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Volume 24, Issue 5

mini'app'les newsletter

the minnesota apple computer users' group, inc.

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You ought to be in the iMovies

Submitted by John Pruski; BP

The first iMovie SIG was held on April 9th. This SIG will be held on the second monday of the month, starting at 7:00 P.M. usually at the Washburn Library located at 5244 Lyndale Ave So, Minneapolis. We will then study the basics of movie making with guests from the local movie making community. Did you know that there are more independent movie makers in the TC area than in Hollywood? There should be plenty of resources for us to draw on. As you will soon learn, there is a lot more to movie making than editing footage on your Mac. If you have interest and skills in other theatrical disciplines this could be fun. Dust off those freshman screenplays and 'come on down'.

A2 News and Notes March 2001

INDEX

* Delphi Textside Doomed
* Enhanced Accounts Available on A2Central.com
* Kim Howe Releases Two New NDAs
* Focus Drives Available Again
* More Silvern Castle
* Thomas Compter Releases DiskChanger
* KansasFest 2001!
** Repeater Registration Ends
** Early Registration Extended
** Keynote Speaker and Roastee Announced

* Delphi Textside Doomed

The official announcement from Delphi finally came: in a short two sentence announcement as you log into the text interface of Delphi.com comes the news, "Delphi Text-based services, including telnet and e-mail, are being discontinued as of May 1, 2001. Delphi.com continues to be available on the Web."
In the meantime, message traffic on both the text and web sides in the A2 and A2Pro areas has slowed to a crawl. If you haven't moved your email yet, it's imperative you do so now, and get in all the downloads you can before May 1st.
Many of us are, as expected, having a great time over on A2Central.com.

* Enhanced Accounts Available on A2Central.com

In A2Central.com news, for an additonal charge members can have their own web pages with up to 10 megabytes of storage. See http://www.a2central.com/join.html for more information.

* Kim Howe Releases Two New NDAs

Australian programmer Kim Howe, who is continuing to work on the first standalone World Wide Web browser for the Apple IIgs, Arachnid, took a break from that to put out two New Desk Accessories. One is a new version of an old favorite, Yahtzee, updated for the Apple IIgs. No more dice and pencils.
The other NDA is a useful piece of software for all of you A2Central.com conference addicts—Telnet NDA provides a way to telnet out with a chat buffer for your conferencing needs. See Kim's webpage at http://www.a2people.com/~kimhowe / for more details.

* Focus Drives Available Again

After a dry spell of a few months that had Apple II users down to only ///SHH Systeme to turn to for hard drives, Alltech Electronics Focus Drives are once again available. In 340 megabyte and 170 megabyte sizes, these are great hard drives for anyone with a IIe or IIgs. Contact Alltech at http://www.allelec.com/ for more information.

* More Silvern Castle

Jeff Fink continues to update his amazing 8-bit role playing game, Silvern Castle. Version 7.2 adds "auto-notes" as well as improving the speed of auto-mapping and drawing of the maze. You can download it from ftp://ftp.a2central.com/pub/prodos/games/scupd72.bxy

* Thomas Compter Releases DiskChanger

Long-time Apple II user Thomas Compter has released a new utility for use with KEGS32 for Windows, which allows KEGS32 users to use a graphical user interface to mount and eject disks (as opposed to the manual editing of a configuration file).
Download it at
ftp://ftp.a2central.com/pub/emulation/DiskChgr.exe

* KansasFest 2001!

A few notes from the Apple II event of the year, KansasFest 2001:

** Repeater Registration Ends

The March 31 deadline for repeat KFesters to get their special rate has come and gone, and about 40 KFesters have already signed up, including Juiced.GS Publisher Max Jones, Joe Kohn of Shareware Solutions II, Syndicomm's Eric and Sarah Shepherd, InTrec's Jerry Cline, Spectrum author Ewen Wannop, and world famous Apple IIgs programmer Geoff Weiss have already signed up. Use this opportunity to meet these long time Apple II fanatics in person.

** Early Registration Extended

The April 15 deadline for discounted registration has been extended to April 30 . To get this special rate, just go ahead and register before April 30, 2001. For more information, see http://www.kfest.org/

** Keynote Speaker and Roastee Announced

According to Steve "The Grand Gouda" Gozdziewski, head of the KFest committee, well-known Apple II programmer and Syndicomm owner Eric Shepherd has been announced as the keynote speaker for KansasFest 2001. Shepherd, known for programs such as Shifty List, WebWorks GS, and Wolfenstein 3D for the Apple IIgs *will surely be a must-see.* Additionally, in a long-anticipated move, Juiced.GS Publisher and all around good guy Max Jones will be roasted this summer. If this doesn't get you motivated to come to KFest, I don't know what will!

A2 News and Notes is produced with real or emulated Apple II computers using Appleworks 5.1 and Hermes with the occasional assist from ProTERM Mac on the Macintosh. Apple II Forever!

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Apple Firmware Update Problems Clarified and Solved

Submitted by David M. Peck
by Adam C. Engst <ace@tidbits.com>

Last week, we wrote about firmware updates for recent Macs which Apple issued shortly after the release of Mac OS X, and which were causing updated Macs to stop seeing some third-party memory modules. (See "Avoid Current Firmware Updates" in TidBITS-574_.) Apple has now provided a statement to MacInTouch in which they say that the 4.1.7 and 4.1.8 firmware updates incorporate a new check that validates whether installed RAM is compatible to address random crashes and overall stability issues. The firmware update causes the Mac to ignore DIMMs that either don't meet Apple's specifications or that the update can't identify as compatible. Of course, this raises the question of why Apple initially didn't provide some warning about the possible consequences (which they've now done in the descriptions of these files on the Apple Software Downloads site), or why the firmware update itself doesn't test the DIMMs before installation.

<http://www.macintouch.com/firmwareramprob2.html>
<http://db.tidbits.com/getbits.acgi?tbart=06380>

Glenn Anderson, author of Qualcomm's Eudora Internet Mail Server, has stepped up to the challenge with DIMM First Aid (previously called DIMMCheck), a free utility you can run in Mac OS 9 to see if your DIMMs are likely to fail Apple's newly enforced specifications. If the test fails, DIMM First Aid can reprogram the offending DIMMs' Serial Presence Detect EEPROMs so they won't later be disabled by the firmware updater. DIMM First Aid is a 6K download.

<http://www.eudora.com/eims/>
<http://mactcp.org.nz/dimmfirstaid.sit>

So, before running the 4.1.7 or 4.1.8 firmware updates (which Apple says "dramatically improve system stability and performance"), be sure to check your Mac's memory with DIMM First Aid. If your DIMMs fail, use DIMM First Aid to fix them. If your DIMMs pass, it's almost certainly safe to update your firmware. Note; DIMM First Aid, (although not confirmed 100%), will run only on the machines that can load the problematic firmware update. (iMac, iBook, G4, FireWire PowerBooks, Cube) You can download the firmware updates from Apple's Software Downloads Web site (search for "firmware update") or get them via the Software Update control panel, but note that the firmware updates on the Mac OS 9.1 CD-ROM that comes with Mac OS X are much older versions. We said in "Out of the Box: Installing Mac OS X" in TidBITS-574_ that you shouldn't run these firmware updates; that's a mistake, and we'd encourage anyone installing Mac OS X to run at least the older firmware updates on the Mac OS 9.1 CD-ROM beforehand.
<http://asu.info.apple.com/>
<http://db.tidbits.com/getbits.acgi?tbart=06384>

If you're in the nerve-wracking position of having the firmware updates already disable one or more DIMMs, first run DIMM First Aid, which should be able to fix the problem even after the DIMMs have been disabled. If, for some reason, that doesn't work, contact the vendor from whom you purchased the RAM. Most of them, according to a Ramseeker survey, are accepting returned DIMMs. They either replace the DIMMs or reprogram the EEPROMs for you.

In the end, Glenn Anderson deserves the highest accolades for his work in creating DIMM First Aid, in contrast with Apple, whose release of an update that could disable hardware without warning was negligent in the extreme.
<http://xlr8yourmac.com/OSX/FirmwareUpdate_missingRAM.html#apple>
<http://www.ramseeker.com/firmware.shtml>

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Aspyr Gaming News 4-20-01

Submitted by David M. Peck

There's so much Aspyr news today, it's hard to know where to start. First, the Sims add-on pack, House Party, is Mac-bound and is currently being developed by Phil Sulak of Westlake Interactive (the same man who put in the coding hours on The Sims and Livin' Large). Pre-orders will likely be possible early next month. "The Mac gaming community has really expressed their desire for more Sims games," says Jeff Baietto, VP of Marketing. "We've received so many calls and emails, we even received an online petition. We're happy to bring House Party to the Mac."

As we stated earlier this week, Tony Hawk Pro Skater 2 for Mac is almost at Final Candidate stage (the point where it's ready to go out the door). "This game is an adrenaline addiction, plain and simple," says Michael Rogers, President of Aspyr Media. "Play it once and you're hooked!" Aspyr also assures us again that Tony Hawk will be MacOS X compatible and is already available for preorder through MacGamers.com (check the link below).

Also to re-iterate news we brought you earlier this week, Tomb Raider Chronicles is close to completion and, like Tony Hawk, will be OS X friendly. Unlike previous Tomb Raider titles, however, Chronicles will ship with a level editor; something Mac TR fans have never seen before. You can pre-order it on the Aspyr website for $39.95... link below.

Alice, the trippy, dark action/puzzle game based on the Quake III engine (and created by ex-id software dude, American McGee) has entered beta and is progressing nicely. Aspyr's description of this game probably says it best: "Alice features stunning third person, 3D action based on enhanced Quake III technology, devious puzzles and labyrinthine mazes and familiar characters transformed. Included levels are reminiscent of the Pool of Tears, the Caterpillar's Garden, the Mad Hatter's Tea Party and more. Enemies include the ferocious Card Guards, demonic Fire Imps, ravenous Jabberspawn and more. The original soundtrack is composed and arranged by Chris Vrenna, award winning artist and founding member of Nine Inch Nails." ...and like the other abovementioned games, Alice will be carbonized for use on OS X. If you'd like to get some info from the Westlake Interactive programmer that's doing the conversion, check out our interview with Brad Oliver (link below).

Aspyr also goes into some detail about their thoughts on OS X: "Supporting 8.1 and 9.1 will be a challenge for us moving forward," say Michael Rogers, President of Aspyr. "Until we are sure that the install base of OS X is big enough to justify OS X-only games, we will continue to support select earlier OS."

Finally, Aspyr also offers some great deals with regard to Prima Games and their line of strategy guides. "Good news! We have, once again, teamed up with Prima Games, the world's leading publisher of computer game guides with more then twenty-five million strategy guides in print, to bring some great new strategy guides to Mac gamers. Check out our product page for a current listing of available guides." Best of all, Aspyr offers a deal where you can now buy Deus Ex (their fabulous adventure/action/role playing game) for $14.95 and receive the Prima Strategy guide for free. You can also order Star Trek Voyager-Elite Force at the reduced price of $19.95 through the Aspyr website.

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60-Second Window™

Submitted by John Hunkins

NOTE: this is the "60-second" version of this month's piece. We have provided a 3-minute version which gives much better descriptions of each of the Top Ten.

#130 Top Ten Signs
You're about to get ripped off
The problem with email these days is it's becoming increasingly difficult to tell the difference between legitimate "offers" and a scam rip-off . The old Madison Avenue adage "If it doesn't sell, they don't keep advertising" is always true -- so it's obvious that unsolicited email (aka: UCE, Spam) must be working or they'd no longer be doing it. So, all you folks out there who actually respond to to spam, please don't. Here are ten key rules to think about before you click the reply button:
1 – If there are more than two slashes in the domain... trash it
Look at the domain. If there's more than ONE slash after the dot-com, beware.
2 -- If the domain is numeric ... it's out to lunch
Any honest business, with a ligit offer will NOT use an IP number. Stay away from addresses like:
http://207.173.123.243:524 ... they spells trouble.
3 -- If they say use this or that ... use neither
Con artists these days know they'll be shut down – it's only a matter of time. So in order to sucker in more people they'll list several domains.
4 -- Who sent it is not who gets it ... don't let them get you
Look carefully at the addresses of the sender -- if they're not the same, they should at least be from the same domain. (That's the part after the "@".)
5 – No real name means no real person dhckj@msn.com, i27452@compuserve.com? eyzjygeynf@yahoo.com ... These addresses are generated by spam robots -- stay away.

6 -- If they tell you they'll call you back ... tell'em no!
They want you to call their toll free number, leave your name and phone number. Their yarn is convincing -- but don't expect them to call back!
7 -- If there's no address... you don't want to go there!
If you don't find a physical address, there's a reason why: they don't want to be tracked down. Never reply, never buy.
8 -- If it's off-shore money ... it won't add up!
If it has to do with money but they're from another country other than your own -- RUN! They won't fulfill their promises... they're ripping you off.
9 -- If they're using a freebie account... you can't afford it
If they've got nothing to loose, then they've got nothing for you! 88% spammers use free services like Yahoo or MSN.
10 -- If it's too good to be true... it is!
Ask youself could it be true. Chances are, it's a blatant lie. Keep them in mind, and laugh at them as you drag them to the trash... where they belong.
Be careful, don't reply, and stay out of trouble.
Fred

Don't forget to see the longer version of this one.

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

Mac OS X: The Future Is Here.

by Adam C. Engst <ace@tidbits.com>

On Saturday, March 24th, Apple released Mac OS X 10.0, marking the company's official move from the much-evolved Mac OS 9.1 to the entirely new Mac OS X. The $130 package, which includes both Mac OS X and a separate CD containing Mac OS 9.1, is widely available for less than list price, both for those receiving a discount for having participated in the public beta program and via vendors offering deals like TidBITS sponsor Small Dog Electronics.

<http://www.apple.com/macosx/>

Although Apple is making a bit of a fuss about the release, they've clearly chosen not to concentrate too much marketing effort on the new operating system at this time. A larger splash may come during July's Macworld Expo NY 2001, when it's likely Apple will have an update to Mac OS X and will start to install it by default on new Macs. Here at TidBITS, the quiet release has engendered some debate about what we should write, and in fact, what sort of coverage Mac OS X deserves.

<http://db.tidbits.com/getbits.acgi?tbart=06270>

The reason for Apple's quiet release is simple - in my opinion, Mac OS X doesn't offer most people enough advantages over Mac OS 9. One fact is indisputable: Mac OS X can't currently do everything that's possible with today's hardware and software. A number of Apple's high-profile features are missing, such as playing DVDs and burning both DVDs and CD-Rs. Hardware is also problematic - although Mac OS X has support for some peripherals and expansion cards, using other pieces of hardware may require the user to reboot in Mac OS 9.1. (A tip - on Macs since the beige Power Mac G3, hold down the Option key when restarting to receive a choice of operating systems to use for the next startup.) And of course, although many applications run fine in Mac OS X's Classic mode, few applications have been "carbonized" so they can run natively under Mac OS X. Luckily, among those already carbonized are Apple's own iTunes, iMovie 2, and a preview of AppleWorks 6.1, all of which can be downloaded.

<http://www.apple.com/downloads/macosx/apple/>

I don't mean to imply Apple should have delayed Mac OS X's release. Anyone scheduling a software release of any magnitude (especially an operating system) must take into account multiple technical, business, and marketing factors, and even if it's easy to criticize Apple for certain technical gaps, I'm willing to give them the benefit of the doubt on the business and marketing aspects of the release. It's important for Apple to make good on its promises, show that Mac OS X is real, and give early adopters a chance to gain experience before exposing Mac OS X to the masses via new Macs.

To get back to our conundrum of what to write about the Mac's new operating system, we decided to look at just who should buy and install Mac OS X, along with the related question of who should avoid it for the near future. We plan to have more detailed looks at different aspects of Mac OS X itself in future issues, but we feel it's most important right now to help people decide if they should make the jump immediately. Keep in mind that even if you decide that now is not the time, we'll soon be seeing a frenzy of releases, both updates to existing programs and new programs that address shortcomings in Mac OS X. It's also worth remembering that we should avoid the notion that this release of Mac OS X is an "upgrade" to the existing Mac OS: it's better thought of as an alternative operating system that not only runs most Mac OS 9 software in Classic mode but also enables you to reboot under Mac OS 9 at any time. Few upgrades are so forgiving of the past.

Who Should Install Mac OS X?
Let's start on a positive note and look at who definitely should install Mac OS X, preferably soon. The two groups at the head of the line are developers and anyone in tech support, since knowledge of Mac OS X for them is paramount. Then come expert hobbyists, Macintosh/Unix aficionados, and folks interested in Macs as Internet servers. And of course, anyone who has a G3-based Mac with 128 MB of RAM and sufficient curiosity can install Mac OS X without committing to a permanent migration. Because you can boot in Mac OS 9.1, there's no significant downside to

Mac OS X other than its $130 price tag and the time spent installing and exploring.

Noting that developers should be among the first to switch to Mac OS X feels obvious, but it's still worth mentioning. Apple has been clear that Mac OS X is the future of the Macintosh, and with a CEO as strong-minded as Steve Jobs at the helm, I can't see Apple backing down from Mac OS X. As such, if programmers want to continue to create software for the Macintosh, they simply must be developing for Mac OS X. I also believe developers should be seeing what it's like to use Mac OS X in the real world, since that's the only way to understand what customers will experience. Of course, most developers already have access to pre-release versions of Mac OS X, so this process should already be underway.

Tech support people should immediately set a Mac up with Mac OS X to gain experience for when it starts shipping on new machines. Relatively few people are likely to be using Mac OS X in the next few months (and those who do won't need much tech support anyway), but that number will climb fast come July.

For expert hobbyists, Mac OS X will be a lot of fun, purely because it's a whole new world to explore, complete with tips to trade, freeware and shareware utilities to download, and tweaks to be made. But beyond the fact that these people will enjoy Mac OS X immensely (although probably not on a primary work machine), they will be a significant source of information for everyone who follows on the adoption curve.

Anyone who's interested in Unix and the Macintosh should also install Mac OS X, in part to start learning just what Mac OS X's Unix underpinnings can do, but also to bridge the gap between the Macintosh and Unix communities. Much of Mac OS X's appeal is the way it offers a Macintosh interface along with Unix flexibility and networking power, and we're already seeing people make the Macintosh/Unix connection technically with Carbon applications that provide Macintosh interfaces to command-line Unix programs. We also need these people to provide the social bridge between the Mac and Unix communities, since both stand to benefit from the association.

Finally, I'd encourage anyone who's interested in running Internet servers on the Mac to install Mac OS X on a test machine. Despite Apple's neglect, we've long been proponents of Mac OS-based Internet servers because the Mac's ease-of-use, security, and decent performance combine for an ideal server solution for all but the highest volume uses. With Mac OS X bringing the power of Unix networking and a wide variety of new Internet servers, the concept of running Internet servers on a Mac will be revitalized, and I know we'll be investigating various solutions on Mac OS X for the next iteration of TidBITS's Internet services.

Who Should Wait? Frankly, this is an easier question to answer, because unless you fall into one of the groups above and/or know you want to install Mac OS X for a specific reason, you should wait until it has better hardware support and more native software, and until the tech support and expert user communities know more about it. That said, here are some groups that should be sure to wait.

Those people for whom a specific set software or hardware is utterly indispensable should hold off. For instance, someone who's reliant on specific extensions may not have any luck in Mac OS X's Classic environment, and a person who relies on the kind of adaptive technologies that Joe Clark recently wrote about here in TidBITS is almost certainly shut out (see his "Accessibility on the Mac" articles). Numerous other niches fall into this category as well; for example, audio and video professionals who use third party hardware and accompanying software simply can't switch until their hardware and software are supported in Mac OS X. Similarly, production machines running QuarkXPress, Adobe InDesign, and a host of other publishing software would do well to choose established workflow over the newest operating system. At some point, the compatibility issues plaguing the myriad niches within these groups will disappear, but it could be quite some time.

<http://db.tidbits.com/getbits.a<cgi?tbser=1189>

The next group that shouldn't mess with Mac OS X is unlikely to have compatibility problems, since their needs are generally relatively basic. I'm thinking of the undemanding users who primarily use email, the Web, and maybe one or two other applications. They're the classic iMac users, often had computers purchased for them by friends or relatives, and in many cases aren't particularly comfortable with common tasks even in Mac OS 9. Mac OS X offers them nothing - it's not clear that the places where its interface is different are better for this group, and the mere fact of it being different is a negative. Worse, the people this group relies on for assistance won't necessarily be able to help for some time. Frankly, I don't think many people in this group will ever switch - I know I won't be upgrading my grandparents' respective iMacs. However, once future consumers in this category receive Mac OS X on a new machine, they'll probably do fine, since their needs are basic.

The next group who shouldn't install Mac OS X immediately consists of organizations with communities of users that require tech support. The fact that this group won't move to Mac OS X widely could be damaging for Apple. Although support personnel within these businesses, schools, and other large organizations should be installing and learning Mac OS X, I expect it will be some time before they understand Mac OS X well enough to want to support it. User education, application compatibility, and mixing operating systems on a network could all play a factor in slowing Mac OS X's acceptance in such installations. At the same time, Apple must work hard to overcome these concerns or risk a hit to hardware sales as large organizations dig in their heels on existing hardware to avoid even the question of having to switch before they're ready.

Last we come to the folks in the gray area - they're capable of learning and using Mac OS X, and they don't rely on incompatible hardware and soft-

ware, so they could install Mac OS X. But at the same time, the people in this group don't fall into one of the categories of users who should make the switch. What should you do if you find yourself in this situation? Frankly, go with your gut feeling. If Mac OS X's stability is tremendously appealing to you, go ahead and make the jump. But if, on the other hand, you feel that Mac OS 9 isn't really broken, then there's no need to attempt to fix it by installing Mac OS X.

TidBITS Staff Moves — Just to bring home the fact that these decisions affect everyone in very different ways, here's how those of us at TidBITS are dealing with the Mac OS X release.

Once my copy of Mac OS X arrives, I'll install it on my 250 MHz PowerBook G3 so I have a test machine and so I can see what it's like to work in the Mac OS X interface. That machine mainly runs Internet Explorer, iTunes, Now Up-to-Date, Now Contact, and iView MediaPro, so I expect I'll be able to keep it basically functional. I'll probably hold off installing Mac OS X on my primary Power Mac G4/450 until I've established the compatibility level of my necessary applications.

Tonya's interested in using Mac OS X in theory, and she doesn't do much beyond email, Web browsing, financial management in Quicken and MYOB, and contact and calendar management, but the two obstacles in her way are memory (her iBook has only 96 MB and Mac OS X absolutely requires 128 MB if you use Classic mode) and the fact that Mac OS X doesn't offer her any notable benefits. Plus, she lacks the time to play with it right now.

Geoff Duncan won't be upgrading to Mac OS X any time soon, since he has only one Mac that meets Mac OS X's hardware requirements, and he relies heavily on it for audio and music production. Until such time as his essential niche applications are available and solidified for Mac OS X - and replacements are available for external devices which will never be supported under Mac OS X - Geoff has little choice but to stick with Mac OS 9.

Jeff Carlson's new PowerBook G4 Titanium is fully capable of supporting Mac OS X, and he's already partitioned a 2 GB section of the hard disk expressly for it. Jeff plans to install Mac OS X when he finds the time, if only to get hands-on experience with what everyone will be talking about (and maybe stir the dormant Unix geek that's just gotta live inside him somewhere).

Matt Neuburg is not by temperament an "early adopter," and he doesn't like to use beta software, let alone beta operating systems. But he knew that the second edition of his REALbasic book would have to cover REALbasic's ability to create native Mac OS X applications. So when prices dropped in December, he bought a PowerBook G3 (FireWire), gave it several partitions, and installed Mac OS 9.0.4 on one of them. Last Saturday, when Mac OS X became available, he bought it and installed Mac OS X on one partition and Mac OS 9.1 (for Classic mode) on another. However, he still gets his everyday work done by starting up from the Mac OS 9.0.4 partition, and he expects this to remain true for quite some time to come.

Mark Anbinder has already installed Mac OS X on his new PowerBook G4 Titanium and on his office Power Mac G4, partly because he provides campus-wide Macintosh support and consulting as part of Cornell Information Technologies at Cornell University. Mark switches back and forth between Mac OS 9.1 and Mac OS X on his laptop as needed (primarily for software like Apple DVD Player and Virtual PC, which don't run in Classic mode) but has been running almost exclusively in Mac OS X on his desktop computer (using Classic to handle lots of non-carbonized software smoothly) for quite some time.

We hope this article has provided some guidance in your decision about whether you should purchase and install Mac OS X right away, wait a few months, or put off the entire decision until a future hardware purchase brings it up again. Make sure to vote in our poll regarding your Mac OS X plans, and whatever your decision, note that useful information about Mac OS X has already started to appear in TidBITS Talk, so be sure to subscribe (send any message to <tidbits-talk-on@tidbits.com>) and participate to get all the details and pointers to other resources.

Kerning

Submitted by Les Anderson

I just found this, though I'm sure many know it, I did not, and I though it would be good to pass along.

Kerning text is the process of changing the spacing between letters to improve the appearance of the word or sentence or line. AppleWorks has very limited kerning, basically only the Condense and Extend commands under the style menu when working in word processing. But there is another way. What I stumbled across is as follows, and I'll use the word "fruit" as the example.

1. In a Drawing document, make a text box. (to do this, select the tool that looks like the letter A, click and drag on a Drawing document)
2. Type the letter F.
3. Select the arrow tool, and make the control squares just a little bit bigger than the letter itself.
4. Select the arrow tool again and hold down the option key, and click and drag the letter F four times (giving you a total of five individual letters)
5. Select each of the letters and change them so they spell the word fruit.
6. Use the arrow key, select all six letters, and go to Arrange - Align Objects and align the six letters. Be careful to place them so they look good (this is the actual Kerning process, but as you'll see, we can do lots with it!)
7. (here comes the neat part!) Go to Align - Group, and make the six letters into one group.
8. (drum roll for the best part...) Select the arrow tool again, and click on the group. You can now select any of the four control handles, and as you make the word bigger or smaller, AppleWorks will change the spacing

(kerning) for you on the fly! Since this is a text object and not a bitmap graphic (in other words it's not a Painting), you can change the color of the fonts, the size of the letters, and so on, without pixellation. For example, to change the font, select the group, go to Format - Font, and just select a font, or a size, or a style, (or all of them) and so forth, and it all happens instantly. Pretty cool, in my opinion. Try it, you'll like it.

Just my modest 2¢

Russ Conte

Reason 152 - Why I Prefer a Mac

Submitted by Dave Peck

I have both a G3 Mac and a PC. I use my PC for running some work-related problems and playing games. My Mac is my primary computer for all-important tasks. I just purchased a Microsoft Intelimouse Trackball Explore- a nice looking piece of hardware. It's USB and has a PS2 adapter for the PC mouse. I hooked it up to my G3 Mac- no problem. Everything works as advertised. What else did you expect?<g>

I hooked it up to my Tiger Systems PC, and one of the buttons doesnit work when hooked into USB. In the PS2 port, the buttons work, but there is a broken link between the IntelliPoint icon in the task bar and the program itself. So something is not right.

Two -1-hour sessions later with Microsoft tech support and still no resolution. I've dealt with two tech reps that are very friendly and knowledgeable. But talk about another PC eye opener! The stuff you have to do to troubleshoot is extensive, complicated, and about a factor of 10 times more complicated than any problem I've ever seen on my Mac. For example, in the device manager, we went to take a look at mouse drivers. There were 7 drivers. For many of them, you could not tell what their purpose was- if one or several was needed to be present for the mice on my system to function. We ended up dumping all of them, doing a shutdown and restart. This let the computer sense the Intelimouse and the regular mouse that came with the system. We ended up with 5 drivers- 4 from MS and 1 unidentified. We reinstalled the IntelliPoint software several times. I was asked if I had any other USB device. I do, a Saitek joystick. It works without any problems. So the tech rep told me either something was wrong with my USB or I had a conflict of some kind. That's were I'm at now. I know the buttons are fine because it works on my Mac. But the problem is figuring out what exactly is going on in the PC. It looks like it's near an impossible task. I do have a warranty on the PC box, so I will be talking to them tomorrow.

To finish up, in the middle of our troubleshooting, I could not but help throw in a positive word about Macs. I told him I was dual platform, and nothing was ever this hard on my Mac. He agreed! This guy used to teach computer stuff with Macs. And told me with hundreds of manufacturers and thousands of configurations in the PC world, these kinds of problems are common place. And that troubleshooting them is a time consuming and complicated task.

I'll dink around with it off and on and make a decision about returning it before the 30 Meg expires. I bought it for my PC. In one of the programs I use, the top two buttons are not recognized! So I don't know if it's the mouse, the IntelliPoint software or the program I'm using. :-\

I know people have PCs for a variety of reasons, and that PC technical support provides many people with careers. With that said, be happy youire using a Mac! :-)

A2 News and Notes February 2001

Submitted by Harry Lienke

* Delphi Divides
* Art Coughlin's X10 goodies on the 'Net
* KansasFest 2001 Registration opens
* GTE beta 2 out the door
* Apple IIs being rescued
* A2Central.com: new server, new IPs

* Delphi Divides

Further distancing itself from the center of the Apple II universe, the Delphi online service is now two separate entities: the text side and the web side. In the past, a message posted on one side would (eventually) migrate to the other side and also be posted there. This no longer will happen; webside messages are visible on the web and text messages are visible on the textside. In the meantime, A2Central.com engineers work on integrating a web interface to its Apple II friendly text interface.

* Art Coughlin's X10 goodies on the 'Net

In a message on Delphi, Art Coughlin announced that he has a World Wide Web page up with information on using the well-known X-10 interface to automate your house. Some of his Apple II software for using the X-10 hardware is available there. The site is:

http://www.concentric.net/~art-cough/

* KansasFest 2001 Registration opens

Steve Gozdziewski, the Grand Gouda of KansasFest, announced that KansasFest 2001 registration is now open. KFest 2001 will be held at Avila College in Kansas City, Missouri, from July 25 through July 29, with special early arrival events on July 24 at the same great prices as 2000. InTrec Software, Inc. is once again the sponsor of the most important Apple II event of the year. Be there and don't suck. For more information, see the KansasFest World Wide Web site at:

http://www.kfest.org/

* GTE beta 2 out the door

Apple IIgs programmer Lucas Scharenbroich has updated the beta version of his graphics library, the Generic Tile Engine. See his web page at:

http://www.d.umn.edu/~lscharen/

for more information.

* Apple IIs being rescued

A2Central.com seems to be the place for Apple IIs to be found in more ways than one. In Texas and Wisconsin, large Apple II collections—one by a school, one by the widow of a collector—are up for grabs to folks who want to provide them a good home. For more information, see:

http://www.a2central.com/
* A2Central.com: new server, new IPs

Finally, in a bit of A2Central.com news, a new, much faster server and new IP addresses (a result of a move to a new, more reliable Internet backbone) are all part of the constant improvement in the Apple II specific online service.

* Sign Off

A2 News and Notes is produced with real or emulated Apple II computers using Appleworks 5.1 and Hermes with the occasional assist from ProTERM Mac on the Macintosh. Apple II Forever!

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QuickTime News April 20, 2001 Volume 3, Issue 8

Submitted by John Pruski

1. Breaking New Journalistic Ground
2. Concerts, Music Videos, and Interviews
3. QuickTime Hot Picks
4. Trailer Park
5. QuickTime VR Corner: The Historic Ebell
6. Quick Takes

You can read this issue on the web at http://www.apple.com/enews/2001/04/20enews3.html

1. Breaking New Journalistic Ground
At WashingtonPost.com, photojournalists are developing new roles for themselves. Yes, they're as obsessed as ever with capturing the breaking story. Yes, they still see themselves as storytellers,narrating poignant tales of the human condition. And, yes, they still believe that images have the power to pierce the soul and capture the imagination. But now they're using video as well as still images to capture their stories and QuickTime to convey the stories to a captivated audience.
Take photojournalist Travis Fox, for example. Equipped with a digital video camera, an Apple PowerBook G3, and Final Cut Pro editing software, Fox set out to document life in Yugoslavia after the ouster of Slobodan Milosevic. His series of short QuickTime features, "The New Yugoslavia," recently won several awards from the White House News Photographers Association (WHNPA), marking the first time the WHNPA had recognized a web-based news publication. Read more about Travis Fox's portable filmmaking studio and see his award-winning QuickTime movies here:

http://www.apple.com/enews/2001/features/washingtonpost.html

2. Concerts, Music Videos, and Interviews
Sony signed teen pop star Mandy Moore to a recording contract when she was just 15 years old. Now at age 17, Moore has one platinum album under her belt and a brand new album slated for releasethis May. She was also recently named one of the hottest stars under age 25 by People magazine. See her latest video, "Walk Me Home," as well as "I Wanna Be With You," the title song from her upcoming album. And tune in for new videos each Tuesday and Friday, presented by MandyMoorefan.com.

http://www.mandymoorefan.com/news.html

Actor and hip-hop artist L.L. Cool J talks about the future of his music career and his latest role in the family comedy, "Kingdom Come," co-starring Jada Pinkett and Vivica A. Fox. (By the way, L.L. Cool J stands for "Ladies Love Cool James"; the performer was born James Todd Smith.)

http://www.rollingstone.com/mv_videos/playvideo.asp?cid=1118&afl=aapl

Wanna dance? The highlight of the March 2001 Miami Winter Music Conference was the "I Love Music" party, hosted by TrustTheDJ.com. The British-based website captured the evening's festivities in high-definition video and audio. Visit trustthedj.com to watch archived interviews with world-famous DJs and producers (including former Culture Club singer Boy George) and listen to extended DJ sets:

http://www.trustthedj.com/webcast.html

4. QuickTime Hot Picks

The 14th Annual Kids' Choice Awards will be broadcast on TV's Nickelodeon network tomorrow--Saturday, April 21--at 8 pm (check local listings for broadcast times in your area) with live performances by the Backstreet Boys, Destiny's Child, and many others.

And, guess what, we've got a digital backstage pass reserved in your name, a QuickTime digital pass that will take you behind the television cameras for LIVE chat and behind-the-scenes interviews.See it all at this year's Kids' Choice Awards:

http://www.nick.com/go/spec_kca2001

Ever long to be a pirate, without having to do all the really nasty things that go along with the job? Now you can, just by assuming the identity of Guybrush Threepwood in "Escape From Monkey Island," the fourth in the wildly popular series of Monkey Island graphical adventure games from LucasArts, now available for both Windows and Macintosh users. Find out more about this entertaining new game and see a QuickTime preview of its introductory sequence here:

continued on page 15

mini'app'les Handy Form

Name: _____

Company *(if mailed to)*: _____

Address: _____

_____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone *(Home)*: _____ *(Work)*: _____

Occupation: _____ ❑ *Check if this is a address change.*

Member ID# *(if applicable)*: _____

New & Renewing Members- Specify your level of support:

___ $25 (One Year)
___ $45 (Two Years)
___ $60 (Three Years)
___ $15 Student* (One Year)
___ $100 Corporate (One Year)
Thanks!

** must be a full-time student at an accredited institution*

Make Checks Payable to "mini'app'les"

Yes..

I'd like to join!

If this is a new membership or a renewal, please take a few minutes to fill out this questionniare

Which personal computer(s) do you use?

❑ *Power Macintosh model(s)* _____
❑ *Macintosh model(s)* _____
❑ *Apple II model(s)* _____
❑ *Other* _____

Please list the five software packages you use most often:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

What peripherals or attachments do you use?

❑ *Printer*
❑ *Laser Printer*
❑ *Modem*
❑ *Scanner*
❑ *Digital Camera*
❑ *Drawing Tablet*
❑ *Voice Mail*
❑ *MIDI*
❑ *CD-ROM*
❑ *Other* _____

What are your areas of special interest?

❑ *Business Applications*
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❑ *Desktop Publishing*
❑ *Programming*
❑ *Networking*
❑ *Games*
❑ *Other* _____
_____
_____

❑ *Check if you want your name withheld from commercial and other non-club mailing lists*
❑ *Check if you are interested in volunteer opportunities*
❑ *Check if you were referred by a club member. Please give their name.*

_____
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Disk Prices

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3.5" eDOM:	$5.00	$10.00
Mac System 7.0.1 (9 Disks):	$15.00	N.A.
GS/OS 6.0.1 (6 Disks):	$10.00	N.A.
3.5" System Disks(All Other Systems):	$2.00/Disk	N.A.

(Price includes 6.5% MN Sales Tax)
◊NonMembers cannot buy System Disks

Last Fold – Seal with Tape

Attention:
□Membership Director
□Software Director

Mini'app'les
P.O. Box 796
Hopkins, MN 55343-0796

2nd fold

1st fold

Dear mini'app'les
Please direct this to the:
□ Membership Director
□ Software Director

http://www.apple.com/games/articles/2001/04/monkey_island/

5. Trailer Park

One of this summer's most anticipated movies is Steven Spielberg's "A.I.," starring Haley Joel Osment as a little boy who just happens to be a robot. So far, we've seen glimpses of the film in teaser movie trailers (including this most recent one, linked below). But the creators of "A.I." have found other ways to entice us: They've started developing a mysterious network of websites that outline a backstory filled with pro- and anti-robot sentiments. Some of the sites have phone numbers that, when called, lead you to other sites that provide further clues about the upcoming film. In the trailer credits, notice the name Jeanine Salla, Sentient Machine Therapist. To find the fictitious "A.I." sites, type her name into a web search engine (Mac users: Sherlock works great for this) and start investigating what turns up. Another good place to look is at www.jeaninesalla.com. But we recommend you start by watching both the new teaser trailer

http://www.countingdown.com/features?feature_id=16381

and the original theatrical trailer

http://www.apple.com/trailers/wb/ai.html

When Americans landed on the moon in 1969, Neil Armstrong's famous steps were transmitted to the world using an unlikely piece of technology: a 1,000-ton satellite dish on an Australian sheep farm. Things went from baaaaad to worse when a power failure and a freak windstorm played havoc with the dish before the spacecraft touched down. The Australians scrambled to fix it, keeping the problems a secret from NASA, and even faking a series of moon-to-earth radio transmissions for the U.S. ambassador. Find out how the Aussies saved the day by watching "The Dish," Australia's most popular comedy of 2000. It arrives in U.S. theaters starting April 27.

http://www.apple.com/trailers/wb/the_dish.html

6. QuickTime VR Corner

The Historic Ebell of Los Angeles (one of the oldest and largest women's clubs in America) has been host to royalty and celebrity for more than a century. Click on Virtual Tours to explore a few of the rooms and gardens that make up this 75,000-square-foot, Italian Renaissance-style building, including the theater, lounge, and courtyard.

http://www.ebellla.com/

7. Quick Takes

See President Jimmy Carter's inspirational presentation, "Moral Leadership in a Global Community," given at Southwestern University on April 4, 2001.
http://ali.apple.com/events/southwestern/
Watch dramatic video footage of the JSF X-35, a series of new military jets the Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company is developing for the U.S. government.

http://www.lmaeronautics.com/imagegallery/videos/jsf_videos.html

2001 Qvale Mangusta. Vist the Mangusta showroom and experience this exotic Italian sports and grand touring car's style and design in all of its 360-degree VR glory.

http://www.qvaleauto.com/show_1a.htm

Got a great example of QuickTime to show us on the web? We'd love to hear about it.

http://www.apple.com/quicktime/hotpicks/tellus/

Thanks for reading this issue of QuickTime News. We'll send your next issue on or around May 4. QuickTime News is a periodic news communication from Apple. To subscribe to QuickTime News, visit: http://www.apple.com/enews/subscribe/ and are listed in U.S. dollars. Product specifications are subject to change.

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Eligibility for frequent drawings of free equipment, software, and books.
Just a few of the many items given away free in the past include: Connectix QuickCam, Microsoft Encarta, Alps Printer, Books from Peachpit Press , MacMillan, RamDoubler, SpeedDoubler, Lind PowerBook battery Conditioners , Rechargers, Microsoft Art Gallery, T-shirts and software including Apple OS 9.0

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40% off Peachpit Press, 40% off MacMillan family of book companies (Hayden, Adobe Press, Que, Sams, Brady, NRP, and Alpha)

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In the past year, Apple, Hayes, Brøderbund, and APC Power Protection (Business Security Products), among others, have offered mini'app'les members significant discounts.

Plus, you're supporting all of mini'app'les' special interest group (SIG) meetings that you can attend each month.

It's easy to recoup your cost of membership with the above benefits.

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