

## How Many Applications Does it Take to Screw in a Lightbulb?

by Frank Petrie

**Product:** iKey v 2.2.1b1

**Company:** Script Software [www.scriptsoftware.com/ikey/](http://www.scriptsoftware.com/ikey/)

**Requirements:** any Mac running OS X 10.3 or higher

**Universal:** Yes

**Price:** \$30 USD

Automation. That's what your computer is for when it comes to business and financial work. But we never take the time to learn how to automate our tasks, instead opting to head directly for the iLife suite. Let's face it. GarageBand does have more appeal than spreadsheets and such.

But you repeat the same tasks daily, weekly, or monthly. Wasn't your computer supposed to keep you from doing that? So you would have more time to spend with GarageBand?

Script Software states that "iKey is an automation utility designed especially for Mac OS X. iKey lets you create shortcuts to automate actions on your Mac. iKey shortcuts are made of 3 parts context(s), launcher(s) and command(s)."

So, should you purchase iKey instead of using Automator?

### THE JUICE

Drag-n-drop installation. Launch the application, open the Editor, and you're ready to start building shortcuts (macros).

The application places an icon in your Menu Bar, from which you can access recent applications and documents, all your System Preference panes, and most importantly, launch the iKey editor.

The iKey Editor's GUI is clean and easy to navigate. It looks like any Apple application, so no 'deer-in-the-headlights.'

Documentation is more than you could hope for. Consult the 'Take Control of iKeys' ebook, that comes with your iKey purchase, and start building your shortcuts.

Launch events, applications, sequences, or whatever you can dream up in any number of ways—by hot keys, by time, etc. You can also share shortcuts onsite, thereby saving maybe even

more time by retooling others' shortcuts.

### THE RIND

The Menu Bar icon is of no real value. I can already access recent applications and documents, plus System Preference panes from my Apple Menu. So, the only real thing that I need is to be able to launch iKey's Editor, which I can do from the dock or, ironically enough, from an iKey shortcut.

### THE PITS

Nada.

### THE PULP

iKey is a solid application. And it costs far less than QuicKeys \$79.95. Although, granted, QuicKeys is more feature laden. (Although why you would want the ability to integrate Automator workflows into a QuicKeys shortcut eludes my logic.)

I'll give it a nine, as it delivers on its promises. It's neat, tidy, and well documented. But I already have Automator which can already automate my workflow. Do I need a second automation utility? In my opinion—no.

Still, try out the demo. Whatever floats your boat. It's your choice.

**RATING:** 9 out of 10

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## WANT TO KNOW?

### From the Treasurer

Money in bank: \$4211.

Members: 83 paid up, of which 14 are in grace period.

### Upcoming Programs

#### August

##### Photoshop with Kim Kellam

Kim has run his own printing business and works for the News and Observer. His knowledge of Photoshop is rivaled by few in this area. August will be a great opportunity to learn some Photoshop tricks and tips.

#### September

##### The Making of Super 8½" Using Final Cut Express

*Douglas Harned*

**8 1/2**, a Fellini film of the 60s, is an exploration of a film director's subconscious. Harned has created a derivative or perhaps a homage using Final Cut.

## 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, PO Box 28623, Raleigh, NC 27611

# RALEIGH TAKES A BITE OUT OF THE BIG APPLE

## The AppleStore at Crabtree Valley Mall held Its Grand Opening Saturday, June 24th

For store information and schedule of workshops, see  
<http://www.apple.com/retail/crabtreevalleymall/week/20060702.html>

### Store Address

4325 Glenwood Ave.  
Raleigh, NC 27612  
(919) 334-3400

### Store Hours

Mon–Sat: 10:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.  
Sun: Noon to 6:00 p.m.



Thanks to our own TMUG member, Jeff Cole,  
for sharing these photos of the big day.

*Photos © Jeff Cole*



## Wacky Wiki Web Wins World With Winsomeness

by *Smythe Richbourg*

A few years back, I happened upon a website that was called the Wiki Wiki Web <http://c2.com/cgi/wiki>. Really strange thing—you could click a link at the bottom of the page, and then actually change the words that were on the web page!!! There were certain things you had to learn, like WikiWords and just how to type codes before and after a word to make it appear bold or italic or to create a list. But other than little formatting things, it was just type it, and you change the website. I played with it a bit, but never really thought much more about it.

Then, about three years ago, I started thinking that maybe this would be good for some areas of the TMUG website. We could add stuff to the meeting notes, and have each meeting be a page—or even create topics and let members add their experiences and information as they wanted to. But others argued that there would be people trying to destroy things, and vandalizing the site on a regular basis, and it couldn't be controlled...yada yada yada. So I went off to find some solutions on my own, played with a few, but never really found one I wanted to implement because either they took an intimate knowledge of php (the coding type, not the drug), a server that you could load software on that was on the web, or an account at a service that provided the server and software (for annual fees). None of those were something I wanted to do.

Nowadays, you can find free wikis everywhere. With the “Return of Free” that Web 2.0 has caused, companies are springing up almost everywhere offering some turn on the Wiki idea. I'll list some in the article links below.

In the last year, Wiki's have been raised in public awareness. The case of someone putting false information into Wikipedia brought to light the fluid nature of that source, but it also made people start to realize that there is a lot of valuable information out there, being written and edited and improved upon by varying levels of people, and it doesn't cost anyone a penny to read it. What Wikipedia has proven is that there are experts willing to spend time giving away information in small blocks. Those small blocks, when aggregated, become a huge mosaic of information. Try it yourself—search Wikipedia <http://en.wikipedia.org> for anything, and I'll bet you can't help but follow a link or two down some rabbit trail, and you get to an article where you say “I've never seen anything about this in any other encyclopedia in my life!” There's even a “Random Article” link on the left to get you started.

So, how does a Wiki work? There is generally an admin role, a person or persons who get a report of the edits that have been made to the text. The admin can also, on most systems, create levels of users—usually editors and readers. The admin can also “roll back” versions of the Wiki to the last few changes or, in some systems, back to the initial page. So any vandalism can be erased with a single command (and a quick trip to the user permissions page to banish the vandal!) While a true Wiki has no read-only “users,” the new model has become layered with this type of protection to ward off the problem Wikipedia faced with the false info on their site. This lets the admin dole out trust to some and not to others, much as you do with access to a server or a shared folder on your computer.

The easiest way to discover what a Wiki is like, however, is to go to one and play around in the sandbox. Most systems have a place you can edit and change things, try out WikiWords, fiddle with formatting commands and generally mess around. It's called the sandbox—remember to play fair there and share your toys. Next, after you've gotten the idea that you can change things (and revert them if need be), sign up for one of the freebies. I like Peanut Butter Wiki <http://www.pbwiki.com>—as easy to make as a peanut butter sandwich. They give you lots of templates, a good amount of storage, and have quite a large community. They've also been going for about a year, so have gathered a good following and solidified their “personality.”

Once you've decided what you want your Wiki to be, you may want to buy space by the month via PayPal at <http://www.editme.com> or get a premium account with pbwiki, or use <http://www.wikispaces.com/> to post to your blog. There's a lot you can do short of setting up your own server with Wiki software, but if you want to do that, check out MediaWiki, <http://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/MediaWiki>, the software used to publish Wikipedia, or search for Wiki on <http://www.sourceforge.net> the open source project-sharing website. There are about a dozen packages there, and about a zillion add-ons and extensions. This is not for the faint of heart. Pick one that's in current development and that has a good bit of activity from a group of people. That's usually a good sign that you're not going to get a niche product that gets abandoned the next time the OS gets updated.

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## Wacky Wiki *continued from page 4*

But, most of all, with a Wiki, have fun! They're designed to take the work and worry of formatting and tedious coding out of publishing a website. Go forth and Wiki!

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### Want to Know More?

Recent headline:

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES, March 1, 2006 – The Wikimedia Foundation announced today the creation of the 1,000,000th article in the English language edition of Wikipedia.

#### Statistics

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Wikipedia statistics <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:Statistics>

Wikipedia currently has 1,240,514 articles.

That number excludes redirects, discussion pages, image description pages, user profile pages, templates, help pages, portals, articles without links to other articles, and pages about Wikipedia.

Including these, we have 4,796,914 pages.

Users have made 64,678,518 edits, an average of 13.48 per page, since July 2002.

The job queue length is currently 3,476.

#### User Statistics

We have 1,747,823 registered user accounts, of which 954 (or 0.05%) belong to administrators.

## iPod—An Overview

by *Pixel Smith*

iPods are pretty cool. Everyone wants one but not too many take the time to explore all the things they can do. The Shuffle is pretty straight forward. You put music on it and then it plays it back either randomly or in the same order as the play list. And it works nicely as a USB drive if you set it up for that. The other iPods (the Mini, Nano, Photo, Video...) all come with PDA like features. I'm mostly going to be discussing the iPod Video because that's what I have, but features will be similar.

In the Extras menu there is Clock, Games, Contacts, Calendars, Notes, Stopwatch and Screen Lock.

Clock is pretty straight forward. It shows you the time. You can have multiple clocks, very handy if you are in contact with people all over the world.

### Games

The four games currently included are Brick, Parachute, Solitaire and Music Quiz. Brick is the classic Atari game Breakout—take out the bricks at the top of the screen by bouncing a ball off the paddle at the bottom; fun and addictive. Parachute, is shoot the paratroopers jumping out of the helicopters before they destroy your tank. Solitaire, your basic solitaire game. Finally Music Quiz, identify the song being played from the choices on the screen. You earn more points for the choosing the correct song before they remove all the incorrect answers. Note: Not so good if you have language lessons or Harry Potter since they have tons of short files and tend to come up way too often.

### Contacts

A true lifesaver if you don't carry an address book and can never remember the phone number you want. Contacts syncs with the Apple Address Book. One down side is that it does not pay attention the groups you have made. It just shows a very long list of either the whole address book or the groups you have selected. Still very handy and it copies the information you stored in the Notes section as well.

### Calendars

Syncs with iCal. In this case you get all your categories and can view all or just the one you select. You only get the Monthly view. If you have an event on a given day it will put a little red flag in the box for that day. Click on the day and it will take



Courtesy of Apple

you to a list of items for the day. Click again and it shows you all the information you entered for the event.

### Notes

Notes are great. You just drop text files in to the Notes folder on your iPod and presto they show up in the list of Notes. Excellent for to-do lists, grocery shopping lists, books and articles you want to read. The screen is a bit small for reading long books but it works well for small notes.

### Stopwatch

Your standard stopwatch. Good for timing stuff and it has a lap counter.

### Screen Lock

A basic combination lock for your iPod. Looks like those dial locks from high school. Quaint and does the job of keeping people away from the sensitive data you keep in the Contacts and Calendars.

### Using your iPod as a Hard Drive

This is the number one reason for writing off your iPod as an expense. And for me the best way to back up my laptop. If all you use your iPod for is backing up your data—it's well worth it. To use your iPod as a hard drive you just open the iTunes preferences, go to the iPod settings, Music tab and check the box that says "Enable disk use." Then next time you plug your iPod in, it shows up on your desktop as another drive.

### Syncing

If you are just moving music and use iCal and Address Book then syncing with iTunes is just fine. You just go into the Preferences>iPod>Contacts or Calendars and turn on the syncing as you see fit and all is copied over. If you happen to use Entourage, however, you are not out of luck. ZappTek's iPodIt will move your address and calendar data for you. (14.95 USD at [zapptek.com](http://zapptek.com)). If you aren't using Tiger there is Apple's iSync. If you want to access your photos from the hard drive

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## iPod *continued from page 6*

area as well as the Photo menu you need to check the “Include full resolution photos” box.

This will take up more space on your iPod but it also backs up your precious digital photos.

### iPod in the Car and House

There are all sorts of gadgets you can get for your iPod. Car chargers, transmitters, receivers, holders, remotes, docking stations, speakers and the list goes on and on. The iTrip is nice if you want to listen to your iPod in the car or through a radio. If it's just for the car then go with something that charges and transmits. For in the house there are all sorts of options. Apple's new iPod HiFi is very nice, if slightly on the expensive side, and uses the standard Apple remote. But with so many options, I recommend some sort of dock that charges with a remote. That way you can plug in any set of speakers you already have kicking around the house.

### iPod with Your Camera

The Apple Camera Connector. Very handy if you travel and don't want to drag your iBook or eMac along. Before you leave home make sure your camera works with the connector and you can upload your pictures on to the iPod comfortably. This is a great way to make those little flash cards last longer. Don't forget to take a wall adapter or dock with you so you can charge you iPod.

### iPod Fashion and Protection

Getting a case to protect your iPod is always a good idea. Resist ripping off the protective sheet that comes with it until you've gotten a case. Cases are a personal choice. Figure out what you are going to be doing with it. Do you tend to throw it in your pocket? Avoid the rubbery cases as they pick up pocket lint. Are you taking it to the gym or jogging with it? You probably want an armband or a really good clip of some sort. Don't like the look of cases? iShield is your friend. It goes on with a bit of soapy water and is truly amazing. Have absolutely no idea how you are going to use it? Marware makes a nice multi-purpose case for about \$40 that has a cover, arm band, wrist strap and belt clip and comes in multiple colours. inCase also makes a good combo at about the same price range. There are lots of options.

### iPod Headsets

The headset that the iPods come with are not bad, if you aren't fussy. The Griffin EarJams make them sound much better and fit in your ear more comfortably. It's a standard 3.5mm headphone jack.

### iPod Maintenance

Basic maintenance will keep your battery and iPod running. iPods can be used between 0 and 35 degrees Celsius. That doesn't mean they like it. Try to keep them around room temperature. Power cycling the battery once a month is also a good idea. Lithium batteries like to be used so don't ignore your iPod for too long either. To save battery power turn off the backlight and the equalizers. Flipping songs eats through battery, too. You can replace your own battery now (although I haven't seen any 5th generation ones in town). It's not too bad once you get the case open. Make sure your battery kit comes with tools.

### iPod Support Resources

The following are some useful websites to help you explore and play with your iPod.

[www.apple.com/support/ipod/](http://www.apple.com/support/ipod/) (Apple's iPod support site)  
[www.ilounge.com](http://www.ilounge.com) (excellent, well-rounded resource)  
[www.iPodHacks.com](http://www.iPodHacks.com) (good for hacking around on your iPod)  
[www.appleFritter.com/kiwi](http://www.appleFritter.com/kiwi) (Kiwi is a subsite of AppleFritter for support; good forums)

What you do with your iPod is up to you. The options are vast. Use it just for music. Use it as a PDA. Run Linux on it. Show off your photo library. Backup your data. Watch videos. However you use it, enjoy your iPod.

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