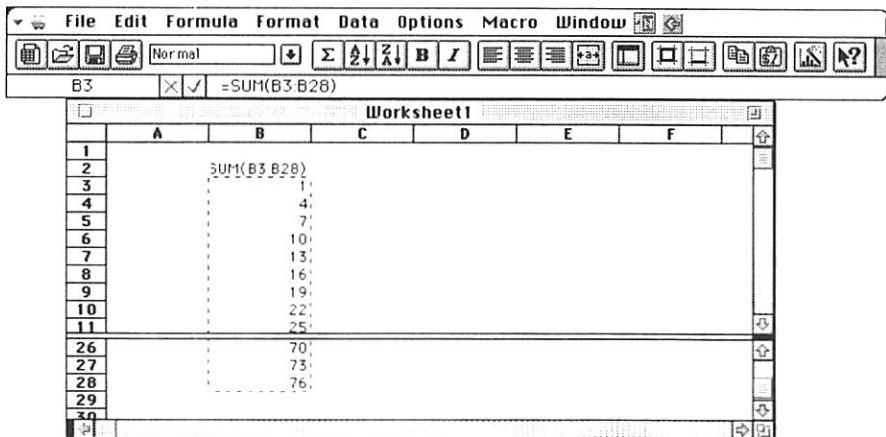


Figure 3. Selecting a whole column of data in Excel.

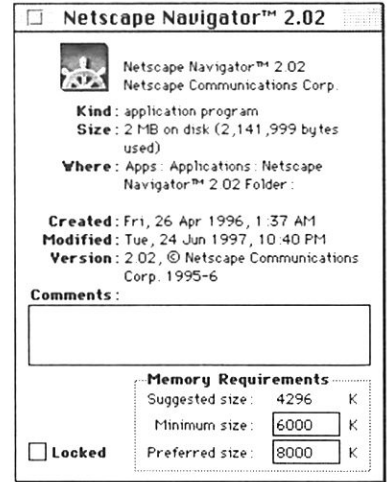


Figure 4. Setting the RAM allocation to Navigator.

Restart your Mac. Now launch *Navigator*, select **Options>Network Preferences...** and then the Cache Tab.

Click on the **Browse** button and navigate to your RAM disk. Click **Apply** and set the amount of cached files to be a bit less than the size of your RAM disk. Note the little known fact that files on an Apple RAM disk will survive a crash or a Restart – you'll only lose them if you do a Shut Down and, even then, the *System* software warns you if this is about to happen.

Another speed up tip for *Navigator* – increase the RAM allocation to double the recommended value (if you have enough RAM of course!) Select the *Navigator* icon (click once). Then **Get Info (Command-I)** and, in the boxes at the bottom of the Get Info window, you can see the "Suggested Size" of RAM allocation, the "Minimum Size" and the "Preferred Size". It's the "Preferred" one you need to alter (see Figure 4 above).

Tip 7 Beating Word macro viruses (virii?)

One of the bugbears with Microsoft *Word 6* is the possibility of opening a document and getting infected with a macro virus. These abound in the Wintel world.

Macros won't survive a file format conversion process. Currently, any and all conversions to or from *Word* on my disks pass through

Continued p.8...

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RTF as the interchange format.

This means that any conversions will strip existing macros out of the document. This is actually a simple way for users to disinfect documents – just save the document in RTF/Interchange Format and then read it back into Word. The contents of the document itself will be unchanged but macros, Menu customisations, keyboard mappings and so on will all be stripped out.

Alternately, instead of opening a file that could have a macro, create a new Word document, choose **File** from the **Insert** menu, and insert the suspect file into the new document. Word will insert the formatted text just fine, but won't auto-run any macros that might have executed if you had opened the file normally. You

also lose other template information. (I found these tips in TidBITS #393.)

Tip 8 Internet Address Detectors

Load Apple's new *Internet Address Detectors* from <http://www.macos.apple.com/macos8/iad/>. Highlight a block of text in any application, **Control-click** on the highlighted block, and IAD will grab every Internet address from the block and give you a pull-down menu of actions you can take on each address. [See also Brooke Smith's article on page 28.]

It's a great leap forward from *Icetea* (which comes with *Internet Config*) and it beats the pants off of anything from Microsoft, even (especially?) the built-in Internet features of *Office '97*.

Tip 9 Just one bookmarks file

If you have more than one browser that you use on a regular basis – such as *MS Internet Explorer* and *Netscape Navigator* – and don't want to maintain two sets of bookmarks, you might find this useful. It is possible to make an alias of one bookmarks file (I used the *IE Favorites.html*) and place it in the proper place for the other browser to use.

Just rename the alias (in this case to *Bookmarks.html*) and the same list of bookmarks is available to both browsers. You can even add bookmarks to the alias list just as if it was the original file created by the browser. This trick also works for plug-ins. (This tip from *Macway 910*.)

These are a few of my favourite utilities (and tips)

© 1977 Carl Vine

I regard all of the following as absolutely essential for any Macintosh user:

KeyQuencer

The greatest time-saver of all time that makes using your Mac a breeze and replaces dozens and dozens of other "specialist" Extensions and widgets. [See David Barnes' review on page 23.]

Norton Utilities

Although I've read of other users having various problems with this suite of disk maintenance software, I haven't personally experienced any, and it's kept my disks slick, fast and healthy for the last five years.

If you do a lot of Web browsing, particularly with older versions of *Navigator*, your hard disk will develop B-tree errors (corruption of the disk directory file).

Leave these uncorrected and your hard disk could become unreadable. Catch them soon enough with *Norton Disk Doctor* (between once a week and once a month), the problem won't become com-

pounded and your directory will be returned to a pristine state.

The latest version (3.5.1) of *Norton Speed Disk* is much faster than its predecessors and should eliminate disk fragmentation on a 1GB drive in around five minutes. Bad levels of fragmentation (also often caused by Web browsing) can lead to sluggish disk performance and (in extreme cases) increase the possibility of disk corruption.

Conflict Catcher

I haven't had a chance to test Apple's latest *Extension Manager*, but CC still seems to be the Startup File Manager of choice. CC 4.0.3 can tell you what most Extensions, INITs and Control Panels do, where they came from and what software installed them. It also lets you change the load order, manipulate sets of special-purpose Startup files (like the *QuickDraw 3D* software suite) and massively simplifies the problem of identifying software conflicts at Startup.

Speed Doubler

Though not essential for everyone,

SD is indispensable for anyone with an older Power Mac. The performance improvement is substantial. Disk and file copying is much faster than Apple's standard file copying and you can use SD's **Smart Replace** option as a quick and easy file backup utility. You should get something like 3MB per second on a backup where not too many files have changed. (Note: SD is not yet compatible with Mac OS 8.)

Nifty tricks

In *System 7.5 to 7.6*, hold down the **Option** key while dragging an item in the *Finder*. Instead of moving, the item will be copied to the location at the end of the drag. [See also Tom Parady's tips on page 16 for further **Option** tricks.]

For *System 7.5* through to *7.6.1*, drag the freeware *Hidden Finder Features* over your *System Folder* icon. The next time you Startup, drag any file in the *Finder* while holding down the **Control** key. It will automatically create an alias to the original file wherever you finish dragging.

You will also discover that typ-

ing **Command-Delete** will instantly move any selected *Finder* item(s) to the Trash. Select an alias icon in the *Finder* and type **Command-R** – the location of the original file will instantly be revealed.

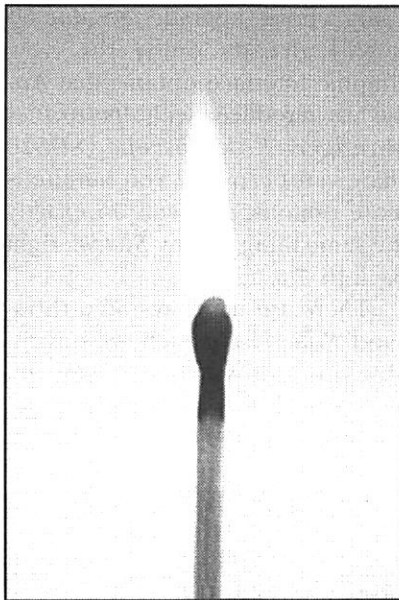
Navigation options

Apple's *Launcher* utility is a simple way for first-time Mac users to access their favourite software. It isn't completely free of bugs, however, and uses a fair slab of RAM.

One simple option is just to make a new folder on your desktop (type **Command-N**) and drag aliases of your most needed software to this folder. Leave it open, and the only effective difference between this and *Launcher* is that you have to click the icons twice to open the files instead of just once.

Another simple option is to make a new folder called "Applications" (or whatever) inside the **Apple Menu Items** folder inside the *System Folder*. Drag aliases of your favourite software

to the new folder. As long as you have *Apple Menu Options* (or something similar) installed, these files are immediately avail-



able at any time, just by dragging down the Apple Menu to the "Applications" folder.

The very neatest way to access common applications is just to use *KeyQuencer (KQLite 2.0)* is avail-

able on the Club Mac BBS). Install *KQ* and then open *KQ Editor*. Start a new macro (**Command-N**), type the word "Open" and then hit **Command-U**. Find the application you want in the Open dialog box and click **OK**.

Give the macro a key combination (any letter, number or F-key, plus one or more of the **Control**, **Option**, **Shift** or **Command** keys) and save the macro (**Command-S**). Now, any time you hit this special key combination, the application you selected will launch automatically.

A great complement to any of these options is *PopUpFolder*. Just drag it over your *System Folder* and Restart. Click and hold down the mouse button on any folder or disk icon in the *Finder*, and a pop-up Menu appears showing the full contents of the item.

You can drag down to sub-folders and sub-sub-folders all the way to 16 levels deep. Release the

Continued p.10 overleaf

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mouse button at any time and the selected item will open. Type a key combination while holding the mouse pointer over any item, and a keyboard shortcut to that item is created instantly.

The same folder navigation is available in all **Open** and **Save** dialog boxes, and *PopUpFolder* gives you two different types of *Sticky Menu* options. [**PopUpFolder** is not yet compatible with **Mac OS 8**, but see David Barnes' review of **FinderPop** on page 22.]

PowerBook users tips

If you're trying to conserve battery life, you should know that, after the screen, the biggest battery-muncher is a hard disk.

Use Apple's *Memory Control Panel* or a utility like *RamDiskPlus* to create a virtual hard disk that lives in RAM – known as a RAM Disk. [See also Robert Naccarella's tips on page 14.]

This RAM disk behaves just like a real disk but is much faster and uses almost no battery power. Install a minimal *System Folder* on this RAM Disk, and save a backup archive of this on your real hard disk using *StuffIt* or *CompactPro*. Once created, select the RAM Disk as your Startup disk and Restart the PowerBook.

Here's one you may not know: If you like having lots of Extensions but don't want to waste the extra space on a RAM Disk, just install *Conflict Catcher* along with aliases to all of your Extensions in the RAM Disk *System Folder*. *Conflict Catcher* will resolve the aliases at Startup and correctly load all of the Extensions without using any extra space on the RAM Disk. (Full instructions are in the *Conflict Catcher* manual).

As well, a minimal *System 7.1.3* Folder takes around 2MB; *System 7.5.5* takes about 8MB; and *Mac OS 8*...who knows? More recent *Operating Systems* are "cooler" but, if you're running short of memory for a RAM Disk, consider reverting to an older *System* for the RAM Disk.

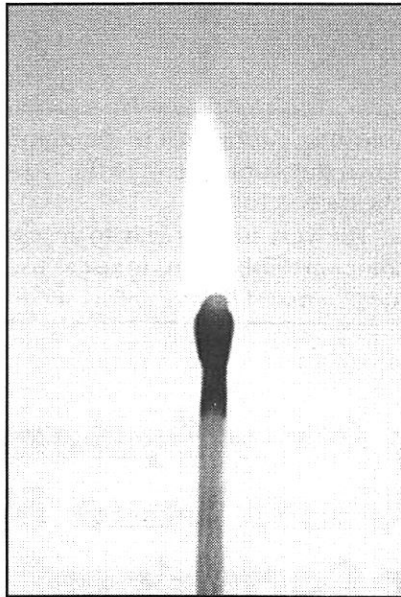
All of my recommended "es-

sential" software will still work on *System 7.0!*

Good looks

Users who've upgraded to *Mac OS 8* will already enjoy the new Graphic Interface options that Apple has introduced with *Appearance Manager*. *Kaleidoscope* (\$US20 shareware) can give you hundreds more options, and will do exactly the same thing on any *System*, right back to 7.0.

There are now around a thousand *Kaleidoscope* schemes available, most of which are freeware. They can change the look, texture, colour and shape of virtually every *System*-wide graphic element,



from the Menu Bar and window borders down to **OK** buttons and text in dialog boxes or pop-up menus. And you don't have to be a rocket scientist to design your own colour scheme!

Although *Kaleidoscope* is now pretty solid (ie., has exceptionally few software conflicts), it carries a slight memory overhead (around 180K), and the *Kaleidoscope Schemes* folder can easily bloat to several megabytes of disk space.

Here are some other appearance options:

A leaner option is the earlier *Aaron System Extension* (\$US10 shareware), which gives you just one appearance option – the *Copland* look designed for the original version of *Mac OS 8*. This

is a pleasant gray-scale alternative to the old *System 7* look and the *Espi Sans System* font is a great improvement on Apple's antiquated Chicago.

There are many other utilities that allow you to alter *System*-wide graphic elements – including *Greg's Buttons*, *OneStep*, *MenuBarPattern* and *Godot's World* – but none really matches the stability and versatility of *Kaleidoscope*.

Décor (\$US10 shareware) is a rock-solid Extension that replaces the desktop pattern with a full-sized picture of your choice. This facility is now built-in to *Mac OS 8*, but *Décor* will also allow you to mount images in *JPEG*, *GIF*, *StartupScreen* and *PICT* formats, and allows you to dither, scale or border the images to suit your screen size. *Décor* can use up to 1MB of RAM but, if you can spare the RAM space, you won't want to do without it.

Menuette (\$US15 shareware) is a great Control Panel that can replace every Menu heading in the Menu Bar with a miniature icon. Use one of the hundreds supplied or create/import your own.

More than just a cute graphic enhancement, *Menuette* can reduce a screenful of Menus down to just a few centimetres of readily identifiable icons.

You could also consider *SmoothType* (\$US5 shareware), which anti-aliases all screen fonts to allow legibility down to much smaller font sizes, and give a much "smoother" look to your whole system. (Alternatively, set your screen to a much finer resolution and still be able to read everything).

It's a processor-hog, however, and isn't recommended for anything less than a 100MHz PowerPC. It only works its magic on *TrueType* fonts (or *PostScript* Type 1 fonts with *Adobe Type Manager* installed) and is not recognized by all applications. [Version 4.0 of **Adobe Type Manager** has this facility built-in – Eds.]

SmartScroll (\$US12 shareware) makes the length of the "thumb" in scroll bars reflect the length of

the document you're viewing. If the document is shorter than the height of the window, then the thumb occupies the entire length of the scroll bar.

The longer the document, the smaller the thumb. Some people

find this useful, though I found the visual representation of document length of limited value – it doesn't work in all applications, and doesn't work reliably with all *Kaleidoscope* schemes.

Double Scroll (\$US10 share-

ware) gives you up/down and left/right scroll buttons at both ends of scroll bars. If your mouse is at the bottom of a window, you don't have to move right up to the top just to scroll upwards. I find this absolutely indispensable. ■

Tips, work-arounds, solutions and keyboard shortcuts

© 1977 Hilton Brown

Hilton is known to us as a fan of FileMaker Pro. But he has offered this variety of suggestions:

Quoting text

If you want a facility for quoting text in your e-mail or thread postings, look for software called *MagicBullets* on the Club Mac BBS. All you need to do is select the text to modify and press **Shift-Command-C** and, in the one stroke, your text goes to the *Clipboard* and the *MagicBullets* dialog appears.

Choose your requirements for items such as leading characters and line length, click **OK** and paste the results anywhere you wish.

FileMaker Pro

If an unexpected quit occurs during a hard disk update (like a **Save** in other applications but automatic in *FileMaker Pro*), the file is likely to be in an inconsistent state, and require repair measures provided by the **Recover** command. Periodically saving a clone will provide a master copy of the database structure which can be useful for restoring scripts or layouts that may be lost from the recovered file.

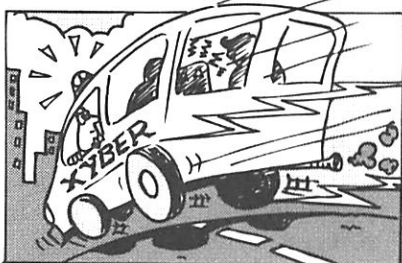
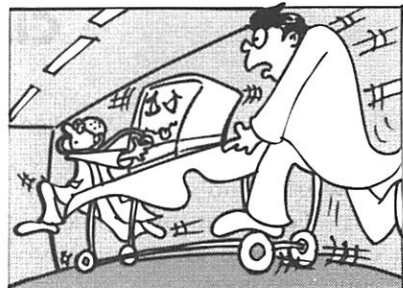
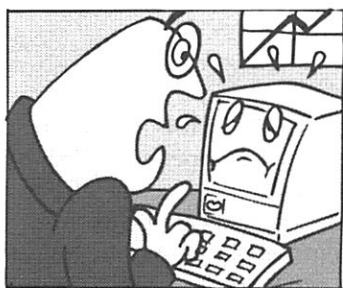
You can add your own comments to a long or complicated calculation by simply adding to it a "**Left(COMMENT, 0) &**" or "**Right(COMMENT, 0) &**", where

the number of characters is set to zero. This doesn't affect your calculation in any way since you're taking zero characters of your comment!

Copying between documents

It's not possible to copy complete *FileMaker Pro* layouts between databases. However, it is possible to copy any picture information, fields and buttons from one database to another. Simply perform the following steps in order: Open **Layout** mode, select objects, copy, go to the other database, open **Layout** mode, and paste.

Continued p.12 overleaf



We'll "Fix it Better".

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The magic was love and care.

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Fields will be copied only when they have identical names in both databases. If there's not a field with a matching name, you'll see the outline of the field, but no field name will be inside the field (in **Layout** mode). All you need to do is reassign the field by double-clicking on it.

Similarly, the linking of scripts to buttons will be copied only if there are scripts with identical names in both databases and if it's in the correct creation order. It's a good idea to check by double-clicking on each button, just to make sure they're connected to the correct script in the current file.

Most script steps execute in the current file (i.e., the file where the script is defined). For example, to copy and paste between files, you'll have to write two scripts, a script in the file where you want to copy and another in the file where you want to paste. In the script with the **Copy** command, include a "Perform Script" command that performs an external

script using the **Paste** command in the other database.

Using FM Pro functions

When using functions (like "If" or "Position" etc.) in a calculation field, double click the Function name to insert it into the calculation. This will make sure that the correct parentheses and commas are inserted and will also ensure the correct number of parameters is used. Build up the calculation step by step.


Use Returns in your calculations to make them easier to read and debug. For example, if you have more than one "If" statement or condition, separating them with carriage returns makes them much easier to read and understand.

In **Layout** mode, using the **Option** key will allow you to drag-copy a selection. Hold the **Shift and Option** keys to constrain the copy to a straight line (horizontally or vertically) while you drag. And, once a field or button is created, simply duplicate it and double-click it to assign another definition. You

don't have to drag the Field icon from the Status Area or go to the **Define Button...Menu** item.

"Today" of "CurrentDate"

Rather than using the older **Today** function, you can get around that long and annoying "Now calculating the 'Today' function" dialog by using the newer **Status(CurrentDate)** calculation function. And, if you're trying to create a relationship between two files but can't determine any common fields to use, try defining a calculation field in each database called "Current Date" equal to **Status(CurrentDate)**. Then set up the relationship on matching "Current Date" fields.

In *FileMaker Pro 2.x*, if you wanted to put the contents of one field into another, you had to use two script steps – **Copy** and **Paste**. As well, the fields you were copying from and pasting into had to be on the current layout. In *FileMaker Pro 3.0*, you can simply use the **Set Field** script step. The fields that you are setting do not have to be on the current layout. 

ClarisWorks and bombs

© 1977 Piers Dunkley

Well you asked for them. [We asked Piers to write tips specifically for **ClarisWorks** and also on bomb busters – Eds.] I am by no means an expert in the areas you gave me, but here goes:

ClarisWorks clues

1. Non-breaking spaces

To ensure that two or more words are always kept together you need to type non-breaking spaces between them. To do this just type **Option-Spacebar**.

2. Changing default page setup

Create an outline of the setup you want, by setting the font, paragraph styles, tabs and other formatting features according to your wishes.

Then do a **Save As...** under the **File Menu**, naming the file *ClarisWorks WP Options*. Select **Stationery** as the document type (the other choice is Document); this

will take you immediately to the **Stationery Folder** of *ClarisWorks*. **Save** and you have your new default document.

3. Hanging indents

To create a hanging indent (where the first line is indented less than the others – used for bullet points and the like), drag the first line index marker in the ruler to the left of the left indent marker. If you don't know which is the **index** marker and which is the **indent** marker, experiment or, if desperate, read the manual!

4. Range names

If you wish to use range names, I am afraid you will need to upgrade to *ClarisWorks Office 5*. Sorry 'bout that, but you can do it fairly cheaply.

5. Jazzing up your charts

You can use any of the objects in the *Claris Library* as a pictogram symbol instead of the standard bor-

ing lines. To do this, display the pictogram chart; open the Library you wish to use; select the object you want and choose **Copy** from the palette's menu to put the object on the *Clipboard*.

Double-click the chart to show the **Chart Options** dialog box; select the series you wish to change; click the pictogram sample and then press **Command-V**. Lo and behold, that boring old line has been replaced by your beaut picture.

6. Type styles

Did you know that you can format all or any part of a field in a database with any style you wish? For example, you may wish to use a superscript style for part of the contents.

7. Aligning fields in a database

If fields of text on your layout get out of alignment, simply select the fields or words which are out of

alignment and choose **Align Objects...from the Arrange Menu.**

8. Using tools more than once

If you wish to use any tool repeatedly, simply double click the tool as you select it. When you have finished using that tool, just select the next tool.

9. Icon painting

Did you know that you can draw and modify any icon on your desktop using the painting module of *ClarisWorks*? The paint program paints in pixels, just like the old background designer did on the *General Control Panel* prior to *System 7.5*. To modify an icon, copy it from the **Get Info** dialog box of the file. **Paste** it into the paint window. Zoom in by clicking on the mountain at the bottom left hand corner of the window so that you can see the individual pixels. Select the colour you want to use from the colour palette and click on the pixel(s) you wish to change. Then **Save** your work.

To use this new design, select the item with the lasso or rectangular selection tool and choose **Copy** under the **Edit Menu**. Select the icon in the **Get Info** dialog box of your file and then use **Paste** under the **Edit Menu** and close the **Get Info** dialog box. Your new icon will be there on your Desktop for all to see.

10. Word counts

Although *ClarisWorks* has a **Word Count...command**, it is on the **Writing Tools** sub-menu under the **Edit Menu** and there is no keyboard shortcut! You can easily fix this by creating a small macro.

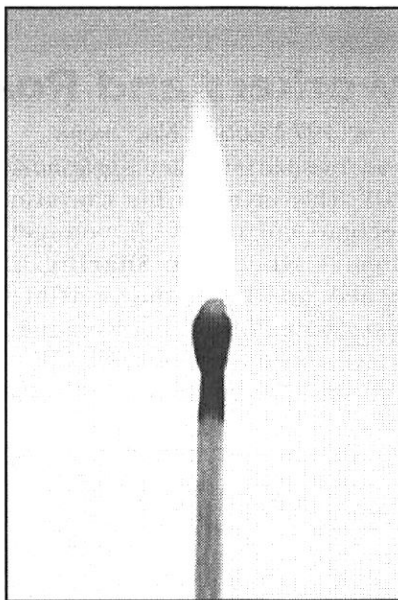
Select **Record Macro** on the **Shortcuts** sub-menu under the **File Menu**. In the dialog box which then appears, name the macro, give it a keyboard shortcut, and press the **Record** button. Then carry out the necessary mouse movements and keystrokes. In this case, under the **Edit Menu** go to the **Writing Tools** sub-menu, and select **Word Count**. When the **Word Count** dialog box appears, go no further (if you do, the macro will never let you see the results!) Go back to the **Record Macro...command** under the **Shortcuts**

sub-menu of the **File** menu and select **Stop Recording**. Now you have a keystroke that will let you do your word count without hunting for the command.

Bomb busters

The Mac is a pretty cluey computer and can fix most things itself through its built-in diagnostic system. But sometimes your actions cause the computer to attempt something that neither the program nor the *Operating System* is equipped to handle.

If your Mac freezes, you may or may not get one of those unintelli-



gible error messages such as **Error -93**. When you look it up in your *Mac Error Message* listing, you get something like **noBridgeErr**. Wow, that is really useful isn't it?

The truth is that your Mac is as confused as you are! By going back over the recent keystrokes and program listings, it has tried – without success – to figure out what caused the problem. However, there is a way to get your own back on these annoying messages. Ignore them and carry out one or more of the following procedures:

1. Try pressing the Escape key

A very logical thing, you may say but, in fact, there are only a few programs (mainly CD-based programs and games) which allow you to do this.

2. Try to cancel out

Try to cancel out from whatever

action is freezing the computer by pressing the **Command** and **period** (.) keys.

3. Ask the application to Quit

Do this by pressing the **Command** and **Q** keys. If this doesn't work, try *forcing* it to Quit with the **Command-Option-Escape** key combination.

4. Restart

If you can still get to the *Finder*, select **Restart** under the **Special Menu**. This is the best of the Restart methods because it does all the necessary housekeeping duties first, closing everything in an orderly fashion.

If this doesn't work, press the **Command, Control** and **Power** (the one with the left pointing triangle on it) keys and release them.

If even this fails, your only possibility is to switch off at the power point. After about 20 seconds (or after all equipment has ceased movement) turn on the power again.

It is also advisable to **Restart** one more time if you were obliged to use the second or third **Shutdown** methods – just select **Restart** under the **Special Menu**.

5. Allocate more memory

It's amazing how many times an application will fail because it doesn't have enough memory allocated to it. **Quit** the application; select its icon and use the **Get Info** command under the **File Menu**. Check that you have allocated at least the amount of memory recommended in the memory settings at the bottom of the **Get Info** dialog box. If you haven't, simply change the number in the "Preferred" size box.

6. Replace Preference files

Preference files make applications run in the way we want them to, but they seem to be so fragile and so easily corrupted. A corrupted Preference file can cause so many problems. The simplest solution is to replace it. Just drag the file out of the Preferences Folder (found inside the *System Folder*), relaunch the application and reset your preferences under the appropriate Menu. This may resolve many problems for you.

7. Rebuild your Desktop

At **Startup** (or **Restart**), hold down the **Command** and **Option** keys until you see a dialog box asking if you really want to rebuild the *Desktop*. Click **Yes** (and repeat for each hard disk). Your Mac will carry out a number of housekeeping matters – mainly to do with tracking of files and parts thereof – and will create a new (invisible) *Desktop* file to hold the information. Sadly, under *Systems* earlier than 7.5, if you have used the comments box in the **Get Info** windows, these may be lost, though later *Operating Systems* preserve these. See further comment under 9 below.

8. Zap the PRAM

No, don't electrocute the baby! The **PRAM** (it means **Parameter Random Access Memory**) is a special sector of the soldered-in RAM which keeps track of your internal clock, Control Panel settings and Startup stuff. If this goes wrong, strange things can happen,

To correct it, you need to "Zap" it. To do this, hold down the four keys, **Command, Option, P** and **R**, as you **Restart** your Mac. Hard isn't it? But if you have done it correctly, you will hear the Mac ping twice. Release the keys and let the **Startup** continue.

[We have read somewhere that,

for PCI-slotted Power Macs, one needs to turn the machine off and then hold down the four keys while turning it on again – even **more** difficult! – Eds.]

9. An alternative

An alternative to suggestions 7 and 8 is to get the shareware utility *TechTool* (currently version 1.1.5) from the BBS and use it at any time to carry out these functions painlessly. You don't even have to **Restart** (though it won't hurt to do so).

10. Still no joy?

The problem may lie with Extensions or even with the *System* file. But that is a matter for a complete article at some other time! ☐

Tips for Networkers and Road Warriors

© 1977 Robert Naccarella

Robert begins with a universal Desktop tip but then concentrates on networking and PowerBooks.

Desktop rebuilding

For your Mac to run correctly, it has to have a number of invisible files. Two of these are *Desktop DB* and *Desktop DF*. *Desktop DB* relates files to their icons. If you get generic icons, it is because of problems in *Desktop DB*. *Desktop DF* is the database that records your files and where they are on your hard disk.

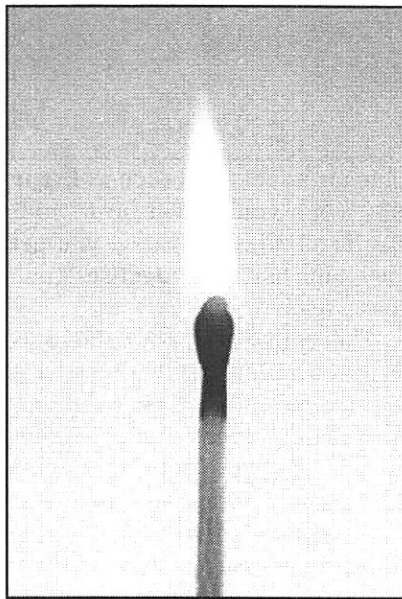
Most people know that when you get generic icons, you should press **Option** and **Command** on **Startup** to rebuild the *Desktop*. However, sometimes the *Desktop* files get corrupted and rebuilding no longer works.

The best thing is to make these invisible files visible and then Trash them. This will force the Mac to create new files. This can be done by using either *ResEdit* or *FileBuddy*, both of which are available on the Club Mac BBS. [See also Piers Dunkley's tips above. **TechTool** – current version 1.1.5 – also available on the Club Mac BBS, will also trash these files for you without making them visible, Eds]

File sharing and networking

Along similar lines, if you have problems with **File Sharing**, there

is an invisible file called *AppleShare PDS*. This invisible file can also become corrupted. If you get crashes when **File Sharing** is turned on, Trash the invisible *AppleShare PDS* file as I have suggested above for the *Desktop* files. Also Trash the *User and Group Data File* in the Preferences Folder.



If your Mac has trouble staying on the Network, check that all connections are safely secured. If all connections are firm, check that none of the cabling is stretched or bent. Twisted pair Ethernet cable is notorious for splintering or fracturing when treated roughly.

Check too whether the Ethernet

card is secure. If the Mac has been moved recently, a loose Ethernet card is a likely culprit. All new Macs now have in-built Ethernet so, unfortunately, a faulty Ethernet port in a new Mac will mean replacement of the motherboard.

If you are still having trouble getting on the Network, replace all networking software from your *System* installation CD and update *Open Transport* to the latest version.

If you are having trouble printing to a LaserWriter printer on a network (ie., it won't print), make sure both the printer and your Mac are actually on the network. Switch off the printer at the power source for two minutes and then switch it back on again. Delete your *LaserWriter Prefs* file inside your Preference Folder and then choose that printer again via the *Chooser*. Be sure to install the latest printer driver and related software.

For Apple Remote Access

If you are having trouble connecting to your Server with *ARA*, either from overseas or from a hotel, the biggest problem will be "noise" on the phone line. Either use a lower connection speed (like 2,400 baud) or see if you can use the hotel's FAX line. The hotel FAX line is usually a better quality line for data transmission.

If you are having trouble connecting to *ARA* Servers from home, switch off Call Waiting on your phone line as it interferes with data communication. Try also removing any other instruments that are on that same phone line. They may interfere with communications too.

If you call the *ARA* Server and you find that it rings out without answering, it may be that a modem has hung on the Server. To overcome this problem, dial the Server with an ordinary telephone (ie., on another phone line or using a mobile phone) then, while the telephone keeps the line of the "down" modem engaged, try to

connect to the Server using your modem. In most cases you will find that you can access another modem on the Server this way.


For PowerBooks

If you are running a PowerBook on battery power (ie., you are nowhere near a power point), most of the power consumption will be in spinning up the internal hard disk and in maintaining the number of colours and the backlighting of the LCD screen.

To minimise hard disk usage, set up a RAM disk (as long as you have enough RAM installed) for your *System* Folder and whatever applica-

tions you need to run. A minimum (ie., small) *System* Folder is all the PowerBook needs to function. RAM uses a lot less power than hard disks spinning up and down.

You can also save battery life by switching the coloured screen to black and white and/or turning off back lighting, provided you are in a well lit area.

Another way to save battery power on a PowerBook is to turn off *AppleTalk* (in the *Chooser*). When *AppleTalk* is on, your PowerBook will always check the serial ports for activity. Turning off *AppleTalk* stops the PowerBook using power for this activity. 

Ten of the best

© 1977 Kim Kohen

After very little deliberation I have come up with the following tips :-)

Tip 1

Automate repetitive tasks. This may seem like a logical thing to propose but it is often considered and then not acted upon. Get a copy of *OneClick*, one of my favourite programs, from <http://www.westcodesoft.com>. It is a *fantastic* little application that can automate just about anything.

AppleScript, *QuicKeys* and *KeyQuencer* can do similar things, but *OneClick* is easier and has the best support I've ever seen!

Whatever you do, don't write off shortcut software as too hard just because it doesn't work the first time. Time invested here will be rewarded many times over when you have effective shortcuts.

Tip 2

Following on from Tip 1, if you are a *Quark* user who types stories in a word processor, you should get to know *Xpress Tags*. This is an often overlooked little *Xtension* (similar to *HTML*) which comes free with *Quark*. It lets you import text into *Quark* with style. The tags are easy to use and can save plenty of time.

Tip 2a: If you have already formatted text in a *Quark* document,

you can do a **Save Text as Xpress Tags** to see how they work. (Get *OneClick* to put the tags in for you, that's what we do!)

Tip 3

A really quick one that very few people know. **Shift-Option-Command-click** on the Title Bar of a *Quark* document and it will show a Pop-up Menu of any other open *Quark* documents. It also gives the option of tiling or stacking your documents.

OK, a couple more...the **Control** key turns the cursor into a magnifying glass (**Option-Control** for a negative magnification) and the **Command** key temporarily turn the **Contents** tool into the **Item** tool. **Option-click** a tool to lock on that tool.

Tip 4

If you're getting an error opening a *Quark* document, try holding the **Command** key down whilst clicking the **Open** button. This will force *Quark* to re-create all graphic boxes in the document (these can occasionally corrupt and cause errors).

Tip 5

Buy Apple shares NOW!!!!

Tip 6

If you're using lots of fonts for desk-

top publishing, don't store them in the Fonts Folder. Look, I know it's easier, but it just isn't as efficient. In organisations where lots of people are using the same fonts, it's easier to put them on a File Server and share them – but this is not ideal either.

Sharing fonts can dramatically slow ripping and printing time if the fonts have to be downloaded from the client Mac. The best thing is to have all the fonts on your hard disk and use *Suitcase* or *MasterJuggler* to open only those you actually need. [Or use **Font Reserve**, reviewed in the November, 1997, *MACinations* – Eds.]

Tip 7

Don't scan at resolutions higher than needed. There's nothing an imagesetter hates more than having to process more information than it needs. The general rule of thumb is resolution = twice the screen ruling. 100 line screen = 200 dpi, and so on. Going to 300 dpi for a 100 line screen will dramatically increase your file size and printing time without a noticeable increase in image quality.

Tip 8

Don't overscale things. Don't scale a picture more than 120% unless you have a specific effect

Hot Tips for your Mac

in mind. Don't scale or track body text more than 5% in either direction – it looks ugly and people will notice.

Tip 9

If you want to scale a heading or a picture in *Quark* quickly, instead of typing scaling figures in the

measurements palette, hold the **Command** key and drag the box handles. **Shift-Option-Command** will scale in proportion. [**Shift-Command** does the same thing in *PageMaker* – Eds.]

Tip 10

Ask lots of questions. If you don't

know how to do it, ask someone who does (unless you have lots of time to waste trying to work it out for yourself). Ask newsgroups, the Club Mac BBS, the software distributor or a work mate...but ask! The only dumb question is the one that doesn't get asked through fear of embarrassment. ☐

Give yourself all the Options

© 1977 Tom Pardy

All my tips are related to the **Option** key. Some of these will be well-known. Others may be new to quite a few readers.

Tip 1

Hold down the **Option** key while dragging an icon in the *Finder* and that item will be copied. If you drag within the same folder, this doesn't do anything. But if you drag somewhere else (even within the same disk) the new item will have the same title as the original. [See also Carl Vine's tips on page 8.]

Tip 2

Hold down the **Option** key while you click on the close box at the top left hand side of the front *Finder* window and, when it closes, so will all the *other Finder* windows that are open, giving you an instant clear Desktop view.

Tip 3

Hold down the **Option** key while you double-click on an icon within a folder window and, when that item opens (folder, application or document), the window from which it came will close behind it. This is particularly handy if you want to get something from a folder deep within your hierarchy – you keep closing folders as new ones are opened.

Tip 4

Hold down the **Command** key while you click on the title at the top of a *Finder* window and you get a list of "parent" folders. Hold down *both* the **Option** and **Command** keys and, if you select a level higher in the folder hierarchy,

as it opens, the window you have been looking at will close.

Tip 5

Within *TeleFinder*, hold down the **Option** key when opening a folder full of items (such as in **Latest Additions**) and, when it opens, only those items that have been modified since you last logged on (or, if you are frequent user, within the last 24 hours) will show – it makes opening of folders with a great many items much quicker.

Tip 6

Within the *Finder* and also within *TeleFinder*, hold down the **Option** key while dragging an item to the Trash and you will not get the usual dialog box asking you if you really want to Trash that item. It just goes!

In the *Finder* this is handy if the Trash has within it an item that is locked, holding down the **Option** key when selecting **Empty Trash** will allow the locked item to be deleted.

Tip 7

Under *Systems* earlier than OS 8, hold down the **Option** key while clicking on the **Special** Menu in the *Finder* and the first item becomes "Clean Up by Name" rather than just "Clean Up Window".

This can be changed by using the **View** Menu to view that window by date, by size or by kind. Then, when you switch back to "View by icon", the **Option** key will make the first item under the **Special** Menu "Clean Up by [that particular parameter]".

Tip 8

When on the *Desktop* (as opposed to being in a folder window) in the *Finder* under *Systems* earlier than *Mac OS 8*, the first item under the **Special** Menu is normally "Clean Up Desktop". Hold down the **Option** key and it becomes "Clean Up All".

If you have nothing selected but hold down the **Shift** key, this first item is greyed out (though not if you are in a folder). If you have one or more items selected and hold down the **Shift** key, the first item then becomes "Clean Up Selection".

Tip 9

Within *PageMaker* (any version), hold down the **Option** key and, regardless of which tool you are using, clicking on the page changes the tool to the grab hand and you can move the page about within its window. This also works within a few other applications (*DeskPaint* is one).

There are many other uses of the **Option** key in *PageMaker*, but this is only one little article!

Tip 10

Finally, don't forget all the special characters you can get within most fonts by using the **Option** key. **Option-8**, for example, gives you a bullet •; **Option-Shift-8** gives you the little degree sign °; **Option-Q** and **Option-'** (the apostrophe) give you the two diphthongs œ and æ. Many of the alphabet keys become Greek letters (handy in maths). Have a look at *Key Caps* or *PopChar* to discover a heap more. ☐

Just for users of Mac OS 8

© 1977 Martin Blackman

Setting the disk cache to at least 1024K will improve *Finder* performance. If you have enough RAM, turn off *Virtual Memory* to improve performance.

As a result of the interface and *Finder* changes in *Mac OS 8*, many third party programs have been updated (some by necessity). Outdated software is the number one cause of problems with *Mac OS 8*. Surf along to **Version Tracker** <<http://www.versiontracker.com>> to find the latest versions of all your programs.

Users of *Norton Utilities 3.5* should download the free update that is available from the BBS or from the 'Net as *Disk Doctor* erroneously reports problems running under *Mac OS 8*.

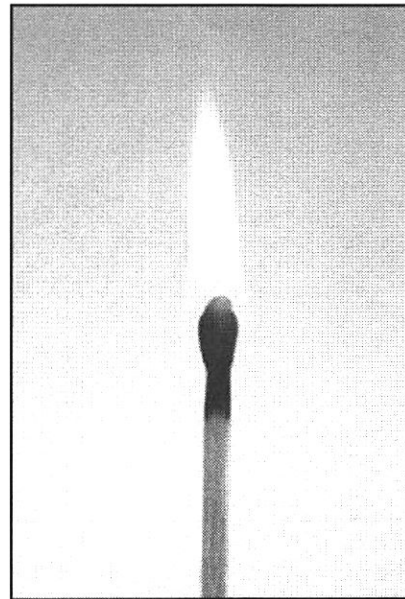
If a folder full of pictures is dropped onto the **Desktop Preview** window in the *Desktop Pictures* Control Panel, a different picture will be selected at random from the folder at every Startup. For starters, there's a folder with 22 pictures on the *Mac OS 8* CD (look in the *CD Extras* folder).

There is a pile of free and shareware *Contextual Menu* plugins available which add functionality to the *Finder*. You'll find a list at **CM Central** <<http://www.interdesign.ca/cmcentral/>>.

Look Mom No Hands 1.5 <<http://www.toolsandtoys.com/>

ToolsAndToys/Home/> allows *Contextual Menus* to be used without holding down the **Control** key. Simply keep the mouse button held down for a moment longer to access *Contextual Menus*.

Startup Doubler 1.0 <<http://www.kagi.com/authors/marc/>



> will speed up Startup, particularly on slower machines, where there maybe a saving of up to thirty seconds.

Menu Tasker 2.0 <<http://www5.pair.com/dmoll/>> allows background processes to continue while making Menu selections and dragging windows.

Respond 1.0a1 <<http://www.wto.com/>> attempts to improve the Mac's multi-tasking. As a result,

it also provides live dragging and live scrolling. Note, however, this is very much a pre-release version.

Speed Doubler 8 <<http://www.connectix.com>> is the latest version of this popular utility from Connectix. New features include a **Copy Agent** to schedule copying as well as hot keys functionality.

Apple has released several updates as well as patches to fix a number of problems discovered in *Mac OS 8* since its release. Apple's support site <<http://www.info.apple.com>> has all the info.

About half way through December, 1997, Apple will release *Mac OS 8.1*, a free update to *Mac OS 8*, offering a number of improvements. To name a few, there's faster *Virtual Memory*, *Open Transport 1.3*, speed improvements in the *Finder* and possibly *QuickTime 3*. Of particular note is *HFS+*, a revision of the Mac's hierarchical file system which, if you reformat your hard disk, will free up space and improve performance.

Finder View Settings 1.0.1 <<http://persoweb.france-net.fr/%7Ealml/>> provides global view settings in the *Finder*, something Apple missed in *Mac OS 8*.

Look out also for *StuffIt Deluxe 4.5* (in beta testing at time of writing) which will offer full compatibility with *Mac OS 8* as well as support for *Contextual Menus* and faster decoding of *BinHex (.hqx)* files. ☐

Mostly on the 'Net

© 1977 Sean McNamara

Perhaps, in view of his popular 'Net.files series, it is predictable that the bulk of Sean's tips are related to using the Internet – but not all of them.

Tip 1

Use aliases wherever possible – aliases to hard disks in your **Apple** Menu, aliases to Internet programs and settings files in an **Internet Quick Access** Folder, and so on.

Tip 2

Use filters and multiple mailboxes for your e-mail to help you wade through your **In** box.

Tip 3

When you first get a list of News-groups in *NewsWatcher*, make a copy and open the copy with *Word* (use the **List Files of Type...** sub-menu to choose "All Files") or any other program which can read

the resource fork of a file at will.

You can then scroll down the list while offline to find the newsgroups you want, saving you online time and access charges.

Tip 4

Subscribe to the local newsgroups, and the newsgroups of your provider. These groups often contain information relevant to your use of computers and your Internet Service Provider.

Tip 5

Use your Web browser's cache to cut downloading times of sites you visit semi-regularly (or which you wish to wade through while offline).

Tip 6

If graphics aren't too important to your Web surfing, turn them off in your browser's Preferences. You can always load them at will and they usually occupy the bulk of a site's download time.

Tip 7

Use *Open Transport* and *NTS PPP* for connecting to the 'Net – they are much easier to use (to my mind) than *MacTCP* and *FreePPP*, and don't require the *CCL* scripts that *OT/PPP* does.

Tip 8

Make a backup copy of all your Internet program preferences in case of corruption (this can also apply to all other applications).

Tip 9

Turn off "Calculate Folder Sizes" in the *General Control Panel* (for *Systems* before *Mac OS 8*) or in the *Finder's View Options* Menu item (in *Mac OS 8*) to increase the speed with which windows will open in the *Finder*.

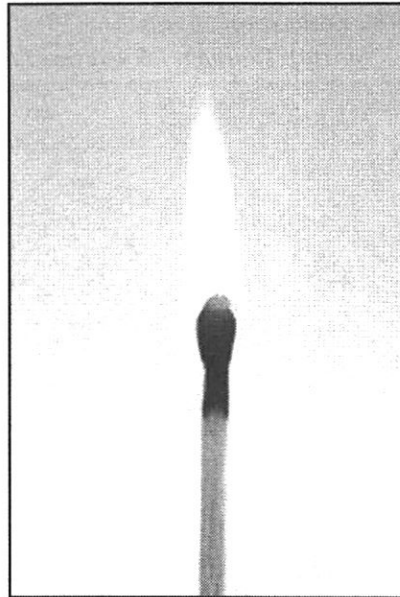
Tip 10

Partition your hard disk to increase the efficiency of storing small files and to aid organising your files (eg., have a *System* partition, an appli-

cations partition, a data partition and a scratch/temp partition).

Tip 11

To "speed-load" networked drives, load them as usual through the *Chooser* and then make aliases to



them. When you double-click on the alias, you'll go straight to the **Username and Password** dialog, bypassing the *Chooser*.

Alternatively, check the "Load at Startup" checkbox when selecting the drives and choose "Save my password" to have them ready when you boot up.

Tip 12

Always make a backup of your *System* Folder before updating your *System*. This makes it easy to recover from catastrophic installs. Then make another backup once the install is done so that, whilst customising the *System*, you can

always revert to the new *System's* original state if needs be.

Tip 13

If you have a hub on your network, label the cables at the hub end with a strip of paper sticky-taped on to help identify the machines the cables belong to. Alternatively, make a list of which machines are on which port, and make sure you update the list whenever the machines change.

Tip 14

Use *Network Time* or another NTP (Network Time Protocol) client such as *Vremya* to keep your Mac's clock accurate (and to automate the switch to Daylight Saving).

Tip 15

Never use SCSI IDs **0**, **7** or **3** – these are reserved for your internal hard disk, your Mac and your internal CD-ROM drive respectively.

Tip 16

Keep an alias of the **Control Panels (Disabled)** folder in your **Apple Menu Items** folder – this will allow you to call up rarely used, non-INIT Control Panels without having to delve into your *System* Folder each time.

Tip 17

Remember the Cardinal Rule of Computing: Backup! Now! And regularly! My bacon has been saved several times because I had my data backed up – don't let a catastrophic crash convince you of the need to backup your data. ☐

Fame using the Internet – cont from p.2

school, here in Sydney. I asked the tourist office in Rotterdam where the **Cybercafe** was and, luckily, it was close. Unluckily, it was closed! It is part of a well-known multi-national chain that sells everything musical on CDs. I went to The Hague and there the tourist office found a "real" Cybercafe for me. It is like an English pub, with computers in a room off to the side where you can surf the 'Net with a glass of beer or wine beside you for 15 Dutch Guilders an hour.

Unfortunately they had only PCs – which I never touch – but someone sitting beside me helped me use *Navigator*. The only other Cybercafe that I know of is in Amsterdam, where you can probably get something else beside alcohol to help you relax and surf the 'Net.

I am back in Sydney now, glued to my computer. I won't need to walk around with sunglasses on here – no-one will say, "There goes that Australian."

There is both a Dutch and an

English account of my trip on my homepage, including the part where I went on a 12 day bus tour through the UK and Ireland – but *that's* another story! ☐

A Dutch-Australian Connection

Jo's Web site offers many interesting Dutch-Australian and other Dutch-related links.

English version at: http://www.clubmac.org.au/~jo_mulholland/

From the President



This being my first President's column, I take the opportunity to thank our former president, Andrew Pavey, for the tremendous amount of work he has done for Club Mac over the years – most especially for his work as President for the last three years.

Club Mac can certainly take up a huge slice of your free time so I hope Andrew enjoys his new found freedom as he scales the Himalayas. I also welcome our two new Committee members, Rosalie Marshall and Hilton Brown.

For me, the next year should be interesting as there are a number of problems both the Club and the Committee need to address. One of the most important is a decrease in Club membership.

Currently, we are gaining a large number of new members – mainly through strategies put in place by the former Committee, many of whom are still on the current Committee. We are, however, losing

members at a higher than expected rate and we need to address this.

Unfortunately, because of Apple's lower market share, people moving residence and the tremendous popularity of the Internet, it seems that – worldwide – Apple user groups are suffering from declining membership. The good news is that, in comparison to other such User Groups, Club Mac still looks healthy.

What we need to focus on is what can we offer *Mac OS* users that the Internet cannot. This becomes apparent when one actually goes out onto the Internet. It's a big cold place with a huge amount of information, but it is easy to get sidetracked and overwhelmed by that information.

Club Mac puts a more human face on the online world through the dissemination of information, whether it be on the BBS, in *MACinations* or at our meetings. Our greatest strength is the

knowledge pool of our membership.

If you feel confused or you think it is too much, come to a **Beginners SIG Meeting**, or ask somebody. If they don't give you the answer you are looking for, ask somebody else. I bet you couldn't get this type of personal service on the Internet without paying \$100 an hour. We don't aspire to replacing the Internet – we work in conjunction with it.

If there is an issue that you would like to bring to the attention of me or the Committee, please e-mail us at: <committee@clubmac.org.au>; or write to us at the address shown on page 3; or come to a monthly meeting or SIG – you'll be doing yourself and the Club a favour.

Hopefully, we can make 1998 one of the best years ever for the Club. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Robert Naccarella



From the Editors



The last issue of *MACinations* for the year gives us the opportunity to reflect and anticipate.

At the end of 1996, Gil Amelio was in the ascendancy. How things have changed in twelve months! Amelio is now history as Steve Jobs swept into Apple and assumed the reins. Apple's policy has changed directions frequently, giving loyal supporters a bad case of the blues.

Yet Apple has also launched *Mac OS 8* – on time and on budget – and it has sold like the proverbial hot cakes. The developers' release of *Rhapsody* has also come out on time and all the signs are that it will please the critics too.

Within the Club, life has been relatively calm. Much of the feverish activity has been behind the scenes with members scoring the benefits and little of the stress. Our

BBS Sysop, John Agapitos, managed a complete changeover to a new Internet provider almost seamlessly. Internet connections to the BBS are now considerably speedier and more reliable.

The **Help Desk** is a reliable resource with **Joe Mithiran** now flying it. The AGM saw two new members join the Committee and several changes of office. Beyond the Club's control, our regular meeting venue has been lost and, starting with the December meeting, new premises will be used (see page 4).

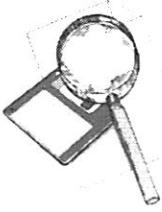
We at *MACinations* have measured the year with our own signposts: a few really good series (*20 Years of Apple*, *Making music on the Mac*, *Networking*); some reliable regulars (*Web Weavers*, *FileMaker Pro*, *Net.files*, *MACcess*, *Dunk's Doodles*); some new – and blossoming – writers (Matthew Godden, Lynda

Kelly, Paul Kneipp, John Marshman, Jo Mulholland, Mark Robson, Brooke Smith and Raymond Yu come to mind) and many one-off articles that have delighted our readers.

This has also been the first year of our Web presence and we are proud of the *MACinations* site, even if those who visit it never mention it to us!

What of the future? Under its new and enthusiastic Committee, exciting possibilities are opening up for the Club. Apple will survive – even if it looks a bit battered and bruised right now – because the Mac is such an insanely great idea. And *MACinations* will go on improving as you, the Club members, keep on supporting us, both by reading and writing! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Tom Pardy and Rose Marshall



Reviews & Previews

FirstAccounts – the upgrade for BestBooks

Review © 1997 Kim Kohen

Product:	<i>First Accounts</i>
Category:	Accountancy package
Publisher:	M.Y.O.B.
Avail from:	DataTech
Cost:	\$99 RRP

I used to be terrible at tracking money (a fool and his money, y'know). In the good ol' days I had an Apple IIc and a handful of *AppleWorks* databases to track my income and expenditure. Whilst it worked, it was by no means perfect.

Then I discovered *BestBooks*, which introduced me to the surreal world of double entry accounting. I'm not that smart and this new fangled bookkeeping didn't come to me anywhere near as naturally as say, tripping down the front steps.

Fortunately my sister-in-law (the accountant) used *M.Y.O.B.* and was able to get me on my way. Once the penny dropped (no pun intended), I loved *BestBooks* and so did my accountant, who would now talk to me rather than sneer when the end-of-year tax ritual approached.

Do I need it?

Being happy with *BestBooks* meant I wasn't all that interested when the upgrade information for *M.Y.O.B. FirstAccounts* arrived in the mail. I mean, why would I pay 99 bucks to upgrade from *BestBooks* when it already did what I need? Tighter compatibility with *M.Y.O.B.* was a plus and the extra reporting looked like it might be handy and besides, *BestBooks* said I could afford it! So off went the cheque.

After a fairly straightforward procedure of backing up my files and converting the data (that's right, *FirstAccounts* cannot read *BestBooks* data directly), I was ready to get started. For those of you unfamiliar with *BestBooks* or

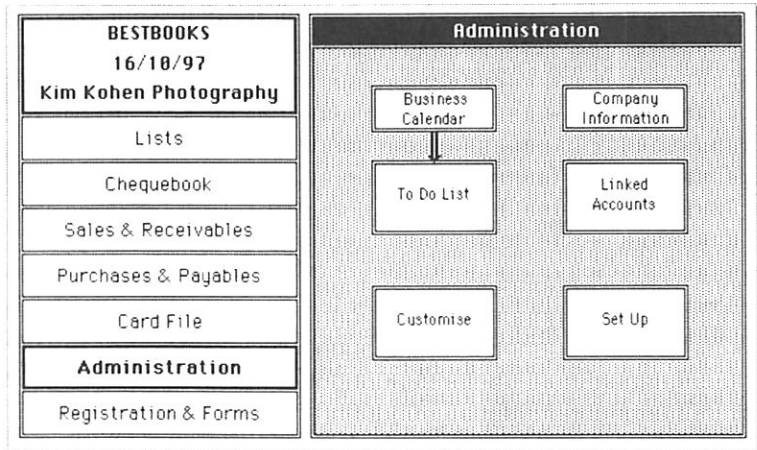


Figure 1. The old. The main *BestBooks* window with the navigation pane on the left and deeper directories on the right.

FirstAccounts, they are bookkeeping packages that allow accounting infidels to maintain their accounts in a very correct, relatively error-free way. They can generate extensive reports and make it tremendously easy to balance and reconcile your accounts.

The basic premise is to allocate every cent you spend or receive to a specific account. This can be tedious to do manually (in a book) but is very easy, once you have the appropriate software set up correctly. So lets get to it...

Trying it out

Spend money – enter the vendor, the date, the amount and type the name of the account – *dob!* (my error message). What's going on, try again – *dob!* Ummmm... there's something amiss here because this is how I have always entered the data in *BestBooks*.

Heart pumping, breathing shallow, cold and clammy...I reach for the manual.

AARRGGGHHHHH! You must enter the account number, not it's name. No problem, you're prob-

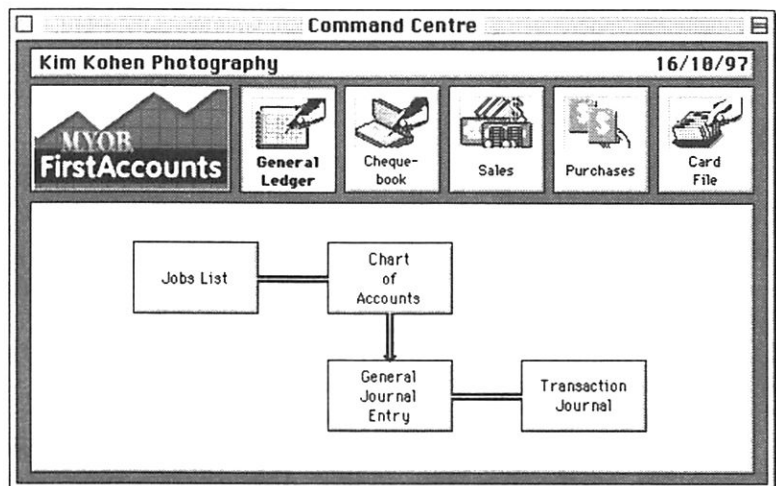


Figure 2. The new. The main *MYOB FirstAccounts* window. The navigation has moved to the icon bar along the top and some of the names have changed. Administration and Registration/Forms have been moved into a sub-menu.

ably thinking, but wait...I have around **80** different accounts which are all named with real logical things like **Film**, **Processing** and such. This makes it really easy to enter data as you just type the first few letters and, bingo, the entry is done.

How was I now going to remember 80 account numbers? This was going to be a problem and was not a good first experience with the updated product. OK, so I scroll through a list and get the account number.

Once you have selected the account, you "record" the transaction and it is whizzed off into accounting limbo – *FirstAccounts* takes care of the general ledger entries and other such things.

It debits the appropriate account as well as assigning the money spent to a particular account – get the picture? I spend from, say, my **VISA Card** account and the money spent gets attributed to the **Film** account, assuming I bought film.

Anyway, on to more general things...

Improved interface

The first thing you notice on starting up is the improved interface. It's certainly cleaner and the new colours are a patriotic green and gold. The menus have been organised a bit more logically using sub-menus, and reports can now be initiated from anywhere – in *BestBooks* you had to be in the **Sales** area to print a sales report.

A few of the names have been changed to conform more to accounting standards and there are those account numbers, which weren't in *BestBooks* at all.

The account numbers was one of the big **features** in the upgrade blurb sent to existing users. As all the accounts are now numbered, it is easier to detect if the account you're using is the correct one.

For instance, I might have a **Film** account for sales but also a **Film** account for purchases. These would now have different numbers so now there could be no

Figure 3. My main gripe with this package revolves around this region. I can't proceed without entering an account number.

confusing a purchase with a sale. The principle is sound but, personally, I don't like it.

Reports

There are also a lot more reports available. Probably the best reporting feature is the ability to write reports without closing off a year. *BestBooks* could only report on one year at a time. This meant if you didn't close off a year, you couldn't do any reports on the new year – quite a handicap if you needed to work to current year budgets. This is now fixed in *FirstAccounts*.

Let's get brutal...

With *BestBooks*, the manual was also a problem (hence the need for my sister-in-law's assistance). There was a definite need for some understanding of double entry accounting before it all became logical. Thankfully, the new manual has made some moves to remedy this. It's still not perfect, with a lengthy tutorial and long-winded step-by-step instructions to get going, but it is an improvement. (*Note for DataTech: For a negotiable fee I can help you rewrite it for lay people like me.*)

To be brutal, I don't particularly like the name changes and I hate

the account number requirements. To accountants this might be good accounting practice but some of these things detract from its usability for the very people for whom it was intended – accounting mugs like me.

And therein lies the catch. By trying to improve the product, they have taken that **simple** edge off and made it more accountants' package.

Now I don't want to sound too negative here. The fact of the matter is, if you've never used an accounting package, *FirstAccounts* will do a great job of keeping your accounts and creating just about any report you care to mention. It will, no doubt, cut down your accounting costs by greatly simplifying your tax return and general account keeping. With the exception of the account number problem, it will be easy to use, as long as you have someone to help you get started. Anyone who has used *BestBooks* or *M.Y.O.B.* will be able to do this (but frankly, they shouldn't have to).


Is it worth it?

So was it worth the upgrade? Well, not for me. As far as I'm concerned, the account number limitations are a hurdle that can't be

cleared. They will help prevent errors through selecting an incorrect account – but the penalty in drawn out data entry can't be ig-

nored. I estimate it will take three to four times longer to enter data than with *BestBooks*.

Personally, I'm glad I made the

backup file because I've gone back to *BestBooks*. Now all I have to do is explain the 99 bucks to my accountant. 

FinderPop – making Contextual Menus even better

Review © 1997 David Barnes

FinderPop is a great Control Panel for *Mac OS 8*. It's not a *Contextual Menu Extension*. It expands on what the *Contextual Menu* is all about.



What is it?

FinderPop 1.5f3 extends the *Mac OS 8 Finder's Contextual Menus*. Features include:

- User-selectable *Contextual Menu* for font/size/icon size;
- **Automagic** *Contextual Menu* Pop-up by clicking and holding without having to press the **Control** key; and
- A number of optional sub-menus – including processes, contents of selected folder, *Finder* windows, *FinderPop*, and volumes. It is free.

Figure 2 shows the *Contextual Menu* before *FinderPop* and Figure 3 shows the *Contextual Menu*

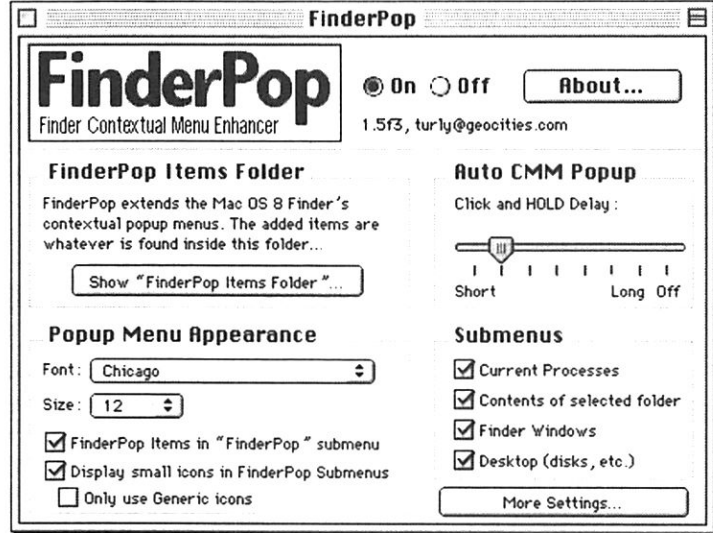


Figure 1. *FinderPop's* easy-to-follow Control Panel.

after *FinderPop* has been activated. Better? I think so. Notice the extra items?

What can you do with it? Plenty!

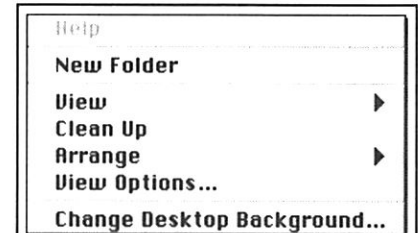


Figure 2. The *Contextual Menu* before *FinderPop* has been activated, and...

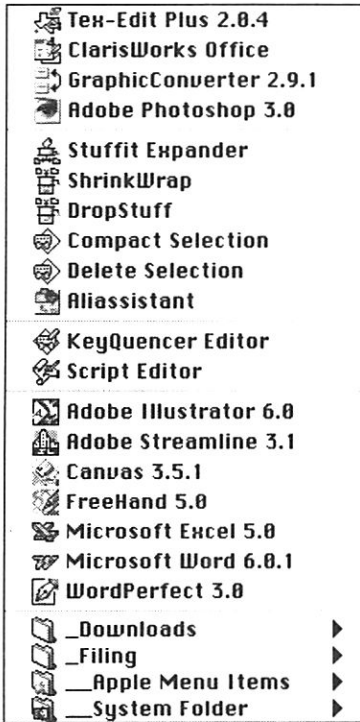


Figure 4. See what you can achieve with a bit of imagination!

- You can use the menu as a launcher for frequently used items;
- Launch documents in any application by holding the mouse pointer on the item and dragging to the desired application in the menu;
- Run *AppleScripts* and *KeyQuencer* Macros which need to act on the *Finder* selection or currently open window;

By using various modifier keys (such as **Control**, **Command**, **Option** or **Shift**) while traversing *FinderPop* menus, you can modify *FinderPop's* actions,



Figure 3. ...here it is after *FinderPop* has been activated.

such as making an alias at the destination menu item, moving, copying, Trashing or showing a file.

If you have the **Auto CMM Popup** active, it can all be done without

having to hold down the **Control** key. Figure 1 on page 22 opposite shows the Control Panel when it is launched. It is pretty easy to use, so there's only a couple of not-so-obvious features to discuss.

Auto CMM Popup

The **Auto CMM Popup** slider controls the "click and hold" delay to pop up the *Finder's Contextual Menu* automatically – without having to press the **Control** key. There can be a separate menu for items you keep in the **FinderPop Items** folder. Easy ac-

cess to that folder is available via the button on the Control Panel.

FinderPop Items Folder

You put aliases to things you need to access in here and they will appear in the *FinderPop* menu. The best thing about this folder is that, by naming things different ways, you can re-order the items and put dividers in between items.

What? Dividers? How? Easy! Any item ending in "-***" will be a divider. You can start an item's name with "02)" (or any numbers) to re-order things. The digits and

the bracket don't show up in the menu either! Huge! Figure 4 on page 22 shows you the results.

There's now a detailed on-line manual that comes in *DocMaker* format in the package and it tells you all you need to know about the software.

In a nutshell

This is another utility that has worked its way into my style and I can't live without it. It's freeware and it's on the BBS. You can also get it at <http://bounce.to/turly>.

What are you waiting for? ☺

KeyQuencer (the sequel)

Review © 1997 David Barnes

G'day folks. I thought I'd just knock up a quick article to support Carl Vine (see *MACinations*, May, 1996, December, 1996 and October, 1997).

You could easily be deceived into thinking he was the only person in the world who was addicted to *KeyQuencer*! Well, all he says (and much more) is true. I have used the full version of *KQ* for at least a year and can safely say that I have become completely dependent on it. I'll just expand on a couple of points and offer some of my opinions.

In one of Carl's earlier articles, he mentioned that the online help was good enough to warrant not purchasing the manual. That is absolutely true. The online Help Screens are actually reprinted in the manual.

However, the manual is a great way to discover more features quickly. I take the manual to work with me and read bits and pieces in my spare time there. I also use the manual to solve scripting problems away from the computer screen.

I never was a great fan of too much reading off screens, which is why I keep my *ClarisWorks 2* book around. I digress...take the manual option if you like reading on paper. (Just a small aside. The package was shipped from USA to

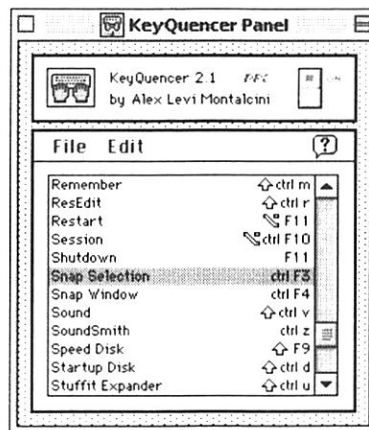


Figure 1. The unassuming front panel of *KeyQuencer 2.1* hiding enormous capability.

my door in about one week. Great service!

You can save your macros as applications and launch them that way if you like. This is handy when you need to act on a *Finder* selection. Put a script in the **Apple Menu** and away you go.

The whole package is so inexpensive and robust you wonder why it isn't a commercial package. I suppose the Internet distribution method is too efficient. I never bought *QuickKeys* but, through Carl's articles, it is obvious that I have found the more efficient solution.

Carl has probably stopped short of the real strength of *KQ*. In my view it can do almost everything by itself – it knows about

almost every Menu item in every application, every Control Panel and so on.

What *KQ* can't do too well is manipulate *Finder* windows. No problem. Combined with *AppleScript* (or *Frontier*), it can do absolutely everything! One command key does it all! *KQ* uses so little RAM that it doesn't hurt having it and *AppleScript* loaded as well.

What do I use it for? Here are a couple of things...

Do you format floppies and spend a couple of minutes setting the window size, views and position the way you like them? Easy with *KeyQuencer* and *AppleScript*. *KQ* plays a small part here, all it does is assign a command key to run an *AppleScript* that sets the window up the same way each time and prompts me for a name for the disk.

I don't like *TCP* etc., active all the time and they don't allow a good connection when *RAM Doubler* is active. So I have a script that changes the *Extensions Manager* sets, turns on *Virtual Memory* (disabling *RAM Doubler 2*) and restarts the machine ready for a 'Net connection – all from one menu selection. It's the same on the way back to a normal setup.

The *Apple FAX* and *Phone* react badly with most things and use too much RAM. Again, a single script

sets the machine up for phone work. The script asks for confirmation along the way and gives me plenty of chances to bail out.

AppleScript can do a lot, but it

can't control non-scriptable applications – combined with *KQ*, it's an unstoppable combination. You can even write *KeyQuencer* scripts directly into *AppleScripts*!

Well what are you doing? Go and get a copy of *KQ* from the BBS and find out how to get the full size version!

You won't regret it!

Hotline – the Internet is more than the Web

Review © 1997 Paul Kneipp

Products:	<i>Hotline Client, Server</i> and <i>Tracker</i> for PPC and 68K Macs
Category:	Communications Tool
Publisher:	Hotline Software
Avail from:	<www.hotlinesw.com>
Cost:	\$US\$24.95 <i>Client</i> \$US\$49.95 <i>Client/Server</i>

Although almost all cyberspace activity occurs within the realm of *bttb*, the Internet is more than just the Web. *Ftp* and *Chat*, although

these in growth and interest. What makes it even more interesting for *MACinations* readers is that it's development is completely based on the Mac and *Open Transport*.

Hotline is a combination Chat and *ftp* program that has virtually taken the world by storm.

Based upon three component programs, *Hotline Client, Server* and *Tracker*, it allows any Mac using *Open Transport* to become

protocol. Even a 33.6k modem will give five to ten users download rates of between 2-3Kps.

Secondly, in case you haven't guessed it, *Hotline* has become the new home of **WareZ** (or to put it plainly, software piracy) for the Mac.

Come November, when the PC version is launched, growth will probably go through the roof and I expect that Usenet will be affected to such a degree that it will

be made almost redundant.

The pluses

I think, however, that *Hotline* is even bigger than **WareZ** for several reasons. Since it is by nature a moderated environment, porn and spam are not the problem they have become on Usenet. As well, many companies and researchers are turning to *Hotline* as a fast and easy way to exchange information securely – *how* securely is yet to be determined but, so far, bypassing passwords is not a commonly

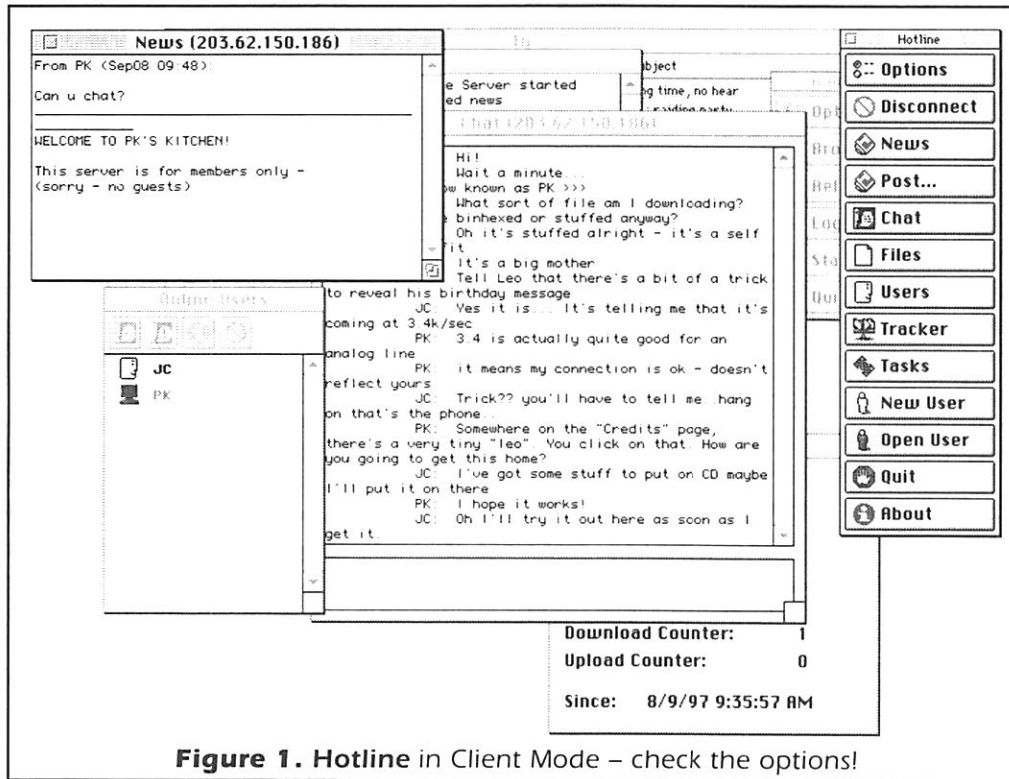


Figure 1. Hotline in Client Mode – check the options!

not as glamorous, are just two of the other networks without which the 'Net would certainly be less convenient and interesting.

Usenet groups, although perhaps now not as widely used, are also important components, particularly for developers and researchers.

A new network

Now there is a new network which it could be said is rivalling all of

a Client or Server via a dynamic address architecture. Servers are registered with a **Tracker** which then displays their address in a list of "tracked servers".

Hotline is causing a lot of comment for two reasons.

Firstly, it's brilliantly simple and fun to use. In effect, anyone with a modem and some drive space can set up their own BBS on the Web in minutes – with passwords, auto connection log and ZModem

performed feat. (However, since 99% of the sites don't use passwords, this is yet to be thoroughly tested.)

I use *Hotline* for transferring large music and interactive files and I can't imagine how else I could do this so fast and easily. I can send a 20MB file in about 40 minutes – try that via e-mail! Faster connections can achieve rates of better than 20K per second and many Servers run T1 or cable modems.

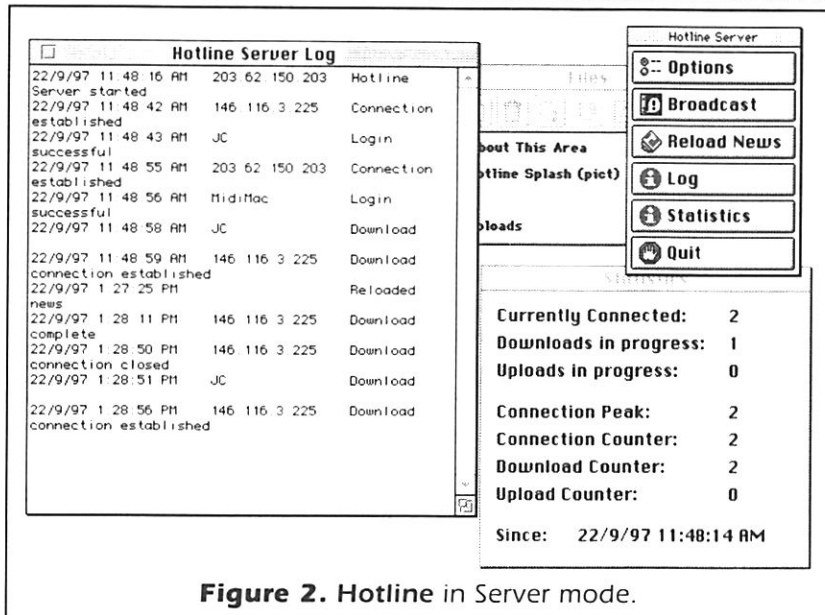


Figure 2. Hotline in Server mode.

Ethical Considerations

Hotline Software (the inventors) have naturally been somewhat embarrassed by the fact that a look at a list of tracked servers would have the FBI hitting the roof. Sites try to evade indemnity by proclaiming themselves as "backup servers" but, in reality, they are swap clubs where the upload of software may entitle a user to certain download privileges.

It appears that nothing's sacred – if it's on sale, it's on *Hotline*. The *Hotline* manufacturers – obviously besieged by angry developers – make their viewpoint plain on their home page. I must admit, however, to having mixed feelings about this problem.

Please don't misunderstand me

(I don't want to be spammed!), I'm *not* in any way supporting piracy and, of course, Club Mac's feelings on this issue are clearly set out in its charter. As a composer, I have very strong views on copyright.

Hotline is very much in the development stage, almost all of the **Warez** traders appear to be very young and I seriously doubt whether most would know the difference between a layer mask and a Batman mask – it's just like trading baseball cards – they simply collect software for fun. If they used it for making money, I would be extremely surprised. Most appear to be doing it for another reason and it's one not unfamiliar to Club Mac members.

When I first began looking at *Hotline* sites, it was like the movie

Wall Street – greed is good. It seemed rather like a stampede of people trying to get every piece of software known to man before the cops arrived. Then, gradually, things began to change. Sites dedicated to music and other interests began to spring up. People started chatting more, offering advice – in short – being human.

Underlying all of this is the fact that, in a world where almost nothing is just for Macs – *Hotline* is. There are no arguments about platforms here, the mostly young users on the *Hotline* network practically represent the frontier of the truly Apple faithful. Sites dedicated to *Rhapsody* and *BeOS* abound and, in a rather strange show of loyalty, *OS 8* is usually represented by a folder saying "buy it".

There are on-line tutorials for all the *Hotline* programs.

The future

I believe that the piracy issue on *Hotline* will settle down as it becomes bigger. Perhaps manufacturers should also take the hint and release more demo versions of their products.

Anyone who has experienced the thrill of unwrapping a new piece of software and sending off the registration card knows that there's nothing like the real (legitimate) thing.

I think that the concept of turning your computer into a secure Server in minutes (and having a chat whilst doing so) is the most exciting and worthwhile communications development in years.

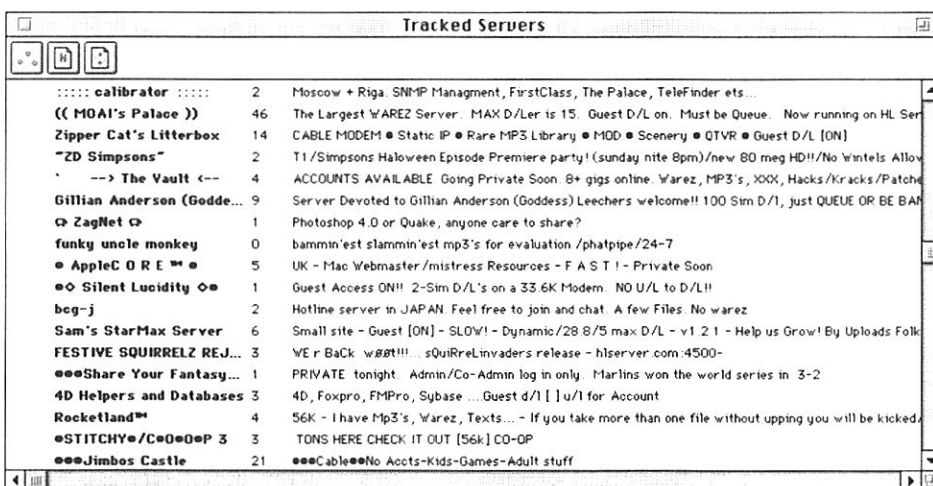


Figure 3. Hotline Tracker lists a set of tracked Servers.

Do you have a different view of these products? **MACinations** welcomes reader feedback. Your opinion is important to us, either as a letter, a review or some other sort of article.

Send your material to the **MACinations** mailbox on the BBS or to the snail mail address shown on page 3.



Effective Mac Evangelism

©1997 Sean McNamara

One of Apple's greatest strengths is the loyalty its customers have to the Mac. Ask any Mac user and they'll almost certainly say they know that the Mac is the best computer platform. Ask them for specific reasons and they may be lost for words. In this article Sean looks at ways of getting the necessary know-how to spread the word about the Mac effectively.

Mac users are often challenged to justify their use of the Mac. Friends or work colleagues, perhaps believing bad press or good publicity from other companies, often doubt that a computer with less than 10% market share could possibly be any good or a good buy.

There are reasons why the Macintosh has the highest brand loyalty in the computer industry. But conveying those reasons to doubters can be a chore – after all, shouldn't that be *Apple's* job?

While Apple has certainly been remiss in effectively espousing the benefits of the Mac, users do play an important role in spreading the word. Real world information is always effective in showing how something is beneficial – this is why testimonials are often used in advertising for all sorts of products.

No matter at what level you may decide to evangelise for the Mac, there are certain procedures which will increase the effectiveness of your evangelism. From those who just wish to be able to rebut false claims encountered in daily life, through to enthusiasts who take every action possible to evangelise for the Mac, the following rules, which I call the **Ten Commandments of Mac Evangelism**, may come in handy.

1 Know thyself

Learning about the Mac is a simple way to increase the effectiveness of your evangelism – and it can make you more productive in your own Mac use as well.

Some good sources of information about Mac use are Mac magazines, books such as the *Mac Bible*, and user groups and newsgroups (see Commandment 2).

Application tutorials and manu-

als are also sources of handy little tips and tricks which even seasoned users may have missed.

If you're asked about something you don't know how to do, seek answers from other Mac users or pass the enquiry on to those who can answer it.

Quite often, even some of the fun aspects of the Mac (for example, how easy it is to change the icons of files, folders and disks) can be effective in showing how user-oriented the Mac is compared with *Windows*.

2 Connect unto others

The loyalty Mac users display to their computers can, in part, be attributed to the sense of community which has built up around the Mac. The user group and bulletin board scenes have always played an important part in reinforcing that sense of community.

As Club Mac BBS users know, answers are often just a login away. The stories other Mac users share regarding their use of the Mac and the problems *Windows* users have running their machines can provide handy ammunition when you are evangelising.

These days, mailing lists – such as the *Evangelist* – and other ways of communicating with fellow Mac users – such as newsgroups – are additional methods for keeping in touch with what's happening in the Mac world. Often, these groups and lists are used as a rallying point for action items, where users are asked to take some action such as writing to journalists or participating in a survey.

By using these connections as a way of strengthening the Mac user community, you make "the community" part of the appeal of buying and using a Mac.

3 Know thy facts

The easiest way to combat falsities in the press and the uncertainties of non-Mac users is to have facts regarding the Mac handy.

For example, while the Mac has less than 10% of new machine sales, Macs tend to be used for longer and, of the machines currently in use, the percentage of Macs is closer to 20%. In addition, many computer users don't know that over 20% of Internet-accessing and Web serving machines are Macs.

Another little-publicised fact is that the Mac has less than 40 different viruses, compared to the 7,000 or more on the PC – this translates into less time lost in guarding and fighting against infections.

Where possible, keep testimonials, URLs, statistics etc., at hand in order to back up your claims.

4 Be helpful unto others

If people ask for your opinion before they purchase a computer, lend them a hand – take them through the models you know of, introduce them to other Mac users, visit dealers with them, loan them your Mac books and magazines and try to answer their questions by demonstration.

It's amazing the sort of PR this helping hand approach can garner for the Mac and for Mac users. By generating a sense of community, you reaffirm that Mac buyers are making the right decision and won't be cast adrift once they unpack their computer.

Putting something back into the Mac community, even if it's only in helping one or two other users, can encourage people to lend a hand to yet more users, and it's amazing how quickly new users can begin offering help to others.

5 Act on errors and omissions

Don't let journalists, salespeople and non-Mac users get away with spreading mistruths or not telling the whole story about the Mac. Rebut false statements or misrepresentations whenever possible. By backing your rebuttal with the facts you have at hand, you will be able to show that you are not just blindly reacting to something you don't agree with.

Inform other Mac users of the errors, especially if you're unsure of how to respond to them yourself. By getting them to respond for you, or by getting the answers and passing them on, you ensure the response is relevant to the original information.

Send copies of your rebuttal to the journalist's editor or the salesperson's manager – in this way you inform the superiors of where the "offender" is offending and open the way for the problems to be corrected.

Make sure that you also correct (nicely) other Mac users who may misunderstand aspects of the Mac – you then ensure the information *they* spread is correct and won't give false impressions of the Mac and its capabilities.

6 Act swiftly

Don't let mistruths gain any sort of credence through failing to respond in a timely manner. Silence may be seen as implicit acknowledgment of the statements made – even if a rebuttal does eventually arrive.

If someone is looking to buy a computer and has misconceptions about the Mac, a delay in correcting the misconceptions could see the person buy a *Windows* machine on the basis of their misunderstanding. The same goes when, in the corporate environment, a decision on platform purchases may be based on false information.

Delays in responding to articles may also see editors decide not to run your rebuttal because the issue is "old news". If you don't re-

spond quickly, you may miss the deadline for being considered for the next edition of the publication, which is the best place to have rebuttals published.

7 Reward balance

In many ways, journalists represent the front line of evangelism for the Mac. Many "action items" in mailing lists and newsgroups revolve around correcting journalists, and many computer users who don't know any better believe the spurious reports on Apple and the Mac.

Despite the distrust many Mac users hold for computer journalists, there are many examples of balanced reporting of Mac matters by non-Mac publication journalists. Congratulate journalists, editors and publications that don't just run the same old tired news of Apple's imminent demise and the supposed shortcomings of the Mac. These articles show that balance is about presenting the facts, not just blindly stating one extreme position or the other, so that the readers can make truly informed decisions.

This rewarding of balance should also be extended to salespeople and work colleagues who look past the mistruths and present the Mac in its true light.

By doing this, you show that Mac users are not necessarily rabid maniacs who jump on anything negative while ignoring the positive.

8 Be nice unto others

One of the most effective evangelism methods is keeping your cool, no matter how outspoken or emotional the person you're responding to may be.

Don't e-mail bomb (send hundreds or thousands of e-mails to block up the mail server) or flame the recipient of your rebuttal. This only gives Mac users a bad name and perpetuates the perception that our loyalty is not based on the merits of the computer we use.

By being polite and not losing your temper, you also make your opinions more likely to be listened

to – flaming will only see any facts and information you send lost amongst the insults.

9 Ignore "trolls"

Don't take the bait of "trolls" – inflammatory messages – usually found in Mac newsgroups or mailing lists – which flame Macs, question every aspect of Mac-users' sanity and intelligence and generally try to get Mac users worked up. An example is the frequent "Apple is Dead" style of postings in `<comp.sys.mac.newsgroups>`.

As with any tease looking for a bite, simply ignoring trolls will see them die out quickly. Remember, troll writers aren't looking for considered debate and intellectual stimulation – they're just looking to upset people. Deny them the satisfaction.

10 Don't stretch the truth

Don't paint the Mac in any kinder colours than it deserves. Telling white lies to potential users, journalists or editors won't do anyone any good. The new user might well be disappointed or disillusioned with the Mac if it doesn't quite work as they have been led to expect. The editor or journalist might know that what you say is an exaggeration.

The Mac isn't perfect – I don't think any computer user believes their machine is. Let the Mac be judged on its merits and Mac users judged by their integrity and calm.

The road less travelled

Mac users know they made the right choice when they purchased their computer. They also know that evangelism for the Mac doesn't imply blind faith and unquestioning loyalty to Apple.

By effectively spreading the "Good Word" about the Mac, you ensure that other computer users are informed of the true state of play in the industry and that potential Mac buyers can be confident they are making the right decision.

So, go forth and Macify, brothers and sisters of the true faith! ☐



Extensible OS 8

©1997 Brooke Smith

The extensibility of Mac OS 8 is quite astounding. Club Mac member, Brooke Smith, is a fan of Mac Operating Systems which, he believes, leave their Windows brethren way behind when it comes to customising your System. Brooke investigates not only OS 8 but also the extensibility of earlier Mac Operating Systems.

Operating System 8 (OS 8) is the most important Operating System release for the Macintosh since the introduction of System 7 in the early '90s and I co-coin it as "insanely great". Since the days of the first personal computers, there has been an operating systems war. First there was Apple's ProDOS; then Microsoft's MS-DOS for PC; Systems 1.x to 7.x for the Mac; Windows 1.0 to 3.x, Windows NT and '95 for the PC; and, most recently, Macintosh OS 8.

Although there have been other market entries such as Amiga OS for Amiga and OS2 for the PC, it has been predominantly a fight between Microsoft (in the Wintel partnership) and Apple (with Apple hardware) to dominate the OS market. Apple has usually been the innovator and Microsoft the copier... that is, until OS 8, when interface elements found in Windows NT and '95 were adopted into OS 8. (Not that these elements were first developed by Microsoft.)

In 1995, six Apple engineers worked on the Macintosh Operating System project, today there are over 100, which explains how Apple managed to deliver OS 8 ahead of time whilst giving other Apple engineers room to develop the next-generation Operating System - *Rhapsody*.

Most of the *Rhapsody* team came from NeXT (when it was bought by Apple) and, the developer release has already been delivered ahead of schedule, with the first public release being touted for early '98.

The Mac OS

The Mac's Operating System's strength lies in its extensibility. This is evident when you consider the number of Extensions and Control Panels available to add functionality to the System. They work by

using "hooks" in the OS.

For example, many Extensions operate by putting a "jump" (GOTO instruction) in the OS code, so that some other action can be performed as well as, or in place of, what the OS normally does.

Such an Extension is *Default Folder* (described in this article), which modifies the **Open** and **Save** dialog boxes. The OS is so well designed that more than one Extension can be installed at the same hook. For example, I have installed *Dialog View* (also described herein) which **also** modifies the **Open** and **Save** dialog boxes, but in different ways. Both Extensions work together without affecting each other.

Another hook is the alteration of System resources. *Kaleidoscope* is an Extension which changes WDEFs and other resources to the type the user specifies - enabling customised window appearances. A WDEF is a resource which can be inspected using a tool like *ResEdit* (but always work on a copy!) Carl Vine reviewed *Kaleidoscope* in the August, 1997, issue of *MACinations*.

Hooking is also the cause of many crashes. Some Extensions aren't compatible as they change System variables, jump to strange places or perform other activities which disagree with the actions of other Extensions. The trouble-free co-existence of *Default Folder* and *Dialog View* is attributable to their authors following the **Apple Guidelines** - rogue Extensions are usually due to authors' failing to adhere to them.

Apple faced this in OS 8 and closed many of the holes that existed in previous OSs, so that crashes are now less common. I've been running OS 8 for about 16 weeks (as of writing) and my Mac has crashed about ten times, only two of which required a full restart. (The

others could be handled simply by quitting the offending application.)

Setting Views

OS 8 Finder's Window

Views are set on a per-window basis, rather than universally, as was the case in the Views Control Panel in System 7. Each window must be set if the default is not desired, although there are programs which will automate this process:

- *OS 8 Views Setter* - an *AppleScript* onto which you drop the folder in which you want the View changed (the children of this folder are also changed). The View specifications are set by answering some dialog box questions. Of the two packages I have looked at, this is the best, since the View specification is done interactively. It lacks some View options, such as, when **Viewing by Icons**, you can't supply the **View Options** that are accessible when setting the View manually.
- *SetViewOptions* - an *AppleScript* in which you **can** give the **View Options**. However, you supply the Views by changing the script itself, which is tedious, especially if you just want to experiment.

If I had the *AppleScript* skills required, I'd write a **Views Setter** that changed the view of all children folders to be exactly the same as the parent folder dropped on the script, ie., inheritance.

Contextual Menu

When you Control-click an object in the *Finder*, such as a file, folder etc., a **Contextual Menu** is displayed. This gives a list of commands that can apply to the object (the context). *Windows* users complain about



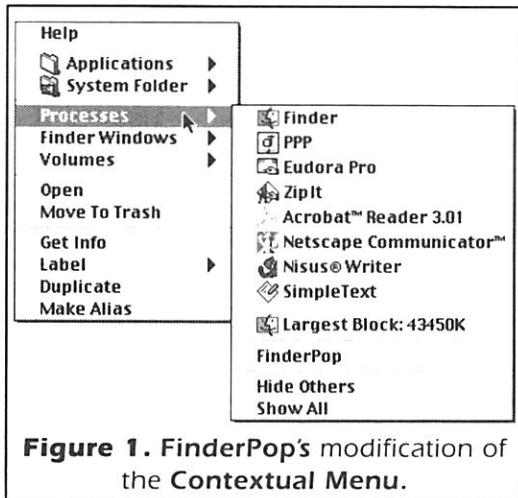


Figure 1. FinderPop's modification of the Contextual Menu.

the Mac's one-button mouse and, having used *Windows* (and *X-Windows* which has a three button mouse), I agree.

Contextual Menus should force the introduction of the two-button mouse although, until software is written to look especially for a **mouse button 2 down** event, drivers for two-button mice could simulate a Control-click. There are many CDEVs/Extensions for Contextual Menus, I particularly like *FinderPop*.

- *FinderPop* adds extra items to the *Contextual Menu* between the **Open** and **Help** items (see Figure 1 above). The contents of the **FinderPop Items** Folder (contained in the Preferences Folder) are displayed between the first two dividing lines [see also p.9].

I have an **Applications** Folder and a **System** Folder. **Applications** contains aliases to all my applications (this folder is also a Pop-up window on my Desktop so that the aliases only have to be added in one place). The **System** Folder is used to move CDEVs, Extensions etc., to the *System* Folder.

Between the next two dividing lines are items specific to *FinderPop*. **Processes** show currently running applications, **Contents** (not shown) shows the contents of a disk or folder *if* one of those is the context, **Finder Windows** show the currently open *Finder* windows on the Desktop, and **Volumes** is a list of the volumes on the Desktop. If the context is a document, then using an application from any

of these menus will send the document to that application – a very quick and cool way to work!

FinderPop is "Pintware" – author Turlough O'Connor (he's Irish) would like \$US7 to buy two pints of Murphys in Fibbar Magee's. *FinderPop* is one of the most useful Extensions I've installed. [See also David Barnes' review of **FinderPop** on p.22.]

- *Apple Data Detectors* – an Apple Extension that allows you to open a URL or e-mail address in any document. The applications and actions which can handle the selected protocols are displayed in a drop-down list next to the data that was detected (see Figure 2). More than one data type can be detected if a large block of text is selected – Figure 2 was triggered by text which contained an e-mail address **and** a URL [see also p.8].

Other data which can be detected includes newsgroups, telephone numbers (to dial), geographic locations (to look up in a map program or to query in *Yahoo*) and currency (to convert using the day's currency exchange values). The possibilities are endless and Apple and third parties will keep developing *Detectors*. For download see <http://apple.script.apple.com/data_detectors/>.

Open/Save

The following Extensions modify the **Open/Save** dialog box. *Now Utilities* (and similar programs) do much the same thing, but I find such packages are monolithic (in the same way that *Word* is), when all that one requires are the individual components.

These Extensions aren't reliant on any

OS 8 features, I've included them to illustrate how powerful and extensible the *Mac OS* is.

- *ClickThereItIs!* – now at version 1.0.8, this works under *Systems 7.x* to *8.0*. When in an **Open/Save** dialog box, you can click on a *Finder* window to display the contents of that window in the dialog box. I have been using this for a while and think it's great.
- *Default Folder* – adds three drop-down menus (under tiny icons) to your **Open/Save** dialog boxes (see Figure 3 overleaf). The first is a list of **Favorite Folders** and **Recent Folders**. The second is for actions that can be performed on the item selected in the **Open/Save** dialog or its parent folder. You can make the parent folder the default, add this folder to the list of **Favorite Folders**, open the folder in the *Finder* or create a new folder inside it. Using the second icon's list, you can perform a **Get Info** on the selected item or move it to the **Trash**. The third icon is for **Volumes** so that you don't have to go to the Desktop to change volumes. One complaint I have is that you don't have the disk icon which is in the standard **Open/Save** dialog box. *Default Folder* has quite a few other interesting features, including a *ClickThereItIs!* action.
- *Dialog View* – enhances the presentation of the **Open/Save** dialog box. In Figure 3 you can see that *Dialog View* has rendered the folder names in bold text. What isn't shown is how *Dialog View* makes the dialog box bigger, so



Figure 2. The list of actions associated with a URL or an e-mail address when **Apple Data Detectors** is installed.

that more file names – and longer names – can be shown. *Dialog View* will also insert icons next to the file or folder names. All this is customisable on a per-application basis if desired.

Miscellaneous

Other Extensions further illustrate the *Mac OS*'s extensibility and functionality.

- *Drag Any Window* – allows you to drag literally any window with real-time window dragging rather than just an outline (though I couldn't drag warning windows). Because the Control Panel's text looks like a cross between Chinese, Italian and English, I don't know what the check boxes and other controls are for.



The *Mac OS* doesn't seem to handle real-time re-draws as well as *Windows* does. I hope this gets fixed in a future *OS* release, as I am damned sure the hardware can handle it. (I have a Power Mac 7300/180/604e.)

- *PopUp Navigator* – this displays the path to a file in that file's window in the same way that Command-clicking the folder name in that folder's window does. Figure 4 shows the effect of Command-clicking a *Word* file.



- *Snitch* – a neat Control Panel which extends the **Get Info** dialog box to add type and creator information and other details usually only available through a tool like *ResEdit*. See Figure 5.



- *Teflon* – used to configure the **Sticky Menus** (a new feature of *OS 8*). The menus remain visible after releasing the mouse button (as in *Windows*). *Teflon* modifies behaviour so that the menu won't stay down if you hold the mouse button for more than the (configurable) threshold time. The assumption is that, if you hold the mouse button down, you're inspecting the menu and probably don't want to select any item in that

menu – which makes sense!

Conclusion

The reviewed Extensions and Control Panels are just a few of those I use and only a handful of those available which take advantage of *OS 8* features.

As more software releases are made for *OS 8*, there should be a greater adoption of features like *Contextual Menus*, such as "right-clicking" to have a Styles Menu in a word processor. As more is added to the extensible *Mac OS*, further Extensions should become available that make use of its features. This extensibility makes the *Mac OS* far more user-friendly than its rivals.

The future will be good, if Apple doesn't make any more stupid decisions such as the killing of the clones. (How stupid that was is debatable.)

If the price of *Mac OS 8* comes down and if more people are exposed to it, they will appreciate it far more than *Windows*, which will help the free world reclaim poisoned ground from Wintel.

This is without taking into consideration the blitzing speed the newest generation of PowerPC chips are delivering.

Repeat after me, "Long live the Macintosh" and never give in to the dark side! ☐

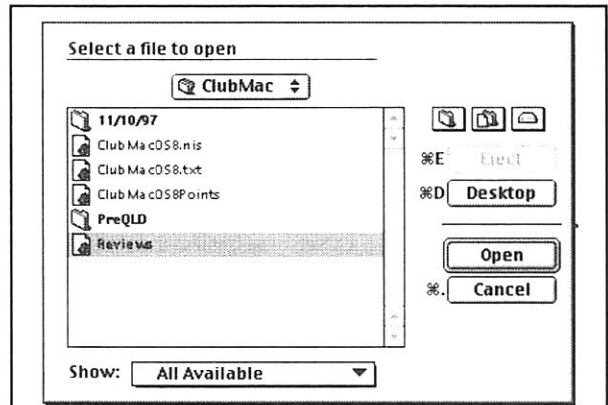


Figure 3. Default Folder's altered Open dialog. Note further modifications – Nisus Writer added the keyboard equivalents for Eject, Desktop and Cancel, *Dialog View* made the box bigger and rendered the folder names in bold, and *Double Scroll* (not reviewed) inserted the double arrows.

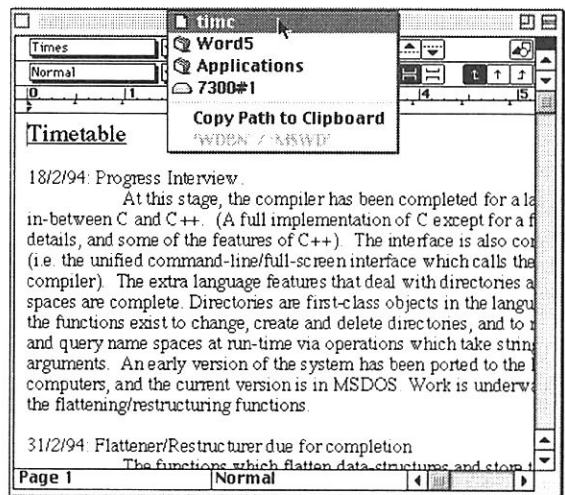


Figure 4. PopUp Navigator in action in a Word 5 File.

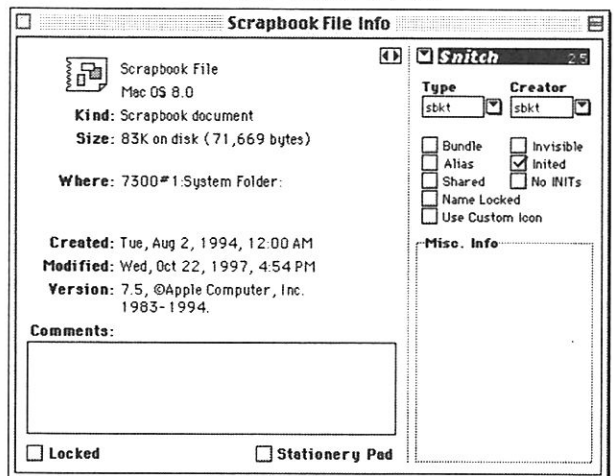


Figure 5. The Snitch Get Info dialog box addition shown on the right hand side.

Next issue – look for Brooke's sequel article, **Microsoft vs Mac!**

Emulation on the Mac



©1997 David Barnes

Remember arcade games in the '80s? What about those fun early games on the Mac? Wouldn't you like to play them again, even on a Power Mac? Club Mac member, David Barnes, has the answer – emulation using extracted ROMs. And it's easy!

Many of us have seen *Virtual PC* running and it is truly impressive! As Mac users we really only like our Macs, don't we?

I like the old machines too. There was something magical about the haphazard way hardware and software evolved to what it is today. Obviously, at some stage, the software will be unable to find hardware that it will run on (when all the old bombs finally become "irreparable"). That's where **emulators** really come into their own.

Did you ever have a favourite game you played in a milk bar in the '80s? I did! And now I can play it again and again...without losing dollars. Here's a quick run down on what's available.

The best way to get back to the old arcade games is on *MacMAME*, which stands for **M**ultiple **A**rcade **M**achine **E**mulator. The games are supplied as images of the old machines' ROMs. Looking for *Donkey Kong* led me to this wonderful piece of free software. And yes,

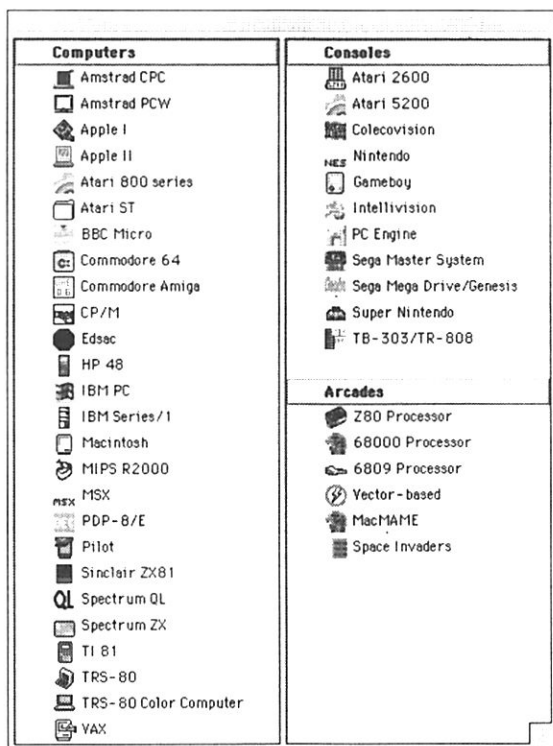


Figure 1. From the home page of <www.emulation.net>.

it runs well! You can run anything from *Donkey Kong* and *Space Invaders* to *Mario Brothers* and *Moon Ranger*.

Hmm...an impressive list. Each ROM is only 20K or so in size so it doesn't take very long to download them all. My kids love

me even more these days! (I hope it lasts!)

In a similar vein is the **Nintendo Entertainment System** emulator- *iNES*. Written by John Stiles, this is an incredibly stable piece of software. It runs images of cartridges from the Nintendo system. I found a site that had tons of games, including *Mario Brothers* adventures by the box full. There's an emulator for nearly everything!

Where do you get it?

Here's the drum...there's a site on the 'Net by John Stiles dedicated to Emulation On The Macintosh – <www.emulation.net>. There's a really neat table on the home page (see Figure 1).

Click on the desired machine's icon and you will be taken directly to the relevant information. Once there, you can download the emulator, read about the thing or find further links to software and other sundry documentation. Neato!

The emulator I tried to find initially was one for the **Mac Plus**. I wanted to keep some old games and run them on the PPC. I found *vMac*. What a great project!

These guys are dedicated to providing a quality, fully functional product. I have a soft spot for the Mac Plus as I still own one. It's great to see the old games running on the Power Mac but, unfortunately, the emulator runs really slowly at this stage of its development. The good news is that the *vMac* team are working on a new engine to make it run faster! Even now, the software runs OK and the games are

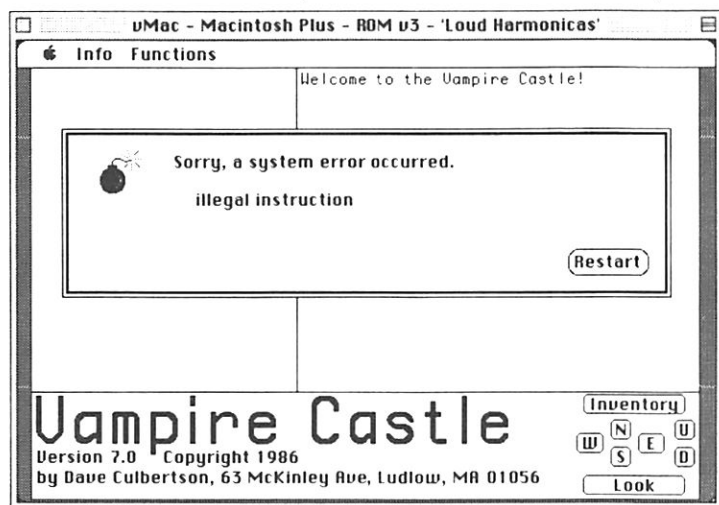


Figure 2. Emulation suffers crashes too...

Continued foot of p.33...



Some Photoshop techniques

©1997 John Marshman

We first published some of John Marshman's photographic efforts back in the June, 1997, issue of MACinations. At that time we invited any others who would like to show off their work to use our pages to do so. Nobody did! But we did ask John to tell us a bit more about his techniques and this article is the result. The offer to others is still open!

I began by taking a photograph of a ball on grass, using a **Logitech Photoman** camera. Then I used *Adobe Photoshop 2.5.1* to distort it in three different ways showing some of the many different effects that are possible.

Figure 1 shows the original photo of the ball on the grass.

To achieve the results in the second photograph (see Figure 2), I followed these steps:

- First select **All** under the **Select** Menu.
- Choose **Distort** under the **Filter** Menu and, within that sub-menu, choose **Wave**.
- Set the details in the dialog box for Wave as shown in Figure 3.

Then, to show a different effect, I carried out these steps to achieve the results seen in Figure 4:

- Open the original

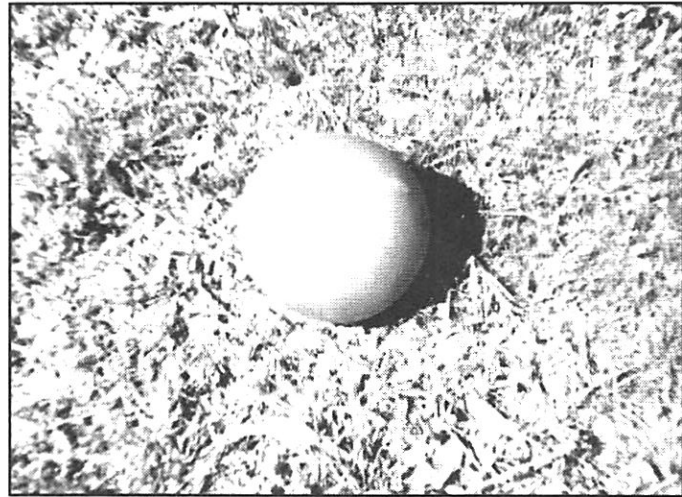


Figure 1. The original photo of a ball on grass.

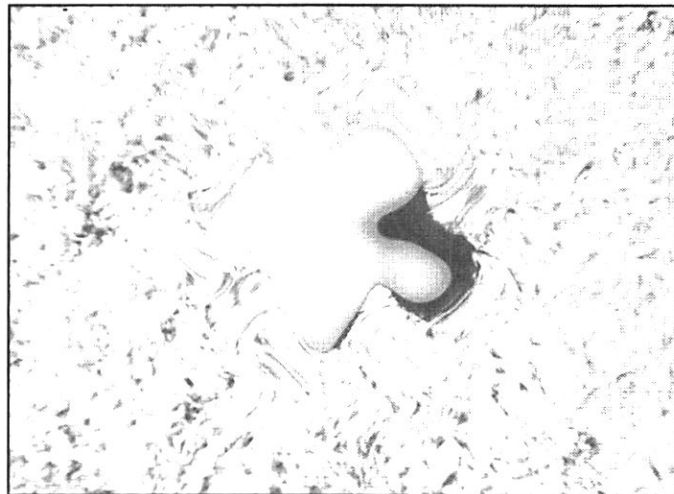


Figure 2. The first distortion, using the Wave filter.

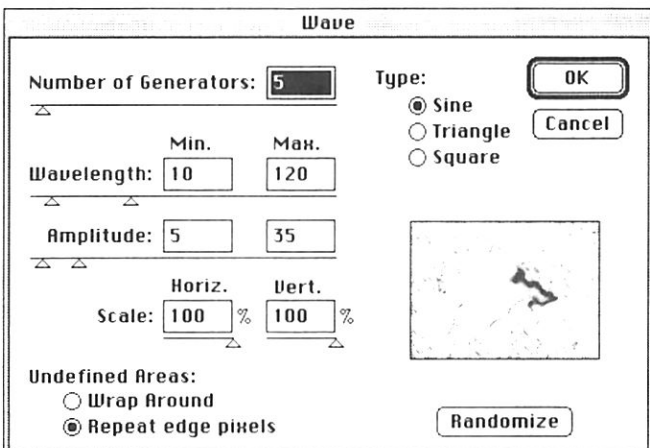


Figure 3. The settings I used in the Wave dialog box.

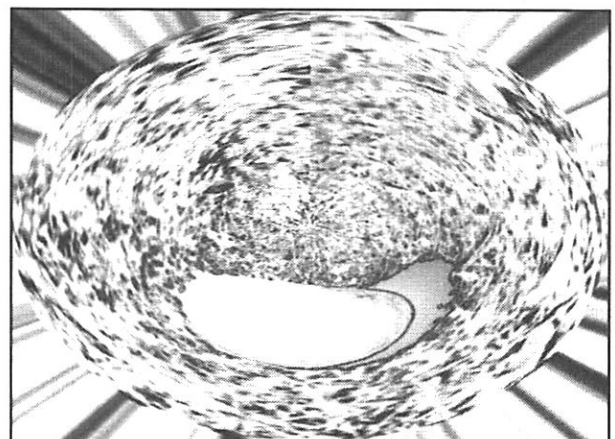


Figure 4. The second distortion, using the Polar Coordinates filter.

picture.

- Under the **Filter** Menu, select the **Stylize** sub-menu and, within it, select **Find Edges**.
- Then, again within the **Filter** Menu, go to the **Distort** sub-menu and choose **Polar Coordinates...** Within the dialog box that then ap-

pears, select **Rectangular to Polar** and click OK. Finally, here are the steps I followed to achieve the distortion you can see in Figure 5:

- Go back to the original photograph and select **All**, using the **Select** Menu.
- First I solarised the photo by selecting the **Stylize** sub-menu under the **Filter** Menu then, within that sub-menu, I selected **Solarize**.
- Then I chose the **Distort** sub-menu under the **Filter** Menu and, within that sub-menu, I chose **Shear**.

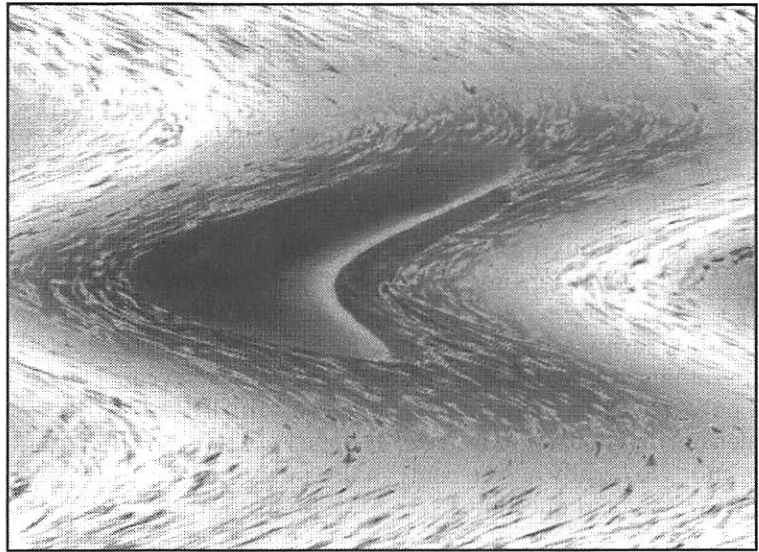


Figure 5. The third distortion, using the **Solarize** and **Shear** filters.

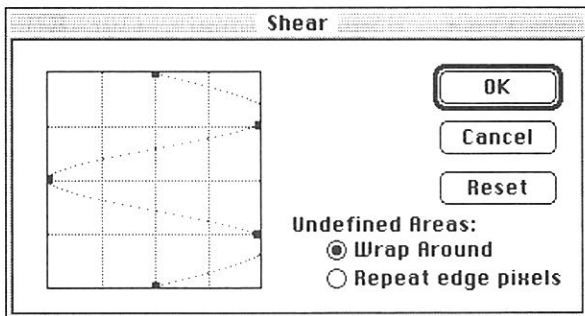


Figure 6. The **Shear** dialog box, showing my added points.

In the **Shear** dialog box there is a 4x4 grid with a vertical line down the middle that has handles top and bottom. By clicking anywhere on the grid you can create another

handle. I went to the first horizontal line and clicked the far right of the grid. Then down a line and I clicked the far left side of the grid. Then down another line and I clicked the far right side of the grid. Then I clicked **OK**. Figure 6 shows what the dialog box then looked like.

Emulation on the Mac – cont from p.31

playable – just.

The software needs a file called *vMac.ROM* in the same folder. This is obtained by running a program (*CopyROM*) on your Mac Plus to extract the ROMs. That's how they get around copyright issues. If you own a Mac Plus, you are licensed to use its ROMs. Obviously, you aren't allowed to have both copies of those ROMs running at the same time.

A number of the other emulators use this method where the ROMs are still protected by copyright – you need the actual machine to extract the data. Transferring the ROMs can be the biggest hassle and there's a ton of documentation (with all those arcane commands) to wade through – not to mention the ridiculous cables needed and the fact that sometimes you need an IBM-compatible

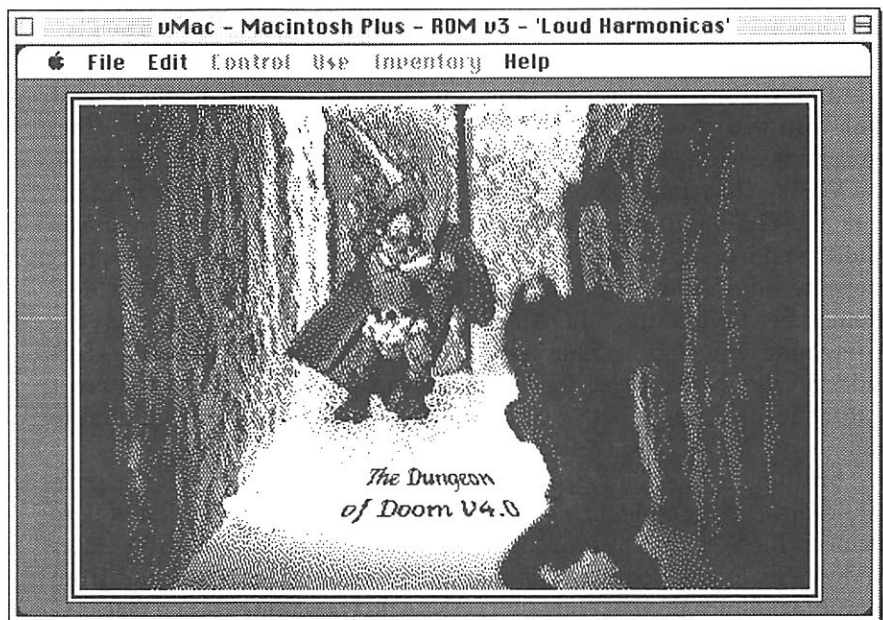


Figure 3. And...some programs work!

to transfer the data via a ZModem session. Wow! Hassle city!

Nonetheless, it's great to see some of the old games in action

again. Can you turn that silly music off? **Yes!** Gotta go now. Too many games to play and not enough...



Getting a life with a Mac

20 Years of Apple

©1997 Kim Kohen

In this bumper bonus of 20 Years of Apple articles, Club Mac members, Kim Kohen, Joe Mithiran and Rose Marshall recall three very different journeys that brought them to the Mac and Club Mac. Kim's meeting with an extraordinary little Apple IIc was the beginning of the his Mac life.

When buying my first computer, my electronics engineer brother-in-law advised, "Buy the cheapest thing you see if you *really* need one." He had a point. In 1979 I'd been out of school for only a few years and "Do I really need a computer?" was a valid question.

I took his advice and saved a few bucks. My first machine was a **VZ200** from Dick Smith. It had 8K of RAM and 8K of ROM which, in those days, was far more significant than hard disk capacity is now. I was very nearly won over by the glamorous looking **Tandy TRS 64** but it was a bit more expensive than the \$299 I paid for the VZ.

In those days, one of the main selling points of all these machines was that they came supplied with Microsoft **BASIC**. Without **BASIC** the machine could do nothing, with **BASIC** it did as much as the user's programming skill would allow – which in many cases was still nothing. So started my "love to hate" affair with Microsoft.

After writing a little program that allowed me to time film processing accurately, I progressed to a **VZ300** which had 16K of RAM. This allowed me to use – when I could get the cassette tapes to load properly – the **VZ** word processor. (Remember **CRUN** and **CLOAD**!) A few magazine articles later and suddenly the Nobel Prize for Literature seemed just a better computer away. I could now reflect on my brother-in-law's advice and confidently proclaim I had a *genuine* need for a "proper" computer. And where do you go for a proper computer? Grace Bros of course!

\$1,495 dollars later, I walked away with a flashy new **Apple IIc** under my arm. It had a floppy drive, a really neat green screen and looked *so* slick sitting there on my map-of-the-world laminex desk. I

started it up, looked at the chirpy greetings *and my life changed!*

Instead of trying to program in **BASIC**, I was using **AppleWorks**. For about seven years I ran a pretty successful little business using **AppleWorks** and it, along with the IIc, never, ever crashed. A 768K RAM upgrade cost me around \$800 but it was worth every cent as it allowed me to run **AppleWorks** from RAM – and it flew!

As big a revolution as going from the VZ to the IIc was a visit (around 1986) from a friend who used a **512K Fat Mac** at Telecom. He dazzled me with his skill. He copied a file by dragging it to a disk. He opened things with a double click. He cut and pasted text. He could display pictures. He could make neat sounds. He told me the price – the bastard!

But I had to have one.

I bought all the computer magazines and scoured them. A **IIsi** was around \$7,000 but was pretty potent and it had colour. The fastest back then was the **IIfx** which, for the money I had available, was about as remote as a Ferrari. Then I did something a little different, I bought it in the US by mail order and shipped it into Australia going through all the correct channels. This little IIsi with 9MB of RAM and an 105MB drive ended up costing \$4,400 – staggering when I think how hard I would have worked back then to make that much money.

As I was working for a publishing company, that IIsi was to be the start of a revolution. After borrowing a 35mm scanner from Kodak, we scanned some pictures, corrected them (in **Photoshop 1.7**) and sent them directly to the company typesetters, something our PC-based operation had never realistically contemplated.

The results were remarkable –

they were clear and sharp and everyone – even the PC diehards – was impressed. Within six months we had committed \$11,000 for a 24MB **Quadra 800** when the average PC was about \$4,000. We started with **Quark**, **Photoshop** and very little idea of what we were doing.

That single Quadra was joined by a **Quadra 650**. **Quark** became our means of producing anything complex. Next came a **Power Mac 6100**, then a **7100** and some flatbed scanners. Our **RIPs** needed to be updated and, suddenly, Macs seemed capable of anything. We employed more staff, our business boomed, we became rich beyond our wildest dreams, and Elizabeth Hurley and Vendella mud-wrestled to see who could ask me out! Um...hang on, that can't be right. OK... OK...so a Mac can't make *everything* possible.

What I meant to say was that the single Quadra turned into a Mac network of over 25 machines. Now only two PCs remain on the system, an **NT RIP** and a **Pentium**-something for accepting PC-based jobs. **Quark** is still our primary software but it has been joined by **Illustrator**, **FileMaker** and, reluctantly (sorry Tom and Rose), **PageMaker**.

We wrote our own editorial system using **FileMaker Pro/AppleScript** and the macro program, **OneClick** – something we could never have done with **Windows**. **FileMaker**, **Quark**, **Photoshop** and a Mac have become as much a part of my day as breakfast (but without the bran – although occasionally they have the same effect!)

The thing I like most about the technology revolution is the change it can make to your life. In five years I went from photographer to designer to typesetter to manager – all as a result of that little IIsi. In-

Continued foot of p.35 opposite

Help! I need a Mac!

20 Years of Apple



©1997 Joe Mithiran

Although Joe has been using computers for nearly 20 years, they were usually not Apples. In time however, he, too, saw the light and became a confirmed Macophile, dedicated troubleshooter and Mac games freak.

In 1979 I had an assignment on BASIC for one of my school subjects. I got hold of an old TRS 80 manual and began a long term fascination with computers and programming. I didn't do very well in the assignment – I'd learned BASIC but not *about* programming.

After talking my parents into getting me a System 80 with a whopping 16K of RAM (four times that of the TRS 80 from which it was cloned) I spent the next couple of years taking up the lounge room floor, going short sighted (it used the TV as the screen and did a bad job of it) and writing games. It used audio cassettes for storage.

My school got an Apple II with a 125K drive – luxury! – and we used it to play an adventure game (with the first perspective graphics in black and white line art), once we got around the teachers' password protection. I suspect that was the idea, otherwise why were the games there?

In 1981-82 I spent a year in the USA where I mucked around with more of the pioneer adventure games on a friend's Apple IIs and "learned" BASIC on Commodore PETs at school. They didn't recognise out-of-school learning but it was good for my marks.

In '83 I did a short course in Pascal at Sydney Uni, by which time I'd pretty well given up on the System 80. Fortunately, it wasn't long before I had access on a regular basis to the NSW Institute of Technology's computers, where I picked up Fortran 77 and – briefly – RatFor (a super-language of Fortran). During my industrial experience I also had a short run in with Forth and small networks.

In 1989 I finally gave in to my Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) and withdrew from engineering, leaving behind computers – amongst other things – for a long time. When I finally did start using them again, I used an IBM 386, doing office work.

Fortunately, when I returned to study, I had a flatmate who owned a Mac Plus which he let me use for assignments. When I moved out I immediately started suffering Macintosh withdrawals, so my Mum sprung for a Performa 250. This was in late '93, shortly before I joined Club Mac.

The machine had some major hiccups and Apple replaced it with an LC 475 (their low-end machine at the time). I'd love to see what would happen to IBM dealers who replaced problem 386s with 486s!

By this time I'd withdrawn from my course – the CFS had returned – and the Mac and Club Mac had become my major social activities. I spent a lot of time downloading software and trying things out, mucking around with ResEdit, and writing up the results for MACinations. I also started using the Internet.

Last year I sold the LC 475 and bought a PowerCenter 120. I feel strange using a machine that is substantially more powerful than those being used by many people doing a great deal more useful work than me. But, considering how much time I spend using the thing, I'm happy. (I've clocked up almost 4,000 hours in 14 months, or almost 40% of the available time.)

These days I do (mostly) unofficial computer consultancy for my friends, help out with Web sites, look after the Club Mac Helpline, play games and create MIDI or hard disk recordings. My current ambitions are getting my Web site, <<http://www.ar.com.au/~joek>>, and the Brackets and Jam Web site, <<http://suburbia.com.au/~brackets>>, up to scratch, and passing the halfway mark in the current world tournament of *Warlords II*. □

Kim Kohen's 20 Years of Apple – cont from p.34

deed, I got a life by getting a Mac.

PostScript

(If you'll pardon the publishing pun.) My VZ200 went to my youngest brother-in-law who uses it to play very simple games and frequently kicks the attached cassette. The VZ300 is in my old dark-room and is still used for timing film processing (anyone got a disk drive for a VZ computer they don't want?) The company bought the old IIsi and it's used as a communications machine running TeleFinder Pro.

The original Quadra has been moved to one of our smaller offices and is used for pagination in *Quark*. The PowerMac 6100 I bought is used as a FileMaker Pro server. The PowerBook 5300 I had was replaced with a PowerBook 1400c which I use at home, at work, on the road and to keep my wife's insatiable appetite for the Internet in check.

So what is the next step in my Mac purchases? Well, I've just placed an order for a new machine. It has a 3GB 609xx chip with 6GB of RAM and 12 terabytes of RAID

storage. It has a laser-projected screen image of 48 inches so that I can surf the 'Net with its permanent fibre optic connection, (using voice commands whilst lying in bed watching the image on the ceiling). It will have a 128x CD-ROM so that I can listen to the extended live version of *Telegraph Road* in 16 seconds. It runs *Rhapsody 6.0.1* and, by the time it's ready to deliver it should, on current pricing criteria, cost about \$19.95.

Expected delivery date? As with most things Apple, it's on back order. :) □



Unlocking the dreams

20 Years of Apple

©1997 Rosalie Marshall

With so many other Club Mac members delighting our readers with their recollections of the last **20 Years of Apple** computers, MACinations Co-editor, Rose Marshall, was persuaded to tell her story. Her love affair with Apple began with a IIe and she still feels like a kid in a candy shop!

I first used a computer eleven years ago – an **Apple IIe** with *Printshop* loaded – and I sat and made cards and banners for six hours. Ironic isn't it, that ten years later I became a Co-editor of *MACinations*, learned *Adobe PageMaker 6.0* and still create pages of text and pictures?

I grew up with computers. During his latter working years, my Dad, Tom Elliott, was the systems analyst for SCATS (Sydney Co-ordinated Adaptive Traffic Systems). Mainframes, binary and assembly language had been so much a part of my growing up years that I found them *blasé* and humdrum.

On that fateful Apple IIe awakening day, I was dragged kicking and protesting to a computer inservice by my then deputy principal (Club Mac member, Gary Burrows). I was enthralled with my ability to type some text, copy a picture and produce a document. Hey, I *still* feel that way!

I *had* to have a computer and it *had* to be an Apple IIe because, so far as I knew back then, most other computers were mainframes. So I shelled out \$2,000 for a dual disk drive 128K machine with an Epson printer. Maybe it's a female thing but, unlike the previous *20 Years of Apple* contributors, I don't remember ports or chips, but I *do* remember ROM-based *Applesoft BASIC*.

10 Print "Welcome to my program!"

20 Input "What is your name? ";NS

30 Print "Hello, ";NS; "isn't this great?"

I devoured *BASIC* books from the local library, branching out to Read/Data, loops, arrays...this was awesome stuff! I could actually make the computer do what I instructed it to do.

In 1987 I enrolled in a Graduate Diploma in Computer Education – me the non-mathematician! *AppleWorks*, *Pascal*, algorithms,

graphics...I loved it all. At school, my Geography kids carried IIes from pillar to post as I experimented, as we compiled databases, as we graphed climatic features and drew pictures in *DazzleDraw*.

By 1988, I understood how computers worked – logically – and I was right there with them... *weelll*...most of the time. I was teaching Computing Studies as well as "Colouring In", I was writing distinction level assignments, and I met my first Mac!

Off the main computer lab at College was a little room where the Masters students worked. One evening Arthur Andersen, our programming lecturer, took us in to see this Mac (no idea what model) and I *could not believe* that GUI interface. I thought *Multiscribe* on the IIe was hot stuff – but this!

The 1989 syllabus introduced the first HSC 2 Unit **Computing Studies** course. Armed with my Grad Dip (with High Distinction) I worked and learned as I had never done in my life. Modems and communication were my nemesis. A 300 baud modem on an **Apple IIc** might be a fond memory for some, but all I can recall is the total frustration of trying to call up AUSSAT and waiting for what seemed hours for the threads to appear. I figured that one could live very happily without modems.

I bought a **512K Mac** (was it really Fat?) and discovered *HyperCard*. I ran *Microsoft Word 3.0* – later 4.0 – on *System 6.0*. I wrote my first book, *Excel's HSC Computing Studies Guide*. That word counter was so unreal!

In 1994 I heard about the new faster modems and this place called **Club Mac** where you could log on and download programs – *free*! So I bought a modem. I was advised that a faster Mac might help, so my beloved **LCIII** came home.

My first moment on the BBS is recorded in the *MACinations* annals. Thanks to Simon White, I configured the modem to work happily and became completely hooked with the online world.

The rest, one could say, is history...except that it is still evolving. Sean McNamara took me onto the 'Net in '95. Astounding stuff! In '96 I joined Tom in editing *MACinations* – one of the best decisions I have ever made – which meant learning *PageMaker*, *Photoshop et al*. With my colleague, Lynda Kelly, I am now running an Ethernet-based network which spawns an Intranet and, more recently, whole school access to the Internet.

I am writing this on my **PowerWave 604/150**. The phone just rang – someone starting out with an **SE** who needs help...There's e-mail to answer about network configurations...There's the new whole school 'Net connection...There was an **eMate** demo tonight...I must talk to my boss about upgrading a computer lab...There's that survey to fill in about women and their online use...

My days are spent working with computers, fixing (always fixing!) them, teaching others (kids and adults) about them. There is never enough time to do all that I want to do...*Java* is next on the list...I still have to master *Photoshop*...there is the new version of *PageMaker* to learn and I want to streamline the network administration at school.

Tom and I have plans for our own *cgi*-based Web site one day, and we are always looking for ways to improve *MACinations*.

Apple's future? It is written in its past. Two boys had a dream and made the computer for the rest of us. They unlocked the dreams that the rest of us never knew we had. □

October AGM Meeting Report



By our staff reporter

In our last issue we gave you a photo coverage of the Annual General Meeting held on 15th October. That coverage was prepared in great haste as the meeting was held virtually as that issue went to press. Now we give you a more detailed Report, including information about the Virtual PC demo that was given.

Each year in October, Club Mac members gather in North Sydney for the Annual General Meeting. Since that part of the proceedings occupied only about an hour of the evening, members were entertained for the bulk of the evening by Chris Smoother (Sales Engineer) and Teale Bryan (National Sales representative) from **Firmware**, the distributors of **Virtual PC**.

Annual General Meeting

Under the rules of our Constitution, if only one nomination is received for a position, that person is declared to be elected. All positions were filled in this way, most nominations being received by the due date back in September and two positions were filled by nominations from the floor of the meeting.

The membership of the new Committee of Management of Club Mac is listed on page 4 of this issue. Subsequent to the meeting, the Committee appointed a number of non-elected officers and their names are also listed on page 4.

Virtual PC demo

Many Mac users find themselves in situations where they need to use an application that has been written only for the **Wintel** platform. It is possible to

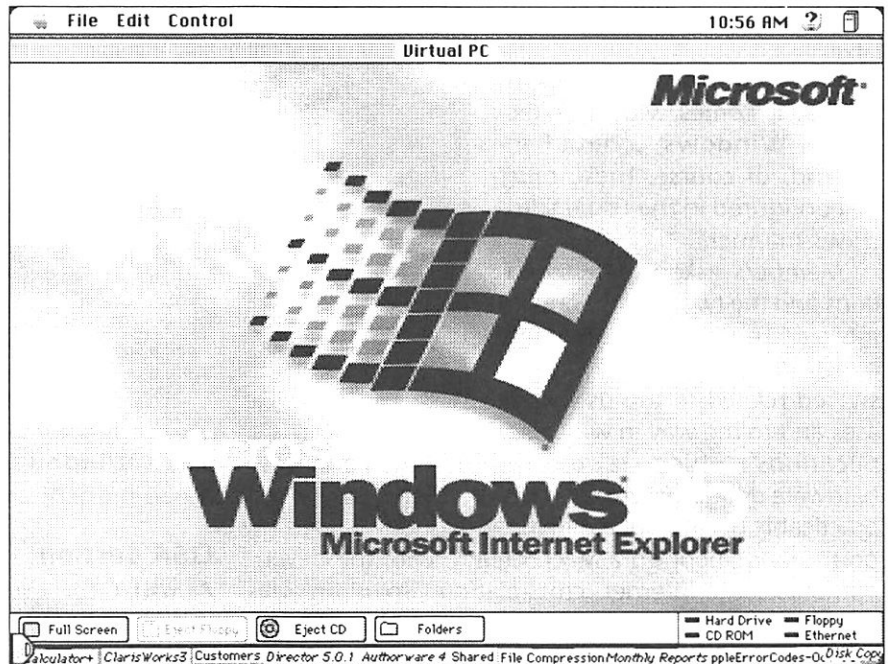


Figure 1. Kinda scary, isn't it? Yes, that is **Windows 95** launching and it is reassuring to see the familiar Mac Menu Bar at the top!

run a dual-processor Mac but that is not the only solution. **Virtual PC** from **Connectix** (makers of **RAM Doubler** and **Speed Doubler**) is distributed in Australia by **Firmware** and was well demonstrated at the meeting.

It comes on a CD-ROM and that includes **Windows 95**. There is another version that will run **Windows 3.11**, **MS-DOS** or **Unix**. The recommended retail price (including **Windows 95**) is \$299 and that makes it about \$85 cheaper than its main rival, **Soft Windows**.

Virtual PC is installed like any other program on a Mac but it needs a minimum of a 603 Power Mac running at 180MHz on **System 7.5.5** or later. It also needs a minimum of 32MB of RAM and a 300MB hard disk (or partition) to be designated as the **Windows** disk. The more RAM and the more speed available, the better, as this is emulation software.

Once installed, **Virtual PC** will handle most PC applications, including **Microsoft Office 97**. It is happy with most PC games, including 3D games and will even (with enough RAM) handle such memory-hungry applications as **Extreme 3D**. It is relatively easy to configure a modifier key to simulate the right mouse button required on a PC.

Although the designated **Windows** disk is used (naturally), it is also possible to set up a

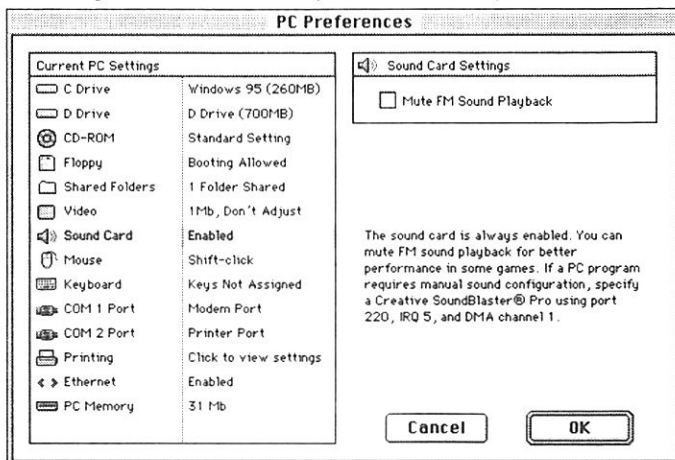


Figure 2. Setting the preferences. This is a PC operation but that window looks very Mac-like!

October Meeting Report

shared disk which is accessible from the **Mac OS**. Printing from **Windows** applications is accommodated by spooling the print jobs to the **Windows** disk which then passes the data to the **Mac OS** to print. But the interface has a completely **Windows** appearance.

When **Windows 95** is installed, it comes with a collection of **Windows** Control Panels and, of course, these must be configured in the usual **Windows** manner.

Members asked many questions and the two guests handled most of them easily. The only questions that remained unanswered related to the use of aliases and to the way in which applications which require a hardware dongle are handled (impracticable because of a different port arrangement on a Mac). Clearly, with the development of the Internet, cross-platform solutions will become more and more a part of the computer world.

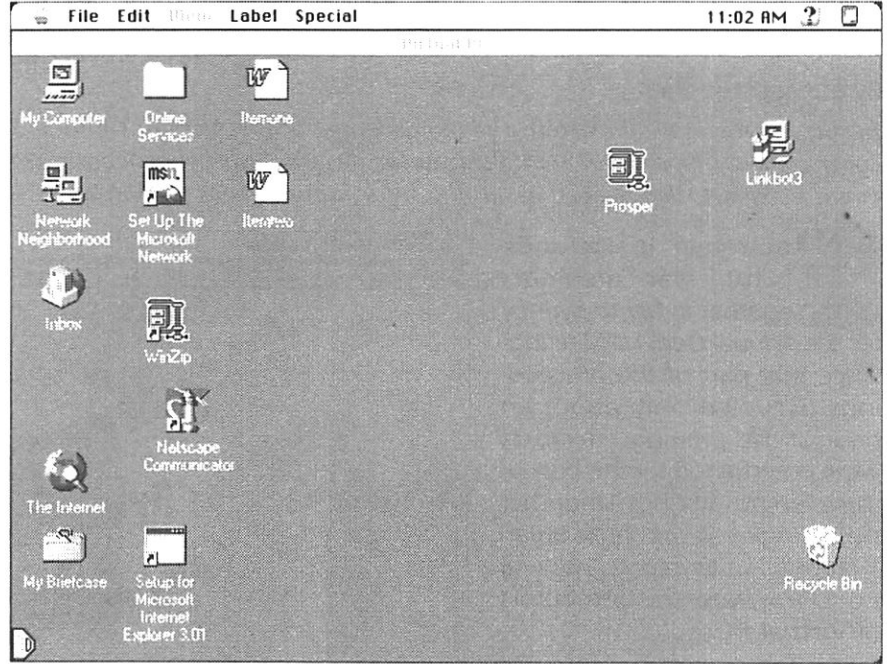


Figure 3. Yes, that is a **Windows 95** Desktop. But note the Mac Menu Bar (which can be hidden) and the Mac Control Strip handle.

Q&A Session

As usual, the evening included a Q&A session and, in keeping with our practice over recent months,

we report a selection of the Qs (and the As) here. These have been compiled Andrew Pavey:

Q: Is there any project management software for the Mac?

A: MacProject has been around since almost the beginning of the Mac. It takes a slightly unconventional approach to Gantt charts but is easy to use. **MacProject II v1.5** is the latest version.

Q: How do you find a word in Excel?

A: Use the Find command under the Formula menu (**Command-H**). You can search row-wise or column-wise. Note that **Command-F** is used for searching in a portion of a spreadsheet you have set-up as a database.

Q: How do I open an Excel spreadsheet which has been transferred from a PC?

A: You usually can't double-click it because the Mac file type and file creator information is missing. However, if you open **Excel** first and then select the file to open via the

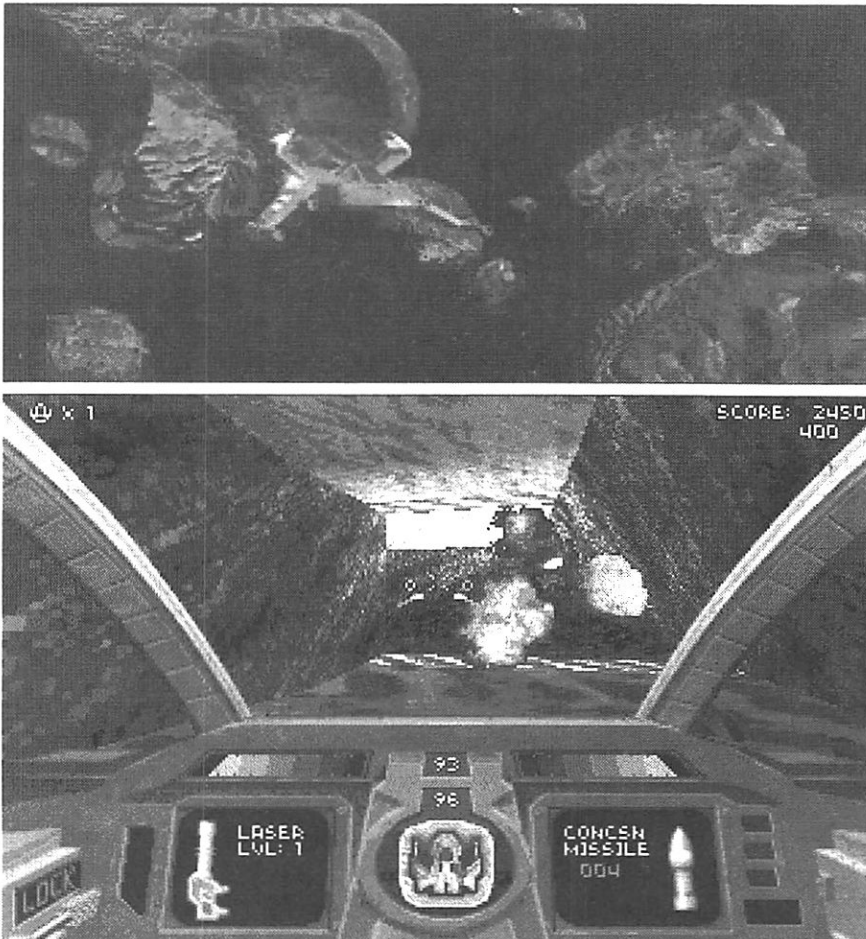


Figure 4. OK! We know you only want to use **Virtual PC** to play PC games! Here are a couple of screenshots to show you it can be done!

Open command, **Excel** should recognise the file and should open it with all of its information intact. If this is an ongoing problem, you can use one of several shareware programs to change (or set) the type and creator details of your PC files. **File Buddy** (and a couple of other utilities) was suggested – it will allow you to create drag and drop applets which will change the type and creator details to ones you specify, even if you drop a folder of files onto it.

Q: I can only get onto the BBS at 9,600 baud, even though my modem is faster than that. How can I utilise the maximum speed of the modem?

A: When you dial into the BBS, the modems at each end exchange a series of handshake signals and work out between themselves automatically the best speed that can be sustained over the current phone line. So, if you get a "noisy" line, it is possible that the modems will decide to connect at a lower speed than their potential to ensure that the error rate on the line is acceptable. Another constraint on the connection speed is the setting within **TeleFinder**. In the Modem Set-ups window, click to select a modem, and then

click on the Edit button. Within the next dialog box, there is a Pop-up menu which lets you to set the speed your Mac talks to to your modem. If you have a very old Mac, the maximum is 19,600. But, on most recent Macs, the sky's the limit. Pick the highest available but 57,600 is just fine.

Q: Can I still buy a Mac clone?

A: **Apple** has bought out **Power Computing**, and doesn't intend to continue manufacturing. However, some of the other clone manufacturers have reached agreements with Apple and clones will continue to be available – at least for some time.

Comments

One member said he'd used **QuickCharge**, the laser cartridge recharge company that advertises in **MACinations** (see page 9 of this issue), and reported that he had found their service excellent.

In other discussion, members noted that **IDG** was ceasing publication of **Australian Macworld**, but it was expected that material usually included within it would soon be available via **MacUser**. In the States, **Macworld** and **MacUser** magazines have merged and some similar flow-on can be expected in Australia. ■

November Meeting Report



By our staff reporter

The November meeting was held in the city at the offices of former President, Andrew Pavey, in Sussex Street. Despite the different location, a good crowd turned up. Andrew, indeed, was the first of the presenters, demonstrating to members the ease with which one can now connect to the Internet.

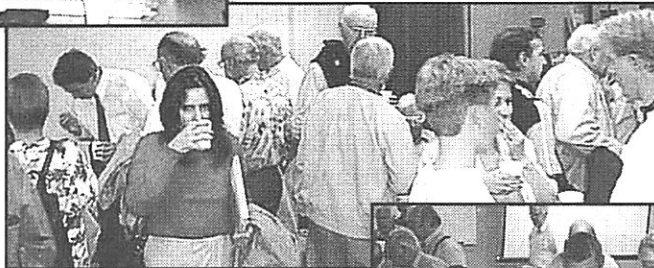
The animated discussion over supper was evidence of the interest surrounding the Internet. With an increasing number of Club Mac members beginning to surf the 'Net (and several who have been doing it for some years), the nature of the Club – particularly our Bulletin Board Service (BBS) – is changing.

During this year the Committee has almost phased out the sale of Public Domain software (PD ware) because of lack of demand. Members find they can go looking for it themselves or, more practically, log in to the BBS (perhaps using the Internet) and download software easily and safely from there.

In the second part of the evening's program,

MACinations Co-editor, Rosalie Marshall, gave a sharper focus to this by demonstrating the Bulletin Board Service directly. Members were shown how to log on, how to check their own mailbox, how to look for software and download it, how to browse the discussion threads, how to send e-mail (either within the BBS itself or wider on the Internet) and even how to chat to other members online.

Again, the high number of questioners following Rose's demonstration



showed the interest there is amongst Club members in the BBS.

Our pictures give you a glimpse of some of the people at the meeting. The next meeting is to be at our new venue in Crows Nest and a detailed map showing the location is on page 4 of this issue. ■



Get Info

The monthly column of the Club Mac Committee

Thanks for approving the increase to 56 pages, Darryl!

This month I want to discuss two topics – which is probably not a wise move because, I have been limited by the Co-editors, who think of this column as a filler. [C'mon, Darryl! We had to ask you – as Treasurer – for 56 pages. If we'd let you have your head, we would have been asking for 64! Eds]

Columnists

Do you ever wonder how people like Andrew Pavey, Piers Dunkley, the Co-editors or all those other regular columnists come up with new things to write about every month? I do and I have to admire them for it.

The remaining members of the Committee share the input for this column and, for that reason alone, I would like to see a lot more people co-opted onto the Committee!

When I am at work (in my comfort zone) bashing out words on my PC, I do not have **any** trouble regurgitating Defence policy and have been described – on several occasions – as overly bureaucratic. Incidentally, on both occasions that was by the same person – and not in the form of a compliment – so I discounted the criticism as being well outside the bell curve.

When it is my turn to write a column I probably think about it too much and I go over it in my mind many times whilst walking to work. Of course, when I actually sit down to write (at the last minute, naturally) the fabulous topics which flowed so smoothly in my mind instantly evaporate... and I write about something com-

pletely different.

The rather simple point of this piece – after all the preamble and musing, and for those of you who were actually wondering what on earth I was trying to say – is simply that I salute those who write regularly for *MACinations* as wonderfully creative people and I thank God that you exist, otherwise I might have to agonise over what to say more often.

As a gesture of generosity, I am prepared to offer **any** ordinary member the opportunity to write my next scheduled column. Interested? Just contact me and I will send you the details.

PS. I am just about to start preparing my Christmas card list so get in early.

Why did you buy your Macintosh?

The other topic for this month is directed at those members who use their Macintosh at home. Why **did** you buy your Macintosh?

I don't mean why did you buy a Mac instead of some other computer – **that** argument really has been thrashed to death. What **purpose** did you have in mind when you bought a computer?

Was it because of features only found in a Mac or could it have been any computer? And do you use it for that purpose or have you gone off on a completely different tangent? Because computers are such versatile pieces of equipment, there are likely to be hundreds of primary reasons why people bought their computer.

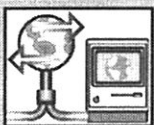
In my teenage years – so long ago – I was intrigued with electrical and mechanical appliances and, more than once, disassembled some of my parents' prized appliances – only to find that I could not always reassemble them quite as easily.

I was a great fan of an American magazine called *Popular Mechanics* which, month after month, had ideas for creating mechanical gizmos of immense appeal to me. Even in those days there were ideas in these magazines on ways to automate your home. The great American dream of labour saving devices had a profound effect on me and I imagined a house where I could control a host of appliances, from a central console.

The advent of the personal computer promised the perfect platform to bring my dreams to fruition. That was ten years ago and I am yet to see even one appliance in my home operated from the keyboard of my Macintosh.

I still harbour those dreams and have accumulated information about systems and components to make it all happen. I am in no hurry to automate my house. I know that one day, possibly after I retire from the workforce, I will get around to it – even if it is only to justify my continued purchases of bigger, better, faster and considerably more expensive Macintoshes to do it with. The irony is that possibly the best machine for the job is the Mac SE 30, and all that extra processing power will be superfluous.

Still, that's computing. Cheers.
Darryl Chrisp



Members' URLs – J Barry Anderson

<www.widewest.com/jbaphoto>

As a professional photographer it was necessary for me to get up and out there. To start, there is a gallery of some of my work. Now I have to figure out how to create the links so as to attract new clients...any suggestions on how to best approach this?

Any member of Club Mac can have their site mentioned in *MACinations* and on our Web site – just let us know!

FileMaker Pro Corner



©1997 Hilton Brown

In this issue's bonus two-part FileMaker Pro Corner, Club Mac member, Hilton Brown, offers two simple scripting techniques that will help you (a) to delineate address lines; and (b) to create customised job numbers according to the date the job is to be performed.

#1 – Unravelling Addresses

In the June *FileMaker Pro Corner*, when writing about the entry of data (p.16), I said, "My advice would be to break down names and addresses into as many items as possible, because the data is more readily available for manipulation later (when a search is to be performed for a specific suburb, for example).

"It's easier to concatenate (or merge) separate fields into one field than it is to dissect them. It also allows data in some fields to be entered from pre-defined pop-up lists, reducing typing and ensuring consistency in format and spelling."

However, circumstances will arise where data has already been entered in multi-line fields and it has

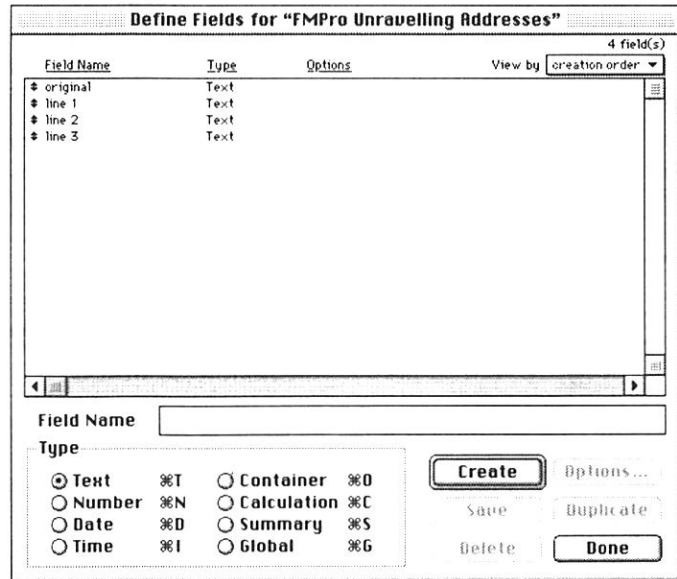


Figure 1. The fields for the Unravelling Addresses database.

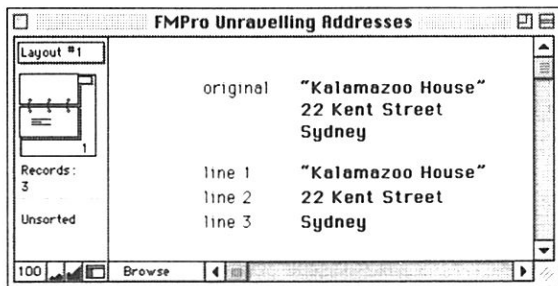


Figure 2. Splitting a multi-line field into separate fields.

become necessary to dissect it into multiple fields. Take the case of the following enquiry that Club Mac member, Ronald Wilson, posted on the BBS: "At work I have inherited a very simple *FileMaker Pro* database with over 4,000 names and addresses in it. Unfortunately the person who set it up allowed only one field for the full address, eg.,

**22 None St
Sydney**

"Occasionally there are three lines to an address, eg.,

**Retirement Village
22 None St
Sydney**

"The lines are separated within the field by a **return**. The State and the postcode are in separate fields. I would like to separate the lines of the address into two or three new fields, eg., **Street 1**, **Street 2**, and **Town**. Can someone please show me how

to write a script that would enable me to do this?"

OK, let's have a look at the problem...

The existing field, which we'll call **original**, has either two or three lines and the lines are separated by **returns**. Therefore, we'll need to define three new fields, one for each of the three possible lines, which we'll call **line 1**, **line 2** and **line 3**.

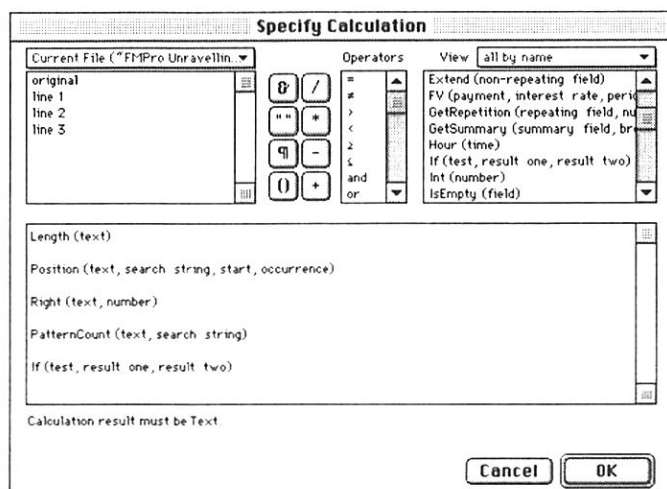


Figure 3. Functions used in the definition of the field line 3.

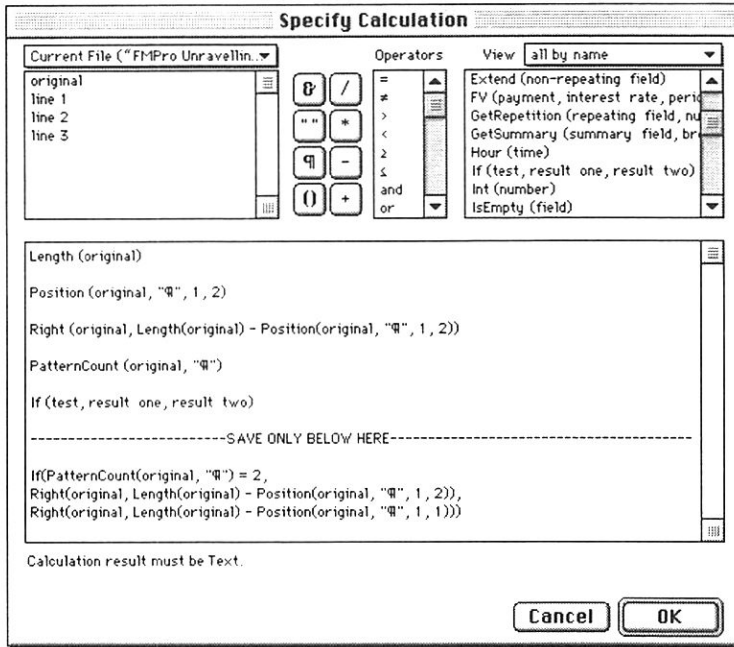


Figure 4. The final If calculation for line 3.

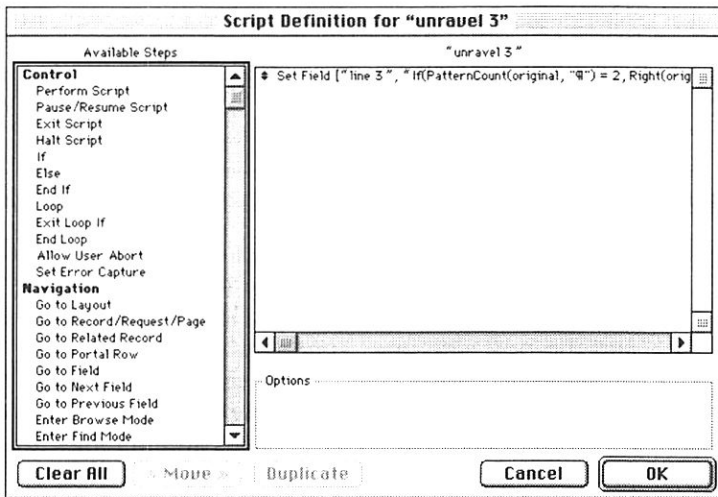


Figure 5. The complete step in the script unravel 3.

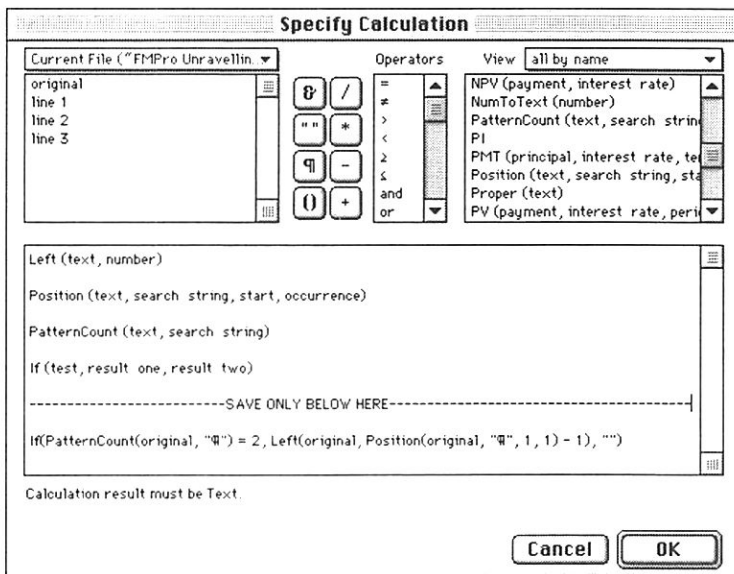


Figure 6. The final If calculation for line 1.

These new fields will be those into which new entries will be made. So, they'll need to be "text" fields rather than "calculation" fields, since calculation fields won't permit data entry.

Figure 1 on the previous page shows the **Define Fields** screen. We'll aim to put the last line of **original** into **line 3**; the second line of a three-line **original** entry and the first line of a two-line **original** entry, into the field **line 2**. And, when it exists, we'll put the first line of a three-line entry in **original** into the field **line 1**.

What we're trying to achieve is the type of breakdown shown in Figure 2 (also on the previous page). We have to find a way of extracting pieces of information from the **original** field.

Let's start with the third line. We can use the script step **Set Field** to set the **line 3** field equal to the data in the third line of the **original** field.

To do this, we need to take advantage of the feature which is peculiar to the third line, namely that it is all of the data after the second **return**. We'll need to make use of the functions listed in Figure 3 (see previous page).

The data after the second **return** is specified by the **Right** function, which requires definition of the text to be used (in this case the field **original**), and the number of characters back from the right-hand end of the text.

The latter number can be defined as the **Length** of the text (ie., '**Length (original)**'), minus the number of characters from the left up to the second **return** (which can be defined using the **Position** function, ie., '**Position (original, "¶", 1, 2)**').

Now we're faced with the problem that some entries in the **original** field have two lines and some have three. We'll need to seek two results, depending on the number of lines.

Fortunately the number of lines can be determined by the number of **return** characters. We can set up an **If** statement which says, in

effect, if there are three lines (or two occurrences of the **return** character) do one thing; otherwise, if there are two lines (or one occurrence of the **return** character), do another.

Figure 4 shows the steps involved in arriving at the final calculation. The first five lines show the functions used in the final calculation, the sixth item.

Of course, only the final calculation would be saved – the other lines would be deleted before clicking “OK”. A tip: if you’re writing a calculation involving a number of functions, do it a step at a time as I’ve done here, otherwise you’ll get lost!

Now that we’ve written our first script – it’s called **unravel 3** and shown in Figure 5 – it’s a relatively simple matter to write the script **unravel 1** to extract the first line and **unravel 2** to extract the second line.

Figures 6 and 7 show the steps involved in developing the **If** statements which are used as the calculations to set up the respective fields **line 1** and **line 2**.

The scripts are shown listed in Figure 8, together with one called **unravel all** which will be used to invoke the other three for all the records in the database.

The steps in the script **unravel all** are shown in Figure 9. The script starts at the first record and then invokes a loop routine. It performs the script **unravel 1**, then script **unravel 2**, then script **unravel 3** and then proceeds to the next record.

It then performs the scripts **unravel 1**, **unravel 2** and **unravel 3** on this second record, then proceeds to the third record and so on, until it has performed the three scripts on all records. After the last record is unravelled, the loop routine ends and the script returns the user to the first record.

Any two and three-line fields can now be disassembled into separate fields for each line with the ease of invoking a script. The possibilities of the use of the functions employed here are endless!

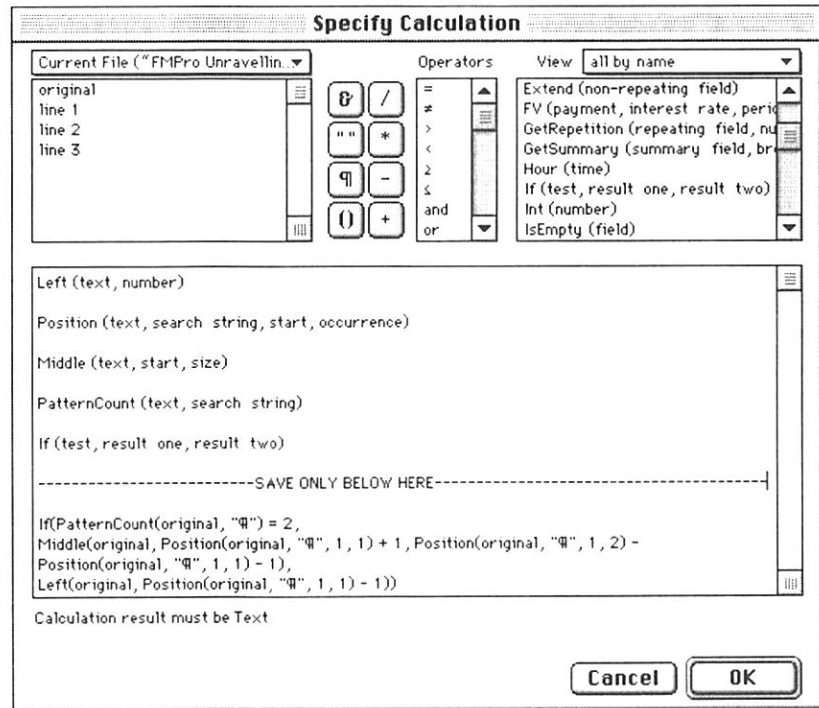


Figure 7. The final **If** calculation for line 2.

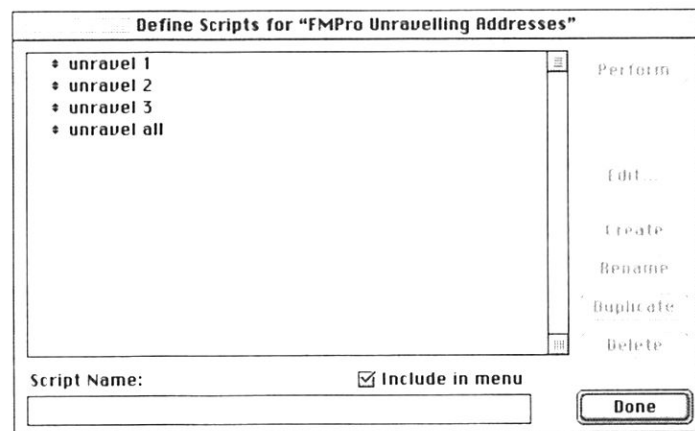


Figure 8. The scripts defined for **Unravelling Addresses**.

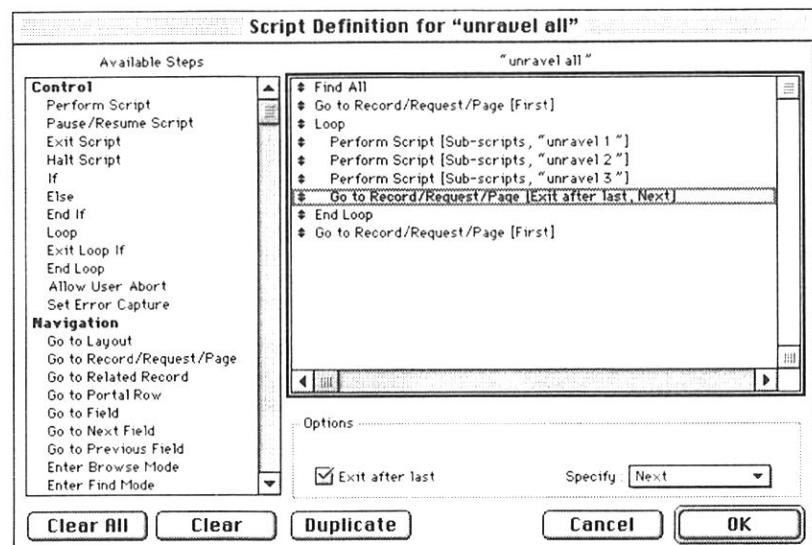


Figure 9. The steps in the script **unravel all**.

#2 – Creation of custom job numbers

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It's a common feature in some types of business to use custom job numbers for referencing systems. For example, architects and engineers often use job numbers with a format such as **YY/MM/NNN**, i.e., **Year**, plus **Month**, plus a consecutive **Number** starting at "001" for that month.

It's convenient to have the job number created automatically whenever a new job is raised. If details of each job are kept in a *FileMaker Pro* database, automatic number generation can be achieved quite easily.

Figure 1 shows the fields which need to be defined. The "Type" of each field is important because some will be concatenated or otherwise manipulated as though they were text.

For clarity, the definition of the field **Text Number** is shown in Figure 2. It shows how the last three characters in a **Job Number** are created from a concatenation of zeroes and numbers, depending upon the number of digits in the **Numerical Number** field.

The determination of the next **Job Number** in a series is determined by invoking the script **New Record**. The steps are shown in Figures 3 and 4 (see the next page), where the highlighted step **Else** is common to the two. It is important here to understand the

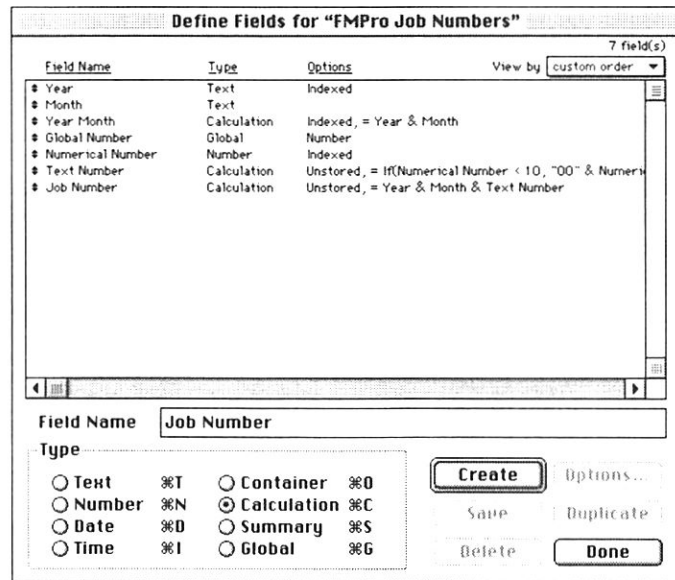


Figure 1. Fields required for the creation of a Job Number.

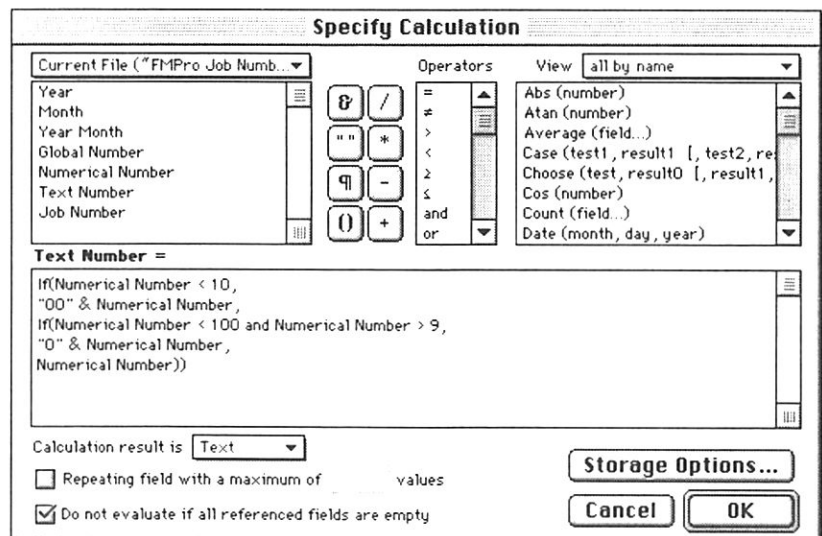


Figure 2. The calculation used to define the field Text Number.

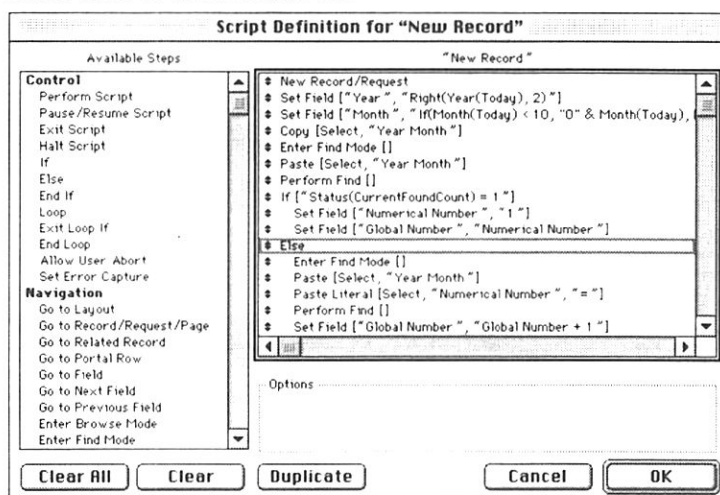


Figure 3. The first steps in the script New Record.

logic of the script.

Firstly, a new blank record is created, and the field **Year** is set to be the last two figures of the current year.

Then the **Month** field is set to the calculation shown in Figure 5 (see next page), where a two-character month results no matter what the number of the current month. Note that the result is of type "Text".

It's important to realise that the fields **Year** and **Month** need to be set at the time of the creation of a new record, and *not* defined as calculated fields in the **Define**

Fields operation. If they were, they would change each time the function **Today** changed, and that would be untenable!

A **Find** is now performed using the resulting **Year Month** concatenation. What happens next depends on the results of this **Find**.

The first **If** in the **New Record** script says, in effect, that if only one record is found, then it must be the one just created and the first in the current month. That being the case, the field **Numerical Number** is set to "1" and the field **Global Number** is set to equal the **Numerical Number**.

The second **If** in the **New Record** script (ie., what follows the **Else** step) says, in effect, that otherwise the **Find** must have found more than one record in the current month.

Therefore we need to find the new record created by this script, increase the **Numerical Number** by "1", and set the **Numerical Number** to equal the **Global Number**. The **Global Number** is common to all records, therefore we can change it without affecting any individual record.

The **Text Number** is now determined by the calculation shown in Figure 2, and the **Job Number** is determined by the calculation shown in Figure 1. That's it!

An examination of Figure 6 will help you gain a better understanding of the development of any **Job Number**. Of course, only the **Job Number** field needs to be shown on any layout in the database – the remaining fields are only shown here for clarity and understanding. Happy databasing!

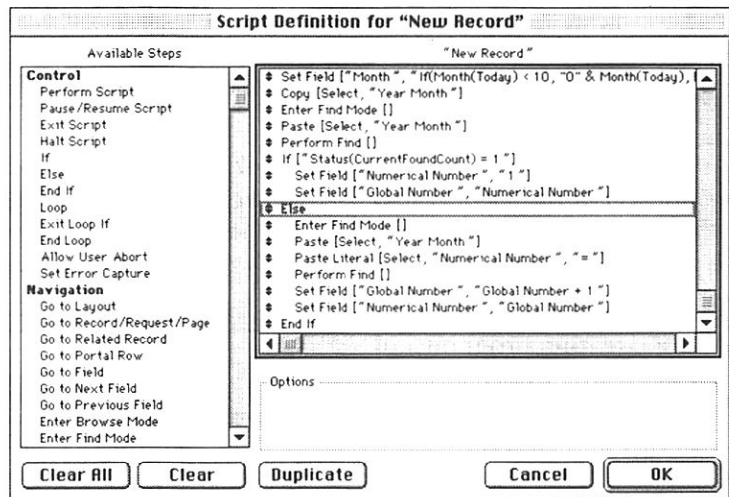


Figure 4. The balance of the steps in the script **New Record** (the **Else** step being as in Figure 3).

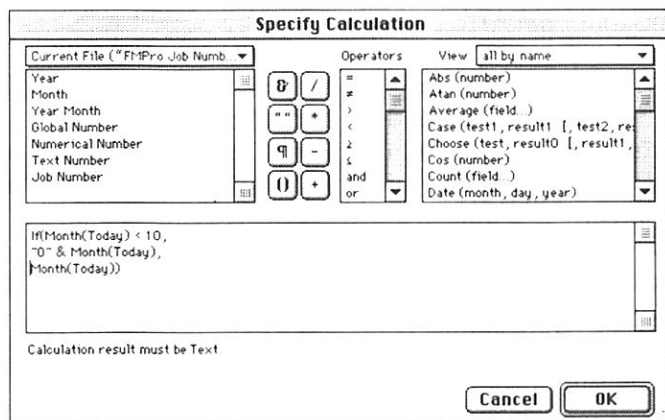
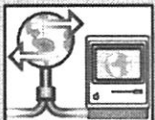


Figure 5. The calculation used to set the value of the **Month** field.

Year	Month	Year Month	Numerical Number	Global Number	Text Number	Job Number
96	06	9606	1	1	001	9606001
96	06	9606	2	1	002	9606002
96	06	9606	3	1	003	9606003
96	06	9606	4	1	004	9606004
97	06	9706	1	1	001	9706001

Figure 6. A layout showing how **Job Numbers** are developed.



MACinations own Web site

<<http://www.clubmac.org.au/~macinations>>

Our very own Web site updated monthly. Check in regularly and preview the coming issue up to a week in advance.

- Write letters to the editors.
- Link to the Club Mac homepage
- links to members' Web sites.
- Sample our top articles!
- More links being added regularly!

We also have a mirror site for those times when we may be having server troubles:

<<http://www.ozemail.com.au/~rosmar>>



'Net.files - Musashi e-mail

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Cracking the Internet client (access program) market is tough when so many good programs already exist for just about everything. Getting users of existing programs to use a new one can be difficult, as they have settled into their program of choice. For many 'Net users, Eudora is the e-mail client of choice, but a new kid on the block, Musashi, has enough features to perhaps sway even diehard Eudora fans.

In the Internet client arena, there are the programs of choice, and the also-rans. Eudora has earned its reputation as the program of choice in the e-mail client field through its feature set and the fact that a very usable version of it is free.

There have been other e-mail programs, but Eudora has held its place as the premier e-mail client. In recent times, however, Eudora has been challenged by Claris' EMailer program. While I have not yet seen Claris' offering, apparently it is quite a good program.

Only recently another e-mail client has come to my attention, although it's already at version 2.0.6. It is called Musashi and it has a feature set which may see both Eudora and EMailer users (at least of the free versions) jump ship. Musashi is shareware, with a price of \$US30.

Multiplicity

Musashi is significantly different from Eudora in form and function, although both are very good e-mail clients.

As soon as Musashi is launched, the user is presented with a user login dialog (see Figure 1) which indicates one of Musashi's main advantages over Eudora Light - comprehensive support for multiple users.

Although multiple settings files can allow Eudora Light to access more than one e-mail account (and Eudora Pro can support multiple "personalities"), Musashi has been programmed to let users employ the same program to swap easily between e-mail accounts.

Each user in the setup can even enjoy multiple e-mail accounts within their own settings (see Fig-

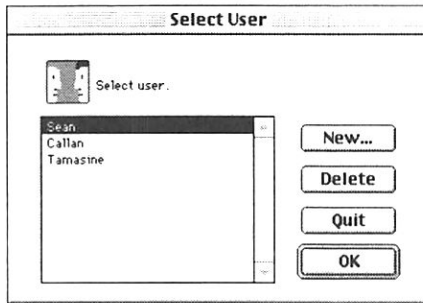


Figure 1. The user login dialog.

ure 2), and it's reasonably easy to establish this.

One of the beauties of this approach is that it allows each user to check their mail on all servers in one hit, and also allows multiple users to be catered for with a minimum of fuss. Users can also check individual accounts at will.

Switching between users is as simple as choosing the relevant user from the Swap submenu, and then entering that user's password.

The only proviso regarding multiple users is that, although a password is required to access another user's settings and mailboxes within Musashi, those mail-

boxes and files are all stored in the Preferences Folder with no protection whatsoever!

However, if such security isn't a concern, the elegance of Musashi's support for multiple users continues - mailboxes can be shared between individual users, and a Public mailbox allows messages to be shared between all users.

These features make things such as sharing mailing lists among users extremely easy and efficient as multiple copies are not needed.

A different look

Musashi looks different from Eudora, and employs an almost totally different user interface - one which many users would find more Mac-like. For example, mailboxes are shown on a pseudo-desktop (see Figure 3), and the icons used for each mailbox can be assigned on creation (and, if desired, changed at any time).

The arrangements of icons can be changed, as has been done to

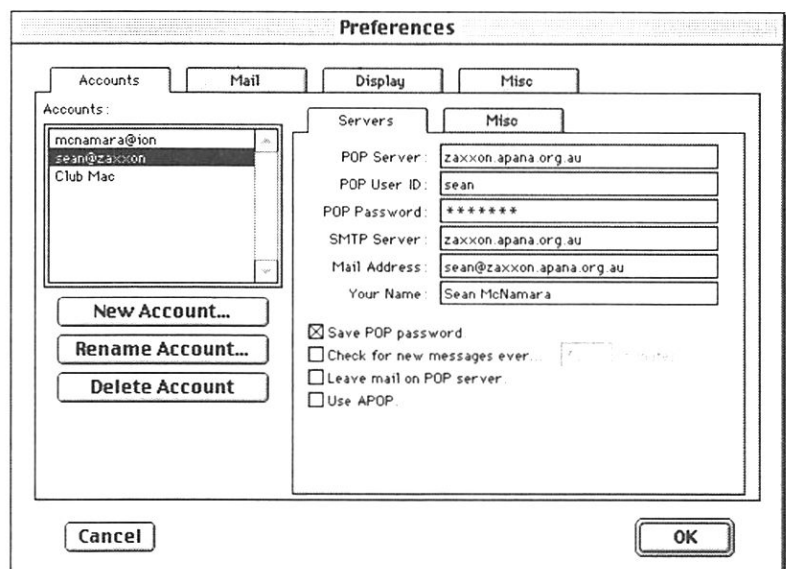


Figure 2. The user preferences dialog, showing the Servers panel.

enhance the desktop "feel" in Figure 3. Also different from *Eudora* are the mailbox windows, which include the message display area (see Figure 4).

Features galore!

Musashi's version number and feature set are indicative of a mature application – the range of features was a pleasant surprise – and *Musashi's* author, Mamoru Misono, has obviously spent a great deal of time deciding which features to include.

Musashi has mail filtering, an address book, multiple signatures, mail templates – all of the usual mail and mailbox maintenance features. It can search through messages and mailboxes, and can import Address Books from UNIX and *Eudora*. Another nice importing feature is the ability to import *Eudora* mailboxes, making the transition from *Eudora* to *Musashi* that much easier.

The only note on importing *Eudora* mailboxes is that they **have** to be in the .toc format. If you decide to change over, Qualcomm has a program that easily converts *Eudora*-style .toc to the resource-based mailbox formats *Musashi* uses. You can also import plain text files, pre-

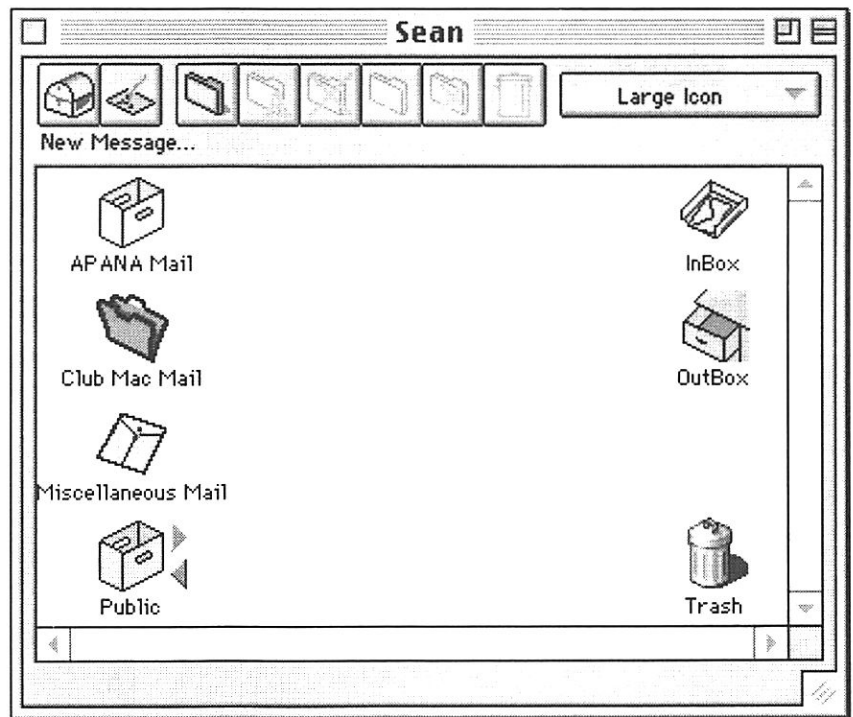


Figure 3. The mailbox "desktop", which can be re-arranged – each mailbox's icon can be assigned on creation and changed later.

sumably in UNIX mailbox format.

An overall feel

As a long-term *Eudora* user, I must admit I was pleasantly surprised with *Musashi*. Although I haven't yet looked at *Mailer*, out of the e-mail clients I **have** seen, *Musashi* is easily the one which challenges *Eudora* most comprehen-

sively. The look and feel of *Musashi* is slick and, although different from *Eudora*, it would be quite easy to get used to it.

My main reason for not migrating to *Musashi* immediately is my familiarity with *Eudora* and the current inability to export mailboxes to the *Eudora* format (should I choose to migrate back).

Although *Eudora Light* is free, and *Musashi* is \$US30 shareware, the price issue is of less concern for me than the feature set and, should I decide to change over, I'd be happy to spend the \$US30 on *Musashi*.

If you're a new Internet user looking for an e-mail client – or even if you're a seasoned 'Net user – I'd suggest you have a look at *Musashi*.

While you make your mind up between e-mail clients, you can set the "Leave mail on server" option on to allow you to download your mail to all of the clients until you decide which one to use. Then you won't have to convert/import mail from within one client to the other. [But make sure this is OK with your ISP – some ISPs will return e-mail to senders if it gets too large! – Eds.]

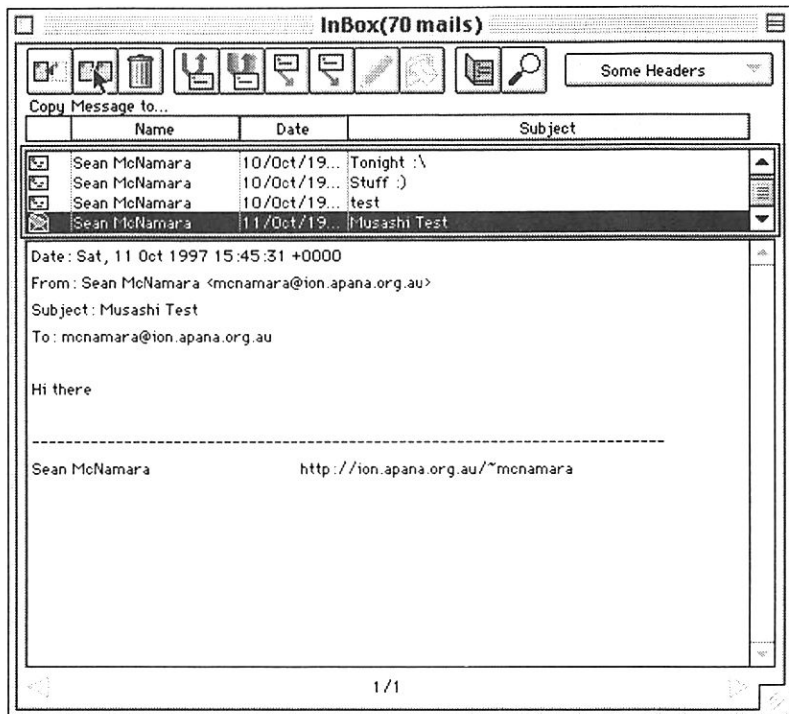


Figure 4. The mailbox/message window.



Web Weavers' Corner

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Over the past twelve months I have interviewed several Club members to learn how and why they built their Web sites. In this article, I chose to interview the MACinations co-editors, Rose Marshall and Tom Pardy, who manage MACinations' own Web site – a colour supplement to the printed magazine. If you haven't visited the Web site, then I urge you to do so...you won't be disappointed!


A. Interviews with Web Weavers: #5 MACinations

MACinations own Web site
 The full-colour abridged edition of this magazine, co-edited by
 Rose Marshall and Tom Pardy – Webmaster, Tom Pardy

Email:
macinations@clubmac.org.au

Web Page:
<http://www.clubmac.org.au/~macinations>

Mirror site:
<http://www.ozemail.com.au/~rosmar>



Who made the decision to publish parts of MACinations on the Web?

Rose was actually the first to come up with the idea but it seemed a natural follow-on after the series we ran last year on building one's own Web pages. Having come up with the idea, Rose then badgered Tom into learning *HTML* so he could do the work! She has promised, however, to get up to speed with *HTML* and take some of the load off Tom's shoulders by Christmas, 1997! [And learn *Java!* :P Rose]

What are the steps involved in preparing a Web version of the magazine?

First we discuss with each other which of the articles from a particular issue should be mounted on the site. Then the text of those articles is exported from the final *PageMaker* file (so that we get the exact wording with all typos corrected). Next Tom goes back to the author's original (usually coloured) screenshots and creates *GIF* graphics suitable for mounting on the Web page. Finally, the *HTML* code is inserted into the text and it is "poured" into our standard Web page format.

How do you edit the HTML? Do you use a product such as

Home Page or Page Mill? Or do you hand-craft the HTML?

Tom prefers to use *PageSpinner* because of the neat way it displays *HTML* code with a different appearance to body text. But he hand-crafts a good bit of the code. The proprietary brand *HTML* software never quite does it the way we want. Tom has used a basic table format for each page as this gives a great deal of control over the placement of elements within the page.

How are the graphics made? (My guess is Photoshop!)

Most of the graphics come from the author's original screen shots so they begin life as *PICT*s. We convert them to *TIFF*s for publication in *MACinations* but, as outlined above, they are converted to *GIF*s for use on the Web site.

Photoshop is the main application but Tom also uses *DeskPaint* (now obsolete but still a nifty little application) for cleaning and trimming. The graphics we make ourselves (buttons and logos and writers' photos) are also prepared with *Photoshop* and *DeskPaint*.

Has the Web site been registered with the various search engines? How about exchanging links with other Macintosh user groups?

Yes, we have registered the site with a few of the search engines but we have no idea how successful that has been. Tom has not yet

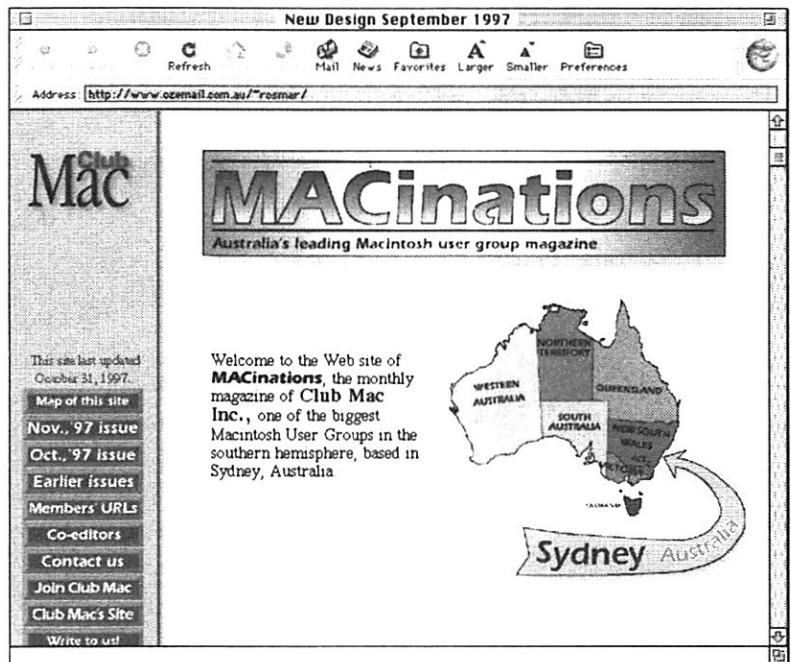


Figure 1. The clean home page of the MACinations site.

set up a hit counter and, when either he or Rose does, that will give us a lot more information about numbers of surfers and even where they come from.

- **What sort of feedback do you get from Club members about the site? What about visitors from other countries? What about Apple or other software/hardware vendors?**

Feedback has been minimal. People seem reluctant to tell us what they think of the site and, predictably, when we actually ask someone whether they have seen our site, they always speak of it in glowing terms. But it seems we have to ask first! Nobody from Apple has ever mentioned the site to us, but we learn through the grapevine that they do visit it. :)

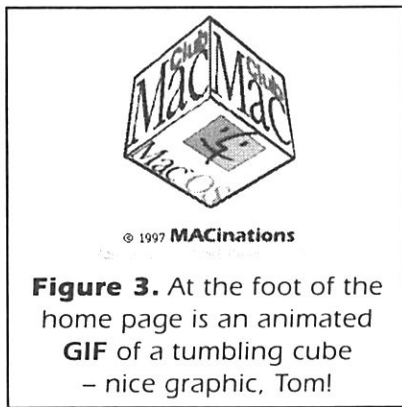


Figure 3. At the foot of the home page is an animated GIF of a tumbling cube – nice graphic, Tom!

- **The members' URLs are an interesting and useful part of the Web site. Have the members been enthusiastic about this? What do you think of some of the members sites – diversity, interest etc?**

We were keen to get as many members as possible listed on that page. But members seem reluctant to give us the details. We visit every site before we include a link to it, just to make sure the link will work. They show an enormous variety of styles and talent (as one should expect from a club as big as Club Mac, of course) and some of them look really professional!

- **How many members are hosting their Web sites on the Club Mac machine?**

We don't know the answer to

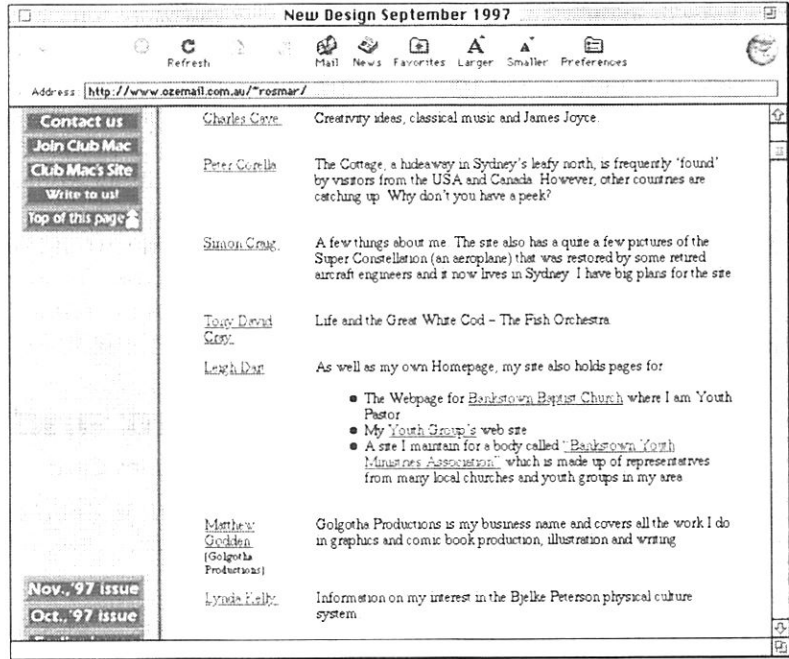


Figure 2. One page on the site lists Club members' URLs.

that. Some have listed their sites with us and, of course, the <<club mac.org.au> in their URL indicates that they are Premium members of the Club. But we are also aware of some Premium members who have chosen not to list their site with us. That is their choice, of course.

- **What are your thoughts about the future of the Web (and Internet) as well as your thoughts about Club Mac/MACinations and the Web? Do you think some members would**

prefer a Web-only version of the magazine? What about advertising on the Web?

The Web is here to stay, that is for sure. But you can also be sure that it will change its style and appearance as time goes by – that is part of its very nature.

We have been pleasantly surprised with how quickly Club Mac has absorbed the Internet into its structure – a tribute to the devotion and skill of our hardworking Sysop, John Agapitos.

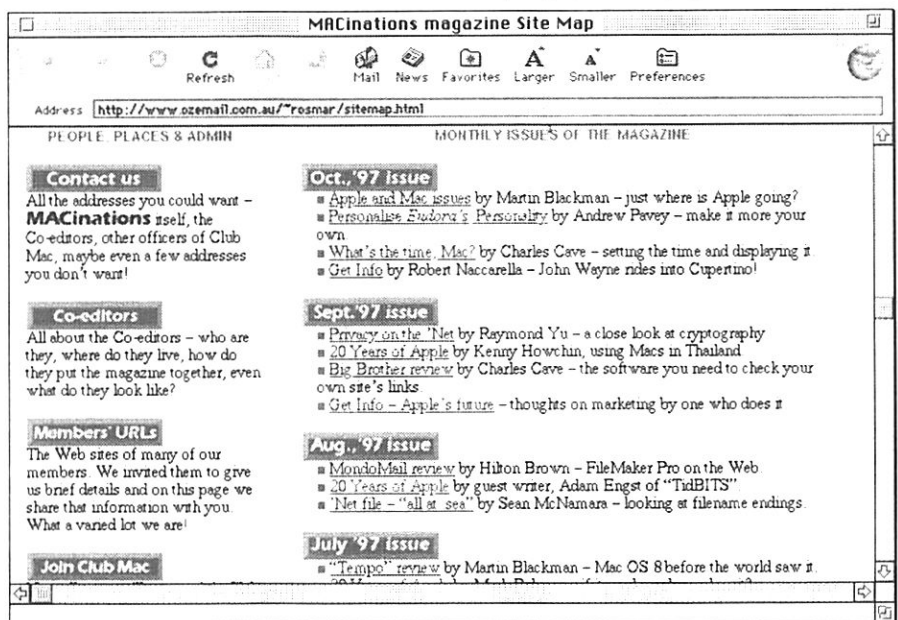


Figure 4. For their own cataloguing purposes, the co-editors have included a sitemap page in their site. But it proves very useful too for the surfers of the site.

We have thought long and hard about *MACinations'* place on the Web. Several members have asked for a completely online version but we have been reluctant to do that for a couple of reasons.

Firstly, it would not be fair for those members (still a sizeable number) who are not using the Net. Secondly, if it was made

available on the Web, why would people bother becoming members? They could get the magazine for nothing just by surfing the site. So, until now, we have never published more than about four articles out of any one issue.

Another possibility would be to use password access. That may become the case in the future but

we do not think the time is right just yet.

We would like to attract more advertising to the magazine (to cover production costs) and, of course, we would consider any proposal to include advertising on our Web site. Until now, none of our advertisers has asked for this. No doubt it will come in time. ☐

B. Web Site Management and Documentation

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In this month's bonus second Web Weavers' Corner article, Charles discusses the challenges of managing a Web site and documenting its content. Two programs are reviewed: a home-brewed MacPerl script, and a commercial package, Adobe SiteMill.

A Web site consists of a set of pages (text files marked up in *HTML*), images (*GIF* or *JPEG* files), and possibly other media – such as sound or movies – stored in one or more directories (folders).

Creating a small Web site is quite easy. The design can be sketched on a single sheet of paper, and the number of files probably counted on your fingers. More than likely, you will be able to remember the names of all your files (eg. *index.htm* and *links.htm*) so maintaining such a site is straightforward.

But what happens when you

have five hundred text files, fifty images and pointers to dozens of other Web sites? Unless you have a photographic memory, it is impossible to remember which pages have links to other pages, and to determine if a particular page is still used.

Throughout the time I have maintained my own Web sites, I have wrestled with this problem and used *MacPerl* to solve the problem.

Typical problems

The challenge of managing a Web site requires solving the following types of problems:

- Which files (*HTML*, *GIF* and *JPEG*) are no longer used? Un-

used files waste valuable space on the Web server.

- Which links to other Internet resources (Web site addresses or URLs) are no longer working? The resources to which those links point may no longer exist or may have moved. *Big Brother* is a program for checking links – see the September, 1997, *MACinations*, page 29. Checking these URLs requires connecting to each of the resources in turn and evaluating the response.
- If a URL has to be changed, then you must change every occurrence (a Find-and-Replace operation). Occasionally, I receive e-mail requests to change one URL to another. This task requires locating all occurrences and making the changes.
- You may wish to produce a **Table of Contents** or an **Index** of a Web site, based on document titles (The text between the `<TITLE>` `</TITLE>` tags). The results may be sorted in alphabetical sequence, or according to the directory structure of the Web site.
- You may wish to display the structure of a Web site in a useful format. This structure should have been created during the design phase in the form of a storyboard. A "bill of materials" listing is quite useful – starting at the home page, listing the

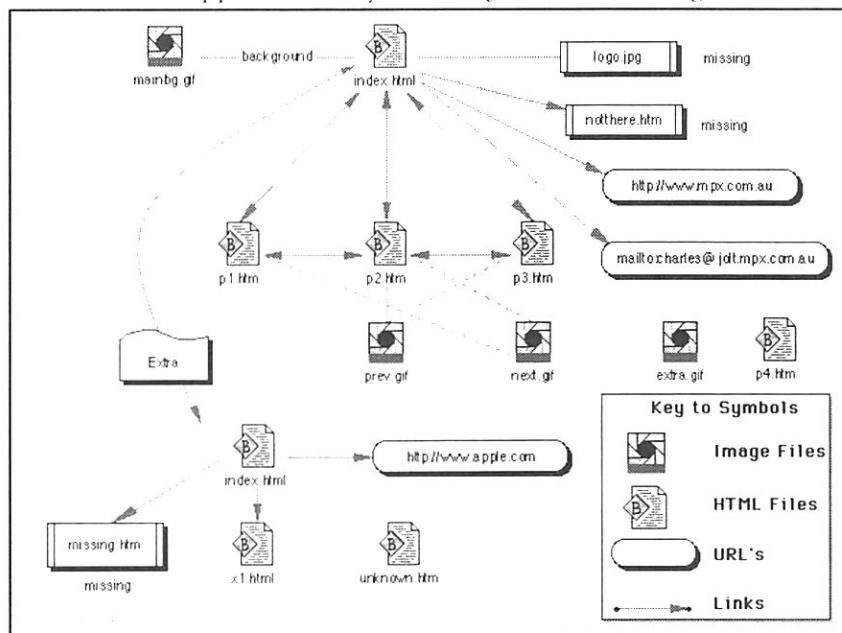


Figure 1. A diagrammatic representation of the dummy site to test the site management programs discussed in this article.

pages referenced and, in turn, listing the pages referenced from these pages, and so on.

- For any image file, you may wish to find the pages on which it is used.
- You may wish to spell-check the Web page content.

Quick review of content

The information relevant to Web site management is obtained from the following components of the Web pages:

- The title of the page (from the <TITLE> tag).
- Other pages on the site referenced from this page. This list is made by looking for all occurrences of the <HREF> tag and by identifying local files, e.g., <AHREF="links.htm">Links
- External Internet resources. This list is made by looking for all occurrences of the <HREF> tag and identifying URLs containing *http*, *mailto*, *ftp*, *telnet*, and *news* information, e.g., <AHREF="http://www.apple.com/">Apple Computer.
- Images used for backgrounds, in-line images and image maps. These files are found by examining all the and <BACKGROUND> tags.
- A list of HTML files that point to this page can be derived during the scanning of all Web pages.

MacPerl to the rescue!

I solved most of these problems by writing a *MacPerl* program to examine each file in a directory and its sub-directories and to build up tables of the above information. I called the program *Web Surveyor*, and it reports its findings, both as a set of Web pages, and as a tab-delimited text file that I can open with *Excel*.

To illustrate this program, a small Web site has been created with some deliberate problems. The site map is shown in Figure 1 and has these deliberate problems:

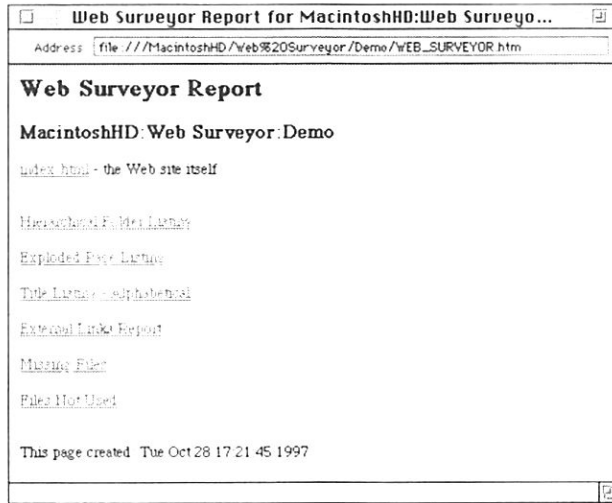


Figure 2. The first HTML page report from *Web Surveyor*. It has links to the other report pages.

- The image *bg2.gif* is not used;
- The *p4.htm* and *unknown.htm* HTML files are not the target of any links;
- The main *index.html* page has a link to a non-existent page – *notthere.htm* – and the *index.html* page in the “Extra” folder has links to another non-existent page, *missing.htm*.

The *Web Surveyor* program starts at a specified directory and then analyses the files in that directory and its sub-directories.

The results are written to a set of HTML files for ease of browsing and for direct examination of

Product:	<i>Web Surveyor 1.0</i>
Category:	Site management
Author:	Charles Cave
Avail from:	Club Mac BBS
Cost:	free

the HTML files and images.

A tab-delimited file containing all the information about the Web site is created and can be viewed with *Excel* (see Figure 3).

The first column shows where the files are used. The number refers to column D with the corresponding file name in column C (if the filename was referenced but not found on disk, then the entry will be UNDEF).

If the entry in Column A is blank, then there is no link to that file. Column B shows the pages and images referenced. Non-existent files show the filename, otherwise the file number is used. I used the numbering scheme to simplify the display.

The *Web Surveyor* program is still being refined, and I have uploaded the code – with these examples – to the Club Mac BBS.

Adobe SiteMill

What about commercial programs? *SiteMill* is a Web site management program from Adobe, which complements the *PageMill* authoring software (to be reviewed next year in *Web Weavers' Corner*). The remainder of this article is a brief tour of managing the sample site described above.

SiteMill analyses the contents of a chosen folder, displaying the

WMMAP.HLS						
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Where Used	Components	File Name	Seq	Lev	Page Title
2			Extra	2		
3	5 7	Extra missing.htm 5 7	Extra index.html	3	2	The Extra Section
4	3		Extra missing.htm	UNDEF		missing.htm
5			Extra unknown.htm	4	2	Unreferenced page - used for an example
6	3	3	Extra x1.htm	5	2	X Files
7			FOLDER.htm	6	1	
8			bg2.gif	1	1	
9	3 10 11 12 13	10 notthere.htm 3	index.html	7	1	Main Page
10	7 7		logo.jpg	UNDEF		
11	7 7		mainbg.gif	8	1	
12	11 11		next.gif	9	1	
13	7		notthere.htm	UNDEF		notthere.htm
14	7 11	7 11	p1.htm	10	1	Question 1
15	10 12	7 10 12	p2.htm	11	1	Question 2
16	11 13	7 11	p3.htm	12	1	Question 3
17		7 12	p4.htm	13	1	Question 3
18	13 11 12 13		prev.gif	14	1	
19						
20	3		http://www.apple.com			Apple Australia
21	7		http://www.mpx.com.au/			Microplex
22	7		mailto:charles@jolt.mpx.com.au			Charles Cave
23						
24						

Figure 3. *Web Surveyor* also produces a tab-delimited text file report that can be read using *Excel* – see text for explanation.

Product: SiteMill 2.0
Category: Site management
Publisher: Adobe Products
Available from: MacWarehouse etc.
Cost: \$169 RRP (bundled with PageMill and Photoshop Lite)

results in several windows:

1. The Web site contents arranged in a *Finder*-like display. Each filename has two pop-up menus showing (a) files that reference this page, and (b) the components of that page.

Selecting an *HTML* file or image from the pop-up display will open the file with the editing program of your choice (set in the Preferences). Unreferenced files will be tagged

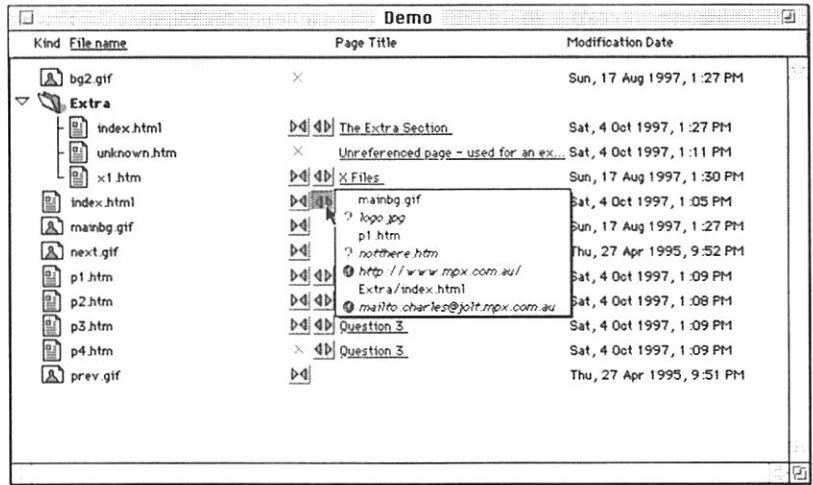


Figure 4. Adobe SiteMill's Folder View window.

with a red cross. Menu options are available to delete files from this window, as well as for creating folders.

2. An error display of missing files. A pop-up menu shows where the file is used.
3. External URLs. A menu option is available to check the external links or individual files. After checking, the valid links will have a green tick against their names.

SiteMill has an in-built *ftp* function for uploading the Web site to your server.

It is possible to upload the complete site, or only those files that have changed by synchronising the server to your computer. This is a very useful feature as it is easy to overlook a file when manually uploading with a separate *ftp* program. Files no longer in use will be removed from the server if the synchronise option is taken.

SiteMill is a useful program for those people managing a rapidly-changing Web site. The *MacPerl* option satisfies my needs, but of course I am biased because I wrote the program!



Figure 5. A glimpse of the Menu options in SiteMill.

The Great Club Mac SWAP MEET!

This will form part of the legendary December meeting (on 10th December at the Crows Nest Centre – see page 4 for a location map). As well as being the annual



Pizza Feast, it is shaping up as a wonderful buy, swap or sell occasion.

Bring along your pre-loved or unwanted hardware and software. Strike a deal or grab a bargain!

You wouldn't want to miss it – you will kick yourself if you do!

MACcess Report



compiled by Colin Lee

Doesn't time fly? It's the end of yet another year and it's certainly been an eventful one for Apple. There was the buying of NeXT, the return of Steve Jobs, the dumping of Copland for Rhapsody, the release of Mac OS 8, the release of the first developers' version of Rhapsody, more losses, a small cash injection from Microsoft (in exchange for some sort of licensing deal), Gil Amelio being removed and more of the inevitable "Will Apple survive?" speculation. At the time of writing, the rumours of a merge with Oracle (headed by Jobs' mate Larry Ellison) have surfaced. Next year will be a crucial one for Apple. If it can claw back some market share and impress the developer community and users enough with Rhapsody, it will win. Meanwhile, have a happy Maccing Christmas and New Year – and drive safely! Cheers, Col.

To: All
From: Corinne Watson
Subject: **Binhex**

I have lost my copy of Binhex. I did a Find file on the BBS which found other binhex applications, but not the one I am searching for. Can anyone help or can someone post a copy? Thanks in advance.

To: Corinne Watson
From: Darryl Chrisp
Subject: **Binhex**

I am not sure if the attached file will help or if it is the exact one you are after, but, it works despite being old. If you use Stuffit, there is also an AppleScript in the Archives area of the BBS called stuffit-binhexer-10-as.

To: All
From: David Burnfield
Subject: **Connecting two Macs**

Would anyone know where I could find information on how to connect two Macs through a serial cable and LocalTalk?

To: David Burnfield
From: Andrew Beavis
Subject: **Connecting two Macs**

Any Mac book has the information, eg., Macworld Bible etc.

To: David Burnfield
From: Robert Naccarella
Subject: **Connecting two Macs**

David, a couple of issues ago, MACinations ran a series of networking articles which I am sure you will find useful.

To: David Burnfield
From: Kenny Howchin
Subject: **Connecting two Macs**

Just plug a serial cable into the printer ports of the two Macs, use the Sharing Setup Control Panel on one of them to turn on File Sharing, then use the Chooser on the other to connect them. Nothing could be easier.

To: All
From: Andrew Shipton
Subject: **Web page programs**

Has anybody had experience with Web page design programs that are not too expensive but are easy to use with advanced features? Something like Claris Home Page, Adobe PageMill etc. What do you recommend?

To: Andrew Shipton
From: Tom Pardy
Subject: **Web page programs**

I use PageSpinner, which is shareware and I think you can find it on Club Mac BBS. Earlier this year, Charles Cave gave it a good review in his survey of HTML editors in MACinations.

I like it because of the way it changes the appearance of the HTML tags and it is easy to see the real text that will appear on screen in the browser. I don't use all the features that are in it as I like to hand-craft my own HTML rather than go with the ready-made features. But the features are well thought out and (relatively) easy to follow. The current version is 2.0.1 and, if you can't find it on Club Mac, you can search for it yourself at

<http://www.algonet.se/~optima/pagespinner.html>

No doubt others will have their own favourite programs but this one works for me.

To: Tom Pardy
From: Colin Lee
Subject: **Web page programs**

For WYSIWYG HTML editors, Claris Home Page is good, Adobe PageMill is good but less intuitive and Symantec's Visual Page is easy and very slick. (I've found it quicker than the other two.)

To: All
From: Philip Connor
Subject: **Photoshop 3**

Could anyone comment on the following? When I use Photoshop to do a simple copy and paste, I get a message saying "too big to export to Clipboard" even when the item is less than 1MB. I'd really appreciate your help.

To: Philip Connor
From: Robert Naccarella
Subject: **Photoshop 3**

Phil, have you tried allocating more memory to Photoshop – use Command-I on the icon in the Finder to do this. Also, how much RAM do you have free?

To: Philip Connor
From: Michael Dulieu
Subject: **Photoshop 3**

I would suggest you turn off "Export Clipboard" in the General Preferences unless the image you copy is going to be pasted into a document created by another application.

To: Robert Naccarella
From: Philip Connor
Subject: **Photoshop 3**

Thank you for your assistance. I have tried increasing memory in Photoshop. Also, I would like to comment that, when copying to Clipboard, memory is ample as the Clipboard expands – so I believe – to accommodate the size of item being copied.

To: All
From: Luisa & John Gumieniuk
Subject: **Printer memory problem**

I have just installed two 16MB SIMMS in my Hewlett Packard 5MP. When I use HP Utility, it now registers as

MACcess Report

having 35MB but only 7MB of available memory. Does anyone know what the hell is going on? What happened to the balance of the memory? Is the printer that old that it's suffering from Alzheimers?

To: Luisa & John Gumieniuk
 From: Bruce McKay
 Subject: **Printer memory problem**

For each 1MB you add, 100K is reserved by the printer to hold jobs in progress. The "available memory" refers to this. The manual describes how to change the I/O buffering settings in Windows but I don't know if it is possible to do it with a Mac.

To: All
 From: Cees Witsen
 Subject: **RAM Disk Icon**

Could someone tell me how to get this thing off my Desktop? I have tried to drag it into the Trash but it keeps appearing back on the Desktop. Thank you in advance.

To: Cees Witsen
 From: Robert Naccarella
 Subject: **RAM Disk Icon**
 Cees, in the Memory Control Panel, you can switch off RAM Disk.

To: All
 From: Cecil Edwards
 Subject: **Downloading from Internet**

Can anyone tell me if there are any rules and regulations regarding the purchase and downloading of software from overseas? I refer mainly to sales tax, import duty and the like. Thanks in anticipation.

To: Cecil Edwards
 From: Carl Vine
 Subject: **Downloading from Internet**


I've never found a case of export tax being payable when ordering from overseas and US distributors should be able

to remove sales tax applicable to sales within the US. Although Sales Tax Import Duty used to be charged on software coming into Australia, it seems that they don't bother anymore. I've had quite a few software imports recently that weren't taxed on arrival into Australia and arrived in a matter of days after ordering. (Import tax calculation used to delay mail delivery by up to a month).

There are no regulations - yet - in Australia dealing with direct software downloads from the 'Net. There will soon be license fees payable by ISP and BBS operators and, although this will ultimately mean higher costs for us to go on-line, it shouldn't make any difference to on-line activity. The biggest worry with overseas on-line purchase is whether or not the software manufacturer "permits" overseas distribution on various titles and how much the postage will be.

To: Carl Vine
 From: Kenny Howchin
 Subject: **Downloading from Internet**

There is no sales tax or other tax payable on software, imported or otherwise.

Of course, this creates grey areas where hardware and software is bundled, eg., cards, modems etc. A couple of years ago I got some Hurdler cards from the States. From memory, I think I was reasonably successful in convincing the nice person at the Post Office that, where I had to pay some sales tax on the hardware component, the major portion of the total cost was, of course, for the software part of the package. :) 

Chatting in cyberspace

These messages are only a sample of the messages that appear in the various discussion threads of the Club Mac BBS. They are collected each month by Colin Lee as a service to those members who are not yet able to access the BBS. You can upgrade your membership to include the BBS by using the form below.

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 Name/s

Company/Organisation (if applicable)

Postal Address

..... Postcode

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

(Other?) (.....) (mobile etc.)

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 \$

New Member (Not a current member)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Renewal (Membership soon to expire)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Basic Membership \$35 (includes magazine subscription)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basic + BBS \$65 (90 minutes per day BBS access, incl. own Internet address)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Premium Mship \$95 (120 minutes per day BBS access, plus own WWW page - up to 2MB)	<input type="checkbox"/>



How did you hear about Club Mac?

Dunk's Doodles



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This column didn't appear last month as I was over in the West – in the land of the laid back – in Perth. I completely forgot about you lot waiting with bated breath to see what the ol' feller had to report.

Needless to say, I had a great time, especially down in the Margaret River area where I sampled many of their fine wines – those of Cape Mentelle Winery being very much a favourite. What a pity they aren't on the 'Net yet.

As the year draws to a close, I suppose I ought to look back on all the things that have happened during 1997 – but I won't. I'll leave that for others. Although one thing that will – possibly – have an impact on us all in the computer world is the Microsoft buy-in to Apple, and Microsoft's stated continued commitment to the platform. Microsoft has also announced that it will fast track the next version of *Office* to the *Mac OS* prior to the *Windows* version.

Certainly there has been a glimmer of change here in Australia. I actually caught a reference to the *Mac OS* and things Mac in *Communique* a month or so ago. Is it a flash in the pan, an aberration, or a foretaste of things to come?

Losses

I am not going to dwell on all the upheaval at Apple but I am going to snigger somewhat over the fact that the man we all "love to hate" lost several billion dollars during the stock market downturn at the end of October. Couldn't have happened to a better choice, could it?

Of far more importance to Club Mac is the slowly eroding membership over the last two years. We are now down to just over 1,000 members (including those in the period of grace after ceasing to be financial).

In some ways this *may* just be a reflection of the lower market penetration for Apple products but we are eager to do something to

attract new members. What do **you** think we can all do to improve the situation? If you have some ideas please drop the Committee an e-mail at <committee@clubmac.org.au> or phone/fax the Help Desk on (02) 9960 5717.

Committee

The new Committee is as forecast in my last *Doodles*, with the addition of John Agapitos as **Purchasing Officer** and Joe Mithiran as **PD Secretary**.

All the appointed positions were filled at the October AGM and the new names are published on page 4 of this issue. You will note that we have not filled or listed the "traditional" position of PD Librarian as we now consider that redundant. Joe Mithiran will act as both **PD Secretary** and **BBS Librarian**.

President Rob Naccarella has taken over from me the duty of **Meeting Convener** so there will be a different emphasis in the topics at Club Meetings in the coming year.

[Just as we were going to press, Jill Riddiford advised the Committee that, because of work commitments, she is unable to continue in her non-elected role as Administrator. Temporarily, that role will be filled by Treasurer, Darryl Chrisp. Jill continues in her new role as Vice President and as Marketing Officer. On behalf of all members, we thank Jill for her hard work and also welcome Darryl to his new additional role. Eds]

Out of NSW

Over the months and indeed, years, I have heard many complaints about the lack of Apple outlets for both hardware and software. The problem is expanding.

Spare a thought for those unlucky people who don't live in the major cities of NSW and Victoria. It's bad enough in NSW out of the Newcastle-Sydney-Wollongong nexus but, in other States, the situ-

ation is even worse.

When I was in Western Australia for my youngest son's wedding, I tried to find an Apple outlet and found only **one** in the whole State – and it didn't seem to have any software. Software must be mail-ordered from "Over East" and the few Apple users that I spoke to didn't like it at all.

Flaming

During September there was another incident of flaming on the BBS where inappropriate language was used. BBS privileges have been withdrawn for that member *sine die*.

I cannot impress upon members too much that, although we are pretty lenient about most things on the BBS, this is not a 100% "adult" Club. Consequently, I urge members to keep language moderate when accessing public areas.

The Club has no intention of monitoring private e-mail between members, although it will not hesitate to step in if any member complains of receiving mail from another member which causes distress, either through content or language.

December meeting

As I write this article we have just found a new venue for the Christmas Meeting. Thanks to the efforts of new Committee Member, Hilton Brown, the meeting will be held at the **Crows Nest Centre**, Crows Nest. See page 4 of this issue for a map and further information.

What will be happening? The December Meeting is the annual pizza feast. We hope to have a visitor from Apple and, of course, we have our first Swap Meet – see page 52 for details.

Don't forget to bring your old Apple Macintosh wares. You never know, there may well be someone around who will give them a good home. And don't forget to take your items home with you if you aren't able to find another home for them!



Appreciation to contributors

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We wonder whether you realise just how many people contribute to the production of MACinations, month by month? On this page we have listed those who have written articles during 1997 but the magazine is also indebted to **Klaus** and **Barry Muller** of **Everysize Typeart Services** for typesetting and to **John Bonato** of **The Print Connection** for the actual printing of the magazine. **Beehive Industries** looks after the packaging and mailing each month. During 1997, Club Administrator, **Jill Riddiford**, has made sure the address labels are up to date and Club Treasurer, **Darryl Chrisp**, has made sure the bills have been paid! But, above all...

Just look at this list of 46 writers!

This is an alphabetical list of our 1997 Contributors as at the close of copy for this issue:

- **Marshall Ahern** wrote the *Get Info* column for August.
- **David Barnes** wrote three articles about *KeyQuencer*, *FinderPop* and emulation, all in this issue.
- **Martin Blackman** wrote articles on new *Operating Systems* and Mac models for February, April, July, October and November and contributed to *Hot Tips* in this issue.
- **John Brogan** contributed to *20 Years of Apple* in June.
- **Hilton Brown** wrote about the *Club Mac Survey* in May, about *FileMaker Pro* in June, July and August, for *FileMaker Pro Corner* in September, October, November and this issue and for *Hot Tips* in this issue.
- **Charles Cave** wrote the *Web Weavers' Corner* each month, two reviews in June, an article about time in October and a book review in November.
- **Darryl Chrisp** wrote about PD ware and for the *Get Info* column in July and in this issue.
- **Jonathan Cooper** wrote about *HyperCard* in June, July and September.
- **Piers Dunkley** wrote *Dunk's Doodles* each month, about the *Club Mac Survey* in May and contributed to *Hot Tips* in this issue.
- **Adam C. Engst** (*TidBITS*) contributed *ShortTakes* in May, *20 Years of Apple* in August, about *TidBITS* and a tribute to Cary Lu in November.
- **Matthew Godden** contributed an opinion piece in November.
- **John A. Green** (VMUG) wrote for *FileMaker Pro Corner* in August and in October.
- **Daniel Hanna** contributed to *20 Years of Apple* in February, wrote about *Warcraft* in February and about business networks in March.
- **Alex Hartman** wrote on his meeting with Gil Amelio in February and for the *Get Info* column in June.
- **Geoffrey Heard** (VMUG) wrote the May *FileMaker Pro Corner*.
- **Kenny Howchin** contributed to *20 Years of Apple* in September.
- **Noel Jackling** (VMUG) wrote the March *FileMaker Pro Corner*, a review in April and news items in May.
- **Lynda Kelly** wrote about networking in October.
- **Paul Kneipp** wrote about Web browsers in September and a review of *Hotline* in this issue.
- **Kim Kohen** contributed to *20 Years of Apple* and *Hot Tips* and wrote a review of *First Accounts*, all in this issue.
- **Colin Lee** collected and compiled the *MACcess Report* each month – perhaps the best-read section of all!
- **Simon Marsden** wrote about the Spider Island Web site in February.
- **Rosalie Marshall** wrote about the BBS and about the magazine in May, a review in June, about networking in July and August, about Steve Vamos in September and contributed to *20 Years of Apple* in this issue.
- **John Marshman** contributed photographic efforts in June and in this issue.
- **Sean McNamara** contributed *Netfile* articles most months, contributed to *20 Years of Apple* in March, to *Hot Tips* in this issue and wrote about Mac evangelism, also in this issue.
- **Robin McPherson** (VMUG) gave favourite *FileMaker Pro* bookmarks in July.
- **Joe Mithiran** wrote for the *Get Info* column in May and November and contributed to *20 Years of Apple* in this issue.
- **William Moppett** contributed opinion pieces in March, April, May and November; and wrote about colour printers in May.
- **Jo Mulholland** wrote an educational article for April and a travel piece for this issue.
- **Robert Naccarella** looked after the PD catalog for February, wrote about *System 7.6* in March, wrote the *Get Info* columns for April and October, contributed to *Hot Tips* in this issue and took over the President's column, also in this issue.
- **Matt Neuberg** (*TidBITS*) wrote a review in November.
- **John Norstad** wrote about *Rhapsody* in August and September.
- **Stuart Oliver** wrote about relational databases in April.
- **Tom Pardy** contributed to *Hot Tips* in this issue, plus at least one article we didn't publish! :)
- **Andrew Pavey** wrote the President's column every month until October, a book review in March, about *System 7.6* and *NeXT* in April, keyboard hints in May, *Netscape Navigator* in August, networking in September, *Eudora Pro* in October and *Hot Tips* in this issue.
- **Marcelo Pena** wrote about the Help Desk in February.
- **Bob Pulsford** contributed to *20 Years of Apple* in November.
- **Jill Riddiford** wrote the *Get Info* articles for March and September.
- **Mark Robson** contributed to *20 Years of Apple* in July.
- **Brooke Smith** wrote about the extensible *MAC OS* in this issue.
- **Shane Stanley** (VMUG) wrote the *FileMaker Pro Corner* for April.
- **Jenny Stuart** (VMUG) contributed to *20 Years of Apple* for April.
- **Nick Tate** wrote the *FileMaker Pro Corner* article for February.
- **Carl Vine** wrote on music in February, March and April, reviews in August and October, contributed to *20 Years of Apple* in October and to *Hot Tips* in this issue.
- **Rob Vines** contributed to *20 Years of Apple* in May.
- **Raymond Yu** wrote about copyright in May, about Web etiquette in June, about privacy in September, a review in October and about style sheets in November.

Now, have we left anyone out? ☐