WAMUG

WAMUG Turns 20!

by Bob Rockhill

Wamug began as a collaborative effort on the part of several people on Maclectic. Ken Kennard was the first person who had even heard of Apple Mugs (Mac User Groups). He asked me if I would be willing to sponsor one through the local people on Maclectic. We threw the idea around a while and there was quite an interest. So the following Maclectic members met at Granada Heights Friends Church to talk about it: Bob Rockhill, Tom Calderwood, Dave and Tina Gunther, Greg Neagle, Char Rice, Ken Kennard, Bret Johnson and Dale ___?____, can't remember his name anymore. I think I got all the names.
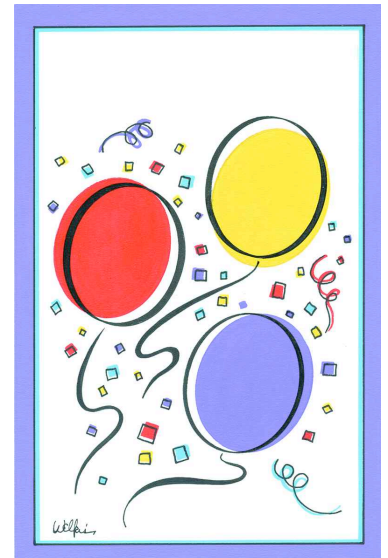
It was a strange meeting because none of us had ever even met before face to face. We decided on meeting on Saturday mornings once a month. We met at Granada for many years, but we had a lot of conflicts for meeting rooms with church events, so we eventually met at Bob Rockhill's church, Christian Family Fellowship. We moved along with them to two locations. After meeting there for several years we moved to Biola University. Many people from Biola helped start Wamug, so that seemed very appropriate. But again we began to have scheduling problems and move then to the Temple in Whittier, where we have been for many more years.

Unfortunately, Thursday nights haven't worked as well as we had hoped. Perhaps it's the "Survivor Syndrome" everyone staying home to watch Survivor. Perhaps people are just more tired in the evenings, so we have decided to try to go back to our roots and see how Saturdays work for us. We will now be meeting at Grace EV Free Church/Grace Christian School. We will have more room there and less time restrictions.

We now celebrate 20 years of working together and helping each other with our Macs. We've learned a lot, seen so many great demos of software and how to SIGs. Today we will be bringing back SIGs. If you'd like to work in a small group learning either about PhotoShop Elements from Arie or Mac OS X basics from Bob, we will begin those classes at about 11:00 a.m. following the raffle. Those classes will end at approximately 11:45 a.m.

Remember if you have questions during the month, log on to Maclectic BBS at www.maclectic.com and we'll help you in the forums. There's a Wamug section there as well as an "Ask the Experts" forum for you to get help whenever you need it.

Migrating to a new Mac

Now that Apple has completed its transition to Intel processors, a lot of Mac users are thinking about replacing their old PowerPC machines. Here are tools and tips that will make the job easier.

FireWire Cable When you first fire up a new Mac, Apple's Migration Assistant (found in /Applications/Utilities) will help you move your data, but it'll demand a FireWire cable to do so.

External FireWire Enclosure You have multiple IDE hard drives in your old Power Mac, yet your new Mac Pro works only with SATA drives. What to do with those old drives? Consider sticking them into FireWire hard-drive enclosures. Just slip an old drive into the enclosure, and you've got an external hard drive. Enclosures with Oxford 911 and 912 chip sets (which let your Mac boot from those drives) run from $50 to $80 and are available from vendors such as FirewireDirect.com and Other World Computing (eshop.macsales.com). Note that if you put your old Mac's boot drive into an enclosure, it won't boot your new Mac until you install an Intel-compatible version of OS X.

Drive Adapter FireWire enclosure too rich for your blood? Or maybe you need to connect your old drives to your new Mac only for a short time? Newer Technology makes a $25 USB 2.0 Universal Drive Adapter--a couple of cables that let you connect an IDE or SATA device directly to your new Mac via the Mac's USB 2.0 port.

Serial Numbers As efficient as Apple's Migration Assistant is about moving your applications from Mac A to Mac B, sometimes it misses some of the files that authorize you to use those apps. So just in case, make a note of all your applications' serial numbers.

Copy documents with an iSight

"To get the $100 rebate, you must include the product's UPC label or a photocopy." "We'll need a copy of your insurance card before we can process that claim." "Do you have a copy of your receipt?" What do you do when you need to provide some sort of documentation

but don't have access to a photocopier or a fax machine? The built-in iSight camera on the Intel iMac, MacBook Pro, and MacBook, along with Apple's Photo Booth software, could be the solution. Because the iSight has a very short focal length, you can stick a document or any other official object a couple of inches in front of it and get a nice, sharp picture of it.

To do so, open Photo Booth. Don't select any effects. Hold your object-- box, document, business card, or whatever--up to the camera. Move it as close or as far away as you need; the iSight will quickly put it in focus. (Don't worry if you're trying to capture text and it reads backward on screen; you can take care of that later.) Hold your object steady by resting your elbow(s) on the table, and click on the Camera button to begin the three-second countdown.

Once the picture is taken, drag it to your desktop from Photo Booth's tray. You'll see that it's a JPEG file. If you aren't trying to capture text, you can use that JPEG as is. If you are trying to capture text, double-click on the image to open Preview, select Tools: Flip Horizontal, crop as needed, and save the file.--Jay Lindell

Senior Editor Christopher Breen is the author of Secrets of the iPod and iTunes, fifth edition, and The iPod and iTunes Pocket Guide (both Peachpit Press, 2005).

Find Chris' books at www.amazon.com and www.peachpit.com. Get special user group pricing on Macworld Magazine! Subscribe today at http:// [www.macworld.com/useroffer.]](www.macworld.com/useroffer.)

iTunes, You Complete Me

Jeff Carlson <jeffc@tidbits.com>

One of the great things about the iTunes Store has been the way it lets you buy single songs without having to purchase an entire album. I own too many CDs that contain only one or two songs I like; the rest of the selections just don't hold my interest. I'm especially bad about this if I go into a store (such as the excellent local Sonic Boom Records), listen to a couple of tracks or parts of tracks, buy the album thinking I've stumbled on some cutting edge band, and then discover later that the disc wasn't so hot (and that my

radar for new music is still subpar, darn it).

Occasionally, though, I'll buy a single song and then realize that the rest of the album is worth buying. Purchasing the album from the iTunes Store would result in a duplicate of that single, and if there were more than nine songs on the album, it wouldn't be worth buying them individually to avoid duplicating the one I already own.

Apple has now introduced Complete My Album, a new feature that gets around the problem. When you click the iTunes Store link for a song (the arrow to the right of the song title

in your iTunes library), a Complete My Album option appears, listing the cost of the rest of the album and a Buy button. So, for example, if you've purchased one $0.99 track, it will cost you $9.00 (plus tax) to purchase the rest of the album's tracks.

Apple says that the Complete My Album feature applies to qualifying tracks for up to 180 days after you've purchased the singles. However, I've noticed that the feature currently applies to singles I purchased when the iTunes Store first opened, too.

Apple Sends Vista to Boot Camp

Joe Kissell <joe@tidbits.com>

Apple last week released Boot Camp 1.2 beta, the latest version of its software for enabling Intel-based Macs to boot into Microsoft Windows. This is likely to be the final update to Boot Camp before the release of Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard, which according to Apple will include a release version of Boot Camp (though there's still much speculation about what form Boot Camp will take in Leopard). Boot Camp 1.2's most prominent new feature is support for Windows Vista (but only 32-bit versions for now), which previously required awkward hacks. Also new in this beta are updated drivers for numerous Apple devices including trackpads and iSight cameras, support within Windows for the Apple Remote, the inclusion of Apple Software Update (to update Apple software within Windows), and numerous other improvements. It's a 138 MB download.

Google Open to All

by Adam C. Engst <ace@tidbits.com>

Google has at last opened up its well-regarded Gmail email service to all comers, eliminating the need to receive an invitation

from an existing user before signing up. It's been two years since the service launched, and it's still branded beta. The primarily Web-based Gmail remains free to use and currently offers over 2.5 GB of storage for each user, an amount that grows every day as Google brings more storage online.

Gmail provides POP3 access for people who prefer using traditional email clients over the Gmail Web interface, but still lacks IMAP, a popular alternative to POP3. The service has good spam filtering that accepts reports from its users, attachment viewing within the Web interface, and support for mobile phone email - you can read and reply to messages. Google Talk, the company's instant messaging and voice chat program, can be used within the Web interface, too. Gmail can also forward incoming mail to another email address, send messages and replies using another return address, and fetch mail from up to five other non-Gmail accounts via POP.

What sets Gmail apart from other email services and clients is how rapid-response searches sit at the core of message archiving and organizing. Instead of filing messages in a folder, you apply one or more labels to incoming messages that exist in a general archive. The labels are the search equivalent of

folders, and show up in a list in the left navigation bar. It's very much like the Smart Mailboxes feature in Apple Mail, only faster. You can also search quickly through your entire message archive; Gmail provides a list of matches with search terms highlighted, and messages threaded across an entire set of conversations so you can easily follow what was said and by whom.

Gmail funds itself through what text ads that are theoretically relevant to the content of the message you're reading - a behavior that can be a little disconcerting. The ads are never inserted into the body text of either incoming or outgoing mail, however, unlike free mail from other firms.

Since I run my own mail server, I have only dabbled with Gmail. But reports from friends and colleagues who rely entirely on the service are highly positive, with them experiencing minimal downtime and speedy access. The main reason I haven't looked more seriously at Gmail is that I already have 2.3 GB of stored email, and I don't want to lose access to that archive. Gmail does enable import of contacts to provide access to laboriously created address books. (The only way to import mail into Gmail that I can see is to redirect to the Gmail account, which isn't practical with hundreds of thousands of messages. Although utilities like Mark Lyon's free Google GMail Loader and Cheah Chu Yeow's free gExodus exist to automate the process, date stamps are lost in the transfer, rendering them useless for an email archive that spans 15 years.)

Because Gmail is an extremely interactive Web application, it works only in a subset of common Web browsers, including (all version numbers are the earliest supported version) Safari 1.2.1, Firefox 0.8, Mozilla 1.4, and Netscape 7.1. Web-based chat requires Firefox 1.0 or later. Gmail does offer a basic HTML view for other browsers, but, honestly, there's not much point in using Gmail if you can't take advantage of the full interactive interface.

If you've been looking for another email service, it's worth giving Gmail a try. You can even set up multiple addresses using your own domain using the Google Apps for Your Domain service. In particular, if you've been having trouble receiving TidBITS due to overactive spam filtering or other delivery problems, Gmail could be a good alternative. (Our new bounce processing code sends you warnings when your account has bounced too many messages, and you can manage your subscriptions and addresses with our new Manage Mailing List Subscriptions interface.)