



Rmug News

July 2004

This Month

RMUG Meeting, Saturday Morning
July 10, 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 i-DVD and i-Movie demos, a carryover from last month because of popularity. Will also be planning the picnic for August!!

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

President's Letter

After last months iDVD presentation I received many questions about Photo to Movie, iMovie and iDVD. I believe the best way to answer most everyone's questions would be for us to do a continuation of the June video demonstration. I will apologize in advance for the advanced nature and rapidity of our July demo, but I believe it will be one of the best demos we have had this year. We will pack 6 hours of information into a 2 or 2 1/2 hour presentation. This will be a meeting where a pen and pad would be useful, and if you had a camera to video tape the presenters (that would be dale@jett.net) you could video from the back of the room or on one of the sides. For the July RMUG meeting, I have invited Kate, my Office Manager, to come give us a presentation on how to put together a truly professional DVD production. Kate promises to keep everybody entertained as she shares her knowledge of how to edit home movies on a computer. She will cover subjects such as video editing in iMovie and creating multiple chapters for DVD productions in iDVD. My business partner Al will also show up with his dual G4 and Final Cut Pro to help Kate and I with the movie demos. The July demonstration will be quite technical and it may go over some people's heads, but there is a need to expose the club to what our computers can do with just a little time and effort. Most of the demonstration will be using stock software that came with our Macs.

After the July meeting while we are all pumped up over the video production possibilities inside our Macs, I want to issue a challenge to all the budding Video Directors such as Bill Benton & Charlotte Ruskowitz, as well as the rest of the club. The challenge will be to produce a 5 to 10 minute video CD or DVD using your Macintosh. I suggest that we have a friendly competition after the summer is over and we have all filled our cameras and computers with still and motion pictures from the four corners of the earth.

I propose a judged contest whereby our short videos are graded for content, sound track, titles, transitions and just plain quality and interest. If your movie is over 10 minutes then you will get to

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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 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**

designate a 10 minute contiguous portion of the movie to be judged. Each entrant can use any Mac and any camera. Since the competition will be limited to 10 minutes we can use iMovie to produce Video CDs. Almost no-one will be left out of the running as DVDs will be optional and you will get no extra points for DVD use. If someone has the urge to produce a video but needs assistance, then your fellow RMUG members will show their true colors and be more than willing to help.

For the RMUG Video Challenge we will be looking for fair, honest and easily bribed judges. If you believe you are a candidate for Video Judge just drop dale@jett.net an email stating you would like to be one of the judges. The finals of our competition will be held at the October RMUG meeting.

dalej

IDVD HELP

Many of us have computers that did not come with a DVD burner installed. Up until now the answer on how to use an external DVD burner usually meant getting a \$1,000 video program (as Apple's iDVD requires an internal DVD burner, or that is what Apple wants us to think). I found an article at:

<http://forums.xlr8yourmac.com/faq.lasso> .

On the first page go down the category list to DVD and in the DVD page look for: What is the tip/trick for getting iDVD2-iDVD4.0.1 to burn to external drives?

Disclaimer: Although believed accurate, due to the infinite variations of hardware/software, vendors/mfrs changing software and hardware models without notice, etc. - the information in this article comes without warranty. The authors or RMUG do not accept responsibility for any damage that may occur directly or indirectly through the use of the information contained in this posting.

dalej

SECRETARY'S NOTES:

It is getting hot and that means it is almost time for the annual Aug. RMUG picnic; please watch for more information. Be thinking about what you can bring to share. Next Month will be interesting, as it always is.

I personally would like to thank Michael for all of the time and effort that he has put into helping all of us at the Anderson Senior Center during the Monday Meetings. I have gotten lots of help from Michael and if I had to pay for it well..... It is especially great for the little questions that we all have.

That is all for now.

Mary Gililland
Secretary

**TECHNOLOGICAL
ADVANCES**

When we bought our first computer, an original iMac back in 98, we also purchased an HP DeskJet 697C printer to go along with it. Over the years the printer worked pretty well, my only reservation was that the photo ink cartridge did not give true colors, so we printed what few photos we wanted on plain paper and with the regular three color plus black. We upgraded the iMac from a 233 to a 450 three years ago and the printer just kept chugging along.

In January of this year we went from the 450 to an eMac and OSX. In the process of ordering the eMac I let a gal at the Apple store talk me into getting a new HP 2175 all in one printer, copier and scanner. Donna was sweet on the copier idea because she makes so many copies. The difference between the old and new printers is unbelievable. The new machine is quiet and fast, it will print in three minutes what the old one took 45 minutes to do.

The new OS may have something to do with the speed increase but I imagine that most is due to the technological advances HP has made. If you have not upgraded your printer lately you might give it some thought.

Ken

LIBRARIANS CORNER:

Exposé - A handy OS 10.3 feature Frank found in our Mac OS X Missing Manual (by David Pogue) that's really helpful. Here's what Apple has to say about it.....

"Exposé gives you instant access to any open window with a single keystroke. Display all open windows as thumbnails, view windows of the current application, or hide all windows to quickly locate a file on your desktop. Admit it, Mac OS X has you spoiled. You've become so used to its reliability that you don't hesitate to have a dozen applications running at the same time. Which means, of course, that you probably spend a fair amount of time each day poking through open windows and documents just to uncover the one you need at the moment.

Get the picture?

So wouldn't it be great if all you had to do was hit one hot key to snap all of that window chaos into order?

That's exactly what Exposé does. Type the F9 key, and Exposé instantly tiles all of your open windows — scales them down and neatly arranges them, so you can see what's in every single one. And you definitely can see every one because Exposé works hand-in-hand with Quartz (the graphics engine behind everything you see in Panther) to animate the scaling and preserve the visual quality of the window in its reduced size.

That's not all. Move your mouse from one tiled window to the next, and you'll see its title displayed right in the center of the window. When you find the window you need, just click on it. Magically, every window will return to full size, and the window you clicked — whether it's a folder, a PDF, a QuickTime movie or a Word document — becomes the active window and at the very top of the stack. Type the F11 key, and Exposé hides all open windows, giving you instant access to your desktop. Want to open a document you just downloaded? Check to see if the CD or DVD you're burning in the background is ready? Or quickly locate and drag a file into an email as an enclosure? Exposé makes it a snap.

Charlotte

WI-FI SECURITY:

I'm one of the world's most rabid fans of wireless networking — known variously as Wi-Fi, 802.11 or AirPort. (Would somebody PLEASE come up with a consistent, user-friendly term for it?) It's just so glorious to be standing in an airport, hotel lobby or city street, open your laptop and discover that you can go online at cable-modem speeds without hooking up a single cable. I'll admit, though, that I'm confused by the urgency of the oft-repeated concern about wireless security. On the Web, dozens of articles meticulously detail how to make your wireless network secure. But you'd be hard-pressed to find one that spells out what, exactly, the security risk is.

Some articles imply that passing evildoers can peer into your files, delete important folders and release viruses. For example, according to an Extreme Tech article, leaving your security password turned off "is an invitation for someone to pay you a visit anytime."

But I don't get it. Even somebody physically connected to my network doesn't have access to my files! How would they have any more access if they were parked in a car outside with a wireless laptop?

So I decided to get to the bottom of this.

Now, one risk is certainly real: If you haven't set up a password for your base station, then anyone with a wireless computer (within 150 feet or so) can surf the Web for free, piggybacking on your signal.

But that is not, to me, a cause for panic. In fact, many apartment dwellers deliberately organize wireless-sharing arrangements to save money and wiring.

Besides, that's not really hacking. To learn about the sneakier exploits, read the Wireless Network Security FAQ (www.iss.net/wireless/WLAN_FAQ.php). "Here is the list of main known security risks with 802.11b," it says. "Insertion attacks; Interception and monitoring wireless traffic; Misconfiguration; Jamming; and Client to Client Attacks."

These tactics require involve special hacker software programs that "sniff" your wireless signals — and even so, "breaking into your

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WI-FI SECURITY CONTINUED:

machine” is not among the risks.

For confirmation, I consulted Brian Jepson, author of many Unix and networking books and an editor at my publisher, O’Reilly.

“There are lots of things hackers can do by running a free network sniffer like Ethereal (www.ethereal.com, which has many legit uses),” he wrote back. “They could read your AIM chats as they are happening. If you use FTP to upload stuff to your personal Web site, they could intercept your password.” He also said that depending on your Internet service provider, the hacker could theoretically intercept your email password. They could also, somewhat pointlessly, make printouts on your networked printer.

I also checked in with Mani Dhillon, product marketing manager at LinkSys. Mani does say that a very sophisticated hacker could theoretically gain access to the files on your machine by slipping through any open “ports” (Internet communication channels), especially if you’ve explicitly shared certain folders on your PC. (Mac OS X comes with all of these ports closed; Windows XP comes with a number of them open.) But he stressed that only a very skilled hacker could pull this off. Also, he says, “Somebody would have to be sitting near your network to do this. And they’d have to hate you.”

In the end, neither Brian, Mani nor I have ever heard of a hacker accessing the files on someone’s computer wirelessly. So the next time you read any of the wireless-security articles, keep these points in mind. First, any evildoer has to be within wireless range of your base station, usually about 150 feet. Brian Jepson, who lives in semi-rural New England, points out that “I’d notice someone parked in my driveway... I’d probably go over and talk to them or something. :)”

Second, much of the wireless-paranoia advice is geared more toward corporations than individuals at home. (Not to burst your bubble, but are your chat sessions so interesting, hackers would hide in the bushes out front just to eavesdrop?)

Now, make no mistake: I firmly believe that, you should turn ON the password security

feature called WEP (pretty good) or WPA (much better) when your base station’s installation software offers it — especially since it’s no extra inconvenience to do so. Mac OS X and Windows XP can memorize the password, so you won’t have to type it in with each connection. Doing so should be part of a well-rounded Internet security strategy, which, as Brian points out, involves these steps:

- Use hard-to-guess passwords.
- Turn off services you aren’t using, which close the corresponding ports (Web sharing, FTP sharing, remote login, Windows Messenger and so on.)
- Stay up-to-date with the latest security patches from Microsoft. (“It still astounds me how many people get exploited because they haven’t installed a 3-month old patch from Microsoft,” Brian says.)
- If you don’t have a router with a built-in firewall, install a software firewall (at least the one built into Windows XP and Mac OS X, or Norton Internet Security or a similar package).

And finally:

- Be practical, not panicked. Much of the hacker hysteria is theoretical. As wireless networking settles into the routine of everyday computing, maybe the advice-givers will rely a bit less on trying to terrify the novices, and a bit more on specifics.

Visit David Pogue on the Web at DavidPogue.com.

MAC OFFICE:

SHORTLY after Microsoft releases a new version of its Office software, its designers begin to discuss what to put into the next version. Driving these meetings, no doubt, is a painful question: "How on earth will we come up with more features that we didn't think of last year, or the year before that - especially when most people consider Office too bloated already?"

Last year, Office 2003 for Windows revealed the company's latest strategy: Add very, very little, and hope that people upgrade anyway.

Yesterday, Microsoft's Macintosh software division unveiled Office 2004 for Macintosh, which includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Entourage, an e-mail and calendar program. Once again, Microsoft added few big-ticket features, preferring to focus on a motley collection of nips and tucks.

A strategy isn't the only thing the Mac team borrowed from the Windows gang, either. After years of seeing its own good ideas adopted by the Office for Windows team, Microsoft's Mac designers apparently decided that two could play that game.

For example, the new Notebook view in Word, the word processor, is a delightful rip-off of One Note for Windows, a note-taking and organizing program. In situations where fast note-taking is essential - lectures and interviews come to mind - this view presents a tabbed on-screen notebook and keystrokes that make it easy to type an outline. Best of all, if you click a Record button, your microphone records the proceedings. Later you can play back a certain audio segment just by clicking the corresponding spot in your notes.

Smart Buttons, descended from a similar feature in Word for Windows, are tiny pop-up menus that appear in your text whenever Word has something to offer you. For example, one appears whenever Word auto-

formats something you've typed (a chronic sore spot with Microsoft customers): turning a Web address into a difficult-to-edit Web link, for example, or automatically numbering a list. You've always been able to turn off these intrusions in a dialog box or undo individual changes by pressing Command-Z. But Smart Tags put "Undo" and "Stop doing this" commands right in front of you where you can't miss them.

But the most far-reaching and useful 2004 overhaul was given to Entourage, a better-designed, far more pleasant cousin of Outlook for Windows. From Outlook 2003, the new Entourage inherits a clever three-column layout: one column lists your folders (Inbox, Sent, and so on), the next lists the messages, and the third and widest shows the message itself. This layout option acknowledges two inescapable facts of computing life: Most screens are wider than they are tall, and text is easier to read when the column isn't the full width of the screen.

Entourage can also group your lists of e-mail into neatly labeled subheadings, either chronologically (Today, Last Week) or by sender, subject, size and so on. In large e-mail collections, however, this feature slows Entourage to a crawl - 12 seconds to open a folder containing a year's worth of messages, for example - and no "please wait" cursor appears to let you know what's going on. Fortunately, you can turn off this feature on a folder-by-folder basis; unfortunately, thousands of Mac fans won't realize that and will simply assume that Entourage 2004 is a dog-slow program.

Not all of the new features in Office for the Mac came from Office for Windows. In fact, two of the new features are so compelling, if they don't show up in the next Windows version, I'll eat my hat.

First, Entourage has sprouted a new view called the Project Center. Its ambitious goal is to consolidate all the e-mail messages, deadlines, phone numbers and even files (not just Microsoft documents) that pertain to a certain project. You can set it up, for example, so that all relevant e-mail correspondence winds up listed here. You can also tell the program to "watch" a certain

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MEMBER TIPS

From MacHome HotTips Editor...

"In last week's newsletter, we tackled the subject of sites that won't work with Safari." One of the biggest concerns was banking sites. Reader Paul Harrop wrote in to suggest a solution:

Paul writes:

Use Safari Enhancer 2.5.1 (freeware; <http://www.lordofthecows.com/>) to make Safari imitate other browsers. My Credit Union site only recognizes Internet Explorer, but with Safari Enhancer it works just fine. And it's free!

Editor's note: "Safari Enhancer can be used to enable Safari's Debug Menu. Once you've enabled the menu, you can then choose Debug>User Agent and choose one of seven available browsers to imitate. As Paul reports, many people have had success getting stubborn sites to work by forcing Safari to imitate Netscape or Internet Explorer."

Charlotte



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MAC OFFICE CONTINUED

folder on your hard drive; the Project Center lists whatever is in that folder, saving you a lot of switching back and forth from your e-mail to your desktop.

Project Center isn't exactly a breeze to understand. But the more you work with it, the more it becomes Grand Central Station for work-related information of every kind, almost like a tiny operating system unto itself.

The other killer new feature is in PowerPoint, the slide-show software that's loved or loathed by corporate presenters the world over. It's a new view called Presenter Tools, designed especially for laptops hooked up to projectors.

In this mode, the audience sees only your projected slides. But on your laptop, you see a very different, private display. Beneath a half-size version of each slide, you see your own notes; for the first time in PowerPoint, you can cheat from a script without letting the audience catch wise. Second, you see a timer, which keeps you from sabotaging your own pitch by running overtime. Third, you see miniatures of the previous slide, your current slide and what's coming up next. No longer do you risk being just as surprised by the next slide as the audience.

From the first time you use them, these tools translate into better pacing, better delivery and greater confidence.

The rest of what's new in Office 2004 for Mac is a grab bag. Entourage has better spam filtering, a sophisticated utility for backing up and repairing your e-mail database, and a desktop window-ette that flashes the names and first lines of new messages as they arrive in the background. An Office scrapbook holds frequently used blobs of text and graphics for reusing in any of the four programs. A refreshingly candid Compatibility Report lets you know when you've used some advanced formatting feature in a document - a certain PowerPoint animation, for example - that won't work right in Office for Windows, or in older

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Mac Office Continued

versions of Office for Mac.

Finally, you can now use 255 characters to name a new document, just as you can in any well-written Mac OS X program. (Office X, the previous version, truncated your file names. An icon on the desktop called “My Dinner With Bill Gates, and Why I’m Sorry I Didn’t Take the Mac OS X Bumper Sticker Off My Corolla First.doc” became “My Dinner With Bill G#DE971.doc.”)

Over all, Office for the Mac is still more attractive, more satisfying and less corporate-feeling than the Windows incarnation. But now, the eternal question: Is it worth upgrading?

Particularly if you’re already using Office X, that’s a tough question; this isn’t play money. The complete suite costs \$400 new, or \$240 if you are upgrading from Office 98, Office 2001 or Office X. (A free 30-day trial version is available at Microsoft’s Mac Web site, www.mactopia.com.)

You can also buy Word, PowerPoint or Excel for \$230 new, \$110 upgrade; Entourage isn’t sold separately. A suite that includes Virtual PC (which lets Windows programs run on a Mac), will be available later this summer. Students and teachers get the best deal: \$150 for the whole package, plus the right to install it on three Macs (although unlike the Windows incarnations, no edition of Office for the Mac is copy-protected).

To answer the upgrade question, it’s worth analyzing which programs are most important to your work flow. Unless you’re a student or interviewer who could capitalize on the new Notebook view, for example, the upgrade to Word offers little except longer startup times and a subtle feeling of sluggishness. (And a few bugs. On my Macs, all of my old AutoCorrect typing shortcuts and customized keyboard shortcuts were lost in the upgrade, and my customized menus behaved quirkily; Microsoft says that it can’t reproduce the problems.)

The changes in Excel aren’t worth the money for most people who already have the previous version, either: new chart-design features (yawn) and an enhanced, editable print preview.

PowerPoint and Entourage are a different story. If you make presentations, you really want that Presenter Tools view - and in Entourage, the Project Center can make high-traffic, document-intensive work a lot easier.

Otherwise, Microsoft’s Mac team appears to be reaching the same point of feature saturation as its Windows counterpart. Once a program does everything anybody could ever ask of it, adding more features is just icing on the icing.

By DAVID POGUE
Pogue@nytimes.com
dalej

ON BARBECUING:

It’s the only type of cooking a “real man” will do. When a man volunteers to do the ‘BBQ’ the following chain of events are put into motion:

- 1) The woman goes to the store.
- 2) The woman fixes the salad, vegetables, and dessert.
- 3) The woman prepares the meat for cooking, places it on a tray along with the necessary cooking utensils, and takes it to the man, who is lounging beside the grill.
- 4) The man places the meat on the grill.
- 5) The woman goes inside to set the table and check the vegetables.
- 6) The woman comes out to tell the man that the meat is burning.
- 7) The man takes the meat off the grill and hands it to the woman.
- 8) The woman prepares the plates and brings them to the table.
- 9) After eating, the woman clears the table and does the dishes.
- 10) Everyone praises man and thanks him for his cooking efforts.
- 11) The man asks the woman how she enjoyed “her night off. “

And, upon seeing her annoyed reaction, concludes that there’s just no pleasing some women.

Bill Benton

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

It sounds as though the meeting on the tenth will be a DVD fest, am sorry that I will not be there.

Will have to content myself with fishing while taking some time off over on the coast in Humboldt County. There should be a little something for everyone in this edition. Please keep in mind that any trick, tip or use of your computer equipment that may make it more productive or fun is worth sharing with the group through this medium.

The picnic in August will be held at Jim and Donna Pace's residence. They have a great back yard, lots of lawn area and a swimming pool. They have chairs and tables and plenty of shade if it is a hot day. (Directions will be eMailed to members before the big event.)

The club will provide tri-tip from Kent's meats with beans and bread; also paper goods, plates, napkins, and plastic silverware. Members are to bring salad or dessert to share and their own drinks.

Everyone have a great fourth, spend some time thinking about the freedoms that have been so dearly purchased for us and how tentatively some of them are now hanging on. Pay close attention and speak up about abuses.

Ken



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