WAMUG

Apple News

Apple News is a bit weak as we move up to Apple's World Wide Developers Conference starting June 9th. The focus of the show is on development of applications for OSX Leopard and for the iPhone. I am hoping for some kind of surprise during Steve Jobs keynote to add some pizzaz.

The iMac line was upgraded with faster processing chips. Up to a 3GHz Core 2 Duo on the most expensive one. Some models have increased memory and hard drive size too.

Roxio Popcorn
by Alan Webster

Arie Korporaal demonstrated Popcorn at last month's meeting. He used it to help copy his VHS video tapes to DVDs. After playing the tapes through a digitizer, to load them into his computer, he used Popcorn to encode the files, create chapters and record them onto a DVD. You can do the same thing with iDVD, but it is much more complicated. Popcorn makes it easy to create chapter menus.

Popcorn imports nearly every video format and can burn them to DVD. It does a good job at making a nice clear video from them. Of course it depends on how good the original was and what resolution it is recorded at. It can also copy DVDs, but not commercial copy protected ones. There is a work around using Mac

The Ripper to make archival copies, but it is not a single step process and is not supported by Roxio.

Popcorn can also take video and export it for iPod, Apple TV, TivoToGo, Xbox 360, and other devices. You can take a video file and load it onto your iPod to watch on a trip.

I did have problems with Popcorn. I was recording multiple AVI files to a DVD. You must understand, it takes any program a long time to prepare the files and record them, in this case 4 hours. So, I just started it and left it overnight. I came back to find that it hadn't finished, because, according to the message on the screen, "my main hard drive was full". It sure was now. You need up to have at least 15GB free. Popcorn didn't warn me, as I think it should have at the beginning. Competing software Visual Hub does. I had a hard time getting Popcorn to use an external hard drive to write to. I upgraded to the newest version of Popcorn and things worked better getting it to record to an external drive.

When using multiple files, it seems like it doesn't compress to fit to a DVD like it does on a single DVD file. Usually, a 9 GB file can be compressed to fit on a single sided DVD, but it didn't want to do that. I had to reduce the number of AVI files to less than 4GB to work. Someone else mentioned this on Mac Forum too. It didn't warn me of this problem either, until after 4 more hours. So on the forth try it worked like a charm and I was happy with the results.

I would use Popcorn again, now I know what to avoid. I like the way it handles chapters and menus and the quality of the

video is good. Visual Hub does many of the same things, but it is bare bones and doesn't do chapter menus.

Popcorn is $50 from retailers.

MozyHome for Mac Online Backup Service
by Joe Kissell tidbits.com

Online backup provider Mozy (now part of EMC, which also owns Retrospect) has announced that their Mac software has reached version 1.0 after more than a year of public beta testing (see "Two Online Backup Services Announce Public Betas," 2007-04-30). MozyHome for Mac offers unlimited online backups for a flat fee of $4.95 per month (a free 2 GB account is also available). The Mac MozyHome software is a 4.8 MB download.

MozyHome uses 448-bit Blowfish encryption for your files as well as 128-bit SSL to protect data while in transit. During incremental updates, the software copies only the portions of files that have changed (block-level incremental backup), reducing the time backups take to complete - a particularly welcome feature for those who want to back up large files that change often, such as Entourage databases and disk images used by virtualization software. Mozy also stores multiple versions of each backed-up file so that you can restore it to its state from any point in the past 30 days. Users can restore files using the Mac client software, download them from the company's secure Web site, or order DVDs (at an extra charge) containing their data.

Version 1.0 contains many changes from the beta versions, including support for Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard, Mail messages, and files with resource forks. Formerly, backups ran automatically, whenever files changed; now, you can opt instead to run backups on an explicit schedule. You can also now throttle the program's bandwidth (at all times or during certain hours). In addition, version 1.0 features a long list of bug fixes and performance improvements.

MozyHome, as the name suggests, is for individual users. Mozy also announced that business versions of its service, MozyPro and MozyEnterprise, will become available later this year. Pricing details were not released.
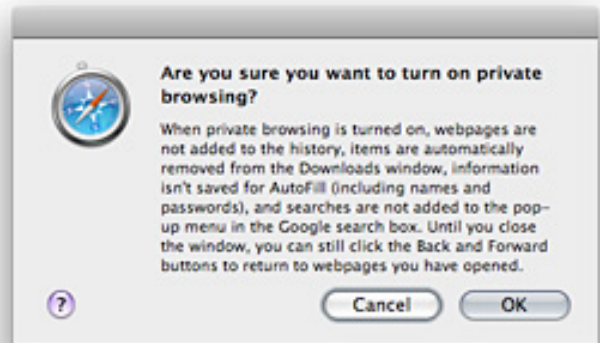
I've become increasingly enthusiastic about online backup services as their costs have come down and feature sets have improved (see "Online Backup Options Expand," 2007-04-09), though speed will likely always be a concern, given the significant amount of data most of us have to back up and the limited upstream bandwidth of most consumer-level broadband services. I'll be interested to see how the new version of Mozy stacks up against competitor CrashPlan, which has so far held the lead in both breadth of features and performance.

Privacy With Safari
Apple Pro Tip

Under normal circumstances, Safari retains records of your web browsing activity. It remembers the pages you visit, the data you download, and your web searches. It may also store your personal data in order to automatically complete online forms. While these features can save time and help you re-

trace your online steps, there are occasions when you might prefer to leave no footprints — for example, when browsing on a public computer. The solution is simple: Before you begin browsing, go to the Safari menu and select Private Browsing. When the warning box appears, click OK. Now Safari stores none of the aforementioned info.
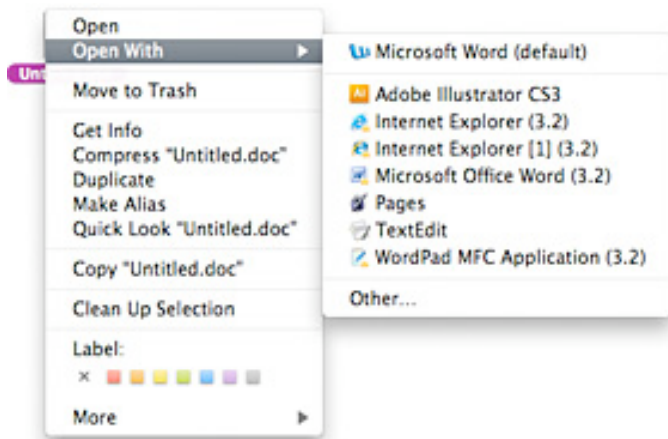

What if you decide you need privacy after you've been browsing? You have several options: You can remove individual pages from Safari's page-view history, erase the entire history, or clear all traces of your activity, including any cookies and cache files you may have accumulated. To review the pages you've visited and delete them as desired, go to the History menu and select Show All History. Here you can select pages and clear them with the Delete key. To wipe the entire Safari history, select Clear History from the History menu. For a completely clean slate, go to the Safari menu and select Reset Safari. Note that the Private Browsing option does not prevent Safari from collecting cookies (the preference files automatically generated by many websites). The Reset Safari option clears all cookies. If you want to delete only certain ones, choose Preferences from the Safari menu, click the Security tab, and then click Show Cookies. You can select and de-

lete individual cookies from the list that appears. Careful, though — if you're a frequent web user, this list can be very, very long.
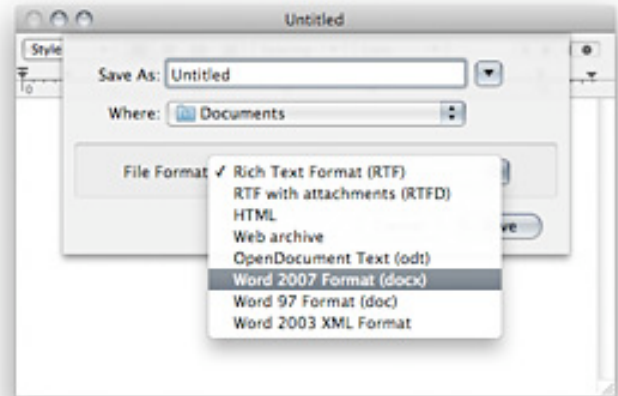
Editing Word Files-Without Word

Apple Pro Tip

It's easy to work with Microsoft Word files on your Mac, even if you don't have Microsoft Word installed on your computer. TextEdit, your Mac's built-in word processing program, can open MS Word files (which are often distinguished by a ".doc" or ".docx" suffix). Simply double-click the document icon. It will automatically open in TextEdit if that's the only word-processing program on your computer. If you have several, you can specify which program to use by Control-clicking on the file icon (or right-clicking if you have a two-button mouse) and selecting your desired program.
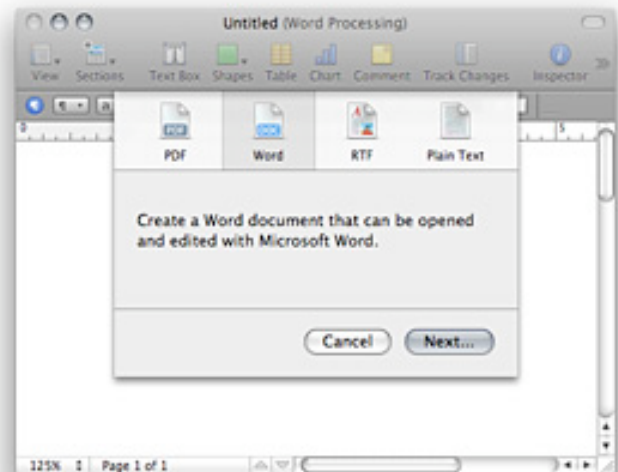
Now you can edit the file just like any other document. However, if you want to share your file with MS Word users, be sure to save your work in Word format. Here's how. From the File menu, choose Save As… or type Command-Shift-s. Click-hold on the File

Format tab and choose one of the Word formats. Press Save.

If you own iWork '08, you can use similar techniques in Pages, Apple's advanced word processor. But instead of using the Save As… command, select Export from the File menu. Choose the Word option and press Next.

Finally, navigate to the destination where you'd like to save the document, and press Export.