

WAMUG



Whittier Area Macintosh Users Group

May 2007

Apple News

Steve Jobs will give the keynote address at the World Wide Developers Conference June 11th. Mac OS X Leopard is to be shown. The beta version is to be released to developers. The final version is not scheduled to be released until October.

The MacBook has been upgraded. It is a little faster, has a bigger hard drive and doubles the RAM to 1 GB.

Apple splits ProCare. Some WAMUG members use Apple ProCare at the Apple Store to get training and hardware help. Apple has split this service into two parts. "ProCare" is the hardware side and "One to One" is the training side. It is \$99 for each service. See article below for more information

Macs double their use of the web. The portion of people surfing the Web using a Mac has doubled in the past eight months, an Internet metrics analyst said, and represents an audience that can't be ignored by Web application developers. "The amazing story since last summer has been how well the Mac is doing," said Geoff Johnston, an analyst at WebSideStory Inc. in San Diego. "For the longest time, Mac hung around 3% of the operating systems using the Web. But it picked up around last summer, and has nearly doubled its market share." Measurements from WebSideStory and rival Net Applications of Aliso Viejo, Calif., put Apple Inc.'s Mac OS X at close to or just over 6% of all machines in the U.S. that connected to the Web last month. "For the first time since 1999, when we started tracking, the Mac has

really made a major push," said Johnston. Since August, the percentage of online Macs running Apple's operating system has climbed from the long-flat 3% to 5.6%, he said. Net Applications data, which splits the Mac's share between computers running the PowerPC version of Mac OS and those with an Intel edition of the operating system, pegged the total share at 6.2% for April.

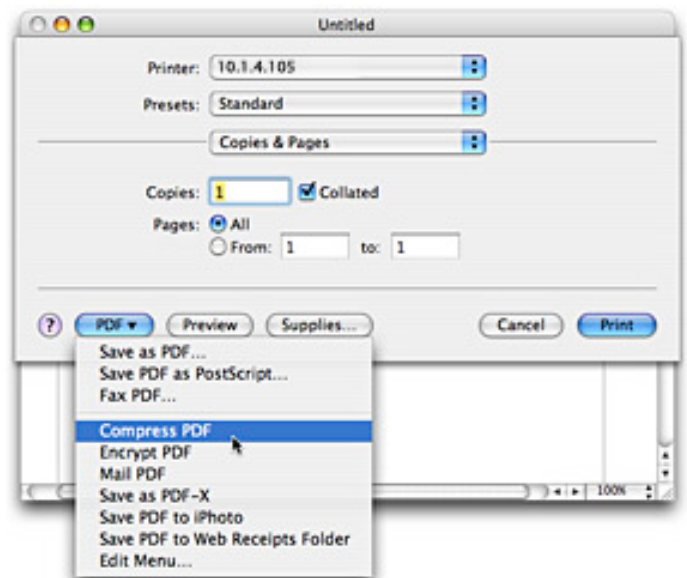
Pro Care Change

- **One to One:** There's no better way to learn more, or learn it faster, than with One to One personal training sessions at the Apple Store. Our trainers — experts in all things Apple — create a program customized to your level of experience. You can choose individual sessions covering everything from getting started on a Mac to making more out of your memories. Or explore any topic you like. All for just \$99 per year. Personal training sessions are designed to move at your pace and provide the support and guidance you need, whether you're new to Mac or ready to master the latest pro software.

- **ProCare:** Priority support at the Apple Store. Get the service you need, when you need it most. ProCare membership starts with a complete setup of your Mac. Then stay up and running with premium benefits like same-day service at the Genius Bar, Rapid Repairs, yearly tune-ups, and more. All for just \$99 per year, for up to three computers. Ask a Mac Specialist about ProCare. Your Mac will thank you.

PDF: The Smaller PDF Secret Control

This is another one of those “secret, buried-in-a-vault” killer tips that addresses something Mac OS X users have complained about: The file sizes of PDFs that Mac OS X creates are sometimes too big (vs. Adobe's Acrobat PDFs). believe it or not, there's a way to get smaller PDFs. Here's how: launch TextEdit, then choose Print from the File menu. From the PDF pop-up menu in the bottom-left corner of the dialog, choose Compress PDF. That's it. It'll compress the PDF and call it a day.

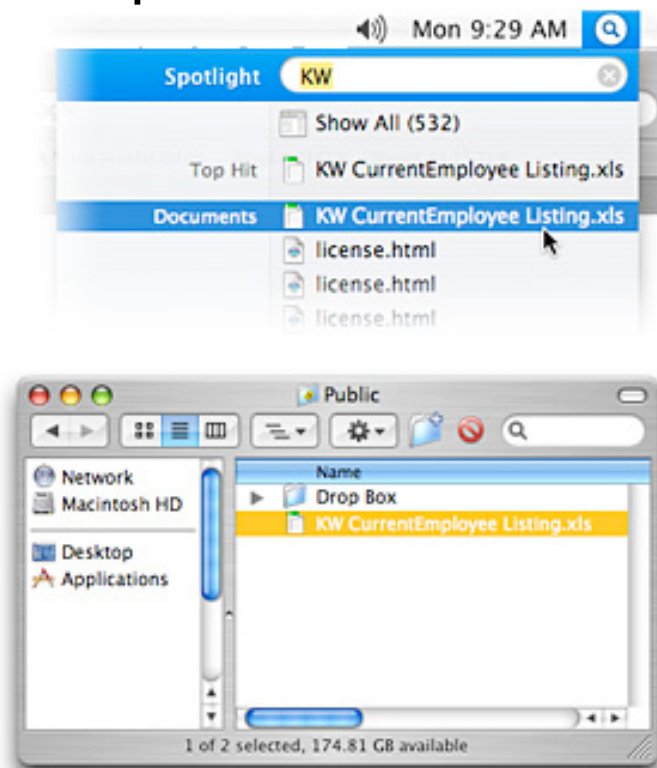


However, if you're charging by the hour, and let's pretend you are, you have a wonderful time-consuming option: Choose Print from the File menu, and from the second Presets pop-up menu choose ColorSync. From the Quartz Filter menu that appears, choose Add Filters. Click on the three-oval icon in the top-left corner of the dialog that appears, click on the filter named Reduce File Size, and then click-and-hold on the arrow button to the right of the filter and choose Duplicate

Filter. This creates an unlocked filter you can edit.

Now click on the triangle to the left of the duplicate filter to show its options; this is where you choose what you want. I recommend clicking on the arrow to the left of Image Compression and dragging the magic slider that lets you control the amount of JPEG compression your PDF images receive. For smaller file sizes, drag the Quality Slider toward Minimum. Now go back to TextEdit and in the Print dialog, choose Colorsync from the second Presets pop-up menu, choose your new filter from the Quartz Filter pop-up menu and click Print. That's it. (Whew!)

What If You Don't Want To Open The File?



The idea behind Spotlight is that it will find the file you want, and then open that file for

you, so you can start working on it immediately. But what if you just want to know where the file is, and not necessarily open it? (For example, what if you just want to know where it is, so you can burn a backup copy to a CD?) To do that, once the results appear in the spotlight menu, just hold the Command key and then click on the file. This will close Spotlight and open the Finder window where your file is. Or if you want Spotlight open, just click on the file and press Command-R, which will open a Finder window with the file selected, leaving the spotlight dialog open.

Keeping up-to-date with iPhoto

Q: I've noticed the calendar icon that appears in iPhoto 6's lower left corner, but I'm not sure how to put it to good use. Any recommendations?-- Dale Carson

A: You've discovered the much-overlooked calendar feature in Apple's iPhoto 6 (), part of the \$79 iLife '06 suite. Click on this icon, and a list of months appears in the lower left corner of your iPhoto window. Select a month and then click on the small arrow to the left of the year to see a calendar view of that month.

The calendar provides some helpful ways to locate pictures in a crowded iPhoto library. For example, you can use it to find out in which months you shot pictures.

In year view, if the name of a month appears in black type, you shot pictures that month. If the name is in gray type, you didn't. The same idea applies to month view--days on which you took photos appear in black type;

days on which you didn't appear in gray. Click on a date or month to reveal all the photos associated with that time period in the main iPhoto window.

You can also use the calendar to tally the number of pictures you took in a certain month or on a certain day. Hover your cursor over a month's name to reveal a tool tip indicating the number of pictures tagged for that month and year. For example, when I hover the cursor over April 2006, I see that I shot 217 photos that month. When you're in month view, hover over a date, and a tool tip reveals how many pictures you took that day (see "Photos by Date").

Here's a handy way to gather all the pictures you've taken for a recurring event--say, the winter holidays. Click on the triangle to the left of the year to reveal the month view. Then use the up arrow (next to the word Calendar) to move to December 2006. Click on the dot to the left of the week that includes your holiday event. This highlights that week. Move back to December 2005 and 1-click on the same special week. The past two years' worth of holiday pictures will now appear in iPhoto's main window.

Choose File: New Album From Selection and you've collected all your holiday photos in one place. If you want to be even more precise, choose specific days each month with this 1-click technique.

DVD conversion

You paid good money for your commercial DVDs, and it takes little more than a five-year-old armed with a jar of jam to destroy them. Use these tools to back them up.

HandBrake (free): I've tried just about every Mac DVD-ripping utility on earth. Many of them do a decent job, but they can't touch the complete capabilities that Eric Petit and Laurent Aima's tool offers for free. (For detailed instructions on how to use it to convert video for your iPod, see macworld.com/1105.) If you don't need HandBrake's many configuration options, choose its less full-featured sibling, Instant HandBrake (also free). Like HandBrake, Instant HandBrake can convert commercial DVDs to a format that's playable on your Mac, iPod, or Sony PSP.

VisualHub (\$23): My love for Techspanion's universal video converter for the Mac is nearly boundless. VisualHub can convert almost any video format you throw at it to iPod, PSP, DV, DVD, TiVo, AVI, MP4, WMV, MPEG, and Flash formats. It can even fit up to 18 hours of video on one DVD--though that video won't look pristine.

What does this have to do with your DVDs? Although Techspanion claims that VisualHub won't convert video from commercial DVDs, it has in many cases (though not always) done so successfully for me. For example, it ripped Master and Commander with no complaints but produced garbage when ripping my DVD collection of the first season of Arrested Development. (HandBrake had no problems with Arrested Development.)

Another bonus: VisualHub can help you put your converted content on a DVD (compressing it to fit on a single disc) and then burn it--no need to purchase additional tools such as Roxio's \$100 Toast or \$50 Popcorn 2 or Erwin van den Berg's \$40 DVD2oneX2.

Both of these utilities, however, do provide more flexible DVD-burning options than VisualHub.

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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