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And the answer is...

Fun with coconuts.

Upcoming Programs

November Video Conferencing

In conjunction with the Crabtree Apple Store, we will learn how to set up a video iChat using a .Mac or an AOL account, and how to tie in multiple users.

December Christmas Party

Alec Whittaker will demo Circus Pony Software's Notebook – there will be a copy for a door prize.

Allen Emory will demo iRemember – and we also have a door prize copy of that!

There will also be a raffle for a significant piece of hardware and, as always, a great party!

PREZ SEZ



*Allen Emory,
TMUG President*

Technology Saturday

Every once and again, I set aside some time to get out all the Mac stuff I own and play with it. Not “do” something, just sit and play, have fun with the Mac. Usually this is a Saturday and I call it Technology Saturday. Since I just got through one of these days, I thought I would share it with you. No techie stuff here, just some great ways to have fun with your Mac.

1. iPod+iTunes

When was the last time you played with iTunes? I like to pick a song from my library open the mini store, and take a listen to a suggested song. From there I follow a trail of songs until I hear a song from long ago or something new I find interesting. Technology Saturday is also a great time to change up the playlists on the iPod or seek out a new podcast.

2. Game Time

When was the last time you played a game on your Mac. Give Pac the Man X a try. It's a freebie available at <http://www.mcsebi.com/pacx.php>. What are your favorite Mac games?

3. iSync my phone

If you are cell phone centered, this one isn't much of a toy as tool. But, fortunately, I am not cell phone centered, so, I don't sync the cell phone very often. Technology Saturday is a great time to update the address book and the cell phone. I have the added fun of getting to use bluetooth for this, the only application I have for bluetooth.

4. Desktop Fun

Okay, I am one of those who loves to change the desktop pictures and such. Photo Desk Top is a fun program for the like minded. Available at <http://www.alwintroost.nl/content/photodesktop/home.xml>.



Photo desktop allows you to place a number of pictures on your desktop. It gets its photos from iPhoto. Cool integration, and free, too! While we are on desktops, have you given DeskShade a try? It isn't free but the trial download is fun to play with. Hey, on Technology Saturday, nothing has to be permanent.

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WANT TO KNOW?

From the Treasurer

Money in bank as of xxx, 2006: \$4,379. Includes all rent and colocation fees paid through October 2006.

Member count is currently 86.

New and renewing members:

New:

Tim Clark
Robert Buchanan

Renewals:

Carl Ebhardt
Cael Blackman
Samuel Webb
John Kent

E komo mai!



WANT TO SHARE?

Member Favorites are short presentations by members on their favorite freeware or shareware application, game, script, tool, trick or tip. Members are invited to step forward to present; there is plenty of room on the schedule.

If you wish to be included on the schedule please contact Allen Emory at aemory@earthlink.net.

WANT TO JOIN?

Just fill out the form below and mail it in (along with your check). Or better yet, bring this form with you to a meeting! TMUG meets the second Monday of each month in the Mutual Life building in downtown Durham.

TRIANGLE MACINTOSH USERS GROUP

Membership Application

Renewal

Name: _____

Business (if applicable): _____

Street: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

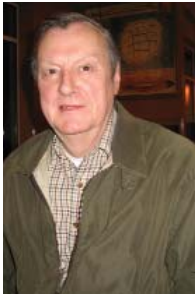
Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Membership dues are \$35/year. Make check payable to **TMUG** and mail to:
TMUG, P.O. Box 14724, Durham NC 27709

A Hard Drive Crash with a Happy Ending

by Alec Whittaker



I had always thought of hard drive crashes as instantaneous occurrences – there, then not there! But on Thursday morning, as I tried to open CNN International on my laptop, the beach ball spun and spun and spun until at last the page appeared.

Opening my ‘Work In Progress’ folder took three minutes. I connected my ‘Backup’

FireWire hard drive and restarted from that and then dragged my WIP folder to it. When I tried to start from my primary hard drive it took so long that I abandoned the attempt.

Well, this is what backup is for. I had scheduled SuperDuper to make a bootable backup at 1:01 a.m. every Sunday and, after a moment of silent prayer instructed ‘Backup’ to copy itself to my laptop. One hour later it had transferred about 3% of my files. I called TenPlus and made an appointment to be there when they opened on Friday morning. I shut down, restarted from ‘Backup’ and worked for the rest of the day.

Friday morning I arrived as TenPlus opened for business. The mechanical failure of my laptop hard drive was confirmed and a new unit installed by 10:30 a.m. Back at my desk I booted from ‘Backup’ and, in about ninety minutes copied it to my laptop.

From a total hard drive crash, ignoring the time it took to convince myself of the problem, I lost less than four hours of working time and absolutely no data. One small thing to remember if you ever have this experience – although I copied from ‘Backup’ to my laptop, SuperDuper did not recognize my new laptop hard drive even though it had the same name and it failed to back up automatically on the following Sunday. It was necessary to redo my backup schedule.

Of course there was expense involved but the feeling of smugness the experience left me with was almost worth it!

Alec Whittaker is a member of the Triangle Macintosh User Group (TMUG) and our VP in charge of Programs.

IS THE WHOLE WORLD GOING NUTS?

coconutWiFi Reveals Nearby Networks, Status

by Glenn Fleishman, glenn@tidbits.com

Wi-Fi networks are everywhere, but finding them often requires tedious use of the erratic AirPort menu in the menu bar or a separately running application, like iStumbler, that shows more information than most people require. (iStumbler is great for learning more about and troubleshooting the local AirPort-space, however, and includes support for scanning for Bluetooth devices and revealing Bonjour services on the local network.)

<http://www.istumbler.net/>

Christoph Sinai's coconutWiFi offers a simple menu bar indicator: a single dot. The dot is red when there are no networks in the vicinity, yellow when nearby networks are encrypted with WEP (Wired Equivalent Privacy) or WPA (Wi-Fi Protected Access) protection, and green if at least one unprotected network is in range. (Scanning isn't sufficient to find other protection methods, such as WPA Enterprise, which

requires a login, or MAC (Media Access Control) lockouts, with which specific Wi-Fi adapters are allowed access by their unique hardware number.)

<http://coconutflavour.com/coconutwifi/>

Click the dot, and a list of networks drops down, including the method of encryption for protected networks. An optional number next to the indicator displays the number of networks found. The software is a universal binary and a 219K download; donations are accepted.

Editor's note: Be sure to click on Sinai's "Why coconut?" link on his home page!



AT WORK FOR YOU

The new TMUG web site, in the form of a collaborative Wiki, will be rolled out in time for the October meeting. Currently it can be found at <http://tangent.tmug.org/wiki>, but it will take over the tmug.org banner after just a few more changes. The executive committee is excited about the possibilities of a Wiki approach. Our first working meeting, to bring members up to speed on editing the pages, was a great success.



Out Web Content Committee (WCC) consists of:

- Cort Boylan
- Chips Chapman
- Joe Cohn
- Lisa Colwell
- Melanie Crain
- Carl Ebhardt
- Duane Reaugh
- Allen Emory
- Stefan Jeglinski
- Alec Whittaker

Go, Team!

Technology Saturday *continued from page 1*

DeskShade is available at <http://macrabbit.com/deskshade/>.

DeskShade has some pretty fun features, including the ability to place a QT movie on your desktop. I gave this a try ad while I wouldn't want that all the time, I could see a use for it.

5. GarageBand Fun

Ok, a while back TMUG sponsored a GarageBand contest. What I learned is that creating a 3 to 4 minute song in GB can eat some time. But give this a try. Use GarageBand to create a ringtone for your cell phone. Ringtones need to be about 30 or less seconds long, now that's a more manageable GB project. How fun is that—your ringtone is an original creation by you!

GB will export to iTunes and that will result in an .aiff file even if iTunes is set to import using another encoder. You'll need to get a conversion utility, or do what I did, burn it onto a CD using the MP3 encoder (the burning tab on the Advanced menu of iTunes prefs). Hey, it is a waste of a CD, but it was quick and simple. Did I mention that I get to use the bluetooth with my phone again.

You know, I heard that some non-Mac users call us smug. Hey, I thought we were just having fun! Technology Saturdays are fun, when are you going to have one?

Tracking Your Friends via iChat

by Adam C. Engst, ace@tidbits.com

Let's say you desperately need to chat with a friend in another time zone as soon as he's awake or at work. Leaving voice mail or e-mail is fine, but what if your friend doesn't think to check voicemail or read e-mail first thing? Assuming he uses iChat sufficiently to log in automatically, you may be able to rely on a little-known feature of iChat: single-use, per-person alerts.

Select your friend's name in your Buddy List, choose Buddies > Get Info (Command-I), and in the Info window, choose Actions from the Show pop-up menu at the top. Then choose Buddy Becomes Available from the Event pop-up menu, and choose an alert – I prefer spoken text. Make sure to select

“Perform actions only next time event occurs” if you don't want to be alerted every time your friend becomes available. Click OK, and wait. As soon as he appears online, iChat alerts you, and you have a chance to touch base right away.

I looked for a similar feature in Skype, but as far as I could tell, it has only the capability to alert you in general when any one of your contacts becomes available, rather than when a particular person becomes available (iChat can do that too). Still, unless you have a vast number of contacts, even that general capability could be worth using on a short-term basis.

i SEE YOU!

Hidden iPhoto Import Capability

by Adam C. Engst, ace@tidbits.com

This iPhoto trick is truly weird, but it works. It turns out, according to a tip published on MacOSXHints.com, that iPhoto 6 can directly see photos on at least some digital cameras and memory cards. All you have to do is connect your camera to your Mac, or put a memory card in a reader. In iPhoto's Import screen, don't click the Import button, but instead press Return twice. After a moment, iPhoto switches into edit mode, displaying the photos on the camera or card instead of those in the iPhoto Library. Press Escape at that point and you switch to organize mode, with blank thumbnails displayed; double-clicking a thumbnail loads it in edit mode again.

<http://www.macosxhints.com/article.php?story=20060811032250907>

You can't edit the photos, but you can, if you're using the Edit Photos in Main Screen option in iPhoto, drag the blank thumbnails to your Library to import the actual photos. Unfortunately, on at least some cameras and cards, the photo dates are lost (mine came in as 31-Dec-00) so it's not a good replacement for Apple's own Image Capture utility for selective import, something that iPhoto has long lacked, embarrassingly enough.

It makes perfect sense that the thumbnails don't appear, since iPhoto normally creates separate thumbnail files when it

imports photos, and that step hasn't happened yet. There's no reason it couldn't use a technique like the one in Image Capture, which can display thumbnails before import, so perhaps we're seeing code aimed at creating a selective import feature that didn't make the cut for iPhoto 6.

For what it's worth, Apple, here's how a selective import feature should work. When the user connects a camera or inserts a memory card, iPhoto should launch and display the Import screen as it does now. However, it should fill it with thumbnails of all the photos and movies on the camera. Clicking the Import button would still import everything (and the user shouldn't be forced to wait for all the thumbnails to draw before being able to click Import). But the user should also be able to select an arbitrary set of photos and drag them to the Library to import, or to an album to import and add to that album. If the user later does a full import, iPhoto should recognize that any previously imported photos are duplicates, as it does now, and prompt about importing them again.



Peaceful, Queasy Feeling

by Frank Petrie

Product: iTunes v.7

Company: Apple Computers, Inc.

Requirements: Mac OS X 10.3.9 or later

500MHz G3 processor or better

QuickTime 6.5.2 or later

256MB RAM

Combo/Super Drive to burn CDs

Broadband Internet connection (DSL/Cable/LAN)

for buying and streaming music

Nike + iPod Sport Kt requires Mac OS X 10.3.9 or later

Additional Video Requirements:

Mac OS X 10.3.9 or later

1 GHz G4 processor or better

QuickTime 7.1.3 or later

16MB video RAM

Universal Binary: Yes

Price: Freeware



Seeing as I'm writing this about 45 minutes after my download of iTunes v7 and QuickTime Pro 7.1.3, this will have to do for now.

THE JUICE

The new layout of iTunes is, as Mr. Spock would say, "highly logical." Playlist and other headings were getting a bit cramped in the column. Of course, there are several other nice features.

Libraries are, as they should be, at the top of the list, broken down into Music, Movies, TV Shows, Podcasts, Audiobooks and Radio. Next comes Store, followed closely by Playlist. You can still group your files anyway you wish, they're just under a heading instead of just in a column. (And if you're wondering where you get his artwork, you go under the Advanced menu and click Get Album Artwork and iTunes will spend sometime collecting as much of it as is available.)

You can view your files in three different manners: source list, per disc with cover art or by cover flow (album art alone). Only the colors of the GUI have been tweaked a bit. The layout is essentially the same.

And the movies, when you open them in iTunes, automatically default to full screen. A little pixilated on the older files, but the new files are of a 40x480 resolution, rather than the former

smaller format. Yipee! We're nearing DVD quality. (Although it didn't take the music videos from that folder and place them under a heading, v7.1?)

There are also changes to the iTMS. The addition of two categories: Movies and iPod games. To start off, all the films are from Disney or Disney-owned companies. But there's still some worthwhile stuff in there already.

THE RIND

But ...

THE PITS

Well ...

THE PULP

I have to give it a 9 out of 10 because it has all these neat tools in one program. The problem that I have with the new version of iTunes is that all these ideas are from third party vendors and already exist. In other words, Apple is taking from the poor and giving to themselves.

I hope that I'm wrong and that they have given some money to the original authors. OK, Apple may have buffed and polished some of the stuff, no doubt. But ...

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