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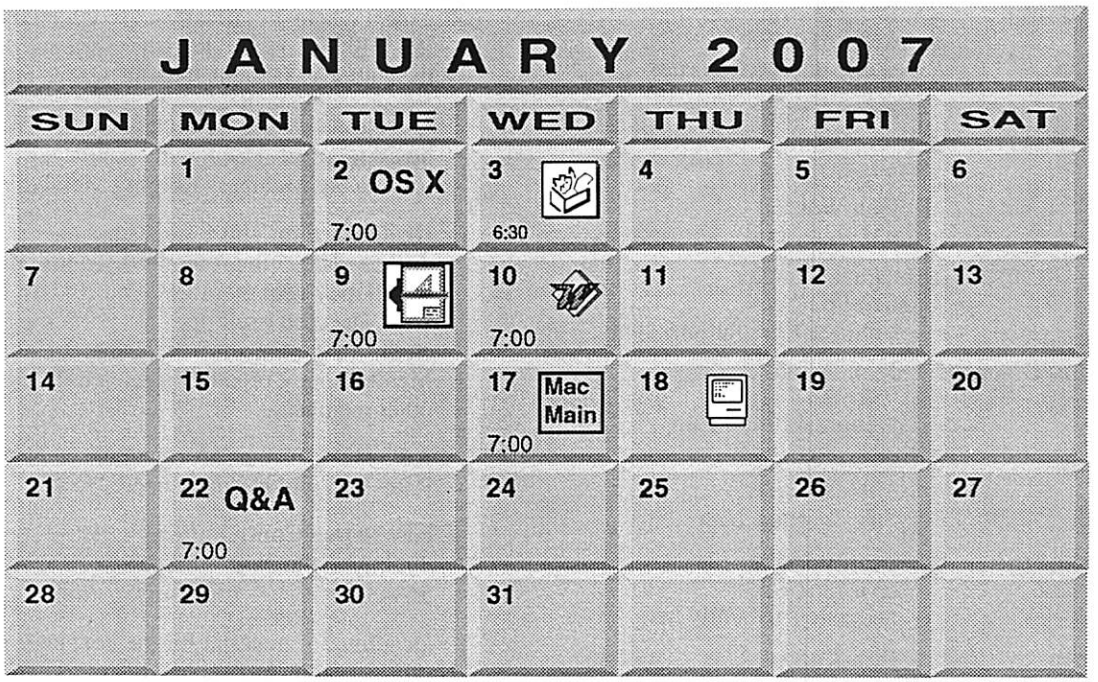
Volume 30, Issue 1

mini'app'les newsletter

the minnesota apple computer users' group, inc.



2 OS X

OS X SIG
The Foundation
219 Second Street North Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55403

3

AppleWorks SIG
Augsburg Library **6:30 PM**
7100 Nicollet Ave S, Richfield
John Hunkins, Sr. 651-457-8949
hunkins@mac.com.

9

VectorWorks SIG
CJR Office
7805 Telegraph Road Suite 220
Charles Radloff 952 941 1667

10

Microsoft Word SIG
Eagles lodge
9152 Old Cedar Ave. Bloomington
Tom Ostertag, E 651-488-9979

17 Mac Main

Mac Main SIG
Southdale Library
7001 York Avenue South,
Edina, MN 55435
Craig R. Arko

18

Macintosh Consultants SIG
Perkins **7:00 AM**
6920 Wayzata Blvd
Golden Valley
Bob Demeules, 763-559-1124

27 Q&A

Macintosh Q & A SIG
Questions & Answers
Merriam Park Library
1831 Marshall Avenue St. Paul
Les Anderson 651-735-3953

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

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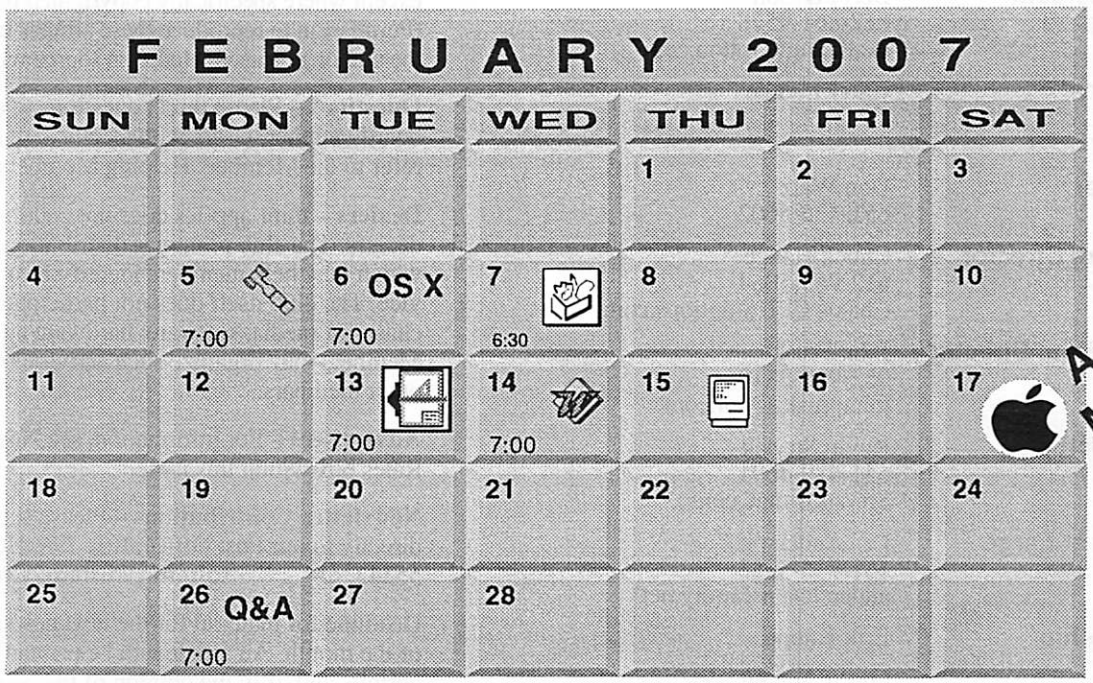
Volume 30, Issue 2

mini'app'les newsletter

the minnesota apple computer users' group, inc.



5 **Board of Directors**
mini'app'les members welcome
Merriam Park Library
1831 Marshall Avenue St. Paul
Tom Gates 612-789-1713

6 **OS X SIG**
The Foundation
219 Second Street North Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55403

7 **AppleWorks SIG**
Augsburg Library **6:30 PM**
7100 Nicollet Ave S, Richfield
John Hunkins, Sr. 651-457-8949
hunkins@mac.com.

13 **VectorWorks SIG**
CJR Office
Charles Radloff 952 941 1667

14 **Microsoft Word SIG**
Eagles lodge
9152 Old Cedar Ave. Bloomington
Tom Ostertag, E 651-488-9979

15 **Macintosh Consultants SIG**
Perkins **7:00 AM**
6920 Wayzata Blvd
Golden Valley
Bob Demeules, 763-559-1124

17 **Annual Meeting**
Washburn Library
5244 Lyndale Ave. S. Mpls
John Pruski, 952-938-2818
See page 5

26 **Macintosh Q & A SIG**
Questions & Answers
Merriam Park Library
1831 Marshall Avenue St. Paul
Les Anderson 651-735-3953

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Volume 30, Issue 3

mini'app'les newsletter

the minnesota apple computer users' group, inc.

MARCH 2007						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6 OS X 7:00	7 6:30	8	9	10
11	12	13 7:00	14 7:00	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 7:00	23	24
25	26 Q&A 7:00	27	28	29	30	31

6 OS X

OS X SIG
The Foundation
219 Second Street North Suite 200
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15

Macintosh Consultants SIG
Perkins **7:00 AM**
6920 Wayzata Blvd
Golden Valley
Bob Demeules, 763-559-1124

22

FileMaker Pro SIG
Partners
2250 terminal Road
Roseville, MN
Steve Wilmes 651-458-1513

26 Q&A

Macintosh Q & A SIG
Questions & Answers
Merriam Park Library
1831 Marshall Avenue St. Paul
Les Anderson 651-735-3953

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

Board of Directors:

President	Tom Gates 612-789-1713 tgates@isd.net
Vice President	Bert Persson 612-861-9578 skallgang@yahoo.com
Secretary	Harry Lienke
Treasurer	Don Walz 651-426-5602
Marketing Director	Chuck Hauge 612-963-5064 Chaz@CPHSolutions.com
Publications Director	John Pruski 952-938-2818 johnpruski@aol.com
SIG Director	Kevin Strysik 651-489-4691 Strysik@mac.com
Director at Large	Les Anderson 651-735-3953 anderslc@usfamily.net
Membership	Erik Knopp
Apple II	Owen Aaland

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Questions – Please direct questions to an appropriate board member. Users with technical questions should refer to the Members Helping Members section.

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.

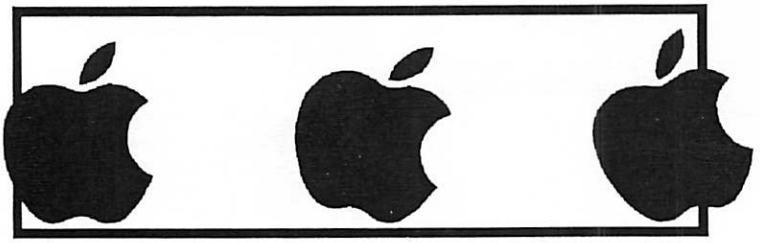
Editor/Publisher: Tom Ostertag 651-488-9979

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



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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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April 2007 Preview

Here is the tentative calendar of our Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings for April 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

Monday	April	2	Board of Directors meeting
Tuesday	April	3	OS X SIG
Wednesday	April	4	AppleWorks SIG
Tuesday	April	10	VectorWorks SIG
Wednesday	April	11	Microsoft Word SIG
Thursday	April	19	Macintosh Consultants
Monday	April	23	Mac Q & A SIG
Thursday	April	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.

Apple II / IIGS Software & Hardware	1, 3, 4
AppleWorks / ClarisWorks-Draw	4, 5
Classic Macs	
Cross-Platform File Transfer	3
FileMaker Pro	
FirstClass	
iMacs	6
iPhoto / iTunes / iMovie	
Mac OS Classic	4, 6
Mac OS X	
MacWrite Pro	
Microsoft Excel	2, 3, 7, 10
Microsoft Word	3, 10
MYOB	7
Networks	9
New Users	1, 6
PhotoShop	
PowerBooks / iBooks	6
Power Macs	
QuarkXPress	10
Quicken	2, 7
QuickBooks and QuickBooks Pro	7
WordPerfect	
VectorWorks	8

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
Full page ... 7-1/2" Width x 10" Height (save 15%).. $60
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

mini'app'les Directors Meeting Minutes for February 5, 2007

Submitted by Harry Lienke

In attendance: Don Walz, Bert Persson, Chuck Hauge, John Pruski, Kevin Strysik, Les Anderson, Erik Knopp, Harry Lienke
Absent: Tom Gates

Agenda: See Old Business and New Business below

Minutes: Minutes for December 2006 meeting approved electronically 12/08/2006

Directors Reports

Treasurer Don Walz's report: Provided a hard copy report. A motion to approve the report was made, seconded, and passed.

President Tom Gates' report: No report

Vice President Bert Persson's report: Nothing to report

Secretary Harry Lienke's report: December minutes approved on-line.

Marketing Director Chuck Hauge's report: Since some folks don't like the First Class software and don't participate in the BBS, he has set up a discussion area in the Google groups for Board members to evaluate as an alternate approach for the BBS. He will send another notice to Board members so all can try it. He needs feedback on this effort. He reported the Pioneer Press dropped its on-line events calendar but still has it in the Sunday edition of the paper.

Publications Director John Pruski's report: Newsletter going out as normal. Can use more articles. Kevin Strysik wondered about putting the newsletter on-line. After some discussion of possibilities (add to Google discussion area, add to club website, charge more for members getting hard copy of newsletter, etc.), it was decided that Chuck Hauge will present some ideas relative to an on-line newsletter at the annual meeting.

SIG Director Kevin Strysik's report: Needs to be more pro-active and hassle SIG leaders about meeting dates and getting the dates communicated to other club members. SIG leaders need to let everybody know when and where meetings are to be held. Maybe a SIG leader code of responsibility needs to be developed; Chuck Hauge volunteered to draft one.

Director at Large Les Anderson's report: Newsletters were mailed early in January. Will not be attending the annual meeting or Q&A SIG because of medical problems; others will have to fill in at the Q&A SIG for a couple of months. Les will be able to help put the March newsletter together at his house but someone else will need to deliver the newsletters to the Post Office.

Membership Director Erik Knopp's report: Processing membership applications as usual. The club has about 130 members.

Old Business

IRS Non-profit Organization Status – Tom Gates has been handling the interface with the IRS but hasn't provided any additional information on our non-profit status. Les has ordered and received forms and suggested we file a return even though we aren't required to do it; that way the IRS will keep us on their records as an active group. Les says Brian Bantz says be careful because incorrect information included in a filing may linger and cause problems for years.

Chuck wondered why we need non-profit status. Les pointed out we need to be a non-profit organization to be able to mail newsletters at the low postage rate. Non-profit organizations can also accept charitable contributions which are deductible from income tax.

Audit – Paula Laudenbach volunteered to perform this task for the club and provided a letter indicating that all appears to be in order. Thank you, Paula, for your valuable contribution.

Dreamweaver Update – No word from Dave Peck; Chuck to contact Dave again.

Budget – We are, once again, still waiting for final information from President Gates.

Annual Meeting – Scheduled at the Washburn Library on February 17 from 12:30 pm to 5:00 pm. Bruce Thompson, who has vendor-donated copies of Parallels and Print Explosion, indicated Bob Demeules will do a Parallels presentation. Pam Lienke will do a Print Explosion presentation. Bert and John will make arrangements for refreshments (cookies, pop, coffee, water, veggies).

Change to one big Saturday meeting – Les put a write-up in the newsletter and on one of the BBS discussion groups. Two replies on the BBS favored the change; Les received no email responses to the newsletter article. The change to one large Main Macintosh meeting followed by SIG break-outs will be discussed at the Annual Meeting.

New Business

Midwinter Madness – Rescheduled for March 24 in Buffalo. Bert and John will attend to try to recruit some new members. $40 was approved previously to defray expenses. $29 will be the actual cost.

Next meeting: Scheduled for April 2, 2007, at the Merriam Park Library at 7:00 pm. All club members are welcome to attend.

Daylight Saving Time May Bite the Out-of-Date -

Submitted by Bruce Thompson
by Andrew Laurence

Beginning this year, Daylight Saving Time in the United States begins earlier and runs later than in prior years. Under the new rules, Daylight Saving Time begins on the second Sunday in March and ends on the first Sunday in November. Previously, it began on the first Sunday in April and ended on the last Sunday in October. This change was signed into law as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Energy_Policy_Act_of_2005>

This change means that any device which automatically changes its clock to match Daylight Saving Time, such as a VCR, either needs to be updated with new rules, or must have its clock changed manually on the affected dates. Apple included the new rules for Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger in the 10.4.6 update. (The 10.4.5 update also updated the Daylight Saving Time rules for changes in Australia and other locations.) Currently Apple has only released updates for Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger.

<http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=303411>
<http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=303179>

Turning the Hands -- Unless updates are issued for prior releases of Mac OS X, the clocks on computers running 10.3 or earlier will not show the correct time for three weeks in March and one week in November, in perpetuity. During those weeks, a number of things might go wrong. Messages created in Apple's Mail client (and probably others) will have the wrong timestamp, possibly resulting in users' messages being missed by their recipients. Events in iCal will display incorrectly, possibly causing people to miss appointments. Similarly, anyone collaborating on documents, and resolving changes based on timestamp, will be thrown askew. Authentication to network-based services (email, file servers, etc) might fail, as servers may refuse connection attempts if they appear to be too far outside the norm. (Kerberos servers, such as those available in Mac OS X Server, behave in this manner.)

In order to avoid these problems, folks using older releases will have to change their computers' clocks manually to the new "correct" time when Daylight Saving Time takes effect on 11-Mar-07, and then again on 01-Apr-07 (when those earlier versions of Mac OS X try to change it based on the old rules). Users will similarly have to adjust their computers' clocks on 28-Oct-07 and 04-Nov-07.

There are two options for updating clocks. If your computer uses a time server to set the date and time automatically, you can simply adjust the time zone (in the Time Zone pane of the Date & Time system preferences) to a zone that is an hour earlier or later, as appropriate. If your computer does not use a time server, you can simply adjust the time in the Date & Time pane of the Date & Time system preference. Either way, there may be problems with software that calculates time internally using Coordinated Universal Time (UT, also known as Greenwich Mean Time or GMT).

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coordinated_Universal_Time>
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greenwich_Mean_Time>

Apple's Responsibility -- We hope Apple will issue updates for Mac OS X 10.3 Panther and 10.2 Jaguar, else users will have to adjust their computers' clocks every year, twice on every Daylight Saving Time start and end date, for a total of four manual adjustments per year. An Apple representative declined to comment on "future plans or possible future software updates."

Unlike other operating system vendors, including Microsoft, Red Hat, and Sun, Apple has not posted sufficient information regarding how the change in Daylight Saving Time affects their products, nor which products are patched or unpatched. This situation is sadly familiar, for they likewise do not post life cycle support schedules for Mac OS X (again in contrast with Microsoft, Red Hat, and Sun), leaving customers to guess whether they can expect patches for security vulnerabilities. In this case, it's a simple matter of making sure the clock is right, and Apple's silent, de facto message of "upgrade to Tiger" is woefully inappropriate.

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/timezone/dst2007.mspx>
<http://kbase.redhat.com/faq/FAQ_80_7909.shtm>
<http://sunsolve.sun.com/search/document.do?assetkey=1-26-102775-1>
<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/lifecycle/default.mspx>
<http://www.redhat.com/security/updates/eol/> <http://www.sun.com/software/solaris/lifecycle.xml>

Other Software -- Some calendaring software may also require an update, as did Microsoft Entourage. The recent Microsoft Office for Mac 11.3.3 update fixed Entourage 2004's Daylight Saving Time rules. Microsoft told TidBITS that Entourage X would not be updated for the new Daylight Saving Time rules. In other words, if you use Entourage X for calendaring, you're really going to want to upgrade to Entourage 2004. (If you use Entourage with a Microsoft Exchange server, you should coordinate updates with your Exchange administrator, as Exchange must also be updated with the new rules.)

<http://www.microsoft.com/mac/downloads.aspx?pid=download&location=/mac/download/Office2004/Office2004_1133.xml>

Happily, a fix for Mac OS X 10.3 Panther (both the desktop and server versions) has appeared in the form of an unofficial installer from Ian Ward Comfort of Stanford University that updates the necessary zoneinfo files and the ICU data archive to enable Cocoa applications like iCal to function correctly. You can also see Ian's shell script if you're concerned about running the installer. Finally, a Web site - DSTPatch.com - has sprung up to track available vendor patches; any system administrator or network administrator would do well to check it out.

<http://www.stanford.edu/~icomfort/panthertz/Panther-TZ-2007a.dmg>
<http://www.stanford.edu/~icomfort/panthertz/patch-panthertz.sh>
<http://dstpatch.com/>

If you're wondering why we bother with Daylight Saving Time at all (and different parts of the United States, along with various other countries, do not), you're not alone. The main rationale in the United States is energy conservation, but other stated benefits include increased opportunities for outdoor activities and fewer traffic injuries.
<http://www.energy.ca.gov/daylight-saving.html>

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2007 Annual Meeting Minutes:

Submitted by Harry Lienke

The 2007 mini'app'les Annual Meeting was called to order by Vice President Bert Persson at the Washburn Library on February 17. Among the twelve members present at the beginning of the meeting besides Bert were Treasurer Don Walz, Publication Director John Pruski, SIG Director Kevin Strysik, and Secretary Harry Lienke; two additional members arrived during the meeting.

Bert called for nominations for the Board of Directors (BOD) positions. The current BOD was nominated for re-election:

President Tom Gates, Vice President Bert Persson (Bert was nominated for President but declared a strong preference for remaining Vice President), Secretary Harry Lienke, Treasurer Don Walz, Marketing Director Chuck Hauge, Publication Director John Pruski, and SIG Director Kevin Strysik.

All nominees except President Gates indicated a willingness to serve again; Tom was unavailable for comment. A discussion whether Les Anderson was a Director-at-Large who needed nomination and re-election ensued; it was decided that since the club by-laws establish a Past-President position but not a Director-at-Large, Les is a BOD member until a new president is elected. A by-laws change is required to eliminate the Past President and create a Director-at-Large position.

The Technical Section of the Annual Meeting consisted of demonstrations of two Nova Development Corporation programs: Print Explosion Deluxe version 3.0 and Parallels.

Pam Lienke gave a demonstration of some of the capabilities of Print Explosion Deluxe version 3.0. Print Explosion has more than 13,000 templates; 100,000 graphics; and 900 fonts, and Pam showed it to be a powerful, yet easy to use, program. She started by showing some examples of greeting cards, calendars, scrapbooks, certificates, business cards, invitations, and envelopes in a PDF document provided by the software vendor. Pam then demonstrated using Print Explosion to produce a greeting card, a business card, and business stationery; she called up templates and other graphics, changed fonts and font colors, and inserted personal photographs into documents. The large number of questions asked showed the group was quite interested in Print Explosion. The only shortcoming of Print Explosion Pam mentioned in response to a question was the slow performance when the software was used to produce a scrapbook on a machine with a slow CPU (an 800 MHz iMac, for instance) and/or a limited amount of RAM; Print Explosion worked fine on the 1.67 GHz PowerBook with 1 GB of RAM used for the demonstration.

Craig Arko, with assistance from Bob Demeules, demonstrated Parallels. This Nova Development software permits Windows and Windows applications to be run at near native speed on an Intel-based Macintosh (Craig used his new black MacBook with 2 GB of RAM).

Craig also showed a classic Macintosh emulator called Sheepshaver supporting HyperCard running under Mac OS 8.6.

Kevin Strysik described a change to the club,Äôs Special Interest Group (SIG) structure being proposed in an attempt to increase participation in the club; the Main Macintosh meeting may be held on a Saturday and moved to a location which would allow a large number of members to participate in that meeting and then immediately attend smaller break-out meetings supporting the SIGs. Most comments were favorable to making a change although it was pointed out that a facility with rooms to support both a large meeting and several smaller meetings is needed and multiple projectors may be needed to support the SIG meetings. Another possibility is to move the Main Mac meeting to Saturday but leave the other SIGs on their current schedule. The Board of Directors welcomes comments on this topic; please send a Bulletin Board System (BBS) message or an email to a Director or stop and talk to a director at a club meeting. Since the comments were primarily positive toward the change, the BOD will consider implementing the change as soon as practical.

Other items mentioned during the discussion were the possibility of converting to an on-line newsletter (we are no longer receiving many hard copy newsletters in the newsletter exchange with other user groups), few BBSs are still active, and we need to emphasize to members and prospective members that real, live people are available to give answers to questions without either a long wait in a queue or a sales pitch.

Nova Development Corporation was kind enough to provide copies of each of their programs for club use. In a drawing, a copy of Print Explosion Deluxe version 3.0 was won by Dave Lundin and a copy of Parallels was won by Bert Persson.

Members can purchase Print Explosion from Nova Development for $29.95 (list price is $49.95). Parallels is available to members for $69.95 (list price $79.95). The prices include shipping.

If you have any problems with Apple computers, software or related equipment please share them with our members by submitting an article to the newsletter. We have plenty of space for individuals willing to share their experiences.

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:_____
Phone # (Home)**:**_____
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

Specify your level of support:

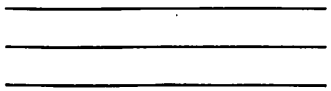
___ $25.00 One Year
___ $45.00 Two Year
___ $60.00 Three Year
___ $15.00 Student One Year* (must be a full-time student at an accredited institution)
___ $100.00 Corporate One Year

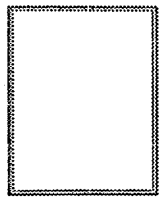
Please Make
Your Checks Payable to:
mini'app'les

Please address
Your Payment to:
mini'app'les
P.O. Box 796
Hopkins, MN 55343-0796

Thank You for your support!

Last Fold - Seal with Tape





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

3rd fold

1st fold

2nd fold

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

Gates vs. GM

Submitted by Jim Nye

For all of us who feel only the deepest love and affection for the way computers have enhanced our lives, read on.

in the road, you would have to buy a new car.

3. Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason. You would have to pull to the side of the road, clos[redacted]

7. The airbag system would ask "Are you sure?" before deploying.

8. Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simulta-

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

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mini'app'les membership card

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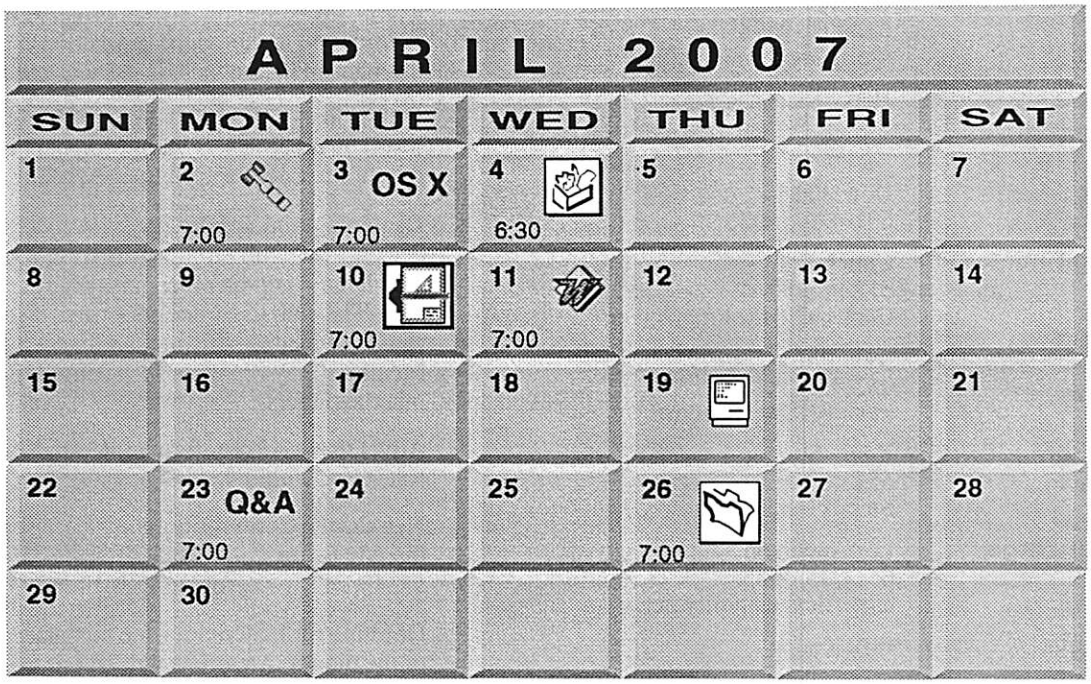
BURNSVILLE MN 55337

$3

Volume 30, Issue 4

mini'app'les newsletter

the minnesota apple computer users' group, inc.



Board of Directors
mini'app'les members welcome
Merriam Park Library
1831 Marshall Avenue St. Paul
Tom Gates 612-789-1713

OS X SIG
The Foundation
219 Second Street North Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55403

AppleWorks SIG
Augsburg Library **6:30 PM**
7100 Nicollet Ave S, Richfield
John Hunkins, Sr. 651-457-8949
hunkins@mac.com.

VectorWorks SIG
CJR Office
Charles Radloff 952 941 1667

Microsoft Word SIG
Eagles lodge
9152 Old Cedar Ave. Bloomington
Tom Ostertag, E 651-488-9979

Macintosh Consultants SIG
Perkins **7:00 AM**
6920 Wayzata Blvd
Golden Valley
Bob Demeules, 763-559-1124

Macintosh Q & A SIG
Questions & Answers
Merriam Park Library
1831 Marshall Avenue St. Paul
Les Anderson 651-735-3953

FileMaker Pro SIG
Partners
2250 terminal Road
Roseville, MN
Steve Wilmes 651-458-1513

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

Board of Directors:

President	Tom Gates 612-789-1713 tgates@isd.net
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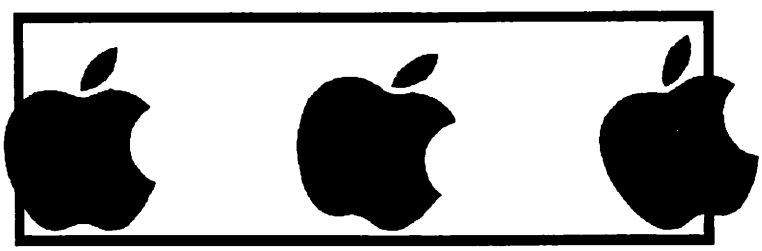
Membership	Erik Knopp
Apple II	Owen Aaland



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Questions – Please direct questions to an appropriate board member. Users with technical questions should refer to the Members Helping Members section.

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

The mini'app'les Newsletter is an independent publication not affiliated, sponsored, or sanctioned by Apple Computer, Inc. or any other computer manufacturer. The opinions, statements, positions, and views herein are those of the author(s) or editor and are not intended to represent the opinions, statements, positions, or views of Apple Computer Inc., or any other computer manufacturer. Instead of placing a trademark symbol at every occurrence of a trade-marked name, we state that we are using the names only in an editorial manner, to the benefit of the trademark owner, with no intention of infringement of the trademark.

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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May 2007 Preview

Here is the tentative calendar of our Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings for May 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	May	1	OS X SIG
Wednesday	May	2	AppleWorks SIG
Tuesday	May	8	VectorWorks SIG
Wednesday	May	9	Microsoft Word SIG
Thursday	May	17	Macintosh Consultants
Monday	May	23	Mac Q & A SIG
Thursday	May	24	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.

Apple II / IIGS Software & Hardware	1, 3, 4
AppleWorks / ClarisWorks-Draw	4, 5
Classic Macs	
Cross-Platform File Transfer	3
FileMaker Pro	
FirstClass	
iMacs	6
iPhoto / iTunes / iMovie	
Mac OS Classic	4, 6
Mac OS X	
MacWrite Pro	
Microsoft Excel	2, 3, 7, 10
Microsoft Word	3, 10
MYOB	7
Networks	9
New Users	1, 6
PhotoShop	
PowerBooks / iBooks	6
Power Macs	
QuarkXPress	10
Quicken	2, 7
QuickBooks and QuickBooks Pro	7
WordPerfect	
VectorWorks	8

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
Full page ... 7-1/2" Width x 10" Height (save 15%).. $60
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

Growing number of extensions boost Firefox browser's usefulness

By Julio Ojeda-Zapata
Submitted by Les Anderson

The Firefox Web browser is more than a navigator - it's a veritable online ecosystem that is continually expanding and evolving.

This is largely due to software plug-ins called "extensions" that turbocharge Firefox with additional capabilities. I have access to hundreds of the modules, which typically work on both PCs and Macs, and I use several of them daily. More extensions are continually being developed and released to the public, usually for free.

I wrote about Firefox last year (to find "The Web-browser race is heating up," go to twin cities.com and click "Columnists"), but I'm taking a closer look at extensions for a couple of reasons:

The Minnesota-based company Syntactica has released an iReader extension (also available as an add-on for Microsoft's Internet Explorer browser) that analyzes and summarizes text in Web pages.

Firefox creator Mozilla Corp. is revamping its extensions directory to make the plug-ins easier to find, install and improve. The new extensions portal is due to go live in the coming days
(go to http://addons.mozilla.org for the current directory as well as the coming one).

The nonprofit Mozilla also is launching a publicity campaign focused on its "add-ons" and pointing users to extensions it sees as best-of-breed. It's enlisting the help of Firefox fans to help spread the word, too.
(Count me in!)

So why should you care? If you're like most people on Windows PCs, you use Internet Explorer instead of Firefox. On the Mac, Apple's Safari is the default browser. In either case, you have to go look for Firefox, download it and install it - a bit of a bother, right?

Extensions are the reason I take the trouble. They've made my endless hours on PCs and Macs so much easier. Extensions give me at-a-glance weather forecasts, add integrated music-player controls, synchronize bookmarks and other data across multiple computers, help me upload files to Internet servers, allow me to better juggle multiple Web-mail accounts and more.

Internet Explorer users do have a variety of browser plug-ins. So do Safari users. Those using Opera have a flashier option: "widgets" or miniprograms that hover on the desktop, separate from the browser window, to perform a range of useful functions. (Apple and Microsoft provide widgets, too, but separate from their browsers.)

But for sheer plug-in volume and variety, Firefox extensions have the competition beat.

Syntactica iReader

Syntactica's iReader delighted me because it's a variation on a technology (also called Syntactica) I covered a decade ago. In a May 1996 piece about the inventor, Arnold Schultz, I described his brainchild as software "that understands English well enough to assemble summaries and back-of-the-book indexes with ever-increasing accuracy and speed."

This essentially describes iReader, which Schultz had a hand in creating, but the new software cleverly integrates Syntactica's text-distilling wizardry into routine, everyday Firefox use.

Once iReader is installed, it produces a pop-up window every time users' cursors hover over a link to another Web page. A text-based "intelligent summary" that appears in the pop-up is the result of near-instantaneous background analysis of that page's contents. The text lets users decide whether to click through to the page or disregard the link.

The iReader extension (www.syntactica.com) isn't the only one to use pop-up trickery. When users of the Cooliris extension hover over a Web link, for instance, the software throws up a big window containing the full corresponding page, graphics and all. Users can then click any links in that window, e-mail it, "stick" it to keep it visible, or open it in a full browser window.

This differs from iReader's succinct text-only approach, but I can see where either would be useful. In fact, with a bit of fine-tuning, Cooliris (www.cooliris.com) and iReader can be used side-by-side on the same computer and in the same browser window - you just have to hover in a different way for each extension.

Cooliris, like iReader, is available in a version for Internet Explorer on Windows PCs. Unlike iReader, Cooliris also works with Safari (or should work; I had trouble with this on my Macs).

Kodak Companion

Mozilla has just released its own extension, dubbed the Kodak EasyShare Gallery Companion, in a ploy to popularize extensions and spur other extension creators to redouble their efforts.

The Kodak plug-in, the first in a series of Mozilla-branded extensions, is a great convenience for digital-photo fans. It worked flawlessly for me on PCs and Macs, and I plan to keep using it.

Once installed, it adds an easy-to-access sidebar-style browser window that lets you log in to any of several photo-hosting sites, from Kodak EasyShare Gallery and Flickr to Tabblo and SmugMug. (Tip: If you have an old Ofoto account, use that login to access the Kodak EasyShare site via the extension.)

Once logged in, photo uploading takes just a few clicks. The images are then immediately viewable. You can also create new albums within the extension window, and then upload photos into that album (or into any other album).

This approach does have limitations.

The Kodak extension lacks photo-editing capabilities, for instance, so you're uploading pics as-is. Uploading is all it does. You can't use it to organize online photos, or delete ones you don't want.

EasyShare Gallery users who crave more sophisticated picture handling should install just-upgraded EasyShare standalone software. It's free (go to www.kodak.com/go/downloads), and you needn't own a Kodak camera to use it.

Other Extensions

If I've piqued your interest extension-wise, there is much more to see. Start with Mozilla's short list of recommended extensions. These include:

Foxmarks. I swear by this one. If you use more than one PC and/or Mac, as I often do, the software will keep your bookmarks in sync transparently and flawlessly on all machines. It does this better than the Google Browser Sync extension, but I depend on the latter to sync secure-Web-page usernames and passwords across multiple computers.

Del.icio.us Bookmarks. This is another bookmark-type extension that integrates Firefox with Yahoo's popular online bookmark-sharing service.

StumbleUpon. I don't use this extension, which helps users find sites related to their interests, but a co-worker raves about it. He writes, "Man, I'm having so much fun with it. I've discovered a plethora of amazing, useful, quirky and beautifully designed Web sites."

AllPeers. This one lets you swap files privately and securely with other users.

Pronto. Need to comparison-shop? This extension can come in handy by providing pricing on roughly 50 million products from more than 50,000 merchants, partly via little message windows.

FireFTP. For those needing to upload files using File Transfer Protocol, this terrific extension transforms Firefox into a full-featured FTP program.

For more Mozilla recommendations, go to http://addons.mozilla.org/firefox/recommended.

Julio Ojeda-Zapata covers consumer technology. Reach him at jojeda@pioneerpress.com or 651-228-5467. Read his past columns at www.twincities.com (click "Columnists"). Get more personal tech at www.yourtechweblog.com.

More Info

Firefox add-ons http://addons.mozilla.org
Internet Explorer add-ons www.windowsmarketplace.com
Opera widgets
http://widgets.opera.com
Safari add-ons
http://pimpmysafari.com
For more links related to this story, go to www.yourtechweblog.com.

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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:_____
Phone # (Home):_____
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

Specify your level of support:

___ $25.00 One Year
___ $45.00 Two Year
___ $60.00 Three Year
___ $15.00 Student One Year*(must be a full-time student at an accredited institution)
___ $100.00 Corporate One Year

Please Make
Your Checks Payable to:
mini'app'les

Please address
Your Payment to:
mini'app'les
P.O. Box 796
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

Last Fold - Seal with Tape

2nd fold

Ballot

For Election of mini'app'les Board of Directors 2007-2008

Nominees as of 3/20/07

☐ is for write-in votes;

(I) indicates incumbent.

President	☐	Tom Gates (I)
	☐	
Vice President	☐	Bert Persson (I)
	☐	
Secretary	☐	Harry Lienke (I)
	☐	
Treasurer	☐	Don Walz (I)
	☐	
Marketing Director	☐	Chuck Hauge (I)
	☐	
Publications Director	☐	John Pruski (I)
	☐	
SIG Director	☐	Kevin Strysik (I)
	☐	

Instructions:

1) Vote for one and only one candidate per office. Please use an X.
2) If you wish, use the blank space to write in another candidate. Be sure to fill in the ☐ with an X.
3) When you have completed your ballot, fold the bottom edge up to the line indicated and flatten the crease. Fold the top edge down and flatten the crease. Tape top edge please.
5) The mini'app'les address should now be facing you. **Fill in your membership number.** No ballot will be valid without it. Fill in your name and address. Tape where indicated. Note: Your membership number is listed on your mailing label on the last page.
6a) Place a first class stamp where indicated, and mail. Mail early because only ballots received in our P.O. Box on or before April 28, 2007 will be counted.

OR

6b) Bring your ballot to any mini'app'les SIG meeting scheduled to be held on or before April 26, 2007.

Thanks for Voting!

Membership Number
Name:

Address:

Tape at Top Please

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

Fold Here — 2nd fold on this line

Fold Here — 1st fold on this line

Thanks for Voting!

mini'app'les bylaws

NAME OF ORGANIZATION
The name of the organization is Minnesota Apple Computer Users' Group, Inc. hereafter called "mini'app'les."

PURPOSE
The purpose of the organization is to promote the dissemination of information concerning the use of Apple Computers and products related thereto, and to share the knowledge of members at large concerning their talents and information pertaining to computers in general.

MEMBERSHIP
Members of mini'app'les are required to pay annual dues, which will be due on the anniversary of the month they joined.
The actual amount of dues will be set by the board. A application fee may be charged at the discretion of the board.
Annual dues must be received by anniversary date or membership shall be terminated.
Membership rights will be extended to the immediate household upon receipt of dues from the household.
Each membership shall have the right to cast one vote.
Membership will not be denied because of race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.
Members are expected to abide by these bylaws.
Benefits of membership shall include:
A subscription to the mini'app'les newsletter.
Eligibility to purchase mini'app'les software.
Eligibility to participate in mini'app'les sanctioned activities.

LEADERSHIP
The officers of mini'app'les, shall consist of the following positions:
President
Past President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Publications Director
Interest Group Director
Marketing Director
These eight officers are the governing board of the mini'app'les and all mini'app'les business will be conducted by this board.
Except for the Past President, officers are elected for term of one year. The term runs from June 1 to May 31. The office of Past President will automatically be given to the retiring President. If a President is elected for sequential terms, the incumbent Past President will remain in office.
If Past President resigns or relinquishes office, the President shall appoint a Director at Large to complete Past President term and duties.
If an officer resigns or relinquishes office, the President shall appoint a replacement in a timely manner subject to board approval.
If the President resigns or is unable to perform the duties of the office; the Vice President shall assume those duties.
In the absence of the President and Vice President the officers may appoint an acting President.
Board members may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority vote of the board. A recall election shall be held within 60 days of presentation of an impeachment petition bearing the verified signatures of at least five percent of the membership.
The President, Vice President, or Secretary may call a general membership meeting. Membership shall be notified of time, place, and purpose of meeting through the mini'app'les newsletter or a special mailing.
Election of Officers.
Nominations will be made by a nominating committee.
Further nominations from members will be accepted at a general membership meeting to be held in February.
The subsequent list of nominees with such statements as they may wish to make pursuant to their candidacy shall appear in the April newsletter.
The election will be by means of a written ballot as published in the April newsletter. Ballots will be accepted at mini'app'les meetings or by mail. All ballots must be received by April 28th. A simple majority of those voting is necessary for election. Results of this election shall be published in the newsletter not more than 60 days following the election.
Board members must be paid up members of the mini'app'les. If a board member's membership lapses, they have effectively resigned from the board of directors, and the board shall so notify them and make record in the minutes.
No member or membership may hold more than one board position or vote except as noted in bylaws.

LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES
General Duties. The duties of the elected officers are in general to:
Promote the purpose and membership of mini'app'les.
Administer the bylaws of the mini'app'les.
Assure the financial well-being of the mini'app'les.
Attend and report at each board meeting.
Carry out decisions of the board in a timely manner.
Appoint staff and committees as necessary, subject to board approval.
Communicate to the board the needs of appointed staff and membership in general.
Duties of the President. The President will:
Provide leadership and direction to the general membership and to the board of directors.
Prepare an agenda for each board meeting.
Chair mini'app'les board and general membership meetings at which business is conducted.
Assign duties to board and staff members.
Establish goals to be reached during the term in office.
Duties of the Vice President. The Vice President will:
Assist the President with the duties of that office and in the absence of the president, assume the duties of that office.
Organize the program, facilities and equipment for general membership meetings including meetings for nominations or voting by membership.
Coordinate participation in events, such as trade shows and seminars.
Duties of the Treasurer. The Treasurer will:
Maintain the mini'app'les financial records and records of mini'app'les assets.
Prepare a written financial report to include income, disbursements, current account balances and assets, at each board meeting. This report will be included in the minutes.
Prepare an annual budget.
Be cognizant of and act upon requirements of the IRS and Minnesota State Department of Revenue in a timely and efficient manner.
Administer the collection of all monies due the mini'app'les.
Establish and maintain bank accounts in the name of the mini'app'les.
Deposit all monies in the mini'app'les bank account(s) in a timely and efficient manner.
Pay all bills and demands as authorized by the board.
Duties of the Secretary The Secretary will:
Record in a permanent form the minutes of all board and general membership meetings at which business is conducted.
Record the results of elections.
Archive and maintain all mini'app'les records other than those kept by the Treasurer.
Keep a mini'app'les calendar.
Assist the President and Vice President in correspondence as required.
Duties of the Past President. The Past President will:
Provide continuity in the leadership of the mini'app'les.
Assist the President with the duties of that office.
Provide historical references for decision making process.
Duties of the Publications Director. The Publications Director will:
Oversee publication of the newsletter.
Appoint with consent of the board:
Newsletter Editor and assistants
Advertising Coordinator
Marketing Director. The Marketing Director will:
Oversee the maintenance and processing of membership records and materials
Promote membership
Duties of the Interest Group Director. The Interest Group Director will:
Oversee all matters related to the development and maintenance of Special Interest and Community Interest groups
Encourage and assist in the formation of new interest groups
Act as spokesperson to the board for group representatives

FINANCIAL
The mini'app'les will maintain an account(s) at a local financial institution. Such accounts shall bear interest as the law allows.
The Signatories on the account(s) shall be:
President
Vice President
Treasurer
One signature will be required to disburse funds from the account(s).
The authorization of expenditures will be accomplished by the board approving an annual budget that covers the mini'app'les budget year. The budget year shall run from August 1 to July 31. Those expenditures not budgeted items, or budgeted items which exceed the budgeted amount by more than $25.00 will require majority approval of the board.
Proper verification of expenditures will be required before the funds will be disbursed.
In the event of dissolution of the corporation, the entire net assets remaining after payment of any or all liabilities and obligations of the corporation shall be disbursed in a manner agreeable to a majority of the board members at a specially convened open board meeting and consistent with IRS and State regulations. Notice of this meeting shall be made known to all mini'app'les members through the newsletter or a special mailing 30 days in advance of the meeting.
A Surety Bond shall be obtained, naming the above signatories as principals.

BOARD MEETINGS
The business of the mini'app'les will be conducted at board meetings, except for general membership meetings or voting by the general membership.
The Board of Directors shall meet at least every other month at a place and time designated by the mini'app'les president.
A quorum shall consist of 4 or more officers and no business shall be transacted if a quorum is not present.
Notice of board meetings shall be published 30 days in advance of all regularly scheduled board meetings.
In emergency situations, officers may agree to meet at any time, but all business transacted will be subject to reconsideration at the next regularly scheduled board meeting. Minutes of the emergency meetings shall be made publicly available in the next issue of the mini'app'les newsletter and/or at the request of any member.
The board of directors may designate three or more of its members to constitute an executive committee. To the extent determined by the board, the executive committee has the authority of the board in the management of the business of mini'app'les. The executive committee shall act only in the interval between board meetings and at all times shall be subject to the control and direction of the board. Any activity shall be reported to board at next meeting.
Minutes of the board meetings will be made available no later than 60 days following that meeting.
All meeting of the board will be open to the general membership of the mini'app'les.
All members are encouraged to bring issues to the board. This shall be done by submitting agenda items in writing to the president in advance of the board meeting.
Decisions will be made by a simple majority of the board members present, the President voting only in the case of a tie.
At least once per year, the board will examine these bylaws for needed changes following the procedure set forth in section H.

BYLAWS
Requests for changes in the bylaws will be made in the mini'app'les newsletter at least four months prior to the election of officers.
The board will act on this request and on other items pursuant to changes in the bylaws at a board meeting at least three months prior to the election of officers.
Changes to the bylaws suggested by the board will be published in the mini'app'les newsletter.
The ratification will be by means of a written ballot as published in the mini'app'les newsletter. Ballots will be accepted at mini'app'les meetings or by mail. All ballots must be received by the 28th of the month in which vote is taken. A two-thirds majority of those voting is necessary for ratification of the changes to bylaws.
Changes to these bylaws become effective the first day of month following publication of notice of ratification in the newsletter. Such notice shall appear not more than 60 days after the closing date for receiving ballots.
MISCELLANEOUS
mini'app'les will support the copyright laws.
In the event of meeting cancellation, the officers will make every effort to contact the local members through the media or other means as appropriate.
All Books and Records to be audited not less than once per year by a committee of members, not including officers, appointed by board.
All applicable Federal and Minnesota laws and statues apply and supersede where bylaws do not comply with said laws and statutes.
Where a physical address is required (i.e.) State of Minnesota), the Treasurer's home address shall be used.
The nonprofit corporation papers must be re-filed yearly.

Print Explosion Deluxe Version 3

Submitted by Pam Lienke

Print Explosion Deluxe Version 3 by Nova Development (www.novadevlopment.com) is a fast easy way to create a variety of print projects including business cards, t-shirts, banners, greeting cards, and much more. This easy-to-use product can be used by young children for such projects as cards and crafts but can also be used for professional-quality projects for business use. There is built-in support for the iLife application suite including iPhoto, iTunes, and Apple Address Book.

When Print Explosion Deluxe launches, the user is given the choice of beginning with a ready made template, beginning a project from scratch, or going through a tutorial. The tutorials include Customizing a Greeting Card, Making Scrapbook Pages, Creating a CD/DVD Label, and Personalizing T-Shirts. Inserting and manipulating images and text works the same as in many other programs. Although users may discover how to use the program simply by plunging into it, it is worth some time to look through the tutorials and, yes, even the manual, to take advantage of the many features.

To create a greeting card, for example, launch Print Explosion Deluxe and select Choose a Template—I find it easier to start with a pre-made template and make changes to personalize it, taking advantage of someone else's thinking and creative endeavors to jump start my project. From the Choose a Template window, select Greeting Cards. By clicking on the triangle next to Greeting Cards you open the submenu containing an assortment from Anniversary to Special Occasions. Click on one of these to reveal the many choices there. You are given thumbnails of the ready-made options. The thumbnails increase in size to fill the allotted space if you drag the slider on the bottom right to the right. Click on the template of choice and select Finish. Now you are able to see all four panels of the card by clicking on the desired panel in the side drawer. Here is where you personalize the card. You can change the graphic by using one of the more than 100,000 pieces of clip art or by adding your own pictures. Change the message to one that says, "It's you." The font color, size, and style, as well as the font itself, can be changed to meet your specifications. If you are printing a card that has images on both sides, place one card in your printer and press print. A dialog box opens instructing you to reinsert the card after the first side has printed. When you have done that, click on Print Second Page. It's always a good idea to try your project on plain paper first to be certain it prints as you want and to be assured you know which way to reinsert the paper. It's a great way to get the perfect card.

To give your projects a more professional look, you can purchase specialty papers including half-fold or quarter-fold for greeting cards, business cards, CD-DVD labels, t-shirt transfers, and postcards.

If you, like me, use a slower machine (an iMac with an 800 MHz processor and 512 MB RAM), Print Explosion Deluxe can be frustrating; the program slows down with large projects such as scrapbook pages.

Print Explosion Deluxe version 3 requires Mac OS X (version 10.2 or later), 128 MB RAM (minimum), and a DVD-ROM drive. If you don't have a DVD-ROM drive, you can order replacement CDs to install Print Explosion using a CD-ROM drive.

Print Explosion Deluxe version 3 sells for $49.95, but can be purchased directly from Nova Development for $29.95.

Save a few pennies, spend millions

Submitted by Bert Persson

Penny wise and dollar fool. is an old expression that is also applicable to the computer industry. In a quote from Wired magazine we can see what happens when we try to save a few pennies.

"Reader Robert wrote into share the problems of his employed with faulty capacitors in a large crop of 1.25 Ghz eMacs, most purchased between July and Sept. 2004. About July/August of last year, we began seeing a pattern of failures - garbled video, system freezes (like in the OS 9 days - very uncharacteristic of OS X). We first troubleshot this problem as software - reinstalling, reapplying combo updates, et. al. We found that leaving the screen saver turned off seemed to reduce, but not eliminate, the frequency of failures. One machine was luckily repaired a month out of warranty, but we've had 3 more fail since then (and I'm sure we'd find more defective machines if we took them apart and started examining motherboards.
At the same time, his company's Dell OptiPlexes started to fail; some searching uncovered that this was a known issue with Dells of the time. They popped open the broken eMacs, and the same problem with those machines.
We examined the afflicted machines, and sure enough, the capacitors were bulging or broken/leaking. Dell came right out and replaced all of the afflicted machines, warranty or no. Apple does have a warranty extension program for iMac G5s but nothing for the eMac. It's a big problem when it's present, and judging from continued discussion at MacFixIt and MacInTouch, it's not uncommon, either."

From the University of South Carolina Macintosh Users' Group we can read the following

"I know that several vendors of which Apple was one used capacitors from a non-reputable source in Taiwan because they were cheaper;
well it turns out there was a reason for that. I have not seen this effect eMacs I only know of iMacs that this has happened to and Apple is covering those under a recall repair program. The tops of the capacitors should be flat if they are bulging then your friends computer was in the unlucky bunch that the cheap capacitors were used in.
I just spoke with a Apple Authorized Repair place and they said that a new logic board not under warranty for eMacs with ATI graphics and a later model using USB 2.0 run from $499 to $519 excluding an hour of labor to replace it @ $75.00."

In the competitive computer market you have to save every penny in order to keep prices down and performance high, but were do you draw the line? Is it a good strategy to sell computers at a low price using cheap components? Since electrolytic capacitors are prone to leakage which could damage the motherboard, it would make sense to spend the extra few pennies for quality capacitors. Instead, many manufacturers save a few cents but spend millions in recalled products. This would of course result in a more expensive product, but the reputation and reliability of its products may be well worth the cost.
We can all relate to the Apple Powerbook 5300 that caught fire, but this was not due to cheap capacitors.

Finally another web quote:

"If you are experiencing freezes on your 1.25Ghz eMac, purchased approximately, May-Dec04, open the inspection hatch and look at the 2 capacitors on the right hand side, just under the RAM slots. If either of them are either swollen, or leaking (brownish substance... there's another 12 or so capacitors inside the eMac that you can't see that are probably the same) then you indeed are affected by this problem."

And that ladies and gentlemen is my 2 ¢ worth.

If you have any problems with Apple computers, software or related equipment please share them with our members by submitting an article to the newsletter. We have plenty of space for individuals willing to share their experiences.
Thank You,

Publications Director John Pruski
952-938-2818
johnpruski@aol.com

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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.

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Box 796
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Volume 30, Issue 5

mini'app'les newsletter

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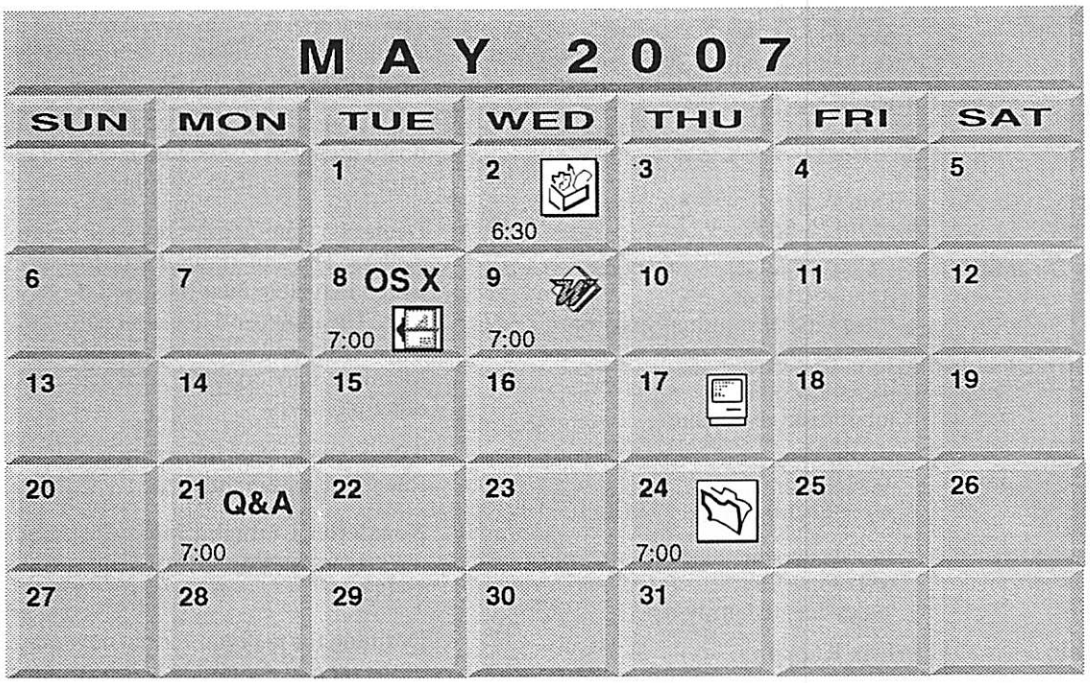

2 **AppleWorks SIG**
Augsburg Library **6:30 PM**
7100 Nicollet Ave S, Richfield
John Hunkins, Sr. 651-457-8949
hunkins@mac.com.

8 OS X **OS X SIG**
The Foundation
219 Second Street North Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55403

8 **VectorWorks SIG**
CJR Office
Charles Radloff 952 941 1667

9 **Microsoft Word SIG**
Eagles lodge
9152 Old Cedar Ave. Bloomington
Tom Ostertag, E 651-488-9979

17 **Macintosh Consultants SIG**
Perkins **7:00 AM**
6920 Wayzata Blvd
Golden Valley
Bob Demeules, 763-559-1124

21 Q&A **Macintosh Q & A SIG**
Questions & Answers
Merriam Park Library
1831 Marshall Avenue St. Paul
Les Anderson 651-735-3953

24 **FileMaker Pro SIG**
Partners
2250 terminal Road
Roseville, MN
Steve Wilmes 651-458-1513

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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Vice President	Bert Persson 612-861-9578 skallgang@yahoo.com
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Marketing Director	Chuck Hauge 612-963-5064 Chaz@CPHSolutions.com
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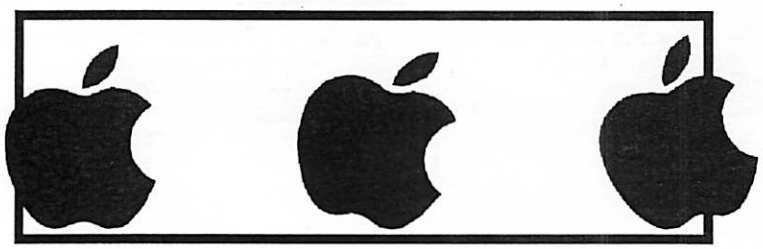
Director at Large	Les Anderson 651-735-3953 anderslc@usfamily.net
Membership	Erik Knopp
Apple II	Owen Aaland



Introduction – This is the Newsletter of mini´app´les, the Minnesota Apple Computer Users' Group, Inc., a Minnesota non-profit club. The whole newsletter is copyrighted © by mini´app´les. Articles may be reproduced in other non-profit User Groups' publications except where specifically copyrighted by the author. (Permission to reproduce these articles must be given by the author.) Please include the source when reprinting.

Questions – Please direct questions to an appropriate board member. Users with technical questions should refer to the Members Helping Members section.

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

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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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June 2007 Preview

Here is the tentative calendar of our Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings for June 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	June	1	OS X SIG
Wednesday	June	2	AppleWorks SIG
Tuesday	June	8	VectorWorks SIG
Wednesday	June	9	Microsoft Word SIG
Thursday	June	17	Macintosh Consultants
Monday	June	23	Mac Q & A SIG
Thursday	June	24	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.

Apple II / IIGS Software & Hardware	1, 3, 4
AppleWorks / ClarisWorks-Draw	4, 5
Classic Macs	
Cross-Platform File Transfer	3
FileMaker Pro	
FirstClass	
iMacs	6
iPhoto / iTunes / iMovie	
Mac OS Classic	4, 6
Mac OS X	
MacWrite Pro	
Microsoft Excel	2, 3, 7, 10
Microsoft Word	3, 10
MYOB	7
Networks	9
New Users	1, 6
PhotoShop	
PowerBooks / iBooks	6
Power Macs	
QuarkXPress	10
Quicken	2, 7
QuickBooks and QuickBooks Pro	7
WordPerfect	
VectorWorks	8

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
Full page ... 7-1/2" Width x 10" Height (save 15%).. $60
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

mini'app'les Directors Meeting Minutes for April 2, 2007

Submitted by Harry Lienke

In attendance: Tom Gates, Bert Persson, Don Walz, Chuck Hauge, John Pruski, Kevin Strysik, Les Anderson, Erik Knopp, Harry Lienke

Agenda: Agenda provided by Tom Gates amended to include Old Business from the last minutes plus a test discussion group topic. New Business amended to include iPod and Apple TV SIGs. A motion to adopt the amended agenda was made, seconded, and passed (MSP).

Minutes: Minutes for the February meeting were approved electronically on February 9.

Directors Reports

Treasurer Don Walz's report: Hard copies showing the current financial information were distributed. After a few questions, a motion to accept the report presented by Don was MSP.

President Tom Gates' report: See below in Old and New Business.

Vice President Bert Persson's report: See New Business.

Secretary Harry Lienke's report: The treasurer is now keeping track of old documents. Erik pointed out this was implemented when some other changes to Board responsibilities were made. This needs to be changed in the by-laws since the secretary is given this responsibility.

Publications Director John Pruski's report: Our newsletter publisher may have some old Macs to sell or donate as they update their equipment. We could have an auction and collect some additional funds for the club if we receive the equipment.

SIG Director Kevin Strysik's report: A discussion of Chuck's SIG Group leader duties and responsibilities document occurred. Kevin surveyed a number of club members at the annual meeting relative to holding meetings on Saturday and got favorable responses. Kevin wondered if there was a central area available for communicating SIG plans. If not, should one be set up? Presently Kevin is assuming meetings are scheduled the same as usual unless someone contacts him.

Marketing Director Chuck Hauge's report: More discussion of Chuck's SIG Group leader duties and responsibilities document occurred. The document calls for positive feedback from SIG leaders relative to the scheduled date of each meeting. Erik suggested we might be able to use the club's .mac account for schedule information; Chuck will check with Bruce Thompson. We have received a 1/3 page ad from Small Dog Electronics; this ad will generate some revenue for the club treasury. Chuck will talk to Dave Peck about making the web site background lighter so there is greater contrast between text and background.

Director at Large Les Anderson's report: Postage costs are going up – amount unknown. The rubber band securing each bundle of our newsletters goes across the label and interferes with the ability of a Post Office machine to read the label; the label needs to be moved to the right hand margin to make the machine happy. Once again a suggestion was made that we could publish the newsletter via PDF to eliminate postage cost.

Membership Director Erik Knopp's report: A few new memberships coming in but maybe we need to again remind some old members to rejoin.

Old Business

IRS non-profit status – Tom to supply data next time.

Budget – Tom to supply data next time.

Dreamweaver – Chuck communicated with Dave Peck and, with changes to his process, Peck no longer needs an update.

Discussion group on Google – Google groups can be set up to operate with moderated discussions as well as for members only. Chuck to check further on the possibilities. Chuck would appreciate all Board Members trying the test group and providing feedback.

Saturday Main meeting – There are special facility needs for this since we plan to have one large Main Mac meeting followed by several smaller break-out meetings. The breakouts will have several tracks running in parallel, i.e., meetings in strings with a rotating schedule so the same meetings are not always occurring at the same time. Les reported on the Word boot camp meeting - nice facility but probably expensive. Tom has been working at St. Charles School to get permission to run our Saturday meeting there. St. Charles authorities are okay for us to run 3-4 workshops a year but not for monthly meetings. Chuck suggested investigating an arrangement with the U of M. Tom said long ago the U was willing to cooperate with the club but wanted to take a percentage of the dues and kind of suppress the mini'app'les identity so the club said, "No thanks." Les indicated there were Telecomm and Newton groups in cooperation with the U, but there are charges unless we're part of a student group. Many places that might have the kind of facility we need want significant rentals. Board Members need to look for alternatives. Tom will check on St. Charles School in June as a possibility for a first Saturday meeting.

New Business

Liability insurance – Don contacted his independent insurance agent about getting an insurance policy similar to what we now have with The Hartford. A well-regarded company named Acuity turned out to be much cheaper for comparable coverage ($406 vs $775) but property damage coverage is $100,000 instead of $300,000. Les suggested we make a change; the motion was MSP. Les then suggested Tom and Don be authorized to make the change; once again the motion was MSP. Erik asked if meeting places require a certain level of coverage. Tom indicated that some places asked for copies of the policy to show we are insured. Other comments indicated that many of our current locations never ask about insurance. Don will check on whether the higher limit is required.

Cartridge World Roseville (Snelling and County Road C) exchanges

empty cartridges for refilled ones for about half price and will offer a 10% discount for ink cartridges and a 5% discount for laser printer cartridges to club members who show their membership card (see the back of your newsletter).

Ideas from Julio – A Google group online is being explored by Chuck.

It was asked if an extra Board meeting is required to count the votes for the Board election. We decided to wait until June to officially count ballots and not hold an extra meeting to do this.

Time ran out before we could discuss the last item or two from the New Business section of the agenda.

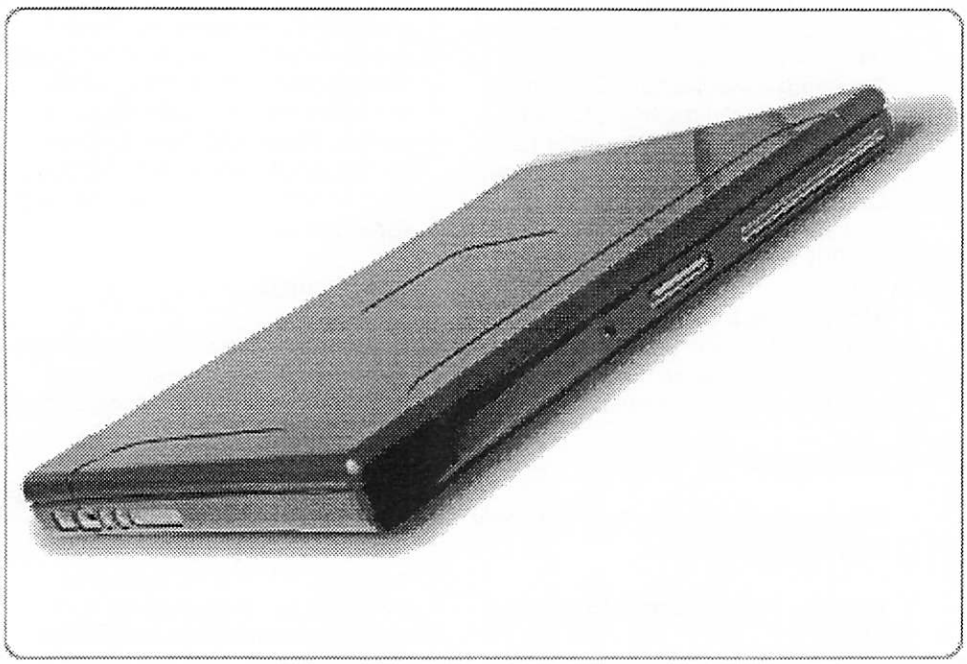
Next meeting: Scheduled for June 4, 2007, at the Merriam Park Library at 7:00 pm. All club members are welcome to attend.

SeeThru Hard Case for Macbook by Speck

Submitted by John Pruski

Having recently upgraded from a Pismo G3 Powerbook to a black MacBook, one of the annoying things about my new laptop was its ability to look dirty. The matte finish of the MacBook tends to pick up the oils and debris from your hands easily. I found myself constantly cleaning the exterior and started to fear of taking it from my home, which kinda defeats the purpose of a laptop, don't you think?

Then along comes Speck products,



with a great solution I first saw at MacWorld. Unlike other cases that require you to remove the protection to use it, the SeeThru is designed to protect your Mac 24/7. This case is not designed to protect your Mac from impact but rather to protect the look of your MacBook and allow for easy cleaning.

Installation was a snap both figurative and literally. Snap one part on the top and another on the bottom and away you go. Here's a tip I had to learn the hard way. Clean the exterior of your Mac before you put on the SeeThru, otherwise that fingerprint on your case will be trapped for all to see.

When I first viewed the SeeThru, I was concerned about heat dissipation. Speck assures it's customers that cooling was not a problem due to 74 ventilation slots. After 3 months of using the SeeThru, my Macbook has never indicated a heat problem. In addition, the Apple Retail Stores were selling the SeeThru and I'm sure that if Apple was concerned about the cooling issues, they wouldn't have put the SeeThru in the stores.

The SeeThru is currently made for both the MacBook and MacBook pro and comes in clear, blue, and red. Personally I got the clear because the red and blue looked funky with my black MacBook.

The product works just as advertised. I had no problem keeping my MacBook protected from the crud that usually accumulates from body oils and sticky cafe tables. I also found it easier to grip my MacBook when I pulled it out of my case. The case was generally unintrusive and I had access to almost every function and port. The SeeThru retails for $50, though User Group members can get significant discounts.

I only saw two flaws in the design of the product. Every port was accessible on the unit except the battery power button. Not a major problem, but annoying when your want to check the power of your Mac without the hassle of waking it from sleep. In addition, the mini-VGA adapter had a slight bit of trouble fully locking into the side of my Mac. Representatives of Speck indicated the mini-VGA adapter port would be modified to better accommodate external monitor use.

Pros: Works as advertised and protects your MacBook. Best used as soon as you get your MacBook
Cons: Battery button not accessible. Some problems using external video adapters.

4 out of 5 dogcows

This entry was posted by Dave Greenbaum on Sunday, March 25th, 2007 at 10:33 pm and is filed under Hardware Review. You can follow any responses to this entry through the RSS 2.0 feed. You can leave a response, or trackback from your own site.

iDefrag, by Coriolis Systems Limited

Submitted by John Pruski
Reviewer: Mike Lloyd
Posted: 16-Mar-2007
Vendor: Coriolis Systems Limited
Type: SHAREWARE
Class: PRODUCTIVITY
$30 Download

Overview

Your computer has slowed down over time, and it's starting to bug you. You've done the obvious and purchased more memory, yet you still find the system is got an "old" sluggish feel to it. Another reason for this slowdown that you make have not considered is a poorly fragmented hard disk. Fragmentation comes in two flavors: single files split into pieces scattered on different physical locations of the hard drive, or related files that may be contiguous on your drive, but if these are system files, the system is essentially fragmented since it has to use these programs for bootup and normal operation. Typical defragmentation programs do not check for this latter type of fragmentation since the files themselves may not be fragmented. The end result of fragmentation is that it takes your machine longer to start up, it takes programs longer to start, and above all, it takes longer to get your work done.

Fragmentation occurs when your files, or groups of files, are simply to large to fit into a free contiguous block of space on your hard drive. The file system has to split them up and move them wherever it can find room, and then keep track of their locations. When the files are in use, the file system is jumping all over the hard drive to load the data into memory.

The solution is to defragment your disk with a tool such as Coriolis Systems' iDefrag. iDefrag is a program that defragments and optimizes the data stored on a disc volume or disk images. Defragmenting your disk volumes increases the performance of your hard disk and file system, and defragmenting your disk images prior to burning them to CD/DVD increases the performance of the CD or DVD once it is burned. iDefrag also provides detailed information concerning the underlying structure of a volume's file structure.

Features

- Supports Panther and Tiger file systems
- Email notifications or audible signals when done
- Supports HFS and HFS+
- Supports case sensitive and journaled file systems
- Supports adaptive hot file clustering ("Hot Zone").
- Four powerful defragmentation algorithms:

? Compact data, moving all free space to one place
? Optimize file system metadata
? On-line defragmentation (while disk is mounted)
? Advanced programmable optimization

- Rearrange your disk the way you want
- B-Tree metadata file compaction/optimization support
- Thermal monitoring to make sure your disk doesn't overheat
- High performance user-defined file classification engine
- Per-block and accurate whole disk display
- Detailed statistics so you know whether you need to optimize
- Inspector allows you to view details of individual extents/files
- Quickly jump to specific files to examine them in more detail
- Altivec accelerated display for improved performance
- Auto-update feature
- AppleScript support

Requirements

- Mac OS X 10.3.7 - 10.4,
- 450MHz PowerPC or better with 512MB RAM

Review Configuration

The machine used to review this product consisted of a 17" G4 iMac with 768 Mbytes of memory, an internal 80 Gbyte hard drive, a 200 Gbyte drive connected using Firewire 1394a, a 300 Gbyte drive connected using Firewire 1394a and running Mac OS x 10.4.

Installation

Open the CD or disk image and drag and labeled "iDefrag" into the Applications folder on your hard drive. The help file provided with the application contains instructions to create a bootable CD to use the defragmentation algorithms that cannot be performed on the startup disk. The developers also provide a program that creates a bootable image that can be burned to a CD.

When iDefrag was first released, the developers recommended that "iDefrag" be run from a hard drive due to the lack of virtual memory when booting from a CD (this could lead to failures due to exceeding the available memory to support the defragmentation process). However, they have recently changed their advice. Due to improvements in iDefrag, memory usage has been minimized, so any Mac with 512MB of RAM or more (which is most new Macs) can run from the CD. Running from CD has the advantage that iDefrag is in control of the execution environment, avoiding dismount problems due to Spotlight as well as guaranteeing that no system hacks are running.

In Use

iDefrag is simple to use. If you are only going to use the quick (online) optimization (files only) option, you simply launch iDefrag, select the volume to optimize and click on the "Go" button at the top of the window. Even the "startup" volume can be optimized using this option.

For the other defragmentation options, the "startup" volume cannot be optimized. If you want to perform the other optimizations on the current "startup" volume, the "startup" volume must be changed and iDefrag started from a different startup volume (either on a different hard drive or from CD).

The optimization process typically takes a long time, particularly if the volume is highly defragmented. Since performing a "Full Defrag" from the beginning seems to take longer and if the "startup" volume is being processed, my machine is unavailable. iDefrag provides options to give you an audible signal when the process is done, or if you are going to be on another machine, you can even have an email notification sent to you.

Defragmentation in Process

I generally perform a "Quick" optimization while the machine is in use followed by a "Full Defrag". This approach seems to take an overall shorter period of time, while dramati-

cally improving the overall availability of the machine. While the "Quick" optimization consumes system resources, it does not adverse impact the system's usability while it is running. Note that the developers warn that the software attempts to protect the system's state during optimization, an unexpected failure (e.g., kernel panic) caused by other software could damage the volume's structure.

Multiple Optimization Algorithms

iDefrag offers a number of features that support the optimization of a system's hard drive, and it supports five different optimization algorithms. Compact moves all of the files to the beginning of the volume and is useful to consolidate the volume prior to repartitioning it. Metadata works with the volume metadata and the adaptive hot zone system. The volume metadata data is moved to the metadata zone or to the start of the volume and defragmented. Hot files are moved to the metadata zone and other files are removed. All files that do not exist on the volume are removed from the hot file B-tree. Optimize runs iDefrag's optimization routine and rearranges the files according to the selected class set. This allows the user to optimize files according to their attributes, such as name or size. Full Defrag runs the Metadata algorithm followed by the Optimize algorithm. Once this is completed, if the options are set, the B-Tree files are rebuilt. The Quick (online) algorithm attempts to defragment fragmented files without dismounting the volume, which is limited to ordinary files that have no hard links. This ability to optimize files while the volume is still mounted is unique among the tools that I have used.

Adaptive Hot Zone

Apple discourages defragmentation of hard drives, since the process can destroy the structure of the adaptive hot zone area on a volume. By modifying this area, system performance can be adversely affected by the optimization process. This is true if it is moving files into or out of the area with no regard to their "hot zone" membership. iDefrag preserves the structure of the "adaptive hot zone", thus avoiding any such performance impacts. The developers state that iDefrag is unique in its awareness of the "hot zone".

Detailed Graphical Information

iDefrag provides detailed information of the current state of the hard drive, which is updated during the defragmentation process. The Layout tabs shows detailed information regarding the defragmentation process.

Layout of Defragmentation in Process

The bottom of the window shows the overall structure of the disk volume, color coded to indicate how things are being grouped.

Color-Coded Progress of Defragmentation

This bottom display also shows a set of green triangles that mark the location that the blocks are being moved from. The red triangles show the location where the data is being written. The black triangles represent the area that is being displayed on the large detailed window above. To see what each of the colors mean, you can open up a "Key" window for a list of all the colors and their associated names. There are so many colors that some of the colors end up being difficult to tell from the others (e.g., "Fragmented" is very close to "Group Quota File", "Journal" is very close to "Hot Files B-Tree", etc.). An undocumented feature, you can click on the color chips to change the color and make them more distinct. With so many keys, however, it may be difficult to find better color choices (which is probably why the default colors are as they are).

Color-coded Key

Using the "Files" tab, you can also see a list of the most fragmented files on the volume. It shows the number of fragments, and includes information about the file, such as the ID, size, name, and path. Surprisingly missing from the file information is the class of the file.

Most Fragmented Files

Using the "Statistics" tab, you can view the overall volume statistics, such as the number of fragmented files and the directory fragmentation.

Defragmentation Statistics

Optimizes Disk Images

iDefrag can defragment disk images, a rare feature of defragmentation software. By doing this, you can enhance the performance and reliability of the CD or DVD being burned with the image.

Documentation

All of the iDefrag's documentation is provided through the application's help system. I found it informative and well organized. Its architecture is hierarchical, and, where needed, tied specifically to features of the program. There are a few minor things that are not discussed in the documentation. For instance, side drawers open on the side where there is room (in the documentation it is depicted on the left side, but in my tests it opened on the right side). I was unaware that clicking on the color chips allowed you to change the colors, and this is not mentioned either. Aside from these very minor exclusions, there appeared to be no other problems with documentation. In areas that may be controversial, such as the section "Why Defragment?", the developers presented a thorough argument that addresses both sides of the issue. They offered solid rationale for at least occasional volume optimization.

Summary

iDefrag is a single task utility for disk defragmentation. It provides outstanding feedback during the volume optimization process and is simple to use. This tool addresses many of the arguments posed against volume optimization, such as preservation of the volume hot zone, and also allows you to defragment disk images so that your burned CDs and DVDs will have better performance. Overall, iDefrag does only one thing, but it does it really well. iDefrag is an excellent tool for critical volume optimization, making it a valuable edition to your Mac toolbox.

Pros

- Allows file defragmentation on startup volume
- Works with disk images
- Status displays are detailed and informative, especially during defragmentation
- Preserves volume "hot zones"

Cons

- Default key coloring is indistinct for some classes
- File's class not provided in the info window
- One trick pony

Overall Rating

4 1/2 out of 5 Mice

mini'app'les

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

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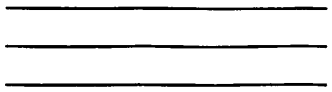

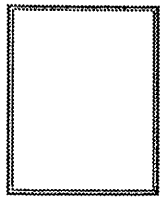

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Dear mini'app'les
Please direct this to the:
☐ Membership Director
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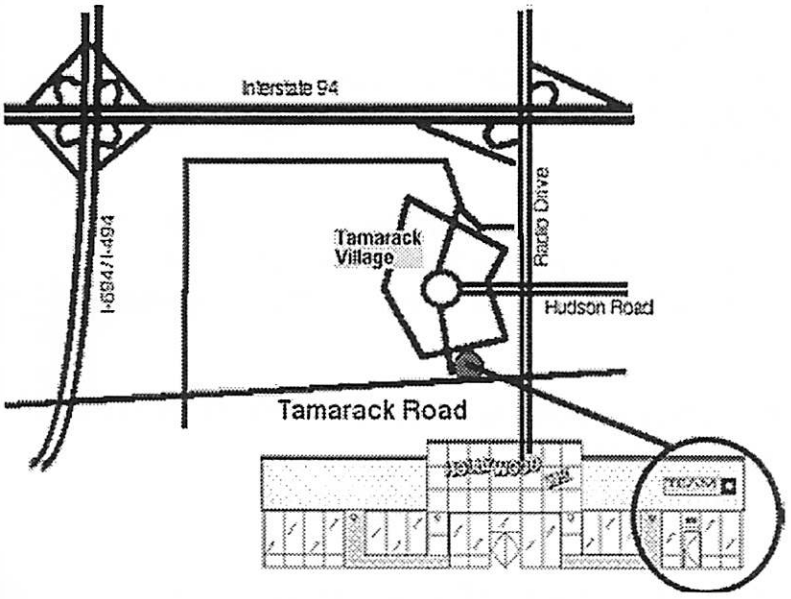

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Eligibility for frequent drawings of free equipment, software, and books.
Just a few of the many items given away free in the past include: Connectix QuickCam, Quickeys, Books from Peachpit Press , MacSoft Games & Software, T-shirts and software including 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.

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Volume 30, Issue 6

mini'app'les newsletter

the minnesota apple computer users' group, inc.

JUNE 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4 Board of Directors 7:00	5 OS X 7:00	6 AppleWorks SIG 6:30	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Microsoft Word SIG 7:00	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Macintosh Consultants SIG	22	23
24	25 Q&A 7:00	26	27	28 FileMaker Pro SIG 7:00	29	30

Board of Directors
mini'app'les members welcome
Merriam Park Library
1831 Marshall Avenue St. Paul
Tom Gates 612-789-1713

OS X SIG
The Foundation
219 Second Street North Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55403

AppleWorks SIG
Augsburg Library 6:30 PM
7100 Nicollet Ave S, Richfield
John Hunkins, Sr. 651-457-8949
hunkins@mac.com.

Microsoft Word SIG
Eagles lodge
9152 Old Cedar Ave. Bloomington
Tom Ostertag, E 651-488-9979

Macintosh Consultants SIG
Perkins 7:00 AM
6920 Wayzata Blvd
Golden Valley
Bob Demeules, 763-559-1124

Macintosh Q & A SIG
Questions & Answers
Merriam Park Library
1831 Marshall Avenue St. Paul
Les Anderson 651-735-3953

FileMaker Pro SIG
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**

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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

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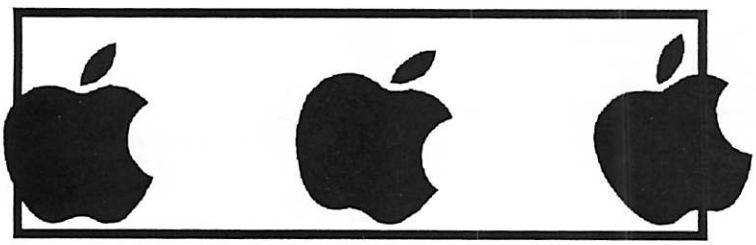

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Moving? Going to be away from home and leaving a forwarding address with the Post Office? Please send us a Change of Address when you are informing others. By using a moment of your time and a few cents to drop us a card, you save the club some money 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.

Apple II / IIGS Software & Hardware	1, 3, 4
AppleWorks / ClarisWorks-Draw	4, 5
Classic Macs	
Cross-Platform File Transfer	3
FileMaker Pro	
FirstClass	
iMacs	6
iPhoto / iTunes / iMovie	
Mac OS Classic	4, 6
Mac OS X	
MacWrite Pro	
Microsoft Excel	2, 3, 7, 10
Microsoft Word	3, 10
MYOB	7
Networks	9
New Users	1, 6
PhotoShop	
PowerBooks / iBooks	6
Power Macs	
QuarkXPress	10
Quicken	2, 7
QuickBooks and QuickBooks Pro	7
WordPerfect	
VectorWorks	8

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.

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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.

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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:_____
Phone # (Home):_____
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

Specify your level of support:

___ $25.00 One Year
___ $45.00 Two Year
___ $60.00 Three Year
___ $15.00 Student One Year*(must be a full-time student at an accredited institution)
___ $100.00 Corporate One Year

Please Make
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Please address
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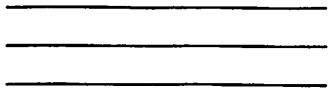
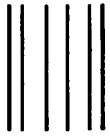
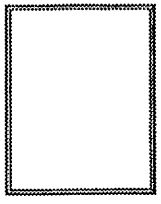
Hopkins, MN 55343-0796

Thank You for your support!

Last Fold - Seal with Tape







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

3rd fold

1st fold

2nd fold

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

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Individual & Group Training
Computer Problem Assistance
Mike Carlson
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mhcnvc@boreal.org
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www.usfamily.net *info@usfamily.net*

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

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$3

Volume 30, Issue 7

mini'app'les newsletter

the minnesota apple computer users' group, inc.

JULY 2007						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 7:00	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Q&A 7:00	24	25	26 7:00	27	28
29	30	31				

952
993
8554
uptel
8.00
Rh. Luzic

11 **Microsoft Word SIG**
Eagles lodge
9152 Old Cedar Ave. Bloomington
Tom Ostertag, E 651-488-9979

19 **Macintosh Consultants SIG**
Perkins 7:00 AM
6920 Wayzata Blvd
Golden Valley
Bob Demeules, 763-559-1124

23 Q&A **Macintosh Q & A SIG**
Questions & Answers
Merriam Park Library
1831 Marshall Avenue St. Paul
Les Anderson 651-735-3953

26 **FileMaker Pro SIG**
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

Board of Directors:

President	Tom Gates 612-789-1713 tgates@isd.net
Vice President	Bert Persson 612-861-8578

Introduction – This is the Newsletter of mini´app´les, the Minnesota Apple Computer Users' Group, Inc., a Minnesota non-profit club. The whole newsletter is copyrighted © by mini´app´les. Articles may be reproduced in other non-profit User Groups' publications except where specifically copyrighted by the au

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.

Apple II / IIGS Software & Hardware	1, 3, 4
AppleWorks / ClarisWorks-Draw	4, 5
Classic Macs	
Cross-Platform File Transfer	3
FileMaker Pro	
FirstClass	
iMacs	6
iPhoto / iTunes / iMovie	
Mac OS Classic	4, 6
Mac OS X	
MacWrite Pro	
Microsoft Excel	2, 3, 7, 10
Microsoft Word	3, 10
MYOB	7
Networks	9
New Users	1, 6
PhotoShop	
PowerBooks / iBooks	6
Power Macs	
QuarkXPress	10
Quicken	2, 7
QuickBooks and QuickBooks Pro	7
WordPerfect	
VectorWorks	8

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
Full page . . . 7-1/2" Width x 10" Height (save 15%) . . $60
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

mini'app'les Directors Meeting Minutes for June 4, 2007

Submitted by Harry Lienke

In attendance: Tom Gates, Bert Persson, Don Walz, Chuck Hauge, John Pruski, Kevin Strysik, Les Anderson, Erik Knopp, Harry Lienke, Dave Peck
Absent: None

Agenda: Approved as submitted by Tom.

Directors Reports

Treasurer Don Walz's report: Don provided hard copies of the current balance sheet. A motion for approval of the report was made, seconded, and passed (MSP). Don reported he received and deposited a check from Small Dog Electronics for the cost of advertising in the club newsletter.

President Tom Gates' report: See Old Business and New Business below.

Vice President Bert Persson's report: Nothing to report.

Secretary Harry Lienke's report: Do we need a by-law change to reflect that the Treasurer is maintaining some records apparently maintained by the Secretary at some time in the past? Probably not, it was decided, given the way the by-laws are written: (The Secretary shall) Archive and maintain all mini'app'les records other than those kept by the Treasurer.

Publications Director John Pruski's report: The newsletter publication is working okay but John hasn't received the Small Dog Electronics ad. John and Chuck will coordinate this effort and ensure the ad is available for the next issue of the newsletter.

SIG Director Kevin Strysik's report: The SIG leaders are not informing Kevin of meeting times and locations in most cases. Consequently, he can't pass the information along to callers and the newsletter editor. A suggestion was made to send a questionnaire to the SIG Leaders and ask for the needed information. Chuck will give Kevin the SIG Leader Responsibility document for his use. Marketing Director Chuck Hauge's report: The First Class software has a new owner; Chuck has been trying to talk to the local representative of the new company to find out about First Class' future but so far hasn't received any information indicating that our BBS software will continue to be developed and supported. It was noted that the background colors on the web site are still too dark; Chuck will talk to Dave Peck about it. Chuck published for review a modified Benefits of Membership list for the back page of the newsletter; Board members suggested a few changes.

Director at Large Les Anderson's report: The newsletter distribution at the new Team store in Woodbury seems to be going better. Team's owner gave Les a box of old software and hardware for the club to distribute as it pleases. Team's owner also offered to allow us to hold meetings at the store.

Membership Director Erik Knopp's report: The continuing drop in membership is affecting the cost of mailing the newsletters.

Old Business

Small Dog Electronics Offer Follow-up – See Treasurer and Pub Director's reports.

Facilities for Multi-SIG Meetings – St Charles School is not available right now because of construction issues. The school authorities are amenable to hosting a Saturday all-SIGs meeting; Tom believes August 11 and 18 are the most likely dates for that meeting.

Liability insurance – Don called to libraries where we have held meetings and got no indication that insurance is needed so, as authorized by the Board, he switched our insurance to the new company. If anyone is asked about insurance, let Don know. In the past the insurance might have been needed for demos/meetings at schools or other non-library facilities.

New Business

BOD Election – Les and Harry counted the ballots at the AppleWorks SIG on June 6. The current Board of Directors (BOD) was re-elected.

Compensate Buchner – Topic tabled for off-line discussion.

Post Office changes and newsletter mailing – Some changes to the newsletter need to be made to greatly reduce the cost of mailing. John will incorporate the changes.

IRS Info for 501©3 – Our past existence has apparently been lost. Forms need to be sent in to the government to resurrect our tax-exempt status. Tom has the documents and is resolving this issue.

Budget – Tom emailed a proposed budget. We will discuss it in August.

Forumer.com Presentation - Dave Peck demonstrated a possible web-based home for mini'app'les forums; Dave has done a nice job of setting up a straw horse and investigating the capabilities of forumer.com. He provided a list of pros and cons (see forumer.com for that list). Tom will write something up for publication in the newsletter, on the BBS, and on the web site encouraging all club members to try this new capability and offer their opinions. Chuck says forumer.com is superior to Google groups so Google groups should no longer be considered as an alternative to our BBS.

Next meeting: Scheduled for August 6, 2007, at the Merriam Park Library at 7:00 pm. All club members are welcome to attend.

Letter From The President

Submitted by Tom Gates

Summer is here, kids are out of school, that fishing boat or camping trailer has been pulled out of storage for weekend use, the garden is blooming - I hope everyone is enjoying themselves.

I wanted to write a quick note to the members of mini'app'les about some plans we have in the works.

New Format For Discussions:

The group is currently looking at the opportunity to move from the FirstClass BBS software we've been using for a number of years and go to a Web-based discussion forum by Forumer.com. Dave Peck has written an article about Forumer and how the members can gain access to the system to see how it works. Dave's article also gives some Pro's and Con's about the new system - we'd like to hear your comments and suggestions. We have heard comments on the difficulty of installing and getting FirstClass to work, so this web-based format should be more familiar. Also, new vendor has purchased FirstClass software leaving some questions on its future use in mini'app'les. So please send your comments to Dave Peck or any of us on the Board.

Multi-SIG Meetings

Several SIG meetings each month you would really like to get to, but you just don't have that amount of time in your schedule? mini'app'les is in the planning process to start offering some weekend Multi-SIG meetings. These would begin with a general presentation geared toward all members. Following that presentation, there will be multiple SIG meetings held. We would be using facilities like a school, community center or office area where there would be a larger meeting area for the general presentation, then separate rooms for the break-out SIGs.

Being a part of a user group, like mini'app'les, is talking and comparing experiences with other members of that group. We hope using this format will bring larger numbers of members together. Someone suggested it could involve more of the family. How many have some kids at home that are iPod guru's that would like to share their experiences in an iPod SIG? We are working out the details for a Multi-SIG meeting in mid-September. Watch for information in the Newsletter, the BBS (and Forumer site), and the web site.

As Seen On TV

A currently small number of members have begun to look into the ability to create some video material that could be shown on community cable. These presentations could also become Podcasts. Segments would be non-commercial in nature and could cover a variety of topics. System troubleshooting, upgrading, neat features in various software programs, Windows and OS X on the same machine with a couple of key-presses to swap from one to the other. Do you have some video production experience? Interested in being "in front" of the camera? A late-night cable spot produced by mini'app'les members? Contact myself or Chuck Hauge for more details.

That's A Wrap!

mini'app'les is a volunteer organization that works because of the dedication and effort of members that have stepped forward to take on responsibilities in exchange only for our thanks. The next time you attend one of the SIG meetings or other user group events, please don't forget to tell these members what you liked about the presentation and offer ideas of things you'd like to see in the future.

Keep your eyes open for some of these future changes. Send ideas to me and the Board members. We are all a part of mini'app'les. Have a great summer!

Tom Gates - mini'app'les

BOD Election

Submitted by Harry Lienke

For those of you who thought the BOD election was to select the finest looking body in our club, Good Luck. The sixteen ballots cast in the Board of Directors (BOD) election have been processed (we counted them manually so there was no problem with hanging chad). One ballot was disqualified because it was not submitted by April 28 as required on the ballot.

President Tom Gates, Secretary Harry Lienke, Treasurer Don Walz, Marketing Director Chuck Hauge, Publications Director John Pruski, and SIG Director Kevin Strysik were all re-elected unanimously with fifteen votes. In the race for Vice President, Bert Persson, with twelve votes, was elected over Andre Benassi, who garnered three votes.

OS X SIG notification

Submitted by Craig R. Arko

Hi all! I just wanted to let everyone know that as my travel and teaching plans are coalescing, I will be leaving the club (and the country -ha!). To concentrate on that effort the August 7th OS X SIG meeting will be my last. The July meeting has already been cancelled due to the holiday conflict.

It's been an interesting time and I hope the organization is able to find another volunteer (Bob? André? Bruce?) to take up the reins of the SIG in time for the release of Leopard.

Thanks again, and I'll see some of you in August.

Craig R. Arko

Come Test The New mini'app'les Forum!

Submitted by Dave Peck

mini'app'les is testing a new online forum as an alternative to the First Class BBS. It is not unusual to hear of Mac novices having First Class configuration issues. And frankly a minority of mini'app'les members are participating in the First Class BBS. The new mini'app'les forum is a complete modern online forum that runs from your browser of preference. We recommend Safari or Firefox.

We are inviting mini'app'les members to come take a look, sign up, and post some messages.
Head on over to:
http://miniapples.7.forumer.com/index.php

At the top of the page under the mini'app'les Forum banner are several links, the left link is to Register. You can read all of the messages in the public forums, but you will not be able to post a message until you are registered. All that is required to register is to submit your email along with a user name and password. One of the forum administrators will verify your membership and then you'll be notified that your membership has been activated. Very simple and fast.

If you are familiar with online forums, you'll feel right at home. This forum uses phpBB software and is hosted by forumer.com. This company has made a business of providing free bulletin board/forum hosting. The price of free admission are the adds that run across the top of most pages. While mini'app'les does not officially endorse add blockers, if ads really bug you, let it be known that the Firefox browser has add-ons that will prevent these ads from running.

When you arrive at the mini'app'les Forum Index (the top level of the forums) you will see a list of forums. The top section is mini'app'les Central which includes all of the mini'app'les related forums. The Second section is All Things Macintosh including General Apple Topics & News, Hardware, Software, and a Beginner's Corner. The bottom section is the Miscellaneous section which includes a general topic forum called Grab Bag, Buy & Sell, and Apple II.

The first thing to do is click on the mini'app'les News & Newsletter Forum and read the Forumer.com Terms of Use and then browse through the Forum FAQ message. The Forum FAQ has a long list if items that people have had questions about.

Navigation of the forums is easy. Simply look at the Navigation Bar located at the top of each page. If you are currently reading the Forum FAQ, the Navigation Bar will show something like: mini'app'les forum Index >> mini'app'les News & Newsletter >> Forum FAQ. The first item (mini'app'les Forum Index) is the top level of the forum, mini'app'les News & Newsletter is the forum, and Forum FAQ would be the current post you are reading. All of these items are clickable links taking you back to either the Index level or the Forum level.

If you are familiar with First Class, you'll notice some differences. First off messages are better organized in this new forum. If you think about the FC Mac Software section, you'll remember that all of the message topic replies are all mixed together. In this forum each message has it's own section, so when clicking on a post to read, you'll only see replies to that post.

One thing that won't be in the new forum are message flags showing if message as read or unread. If you rely on this, you will have a period of adjustment. However the mini'app'les forum does notify you of forums with new posts by presenting those Forums in Red text. And when you click on the forum, the message with the new reply will also have some red text in it designating it as a new reply since the last time you visited. However note, if you don't look at all of the new messages before logging out, they will turn to the default color. However this is not the only way to see new messages. If looking at a Forum like mini'app'les News & Newsletter, all of the newest posts are listed at the top. In addition to the far right is the Last Post Column, showing the person and date of the last message posted to a thread. Last but not least this forum allows you to subscribe to any post that interests you. What this means is that every time a reply is posted, you will receive email notification.

Finally here is a list of Pros for this forum:
- Free
- Full Featured
- Flexible Message Organization
- Easy to Navigate
- Totally Online Solution
- No need for hardware server support (on our end)
- Flexible message editing
- Private forum for BOD
- Avatar uploads and emoticons Smile
- Uses BBCode - Similar to HTML in allowing the formatting of messages.
- Ranks and Titles (such as SIG Leader, BOD)
- Supports Polls
- Email notification of replies
- Uses phpBB
- Requires at least 1 post per month to stay open. (We can handle that!) Shocked
- Signatures.
- Red Text appears for forums and topics with new posts since your last visit.
- Supports high degree of permissions flexibility allowing for the segregation of Guests, privacy where it is needed (such as the BOD Private forum), and Read Only forums (if needed).
- Does not mix all replies in a single forum into one long list.
- Recognizes URLs in posts and turns them into links.
- Supports moving of miss-posted topics.
- Unlimited Bandwidth and storage.
- Allows custom banners.

If you have never participated in the First Class BBS for what ever reason, you'll find that the mini'app'les Forum is a great place to seek and receive answers to all of your Mac questions. There is no software to download and configure so please come on over and take a look! (Posts will be slow at first until we get a majority of members signed on.)

Secure Encrypted and Signed Email, FREE!

Submitted by Chuck Hauge

chaz@cphsolutions.com

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If you use the Apple Mail client application in OS 10.3 or higher and would prefer to have a more secure and trusted way to send email, this is for you! Before I begin, however, I should give you a brief description of what it means to have signed or encrypted email.

Digitally signed email is a more secure way to send email to any email recipient from your email application. Signed email does not encrypt your email, but puts your public certificate on your outgoing email telling the recipient they can trust you, the sender. Public/Private email certificates (a.k.a. Digital ID, secure certificate, Certificate Authority key, Personal Certificates, X.509, ...) are obtained through a trusted third party, such as Thawte Communications or VeriSign, and are part of the reason they are more secure. Spammers never use signed email.

Encrypted email is as it sounds, encrypted, so anyone other than the sender, or any of the recipient's can not read the email. Encrypted email is more secure than just signed email. But in order to send an encrypted email, the sender must first have the recipient's public key. In order for the recipient get a public key, they must also go through this process. There are technically other ways to send encrypted email than what I will describe here, but the Personal Certificate process is by far the easiest and most common method.

Here's how to setup your own Personal Certificate using Thawte Communications free Personal Certificate process. It is important to read all instructions carefully, but you can ignore references to the Web of Trust (WOT),and Certificate Bearers Name, these are more advanced subjects, and not required. You will receive email as part of the process, so you will need to open your email application to follow some instructions.

1. Go to http://www.thawte.com/secure-email/personal-email-certificates/index.html, click the Join button in the upper right corner. You need only one account for all your email addresses.

2. Go through the process of obtaining a Personal Certificate, make sure you follow al the steps, it can be a bit tedious. You need one Certificate for each email address you want to send signed/encrypted email. Use the Mozilla/Netscape key for Apple Mail, and the High Grade-2048 bit options.

3. The Certificate may take several minutes or hours to obtain via email. Once you have the Certificate, it should have a name like "deliver.exe.p7s". Depending upon your version of Mac OS and settings, the certificate may be automatically embedded in your keychain. However, if not, and if the name is truncated, add the .p7s filename extension. Stick the original Certificate in a safe place, because it is the key to protecting your digital email identity.

4. Double-click on it; Keychain Access will launch; embed it in your personal keychain.

5. The next time you launch Mail and create a new message, two new icons should appear to the right of the Signature popup menu - a padlock ❑, and an "X" inside a starburst ❑. Click on the "X" and you should see a check mark inside a starburst ❑, this is digitally signing your email. The padlock icon should be grayed out at this point.

6. Once you've corresponded with someone using a Mac, your personal certificate (the "public key" portion) gets automatically embedded in the recipient's Keychain (for an explanation of operations on different email clients, go to http://www.thawte.com/ssl-digital-certificates/technical-support/email/sign.html and follow the link in the line starting with "To sign email on various email clients"). If interested take a look inside your Keychain; you'll find *at minimum* my own Personal Certificate, and possibly others from people who use Personal Certificates. You can send encrypted email to anyone whose Personal Certificate "public key" is in your Keychain. (Your Personal Certificate public key is actually a special kind of attachment to every email you send; it's all automatic.)

7. When you address a message to someone who's own Personal Certificate is in your Keychain, the padlock option becomes available (it is no longer grayed out). When selected, the entire content of your message is securely encrypted, and can only be decrypted by recipients who have your Personal Certificate public key.

8. Any message sent can be verified by your recipient as having truly come from you by verifying the presence of the "digitally signed" icon and checkmark/starburst (in Apple Mail, it shows up in just below the From/Subject/Date/To: lines). Entourage and other email applications have their own way of noting signed emails. Any messages not actually sent by you will not bear this digital signature icon. Also, if a message is somehow tampered with in transit, the recipient will be told so because the message's checksums won't match.

There are different instructions for installing a Personal Certificate on other email applications, see the government web site in sources, below.

Sources:

http://security.fnal.gov/pki/email_with_dig_sig.html
http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=25555
http://www.thawte.com/secure-email/personal-email-certificates/index.html

Chuck Hauge is the Principal consultant at CPH Solutions, and provides personal and comprehensive Macintosh and PC consulting, from troubleshooting to system selection and installation.

mini'app'les

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

Membership Application, & Renewal Form

Name:_____
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_____
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Phone # (Home):_____
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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).
_____

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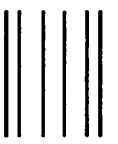

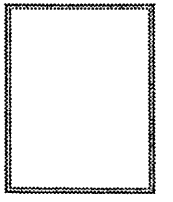

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3rd fold

1st fold

2nd fold

Dear mini'app'les
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☐ Membership Director
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☐ Other_____

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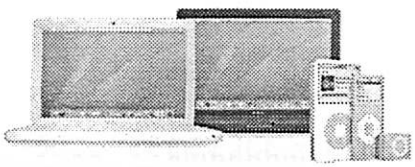

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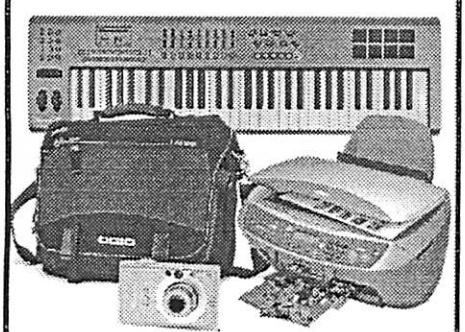

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Benefits of mini'app'les Membership:

- Participate in drawings of computer hardware, software, and other computer related materials. Some of the vendors and merchandise mini'app'les has given away include: Connectix software, QuickCam, Quickeys, Peachpit Press books, Macsoft games, T-Shirts, Apple Mac OS X, and many others.

- Mini'app'les members have access to discounts from vendors and manufacturers such as Peachpit Press, Apple, Small Dog Electronics, PowerMax, and others.

- Member Workshops to help members with computer problems. You can bring your equipment in to these events and you'll get support from other knowledgeable members to fix your sick Mac. Some of our members are Apple certified consultants.

- Access to the Members Helping Members network of professional and advanced users of Apple technologies. These members volunteer their time to help other members with pre-sales questions, troubleshooting, and other Apple related issues.

- Opportunities to get involved with other Apple enthusiasts. mini'app'les has several special interest groups, and is always looking for motivated members to help in making them better.

- Access to the mini'app'les online Forum. Why wait for a monthly meeting when you can chat with other members about issues and trouble shooting. Apple products are bought and sold, special events and discounts are posted, and news about the mini'app'les User Group, Apple, and the industry is discussed.

- Subscription to the mini'app'les monthly newsletter.

- Mini'app'les is a non-profit and your subscription is tax deductible (check IRS rules on disclosure).

And you're supporting a great organization that promotes the use and evangelism of Apple Computers!

$3

Volume 30, Issue 8

mini'app'les newsletter

the minnesota apple computer users' group, inc.

AUGUST 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 6:30	2	3	4
5	6 7:00	7 OS X 7:00	8 7:00	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 7:00	24	25
26	27 Q&A 7:00	28	29	30	31	

1 **AppleWorks SIG**
Augsburg Library **6:30 PM**
7100 Nicollet Ave S, Richfield
John Hunkins, Sr. 651-457-8949
hunkins@mac.com.

6 **Board of Directors**
mini'app'les members welcome
Merriam Park Library
1831 Marshall Avenue St. Paul
Tom Gates 612-789-1713

7 **OS X SIG**
Atomic / The Foundation
901 North 3rd street Suite #115
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

8 **Microsoft Word SIG**
Eagles lodge
9152 Old Cedar Ave. Bloomington
Tom Ostertag, E 651-488-9979

16 **Macintosh Consultants SIG**
Perkins **7:00 AM**
6920 Wayzata Blvd
Golden Valley
Bob Demeules, 763-559-1124

23 **FileMaker Pro SIG**
Partners
2250 terminal Road
Roseville, MN
Steve Wilmes 651-458-1513

27 Q&A **Macintosh Q & A SIG**
Questions & Answers
Merriam Park Library
1831 Marshall Avenue St. Paul
Les Anderson 651-735-3953

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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Questions – Please direct questions to an appropriate board member. Users with technical questions should refer to the Members Helping Members section.

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

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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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September 2007 Preview

Here is the tentative calendar of our Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings for September 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

Wednesday	September	5	AppleWorks SIG
Tuesday	September	?	OS X SIG
Tuesday	September	?	VectorWorks SIG
Wednesday	September	12	Microsoft Word SIG
Thursday	September	20	Macintosh Consultants
Monday	September	24	Mac Q & A SIG
Thursday	September	27	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.

Apple II / IIGS Software & Hardware	1, 3, 4
AppleWorks / ClarisWorks-Draw	4, 5
Classic Macs	
Cross-Platform File Transfer	3
FileMaker Pro	
FirstClass	
iMacs	6
iPhoto / iTunes / iMovie	
Mac OS Classic	4, 6
Mac OS X	
MacWrite Pro	
Microsoft Excel	2, 3, 7, 10
Microsoft Word	3, 10
MYOB	7
Networks	9
New Users	1, 6
PhotoShop	
PowerBooks / iBooks	6
Power Macs	
QuarkXPress 10	
Quicken	2, 7
QuickBooks and QuickBooks Pro	7
WordPerfect	
VectorWorks	8

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.

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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

Configure Two Dozen Macs In An Afternoon

Submitted by Tom Gates

Recently we had a need to configure more than two dozen iMac G4 Flat Panel and G3 CRT machines for the school in a short period of time. There were two different setups required for the machines. The G4 Flat Panels were to be configured as teacher/staff machines with OS X 10.4 containing various additional pieces of software installed such as Mac MS Office, AppleWorks 6, iLife, multiple internet browsers (Safari, Firefox, Mozilla, etc). The G3 CRT iMacs were to be configured as student workstations with OS X 10.3, MS Office, Internet browsers, etc.

In the past, a standard process was to set up a number of computers along a couple cafeteria tables. Then start the process of loading the first machine with the OS CD and move along to each subsequent machine. When the initial software was loaded then hook them up to the Internet via an Ethernet switch for getting system updates. This could take some time and constant attention to keep the process moving.

This time, due to the number of machines that needed to be configured in a short time frame, it was time to look for alternate methods. At mini'app'les meetings there had been frequent conversations about the Carbon Copy Cloner software from Mike Bombich (www.bombich.com). This sounded intriguing in that we really did want to clone a large number of Macs with the same couple of configurations. The price of the software was also a selling point. The software from this site is "donation ware" and Mike Bombich says that "My heart is in Education and all software that I write shall always be free to education." We were sold.

Carbon Copy Cloner would be able to make a copy of our configurations. The second piece of software we needed was the piece to put those configurations back on to our staff and student machines. That piece turned out to be the NetRestore, also from Bombich Software. NetRestore's stated purpose is "NetRestore can be used to quickly and accurately restore a master disk image to a computer's hard disk while that disk image is hosted locally, on a network via AFP, NFS or multicast, or on the internet via HTTP." That was exactly what we wanted to do. Create the images to an external drive then restore the staff or student image to the various machines.

How to configure the master disk image.

We set up one of the iMac G4 Flat Panel machines and gave it the full load of software that we wanted for a teacher/staff machine. The OS was loaded, the network settings set to default values required on the school's network, some initial tweaking of the software so that the initial registrations were complete for the Office suite, and Apple software updates were applied. Our master teacher machine was ready to clone.

Next we set up one of the iMac G3 CRT machines and went through the same process with that that machine to set it up as a master for a student work station. We were now ready to fire up Carbon Copy Cloner and create our master disk images.

The device that was to hold our master images was a 200GB external Firewire/USB disk drive. This we split into two partitions. The first partition was sized at about 10GB to give us more than enough room to have a very simple standard OS X 10.4 system installed to boot from and a copy of the NetRestore program. The remaining space was assigned for the second partition to be used to hold any of the master disk images we created. This was formatted and we installed a very basic OS X 10.4 system to be able to boot from the Firewire/USB drive.

With the external drive connected to the iMac G4, we began the process of running Carbon Copy Cloner to create a disk image of that machine to the second partition of the external drive. The process of producing the G4 teacher image took just over an hour. Next we hooked the external drive to the iMac G3 and ran Carbon Copy Cloner to create our G3 image on the external drive. Again the process to create the G3 student image took a bit more than an hour to complete. The process was simple and went very well for both machines.

Let the cloning begin.

Time to see if this bit of magic was going to work for us. We pulled out the first iMac G4 that would be a recipient of a teacher disk image. The external drive was attached to the G4 via the FireWire cable. The G4 was powered on as we held down the "option" key. This provided us with a selection to boot from the internal disk drive or to boot from the first partition of the external drive. We selected the external drive and a minute or two later the G4 was running from the OS X installed on the external drive.

Next we started the NetRestore software. The software asks the usual questions of where the source disk image is located and what will be the target device for the image. We selected our 10.4 teacher image as the source and set the target to be the internal disk drive in the G4. A couple other options were set to erase and reformat the internal drive before installing the image and to have the computer reboot from the new internal disk image after the image install was completed. We clicked the "OK" button to proceed.

Since the creation of the initial image had taken about an hour, we decided this was a good time to take a short break and stretch our legs. About 15 minutes later we came back into the room and saw the computer we were cloning was sitting with the initial logon screen. First thought was darn, something weird happened and we'd need to restart the process and watch to see what was happening. But for whatever reason we decided to log on to the G4 and take a look around. It was running from the internal disk drive! Some more poking around proved to us that this had everything installed on it that we expected. We un-mounted the two partitions of the external drive and unplugged the Firewire cable.

We pulled out the next G4 to be cloned, connected the external drive

via the FireWire cable as before, and did another "option" boot to select the external drive as the boot drive. Again we ran NetRestore and set the source image and target drive, selected the couple other settings for the disk reformat and clicked "OK". This time we sat back and watched. About eight minutes later the NetRestore software quit, the G4 began a reboot process, and we were then greeted with the OS X login screen. Once again we logged on to the G4 and found everything in place and unmounted the two external drive partitions.

Of course reading the users manual to a piece of software can give one great insight. Having been used to the CD-ROM swapping of a manual system setup it was easy to overlook the fact that all NetRestore had to do was copy the drive image block by block from the external drive image to the internal target drive. This didn't involve file by file copying and there were no install programs running here doing all the various setup that they do. That had all been accomplished when we built the initial master drive. Copying this image of about 8GB by FireWire to the internal drive really doesn't take that long. This was kind of our "Duh!" moment as we realized the tool we'd just created for ourselves to image all of the remaining G4 and G3 iMacs.

After about two hours we nearly had more iMac G4 machines setting around on the floor ready to be sent to the various classrooms than we had floor space. We had just done in a couple of hours what we could have only dreamed of doing in a weekend's work configuring the machines the "old fashion way".

For the most part the G3 iMac configurations went as well as the G4's. The difference being that some of the CRT Macs were not FireWire machines and the external drive was connected via the USB port. The USB machine cloning took about 35 minutes per machine. Longer than the G4 process, but very much shorter than the manual method.

Since late summer when we configured this initial group of computers, we had a number of other iMac CRT's and iMac G4 Flat panel machines added to the inventory. This method of cloning these computers from the master image has greatly reduced the time required to set up a computer both in wall time and in a person's busy time spent in front of the machine during configuration.

Not the complete magic bullet.

This process has been extremely useful for the initial base configuration of the machines. But there is still the ongoing work of keeping the machines updated with the Apple Software Updates and any application software that may be added later. For that process we are currently in the early stages of using Apple Remote Desktop (ARD) to push out changes to select groups of computers. As we get more experience under our belt with ARD we'll have to write an update to this process.

Apple Unveils Near Final Mac OS X Leopard

Submitted by John Pruski

WWDC 2007, SAN FRANCISCO—June 11, 2007—Apple® today unveiled a near final version of Mac OS® X Leopard, the sixth major release of the world's most advanced operating system. Scheduled to ship in October, Leopard introduces over 300 new features, including a new Desktop and Dock with Stacks, an intuitive new way to organize files; an updated Finder featuring Cover Flow™ and a new way to easily browse and share files between multiple Macs; Quick Look, a new way to rapidly preview most files without opening an application; Time Machine, a new way to easily and automatically back up and restore lost files or a complete Mac®; Spaces, a powerful new feature to create groups of applications and instantly switch between them; and enhanced iChat and Mail applications, which easily allow users to communicate even more creatively.

"Leopard is the best release of Mac OS X to date, surpassing even Tiger, and will further extend Mac OS X's leadership as the most advanced and innovative operating system in the world," said Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO. "We think current and prospective customers are going to love Leopard, and that it will help make the Mac even more popular."

Leopard includes a completely new Dock featuring Stacks, which can help manage a user's desktop clutter caused by browser and email downloads. With the click of a mouse, users can instantly fan out the contents of a stack to easily see each item. Leopard's Finder has been completely redesigned, adding Cover Flow as an innovative way to quickly browse and locate files and applications. Finder's new Sidebar simplifies the organization of files on a Mac, and adds easy access to shared Macs and PCs on a home network. Subscribers to .Mac can also use the new "Back to my Mac" feature to browse and access files on their remote Macs over the Internet. Also new in Leopard is Quick Look, an innovative new way for users to instantly preview almost any file, and even play media files, without opening an application.

With its unique ability to let users travel back in time to find deleted files, applications, photos and other digital media, Time Machine is a revolutionary way to protect your digital life. With just a one-click setup, Time Machine automatically keeps an up-to-date copy of everything on the Mac. In the event a file is lost, users can use Mac OS X's Spotlight™ to search back through time to find and then instantly restore the file. Time Machine can automatically back up a Mac to an external hard drive connected with a FireWire® or USB cable, to a server, or wirelessly to an AirPort Extreme® base station with an attached hard drive.

Leopard also includes three new technologies that take full advantage of the latest developments in processor hardware: full native 64-bit support to enable applications to take complete advantage of 64-bit processing while still running side by side with existing 32-bit Mac OS X applications and dri-

vers; easy multi-core optimization and scheduling to take advantage of the latest Intel hardware; and Core Animation, helping developers easily create animated user experiences as amazing as Leopard's Spaces and Time Machine in their own applications.

Other new features in Leopard include:

* Leopard Mail, offering more ways to customize and add personal style to email than ever before, with more than 30 beautiful stationery designs and layouts that look great on a Mac or Windows PC; Notes, making it as easy to take and organize notes as it is to compose and read emails; To Dos, for creating lists viewed directly in Mail and automatically sync them with iCal®; and data detectors that automatically sense phone numbers, addresses and events so they can be easily added to Address Book or iCal;
* Leopard iChat with iChat Theater, letting users present photos, presentations, videos and files in a video conference; Photo Booth effects, enabling users to transform their iChat video in real time with fun distortion and color effects; and video backdrops that allow users to choose any photo or video that makes them appear to be anywhere in the world, or out of it;
* Leopard iCal, introducing powerful group calendaring features based on the open CalDAV standard that make it easy to organize and coordinate schedules with other people;
* Spaces, giving users a powerful new, clutter-free way to create customized spaces on the desktop with only the applications or files needed for each project, and the ability to quickly switch between them with one click of a mouse or keystroke;
* Web Clip, bringing anything that a user wants from a web page to Dashboard as a live widget;
* Boot Camp, making it possible to run Windows natively on Intel-based Macs*; and
* new development tools, including Xcode® 3 with a next generation editor; an all new Interface Builder for easier integration of advanced animation effects into an application; simpler debugging; and support for Objective-C 2.0; DashCode, a better way to create new Dashboard widgets without writing a line of code; and Xray, a new application for optimizing application performance.

Pricing & Availability
Mac OS X version 10.5 Leopard is scheduled to ship in October and will be available through the Apple Store® (www.apple.com), Apple's retail stores and Apple Authorized Resellers for a suggested retail price of $129 (US) for a single user license. The Mac OS X Leopard Family Pack is a single-residence, five-user license that will be available for a suggested retail price of $199 (US). Volume and maintenance pricing is available from Apple.

*Copy of Windows XP or Vista required.

Apple ignited the personal computer revolution in the 1970s with the Apple II and reinvented the personal computer in the 1980s with the Macintosh. Today, Apple continues to lead the industry in innovation with its award-winning computers, OS X operating system and iLife and professional applications. Apple is also spearheading the digital media revolution with its iPod portable music and video players and iTunes online store, and will enter the mobile phone market this year with its revolutionary iPhone.

Come Test The New mini'app'les Forum!

Submitted by Dave Peck

mini'app'les is testing a new online forum as an alternative to the First Class BBS. It is not unusual to hear of Mac novices having First Class configuration issues. And frankly a minority of mini'app'les members are participating in the First Class BBS. The new mini'app'les forum is a complete modern online forum that runs from your browser of preference. We recommend Safari or Firefox.

We are inviting mini'app'les members to come take a look, sign up, and post some messages.
Head on over to:
http://miniapples.7.forumer.com/index.php

At the top of the page under the mini'app'les Forum banner are several links, the left link is to Register. You can read all of the messages in the public forums, but you will not be able to post a message until you are registered. All that is required to register is to submit your email along with a user name and password. One of the forum administrators will verify your membership and then you'll be notified that your membership has been activated. Very simple and fast.

If you are familiar with online forums, you'll feel right at home. This forum uses phpBB software and is hosted by forumer.com. This company has made a business of providing free bulletin board/forum hosting. The price of free admission are the adds that run across the top of most pages. While mini'app'les does not officially endorse add blockers, if ads really bug you, let it be known that the Firefox browser has add-ons that will prevent these ads from running.

When you arrive at the mini'app'les Forum Index (the top level of the forums) you will see a list of forums. The top section is mini'app'les Central which includes all of the mini'app'les related forums. The Second section is All Things Macintosh including General Apple Topics & News, Hardware, Software, and a Beginner's Corner. The bottom section is the Miscellaneous section which includes a general topic forum called Grab Bag, Buy & Sell, and Apple II.

The first thing to do is click on the mini'app'les News & Newsletter Forum and read the Forumer.com Terms of Use and then browse through the Forum FAQ message. The Forum FAQ has a long list if items that people have had questions about.

Navigation of the forums is easy. Simply look at the Navigation Bar located at the top of each page. If you are currently reading the Forum FAQ, the Navigation Bar will show something like: mini'app'les forum Index >> mini'app'les News & Newsletter >> Forum FAQ. The first item (mini'app'les Forum Index) is the top level of the forum, mini'app'les News & Newsletter is the forum, and Forum FAQ would be the current post you are reading. All of these items are clickable links taking you back to either the Index level or the Forum level.

If you are familiar with First Class, you'll notice some differences. First off messages are better organized in this new forum. If you think about the FC Mac Software section, you'll remember that all of the message topic replies are all mixed together. In this forum each message has it's own section, so when clicking on a post to read, you'll only see replies to that post.

One thing that won't be in the new forum are message flags showing if message as read or unread. If you rely on this, you will have a period of adjustment. However the mini'app'les forum does notify you of forums with new posts by presenting those Forums in Red text. And when you click on the forum, the message with the new reply will also have some red text in it designating it as a new reply since the last time you visited. However note, if you don't look at all of the new messages before logging out, they will turn to the default color. However this is not the only way to see new messages. If looking at a Forum like mini'app'les News & Newsletter, all of the newest posts are listed at the top. In addition to the far right is the Last Post Column, showing the person and date of the last message posted to a thread. Last but not least this forum allows you to subscribe to any post that interests you. What this means is that every time a reply is posted, you will receive email notification.

Finally here is a list of Pros for this forum:
- Free
- Full Featured
- Flexible Message Organization
- Easy to Navigate
- Totally Online Solution
- No need for hardware server support (on our end)
- Flexible message editing
- Private forum for BOD
- Avatar uploads and emoticons Smile
- Uses BBCode - Similar to HTML in allowing the formatting of messages.
- Ranks and Titles (such as SIG Leader, BOD)
- Supports Polls
- Email notification of replies
- Uses phpBB
- Requires at least 1 post per month to stay open. (We can handle that!) Shocked
- Signatures.
- Red Text appears for forums and topics with new posts since your last visit.
- Supports high degree of permissions flexibility allowing for the segregation of Guests, privacy where it is needed (such as the BOD Private forum), and Read Only forums (if needed).
- Does not mix all replies in a single forum into one long list.
- Recognizes URLs in posts and turns them into links.
- Supports moving of miss-posted topics.
- Unlimited Bandwidth and storage.
- Allows custom banners.

If you have never participated in the First Class BBS for what ever reason, you'll find that the mini'app'les Forum is a great place to seek and receive answers to all of your Mac questions. There is no software to download and configure so please come on over and take a look! (Posts will be slow at first until we get a majority of members signed on.)

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:_____
Phone # (Home):_____
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

Specify your level of support:

___ $25.00 One Year
___ $45.00 Two Year
___ $60.00 Three Year
___ $15.00 Student One Year*(must be a full-time student at an accredited institution)
___ $100.00 Corporate One Year

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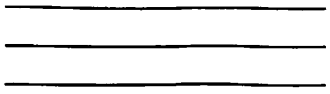
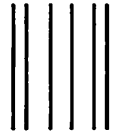
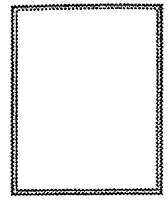
Thank You for your support!

Last Fold - Seal with Tape







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Hopkins, MN 55343-0796

3rd fold

1st fold

2nd fold

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

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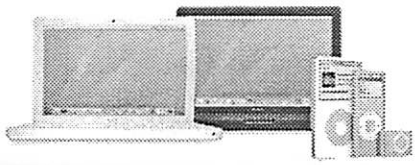

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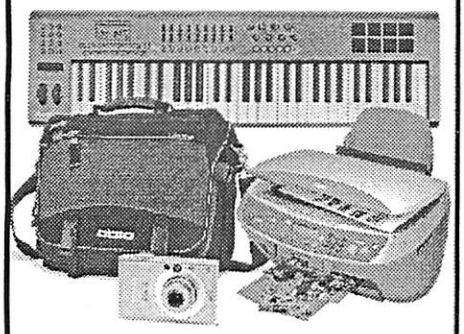

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Benefits of mini'app'les Membership:

- Participate in drawings of computer hardware, software, and other computer related materials. Some of the vendors and merchandise mini'app'les has given away include: Connectix software, QuickCam, Quickeys, Peachpit Press books, Macsoft games, T-Shirts, Apple Mac OS X, and many others.

- Mini'app'les members have access to discounts from vendors and manufacturers such as Peachpit Press, Apple, Small Dog Electronics, PowerMax, and others.

- Member Workshops to help members with computer problems. You can bring your equipment in to these events and you'll get support from other knowledgeable members to fix your sick Mac. Some of our members are Apple certified consultants.

- Access to the Members Helping Members network of professional and advanced users of Apple technologies. These members volunteer their time to help other members with pre-sales questions, troubleshooting, and other Apple related issues.

- Opportunities to get involved with other Apple enthusiasts. mini'app'les has several special interest groups, and is always looking for motivated members to help in making them better.

- Access to the mini'app'les online Forum. Why wait for a monthly meeting when you can chat with other members about issues and trouble shooting. Apple products are bought and sold, special events and discounts are posted, and news about the mini'app'les User Group, Apple, and the industry is discussed.

- Subscription to the mini'app'les monthly newsletter.

- Mini'app'les is a non-profit and your subscription is tax deductible (check IRS rules on disclosure).

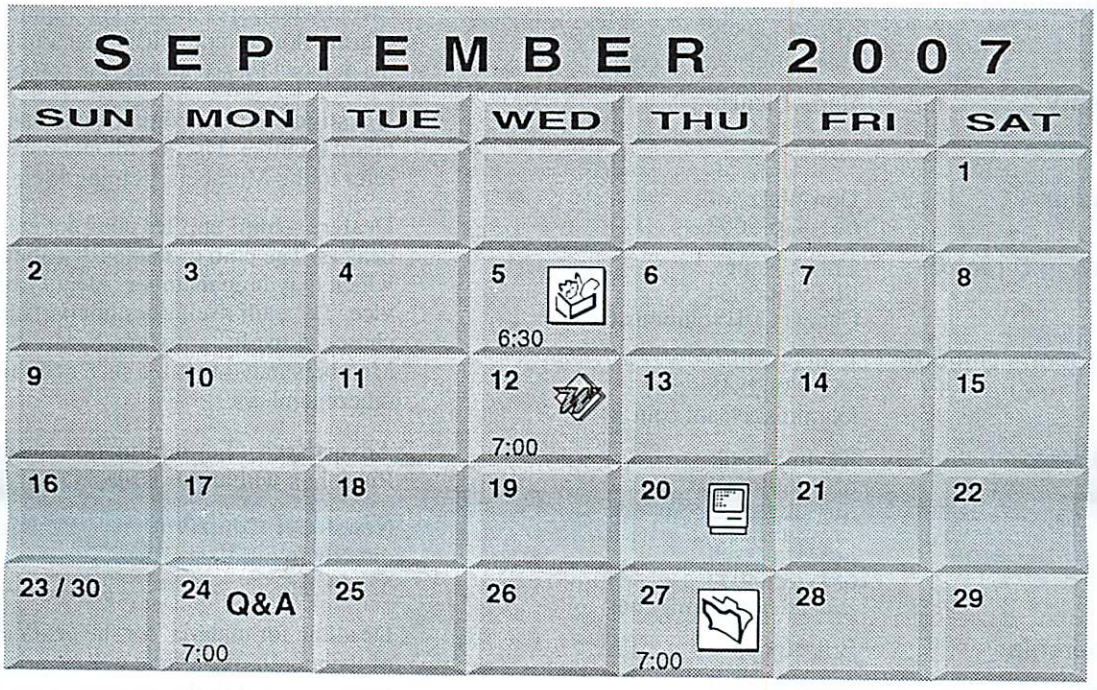
And you're supporting a great organization that promotes the use and evangelism of Apple Computers!

$3

Volume 30, Issue 9

mini'app'les newsletter

the minnesota apple computer users' group, inc.



5 — **AppleWorks SIG**
Edina Library
5280 Grandview Square, Edina
John Hunkins, Sr. 651-457-8949
hunkins@mac.com.

12 — **Microsoft Word SIG**
Eagles lodge
9152 Old Cedar Ave. Bloomington
Tom Ostertag, E 651-488-9979

20 — **Macintosh Consultants SIG**
Perkins 7:00 AM
6920 Wayzata Blvd
Golden Valley
Bob Demeules, 763-559-1124

24 Q&A — **Macintosh Q & A SIG**
Questions & Answers
Merriam Park Library
1831 Marshall Avenue St. Paul
Les Anderson 651-735-3953

27 — **FileMaker Pro SIG**
Partners
2250 terminal Road
Roseville, MN
Steve Wilmes 651-458-1513

S/PDIF 3.5 mini phone jack
mini optical adapter

Toslink → 3.5 mm

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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Questions – Please direct questions to an appropriate board member. Users with technical questions should refer to the Members Helping Members section.

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.

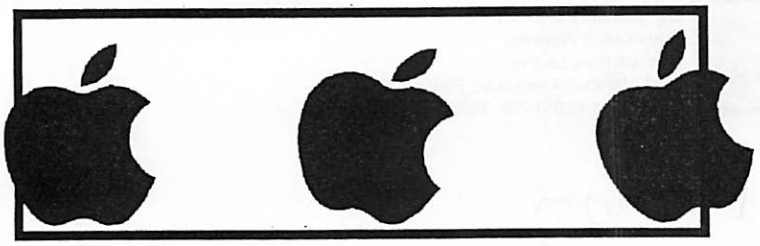
Editor/Publisher: Tom Ostertag 651-488-9979

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



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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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October 2007 Preview

Here is the tentative calendar of our Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings for October 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

Wednesday	October	3	AppleWorks SIG
Tuesday	October	?	OS X SIG
Tuesday	October	?	VectorWorks SIG
Wednesday	October	10	Microsoft Word SIG
Thursday	October	18	Macintosh Consultants
Monday	October	22	Mac Q & A SIG
Thursday	October	25	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.

Apple II / IIGS Software & Hardware	1, 3, 4
AppleWorks / ClarisWorks-Draw	4, 5
Classic Macs	
Cross-Platform File Transfer	3
FileMaker Pro	
FirstClass	
iMacs	6
iPhoto / iTunes / iMovie	
Mac OS Classic	4, 6
Mac OS X	
MacWrite Pro	
Microsoft Excel	2, 3, 7, 10
Microsoft Word	3, 10
MYOB	7
Networks	9
New Users	1, 6
PhotoShop	
PowerBooks / iBooks	6
Power Macs	
QuarkXPress	10
Quicken	2, 7
QuickBooks and QuickBooks Pro	7
WordPerfect	
VectorWorks	8

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
Full page . . . 7-1/2" Width x 10" Height (save 15%) . . $60
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

mini'app'les Directors Meeting Minutes for August 6, 2007

Submitted by Harry Lienke

In attendance: Bert Persson, Don Walz, Kevin Strysik, Chuck Hauge, Les Anderson, Harry Lienke
Absent: Tom Gates, Erik Knopp, John Pruski

Agenda: A prepared agenda was not available so the items shown as Old and New Business were offered as the agenda and approved.

Minutes: The minutes for the June 4 meeting were approved electronically and published on the BBS on June 11.

Directors Reports

Treasurer Don Walz's report: The bills are all paid. A hard-copy financial statement for May/June was distributed. The statement was approved with a few spelling corrections.

President Tom Gates' report: No report.

Vice President Bert Persson's report: A gentleman by the name of Jonah Cagley representing Yugma, Inc., (a company producing collaborative software) sent an email indicating he submitted a check for an ad in the newsletter. Bert was not able to contact Cagley by phone. Bert will contact Cagley and club members who

Publications Director John Pruski's report: No report.

SIG Director Kevin Strysik's report: He is still not getting any cooperation from SIG leaders on providing time and location information; he was encouraged to keep trying. There is a rumor that the OS X SIG is to be led by Bob Demueles upon the departure of Craig Arko; Kevin will talk to Craig and Bob about this.

Marketing Director Chuck Hauge's report: The web site background is still too dark; Chuck will contact Dave Peck about this. Chuck will spearhead updating the Benefits list mentioned in the Vice President's report above. Chuck suggested adding email addresses into the Members-Helping-Members list in the newsletter and a few other updates to that list; he will ask people before adding their email address. Chuck asked for a clarification of the scope of his duties. From the Bylaws, Les determined Chuck is in charge of membership marketing but not advertising; Publications Director John Pruski is responsible for advertising.

Director at Large Les Anderson's report: Our web site still has one reference to the Team location in Oakdale rather than Woodbury. Newsletter mailing is going well; the

change from First Class since the BBS is working well; Chuck and Kevin both felt a change is needed to a more modern format so we can attract and hold more members. Chuck pointed out that we are running a very old version of the First Class software on very old hardware furnished by a very generous former member; cost of updating the software is $1800 with the hardware update cost unknown. The software and server for forumer.com are provided and updated as needed by the forumer.com company at no cost to the club. Harry suggested Chuck develop a strategy to combine various means to overcome the problem areas and provide a step-by-step guide to using the mini'app'les forum on forumer.com.

Multi-SIG meeting site – No information available. Needed by August 20 to be included in the newsletter.

Compensation for Buchner – No information available.

IRS info – No information available.

Budget – Les has suggested changes to Tom's straw horse 2007/8 budget. Les will distribute his suggestions in an Excel spreadsheet.

New Business

...ge has been significantly ...he new newsletter for-

...o Coordinator Erik ...ort: No report.

...s

...lectronics ad for newslet-...ing is okay; the ad ...the latest newsletter.

...f SIG times and locations – ...Director's report.

...st Class Software / mov-... to forumer.com – Chuck ...hing negative on the ...n experience was received ...mments. Les pointed out ...r.com permits no attach-...ondered about the diffi-...anging information. Les ...h felt there is no need to

Saint Paul Public Access (SPPA)-TV - Dave Peck, Kevin Strysik, and Chuck Hauge went and collected information. There is a charge to become a SPPA member, either individual or group ($35/$60 or $110 plus $12.50 for each mini'app'les member if more than five mini'app'les members become SPPA members). SPPA members can utilize the public access facilities and equipment to produce programs on computer-related (or other) topics; we could make podcasts as well. Other arrangements would need to be made if we wanted the program(s) to be broadcast outside the St. Paul cable area.

Next meeting: Scheduled for October 1, 2007, at the Merriam Park Library at 7:00 pm. All club members are welcome to attend.

...Cagley sent (Bruce Thompson, Erik Knopp). The Benefits list on the back page of the newsletter needs to be updated as suggested at the last Directors Meeting, including deleting evangelism. Our group is not promoted properly on our web site -- we need to describe the efforts of each SIG and of the group as a whole. Kevin is to produce a write-up for each SIG (Les volunteered to do Q&A; Harry volunteered Pam to do AppleWorks).

Secretary Harry Lienke's report: A club member suggested the minutes of the Directors Meeting be made available to all members on the BBS in addition to appearing in the newsletter. It was agreed that the approved minutes be put into the General/Miscellaneous folder on the BBS and into The Miniapples Member Private Forum on forumer.com.

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Apple Kills Another Great App

by Dan Knight
submitted by Les Anderson

Once upon a time there was Microsoft Works for the Mac. It combined a word processor, a spreadsheet, and a database in a single program. When it was introduced in 1986, it took the market by storm. Finally, average users could have the tools they needed in a single program rather than moving back and forth between two or more apps.

Microsoft Works created the "Works" market and owned it. Competitors rose to challenge it - and were quickly struck down. It was the immovable object in its field.
Enter ClarisWorks

In those days, a Works program was more like an Office suite. You did word processing in one part of the program, number crunching in another. Bob Hearn and Scott Holdaway had a different vision. As Hearn tells it:

All "integrated software" to date was effectively several separate programs, loosely stitched together. For multiple reasons we had to do better than this. First, to do something new and interesting. Second, two programmers cannot write a competitive stand-alone word processor, spreadsheet, graphics program, and database program in a year or so. Third, application size was a big deal in those days: Microsoft Works was a big program; we wanted to do better.

They did. Their Works program used "frames" to integrate word processing, graphics, spreadsheets, etc. You could stick a working spreadsheet into a word processing document, drop in graphics from the drawing or paint modules, etc.

ClarisWorks 1.0 was finalized in October 1991, and it required a Mac running System 7. It also faced competition from not only Microsoft Works, but also GreatWorks (originally SmartWorks) and BeagleWorks.

The Mac market was growing thanks to Apple's first "low cost" desktops: the Classic, LC, and IIsi had been introduced in October 1990 and significantly lowered the cost of entry, much as sub-$1,000 iMacs and the Mac mini have done in recent years.

October 1991 also saw the introduction Apple's first PowerBook models (the 100, 140, and 170), all of which shipped with System 7 and had the resources necessary to run ClarisWorks, which had a very low memory footprint compared to Microsoft Works. I picked up my first copy of ClarisWorks around March of 1992, running it comfortably on my upgraded Mac Plus - and quickly retiring my copy of MacWrite.

In no time at all, ClarisWorks became the irresistible force of Macintosh Works programs, eclipsing Microsoft Works and all comers.

ClarisWorks was bundled with all consumer Macs for years and years, so it developed a huge installed base. ClarisWorks was ported to Windows in 1993, and every subsequent version has been available to Windows users.

ClarisWorks evolved, adding features, growing in size, becoming more powerful. After version 5.0, ClarisWorks was renamed AppleWorks, and version 6.0 (March 2000) was "Carbonized" so it could run with both the Classic Mac OS and the new OS X. Through incremental upgrades, AppleWorks eventually reached version 6.2.9.

I've been using AppleWorks since ClarisWorks 1.0, and I still use it daily. Its word processor has all the features I need, and its spreadsheet does all the number crunching I can come up with.

But AppleWorks' days are numbered, if not already over. There are bugs in the code that haven't been fixed in the seven years since version 6.0 was released, such as one that messes up cut and paste between word processing documents. (Apple figured out how to do that with MacWrite 1.0!)
The Future of Works on the Mac

Apple introduced iWork in 2006, which included both Keynote, a presentation module compatible with Microsoft PowerPoint files, and Pages, a word processor with design tools compatible with Microsoft Word files. In August 2007, Apple expanded iWork by adding Numbers, a spreadsheet program compatible with Microsoft Excel files.

iWork 06 won plaudits, and iWork 08 is receiving rave reviews, especially with the new model Numbers uses that's very different from traditional spreadsheets.

However, iWork isn't AppleWorks. It's not an integrated word processor, database, spreadsheet, paint, and drawing program. It's much more like Microsoft Office, where Word and Excel are separate programs that can work together.

And while iWork can open PowerPoint, Word, and Excel files, for some reason Apple has ignored compatibility with its own AppleWorks program, which is used by millions upon millions of Mac users on both the Classic Mac OS and OS X.

I know Steve Jobs has a general disdain for things not created on his watch, and he's allowed AppleWorks to languish, but if he wants Mac users to migrate to new hardware and iWork, he needs to make it easy to convert .cwk files into iWork documents and spreadsheets.

I may work with a dozen spreadsheets a day, others once a month, and still others only a few times a year. To get them into Numbers, I'd have to export them to Excel format from AppleWorks. And to get my word processing files into Pages, I'd have to save them as Word files in AppleWorks. That's very time consuming; it would be far easier if I could simply drag them to the Pages or Number icon in the Dock....

UPDATE: Pages can import AppleWorks word processing documents, and Numbers can import its spreadsheets.
Good Enough vs. the Best

We all heard Steve Jobs say that Apple won't make junk, as we applaud it. I have a cheap, low-end Windows laptop that's pathetically slow using either Windows XP or Ubuntu Linux, and I don't think the battery last even

45 minutes. It's been that way since I bought it. That's what you get with cheap, junky computers.

Under Jobs, Apple is striving for excellence. It mostly hits the mark. The Mac mini and MacBook could have better graphics, but in general Apple is releasing knockout products. The iPod owns and redefined the MP3 player market, the iTunes Store owns and helped create a viable online music and video market, and the iPhone is already redefining the smartphone market.

But sometimes we don't need the absolute best. The Mac Pro is a powerhouse, but the Mac mini has enough power for most people. Likewise, Microsoft Office and iWork are powerhouse application suites, but Apple's integrated software program has been enough for most users since 1991.

I'd love to see Apple dust off AppleWorks and release a version 7.0 that's OS X native, a universal binary, compatible with the latest Microsoft Office file formats, exports directly to Pages and Numbers, and gives us the simple elegance and power we've known for the past 16 years.

But don't hold your breath. Apple's AppleWorks page no longer exists. If you try to visit <http://www.apple.com/appleworks/>, you end up on the iWork page.

I don't know about the rest of you, but I'm going to continue using AppleWorks until it no longer works. I'm the kind of diehard user who will do it - I used Claris Emailer (last updated in 1998) well after switching to Mac OS X, and I still use Claris Home Page 3.0 (not updated since 1997) in Classic mode on my 2002 Power Mac G4.

Once I find the right tool, I don't like to change.

Apple, how about reviving AppleWorks for those of us who already know and love the program, would love to see it modernized, and don't want to switch to Pages and Numbers.

Thirteen Years of Mac Gaming (1993-2007)

Submitted by Dave Peck

This is not much of a confession. My game centricity has been known to attendees of Miniapples (Minnesota Apple Computer User Group) Annual meeting for years when LAN (local area network) Parties ruled the meeting and hoots from gamers in the current round of Marathon interfered with the stodgy goings-on of an annual meeting.

I had owned an Apple IIe since 1983 and used that baby for 10 years. The IIe is still gathering dust in my basement in hopes that one day it will become a valuable antique. From previous experience with an Atari consol, I knew I had gaming tendencies. Besides my check management program and word processing duties, for diversions, I found the Apple IIe was mostly good for text adventures like Zork, with honorable mention going to a neat little game called. Lode Runner. The stage was set for hard core gaming.

Over The Top

But my adventure in Mac gaming did not start until 1994 at the ten year anniversary of the original Mac, when I was visiting a local Mac Dealer to have my first Mac's processor (a Mac Performa 68030) upgraded to a brand new PowerMac 7100. Suddenly the vision hit me as I feebly pointed with gibberish drooling from my mouth. The music vibrated my soul "da da da...da-duh-da".....then the army choir shouted: "MAR-Ah-THON!!" The Starship Marathon on the store's display Mac, a First Person Shooter (FPS) reeled me in and grabbed hard, like an Alien's extensible chompers. A fleet figure came sprinting up the long corridor as I cowered in the corner. But when it zapped me with electric shocks I arose to the occasion with just a pistol- blam! blam! Despite my wife rolling her eyes, gaming had just gotten better.

Frag'n Fools

The 1990's were choice years of discovery on the Mac as new exciting gaming concepts and opportunities appeared for the first time. We "ooohed" at the solo story in Bungie's Marathon (1994). We frolicked with Marathon's multiplayer networking-player versus player/coop and we reveled in Real Time Strategy (RTS) playing classic games like Blizzard's Warcraft (1994) and Bungie's Myth (1997). The original Marathon remained on our play list for seven years because it was that good.

I'm compelled to mention a similar sounding but very different game, Myst (1993) which was the first monumental graphic adventure created and developed on the Mac by Cyan. There was no stopping it as it sold six million copies to become the 5th highest selling Mac/PC title of all time.

FPS and RTS were clearly the genres of choice for my group. Other shooters that grabbed our attention in the 90s was an outstanding solo and networkable game called Unreal (1998), the first dedicated arena shooter, Unreal Tournament (1999) and Id's gem Quake III Arena (1999). I specifically remember the rivalry between the Quake camp and the Unreal Tournament camp debating which was the better game. I preferred the Unreal franchise and have been happily entertained since 1997 when Unreal, the Unreal Tournament prequel was released.

Come Fly With Me

I have an infinity for flying and soon after acquiring the Mac Performa, my office became a defacto flight sim center. Although not the most popular genre on the Mac (as well as the PC), they provided years of enjoyment. My list of favorite flight sims follows. Release dates in same cases are approximate:

* Chuck Yeager Air Combat (1991)
* F-117 Stealth Fighter (1991)
* Dog Fight City (1993)
* A-10 Cuba (1996)
* Sky Fighters (late 1990s)
* F/A-18 (1996)
* Fighter Squadron: Screaming Demons over Europe (1998)
* Flying Nightmares (1998)

* Warbirds (1999)
* X-Plane (1999.)

For an excellent classic flight sim reference go toMigman.com at: http://www.migman.com/ and see Inside Mac Game's 1996 Flight Sim Roundup at: http://www.insidemacgames.com/features/view.php?ID=399 for links to currently available Mac flight sims. Although all are notable titles, I rank them as follows:

* Most Solo Fun- F/A-18 and Flying Nightmares.
* Most LAN Fun (Local Area Network)- Chuck Yeager Air Combat, Don Hill's Sky Fighters, and Warbirds (using the off-server 1v1 mode which to my knowledge was dropped in later versions.)
* Most Online Fun- The years I spent flying Warbirds with my son on my wing.
* Most Fun In a Civil Aircraft Simulation- Without doubt, X-Plane. It's hard to beat a Space Shuttle approach starting at 400,000'.
* Best WWII Flight Models- Warbirds.
* Most Realistic and Demanding Flying Experience- Falcon 4.0.

The Thirty Year Storm
With so much fun to be had, what worries could a Mac gamer have? Well if you know anything about a Mac you probably know Apple Computer was created in 1976 by Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak and you know that the original Mac went retail in 1984 with a brilliant commercial first shown at that year's Super Bowl. Since the beginning, the Mac has had its ups and downs as a computer and as a gaming platform. For such a brilliant design, marketing and poor choices in hardware design did not serve Apple well. Jobs knew that software would make or break the Mac, and therefore he established what was to become an infamous one-sided deal with the company destined to become the Evil Empire, sending them a couple of test Macs in a relationship where most of the benefits flowed away from Apple. Didn't they know that Chancellor Palpatine was really the Sith Lord Darth Sideious? Ok, so this is a worn out analogy, but the point is made. Plus Macs were expensive. The philosophy of a proprietary Operating System on proprietary hardware seemed like a weak strategy as The Evil Empire gained momentum while the Mac's market share was relatively stagnant. As Mac gamers were busy fraging each other, Apple was fraging itself with the ouster of Steve Jobs (1985), followed by weak leadership, lack of vision, turmoil and threats to its very existence. It was a rocky road for Apple, however the allure of Macs continued to appeal to a solid core of the creative and enlightened individuals who were willing to pay top dollar for a superior Operating System. The MacOS easily ran circles around Windows but it was not enough to dominate in the market especially with new customers typically focused on up-front costs.

Almost A Desert
For Mac gaming, a result was that many big name game developers did not produce Mac titles because Mac market share was "too small". This situation has plagued Mac gaming for as long as I've owned a Mac. The only reason Mac gaming currently exists is thanks to Mac game porting companies that started appearing in the mid 1990's leaping into the Mac game vacuum. Interpret companies like Aspyr Media, MacSoft, Feral Interactive, and MacPlay saw a market for native Mac games and struck deals with the PC game companies to keep the games a-flowing to the Mac. Their efforts can be seen in the best selling PC/Mac Game List at Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_best-selling_video_games#PC).

Happy Days Are Here Again
When Apple's future prospects seemed most diminished, Apple CEO Gil Amelio made an excellent decision turning to one of Apple's soul mates and original founders, to buy Steve Job's NeXT Software (1997) with the intent of using the UNIX based NeXTstep Operating System as the basis for the next generation MacOS. In the nick of time, the once-banished prodigy was returned to the fold, the Rebel Alliance became strong enough to turn away if not defeat the Evil Empire, and things have been mostly going right at Apple ever since.

Jobs was back. His leadership and the creative forces at Apple made a difference buoyed by Apple's loyal fan base for the tough choices that needed to be made. The purpose of this feature is not to go into an in-depth history of Apple hardware, but Apple's savy marketing of an consumer electronic MP3 player deserves to be mentioned. It was and is so successful the iPod (2001) seems to have created a halo around the company that is just too cool. See much more on Apple History at: http://www.apple-history.com/.

Mac sales were up, but Mac gaming did not turn around over night. In fact, Mac gaming, to this day still has a ways to go. During these uncertain years of Mac gaming, four Mac gaming giants, Blizzard, Bungie, Id Software, and Epic Games stuck by the Mac producing native versions of their outstanding games.

That is until the dark day when the Evil Empire struck again, whisking the Mac's white knight, Bungie off to it's dark tower transforming its next title, a FPS called Halo (2001) into an xBox exclusive. The pain and the outrage! Eventually the title did migrate to the PC/Mac. But did anyone care by then? Maybe a few.

Several years later, Mac gamers were grateful for Blizzard's decision to bring Mac gamers along for the ride in the number one Massive Multiplayer Online Role Playing Game, World of Warcraft.

Casual or Hardcore?
Although I describe Mac gaming in terms of "up and down" an examination of Mac titles since the 1990s indicates that Mac gaming has always been viable thanks to the porting companies. A look at the highest selling PC/Mac titles reveals that of the highest 30 selling games, six of the top ten, ten of the top twenty, and 18 of the top 30 games were released on the Mac. This is a testament to the efforts of Mac porting companies and not too shabby for a computer with a unique operating system that accounted for about 5% of the computer market during this time.

Significant Mac releases that made the PC best seller list are: The Sims (#1 seller), StarCraft (#2), World of Warcraft (#3), Myst (#5), RollerCoaster Tycoon (#8), Doom 3 (#11), Warcraft (#13), Age of Empires

(#16), Battlefield 1942 (#20), Civilization III (#23), Riven (#25), Baldur's Gate (#26), Neverwinter Nights (#28), Doom II (#29), and Black & White (#30). Other notable titles (million copy sellers-PC/Mac) include Age of Mythology, Return to Castle Wolfenstein, Quake II, Unreal, Unreal Tournament, and Return to Zork. Besides the AAA releases, the Mac is awash with a large number of adventure, puzzle, and card games described as "casual games". For reference, my definition of "casual gamer" are those who play games on a casual basis which might include titles that are considered hard core. Bottom line, if you are a casual gamer, you should be mostly happy with the content available on the Mac.

My name is Hunt'n and I'm a hard core gamer...
If anyone has a problem with Mac gaming, it has been the hard core gamers, salivating over those specific titles they really, really want but could not have on the Mac. They don't like being limited by an operating system. While many of the best games have arrived on the Mac there are sweet titles that have not. While I was worshipping my Mac, I was one of those who really really wanted some of those unreachable titles.

In addition, porting has its problems-problems such as lack of cross platform networking, delays in compatibility updates for cross platform titles, lack of editing tools, and middleware software that has been wreaking havoc on porting titles. No surprise is Havok, a physics program which probably has been the single largest roadblock to bringing PC games to the Mac via a porting house. Havok's licensing scheme is just too expensive for the average ported Mac title hence, most (all?) Havok titles are not ported.

Somehow I ended up as one of "those" people- the hard core gamers. The earliest pang I felt was looking at the screen shots for a new PC title: Home World (2003) which later did appear on the Mac but not for a while. To keep the story short I ended up with a game capable PC. In a Mac purist sense I was a bad boy but I really, really wanted those PC games unavailable for the Mac. And although Windows has always been substandard to the MacOS, I could stand to deal with it long enough to play a game. And there were outstanding games to be played such as cream of the crop titles like System Shock 2 (1999), the Total War series (2000), Vampire-Blood Lines (2004), Elder Scrolls III: Morrowind (2002), and others like Planetside (2003), a Massive Multiplayer Online (MMO) game, that like most MMOs, never see the light of day on the Mac in native form. However, good MMO news arrived in March of this year when Eve Online was announced coming to intel Macs.

A Date With Destiny
2006 became a very significant year for hard core Mac gamers when Apple converted their product line the Mac Pro, iMac, MacBook Pro, and the MacBook to intel processors, aligning their hardware with the market place to increase performance and ease compatibility issues. Dedicated hackers were busy working to launch Windows on the Mac when suddenly Apple produced an official and convenient bridge for PC users called Boot Camp allowing them to cross to the Mac without abandoning their most important PC programs. While probably not Apple's primary intent, this was a boon for hard core Mac gamers.

And along came the trepidation that this was the end of Mac gaming as we know it. The counter argument is that most Mac gamer's want to play native Mac games and developers know this, so there is hope. The result is if you're a hard core gamer who can pony up the cost of a new Mac you'll have access to most PC games, at least for the near term. And while it is not as good as native Mac games, the discussion in IMG's Window related forums are some of the most active areas on the site.

So What About Native Mac Gaming?
It's been a perplexing issue that as Mac sales have risen, native Mac game sales have improved but not at the same pace. There has been speculation that the "intel" boost and Boot Camp would push the Mac up towards the 10% market share threshold. And it's possible we are seeing a surge for Macs helped along by iPod and iPhone groupies and you-know-who's bungling of Vista, that other Operating System with it's performance, compatibility, and driver issues.

In June IMG reported at the WWDC 2007 keynote, Electronic Arts' Co-Founder, Bing Gordon, announcing the company's return with six Mac titles including Command & Conquer 3, Battlefield 2142, Need For Speed: Carbon, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, Madden NFL 2008, Tiger Woods PGA Tour 2008. Then in July with great excitement, Epic Games, a Mac friendly company, announced that Gears of War and Unreal Tournament 3 are coming to Mac. Woot!

But many gamers are wondering if this is a permanent change in the Mac gaming landscape where more big name game publishers will jump on board or is it just testing the waters? Only the future and strong Mac sales will tell.

Consoles- What Me Worry?
I really don't want to talk about them, but just a little bit. Consoles are the lower cost gaming solution that "own" the gaming market for the present and foreseeable future. However there are advantages that real computers have that consoles can't compete with such as better graphics, upgradeability, and more choices for control devices. Even as console prices climb I don't see an opportunity to knock them off their throne, but Mac/PCs, with their greater expense do provide a better gaming environment in my opinion and will continue to do so for at least the next couple of years. As long as there is money to be made selling games, I don't anticipate any real shortcoming of gaming titles for Mac/PCs.

Is the Shiny Finish Wearing?
In closing, allow me to ascend to my soapbox. Back in the 90's we frolicked with joy at the creativity and newness of the computer gaming experience, especially when dedicated graphic cards kicked into high gear, providing immersive 3D environments. Today a lot of us are no longer kids and what felt like computer gaming's Renaissance Period is starting to feel stale. Just how much recycling of

game concepts are we going to be exposed to? As technology advances, has innovation taken a back seat to churning out sequels? I'm the first to admit being a sucker for pretty graphics, but ultimately I'm not going to want to play Civilization 20 unless maybe I can do it on a holo-deck (hopefully well before version 20) exploring and interacting with the game environment. And how many more shooters are you going to play before getting the been-there-done-that feeling? I all ready have.

In other words we need new innovative game play. We really need the next generation of game wizards to step forward to sprinkle some magic pixy dust, say a chant and conjure the next "Oh-My-God Game" from under their pointy caps. Something that has never been tried before, like the first Unreal Tournament, the first Sims or the first Spore (which was recently announced!!) So some of the old codgers still know how to think up a new concept. Other possibilities look something like BioShock, the next Half Life 2 Episode or maybe a Crysis. It could be more pretty pictures but ultimately it's the next, the next, and the next really new game idea with several shots of good story telling that is going to keep computer gaming going and it is fitting the most innovative computer deserves to enjoy the rewards of the next gaming revolution.

And while I'm not yet willing to bet on Electronic Art's commitment to Mac gaming, this could be a corner Mac gaming is turning as Apple is steaming ahead, as the Evil Empire continues to bungle, as Macs sales continue to rise, so does the Mac gaming potential. Who knows, if you Mac fanatics keep buying native Mac games this could be the start of a new era in Mac gaming!

To see this article with links and graphics visit Inside Mac Games at: http://www.insidemacgames.com/features/view.php?ID=525

What Apple's iWork moves mean for Office

submitted by Les Anderson
Philip Michaels - MacworldFri Aug 17, 12:03 AM ET

In the second half of 2007, Mac users were supposed to have an Intel-native productivity suite offering, among other things, a presentation program, word processor, and spreadsheet tool. And they do—only this productivity suite doesn't come from Microsoft. Instead, it's Apple's iWork '08.

Last week's addition of the spreadsheet application Numbers to iWork finally created a full-featured successor to the now officially-abandoned AppleWorks, which had gone untouched since 2004. But does it also mean stiffer competition for Microsoft's Office suite, now that iWork offers three of the four apps included in Office? (And the fourth, Entourage, is matched by tools included elsewhere in Mac OS X.)

If iWork '08's release signals a renewal of hostilities that have been largely dormant since the late '90s, you'd have a hard time convincing representatives from either Apple or Microsoft. Perhaps that's because as intriguing as an iWork-versus-Office storyline may be in some quarters, the realities of the marketplace seem to nip any would-be feud in the bud.

Office: 'Still pretty entrenched'

For all the ease Numbers brings to spreadsheets, it's still a 1.0 version of an application, with all the mixture of potential and missing features that phrase implies. Office, on the other hand, remains the preeminent suite of its kind, used widely not just on the Mac platform, but among businesses of all sorts of shapes, sizes and computing platforms. "If you look at Office," said Tim Bajarin, president of consulting firm Creative Strategies, "it's still pretty entrenched" among business and education users.

Still, the arrival of iWork '08 comes at an interesting time in the Mac market—barely a week after Microsoft announced that the release of Office 2008 would be delayed until January. Microsoft cited what Macintosh Business Unit general manager Craig Eisler called a "perfect storm" of factors—the switch to Intel-based processors, a change in Office file formats, and the fact that Microsoft is building this version of Office with Apple's Xcode developer tools.

Whatever the reasoning behind the delay, it doesn't change the fact that Mac users will need to wait another five months for an Intel-native version of Office; iWork runs natively on both Intel- and PowerPC-based Macs right now.

For its part, Apple isn't touting iWork as an Office replacement, let alone an Office killer. Rather, the company says, its productivity suite is aimed at people who'd prefer a Mac-like approach to tasks such as word-processing and spreadsheets.

"One of the things that you'll see in some of our materials is, 'Productivity the Mac way,'" said Rob Schoeben, Apple's vice president of applications product marketing. "That means, 'I bought a Mac on purpose. I bought into the idea that things should look right and be well-designed and really easy to use.' They want to enjoy the way they work, they want their work product to look great, and [they want to be] fundamentally integrated into iLife. If you buy into all that, that's going to be appealing."

Meanwhile, executives from Microsoft's Mac Business Unit don't sound particularly threatened by another productivity suite, even one that's developed by the same company that makes the hardware and operating system on which the suites run. While calling iWork '08 "an interesting option for some users," Mac Business Unit marketing manager Amanda Lefebvre said that the Mac version of Office appeals to users with very demanding document-sharing needs.

"For us, it's about allowing people to deliver really great documents across platforms," Lefebvre said. "With Office 2004, it's proven that it is an essential piece of software. We will deliver on that even more with [Office 2008]."

Document compatibility is crucial for

any suite of applications that hopes to make hay in Office's space. And that appears to have been a major focus with the iWork '08 apps—the latest version of Pages, for example, delivers improved exporting to Word, even with graphics-heavy documents, while Numbers offers compatibility with many Excel spreadsheets, though users may need to modify some of them. (There is no support for macros in Numbers, and some formulas are unsupported as well.)

What's more, iWork shipped with support for the Open XML file format that's native to Microsoft Office 2007. Adding such support to the Mac version of Office is one of the reasons behind its delayed release, so its presence in iWork is "embarrassing" for Microsoft, according to one analyst.

"This was the ultimate insult to injury," JupiterResearch vice president and research director Michael Gartenberg told Computerworld. "Not only has Microsoft not delivered the ability to read and write Open XML in its Mac Office, but at the end of the day, Apple was the one who delivered."

Who iWork is for

Still, for users regularly exchanging files with co-workers and clients, Office's seamless compatibility will make it tough for iWork to make much of an inroad. Office "is still an essential piece of software for our customers," Microsoft's Lefebvre said.

While Apple's Schoeben describes iWork's compatibility with Office as "pretty solid," he concedes that there are users who would not want to drop Office in favor of Apple's suite. "If you need to constantly roundtrip with other people who are using an Excel spreadsheet, you want Excel," he said.

But not every user works under those circumstances, Apple hastens to add. "If you're going to create something yourself, if 90 to 95 percent compatibility [with Excel] is fine, if you don't really care about pivot tables and macros and things like that, you'll prefer [Numbers]," Schoeben said.

Indeed, that's where Apple figures to make the biggest inroads with its latest version of iWork—among users who need a word-processing or spreadsheet tool for their personal use, but don't need all the features—or the higher price tag—of Office's apps.

"There are segments of the market where Office is overkill," Creative Strategies' Bajarin said.

Apple has another reason for bolstering its own productivity suite apart from trying to reach users who might otherwise be overwhelmed by Office. The more powerful a suite iWork becomes, the less dependent the company is on Microsoft to produce timely Office updates.

What lies ahead

Consider that 10 years ago this month, Bill Gates appeared at Macworld Expo in Boston to announce a deal where Microsoft would buy $150 million of Apple stock. More important, however, was the part of the Apple-Microsoft pact where the Redmond-based software giant agreed to keep developing a Mac version of Office. That move lent credibility to the Mac platform at a time when Apple was struggling.

These days, Apple's standing is dramatically different. The company just enjoyed its best quarter for Mac sales ever, and, with a market capitalization of more than $100 billion and $7.1 billion in cash on hand, it finds itself on a solid financial footing.

Yet, Apple and Microsoft continue to operate under a series of pacts that keep Office on the platform. The latest five-year agreement was announced in 2006 calls on Microsoft to develop Office for both PowerPC- and Intel-based Macs.

And Apple's strong Mac sales momentum may be a major reason why Silverlight, Microsoft's new rich-media browser plug-in technology meant to compete with Adobe's Flash, supports Intel-based Mac systems as well as Windows PCs.

But while Office remains a fixture on the Mac platform, other Microsoft apps—everything from Internet Explorer to Virtual PC to Windows Media Player—have fallen by the wayside. What if Office were to join them once the current pact between Apple and Microsoft runs out?

"It wouldn't be catastrophic," said Bajarin, hastening to add that he believes a vibrant Mac version of Office remains part of Microsoft's strategy. "But it would be a significant blow."

For that reason, Bajarin adds, enhancing iWork could be seen as "pre-emptive" move on Apple's part. Adding more applications and features to a productivity suite now spares Apple from the pressure of having to do it later.

JupiterResearch's Gartenberg took a more stark view in his interview with Computerworld. "Office for the Mac is just not a real priority for Microsoft," he told the IT publication. "And that's not likely to change any time soon."

Editorial director Jason Snell contributed to this report.

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2nd fold

AppleWorks SIG New Location Map

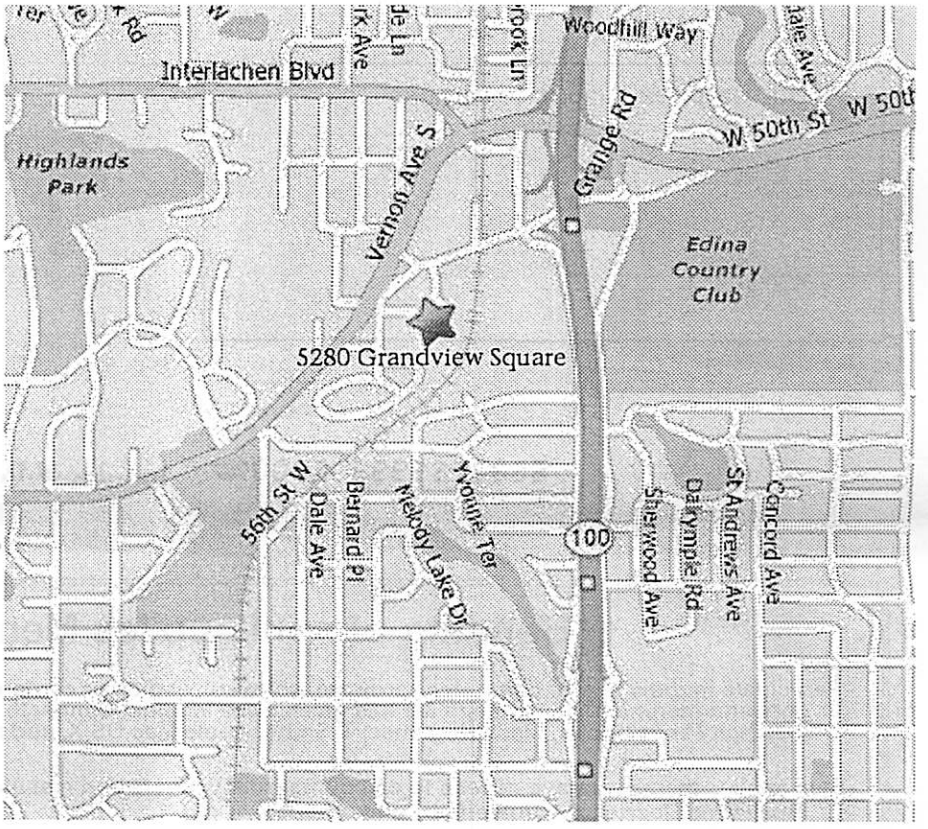
Submitted by John Hunkins, Sr.

I was unable to secure the meeting room at our usual location, Augsburg Park Library.

About the best I could do was the Edina Library (part of the Hennepin Co system), 5280 Grandview Square, Edina. I have the room reserved for 6:30 to 7:45.

This library is located SW of the intersection of Hwy 100 and 50th-Vernon. Since this is a new location (for me at least and perhaps others), it would be great if we could post a map in the newsletter, web site, and BBS.

I have not reserved a meeting location for October and later. Let's see how this new location works and proceed from there.



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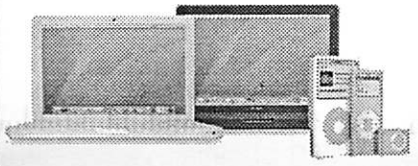

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- Mini'app'les members have access to discounts from vendors and manufacturers such as Peachpit Press, Apple, Small Dog Electronics, PowerMax, and others.

- Member Workshops to help members with computer problems. You can bring your equipment in to these events and you'll get support from other knowledgeable members to fix your sick Mac. Some of our members are Apple certified consultants.

- Access to the Members Helping Members network of professional and advanced users of Apple technologies. These members volunteer their time to help other members with pre-sales questions, troubleshooting, and other Apple related issues.

- Opportunities to get involved with other Apple enthusiasts. mini'app'les has several special interest groups, and is always looking for motivated members to help in making them better.

- Access to the mini'app'les online Forum. Why wait for a monthly meeting when you can chat with other members about issues and trouble shooting. Apple products are bought and sold, special events and discounts are posted, and news about the mini'app'les User Group, Apple, and the industry is discussed.

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- Mini'app'les is a non-profit and your subscription is tax deductible (check IRS rules on disclosure).

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$3

Volume 30, Issue 10

mini'app'les newsletter

the minnesota apple computer users' group, inc.

OCTOBER 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 7:00	2 OS X 7:00	3 6:30	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 7:00	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Q&A 7:00	23	24	25 7:00	26	27
28	29	30	31			

1 **Board of Directors**
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1831 Marshall Avenue St. Paul
Tom Gates 612-789-1713

2 OS X **OS X SIG**
Atomic / The Foundation
901 North 3rd street Suite #115
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

3 **AppleWorks SIG**
Penn Lake Library
8800 Penn Ave S Bloomington, MN
John Hunkins, Sr. 651-457-8949
hunkins@mac.com.

10 **Microsoft Word SIG**
Eagles lodge
9152 Old Cedar Ave. Bloomington
Tom Ostertag, E 651-488-9979

18 **Macintosh Consultants SIG**
Perkins 7:00 AM
6920 Wayzata Blvd
Golden Valley
Bob Demeules, 763-559-1124

VectorWorks SIG
CJR Office
Charles Radloff 952-941-1667

22 Q&A **Macintosh Q & A SIG**
Questions & Answers
Merriam Park Library
1831 Marshall Avenue St. Paul
Les Anderson 651-735-3953

25 **FileMaker Pro SIG**
Partners
2250 terminal Road
Roseville, MN
Steve Wilmes 651-458-1513

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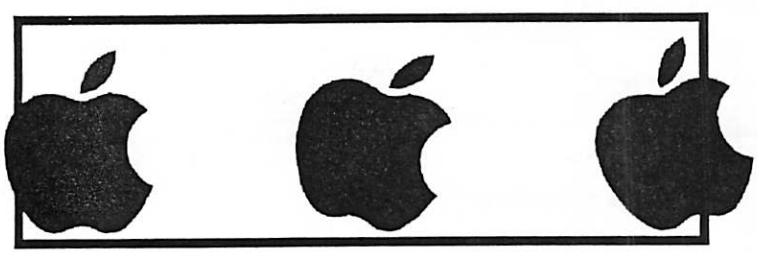

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Deadline for material for the next newsletter is the 1st of the month. An article will be printed when space permits and, if in the opinion of the Newsletter Editor or Manager, it constitutes material suitable for publication.

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November 2007 Preview

Here is the tentative calendar of our Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings for November 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	November	6	OS X SIG
Wednesday	November	7	AppleWorks SIG
Tuesday	November	?	VectorWorks SIG
Wednesday	November	10	Microsoft Word SIG
Thursday	November	18	Macintosh Consultants
Thursday	November	22	FileMaker Pro SIG
Monday	November	26	Mac Q & A 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.

Apple II / IIGS Software & Hardware	1, 3, 4
AppleWorks / ClarisWorks-Draw	4, 5
Classic Macs	
Cross-Platform File Transfer	3
FileMaker Pro	
FirstClass	
iMacs	6
iPhoto / iTunes / iMovie	
Mac OS Classic	4, 6
Mac OS X	
MacWrite Pro	
Microsoft Excel	2, 3, 7, 10
Microsoft Word	3, 10
MYOB	7
Networks	9
New Users	1, 6
PhotoShop	
PowerBooks / iBooks	6
Power Macs	
QuarkXPress	10
Quicken	2, 7
QuickBooks and QuickBooks Pro	7
WordPerfect	
VectorWorks	8

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.

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The AppleWorks (AW) Special Interest Group (SIG)

Submitted by Harry Lienke

The AppleWorks (AW) Special Interest Group (SIG) meets the first Wednesday of every month, unless it falls on a holiday. A group of AW users gathers to learn more about the various components of the AppleWorks all-in-one program: word processing, database, spreadsheet, drawing, and painting.
Attendees often come with questions about specific aspects of a problem they encountered while using AppleWorks; the question/problem may be something one of us has experience with, or it may be a conundrum for all. We work together as we attempt to find a solution. The combined efforts may result in "aha" moments for us. Although AppleWorks is no longer being developed or sold by Apple, folks continue to use it because it works. We have fun working together on problems or simply exploring aspects of the program we haven't used much.

Hands on: Getting down to iWork '08

Submitted by John Pruski

By Ryan Faas
September 17, 2007 (Computerworld)

With iWork '08, the latest generation of its office suite, Apple has given Mac users a powerful alternative to Microsoft's Office for Mac. This new version finally offers an alternative to Excel called Numbers, a spreadsheet tool unlike any that has come before it. It also adds some great new features to iWork's other two applications -- the presentation program Keynote and the word processor Pages -- including a few that many users felt were lacking in previous releases.

For example, all the iWork applications now present a contextual Format Bar that displays only the controls or commands relevant to a selected item. This makes it easier to locate specific image effects, text styles or even spreadsheet functions based on what you are working with. In many cases, the Format Bar brings up commands that were always commonly needed but used to be buried somewhere in one of the tabs of the Inspector palette.

Sharing and collaboration seems to be an overall key focus in iWork '08. Pages, Keynote and Numbers all offer a variety of export and sharing options that range from integration with Apple's iWeb to, in the case of Keynote, publishing directly to YouTube.

And collaboration isn't limited to just putting your material out there. All three applications have excellent comment and markup support, allowing multiple users to easily make suggestions, explain changes, and provide information about whole sections or single items in a document.

They also offer the ability to open documents saved in the native Open XML format used by Office 2007 for Windows (though exporting files to Office still puts them in Office 2003 format). This is a major achievement for anyone who needs to exchange files with Office 2007 users, since it means that you don't need to make special requests if you're the only iWork user on a project. It also makes iWork a more reasonable choice in a wide range of environments.

Evident across the board is Apple's continued commitment to providing users with high-end templates to use as a starting point for projects. The design quality and visual impact of the templates in all of the iWork apps is superb, and unlike the templates in most office suites, these actually include sample content (and, in the case of Numbers, functions and formulas) so you truly see how to use the design. This is particularly helpful in Numbers, which includes templates for things that you might never think about using a spreadsheet for, such as planning a dinner party, a vacation itinerary or a home improvement project.

As helpful as this can be for new users, however, the sample content can become annoying after a while when you already have a clear idea of where you want to go with a new document. You can create your own blank templates by deleting the sample material and saving the empty pages as a new template; and many of the templates in iWork '08 have the welcome ability to add a new blank page, in addition to the content-filled pages that were always there. Still, I would have preferred to see Apple include some layout-only, contentless templates for Numbers and Pages.

Pages

When asked about how previous versions of Pages compared with Word, I would often say that it was more like a combination of Word and Publisher -- a hybrid word processor and layout tool. This was one of the things that you either loved or hated about the program. One of the best things Apple did with this new release was to give Pages two distinct modes: one for word processing and one for layout, with separate templates for each mode.

The separation of these features makes it much easier to use Pages for straight word processing. You can open a template and just start typing without worrying about placement (either on a single page or multiple pages), but you still have the option of placing graphics and manipulating text boxes if you want. If you really want to lay out a brochure or newsletter, however, where control of text positioning and flow between specific

text boxes across multiple pages is critical, Page Layout mode is a better choice. You can create any layout in Word Processing mode that you can make in Page Layout mode -- it's just clumsier.

Pages Page Layout mode

Pages '08 lets you work in an uncluttered Word Processing mode. (Click for larger view.)

Page Layout mode in fact gives consumers much of the capability of professional tools like Adobe InDesign and QuarkXPress at a fraction of their cost. It doesn't offer the final printing and prepress options or the typographic control of a pro tool, but those aren't things needed by home users or even many small businesses. And for those who do or will need professional tools, Pages makes a good steppingstone because it relies on the same basic methods as the more expensive applications. The new version doesn't have more layout features than Pages '06 had, but some have been made easier to use, and separating them from the bare writing tools makes them seem more distinct and professional.

The only problem with this separation of working methods is that you cannot switch between them. If you create a word processing document because you want to focus on text content but later decide you want to lay it out as a booklet, you can't simply switch modes to get full access to the Page Layout mode's features. Instead, you need to create a new Page Layout document and then copy and paste your content into text boxes and rearrange or link them to flow your text. Choosing which mode to use could also be confusing to new users.

Beyond the new separation of tasks, Pages has gotten a few other useful new features. One of the ones I found the most exciting (mostly because I use the equivalent in Word almost constantly) is a Change Tracking option. Anyone who collaborates using Word has probably used this feature even if they haven't always loved Microsoft's implementation of it.

Pages implements tracking changes better than Word because it offers a variety of ways to display changes, including a browser panel that is considerably easier to use than the views included with Word. Anyone who has tried to decipher a Word document in which more than two people have made changes will immediately notice less eyestrain and confusion when using this feature in Pages.

Even better, Pages can not only track changes in its own documents but seamlessly track changes in and export changes to Word documents as well -- properly identifying the author(s) of the changes, too. In fact, Pages '08 does a great job of working with Word, both when opening highly formatted Word documents and exporting them back Word. Even Page Layout mode documents filled with style and format options retain almost all, if not all, of their look after export.

As powerful as Pages is, longtime and heavy users of Word may find some features still not quite up to par. Word is more flexible at creating mail merges, for example: Pages can do mail merges but relies on contacts stored in the Mac OS X Address Book application or as vCard files. While Pages can create tables, it can't convert existing text to a table. And Pages can format text to look like an outline, but it can't make a functional collapsible outline the way Word can. If your work depends on any of those features (or similar specialized tools), you'll have to find workarounds or keep Word around.

Keynote

Keynote has always been a great presentation tool. Its array of stunning templates and transitions, easy access to content via the iLife media browser, and the range of visual effects and 3-D charts have always made it an attractive alternative to PowerPoint. In iWork '08, Apple found some great new features to add to Keynote's already impressive repertoire.

The first new feature is easy slideshow animations called Smart Builds. At first, I didn't see the point to these since Keynote can already cause items to appear on a slide in sequence, with great transitions. But what Smart Builds let you do is create an animated slide show within a slide. Simply choose an animation -- such as Spinning Cube or Turntable -- drop the pictures you want to use into the Drop Zone (which looks very similar to a Drop Zone in iDVD), and you have a great 3-D animation in which one image is replaced by the next, running within a slide while the rest of the slide's content remains visible. With a technique referred to as A-to-B animation, advanced users can even manipulate exactly how animations and related effects display and set options for specific images.

Keynote Smart Builds

Keynote's Smart Builds let you create animations that run within a slide.

Another feature that ratchets up the already impressive graphics support is something called Instant Alpha (available in Pages and Numbers as well). Instant Alpha allows you to select and mask out backgrounds in any image in a slide. The process is similar to using the "magic wand" selection tool in Adobe Photoshop and similar graphics applications, although the operation is much more fluid and intuitive. The power of Instant Alpha isn't that it offers something new (using a graphics application, you can get the same effect, after all). The difference is that now you don't need to go to a graphics application to get it. You can do it right in Keynote with a very easy-to-use interface and without modifying the original image file. Note: This feature doesn't work on images included in a Smart Build.

The new tools for creating slides, however, aren't what impressed me the most about Keynote '08. That would have to be the ability to record a voice track for a presentation. This is a feature that takes Keynote from being useful for giving lectures in person to a tool for recording and presenting them to anyone, anywhere.

Many lecturers give copies of their slides (either as Keynote or PowerPoint files or as PDFs) to people who can't attend a presentation or for reference to attendees. Being able to give someone a copy of the entire presentation, including the narration, is

a huge step beyond that. And the ability to essentially give the presentation remotely by putting it on the Web or by sending someone the file makes Keynote a phenomenal education and training tool.

Keynote takes this feature and runs with it, giving you a wide range of video formats to export a presentation with voice-over. Like the new version of iMovie, it even includes direct publishing to YouTube. Or, if you want do more with your presentation, Keynote allows you to send it directly to almost all of the iLife applications for further editing or distribution. (Ironically, iMovie is the only one not included, though you can export a presentation as a QuickTime movie that can be imported into iMovie.) Particularly worth noting is integration with GarageBand, which allows you to turn a presentation into a video podcast with very little effort.

Numbers

Pages and Keynote both received noteworthy feature upgrades in iWork '08, but it is the addition of Numbers that has gotten the most attention, and with good reason. Numbers is unlike any other spreadsheet tool I've ever seen. The first time I used it, my first thought was, "This is so cool," followed by astonishment that I'd actually thought of a spreadsheet application as "cool." But that is what makes Numbers defy any prejudices one has about spreadsheets. It is intuitive and easy to use and, more important, gives users a chance for creative expression that is completely unexpected when working with a spreadsheet.

Numbers does this by moving beyond simply being a generic grid of blank cells on a worksheet. In fact, it doesn't use worksheets in the traditional sense at all. It's based on a concept of Sheets and Tables in which Sheets are pages that contain Tables, which in turn are essentially self-contained spreadsheets (complete with a grid that is only fully displayed when the Table is selected). Each Sheet can contain one or more Tables as well as text, graphics and charts, turning a Sheet into a complete information package.

The concept of multiple Sheets and Tables is as ingenious as it is attractive. A document for planning an event, for example, can contain separate Tables covering attendees, tasks to accomplish, a schedule for event activities, contacts for service vendors, and cost analysis. Each of these can be placed on a single Sheet, and you can drag tables around on the Sheet (or even from one Sheet to another in the same file) to organize and document the information.

The Event Planner is just one example of the wide range of templates that Number includes, from grade books for teachers to home improvement projects; they really help you begin to see everyday uses that you might never have thought of using a spreadsheet for. (There are templates for the less surprising budgets and expense reports as well.)

Numbers templates

Numbers comes with templates for standard as well as unexpected spreadsheet tasks.

Adding text boxes or graphics to a Sheet is as easy as adding them to a slide in Keynote or a document in Pages. Simply click a button to get a new text box, complete with all the text formatting tools you'll ever need. For pictures, bring them in from the iLife media browser or via drag and drop from the Finder, and get the same 3-D effects, masks and resizing options found throughout iWork '08.

To add cell and table formatting as well as colors to a table, you can just select from a list of predefined Styles; you can also modify an existing Style and save it for later use. Formatting of individual cells is done through the Format Bar or the Inspector. You can't save a cell style, but you can copy and paste the formatting from one cell to another. Cell options include conditional formatting that changes the look of the cell if it meets specific criteria – you can make a bill that's past due display in red, for example. One of the most fun options is the ability to use images as the background fill for tables. Talk about making a spreadsheet look good.

Setting up charts is beyond simple: Select a Table and choose a chart type. (And if you choose a chart without selecting a Table first, Numbers will create one appropriate to the type of chart.) Like Tables, you can move a chart anywhere on a sheet or onto a different Sheet from the Table that it is based on. You get an entire range of 3-D effects as well as predefined color sets (or you can drag color samples to specific pieces of a chart if you want to make your own color palette). You just click the appropriate tab in the Inspector palette to change from one chart type to another. Never has making charts and graphs that look this good been this easy.

Doing calculations is just as easy. Common functions are immediately available from a menu in the toolbar, and many of them automatically act on the numbers in the column of the cell you assign them to. For example, if you select a cell at the bottom of a column and choose Average from the Function menu, the cell will average all the cells above it. You can specify specific cells to include in a function as well, and as in Excel, you can do so by just clicking each cell – no need to type the row and column number. A particularly nice touch is that the functions are aware of the column headers, so that rather than reading "=AVERAGE(C2:C9)," the cell's value will read "=AVERAGE(Math Test)" or whatever.

If you do need more advanced formulas, there are more than 150 functions that you can use, all of them comparable to their Excel counterparts (which is great if you open an Excel file or need to export for Excel users). None of the engineering and database functions available in Excel are duplicated in Numbers, however, and only about half the statistical functions have equivalents. (For a fuller breakdown, check out the list compiled by blogger Jaime Curmi.) Furthermore, the pivot table feature is not included in Numbers. As a result, serious number crunchers may feel more than a little hemmed in, and any longtime Excel user will probably need some time to get used to the new graphical world that Numbers offers.

Numbers Sort and Filter Panel

You can not only sort your entries, you can easily filter them as well. One easily overlooked set of features is in the Sort & Filter Panel, which

allows you to not only sort data in a table but also filter the results. In this aspect, Numbers behaves almost like a database by letting you see only data that you want (transactions before a given date, people who have confirmed to attend an event, bills that are unpaid, invoices over a certain amount and so on). The process of setting filters -- basically the familiar Mac approach of choosing search criteria from pop-up menus -- is much easier and more capable than performing equivalent tasks in Excel.

Speaking of Excel, Numbers can easily open Excel files. For a number of the Excel documents I've tested, Numbers invited me to review minor warnings after opening them, mostly dealing with formatting issues and one or two formulas. And in some cases, heavy calculations in an Excel document that I opened in Numbers seemed to take longer to process than they did in Excel or in a similar document created from scratch in Numbers, even after the Excel document was saved as Numbers file.

Numbers also exports well to Excel. Each Table in a Numbers document becomes a separate worksheet when exported, and the first page of the converted document presents a summary of which Tables were converted into which worksheets. Images included in a Numbers file, as well as any charts, are placed on a separate worksheet as well. Other text content and much formatting are lost during the export process, but comments are preserved. Numbers also supports export CSV files for use in other spreadsheet applications or databases.

Show Print View is another great feature it would be easy to miss. Not only does it show you how your current sheet will print, but you can directly edit anything while in it. You can resize or filter a table to fit on one piece of paper, move a graphic or change styles, all on the fly and while seeing how changes will affect the output. You can even edit data or formulas.

One final cool thing that I have to mention is the way Numbers integrates with the Mac's Address Book. You can drag individual contacts or groups into a sheet and they automatically format as a table. Or, you can create a table and name the column headers to match specific fields in Address Book; when you drag contacts to that table, it will fill with only those pieces of contact information. It's a perfect way to manage contact lists, guest lists, mailing lists and even invoices.

Overall, Numbers can truly be thought of as the spreadsheet for the rest of us. It may not be perfect for replacing Excel in every situation, particularly in corporate environments that rely on specific functions that are not included in Numbers. But for home users and small businesses, it is a great and inspiring tool and is alone more than worth iWork '08's $79 price tag.

Final thoughts

Users comfortable with Microsoft Office may find it takes time to get used to iWork. Advanced Word and Excel users, especially those who rely on specialized features and functions, will probably find Pages and Numbers to be limited. If you do rely on specific functions in Excel or features in any of the Office applications that are even slightly outside the more general types of usage, you will probably want to download the iWork '08 30-day trial to ensure that the tools you need are there before buying. And, to be sure, the process of having to export files when interacting with Office users could get old quickly if you have to do that regularly.

But overall, iWork '08 is beautifully designed -- a compelling product and great value for consumers and small business alike. It brings tons of innovation over previous versions of iWork as well as many office suites on the market. And it turns typical office tasks and documents into creative outlets. That it offers all that it does for $79 is, frankly, hard to believe.

Ryan Faas is a freelance writer and technology consultant specializing in Mac and multiplatform network issues. In addition to writing for Computerworld, he is a frequent contributor to the Peachpit Press Web site. You can find more information about Faas, his consulting services and recently published work at www.ryanfaas.com.

mini'app'les

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

Membership Application, & Renewal Form

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Company (if mailed to)**:**_____
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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).
_____

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___ $60.00 Three Year
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Dear mini'app'les
Please direct this to the:

- ☐ Membership Director
- ☐ Software Director
- ☐ Other_____

2nd fold

1st fold

3rd fold

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Last Fold - Seal with Tape

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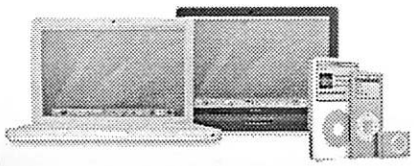

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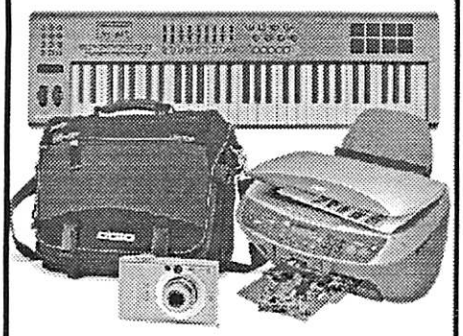

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Benefits of mini'app'les Membership:

- Participate in drawings of computer hardware, software, and other computer related materials. Some of the vendors and merchandise mini'app'les has given away include: Connectix software, QuickCam, Quickeys, Peachpit Press books, Macsoft games, T-Shirts, Apple Mac OS X, and many others.

- Mini'app'les members have access to discounts from vendors and manufacturers such as Peachpit Press, Apple, Small Dog Electronics, PowerMax, and others.

- Member Workshops to help members with computer problems. You can bring your equipment in to these events and you'll get support from other knowledgeable members to fix your sick Mac. Some of our members are Apple certified consultants.

- Access to the Members Helping Members network of professional and advanced users of Apple technologies. These members volunteer their time to help other members with pre-sales questions, troubleshooting, and other Apple related issues.

- Opportunities to get involved with other Apple enthusiasts. mini'app'les has several special interest groups, and is always looking for motivated members to help in making them better.

- Access to the mini'app'les online Forum. Why wait for a monthly meeting when you can chat with other members about issues and trouble shooting. Apple products are bought and sold, special events and discounts are posted, and news about the mini'app'les User Group, Apple, and the industry is discussed.

- Subscription to the mini'app'les monthly newsletter.

- Mini'app'les is a non-profit and your subscription is tax deductible (check IRS rules on disclosure).

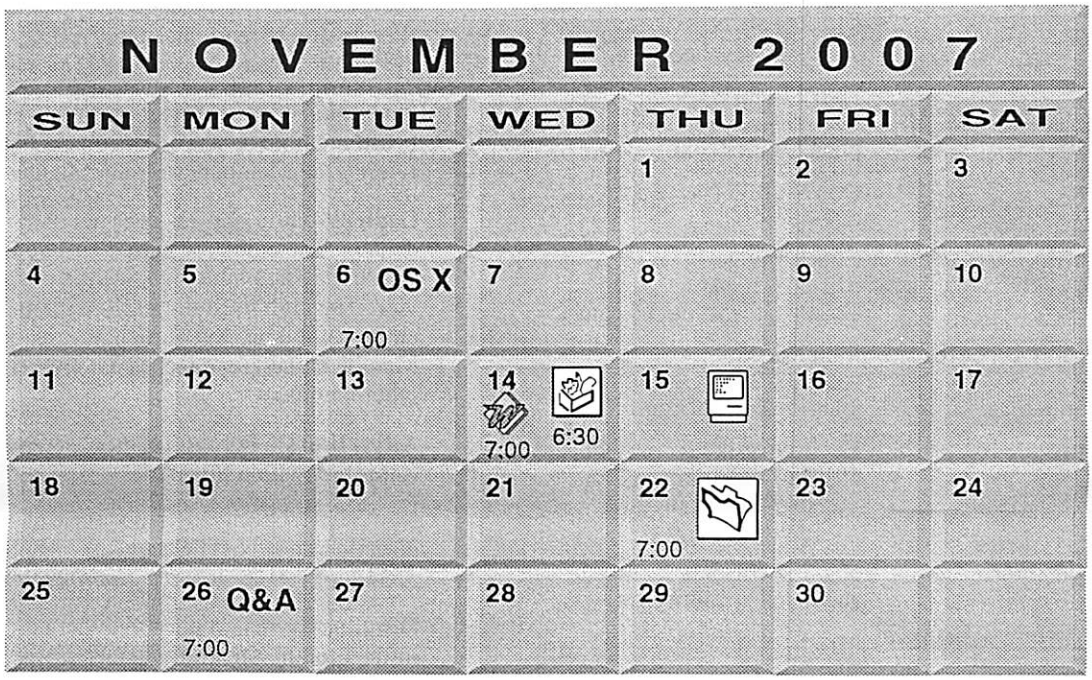
And you're supporting a great organization that promotes the use and evangelism of Apple Computers!

$3

Volume 30, Issue 11

mini'app'les newsletter

the minnesota apple computer users' group, inc.



2 OS X

OS X SIG
Atomic / The Foundation
901 North 3rd street Suite #115
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

14

AppleWorks SIG
Penn Lake Library
8800 Penn Ave S Bloomington, MN
John Hunkins, Sr. 651-457-8949
hunkins@mac.com.

14

Microsoft Word SIG
Eagles lodge
9152 Old Cedar Ave. Bloomington
Tom Ostertag, E 651-488-9979

15

Macintosh Consultants SIG
Perkins 7:00 AM
6920 Wayzata Blvd
Golden Valley
Bob Demeules, 763-559-1124

22

FileMaker Pro SIG
Partners
2250 terminal Road
Roseville, MN
Steve Wilmes 651-458-1513

26 Q&A

Macintosh Q & A SIG
Questions & Answers
Merriam Park Library
1831 Marshall Avenue St. Paul
Les Anderson 651-735-3953

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.

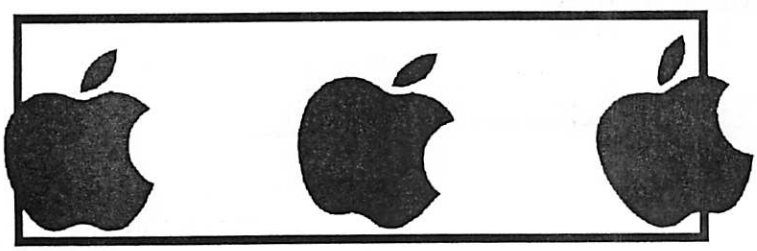
Editor/Publisher: Tom Ostertag 651-488-9979

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



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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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December 2007 Preview

Here is the tentative calendar of our Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings for December 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

Monday	December	3	Board of Directors meeting
Tuesday	December	4	OS X SIG
Tuesday	December	?	VectorWorks SIG
Wednesday	December	12	Microsoft Word SIG
Wednesday	December	12	AppleWorks SIG
Thursday	December	20	Macintosh Consultants
Thursday	December	27	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.

Apple II / IIGS Software & Hardware	1, 2, 3
AppleWorks / ClarisWorks-Draw	3, 4
Classic Macs	
Cross-Platform File Transfer	2
FileMaker Pro	
FirstClass	
Intel Based Macs	
iMacs	
iPhoto / iTunes / iMovie	
Mac OS Classic	3
Mac OS X	
MacWrite Pro	
Microsoft Excel	2, 5, 8
Microsoft Word	2, 8
MYOB	5
Networks	7
New Users	1
PhotoShop	
QuarkXPress	8
Quicken	5
QuickBooks and QuickBooks Pro	5
VectorWorks	6

1.	Les Anderson	651-735-3953	DEW
2.	Tom Ostertag	651-488-9979	EW
	tostertag@usfamily.net		
3.	Bruce Thompson	763-546-1088	EW
	Bthompson@Macconnect.com		
4.	Pam Lienke	651-457-6026	EW
	plienke@aol.com		
5.	Ardie Predweshny	612 978-9774	DEW
6.	Charles Radloff	952-941-1667	D
7.	Chuck Hauge	612-963-5064	DEW
	Chaz@CPHSolutions.com		
8.	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
Full page ... 7-1/2" Width x 10" Height (save 15%).. $60
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

mini'app'les Directors Meeting Minutes for October 1, 2007

Submitted by Harry Lienke

In attendance: Bert Persson, Don Walz, Chuck Hauge, John Pruski, Kevin Strysik, Harry Lienke, Erik Knopp, Bruce Thompson
Absent: Les Anderson, Tom Gates

Agenda: See the Old Business and New Business items

Minutes: The minutes for the August 6, 2007, meeting were approved electronically and published on the club BBS and on forumer.com on August 13.

Directors Reports
These reports were skipped so more time could be devoted to discussion of the budget.

Old Business
Jonah Cagley representing Yugma, Inc. – Bert reported that Cagley will run a newsletter ad in November and December. John has the ad. The check is in the mail.

Group promotion and SIG descriptions – Pam Lienke provided an AppleWorks description. Kevin will get descriptions for the other SIGs and a write-up extolling the advantages of belonging to the mini'app'les.

OS X SIG leader – Bob Demeules is leading the OS X SIG and communicating with the SIG attendees via email.

Benefits list update – Chuck asked John to remove "and evangelism" from the list of membership benefits.

Adding email addresses to the Members-Helping-Members list – Chuck is providing John with a list of email addresses for that list.

Move of club BBS to forumer.com –Chuck indicated that all web sites providing a free service like forumer.com disallow attachments to posts. There was insufficient time to explore this topic so further discussion was postponed to the next meeting

Multi-SIG meeting site –Tom Gates did not provide any additional information.

Compensation for Buchner –Tom Gates did not provide any additional information.

IRS info – Tom Gates did not provide any additional information.

Budget – Bert provided updated copies of his previous proposal eliminating the newsletter, both hard-copy and electronic. He proposed the web page should carry all information previously included in the newsletter. To make club membership more valuable, Bert feels all information should be present on the web site; the web site should not just consist of lots of links to other web sites. Bert indicated a preference for reducing the number of major SIGs to two: Mac OS X and iLife / iWork; specialty SIGs like the FileMaker, Consultants, and VectorWorks would continue as is. Better communication of SIG meeting dates, locations, and topics is a must. Bert said he had not taken a detailed look at a budget but felt $10 should be sufficient membership dues to keep the club solvent. Membership renewals would still be handled through snail mail so the Post Office expenses would not be reduced to $0. Bert pointed out that his proposal does not require each member to have an internet connection; access to the internet via a public library terminal is all that is required.

Examination of detailed budgets submitted by Tom, Les, and Harry showed that elimination of the costs of printing a newsletter would result in a reduction of expenses so the club would remain solvent at the current membership level and possibly allow the membership dues to be reduced.

In response to questions about the need for hard-copies to use in the recruiting of new members, John volunteered to design a new flyer for advertising the club.

There was some discussion whether we should have a single BBS or keep both First Class and forumer.com active. This discussion will be continued at a future meeting.

Chuck felt we should push information to members via a monthly email newsletter rather than relying on members accessing the club web site to get that information. Most directors agreed with Chuck's point of view.

The following motion was made and seconded: By March phase out the formal newsletter but have a monthly electronic newsletter distributed as deemed appropriate by the BOD. The motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0 (note that the [acting] president can vote only in case of a tie).

It was decided we need a front page notice on the remaining hard copy newsletters to communicate the newsletter change and to ask all members to provide an email address so they can receive the electronic newsletter. Members who do not have or choose not to provide an email address will need to access the electronic newsletter on the web site.

We will continue to use snail mail to inform members of their need to renew their membership and for members to send their dues to the Membership Coordinator. Chuck will investigate the possibility of making new membership / renewal payments available via an online service such as PayPal, as well as including a snail-mail option. The Directors need to discuss whether a membership dues change is appropriate; if so, the amount and timing of the change need to be established. A suggestion was made to extend existing memberships if dues are reduced; the length of each extension would be determined by the amount of the dues reduction and the time remaining on each membership.

New Business

Audit of the books - Bruce Thompson agreed to do the audit. Don needs to provide the financial data to Bruce.

Insurance bill from the Hartford – Don says our contract ran out so we should not be expected to pay. Don will contact the insurance company in writing.

Next meeting: Scheduled for December 3, 2007, at the Merriam Park Library at 7:00 pm. All club members are welcome to attend.

Backup devices economically keep precious data safe

Submitted by Les C. Anderson
Backup devices economically keep precious data safe
By JULIO OJEDA-ZAPATA

TwinCities.com-Pioneer Press
Article Launched:10/08/2007 12:01:00 AM CDT

Have you backed up your data today?

You're taking a huge risk if you store your priceless photos, home movies, e-mails and the like on your computer's hard drive without stashing duplicates of the files elsewhere. Hard drives are mechanical devices with moving parts and will break down sooner or later.

In a recent column, I discussed online options for backing up data. These are useful but limited. It's impractical to transfer all your data - typically gigabytes and gigabytes of files - into cyberspace, given relatively pokey Internet connections and pricey e-storage services.

So, you should get a secondary drive. This device hooks up to your computer and stores duplicates of all the files on your main drive. These gizmos typically have more than enough capacity, and their prices won't break the bank.

But there is a dizzying range of them. I selected three to test based on two key criteria: They had to be consumer-friendly and compatible with Macintosh machines as well as Windows PCs.

Maxtor OneTouch 4 Plus. This cool-looking metal monolith stands upright on your desk and connects to your computer via a Universal Serial Bus or FireWire 400 connection. All computers have slot-like USB ports; all Macs and many PCs also have oval-shaped FireWire 400 ports.

The OneTouch 4 includes easy-to-use software for automating backups. This means you can set your computer and external drive to, say, back everything up at 11 p.m. every day.

The software also has a "Sync" feature for keeping files synchronized between two computers; you pick folders to sync, then connect the drive to another computer to finish the sync. (This seems like a hassle.)

This drive is a fine choice for Windows users because of a SafetyDrill feature not available to Macintosh users. It lets you create an "image" of your drive, essentially a snapshot at a particular point in time. If your drive then goes south, that image gets you up and running on a fresh computer drive with all your data and apps - ready to go.

The drives, starting at $130, have capacities from 250 gigabytes to a whopping 1 terabyte (the latter due this month).

Non-Plus versions of the OneTouch 4, starting at $100 and ranging from 250 to 750 gigabytes, sell without backup software - they're just big storage receptacles. If you already have backup software, or just like to back things up manually, these drives are for you.

The drives are called OneTouch because you can initiate backups with a touch of a button.

Newer Technology miniStack v3. This flattened storage device with rounded corners looks just like Apple's miniature Mac mini computer - no coincidence, since the mini and miniStack are designed to be stacked.

The miniStack v3 isn't just for Mac mini users. Like Maxtor's OneTouch 4 Plus, this is serious storage for PC users as well as Mac-heads. The miniStack has several notable extras.

It sports two FireWire 800 ports as well as a FireWire 400 port. Yes, there are two flavors of FireWire. The 400 kind is fast, but 800 is way faster.

Most consumers don't require such blazing speed. But if you buy one of Apple's iMac desktop computers, you get both kinds of FireWire, so it makes sense to buy a backup drive that will fully exploit this technology. Most consumer-grade Windows PCs don't have FireWire 800.

The miniStack has another feature with PC and Mac appeal: It doubles as a USB hub. When you link the drive to your computer via a master USB port, you can then hook gizmos (such as your keyboard and mouse) directly to the drive via several secondary USB ports. This is very handy.

I ran into a problem, though. When both USB and FireWire 800 cables are connected, the mini-Stack is supposed to favor the faster FireWire during data backups. But my loaner miniStack defaulted to the pokier USB. Newer Technology said this was an issue with some of its miniStacks and sent me a replacement that worked as advertised.

For storage supergeeks, the miniStack also sports an eSATA port. This is an alternative to USB and the FireWires but likely irrelevant to most average buyers.

The miniStack starts at $170, with capacities from 160 gigabytes to 1 terabyte. Newer Technology also offers a v2 miniStack without FireWire 800 and eSATA.

Imation Odyssey. Now for something different: Minnesota-based Imation has a cartridge approach to backup, which makes for essentially infinite capacity. When you fill up one compact cartridge, just buy another.

The cartridges slide into an external docking device. You can also install an internal docking station that takes up a PC's now-obsolete floppy-diskette bay.

This approach offers several advantages. You can put your most-valuable information on a cartridge, then eject it and store it at another location (a bank safe-deposit box, say) to ensure your data's survival even if your home office burns to the ground. You can then use another cartridge for routine backup. If you have a lot of data to back up, use more than one cartridge (the included backup software helps you divvy it up).

The cartridges are supposed to be rugged and reliable even though they're hard drives, not solid-state storage.

The Odyssey devices are completely Windows- and Macintosh-compatible - just use appropriate drive formatting so your cartridge is compatible with your computer. I had little trouble formatting a cartridge for use with Windows Vista and then reformatting it for use with Mac OS X. (Basic Windows formatting makes a cartridge PC- and Mac-ready).

Odyssey isn't a budget option. The cartridges are pricey at $100 for 40 gigabytes, ranging up to $280 for 250 gigs - that's about what a 500-gig miniStack V3 and a 750-gig OneTouch 4 costs you. Starter kits, with an external docking bay and a cartridge ranging from 40 to 120 gigabytes, run from $250 to $350.

But Imation is aiming its hardware at small-business and home-office users who demand reliability and durability.

GO PORTABLE

The above drives are intended to remain stationary (at least most of the time). But what if you want to take your data with you? You'll need a portable drive instead of a bulkier desktop model. Here are three approaches:

OneTouch 4 Mini. Maxtor sells a mobile version of its OneTouch 4, starting at $100 with capacities ranging from 80 to 160 gigs. The drives include backup software, the same kind that is included with those bigger OneTouch 4 Plus drives. This software includes encryption features for protecting data, which is of particular concern when on the go.

This works on PC and Mac.

Seagate FreeAgent Pro. This drive, from the same folks responsible for the Maxtors, is a different animal. It's for those who move from PC to PC and crave consistency on all PCs. So the drive replicates Windows settings and provides mobile versions of common apps that run right off the drive. The drives start at $79 with 80 to 160 gigabytes.

This is for Windows use.

Apple iPod classic. Most iPods double as data drives for moving PC or Mac files around but tend to have scant space once users load up their tunes, photos and videos. This has changed in a big way with the "classic" models, the largest of which has a mind-blowing 160 gigabytes (for $350) - more than many have on their computer hard drives.

This works on PC and Mac.

Julio Ojeda-Zapata covers consumer technology. Reach him at jojeda@pioneerpress.com or 651-228-5467. Get more personal tech at yourtechweblog.com and twincities.com/techtestdrive.

-- Maxtor OneTouch maxtor solutions.com.

-- NewerTech miniStack newertech. com/products

-- Imation Odyssey imation.com/odyssey

-- Seagate Free Agent seagate.com/. freeagent

-- Apple iPod classic apple. com/ipodclassic

The Miniapples Newsletter is fading away

Submitted by Bert Persson

In today's digital world of communication and the ever increasing cost of mailing we will be phasing out the Newsletter as of the March 2008 issue.
For several years now we have received very little original material that would be of interest to our members. Instead we have to a large extent simply republished material that is available on the Internet.
The only information unique for our group has been the monthly calendar which by the way has also been published on our web site (WWW.miniapples.org). We believe, a large majority of our members have access to the Internet at work, home or through their local library and could get the calendar information that way.
A large portion of our budget is devoted to printing and mailing of the Newsletter as well as the labor involved in it's production. This becomes an issue with fewer members and thereby an increase in mailing cost per Newsletter.
Instead of the Newsletter we will focus on distributing relevant club information on our web site.
Any cost savings from this action could be passed on to our members.
It may be an inconvenience not having a Newsletter to pick up and I can certainly understand that, but the financial savings and work involved for our staff would be beneficial.
An electronic Newsletter would still involve article submissions, and production layout even if the printing and distribution cost are eliminated

Bert

Attention All Mac Users!

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  "...Yugma ROCKS for web conferencing!" - The Business Web

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GETTING STARTED WITH FORUMER.COM

The Minnesota Apple Computer Users' Group, the mini'app'les, has established a bulletin board service (BBS) using the facilities of forumer.com. Everyone is encouraged to make use of the BBS to ask and answer questions that cannot wait until the next Special Interest Group (SIG) meeting. Although guests can make use of this new BBS, mini'app'les members have some special privileges and, so, should register as members to take advantage of those privileges.

Getting started is easy. Connect to the internet and fire up your browser. Navigate to the mini'app'les BBS on forumer.com either by entering HYPERLINK "http://miniapples.7.forumer.com/index.php"http://miniapples.7.forumer.com/index.php

into the Address Bar of your browser or by going to the mini'app'les web site at HYPERLINK "http://www.miniapples.org/" http://www.miniapples.org/ and clicking on the mini'app'les Forums Quick Link on the left side of the window. This brings up a window like the one in Figure 1.

Figure 1. mini'app'les forumer.com Starting Window

The registration process begins when you click the "Register" text button at the right of the row of buttons just under the "mini'app'les forums" heading. At the click of that button, a new window appears; this window contains the registration agreement terms. If you agree to the terms and conditions, you need to click the appropriate line under that text to proceed. The next window asks you to enter your registration information and to set your initial preferences (see Figure 2).

Figure 2. Registration Window

You must enter a username and password. The username need not be (but can be) your given name; two usernames currently in use are Ottertail and Huntn. An email address is required as part of the Registration Information because that is how the administrators communicate with individual members and how you are informed if you have received a Private Message from another member. To keep the nasty folks who patrol the internet from accessing your account, the password should be at least eight characters long and should be a combination of lower case letters, upper case letters, numbers, and special characters. The Confirmation Code is used to prevent the software of those nasty folks from

registering automatically and thus save much grief and work for our forum administrator. The default values shown for the Preferences are quite sensible and can be accepted as is; the preferences can be changed once you have been registered as a mini'app'les member. After you have established your Registration Information and Preferences, click the "Submit" button at the bottom of the window. This sends a message to our friendly administrators telling them you would like to be registered for the mini'app'les forums.
Your submittal of a registration request sets off a series of emails. The first email shows the username and password you entered as well as letting you know the administrator must approve your registration request and establish an account for you; save this email so you can check your username and password if you are unable to log in to the forums later. The second email lets you know your account has been established and you may now log in to the mini'app'les BBS. The third email informs you that you have been added to a particular group; different groups have different privileges in the forums. If the administrator was unable to identify you as a mini'app'les member and assigned you to the "Guest" group, you will receive an email letting you know you have a private message on the BBS. Clicking the link contained in the email takes you to the window shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3. Logging in to Check a Private Message

Unlike many (most?) sites which automatically place the cursor in the starting text box, forumer requires you to click in the text box for the username first. Then enter the username and password you provided when you registered and click the "Log in" button; if you forgot the username and/or password or you are unable to log in, check the first email you received for the correct information. Once you have entered the correct information, you are taken to the screen shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4. Accessing Private Messages

Click the name of the message ("Welcome" in this case) and a new window appears, allowing you to read the Private Message (the new window is not shown here). The message tells you why you were placed in the Guests group and asks you to identify yourself if you are a member. Click either of the "Post Reply" buttons in the window and, in the "Reply to a private message window," enter a message identifying yourself to the administrator (this window is not shown here); click the "Submit" button after your message has been entered. An interim window appears for a short time before you are returned to the window of Figure 4. At this point, you may access the messages in the forums as a guest by clicking on the "Miniapples Forum Index" text button in the middle of the window, point your browser at a different web site, or quit your browser.

After you have received an email from the administrator indicating you may now access the BBS with all the privileges and responsibilities of a member, you can log in by navigating to the web site as described at the start of this article to the window shown in Figure 1. Click the "Log in" button next to the "Register" text button and a window like that of Figure 3 appears. Enter your username and password as before and click the "Log in" button. A window similar to Figure 1 appears; any forum with a message you have not read has a green apple next to it.

Happy browsing!
October 8, 2007

Page PAGE 1 of NUMPAGES 1

Register text button

Log in text button

Confirmation code

Miniapples Forum Index text button

Ease of Apple's Bootcamp Installation & Others

Submitted by Chuck Hauge

Personally, I thought Bootcamp was very easy to install, hey, this is Apple we're talking about, remember?!

The general procedure is:

1) Download Bootcamp 1.4 beta (version at time of writing this) at: http://www.apple.com/macosx/bootcamp/
2) Run the installer, which will create a driver CD for you (you just need a CD burner and black CD)
3) Use the included Bootcamp hard drive partitioner/formatter to partition/format your hard drive (do not use any other partitioner). I suggest using the FAT32 format, unless you have "special" software where you can access an NTFS partition from Mac OS X.
4) Install windows, and when requested, use the driver CD that you created in step 2, above. You can install Windows XP or Vista, I'd suggest XP, and I believe it has to be a 32-bit version, not a 64-bit version.

Ok, step 4 isn't quite so easy, as it's NOT Apple software you're installing, and I recall the Windows install hiccupped once on me, requiring me to "reinstall" Windows. Installing and updating Windows will take several hours, expect a good 4-8 hours depending upon your familiarity with it.

Now, here's the really COOL thing about Bootcamp and what can be referred to as the "rocking" software, Parallels. Once you have installed Bootcamp, you can use the same installation for Parallels. You may ask, "What the heck does this mean?" Let me tell you.

It means that if you are using OS X and don't want to reboot into Windows, you can run Parallels, using the very exact same installation of Windows that you used when you

installed Bootcamp. So, if you have all your Windows apps and files in the Bootcamp installation, and maybe even have a favorite desktop you put into your Bootcamp installation, it will be all "identical" in Parallels. "Everything" will work just as if you booted directly into Windows. (Please note that I quoted the words "identical" and "everything", as it is not exactly identical, and not quite everything is the same, but as long as you're not using some funky USB or Bluetooth devices, playing some graphics intensive entertainment software, or otherwise trying to take over the world from a Windows machine, all the "normal" stuff will be identical and everything will work normally. The normal stuff is things like MS Office apps running in Windows, and things that don't make you say, "Wow!")

So, then, when you do boot your computer in Windows (Bootcamp), all the changes you made in Windows-Parallels will be reflected in Windows-Bootcamp. Make sense now? How about a somewhat possible real-world example...

Let's say you're at a coffee shop and you need to get to a web page that requires Windows 7 (say it ain't so!). But you're in OS X, and battery power on your MacBook Pro is a little low so you don't want to reboot in fear that shutting down and booting into Windows may sap your battery's last remaining high-energy electrons. You remember you installed Windows XP only in Bootcamp, but you also installed Parallels, and never got around to installing Windows in Parallels directly. So, you wisely click on Parallels on your Dock, which starts up and you go through a little process to identify the Bootcamp partition from your Parallels setup. Press "Start Windows XP". From what I've seen, Windows boots faster in Parallels, than it does when booting in Bootcamp, maybe it's just me, but there you have it, other opinions welcome.

The very first time you boot a Bootcamp partition in Parallels, Parallels has to do some "stuff" to get it to work for it, but it will not affect your Windows from booting normally directly in Bootcamp. The other advantage to this is that Parallels has a "free" anti-virus program you can install in Windows, so that way your version of Windows is protected (well, kind of protected, anyway).

Now, open up Explorer 7 in Windows and go to your web page. Copy and paste or whatever you needed to do from this web page, and then you realize that you have to use Outlook to get a certain file that can only be viewed in Outlook 2007 (weird, huh?) So you run Outlook 2007 in the Bootcamp partition, running Parallels, in OS X. You get your file in Outlook 2007, and then you close all Windows apps down. Last you shut down Windows (you have to shut down Windows when using a Bootcamp partition in Parallels before you quite Parallels, according to Parallels, "bad things may happen if you don't"). You quit Parallels, and suddenly your batter forces your Mac into energy save mode, and puts your computer to sleep... Phew, just in time!

Later on at home, you plug in your laptop and decide you want to look at that file in Outlook, but want to have "full" Windows speed, so you restart your Mac, holding down the <alt> (a.k.a. the <option>) key. Your MBP shows you two volumes to boot from, one says "Windows", perfect! You select it and your computer boots directly into Windows, never running OS X. Eventually Windows boots, you open Outlook, find your file and do what you need to. Then you keep yourself entertained with some "Windows only" game, life is good!

Ok, so maybe that was a long example, but I wanted to highlight some of the points in using the same Bootcamp installation for both Parallels and natively booting directly into Windows. Note the file in Outlook was accessible in both Parallels and direct boot into Windows. Also note that you used your entertainment software in the natively booted Windows, and not in Parallels; Parallels is not quite as good with graphics as of yet.

Hope this helps, and hope you realize that the best of both worlds, in my humble opinion, is to be able to use both Parallels and Bootcamp in symbiotic tranquility! I have used both and found that saving the space on having a virtual drive in Parallels (7-8 GBs or more) is a nice savings to have.

My two-cents, give or take a few dollars... hope it helps, (and don't get me started on CrossOver by CodeWeavers (http://www.codeweavers.com/products/cxmac/), or VMWare's Fusion product, similar to Parallels (http://www.vmware.com/products/fusion/). BTW - Did you know MS released a patch for Virtual PC, for those of you running on PPC's?)

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What is a podcast, and what is podcasting?

Submitted by Chuck Hauge

podocast _pädokast\ n English-Apple Inc. late 2002 A web-based audio broadcast
via an RSS feed, accessed by subscription over the Internet
(Dictionary.com)
podocast, podocasting v English-Apple Inc. late 2002 To create and publish a podcast

Ok, I know you're asking, "What does that mean?" A podcast is a very easy way to transmit to the virtual world an audio, video or text based message (a computer video, audio, or text file) you wish to make public. If you have something you think is important and you want to share it with others, it's fun, the virtual world is huge, technically it's free, but honestly it's a little complex.

Do I need to create a podcast to use a podcast? Absolutely, NO! There are podcast consumers, and there are podcast producers. This document is about how to produce a podcast. Being a podcast consumer is actually much, much easier, all you need is a computer with Mac OS X 10.3.9 or newer or a PC with Windows 2000 or newer, and the latest version of iTunes and QuickTime software (both are free from Apple, see links below).

Can anyone put his or her own message in a virtual world podcast? Absolutely, YES!

Do I need an iPod to podcast? Absolutely, NO! But if you do, you can download your podcast, or others' poadcasts and play them when you're traveling around the world (or your neighborhood), anytime!

How many podcasts are there in the virtual world? Well, this number changes daily, but one source stated over 20 million as of September 2006.

Do I need a computer to podcast? Technically, No, but really, it depends on how much you want you want to get involved in doing this. It's possible to simply take a tape (video or audio) or a text file (such as PDF, MS Word, or Simple Text) and send it to someone who can set it all up for you.

Do I need the Apple Software iTunes to podcast? Technically NO, but you'll want to see your podcast once it's published in the virtual world, won't you?!

It sounds like I don't need anything to podcast, but seriously what do I need? You need videos, audio, or text, and someone who's comfortable with putting this content in a podcast for you. For people who know how to do this, it's pretty easy. The most difficult part is converting the content you have to a valid format that Apple allows in a podcast. The other tricky part is setting up something called an RSS feed or just a feed. The feed is nothing more than a text file written in a language called XML that has the settings, configuration, basic text content outline, and location of your podcast file(s). etc.

I have several videos, audios or text files I'd like to share, can I do this? Absolutely, YES! You can have an unlimited number of things in your podcast, you can even have mixed content, audio, video and text based.

Is my podcast I have published free to anyone and everyone to see? Yes, by default it will be. It is possible to put a fee on it, but this has to be setup through Apple, and honestly I have not done this before. I'd say more than 99% of all podcasts are free and open to everyone.

Do I have to go through Apple to podcast? Well, no, but if you don't you'll be reaching so small a market it won't be worth it. Apple is so far head and shoulders ahead of everything and everyone you'd be foolish not to go through Apple. It's as if you may reach two people as compared to 350 million people, this is not an exaggeration. And remember if you can setup the podcast yourself, then the whole podcasting process is free!

I'm still afraid of this new technology and don't understand it and what all it can do! Don't worry, no one knows everything! Even Steve Jobs, co-founder of Apple Inc. doesn't know how to do all this. In fact I'd be a bit surprised if he's ever created a podcast.

Podcasting is evolving and is a moving target. It was originally established before Apple even directly supported it. It was really just some renegade technophiles that saw an opportunity and had the knowledge. Since then it has been significantly simplified, and Apple's direct support has helped.

Because podcasting is a moving target it's not important to really know what it is, it's better to understand the basics, and perhaps the best way to do this is through an example. To truly understand it you have to use it, but I'll do my best here to explain.

Let's say you had a huge family get-together, say 300 people (or maybe a small one with 15 people), and you took some videos during it. You have people you interviewed, there were a couple of speeches about the family tree, and perhaps you have some photos, and even a physical family tree that you painstakeningly drew by hand (I'll have to teach you how to do this much easier, quicker and more professionally on a computer some time).

You find some nice music you have for the background. You put the videos you have on your computer. You put the pictures you have on your computer. You scan that family tree you spent hours creating (and perhaps days or weeks on, if you did this on the computer it could be cut down to minutes) to your computer. You put all this together in iMovie or QuickTime Pro and you get yourself the file(s) to post in a podcast. You setup your feed file (see above), and put this and your podcast file(s) and some artwork (a graphic file) on a web site. You open iTunes and tell them you have a new podcast you would like Apple to publish, to do this you give them the URL (uniform resource locator) of the feed file you put on a web site. Wait one to two weeks, and voila, you have a podcast the world can see, download in iTunes, share, use, put on their iPods, connect to a projector and do a presentation, etc.!

Yes, I did skip some of the complexities of this, but you just wanted to know the overall process. It is a bit time consuming for anyone to make a nice presentation using iMovie or the like, and the feed file will take some time, as it has to be debugged (it's a sort of computer programming language), but it's relatively easy for someone who knows how to do it.

And you may have a business need for something like this, perhaps you have videos that you'd like to have short samples published. At the beginning, end and perhaps in subtitles you can put in a web site to go to buy the full video, or offer a full download version for a price. Or maybe you want to do a presentation for hundreds of people, but they're not all in one room. You can put your podcast on iTunes, give people a link to it in an email so they can go to it. You can update your presentation up to the minute before you want to start it, and others can come see the presentation after it has been made available, anytime, day or nite, PJ's or suit and tie.

My best way to define a podcast is to say, think of what you want to share, and how can you best share it. Think that there are absolutely no limitations in podcasting, and do not come with any preconceived notions about podcasting. Technically podcasting is free as long as you already have the basics, a computer with OS X 10.3.9 or Windows 2000 or newer, an Internet connection and web space (most ISPs give you free web space). That's really it!

Other sources for very good in-depth information
WikiPedia:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Podcast
Apple Podcasting FAQ:
http://www.apple.com/itunes/store/podcastsfaq.html
Apple iTunes Software:
http://www.apple.com/itunes/store/podcastsfaq.html
Apple QuickTime Software:
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mini'app'les

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

Membership Application, & Renewal Form

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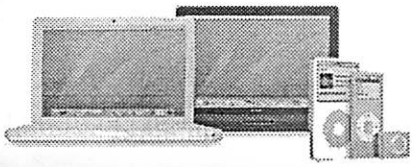

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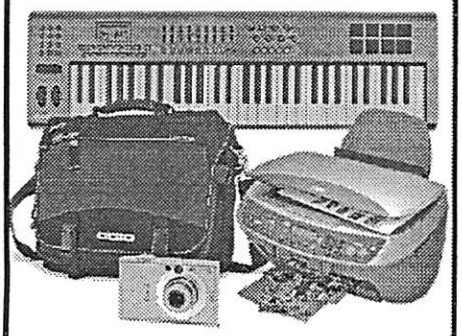

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Benefits of mini'app'les Membership:

- Participate in drawings of computer hardware, software, and other computer related materials. Some of the vendors and merchandise mini'app'les has given away include: Connectix software, QuickCam, Quickeys, Peachpit Press books, Macsoft games, T-Shirts, Apple Mac OS X, and many others.

- Mini'app'les members have access to discounts from vendors and manufacturers such as Peachpit Press, Apple, Small Dog Electronics, PowerMax, and others.

- Member Workshops to help members with computer problems. You can bring your equipment in to these events and you'll get support from other knowledgeable members to fix your sick Mac. Some of our members are Apple certified consultants.

- Access to the Members Helping Members network of professional and advanced users of Apple technologies. These members volunteer their time to help other members with pre-sales questions, troubleshooting, and other Apple related issues.

- Opportunities to get involved with other Apple enthusiasts. mini'app'les has several special interest groups, and is always looking for motivated members to help in making them better.

- Access to the mini'app'les online Forum. Why wait for a monthly meeting when you can chat with other members about issues and trouble shooting. Apple products are bought and sold, special events and discounts are posted, and news about the mini'app'les User Group, Apple, and the industry is discussed.

- Subscription to the mini'app'les monthly newsletter.

- Mini'app'les is a non-profit and your subscription is tax deductible (check IRS rules on disclosure).

And you're supporting a great organization that promotes the use and evangelism of Apple Computers!

$3

Volume 30, Issue 12

mini'app'les newsletter

the minnesota apple computer users' group, inc.

DECEMBER 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3 7:00	4 OS X 7:00	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 7:00 6:30	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

3 **Board of Directors**
mini'app'les members welcome
Merriam Park Library
1831 Marshall Avenue St. Paul
Tom Gates 612-789-1713

4 OS X **OS X SIG**
Atomic / The Foundation
901 North 3rd street Suite #115
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

12 **AppleWorks SIG**
Penn Lake Library
8800 Penn Ave S Bloomington, MN
John Hunkins, Sr. 651-457-8949
hunkins@mac.com.

12 **Microsoft Word SIG**
Eagles lodge
9152 Old Cedar Ave. Bloomington
Tom Ostertag, E 651-488-9979

20 **Macintosh Consultants SIG**
Perkins **7:00 AM**
6920 Wayzata Blvd
Golden Valley
Bob Demeules, 763-559-1124

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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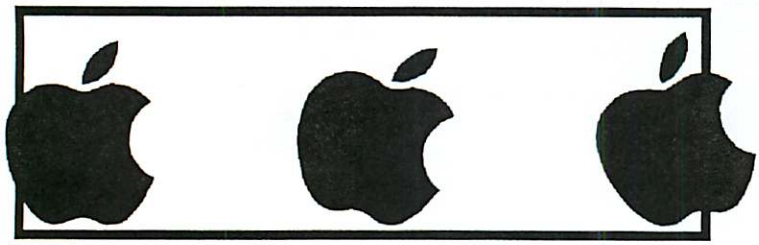
Apple II	Owen Aaland



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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

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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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January 2008 Preview

Here is the tentative calendar of our Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings for January 2008. 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	January	?	OS X SIG
Wednesday	January	2	AppleWorks SIG
Tuesday	January	?	VectorWorks SIG
Wednesday	January	9	Microsoft Word SIG
Thursday	January	17	Macintosh Consultants
Thursday	January	24	FileMaker Pro SIG
Monday	January	28	Mac Q & A 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.

Apple II / IIGS Software & Hardware	1, 2, 3
AppleWorks / ClarisWorks-Draw	3, 4
Classic Macs	
Cross-Platform File Transfer	2
FileMaker Pro	
FirstClass	
Intel Based Macs	
iMacs	
iPhoto / iTunes / iMovie	
Mac OS Classic	3
Mac OS X	
MacWrite Pro	
Microsoft Excel	2, 5, 8
Microsoft Word	2, 8
MYOB	5
Networks	7
New Users	1
PhotoShop	
QuarkXPress	8
Quicken	5
QuickBooks and QuickBooks Pro	5
VectorWorks	6

1.	Les Anderson	651-735-3953	DEW
2.	Tom Ostertag	651-488-9979	EW
	tostertag@usfamily.net		
3.	Bruce Thompson	763-546-1088	EW
	Bthompson@Macconnect.com		
4.	Pam Lienke	651-457-6026	EW
	plienke@aol.com		
5.	Ardie Predweshny	612 978-9774	DEW
6.	Charles Radloff	952-941-1667	D
7.	Chuck Hauge	612-963-5064	DEW
	Chaz@CPHSolutions.com		
8.	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
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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

The Miniapples Newsletter is fading away (part 2)

Submitted by Bert Persson

You may have read in the November issue that the Newsletter is being phased out in March 2008.
All information regarding SIG's (Special Interest Groups), workshops or other events is available on our web site **www.miniapples.org**
For those of you who don't have access to the Internet at home or business, can find the information by using a computer at your local library. This may be awkward to some members, but we will try to keep our SIG meeting time and location the same from month to month making it easier to remember when and where each meeting takes place.

If you would like to receive information of miniapples upcoming events you can send us your name, membership id# (which is on the Newsletter mailing label) and a valid e-mail address to **miniapples@mac.com** Please write: **miniapples info e-mail YES** in the subject line.

We will not sell, distribute or share e-mail addresses. If you don't send an e-mail address you will NOT be contacted.

GETTING STARTED WITH FORUMER.COM

The Minnesota Apple Computer Users' Group, the mini'app'les, has established a bulletin board service (BBS) using the facilities of forumer.com. Everyone is encouraged to make use of the BBS to ask and answer questions that cannot wait until the next Special Interest Group (SIG) meeting. Although guests can make use of this new BBS, mini'app'les members have some special privileges and, so, should register as members to take advantage of those privileges.
Getting started is easy. Connect to the internet and fire up your browser. Navigate to the mini'app'les BBS on forumer.com either by entering HYPERLINK "http://miniapples.7.forumer.com/index.php"http://miniapples.7.forumer.com/index.php

into the Address Bar of your browser or by going to the mini'app'les web site at HYPERLINK "http://www.miniapples.org/" http://www.miniapples.org/ and clicking on the mini'app'les Forums Quick Link on the left side of the window. This brings up a window like the one in Figure 1.

The registration process begins when you click the "Register" text button at the right of the row of buttons just under the "mini'app'les forums" heading. At the click of that button, a new window appears; this window contains the registration agreement terms. If you agree to the terms and conditions, you need to click the appropriate line under that text to proceed. The next window asks you to enter your registration information and to set your initial preferences (see Figure 2).

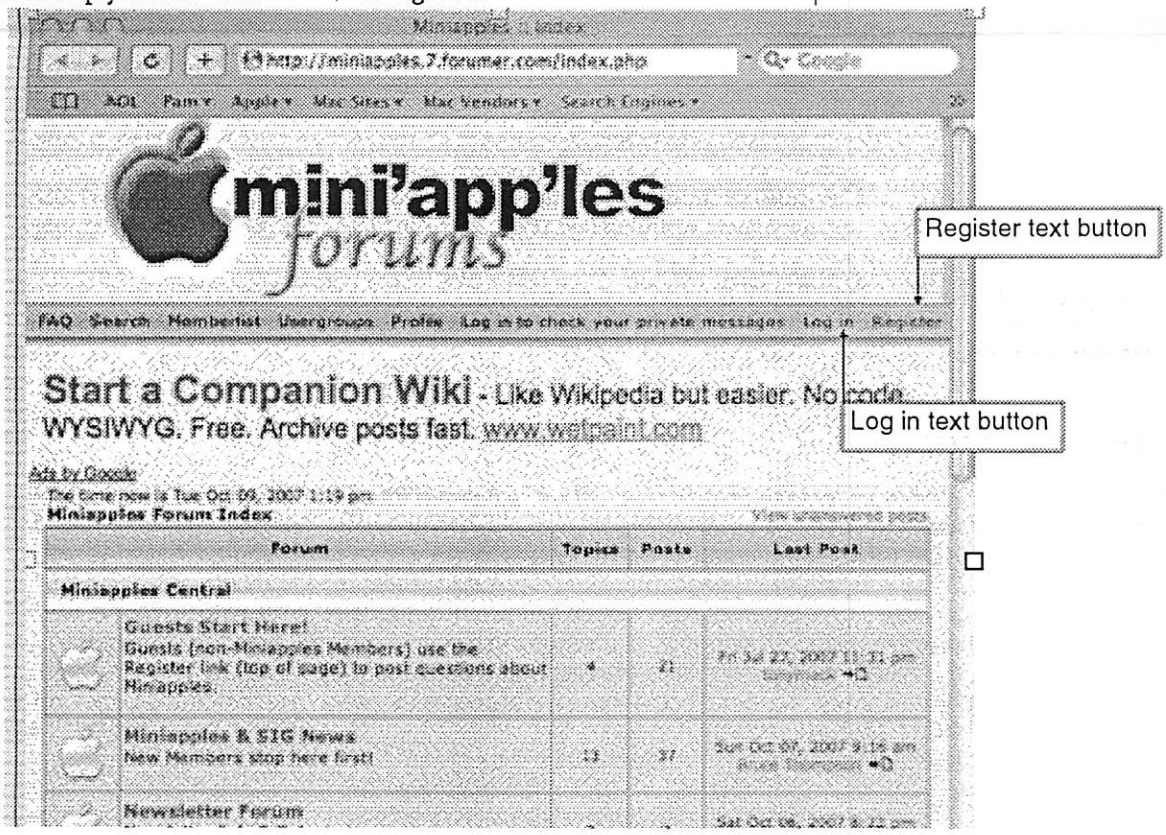

Figure 1. mini'app'les forumer.com Starting Window

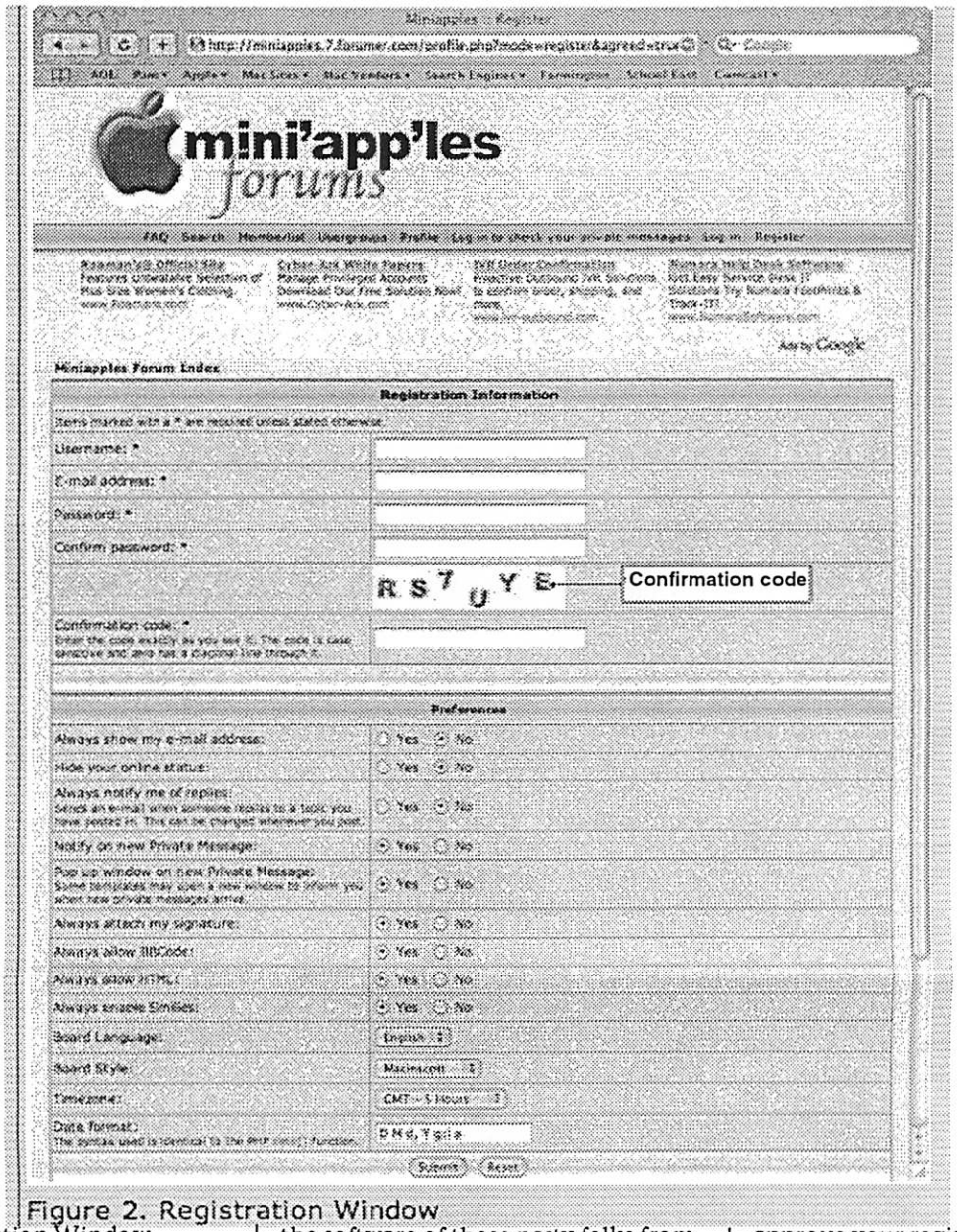

Figure 2. Registration Window

Figure 2. Registration Window

You must enter a username and password. The username need not be (but can be) your given name; two usernames currently in use are Ottertail and Huntn. An email address is required as part of the Registration Information because that is how the administrators communicate with individual members and how you are informed if you have received a Private Message from another member. To keep the nasty folks who patrol the internet from accessing your account, the password should be at least eight characters long and should be a combination of lower case letters, upper case letters, numbers, and special characters. The Confirmation Code is used to prevent the software of those nasty folks from registering automatically and thus save much grief and work for our forum administrator. The default values shown for the Preferences are quite sensible and can be accepted as is; the preferences can be changed once you have been registered as a mini'app'les member. After you have established your Registration Information and Preferences, click the "Submit" button at the bottom of the window. This sends a message to our friendly administrators telling them you would like to be registered for the mini'app'les forums.

Your submittal of a registration request sets off a series of emails. The first email shows the username and password you entered as well as letting you know the administrator must approve your registration request and establish an account for you; save this email so you can check your username and password if you are unable to log in to the forums later. The second email lets you know your account has been established and you may now log in to the mini'app'les BBS. The third email informs you that you have been added to a particular group; different groups have different privileges in the forums. If the administrator was unable to identify you as a mini'app'les member and assigned you to the "Guest" group, you will receive an email letting you know you have a private message on the BBS. Clicking the link contained in the email takes you to the window shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3. Logging in to Check a Private Message

Figure 3. Logging in to Check a *Private Message*

Unlike many (most?) sites which automatically place the cursor in the starting text box, forumer requires you to click in the text box for the username first. Then enter the username and password you provided when you registered and click the "Log in" button; if you forgot the username and/or password or you are unable to log in, check the first email you received for the correct information. Once you have entered the correct information, you are taken to the screen shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4. Accessing Private Messages

Click the name of the message ("Welcome" in this case) and a new window appears, allowing you to read the Private Message (the new window is not shown here). The message tells you why you were placed in the Guests group and asks you to identify yourself if you are a member. Click either of the "Post Reply" buttons in the window and, in the "Reply to a private message window," enter a

Figure 4. Accessing Private Messages

message identifying yourself to the administrator (this window is not shown here); click the "Submit" button after your message has been entered. An interim window appears for a short time before you are returned to the window of Figure 4. At this point, you may access the messages in the forums as a guest by clicking on the "Miniapples Forum Index" text button in the middle of the window, point your browser at a different web site, or quit your browser.

After you have received an email from the administrator indicating you may now access the BBS with all the privileges and responsibilities of a member, you can log in by navigating to the web site as described at the start of this article to the window shown in Figure 1. Click the "Log in" button next to the "Register" text button and a window like that of Figure 3 appears. Enter your username and password as before and click the "Log in" button. A window similar to Figure 1 appears; any forum with a message you have not read has a green apple next to it.

Happy browsing!
October 8, 2007

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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:_____
Phone # (Home)**:**_____
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

Specify your level of support:

___ $25.00 One Year
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___ $60.00 Three Year
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Please Make
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mini'app'les

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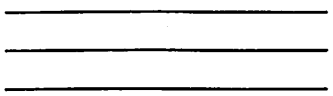
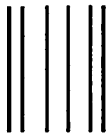
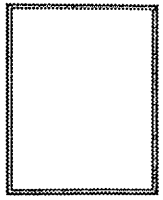
P.O. Box 796
Hopkins, MN 55343-0796

Thank You for your support!

Last Fold - Seal with Tape







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P.O. Box 796
Hopkins, MN 55343-0796

3rd fold

1st fold

2nd fold

Dear mini'app'les
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☐ Membership Director
☐ Software Director
☐ Other_____

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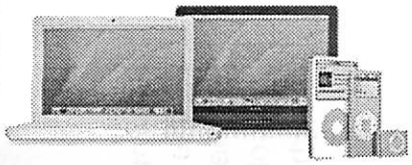

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- Participate in drawings of computer hardware, software, and other computer related materials. Some of the vendors and merchandise mini'app'les has given away include: Connectix software, QuickCam, Quickeys, Peachpit Press books, Macsoft games, T-Shirts, Apple Mac OS X, and many others.

- Mini'app'les members have access to discounts from vendors and manufacturers such as Peachpit Press, Apple, Small Dog Electronics, PowerMax, and others.

- Member Workshops to help members with computer problems. You can bring your equipment in to these events and you'll get support from other knowledgeable members to fix your sick Mac. Some of our members are Apple certified consultants.

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mini'app'les

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Membership	Erik Knopp
Apple II	Owen Aaland

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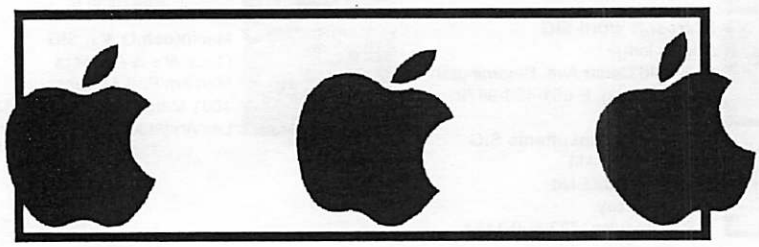
mini´app´les e-mail: miniapples@mac.com



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Thursday	March	15	Macintosh Consultants
Monday	March	26	Mac Q & A 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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FirstClass	
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PowerBooks / iBooks	6
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QuarkXPress	10
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QuickBooks and QuickBooks Pro	7
WordPerfect	
VectorWorks	8

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

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

Annual Meeting Saturday February 17

Submitted by Bert Persson & John Pruski

Our annual membership meeting will be held at the Washburn Library, 5244 Lyndale Ave. S. Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419 (See map below) on Saturday, February 17th. The meeting room is downstairs, or use the elevator.

The schedule for our Annual Meeting is as follows:
The room at the library will be open to us from 12:30 P.M., and at 1 P.M. we plan to take nominations for Officers to the Board of Directors for the next year. All officer positions are up for election. They are; President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Marketing Director, Publication Director, and SIG Director. Some officers may seek reelection, but other candidates are welcome. If you would like to run for an office but are unable to attend please contact any board member. This is your opportunity to have your voice heard, and help support your user group.

As we are completing a list of nominees, some delicious cookies, and some exotic refreshments will be served.
We hope to have a demo and talk about Parallels Desktop for Mac program (Intel Mac).

We hope to see you there.

Washburn Library, 5244 Lyndale Ave. South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419-1222

Apple TV Coming to Your Living Room

Submitted by John Pruski

Movies, TV Shows, Music & Photos on Your Big Screen TV

MACWORLD SAN FRANCISCO—January 9, 2007—Apple® today premiered Apple TV™, an easy to use and fun way to wirelessly play all your favorite iTunes® content from your Mac® or PC on your widescreen TV, including movies, TV shows, music, photos and podcasts. Using Apple TV's stunning new interface, anyone can quickly browse and view their entire collection of digital media from across the room using the simple and intuitive Apple Remote. Apple TV easily connects to almost all modern widescreen televisions, and will be shipping in February for just $299.

"Apple TV is like a DVD player for the 21st century—you connect it to your entertainment system just like a DVD player, but it plays digital content you get from the Internet rather than DVDs you get from a physical store," said Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO. "Apple TV plays the same iTunes content that users enjoy on their computers and iPods, so now they can even watch part of a movie in their living room, and watch the rest later on their iPod."

Apple TV has a 40GB hard drive to store up to 50 hours of video, 9,000 songs, 25,000 photos or a combination of each and is capable of delivering high-definition 720p output.* Apple TV is easy to connect to a broad range of widescreen TVs and home theater systems and comes standard with HDMI, component video, analog and optical audio ports. Using high-speed AirPort® 802.11** wireless networking, Apple TV can auto-sync content from one computer or stream content from up to five additional computers right to your TV without any wires.***

The seamless integration of Apple TV and iTunes lets users choose from over 250 feature-length movies and 350 TV shows in near DVD quality; four million songs, 5,000 music videos, 100,000 podcasts and 20,000 audiobooks. Users can enjoy their favorite music on a home entertainment system and view slideshows of their photo albums on a widescreen TV. Apple TV makes it easy for users to explore their entire media collection with an easy to use and intuitive new interface. With the Apple Remote, consumers can easily browse through their favorite movies, TV shows, music and photos from up to 30 feet away.

Pricing & Availability
Apple TV, which includes the Apple Remote, will be shipping in February through the Apple Store® (www.apple.com), Apple's retail stores and Apple Authorized Resellers for a suggested retail price of $299 (US).

Apple TV requires iTunes 7 or later running on a Mac with Mac OS® X version 10.3.9 or later, or a Windows PC with Windows XP Home/Professional (SP2). An 802.11b/g/n wireless network using AirPort, AirPort Extreme® or 10/100 Base-T Ethernet networking required. Internet access is required and a broadband connection is recommended. Apple TV requires an enhanced-definition or high-definition widescreen TV. iPod® games will not play on Apple TV. iTunes is available in the US and select countries.

*Video playback based on 640x480 iTunes video content. Music capacity based on four minutes per song and 128-Kbps AAC encoding. Photo capacity based on Apple TV viewable photos transferred from iTunes. Actual capacity varies by content.

**Compatible with 802.11b/g/n. Based on an IEEE 802.11n draft specification.

***Wireless video streaming requires an 802.11g/n network.

Apple ignited the personal computer revolution in the 1970s with the Apple II and reinvented the personal computer in the 1980s with the Macintosh. Today, Apple continues to lead the industry in innovation with its award-winning desktop and notebook computers, OS X operating system, and iLife and professional applications. Apple is also spearheading the digital music revolution with its iPod portable music players and iTunes online store.

Press Contacts:
Teresa Brewer
Apple
(408) 974-6851
tbrewer@apple.com

Apple Reinvents the Phone with iPhone

Submitted by John Pruski

MACWORLD SAN FRANCISCO—January 9, 2007—Apple® today introduced iPhone, combining three products—a revolutionary mobile phone, a widescreen iPod® with touch controls, and a breakthrough Internet communications device with desktop-class email, web browsing, searching and maps—into one small and lightweight handheld device. iPhone introduces an entirely new user interface based on a large multi-touch display and pioneering new software, letting users control iPhone with just their fingers. iPhone also ushers in an era of software power and sophistication never before seen in a mobile device, which completely redefines what users can do on their mobile phones.

"iPhone is a revolutionary and magical product that is literally five years ahead of any other mobile phone," said Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO. "We are all born with the ultimate pointing device—our fingers—and iPhone uses them to create the most revolutionary user interface since the mouse."

iPhone is a Revolutionary Mobile Phone
iPhone is a revolutionary new mobile phone that allows users to make calls by simply pointing at a name or number. iPhone syncs all of your contacts from your PC, Mac® or Internet service such as Yahoo!, so that you always have your full list of up-to-date contacts with you. In addition, you can easily construct a favorites list for your most frequently made calls, and easily merge calls together to create conference calls.

iPhone's pioneering Visual Voicemail, an industry first, lets users look at a listing of their voicemails, decide which messages to listen to, then go directly to those messages without listening to the prior messages. Just like email, iPhone's Visual Voicemail enables users to immediately randomly access those messages that interest them most.

iPhone includes an SMS application with a full QWERTY soft keyboard to easily send and receive SMS messages in multiple sessions. When users need to type, iPhone presents them with an elegant touch keyboard which is predictive to prevent and correct mistakes, making it much easier and more efficient to use than the small plastic keyboards on many smartphones. iPhone also includes a calendar application that allows calendars to be automatically synced with your PC or Mac.

iPhone features a 2 megapixel camera and a photo management application that is far beyond anything on a phone today. Users can browse their photo library, which can be easily synced from their PC or Mac, with just a flick of a finger and easily choose a photo for their wallpaper or to include in an email.

iPhone is a quad-band GSM phone which also features EDGE and Wi-Fi wireless technologies for data networking. Apple has chosen Cingular, the best and most popular carrier in the US with over 58 million subscribers, to be Apple's exclusive carrier partner for iPhone in the US.

iPhone is a Widescreen iPod
iPhone is a widescreen iPod with touch controls that lets music lovers "touch" their music by easily scrolling through entire lists of songs, artists, albums and playlists with just a flick of a finger. Album artwork is stunningly presented on iPhone's large and vibrant display.

iPhone also features Cover Flow, Apple's amazing way to browse your music library by album cover artwork, for the first time on an iPod. When navigating your music library on iPhone, you are automatically switched into Cover Flow by simply rotating iPhone into its landscape position.

iPhone's stunning 3.5-inch widescreen display offers the ultimate way to watch TV shows and movies on a pocketable device, with touch controls for play-pause, chapter forward-backward and volume. iPhone plays the same videos purchased from the online iTunes® Store that users enjoy watching on their computers and iPods, and will soon enjoy watching on their widescreen televisions using the new Apple TV™. The iTunes Store now offers over 350 television shows, over 250 feature films and over 5,000 music videos.

iPhone lets users enjoy all their iPod content, including music, audiobooks, audio podcasts, video podcasts, music videos, television shows and movies. iPhone syncs content from a user's iTunes library on their PC or Mac, and can play any music or video content they have purchased from the online iTunes store.

iPhone is a Breakthrough Internet Communications Device
iPhone features a rich HTML email client which fetches your email in the background from most POP3 or IMAP mail services and displays photos and graphics right along with the text. iPhone is fully multi-tasking, so you can be reading a web page while downloading your email in the background.

Yahoo! Mail, the world's largest email service with over 250 million users, is offering a new free "push" IMAP email service to all iPhone users that automatically pushes new email to a user's iPhone, and can be set up by simply entering your Yahoo! name and password. iPhone will also work with most industry standard IMAP and POP based email services, such as Microsoft Exchange, Apple .Mac Mail, AOL Mail, Google Gmail and most ISP mail services.

iPhone also features the most advanced and fun-to-use web browser on a portable device with a version of its award-winning Safari™ web browser for iPhone. Users can see any web page the way it was designed to be seen, and then easily zoom in to expand any section by simply tapping on iPhone's multi-touch display with their finger. Users can surf the web from just about anywhere over Wi-Fi or EDGE, and can automatically sync their bookmarks from their PC or Mac. iPhone's Safari web browser also includes built-in Google Search and Yahoo! Search so users can instantly search for information on their iPhone just like they do on their computer.

iPhone also includes Google Maps, featuring Google's groundbreaking

maps service and iPhone's amazing maps application, offering the best maps experience by far on any pocket device. Users can view maps, satellite images, traffic information and get directions, all from iPhone's remarkable and easy-to-use touch interface.

iPhone's Advanced Sensors
iPhone employs advanced built-in sensors—an accelerometer, a proximity sensor and an ambient light sensor—that automatically enhance the user experience and extend battery life. iPhone's built-in accelerometer detects when the user has rotated the device from portrait to landscape, then automatically changes the contents of the display accordingly, with users immediately seeing the entire width of a web page, or a photo in its proper landscape aspect ratio.

iPhone's built-in proximity sensor detects when you lift iPhone to your ear and immediately turns off the display to save power and prevent inadvertent touches until iPhone is moved away. iPhone's built-in ambient light sensor automatically adjusts the display's brightness to the appropriate level for the current ambient light, thereby enhancing the user experience and saving power at the same time.

Pricing & Availability
iPhone will be available in the US in June 2007, Europe in late 2007, and Asia in 2008, in a 4GB model for $499 (US) and an 8GB model for $599 (US), and will work with either a PC or Mac. iPhone will be sold in the US through Apple's retail and online stores, and through Cingular's retail and online stores. Several iPhone accessories will also be available in June, including Apple's new remarkably compact Bluetooth headset.

iPhone includes support for quadband GSM, EDGE, 802.11b/g Wi-Fi and Bluetooth 2.0 EDR wireless technologies.

iPhone requires a Mac with a USB 2.0 port, Mac OS® X v10.4.8 or later and iTunes 7; or a Windows PC with a USB 2.0 port and Windows 2000 (Service Pack 4), Windows XP Home or Professional (Service Pack 2). Internet access is required and a broadband connection is recommended. Apple and Cingular will announce service plans for iPhone before it begins shipping in June.

Learn More About iPhone
To learn more about iPhone, please visit Apple.com or watch the video of the iPhone introduction at www.apple.com/iphone/keynote.

Apple ignited the personal computer revolution in the 1970s with the Apple II and reinvented the personal computer in the 1980s with the Macintosh. Today, Apple continues to lead the industry in innovation with its award-winning desktop and notebook computers, OS X operating system, and iLife and professional applications. Apple is also spearheading the digital music revolution with its iPod portable music players and iTunes online store.

Press Contacts:
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Apple
(408) 974-6877
nat@apple.com

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:_____
Phone # (Home)**:**_____
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

Specify your level of support:

___ $25.00 One Year
___ $45.00 Two Year
___ $60.00 Three Year
___ $15.00 Student One Year*(must be a full-time student at an accredited institution)
___ $100.00 Corporate One Year

Please Make
Your Checks Payable to:
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Thank You for your support!

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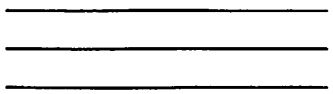

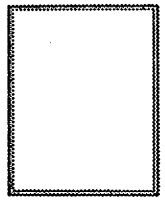

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Dear mini'app'les
Please direct this to the:
☐ Membership Director
☐ Software Director
☐ Other_____

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Macintosh™ Consulting
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Computer Problem Assistance

Mike Carlson

(218) 387-2257 (Grand Marais, MN)

mhcnvc@boreal.org

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Minneapolis, MN 55419

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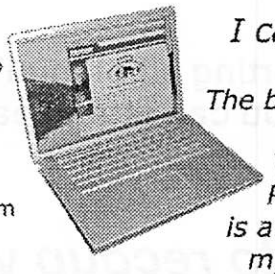

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Benefits of your mini'app'les membership include:

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.

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Box 796
Hopkins, MN 55343

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mini'app'les

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

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Questions – Please direct questions to an appropriate board member. Users with technical questions should refer to the Members Helping Members section.

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.

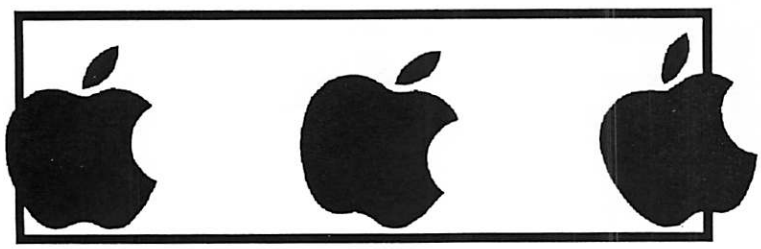
Editor/Publisher: Tom Ostertag 651-488-9979

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



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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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February 2007 Preview

Here is the tentative calendar of our Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings for February 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

Monday	February	5	Board of Directors meeting
Tuesday	February	6	OS X SIG
Wednesday	February	7	AppleWorks SIG
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Mac OS Classic	4, 6
Mac OS X	
MacWrite Pro	
Microsoft Excel	2, 3, 7, 10
Microsoft Word	3, 10
MYOB	7
Networks	9
New Users	1, 6
PhotoShop	
PowerBooks / iBooks	6
Power Macs	
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WordPerfect	
VectorWorks	8

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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
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3. are in "bad taste" (x rated or similar)
4. expound or demean a religion or practice.

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Phone inquiries to: John Pruski, 952-938-2818

mini'app'les Directors Meeting Minutes, December 4, 2006

Submitted by Harry Lienke

In attendance: Don Walz, Chuck Hauge, John Pruski, Kevin Strysik, Les Anderson, Erik Knopp, Harry Lienke

Absent: Tom Gates, Bert Persson

Agenda: Since President Gates was absent without notice, we cobbled together an agenda based on the last meeting's minutes and other concerns.

Minutes: Minutes for the October meeting were approved electronically October 9.

Directors Reports

Treasurer Don Walz's report: Everything is paid except a bill received today. A two-month statement passed out; it was approved as submitted. Don will need to transfer money from savings soon. The club ran about $600 in the hole last year.

President Tom Gates' report: No report

Vice President Bert Persson's report: No report. GET WELL SOON!

Secretary Harry Lienke's report: Thanks to Les Anderson for filling in as secretary for the last two meetings.

Marketing Director Chuck Hauge's report: We are now registered as an Allume User Group. As such, members can get 40% discounts on Allume products. Chuck will put a notice in the newsletter and on the BBS.

Publications Director John Pruski's report: Publications proceeding as usual. Les pointed out Sandy Foderick provided a link to an article we could use. John will find out about graphics that accompany the information.

SIG Director Kevin Strysik's report: The Main Mac meeting is on its death bed since leadership has withered. We need to decide on topics prior to the Main Mac meetings rather than simply having another question and answer meeting. A suggestion was made to consider restructuring the Main Mac meeting to one big (Saturday?) meeting with break-outs incorporating the other SIGs. It was decided to discuss this concept at the annual meeting; Les agreed to put a write-up in the newsletter and on one of the BBS discussion groups. It was pointed out that this kind of a meeting requires a facility with a large room for the Main Mac meeting and multiple smaller rooms for the break-outs. It was indicated that the OS X SIG may need to go on sabbatical when Craig Arko goes abroad.

Director at Large Les Anderson's report: Board of Directors meetings have been scheduled for February, April, and June on the first Monday at the Merriam Park Library. Les has renewed the club's non-profit status with the state of Minnesota.

Membership Director Erik Knopp's report: Processing memberships as they are received. We continue to have more non-renewals than renewals and new memberships. Discussion ensued of why this is happening and what we might do with our newsletter, etc., to encourage higher membership. Chuck said our BBS web interface should support following threads; Chuck will investigate other possibilities.

Old Business

IRS Non-profit Organization Status – Tom Gates has been handling the interface with the IRS but hasn't provided any additional information on our non-profit status. Les has ordered and received forms and suggested we file a return even though we aren't required to do it; that way the IRS will keep us on their records as an active group. Les says Brian Bantz says be careful because incorrect information included in a filing may linger and cause problems for years.

Audit – We still need someone to audit the books. Everyone should bring this up at SIG meetings to get a volunteer for this easy job.

Dreamweaver Update – Chuck contacted Dave Peck but hasn't heard back from Dave. Given our negative cash flow situation, spending a lot of money on new software is not an attractive option.

Budget – We are still waiting for final information from President Gates.

New Business

Annual Meeting – This meeting should be scheduled in February. John Pruski will schedule the January Main Mac meeting and the Annual Meeting at the Southdale Library, if possible; the Washburn Library is a possibility if Southdale is not available. Chuck has a Macbook Pro that can be used for a Parallels presentation; a version of Print Explosion is also available for a presentation. Les agreed to write an article for the BBS and the newsletter recruiting candidates for the Board of Directors.

Auction – Not enough items were donated so the auction was cancelled by unanimous vote of the Board. John Pruski will cancel the Saturday, December 9, meeting at the Washburn Library.

Leader for Main Mac meeting – See the SIG director report.

Food for annual meeting – Don Walz asked about providing food for the 2007 Annual Meeting. Given our financial situation, it was decided not to provide a meal. Since veggies went over good last year, it was decided to hold down cost by providing drink, veggies, and a light dessert.

Next meeting: Scheduled for February 5, 2006, at the Merriam Park Library at 7:00 pm. All club members are welcome to attend.

OFFICER ELECTIONS

Submitted by Les Anderson

It's time again for mini'app'les to hold elections. All officer positions will come up for election in April. Nominations will be held at the Annual meeting to be held in February. The Officer positions are:

General Duties. The duties of the elected officers are in general to:
Promote the purpose and membership of mini'app'les.
Administer the bylaws of the mini'app'les.
Assure the financial well-being of the mini'app'les.
Attend and report at each board meeting.
Carry out decisions of the board in a timely manner.
Appoint staff and committees as necessary, subject to board approval.
Communicate to the board the needs of appointed staff and membership in general.

Duties of the President.
The President will:
Provide leadership and direction to the general membership and to the board of directors.
Prepare an agenda for each board meeting.
Chair mini'app'les board and general membership meetings at which business is conducted.
Assign duties to board and staff members.
Establish goals to be reached during the term in office.

Duties of the Vice President.
The Vice President will:
Assist the President with the duties of that office and in the absence of the president, assume the duties of that office.
Organize the program, facilities and equipment for general membership meetings including meetings for nominations or voting by membership.
Coordinate participation in events, such as trade shows and seminars.

Duties of the Treasurer.
The Treasurer will:
Maintain the mini'app'les financial records and records of mini'app'les assets.
Prepare a written financial report to include income, disbursements, current account balances and assets, at each board meeting. This report will be included in the minutes.
Prepare an annual budget.
Be cognizant of and act upon requirements of the IRS and Minnesota State Department of Revenue in a timely and efficient manner.
Administer the collection of all monies due the mini'app'les.
Establish and maintain bank accounts in the name of the mini'app'les.
Deposit all monies in the mini'app'les bank account(s) in a timely and efficient manner.
Pay all bills and demands as authorized by the board.

Duties of the Secretary
The Secretary will:
Record in a permanent form the minutes of all board and general membership meetings at which business is conducted.
Record the results of elections.
Archive and maintain all mini'app'les records other than those kept by the Treasurer.
Keep a mini'app'les calendar.
Assist the President and Vice President in correspondence as required.

Duties of the Publications Director.
The Publications Director will:
Oversee publication of the newsletter.
Appoint with consent of the board:
Newsletter Editor and assistants
Advertising Coordinator.

Marketing Director.
The Marketing Director will:
Oversee the maintenance and processing of membership records and materials.
Promote membership.

Duties of the Interest Group Director.
The Interest Group Director will:
Oversee all matters related to the development and maintenance of Special Interest and Community Interest groups.
Encourage and assist in the formation of new interest groups.
Act as spokesperson to the board for group representatives.

SIG CHANGES AHEAD?

Submitted by Les Anderson

At the December Board meeting we discussed possible changes to the current SIG meeting schedule. Attendance has been low at some SIG's and we would like to have more people attend. Under consideration was to hold one meeting on a Saturday morning with a 30 to 40 minute general session on a specific topic and then have breakout sessions for the specific SIG's.

We, of course, want input from the members. After all, it's your club. Some possible problems are a meeting location with enough rooms for the SIG's. Another is that members would need to choose one SIG over another. We know that many members attend multiple SIG's.

Your input is needed. Please post comments on the club BBS, or come to the annual meeting where it will be discussed.Fwd: Allume 40% Software Discount
To: For Newsletter Staff

Allume Usergroup Discount

Submitted by Chuck Hauge
Marketing Director

Hello all you memembers! Since we have recently become members of the Allume user groups, you can now get a 40% discount from Allume Software, writers of Stuffit and other software titles. Go to the Allume store, order what you want, and type in the following code in the discount code field.

UserGroup

Here's the store:

http://allume.com/store/index.html

FROM THE BBS BEGINNERS CORNER

Submitted by Jim Nye

QUESTION

In pre OSX Mac's systems I was able determine what memory was used and what was available. Now, using OSX, I often get the spinning beach ball and wondered if I was using virtual memory. When I tried to determine what memory I have, I only got info on the memory chips. Is there a way to find out if I have free memory?

Answer

Under OSX there is an application called "Activity Monitor" that tells you most of what is going on with your Mac. It is in the Utilities folder. Make sure the "Activity Monitor" window is open, then select the "System Memory" tab. That will tell you what the basic memory usage is.

That said, it should be noted that OSX uses a number of cache files, regardless of the actual memory used. And, on an older (slower?) computer that translates into slower response. And, over time, the cache files can become larger (and possibly corrupted).

One thing that might help is running some kind of cache cleaner. The easiest one to use I have found is Applejack. You install it, reboot and hold the Option & 'S' keys (to start in single user mode). Then just type 'Applejack' at the prompt and follow the simple instructions. It cleans out all the cache files and does most of the regular Apple-specified maintenance.

QUESTION

Awhile back I formated a 128 meg flash drive half MacOS, half MS_DOS. Now I have a 1 gig flash drive and want to do the same thing but Disk Utility won't let me do it. I can format the whole thing MS-DOS, but when I want to partition it I only get Mac or UNIX format option. Any suggestions?

ANSWER

No real reason to partition it. If you do, the Mac side won't be visible to a PC (say you want to share a file). Just format the whole thing as MS-DOS (or leave it as it comes), since the Mac can read the DOS side. That's what I have done (or NOT done) with mine and it works just fine on both PC and Mac.

QUESTION

I have the DVD/CD internal player which came with my G4.
It plays regular DVDs and CDs just fine, but not MPEG DVDs.
Not even too sure what MPEG is, but I do have three MPEG
extensions in my extensions folder.
Question is, do I need
something else?

ANSWER

What you're saying is that you have a data DVD with an MPEG file on it?

If so, there are two different types of MPEG files that are usually named that way.

MPEG1 which is standard low-resolution, usually 320x240 and designed to work with a CD in VideoCD format.

MPEG2 is the standard on which DVDs are made. It can support higher resolutions (it's the format they broadcast Hi-Def video in at up to 1920x1080). To play this on the Mac under Quicktime you need either the MPEG2 extension ($19.99 from Apple, not included for free because of licensing issues on a commercial product) or VLC, which can play dang near anything and is free.
Unfortunately for you, both of those option are OS X only. I can't think of a single option for playing MPEG2 files under OS 9. The use of MPEG2 as data files on computers didn't really start hitting it big until OS X was the primary Mac OS so I don't recall anyone bothering to write anything for OS 9.

You might have to look into upgrading to OS X.

Annual meeting planned for February 17, 2007

Submitted by John Pruski

Our annual membership meeting will be held at the Washburn Library, in South Minneapolis Saturday, February, 17th and will be available from 12:30PM till 5:00PM.
We will be accepting nominations for officers for the next year. All officer positions are up for election.
They are; President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Marketing Director, Publication Director, and SIG Director. Some officers may seek reelection, but other candidates are welcome. This is your opportunity to have your voice heard, and help support your user group. See the board members listed on page 2.
In addition to nominations to the Board of Directors, we plan on having some guest speakers, and some cookies and drinks. If you know someone who could do a presentation please contact me (952-938-2818).

We hope to see you there.

Window Management Tips

By Rob Griffiths (macosxhints@macworld.com)
Submitted by Les Anderson

Mac OS X Hint of the Week

Here are a pair of windows management tips that while simple are both quite useful. I use them pretty regularly myself and was somewhat surprised to find that I haven't written about them before.

For those of us who migrated to OS X from previous versions of the Mac OS, one of the big adjustments we had to make was the change in how application windows are handled. In the pre-OS X days, application windows existed as a sort of virtual group -- if you brought an application to the front by clicking one of its windows, then all of its windows would come forward. In OS X, that's no longer true; click one visible window belonging to an application, and only that window comes forward. For pre-OS X veterans, this is tough behavior to adjust to. It still sometimes catches me by surprise, mostly when switching into Quicken -- each register in Quicken is a separate window, and having just one come forward when clicked seems very odd.

This behavior, though different than what we're used to, has its benefits. If you're looking at something on a Web page that you want discuss in a document you're writing, you can easily have one window from each application visible -- without having to move or resize the applications' other windows to make it happen.

If you prefer the old behavior, however, there are a number of solutions available, including two built right into OS X. If you switch applications with either Command-Tab or by clicking on the program's icon in the dock, then you'll see the OS 9 behavior: all of the chosen program's windows will come to the foreground. But what if you prefer clicking on windows instead of the dock or using Command-Tab? Then you'll want to look to a third-party solution. There are a number of programs that bring back the "all windows at once" behavior. Three that I know of for sure are ASM, LiteSwitch X, and DragThing, but I imagine there are others as well.

Now that you've got all the windows in the foreground, my second tip might come in handy: manipulating background windows. As the size of monitors has increased, so has the number of windows we have open at once. That means there will probably be more times when you're looking at one window and wishing, "Geez, if I could just see that window hiding right there in the background!" In the old days (pre-OS X), that would mean doing the app switching dance -- toggle over to the background app, move the window about a little bit, then toggle back to the foreground window. Urgh. That's not fun, especially if there are a couple other background windows from other apps that you also need to move.

With OS X, though, we can just manipulate the background windows directly from the foreground application. What's the secret? The Command key -- hold it down before performing most any operation on a background window, and that window won't spring to the foreground. And just what can you do to a background window? Most anything you like -- close it, zoom it, move it, scroll it, resize it, even click buttons in it. About the only things that won't work are actions in toolbars, as toolbar icons are moved via Command-drag -- and no, you can't move toolbar items in background apps in this manner. When you're done manipulating, just release the mouse button, and you'll find you're still in your original frontmost application.

In early versions of OS X, support for this feature was somewhat dependent on how the foreground program was developed (Carbon, Cocoa, Java). Now, however, it just seems to work, regardless of which apps are in the foreground and background. The only exception to this rule (you knew there'd be one, right?) is Classic -- if you try to manipulate a background Classic window, it will come to the foreground as soon as you press the mouse button down (on "mouse down"). But hopefully this isn't an issue for too many users at this point in the evolution of OS X.

For even more OS X Hints, check out my column from the January 2007 issue.

http://www.macworld.com/2006/1http://www.macworld.com/2006/12/secrets/janmacosxhints/index.php?lsrc=mwweek2/secrets/janmacosxhints/index.php?lsrc=mwweek

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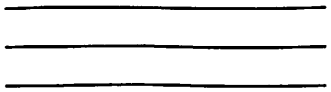

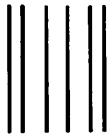

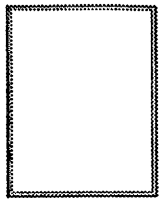

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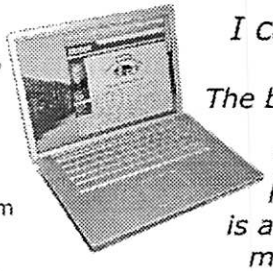

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A free account on the mini'app'les BBS (60 minutes/day)
Communicate with other mini'app'les members plus get up to date information on mini'app'les events and meetings. Get assistance from other members.

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.

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