



Rmug News

June 2005

This Month

RMUG Meeting, Saturday morning
June 11, 2005 9-11:30 AM

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

Yaks Koffee Shop
3274 Bechelli Lane
Redding, CA

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

Topics this month will include a
demonstration of Tiger and widget's
applications. Related personal creativity
projects and issues as well as the usual
Q&A.

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Rmug Officers

Marcus Harner - President
Jim Pace - Vice President
Charlotte Ruskowitz - Treasurer
Jacquie Martin - Secretary
Dale Josephson - Librarian
Ken Lorenz - Editor
Barbara Benefield,
Louise Zegers,
- Hospitality

President's Letter

Due to extenuating circumstances there is no presidents letter
this month.

Editor

Widget security worries dog Apple

Though Apple Computer updated its latest OS this week to solve a
security problem with widgets, worries persist that the small
applications still pose a potentially serious risk.

Widgets, or small programs that automatically install after
downloading, were introduced in Tiger for the Dashboard, which
overlays the desktop. An attacker could write a malicious widget
for Mac OS X 1.4 Tiger that would run invisibly in the background
and hijack a user's "sudo," or administrative, privileges on a
system, according to an alert distributed on the Full Disclosure
mailing lists late Wednesday. With administrative privileges, the
attacker would have full control over the targeted Mac.

On Monday, Apple published the Mac OS X 10.4.1 update to fix an
earlier security issue related to the widgets. Before the patch,
widgets would download and install without warning. Patched
machines display a box that asks the PC user to confirm a
download but don't tell the user that the confirmation also triggers
installation of the widget.

While the patch mitigates the risk, security issues remain with
widgets, according to Jonathan Zdziarski, a software engineer and
author of Wednesday's Full Disclosure posting.

"Those widgets should never be allowed to get administrative
access on the system," Zdziarski said in an interview. "Apple has
taken sort of the Microsoft stance with widgets, in that it is one of
the few tools that is completely built into the operating system."

Zdziarski is also unhappy with how the Mac maker addressed the
previous widget problem. It should be clear to users that a widget
is not only being downloaded, but also installed, he said.

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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 – contact any club officer for meeting location. 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, Marcus Harner at 245-0895 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: *Charlotte Ruskowitz, 6538 Mossom Ln., Anderson CA 96007* . Please make check payable to: Redding Macintosh Users' Group.

SECRETARY'S NOTES:

MINUTES - RMUG MEETING, MAY 14, 2005

Attendance: 30

One guest was introduced: Charlene Beckworth. Welcome

Marcus Harner demonstrated the new iPhoto, which is part of the new iLife '05. It has advanced editing features.

. You can import pictures from a digital camera, a hard drive or CD. You can play movies from pictures taken with a digital camera.

. You can create albums organizing pictures the way you want them.

. Editing features allow you to retouch flaws, improve brightness and contrast, remove red-eye, sharpen and crop out unwanted portions.

. Keywords. You can put in keywords for JPEG TIFF or RAW. Can add keywords by album or by library. Can click on pictures to search, and "show info" will tell you all places that picture exists, etc.

. Slideshow. After adding special effects if wanted, you can add music from iTunes and export the pictures to DVD to share as slideshow.

. Books. You can make books, arranging photos on pages. Using Page Design, you can type text (captions, dates) on each page. You can send books to Apple where Apple can print actual, physical books of your pictures.

. Calendar. With this feature you can view photos from a specific date or view everything added since a particular date or year past.

And much more. Thank you, Marcus.

Michael Peters demonstrated the Layers editing feature in Photoshop Elements 2.

NOTE: To see what you are doing, first drag the Layers palette out of the Palette Well (upper right) so that it shows on your desktop.

. You can put different parts of the picture you are editing, each on a different layer. First the Background layer, and then you build up different, consecutive layers for each part of your picture you edit. This allows you to edit

one part of your picture without editing the entire picture and without the edits being permanent.

. Edit using tools from your Toolbox on the left hand side.

. You can go back and work on any layer again by selecting that layer in the Layers Palette.

. When finished, if you want to make all your editing permanent, you flatten all layers together.

This is not necessary unless you are sure you never want to go back, and make additional changes, but it will save space on your computer – the picture will store as one flattened image rather than storing all layers. Thank you, Michael.

We look forward to seeing you all at the June meeting when Kevin Anderson of Jet Technologies will do a presentation on the use of Widgets in MAC OS X Tiger, Version 10.4, Apple's new operating system.

Jacquie Martin, Secretary

HINTS AND TIPS:

I found some good tips in this month's edition of Hints & Tips at www.mac-hintstips.com. You can view it online or you'll see an option to "Save as PDF." Click it and then save the document to your desktop.

Mac Design -- One of the Best Magazines I Have Read

Mac Design is a magazine that can be very useful if you use Adobe's Photoshop, Illustrator, GoLive, or AfterEffects; Macromedia's Flash or Dreamweaver; or QuarkXPress, Painter, Director, and others. The really nice thing about this magazine is that it actually teaches you how to use these programs more effectively.

Each issue includes a set problem and the solutions for that problem in many of these programs. Step-by-step instructions always accompany the finely detailed screen shots and photos that enrich the articles. Mac Design is

continued on page 4

TIPS AND TRICKS CONTINUED:

online and you can see tutorials on all of the programs listed. Check it out for yourself at:

www.macdesignonline.com.

NotePad, Springfield IL

CD Security

Q: How can I securely burn important financial records onto CD?

A: The easiest method is to use Roxio's Toast Titanium 6 (\$99.95, <http://www.roxio.com>) to create 128-bit encrypted, password-protected, secure CDs. Don't forget that password!

MacAddict Magazine

Safari Status

Q: I live by Safari's status bar at the bottom of the window, but it disappeared! How do I get it back?

A: We're amazed that this option isn't just always on, but you can toggle it on and off by selecting View > Status Bar. Even quicker, use the keyboard shortcut Command/forward slash (/).

MacAddict Magazine

Mac Puzzles

Nicholas Pyers, an avid Macintosh user, generates a Macintosh focused puzzle or crossword each month for the enjoyment (or frustration) of Macintosh fans. ;)

Some months the puzzles are a typical Crossword, other months the puzzles are a Word Search where you either look for the hidden words listed, or the hidden words must be guessed from clues provided. The puzzles are released approximately mid-month and can be found on Nicholas' website at: <http://www.nicholaspyers.com/puzzles/>.

Nicholas Pyers

Submitted By: Charlotte

Old Dogs New Tricks:

PRESERVING INFORMATION

So many activities such as writing a letter to a friend are not pieces of information that need to be preserved. Your daily to do list is worthless at the end of the day. But some information needs to be preserved and some for a long, long time.

The computer is a marvelous storage device. It is common for people to have copies of letters in the computer that are several years old. Don't be a packrat. Get rid of the stuff you don't need. Your computer will say, Thank you well, not really thank you but it will run better with out unnecessary files and programs.

Some of the information that needs to be preserved might be letters to your lawyer, your family tree information, an as is plan for your electrical and plumbing, or a poem written by your great-great grandmother that has been in the family for a hundred years.

Your computer can print out information and make it look good. But printing is not always the best answer.

If you run a business the IRS wants you to preserve records five years. Printing a thousand pages of information at the end of the year and preserving them year after year is not the ideal way. The newer computers permit information to be preserved on a compact disk (called a CD or DVD).

Vast amounts of information can be stored on these little disks. Over 100 years of National Geographic can be stored on a stack of these CD's about 1-1/2 inches high. The life of a CD is expected to be over 100 years.

The only foreseeable problem is the evolving technology. If a new technology does come out that will store more information in a smaller space, it will take over the market. But every new computer will permit you to update your

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OLD DOGS NEW TRICKS

information to the newer technology. In this way your information can be upgraded and preserved.

Maybe the ancient Egyptians had something going for them. They wrote on stones that were preserved a thousand years. But I would just hate to carry around a hammer and chisel when all the information from all the Egyptian stones could be put on one little CD.

By Allen Hall

For Sale & Wanted:

ALPS 2010 Dry Ink Photo Printer
Extra cartridges, Paper, Instructions, etc. This Printer makes the BEST iron ons!
This is a SCSI printer, I no longer have a SCSI ported computer.
Cost : \$500.00+
Asking \$50.00 OBO

Michael 347-6599

INDIGO iMAC JUKEBOX

This is a 400 mhz iMac running OS X (10.3.4)
It has a new 120GB Hard Drive and 192MB RAM

A slot loading DVD/CD-ROM Drive.

This computer has minimal software installed to enhance the iTunes application and storage of Music. You can have it with or without the iFIRE adapter and APPLE powered speakers. I am asking \$300.00 Without \$340.00 With.

Reason for selling : Need to upgrade software.
Any questions Please call:

Michael 347-6599

All Keyboards:

All Keyboards Are Not Created Equal?

I recently tried to use a freeware Mac maintenance application called Applejack, which requires starting your Mac in "Single User Mode." This is accomplished by holding down the "Command" (aka Apple) and "s" keys during startup. But that key combination didn't work on my old G4/400; it continued to start up in its usual way, ignoring my orders to do otherwise.

I was using a Logitech keyboard, bought because I could not read the labels on the black keys of the Apple-issue item. On a hunch, I plugged in my old Apple keyboard and tried the Single User startup routine. Problem solved! I get a similar result with accessing "Startup Manager" by holding down the option key during startup--works with the Apple keyboard, but not with the Logitech one. So, it's not just a matter of one bad key on my non-Apple keyboard.

Conclusion: If you have a non-Apple keyboard, don't throw away the old Apple one, and give it a try if you're having problems with any of the many special tricks associated with various key combinations. Who knows?

By Linton Brown

Blue-Ray Fromat:

Apple Computer Backs Blu-Ray DVD Format

TOKYO - Apple Computer Inc. is supporting the Blu-ray format for next-generation DVDs, giving it a boost over a rival format known as HD-DVD in the competition over setting a new standard for recording high-definition video and other digital information.

Both technologies promise more storage capacity and enhanced video quality over current DVDs, including the ability to record high-definition video. Both can be used to store movies, games, photos and other digital information.

Apple, which makes Macintosh (news - web sites) computers and iPod portable music players, will become a member of the board of directors of the Blu-ray Disc Association, the consortium that

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Digital Revolution:

Digital Entertainment Revolution Underway

Devices like the iPod and music services like Napster are only the beginning of a radical change in the delivery and quality of audio/visual entertainment.

While these companies are well positioned to establish a long-lasting presence in the market, portable music and downloading only represent a sliver of the opportunities that Microsoft, Intel, Sony and other companies are salivating over.

The change that is upon consumers currently is linked to the way they use their PCs to get music and load it onto portable music players. The longer-term outlook suggests developments that will be much more lucrative: Changes at the chip level will alter fundamentally the form factors, as well as the functions, of everything from television sets to wristwatches.

Digital Everything

Certainly, the digital revolution is most apparent in the personal computer. Intel and computer makers would like the PC to remain the central device. It certainly is in Apple's iTunes business model.

But Microsoft is not committed to any device in particular and considers its software to be the key to future home entertainment technologies. The company undoubtedly has learned much from its marketing of WebTV.

Eventually, say industry experts, the portable music player will come way down in price and cease being a cash cow for its makers. Until then, iPod parties on. But underneath the roar of the hype, there is a discernible buzz hinting at a major shift toward digital everything in home electronics.

No Going Back

The iPod has been a big deal for a number of reasons. Apple showed why a simple

question -- such as, "Why can't they just put songs on the Internet and make a device to hear them on?" -- was actually very complex. Apple was able to answer it and is reaping the rewards.

But iPod, Napster and the like are only part of the story. Consider a broader question: "Why can't they take all the analog parts in my little clock radio (or any other common electronic device), replace them with digital chips, and connect it to the Internet or -- make it sound like hi-fi?" They can. They are.

There was no going back to 78 rpm once LPs hit the scene. Similarly, digital technologies are changing the face and sound of everyday devices. The replacement market is enormous, though how fast volume can increase to bring prices down is unknown.

Selling a Concept

"There's a huge momentum to start switching everything over to digital amplifiers," said Jeff Akgul, director of Texas Instruments digital home products. "As soon as volume catches up, you're going to see the price difference with analog amplifiers disappear," he told NewsFactor.

Texas Instruments recently released two digital amplifier chips intended for DVD and audio/video receivers. Unlike analog amps, digital ones do not produce nearly as much heat, which means small audio products can send high quality sound to speakers.

Amplification is just one area where a switch to digital technologies offers marked improvements. Akgul acknowledges the massive shift and opportunity in the conversion to digital. He also recognizes that it is not enough to sit in a back room and innovate.

Intel, Dolby and Apple, among others, have shown that selling a concept is as important as selling the thing itself.

Technology - NewsFactor

Jason Lopez, www.newsfactor.com

Bill's Joke for June:

Lena's car breaks down on Highway 16 just outside of Gorst one day. So, she eases it over onto the shoulder of the road.

She carefully steps out of the car and opens the trunk. Out of the trunk jumps Lars and Sven in trench coats. They stand at the rear of the vehicle where they are facing oncoming traffic and begin to open their coats, exposing their nude bodies to approaching drivers.

It's not very long before a police car shows up.

The cop, clearly enraged, runs toward Lena's vehicle yelling, "What the hell is going on here?"

"Ya, vell my car broke down," says Lena promptly.

"Well, what are these perverts doing by the road?" asks the cop.

"Vell officer" says Lena, "dose are my emergency flashers!"

Submitted By Bill



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Mad As Hell:

Mad as hell, switching to Mac

This is my first column written on a Mac - ever. Maybe I should have done it a long time ago, but I never said I was smart, just obstinate. I was a PC bigot.

But now, I've had it. I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore.

In the coming weeks I'm going to keep a diary of an experiment my company began at 6 p.m. April 29, 2005 - an experiment predicated on the hypothesis that the WinTel platform represents the greatest violation of the basic tenets of information security and has become a national economic security risk. I do not say this lightly, and I have never been a Microsoft basher, either. I never criticize a company without a fair bit of explanation, justification and supportive evidence.

I have come to the belief that there is a much easier, more secure way to use computers. After having spent several years focusing my security work on Ma, Pa and the Corporate Clueless, I also have come to the conclusion that if I'm having such security problems, heaven help the 98 percent of humanity who merely want a computer for e-mail and multimedia.

Even though I'm a security guy going on 22 years now, my day-to-day work is pretty much like everyone else's. I live on laptops and use my desktops at home and the office for geeking and experimenting. My two day-to-day laptops (two, for 24/7 backup) are my business machines. I don't need them to do a whole lot - except work reliably, which is why I am fed up with WinTel.

I want my computer to function every time I turn it on. I want my computer to not corrupt data when it does crash. I use a handful of applications: Microsoft Office, e-mail, browser, FTP client and some multimedia toys. Regardless of format, they should work without crashing.

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MAD AS HELL CONTINUED:

I live on the 'Net. I do not want my browser to eat up all of my memory. In the WinTel world I need an assortment of third-party tools to try to keep my PC alive. That's just crazy.

Why does WinTel have these problems? I have heard all sorts of explanations, and I don't subscribe to any of them. I've come up with my own (hopefully rational) reasons WinTel will fail - and has to fail:

Windows is complex, trying to be everything to everyone. This complexity comes at a terrible price: downtime, help desks, upgrades, patches and the inevitable failures.

When a new operating system or service pack is released, there are tons of changes to the functionality.

WinTel machines use different versions of BIOS. They are not all equal, nor do they all have the same level of compatibility.

Some Windows software applications are well written; others take shortcuts. Shortcuts may work in some environments, but not all, and ultimately the consumer pays in lost time, availability and productivity.

Hardware. There are hundreds of "WinTel-compatible" motherboards, each claiming to be better than the next. Whatever.

Memory. Not all RAM is equal. Some works well. Cheap stuff doesn't.

Hard disks. Same problem: cheap or reliable. Your call.

Here's my answer to the WinTel problem: We need an open Simple Operating System (SOS) that meets the needs of the majority of people who buy PCs for everyday home and enterprise tasks. Get rid of the complexity and simplify the interface between SOS, BIOS and hardware. In other words, KISS.

You know what it means. KISS SOS.

Because SOS doesn't exist yet, my company has given up on WinTel. We have successfully moved to Mac in less than two days. Think about it: a security-friendly alternative that works and doesn't require gobs of third-party utilities to safely perform the most mundane tasks. Please follow the details of our experiment at www.securityawareness.blogspot.com. It's already way more interesting than I thought it would be.

By Winn Schwartau,
Network World MacCentral

Schwartau is a security writer, lecturer and president of Interpact, a security awareness consulting firm. He can be reached at winn@thesecurityawarenesscompany.com.

BLUE-RAY FORMAT CONTINUED:

supports and promotes the Blu-ray format, it said in a statement.

Other members of the Blu-ray alliance include Japanese electronics makers Sony Corp and Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Dell Inc., Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. and The Walt Disney Co.

The rival HD-DVD format is backed by Japan's Toshiba Corp., NEC Corp. and others.

Backers of Blu-ray say it is superior because it has a higher storage capacity, while supporters of HD-DVD say it is more compatible with current DVD technology and is less costly to make.

The winner of the standards battle stands to gain from patent royalties.

Apple, based in Cupertino, Calif., recently introduced high-definition editing capability in its iMovie HD software.

Apple chief executive Steve Jobs (news - web sites) said consumers who are already creating their own high-definition content want to be able to record it on high-definition DVDs.

"Apple is pleased to join the Blu-ray Disc Association board as part of our efforts to drive consumer adoption of HD," Jobs said in a statement.

Yahoo! My Yahoo! Mail

Technology - AP

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

Summer is here and my busy time of the year has arrived, what with everything I would like to get done.

Unless something extraordinary comes up, the editorials will be up to you.

As you all know I have been railing on about the threat to our civil liberties and constitutional protections because of provisions in the Patriot Act. I have also expressed concern about the efforts of big business to control how we use our own property.

I would like to give other folks the opportunity to express themselves in this space. Sometimes it seems mine is a voice in the wilderness, am I alone? What do you think?

Have a nice Summer.

Ken

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WIDGET SECURITY CONTINUED:

"They terribly misworded that button. When I click 'download,' I expect to just download it. In fact, the widget is installed.

A malicious widget, after it is installed, can run in the background and wait until a time when the user logs in as administrator. It can then hijack those credentials to deliver its payload, Zdziarski said. The action could be anything from wiping a hard drive to sending the attacker the victim's list of usernames and passwords on Apple's Keychain tool, he said.

For a user to fall victim to a malicious widget, the application first needs to be installed on a Mac. That required user interaction disqualifies it as a security vulnerability, according to several responses to Zdziarski's posting on Full Disclosure.

Apple is encouraging developers to create new widgets and its Web site already lists 209 of them. Widgets are also available elsewhere on the Web.

For protection, users should download widgets only from trusted Web sites, Zdziarski suggests.

Apple declined to comment for this story.

By Joris Evers
Staff Writer, CNET News.com

Submitted by: dalej

