



Rmug News

June 2010

This Month

RMUG Meeting, Saturday morning
June 12, 2010 9-11:30 a.m.

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 various eats are
available during our "Get Acquainted"
time, 9am to 10am. There are
classes for "Beginners" and
"Intermediate"

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Rmug Officers

Dale Josephson- President
 Jim Pace - Vice President
 Charlotte Ruskowitz - Treasurer
 Jacquie Martin - Secretary
 Louise Zegers - Librarian
 Barbara Benefield -Editor
 Mary Gilliland & Joe Zegers -Hospitality
 Michael Peters-Ambassador

President's Letter

Many of you have heard or seen newscasts talking about the feud between Steve Jobs and Adobe. I have been following it quite closely over the last two months and Charlotte's son Edd sent me a link to a great article by Steve Jobs himself and I hope everyone finds it as enlightening as I did. It might be a long read but it is an easy to understand letter to us the Apple faithful:

Apple has a long relationship with Adobe. In fact, we met Adobe's founders when they were in their proverbial garage. Apple was their first big customer, adopting their Postscript language for our new Laserwriter printer. Apple invested in Adobe and owned around 20% of the company for many years. The two companies worked closely together to pioneer desktop publishing and there were many good times. Since that golden era, the companies have grown apart. Apple went through its near death experience, and Adobe was drawn to the corporate market with their Acrobat products. Today the two companies still work together to serve their joint creative customers – Mac users buy around half of Adobe's Creative Suite products – but beyond that there are few joint interests.

I wanted to jot down some of our thoughts on Adobe's Flash products so that customers and critics may better understand why we do not allow Flash on iPhones, iPods and iPads. Adobe has characterized our decision as being primarily business driven – they say we want to protect our App Store – but in reality it is based on technology issues. Adobe claims that we are a closed system, and that Flash is open, but in fact the opposite is true. Let me explain.

First, there's "Open".

Adobe's Flash products are 100% proprietary. They are only available from Adobe, and Adobe has sole authority as to their future enhancement, pricing, etc. While Adobe's Flash products are widely available, this does not mean they are open, since they are controlled entirely by Adobe and available only from Adobe. By almost any definition, Flash is a closed system.

Apple has many proprietary products too. Though the operating system for the iPhone, iPod and iPad is proprietary, we strongly

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, Dale Josephson at 241-8227 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.

Presiden't Letter Cont'd

believe that all standards pertaining to the web should be open. Rather than use Flash, Apple has adopted HTML5, CSS and JavaScript – all open standards. Apple's mobile devices all ship with high performance, low power implementations of these open standards. HTML5, the new web standard that has been adopted by Apple, Google and many others, lets web developers create advanced graphics, typography, animations and transitions without relying on third party browser plug-ins (like Flash). HTML5 is completely open and controlled by a standards committee, of which Apple is a member.

Apple even creates open standards for the web. For example, Apple began with a small open source project and created WebKit, a complete open-source HTML5 rendering engine that is the heart of the Safari web browser used in all our products. WebKit has been widely adopted. Google uses it for Android's browser, Palm uses it, Nokia uses it, and RIM (Blackberry) has announced they will use it too. Almost every smartphone web browser other than Microsoft's uses WebKit. By making its WebKit technology open, Apple has set the standard for mobile web browsers.

Second, there's the "full web".

Adobe has repeatedly said that Apple mobile devices cannot access "the full web" because 75% of video on the web is in Flash. What they don't say is that almost all this video is also available in a more modern format, H. 264, and viewable on iPhones, iPods and iPads. YouTube, with an estimated 40% of the web's video, shines in an app bundled on all Apple mobile devices, with the iPad offering perhaps the best YouTube discovery and viewing experience ever. Add to this video from Vimeo, Netflix, Facebook, ABC, CBS, CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, ESPN, NPR, Time, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Sports Illustrated, People, National Geographic, and many, many others. iPhone,

iPod and iPad users aren't missing much video. Another Adobe claim is that Apple devices cannot play Flash games. This is true. Fortunately, there are over 50,000 games and entertainment titles on the App Store, and many of them are free. There are more games and entertainment titles available for iPhone, iPod and iPad than for any other platform in the world.

Third, there's reliability, security and performance.

Symantec recently highlighted Flash for having one of the worst security records in 2009. We also know first hand that Flash is the number one reason Macs crash. We have been working with Adobe to fix these problems, but they have persisted for several years now. We don't want to reduce the reliability and security of our iPhones, iPods and iPads by adding Flash. In addition, Flash has not performed well on mobile devices. We have routinely asked Adobe to show us Flash performing well on a mobile device, any mobile device, for a few years now. We have never seen it. Adobe publicly said that Flash would ship on a smartphone in early 2009, then the second half of 2009, then the first half of 2010, and now they say the second half of 2010. We think it will eventually ship, but we're glad we didn't hold our breath. Who knows how it will perform?

Fourth, there's battery life.

To achieve long battery life when playing video, mobile devices must decode the video in hardware; decoding it in software uses too much power. Many of the chips used in modern mobile devices contain a decoder called H.264 – an industry standard that is used in every Blu-ray DVD player and has been adopted by Apple, Google (YouTube), Vimeo, Netflix and many other companies.

Although Flash has recently added support for H. 264, the video on almost all Flash websites currently requires an older generation decoder that is not implemented in mobile chips and must be run in software. The difference is striking: on an iPhone, for example, H.264 videos play for up

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President's Letter Cont'd

to 10 hours, while videos decoded in software play for less than 5 hours before the battery is fully drained.

When websites re-encode their videos using H.264, they can offer them without using Flash at all. They play perfectly in browsers like Apple's Safari and Google's Chrome without any plugins whatsoever, and look great on iPhones, iPods and iPads.

Fifth, there's Touch.

Flash was designed for PCs using mice, not for touch screens using fingers. For example, many Flash websites rely on "rollovers", which pop up menus or other elements when the mouse arrow hovers over a specific spot. Apple's revolutionary multi-touch interface doesn't use a mouse, and there is no concept of a rollover. Most Flash websites will need to be rewritten to support touch-based devices. If developers need to rewrite their Flash websites, why not use modern technologies like HTML5, CSS and JavaScript? Even if iPhones, iPods and iPads ran Flash, it would not solve the problem that most Flash websites need to be rewritten to support touch-based devices.

Sixth, the most important reason.

Besides the fact that Flash is closed and proprietary, has major technical drawbacks, and doesn't support touch based devices, there is an even more important reason we do not allow Flash on iPhones, iPods and iPads. We have discussed the downsides of using Flash to play video and interactive content from websites, but Adobe also wants developers to adopt Flash to create apps that run on our mobile devices.

We know from painful experience that letting a third party layer of software come between the platform and the developer ultimately results in sub-standard apps and hinders the enhancement and progress of the platform. If developers grow dependent on third party development libraries and tools, they can only take advantage of platform enhancements if

and when the third party chooses to adopt the new features. We cannot be at the mercy of a third party deciding if and when they will make our enhancements available to our developers. This becomes even worse if the third party is supplying a cross platform development tool. The third party may not adopt enhancements from one platform unless they are available on all of their supported platforms. Hence developers only have access to the lowest common denominator set of features. Again, we cannot accept an outcome where developers are blocked from using our innovations and enhancements because they are not available on our competitor's platforms.

Flash is a cross platform development tool. It is not Adobe's goal to help developers write the best iPhone, iPod and iPad apps. It is their goal to help developers write cross platform apps. And Adobe has been painfully slow to adopt enhancements to Apple's platforms. For example, although Mac OS X has been shipping for almost 10 years now, Adobe just adopted it fully (Cocoa) two weeks ago when they shipped CS5. Adobe was the last major third party developer to fully adopt Mac OS X.

Our motivation is simple – we want to provide the most advanced and innovative platform to our developers, and we want them to stand directly on the shoulders of this platform and create the best apps the world has ever seen. We want to continually enhance the platform so developers can create even more amazing, powerful, fun and useful applications. Everyone wins – we sell more devices because we have the best apps, developers reach a wider and wider audience and customer base, and users are continually delighted by the best and broadest selection of apps on any platform.

Conclusions.

Flash was created during the PC era – for PCs and mice. Flash is a successful business for Adobe, and we can understand why they want to push it beyond PCs. But the mobile era is about low power devices, touch interfaces and open web standards – all areas where Flash falls

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President's Letter Cont'd

short.

The avalanche of media outlets offering their content for Apple's mobile devices demonstrates that Flash is no longer necessary to watch video or consume any kind of web content. And the 200,000 apps on Apple's App Store proves that Flash isn't necessary for tens of thousands of developers to create graphically rich applications, including games.

New open standards created in the mobile era, such as HTML5, will win on mobile devices (and PCs too). Perhaps Adobe should focus more on creating great HTML5 tools for the future, and less on criticizing Apple for leaving the past behind.

Steve Jobs
April, 2010

President's Letter Part 2

Google has a bunch of new web developer tools and if you read the article at <http://www.cnn.com/2010/TECH/05/19/google.conference/index.html?hpt=T2> you will see they are endorsing HTML5 just as Steve Jobs is. But of more importance and immediate use to those of us who do not build websites is their new encrypted web search technology. <http://www.cnn.com/2010/TECH/05/24/cnet.google.encrypted/index.html?hpt=T2> As more and more of us use public WiFi or Hot Spots to access the internet we are potentially being exposed to unscrupulous types who are sniffing the airwaves for anything and everything. What Google has is a secure website for us to do our searching: <https://www.google.com/> Currently there is a "beta" tag on the page but this will be one of the few times I recommend beta software to everyone.

President's Letter Part 3

RMUG Members should be proud of their community involvement. Most of you know that every Monday 1PM to 3PM is a Beginners & Intermediate Mac Class at the Frontier Senior Center in Anderson and on

Fridays 1PM to 3PM is the Advanced Class at the same location. We offer these classes free of charge (Senior Center does ask \$1 per person donation) as a way to support the computing platform we all love. During May RMUG and the Computer Classes (PC & Mac) at the Senior Center teamed up and bought a new 21.5" iMac for use in our Mac classes. This is the first Intel Mac for the classroom and it replaces a G4 eMac so it is greatly appreciated.

Thank you goes out to each and every RMUG member as we used a portion of our dues to procure this new and powerful iMac. I am sure

President's Letter Part 4

I see a great real reason to start using the XML functionality of Microsoft Office 2008. In plain English what I am saying is I believe I will start saving all of my files in the newer format instead of having my M.S. Office Suite set to always save in a compatibility mode of 1997 to 2004 versions. I found the following article in an email from MacWorld. To test if it worked I created a Word 2008 document with text and a large screen shot and saved it as Test-1a.docx. Then I used the free version of Stuffit and followed the instructions and I opened my document in the same folder as I had originally saved it into. A new folder named "Test-1a.docx Folder" appeared. Inside this folder there were 3 folders with one of them being named "media" and inside media was my original picture with the name of image1.png. I give this a two thumbs up rating.

Extract image files from inside PowerPoint and Word files

May 20, '10 08:30:00AM • Contributed by: KyleH
<http://www.macintoshhints.com/article.php?story=20100518154805806>

This is a way to access the graphics inside a PowerPoint presentation or Word document, without being resaved or resampled. I use this method when the author cannot locate the original files, but wishes to extract an image. This is for use with the XML based Office document formats (.pptx, .docx), and not the older style (.ppt, .doc) files.

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President's Letter Part 4 Cont'd

Drag your .pptx or .docx files onto Stuffit Expander or Stuffit Deluxe, if you own it. Then navigate to the ppt folder, then media folder. Inside the media folder are all the images PowerPoint uses. If using Stuffit Deluxe, drag the media folder to where you want it extracted. If using Stuffit Expander, you already have the original files extracted.

Stuffit is used because it can expand the XML document package as a folder, while the Finder can't. The only drawback is filenames and file dates are not preserved. This is still better than trying to export an individual graphic that was previously imported to PowerPoint.

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SECRETARY'S NOTES

MINUTES - RMUG Meeting, MAY 8, 2010

The May meeting was held at YAKS Koffee Shop. Thirty-Two members and guests attended. Guests were Sherril Spencer and Harry Ostapenko from Red Bluff. Welcome!

While Dale met with the beginner's group, Michael answered questions from the advanced group.

Cautions from Michael: Buy a new Surge Protector if yours is more than 2 years old. Be sure to register your software. It helps in getting updates.

Someone gave Michael a new Wi-Fi to try. It is supposed to boost your airport base station to 1,000 feet. She indicated she would give us another one to raffle if the club liked this one. Dale will try it and demo it to the club at the June meeting.

Reminder: Macintosh classes are available

weekly at Anderson Senior Center. Beginner's class on Mondays, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Michael Peters. Advanced class on Fridays, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Dale Josephson. <<<< SUMMER CHANGES:>>>> For Dale: No Friday advanced classes in August. Michael will teach beginning classes on Mondays as long as there are more than 2 people in attendance. Then off 'till September.

Michael will give a Photoshop Elements or Pixelmator class if at least 6 people sign up for one or the other. Dates are Friday evenings on either May 21 or 28, 6 - 8pm, at Yaks Koffee Shop. Cost \$40 to \$50 depending on number signing up. You bring your own computer. Email Michael at RMUG@rmug.org ASAP stating your preference as to date and software to be taught.

Presentations.

Michael Peters received a new copy of Akvis Sketch. He showed us that the new copy did allow him to save the sketch he had made from a photograph last month using Sketch. Akvis.com gave RMUG a copy of Sketch to raffle - - it was raffled at the meeting. Thank you, Michael.

Barbara Benefield demoed tips that make iCal more useful. She downloaded a widget that allowed her to easily add new items to her calendar, synchronize it with Google calendars and email, print out her calendars and much more. Barbara will put more information in the June newsletter. Thank you, Barbara.

Next Meeting at YAKS on June 12, 2010. Dale will demo the new Wi-Fi. Michael Peters will demo a different AKVIS Sketch.

Jacquie

VERY USEFUL WIDGET

Our Macs have three built-in applications that work as one. They are: **Mail, iCal, and Address Book**

My interest in iCal began when I found a very useful widget. At Apple.com, type in [Mac Tips & Tricks](#). When the page loads, you can download

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Useful Widget Cont'd

the widget. You can also look at other widgets that are available by choosing the category window to the right. When I double-click on the widget, a number of different topics are listed on the right side of the window. Here, I found several things that were very useful. At the bottom of the list you can even view several video tutorials.

If you need help managing your life and time more wisely, iCal can be a huge asset. It's a personal calendar application that provides all the tools you need to keep track of schedules, appointments, birthdays, to-do lists, and other important events-not just yours, but anyone else's iCal calendar too.

Some of the things you can do using iCal are:

- Create multiple calendars
- Create events or to-do items on a calendar
- Share your calendar using the Internet or a network
- Invite people to your events
- Sync calendars with your other devices and computers
- Add calendars that have been published on the Internet to your Calendars list.

As I was doing my presentation, I neglected to tell the group about the To-Do list that I created on the right side of the calendar. I apologize, but I just discovered this on the previous evening. The neat thing about this To-Do List is that it will show up in your Apple Mail under **Reminders**.

Listed below, are all the videos and information I covered in my presentation, plus a few more.

Mac 101: iCal (Get to know the ins & outs of iCal, discussion forums, software updates.)
<http://www.apple.com/support/ical/>

Using iCal (Timezone support)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jf6K0wm8acs&NR=1>

How To Use iCal in Leopard

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SjWv28K61K8&feature=related>

Creating To Do Lists With iCal

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_Yr64DnxCU&feature=channel

New Ways to Edit Events (MacMost Now 296)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7j44FVOCyg&feature=channel>

iCal Reminders http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_Yr64DnxCU&feature=channel

Easily Add Items To iCal Using Leopard's Apple Mail <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DadxcEBTHF0>

Setting Your Mail Checking Preferences

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JN2PThjnmQ&feature=channel>

MacMost Now 44: Apple Mail Tricks <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HCsW8GdyFq8&feature=related>

Using Mail Stationery For Creative Emails

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQLIa5VuwgM&feature=PlayList&p=F5C05BA82A103356&playnext_from=PL&playnext=1&index=1

A quartet of iCal tips and tricks which make scheduling a breeze

<http://www.macyourself.com/2009/06/08/a-quartet-of-ical-tips-and-tricks-which-make-scheduling-a-breeze/>

Making Smart Mailboxes http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCWB9B_j0As

Gmail in Mail <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSj5LeXr-jl&feature=related>

Force Mail in 10.6 to only copy e-mail addresses E-Mail & Internet, Mac OS X Hints, Macworld

<http://www.macworld.com/article/144904/2009/12/mailaddress.html>

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Useful Widget Cont'd

Mac Tips & Tricks

<http://mac-tips-and-tricks.blogspot.com/2008/12/using-mail.html>

Barbara

INTERESTING FEATURES OF GOOGLE MAPS

Google Maps has become the go-to site for maps and driving directions. And, thanks to satellite and street-level photos, you can explore the world. But, these aren't the only tricks Google Maps has up its sleeve.

A variety of tools will help you plan vacations, find businesses and more. Let's take a look at some of the site's cooler "secret" features.

Find your location

Google Maps can show your approximate location. This is helpful when you're in an unfamiliar location. You can also use it if you don't want to type in your address when getting directions. This feature relies on your IP address and nearby Wi-Fi hotspots. In Firefox or Chrome, open Google Maps. In the upper left corner, you'll see navigational tools. Click the small box with the circle inside. You're prompted to share your location. Google drops a marker on the map showing your location.

Measure a distance

Maybe you want to know the exact distance of your morning jog. The Distance Measurement Tool will help. Enable it by clicking the green beaker in the top right of the page. In the box that opens, locate the tool. Select Enable and then "Save changes." To use the tool, click the blue ruler in the bottom left. Click your starting point. Then, click the next point. You can add multiple points if needed. The distance is displayed in the left side of the window.

Get biking and walking directions

Everyone knows that Google Maps provides driving directions. But, it also provides

public transport. Click Get Directions. Enter your starting and ending addresses. Select your transportation mode from the dropdown box. Click Get Directions.

You can also get itineraries for walking tours at Google City Tours www.citytours.googlelabs.com. Enter a starting address and click Search. Click "Change dates" to specify the number of days for your trip. You'll get a printable itinerary and map for each day. Click "Add/Remove sights" to change waypoints.

Find nearby places

Maybe you want to see restaurants close to a friend's house. Fortunately, finding nearby businesses is easy. Search for an address. Then, click its marker on the map. In the box that appears, click "Search nearby." Enter a search term and click Search.

You can also see popular places close to an address. Click the green beaker in the upper right. Scroll to What's Around Here? and click Enable. Click Save Changes. Click What's Around Here? by the Search box after searching for an address.

See photos taken nearby

Street View shows you street-level photos of a location. But, you can also see photos of the area uploaded to certain other sites. Google searches the sites for photos embedded with GPS data.

To see these photos, search for an address. Click the marker and select Street View. Click the Photos link in the upper right. (If no photos exist, you won't see this link.) You'll see photo thumbnails; click one to enlarge it.

Get directions via text

You don't always have Internet access. That doesn't mean you can't get driving directions. Google will send directions via text message. Simply send a message to GOOGLE (466453). It should say "Directions A to B." Substitute your starting point for "A" and ending point for "B." Use a street address, a town name or simply a ZIP code.

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Google Maps Cont'd

Get off Street View

Finally, many people see Street View as an invasion of privacy. It may show street-level photos of your house. Fortunately, you can have photos removed. First, search for your address. Then, click "Report a problem" in the bottom right.

In the box that opens, enter a description of the problem. Then, click "Report problem." You can use the same method to report other problems with Google Maps. For example, use it to report an incorrect business address.

CHAT WITH FACEBOOK FRIENDS WITHIN ICHAT

Posted by Rob Griffiths macworld.com

Today's tip is for all of those who use both iChat and Facebook, and wished you could use Facebook chat from within iChat. As of fairly recently, it seems this is now possible, and easy to do.

Visit the [Facebook Chat tour page](#), and then click on the [Chat](#) link to get the instructions. (You'll need to be logged in to see that page.) Alternatively, you can just follow the instructions right here:

- In iChat, open Preferences, and go to the Accounts tab. Click the plus sign at the bottom of the window to add a new account.
- Select Jabber Account from the Account Type drop-down menu.
- Enter your_username@chat.facebook.com in the Account Name field, and enter your Facebook password in the Password field. Replace your_username with your Facebook username, obviously.
- Click the triangle next to Server Options to reveal those settings. Enter chat.facebook.com in the Server field, and 5222 in the Port field. Make sure the Use SSL box is not checked.

Click Done.

You should now be able to chat with both your Facebook friends and your iChat buddies from within iChat. I can't confirm that this works, as I don't have a Facebook account. Friends with Facebook, however, have said it worked fine for them. Thanks to [Mac OS X Hints](#) reader Geobunny for pointing out the Facebook iChat page.

ARE YOU WATCHING THIS???

If you're a Sports Fanatic, you'll love this Firefox add-on. You'll find the "free" download at <https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/4740>.

Choose your favorite sports and get a rotating ticker with scores and headlines, along with alerts when games get to crunch-time. Select your cable provider, and you can also see what games you can actually watch.

Scores, News and Alerts available for: Arena Football, Auto Racing (NASCAR and more), Men's College Basketball, Women's College Basketball, College Football, MLB, NBA, NFL, CFL, NHL, Soccer, and the WNBA.

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www.glasbergen.com



"I was going to wake up early to go jogging, but my toes voted against me 10 to 1."

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AUTHOR: JOE ZEGERS

Rmug member, Johan Zegers, has written 3 books. Deadly Menace, Evil Menace and his latest, With Menace Intended.

His hero is Don Osprey a private Investigator who gets into all kinds of trouble. There are twists and turns to the very end. I love mysteries.

I have read all 3 books and enjoyed them. Keep up the good work Joe. I am waiting for your next book.

Anyone interested should go to Amazon or www.PublishAmerica.com

Doreen Waugh

ICALNDAR REVIEW

I enjoyed Barbara's presentation at the RMUG meeting. I went home and worked on this project. It seemed simple enough so I had some fun entering my daily appointments. I had also entered the times. but they did not show on the calendar. However, when I printed the month, all the times came up.

I also set the alert to email me. I had forgotten about this and kept getting alarm emails. I thought this strange until I realized it was the Calendar doing its work and keep-ing me up to date on my appointments. I shall continue with my monthly Calendars.

Barbara, thanks for an interesting and educational presentation.

Doreen Waugh

NEED NEW CHALLENGE?

A new challenge for your mind every day. What could be better than a puzzle in the morning? OK, 20 more minutes of sleep would probably be good, too. But millions of people jump-start their minds and their days with a puzzle.

Many turn to the crossword puzzle section of the newspaper. But a relatively new kind of puzzle has become popular. Sudoku is a game of logic and strategy. You're given a grid filled with a smattering of numbers. You fill in the empty spaces. But numbers can only be used once in any row or column.

Sudoku is a different kind of mental challenge. And completing a puzzle is exciting. But finding a good one can be difficult. So, visit QualitySudokus (www.qualitysudokus.com). It features a new set of puzzles every day. You can download each in four different difficulty levels.

With Sudoku, the shape of the puzzle changes everything. You'll probably start with the standard square. But QualitySudoku offers some more interesting and challenging shapes. You'll want to work your way up to these.

ADD MORE EFFECTS TO PHOTO BOOTH AND ICHAT

by [Rob Griffiths, Macworld.com](http://RobGriffiths.Macworld.com)

As you know, Photo Booth includes a collection of image-altering effects you can use to distort your photos; just click the Effects button to see the collection of 24 effects, and to apply them to your photos. A subset of these effects (16 in all) are available in iChat, too, for use in creating some truly strange looking iChat image icons. But in case that's not enough effects for you, here's a way to add over 20 additional effects to both iChat and Photo Booth.

To use today's hint, you'll need a text editor that can handle binary plist files—Apple's own Property List Editor (included with Xcode), or BareBones' free TextWrangler, for instance. There's a bit of editing to do, but it's not hard. To start, open two Finder windows. In the first, navigate to /System -> Library -> Compositions. In the second, navigate to your user's Library folder. If you don't see a Compositions folder there, create one, and then navigate into it. Next, copy a number of the compositions from the first (System-level) window to the second

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Photo Booth & iChat Cont'd.

(your user's Library -> Compositions folder). Note that there are many entries in the top-level Compositions folder, but not all will work well with iChat and Photo Booth. So how do you know which ones to copy?

Thankfully, Mac OS X Hints reader Anthony Saxon has done the hard work for you. He reports that the following effects work well: ASCII Art, Blue Print, Blur, City Lights, Color Controls, Color Invert, Compound Eye, Concert, Crystallize, Dot Screen, Exposure Adjust, Gamma Adjust, Kaleidoscope, Line Overlay, Line Screen, Monochrome, Neon, Pixellate, Pointillize, Posterize, Sharpen, Tracer, Zoom Blur

Copy as many or as few of those as you'd like over to your user's Library/Compositions folder. (If you're running 10.6, you'll see a preview of each effect in its icon, or you can use Cover Flow view to see a larger version.) Before proceeding further, please note that some users who have tried this have reported crashes with Photo Booth or iChat after adding some new effects. I have removed the known troublesome effects from the list, but that doesn't mean there might not be more issues (particularly on Snow Leopard machines).

If the thought of some possible short-term application instability is a concern, you should probably not read any further—although I do provide instructions below on how to recover from a crash if you experience one.

Once you've copied over the files you'd like to use, you'll need to edit each one, and delete a few lines. Launch TextWrangler, and use File -> Open to open one of your copied files. These files will all look relatively similar, especially near the beginning of each file, which is the part you're interested in editing. Look for these five lines:

```
<key>excludedHosts</key>
```

```
<array>
```

```
<string>com.apple.PhotoBooth</string>
```

```
<string>com.apple.iChat</string>
```

```
</array>
```

You want to delete all five of those lines, then save the file.

More Photo Booth effects

Because of the slim chance that an effect may cause a crash, I suggest testing each before editing the next (or do them in small batches). This makes recovery easier if you do experience a crash.

Once you're sure a given effect works, repeat the editing with the next file you copied across, and test again.

As you can see in the image at right, Photo Booth (and iChat) will add additional effects pages to accommodate your added effects; I've added eight effects, so Photo Booth is showing them all on one additional page.

So what happens if you have a crash after adding these effects? Say Photo Booth or iChat quit then refuse to launch, or maybe your machine kernel panics (gray and white screen appears, telling you you must reboot)?

If this happens to you, the fix is thankfully simple—just don't try to launch iChat or Photo Booth until you fix the problem. The actual fix is what you might have guessed: simply remove the added effects from your user's Library/Compositions folder, and all will be back to normal.

While crashes are never nice, I haven't experienced any after adding eight of the above effects to Photo Booth on my MacBook Pro—and my daughters love playing around with the Tracer effect, so I think these added effects will stay around for a while!



Policies

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RMUG News welcomes articles and questions relating to Macintosh or Macintosh compatible computers. Articles should be pasted into the body of an eMail, or links to articles submitted. It is important that full credit be given to the author.

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 25th of each month. E-mail or deliver all material to:

Barbara Benefield
E- mail submissions to:
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\$4-business card
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Editorial

Memorial Day has come and gone. It's such a shame that so many people think of this special day as simply a holiday that conjures up thoughts of hamburgers and hotdogs, visiting family and friends, and just relaxing. Even small children know why we celebrate Thanksgiving. One would be hard pressed to find Americans who don't know why we celebrate the Fourth of July. But I wonder how many children and grownups alike, know that Memorial Day is actually a special time set aside to remember and honor those men and women who have died in our country's service fighting for our freedom. In the words from the song Proud To Be An American, by Lee Greenwood, "I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free, and I won't forget the men who died, who gave that right to me and I'll proudly stand next to him to defend her still today, 'cuz there ain't no doubt I love this land, God Bless the USA.

Barbara



CROPPING IN PREVIEW

Need to quickly and easily crop a photo or image? Just open it up in Preview. Choose the Select tool and select the area. Then choose Tools, Crop or use Command+K. Save the file, or save it using File, Save As to save it as a new image. You can also save as a .jpg, tiff., gif, pdf., among others. Handy for quickly making icons for Facebook or Twitter.

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Many ask why we don't list deals and sales for the stores in our database. We choose to focus our attention on coupon codes only, because our mission is to have absolutely the best coupon code database on the Internet. If you're looking for a site with the latest deals, bargains and message boards, check out DealHunting.com.

submitted by Barbara

YOUTUBE CONVERTER

Thanks to Michael Peters, I just discovered <http://benderconverter.com/> where you can download and convert videos from the following sites: youtube.com, dailymotion.com, megavideo.com, vimeo.com, twitvid.com, wat.tv, veoh.com, video.google.com, blip.tv, break.com, kontraband.com, facebook.com, livevideo.com (liveshows not supported), metacafe.com, liveleak.com, stagevu.com. Also, some adult sites are supported.

What is this?

Bender Converter is an easy-to-use online application for downloading and converting videos from such services as YouTube, Daily Motion, Mega Video, Vimeo, TwitVid.com, Wat.tv, Veoh, Google Video and many others. You can download video and audio in MP3, AVI, FLV Flash, iPod / iPhone and other popular formats. The service is fast and doesn't require you to register. All that you need is a link to a page with a video and our software.

How does it work?

- 1) Choose the format in which you want to download the video / audio. (**I haven't tried anything but Quicktime for Mac**)
- 2) Enter the complete address of the webpage with the video (for example: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCeahsbZk14>).
- 3) Press the "Convert" button.
- When Conversion is finished, click on Download to save your quicktime movie.

submitted by Barbara



EASILY TYPE ACCENTED CHARACTERS

Posted by Dan Frakes macworld.com

Long-time Mac users know that you can type diacritical characters—for example, â, é, ì, ü, and ñ—by first typing the diacritical (which usually requires the use of the Option key) and then typing the letter. For example, to get ä, you type Option-u and then type a.

If you don't want to remember the sometimes-obscure key combination required for each diacritical, you can use Mac OS X's Keyboard Viewer to figure out which combination does what, but it's a bit of a hassle to have to show and hide Keyboard Viewer each time you want a special character. Another option is PopChar, a third-party utility that provides a drop-down menu for accessing any special character you could ever want to type, but PopChar is probably overkill for many users.

An easier solution—and one that will look familiar to Windows users who use the US International keyboard layout—is built right into Snow Leopard (Mac OS X 10.6). Launch System Preferences, open the Language & Text pane, and then click the Input Sources tab. In the list of input methods on the left, scroll down and enable U.S. International - PC. Then switch to this input method. (The easiest way to do so is to enable, in the same Input Sources tab, the option to Show Input Menu In Menu Bar, and then choose from that menu the U.S. International - PC layout.)

Now creating diacritical characters is as simple as typing a standard punctuation character and then the desired letter: