

WAMUG



Whittier Area Macintosh Users Group

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Apple News



It has been rather quiet for news this month. The flood of new hardware and software over the past months have made us spoiled. Macworld in San Francisco is January 15th, so we will know about any new announcements by our next meeting. I haven't heard any rumors at all, which is unusual. Microsoft Office 2008 for Mac will be out soon.

Apple is hoping for great sales over the holidays. I think they will get them. A friend of mine said he is buying an iMac for Christmas. His first Macintosh. I also know several WAMUGers are buying new Macs after Macworld. Things look bright for Apple in my experience.

Three Handy Tips for iPhoto Organization

by Tonya Engst

Organizing my photos in iPhoto always seems like a good idea, but my efforts often fall short of my ideals. However, I've recently been playing around in the new iPhoto 7 that comes with iLife '08, and I've learned three useful photo-organizing tips that are either new in this version or that had previously eluded me. I can't promise that these tips will help you whip out your holiday cards from iPhoto while you bake cookies and realize that Chanukah is way before Christmas this year, but they certainly won't hurt.

Rate Photos with Keyboard Shortcuts -- You can rate a selected photo, in nearly any view, including a slideshow, from the keyboard. Command-5 rates your photo as 5 stars,

Command-4 as 4 stars, and so forth, down to Command-0 (zero), which removes all stars. Once photos are rated, you can then, for instance, set up a smart album to find photos that have more than a certain number of stars, making it easy to view only your favorites.

Describe Photos in Batches -- Titling, describing, and keywording photos goes faster if you do it in batches. To do this, select a bunch of photos and then choose Photos > Batch Change. From the Batch Change dialog, you can change the title or description of all the selected photos at once. And, the description option can be applied to the end of any existing descriptions, so, for instance, for a trip to the Farmers Market, you could enter individual descriptions for any photos that needed special commentary (Huge Turnips!), but then append something like "Farmers Market, Ithaca" to each description.

You add keywords via a different interface, but you can still add them to multiple shots at once. Choose Window > Show Keywords to open the Keywords palette, select a bunch of photos, and then click any keyword button in the palette to apply that keyword to all selected photos. In that same Keywords palette, you can click Edit to manage your keywords and assign single-letter keyboard shortcuts to them. The single letter shortcuts are especially handy for applying keywords quickly, since with them you can select a bunch of photos and, as long as the Keywords window is open, press a key to apply its associated keyword to all the selected photos.

Flag Photos -- As you go through a bunch of photos, you may want to single some out - maybe you're considering them for an order of prints or you want to show them to your spouse - you could create a separate album, but if you are like me, this results in your having about 20 miscellaneous albums that you aren't sure if you need any longer. It might be better to create a more temporary "album" that could later, possibly, be converted to a more formal project like a calendar or book. You can do this with the new Flag command in iPhoto 7.

To flag selected photos, click the Flag icon in the toolbar or press Command-Period (yes, that's an odd keyboard shortcut for those of us who remember it being the universal "Stop everything!" shortcut). To view all your flagged photos quickly, select the Flagged item in the Source pane (in the Recent category). Now that you've flagged photos, you can drag them from the Flagged category to an album, or you can make them into a new event via the Events menu.

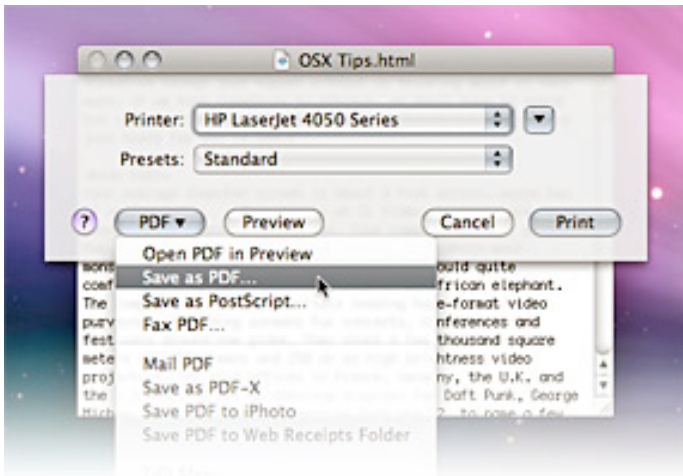
The screenshot shows an unflagged photo at left and a flagged photo at right. The flagged photo has an orange flag in its upper left corner.

That's all for the tips, and I hope they give you the extra productivity push to work with your photos more meaningfully. I'll be using them to sort through my family's photos from 2007 to identify, title, describe, and keyword those that I want to include in my holiday greeting card this year - I'm already planning to use iPhoto 7's new Year in Review card template.

Saving Documents and Web Pages as PDFs

Adobe's PDF format offers a great way to save and send electronic documents, from formatted business letters to product brochures. PDF documents appear identically on all computers, so you don't have to worry about things like whether the recipient has access to the same fonts as you or if your company logo and other graphics will display properly.

PDFs are also an excellent way to quickly save "snapshots" of web pages for future reference. Since some web pages change frequently, PDFs are a useful way to capture or archive content that might be hard to find again later.

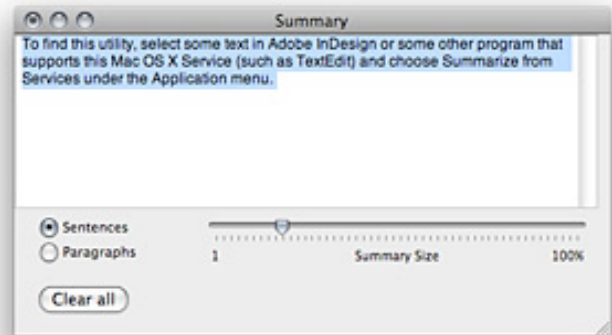


To save a document or web page as a PDF, open it and press Command-P, just as though you're going to print the page. But instead of clicking Print or pressing the Return key, click the PDF button in the lower left corner of the Print dialog. Choose Save as PDF at the top of the menu, navigate to the location you'd like to save to, and click Save.

The PDF button also contains other useful options. Mail PDF opens a new message in Apple's Mail program, with the PDF already attached. Encrypt PDF lets you protect your file with a password. And Compress PDF creates a more compressed version of the file — great for emailing large, multi-page PDFs.

Summarize Your Stories

When laying out a long story in a newsletter or magazine, it's often helpful to summarize a story, or a section of a story in a pull-quote or abstract. But how to find the best quote when you're on a deadline and need it fast? Fortunately, Mac OS X offers a great tool that almost no one knows about: Summary Service.



To find this utility, select some text in Adobe InDesign or some other program that supports this Mac OS X Service (such as TextEdit) and choose Summarize from Services under the Application menu. You can adjust how long you want your summary (in number of sentences or paragraphs) in the Summary dialog box. Drag the Summary Size slider to the left to get a more focused summary; for a pull-quote a one- or two-sentence summary is best.

You wouldn't expect a computer to be able to analyze some text and provide a good sum-

mary but Summary Service is surprisingly good. Try it!

Safari's regrettable memory

Q: Safari does a reasonable job of trying to guess and fill in the Web address I am about to type. After a while, though, its memory becomes cluttered. When I type g to go to Google, for example, it guesses that I want to go to a genealogical Web page I visited once. How can I erase all the Web addresses, or at least the undesired ones, from Safari's brain?--Bill Zagotta

A: Apple's Safari 2.0.X doesn't provide one single command for getting rid of these memorized entries. They're concocted from Safari's bookmarks, cache, and history. You can get close by choosing Safari: Reset Safari, but doing this can be problematic. In the first place, it doesn't touch your bookmarks, so some of those entries will still appear. Secondly, it will clear more data than you probably want it to. In addition to deleting the history and emptying the cache, it clears the Downloads window, removes all cookies, and gets rid of any user names and passwords you may have asked it to save. As a result, you might prefer to clear out Safari's memory piecemeal instead. Start by choosing Safari: Empty Cache. Then choose History: Clear History. Then go into the Bookmarks area and clear out bookmarks you don't want.

Alternatively, adopt some new habits. The first would be to type more than just that first letter g when you want to hop to Google.com. Try go and see if that works. Or bypass the whole autofill thing by clicking on the Address field, pressing the spacebar once,

and starting to type. Autofill doesn't work if the first character is a space.

You can help prevent the addition of entries by choosing Safari: Private Browsing when you surf. With this option enabled, Safari won't cache the Web sites you visit or add them to its history; therefore they won't appear as Autofill entries.

Fix: QuickTime 7.1.6 hassles

Updating to QuickTime 7.1.6 may break the ability of the free Microsoft Windows Media Components for QuickTime (also known as the Flip4Mac WMV Player) to play movies in a Web browser. Updating to the most recent version (2.1.1 or later) should fix this). Even after updating, you may need to reboot your Mac before movies will play.

The same QuickTime update can also break Safari's ability to play Flash content. If you encounter that problem, the workaround is to open the QuickTime preference pane, go to the Advanced tab, and click on MIME Settings. Find Miscellaneous in the list, and click on the disclosure triangle next to it to reveal the Flash Media subitem. If it's enabled, click on the check box to deselect it.--Ted Landau

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).

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