



Rmug News

November 2005

This Month

RMUG Meeting, Saturday morning
November 12, 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 various eats are 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 Jimi's
Garage Band demo, which is sure to be
very entertaining as well as educational.
Related personal creativity comments,
wisdom 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

Hello again fellow Mac users.

A few weeks ago Apple updated its PowerMac offerings with the Dual-Core G5s. These have two G5 chips like the previous Power Macs, but the new G5s have two core processing cores. This in effect give the new machines four CPUs. Yeehaa! The optimized processing power of the Power Mac (advertised by Apple on their website) is an astonishing 76 Gigaflops. In people terms this is over 76 billion operations each second. Another industry standard test, reports the speed as 21 Gigaflops. Still quite impressive. On a side note IBM's Blue Gene/L supercomputer lately broke the computer speed record with 280 Teraflops (280 trillion operations per second) or almost 13,000 times as fast as the new Mac.

The new Mac also introduces blazingly fast expansion slots, video cards, and room for a ton of RAM. While exploring the crevasses and subtleties of the specs of the new, I of course, wanted to know the price. I surfed over to store.apple.com to spec out my next 'dream' computer. Here is what I found:
The base top-of-the-line Power Mac is the usual mid - \$3000 range. Of course, because this is my dream computer, I need as much drive space as I can get, about 1 TB (1000 GB). Everyone says that more memory is always better. My new Mac is stuffed with 16 GB of RAM! I also need lots of screen real-estate, so I chose the 30" flat panel monitor, of course. I then realize there is an optional second monitor,...OK, two 30" monitors. To drive two 30" monitors you need to have the \$1650 Nvidia video card. I pass up the optional modem and Mac OS X server software, as this computer will probably be used to surf the 'net and play video games (really, really fast video games). The final bill for my new uber-computer is about \$21,000. Well, with \$21K I could buy a nice car, or put a down payment on a small piece of land. Unfortunately for me, my wife would not concur with my new computer purchasing plans. But...when she does, you'll be the first to know.

I hope to see everyone at the next meeting where we can learn all about Garage Band.

Marcus Harner

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, OCTOBER 8, 2005

The October meeting was held at the YAKS Koffee Shop. Nineteen members attended.

The following are answers to questions asked.

. Chuck tried to download a movie with Safari. He got a message that he didn't have a default application to open it. Michael said to highlight the movie, save it to QuickTime, and tell it to download.

. Michael suggested if you have to use a Microsoft Program, not to use Outlook Express - - use Entourage. He said we are very lucky as there are only two viruses that attack Macs now.

. Pat asked if uploading photos to Costco is O.K. as it takes forever even with a fast connection. Costco goes to a Kodak site for processing. Suggestion- we complain to Costco. Perhaps we can get them to change and accept photos from both PC and Mac. Dale said we might use Safari Enhancer for the Browser and enable it to act like Internet Explorer. Have to have Panther, 10.3.9. Tell Safari to 'Install Debug' and 'Install all filters', and then use Internet Explorer 6.0. ??? (Talk to Dale if I haven't got this right.)

. Kim asked for a suggestion for sending parents pictures. Chuck suggested uploading pictures for parents on Shutterfly.com.

. When you buy a computer, buy more than you can afford. Compare: iBooks 12" & 14" G4 have 133 bus speed. PowerBooks 12", 15" and 17" G4 have 142 bus speed. Ron said the 14" iBook has the same amount of pixels as the 15" PowerBook, and is backlit. PowerBook has more video ram – 128 vs. 125 in iBook.

. Dale suggested, in G5 Tower, that you replace the DVD burner you have with a Pioneer 110 dual layer DVD that will burn at 16 speed.

. Michael reminded us to write up reviews of Software and Hardware. Example: The new Apple Key Board cover in blue is not good. Smalldog.com has iSkin Protouch Apple Keyboard cover for \$29.

. Ken asked if the plug-in that makes Netscape look like a Microsoft browser leave us open to

viruses. Dale said no.

. Ron remarked that the video article in the last newsletter was excellent. Also that DVD recorders are too proprietary for us. Can't take off a DVD – to Mac and Edit. He suggested we stay with Camcorder tapes. The small ones are harder to edit. Sony \$2,000 camera does high definition work. A \$150 High Density Recorder does make standard DVD discs look better on HD TV. 24 frame = movie format.

. Michael said Phillips DVD player from Wal-mart (\$54) will hook up to TV and does play everything.

. A Game, Enigmo, a physics game, was put on several different hardware platforms running OS10. Games can be used for teaching – words, hand-eye coordination, etc., as well as for recreation. The game ran on all platforms: iMac G5, iMac G4, eMac (Indigo) and iBook 500 MHz. The game was clearer and more complex on the eMac. Apple.com OSX – Games has over 700 games, freeware and shareware plus demo versions of games for sale. All have OS10 & minimum video requirements. "Read me" tells how to play each game.

. Marcus said the City of Redding has a very good GIS map of Redding. [Http://maps.ci.redding.ca.us/gis/maps.html](http://maps.ci.redding.ca.us/gis/maps.html) They use a plug in from AutoCAD that is not readable by Macs. Marcus talked to the GIS manager, Jim Coats. Marcus also talked to Auto Desk, which makes the program, asking if they can also use a plug in that works on Macs. If you are interested, Marcus suggested you might also try to download this GIS map and, if unable to do so, contact Mr. Coats.

Our next meeting will be November 12 at the YAKS Koffee Shop, 3274 Bechelli Lane. Jimi Bonogofsky will do a Garage Band presentation. We will also be taking Nominations for officers for 2006.

MINUTES – BOARD MEETING, OCTOBER 8, 2005

Present: Marcus Harner, Ken Lorenz, Michael Peters, Jim Pace, Charlotte Ruskowitz, Louise Zegers and Jacquie Martin.

Absent: Dale Josephson and Barbara Benefield
Meeting Place: Yaks Koffee Shop
Program: Jimi will do a Garage Band

SECRETARY'S NOTES CONTINUED:

Presentation. Michael has contacted her. She will need around 45 min. for her presentation- she will also be bringing in extra equipment, guitar and amp, etc.

Michael suggests we do any unanswered questions, the club reports, nominations, and then her demo.

Raffle Items: Surge Protector, 256 Flash Drive and/or a Game if there are enough people.

(Raffle items on hand would then include 1 - 256 and 1- 512 flash drives, shredder, games, ??? others???)

Door Prizes: Game, 2 packets in jewel cases – one CD and one DVD, and Paper if there are enough people.

December Meeting: 1) Vote for Officers; 2) Holiday Gift Guide Suggestions (Who can do this??)

Suggestions for Future Meetings: 1) Ken will contact Michael Sauer to see if he can arrange for an out-of-town speaker (perhaps after MacWorld); 2) Barbara has a contact to do an e-Bay presentation.

Jacquie Martin,
Secretary

Old Dogs New Tricks:

THE MANY FACES OF A COMPUTER

A few years ago a movie was made of a lady with multiple personalities. It was called "The Four Faces of Eve." In the plot of the story, Eve was sometimes the good common house-wife, sometimes she was the sexy party girl, sometimes she was the hateful bitch, and sometimes the dull, lazy personality. In the story she would change from one personality to another at the wrong times. The story reminds you of the old plot of "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," but with a modern twist.

Enter the computer. The computer is not the "one-unit" with all the answers for everyone. It is not a "genie" let out of a bottle to do your bidding.

The computer has many faces. Or maybe I should say, computers have many programs. A

word processor program will make your computer act like a wonderful typewriter. A family tree program will give you a place to put all your relatives, and a place to tell something about each one. It will act like a genealogy teacher. A drafting program will make the computer act like a big piece of paper so you can draw the plans for your new house. A bookkeeping program will cause the computer to act like an accountant.

Graphics programs will allow you to work with pictures. Checkbook programs will keep your checks in order and balanced. Calendar programs will keep schedules and a place for names and addresses. E-mail programs will let you write to friends. Internet programs will let you search the world for information and Specialty programs will let you do specialty work.

When you buy a computer let someone help you select the programs to do the things you want to do. A drafting program will not balance your checkbook, and a family tree program will not do a depreciation schedule. Get the programs you need for your computer and it will have the "faces" you need.

Allen Hall

Wanted:

Has anyone upgraded their printer lately? My wife asked me to find out if anyone might have a free printer in working condition, to be used in her school room at Buckeye Middle School.

Contact: Jim Pace - 241-8885

jimpace@jett.net

Submit Requests:

What would you like?

What demonstrations would you like to see at the next several RMUG meetings?

Submit your suggestions at the November meeting so that we can begin to get things lined up for next year.

jimpace@jett.net

Backup or Else 2:

Backing up your computer data can seem like a chore, but imagine what it will be like if all your data is gone and you have to start all over again. There are many ways of backing up your data and just as many types of media to use as well. This article covers the basic steps needed to backup your data easily and quickly.

1. Organize Your Files

Keeping your information organized should be one of your first priorities. This will make things much easier when the time comes to backup. Because the "My Documents" folder is the default location for many programs to store their files, it is also the most logical location to store your files. Make sub-folders in your documents folder to keep your data organized. Windows XP has already set up some for your use. It includes sub-folders such as "My Music," "My eBooks" and "My Pictures." Add sub-folders as you need them.

One of the most important sub-folders to use is a "My Downloads" folder. This is where you should store and categorize all of your Internet downloads. If you ever need to reinstall a downloaded program, you will be glad you have this folder.

Remember, some programs do not save data to "My Documents." In this case, you should locate and note for backup the folders that these programs do use. In some cases, you may need to copy that information to your "My Documents" folder.

2. What do I Backup?

Just about anything your media will allow you to store. This means you can make copies of all your personal data, such as documents, image and media files, email, financial data, saved games, and anything else that may be important. Try to avoid having to back up the entire operating system unless you have the media that will support this type of backup.

3. Types of Backup Media

There are many types of backup media. You can use tape drives, CD-R and CD-RW drives, DVD-ROM drives or hard drives. You can also use older types of media like Iomega's Zip or Jazz drives. These are all available in both internal and external versions. Be sure to choose the right one based on how much information you would like to save.

Tip: Tape drives, hard drives as well as Zip and Jazz drives store data magnetically. This type of storage will degrade with time and is subject to outside magnetic influences. CD-R/RW and DVD-ROM drives store data using a laser imprint on the CD/DVD media. This is far less likely to degrade over time and, as long as the disc's are not damaged, will last for many years.

4. Types of Backup Methods

There are two main types of backup methods. You can do an "incremental backup." This is where you back up specifically selected folders and data. Windows includes a fairly decent backup program or you may choose to use the program that comes with your backup hardware.

You can also do a full-system or complete backup. This is where an "image" of your entire hard drive is made. There are different types of programs to image your entire hard drive such as PowerQuest's Drive Image, Norton's Ghost or Dantz's Retrospect. Due to the sheer volume of data this type of backup is usually only successful if you have a second hard drive or tape drive.

5. Where Are My Data Files Kept?

Your data files are kept in many places but here are a few locations to look for your information.

Email: Locations may vary. In Windows XP Microsoft Outlook Express saves its files to 'C:\Documents and Settings\{user name}\Local Settings\Application Data\Identities\{identity number}\Microsoft\Outlook Express' in files with an extension of .dbx. Outlook saves its files to 'C:\Documents and Settings\{user name}\Local Settings\Application Data\Microsoft\Outlook\outlook.pst'. Netscape saves your files in 'C:

BACKUP OR ELSE 2 CONTINUED:

\Program Files\Netscape\Users\<(user name)\Mail'.

Your Internet Favorites or Bookmarks: Internet Explorer stores your Favorites as individual files in the C:\Windows\Favorites or C:\Documents and Settings\<(User Name)\Favorites directory. Netscape saves your Bookmarks in 'C:\Program Files\Netscape\Users\<(user name)\bookmark.htm'.

Other programs: You may need to do some research on where files are saved. One good way to do this is to open up the program in question, create a temporary file and when you save the file do a 'Save as', this will prompt you to where the default location of where the program saves its files.

6. How Often Should I Perform a Backup?

In general, it is best to schedule your backup on a consistent and regular basis. How much information you add or change to your system will help you determine if this should be on a monthly, weekly or even a daily schedule. Most backup software programs allow for automatic scheduling.

From Carl Vancil,
About.com Guide to Focus on PC Support.

Tivo & Mac Mini:

What Do TiVo and the Mac Mini Have in Common?

TODAY'S theme is elegant underdogs: the devices or solutions that don't lead their markets but are in many ways more admirable than the ones that do.

For years the Apple Macintosh has defined this category. Indeed, the Mac's business history illustrates important changes in the role of the tech also-ran. From the mid-1980's through the late 1990's - a period that started with the widening use of Windows and ran through the widening use of the Internet - the pressures toward

standardization created not just market leaders but also all-dominating market leviathans. Consider word-processing software: through the 80's and early 90's, there were a dozen contenders. Now, for practical purposes, there is only Microsoft Word.

This era of mass extinction happened to coincide with the first 15 years of the Mac's life. That it did not go the way of other innovative early computers like the Victor 9000 or the Xerox Star is testimony to the tremendous appeal of the Mac's design and the resulting fanaticism of its customer base. (Mac users, no angry e-mail messages, please. I mean this as a compliment.)

And in the last five years, some breathing room appeared. Every new approach that managed to survive - Adobe document formats, Palm and now BlackBerry mobile devices, Firefox and other browsers, Linux, and Internet-based computing from the likes of Yahoo and Google - suggested that an ever more diverse tech ecosystem was becoming possible.

This has created a new opportunity for the Mac, which Apple Computer has maximized with an exceptionally elegant offering, the Mac mini. On the market since early this year, it is the first device to give longtime PC users a low-risk way to try that enticing other path.

The mini is a flattened white cube, smaller than most hardback books. It has no keyboard, no screen - it is just that cube with a variety of ports on one side allowing connections to most normal computer peripherals. To be precise, the mini comes with an Ethernet jack, a connector for a video monitor, and one FireWire and two standard USB sockets.

What this means in practice is that a PC user can plug most of the devices already on hand directly into the mini, with a slight jiggering of the keyboard and mouse connectors in some instances, and probably an extra USB hub if there are several devices to connect. All of this is easier than it sounds.

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TIVO & MAC MINI CONTINUED:

Less than five minutes after I had taken the mini out of its box, I was sitting at my desk typing on my usual keyboard, looking at the usual flat-panel display, automatically connected to the Internet through the usual Wi-Fi link, with pages coming out of the usual printer - but now I was using Mac software, under the Apple operating system OSX. No configuration was required for anything. With more serious jiggering, you can set up a system that, with the turn of a switch, lets you go back and forth between displaying what's on your PC and what's on your Mac.

By Apple standards, the mini is cheap: around \$500 to \$700, depending on the options. And it goes a long way toward addressing the PC user's concern that whatever the Mac's benefits, they couldn't possibly be worth the nuisance of transition. You can use a home network to transfer data files from one system to another, or use certain applications on each machine rather than making a total change. The mini's

existence is no longer news, but it is worth re-emphasizing because of the choices it creates.

TiVo deserves similar recognition, and not just because its evangelizing users can rival the Mac's. Although it was the pioneer in easily programmable home video recorders, TiVo has been struggling commercially, especially because DirecTV has canceled its TiVo promotions and begun selling recorders of its own. Nonetheless, some elegant advances distinguish it from the generic competitors.

One is online scheduling, the answer to that modern heartbreak of leaving the house without remembering to set TiVo to record a show. From an Internet connection anywhere in the world, you can give instructions to your home machine as if you were standing in front of it.

TiVo's other recent innovation is a home-networking option that lets you transfer the recorded programs to your own computers, using Wi-Fi or some other network. The files are enormous, roughly one gigabyte per hour of air time. They also have security features to keep them from being passed around to other users, Napster-style. But the TiVo owner can easily take along the programs to watch on a laptop while traveling, or burn them into DVD's to watch somewhere else.

James Fallows
tfj@nytimes.com.

Flash Hard Drive ?:

In a flash, hard-drive memory fading... When Apple Computer CEO Steve Jobs introduced the iPod Nano on September 7, he predicted it would be the best-selling iPod model ever.

That is a strong statement, considering the Nano is only Apple's second device to incorporate flash memory instead of a hard drive. It is an even stronger endorsement of flash-based technology from a company that until this year declined to use it in a single product.



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FLASH HARD DRIVE ? CONTINUED:

Jobs' newfound enthusiasm for the memory format indicates the extent to which the digital music industry has pinned its hopes for mass-market appeal on flash-based players. Though hard-drive and micro-hard-drive devices have dominated the MP3 player market, flash-memory performance, price and popularity are all improving at such a clip that some analysts believe it will overtake the hard drive in the very near future.

Flash-based devices store content on a chip, which unlike a hard drive contains no movable parts. This means flash players use less battery power -- 30 times less -- than hard-drive players, as well as being much smaller and extremely durable.

The trade-off is that flash memory chips have a limited storage capacity and a higher price than their hard-drive counterparts, which boast 10 times the capacity at half the cost.

PLUNGING PRICES

But flash costs are dropping dramatically. According to semiconductor research firm iSuppli, the price-per-megabyte cost for flash memory has fallen 56 percent in the last year. The firm projects the price will fall an additional 47 percent by next year and then another 33 percent by 2007.

Memory capacity also is improving. Samsung plans to begin mass-producing 16GB flash-memory chips by the end of next year and points to a 32GB prototype on the horizon.

This improvement in flash technology is one reason Apple replaced the micro-hard-drive-based iPod Mini with the flash-based Nano.

The Mini came in 4GB and 6GB models for \$200 and \$250, respectively. The Nano offers 2GB and 4GB models at the same price points.

"We don't look at it from a standpoint of hard

drive and flash," says Stan Ng, director of iPod product marketing. "We try to look at the whole lineup to bring a lot of new customers in."

Analysts believe the falling flash prices are key to the evolution of the MP3 player as a mass-market device. Jupiter Research estimates there will be 56 million MP3 players in the world by 2010, and more than half will be flash devices that hold 1,000 songs or less, with about 5GB.

"Flash-device sales will surpass hard-drive sales," Jupiter Research analyst David Card says. "But the technology is not important. What's important is reaching a certain capacity at a certain price point at a certain size."

WASTED SPACE

Research suggests that most owners of hard-drive-based devices that can hold 10,000 songs or more do not come close to using the full storage capacity. According to Card, only about 20 percent of iPod users have more than 1,000 songs on their players. No surprise then that MP3 device manufacturers, including Apple, are counting on smaller and cheaper devices to drive the digital music player market forward.

"Apple changed its product strategy more rapidly than we thought it would," Card says.

Sony is also using flash in its well-received Walkman Bean MP3 player line, offering 1GB of storage for about \$180, and flash is widely featured in its Network Walkman line. Samsung says it is making flash-based devices the centerpiece of its digital strategy going forward.

"Flash gives us more room for design and for making the products more portable and smaller," says Peter Weedfald, senior VP of sales and marketing for Samsung's Consumer Electronics group.

These size and design benefits must combine with low price if portable digital music devices are ever going to trump portable CD players, analysts say.

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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

The meeting this month is one of the more important ones of the year because of the nomination of officers for the following year. The nominations are this month and the election will be held at the December meeting. The quality of the group depends in large part on the officers and their ability to provide what will benefit you. It goes without saying that the officers cannot very well present what you want without your taking an active interest in the group and letting your desires be known. Please involve yourselves in the process of nominating and voting for officers, even if you have no desire to become involved in the governing board of RMUG.

The demonstration scheduled for this month should be very educational and entertaining. It is centered on the application "Garage Band" and is being presented by Jimi Bonogofsky (who dazzled and inspired the group with her iMovie demo about a year ago).

Finally, if it seems like I have gotten hung up on "backing up" you are right. It is an important aspect of computing and cannot be over emphasized.



Ken

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FLASH HARD DRIVE ? CONTINUED:

"If you could get a device that had enough capacity to be interesting, with good battery life and cool form factor, and sell (it) for \$50, this market will explode," Card says. "It's pretty easy to imagine a flash-based device in a year or two hitting those kinds of price points."

By Antony BrunoSun
Yahoo! News
Reuters/Billboard