

March/April 2008
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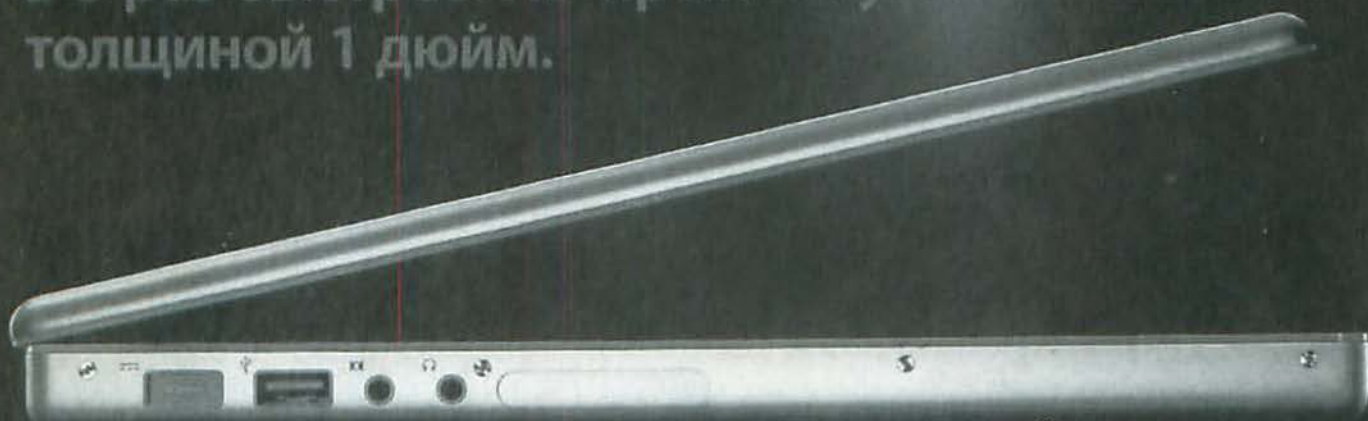
Washington Apple Pi Journal

A Journal for Macintosh Computer Users

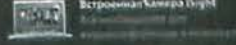
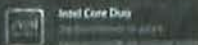
Macs in Moscow and Elsewhere!

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Washington Apple Pi Meetings



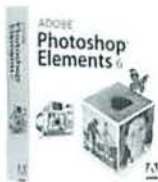
March 2008 General Meeting **March 29, 9:30 a.m.**

Microsoft Office 2008 vs. iWork '08

The boxing ring has been readied and the two heavyweights are ready to duke it out! Come hear expert users of both of these powerhouse word processing and office suites provide some in-depth review and comparison. Which one is right for you?

We will have our usual Q & A session as the warm up act, and our refreshment coffee break too. Club business, to include Pi election news, will be covered and the Pi Dollars raffle will return with some nice prizes!

The meeting looks to be a good one. Come early, stay late!



April 2008 General Meeting **April 26, 9:30 a.m.**

Adobe Photoshop Elements 6!

Graphics wizard Lesa Snyder-King returns to the Pi to give us her take on the newest version of Adobe's *Photoshop Elements*. Lesa is a world-class graphic artist, but with a difference: she is also very good at teaching. *Photoshop Elements 6* (due for release in March 2008) is much less expensive than the full *Photoshop*, but under Lesa's tutelage you may find it much more approachable and useful. Lesa's visit is sponsored by iStockphoto.

Our meeting will open with a Q & A session, and at some point we will have a break for refreshments. We will also meet the candidates for the Board of Directors in this year's election. This promises to be a great meeting. You don't want to miss it!

All Washington Apple Pi General Meetings begin at 9:30 a.m. and take place at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church, VA. For more information, visit the Pi Web site and click on the meeting link; driving directions are included.

You are invited

Need to renew
your membership?

Use the application
form on page 37!

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Writers' submissions and ad copy:

May–June 2008 — March 15

July–August 2008 — May 15

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Change of Address should reach us 60 days in advance of the move to ensure that your Journals continue uninterrupted.

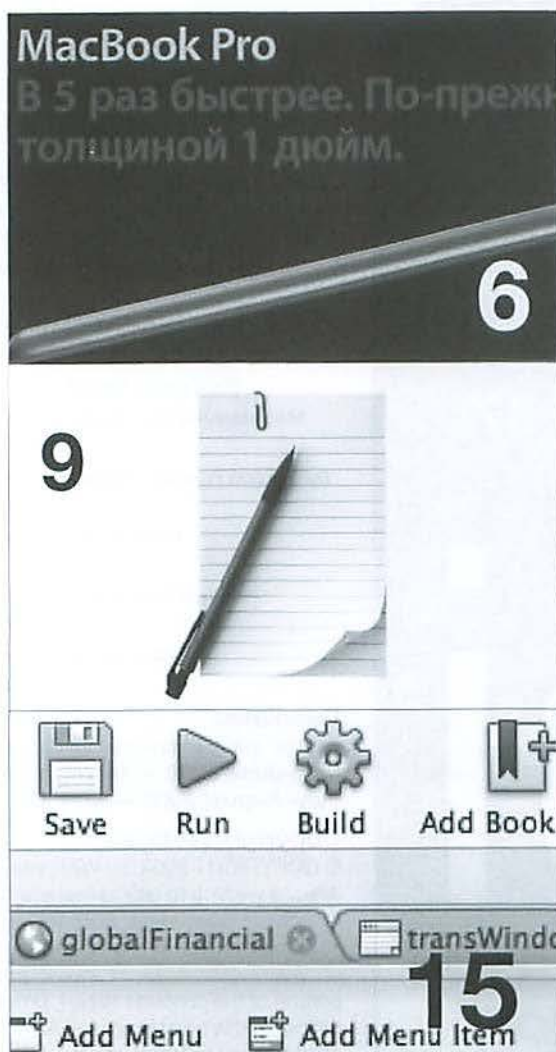
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Photos by Allen Kent
Cover Design: Nora Korc

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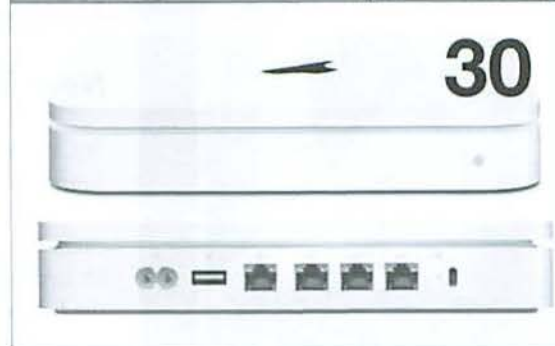
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Wanted!



Pi Reporter being sought!

Huge Reward being offered: responsible person is being asked to come forward.

If you have basic writing skills and want to contribute to the *Journal*, contact the Pi immediately!

Call 301.984.0300

Email: office@wap.org



Letters to the Editor

New Pi Logo

Yes, the old one was very dated and a new one needed to be found. Yes it's modern, simple, will scale well, incorporates the rounded squares, looks nice, etc., BUT ... it's totally generic. Blah. Aside from rounded corners, nothing Apple. Nothing DC. And really, not even Pi. Couldn't it at the very least have the Greek symbol? I'm underwhelmed.

Cecily Wood (member)

When permission was asked to publish as a Letter to the Editor, Cecily added the following:

Yes you can publish it...I guess. I'm not appalled or disgusted, you understand, but my reaction was "Is this all there is?" or "Where's the beef?" I'm afraid it looks more like a math group, or a Greek "academic" or fraternal organization of some sort.

The other one badly needed updating, but maybe this is simply too slick? Needs a few nooks and crannies? Or maybe too commercial? Nope - it just doesn't say anything. After all, even my kitchen sink is a rounded corner rectangle.

I'm wondering if it can be slightly modified in some way that would tell about us? Other than the Greek Pi? Maybe do the Pi sign, and for a tiny logo leave it at that, but for anything larger, in the top left have

Washington

Apple

in white or maybe 20% halftone whenever it is not directly next to those words? I'm not certain there is much that can be done to indicate DC instead of state. That's a perpetual conundrum everyone suffers from.

Add any of that if you want to. Underwhelmed was a good word, though. - Thanks for asking - Cec

Editor: Thanks for your comments!



**Some of our
Pi activities
are having
modest success
and others are
floundering.
Can you guess
which ones?**

Two Steps Forward, One Step Back!

By Bob Jarecke

Pi Journal Cover-Photo Contest

The first winner is Allen Kent! Two of Allen's photographs from a trip to Moscow were cleverly combined by the editing staff to produce the cover of this *Journal*, with most of the credit going to Nora. As a step forward it was a small one, as the number of photos submitted numbered only a few. The meager start to this activity aside, I hope that everyone can see that any sort of photo can be submitted for our creative editing staff to work with. And by the way, Allen earned himself the tangible reward of a \$15 *iTunes* Music Card, as will all subsequent winners. Get those cameras clicking!

Pi's Electronic Services

Per a request by the TCS Committee and approval by the Board, the majority of the Pi's electronic services will be moved to an off-site location, to everyone's benefit. With newer hardware and the use of Mac OS X Leopard server software, our servers will be more consolidated, much faster, and have far greater storage capacity. This is a big deal!

Forthcoming improvements include an upgrade of our email software, an updated membership database that runs on the latest version of *FileMaker*, and use of the latest version of *FileMaker Server* to make sure all our servers play well together. The end result will be more behind-the-scenes improvements; however, there will be some visible difference to members when all the integration is complete. One goal is to have each member's information readily available online and allow members to make changes directly to their record (pending office review of the change). Of course, working out the processes and details with adequate security is a ton of work for Jon and Greg, but we are getting there. I think you are going to like what you see!

So the above changes represent steps forward; how about that step backward?

Pi's Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

It pains me to say, that with one exception, our SIGs are not doing very well. The interest is there; but we are lacking in organizational structure. Both the Graphic Arts SIG and the iLife SIG recently lost their leaders, and have stopped meeting. Hal did yeoman's work in getting both of these SIGs reactivated, but then had to bow out as leader because, like many of us, he found his time was short. Unfortunately, no one stepped up and took over the reins of leadership. These SIGs are in limbo now — neither active nor formally disbanded. Mmmm, what to do?

We need to breathe some life into the whole SIG concept. First, we need some clear-cut guidance, i.e., practical how-to instructions so anyone taking over will know what is expected, what to do and how to do it. With plenty of meeting locations available, there is no lack-of-facilities excuse. With a plethora of topics and subject matter, thanks to some great products by Apple and others, I don't think we can beg off for lack of material. So it really boils down to the need for an organizer.

Here's an idea

Instead of having a leader for each group doing all the required work, why not have one central figure manage all the SIGs? This SIG Coordinator would ensure that SIG programs are set up, notices get out, bylaws-reporting requirements are complete, and other relevant tasks are taken care of. The one thing they would not have to do is lead the SIG program activity. This function could fall to an active member or members who, having been relieved of the administrative burden by the Coordinator, would be free to be a leader who could set the tone and agenda for the group. What do you think?

Pi Election

Lastly, continuing the leadership theme, our annual voting cycle is approaching, and we are looking for folks to serve on the Board of Directors. In the past, members have been cajoled, begged and bribed to step up. This year, a change: we are going to pick nominee names out of a hat!

Just kidding! But think about it; we need you! π



Macs in Moscow and Elsewhere!

By Bob Jarecke, Allen Kent and Travis Good

In our continuing saga of claiming that we are an international organization, we have another chapter to add. This report comes from the former Soviet Union and points southwest.

One of our long-time members, Allen Kent, was fortunate enough to travel to Russia this past summer, and Moscow was on his itinerary. Allen made the classic tourist stop to see Red Square... But, why should I tell the story, let's let Allen describe it in his own words:

In the summer of 2007, I toured Russia and took a cruise from Moscow to St. Petersburg. One of the principal tourist attractions in Moscow is Red Square, which is bordered by the Kremlin, Lenin's tomb, and the famous GUM department store.

For years I had heard of GUM, which was the epitome of Soviet retailing — wait in separate queues to order, pay for, and receive your merchandise. Today, the classic architecture of GUM remains, but the Soviet merchandising has been replaced with a Western-style shopping mall hosting many familiar retailers.

Right:
St. Basil's Cathedral.

Below:
GUM Department Store.



While others in my tour group shopped the apparel stores, I headed to the Apple store. It was as attractive as an Apple store in the USA, but with fewer computers on display and very few customers. I looked around, took a few photographs, and left to find my group.

Oh yes, the restrooms in GUM are clean and free, a rarity in Russia.

[Editor's Note: GUM stands for *Glavnyi Universalnyi Magazin*, or "Main Universal Store."]

Allen submitted several Moscow photographs in the Pi Journal Cover Photo Contest. Needless to say, they were unique and, as I am sure you saw, two of them were used to create the cover for this issue of the Journal. Thanks, Allen, great snaps!

But we just couldn't let the story end right there; after all, here was an opportunity to learn something more, first hand! So to obtain a little more depth on the story, Allen was asked some questions about the experience. Here they are.





Q: Did you take any of your Mac gear with you? If so, what?

A: I don't own a portable Mac and my G4 iMac wouldn't fit in my suitcase. The only electronic gear I took was a pocket-sized digital camera with accessories (extra batteries, SD cards, and battery charger).

Q: What kind of precautions did you take for the physical security of computers or other electronic gear?

A: Two people in my tour group had their cameras stolen. My ancient Minolta Xg was in a secure pocket when not in use.

Q: What was the accessibility of email and was it difficult to connect to the Internet?

A: Many towns had Internet cafes. I used one in a small city and tried to access Gmail to use a new throw-away account I set up for the trip. The Cyrillic keyboard was too great a barrier and I was unable to send email. I could not access the English Gmail home page and was mired in the Russian page.

I wanted to call a friend in the U.S. from Moscow. I had a new AT&T calling card and the USA-Direct numbers for Moscow and St. Petersburg. I tried unsuccessfully to use a pay phone in Moscow.

Perhaps they require prepaid cards. I borrowed a cell phone from an English-speaking tour guide. I'm sure he didn't comprehend the concept of USA-Direct, but he trusted me to not charge a call to the US on his phone. And I trusted him to not abuse the calling card number I punched into his phone. The call lasted about five minutes and then abruptly terminated. I don't know if my trusting guide paid for local calls by the minute, but I gave him a hefty tip at the end of the trip.

Q: Did you think about or keep any notes to use to build a Trip Blog?

A: The only notes were to identify my photos. Travis' blog [below] is impressive but not something I'm inclined to generate for my travels.

The reference to a Trip Blog was in response to a question concerning an adventure Travis Good recently completed. It was an extensive journey, and yet Travis was able to boil down each significant area visited onto one page. See it here:

<http://www.goodpursuits.com/DesertSouthwest/>

Above:

A snapshot of the interior of the Apple Store.

Below:

Screenshot of Travis' blog page.



Cover Story

Travis passed along the secrets to putting it together. Here is what he had to say:

Just a little insight might be useful to you. Since I used iWeb, I built the template of the entire site before I even started out on my trip. Since I planned how to weave together all my destinations, I had all my Google Maps done in advance too. Since I made a point of having WiFi at almost every place I stayed, I built the site in real time at night. When I got back, I had to plug a few holes and tidy things up, but there was less than 20% of the site building effort left once I returned home.

Apple laptop, digital camera, iLife, and WiFi is all it took to do this.

And there you have it, another instance of Pi members using their Macs or related equipment to chronicle their lives. Good stuff and thanks to Allen and Travis for sharing that with us!

Macs in England

In addition to Macs in Moscow, there are Macs in England. Apple has one of their flagship stores on Oxford Street, reputed to be the busiest shopping street in the world, in a building owned by the Queen. A week before Christmas 2007, it was packed with shoppers. This hand-held (below) photo of the store was taken from across the street; the store was too crowded for photos on the inside.

Photo by Lawrence I. Charters, taken with a Sony Alpha-700 digital camera.



Apple also has "Premium Resellers" throughout the country. Chester, near northern Wales, is a walled city, with much of the city wall built by the Romans. This Apple Premium Reseller (above) is located in a 400-year-old building, a nice mixture of the old and the new.

Photo by Lawrence I. Charters, taken with a Sony Alpha-700 digital camera. π

Pathways to Macintosh Learning

By Bob Jarecke

In my past service as a member of the Board and now as Pi President, I've received many questions about the Pi providing tutorials. Our recent survey on Pi Benefits and Services gathered members' views regarding possible tutorial options. The survey results, as well as comments submitted by many of the respondents, indicated sufficient interest to warrant a careful study of what the Pi could do in this area. This article is an effort to get our arms around the real need for tutorial assistance and decide how to meet members' expectations.

Without rehashing the reasons why the Pi stopped offering tutorials, yet drawing from that experience, we are exploring some alternative options to meet the need. I think it would be fair to say that most Pi members hope they could receive some credible tutorial assistance when they need it.

In laying the groundwork to finding available tutorial resources, this article will first endeavor to assess your learning needs and preferences. It will also briefly address some equipment issues that affect the learning process. The second section provides numerous resources and venues to help you in your quest to become a more proficient Mac user. By the end of the article, you will have a sound start to help you decide the best method or methods for you to enhance your computer skills.

Part One Some Questions and Things to Consider

What Makes You Tick?

To start, there are several important questions that you, as members, need to consider:

First, what is your experience level?

- 1) Are you a beginner, someone who has finally resolved to join the digital age, or are you new to the Mac after using a Windows-based personal computer?
- 2) You might be a Mac user with some rudimentary computing skills based on the continued use of older software and an operating system that is a couple of versions removed from the latest;
- 3) Maybe you have reached a computing plateau where you know enough to get by but don't know how to learn more;
- 4) Then again, you might be a Mac user who wants to expand your computing knowledge, tap into the voluminous capabilities of the Mac, and learn some new skills, but it all seems too daunting.

You need to evaluate your basic needs, the time you can devote to the learning, and perhaps, set some goals.



© iStockphotos.com

Another important question: how do you learn best?

- 1) Are you able to follow along with a self-paced, self-help lesson?
- 2) Do you learn best by simply reading about a subject or task?
- 3) Or, after reading up on something, is it best for you to try it on your own or watch a demonstration of what you just read?
- 4) Maybe you prefer to have a task or procedure shown to you and you then repeat it?
- 5) Or perhaps you want someone standing over your shoulder (preferably not your spouse) telling you what steps to take — a personal tutor approach?

The above questions are by no means all-inclusive; learning is an individualized process, and the most common response to the above cases would be, "it depends." In any event, there is help for all of you!

Before we get to some of the good stuff, I would like to ask a bit of a personal question: are you a list maker? More specifically, when someone explains how to do something on the computer, do you have to write down all the steps in checklist fashion? In defense of the practice, it is a sure way to "get it right" — but it is not very efficient and it simply reinforces a dependency on that list. You aren't learning, you are only imitating. And if you lose those lists — OMG!*

* text messaging shorthand for "Oh My Goodness"

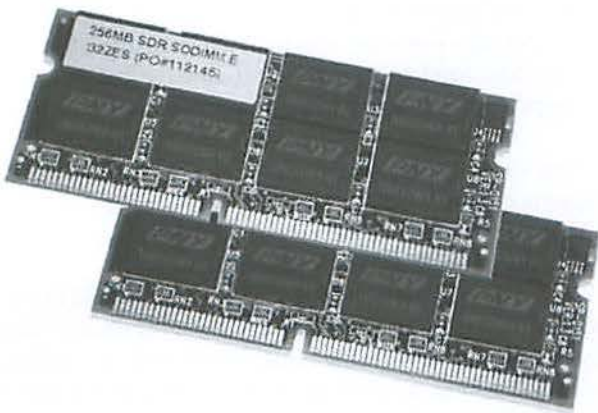
Learning Resources

So learning how to use the computer is much like many other things you do. First, you study to get a good basic understanding. Then as you learn how, you begin to understand why, which helps true understanding take place. And finally, through repetition of the process or task, you gain proficiency. Think about the things you do well. In those cases, you know the how and why — you understand. And after years of doing these tasks or processes over and over, they become second nature. Computing is just another process to learn, and if you get the basics down and practice, you will advance beyond the beginner state and enter the ranks of the intermediate user — progress, to be sure. Now, one more matter needs to be addressed...

Tools of the Trade

To do certain jobs, you need the right tools. Sure you can do a lot around the house with simply a hammer, pair of pliers and a screwdriver, but more specialized tools can generally make fixing a household problem a piece of cake. So it is with your computer.

The amount of memory your Mac has, the type of mouse and keyboard, and the specialized peripherals attached can all make a big difference in how efficient and enjoyable using your computer can be. If you have a Mac made in the 21st century and it doesn't have at least 512 megabytes of RAM (Random Access Memory), you are probably suffering performance problems and slowdowns. A two-button mouse with a scroll wheel is a must, while an extended keyboard is more efficient for desktop computers. How you use these two essential interface devices is also important — see the sidebar entitled *Keyboard or Mouse? You Decide*. Finally, external devices like external hard drives, scanners, USB and FireWire hubs, and printers all properly routed and connected are important, too. The right tools make the task easier, but using these tools properly is equally important.



RAM Chips: One's Good, Two's Better! Photo by Bob Jarecke.

Part Two Some Resources and Things to Consider

Help at Your Fingertips!

To begin, what is the quickest and easiest source of help? The answer is "Help" — that is the "Help" item on your Mac's main menu. It is available in every application and works through a browser-style application that gives you a search window and topic links to information. One particularly informative Help selection is the one for Finder. It provides lots of descriptive information about the operating system and many of its components. It is a good place to review how things work and where they are located.

Another assist to learning more about various aspects of the Mac OS (Operating System) is offered on Apple's Web site:

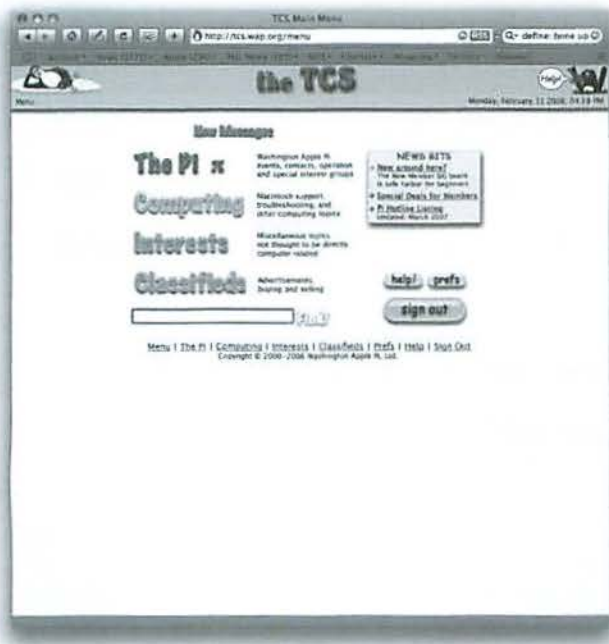
<http://www.apple.com/support/quickassist/>

This URL will take you to a directory of common computing topics. The topics are general, but they quickly evolve into very specific definitions and explanations. It is appropriate that the page is titled Quick Assist. Check it out. And what other close-at-hand resources are available? The Pi, of course, but not in a tutorial sense. The TCS forums and the Pi Hot Line list are immediate forms of help, and although the methods differ, the quality and personal touch are the same.

The TCS has been touted for some time now (more than two decades) as a great source of information. We have consciously tried to promote it by publishing our Best of TCS series in every *Journal*. These highlighted discussions are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the degree of information available to each and every member. Many positive comments and complimentary thanks have come back to me as a result of members getting quick and thorough answers to their questions. Also, the depth of knowledge of some of the TCS regulars is amazing; the resulting discussions can sometimes become lengthy, with several point-counterpoint postings. And all of this takes place in a collegial setting through the willingness of members to help others, a win-win situation.

The Hot Line list is another case of members offering to help. Hotline helpers have agreed to be contacted and to assist other members with questions about a particular software title or technology. Members should not hesitate to call anyone on the list, for help is just a phone call away. Here again, I have heard some glowing remarks about certain members on the Hot Line list who have provided indispensable help. Another win-win situation!

Each of these excellent help options is easily reached by just logging into the TCS. The main Menu page is the starting point for the TCS Conferences as well as a link to the Hot Line list, that is located in the green sticky tab on the right



Screenshot of TCS Main Menu page.

portion of the page. Try it—you may not have to go any further to get the help you need:

<http://tcs.wap.org/>

The Answer is a Mouse Click Away!

With the advent and proliferation of the Internet, information is just a Google search away. True, effective and efficient Google searching is somewhat of an art form, but even the novice can put a word or two in a search window and come up with something of value. However, rather than pass everyone off to Google, here are some very good training options for all Mac users. Please, keep in mind that most of the training on the Web is best suited to someone who is comfortable learning on the computer. Also, getting something for nothing on the Web is much like life: normally, you can expect to pay in some way for good tutorial assistance.

The beginning Mac user should find the following useful. The first three links are to short training sessions on the Apple Web site with some rudimentary information for the beginner and the Switcher to build on. The next two links take you to Web sites that appear to be a treasure trove of information for the first time Mac user:

- <http://www.apple.com/support/mac101/>
- <http://www.apple.com/support/switch101/>
- <http://www.apple.com/findouthow/macosx/>
- <http://www.myfirstmac.com/index.php/>
- <http://osxhelp.com>

There's Nothing like a Good Book!

There are some folks who simply need to read to grasp a subject, especially if the reading material is accurate, logical and concise. There are many good books that meet these criteria and cover the gamut.

For basic to advanced information on all the latest versions of Mac OS X, books by Robin Williams and David Pogue have been consistently rated as excellent. Here are their most recent ones:

The Little Mac Book: Tiger Edition by Robin Williams (Peachpit Press, 2005)

Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger by Robin Williams (Peachpit Press, 2005)

Mac OS X Leopard, the Missing Manual by David Pogue (Pogue Press)

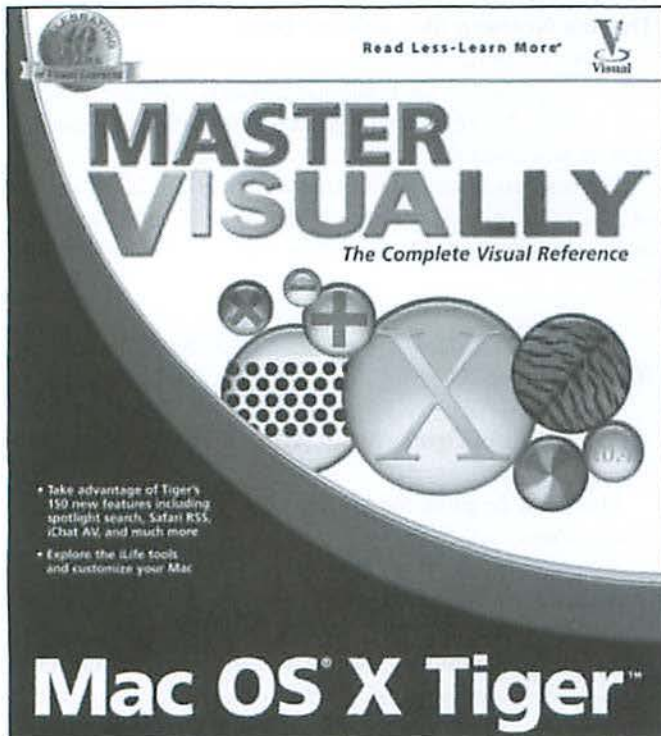
Also, there are the "...for Dummies" books, which cover a huge range of topics! The numbers of books and the areas they cover are countless. Just to get an idea, type "book, Mac OS X, [substitute your version here]" into a Google search window.

Of course, after you have decided on a book you want, where to buy it is another issue. You can save time by Googling the title, then clicking on the link to it on Amazon.com where the prices are generally quite good. But, for those who are tactile and need a book in hand to browse the Table of Contents and skim areas of interest, all while enjoying a cup of Joe in a bookstore café, online just doesn't cut it. Copy the titles down and head to your favorite retail bookstore to browse to your heart's content. To each their own!

And to muddy the water a little more, there is the issue of what type of book satisfies your learning needs. Me? I like pictures!



Learning Resources



There are some highly recommended books that use great illustrations to help the reader better visualize the task. One particularly good series is the Visual Quickstart series, but there are others. Here are some that relate to the latest versions of Mac OS X:

Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard: Visual QuickStart Guide by Maria Langer (Peachpit Press, 2008)

Teach Yourself VISUALLY Mac OS X Tiger by Erick Tejkowski (Visual, 2005)

Master VISUALLY Mac OS X Tiger by Daniel Drew Turner (Visual, 2005)

Teach Yourself VISUALLY Mac OS X Leopard by Lynette Kent (Visual, 2007)

The Other Book — eBooks!

What is more appropriate than reading a book about your Mac on your Mac? If you are not averse to using the computer for extensive reading, then eBooks might be for you. A quick Web search on www.eBooks.com finds almost 500 hits for Mac OS X eBooks. The selection seems comprehensive, with coverage from earlier versions of the vaunted operating system to the latest on Leopard, as well as tons on Apple and other applications.

One highly regarded, Mac-centric set of eBooks is called the Take Control series. While they are available by downloading, they can also be purchased in traditional book form for nearly double the cost. The varied authors are well

versed in all that is Mac, and at a recent Pi General Meeting the Apple Representative, who was presenting, put in a solid plug for these books. Here are three examples:

Take Control of Upgrading to Leopard by Joe Kissell

Take Control of Switching to a Mac by Scott Knaster

Take Control of Customizing Tiger by Matt Neuburg

The above titles and many more can be found at:

<http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/>

Tutorial CDs, DVDs and More!

Another way to learn “how to” is by using instructional videos. Many of these lessons are available on CDs and DVDs, but they aren’t the only medium for viewing tutorial lessons. With the advent of the iPod, there is a whole plethora of audio and video Podcasts covering every facet of the Mac and associated topics. There is even an online show dedicated exclusively to Photoshop called Photoshop TV. It can be viewed on the Web (<http://www.photoshopusertv.com/>) or downloaded right to iTunes. Of course, you don’t have to own an iPod to listen to or view any of these lessons; all are easily accessible via iTunes.

What are some of the titles and Web sites where you can browse what is available? Before I list some of them, I will point out there is a whole other way to learn: online tutorial services. These are generally for-pay services that can, in some cases, add up to a bit of money; however, the benefit is you have access to the material over and over again. A couple of the more notable of these services are:

Lynda.com
(<http://www.lynda.com/>);

Atomic Learning
(<http://movies.atomiclearning.com/k12/tutorials>); and

VTC Online and CD Computer Software Training
(<http://www.vtc.com/>).

In all the above cases, you can view online, download a lesson or buy a disc with the lessons on them. Generally, Podcasts are free, as are some introductory lessons at the training Web sites. Here are some examples of tutorial CDs and DVDs that were found on Amazon.com:

Mac OS X Training For Windows Users by Terry White

Continued on page 14

Keyboard or Mouse? You Decide

Keyboard or mouse: this simple choice reflects the fact that there is more than one way to do almost anything on your Mac. Which is the best approach for you is an important question. If your goal is to improve your Mac skills, you may want to learn how to better use the Mac tools, which in this case are the keyboard and mouse.

Case in point: do you exclusively use the mouse-driven cursor along with application menus to get things done? How could you not, you might say; however, there is another way, by using shortcuts on your keyboard. I actually find combining the two works best for me. I anchor my left hand on the bottom left area of my keyboard, keeping my right hand on the mouse, or just to the right of the trackpad if I am using my MacBook. With this positioning, I can easily reach three important keys—the Control key, the Option key, and the Command or Apple key—with my left thumb, while activating other keys with my remaining fingers. Over the course of writing an article like this one, I save loads of time because my hands rarely leave the keyboard. Let me illustrate.

First, combining both the Control (ctrl)* key and a click of the mouse (ctrl-click) will display a contextual menu, a small menu that pops up under the cursor.** These little menus contain alternate ways to use commands contained in the application menu, as well as other options. Even in Finder, ctrl-click will yield different contextual menus based on where the cursor is located in the Finder window. This is an easy way to select important menu items without having to move the mouse all the way up to the menu at the top of your display. Try it in Finder and various applications to see what options are available.

Next, the Option key—what is it good for?*** It is a modifier key and needs something else to occur in conjunction with its use. An example or two will help illustrate this.

While editing text, hold the option key and use the right arrow key to advance the cursor from word to word. Using the left arrow causes the opposite. If you click the up or down arrow key, the cursor moves up (or down) to the start of subsequent paragraphs. This means that you don't have to use the mouse to move the cursor to another part of your document. Just hold the Option key and the down arrow and you are zooming through the document, a paragraph at a time!

In another case, using the Option and Shift keys in conjunction with the arrow keys highlights text as the cursor moves from word to word. No more having to reach over for the mouse to click on or drag across words to highlight them. Your hands stay put! And what can you do with highlighted text?

The Command (cmd) key — the one with the cloverleaf-looking character (⌘) next to the Apple — is a powerful key! Holding this key and selecting one or two other keys can abbreviate some tasks by eliminating significant cursor movements were you to use the application menu instead. An excellent example of this is the Copy and Paste task, something I do endlessly as I compose and edit. After highlighting text, preferably with keystrokes as mentioned above, hold down the Command key and then tap the "C" key (cmd-C). This action will copy the highlighted text to the clipboard, which simply places the text in memory. Then, after you designate where you want the text to go by placing the cursor at that spot, you can paste the text in by holding down the Command key and then tapping the "V" key. You have to admit: that is a lot easier than mousing all over the place to get this task done.

The point of giving you a brief glimpse at using keystrokes and such is to give you the awareness that there are usually several ways to do the same task on a Mac. The Mac operating system, Apple and third-party applications abound in neat features and clever ways to make computing easy and fun. Only if you learn more about the capabilities of the Mac and practice will you be able to determine the methods and practices that are best for you. Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks? Just get him a Mac and watch him learn! Woof!

* The Control key depiction looks like this (^).

** Control – click can also be activated on a two-button mouse by right clicking.

*** The Option key depiction looks like this (⌘).

Learning Resources

Class on Demand: Basic Training for Mac OS X Leopard: Apple Educational Training Tutorial DVD by Tom Wolsky

Okay, I Bought a Mac! Now What?

Going Back to School!

Another option is to use higher education. The benefits of taking reasonably priced and comprehensive classes at a local community college cannot be over-emphasized. For those members with the time to devote to a semester's worth of classes, the opportunities are boundless. And for those who learn well in the structured environment of a classroom, this might be your cup of tea. Here, for example, two noncredit, online courses available through Montgomery Community College in Rockville:

101 Tips and Tricks for the iMac and Macintosh

101 Tips and Tricks for the iMac and Macintosh. Use your Macintosh more efficiently and increase your productivity by learning dozens of tips, tricks, and shortcuts involving the Operating System, Keyboard, Desktop Navigation, the Internet, Editing Text, Fonts, Special characters, Maintenance, Viruses, Keyboards, Monitors, Disks, Sound, and more.

Introduction to Photoshop CS2

Introduction to Photoshop CS2. If you want to work with graphics, Photoshop is the program you will most need to learn. Artists, photographers, designers, and hobbyists all rely on Adobe Photoshop for graphic design work. This course will teach you how to use Photoshop with detailed, step-by-step instructions that you'll have no trouble following—even if you've never used a computer for graphics before!

This is only the smallest hint of courses available in Maryland's Montgomery County; and there are far more higher education resources throughout the greater Washington Metro area. The search for what is available and how to interpret what you find might be a little daunting, but with the help of others who have taken or are taking courses, you can learn what is available. If you have a particular interest here and need more help, let the Pi office know with an email to office@wap.org and we will try to provide you with some additional guidance on going back to school.

Apple Pro Care

While it may be a bit of blasphemy (Apple's advertising strongly suggests Mac users don't need help), it would be unfair not to mention Apple's excellent Pro Care program. For \$99 a Mac user can have the services of an Apple certified instructor for one hour, every week, for one year. That's fifty-two hours of instruction for just under a hundred bucks!

While on paper this is a fine deal, consider that you will obviously need to get yourself to the Apple Store each week,

and you will need to find the time in your schedule for the training. While for some folks this might be easy to do, others have found some difficulty scheduling their training at a time that fits with their busy lives. Scheduling is conveniently done online and begins fourteen days in advance. To learn more, go to: <http://www.apple.com/retail/procare/>

So Where Do We Go From Here?

For those members who feel they need tutorial assistance, this is just a sampling of the options available today. By no means are these hints and references all-inclusive. However, if these suggestions can help you better define your learning needs and what might help you, then you are one step closer to using your Mac more effectively and efficiently.

On the other hand, pleas for help have been made and heard! And, while the Pi is about "members helping members," there is the matter of time. Who can help and when? Where can help be rendered? And as you might guess, an all-important issue is making the best use of the helper's and student's time. Getting these variables in alignment is not an easy feat, but the Pi Board is willing to try to help using a more novel approach: in-home tutorials.

Our concept is a little different from anything that was listed above. We are not offering canned tutorials per se, but rather a lesson plan on a specific topic with a live instructor connected to the student(s) through one of two screen-sharing applications. The first one is Adobe *Connect*, used in conjunction with Adobe *Reader* and Apple *iChat* audio. The other, if both participants have Mac OS X 10.5, is Apple *iChat* video exclusively with Leopard's screen-sharing feature. Because of *iChat* limitations, the latter method limits the student number to one, whereas *Adobe Connect* allows multiple students to participate in a lesson.

As for the tutorial training, one notion is to use a couple of specific lesson plans developed by Travis Good as the basis for individual review. Then a live connection could be made to elaborate on the topic and answer any questions the students might have. This type of lesson with a couple of students could easily use up most of an hour's time.

As for cost, we are looking at members getting a discount with Pi Dollars, while non-members will pay full price. Pricing and other details have not been determined at this point. Our first step is to see what the demand might be, and that is where the reader comes in.

It is up to Pi members who have asked for tutorials to consider the available opportunities for learning. If a match is found, then the need is met. If something else is required, then that too can be pursued.

In the end, the onus falls on the members. Please, let us know what you think. An email to office@wap.org with your thoughts will do a great deal to help us decide the level of effort required to get the membership the tutorial help it needs. If there is sufficient interest, I envision the development of a Pi Tutorial Resource Guide that will give you a more detailed listing of everything mentioned. Think about it and let us know. ☺

Building a Check Register in REALbasic: Part 5

By Brent Malcolm

This article is a continuation of the series I began in the July-August issue of the *Washington Apple Pi Journal* about simple programming in REALbasic (RB). I began by showing the would-be programmer how to use RB to construct a simple check register. In later installments I have transformed that simple check register into a full-featured application by adding more features as the series has developed. The application through Part 4 can be downloaded here:

<http://www.wap.org/journal/realbasic/>

This article will demonstrate the addition of the following functions:

- Preferences;
- Sorting the check register if you enter a transaction out of sequence;
- Voiding a check; and
- Adding names and editing the Depositor and Payee name files.

Preferences

All Mac users are familiar with using preferences to establish the desired behavior of applications. For the check register I'll use one simple preference to demonstrate how preferences can be saved. As you may know, application preferences are saved in a Preferences folder located in the Users Library, commonly denoted thus: `~/Library/Preferences`.

To demonstrate a preference I'll offer a choice of how **CheckWindow** operates. If the user wants to enter more than one check during a single session, it is more convenient if the window remains open rather than closing after every check entry. To allow that window response, I'll make that choice a preference.

To begin, I'll add two boolean properties, *manyCheck* and *prefsHaveChanged*, to **globalFinancial**. Next I'll add a new preferences window where the user can make a selection. I've designated the preferences window as a Sheet window, a form now familiar to Mac users that seems to slide down out of the title bar of the parent window (see Figure 1). Within the preferences window I have added a few new controls. The simplest control is the Separator (the line between the title and the text). The others are the familiar Group Box and the Radio Buttons. The radio buttons are named *rbMultipleChecks* and *rbSingleCheck*. RB takes care of managing the radio button logic so that only one can

be selected. I have added the following to the preferences window Open event handler to set the buttons to whatever value is held by the variable *manyCheck*:

```
if manyCheck = True Then
    rbMultipleChecks.value = True
else
    rbSingleCheck.Value = True
end if
```

The window's OK button gets the following code:

```
if rbMultipleChecks.value = true then
    manyCheck = true
elseif rbSingleCheck.value = true then
    manyCheck = false
end if

prefsHaveChanged = True
self.close
```

Note that the if-then test looks at which radio button is selected, sets *manyCheck* accordingly and sets the change flag.

The boolean variable *prefsHaveChanged* has been added to the list of properties in **globalFinancial**. The variable *prefsHaveChanged* will be tested when the application is closed to execute `writePrefs` if this variable is true. I do this by adding the following to the **transWindow** method `saveAll`:

```
if prefsHaveChanged then writePrefs
```

The Cancel button only closes the window, so it receives the simple code:

```
self.Close
```

Saving and Reading Preferences

The `writePrefs` method will write a preference file to the location described above and is placed in **globalFinancial** as follows:

```
dim f As folderItem
dim o As TextOutputStream

f = preferencesFolder.child("Bank Checking
prefs")
o = f.createTextFile
```

Software Tutorial

```
// manyCheck status
if manyCheck = true then
    o.writeline "manyCheck" + chr(9) + "true"
else
    o.writeline "manyCheck" + chr(9) + "false"
end if
o.Close
```

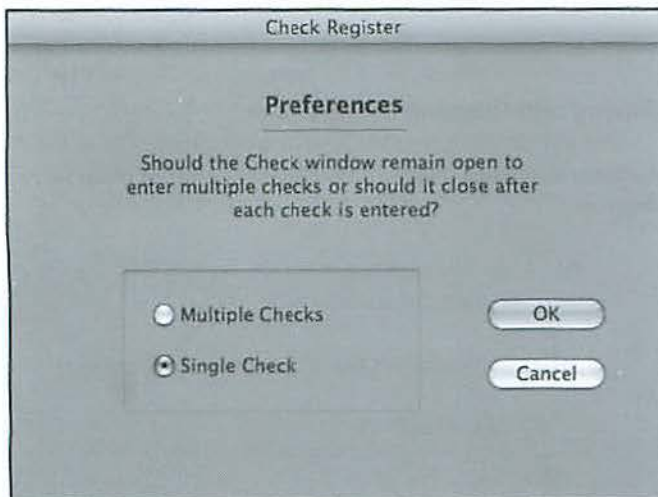
RB makes a simple task of locating the preference file. It is simply a "child" of "preferencesFolder." The code writes the legend "*manyCheck*," then a tab and then the word "true" or "false." I'll also need a companion method (readPrefs) to read the preference file when the application opens:

```
dim f As folderItem
dim instream As TextInputStream
dim s As string

manyCheck = false

// get manyCheck flag
f = preferencesFolder.child("Bank Checking
prefs")
if f.exists then
    instream = f.openastextFile
    s = instream.readLine
    if NthField(s, chr(9), 2) = "true" then
manyCheck = true
    instream.Close
Else
    prefsHaveChanged = True // force writePrefs
to make a file
End
```

Figure 1: This sheet allows you to set your preferences.



The call to readPrefs is placed in the **transWindow** initialize method so the *manyCheck* flag is set upon application start. Note that if a preference file is not found, the *prefsHaveChanged* flag will force writePrefs to write a file when the application closes.

The only remaining task is to get the preferences window to open. As you know the Preferences menu item always appears in the Apple menu, but RB doesn't have a way to place any menu item in the Apple menu. Instead, RB places the Preferences menu item in the Edit menu, and in the Property/Value table its Super is set to PrefsMenuItem (see Figure 2). This tells RB that when the application is compiled, the Preferences menu item must appear in the Apple menu.

The Preferences Menu Handler is added to **transWindow**:

```
Preference.Show
```

Now that I've established a preference for how **CheckWindow** should operate, I have to make some changes to that window to reflect that preference. If the preference *manyCheck* is set false, **CheckWindow** will not change at all, but if *manyCheck* is true the window must remain open until I'm done entering checks. To accomplish this, the Cancel button will be labeled "Done" and the OK button will function as before, but won't cause the window to close. Therefore, the Cancel button Open event handler will be coded as follows:

```
if manyCheck then
    me.caption = "Done"
Else
    me.caption = "Cancel"
End
```

The OK button Action event handler, which ended before with a call to close the window, now ends with the following:

```
// Reset Check Window if necessary
if Not manyCheck then
    self.Close
    Return
Else
    BalText.text = "Balance: $" + TransWindow.
transList.Cell(ntransactions - 1, 6)
    CkNrText.text="Check Number : " +
str(nextcknr)
    ckdate.setFocus
    CkDate.SelStart = 0
    CkDate.SelLength = Len(CkDate.text)
    ckamount.text = ""
    pay.text = ""
    PayeeList.scrollposition = 0
    PayeeList.listindex = - 1
End
```

This added code obviously closes the window if *manyCheck* is false. If it is true, this code reconfigures **CheckWindow** to its original condition so another check can be entered.

Examining the Date of the Transaction

Occasionally I may enter a new transaction out of sequence. Obviously, I'd like the Register to remain in date and check-number order. I accomplish this by adding a new *testEntryDate* method to **globalFinancial** that will compare every transaction with the last entry and call for a sort if the transactions are out of order.

I add a call to the *testEntryDate* method to OK button action events of the three types of transactions I have programmed: **CheckWindow**, **DepositWindow** and **atmWindow**. This will insure that any out-of-sequence transactions are handled properly. A pointer to the last transaction (*lineNr*) is sent to the *testEntryDate* method and the comparison is made to the transaction before *lineNr*.

```
// Tests last entry to see if it's earlier
than previous entry

if TransWindow.translist.cell(lineNr - 1, 0) <
TransWindow.translist.cell(lineNr - 2, 0) then
  Transwindow.DateSort()
else
  FindBalance()
end if
```

This method simply looks at the date of the last line in the check register and compares it with the date of the previous line. If the date on the last line is earlier, then the method calls for the register to be sorted by the *DateSort* method, also newly added to **transWindow**:

```
transList.SortedColumn = 2 //sort by check
number
transList.Sort
transList.SortedColumn = 0 //then by date
transList.Sort

FindBalance()
TransWindow.translist.scrollposition = 1000 //
set slider to bottom
```

Those of you who have persevered with these articles from the beginning may recall that **transWindow**'s *transList* has a hidden column 0 in which I stored the transaction date in *totalSeconds*, RB's master property for storing date/time variables. This allows me to do a date sort using column 0.



Pi Journal Cover Photo Contest!

We need cool photos for the *Journal* cover! You provide the photo, we pick it, you get a **\$15 iTunes music card**. Here is your chance to show off your photographic skills. Submit your photographic work of art and win the distinction of being on the cover of the *Journal*!

One basic rule, the photo must be a computer-related image. Previous covers can be used as a guide. The more imaginative, the better!

Make sure your images are high resolution shots; this makes for a better printed image. To enter, simply submit your entries via email to **office@wap.org**. Our *Journal* editing staff will be the judges, and due recognition will be given to each winner. Get started today—we are only a few weeks away from the next deadline!

Give us your best shot!

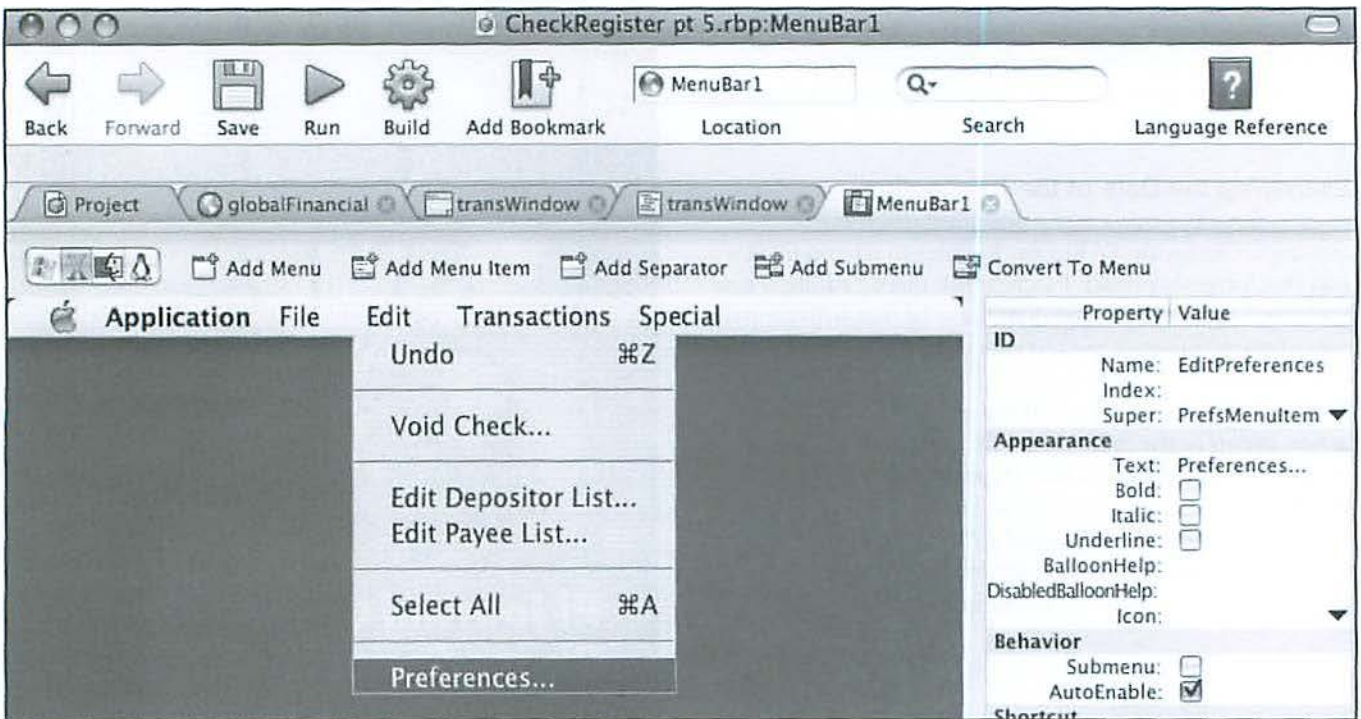


Figure 2: Preference Menu as it appears in the application.

Voiding a Check

If you need to void a check that has already been written and recorded, you can do it by:

- Adding a menu item, “Void Check...” under the Edit menu;
- Adding a menu handler that calls the VoidCheck window; and
- Adding a new VoidCheck window.

I add the new menu item in the same manner as other menu items and name it *EditVoidCheck*. The menu handler is only one line that opens the new window:

```
voidCheck.show
```

VoidCheck is shown in Figure 3. It is merely an edit box (ckNr) and two familiar buttons. Its Open event handler simply places the cursor in the edit box:

```
ckNr.setFocus
```

The Cancel button does the familiar task of closing the window with no further action. The OK button action handler follows:

```
dim i, j as integer

dim s, vDate as string

for i = 1 to ntransactions - 1
    if TransWindow.transList.Cell(i, 2) = ckNr.
text then
    j = i
    exit
    end
next

// Is entry outside the check number range?
if j = 0 and val(ckNr.text) <> nextcknr then
    MsgBox "That is not in the range of Check
Numbers for this year"
    self.close
    return
end

if ckNr.text <> str(nextcknr) then
    // Build a replacement line; first get
original date
    vDate = TransWindow.transList.cell(j, 1)
    s = buildVoidLine(vDate, ckNr.text)
    isEdit = true
    TransWindow.addTransRow(s, j)
else
```

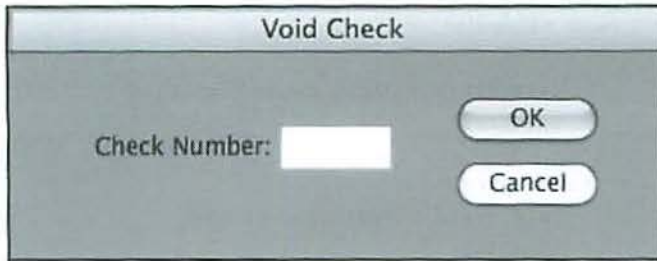


Figure 3: This simple window prompts you for the check number you wish to void.

```
// Entry is the next check number
s = buildVoidLine(today.shortDate, ckNr.text)
TransWindow.addTransRow(s, ntransactions)
end

FindBalance //recompute Balance
ListHasChanged = True
self.close
```

First every record in the register is searched to find the check number that matches the entry in the edit box. If no match is found the message box so advises. If a match is found a replacement record must be built with the word "Void" in the Payee/Payer column, a check in the "cleared" box, and "0.00" in the debit column. First the date of the original transaction is determined. Then, that date and the check number are sent to the new method, buildVoidLine:

```
dim s As string

s = vDate + chr(9)
s = s + ckNr + chr(9) // check nr
s = s + "x" + chr(9) // check considered
cleared
s = s + "Void" + chr(9)
s = s + "0" // debit
return s
```

This method constructs a record in the same format as a record that is read from the data file, so the same **transWindow** method, addTransRow, can be used to insert the revised record into the Check Register. However, there is one nuance in this transaction that must be managed. The method addTransRow begins by adding a new line to the list box, transList, but I don't want to add a new line, I want to modify an existing line. To do this I've added a new **globalFinancial** property, *isEdit*, as Boolean, and I've changed the beginning line in addTransRow to read:

```
if not isEdit then transList.addRow ""
```

This insures that the new record is simply inserted in place of the old record.

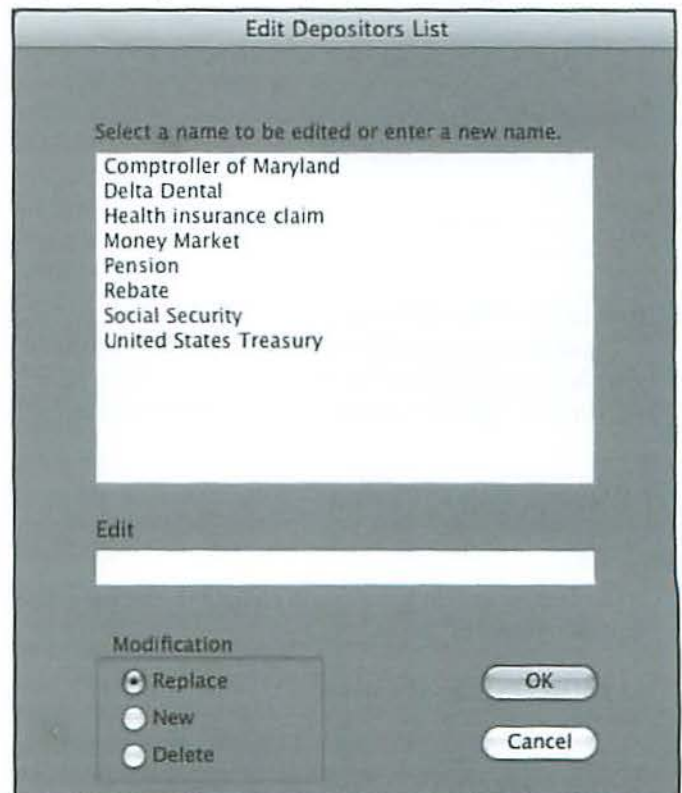
Editing the Depositor and Payee name files

From time to time, the Depositor and Payee name files may need to be edited. A company name could change, or there might be a new name or one you no longer use. To accomplish this edit, I'll build one new window that will be used to edit both the Depositor and Payee name files. This window, **EdList**, which is shown in Figure 4, is equipped with a list box, an edit field, three radio buttons and two push buttons. It will contain the following new properties: *EditIndex* as integer, *Incomplete & Replace* as boolean and *listMod* as string. It will be called by two new menu items in the Edit Menu, Edit Depositor List... & Edit Payee List..., that I will construct just as I did the Void Check... menu items above.

First a Little Housekeeping

When this application was built, the Depositors List and the Payees List were only opened by the **DepositWindow** and the **CheckWindow** respectively. Now these lists must also be opened by the new **EdList**, so I need to add four new properties to **globalFinancial** to accommodate the two lists: *depList(0)* and *payList(0)* as string arrays, and *nDepositors* and *nPayees* as integers. In addition I'll add three new properties to **globalFinancial** to accommodate the editing: *depositorsChanged* and *payeesChanged* as boolean, and *newName* as string.

Figure 4: Dialog box for editing Depositor and Payee Lists.



Software Tutorial

The application will now read the two list files upon opening by adding code to the initialize method. From here on I will describe only the code associated with the Payee functions. The Deposit functions are the same, but of course use a different file.

```
redim payList(0)
  npayees = 0

  payeeFile = dataFileFolder.child("Payee Names")
// location of Payee List

if payeeFile.exists then
  inStream = payeeFile.openastextFile
  while not instream.eof
    currentLine = instream.readLine //read
Payee list
    payList.append currentLine
    npayees = npayees + 1
  wend
else
  msgBox "The Payee Names file is missing."
  return
end if
instream.close
```

This is essentially identical to the method in the **CheckWindow** that read the file into the window's listBox but now reads into the array *payList*. When the **CheckWindow** opens it merely reads this array into the listBox.

```
dim i as integer

for i = 1 to npayees
  me.addrow payList(i)
next
me.headingindex = 0
me.sort
```

Now to Continue Editing

The editing menu handlers will call the **EdList** init method using the input parameter *list*, which will define what type of edit (deposit or payee) is called. The Payee Edit menu handler is:

```
EdList.init ("payee")
Return True
```

The Depositor Edit handler will contain the *list* parameter "deposit" instead of "payee."

The **EdList** init method follows:

```
listMod = list
select case list
```

```
case "deposit"

  self.Title = "Edit Depositors List"
  loadList

case "payee"
  self.Title = "Edit Payees List"
  loadList

end Select

self.Show
```

The new function **Select Case** will execute its commands depending on the content of the parameter *list*, and once that is complete, the window opens. Note that the variable *listMod* is set to the input parameter *list*. In the case of "payee," the window's title is defined and load list is called to fill the listBox. In this method *listMod* controls the case selection:

```
dim i as integer

select Case listMod
case "deposit"
  for i = 1 to ndepositors
    editBox.addrow depList(i)
  next
  editBox.headingIndex = 0
  editBox.sort

case "payee"
  for i= 1 to npayees
    editBox.addrow payList(i)
  next
  editBox.headingIndex = 0
  editBox.sort

end Select
```

Again, **Select Case** defines which set of commands are executed. In the payee case, the names from the array *payList* are loaded and sorted.

Now, if the user clicks on any name in the listBox named *EditBox* the **CellClick** handler does this:

```
ModField.text = me.cell(row, 0)
EditIndex = row
ModField.setFocus
Replace = true
```

First the name in the clicked cell is placed in the editBox, *ModField*. Then *EditIndex* is set to the row number clicked. The focus is placed in *ModField* and *Replace* is set True. When the OK button is pressed, here's the result:

```

If ModField.text = "" then
    MsgBox "You must have an entry in the edit
box"
    return
end if

NewName = ModField.text
incomplete = False

Select case listMod
case "deposit"
    modDep

case "payee"
    modPay

end select

if incomplete then Return //one of the "mod"
handlers had an error

self.Close

```

After an error check the Select Case again determines what method is called. Here's the modPay method:

```

dim i As Integer
If ReplaceButton.value then
    if Replace = false then
        MsgBox "You must select a name to replace."
        incomplete = True
        return
    end if
    editBox.cell(editIndex, 0) = newName
ElseIf NewButton.value = true then
    editBox.addRow newName
    npayees = npayees + 1
    payList.append " "
Else //delete Button
    editBox.removeRow editIndex
    npayees = npayees - 1
end if
editBox.sort
for i = 1 to npayees
    payList(i) = editBox.cell(i - 1, 0)
next
payeesChanged = True

```

Depending on which radio button is selected, the name is replaced, added or deleted and then *payList* is rebuilt. The boolean property, *payeesChanged* has been established in *globalFinancial* to trigger the new method *writePayeeList* if it is True. I've also added a test for *payeesChanged* and

depositorsChanged in the *promptSave* and *EnableMenuItems* methods so this *writePayeeList* is called:

```

dim o As textOutputStream
dim i As integer

//write Payee Name List
o = payeeFile.CreateTextFile
for i = 1 to npayees
    o.WriteLine payList(i)
next
o.close
payeesChanged = false

```

This concludes this article on REALbasic. Future articles will cover the following:

- Editing a Check Register Entry
- Adding an Automatic Deposit Function
- Adding an About Box

The compiled application to-date along with the data files and the source code can be downloaded here:

<http://www.wap.org/journal/realbasic> π



Running Leopard: My Experience with *Time Machine* and Scanning

By Brian Mason

Long-time Pi member Brian Mason was one of the first members to install Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard on his computer in 2007. This article documents his discoveries. Editorial notes have been added to clarify issues that have come to light in the months since then, either through Apple updates, Apple documentation, or further experimentation.

After installing Leopard, I had some major issues related to *Time Machine* and setting up my scanner. I thought it might be helpful if I shared my experiences.

Time Machine

The strangest experience I had was with *Time Machine*.

Like many people, I bought a new external hard drive to use with *Time Machine*. Mine happens to be a Western Digital 500GB USB 2.0. The first thing I learned was that this drive does not perform well at all if you try to hook it up through a USB 1.0 hub. So I went out and bought a USB 2.0 hub. Now my USB scanner scans much faster too. How about that!

I have a MacBook Pro and an AirPort Extreme. I frequently move between my upstairs office and the downstairs living room. Upstairs I can plug the hard drive directly into the laptop's USB port or into my new USB hub. It is possible, however, to plug the hard drive into the AirPort Extreme's USB port and connect to the hard drive wirelessly. Pretty cool.

I don't want to bore you with everything I had to go through to get *Time Machine* to work. I'll just say it was quite a struggle. I had to call Apple Support more than once, and had to start over three times with *Time Machine* before I finally got it right.

The problem first manifested itself when, after *Time Machine* initially made a complete backup while the external drive was directly connected to my laptop, it then made another complete backup while connected wirelessly. This time, *Time Machine* made the backup on a disk image that it created on the external drive. Then, after spending all that time (30 hours) making the second backup, the disk image disappeared from my desktop! If I needed to restore from my backup, I couldn't because I could not see the disk image on the external drive and mount it. *Time Machine* seemed to religiously make hourly backups when connected wirelessly. It would mount the disk image, make the incremental backup, and then dismount the disk image. In the meantime, the backup that was made while the external drive was directly connected to the laptop was not being updated.

As I tried to sort out this problem, I learned about a number of things you can do to make sure you don't have as many problems as I did. First, before you start *Time Machine*, make sure that the external drive you are going to use for your backups is partitioned using the GUID format. You must go to the "Partition" tab in Disk Utility and click on the "Options..." button. Make sure the GUID partition type is selected.

[Editor's note: technically, this is only true if the external disk drive is attached to an Intel-based Mac running Leopard or to the AirPort Extreme. A FireWire drive connected to a G4 or G5 computer can be formatted with an Apple Partition Map.]

Next, you must make sure that you have named your computer and your disk drive using only letters. You cannot have names that have spaces, hyphens, numbers, or anything other than an alpha character. This is because *Time Machine* relies heavily on the Mac OS Unix underpinnings, and Unix is very intolerant of device names with "strange" characters. When you are partitioning your external hard drive, just go to the "Name:" field and enter your acceptable name there. If you have to rename your computer, go to "System Preferences" and then "Sharing". At the top of this window in the "Computer Name:" field, type an acceptable name for your computer. You may need to restart your computer after you close the "System Preferences" window for the change to register.

After making these changes, you can go into *Time Machine* preferences and let *Time Machine* know which disk drive to use for its backups. In the *Time Machine* preferences window, click on the "Change Disk..." button. A sheet will come down where you should see your backup drive. Just select the drive and click the "Use for Backup" button.

One more thing. Once you have *Time Machine* set up, be sure you go into *Spotlight* preferences and set things up so the locally-connected backup drive is not indexed by *Spotlight*. If you don't do this, your machine will spend a lot of time trying to index all of the backups that *Time Machine* creates. After New Years I had a *Time Machine* backup run for four days and finally fail because my computer was trying to index the backup drive while the backup was taking place. Go to

“System Preferences” and choose *Spotlight*. Click on the “Privacy” tab and then on the “plus” button near the bottom of the window. Navigate to the *Time Machine* backup drive and drag it into the center of the *Spotlight* preferences window, or select it and click the “Add” button. If you find that your *Spotlight* still tries to index your backup drive, you may have to take additional steps to keep this from happening. Let me refer you to the following web site for a possible solution: <http://www.thexlab.com/faqs/stopspotlightindex.html>

I was amazed at the difference all this made in the time required for a backup. It took about 30 hours to make the original backup; once things were set up correctly, it took only five and a half hours.

I still had some other problems with *Time Machine*, though. One thing that is strange is that when *Time Machine* makes the original backup on my computer, it originally says it will be backing up 1,382,657 items or a total of 87.72 GB. After backing up almost 20 GB of stuff over a period of about 45 minutes, it starts over and says it will only be backing up 322,135 items or a total of 60 GB. When I do a “Get Info...” on current backups, it says the folders contain over 80 GB, but around 350,000 items. I did not tell *Time Machine* to omit anything from the backup, so I’m not sure what it is doing here. I have not seen any discussions dealing with this phenomenon. I can only hope it is making some intelligent choices about what does not need to be backed up, if that is what is going on.

Another point to bear in mind is that, according to the Apple Support representatives, *Time Machine* is not able to correctly back up while connected wirelessly. The hard drive and all the folders in it show up on the desktop, and *Time Machine* may see it and attempt to use it for a backup, but that backup will not be useable. If this happens, you need to turn *Time Machine* off in *Time Machine* preferences while connected wirelessly. This means that I will not be getting an hourly backup while connected to the backup drive wirelessly — but still I’m much better off than I was before when, at best, I was making backups every other week using another backup program.

[Editor’s note: this is a complex issue. Time Machine will back up wirelessly, and successfully, to a Time Machine drive attached to another Mac running Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard or Leopard Server. It will also allegedly back up wirelessly to the unreleased at this time – Apple Time Capsule. It will not back up to a USB drive plugged into an AirPort Extreme, though users hope a future update to the AirPort Extreme will change that situation.]

Finally, I had another strange experience on New Year’s Day. *Time Machine* started making a backup that would not stop.



A typical incremental backup runs for just a few minutes, around 10 minutes in my case. After 3 days, I stopped *Time Machine* manually and deleted the backup file that was still “in process” under the assumption that it was corrupted. When *Time Machine* started up again, again it chugged along for a couple of days. Again, I stopped it manually and deleted the backup file. The next time *Time Machine* started up again, I just let it run. It started on January 6 and ran until January 11 and completed. The folder that was created was dated as being created on January 10 at 9:55 am and modified on January 11 at 7:33 pm. *Time Machine* has been running normally since then. I have no idea what took five days to complete. I guess the bottom line here is, *Time Machine* must be left alone to do its thing. I think many people who say *Time Machine* is broken or is not working, just are not being patient enough.

Scanning

The other problem I with Leopard was how to get my scanner up and running the way I wanted. This was much more difficult to solve. I am very aware of the advice Lawrence Charters gave in the General Meeting, which was to go out and buy a \$60 scanner that you know will work with Leopard — but I am a stubborn cuss. Besides, I learned a lot that now I can pass along to you.

With my scanner, I want to be able to save documents on my computer so I no longer have to keep them in a five-drawer, metal file cabinet. One of the biggest advantages of doing this is that you can use *Spotlight* to find your document, no matter where you file it.

I have a Canon 8400F flatbed scanner, and before I installed Leopard I was using the *CanoScan* software that came with

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The Best of the TCS – Winter 2008

By Bob Jarecke and Dick Rucker

The TCS to the Rescue!

Regular readers of *Journal* know the *Pi* has a proprietary discussion forum, available to all members and easily reachable from the *Pi* home page. Just click on the navigation bar link titled *TCS Forums*. This is a members-only area, free of the spam and irrelevant squabbles found on most Web forums, and requires members to log in to get to one of the most valuable benefits of membership. And by now, you know that most questions posed get answered quickly with, in most cases, some pretty sound advice or recommendations.

Members who are stymied, confused or hopelessly lost can get plenty of options to help them with their Apple computer or gadget. The answers and advice come from fellow members who invariably have years of experience to back up their suggestions for curing your Mac's ills. And another reassuring fact: these are fellow members that you have met at General Meetings or elsewhere, and you can put a little more trust in someone you know than in a screen name from a complete unknown.

What follows are this *Journal's* "Best of" picks. Enjoy!

Time Capsule

Edgar D. poses the following:

I just ordered a 500 GB Time Capsule and a white 2.2 GHz MacBook. The MacBook will come with Mac OS X 10.5 and will backup using *Time Machine* software, but I hope to use the Time Capsule to backup the other computers on my wired network, too.

Here is my current Cat 5 wired network: Verizon DSL — Westell Infospeed DSL modem — SonicWall SOHO/10 firewall — Farallon Starlet 8 Ethernet hub

Category 5 wire connects a G5 iMac (Mac OS X 10.4) and a G4 iMac (currently Mac OS X 10.2) and an H-P LaserJet printer (via Farallon iPrint) to the Ethernet hub. I hope to be able to backup to Time Capsule (not with *Time Machine*) from these earlier Macs. I also hope to be able to store several files on the Time Capsule that I can access from any of the three Macs.

Should I replace the SonicWall SOHO with the Time Capsule?

What software should I use for backing up the older Macs? I have BounceBack Pro v. 4.2 that came with a 120 GB FireWire drive I currently use for backup.

First reply:

While no one yet has a Time Capsule to play with, I'm reasonably certain it will back up multiple Macs—but only if all Macs are running Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard. Time Capsule, as the name implies, uses *Time Machine*, which is part of Mac OS X 10.5.

Should I replace the SonicWall SOHO with the Time Capsule?

If you know how to properly configure it, the SonicWall is a more robust and flexible firewall than Time Capsule. Time Capsule is simple to configure, SonicWall, somewhat less so.

Category 5 wire connects a G5 iMac (Mac OS X 10.4) and a G4 iMac (currently Mac OS X 10.2)

Assuming those two computers have the necessary free disk space and enough RAM, both can be upgraded to Mac OS X 10.5 (I recommend the Family Pack) and, once upgraded, can be backed up via *Time Machine* and Time Capsule.

What software should I use for backing up the older Macs?

To use Time Capsule, all machines being backed up must be running Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard.

Second answer:

1. You'll need to "cheat" if it has a slower processor (like the common 800mHz one)
2. It should be maxed-out w/RAM or the ball will spin "forever" with more than one app open.

Third response:

I hope to be able to backup to Time Capsule (not with *Time Machine*)

Rumor has it that you can, that the Time Capsule functions as a general NAS, but that's certainly not how Apple's represented it so far. I'd hold judgment.

Should I replace the SonicWall SOHO with the Time Capsule?

The Apple AirPort Extreme Base Station, of which the Time Capsule is superset, is faster but less flexible than a SonicWall SOHO. If your SonicWall has been serving your needs, I see no reason to change unless you upgrade from DSL to FiOS or faster at which point the performance starts to factor in.

Myself, I've chosen to use my AirPort Extreme Base Station in "bridging" mode behind a SonicWall. The SonicWall performs the router functions while the base station performs only bucket brigade between wired and wireless clients. This, incidentally, is the only way to pass AppleTalk traffic between the two.

What software should I use for backing up the older Macs?

Still withholding judgment on the NAS thing. But do consider upgrading those machines to Leopard. And watch for a forthcoming SuperDuper update.

<<http://blog.plasticsfuture.org/2006/04/23/mac-backup-software-harmful/>>

Return reply:

Thank you for that info. I think Mac OS X 10.5 requires a processor with at least 867 MHz, and my G4 iMac only runs at 800 MHz. So, that G4 iMac computer is limited to Mac OS X 10.4. I plan to do that upgrade, after backing it up.

As to RAM, it has 512 MB and doesn't slow down when more than one app is running.

Next reply:

My PB G4 1.25mHz ran fine with 512MB on all versions of Mac OS through 10.4 but not on 10.5.

There are some easy hacks to fool Mac OS 10.5 into installing on an 800 mHz G4. Several have been posted on the TCS. Good luck either way.

Sixth response:

Depending on what you wanted to do with the G4 ... Leopard performance might be OK on it. You would have to use one of the tricks to get it to install ... but I've loaded Leopard on a 500 MHz G4 and it runs fine as a server. Video performance is less than you would want ... for an 800 I think video would be the limiting factor anyway.

Leopard won't run worth a darn on 512 MB though ... if you're not going to upgrade then I would leave it on Tiger.

Last reply:

I installed Leopard on my in-laws' 700MHz eMac. They find it about as fast so far as they'd found Tiger, given 1GB of RAM. Most importantly, it looks, behaves, and backs up like their

MacBook with which it also shares and syncs.

But it wasn't trivial to install. They wouldn't have done it themselves.

Kernel Panic Crash

Allen K. solicits:

My Mac is experiencing Kernel Panic crashes.

G4 iMac 17" hemi-spheric, OS X 10.5.1, 1.25 GHz, 1.25 GB RAM.

History:

1. I ran OS X 10.4.11 with 768 MB RAM. No crashes.
2. I upgraded to Leopard. Still had 768 MB RAM. No crashes.
3. I added RAM by replacing 512 MB with 1 GB. No crashes.
4. I started using *Time Machine*. Kernel Panic!
5. I restarted my Mac with a safe boot and let *Time Machine* run all night. No crash.
6. I restarted my Mac and let *Time Machine* run its hourly backup. No other applications are open. Kernel Panic!

I read Apple's support papers:

<http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=106227>

<http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=25392>

I remember sleuthing extension conflicts in Mac's bygone days, but I'm unsure what to look for with this problem. Suggestions, recommendations, and advice are welcome and appreciated.

First reply:

If you use Aperture or Lightroom, set TM to exclude your photo libraries. This is a known problem with TM. Plus, although you may think nothing else is running, that does not make it so. For example, Widgets run all the time in the background. Other processes run all the time too. Check Activity Monitor to see what is running, and check your logs: ~ Library / Logs / to see what's reported.

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Best of the TCS

You can go to Applications/Utilities/Console and run Console. Certainly the crashes and kernel panics should be reported there. You might have some haxies installed from under 10.4 that broke under Leopard.

Next response:

Kernel panics, in my experience, are almost always caused by bad RAM. And you've introduced new RAM, which makes it the number one suspect in my book.

Can you remove and/or swap in different RAM? That's the best way to determine if the RAM is causing your kernel panics.

Mac OS X 10.5 & login keychain

Richard G. writes:

Since I installed Mac OS X 10.5, I have been continually aggravated by frequent alert boxes saying: FileSyncAgent wants to use the "login" keychain. This forces me to stop whatever I'm doing and enter the requested password. It seems to be associated with *Time Machine* backups, but I'm not certain of that. I cannot find anything in Mac Help that relates to FileSyncAgent.

What is going on and how can I turn this off?

First reply:

That's not *Time Machine* — it's usually one of a couple variations of a corporate server thing, but at home it's going to be .Mac iDisk sync.

Originator replies:

Thanks. I went to .Mac in System Preferences. Under "Sync" I have it set for Manually, because that's what I prefer. Under "iDisk", however, I saw that "iDisk Sync" was set to "Automatically". I reset it to "Manually", and I suppose that will cure my problem.

Come back reply:

Yoobet. Nice work!

iPhone Safari

Joseph B. writes:

It has been going on for 10 days or so and is very frustrating.

Safari on the iPhone keeps quitting on me. I can't get it to stay alive more than 20 seconds. My guess is that Safari has to be reinstalled. But, that is just a guess. And I don't know how to do that.

Re-setting might take care of it, but I believe that also means copying everything back to it from my desktop. And I frankly doubt that it would alter Safari in any way. What should I do?

First reply:

My spouse had problems with Safari on her iPhone, similar to yours. Since everything on the iPhone gets there from being synced to a Mac, I:

- * Performed a sync to make sure everything on the iPhone was also on the Mac (taking pains to rescue a couple of photos on the iPhone);

- * Restored the iPhone back to its defaults;

- * Resynced.

Everything worked.

Return reply:

That is basically what I figured, but it is very comforting that someone else has gone through it before me.

Thanks again, much appreciated.

G4-DVD Edit

Attila H. asked:

If the 350 MHz G3 is upgraded to a G4 level and have a DVD-drive installed — is DVD editing possible?

First Reply:

One doesn't "edit" DVDs so much as author new ones from scratch using footage pulled in from a camcorder or other original source material. (If I'm reading too much into the question forgive me, but I don't want you to be disappointed that you've upgraded one way or another and still can't do what you expect.)

The system requirements for iDVD have long been a 733MHz G4 system or better, which apart from the processor has substantially better plumbing (system bus) for getting data from RAM to screen or from disk to DVD burner in enough time. It certainly wouldn't work satisfactorily; it might not work at all.

For the price it would take to make such a series of upgrades (CPU, RAM, drive, all but the muffler and the hood ornament) you'd be approaching the price of a new Mac mini that could do all this in its stride, uphill in the snow.

Or you'd have surpassed the price of a secondhand G4 of sufficient specs.

Next reply:

I agree with the above reply. I'd say the answer to your question is "yes, but."

Yes, but: The cost of doing what you propose, with the costs of all needed hardware upgrades and new software purchases, will greatly exceed the cost of doing it via purchasing a new or recent used Mac.

Further, the cost in your time would also be much more than if you got new or slightly used equipment which could use recent iLife apps.

Qualifying - I'm making assumptions about the kind of 350 MHz G3 you have that may not be true. Thus, the correct reply might be "NO", depending.

Return reply:

Thanks to both of you.
What a sobering eye-opener.

iPod touch in DC

Tom B. writes:

Regarding the iPod touch, can anyone recommend a good wireless service that would maximize your coverage in downtown DC and beyond? I've used wireless on my laptop in airports, and Barnes and Nobles stores, and I've noticed lots of people using them in Starbucks. Are there many free and open wireless networks downtown? I know the Main Library offers it.

Assuming I went with one service, what would be the best deal out there for people who frequent DC, in terms of coverage?

First reply:

I think the Starbucks thing is due to the Apple deal on selling tunes playing in Starbucks stores. Otherwise, Starbucks is a T-Mobile hot spot. Many Panera stores have free local WiFi. I do not recall anything in DC that's like Alexandria, although DC is reportedly working on it (don't hold your breath):

<http://www.wifinetnews.com/archives/006357.html>

Next reply:

Downtown Silver Spring has free wireless. Either officially or unofficially from all the unsecured WiFi routers...

Final reply:

All, or almost all, the DC branch libraries also offer free wireless. So do many hotels (i.e., in their lobbies). There are also some Web sites that list a lot of free wireless hotspots in DC.

<http://www.wififreespot.com/dc.html>

<http://dc.about.com/od/shopping/a/Wifi.htm>

One hotel that may be of particular interest to you and that offers public access wireless is the Capitol Hill/Navy Yard Marriott Courtyard

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/wasny-courtyard-washington-capitol-hill-navy-yard/>

And, as a rule of thumb, if you find a coffee shop that is not Starbucks, such as Foster Brothers, Caribou, etc., they will have free wireless. It's a way of competing against the Starbucks' quasi-monopoly.

Final Thoughts: If these brief excerpts help or clarify in any way, that makes our effort worth it. There is a lot more where these came from and some of them are quite informative but too long to print in the *Journal*.

As many of you know, the Pi Web site is a great resource for current and archival information. The TCS takes it a step further by offering near-real-time assistance from friendly fellow Pi members while retaining a searchable history of all that has been posted. Give the TCS a try; you may like it! π

TCS Testimonial

This TCS submission was not in the form of a question but rather more like a review. In any case, here is what Tom Berens had to offer a few weeks after he upgraded to Leopard. He titled the TCS entry: *My first Time Machine Restore*. The entire TCS entry read like this:

My first Time Machine Restore

FROM: Thomas Berens

06:10 PM Sunday, Dec 30, 2007

My son came home from college about a week ago, and he brought home his MacBook and his backup drive. Yesterday morning, he said that his drive wouldn't boot. After several unsuccessful attempts to fix it, I called AppleCare, who offered to set up an appt with a local Genius to get the drive replaced. We took the laptop to the Clarendon store, where we were put on standby. Thirty minutes later, we were seen, and they said they would replace the drive within 24 hours. Two hours later, they called and said the drive had been replaced. We booted up the laptop with my copy of Leopard and ran Time Machine. We selected a version from about 6pm the day before. Less than an hour later, Chris was up and running. He had to re-authorize iTunes and a couple of web sites, but other than that, everything seems to be working fine.

I'm sure glad I set him up with TM over Thanksgiving. I'm even more glad that he's been backing up faithfully. I'm really impressed with Time Machine.

Editor's Note: Looks like the TCS is also a good place to submit a review of a software feature, application or piece of hardware. Thanks, Tom.

LITTLE DO THEY ALL
KNOW I AM MAKING A
LIST FOR NEXT YEAR!

DID HE JUST SAY
WHAT I THOUGHT
HE SAID?

YUP!

IS SANTA
WATCHING
NOW?



PICK A CARD,
ANY CARD!

NO, NOT
THAT ONE!!



Holiday Party '07

NEW PI LOGO REVEALED

I HAD A VISION...
NOW, I CAN
DRAW IT WITH
MY EYES
CLOSED!



**Pi Logo
Competition Winner
Pablo Segura**

Annual Macworld Expo Review: January 2008

By Lawrence I. Charters

It is a rite of passage: January and the annual Macworld review. This January the Pi's General Meeting was packed with members and visitors eager to hear about what was said, shown, demonstrated, poked, prodded and promised. Such interest is, itself, extraordinary, since it wasn't always this way.

When the first Macworld Expo came on the scene in 1985, it was a novelty: a computer show dedicated to just one computer, the Macintosh. The Mac was just a year old, a relative newcomer in a complex microcomputer ecology. Microcomputers were running CP/M, MP/M, CP/M-86, Apple DOS, MS-DOS, AmigaOS, Sun OS, GEM, TOS, ProDOS, SOS, TRS-DOS, Xenix, and a host of other operating systems even more obscure, but not Windows, which didn't exist. Just to illustrate how strange this strange world was, Apple supported several of these operating systems — on the Apple II. Steve Jobs, in the middle of a fight that saw him booted out of Apple management, made regular public statements to the effect that the Mac did not even have an operating system; a Macintosh was just a Macintosh, and not really a personal computer. It was something even better: a Mac.

Nearly a quarter century later, the Macintosh survives. In fact, it is the sole survivor of that age. Steve Jobs has at last acknowledged that the Mac operating system exists, and his return to Apple late in the last century saw a profound rebirth of the Mac operating system as Mac OS X.

Why did so many people attend the January General Meeting? Because Apple has survived, and thrived, and so has the Mac. The annual Macworld review is an opportunity to get together and do something different: look into the future. You might say it is one of the better windows into the future, with a vista of Mac OS X.

Question and Answers

Before the Macworld review, the meeting opened with the usual question and answer session, led by Pat Fauquet and Lawrence Charters. One of the first questions had to do with permissions repairs in Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard. Some think Leopard requires more permissions repairs than Mac OS X 10.4. This is somewhat true: Microsoft and Adobe applications, in particular, require permissions repairs after installa-

A large crowd gathered for the annual Macworld review, resulting in a long line for coffee and donuts. Photo by Richard Sanderson, taken with a Nikon D-200 digital camera.



tion, but that was true in 10.4 as well. What is new, however, is a bug that flags SUID errors, and this bug may be fixed by the time you get this *Journal*. Make sure you install your updates...

Another question dealt with problems printing with Safari. These tend to be caused by junk caught in Safari's cache, and can be overcome by going to the Safari menu and selecting Reset Safari. Note that this gets rid of cached files, history files (where you've browsed) and cookies.

Another user wanted to move files from a PowerMac G3 blue and white to a new iMac. He tried to use FireWire "target mode," but the blue and white does not support target mode. Could he just replace the Users folder on the iMac? Unfortunately, no; this would be a bad idea. Rescue documents and such, but don't even think of replacing a Mac OS X 10.5 Users folder with a Users folder from an older operating system on another machine.

Another user wanted to use a new external drive as both a bootable hard drive and a *Time Machine* storage device. Was this a good idea? It will work, but it isn't really a good idea. By booting from your Leopard installation DVD and restoring from *Time Machine*, you get the same result without losing space on an unnecessary boot partition.

Pi Business

Pi President Bob Jarecke then spoke for a few minutes, sporting a new long-sleeved T-shirt with the new Pi logo on the front and back. He mentioned that we are looking for a local dealer that can produce all types of logo paraphernalia we can offer on the Pi Online Store.

Bob congratulated Allen Kent who submitted several photos for use on the cover of the next edition of the *Journal* (the one you are reading). Allen's unique photos provided just what was needed to produce an interesting, eye-catching cover. Allen was rewarded with a \$15 *iTimes* gift card.

Bob next mentioned a new initiative. The Pi is looking for someone who might like to become a "Pi Reporter." This person would search out stories for the *Journal* and Web site as well as cover Pi events such as the General Meeting. If anyone has an interest or an idea of what they could do in this area, they should contact Bob at president@wap.org.

Finally, a change to the Pi's Bylaws was addressed. As part of a yearlong updating of the bylaws, the Board proposed a change that would give more flexibility in using modern telecommunications to conduct Board business. The change, to Article VII of the bylaws, was approved unanimously.

Coffee and donuts were next. Two airpots of coffee and dozens of donuts disappeared. Meanwhile, lots of very intent conversations and discussions broke out. Pat Fauquet offered a slideshow of photos she took at Macworld but the conversations were so engrossing that many never noticed and missed, among other things, some of David Pogue's latest parodies.

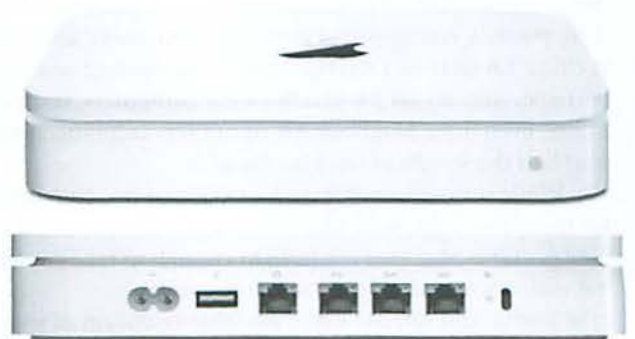
Macworld Expo 2008

Presenting Apple's view of Macworld Expo was Aaron Davis. Aaron is Apple's regional education manager, and he commented that, in seven years, he must have made 200 presentations to regional groups, but this was his first visit to the Pi. A packed, curious and questioning audience greeted him with almost unnerving attention.

Aaron began with a review of Apple's progress over the year. By almost any measure, the company is clicking on all cylinders. The company has over \$18 billion in cash in the bank, iPod and Mac sales are soaring, and Apple is the third largest distributor of music – online or on disc – in the world. Over four million iPhones have been sold, which boosted not only Apple's bottom line but also that of AT&T. The stock markets greeted this robust news by promptly crashing, but that had more to do with the imploding mortgage market and massive deficits than with Apple's stellar performance.

Aaron then went on to review new Apple offerings announced at Macworld. He dutifully mentioned movie rentals (of mild interest), new software for the Apple TV (more interesting), and updates to the software on the iPhone and the iPod touch (complete with spontaneous rave reviews from members who had used the updated software).

The two most important announcements, however, were radically dissimilar. On the one hand, there is the understated, unsexy Time Capsule, which looks for all the world like an Airport Extreme or an Apple TV or a Mac mini: yet another small white box with rounded corners. Yet this innocent-looking box, combined with Leopard's *Time Machine*, is a genuine revolution in computer security. Not only does it combine the firewall, broadband router, wireless router, USB hub and Ethernet switch capabilities of the Airport Extreme, but it also adds in either a 500-gigabyte or one terabyte hard drive. A Time Capsule can connect your home or office



Time Capsule. Photo courtesy Apple, Inc.

General Meeting Reports



MacBook Air. Photo courtesy Apple, Inc.

computers to the Internet, either wired or wirelessly, can keep out bad guys coming in over your broadband connection, can share a printer or hard drive with others on your network, and can — with no user attention at all — automatically back up every computer running Mac OS X 10.5, wired or wirelessly, via *Time Machine*. This is one clever box!

The second big announcement attracted most of the media attention, and it was a big announcement because it was: light. While not quite as light as air, the MacBook Air is a far cry from Apple's first Mac portable, the 16-pound Mac Portable of 1989. The Mac Portable cost \$6,500, had a megabyte of RAM, and ran at 16 MHz. The MacBook Air is three pounds, comes with 2 gigabytes of memory, and runs at either 1.6 GHz or 1.8 GHz. And for the price of one Mac Portable, you can get 3.6 MacBook Air computers, starting at \$1799. Even three MacBook Air computers combined weigh in at half the weight of the Mac Portable.

While some computer analysts claimed it is "too limited," for many this light, sleek *objet d'art* may well be the first genuine portable Mac ever made: light enough to take anywhere, but with a screen and keyboard large enough to be useful. You can use it as a portable extension of your desktop machine, or for typing in lengthy manuscripts on the subway (ignoring the poor people thumbing away on their Blackberries), or almost any other use except, perhaps, video editing. True, it doesn't have an internal CD-ROM or DVD disc drive, but this is just another in a long list of features that

Macs have introduced (3.5 inch floppies, internal CD-ROMs, internal DVD drives) and then, eventually, evolved beyond. You can even get a MacBook Air without a hard drive, replacing it with a no-moving-parts Flash RAM drive.

Aaron didn't have a MacBook Air at the meeting, but since then they've shown up in local stores. You need to see and touch one before making any judgments about the MacBook Air: it is so light it is shocking, and yet the full-size, illuminated keyboard puts that of most larger, heavier laptops to shame.

Leopard Review

Aaron planned to spend the bulk of the meeting reviewing Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard, and was somewhat dismayed to learn that the entire November 2007 General Meeting had been devoted to Leopard. He asked how many people were using Leopard, and roughly half the audience raised their hand. Did people really want to see more on Leopard, he asked?

Yes, people did. They wanted to see much more, and they wanted to ask questions, and they wanted to see how things worked. If the Pi hadn't committed to leaving the building at 12:30, the audience seemed more than willing to keep Aaron there indefinitely, asking questions, watching him illustrate answers, raising reservations about certain features — and then ditching the reservations one they saw Leopard in action.



Apple's Aaron Davis found himself surrounded by eager questioners even during the breaks. Jim Little (middle) looks on as Don Fortnum (left) add emphasis to his question with some hand gesturing. Photo by Richard Sanderson, taken with a Nikon D-200 digital camera.

One surprising area of interest was Quick Look, the document preview function built into Leopard. Aaron fielded a flood of questions about various things that can be previewed, and he responded by using Quick Look to preview things, including, as it happened, many things at once. The question was: "Can Quick Look preview many photos at once?" Aaron responded by selecting a directory of photos and asking for a Quick Look of the contents. A very *iTunes*-like "Cover Flow" view popped up, and the audience was suitably impressed.

Time Machine, predictably, attracted the most questions. There were skeptics who didn't believe backup could ever be that easy. There were skeptics who didn't believe *Time Machine* was a "real backup." Aaron addressed such skeptics

directly: he fired up *Time Machine*, briefly covered the (very simple) controls, and then deleted a file from his laptop. Less than a minute later, he recovered, almost effortlessly, the deleted file by fetching it back from the *Time Machine* backup. Even the skeptics came away impressed: *Time Machine* makes backup about as painless as it gets.

Drawing

The meeting closed with a drawing for a full copy of Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard. Registration numbers were entered into the Pi Programming SIG's creation, *Raffler*, and with little fanfare it picked the winning number. Hal Cauthen leapt to his feet and came forward to claim his prize. Hal has been pondering getting Leopard for some time, and need ponder no longer. π

Century Club

\$100 or more Donations

With greater regularity, some Washington Apple Pi members are choosing to make monetary donations to the Pi.

One recent contributor felt the Pi was a "great organization" and because they could not volunteer time, they wanted to help the Pi succeed by making a donation. The donation option is available on the mail-in form or when renewing via the online Pi Store.

The gifts are greatly appreciated and will be put to good use. The Board of Directors would like to hereby recognize the following members who contributed \$100 or more to the Pi within the last year. Thank you, again!

March 2007

Steve Jaeger

July 2007

*Cynthia Cole
Lyn McCoy*

August 2007

Gabriel Roth

September 2007

Carol Weikert

October 2007

*Bertha Alexander
Tom Herlihy*

November 2007

Charlotte Wunderlich

December 2007

*Meg Gabriel
Grant Peacock*

All Century Club members' privacy will be respected and names will not be added to the list without explicit approval.

January 2008 Retired SIG Got Leopard? Session 2

We took a survey of the group before launching a review of Leopard—and guess what? Of the 15 attendees, some got it but had yet to install it, one knew nothing about it (having just ordered his first Mac and waiting for it to arrive), several owned copies but were waiting for a moment of greater clarity and confidence, and a few had been working with it. The question of how to protect existing files when loading the new operating system came up. Apple suggests backing up all data just to be safe. Without opening an application, we looked at the means of storing and then finding files.



Quick Look and Cover Flow, two new features, work well to show photos, *iTunes* albums and graphic files without having to open a program. Use these features when you have an idea what to find, but can't remember what you named the file.

Attention then turned to creating a screen saver out of your photos. There are now three display styles available, and you can experiment with them using the buttons under the preview screen in the "Desktop & Screen Saver" pane of System Preferences.

Two visitors joined. One came with a friend from DC and was a self-described "virgin;" he decided we were his kind of people—"congenial"—and we welcomed him. Another had recently come over from the Dark Side, saw notice of the Retired Pi on the Internet, and came because we were discussing Leopard.

Since we did not get to even half of the 300 new features, we will continue learning about Leopard in future months. The essence of the Pi is members sharing knowledge and support with other members. That's what goes on at Retired SIG meetings that make attending fun too.

Next month's focus: "Let's Make a Movie." During the session, using photos and movies brought in, we will play with *iMovie* and *iDVD* to produce our own blockbuster product. π

Running Leopard, continued from page 23

it. This software allowed you to designate a PDF file as a “searchable” PDF when you scanned the document. What I learned while trying to solve my scanning problems is that these are “complex” PDFs. The software actually is doing optical character recognition (OCR) on the text and saving that information, so that when you call up the PDF file in *Preview* or *Acrobat*, you can search for a term in the document. Well, I didn’t know that. All I had to do in *CanoScan* was to click a button for a “searchable” PDF.

Unfortunately, *CanoScan* has not been updated since 2004. And it does not work with Leopard. Apparently, some people have been able to get the newer Canon scanners such as the LiDE series to work with Leopard. But I was off on an Internet search for something that would drive my scanner.

What I learned by checking VersionTracker was that you basically have three choices if you want a scanner driver: Canon *CanoScan Toolbox* for the LiDE 25 scanner, *SilverFast*, and *VueScan*. You can see what’s there by going to www.versiontracker.com and going to the Mac OS X area, clicking on “Leopard,” displaying all categories, then clicking on “drivers” and searching for “scanners.”

SilverFast does not make a driver for my particular model, so I went ahead and bought *VueScan*. It works quite nicely with Leopard and has extensive features, but there is one thing it will not do. It will not make a “searchable” PDF! If you ask it to do OCR on a document, you get a plain and simple text document; it is not even formatted. *VueScan* does a great job of translation, but the loss of formatting, pictures and illustrations is problematic.

So now I needed an OCR program that would take the scans and turn them into complex PDFs. With Leopard, you have one choice at the present time! (If you put “OCR” in the VersionTracker search box with Max OS X Leopard as the restraining criterion, nothing comes up!) There is quite a bit of discussion on the Web, which indicates that *OmmiPage* does not currently work with Leopard. However, *Readiris* does. *Readiris* has been around a long time. It is now up to version 11 for the Mac and version 16 for Windows. It is a very capable program.

So that’s my solution. Rather than pushing a button in *CanoScan* and automatically creating a searchable PDF when I scan a document, I now have to scan it using *VueScan* and then use *Readiris* to create the complex PDF, which retains all the formatting, pictures, illustrations, and text.

I hope my experiences give some insight that will help you and maybe save you some time trying to resolve any problems you may be having with Leopard. π

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Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Be sure to check the WAP calendar at:

<http://www.calendar.wap.org/> for meeting locations, times, and dates.

Active SIGs

Graphic Arts & iLife: Previous leader is not longer able to lead this group. Group is currently soliciting for a new leader. <http://www.wap.org/gasig>.

Mac Programmers: Aaron Burghardt, aaron.burghardt@wap.org

Retired Persons: Len Adler, <http://www.wap.org/retired>, len.adler@wap.org

Legacy System Help

Apple II/GS Lorin Evans, lorin.evans@wap.org

Previous SIGs Needing Organizing and a New Leader

AOL, Educators, Excel, Genealogy, QuickTime, Music, Teen

If you have a special interest that might warrant formation of a new SIG, please email president@wap.org.



Contacting Washington Apple Pi

Washington Apple Pi, Ltd.,
12022 Parklawn Drive,
Rockville, MD 20852.

Business Office: 301/ 984-0300 [Answering machine]

Web address: <http://www.wap.org/>

E-mail address: office@wap.org

Office hours: You should not expect to find anyone at the office except as otherwise noted. ***Please leave messages on the answering machine at 301/984-0300.***

Clinic Night: Tuesday 7-9 P.M.

Please leave messages on the answering machine at 301/984-0300. This is an automated system that allows our volunteers to quickly respond to your needs without having to actually sit in the office. We will try to put a message on the answering machine if we have to cancel an activity.



Washington Apple Pi

Membership Application/Renewal Form

Name _____ Member No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Home _____ Cell/Work _____

Email _____ @ _____

Membership Fee and Additional Options (Check Off Your Choices)

- Classic Membership account which includes the items listed in the section below \$49 annual rate
 - Explorer Service – 56K Dial-Up service and additional storage space (Additional) \$96 annual rate
 - Additional email account(s) (naming nomenclature is set by the Pi with special names available on request) \$20 each
 - "Pi Fillings" CD (for renewing members only) \$10 each
 - First Class postage for long distance members to ensure a faster delivery of the *Journal* \$12 annual rate
 - Donation \$ _____
- Grand Total \$ _____

Payment Options:

- Check/Money Order Enclosed
- Credit Card (Visa/Mastercard/Discover/AMEX)

Card No. _____

Expires /

Security Code

If the Credit Card owner or address is different than the applicant's, please fill out the following:

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____ / _____ / _____

Membership Benefits and Payment Options

This membership application/renewal becomes valid when processed by the Pi and will remain in effect for one year, until the last day of the month in which it expires. All new members will receive a classic membership account which includes a subscription to the bi-monthly *Pi Journal*, one email account, 25 MB of web storage space, TCS* access (a proprietary, members-only discussion forum) and complimentary copies of the latest *Journal* and Pi Fillings CD. The new member will also receive by mail a membership card with their member number, user ID and password for use with the TCS* and their email account.

(Please note if you live outside the US, additional postage will be charged for the Journal – email us at office@wap.org).

**TeleCommunication System is a proprietary name for our internet, email, website and members-only message-board center with forums.*

12022 Parklawn Drive • Rockville, MD 20852 • (301) 984 0300



Opportunities

The Pi operates primarily through the time, talent and good grace of a host of volunteers. Many of them devote hours of personal time to insure that the membership receives all the services offered when members signed up. The volunteer pool has proven to be a good source of people to fill leadership positions, too. Look over the listings below; if you see a place you can fit, let us know and we will help you get started.

Pi Reporter

Description: Investigates and reports on Pi activities and other Mac related items.

Hours: Flexible, work at your own pace. Time involved will increase during workup of bi-monthly *Journal* for printing.

Location: Home and wherever the story is!

Experience: Previous writing experience helpful but not required. If you like to write, this is good enough.

Additional Info: This is not a single position. If there are several Pi Reporters coordinating their activities, then coverage of Pi events and other stories of interest will not require too much work. Innovative writing is encouraged such as interviewing Pi notables. The *Journal* staff is looking for all kinds of Mac or club-related content.

Point of Contact ("POC"): Bob Jarecke, president@wap.org or Lawrence Charters, maceditor@wap.org.

Tutorial Instructor

Description: Participate on Tutorial Committee that oversees and participates in one-on-one and classroom instruction.

Hours: Flexible, days or evenings.

Location: Pi Office (Rockville, MD) and student's home.

Experience: No particular experience is required but any experience with instruction is a real plus. Need to be very knowledgeable about the Mac and various versions of Mac OS X.

Additional Info: Friendly attitude and willingness to help others learn is helpful.

POC: Bob Jarecke, president@wap.org

Verification Telephone Caller

Description: Assist membership team by calling members to verify or confirm information.

Hours: Flexible. Two to three hours every two weeks during days or evenings.

Location: Pi Office (Rockville, MD) and your home.

Experience: No particular experience is required.

Additional Info: Friendly attitude and willingness to engage in conversation are helpful.

POC: Bob Jarecke, president@wap.org.

Marketing or Advertising Expertise

Background: The Pi operates principally through the collection of dues from members. With a declining membership, the necessary funds to continue providing all the benefits of membership are dwindling and some services might be in jeopardy of being reduced. At one time, paid advertisements placed in the *Pi Journal* were a great source of revenue, and could be again. A better effort needs to be made to sell ads to those whose businesses could improve if only Pi members were made more aware of what they have to offer.

See <http://www.wap.org/journal/advertisingrates.html> for our current rates.

Need: The Pi is in need of a member who could help us with a program to assist in raising revenues. Skills in marketing, advertising, product promotion or conducting a fund drive might serve the member well as they devise methods of bringing in additional funding to help the Pi continue to provide important services and benefits to the membership. If you think you might have a skill set that could help in keeping the Pi membership numbers healthy, send an email to president@wap.org.

Recruiting and Retention Expertise

Background: The WAP membership, like many Macintosh User Groups worldwide, has been declining at a steady rate for several years. A continued decline could result in a loss of some benefits currently being offered due to a lack of funding that comes principally from membership dues.

Need: Increase Pi membership by reducing current loss rate and adding new members, preferably from a younger demographic.

The Pi is in need of a member who could help us with a program to assist in retaining current members as well as recruiting new members. Experience in membership drives, consumer outreach programs, political campaigns or charity drives might prove to be very adaptive. Skills in survey development, conduct and interpretation might also prove valuable in defining the current membership.

If you think you might have a skill set that could help in keeping the Pi membership numbers healthy, send an email to president@wap.org.

Office Administration Team Member

Description: Assist in database entry, handle monetary payments, do filing and other office administrative functions.

Hours: Flexible. Two to three hours every two weeks, days or evenings.

Location: Pi Office (Rockville, MD).

Experience: No particular experience is required.

POC: Bob Jarecke, president@wap.org.

Pi CD Production Administrator

Description: Assist with the collection of software and other materials for inclusion in the Pi's monthly CD.

Hours: Half to full day once or twice a month on the days leading up to the general meeting.

Location: Pi Office (Rockville, MD) or your home.

Experience: You must be able to do searches on the Internet, download and consolidate material for burning onto a CD.

POC: Pat Fauquet, vpprograms@wap.org

Pi Dollars Program Manager

Description: Administer and maintain Pi Dollars program.

Hours: Flexible.

Location: Pi Office (Rockville, MD) or General Meeting site.

Experience: No particular experience is required.

Additional Info: This person will serve as the chief administrator of a program that keeps track of participation credits, and also help with the disbursement and cashing in of those credits.

POC: Bob Jarecke, president@wap.org.

Mailing Preparation Assistant

Description: Assist with the folding and mailing of renewal letters.

Hours: Half day near the end of the month.

Location: Pi Office (Rockville, MD).

Experience: No particular experience is required.

POC: Nancy Little, office@wap.org.

CLASSIFIED ADS

E-mail to office@wap.org for rates and regulations.
Pi members may place ads up to 25 words in length free of charge.

Services

- Mac Hardware, software, networks & training. Apple factory trained & A+ Certified. Marchetti Associates LLC. 301/404-2210 or phil@marchettiassociates.com.
- Macintosh House Calls—Upgrades, Repairs, Tutoring. Contact John Barnes at 301/652-0667 or jdbscience@mac.com. Discount for Pi members.
- Law Offices of Richard S. Sternberg. <http://www.MetroWashingtonLaw.com>, 202/530-0100.
- Music for a fair, reception, business event. For a combo playing "oldies," an organ grinder, or brass calliope, go to <http://www.bendermelodies.com>.

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