JUNE 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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3	4 BoD 7:00	5 OS X 7:00	6 🗑 6:30	7	8	9
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24	25 Q&A 7:00	26	27	28 🗂 7:00	29	30
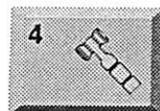
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mini'app'les members welcome
Merriam Park Library
1831 Marshall Avenue St. Paul
Tom Gates 612-789-1713
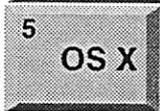
OS X SIG
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The Foundation
219 Second Street North Suite 200
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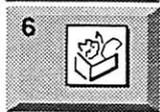
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6
Augsburg Library 6:30 PM
7100 Nicollet Ave S, Richfield
John Hunkins, Sr. 651-457-8949
hunkins@mac.com.
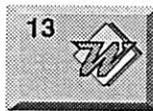
Microsoft Word SIG
13
Eagles lodge
9152 Old Cedar Ave. Bloomington
Tom Ostertag, E 651-488-9979
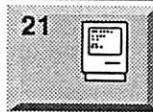
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Perkins 7:00 AM
6920 Wayzata Blvd
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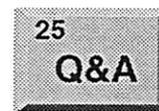
Macintosh Q & A SIG
25 Q&A
Questions & Answers
Merriam Park Library
1831 Marshall Avenue St. Paul
Les Anderson 651-735-3953
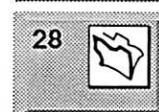
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Partners
2250 terminal Road
Roseville, MN
Steve Wilmes 651-458-1513

VectorWorks SIG
CJR Office
Charles Radloff 952 941 1667

For the latest information please visit **http://www.miniapples.org**

mini'app'les

The Minnesota Apple Computer Users' Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 796, Hopkins, MN 55343

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Dealers – mini'app'les does not endorse specific dealers. The club promotes distribution of information which may help members identify best buys and service. The club itself does not participate in bulk purchases of media, software, hardware and publications. Members may organize such activities on behalf of other members.

Advertisers – For information, see Newsletter Ad Rates box within this issue.

Newsletter Contributions – Please send contributions directly to our Post Office, Box 796, Hopkins, MN 55343, or   tostertag@usfamily.net

Deadline for material for the next newsletter is the 1st of the month. An article will be printed when space permits and, if in the opinion of the Newsletter Editor or Manager, it constitutes material suitable for publication.

Editor/Publisher: Tom Ostertag 651-488-9979

Newsletter Layout: John Pruski 952-938-2818, Bert Persson 612-861-9578

mini'app'les BBS –   Internet only access

mini'app'les WWW site: http://www.miniapples.org

mini'app'les e-mail: miniapples@mac.com

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Moving? Going to be away from home and leaving a forwarding address with the Post Office? Please send us a Change of Address when you are informing others. By using a moment of your time and a few cents to drop us a card, you save the club some money and you get your newsletter delivered promptly to your new address. If you don't inform us, the Post Office puts your newsletter in the trash (they don't forward third class mail) and charges the club for informing us of your new address. Change of Address should be sent to the club's mailing address: mini'app'les, Attn: Membership Director, Box 796, Hopkins, MN 55343.

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July 2007 Preview

Here is the tentative calendar of our Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings for July 2007. Please pencil these events on your calendar. As always, when doubtful of a SIG date, time, or location, confirm with one of the following:
- At www.miniapples.org
- The cognizant SIG Leader

Tuesday	July	3	OS X SIG
Tuesday	July	10	VectorWorks SIG
Wednesday	July	11	Microsoft Word SIG
Thursday	July	19	Macintosh Consultants
Monday	July	23	Mac Q & A SIG
Thursday	July	26	FileMaker Pro SIG

Members Helping Members

Need Help? Have a question the manual doesn't answer? Members Helping Members is a group of volunteers who have generously agreed to help. They are just a phone (or an e-mail) away. Please call only during the appropriate times, if you are a member, and own the software in question.

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1.	Les Anderson	651-735-3953	DEW
2.	Mike Carlson	218-387-2257	D
3.	Tom Ostertag	651-488-9979	EW
4.	Bruce Thompson	763-546-1088	EW
5.	Pam Lienke	651-457-6026	EW
6.	Richard Becker	612-870-0659	EW
7.	Ardie Predweshny	612 978-9774	DEW
8.	Charles Radloff	952-941-1667	D
9.	Chuck Hauge	612-963-5064	DEW
10.	Ron Heck	651-774-9151	DEW

D: Days, generally 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
E: Evenings, generally 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
W: Weekends, generally 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Volunteers needed for members helping Members.

Please call at reasonable hours, and ask if it is a convenient time for them. By the way, many of these volunteers can also be contacted on our BBS. We appreciate your cooperation.

If you would like to be a Members Helping Member volunteer, please send an e-mail message to John Pruski on our BBS, or call him at 952-938-2818, with your name, telephone number, contact hours, and the software or hardware areas you are willing to help others.

Newsletter Ad Rates

1/12 page .... 2.25" Width x 2.5" Height........ $5

1/6 page.......... 2.5" Width x 5" Height........ $10

1/3 page.... 2.5" Width x 10" Height Vert or 5.5 H.. $20

1/2 page...... 7.5" Width x 5" Height (save 5%).... $30

2/3 page...... 5" Width x 10" Height (save 7%).... $40

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Outside back cover . 7-1/2" Width x 7-1/2" Height .. $50

Inside back cover .... 7-1/2" Width x 10" Height ... $60

All ads must be prepaid and submitted on electronic media. Ads of $20 and under must run for a minimum of three months.

mini'app'les will accept all ads for publication that do not affect our nonprofit status, or the postal regulations dealing with our nonprofit mailing rates. Examples of ads that will be rejected are; but not limited to, ads that:
1. endorse a political candidate or cause
2. attack a person or cause
3. are in "bad taste" (x rated or similar)
4. expound or demean a religion or practice.
Ads should be for a product or service. Because of our nonprofit mailing rates we must limit ads that are not related to computers.
Mail inquiries to: PO Box 796, Hopkins, MN, 55343
Phone inquiries to: John Pruski, 952-938-2818

Phishing Scams

Submitted by Les Anderson

In the past few weeks I've received two scam e-mails. The first was supposedly from Pay Pal asking me to verify my account status. I knew this was a Phishing scam because I don't have a Pay Pal account.

This week I had one reportedly from TCF Bank claiming that attempts were made from overseas to access my account and they were temporally suspending my account until I clicked on a link to verify it. It really looked like it came from TCF, and I do have an account and use the on-line banking. I called TCF and they asked that I forward it to their fraud department.

Here's the text of what I received, it also had the TCF logo in the header.

We recently noticed one or more attempts to log in to your TCF Bank account from a foreign IP address.

If you recently accessed your account while traveling, the unusual log in attempts may have been initiated by you. However if you are the rightful holder of the account. Click on the link below to re-activate your membership and follow the instructions.

https://www.tcfbank.com/onlinesecurityalertupgrade/re-activate/membership

If you choose not to complete the request, you give us no choice but to suspend your account temporary.

It takes at least 72 hours for the investigation in this case and we strongly recommend you to verify your account at that time.

If you received this notice and you are not the authorized account holder, please be aware that it is in violation of TCF Bank policy to represent oneself as an other TCF Bank user. Such action may also be in violation of local, national, and/or international law. TCF Bank is committed to assist law enforcement with any inquires related attempts to misappropriate personal information with the intent to commit fraud or theft. Information will be provided at the request or law enforcement agencies to ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Thanks for your patience as we work together to protect your account.

TCF Bank Account Review Department.

Please do not reply to this email. This mailbox is not monitored and you will not receive a response.
For assistance, log in to your TCF Bank account and click the Help link located in the top right corner of any TCF Bank page.

TCF Bank Email ID cc00520

TCF Bank 2007. All rights

If you get any e-mail asking for similar information DO NOT reply but contact the business and report it. Business's do not ask for personal information via e-mail.

BBC NEWS

Submitted by John Pruski

Google searches web's dark side
One in 10 web pages scrutinised by search giant Google contained malicious code that could infect a user's PC.

Researchers from the firm surveyed billions of sites, subjecting 4.5 million pages to "in-depth analysis".

About 450,000 were capable of launching so-called "drive-by downloads", sites that install malicious code, such as spyware, without a user's knowledge.

A further 700,000 pages were thought to contain code that could compromise a user's computer, the team report.

To address the problem, the researchers say the company has "started an effort to identify all web pages on the internet that could be malicious".

Phantom sites

Drive-by downloads are an increasingly common way to infect a computer or steal sensitive information.

They usually consist of malicious programs that automatically install when a potential victim visits a booby-trapped website.

"To entice users to install malware, adversaries employ social engineering," wrote Google researcher Niels Provos and his colleagues in a paper titled The Ghost In The Browser.

Finding all the web-based infection vectors is a significant challenge and requires almost complete knowledge of the web
Google researchers
Avoiding attacks

"The user is presented with links that promise access to 'interesting' pages with explicit pornographic content, copyrighted software or media. A common example are sites that display thumbnails to adult videos."

The vast majority exploit vulnerabilities in Microsoft's Internet Explorer browser to install themselves.

Some downloads, such as those that alter bookmarks, install unwanted toolbars or change the start page of a browser, are an annoyance. But increasingly, criminals are using

drive-bys to install keyloggers that steal login and password information.

Other pieces of malicious code hijack a computer turning it into a "bot", a remotely controlled PC.

Drive-by downloads represent a shift away from traditional methods of infecting a computer, such as spam and email attachments.

Attack plan

As well as characterising the scale of the problem on the net, the Google study analysed the main methods by which criminals inject malicious code on to innocent web pages.

It found that the code was often contained in those parts of the website not designed or controlled by the website owner, such as banner adverts and widgets.

Widgets are small programs that may, for example, display a calendar on a webpage or a web traffic counter. These are often downloaded from third-party sites.

The rise of web 2.0 and user-generated content gave criminals other channels, or vectors, of attack, it found.

For example, postings in blogs and forums that contain links to images or other content could unwittingly infect a user.

The study also found that gangs were able to hijack web servers, effectively taking over and infecting all of the web pages hosted on the computer.

In a test, the researchers' computer was infected with 50 different pieces of malware by visiting a web page hosted on a hijacked server.

The firm is now in the process of mapping the malware threat.

Google, part of the StopBadware coalition, already warns users if they are about to visit a potentially harmful website, displaying a message that reads "this site may harm your computer" next to the search results.

"Marking pages with a label allows users to avoid exposure to such sites and results in fewer users being infected," the researchers wrote.

However, the task will not be easy, they say.

"Finding all the web-based infection vectors is a significant challenge and requires almost complete knowledge of the web as a whole," they wrote.

Story from BBC NEWS:
http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/technology/6645895.stm

Published: 2007/05/11 11:37:08 GMT

© BBC MMVII

Timbuktu Pro: Review

Submitted by John Pruski

One of the things I love about software for the Mac is the quality and abundance of programs that help users get the most out of their computing experience while integrating with the Mac as much as possible. Timbuktu Pro remote control software from Motorola (formerly Netopia) is no exception to this rule.

Before we get to far into this review I think we should talk a little about what exactly Timbuktu Pro does. Timbuktu Pro is basically a remote computing application that allows a person to control one computer from another machine all within a very Mac-like interface. Additionally the program allows drag 'n drop file sharing, voice and text chat functionality as well as the ability to use it in cross platform environments.

Since this app is an extremely powerful and feature rich remote computing environment I decided to focus my review on what is, in my opinion, easiest way to get set up and running. Setup

While there are many ways to set up access between installations of Timbuktu my personal favorite is the ease of use provide by using the Skype VOIP client. By using Skype to connect your machines you can bypass what can be lengthy firewall and router setups which include configuring the Mac's network settings and your router. However, when using Skype to create the secure connection between machines I was able to setup both of my machines from scratch and be up and running in under 10 minutes. Amazing when you consider the complexities and security implications of working on a remote computer.

Remote Control

Remote control works exactly like you would expect on the Mac. Once you launch Timbuktu and connect to your remote machine a window pops up showing you the contents of the remote computer's screen. If the screen is larger than your current screen, like working on a Macbook and controlling an iMac, then Timbuktu allows you to scale the screen or have it track the mouse around at full resolution.

Once connected you can just move your mouse inside the Timbuktu window and your mouse and keyboard with begin to operate the remote machine like you were sitting down in front of it. All of the functionality you would normally get from your remote machine, including system performance, is at your finger tips the only hold up being the speed at which your internet connection refreshes the remote screen. I've been testing out exporting files from Final Cut Pro remotely so that I can start exports and renders in the evening without having to stop by the office and let me say it has been a real time

File Sharing

Timbuktu Pro allows for drag 'n drop file sharing that I believe is unique in the world of remote control access on the Mac. While free programs like VNC clients might appear to provide all of the same features of Timbuktu Pro, they don't come close to the drag 'n drop file transfer that is both secure

and intuitive and of course much more Mac like in execution. All you have to do to move a file from one machine to the other is drag that file from one desktop to the other, whether it is your remote or local machine. Normally you would have to use VNC for screen control and an FTP client to access your files, but with Timbuktu you can have both in a much more user friendly way.

Gripes

Of course, as with any application Timbuktu isn't perfect and there are few things that bug me about the app. Some of the user interface feels a little dated, especially the preferences window. Also, I wish you could delete the Menu bar icon when you are not planning on using the app, if for no other reason than that it lets anyone who glances at your screen know that you have access to remote computers. Not a big deal, but something that bothered me when I was attending NAB last week with over 130,000 other people. Of course these are all minor annoyances, and they don't keep me from really enjoying the application.

Wrap Up

There are tons of features like instant messaging, clipboard sync, screen scaling, quicktime recording as well as the ability to change the color resolution in order to improve response time that round out this very mature application. It is one of the few applications that started out with the Mac back in the 1980s and has made it through the "dark years" to end up on the current version of OSX. Not many applications on the Mac can say that and continue to create what other reviewers have called the "gold standard for Macintosh remote control."

After using Timbuktu Pro for the last couple of weeks I think this application is a must have for anyone who needs to access files on remote computers. The application provided me piece of mind knowing that when I'm on the road I have full access to my workstation at the office. It also brings the freedom of being able to check in on processes running on my G5 at work from the comfort of my living room couch, which as a guy who manages the computers at the office is a much needed reassurance. Due to it's day to day ease of use, full feature set, relatively new Skype integration and compatibility with Windows machines I can't think of a better solution for remote control on the mac.

Pros: Extremely powerful remote computing environment with easy file sharing and integration with the Mac OS.

Cons: A bit complication to set up, could maybe use a walk through process when setting up new computers or installations.

Five out of Five Dog Cows

This entry was posted by Matthew Kappenman on Friday, April 27th, 2007 at 8:03 am and is filed under Software Review.

Funny Stuff

Submitted by Les C. Anderson

You have to be old enough to remember Abbott and Costello, and too old to REALLY understand computers, to fully appreciate this. For those of us who sometimes get flustered by our computers, please read on...

If Bud Abbott and Lou Costello were alive today, their infamous sketch, "Who's on First?" might have turned out something like this:

COSTELLO CALLS TO BUY A COMPUTER FROM ABBOTT

ABBOTT: Super Duper computer store. Can I help you?

COSTELLO: Thanks. I'm setting up an office in my den and I'm thinking about buying a computer.

ABBOTT: Mac?

COSTELLO: No, the name's Lou.

ABBOTT: Your computer?

COSTELLO: I don't own a computer. I want to buy one.

ABBOTT: Mac?

COSTELLO: I told you, my name's Lou.

ABBOTT: What about Windows?

COSTELLO: Why? Will it get stuffy in here?

ABBOTT: Do you want a computer with Windows?

COSTELLO: I don't know. What will I see when I look at the windows?

ABBOTT: Wallpaper.

COSTELLO: Never mind the windows. I need a computer and software.

ABBOTT: Software for Windows?

COSTELLO: No. On the computer! I need something I can use to write proposals, track expenses and run my business. What do you have?

A BBOTT: Office.

COSTELLO: Yeah, for my office. Can you recommend anything?

ABBOTT: I just did.

COSTELLO: You just did what?

ABBOTT: Recommend something.

COSTELLO: You recommended something?

ABBOTT: Yes.

COSTELLO: For my office?

ABBOTT: Yes.

COSTELLO: OK, what did you recommend for my office?

ABBOTT: Office.

COSTELLO: Yes, for my office!

ABBOTT: I recommend Office with Windows.

COSTELLO: I already have an office with windows! OK, let's just say I'm sitting at my computer and I want to type a proposal. What do I need?

ABBOTT: Word.

COSTELLO: What word?

ABBOTT: Word in Office.

COSTELLO: The only word in office is office.

ABBOTT: The Word in Office for Windows.

COSTELLO: Which word in office for windows?

ABBOTT: The Word you get when you click the blue "W".

COSTELLO: I'm going to click your blue "w" if you don't start with some straight answers. What about financial bookkeeping? You have anything I can track my money with?

ABBOT T: Money.

COSTELLO: That's right. What do you have?

ABBOTT: Money.

COSTELLO: I need money to track my money?

ABBOTT: It comes bundled with your computer.

COSTELLO: What's bundled with my computer?

ABBOTT: Money.

COSTELLO: Money comes with my computer?

ABBOTT: Yes. No extra charge.

COSTELLO: I get a bundle of money with my computer? How much?

ABBOTT: One copy.

COSTELLO: Isn't it illegal to copy money?

ABBOTT: Microsoft gave us a license to copy Money.

COSTELLO: They can give you a license to copy money?

ABBOTT: Why not? THEY OWN IT!

(A few days later)

ABBOTT: Super Duper computer store. Can I help you?

COSTELLO: How do I turn my computer off?

ABBOTT: Click on "START".............

mini'app'les

The Minnesota Apple Computer Users' Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 796, Hopkins, MN 55343-0796

Membership Application, & Renewal Form

Name:_____

Company (if mailed to):_____

Address:_____

_____

City, State, Zip:_____

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Phone # (Work):_____

Phone # (cel-phone):_____

Occupation (if Applicable):_____

Membership ID # (if Renewal):_____

e-mail:_____

___ Check if OK to contact you by e-mail.
___ Check if this is a change of address notice.
___ Check if you are interested in volunteer opportunities.
___ Check if you want your name added to Members Helping Members List.
___ Check if you want your name withheld from commercial and other non-club mailing lists.
___ Check if you were referred by a club member (if so give members name).

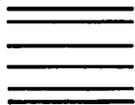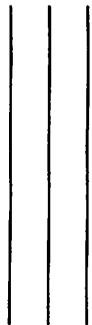## New Members & Renewing Members

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___ $45.00 Two Year
___ $60.00 Three Year
___ $15.00 Student One Year*(must be a full-time student at an accredited institution)
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Hopkins, MN 55343-0796

Thank You for your support!

1st fold

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

3rd fold

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

2nd fold

Last Fold - Seal with Tape

Benefits of your mini'app'les membership include:

A one year subscription to our monthly Newsletter

A free account on the mini'app'les BBS (60 minutes/day)
Communicate with other mini'app'les members plus get up to date information on mini'app'les events and meetings. Get assistance from other members.

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, Quickeys, Books from Peachpit Press , MacSoft Games & Software, T-shirts and software including Apple OS 10

Periodic special User Group discount offers on equipment and software.
In the past, 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.

 mini'app'les
newsletter
Box 796
Hopkins, MN 55343

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

 mini'app'les   membership card

EXPIRES: Life ID# 160

DAN B BUCHLER
2601 WOODS TRL
BURNSVILLE MN 55337