



Rmug News

May 2004

This Month

RMUG Meeting, Saturday Morning
May 8, 2004 9-11:30AM

All Mac users, new & old are invited to attend the next RMUG general meeting in the classrooms at:

Little Country Church
873 Canby & Churn Creek Rd.
Redding, California

(RMUG IS NOT CHURCH AFFILIATED)

Coffee and donuts are served during our "Get Acquainted" time, 9am to 10am. There are classes for "Beginners" and "Intermediate" from 9:15am to 10:00am.

Topics this month will include a Print Shop demo by Donald, as well as general Q&A and the usual goodies.

Contents

RMUG Information	2
Secretary's Notes	3
Librarian's Corner	4
Trackball Review	4
Homeworks Review	5
Tittilating TV	6
Wanted	7
Spyware	7
Internet Hoaxes	8
Editorial	9
Our Host	10

Rmug Officers

- Dale Josephson - President*
- Jim Pace - Vice President*
- Don Lapray - Treasurer*
- Mary Gillland - Secretary*
- Charlotte Ruskowitz - Librarian*
- Ken Lorenz - Editor*
- Barbara Benefield,*
- Louise Zegers, Pat Hiner*
- Hospitality*

President's Letter

First the status reports on my two almost new G4 servers, G4 PowerBook and dual G5. All four are working perfectly with only one mild disappointment so far. The 1.25Ghz PowerBook has less than two hours of battery life on each charge and when I went to the www.apple.com/support website and logged in I found that 90% of all complaints on the 1.25Ghz 15.2" PowerBook are battery related. I checked around in the 17" & 12" portions of the Apple PowerBook website and did not see nearly as many battery problems as I saw in the 15.2" area. On a more positive note the first of the new G4 towers has been transformed into the jett.net web and mail server. It has run for the past month with excellent performance and no problems other than my web page needs serious work. The second new G4 tower has been running 24/7 just waiting for me to finish configuring the server software and import the 90 domains from the old maidu.com server. The G5 is beyond comparison. It is the most jaw-dropping computer I have ever had the privilege of playing with. Everything I have done on the G5 happens in about 1/2 the time I expect it to take. I am so jazzed about the G5 I have already installed a second 160GB Serial ATA hard drive to allow me to have a second Operating System. I have installed Panther, 10.3.3 on the first hard drive and OS-X Server 10.3.3 on the second hard drive. Now I am running tests on my other server products such as WebSTAR, Eudora Internet Mail Server and Quick Time Streaming Server using two radically different versions of Panther.

Now changing subjects. Apple has announced some new models and new lower prices. Starting off the biggest bang for the buck is the new 1.25Ghz G4 eMac with 5 USB ports (three USB 2.0 ports and two USB 1.1 ports on the keyboard) and two fire wire ports. For \$999 you get a 1.25Ghz G4 with 512KB of backside cache, 5 USB ports, two fire wire ports, 17" monitor, Ethernet, Super drive (CD RW and DVD RW) built in 56K modem, Appleworks, Garage Band, iTunes, iPhoto, iMovie, iDVD and a lot of fun. Anyone with a gumdrop iMac or even older equipment who has been thinking about upgrading now is the

RMUG Information

Why RMUG? The Redding Macintosh Users' Group was formed to help members and new users obtain maximum enjoyment and performance from their computers. This is accomplished through group activities and our direct affiliation with Apple™.

Resources: RMUG resources include monthly mailings from Apple™ and numerous outside vendors. We have a library of public domain programs, games and shareware software. We have videos and other computer-related guidebooks and information.

Meetings: RMUG meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month from 9:00 to 11:30 AM at Little Country Church, 873 Canby Rd. Room B-6. (we are not church affiliated) The meetings give members and visitors an opportunity to share information, opinions, personal experiences and techniques regarding Macintosh computer systems—hardware & software.

Membership Information: We invite you, as a guest, to attend our next monthly meeting. If you decide to join RMUG, your membership fee includes your whole family. We need your help as much as you need ours! Please participate!

Welcome To Our Meetings: Call the President, Dale Josephson at 244-7262 or contact other RMUG officers for help. Go to <http://rmug.org/membership.html> for numbers.

Membership Dues: \$24 / year. Includes newsletters, access to shareware, monthly workshops, troubleshooting help. Payment of dues can be made at the monthly meetings or send them to: Don Lapray, 1745 Crosby Lane, Redding CA 96003. Please make check payable to: Redding Macintosh Users' Group.

**PRESIDENT'S LETTER
CONTINUED**

time to jump on the bandwagon. There is even a \$799 eMac that has a smaller hard drive and a combo drive (CD RW and DVD play) instead of the super drive. The eMacs are a great deal all in all; just remember they don't have the brute horsepower of a PowerMac G4 tower.

Continuing with the upgrade theme Apple speed & accessory bumped the three PowerBooks (12", 15.2", & 17"). All are available with 1.5Ghz G4 processors and they all come with a built in Airport Extreme card. The 17" is fast becoming the de-facto standard for those that want desktop performance in a laptop.

12.1-inch TFT Display 1024x768 resolution 1.33GHz
PowerPC G4 512K L2 cache 256MB DDR333 SDRAM
60GB Ultra ATA/100 NVIDIA GeForce FX Go5200
(64MB DDR) Full size keyboard 10/100BASE-T Ethernet
FireWire 400 AirPort Extreme built-in \$1,799.00

15.2-inch TFT Display 1280x854 resolution 1.5GHz
PowerPC G4 512K L2 cache 512MB DDR333 SDRAM
80GB Ultra ATA/100 ATI Mobility Radeon 9700 (64MB
DDR) Backlit keyboard Gigabit Ethernet FireWire 400 &
800 AirPort Extreme built-in DVI & S-Video out
\$2,499.00.

17-inch TFT Display 1440x900 resolution 1.5GHz
PowerPC G4 512K L2 cache 512MB DDR333 SDRAM
80GB Ultra ATA/100 ATI Mobility Radeon 9700 (64MB
DDR) Backlit Keyboard Gigabit Ethernet FireWire 400 &
800 AirPort Extreme built-in DVI & S-Video out
\$2,799.00

It has been noted that ex Mac OS 9 users are a lot like ex smokers. They both think there new way of life is superior to everything before and you know both suppositions are probably correct. I will admit I was one of the last to jump on OS-X with both feet as I loved my OS -9, but now that I have been using OS-X 99.99% of the time and only going to Classic OS-9 for a rare task or two I too love end enthusiastically endorse OS-X and it really was almost painless once I committed to the change.

dalej

SECRETARY'S NOTES:

Hi to all from China. Right now I am in an internet cafe in Guilin on the Li River. No, they do not have MAC computers but they do have Big Mac's, had one yesterday. The cafes are smoke filled and the chinese love to watch me type. There were some problems once I hit a wrong key and I started to type in Chinese. We have been able to get to internet cafes in three cities. They are all smoke filled and most of the kids here are playing games. You pay by the hour - the cost is 3 Wuan per hour, that is 38 cents in US money. Right now I have about 3 to 5 boys watching me type this - they think it is something else. Most of the cafes are kind of dirty. The kids are trying to read what I am writing and they were able to pick out the name of their town. I am sure that most people do not have computers - most do have TV's. The whole trip has been wonderful. We have seen some of the most beautiful sights that you can believe. I will try and bring pictures to the next meeting. Again HI from China.

Mary



Photo of the cafe from whence Mary submitted the above byline.

Editor

LIBRARIANS CORNER:

Hey... any Photoshop enthusiasts out there? I found a dandy website with really cool movies and PDFs on how to do many different things with Photoshop. If I can borrow a line from Amazon's description for Russell Brown's book.... "Welcome to the wacky, wonderful world of Adobe creative director Russell Brown!" You might think it's a comedic episode when you first hear him speak, but if you listen and pay attention, you'll be fascinated with the magic he performs. The best part is you can do it too! Most of the tips are delivered by way of a QuickTime movie. Many also have a PDF file you can download & follow along step by step with Russell.

Go to <http://www.russellbrown.com/body.html> Click on "More Tips" which is highlighted in yellow. On this page are 38 different "Tips and Techniques". You can also click on "What's New" at the top for 3 more.

Another fun tip from Russell.... say you've taken 2 shots of a landscape that is too wide to capture in just one picture so you shot multiple photos. The lighting and color can change from one shot to the next. You can download a Quicktime movie showing just how to fix this. There is also a PDF file with accompanying JPEG file where you can work on his photo as you follow his directions. Copy & paste this link into your browser... <http://www.peachpit.com/bookstore/product.asp?isbn=032120042X&redir=1#> Click on "video" on left in the box titled "More Information". Scroll down to the four links and download the two .sit files. Now, get to work... and have FUN!

Charlotte

TRACKBALL REVIEW:

The new Expert Mouse employs Kensington's Diamond Eye™ optical technology for smooth, precise cursor movement. Surrounding the ball, there is a brand new implementation of the award winning Scroll Ring™ that puts scrolling right at your fingertips. The Expert Mouse has 4 programmable buttons that make "clicking and dragging" a breeze! I have my buttons set to 1. Click, 2. Double Click, 3. Click and hold (so I can drag files), 4. Control + Click. The "control + click" combo is nice because I do not have to look away to find the button on the keyboard. There is also the "chord" which is pressing the two top or two bottom buttons at the same time to perform keystrokes. I use mine for the FIND command.

I especially like the large size ball. I owned an old Turbo Mouse Trackball with two buttons and no scroll ring, I did not want to give it up. It took getting a new computer and a new keyboard to render my old Turbo Mouse obsolete.

I tried a couple of the smaller ball trackballs when at friends places and never liked the way my thumb felt after just a few minutes. With the larger ball of the Expert Mouse I can use any digit or even the palm of my hand to move my cursor. The symmetrical design also allows right of left handed use. I really enjoy the precise control you can have through the Mouseworks software. The movement of the cursor can be adjusted via a curve index. This allows you to determine how the cursor moves in a given situation. I use the curve adjustment to have the cursor move very slowly when I move the ball slow. For example, when I am going around some object in a picture for removal or replacement. Then the cursor moves fastest when I spin the ball to go from one side of my screen to the other!

The Expert Mouse does work in OS 9.x but the software is older and does not support the scroll ring very well. The software for OS 8.x and 9.x is Version 5.7 and must be downloaded. The software for OS X is 2.4 and is the only software on the included CD. I use a Fellowes wrist rest

continued on page 5

TRACKBALL REVIEW

CONTINUED

with my trackball, but the Expert Mouse even comes with a soft new wrist rest-right in the box! It appears comfy and worked fine, I just like my Fellowes better.

The Expert Mouse can be bought for as little as \$89.99 and up to \$108.99. Shop around for your best deal. I bought mine from SmallDog Electronics and I am very happy. The Expert Mouse has a 5 year warranty and free technical support from Kensington. I recommend this trackball to anyone who wishes to avoid "mouse" related stress injury's and to those who wish precise control of their cursor.

Michael



Kensington Expert Mouse 7.0 Optical Trackball - USB

HOMWORKS FINANCIAL SOFTWARE REVIEW

I have tried to locate a web page for the company Knox Technical, to no avail. I tried Google, yellow pages and Version Tracker. The only identification information on the package was the company address. I wanted to determine the package cost and contact information. I checked for help information and was informed there was none available. This product appears to be a low-cost, financial package for personal financial record keeping. It works on either OS-9 or OS-X.

Data input is fairly simple but category input requires a number. It is easy, but exasperating, to extract this number by clicking a button and chasing through the directory. It remembers past inputs like names on a check and will finish an input by typing a few letters. I like to be able to type a few letters and pull up the account with a key stroke.

The financial reports are limited to a ledger. I could not find a balance, balance sheet, or an income and expense report capability. Both are extremely important documents. There does not appear to be any way to look exclusively at specific categories to track input errors.

The program does not have an automatic save feature. After making some sample entries I tried to go to reports, without saving, and the program crashed. Everything was lost. With my financial program every entry is automatically saved to file plus I frequently back it up to another disk.

I use a program called MacMoney. Unfortunately, it is not available for OS-X. It is only available from Survivor Software at www.survivorsoftware.com for \$49.95. Infrequent updates cost \$10.00. It doesn't have all the bells and whistles that Quicken has but I find it easier to use and does everything I need for a lot less money. I have used it for approximately 20 years to keep track of all of my income and expenses, plus I use it for RMUG and Prairie Squares financial records.

Donald Lapray

TITILLATING TV AND CREEPING CENSORSHIP

An important and quite troubling shift may be developing regarding the way lawmakers regulate mass media in America. During recent congressional hearings on broadcast television and radio violations of Federal Communications Commission indecency standards, several lawmakers hinted that they believed federal censorship efforts should extend beyond just licensed TV and radio operators to unlicensed media sources, such as cable, satellite and Internet providers.

Without rehashing the whole Janet Jackson incident during this year's Super Bowl halftime show, it seems reasonable to question the wisdom of Congress getting involved in regulating "pay TV" programs. Subscription-based media providers have not faced such regulatory scrutiny in the past because they are not licensed by the FCC, and therefore receive strict First Amendment protection.

Some lawmakers seemingly feel that should change. For example, during recent hearings, Rep. Cliff Stearns (R-Fla.) suggested that Congress needs to create a "code of conduct" for television that encompasses cable and satellite TV. Rep. Heather Wilson (R-NM) and Republican FCC Commissioner Kevin Martin both suggested that cable and satellite companies should offer a "family-friendly" tier of programming. Presumably, they'd like some say about what is included in that package. Lawmakers like Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) offered an alternative regulatory approach that would force cable and satellite companies to instead offer every channel on an "a la carte" basis to apparently help consumers weed out channels that were not family friendly. In essence, this would make program "tiers" on cable and satellite systems illegal and likely drive up the cost of individual channels now in the "basic tier" on most networks.

In one sense, the argument for censorship parity is powerful. After all, viewers don't really make a distinction between over-the-air and pay TV sources anymore. More than 85 percent of households currently subscribe to either cable or satellite television services, and traditional broadcast networks are now just a few of the options we can flip through in our 500-channel universe. So why should older broadcast television networks be the only ones taking the regulatory heat?

On the other hand, the downside of regulatory parity is obvious: Congress and the FCC would start censoring pay TV providers and programs. Consider what that might mean for cable networks like HBO or Showtime, which produce popular, but admittedly controversial programs such as *The Sopranos*, *Sex in the City*, *Queer as Folk*, and *The L Word*. Should Congress or the FCC really have the right to regulate such programs, or even when they are shown?

Moreover, what happened to common sense and personal responsibility in this country? After all, these cable and satellite boxes and personal computers and Internet connections didn't just magically appear in our homes; we put them there! Once we voluntarily bring these devices into our home we shouldn't ask government to assume the bulk of the responsibility for then minding our children. Those of us who are parents understand that raising a child in today's modern media marketplace is a daunting task at times. But that should not serve as an excuse for inviting Uncle Sam in to play the role of surrogate parent for us and the rest of the public without children.

Luckily, Congress doesn't have that right to censor pay TV today thanks to the existence of the First Amendment and America's strong tradition of freedom of speech and expression. Lawmakers have never been able to censor supposedly "indecent" material in newspapers, magazines, books, cable, satellite or the Internet the same way they have broadcast television. Courts will simply have none of it.

continued on page 8

WANTED:

Mac Keyboard Needed For School!!

Help!! Kim Farrar says

I wanted you to put an announcement in the newsletter that I am wondering if someone has a keyboard they could donate to my class. Perhaps someone who has purchased a newer model. The keyboard on my "yard sale" pink iMac is not functioning. It lasted longer than I thought it would.

If anyone has what Kim needs to keep her classes up and running on their various Macs please contact her at:

kfarrar@jett.net

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SPYWARE:

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Internet users have learned to keep an eye out for viruses, worms and "spam" e-mail. Add another online hazard to the list: spyware.

Programs that hide in users' computers and secretly monitor their activities are emerging as the next high-tech plague, experts say.

Spyware can sap computing power, crash machines and bury users under a blizzard of unwanted ads. It can capture passwords, credit-card numbers and other sensitive data.

Spyware has even begun to burrow into popular culture.

"I was watching a soap opera the other day, and two characters were saying, 'Did you install that spyware in that person's machine?'" said Mozelle Thompson, a commissioner with the Federal Trade Commission.

Monday, Thompson and other FTC officials will bring together policymakers, industry experts and consumer advocates to discuss the problem.

Educating consumers may be tricky because spyware is less visible than other online threats, experts say.

"Spam wants to be seen. Spyware doesn't want to be seen," said Dave Baker, vice president of law and public policy at Internet provider EarthLink Inc.

The first step is defining the problem. Some programs that have been labeled as spyware can be harmless, even helpful.

Many popular programs such as Kazaa and Morpheus that allow users to copy music and movies from each other's hard drives come bundled with applications that serve up pop-up ads or other marketing tools as a way to subsidize costs.

"Adware" programs like WhenU do not collect personal information from consumers, several peer-to-peer executives said, and users can easily remove them if they wish.

"The adware guys realize they're being lumped in as spyware, and I think they're cleaning up their act a lot," said Wayne Rosso, chief executive of Optisoft SL, which makes the Blubster file-sharing application.

continued on page 8

Spyware Continued:

CREATE A PROBLEM, OFFER A FIX
Other programs are clearly more malevolent. Some spyware has been known to disable a victim's computer and then advertise software to fix the problem. Keystroke loggers, often distributed by e-mail viruses, allow identity thieves to capture bank-account numbers and other sensitive information. An EarthLink scan of 1.1 million computers released last week turned up more than 300,000 malevolent programs. The Center for Democracy and Technology Friday proposed one way to separate the illegal from the merely annoying. Software that "hijacks" Web traffic, tracks Internet users without their knowledge, or does not provide an easy way to be removed should be considered spyware, the nonprofit consumer group said in a draft letter also signed by high-tech firms and industry groups. Legislatures have begun to turn their attention to the problem. Utah has already passed one law banning spyware. WhenU, which would be prevented from serving its pop-up ads to Utah residents, has sued to block the law. Other tech companies say the Utah law is too broad and could inadvertently outlaw legitimate activities such as content filtering and technical support. Two bills are pending in Congress to ban spyware, but observers say action is unlikely in this election year. Lawmakers should consider broad online privacy protections against spyware and other online threats, said Ari Schwartz, an associate director at the Center for Democracy and Technology. "If you keep trying to aim at the technology rather than the privacy issue, you're going to keep coming up with new issues to deal with every two years," Schwartz said.

Yahoo! News Sun, Apr 18, 2004

Reuters Internet Report
My Yahoo!
By Andy Sullivan

Censorship Continued:

But the danger of back-door censorship still lurks with the growing convergence of media providers and technologies. In the future, traditional broadcasters might deliver their shows directly to consumers via cable, satellite, or even Internet video streaming. If they do so, even more regulatory pressure will be brought to bear on these private operators. On the other hand, given the traditional court-based protections for these other media providers, media convergence could result in less censorship for everyone, including traditional broadcast stations.

So stay tuned, this fight is just getting started. One way or another, Ms. Jackson's "wardrobe malfunction" might just end up ushering in a veritable revolution in federal censorship policy.

by Adam Thierer

Adam Thierer is director of telecommunications studies at the Cato Institute.

INTERNET HOAXES:

I recomend the following link--

<http://www.fraudbureau.com/articles/misc/article1.html>

Bill Benton



"Spreckles"

What am I doing with this picture dalej? Editor

Policies

This newsletter is published monthly for the Redding Macintosh Users' Group and is distributed to all club members.

No other individual, group or business may use any portion of this newsletter without prior written permission.

RMUG News welcomes articles and questions relating to Macintosh or Macintosh compatible computers. Articles may be hand written, typed, or submitted on a 3.5" floppy disk (using any popular word processing program).

Submissions must be accompanied by the author's full name, address and telephone number. The submissions become the property of RMUG unless otherwise specified.

If you have a change of address or other questions, please notify the newsletter editor or other RMUG officer as soon as possible.

Deadline for submissions is the last Saturday of each month. E-mail or deliver all material to:

Ken Lorenz

E- mail submissions to:
krlore@cwnet.com

OR

rmug@rmug.org

(stuff files if possible)

Ad Rates

RMUG members are invited to place "Wanted For Sale" & "Trade" ads in the newsletter at no charge. Business cards or commercial accounts are welcome at the rates listed above. One of the best reasons for belonging to a user's group is to let other people know about your activities, as well as learning what other people are doing with their computers and software. Please give your business cards or ads to the newsletter editor.

<p>AD Rates</p> <p>\$4 – business card</p> <p>\$6 – quarter page</p> <p>\$9 – half page</p> <p>\$15 – full page</p>
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Advertisements in the RMUG newsletter will not influence reviews or critiques of hardware, software companies or stories.

RMUG does not endorse any specific dealer or product, but we do encourage the distribution of information which may assist club members in identifying best buys and services.

Editorial

Be sure to copy and paste the web addresses referred to in the articles - very easy to do. Just open your browser, copy the address and paste it into the address line of the browser. Still have not figured a way to make the addresses or links "Hot" or clickable.

There is some great information in this months edition. Picture manipulation, hardware and software reviews. Scams, spyware - you name it and we have it pretty well covered. Even a photo of the chicken that was roaming the Oregon grocery store parking lot?

I have tried to be a good lad and not harp too much on the fair use, free speech, censorship and other issues that our federal administration would like to "adjust" for us.

Remain alert people, if we do not exercise and demand our rights they will be taken from us. If we do not use them we will lose them.

Ken



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