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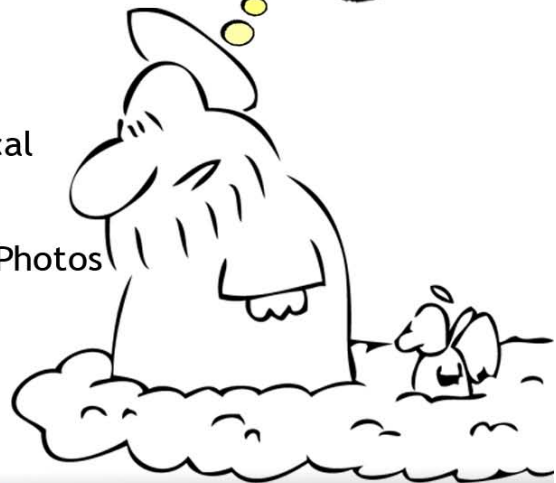
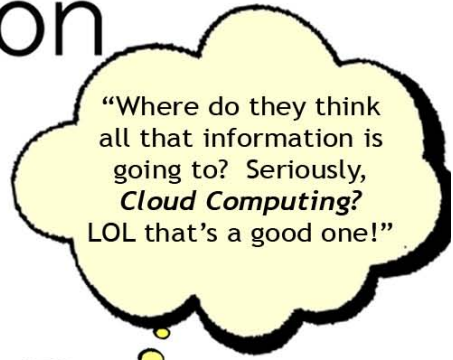
Personal Photos

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Love Notes

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November 2009

Vol. 8, No 11

\$2.50

ISSN: 2150-3141

<http://www.balooartoons.com>

Masthead

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Our special thanks to all those who have allowed us to review their products!
In addition, thanks to you, our readers, who make this effort all possible.

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Columns

Letter from the CEO

Nebulous Cloud Computing for Apple?

By Robert L Pritchett



Who invariably pops up missing in the Cloud Computing scenario? Yep, Apple Corporation. Why? Are they a Johnny-come-lately or do they know something the others don't? Do they see cumulous or storm clouds as we've been seeing recently? Is Cloud Computing a tool looking for a solution? Is it really the next stage in the evolution of the Internet? Will we ignore it in two more years, because better technologies appear?

When I worked Telecom projects, there was always the "cloud", but it was on drawings that went beyond the nitty-gritty for new network installations. The cloud wasn't a critical part of the drawings. This "cloud" seems to be more of online database stuff than a nebulous idea written down on paper because the engineer didn't know what was really "out there". It was just "there".

Wall Street Journal Quiz on Cloud Computing -

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203917304574414852513559232.html>

Google Docs tries to do online office processing by imitating MS Office. Salesforce uses an online Oracle customer-relationship management system. Amazon provides a service as if the customers had custom-built data centers. EMC uses mozy.com as their remote backup storage system. (Maybe Microsoft should have used them for online backup?) Google wiped out with Gmail services back in August.

Apparently there was an Open Cloud Manifesto <http://www.opencloudmanifesto.org/> established between 250 corporations last spring. Again, Apple Corporation is still conspicuous by its absence. Microsoft wasn't even allowed to be in on the initial initiative and was miffed for non-inclusion -

<http://gevaperry.typepad.com/main/2009/03/the-open-cloud-manifesto-much-ado-about-nothing.html>

So who cares and why is it important?

<http://gevaperry.typepad.com/Open%20Cloud%20Manifesto%20v1.0.9.pdf> If we believe the nebulous hype, this culmination of technologies will scale up or down depending on demand (like real cloud formations), supposedly, it will streamline data centers by offloading the workload to someplace else (thus the rest of the clouds), expedite improved business processes (justifying the exorbitant cost) and follow the holy grail of minimizing startup costs (ultimate goal of any improved product).

One of the issues keeping adoption from being more widespread has been highlighted recently by some major guffauxable faux pauxs by Microsoft and others who were their victims (T-Mobile), Twitter, PayPal, RackSpace, Salesforce, Amazon S3 Storage, MS Azure and Hotmail, Google's Gmail.

<http://www.macworld.com/article/143254/2009/10/computingoutages.html>

Even Apple is not immune, based on reports regarding MobileMe back in July -

<http://www.newsweek.com/id/151088>

It is a matter of security and control. We are back to mainframe mentalities and not having access locally to data that has been (supposedly) stored. Of course, the NSA has petabyte-sized storage for everything online, so I don't see why those who "lost" data can ask for the NSA to recover it for them. The real issue is; "Who do you trust" with your data? Is that dog on the keyboard out there really a paid mafia type controlling your data and is he in a position to blackmail you?

Clouds can be in-house (private clouds) or outhouse (pun intended) and there is an issue regarding data and application interoperability and portability. Then there are the issues of who pays for what, when (lifecycle management, licensing, chargebacks, etc.), and who monitors performance and services.

Open clouds aren't there for seeding to make rain. They are there to keep away from proprietary solutions that would otherwise lock in customers and limit IT choice, keep them from interoperating with other groups and organizations, be agile enough to be responsive to needs and fit within existing skill-sets of IT personnel.

Still with me? Okay, here goes. The meat to the Open Cloud Manifesto are 6 items regarding providers; work together, not lock in customers, use existing standards, be customer-driven and verified with real requirements (not pie-in-the-sky) and stay coordinated and that efforts do not conflict or overlap.

The US Department of Energy wants to sink \$32 million of taxpayer dollars into Project Magellan for a cloud computing testbed using Intel Nehalem chipsets, which just happen to be used in the Mac Pro and Xserve systems, so it will be interesting to see who's boxes they buy - <http://www.apple.com/macpro/features/processor.html>

Naysaying on Cloudy Computing

Richard Stallman doesn't have anything good to say about Cloud Computing and calls it a marketing hype campaign that will cost more over time -

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/technology/2008/sep/29/cloud.computing.richard.stallman>

"One reason you should not use web applications to do your computing is that you lose control," he said. "It's just as bad as using a proprietary program. Do your own computing on your own computer with your copy of a freedom-respecting program. If you use a proprietary program or somebody else's web server, you're defenceless. You're putty in the hands of whoever developed that software."

Dmac77 wrote;

"This is exactly what I don't want. I do not want to pay a monthly fee to use an app. That's just ridiculous. Why would I do that? Eventually, I'll pay more in monthly fees, then it would have cost me to buy the software. I don't want to rent software.

I want the box, with the disc, and I want it installed on my computer, and I don't want any company touching anything that I make with my own software. It's ridiculous.

Cloud based computing is okay for certain things, like keeping contacts in sync, updating calendar events between multiple devices, etc. But it is completely retarded when it comes to entire programs.

Picture this. iWork is completely cloud based. I have an essay that is due tomorrow, that I need to finish. I click on the Pages icon in my Dock. Safari opens up, and it can't connect to the Internet. I try to trouble shoot, but the problem is on my ISP's end. I'm completely screwed, I can't even print out the incomplete essay, because the file is on some Apple server in the middle of frickin' nowhere.

Now that problem is completely gone if iWork isn't a stupid cloud based app. Even without the Internet, I can go in and finish typing up my essay print it out, and get my A on it.

That is why it is an ungodly stupid idea to make applications cloud based.

And what's with all of this crap about software taking up HDD space? It's not 1998 anymore people, you most likely have 160GB or larger HDD. The 1.2 GBs of space required by iWork is not going to fill your HDD.

And anyone who is talking about making Photoshop into a cloud-based app is just, I don't even know how to describe you. Because don't we all love editing 30

layer images over the Internet? Photoshop is already slow enough on my iMac, I don't need to have to wait for edits to register on a server.”

<http://forums.macrumors.com/showthread.php?t=767977&highlight=Dmac77+Cloud+Computing>

I tend to agree with Richard Stallman and understand what Dmac77 is saying, however, Apple wants to follow the money and Erika Morphy from *MacNewsWorld* did a 3-part series on the subject - <http://www.macnewsworld.com/story/must-read/65061.html>

Second-guessing Apple Again?

In August, Apple began a \$1 billion data center (nearly \$50 million of that in tax breaks) in Maiden, North Carolina that purportedly will be using Cloud Computing technology, to cover East Coast needs, as reported by Leander Kahney of *Cult of Mac* -

<http://www.cultofmac.com/interview-apples-gigantic-new-data-center-hints-at-cloud-computing>

Would you pay subscriptions for online iLife or iWork apps? Do you use MobileMe now?

Cloud Leopard, anyone? Streaming Video downloads? eBooks? Geomaps?

Andrew Turner may be closer to what is going on with Apple Cloud Computing. He wrote;

“Apple technology has increasingly added location capabilities. Address Book, Mail, and iCal all detect addresses and provide links to maps. iPhoto and Aperture understand coordinate tags and can provide maps as well. CoreLocation on the iPhone, and now in Snow Leopard, allow any developer to get the location of the device via a cascading order of geolocation: GPS, WiFi, IP, etc. Apple themselves developed the “Google Maps” iPhone application – just utilizing the Google API for tiles, location and routing.

More recently, Apple has provided for “lost iPhone” tracking via MobileMe. Enterprising uses and developers have used this for friend and family tracking services.” <http://highearthorbit.com/apple-geo/>

This video might be a clue too, regarding the successful PlaceBase technology that Apple acquired in July;

<http://blip.tv/play/AbvQC4T5XQ>

The limiting factors, besides the economy, would be slow bandwidth and Internet access by users and their associated costs.

Do you want to pay to get to your own data? How do you know the data isn't being “Big-Brothered”? Will Apple storage be better than Google storage?

“This is your brain...”

iWork.com is still beta - <https://www.iwork.com/signin/>

Not the Last Word

Really, the bottom line is that computer networking still isn't robust or as reliable enough as the simple light switch. Until that happens, relying on something someplace else to protect your family jewels, photos and records as well as what you rely on to run a business is not only risky, it is extremely dangerous. How can you verify or trust? How do you know the Internet is going to be operational when you need it? Remember, Murphy was always an optimist. And never ever forget, there is a dark side to the Internet where those who are waiting in the shadows are willing to pounce on the innocent and blackmail in anyway possible.

I still use a pencil and paper for many things. And I have begun to develop a healthy paranoia about all things Internet. Perhaps you should too? What happens when government (any government) decides it is time to shut off the Internet spigot? Can you run a successful business today without access to the Internet? Can you run your operation “off-line”? Think about it.

Sincerely,

Robert L Pritchett
Constitutionalist

Further Reading

Cloud Computing: Apple vs. Microsoft

<http://blogs.zdnet.com/Apple/?p=2730>

How the Google-Apple Cloud Computer Will Work (Not)

<http://computer.howstuffworks.com/google-apple-cloud-computer.htm>

Eric Schmidt and Apple Split

<http://www.thebigmoney.com/blogs/feeling-lucky/2009/08/03/eric-schmidt-and-apple-split>

Apple and Google Maps to split? (Apple has a “Geo Team” now)

<http://www.iphonespies.com/apple-news/apple-rumors/apple-google-maps-split/>

The Apple-Google Grudge Match Intensifies

<http://www.minyanville.com/articles/google-apple-at&t-apps-latitude-maps-twitter-iphones-ipods/index/a/24744>

Top three reasons why Apple hates Google Maps

<http://www.geek.com/articles/apple/top-three-reasons-why-apple-hates-google-maps-2009106/>

PlaceBase's Pushpin API Documentation

<http://www.pushpin.com/api/1.3/docs/>

Chris Spurgeon - "Maps in Space"

<http://where.blip.tv/file/2168433/>

JPL Solar System Dynamics

<http://ssd.jpl.nasa.gov/>

Pack Up Your Data and Leave Whenever You Want, It's the New Rule of the Cloud

http://www.webmonkey.com/blog/Pack_Up_Your_Data_and_Leave_Whenever_You_Want_It_s_the_New_Rule_of_the_Cloud

Data Liberation

<http://www.dataliberation.org/>

Cloudy picture for cloud computing

<http://www.networkworld.com/news/2008/043008-interop-cloud-computing.html>

Cloudy Judgment

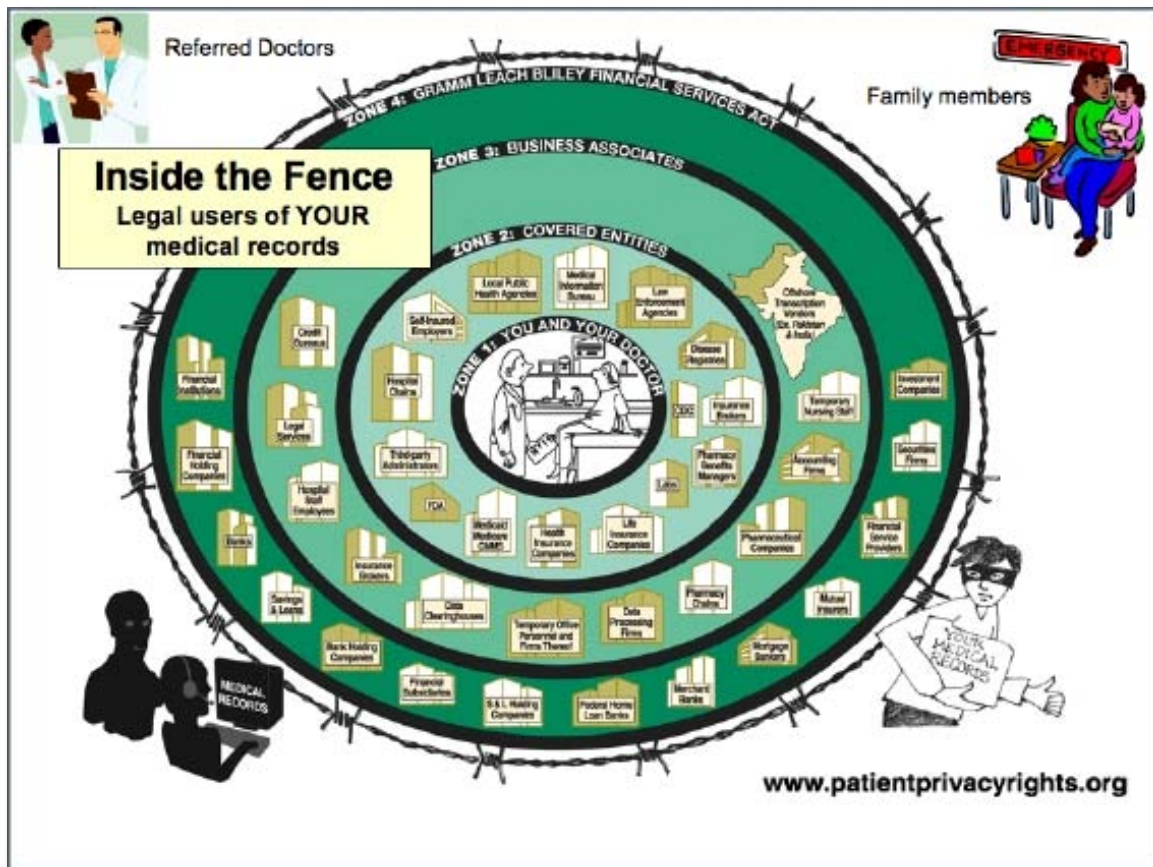
<http://www.slate.com/id/2188015/>

Medical Records: Stored in the Cloud, Sold on the Open Market

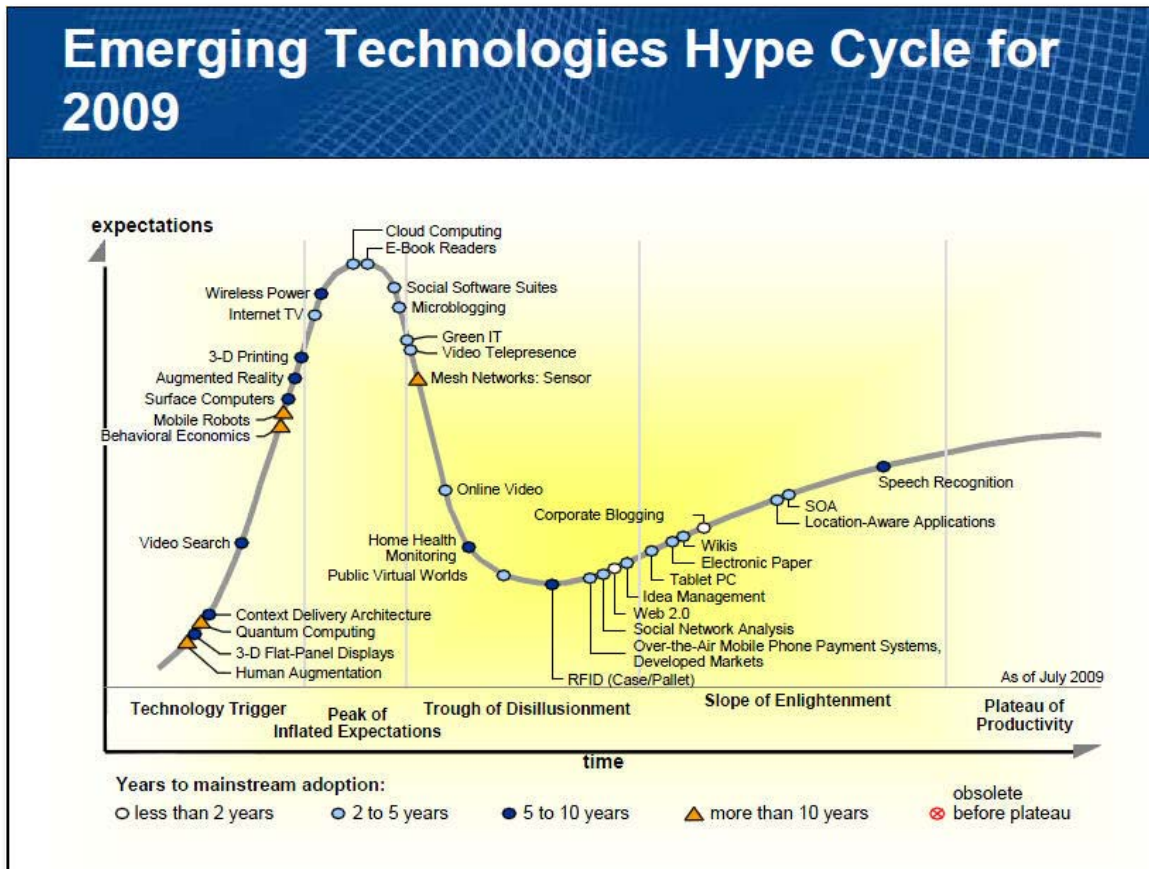
<http://www.wired.com/threatlevel/2009/10/medicalrecords>

VClouds - Email Management Solutions

<http://www.v-clouds.com/>



Source: http://www.wired.com/images_blogs/threatlevel/2009/10/electronic-health-records.jpg



Source: <http://i.zdnet.com/blogs/hypecycle.jpg?tag=coll;post-26155>



According to Hoyle...

C++0x Part 2

November 2009

by Jonathan Hoyle

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macCompanion

<http://www.jonhoyle.com>

Last month

<http://www.maccompanion.com/macc/archives/October2009/Columns/AccordingtoHoyle.htm>, we began examining the upcoming changes to the C++ language. In it we discussed the evolution of C++ and where it is today. Having examined C++'s past and the present, we move on to describe its future. However, before doing that, we take one look back for a cautionary tale.

The Cautionary Tale of EC++

From 1996-1999, a consortium of Japanese embedded systems tool developers (including NEC, Hitachi, Fujitsu and Toshiba) were putting together a proposal for a language subset of C++. This subset would essentially be C++ with a number of language features removed, which (they thought) was too complicated and could hurt performance. The features targeted for removal included: multiple inheritance, templates, exceptions, RTTI, the new cast operators and namespaces. This new language subset would be called *Embedded C++*, or *EC++* for short.

To the surprise of the consortium members, the EC++ compilers were not only no faster than their C++ cousins, but in some domains EC++ was actually slower! C++ founder Bjarne Stroustrup later explained that templates were used in much of the Standard Library to improve performance, and their removal put EC++ at a disadvantage. Upon hearing this, the dazed members of the EC++ consortium scrambled to put together a new proposal: *Extended EC++*, which was simply EC++ with templates put back in.

When the Extended EC++ compilers became available, they were once again put to the test against their C++ cousins. To the consortium's bewilderment, once again the performance gains relative to C++ turned out to be negligible. Part of the problem has the consortium's ignorance of C++'s *Zero Overhead Principle*: "what you don't use, you don't pay for". After this final embarrassment, ISO refused endorse any of the EC++ proposals.

In 2004, inspired by the EC++ debacle, the C++0x committee called for a Performance TR to determine which features of the C++ language, which truly had the greatest penalties in performance. As it turned out, there were only three areas in which there was any measurable performance issues:

- 1) free store (**new** and **delete**)
- 2) RTTI (**dynamic_cast** and **typeid()**)
- 3) exceptions (**throw** and **catch**)

Memory allocation and deallocation turned out to have the largest impact on performance; however, it is unlikely that you would want to use a language, which did not allocation memory off the heap. As for RTTI and exception handling, many compilers have switches allowing the developer to disable these, if desired. Many modern compilers have greatly optimized their implementation of Exception Handling, making RTTI the only outlier. In any case, with the Zero Overhead Principle in place, simply not using a C++ language feature is no different than having it removed.

As for EC++, Stroustrup is quoted http://www.research.att.com/~bs/bs_faq.html#EC++ as saying, "To the best of my knowledge EC++ is dead, and if it isn't it ought to be."

Is there a moral which can be gleaned from this decade old lesson? Only that knee-jerk reactions tend to result in unexpected consequences. The whole Embedded C++ fiasco could have been avoided with only a little bit of time and effort to properly research the problem.

So now (finally), onto some changes in C++0x ...

Embarrassments, Fixes & Improvements

Although the C++ standard in 1998 was an astounding achievement, there were a small number of flaws, which remained. Some of this was simply oversight; others were known, but there had not been sufficient agreement for resolution. Bjarne Stroustrup described some of these as *embarrassments*, particularly when trying to explain them to novices. Some of these improvements include:

vector < vector < int >> x;	// Finally, legal!
vector < double > x = { 1.2, 2.3, 3.4 };	// Initializing STL containers
stronger typing of enum 's	// Enumerated types remain in their scope
extern -ing of template 's	// No duplication across translation units

If you are not familiar as to why any of the above caused errors, you needn't even bother to understand why. They are problems that are going away in C++0x. I will delve into the first item only (Stroustrup's biggest embarrassment), to give you a flavor of the problem. The flaw lies simply with the fact that C++98 parses the ">>" portion of **vector**<**vector**<**int**>> x; as a right shift operator and generates an error; C++0x fixes this. One of the reasons this took so long is that ANSI/ISO committee members are very hesitant to put in *silent changes* in the specification. A *silent change* is one which would keep the meaning of some C++ code with generating an error. Surprisingly, the reinterpretation of ">>" within templates can yield a silent change, as this example below shows:

```

template<int I>
struct X
{
    static int const x = 2;
}

template<>
struct X<0>
{
    typedef int x;
}

template<typename T>
struct Y
{
    static int const x = 3;
}

static int const x = 4;

cout << (Y<X<1>>::x>::x>::x) << endl; // C++98 prints "3"
                                     // C++0x prints "0"

```

ANSI/ISO C99 Synchronization

The ANSI/ISO C specification was updated in 1999 with a number of improvements in the language. Many of these improvements were simply acquiring behavior which was already legal in C++ but seemed to make sense for C as well. Other changes were not part of C++, but the ANSI/ISO C++ committee in turn, saw some of these features as valuable and are rolling these into the C++0x specification. These include:

```

__func__ // returns the name of the function within which it resides
long long // extended integral type, typically used for 64-bit integers
int16_t, int32_t, intptr_t, etc. // specific integer types as defined in <stdint.h>
Hex floating point types, eg: double x = 0x1.F0;
Complex versions of some math functions, such as arcsin(), arccos(), fabs(), etc.
Variadic macros, that is macros taking a variable number of arguments, such as:
#define S(...) sum(__VA_ARGS__)

```

With these changes, C++0x is modernized for the upcoming decade.

Coming Up Next Month: Part 3 of C++0x, where we get into some truly new C++ features.

To see a list of all the According to Hoyle columns, visit:

<http://www.jonhoyle.com/maccompanion>

Connecting the Dots and Counting Down to Global War

By Robert L Pritchett

We are living in a bizarro world. Black is white, right is wrong, evil is good and it appears that “1984” was off by about 2 decades. I’m counting on the pen being mightier than the sword, but I have my doubts. I present the links. You connect the dots. **And if you think Apple Corporation will not be affected, think again!**



<http://216.221.102.26/blogger/post/Obamae28099s-campaign-Rising-Sun-symbol.aspx>
from a “blogger”.

Obama’s campaign Rising Sun symbol

“I did not give any attention to the Rising Sun symbol in Obama’s campaign, until he superimposed it over the eagles shield in the Presidential Seal.

It illustrates a creepiness beyond the arrogant, pretentiousness one just possess to usurp the Presidential Seal. It wasn’t disturbing just because Obama wanted to coronate himself, or give his campaign their air of legitimacy. There was a genuine revulsion felt in blotting out the US Eagles' Shield with his Rising Sun.

I felt disgusted subliminally, as did many others, before I even realized the detail of the changes made to the Presidential Seal. I felt revulsion even before I read the US Code prohibiting private use of the Presidential seal.

What is the significance of the Rising Sun in the Obama Logo that could generate a retching sensation? Why would the Obama campaign superimpose this symbol over the US Shield Presidential Seal of the United States?

The great theme of Obama is that his campaign promises to end party divisiveness, bring hope and change that will unify the country. Obama's Rising Sun represents that unity through a rising hope.

In Islam, The rising sun is a sign of Allah. Indeed, the sun plays a significant role in Islam. The Islamic call to prayer sequences around the sun, with prayer at sunrise, before and after the sun has reached noon, and at sunset.

The rising sun is also a significant guide for followers of Abraham. The Prophet Abraham's quest for God as an example of how those who follow His signs will be rightly guided: When he saw the rising sun in splendor, he said: 'This is my Lord, this is the greatest (of all). (Qur'an 6:75-79)

And again, "When the Khazrajis, who had become Muslim, were about to return to Yathrib, they asked the Holy Prophet of Islam for a missionary, and he assigned Mas'ab ibn `Umir to accompany them. Thus, the people of Yathrib were informed of the Rising Sun of Islam and hurried to gain information about the new faith."

Historically, a Rising Sun has not been a symbol of unity. In Islam as noted above, it represents the rise of Islam above all other faiths. It was also used by imperialistic Japan in the 20th century in its quest to dominate Asia and the Pacific. The Rising Sun is a symbol of a conquering movement.

Obama is using his Rising Sun in triumph over the symbols of unity in the Great Seal and Presidential Seals of the US. The shield in the center of the Great Seal and Presidential Seal has 13 stripes, signifying unity of the original 13 colonies. Obama blotted out this unifying symbol with his vanquishing Rising Sun."

"This image shows Obama's Rising Sun over the US Shield and Flag which are pierced by an arrow. The eagle has dropped the olive branch and arrows, and has turned away in retreat.

This image can only be described as ominous.

Why would Obama choose a Rising Sun, and when did this icon appear in his campaign?

On Feb 10, 2007 Obama announced his Presidential Candidacy. On Feb 16, Rising Sun first appeared on his website. In April 2007 Jeremiah Wright's essay, "Facing the Rising Sun" is published in Trumpet magazine.

In that essay Wright proclaims "God raised Barack from a dead political career to the United States Senate. Then, as Jesus ascended into Heaven, God made a way for Barack to ascend to the pinnacle of politics. . . . We are truly in a "new day."

Wright's "Rising Sun" essay chronicles the rise of Barack, with no mention of the Hope or Change. The Rising Sun is a symbol of a movement, but that movement is not Hope and Change, it is Obama and the Liberation Theology of the Trinity Church.

Liberation Theology is not a unifying faith. It is a scourge of Catholicism and Christianity, and of Capitalist Democracy.

Pope Benedict XVI has fought the infiltration of Marxists promoting Liberation Theology throughout the Americas and Caribbean. In "Liberation Theology" (2007) he wrote: "...where the Marxist ideology of liberation had been consistently applied, a total lack of freedom had developed, whose horrors were now laid bare before the eyes of the entire world. Wherever politics tries to be redemptive, it is promising too much. Where it wishes to do the work of God, it becomes not divine, but demonic."

In 1984 before taking the title Pope Benedict XVI, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger wrote "...it would be illusory and dangerous to ignore the intimate bond which radically unites them (liberation theologies), and to accept elements of the Marxist analysis without recognizing its connections with the (Marxist) ideology, or to enter into the practice of the class-struggle and of its Marxist interpretation while failing to see the kind of totalitarian society to which this process slowly leads."

Obama has flip-flopped on every major issue, which serves to mask his ideology. But he has not flipped on how he will approach taxes and expenditures. Like a true Marxist, he will tax those that earn, and give to those who idle. Obama's core policies are Marxist. State run Health Care. Increased payroll taxes on the middle class and wealthy to pay Social Security benefits.

Obama preaches the good sermon on the campaign trail with the mantra of Hope for the US and Change for Washington. But looking past the rhetoric, into his ties with the radical left, and into his core beliefs, his Liberation Theology indoctrination, and arrogant campaign symbols, it is easy to see the very real danger an Obama Presidency will bring.

Is this something that could ultimately hurt Obama's Candidacy? In the words of one skeptic "I think you could have video footage of Obama biting the head off of a real bald eagle, throwing its carcass on an American flag, and lighting the whole thing on fire while smoking crack and it wouldn't cost him a single vote."

Obama's Rising Sun

<http://sovereignsentience.blogspot.com/2008/08/obamas-rising-sun.html>

by Mathew D. Jarvie

"This should be of significance to anyone who has any understanding of occult symbolism, because this is the elite's way of showing those "in the know" who Obama's allegiance is really with.

The rising sun has been a prominent and powerful occult symbol throughout history, and has been commonly featured on the flags of communist countries. The rising sun is also represented in many corporate logos we see today, such as that of the oil company Shell, Fidelity Investments, and NBC. The logo for the UN's own publishing company, Lucis Trust (formerly Lucifer's Trust), founded in 1920 by Theosophist Alice Bailey, also features the rising sun."

"While it is important to realize that Obama, like all presidents, is nothing more than a puppet who says and does exactly as he's told by his globalist puppetmasters, it is clear that he's being groomed and promoted as a Messiah-like figure to usher in a socialistic new world system; this "new dawn" that Obama and his possessed, sheep-like followers refer to as "change."

But what precisely is this change in reference to?

It is in reference to a world where people are no longer citizens of their respective countries, but "world citizens" subservient to international laws, global taxes and a world court.

It is a world where individuality is forcibly relinquished for the "greater good" of the global village (plantation).

It is a world where nationalism is eviscerated in favor of multiculturalism.

It is a world where the family unit takes a backseat to the state.

It is a world where privacy is a thing of the past.

It is a world where green-shirted eco police go from door to door making sure everybody is using the proper "eco-friendly" light bulbs and recycling.

It is a world where volunteerism (communitarianism) is mandated by law.

It is a world where citizens police their fellow citizens.

It is a world where freedom of speech and expression is forbidden, or else...

These are just a few of the things we can look forward to under this coming "new dawn" / New World Order, which will no doubt be ushered in by a captivating, establishment-vetted cult figure who promises to deliver everything the people could ever wish for, only to lead them to their own slaughter.

While the neocon media and those on the establishment Right are focused on whether Obama is a Muslim or not, no attention is given to where his true allegiance stands. His allegiance stands not with any religion, nation or race, but to the international brotherhood that has placed him where he is today to serve their one world agenda.”

The Power & Danger of Iconography - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GdtqfXdR-c>

By the way, if you care to know, the POTUS is a 32nd –Degree Mason - http://www.cephas-library.com/masonry_obama_32nd_degree_prince_hall_mason.html

Is Obama Poised to Cede US Sovereignty?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=stij8sUybx0> 1.35 hour video.

“Lord Monckton served as a policy adviser to Margaret Thatcher. He has repeatedly challenged Al Gore to a debate to which Gore has refused. Monckton sued to stop Gore's film "An Inconvenient Truth" from being shown in British schools due to its inaccuracies. The judge found in-favor of Monckton, ordering 9 serious errors in the film to be corrected. Lord Monckton travels internationally in an attempt to educating the public about the myth of global warming.”

“There has been considerable debate raised about Monckton's conclusion that the Copenhagen Treaty would cede US sovereignty. His comments appear to be based upon his interpretation of the Supremacy Clause in the US Constitution (Article VI, paragraph 2). This clause establishes the Constitution, Federal Statutes, and U.S. TREATIES as the supreme law of the land. Concerns have been raised in the past that a particularly ambitious treaty may supersede the US Constitution. In the 1950s, a constitutional amendment, known as the Bricker Amendment, was proposed in response to such fears, but it failed to pass.”

“I read that treaty. And what it says is this, that a world government is going to be created. The word "government" actually appears as the first of three purposes of the new entity. The second purpose is the transfer of wealth from the countries of the West to third world countries, in satisfaction of what is called, coyly, "climate debt" because we've been burning CO2 and they haven't. We've been screwing up the climate and they haven't. And the third purpose of this new entity, this government, is enforcement.

So, thank you, America. You were the beacon of freedom to the world. It is a privilege merely to stand on this soil of freedom while it is still free. But, in the next few weeks, unless you stop it, your president will sign your freedom, your democracy, and your humanity away forever. And neither you nor any subsequent government you may elect will have any power whatsoever to take it back. That is how serious it is. I've read the treaty. I've seen this stuff about [world] government and climate debt and enforcement. They are going to do this to you whether you like it or not.”

[Framework Convention on Climate Change \(treaty\)](#)

<http://www.globalclimatescam.com/documents/un-fccc-copenhagen-2009.pdf>

Obama to surrender US sovereignty to UN at climate summit

<http://truthandcons.blogspot.com/2009/10/obama-to-surrender-us-sovereignty-to-un.html>

Lindsey Williams:" Two Year Timeline towards Full implementation of a New World Order."

<http://werhit-mathenyahy.blogspot.com/2009/10/lindsey-williams-two-year-timeline.html>

by Mark Matheny

“Alex Jones Welcomed to his show today Lindsey Williams, the ordained Baptist minister who went to Alaska in 1971 as a missionary. Williams has shared suppressed knowledge regarding oil companies and their supplies and predicted the drop in oil prices on the Alex Jones Show. Williams believes the reason the global elite dropped the world price of oil was to wage economic warfare against the Arab and OPEC countries. Pastor Williams is also the author of *The Energy Non-Crisis*.

Lindsey explained on the program how he had an inside contact of the Bilderburgers that he has known for a long time. This insider is an oil company CEO. Lindsey also explained that he hadn't talked to this man in over two years, but only two days ago had given the man a call, and what was discussed was mind blowing!

The insider is apparently in his late 80s or early 90s. According to Lindsey the information given to him is all new information never revealed. The insider gave him several points that have been discussed by the Bilderburgers and the globalists which will come within a 2-year timeline in most cases. These are the things Lindsey was told to expect:

- 1) The insider told Lindsey that "within two years you will not recognize America."
- 2) The Elite have altered their guideline toward full implementation of a New World Order. He was told that this was done because \$2.5 trillion was given to the globalists by the Federal Reserve in the last two months of the Bush Administration under the guise of a created economic crisis. This allowed the Elite to alter the timeline of ushering in the New World Order.
- 3) Lindsey was told that McCain was the Globalists' "man" for the presidency of 2008.
- 4) He was told that after 2 years Americans will be so poor that any resistance to the Agenda of the Elitists will be impossible.
- 5) Hyperinflation will increase dramatically within the next two years.
- 6) Lindsey was told by the insider that silver and gold will be the only currency to rely on, and that Federal Reserve Notes will be dead by 2012.
- 7) War is planned by the Elitists after two years. War will start in relationship to Iran and Israel within two years and will spread around the world.
- 8) He then reiterated the fact that America gave 2.5 trillion dollars basically toward our own demise, in that the globalists will now implement the plan of total Global enslavement within two years.
(Lindsey was adamant about the two year timeline and repeated it throughout the conversation with Alex Jones.)
- 9) The elite are going on this two year guideline, and Lindsey was told by the insider of "The Devil's Messiah"-an expression used by the insider- who will work through the pastors and churches here in America,(and who already have been) along with Homeland Security, in order to break the religious fiber of America.

10) Lindsey then described the fact that there is an elite group of people who actually run the world. This group wanted McCain to actually become the President in the last election, but that things didn't go exactly as planned. Obama according to the insider is apparently going outside of the globalists' plans in some ways and are upsetting them.

Lindsey then went over some buzzwords that were told to him by the insider which were -war-turmoil-Iran-crude oil. He explained that Iran is going to be in the picture for war within two years, and that this would become a world war.

11) Lindsey was told that subversion of the churches and preachers has been going on since 1965, in order to have them help in the implementation of the New World Order.

Alex Jones then asked Lindsey to speak on "the Devil's Messiah" again. Lindsey then asked "Have you ever been asked to fill out an information form at your church?" Lindsey explained that the insider told of how the Department of Homeland Security is requesting of the churches and pastors that they get personal information from all of their followers for use in the future when full implementation takes place. (This will help when the round ups of all dissenters start to take place.)

Alex then asked why this informer decided to tell Lindsey. Lindsey then speculated that it was because of conscience and because of the insider's age. The insider also said that the Globalists are laughing at Americans because we have bought this agenda "hook-line-and sinker".

Lindsey then again mentioned the fact that McCain was the man wanted by the Elite to become the next president, but Obama won instead. Alex Jones then added that this might be due to the fact that there are Fabian Socialists and Communists among the global Elite, and therefore some might favor Obama while the others might favor McCain.

12) Lindsey then explained how there are really only about a dozen of the elitists at the top, who are in total command, and that there is a second tier of elitists among which his insider is probably a part.

13) The insider then explained how Obama is in trouble because he is arrogant and isn't following strict instruction from the Globalists. Alex then interjected how JFK met his demise because the Elite could not control him the way they wanted to. Lindsey then said that the insider told him the elitists are starting to consider Obama a Liability to their plans and that they consider him unpredictable.

Lindsey then finished up for the most part by explaining that the globalists worship a different god according to the insider, and that god is Lucifer.

This is very startling information that makes me cringe to even think about it! These times are beginning to sound allot like the time of trouble spoken of in Matthew and Revelation, as well as many other places in the Bible. Time to wake up, and prepare for the redemption. Time is running out!”

In other words, we have less than 2 years before we go into the next global war. Are you prepared? War is the most profitable to the instigators (banksters) in money and most costly in human life for everyone else. Will we fall for it – again? What false flag will be used this time to get us involved?

Regarding Employment and the Depression

The Geography of Jobs

<http://tipstrategies.com/archive/geography-of-jobs/>

by TIP Strategies

When Did Your County's Jobs Disappear?

<http://www.slate.com/id/2216238>

by Chris Wilson

At best, the stimulus has had a *net zero effect on the economy*, said Brian Reidl, senior federal budget analyst for the conservative Heritage Foundation.

“Of course when the government spends money, some of those dollars will go to hire and employ people,” Reidl told CNSNews.com.

“But that came from money that was taxed or borrowed out of the economy, so fewer people are employed in the private sector,” he said. “*This is killing as many jobs as it’s creating*. It’s why government stimulus programs didn’t work in the Great Depression and why they didn’t work in Japan in the 1990s.”

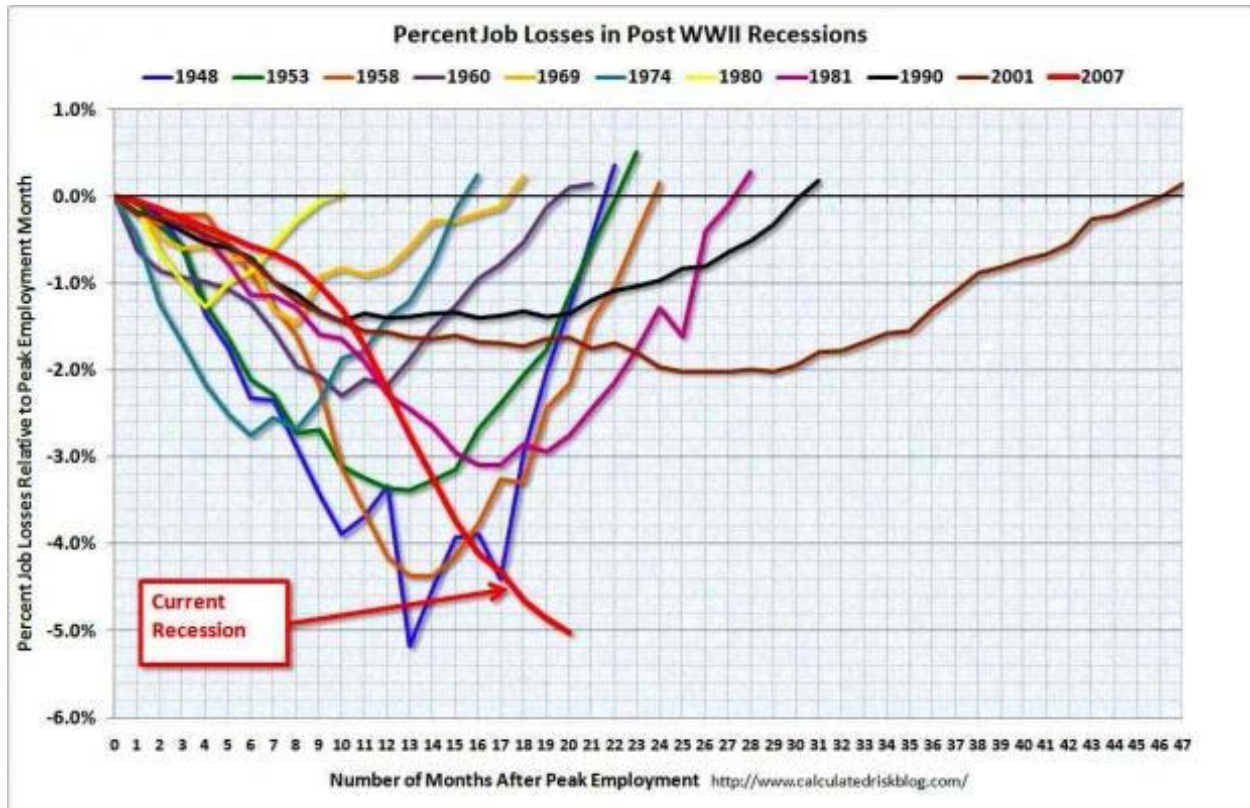
On Sept. 24, Vice President Joe Biden said, “In my wildest dreams, I never thought [the stimulus] would work this well.”

Worked well for the bankers and globalists, didn’t it? “Worked this well” to accomplish what?

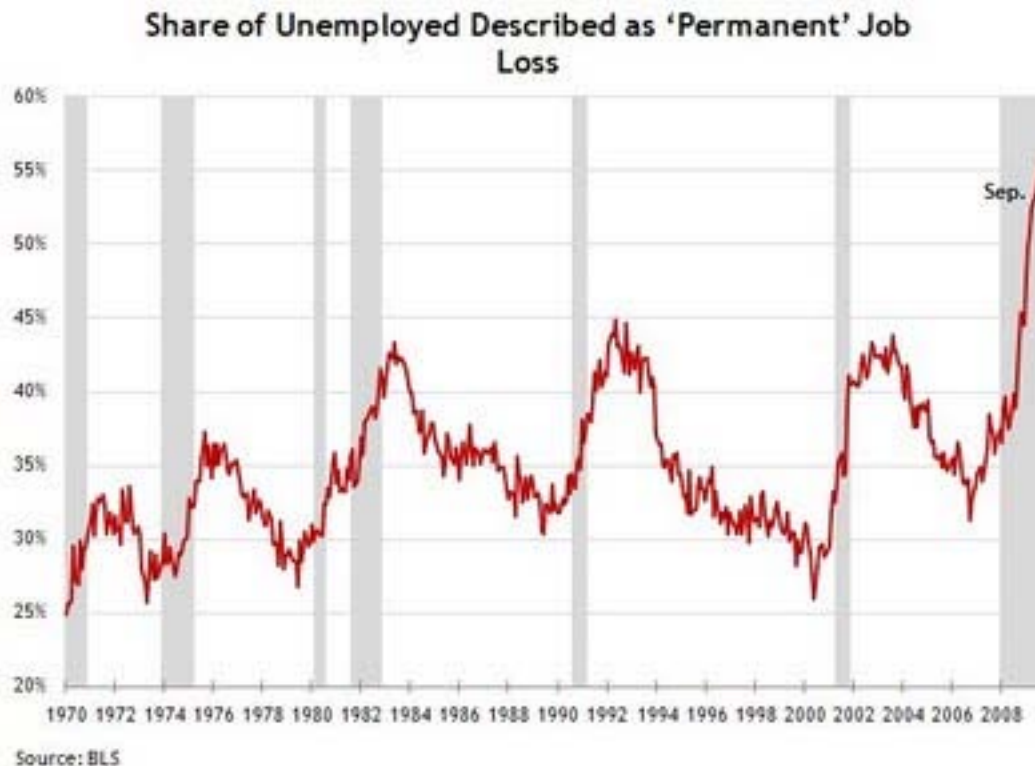
Scariest Job Chart Since the Great Depression

<http://www.businessinsider.com/henry-blodget-the-scariest-jobs-chart-ever-2009-9>

by Henry Blodget



<http://www.calculatedriskblog.com/2009/10/macroblog-growing-case-for-jobless.html>
by CalculatedRisk



“Never, in the six recessions preceding the latest one, did permanent separations account for more than 45 percent of the unemployed. The current percentage stands at 56 percent as of September and appears to be still climbing.”

7 Months After Stimulus 49 of 50 States Have Lost Jobs

<http://www.republicans.waysandmeans.house.gov/News/DocumentPrint.aspx?DocumentID=150826>

The “Official” Unemployment Statistics (last modified, October 23, 2009)

<http://www.bls.gov/lau/stalt.htm>

“Real” unemployment is actually two to three times as high if we look at those who are self-employed and cannot obtain work and do not qualify for unemployment benefits – which is just about anybody who owns a small business today. Are you a “marginally attached” worker?

You will notice that all so-called “liberal” states are the hardest hit.

State	Estimated Change in Jobs Through December 2010	Actual Change in Jobs Through September 2009
Alabama	+52,000	-33,600
Alaska	+8,000	-2,900
Arizona	+70,000	-77,300
Arkansas	+31,000	-16,000
California	+396,000	-336,400
Colorado	+59,000	-58,900
Connecticut	+41,000	-35,900
Delaware	+11,000	-9,500
District of Columbia	+12,000	-4,000
Florida	+206,000	-165,100
Georgia	+106,000	-131,900
Hawaii	+15,000	-17,000
Idaho	+17,000	-11,300
Illinois	+148,000	-148,900
Indiana	+75,000	-54,200
Iowa	+37,000	-25,800
Kansas	+33,000	-45,400
Kentucky	+48,000	-42,300
Louisiana	+50,000	-34,500
Maine	+15,000	-12,300
Maryland	+66,000	-25,800
Massachusetts	+79,000	-38,600
Michigan	+109,000	-137,300
Minnesota	+66,000	-56,100
Mississippi	+30,000	-14,400
Missouri	+69,000	-38,000
Montana	+11,000	-3,500
Nebraska	+23,000	-11,700
Nevada	+34,000	-33,800
New Hampshire	+16,000	-12,000
New Jersey	+100,000	-55,600
New Mexico	+22,000	-17,800
New York	+215,000	-111,800
North Carolina	+105,000	-75,600
North Dakota	+8,000	+1,800
Ohio	+133,000	-97,500
Oklahoma	+40,000	-39,500
Oregon	+44,000	-40,000
Pennsylvania	+143,000	-103,200
Rhode Island	+12,000	-8,500
South Carolina	+50,000	-16,000
South Dakota	+10,000	-4,400
Tennessee	+70,000	-48,300
Texas	+269,000	-225,300
Utah	+32,000	-32,500
Vermont	+8,000	-2,900
Virginia	+93,000	-47,000
Washington	+75,000	-65,900
West Virginia	+20,000	-12,700
Wisconsin	+70,000	-61,000
Wyoming	+8,000	-10,500
Total	+3,460,000	-2,708,600

Obama Condemns 10% of America to Never-ending Poverty

<http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/16033>

by Fred Dardick

“Vice President Joe Biden had some pointed words about the economy this week. He quoted his grandfather when he said “When the guy in Minooka’s out of work, it’s an economic slowdown. When your brother- in-law’s out of work, it’s a recession. When you’re out of work, it’s a depression. Well, it’s a depression - it’s a depression for millions of Americans, through no fault of their own.”

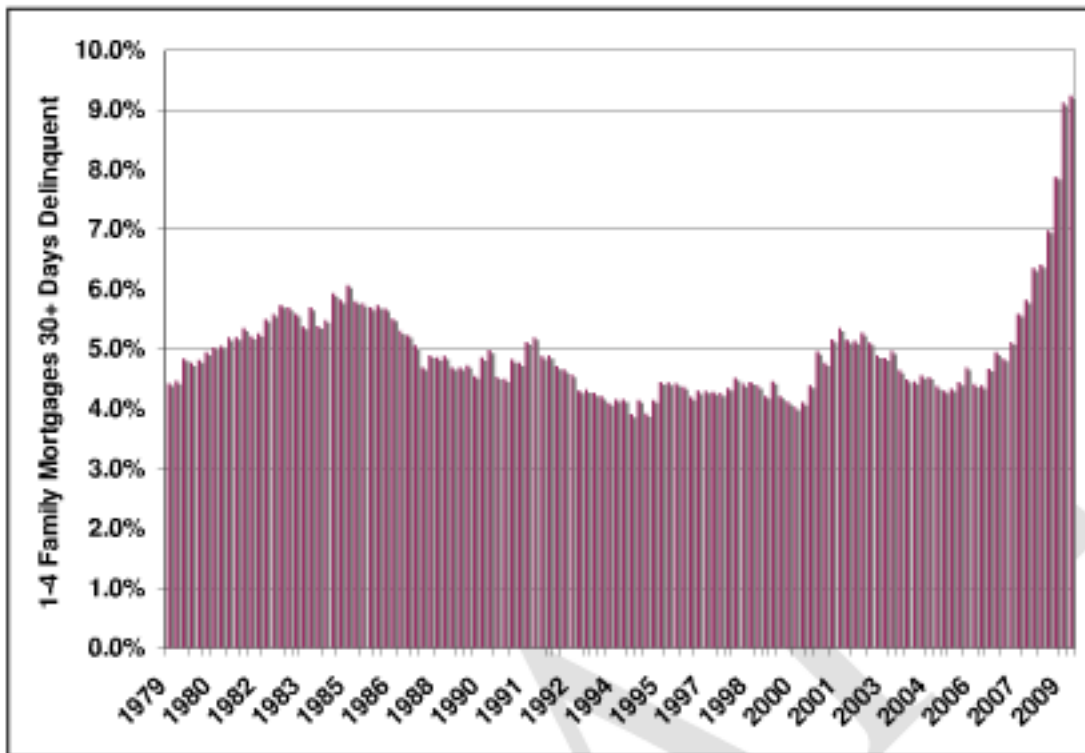
Do you still have a J.O.B. (Just Over Broke)?

Regarding Housing

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

by Dr. Housing Bubble

Figure XX: Percentage of Single Family Residential Mortgages Delinquent¹²



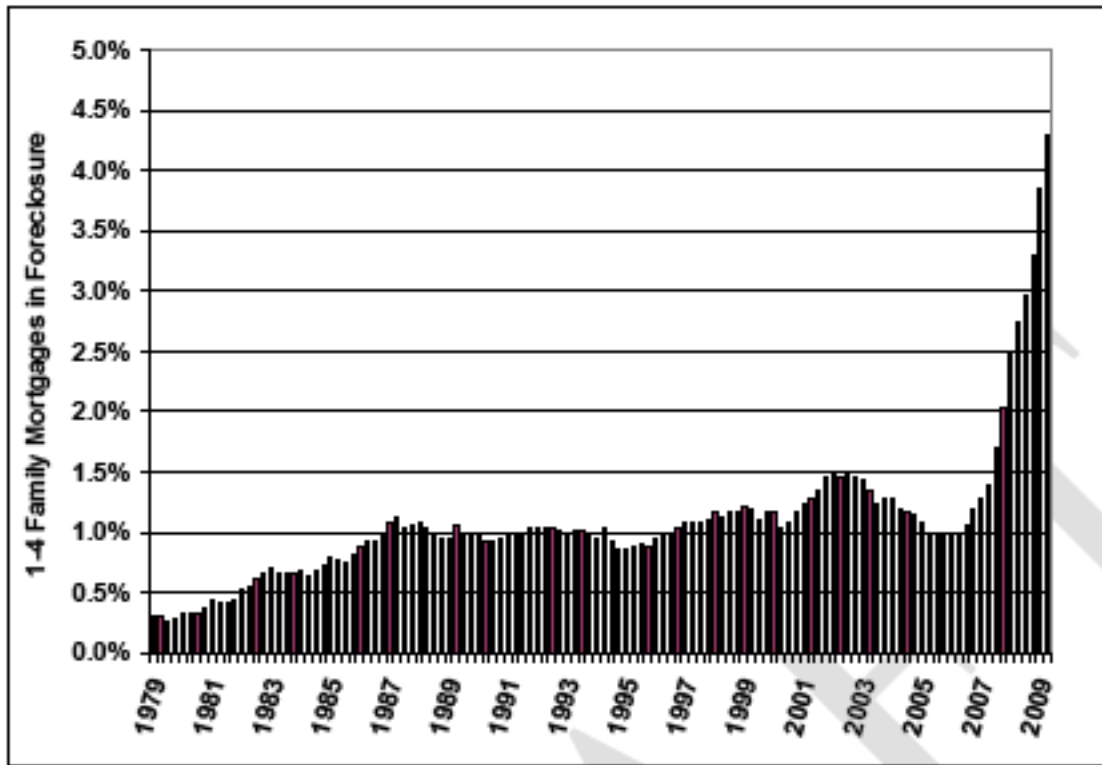
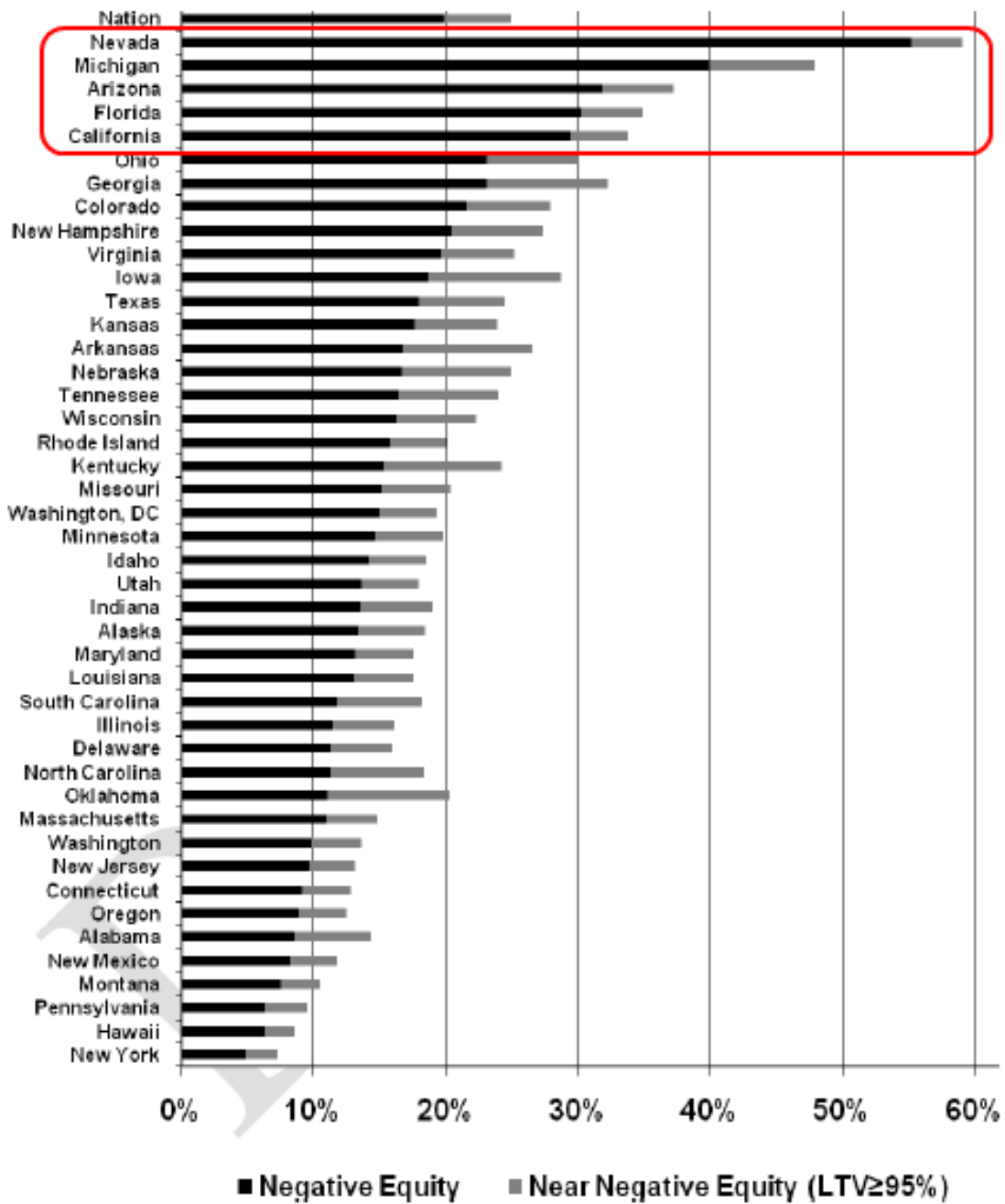
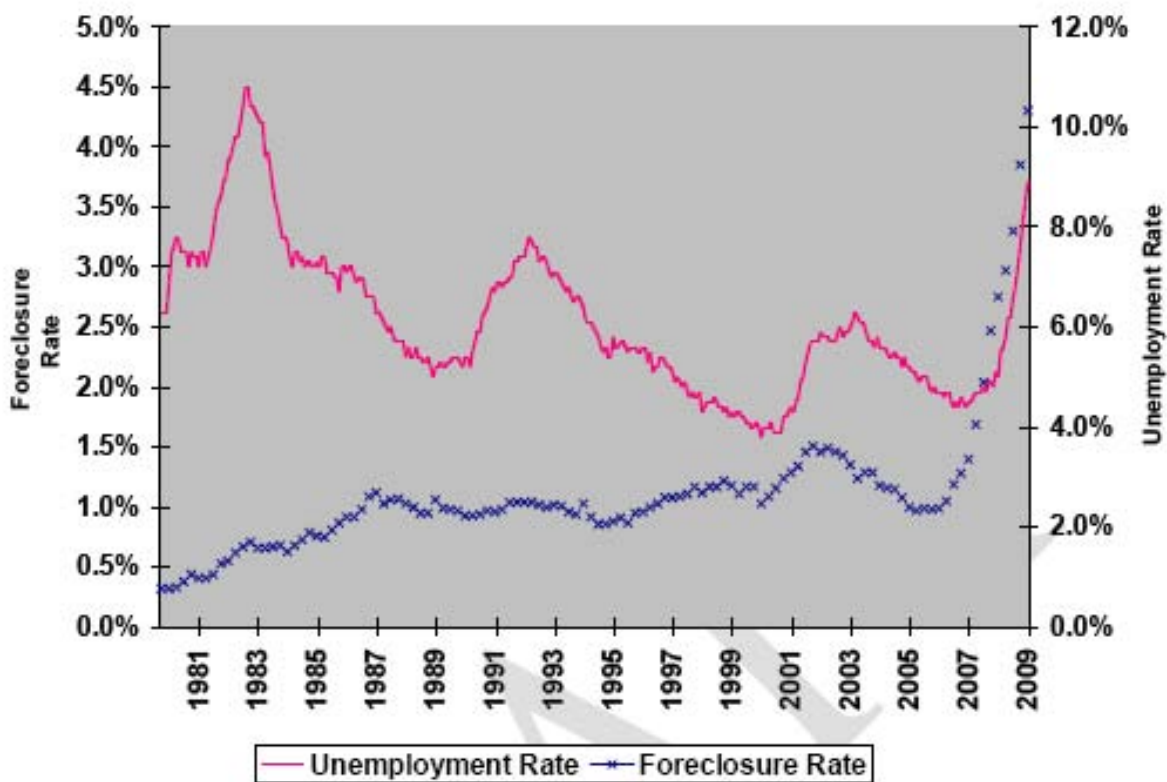


Figure XX: Percentage of Homes with Negative Equity as of December 2008^{31,32}





“You will not solve housing without having a solid employment base. Some people have asked me why doesn’t Wall Street and the government see this? They do. They just don’t care. Their assumption is that if Wall Street is raining, somehow some little drops will sprinkle on the poor typical American. Ask the 27 million unemployed and underemployed how happy they are that the S&P 500 is now up 62 percent from the March low. Lagging indicator? To the point of lagging you out of a decade.”

“People ask then what is really the solution? I’ve said it many times, but you can’t have an economy without job growth. This sounds obvious, but it would appear to be off the radar for Wall Street and our government. If you focus on the job situation, then housing will right itself. Notice that 1991 recession and foreclosures? What happened? Well we had the technology boom and added 20 million jobs over the decade. That was a bubble and that burst, but you can see that yes, you can have an economy that runs outside of housing. But this decade, housing was the economy. And the government and Wall Street basically want that industry back. Well it isn’t coming back. They need to figure out what to do.

And there is nothing wrong with renting! In fact, it is a shame that there is no actual initiative encouraging renting. Some of these people in distress will do much better to downsize. They are even telling the HAMP mod survey that they are financially strained. Maybe renting a lower-priced home will help. Nothing wrong with that until you land on your feet again.

Yet this notion that everyone deserves to own a home is largely a reason we are in this mess. Wall Street exploited this “American” desire and people ate it up. In fact, the dream was no longer to own a modest home, but to own some oversized McMansion and drive a gigantic V-10 tank that got 8 miles per gallon. When did the American Dream become a Marvel Comic?

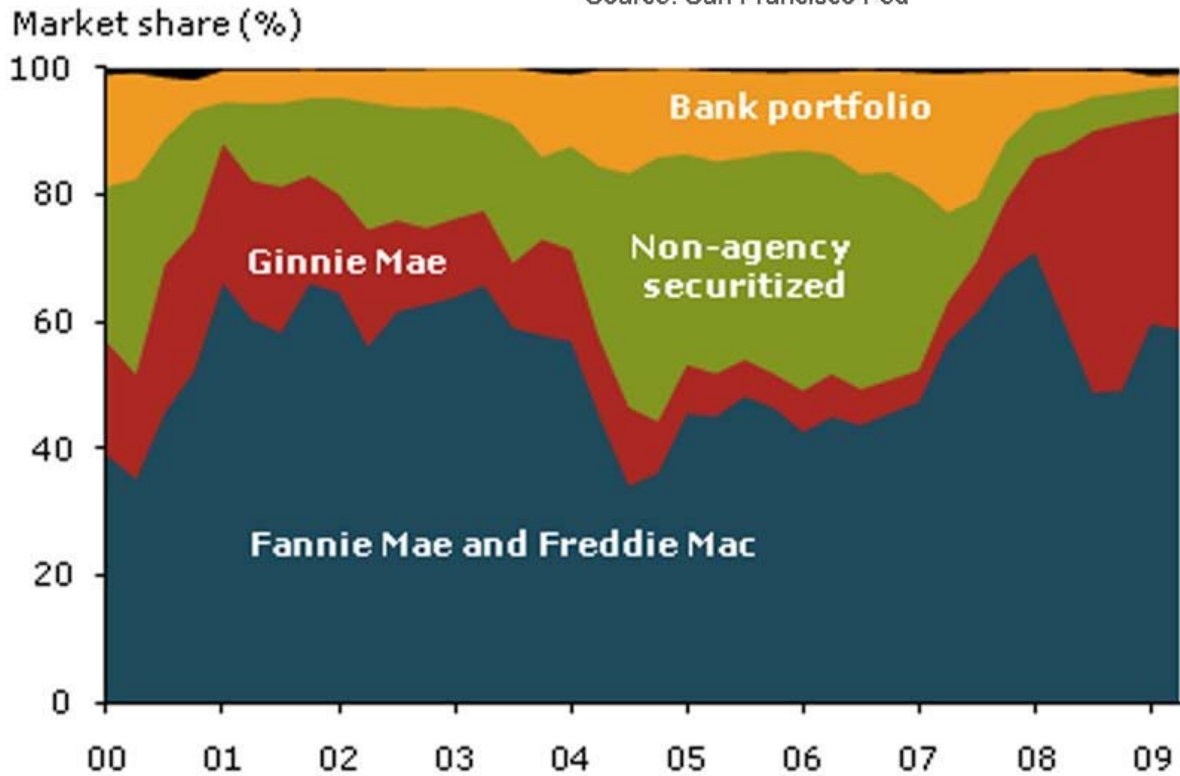
Some suggestions are to bring back our industrial base to the U.S. Make ourselves more competitive. Flipping homes to one another while quant jocks play Halo on one screen and do billion dollar trades on another Bloomberg Terminal is not a real economy. It basically strips the value out of the real economy. These banks posting record profits? JP Morgan making \$3.6 billion last quarter. Really? Most of it was through their i-banking and private equity division. If they want to act like a hedge fund, so be it, but they have zero access to the Fed and U.S. Treasury. Instead, they are a primary dealer.

Healthcare is a big part of our economy and will remain that way with over 70 million baby boomers entering retirement age. Surely we can create some jobs in this arena. At least it is better than installing granite countertops in every home and adding Jacuzzis and pretending we are keeping up with technological innovations of other countries. In large part, housing has become a major distraction. It is a cultural neurosis like Tulip Mania or watching UFOs on TV taking away a kid, but in the end, it is all fake. The equity in these California homes was fake. The Wall Street profits were a sham. So until we can return to a real economy, focusing on housing only serves as a form of therapy.”

Housing Stockholm Syndrome

<http://www.doctorhousingbubble.com/real-homes-of-genius-culver-city-and-the-housing-stockholm-syndrome-approximately-5-percent-of-current-home-price-is-related-to-government-bailouts/>

Source: San Francisco Fed



“95 percent of the mortgage market is now backed by the government. As we know, a large part of this growth also occurred with highly risky FHA insured loans that are now imploding at record levels. Last month in Southern California 36 percent of mortgages were FHA insured loans. Now applying the Stockholm syndrome, it would appear that many instead of being angry and calling out the banking fraud for what it is, are starting to believe in what the abductors are pushing. They say things like, “see, the banks are now holding off on the shadow inventory to help the market. Prices are now going up!” As if the banks are concerned about the average American with some banks charging 79.9 percent on credit cards before dealing with the tougher legislation coming in 2010. As you can see from the above chart, *the mortgage market is the government*, which raises the question, why do we even need banks if 95 percent of the mortgage market is directly subsidized by the government? We don’t and certainly not at the too big to fail level. If anything, we should get on the move to start breaking up the banks and renewing a new stronger form of Glass-Steagall. Until the government moves in this direction the current financial deep capture will continue and will siphon off the life blood of the real economy like a leech.”

Is your home paid for?

Have We Reached the Tipping Point?

E+R = O (Event plus response to that event equals the outcome.)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hq-36axoU-4>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q04X5pz4QmM>

Liberty Lady vs. Judge Carter from “On Second Thought” - <http://onsecondthought.tv/>

“William Wagener puts Orly Taitz on the spot, with her allegations of potential Treason, her words, of Georgia Judge Clay Land, who fined her \$20K for filing properly in his court, because two of the plaintiffs lived in his district.”

“Exclusive interview with the now world famous Moldavian born Ex-Russian, Ex-Israeli, newly minted American Atty. and Israeli trained dentist Orly Taitz. The conversation drifts to solutions.”

“We have a de facto dictatorship in the US now.”

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYJ33p_1GkE

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HL9YNPbhnMY>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGerOtxsowE>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rkIihSb6lvk>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYK2ceillqs>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSO2naHMqsl>

<http://www.onsecondthought.tv/taitz1.htm>

<http://www.onsecondthought.tv/taitz2.htm>

Swine-flu emergency! What does that mean?

“The Associated Press, for example, merely stated that the declaration removes "bureaucratic roadblocks" and enables officials to "bypass federal rules." Other news outlets were even vaguer, saying the declaration waived federal requirements, but not saying what those requirements govern.”

<http://www.wnd.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view&pageId=113964>

Dig Deeper

“Fall of the Republic” 2.24 full-length video.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VebOTc-7shU>

“Brave New World” by Aldous Huxley, full text of book.

<http://www.huxley.net/bnw/>

LDS Freedom Network

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

“Make Mine Freedom”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WB6p5QPvPI>

FluScam TV

<http://www.fluscam.com/HOME.html>

Dr. Horowitz Rips Dr. Oz Apart on ABC's H1N1 Swine Flu Vaccine Fraud

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=04gaxcrVRxY> Part 1

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MerH7ZU22Qo> Part 2

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q6e0JpG0l0U> Part 3

People Who Get Seasonal Flu Shot Twice as Likely to Get Swine Flu

http://theholisticoption.com/Pages/Article_People_Who_Get_Seasonal_Flu_Shot_Twice_As_Likely_To_Get_Swine_Flu_413.aspx

Dystonia

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uR5p_bD3uLc

One Shot, One Kill (Mercury-containing vaccines)

<http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2009/10/22/New-Study-Demonstrates-Significant-Harm-From-Just-ONE-Mercury-Containing-Vaccine.aspx>

Gardasil Researcher Drops A Bombshell

http://thebulletin.us/articles/2009/10/25/top_stories/doc4ae4b76d07e16766677720.txt

“To date, 15,037 girls have officially reported adverse side effects from Gardasil to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). These adverse reactions include Guilliane Barre, lupus, seizures, paralysis, blood clots, brain inflammation and many others. The CDC acknowledges that there have been 44 reported deaths.

Cervarix, currently in use in the UK but not yet approved here. Since the government began administering the vaccine to school-aged girls last year, more than 2,000 patients reported some kind of adverse reaction including nausea, dizziness, blurred vision, convulsions, seizures and hyperventilation. Several reported multiple reactions, with 4,602 suspected side-effects recorded in total. The most tragic case involved a 14 year-old girl who dropped dead in the corridor of her school an hour after receiving the vaccination.”

National Vaccine Information Center

<http://www.nvic.org/>

No Mandatory Swine Flu Vaccinations II

<http://www.oilforimmigration.org/facts/?p=4072#more-4072>

Micro Air Vehicles

<http://video.designworldonline.com/bugbots.html>

The Defining Moment the Week that Shakes the Financial World at its Foundation!

<http://socioecohistory.wordpress.com/2009/10/26/the-defining-moment-the-week-that-shakes-the-financial-world-at-its-foundation/>

Sequoia Voting Systems/Smartmatic: A shocking 2008 election conspiracy Exposed.

<http://www.abovetopsecret.com/forum/thread393878/pg1>

US Debt Clock

<http://www.usdebtclock.org/>

Things to watch for during a “Declared National Emergency”

<http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/16142>

A Primer on “Martial Law”

<http://www.newswithviews.com/Vieira/edwin198.htm>

Mind Your Tweets

<http://antifascist-calling.blogspot.com/2009/10/mind-your-tweets-cia-and-european-union.html>

Foreign Troops (UN) Training on US Soil (from 1994)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTMq0C0OKNg> by Linda Thompson

Operation Garden Plot

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Garden_Plot

One Nation Under Siege

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-7455325731648062338&ei#>

3rd Infantry's 1st BCT trains for a new dwell-time mission. Helping 'people at home' may become a permanent part of the active Army

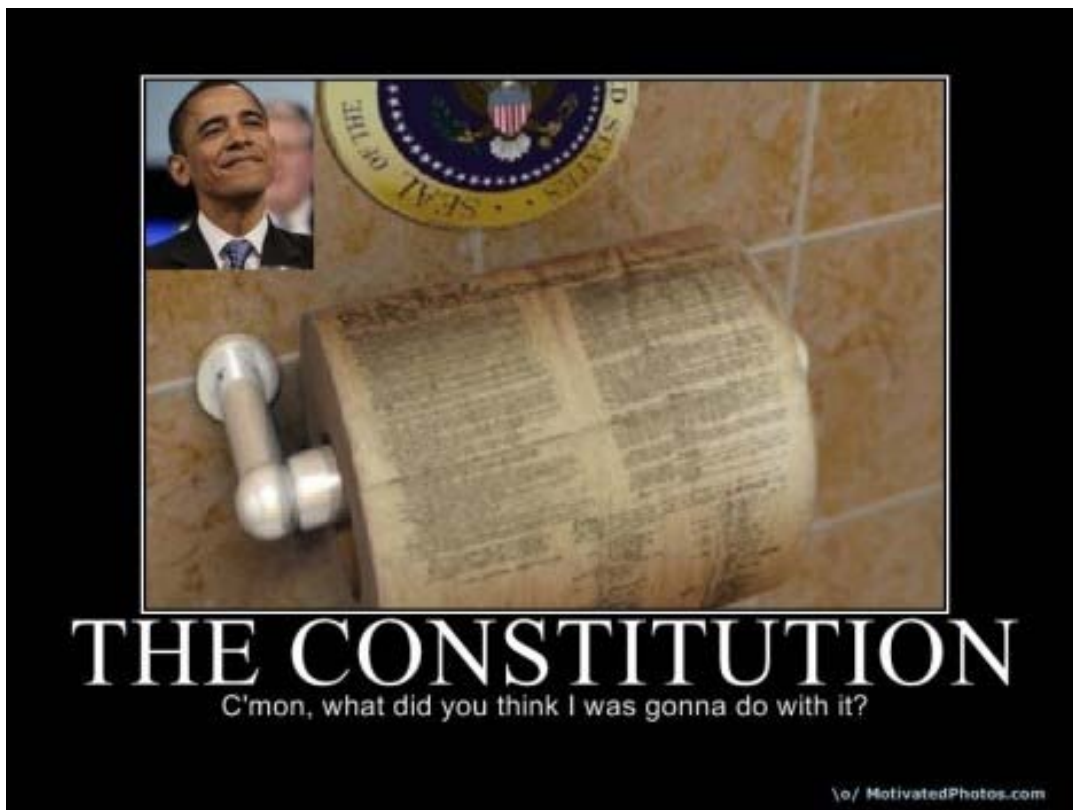
http://www.armytimes.com/news/2008/09/army_homeland_090708w/

Recession Drives Surge in Youth Runaways

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/26/us/26runaway.html?_r=2&em=&pagewanted=all

Grassroots America

<http://toginet.com/shows/grassrootsamericawethepeople>



Source: <http://rightsoup.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/motivatedphotosconstitutionwhatdidyouthinkiwouldddowithit-470x352.jpg>

So, What can we do?

Look to God, pray for inspiration and act like there is no tomorrow. Get involved and be actively engaged in good works. Get to know your neighbors. Participate in your community. Get educated regarding the US Constitution and how to defend it. The time to act is now.



What I Learned By Developing My iPhone App Or: Why Fart When you can Laugh?

by Brad Montgomery, CSP with permission.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imx9RsjQNxI>

I was in a restaurant laughing at — not with — iFart. (In case you've been in a closet for the last year, iFart is one of the many silly applications for the iPhone. iFart, which plays different farting noises on demand — has sold gazillions of copies since it started. As far as money goes, that's a windfall of flatulence.

I thought it was stupid. But then two things happened: first, I realized that I actually respect the two people who showed me this dumb 99¢ application. I thought only idiots would actually cough up a dollar for what my dog does for free, but realized that these gentlemen — at least on the outside— are not idiots.

Then, I read an article about how the sound of laughter creates a positive physical reaction in our bodies. No kidding. We hear a laugh, and it that good feeling we get is just part of the story. Turns out there's a bunch of cool science about the therapeutic effects of laughter.

Then, like perfect storm of “Oh crap, now Brad is adding yet another thing to his plate”, I realized that if you combine the concept of iFart with the genuine joy of laughter, you'd have an app you could laugh *at* AND *with*. And feel better to boot.

So as fast as you could say, “*How hard could it be to just hire somebody to knock this bad boy out?*” I became a software developer.

This is a pretty big leap. I've been everything from comedian to magician to motivational speaker to humor expert to happiness-in-the-workplace pro. Software developer? One of these things is not like the other. (No, I'm not too old for Sesame Street. Yo Big Bird!)

Well, guess what? I'm an idiot. And I'm a genius. Plus, I'm the proud papa of a pretty darned cool iPhone app called iLaughOutLoud. It plays genuine laughter on demand, after a specified delay (with a couple of other cool features too.) It has that “contagious laughter thing” going for it, and it's fun. It's killer in the office. It's awesome on conference calls.

What did I learn in the process? It's hard to know where to start.

I learned that no matter how cool your developer is, he cannot read your mind. And computer experts are creative, but only in their own non-creative way. They can write gobbly-gook that actually makes your iPhone do cool stuff, but they are loath to do anything that their customers haven't specifically — and I mean VERY specifically — asked them to do. It made me crazy. But if they didn't think like that, they would never be able to do what they do so well.

I learned why every version of *Windows* is late. This is a simple laughter app and it took three or four times longer to finish than I thought. I'm still biased to mock Microsoft, but as a fellow Software Developer (Hey! It's just fun to write!) I now have a smidge of an idea of why they are never on time. If my little laughter app was tardy, no wonder a whole operating system is behind. (Hey Microsoft, if only Vista could laugh Call me!)

I learned that graphic artists are beautiful wonderful people. But they are artists. In this case, the word "artist" translates to: wildly talented but hard to reach, constantly late, and frustrating to communicate with. Just when I was ready to finally yell and scream, some beautiful and creative image would magically arrive in my inbox.

I learned that you can buy professional recordings of anything. And because of the web, you can buy them cheaply and quickly.

I learned that recording your older kids laughing is fun and easy. But asking to a younger kid to "Just laugh into the microphone" makes absolutely no sense to them. "*But there's nothing funny happening! Show me something funny and THEN I'll laugh.*" At some point in human development we understand the concept of forcing out a laugh. I learned that 3rd grade is on the far side of that point.

I learned that only some adults can genuinely laugh on the demand. Most people cannot and sound like that fake-laughing woman at cocktail parties we all hate.

I learned that Apple is slow when it comes to giving us Developers (yeah, that's me baby!) what we need to get our stuff on iTunes. I learned that I need them, but they do NOT need me. I could grow an apple tree faster than I can get Apple to move me through their iTunes submission process.

I learned that when you're developing ... er.... anything, prepare to open your wallet wider than you had planned. And do it repeatedly. Budget smudget. Everything was more expensive than expected. And everything seemed to lead to just one more teensy tiny check. I've written a ton of one-more-teensy-tiny-checks that add up to.... I'm honestly afraid to add it all up. Very afraid.

I learned that there is a difference between having a good product and selling a good product. iTunes has gobs of apps. Lots and lots. There is a ton of junk out there, but

there are good apps too. I cannot remember the exact number of worthwhile apps available; my guess is that it's somewhere between 50 and 5,000. And now with my iLaughOutLoud, it's 5,001.

I now understand how hard it must be for an author to write a book, get it published by a major publisher, get awesome reviews, and then go into *Barnes & Noble* only to find it in the far way back corner on the very top shelf behind that ladder that we're not supposed to use.

I learned that at least one person takes those web reviews we so casually write very personally, way more personally than is healthy. Yup, you guessed it. In this case that one person is me. What? *Only 2 stars? Don't you like me? Is it something I said? You think these pants make my butt look fat?*

I also learned the personal power we have to make others feel good. My new rule is, "When in doubt, take the time to tell others when you like something." When a mom wrote me raving about the app and attached a recording of her daughter laughing, I felt like a million bucks. I took that personally too.

Was developing iLaughOutLoud worth it? I'm still numb, but in the end, yes. The money is coming in. The reviews are fun. The personal stories are even more fun. And heck, it's all about laughter, and — after I take a nap — that's what I'll be doing.

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Brad Montgomery is a funny motivational speaker, author, & humor-at-work expert. He speaks to organizations about how happiness connects to their bottom line. His site is <http://www.BradMontgomery.com>

iLaughOutLoud is the contagious laughter app for iPhone and iTouch. You can learn more about it here: <http://www.bradmontgomery.com/ilaughoutloud> or go directly to the app on iTunes here: <http://tinyurl.com/ylyvooy>

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Share your best ideas about how to use the iLaughOutLoud iPhone laughter sounds App and **we'll send you a free book** called [*Humor Us: America's Funniest Humorists On the Power of Laughter*](#) Submit your ideas by emailing **support "AT" bradmontgomery.com**



The Northern Spy

Technology News and Views Since 1983

Follow the Money Trail

By Rick Sutcliffe

November 2009

Money Coated Apples

Seen the order of the day, following recent financial reports from Cupertino. The self-appointed pundits, particularly of the Wall Street variety, were astonished by the earnings report for Apple's most recent quarter. Record profits, a forty plus percent increase over last year, huge increases in both Mac and iPhone sales, and new record highs for the stock -- all in times where general computing sales are slow. "Of course," retorts the Spy, "and \$10B+ revenues per quarter will soon be the norm. Didn't you read it here months ago?"

Apple is just cashing in mindshare from a couple of years ago for today's marketshare, as he predicted. The "street" just doesn't get it yet. The ordinary Josephine is buying (or being gifted for school or Christmas) a Mac, not a PC -- this on the strength of the iPod or iPhone that has been in successful service for two to three years. The majority of businesses now have at least some Macs, and they are partners in the Enterprise. Today's mindshare (cashable in 24 months or so) is greater than ever. When the recession ends for business next year, the older machines that have been allowed to languish longer than usual are more likely in many cases to be replaced by Macs than new PCs. The Spy's main concern: whether Apple can keep supplied with parts as even more people come into the fold, and marketshare climbs from just under 10% to over 16%.

Meanwhile, Apple has announced a few product upgrades, perhaps most notably the Magic Mouse (touch top, and requires Mac OS 10.5.8+; W*nd*ws users need not purchase.)

There are of course more such bumps and refinements to come (towers, servers), but these ones were announced when they were to hogtie the official launch by Microsoft of their new OS, Longhorn, er, ...Vista Service Pack. Oh, wait. It's called Windows 7 now. One tends to forget what the minor players are doing, especially when they don't seem to know themselves. Supposedly Win7 is better than the original Vista, though that doesn't seem much of a bar to clear.

However, given that an upgrade requires a "nuke and pave", if the old machine is even capable of running this turkey, wouldn't it make more sense to switch from a cheap, imitation counterfeit to a real Mac? The Spy notes in this connection that the media is lapping up the balloon boy fraud, patting itself on its collective back for not being taken in (for more than a day or two). Why can't it see Win-PC for the rounding error it is?

Apple certainly isn't on the shrinking W*nd*ws bandwagon, as its Boot Camp will only be supporting Win7 on the most recent Macs, probably only under Snow Leopard, and not for a few months yet. Case of ignoring a niche market?

Turning from the vista to the horizon, the Spy notes a phone company by a similar name advertising a new "droid" phone that is supposedly an iPhone killer (why the Apple and Google boards have gone their own way?). More likely the new kid will itself end up as roadkill on the information highway, but that doesn't stop enthusiastic forecasts by Apple-is-doomed pundits who haven't even seen this new device and know nothing more about it than any of us unwashed.

Apparently the AT&T results have been looking good too, with the pundits warning that AT&T could get too dependent on the iPhone gravy train. After all, with the monopoly ending soon, the lolly will be spread around. Not, says the Spy. There is more than enough gravy to smother everybody's potatoes. Competition will increase sales.

Meanwhile, Nokia has launched a lawsuit against Apple for patent violation on a number of cell phone technologies. Too soon to say whether this is legit, or is just a case of suing in lieu of competing.

As a last note on money issues, the Spy notes that Apple Canada has this week reduced \$Canadian prices on a range of Mac models. Changes run to \$300 in some cases. One could presume that the cause is the recent surge in the Canadian dollar, which appeared about to reach par again before pulling back a couple of cents. That it will go to par and above in view of the strengths of the respective economies seems a slam dunk to the Spy, who does, however, hasten to remind his reader that he is not an economist or a financier, nor does he give advice on such matters, just opinions. Course, he's been more right about Apple than the analysts for some time now. Meanwhile, it is nice to see Apple not participating in the RO (rip off) factor that affects most prices on goods crossing the border between us and the Excited States.

On other Apple-related matters

The Spy notes that the next logical step for the iTunes store would be a makeover into, simply, the iStore, complete with eBooks for Apple's reader (whoops, they won't announce that for a while) and applications for the Mac. For that matter, go all the way, and sell hardware under the same virtual umbrella.

Mind you, the iTunes App itself needs a little work. The Spy decided to sync his shiny new iPod Touch with a second machine, and discovered that unless one first "authorizes" the machine to work with the Store, it happily erases all the purchased and downloaded content on the Pod. Correct procedure: stop the initial sync, authorize the machine, then sync. Else, the backup on the machine that was originally authorized had better be in good shape.

Second quibble: There should be an exposed mechanism to archive such backups. This business of keeping only one and erasing it at every connection is for the birds--no backup fanatic would ever employ such a strategy.

Third: What's with Apple's excessive protectionism? Too tight a control, too many apps rejected for no good reason, functionality not enabled at the behest of the telecom pirates. None of this is necessary; all of it gains only ill will and ticks off customers and would-be developers. Don't forget another of the Spy's Laws -- all copy protection is futile. The iPhone/iPod platform is not really locked down and forever uncrackable. It's only a matter of time before someone opens it up, so why not get on with it?

Fourth: What's with these earbuds? They might work in some people's ears, but the Spy must have inherited flaps the bud makers have never seen before, as they just pop out of his. Fix: plastic tips of various shapes to accommodate different ears. Is that so hard?

Snow Leopard gets its own headline

For the Spy, once upon a time an early adopter, has heard too many reports of data corruption, Safari crashes, and other issues. Not wanting to afford such, he's now decided to sit this one out for another couple of months, consolidate his application updates, and install version three or four after the reports of problems stop. Getting old, and not wanting more injuries perhaps.

Mind, the Spy is paranoid about backups -- why he is particularly distressed this morning to discover that the backup he made last evening at work was missing the entire "Comm" folder, with all his archived eMail for the last 10 these many decades. But when checking the work machine from which the backup was made, he found the missing folder buried deep inside another group -- testament to two things; first, that backup program Retrospect on which (and predecessors) the Spy has relied for a very long time now, has never once bungled things up, and second; that in his current operated state, the Spy must have become even more fumble fingered than usual to drop it there, along with the group of files beside it.

Elaborating on which, the Spy may have mentioned here the injury he sustained falling out of an unfamiliar bed in Ireland a year ago last spring. By the time he had a diagnosis, two more injuries had resulted in a completely severed tendon in the rotator cuff system, and much reduced functionality in the joint. On June 6, he finally got the whole affair screwed back together (literally) and some damaged cartilage scraped off. Kudos to Dr. Albert Chan, the orthopedic surgeon, who seems to have done a fantastic job. (colour pictures of the work being done to prove it.)

So he works slowly now, and usually with one hand, while he awaits healing, and some five months of physiotherapy yet to come. Be nice to restore the lost functionality. In the meanwhile, it's reminiscent of the OS 9 to OS X transition. Short term severe losses for long term gains. Writing on the whiteboard with the left hand is easier than writing on the chalkboard that way, though. Hardest thing achieved so far: shaving with the left hand. Two tasks not: tying shoes and knotting a tie with one hand. Ah, well. A little bit of pain never hurt anyone.

Canon shots cross the bow

Not content with the recent release of the midrange professional 7D, Canon has bumped its flagship professional camera, the 1D to the Mark IV model. Sixteen-megapixels, 1.3X crop unit, twin DIGIC IV processors, 1080p video at 30 frames per second, WiFi, Ethernet, GPS tagging, still images at up to 10 fps, sensitivity to ISO 102K, and a 45-point autofocus system that automatically groups points together to help select the right area--all make it droolworthy to be sure, with the body only kit expected to price in at a mere five grand. The Spy is only an photamateur, and still very pleased with his 40D, but with these two higher end picture crunchers, it appears Canon has regained the technical lead it seemed in danger of losing to Nikon. If you must have the very best (and you therefore own a Mac, too)....

And with that, the Spy says QED (Quite Enough Done) for the month.

--The Northern Spy

Rick Sutcliffe, (a.k.a. The Northern Spy) is professor and chair of Computing Science and Mathematics as well as Senate Chair at Trinity Western University. He is also on the board of CIRA, operator of .ca. He's written two textbooks and several novels, one named best ePublished SF novel for 2003. His columns have appeared in numerous magazines and newspapers (paper and online), and he's a regular speaker at churches, schools, academic meetings, and conferences. He and his wife Joyce have lived in the Aldergrove/Bradner area of BC since 1972.

Want to discuss this and other Northern Spy columns? Surf on over to ArjayBB.com. Participate and you could win free web hosting from the WebNameHost.net subsidiary of Arjay Web Services. Rick Sutcliffe's fiction can be purchased in various eBook formats from Fictionwise, and in dead tree form from Amazon's Booksurge.

URLs

The Northern Spy Home Page: <http://www.TheNorthernSpy.com>

The Spy's Laws collected: <http://www.thenorthernspy.com/spyslaws.htm>

The Spy's Shareware download site: <http://downloads.thenorthernspy.com/>

WebNameHost: <http://www.WebNameHost.net>

WebNameSource: <http://www.WebNameSource.net>

nameman: <http://nameman.net>

opundo: <http://opundo.com>

Sheaves Christian Resources: <http://sheaves.org>

Arjay Books: <http://www.ArjayBooks.com>

Booksurge: <http://www.booksurge.com>

Fictionwise: <http://www.fictionwise.com>



gene steinberg's
TechNightOwl

TechNightOwl

Windows 7'S Worst Enemy: Microsoft!

By Gene Steinberg

<http://www.technightowl.com/newsletter/2009/10/newsletter-issue-517/#really>

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A couple of weeks back, when David Biedny joined me on The Tech Night Owl LIVE, we were laughing up a storm about Microsoft's pathetic house parties campaign to boost the launch of Windows 7. It seemed a pathetic or desperate act to want to promote an operating system upgrade with a series of events that had, at best, only a peripheral connection with personal computers.

Indeed, this wasn't just a case of a couple of Mac fans ranting about Microsoft. Even the tech publications that you just know would be on Microsoft's side were busy attacking most of the promotional efforts, and the house parties were just a small part of their objections.

Consider most everything Microsoft has done to make Windows warm and fuzzy. There were those meaningless ads featuring Bill Gates and Jerry Seinfeld, for example. The latter reportedly received \$10 million for his miniscule efforts and the campaign was halted when everyone realized they made no sense whatever.

More recently, there are the TV spots in which a little girl, maybe six years of age, is trying to show you just how easy it is for her to edit and upload photos on her PC. All right, she's cute and all, but does that make anyone want to buy a Windows PC? Really?

Now don't get me wrong. I am not suggesting that Windows 7 is necessarily a bad product. But Microsoft made some really foolish tactical decisions about packaging the product that make no sense, particularly in light of their vast financial reserves.

Consider the plight of the XP user. Now Microsoft surely knows that millions of people sat out Windows Vista because it was slow, bloated and buggy. It presented no real world advantage for most companies, so they stuck with XP. So what does Microsoft do to encourage upgrades? It requires a "clean" installation to go to Windows 7.

But don't take my word for it. Read what Microsoft says in their official statement about installing that upgrade: To upgrade your PC from Windows XP to Windows 7, you'll need to select the Custom option during Windows 7 installation. A custom installation doesn't preserve your programs, files, or settings. It's sometimes called a 'clean' installation for that reason."

It also requires having a second hard drive on hand on which to back up your stuff when you perform the Windows 7 upgrade. Yes, there happens to be a third-party alternative or two that will supposedly make the process less burdensome, but you have to wonder how on Earth can an independent developer, one apparently fairly small, devise a solution, while Microsoft can't?

The other example of poor planning is the foolish decision on Microsoft's part to eliminate such apps as email, an address book and a calendar from the default installation. So even the novice user, who is already challenged finding and setting up new software, is forced to download the file from Microsoft's site and run an installer just to be able to take advantage of fundamental features that almost everyone needs even on a new PC. Where's the logic in that? If Microsoft wants to give you a choice, they could always provide a ballot box, just as they are expected to do with browser selection in Europe. But either way the decision doesn't make sense, since nobody is cracking down on the company for dominating the email client marketplace, let alone that of address books and desktop calendars.

Now in the end, it may well be that Microsoft caved to the PC makers and opted to make the XP to 7 upgrade process so draconian that people would just buy a new PC and be done with it. Indeed, one of the main problems Microsoft confronted during the Vista cycle was with customers who downgraded new boxes to XP. If that's no longer a problem — and this is by no means certain — maybe they are right in wanting to mandate clean installs for current XP users.

On the other hand, for people who aren't ready to buy a new PC, this is just one more obstacle that threatens to reduce Windows 7's chances for fast success, since it means fewer upgrade boxes will be sold. Indeed, the PC industry is now depending on Microsoft to deliver a solid upgrade that will help boost sales prospects for the holiday season.

Certainly Microsoft's timing was good enough, but it still comes down to the fact that the vast majority of PC users don't buy a computer for a particular operating system, but mostly to replace aging systems. These days, however, many of the new purchases are concentrated on netbooks. Sure, Microsoft has a version of Windows 7 that is supposedly sufficient to power those cheap, underpowered gadgets, but profits to the PC makers are meager. They are only selling such gear because many people can't afford to buy something decent.

On the other side of the tracks, we all know that Apple is mostly unaffected by price swings. They demonstrated that in the most recent quarter, where their sales hit record levels, while those at Microsoft declined.

Unfortunately, Wall Street gave Microsoft a pass, because the sales dip wasn't as bad as they expected. That's damning with faint praise.

In the end, I don't want to see anyone lose their job, be it at Microsoft or a PC maker. They have families to support, and a successful employer means raises and improved benefits.

But when Microsoft makes more and more stupid decisions about building and selling its products, their employees and partners will continue to suffer. Good or bad, Windows 7 surely deserves better.



You Might Be A Constitutionalist If . . .

by **Chuck Baldwin**

October 20, 2009

I originally published this column back in January of 2005. Since then (and especially lately), many people have called and written with requests to republish it. So, with a few minor revisions, here it is.

More than thirty years as a student of American history, constitutional government, and the Holy Bible leads me to the conviction that the two major political parties in this country (at the national level) are equally culpable in stripping America of its founding principles. In my opinion, both the Democrat and Republican parties in Washington, D.C., have zero fidelity to the U.S. Constitution and zero respect for America's foundational precepts.

In my studied opinion, neither the Democrat nor Republican Party (at the national level) has any intention of slowing the out-of-control expansion of government. Neither party has demonstrated any loyalty to preserving and protecting our constitutional form of government.

Like National Socialists and Soviet Socialists of old, the only thing that concerns Democrats and Republicans today is who is in power. Both are equally willing to destroy the freedoms and liberties of people without conscience or regret as long as their party remains in control.

I am absolutely convinced that without a renewed allegiance to constitutional government and State sovereignty, there can be no resolution to America's current slide into socialism and oppression. Therefore, it is critical that we cast aside our infatuation with partisan politics and steadfastly stand firm for the principles of federalism and freedom, as did America's founders.

Might you be a modern-day Minuteman who understands the principles of freedom and federalism? I offer the following test. Read it and see if you, too, are a Constitutionalist. (Yes, Martha, this is another Jeff Foxworthy spin-off.)

1. You might be a Constitutionalist if you believe that every congressman, senator, President, and Supreme Court justice is required to obey the U.S. Constitution.

2. You might be a Constitutionalist if you believe that before the United States invades and occupies another country, Congress must first declare war.
3. You might be a Constitutionalist if you believe the federal government should live within its means, like everyone else is forced to do.
4. You might be a Constitutionalist if you think that taking away people's liberties in the name of security is not patriotic, nor does it make the country more secure.
5. You might be a Constitutionalist if you would like to see politicians be forced to abide by the same laws they make everyone else submit to.
6. You might be a Constitutionalist if you understand that we have three "separate but equal" branches of government that are supposed to hold each other in check and balance.
7. You might be a Constitutionalist if you believe that the federal government has no authority to be involved in education or law enforcement, or in any other issue that the Tenth Amendment reserves to the States, or to the People.
8. You might be a Constitutionalist if you believe that gun control laws do nothing but aid and abet criminals while trampling the rights and freedoms of law-abiding citizens.
9. You might be a Constitutionalist if you believe that the income tax is both unconstitutional and immoral, and, along with the I.R.S. and the Federal Reserve, should be abolished.
10. You might be a Constitutionalist if you believe the federal government had no authority to tell former Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore that he could not display a monument containing the Ten Commandments in the Alabama Judicial Building in Montgomery; or to tell a Pace, Florida, high school principal that he could not pray before a meal.
11. You might be a Constitutionalist if you believe that Congress or the White House or any sovereign State is not required to submit to unconstitutional Supreme Court rulings.
12. You might be a Constitutionalist if you understand that freedom has nothing in common with illegal immigration.
13. You might be a Constitutionalist if you understand that outsourcing American jobs overseas is not good for America.
14. You might be a Constitutionalist if you believe that the United States should get out of the United Nations and get the United Nations out of the United States.

15. You might be a Constitutionalist if you believe that it is not unconstitutional for children in public schools to pray or read the Bible.
16. You might be a Constitutionalist if you believe that the Boy Scouts are not a threat to America.
17. You might be a Constitutionalist if you believe that the federal government should honor its commitments to America's veterans and stop using U.S. military personnel as guinea pigs for testing drugs and chemicals.
18. You might be a Constitutionalist if you believe that U.S. troops should never serve under foreign commanders or wear the uniform or insignia of the United Nations, and that they must never submit to illegal orders, such as turning their weapons against American citizens, or confiscating the guns of U.S. citizens.
19. You might be a Constitutionalist if you believe that the federal government has no business bribing churches and faith-based organizations with federal tax dollars.
20. You might be a Constitutionalist if you believe that federal agents who murder American citizens should be held to the same laws and punishments that any other citizen would be held to. (Can anyone say, "Waco" and "Ruby Ridge"?)
21. You might be a Constitutionalist if you understand that NAFTA, GATT, the WTO, and the FTAA (and similar agreements) are disastrous compromises of America's national sovereignty and independence.
22. You might be a Constitutionalist if you would like to see congressmen and senators be required to actually read a bill before passing it into law.
23. You might be a Constitutionalist if you understand that it is the job of government to protect and secure God-given rights, not use its power to take those rights away.
24. You might be a Constitutionalist if you understand that there is nothing unconstitutional about the public acknowledgement of God and our Christian heritage.
25. You might be a Constitutionalist if you believe that government bailouts and "stimulus" expenditures defy virtually every principle of free enterprise and are a flagrant leap into socialism.
26. You might be a Constitutionalist if you believe that airport screeners have no business touching women's breasts, using sophisticated machinery to look through passengers' clothing to see their naked bodies, confiscating fingernail clippers, or denying pilots from carrying handguns.

27. You might be a Constitutionalist if you believe that many public schools' "zero-tolerance" policies are just plain stupid.
28. You might be a Constitutionalist if you believe that parents have a right to homeschool their children.
29. You might be a Constitutionalist if you believe that governmental seizure of private property is plain, old-fashioned thievery.
30. You might be a Constitutionalist if you are personally determined to not submit to any kind of forced vaccination.
31. You might be a Constitutionalist if you oppose any kind of national health insurance.
32. You might be a Constitutionalist if you believe that U.S. troops are not the world's policemen, that they are not "nation-builders," and that their purpose is only to defend American lives and property, not to be the enforcement arm of international commercial interests or global elitists.
33. You might be a Constitutionalist if you understand that the county Sheriff is the highest law enforcement officer of his district and that federal law enforcement (much of which is unconstitutionally organized, anyway) is obligated to submit to his authority.
34. You might be a Constitutionalist if you are determined to oppose America's merger with any kind of regional, hemispheric, or international government, such as the North American Union.
35. You might be a Constitutionalist if you oppose sending billions of taxpayer dollars as foreign aid; the U.S. State Department meddling into the private affairs of foreign countries; and ubiquitous foreign entanglements that require vast sums of money, create animosity and hostility towards us, and expose us to foreign wars and conflicts in which we have no national interest.
36. You might be a Constitutionalist if you would like to meet one single congressman or senator besides Ron Paul who acts as if he or she has ever read the U.S. Constitution.

Well, how did you fare? Are you a Constitutionalist? If so, your country desperately needs you to stand up and fight for freedom's principles before they are forever taken from us. This means never again voting for anyone--from any party--who will not preserve, protect, and defend the U.S. Constitution. So, don't just take the test; make the pledge!

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Books

The Manga Guide to Molecular Biology

Reviewed by Harry {doc} Babad © 2009



Authors: Masaharu Takemura, Sakura, and Becom Co., Ltd.

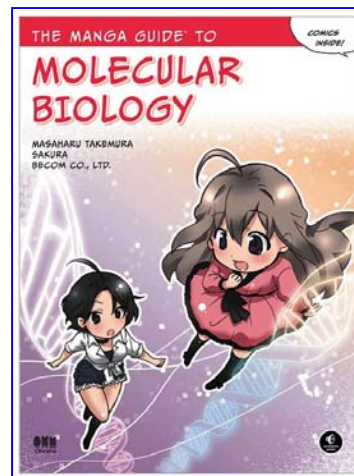
Publisher: No Starch Press (August 2009)

Web Site:

<http://oreilly.com/catalog/9781593272029>

Updates/Errata {None yet posted}:

http://www.nostarch.com/mg_mbiology.htm



Product Dimensions: 265 Pages including the Index, as a 9 x 6.9 x 0.7 inches paperback or Safari books online, an eBook.

Cost: List \$19.95, Street \$13.57 [USD]

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1593272022

ISBN-13: 978-1593272029



Review Rating:

Audience: Any and all one interested in a descriptive introduction to molecular biology.

Strengths: As is usual for this Manga Guide series, but perhaps more effectively with this descriptive science, the Manga comic format serves to keep readers interest in the complex world of molecular biology and better yet focus their attention of the technical material.

Weaknesses: The lack of a glossary of terms made rechecking the meanings of the many unfamiliar terms more difficult then needed. Although the index guided me to where terms were used, the lack of more formal definitions was a bit discouraging.

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Sidebar #1: Reviews were documented on my iMac 2.8 GHz Intel Core 2 Duo with 2 GB 667 MHz DDR2 SDRAM running Mac OS X version 10.5.8 with all current security updates installed.

Sidebar #2: Disclaimer: When reviewing books I will often use the developer's product, functions and features descriptions. Because of this unless I'm quoting directly from *another source*, I do not cut up the review with quotation marks. All other comments are strictly my own and based on analysis. Why need I rewrite the author's narratives, if they are clearly written?

Introduction

I have previously reviewed Guides to Physics, Electricity, Statistics and Databases. Of necessity, all but the database book and now the Molecular Biology guide were loaded with more math than my comfortable level could accommodate. They were all, when you get down to it, excellent books, as apparently was the Manga Guide to calculus with Robert Pritchett recently reviewed for macC. But, from high school on, due to a combination of bad teachers and (2) an uninteresting mostly pedantically *just do it* dry approach, I am math adverse.

It's not that (1) don't understand mathematical relationship or when necessary carry out mathematical analysis or calculations to the level of calculus— it's just that I'm figuratively allergic to things mathematical. Their mere presence puts me in a mood to daydream or even sleep. As a result I took my Ph. D. in organic chemistry, which at the time was very descriptive science. Of necessity, choosing the next least mathematically oriented chemical discipline; I took a first minor (University of Illinois – Class of '61.) I minored in analytical chemistry for which the math was simple – at a level not much above high school math. To compensate for my potentially mathematics induced *overload* I requested and was allowed, by petition, to take a second minor in English literature.



Therefore reading and refreshing my understanding of Molecular Biology in this newest Magna was a delight. It was entirely *descriptive* — not a mathematical equation in the book! Wow, since I'm a chemist the occasional molecular formula was a no brainer. But don't let the structural formals bother you — the amino acids, bases and the like are just serious eye candy.

You'll easily see the differences, let's say, between Thymine, Uracil and Cytosine... the authors show that to you. Then they go on to explain why these differences are important. Therefore, the interestingly drawn black and white, Japanese comic style drawings were a perfect foil for the technical material being presented.

But because Mr. Takemura does not define it, I will.

“Molecular biology is the study of biology at a molecular level. The field overlaps with other areas of biology and chemistry, particularly genetics and biochemistry. Molecular biology chiefly concerns itself with understanding the interactions between the various systems of a cell, including the interactions between DNA, RNA and protein biosynthesis as well as learning how these interactions are regulated.”



Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Molecular_biology In effect, as is noted throughout the book, molecular biology is the study of the molecular basis of life.

The Publisher's Description — “Rin and Ami, the at times unwilling students, have been skipping molecular biology class all semester, and Professor Moro has had enough—he's sentencing them to summer school on his private island. But they're in store for a special lesson. Using Dr. Moro's virtual reality machine to travel inside the human body, they'll get a close-up look at the fascinating world of molecular biology. Their experience, complete with ‘rides’ on a virtual reality machine, a hunky TA ... and more for the shell for the plotline of the story. As the book progresses, they get up close and personal into the microscopic world of cells by using Dr. Moro's virtual reality machine. With it they and Marcus, the TA, travel inside the human body and get a close-up look at the fascinating world of molecular biology.

“Join them in *The Manga Guide to Molecular Biology*, and learn all about *cells and nuclei including specifics like DNA, RNA, proteins, amino acids, and more*. Along the way, you'll see chemical reactions first-hand and meet entertaining characters like Enzyme Man and Drinkzilla, who show how the liver metabolizes alcohol.

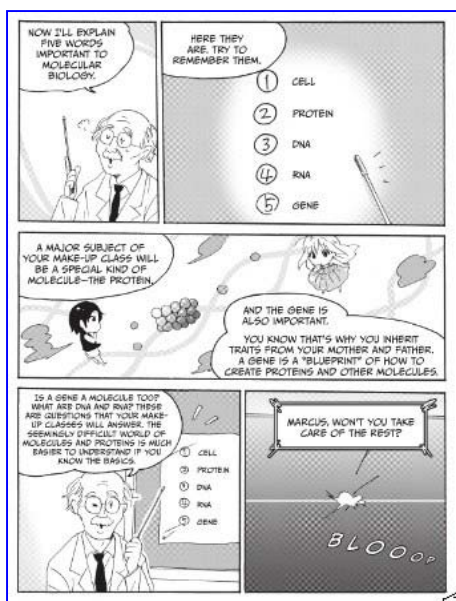
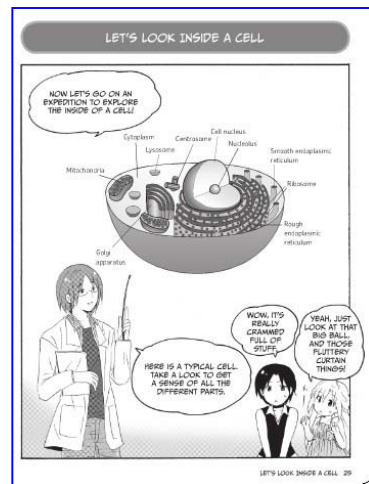
“Together with Ami and Rin, you'll learn all about:

- The organelles and proteins inside cells, and how they support cellular functions
- The processes of transcription and translation, and your genes' role in synthesizing proteins
- The pieces that make up our genetic code, like nucleotides, codons, introns, and exons
- The processes of DNA replication, mitosis and cytokinesis

Genetic technology like transduction and cloning, and the role of molecular biology in medicine

“Whether you need a molecular biology refresher or you're just fascinated by the science of life, *The Manga Guide to Molecular Biology* will give you a uniquely fun and informative introduction.”

Okay, read on about what's in the book, and why I liked it.



The Nature of the Beast — How the book is organized

This is a very easy science book to get involved with. Although of necessity it is filled with molecular biochemistry specific terms (E.g., genome, amino acid, DNA, RNA, protein, base pairs, nucleotides) is easy to follow and understand. The book flows smoothly from answering the question *What is a Cell*, through an explanation of *Proteins and DNA: Deciphering the Genetic Code*.

One past these relatively introductory topics we soon become immersed in *DNA Replication and Cell Division* followed by an overview of *How is a Protein Made*. Fascinating, if I do say so, for this is literally the stuff of life, all life on earth.

From the practical standpoint, understanding how molecular biology relates to the activities we read and about, almost daily in print media and news broadcast is then discussed.

The authors, then logically, completes our orientation with a well organized and written chapter on *Genetic Technology and Research*. That, from my perspective, is a critical chapter because it answers the question of [why should I care](#) about this science stuff.

After all, as the understanding and of molecular biology increases, almost exponentially from year to year, we will be increasing asked to take advantage of, or skip out on using the products and application of this new science. Whether it is new healthier seeds and the food we grow, to getting our genetic code analyzed to tell us the hereditary based risks from future chronic or disruptive diseases such as cancer and dementia.

This is not to say that practical or still dreamed of uses for this science are neglected in the first four chapters, but in this concluding narrative, we get the rationale for all the work that being done on this topic.

Disappointments

A Glossary that is only Virtual— Alas, there's no formal glossary of terms.

As part of this review, I mention some of the terms used by microbiologists, there are many. As in most descriptive sciences, the terms used are *arcane* and not in normal everyday use. It is disheartening that the authors did not include such a help feature — a glossary of terms — in addition to the book's excellent index. The former would serve to help the reader 'remember' what the terms mean as they were used and reused in various parts of the book. I checked the website for this book, but found no errata or additions. Hint: perhaps a glossary?

Omissions: Nits and Nats —

Chapter 5 (General) — Why is Darwin not mentioned? In chapter 5 and elsewhere in this book lesser lights, mere Noble prizewinners are identified and their contributions discussed.

Chapter 5 (General) — Although the focus much governmental and individual concern, as well as media hype, the ethical consideration of molecular biology are not mentioned — no, not even in passing. These issues are certainly of concern on a broad level in Japan and the European Union (Franken-foods) and less broadly, except for stem cell research in the United States.

Indeed, the aversion that many pregnant women have to taking the swine flu vaccine, despite their significantly higher risk of death, is an example of, in this case, lack of understanding of risk factors and of how molecular biology work — again lack of education is also an ethical thing.

Page 80, Image Pane — “No amino acids here” image caption is never explained.



Conclusion

With its straightforward B/W technical illustrations and simple charts, the fundamental of molecular biology are much more clearly defined. Seeing the idea written out in picture form can help clear the confusion often encountered by student of this complex subject. It, although not a textbook, makes appropriate reading from students who will be taking introductory molecular biology courses, but the high school educated general at large.

After reading this book, you'll realize that:

Genetically modified seeds and the higher yield disease and insect resistant crops grown from them. Those who oppose this effort, call the products Franken seeds.

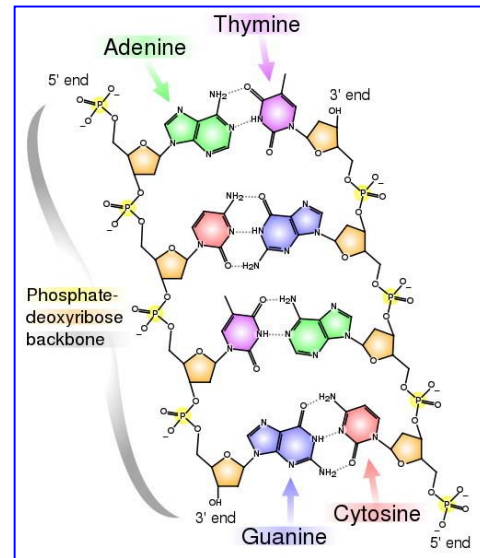
Cloning tissues or even whole animals,
Stem cell research to correct genetically caused diseases

Personalized medicine including diagnosis and risk analysis,

Stem cell research to replace damaged or lost organs,

Modified algae that create high yields of biodiesel fuel

Potent new disease controlling drugs and those that cure.



These topics and more are all aspects of molecular biology in our daily lives. This book succeeds in making readers familiar with the concepts and the subjects associated with life, all life — Planet earth's molecular biology.

This book by Mr. Takemura deserves my stingy **4.5 macC's**.

Buy a copy for your self – I don't matter whether you're a student or a wide-awake citizen. The book will help you in understanding both the headlines and the overall details that appear in your newspaper, magazines and favorite new radio program. After all, molecular biology is coming of age, DNA is becoming common-speak, despite the fact that the specific term molecular biology is seldom used by the popular media.

About the Author

Masaharu Takemura is a Lecturer at the Tokyo University of Science in biology, molecular biology, and life sciences. A Doctor of Medical Science, Takemura has written several books about biology.

Guide to Switching to the Mac

Reviewed by Robert L Pritchett



Author: Gary Rosenzweig

<http://macmost.com/book/>

<http://www.informit.com/store/product.aspx?isbn=0789739623>

Released: September 2009

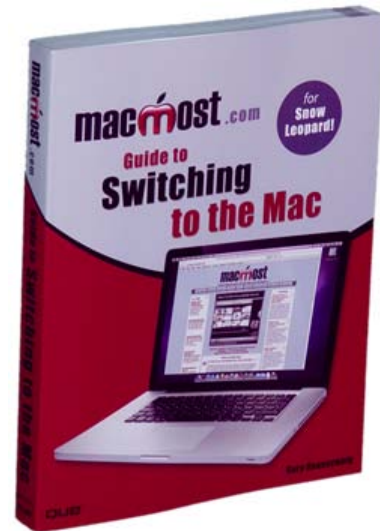
\$20 USD Can also be obtained as an eBook

Pages: 384

ISBN: 978-0789739629

Strengths: Does an excellent job presenting the Mac to those familiar with other computer platforms and who are exploring the possibility of migrating to the Mac.

Weaknesses: None Found.



Introduction

The book is for both the new Mac user, and for anyone who wants to get to know their Mac better and do more with it.

The book quickly gets you comfy with your Mac, demonstrates the "Mac way" to perform every common Windows task, and shows how to do more with Macs than you ever could in Windows... way more! It's all here -- everything from choosing the right Mac to creating your own videos and DVDs.

Rosenzweig covers the latest Macs and the new Mac OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard operating system. Best of all, he focuses on what today's computer users need to know, including loads of coverage of using your Mac on the Web.

Every Mac switcher needs a friendly Mac expert to show them the ropes. With this book, you've got yours!

- Discover what's different about your Mac's hardware and software -- and what's similar, too.
- Navigate the Finder and learn how Mac files are organized.
- Make the most of the Mac's built-in applications.
- Move your stuff from your PC to your new Mac.

- Use Safari, Mac's great built-in Web browser.
- Set up Mac email, instant messaging, and audio and video chatting.
- Share, back up, and archive your files.
- Choose and use Mac business and productivity applications.
- Organize your music and buy new songs with iTunes.
- Import, manage, edit, and share your photos.
- Create awesome videos with iMovie, QuickTime, and iDVD.
- Run Windows on your Mac, if you must.
- Keep your Mac up to date and running smoothly.

What I Learned

I got reacquainted with Gary Rosenzweig's MacMost video podcasts (up to 306 as of this writing) and felt so good about them, that I linked to MacMost on our *macCompanion* home page.

I found the book to be an adjunct to the work Gary's team has been doing for quite some time now (really only 2 years?).

I'm sure much of what is written is based on feedback from those who watched the MacMost video podcasts and the responses have been put to print. Now, with Snow Leopard, I think the transition has been made much easier.

Probably the most valuable chapter is the one on "Moving from Windows to Mac". It is much easier than you think.

Conclusion

This is an excellent book on exploring the ways and means of moving from a Windows environment to the relative comfort zone of the Mac.

My New Mac, Snow Leopard Edition: 54 Simple Projects to Get You Started

doc_Babad's In-depth Eclectic Book Analysis
by Harry {doc} Babad © 2009



Author: Wallace Wang
Publisher: No Starch Press; 2nd edition (August 17, 2009)
Web Site: <http://nostarch.com/newmac.htm>

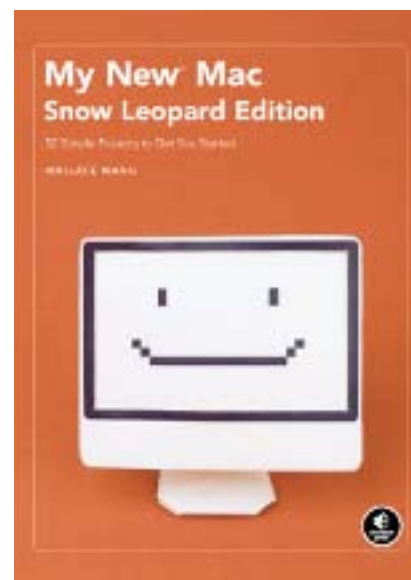
Product Dimensions: 9 x 7 x 1.5 inches: 512 pages
Available as a paperback book or in PDF format.

Cost: List \$29.95, Street \$19.77 [USD]
Language: English

ISBN-10: 159327209X
ISBN-13: 978-1593272098



Review Rating:



Requirements: Mac OS X Snow Leopard

Audience: Beginner/Intermediate Users – this who switch Windows to Macintosh or Earlier Macintosh OS to Snow Leopard.

Strengths: Straight forward easy to understand well illustrated narrative that cover thing most want to do with their computers.

Weaknesses: the book's design weighs against people with old eyes. I still prefer the more costly color screen shots, they too are easier to see.

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Sidebar #1: Reviews were carried out on my iMac 2.8 GHz Intel Core 2 Duo with 2 GB 667 MHz DDR2 SDRAM running Mac OS X version 10.5.8 with all current security updates installed.

Sidebar #2: Disclaimer: When reviewing software I will often use the developer's product, functions and features descriptions. Because of this unless I'm quoting directly from *another source*, I do no cutter up the review with quotation makes. All other comments are strictly my own and based on testing. Why need I rewrite the developer's narratives, if they are clearly written?

Previous Review:

<http://www.maccompanion.com/macc/archives/July2008/Books/MyNewMac.htm>



Why book analysis rather than Book review?

Sometimes in the course of human events: ups wrong article. At times, even at *macCompanion*, we screw up, miscommunicate, or get our wires crossed. How, by creating and publishing duplicate reviews of a book in a given issue of *macC*. When time or personalities permit we can do a 'he said—she said' combined review. However, even the best of those seem awkward since combining different writing styles is touchy.

In addition most book reviews, its philosophy time again, though reflecting the reviewers thoughts, tend to be morphed versions of what the publisher's PR on that book should have been. No way... I'd rather do things my way – sharing with a potential book buyer why they really need to own that rather pricey space-consuming book.

On a personal note, most book reviews, except perhaps the New York Times Sunday book section, the Economist or similar toney media outlets, book reviews are often too short to allow buy decisions. Although most other reviews found in the back pages of a newspaper or magazine are short, and at times pithy, they contain no illustrations of a book's contents. A few of the better product reviews on Amazon site fall into this category.

After all, print space is pricy, and the reading of books keeps going further out of vogue, at least here in America. (Romances and Fantasy fiction are exceptions but that's another story.) To me, it's like reading a software product review without including screen shots. Illustrations are important, especially when reviewing 'how to' books about the Macintosh OS, Adobe Acrobat or other products, basic photography or graphics design or an office suite. They give the reader a visual forecast of the books contents.

Therefore, open disclosure here folks; I decided to rebrand my longer and more detailed book analysis so reader can get a twofer. A traditional stylebook review and my deeper more eclectic look. Since my reviews often contain tips out side of the author's scope, like identifying 3rd party solutions to offset limitations in a developers product... by providing a broader perspective of a books value. That way we defacto review both authors purple prose, and the reader is rewarded with two viewpoints. ... Hey when no duplication of reviews occurs, I'll call mine a book review... after all a rose by any other name... Doc.

{**Editor's Note:** The other book review was not published by discretion of Robert L. Pritchett, who did the other review.}

Introduction

I am a long-time, experienced Macintosh user (starting with an SE-30 FDHD) who found working my way, mostly a pleasure, though Wallace Wang's book provided me insights to things that I'd long forgotten, lost by lack of use and more importantly for feature in OS X I'm just starting to consider using.

These include:

Address Book (FileMaker Pro and Eudora)
Apple Mail (Eudora)
Apples Security Tools (Key Chain Fire Vault or the Firewall tools)
Burn new media via disk utility (Toast)
iCal (Pando Calendar)

Dashboard {Amnesty Singles turns them into applications, which I store in a docked folder)
Exposé
Preview {Acrobat Pro}
Spaces
Stickies (Task Paper)
Time Machine (SuperDuper!)

Its not that I don't always use these functions, rather I've found alternate, and to me more functional tools that replace them. The one-on-one replacements I use are in parenthesis. Nevertheless even those subjects made both interesting and potentially of future use. When I reached section about software that I didn't use, I skimmed the material rather than reading it slowly. However, as you'll read in the Kudos section, I occasionally got hooks and took more time to understand what Wallace was telling me. So we're not talking only a newbie (either Snow Leopard or Macintosh) audience here.

Wallace Wang, gives you step-by-step instructions, for example, for organizing your music with iTunes, tracking birthdays with iCal, and clipping and saving information from the Internet so you can find it again.

You'll also find simple projects that show you how to:

- Organize your files and folders by color and keyword
- Connect to the Internet, chat with your friends, and listen to online radio stations
- Install and update your software—and get rid of programs you don't want anymore
- Set up and manage parental controls to limit your children's computer and Internet access
- Share songs, images, and documents with other computers wirelessly
- Use your built-in firewall and keep your computer and information safe from intruders.

Enough Said — You want to see a Table of Contents, check it out at http://nostarch.com/newmac_toc.htm

Here's how the Wallace introduces his book:

“Most people don't care how a computer works; they just want to use it. Tell the average person how to give commands to his computer's operating system and his eyes will glaze over with boredom. Tell that same person how to have fun with and do something useful with her computer and their eyes will light up...

“This book says Wallace Wang, won't teach you just how to use your Macintosh to make your life easier without having to become a computer expert. After all, you probably bought a Macintosh because you wanted a computer that works for you, not the other way around.”

The book is organized, under the *hood*, around the things most users want to do on their computers. This list is mine and its arrangement my stream of consciousness, but that's a *doc*-ism. Write something, send or receive a message, play music or a game or watch a movie, Create simple music or video projects and burn them to CDs or DVDs. Surf — Browse or learn or buy something from the Internet or chat with your friends in sound and image (yes you may comb your hair before turning on the camera.

Perhaps you collect images, take and edit pictures and organize them into easily retrievable photo albums and collections – it's free with the operating system — go for it! ...And the list goes on and most of these items can be done with the software apple provides with your computer. You can also upgrade to Apple iWork suite, mentioned only in passing. This gains you the ability, at low cost, to prepare presentations, layout what you've written into a more elegant format or use a spreadsheet to handle you finances.

The Nature of the Beast — How the book is organized

The book is organized into five sections accompanied by an excellent and complete index.

- Basic Training
- Making Life Easier with Short cuts
- Putting Your Macintosh to Work
- Touching the World through the Internet
- Maintaining you Macintosh

The included 54 Projects are uniformly formatted in a very functional and useful manner. They are uniformly laid out so moving from project to project seems familiar. Each starts with a project Introduction > what {tools} you'll be using > project details with Illustrations and mostly very clear B&W screenshots > and most end with additional ideas (to practice).

Kudos

Things that I learned or relearned – the projects I studied rather than skimmed.

Learning About Your Macintosh — The whole book is full of goodies, enough of them to warm the spirits of any Macintosh user. However, no mater what you focus on, READ project 49, *Learning About Your Macintosh*. Despite being buried in the back of the book, it tells you how to find out about the guts of your computer. You need this whether you looking to add or upgrade a piece of software, buy some external devices such as printers, scanners or burners. It also will help, to provide needed information required by anyone who is going to either troubleshoot problems with your hardware of software or do a memory or graphics card upgrade on your system.

While you're in the back of the book, don't skip Project 50, *Installing, Updating and Uninstalling Software on your Macintosh*.

Function Keys — I don't use, or reassign Apple's Function Keys. [Check out preferences > Keyboards & Mouse > Keyboard Shortcuts] or 3rd party tools such as Cocktail. Therefore I was delighted to learn as part of Project 6, Manipulating Windows, and elsewhere how Apple intended these keys to function.

A Quick Look at Quick Look — Until reading the book, it never occurred to me that I was missing some useful shortcuts by not using Apples Quick Look. You know, highlight an icon of document (not an alias) and tab the space bar. I even, although it was not explicit in the book, leaned that using command-R on an alias and then checking folder with Quick look would allow me to check the folder's contents... no not a control key shortcut; just click on it as if it were a desktop folder icon.

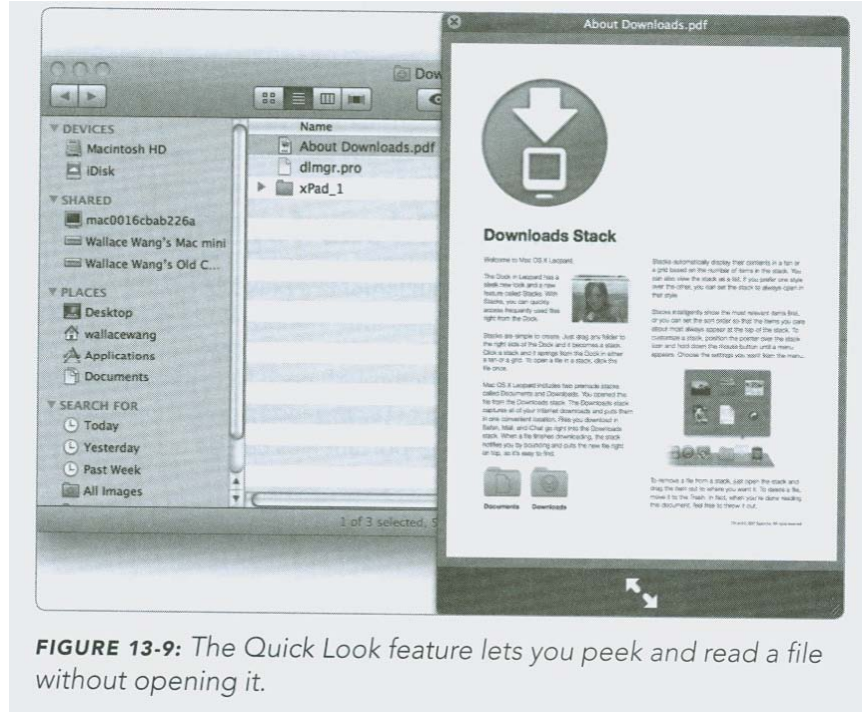


FIGURE 13-9: The Quick Look feature lets you peek and read a file without opening it.



iPhoto — The book's, projects 27 - 29 *Organizing Digital Photos in iPhoto*; *Tagging and Sorting Digital Photographs in iPhoto*; and *Editing Digital Photographs in iPhoto* made me a convert. Until now I've stored all my graphic material in a set of carefully labeled (nested) folders. By integrating them into iPhoto, I could both find what I sought and groups the materials in to better-defined and more flexible collections. The only set that I've not tried to collect in iPhoto are my collection of icons; some other day. Wallace convinced me that the combination of getting organized and being able to more easily edit my graphics would ultimately save me time. A combination of the information in the book and information on creating albums (iPhoto Help) got me off to a great start. It also will save me time of going to GraphicConverter or Photoshop Elements when lightly touching up photos. Thank you Wallace!

PS: Dear Publisher, it's amazing what a touch of color will do.

Safari and RSS — I'm already working under conditions of information overload. However, the idea of getting focused information about topics that interest me, make trying RSS (Project 36) to aggregate information seem very attractive; if I only had the time.

As you work with this book, each of you will have a few places where you discover things (tools and methods, to make your computing g experience more effective and therefore pleasurable.

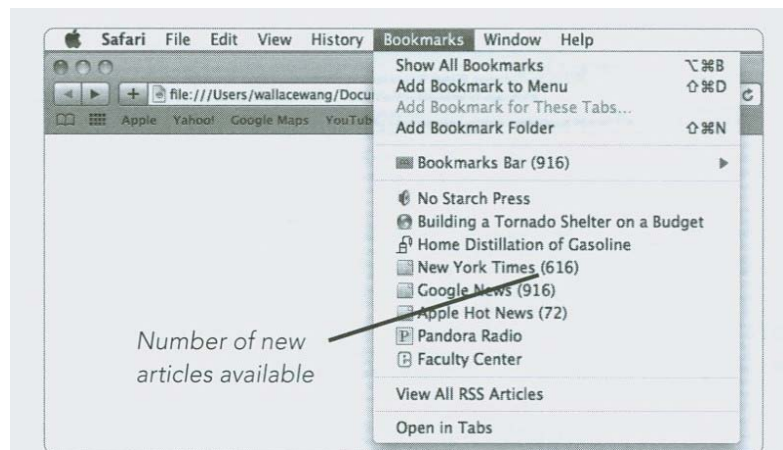


FIGURE 36-5: A bookmarked RSS web page tells you how many new articles are available.

Disappointments

Leopard vs. Snow Leopard — The author has previously published a comparable book on OS X 5, Leopard. I was disappointed that he did not explicitly identify those features that are new in Leopard for those of us who are upgrading our OS.

My Book Layout Issue

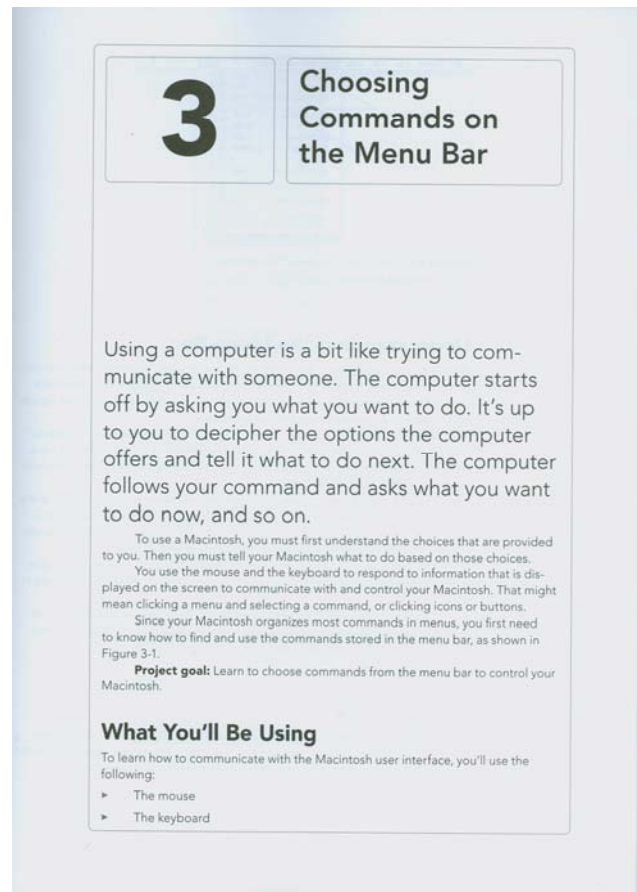
Tiny Print – Too small for my reading without resting my eyes when attempting to read the book cover-cover for this review.

Font Style – Use of a San Serif font (and its small size) make reading the text even more difficult, as done the lightweight font style.

Book Layout — The excessively larger subsection title, take space that would have been better used for higher visual readability.

Text View — Alas, Wallace you ignore my favorite view, in Project 4, neglects to share that a way to move down a long list fast is to ignore the scroll bar. Instead type the first, and/or second letter of a document name and finder takes you there – *tout suite*. This works in icon view, albeit not as well if your icons are not alphabetized. I almost never use column view, so don't know how well this works therein, wouldn't realize cover flow was gone if it vanished, forever.

Dock Use, my Favorite is MIA — A fast way to deal with seldom used applications, avoiding at trip to the applications folder, is to v]create such a folder for the right side of the dock and populate it will alias. Never fear, if your computer is anything like mine, there will be lots of application, you never use that can hang out in the Applications folder. [I've 26 items that I seldom use compared to over 150 discrete applications that live in my Application folder. Of things I use, the left hand side of the dock contains a mere 30 items including the Apple's finder, disk utility and system preferences.



Deleting Applications — Page 442-443 (Deleting Applications) contains incomplete information. Unless this function works differently in Snow Leopard, dragging an application to the trash and deleting it does NOT remove all the pieces that application installed in your library folders and elsewhere. To do a completely delete an unwanted application use a deinstaller sometimes proved by the software developer. Alternatively download the free App Cleaner. Such tools search the support files [e.g., plists] created by the applications and you can delete them quickly. Left behind, the hidden pieces both take up unnecessary disk space but a can on occasion cause software system problems. <http://www.macupdate.com/info.php/id/25276/appcleaner>

Conclusion

Let me start with Mr. Wallace's ending entitled *The Next Step*.

“This book can't teach you every thing there is to know about your Macintosh. Instead it can give you a solid foundation on which you can learn to use your Macintosh to do actual work. After you get comfortable using your computer on a regular basis (*for some of the tasks I listed earlier*) you can graduate to other books and about learn more {its} advanced features”. Doc sez, or that more powerful software tool you just purchased.

Then again says the author, “you don't have to learn everything about your Macintosh, because the point for getting a Macintosh is that it helps you get your work done as simply and easily as possible.” That why its been recognized, by Apple and others as the *Computer for the Rest of Us* or as one allowing you *The Power to Be Your Best*.

I am certain that despite my occasional discomforts, mostly caused by his publisher's book design experts, Wallace Wang book helps us achieve that. Indeed, the book fulfills the authors *mission* by doing exactly that. Yes I realize that his efforts have been made easier by the Apple strategies, let's say control 'freak' fetishes that underlie their OS and other software development. KISS and keep making up! As Wallace points out 'unlike other operating systems (Windows anyone.)

Apple developers are encouraged, doubly encouraged, to create software and processes to do things in an easy to use manner. If not we the user punish them by no buying their products. Mr. Wang, had the easier, but equally critical task of getting us to understand how to use the latest Macintosh OS (Snow Leopard) in a easy to learn and enjoyable project oriented manner. This is a book for both Snow Leopard/Macintosh newbies and for us'n who are making the move to Snow Leopard. Okay, so we skip basic training; there still lots of material to dig into, like kids in a sand box: what fun! My New Mac (snow Leopard) deserves my stingy 4.5 macC's. Get one for your self, or buy one for the Wintel friends who just bought their own first Macintosh.

About the Author

Wallace Wang is the author of several best-selling computer books including the Steal This Computer Book series, Steal This File Sharing Book, My New iPhone, The Book of Nero, and Visual Basic 2005 Express: Now Playing (all No Starch Press). He is also a successful standup comic who has appeared on A&E's "Evening at the Improv" and appears regularly at the Riviera Comedy Club in Las Vegas.

Network Know-How: An Essential Guide for the Accidental Admin

Reviewed by Robert L Pritchett



Author: John Ross

No Starch Press

<http://nostarch.com/frameset.php?startat=catalog>

Released: February 2009

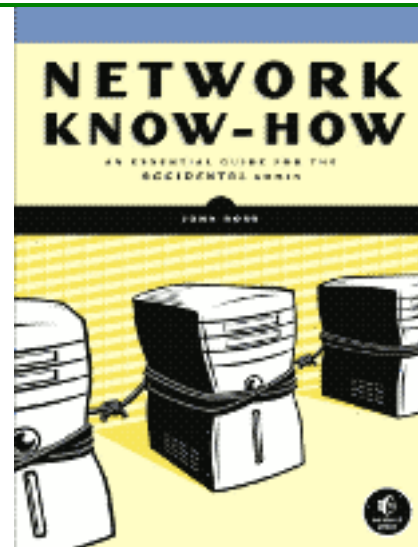
\$30 USD Also available as an eBook for \$24 USD.

ISBN: 978-1593271916

Requirements: Computer Network Support

Strengths: An overview of computer network Administration for very small networks.

Weaknesses: Perhaps too generalistic. Not really intended for enterprise-level network admins.



Introduction

Are the machines in your office living isolated lives? Do you have a few computers at home that you want to connect to each other and the Internet? The best way to share files on a group of computers is to create a network. But how do you do that?

Network Know-How is your guide to connecting your machines, filled with practical advice that will show you how to get things done. You'll learn the nitty-gritty of network setup, design, and maintenance, from running cables and placing wireless access points to configuring file sharing and printing. This practical and comprehensive guide will teach you how to implement security, create intranets, and more. You'll learn how to:

- Connect Windows, Macintosh, and Linux computers
- Implement network addressing
- Configure your network adapters, hubs, switches, and router
- Share music, photos, and documents
- Automate household appliances and stream digital audio and video to your home entertainment center
- Troubleshoot network slowdowns and failures

No matter which operating system you use, and even if you've never installed or run a network before, you'll get what you need to know in *Network Know-How*.

What I Learned

This book is not for those who are being paid to be network admins at the enterprise level. It is however, a book designed for those who end up bumping into network admin duties as a result of, over time, gaining more than one computer to communicate on a Local Area Network at the home business or small business level.

John Ross had to balance too much with not enough and I think he did a swell job creating that balance. However, I wanted specific info regarding wireless connectivity for the Macintosh local area network and though he addresses the Macintosh environment, he doesn't go into much depth. You won't find much geek-speak here. It is an overview, not a dirty-detail kind of book.

I wouldn't go as far as to say the book has everything in it (it does not), but it is a place to start, if you are a weekend warrior type or occasional IT Admin that gets paid to do other things besides managing a network.

Conclusion

If you got stuck with the task of maintaining a computer network, because a bunch of high-tech boxes got connected somehow and now it is your job to see they work well together, this book is a nice intro into the highly demanding job of Network Administration.

Take Control of Exploring & Customizing Snow Leopard

Reviewed by Ted Bade

Author: Matt Neuburg

Publisher: TidBITS Publishing Inc.

TakeControl EBooks - <http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/>

Released: August 26, 2009

Pages: 165

\$15 USD

ISBN-10: 1933671998

Audience: Beginner/Intermediate

Strengths: Easy to read, direct to the point approach, full of great ideas and suggestions.

Weaknesses: none.



Introduction

This book does a terrific job of introducing some important aspects of installing and taking advantage of Apple's Snow Leopard OS (MacOS X 10.6)

Of all the MacOS X updates I have even done, installing Snow Leopard was the biggest challenge. I truly wish I had read this e-Book before I started my installation. The book contains a vast amount of useful information starting with installation and continuing to day-to-day use. If you haven't installed Snow Leopard yet or even if you have, you will learn a lot by reading this book. It is relatively short, concise, and chock full of very useful information.

This 165 page e-book is a real value at only \$15 a copy. I have paid as much as \$40 for a hard copy and found less information. What is great about the Take Control series of books in general is that they are short and to the point. There aren't lot and lots of pages to dig through to get to the gems of information. Every page has a gem or two! (No, I don't write for them, but I have been satisfied with everyone I have read). Also, the books are updated as information changes or errors are corrected.

"Take Control of Exploring & Customizing Snow Leopard" is well written and easy to read. Matt Neuburg has a great writing style that keep one's interest up. Perhaps it is my "Nerdyness" showing, but I looked forward to reading this book while I was reviewing it. Plenty of real life examples are included to clarify concepts as are a variety of screen shots. Matt's writing style leads one to be comfortable and therefore more able to read and retain the information in the book.

Let's take a quick look at the chapter titles. That say a lot about the contents of the book. "Read me First", and "Introduction" serve to introduce the Take control series ob books and specifics

on how to read this one. “Snow Leopard Quick Start” is a brief overview of SL. “Install Intelligently” is give some sound rules for installing SL, if you haven’t already. (Don’t read this if you have installed SL, you will get upset with yourself!)

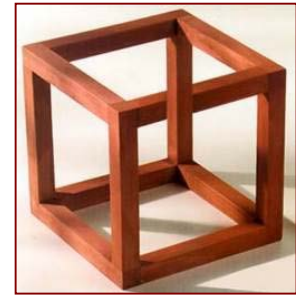
“Block the Big Bang” provides some very useful formation about using SL right after the install is complete. “Preserve the Past with Time Machine” provides some very useful hints on making the most of using Time Machine, including some great new features in SL. “Dominate the Dock” shows you how to take control of the Dock. “Straighten out your System Preferences” covers important information on System Preferences. “Handle the Hierarchy” deals with Finder file structure. “Wash you Windows” talk about using Expose’ and Spaces, including some features new to SL. “Control the Keyboard, Master the Mouse” deal with those input devices.

“Ease you Eyeballs: gives information on monitor features like calibration, using Closer view, and having the Mac read documents. ”Fix your Fonts” educates the reader on dealing with Fonts in SL. “Tackle your Text” teaches one to deal with text output to the screen and optimum use of fonts. “Customizing Status Menus” shows what standard status menu options are in SL and how to turn them on or off. Finally, Perform Miscellaneous Configurations” talks about some other Finder features such as Login Items, Limited user accounts, and changing the opacity of the menu bar. The end of the Book contains some additional resources and information about the author.

Conclusion

While my descriptions are brief, I hope they give you an overview of what you might find within the book. Let me assure you that there is a lot of substance and value here. While I cannot say everything in this book was news to me, I can say that there was a lot in this book that was, or at least the detail level allowed me to better understand and use various features of SL. This book would be of value to any user of Snow Leopard, especially anyone who is planning to upgrade.

Greenware



The Greening Continues — The most eclectic of what I read.

macCompanion November 2009
By Harry Babad © 2009

Sources & Credits:

Most of these items, were located in the newsletter *NewsBridge* of ‘articles of interest’ to the libraries users. It is electronically published by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratories, in Richland WA. I then followed the provided link to the source of the information and edited the content (abstracted) for our readers.

Much of what I will share comes from the various weekly science and environmental newsletters to which I subscribe. Their selections are obviously, and intentionally biased by my views. The resulting column contains a mini-summary with links to articles I found interesting. I also get technology feeds from the New York Times, Business Week, Discover Magazine, and the American Nuclear Society.

With A Chip on My Shoulder — I avoid greening sites that equate a demonstration of a concept (e.g., lab test) to having an industrially viable commercial solution; no government subsidies don’t make things commercial — all governments have the proven habit of bowing to either lobbyists or homo populous <the loudest voice> and have, Internationally, been shown to pick losers. Supporting R&D, and funding large scale demos – wonderful; subsidizing industry — no way. The fifth or sixth law of technology... if you don’t check the whole life cycle of a new process or energy solution; you’re going to fail — 100% bomb out.

*Now, As Usual in No Formal Order, the Snippets
A list of entries*

Algae Farm Aims to Turn Carbon Dioxide Into Fuel

Dow Chemical and Algenol Biofuels, a start-up company, are set to announce Monday that they will build a demonstration plant that, if successful, would use algae to turn carbon dioxide into ethanol as a vehicle fuel or an ingredient in plastics.

Because algae do not require any farmland or much space, many energy companies are trying to use it to make commercial quantities of hydrocarbons for fuel and chemicals. But harvesting the hydrocarbons has proved difficult so far.



The ethanol would be sold as fuel, the companies said, but Dow's long-term interest is in using it as an ingredient for plastics, replacing natural gas. The process also produces oxygen, which could be used to burn coal in a power plant cleanly, said Paul Woods, chief executive of Algenol, which is based in Bonita Springs, Fla. The exhaust from such a plant would be mostly carbon dioxide, which could be reused to make more algae.

By Matthew L. Wald New York Times - June 29, 2009

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/29/business/energy-environment/29biofuel.html?_r=2&ref=science&pagewanted=print

Also Check Out:

ExxonMobil To Make Fuel from Algae July 14, 2009

http://news.cnet.com/8301-11128_3-10286360-54.html?tag=mncol

America's 10 Energy Challenges

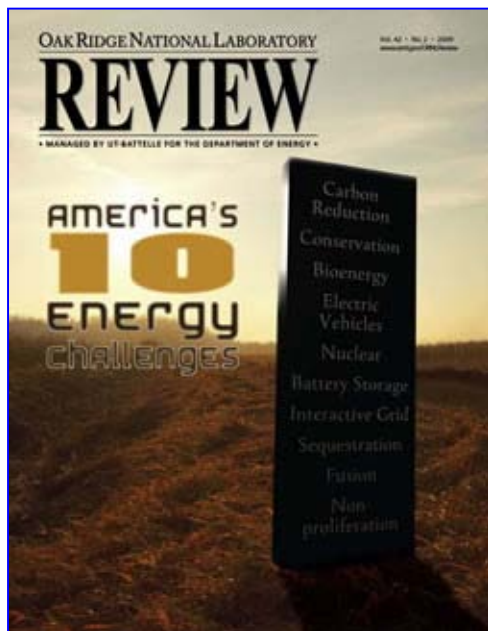
That's the cover headline on the latest issue of the ORNL Review, which identifies those challenges as: Carbon Reduction; Conservation; Bioenergy; Electric Vehicles, Nuclear; Battery Storage; Interactive Grid; Sequestration; Fusion; and Non-Proliferation.

"As the nation's largest energy research facility, Oak Ridge National Laboratory is playing a leading role in addressing of energy's '10 Big Problems.' Our strategy is grounded in the belief that no single technology and no single energy source can alone provide the volume of energy capable of sustaining both the quality of our lives and the viability of our planet," ORNL's Billy Stair said in the R&D magazine's intro.

It's an interesting read. Check out the 10 articles in Oak Ridge National Review . Vol 42. No 2 2009.

ORNL

http://www.ornl.gov/info/ornlreview/v42_2_09/index.shtml



Carbon Sequestration Along with Shale Methane Production May Enhance Energy Production

As energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions continually rise in the United States, unconventional natural gas sources coupled with advances in carbon sequestration may be the solution, according to Stanford University scientists.

Pulling gas from dense shale or sandstone is no easy task, but increases in oil prices and growing concern about reducing carbon emissions have led the energy industry to consider these alternatives. And the reserves are big. The U.S. alone has enough natural gas to last nearly a century at current production levels, according to the Potential Gas Committee, a nonprofit organization with members from industry, government and academia.

To investigate the potential of combining carbon storage with coal bed methane extraction, Ross, Hagin and Zoback generated a computer model using data from the Power River Basin of Wyoming, where there are 18,000 active coal bed methane wells and another 50,000 planned for the next decade. For details read the article and the references contained there-in

“The idea is to think about carbon sequestration along with the development of shale gases,” Zoback said. “And with coal bed methane, doing carbon capture and storage may actually enhance coal bed methane production.”

Stanford Report, July 13, 2009

By Cassandra Brooks

<http://news.stanford.edu/news/2009/july22/carbon-sequestration-theory-071309%20.html?view=print>

Who Will Pay For The Electric 'Gas' Stations?

As every major automaker reveals plans to sell electric vehicles, the future appears to be upon us, replete with silent, emissions-free, peppy, electric vehicles. Given this impending electric-vehicle revolution, where are all of the electric pumps?

The Rocky Mountain Institute, Matt Mattila's employer, has a new *guide for investing in charging infrastructure*, detailing the full costs of charging stations--not just what the charging station manufacturers will quote, but the installation and running costs, as well. The guide helps potential investors ask the right questions, understand the differences across the technology, and connect to those active in this space. Read on!



Installing a charging station may not make sense for some businesses. However, it may be possible that some companies make a little green by being a little greener.

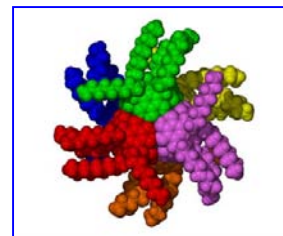
By Matt Mattila — CNET News October 9, 2009 1:02 PM PDT
http://news.cnet.com/8301-11128_3-10372185-54.html?tag=mncol;title

Advanced heat recovery method makes most of low-temp 'hot rock' resources



A new method for capturing significantly more heat from low-temperature geothermal resources holds promise for generating virtually pollution-free electrical energy. Scientists at the ... Pacific Northwest National Laboratory will determine if their innovative approach can safely and economically extract and convert heat from vast untapped geothermal resources. (w/video)

PNNL's conversion system will take advantage of the rapid expansion and contraction capabilities of a new liquid developed by PNNL researchers called biphasic fluid. When exposed to heat brought to the surface from water circulating in moderately hot, underground rock, the thermal-cycling of the biphasic fluid will power a turbine to generate electricity.



Pete McGrail — Pacific Northwest National Laboratory — July 16, 2009
<http://www.nanowerk.com/news/newsid=11689.php>

EU Adopts Main IAEA Safety Standards for Nuclear Installations — Nuclear Safety Directive Establishes a Binding Framework for European Union

The European Union (EU) has broken new ground in setting up a common legal framework for nuclear safety based on the IAEA's main safety standards for nuclear installations and obligations under a key global *Safety Convention*.

"The EU is the first major regional body to adopt a binding legal framework on nuclear safety," said Mr. Philippe Jamet, IAEA Director of Nuclear Installation Safety. "The pioneering action is an important step that will help to strengthen cooperative safety efforts worldwide."

The Council of the European Union took the action in late June 2009, adopting a Directive on nuclear safety. The Directive provides binding legal force to the main international nuclear safety standards, namely the *Fundamental Safety Principles* established by the IAEA and the obligations resulting from the *Convention on Nuclear Safety*, including a regular peer review process. The Directive also reinforces the independence and resources of the national competent regulatory authorities.

Doc Sez: Nuclear proliferation and High-level waste management are the primary non-economic factors limiting the building of new nuclear power generating facilities. The primary economic factor is the up-front capital costs. Once built and over their life cycle of 30-50 years, , the cost of running a reactor and generating power is lower than all other presently available alternatives. This low cost holds even before carbon release cost are entered into the calculation.

IAEA Staff Report — 15 July 2009

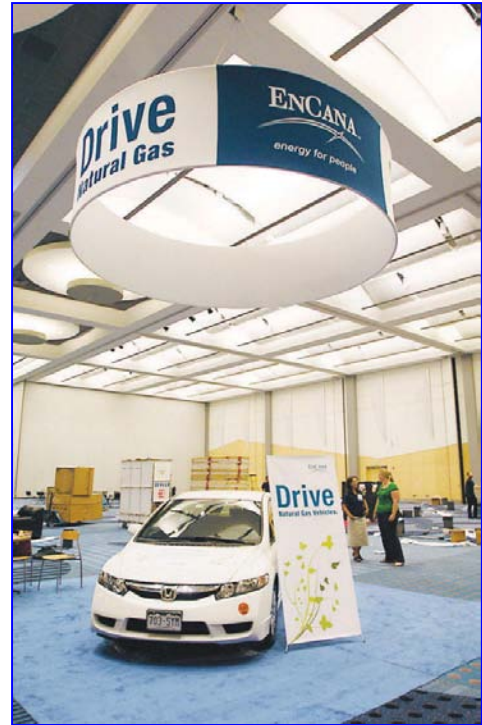
<http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/News/2009/euadoptsstandards.html>

Energy Companies Turning To Natural Gas Vehicles

Colorado's big oil and gas companies have begun burning natural gas in some of their fleet cars and pickups to demonstrate its effectiveness as an alternative motor fuel. The cost of natural gas is one-third less than that of gasoline, said EnCana spokeswoman Wendy Wiedenbeck, who's overseeing the company's "DRIVE Natural Gas Vehicles" (NGV) program.

Natural gas has been used to generate electricity, or to heat homes and office buildings. But there's a growing interest in it for cars and trucks — one of the components of oilman T. Boone Pickens' plan to cut the nation's reliance on imported oil.

"It's a win-win. Raising awareness about the benefits of natural gas at home, at work and on the road is good business. And we can't overlook the environmental benefits of natural gas in general — it's the cleanest fossil fuel. It's certainly the cleanest transportation fuel."



By Cathy Proctor, Denver Business Journal Modified: July 19, 2009

<http://denver.bizjournals.com/denver/stories/2009/07/20/story10.html?b=1248062400%255E1862115>

A Lunar Nuclear Reactor — Tests prove the feasibility of using nuclear reactors to provide electricity on the moon and Mars.

Researchers at NASA and the Department of Energy recently tested key technologies for developing a nuclear fission reactor that could power a human outpost on the moon or Mars. The tests prove that the agencies could build a "safe, reliable, and efficient" system by 2020, the year NASA plans to return humans to the moon.

The new nuclear power system is part of a NASA project started in 2006, called Fission Surface Power, that is examining small reactors designed for use on other planets. While nuclear power remains controversial, the researchers say that the reactor would be designed to be completely safe and would be buried a safe distance from the astronauts to shield them from any radiation it would generate.

The recent tests examined technologies that would see a nuclear reactor coupled with a Stirling engine capable of producing 40 kilowatts of energy--enough to power a future lunar or Mars outpost. For more, click the link.

By Brittany Sauser Technology Review August 17, 2009
<http://www.technologyreview.com/energy/23247/>

Geothermal Power Search Holds Promise and Threats

On a high ridge in the Mayacamas Mountains, a drill slowly bores into the earth to test a new way to generate electricity.

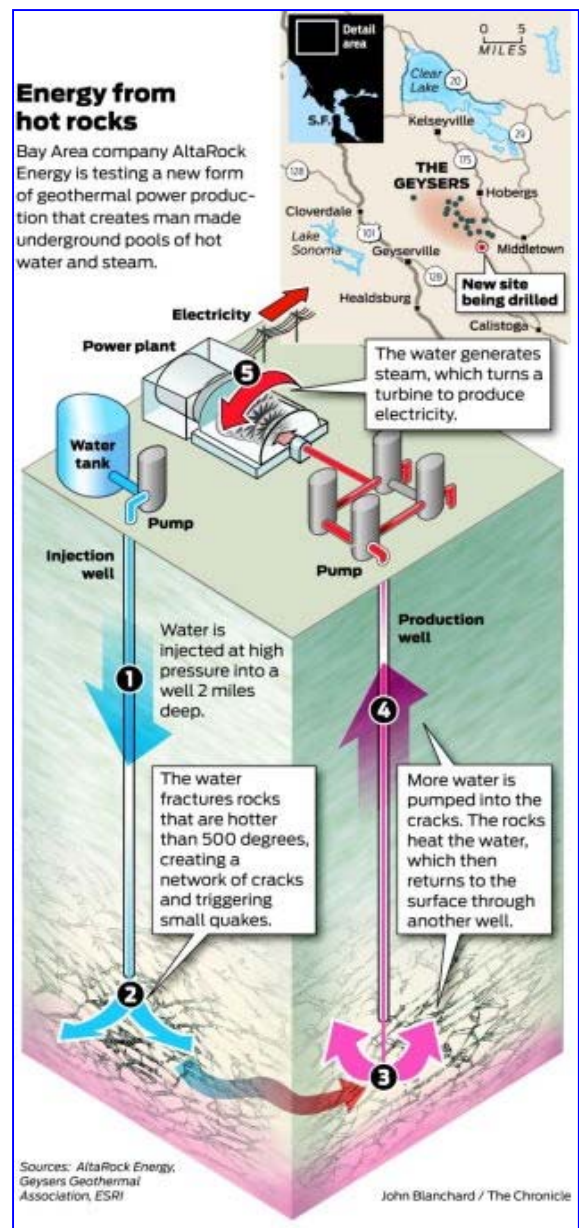


The test, by a Bay Area company called AltaRock Energy, could give the world another source of renewable energy, a valuable weapon in the fight

against global warming. It could also trigger earthquakes in a corner of California that already shakes most every day, a prospect that is jangling the nerves of some nearby homeowners.

AltaRock has chosen this ridge to try a new form of geothermal power, using the heat of the Earth to produce energy. The surrounding hills - in an area known as The Geysers, about 70 miles north of San Francisco - hold more than a dozen older geothermal plants that tap underground pockets of steam to turn turbines and generate electricity.

But AltaRock will drill below the steam pockets, burrowing into deep rocks hotter than 500 degrees Fahrenheit. The company, based in Sausalito, will fracture those rocks with high-pressure water, creating a network of cracks.



AltaRock will then pump more water into the cracks, using the rocks to heat the water and create steam. Geologists monitoring the \$17 million project say it will create earthquakes, but most will be too small to notice.

If it pans out, the technique could work most anywhere. Geothermal energy, which produces almost no greenhouse gas emissions, would no longer be limited to rare places like The Geysers that have steam or super-heated water underground.

"If this really works, it could change the whole game," said Don O'Shei, AltaRock's chief executive officer, his voice nearly drowned out by the roar of diesel generators and the drill's rhythmic grind. "The issue of renewable power becomes a lot more manageable."

By David R. Baker and David Perlman, San Francisco Chronicle Staff Writers, August 16, 2009
<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/08/15/MN5N18UU3J.DTL>

Ethanol Faces Challenges Ahead

New technologies, supporting infrastructures, and greater demand will be needed to meet the country's ambitious mandate to increase biofuel use.

Constraints to future growth of the ethanol industry will present challenges to meeting the ambitious mandates for expanded biofuel use set forth in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007

New production technologies and supporting infrastructures will be needed to reach cellulosic biofuel mandates.

Most U.S. motor vehicles are restricted by manufacturers' warranties to use gasoline containing no more than 10 percent ethanol, which will limit growth in biofuel demand.

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 specified an ambitious agenda to significantly expand biofuel use in the United States. Even so, the years of full-throttle expansion in the U.S. ethanol industry since 2000 may soon be behind us. The large gains in the scale of the industry over the past decade were achieved by "picking the low-hanging fruit" on both the supply and demand sides of the market.

The technology for producing corn-based ethanol was already available, for example, and existing agricultural policy did not hinder the shift to increased corn acreage to support greater ethanol output.

[It did raise food prices around the world leading to an increase in hunger.] Achieving further large-scale gains will depend on whether the industry can overcome challenges in producing ethanol through cellulosic technologies and on expanding use of ethanol in automobiles.

The biofuel market, scientific evidence regarding environmental impacts, and policy developments will need to be closely monitored to see how the situation evolves over the next decade and beyond. Overall implications for the agricultural sector suggest a continuing demand for feedstocks to produce ethanol. At a minimum, this demand will increase moderately in accordance with anticipated growth of gasoline usage in the country. Stronger growth will depend on whether the industry can overcome existing challenges to further expansion in ethanol production and use.

Read the article that is not only fact rich but *provides food for thought*.

Oregon Natural Resources Report By *Amber Waves*, US Department of Agriculture, August 29, 2009

<http://naturalresourcereport.com/2009/08/ethanol-faces-challenges-ahead/>

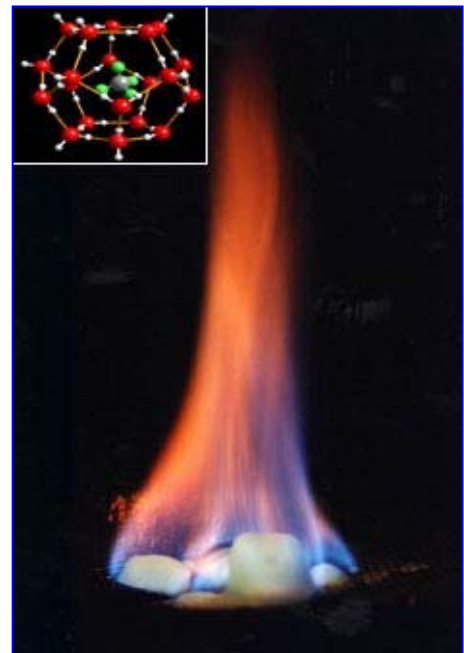
Climate Trouble May Be Cased By Methane Bubbling Up In Far North

MACKENZIE RIVER DELTA, Northwest Territories — Only a squawk from a Sandhill crane broke the Arctic silence — and a low gurgle of bubbles, a watery whisper of trouble repeated in countless spots around the polar world.

"On a calm day, you can see 20 or more 'seeps' out across this lake," said Canadian researcher Rob Bowen, sidling his small rubber boat up beside one of them. A tossed match would have set it ablaze. "*It's essentially pure methane.*"

Pure methane, gas bubbling up from underwater vents and escaping into northern skies, adds to the global-warming gases accumulating in the atmosphere. Pure methane, which is known to be locked in the Arctic permafrost and seabed and if escaping in massive amounts could spell a climate catastrophe. *Is such an unlocking underway?*

Dec sez, It's there as methane hydrate a clathrate – a complex of 1 part {moles} of methane to five of water. This is the basis of legends of 'burning ice'.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Methane_hydrate



If we lost just 1% of the carbon in permafrost today, we'd be close to a year's contributions from industrial sources," he said. "I don't think policymakers have woken up to this. It's not in their risk assessments."

How likely is a major release? "I don't think it's a case of likelihood," Bowen said. But, "I think we are playing with fire."

Charles J. Hanley, Associated Press, August 31, 2009

http://www.usatoday.com/tech/science/environment/2009-08-31-climate-methane_N.htm

Angst, the Mystery of Chernobyl

A bitter dispute is raging over whether the fallout zone is a wasteland or wonderland. Now, a team of scientists is heading back into the contaminated area to find out the truth.

In 1999, this Professor of Biological Sciences from the University of South Carolina traveled to the site of the world's most horrific nuclear accident, alongside Professor Anders Møller, an ornithologist and evolutionary biologist from the Pierre and Marie Curie University in Paris. Their on-site research has sparked an intense controversy over the effects of radiation on humans and animals – one which they hope their latest trip into the fallout zone, which sets out in two weeks, will help to resolve.

The basic facts of Chernobyl are well known. At 1.23 am on April 26, 1986, reactor number four at the Soviet nuclear power plant (sited in modern-day Ukraine) exploded, after an electrical test went horribly wrong. The radioactive material released was hundreds of times greater than the fallout over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, polluting about 80,000 square miles of land across Europe and spreading *low-level containing concentrations of* radioactive rain as far as northwest Ireland.

In the wake of the accident, more than 300,000 people were evacuated and an 800 square mile exclusion zone created around the reactor. Yet recently it has been reported that the abandoned town of Pripyat has become a wildlife haven. There have been sightings of wolves, bears and moose wandering through the deserted streets, and swifts swoop round abandoned office blocks.

The implication is that if wildlife can return so soon, nuclear radiation – and nuclear power – might be less dangerous than has been suggested. James Lovelock, the creator of the Gaia theory, has even written that the natural world "would welcome nuclear waste as the perfect guardian against greedy developers... The preference of wildlife for nuclear-waste sites suggests that the best sites for its disposal are the tropical forests and other habitats in need of a reliable guardian against their destruction by hungry farmers and developers".

Others disagree, vehemently. Folk, Gaia is a complex lady and we're me easily prejudiced mortals.

Regardless of who is right or wrong, there is another tragedy here. Prof Mousseau has started working with the Hospital for Radiation Biology, in Kiev, on a long-term study of humans who live in the area: more than 11,000 adults and 2,000 children in the Narodichesky region, 50 miles from Chernobyl.

There more – Is this another case of the battle about Anthropogenic (man-made) climate Change?

There is a growing mountain of information that all points to significant consequences to the human population of chronic radiation exposure," he warns. "What will be the consequences for the children of these children?" Alas, we don't know – what we do know is that unlike very low-level radiation exposure, the high dose levels around Chernobyl are not a good thing. {Doc}

By Sanjida O'Connell

Aug 31, 2009

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/6118036/The-mystery-of-Chernobyl.html>

Feedback and tidbits are welcome — no Science Fiction!

Harry, aka doc_Babad

Hardware

ATH-ANC76 QuietPoint® Active Noise-canceling Headphones

Reviewed by Michele L. Patterson

Audio-Technica U.S., Inc.

1221 Commerce Drive

Stow, Ohio 44224

Tel: 330-686-2600

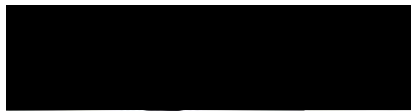
Fax: (Corporate/General) 330-688-3752

Fax: (Sales) 330-686-0719

Fax: (Orders) 1-800-329-8628

E-mail (End-users): sales@atus.com

<http://www.audio-technica.com/cms/headphones/1c7efaa15727a938/index.html>



MSRP* US\$219.95

Experience level of user: Novice



MacC Rating:

Strengths: ANC circuitry reduces ambient noise by up to 85%, high-resolution sound, with impactful bass, a detailed midrange, extended treble, lightweight and compact, comfortable earcups with cushioned padding and large enough for most ears, fold flat design, 3.5 mm mini-plugs, a full-size 1/4" adapter, a specialized airline adapter for connecting to in-flight entertainment systems and sturdy carry case.

Weaknesses: It's difficult to hear those around you or the phone ring with music playing and the active noise-canceling switch turned on. With the switch in the off position, music isn't as full ranged as could be, make sure to use the options on your iPod or you'll be disappointed in the quality.

Introduction

The ATH-ANC7b QuietPoint® Active Noise-canceling Headphones are a great choice for those who work in a noisy environment or travel frequently. The ANC circuitry truly creates a cocoon of peace when you really need to focus or sleep or even just enjoy some music. There is no installation of the product, and it performs perfectly on your iPod or home stereo. Audio-Technica responds promptly to all questions with complete well-thought-out responses and is easily accessible through email, website, phone and fax. While there are minimal instructions on the use of this product what there were are easy to interpret and understand.

These earphones are comparable to other noise canceling headphones at such a more reasonable cost. Compared to the Bose' headphones you don't lose a thing except a price tag, I would have to say that these are now my favorite headphones. They are comfortable (if you'll remember I have complained about my small ears in the past) they fit my small ears and the cushioning on don't get heavy and start to give a headache behind the ear; they consistently remained soft and supple. If I have to complain about anything there are only two things I think worth mentioning;

1. The cord could be retractable so it could be a little longer, I tend to drag my speaker on my desk at work unless I remember to move it forward, but this is just a user issue.
2. When using the headphones with the active noise canceling switch in the off position you lose the robust feel to your music but with it on you simply cannot hear those around you. Now this could be a plus if you don't have to answer a phone or hear your boss call you but in everyday environment it isn't a great thing. I wouldn't want to have to compromise and use a headset for music and one for silence and Audio-Technica has done an awesome job integrating the two, maybe I just listen to my music to loud?

Conclusion

At the end of the day these are a great choice for a holiday gift that anyone in a loud working environment or who travels a lot would truly enjoy and appreciate. There won't be a need to include a gift receipt, even those with an old Bose set will gladly replace with the ATH-ANC7b QuietPoint® Active Noise-canceling Headphones!

SPECIFICATIONS	
Type	Active noise-canceling
Driver Diameter	40 mm
Magnet	Neodymium
Frequency Response	10 - 25,000 Hz
Maximum Input Power	500 mW
Sensitivity	109 dB
Impedance	300 ohms
Weight	210 g (7.4 oz), without cable and battery
Cable	Detachable 1.6 m (5.2') with 3.5 mm (1/8") stereo mini-plug;
	Detachable 1.0 m (3.3') with 3.5 mm (1/8") stereo mini-plug
Connector	3.5 mm (1/8")
Accessories Included	6.3 mm (1/4") stereo adapter; airline adapter; AAA battery; carrying case with attached accessory pouch

QuietPoint® Active Noise Reduction: Up to 20 dB

Battery: AAA (alkaline)

Battery Life: Up to 40 hours, typical (alkaline)

Specifications measured with headphones in active mode.

CordFits - Headphone Cord Management

Reviewed by Robert L Pritchett



Innovelis

1391 Ryan Ave W

Roseville, MN 55113

Phone: 763-390-1402

Fax: 877-640-4128

sales@innovelis.com

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

Released: October 15, 2009

\$13 USD

Video: <http://www.cordfits.com/video.html>

Strengths: Reduces likelihood of headphone cord tangles.

Weaknesses: Plastic.

FTC Notice: Received unsolicited for review. Your mileage may vary.



Introduction

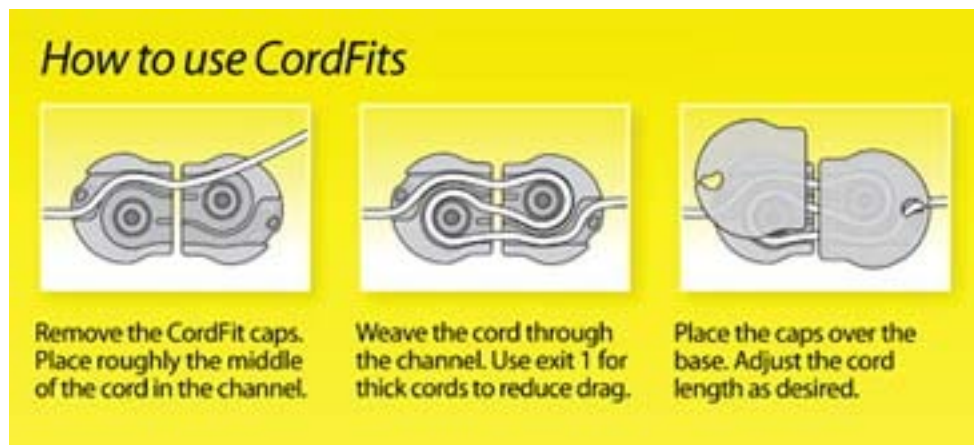
“Innovelis proudly announces the release of CordFits, which enable instant headphone cord length customization and tangle-free cord storage. Headphone designers include extra cord length to ensure the cord is never too short. This approach ensures the cord is never too short, but it often forces the cord to be too long. "CordFits prevent the extra cord length from getting in people's way," said Wes Schwie, Vice President of Marketing. CordFits let people shorten their headphone cord length to fit their style, and when they are done listening, they can quickly store their cord without tangles. Now people can listen to their favorite pair of headphones without the cord getting snagged and having to untangle the cord each time they want to use the headphones.

Innovelis offered a sneak peek of CordFits earlier this year at Macworld and the International Consumer Electronics Show, and rave responses quickly followed. "We had a winner with our first product, BudFits(TM), yet the response to CordFits at Macworld and CES was way beyond what we experienced with BudFits," stated Innovelis CEO Eric Wengreen. "It was fun to see people's amazement when they saw the magic-trick-like way in which CordFits work."

CordFits are a one-of-a-kind solution based on an ingenious patent-pending system of pulleys and channels. "Because headphone manufacturers have to make one-size-fits-all cord lengths that are long enough for any situation, they add extra cord length that gets in the way. CordFits allow users to instantly shorten the cord length based on the unique way they use their headphones," stated Schwie.

CordFits also allow users to neatly stow their headphone cord when not in use. "Whether at the gym or on the subway, people love listening to music away from home; yet without CordFits, the cord often becomes a tangled mess inside a bag or pocket," stated Wengreen. CordFits enable users to easily wrap the cord and then snap the cord ends in place for compact and tangle-free storage.

CordFits are compatible with nearly all headphone cords, including iPod® and iPhone® earphone cords."



What I Learned

It works. Not a very elegant solution for the extra cord (winding around the caps) is it? But it beats having to untangle a pile of intermingled cords thrown in a pouch or pocket. This kind of device inspires one to want to go all Blue-toothy.

Conclusion

It fits a niche.

Multimedia Wired Up

Reviewed by Wayne LeFevre



Multimedia Wired Up Audio Video Camera Bags

<http://www.thinktankphoto.com>

Wired Up 10

\$139 USD, \$146 CND, £83 GBP, 93€ Euro

(depending on exchange rates.)

Wired Up 20

\$169 USD, \$178 CND, £100 GBP, 113€ Euro

(depending on exchange rates.)



Requirements: Desire for top shelf active shooting bag for your cameras.

Strengths: Durable, lots of room, plenty of storage compartments, designed not only as an active shooting bag for your camera, but also an integral part of an entire on-the-go multimedia system.

Weaknesses: Can get a bit pricey when adding in the other components of the system. (Wireless Mic Kit, Audio Recorder, Microphone Drop In, etc.) Less of a transport bag, as it is soft sided.

Background

In my last column, I explained how I dealt with learning Final Cut Pro. With an application as complex as Final Cut Pro, however, you don't exactly master it, just get comfortable enough with it until you learn the next new trick you never knew about. One of the many reasons that I learned to use a Non-Linear Editor, and Final Cut in particular, was that I produce shows for our local access channel. If anyone has ever watched their own towns access station, you know full well that there are varying degrees of quality with the programming. This is because, more often than not, your are not only the producer, but the videographer and sound technician all rolled into one.

I would like to think that I've learned my way around this procedure pretty efficiently, but I've recently picked up a piece of gear that makes on-location shoots organized, and frankly very professional like. That gear is Think Tank's Multimedia Wired Up modular system.

One of the last things thought about when someone gets into photography or becomes a videographer or even a professional journalist is usually the bag that you store your kit in. One can pay many thousands of dollars for a camera, and never think twice about putting in the same bag that may come with the camera that the store offered as an incentive for you to purchase the camera there; along with the free tripod and lens cleaner. I really never thought about it myself, and always was on the lookout for merely a neat or cool looking camera bag. As I was cruising by camera sites one evening, I clicked on the Think Tank site and watched the quick intro showing the street journalist doing her thing with the new Multimedia Wired Up system. That alone sold me, and gave me the incentive I needed to not only get a better bag, but to get this very system.

What It Is

The system begins with the main bag and belt. The bag can either be a “Multimedia Wired Up 10” or “Multimedia Wired Up 20.” The 10 bag exterior is 12“ x 8.75” x 6.5“ and is large enough for a DSLR with 24-70mm lens. The one I got was the 20. The 20 is 12”W x 10.5”H x 6.5”D and is touted to be large enough for a DSLR with a 70-200mm lens attached. What I have found out,



however, is that if you take out the insert padding that comes with several different padded pieces for setting up your own camera and lenses, it actually fits a Canon GL2 with an extended battery quite comfortably! Whether this is by design or happenstance, I couldn't be happier!

The Multimedia Wired Up is the centerpiece of the collection. It's designed to house your main camera, be it a

DSLR or a camcorder, (or both.) The belt that is permanently attached to the bag is a full featured belt similar to others that Think Tank sells. It is designed for attaching other gear and bags that are part of the whole system. An attachment rail on the left and right side allow attaching other components so they do not slide or move. A cross body harness that attaches to the bag and the belt is also included to keep many pounds of gear manageable and as comfortable as possible for an all-day outing.

The Wired Up 10 and 20 extras really sell this bag, however. Yes, it's made out of fantastic, durable material, and the niceties are many—such as the



Larger Multimedia Wired

padded mesh back on the bag.

Why is this important? I surely never really thought about a bag having padded mesh on it, but if you start carrying those very many pounds on a hot day, well that padding is what rests against your body. That is just one of the little differences that make a huge bonus. But it's definitely not the end of it. All through the bag are cable ports. These are ports for your microphone cords, headphone cords, etc. to enter the bag without having to go through the main opening and prevent it from zipping up or just preventing the cords from getting entangled on the outside. They are all identified by a blue tab that when pulled on, separate the hook and loop closure on the opening. Along with the openings there are various secure loops throughout the bag that you can snake your cables through just to keep them out of the way and secure. I wish that these weren't merely enclosed loops, but had a hook-and-loop to close those together also. Running cable through those can be tedious at best, and nearly impossible with coiled headphone cords.



There is a dedicated Audio Recorder Pocket for audio recorders to reside when your on the go. Even in full use, you never have to pull it out of it's pocket. The pocket includes those cord openings so you can route wired microphones either into the bag or to the outside. There is also a clear window inside the pocket, which can open quickly with a magnetic enclosure instead of the zipper. This is so you can check audio levels without having to pull out the recorder.

There are pockets on the sides that can stow pretty much anything from lenses to water bottles. They are of a heavy stretchy material with a pull-string top to keep it closed. There are a couple of mic holders that can securely hold a shotgun or interview mic with quick easy access. Included is a hook that is used to hold a set of headphones on the belt. I can't begin to tell you how nice this is not having to wear the cans around the neck, but still having secure, easy access to them. Lastly, there are attachments on the bottom of the bag for included straps that can hold a monopod, small tripod or a boom pole.



Believe it or not, there is so much more to this bag. Besides the main compartment for the camera, and the dedicated pocket in the front for the recorder, there is another zippered compartment in the back that is large in itself. Here you can hold anything from cables and cords to books, notebooks, pens, cleaning equipment, etc. Even the padded mesh that is attached to the back has an open pocket that is perfect to hold a notepad and pen, or an owners manual. There is even a tethered rain cover that fits into it's own pocket.



For around \$150 this is a perfect bag for a field reporter, a photo journalist, a professional photographer or even the prosumers and podcasters. In fact, it is perfect for the podcasters running around the convention floor, so make sure you get yours before Macworld! It's not the cheapest bag out there, nor should it be for what it offers. It's been a terrific bag that really made an all day shoot a couple weeks ago much less of a hassle. It was raining that day so not only was I able to test out the rain cover, but what really made it worth it was not

having to carry around cases and try to find places to put them and keep them off the ground when shooting.

It's not all that is included with the entire collection, which has more bags for things like lavalier mics and shotgun mics and more audio recorders, but I'll tell you about them next time. For the time being, though, take a look at this bag for all your gear. It could wind up being the last bag you buy, and you won't be sorry. Other than wanting perhaps a different cord security loop on the inside, I could find no wrong. You can carry it by its handle, or hook up the harness straps and carry it that way. You could pay around the same amount for a "cool" bag from someplace like Australia, or you could, and should, get a professional, functional bag from Think Tank.



Software

Bean 2.4.1 — A fast and uncluttered word processor

Reviewed by Harry {doc} Babad © 2009



Developer: James Hoover

<http://www.bean-osx.com/Bean.html>

Released: October 3, 2009 Download Size 4.4 MM

System Requirements: A Mac with a PPC or Intel processor running OS X 10.4 Tiger or OS X 10.5 Leopard. Users have reported that Bean runs well under OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard Intel/PPC compatible, 10 MB Hard Drive Space

Internationalization: Chinese (Simplified), Danish, English, French, German, Italian, and Slovak user interfaces.

Cost: Freeware/Betaware; Most developers appreciate donations; chip in if you adopt Bean as your main or standby word processor.



Strengths: A versatile, free easy to learn word processor that will meet all but your most demanding needs.

Weaknesses: It's not MS Word or Open Office, but it does 90% of most writing tasks with pizzazz.

Copyright Notice: Product and company names and logos in this review may be registered trademarks of their respective companies.

Sidebar #1: Reviews were carried out on my iMac 2.8 GHz Intel Core 2 Duo with 2 GB 667 MHz DDR2 SDRAM running Mac OS X version 10.5.7

Sidebar #2: **Disclaimer:** When reviewing software I will often use the developer's product, functions and features descriptions. Because of this unless I'm quoting directly from *another source*, I do no cutter up the review with quotation makes. All other

comments are strictly my own and based on testing.
Why need I rewrite the developer's narratives, if they are clearly written?

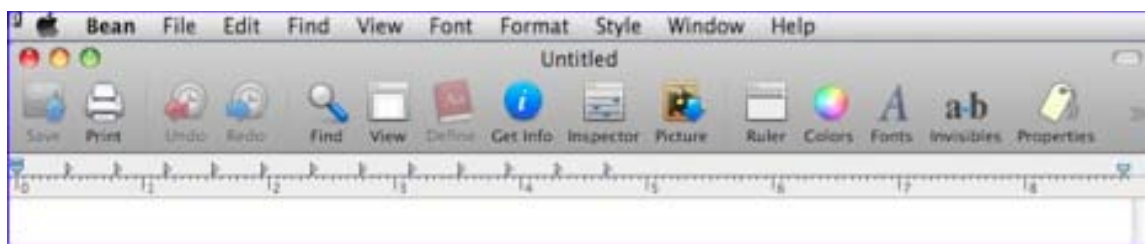
Introduction Including Publisher's Summary

Why would someone want another word processors? For my take, read on (Doc.)

All of us already have access to Apple's TextEdit and to Google's Documents. There's also the free open source Open Office's word processing unit. Many of us have either invested in MS Word or iWork's pages, which serves as both a word processor and page layout program. Some of us have chipped wit other word processors such as Nisus Writer, Mellel, ThinkFree Office, Schreibchen, Mariner Write, or AbiWord [Check the MacUpdate site for these products.] ...They're also some folks who are still addicted to Word Perfect, long unsupported on the Macintosh.

“Bean is a **small, easy-to-use** word processor (or more precisely, a rich text editor), designed to make writing convenient, efficient and comfortable. Bean is **Open Source, fully Cocoa**, and is available **free of charge!** MS Word, OpenOffice, etc. try to be all things to all people. But sometimes you just want the right tool for the job. That is Bean's niche.

“Bean is lean, fast, and uncluttered. (10 MB vs. more than 20 MB not counting support tools, fonts, and other word focused MSW 10.5-MS Office associated items; a ca. 50% growth factor.) If you get depressed at the thought of firing up MS Word or OpenOffice, try Bean. In addition, if you use Text Edit but have to jump through hoops just to get a word count or change the margins, try Bean. If you're pining away for Write Now-esque or AppleWorks word processor's (ClarisWorks) simplicity or just want a low-pressure writing environment, try Bean.” Take a peek at how I modified Bean's toolbar to better meet my needs.



Note: Please keep in mind that bean is *betaware*, it's stable but evolving, albeit well tested by users; but always use it at your own risk.

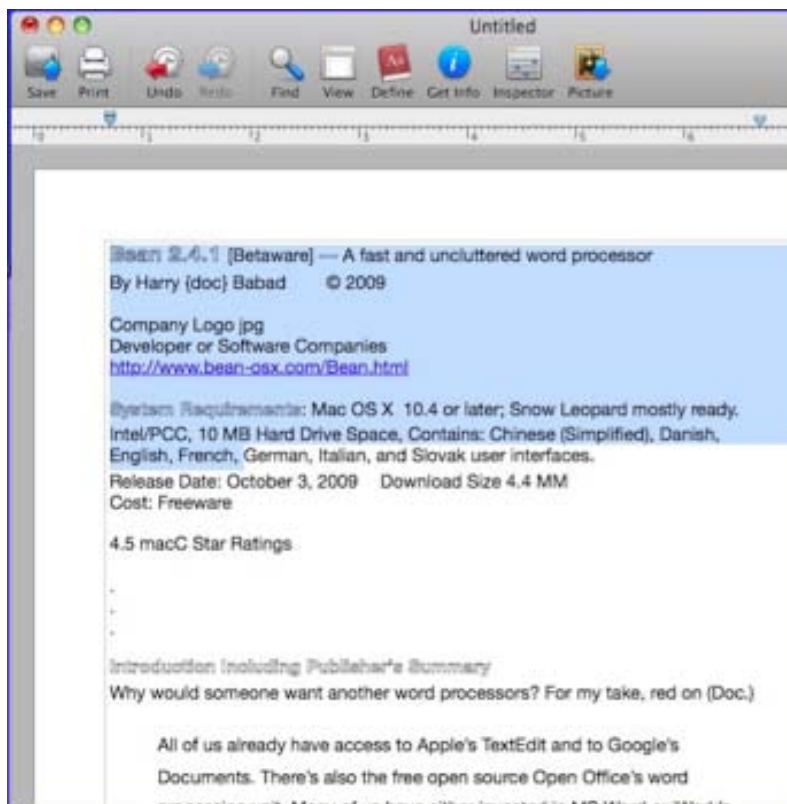
Getting Started

This is a well-developed Macintosh application. Drag it to your applications folder. Start using it in demo mode or type in a password. Decide which preference settings you prefer. You're good to go. If you're new to this kind of software, genre, check out the Bean Help Files, there full of useful how-to information. Alternatively, be a typical Macintosh user and start to Mac-around and see what you get.



Using the Software

I chipped around with the program long enough to get the feel for its interface and main features; I like Bean! My initial impressions, as I checked the content of the products menus, was positive. Items are logically arranged, not like the menus in MS Word 2004, or Apple Operating Systems prior to Snow Leopard.



I copied part of this review to see how Bean would cope with image free MSW input. It's strange but certainly useable.

I imported as text (cut and paste) a few past review/tips or book excerpt paragraphs, formatted them. Then I added images and made with other pretties. Finally, then exported the products as RTF and MSW files. No sweat – I got what the developer claimed. I am so married to MSW that I doubt I'll ever start a document in Bean, but it's a fine product that deserves staying on my hard drive.



For disclosure purposes, I never felt comfortable with the now abandoned Apple Works word processor, haven't warmed to Apple's Pages and although some of the alternate word processor I've review were excellent products, they had a short half-life on my computer after I finished my reviews. That not the reaction I got when using Bean!

I was very comfortable with Bean's powerful but easy to use Page Layout mode.

I utilized the *Full Screen* working area as part of a zoom-slider tool to easily change the view scale, keeping my getting older eyes comfortable. I was pleased that the product makes available more detailed statistics than MS Word via an easily accessible *get info panel*. There is also alive word count tool, useful if you have to meet 'letter to the editor' or print editor word limits. I rely on third party tools such as Word Counter (Reviewed in the September 2009 *macCompanion*) to meet this need.

Although I did not test all the possibilities, deadlines and alas no interest is some of the options, I checked out Bean's abilities to deal with Rich Text Editing, Plain Text/HTML Editing, and Export To HTML. The software is surprisingly flexible Dealing with these formats a few click processes to Bean The image window, from the publishers web page, shows Bean editing a rich text document with images (a

version of Bean's webpage). This document was then exported to HTML using Bean (the HTML file is open in Bean in the middle window). In the front-most window, this same HTML file is shown rendered as a webpage in Safari (after copying the image files to the HTML file's directory).

Kudos: a sampling — Some big, some small but thoughtful.

Long Live the Inspector— This tool set, in Bean reminds me of the way BeLight Software's predicts deal with a bevy of separate control elements for text and images. It's a better approach than the bevy of pull down discrete controls I need to use in Adobe and Microsoft products.

Date-stamped Backups – So useful, its what I do manually with all of in progress writing efforts. The auto save feature is also very fine, too often things glitched, just a little forcing me to rewrite my latest material. Alas the first version was always better, if not shorter.

Show Formatting Details — An option to show invisible characters (tabs, returns, spaces) is essential to me as I compose my books, articles. It's simple informal page layout on the fly, one of the features (Show/Hide) I use most in MS Word.

Discomforts I Can Live With

Limitations <-> But Bean is Free — Bean is **not** a replacement for MS Word. It doesn't do footnotes or use style sheets and is only partially compatible with Word's file formats. <http://www.bean-osx.com/Word97.html> I get around the lack of style sheet, other their difficulty of use, by creating and formatting locked 'templates'; the basis for maintaining consistent styling my articles and reviews.

Loss of Images on RTF Import — This is more of a nuisance, especially if you already own the source application or have access to the original document on another computer. Alternatively, get the document in PDF format, images in tact, and convert the MS Word or RTF document to bean. Again a bit of cut and paste, and you gotten what you need and get on with editing the imported document. You can, a bit tedious, I admit, strip out the images in the source document and past and manipulate them in Bean.

Other Present MS Word Import Limitations — Footnotes are inserted at the end of the imported document, but the footnote numbers are missing (since they are supplied 'on the fly' by MS Word). Hyperlinks are imported as text, not as hyperlinks. Most of this is easy to fix, if a bit time consuming

Conclusions and Recommendation

This is a great tool so if you need either an easier to use word processor to supplement MS Word, or just less power and than word; download it. Use it for a while and see if it works for you. It's learning curve is short and using its more of its features as you grow with Bean is easy. To add icing to this it's free compared to hundreds of dollars for MS Word. To be fair, Open Office is free too, but is a complex and MS Word. Again my stinginess factor kicks in so Bean is worth a mere 4.5 macCs. Like a two cents plain, try it you'll like it.

References and Links

Belight Software Web Site — <http://www.belightsoft.com/main.php>

Google's Documents – a cloud based word processor

(<https://www.google.com/accounts/ServiceLogin?service=writely&passive=true&nui=1&continue=http%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2F%3Fhl%3Den%26tab%3Dwo&followup=http%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2F%3Fhl%3Den%26tab%3Dwo<mpl=homepage&rm=false>).

OpenOffice.org – An open source alternative to MS Office — <http://www.openoffice.org/>

Word Counter — http://www.supermagnus.com/mac/Word_Counter/index.html

Bento 3

Reviewed by Ted Bade

FileMaker

<http://www.filemaker.com>

\$49.95USD. Previous owners get \$20 USD rebate.

System Requirements: Bento requires Supports Mac OS X 10.5.7 Leopard and Mac OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard.

- A Mac computer with an Intel, PowerPC G5, or PowerPC G4 867 MHz or faster processor
- 512MB of RAM; 1GB recommended
- A CD drive is required for installation of boxed product software



Strengths: Easy to use, intuitive interface, clean integration with iPhoto and Address book, lots of cool templates.

Weaknesses: Lacks label printing ability, library export doesn't pass along media files or hyperlinks.

Previous Reviews: Bento 1, Bento 2, Bento for iPhone/iPod Touch

Download a trial version here: <http://www.filemaker.com/products/bento/>

Introduction

Filemaker Corporation has recently released a new updated version of it's consumer level database program called Bento. This new version adds a number of features including integration with Apple's iPhoto, more new library templates, security features, and a library can now be updated by more then one Bento user. There are also a lot of other improvements and features added to this new version.

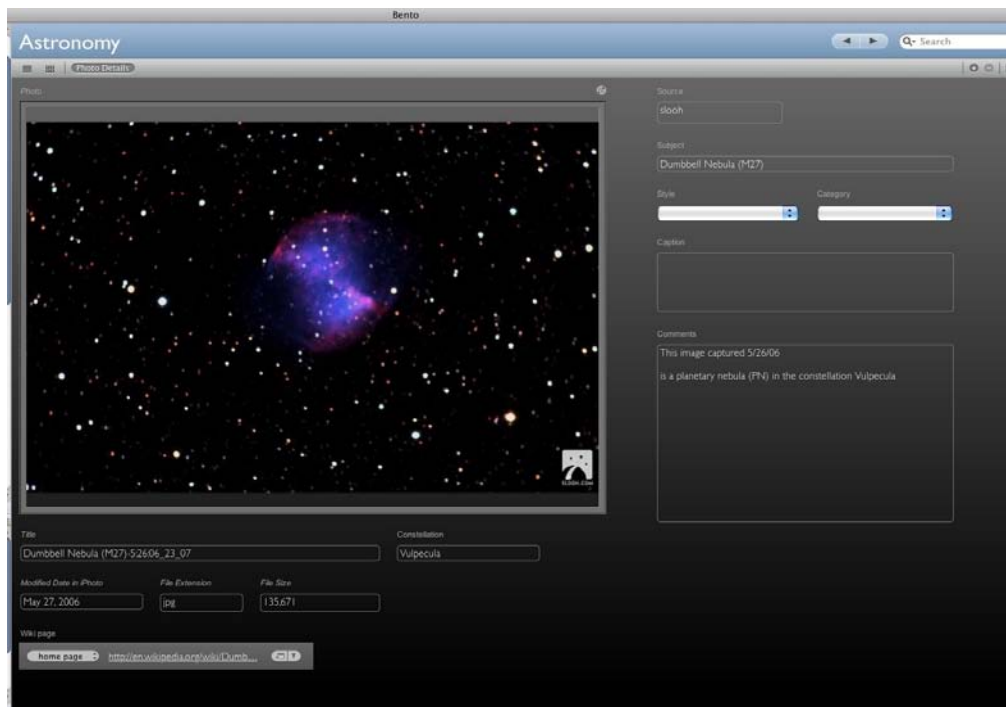
If you are a loyal Bento user, as I am, you might be surprised at how quickly Bento has updated from version 1 to this version 3. This is a paid for upgrade, so if you have purchased the last two versions, you might be a little hesitant to consider this upgrade, but you might want to. First of all, Filemaker Corp. is making this version available for a discounted upgrade price to previous owners. Secondly, there are a lot of valuable new features in this version, which one might very useful.

New Features

I am going to consider only the newer features of Bento 3 in this review. If you are not already a user of Bento, I suggest that you read my previous reviews, since they cover a lot of ground. You can read about features in Bento

V1(<http://www.maccompanion.com/macc/archives/June2008/Software/Bento.htm>) or Bento V2(<http://www.maccompanion.com/macc/archives/December2008/Software/BENTO2.htm>) by clicking the link provided. All of the features of these earlier version are in Bento V3 and more importantly, a lot of the issues I had with the earlier versions of Bento have been resolved in later versions.

Bento's main charm for me was the seamless integration with Apple's Address Book Application. I really don't like working with Address book. Bento provides a neat interface to the address database, and allows one to enhance the database in many ways. They took Apple integration further in Bento 3 by including a link to the iPhoto database. While a title and an event name are generally enough for fun photos of friends, one might want to use iPhoto to collect images for a particular reason, or perhaps would like to keep a lot more information about one's photos. There are a lot of reasons for this that come to my mind.

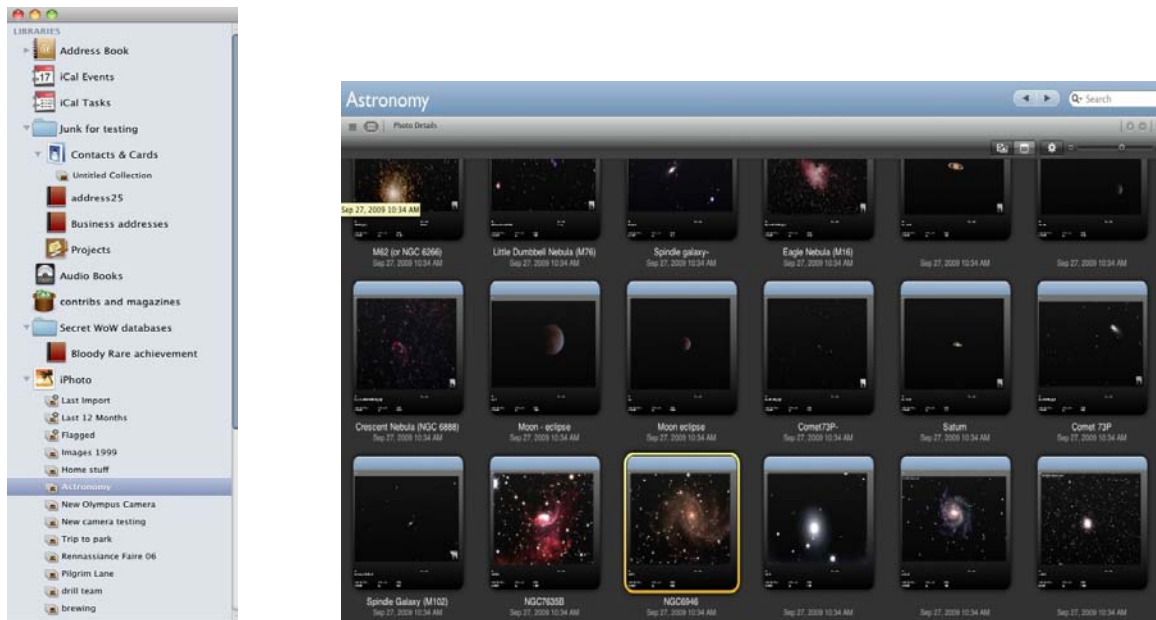


(Lots of Data for you photos)

One personal example is my interest in astrophotography, that is taking images using a telescope. There are thousands of terrific images available from the Internet, but it is always fun to do it yourself. In iPhoto I can say an image is of Saturn which I took on a particular date. However, there is a lot more information I would like to keep track of.

For this particular hobby information like what telescope was used, what camera was used, the length of exposure time (or the number of image frames that were stacked to make the final image), as well as location on Earth, sky conditions, and more. Essentially using Bento 3, I am creating a photo journal rather than a photo album.

Bento gives one access to the images in your iPhoto library. You can select a particular album as well as the standard Apple smart albums (last import, last 12 months, etc). Once you click on an album, Bento provides an interface to the image, allowing you to include other information about it. Using my example of my Astrophotography album, I decided to include fields providing information on: object name, source (where I got the image or where I captured it), the date it was taken, and a link to the Wiki page for the object in the photo. The default Bento database includes items like file size, Title, Category, Style, and more. Obviously, this is your database and you can do what you like with it. I am still working out the details of my image database, but I do think the idea of keeping track of a lot of information about my images is a really cool idea.



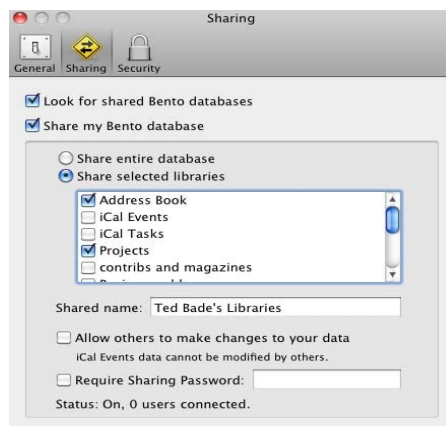
(iPhotos are now part of Bento 3)

Going along with the inclusion of the iPhoto database, is a new display format in Bento 3, a thumbnail view, which looks a lot like iPhoto's event view. Essentially this view displays a grid of images from each record in the database. You can show either an image associated with the record or a tiny image of the record in it's form view, as well as some data from various fields in the database. For instance, if you have snapshots of people in your address book, you can use the image view to display the snapshot and choose the person's first and last name to show. In my example screenshot, you will see a list of audio books I have read, ... err, listened to, showing the authors name and title of the "book". You can display up to four text fields below the image. With databases that include images, I find this a quick way to locate the item I want. From this view, you double click to open the full screen record view. You can also choose a split screen view with a smaller thumbnail grid on the top of the screen and the form view of a selected record showing below.



(Even your data records can be showing in Thumbnail view)

Sharing access to libraries with another Bento user is also a great new feature. If you are working one a project with other people on a network, they can access the shared library over the network and make updates. One example I find very useful is with our home the address book information. Both my wife and I have Macs, we both have our own address books. However, the address database she keeps is a lot more valuable then the one I keep. My address book is primarily for keeping track of people I email. Her database is what we use to keep track of all our friends, relatives, and those places we regularly do business with. So the “real” database is on her machine. Let’s say I get email from a friend who tells me that his email address has changed, or that her street address has changed. In the past, I would either forward the email to my wife or jot the information on a piece of paper, then toss it on her desk. Which means that sometimes I would get a dirty look, other times things got forgotten, and once in a while the data actually got updated! Now, I can just access the database and make the change, no fuss, no muss! (So long as I don’t do any format changes, ☺)



(Sharing libraries)

There are a million reasons one would like to share a database, to allow one or more people to update it. Anytime you are working on a project that requires input from more than one person, sharing is a really good thing. In case you are concerned about too much sharing, Bento 3 allows you to select which libraries to share, preventing changes you don't expect. Of course, if you need to protect a database from peeping eyes, Version 3 now includes some valuable security features.

There are essentially three levels of security included in this version of Bento. First of all, if it is on your computer or you account on a multi account Mac, one would need your account password to get access to a database. New in Bento V3 are two additional levels of security. First of all, you can require a password to access your database. This just means if someone gets a copy of the database, they need a password to access it. Along with this, you can "lock" Bento. This means that in order to run Bento on your machine, you need to enter a password. The other security features is an encrypted data field.



(Many ways to secure you data)

The encrypted field requires that you have your database password protected. Data that you enter into an encrypted field is displayed as dots. You can change this to display the actual data by entering the password. The data that is placed in an encrypted field is stored on your hard drive in an encrypted format. Which means that even if someone steals a copy of the database, they won't be able to view the contents of these fields.

As with all security features, the security is only as good as the complexity of the password. My example screen shot shows the security menu and my simple password with it's obvious (obvious at least to me) hint. This password would be a lot easier to figure out than some random set of numbers and letters. However, one must remember, that along with this level of security is a level of risk. Should you forget your password, the data is lost. Without the password, you cannot access the data.

Moving various types of data into Bento 3 is even easier. You could already include emails in your library. With Version 3 you can now simply copy and paste information from a spreadsheet (Excel or Numbers) into the Bento Library. While spreadsheets are good with lists of data, Bento adds a lot more power. For instance, if you have a spreadsheet list of an inventory, you could bring this list into Bento, then add images, movies, links, and so forth to the database. A small business could take an inventory list and create a catalog.

If you are the type of person who likes to organize things, the ability to make a folder that contains a group of Bento libraries is for you. This ability is new to Version 3. The folder can be expanded to show the libraries within it or contracted to hide them. Bento already did this with your Address book's sub folders. You can make your own folders to organize other libraries you make.

(Now you see it, Now you don't)



Bento 3 includes more new templates and easier access to their online template exchange right from the program. When you create a new library, you can select an included template, or choose to jump to their template exchange web site to select from even more options.

There are a lot of different types of templates. While Bento gives you the ability to create just about any layout you can conceive, there are some fun templates available for use.

With all this power, it is hard to imagine that this program lacks much of anything, yet there are two things I personally feel that Bento really lacks. First of all is the ability to print labels directly. Bento makes use of Apple's Address book to print labels. This became an issue for me when I created a "Smart" library. (A smart library extracts records from a larger library based on a specific criteria. In my case, I wanted to create a subset of the Address Book library to print mailing labels for a specific purpose.) Smart libraries don't show in Address book. Since it doesn't show it Address Book, I cannot use it to print the labels. The work around is to copy the contents of the smart library to a standard one, then use Address Book to print that one. However, this means one needs to create a new mailing list library every time one wants to print labels. (The Bento people hint that they are working on the printing issue).

The other issue is the lack of ability to share database libraries with other users. Bento 3 allows one to share *access* to a library with other users on the network for collaborative work, but this doesn't allow one to put a particular library on a disk and give it to a friend. You might recall Apple's HyperCard application from the nineties or even the more advanced, Wagner's Hyperstudio. These Apps gave the ability for someone to create something interesting or even educational, then share it with other users. I would like to see Bento have this feature.

For an example, I took the time to create a database of critters, from the game World of Warcraft, that need to be defeated to accomplish a particular achievement (there are a lot of critters on this list). The library includes an image of the critter, maps of where they might be located, names, and so forth, all the data I need to complete the achievement, it even included a checkbox to click after I had defeated each critter. I would love to make this available to my friends. Export options include Excel, Numbers or text. All exports are either comma or tab delimited text file. All images, media, or web links are lost. Not very useful. If I could have two wishes for Bento updates, these two items would be on the top of my list.

Conclusion

Bento is, in my opinion, the best personal database application available to Mac users. It is easy to use, has a great Mac-like interface that is very intuitive. It is easy to import data into it and bring your simple lists of data to the next level of usability and value. Bento allows the user to easily create all types of data field to keep track of their information and to easily create form layouts to present the information. They even have an iPhone/iPod Touch App to let you easily take your libraries on the road. I highly recommend this program to anyone who owns a Mac, even if you use it to just organize your address book! If you don't own this program you should, so go to the Bento website and download the demo.

SnapNDrag 2.5.1 Pro — A simplified screen capture utility

Reviewed by Harry {doc} Babad



Yellow Mug Software

<http://www.yellowmug.com/snapndrag/>



System Requirements: Mac OS X 10.4 or later, ... Snow Leopard Compatible

Released: August 5, 2009.

Download Size 1.3 MB, Disk Space ca. 2.7 MB

Cost: Pro Version: \$5.95 USD



Audience: Anyone who need to routinely take and incorporate screen shots into their documents

Strengths: SnapNDrag is an application that makes screen capture extremely easy. Just click a button to capture and then drag the result off to another application or to the Finder.

Weaknesses: None worth mentioning.

Copyright Notice: Product and company names and logos in this review may be registered trademarks of their respective companies.

Sidebar #1: Reviews were carried out on my iMac 2.8 GHz Intel Core 2 Duo with 2 GB 667 MHz DDR2 SDRAM running Mac OS X version 10.5.8

Sidebar #2: Disclaimer: When reviewing software I will often use the developer's product, functions and features descriptions. Because of this unless I'm quoting directly from *another source*, I do no cutter up the review with quotation makes. All other comments are strictly my own and based on testing. Why need I rewrite the developer's narratives, if they are clearly written?

Introduction Including Publisher's Summary

SnapNDrag lets you take a screenshot by just clicking a button and dragging the resulting screenshot off to where you need it. It works smoothly with my word processor (MS Word); my mail program (Eudora) and other applications that directly accept image by drop and drag.

Alas, it does not work, Adobe's problem, with PDF files in Acrobat Pro, since they cannot directly accept a graphic file via a drop and drag operation. To add an image into a PDF using Acrobat, you need to use the 'hand tool' and paste the captured image with your clipboard.

So, for example, to add your screenshot to a document, simply drag it off SnapNDrag window and drop it on the document in your e-mail application. Using the product is as easy as chose, drag and drop, No are no requirement for hard-to-remember key combinations or repeatedly reaching for the menubar, no file conversions to deal with, no file dialog boxes to navigate, and no temporary files to delete. Using SnapNDrag is that simple.

For example, To SnapNDrag to my review in MS Word. Just do it! <Snap-Drag-Drop> it's that simple. I was able to capture images directly from the Google's Images that could just be dropped into a recipe I was working with in word or Bean (reviewed in this issue.) Then you're done.

Getting Started

This is a well-developed Macintosh application. Drag it to your applications folder. Start using it in freeware mode or type in a password and go Pro. Decide which preference settings you prefer. Check out any readme files. You're good to go. If you're new to this kind of software, genre, check out one or more of the following:

- A Users Manual, often included in the vendor help files
- Start to Mac-around and see what you get.



The Two Advantages of Going Pro —

Although the free version of SnapNDrag is fully functional freeware, sponsor messages are annoying. It has always been an article of faith with me that developers, even of freeware, deserve to be paid (aka donorware.) Since updating to the Pro version is a small price to pay {\$6.00}, that small donation serves to show the developer that they are appreciated, and encourages them to keep programming. Honoring donorware is our way of giving back to the professionals that create the products for our Mac community.

So if, as I do, you like SnapNDrag, consider upgrading to SnapNDrag Pro for even more features:

- Ability to scale down screenshots
- Global hot keys for quick access
- Option to turn off sponsor's message

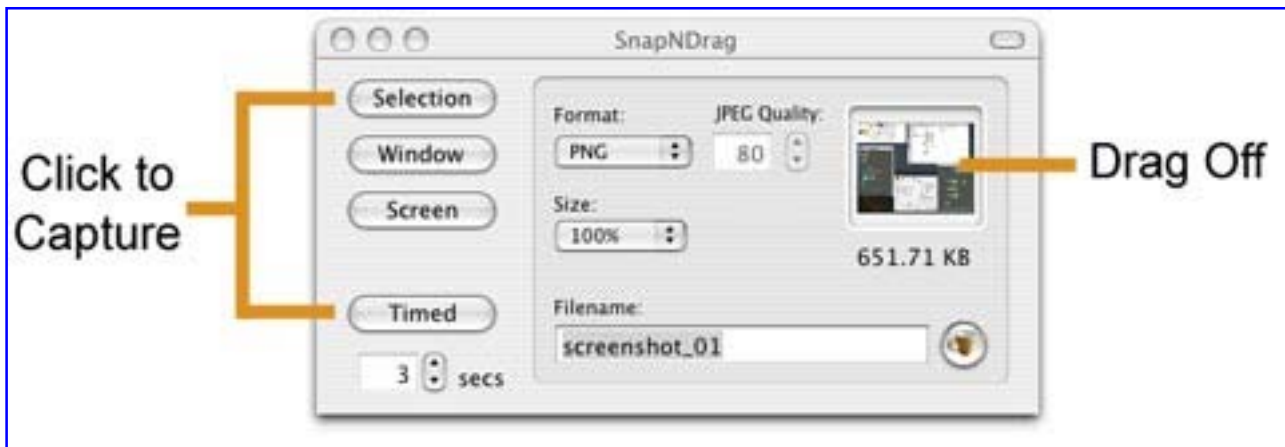
You can upgrade to SnapNDrag Pro from within the application, or buy a copy of EasyCrop <http://www.yellowmug.com/easycrop/> that I too use, and get SnapNDrag Pro for free (the upgrade is automatic).

Using the Software

For example, to email a screenshot, you would drag the screenshot from SnapNDrag to the Mail application. It is that simple. No hard-to-remember key combinations, no file conversion to deal with, no file dialog boxes to navigate, no temporary files to erase later on.

SnapNDrag is designed to be simple and intuitive. There are four buttons on the left side of the window. The buttons correspond to these four modes of capture:

- Selection - lets you select an area to capture
- Window - lets you select a window to capture
- Screen - capture the entire screen
- Timed - capture the entire screen after a delay



Annotated Selected Key Features List —

This software Handles Multiple Image Formats — It supports PNG and TIFF output for the times when image quality cannot be compromised. Or use the usual Macintosh graphics format, JPEG, taking advantage of the product's adjustable quality settings to create smaller file sizes.

For a comparison, just check out Apple's ways for screen captures.

Apple's Way

All Macintosh users have screen capture tools built into their operating systems. Contrast these methods, for desktop systems with what I shared about using SnapNDrag.

Finder Shortcuts for taking pictures of the screen

- Shortcut Take a picture of the whole screen \square -Shift-3
- Shortcut Take a picture of part of the screen \square -Shift-4, and then drag the crosshair pointer to select the area (To cancel, press Escape)
- Shortcut Take a picture of a window or the menu bar \square -Shift-4, press the Space Bar, move the camera pointer over the area to highlight it, and then click. (To cancel, press Escape)
- Shortcut Take a picture of a menu Click the menu to display the menu commands, press \square -Shift-4, and do one of the following:
 - Shortcut To take a picture of the menu without its title, press the Space Bar, move the camera pointer over the menu to highlight it, and then click.
 - Shortcut To take a picture of the menu and its title, drag the crosshair pointer over the area. ...To cancel these, press Escape

To Take a Picture of Your Screen with Apples Grab:

Open Grab (Utilities folder > Applications folder) and choose a command from its *capture* menu.

- Capture a Selection: Takes a picture of a part of the screen that you select.
- Grab a Window: Takes a picture of a window you select.
- Screen: Takes a picture of the entire screen.
- Timed Screen: Lets you start a timer and activate part of the screen (such as a menu), and then take a picture of that, usually transient screen.

Discomforts

No Floating Window Option — I take so many screenshots when I do a complex software product review or continue to write handouts for MUG that a floating window would be most helpful.

Snap & Dragging Itself — No I could not make that work, not should that have been possible. Why? The whole idea is to capture what you want, not the SnapNDrag window.

Conclusions and Recommendation

"This is the best screen capture program I've ever used.

That includes working with Apples free Duos (screen capture using the Finder shortcuts or working with Apple's Grab, and over the years working with, and abandoning:

- Snapz and Snapz Pro Ambrosia Software —
<http://www.macupdate.com/info.php/id/6149/snapz-pro-x>
- ScreenShot Pro Code Line Communications —
<http://www.versiontracker.com/dyn/moreinfo/macosx/11185>
- ScreenShot Plus PiDog Software —
<http://www.macupdate.com/info.php/id/11820/screenshot-plus>

Our Ted Bade reviewed Voila (May 2009 Issue, macC) which, based on his feedback, checkout, but don't hold your breath.

For a change, since this is a single purpose narrowly functioned tool {e.g., one trick pony), I'll depart from my stingy grading. — 5.0 macC's, it's definitely a keeper.

Vectorworks 2010 - Making Change Easy - United View

Reviewed by Robert L Pritchett



Nemetschek North America
Riverwood Drive
Columbia, MD 21046
888-646-4223 or 410-290-5114
FAX: 410-290-8050

<http://www.nemetschek.net/>

Announcement: September 9, 2009

<http://www.nemetschek.net/edispach/Vol90.php>

Designer: \$2,495 USD, Upgrade, \$500 USD

Fundamentals: \$1,295 USD

Architect: \$1,995 USD

Landmark, Machine Design, Spotlight: \$1,795 USD each.

Requirements: Mac OS X 10.5.7 or later, QuickTime 7.2 or later, Intel Core 2 GHz or better, DVD-ROM, 4 GB RAM, 10 GB hard drive space. For Windows – XP SP3 or later, Vista SP2, QuickTime 7.2 or later, Pentium 2GHz or newer and same DVD-ROM and space requirements as Mac.

Comes with: DVD and Starting Guide.

User Guides: http://www.nemetschek.net/training/free_resource.php

Webinars & User Groups: <http://www.nemetschek.net/news/events.php>

Strengths: There are more than 80 new features in version 2010. Dongle-free. Cross-platform. Not ArchiCAD.

Weaknesses: None found. They must have however, because the first Service Pack was released October 20th to cover performance, stability, wall joining and snap loupes. It installed without a hitch.

ArchonCad Videos: <http://www.youtube.com/archoncad>
<http://web.me.com/jpickup1/Site/archoncad/archoncad.html>

Software received for review: (Designer/Renderworks) loused under Mac OS X 10.6.1. You mileage may vary.

Other Reviews: <http://www.caddigest.com/subjects/vectorworks/reviews.htm>



Introduction

We've reviewed Vectorworks in the past and in the September issue of macCompanion we published the book review for 3D Modeling in Vectorworks 2009 -

<http://www.maccompanion.com/macc/archives/September2009/Books/3DModeling.htm>

VectorWorks Designer 2009 with Renderworks and ServicePack 1

<http://www.maccompanion.com/macc/archives/December2008/Software/VectorWorksDesigner2009.htm>

VectorWorks Designer 2008 with Renderworks

<http://www.maccompanion.com/macc/archives/November2007/Software/Vectorworks2008.htm>

Sean Flaherty on Vectorworks 2010 Interview -

<http://worldcadaccess.typepad.com/blog/2009/09/about-vectorworks-2010.html>

What's New - <http://www.nemetschek.net/upgrade/index.php>

“Behold Vectorworks 2010! You'll notice significant improvements like the unified 3D modeling environment; easy-to-use 2D, Dimensional Constraint Manager (DCM) from Siemens PLM; great new architectural, landscaping, and entertainment design features; new rendering functionality; and many important usability changes, all built upon the Parasolid® modeling core. This is no ordinary year. Change is happening everywhere. With Vectorworks 2010, change is easy...

20-page PDF -

http://download2.nemetschek.net/www_misc/2010/VW2010_whats_new.pdf

Feature Matrix -

http://download2.nemetschek.net/www_misc/2010/2010_Feature_Matrix.pdf

Building upon the integration of the Parasolid 3D modeling core in 2009, version 2010 is geared to making changes easier with the addition of bi-directional associativity features and a 3D modeling environment. These capabilities are included to help make sure that changes are reflected throughout the entire design.

"Demand for more efficient design and construction over the past several years has led many professionals to evaluate making a change in their technologies and workflows to incorporate intelligent modeling software," said Sean Flaherty, CEO of Nemetschek North America. "Many small- and medium-sized firms find the transition to information modeling workflows difficult, as technologies are hard to learn and complicated to use. The additions to Vectorworks 2010 are going to help remove these barriers and make the change for designers easy."

According to recent CAD manager surveys, technology use is up—particularly 3D—which has increased more than 30 percent in the last year. Vectorworks may help designers embrace this change without turning their firms upside down, according to Nemetschek North America. Vectorworks software offers a 3D environment with unified views, 3D snapping for modeling, and a 3D modeling core.

With the release of Vectorworks 2010, Nemetschek North America has also extended its relationship with Siemens PLM Software further by integrating the D-Cubed 2D Dimensional Constraint Manager (2D DCM) into the software.

"We chose to integrate the 2D DCM in Vectorworks 2010 because Siemens has what many consider a best-in-class solution for constraint management," said Dr. Biplab Sarkar, Nemetschek North America's chief technology officer. "Additionally, we've integrated it into 2010 in a way that is non-obtrusive to users and truly intuitive to use."

Worth Repeating

archoncad is New Zealand's premier VectorWorks training company, having trained most of the Vectorworks users in New Zealand through their courses and manuals.

They are the longest serving 3rd party VectorWorks manual writer. They have written manuals for VectorWorks since version 9. They are just creating the manuals for VectorWorks 2010.

These videos are a small sample of the training videos that Jonathan Pickup made for his on-line user group and for training manuals. The aim of his company is to make VectorWorks easy to use.

You can find Jonathan Pickup's main web site at: <http://www.archoncad.co.nz>

From Architosh

"Dr. Biplab Sarkar, CTO of Nemetschek North America, also told the press that the Mac version on Snow Leopard has been shown to be faster in internal testing than Windows Vista and Windows 7 version of Vectorworks 2010."

<http://architosh.com/2009/09/nemetschek-details-release-of-vectorworks-2010/>

What I Learned

I guess the good folks at Nemetschek must have learned to trust me, because the package I received this time did not have any "constraints", like the NFR (Not For Resale) dongle I got for the Vectorworks 2009 version. I'm quite grateful, since this package is worth every penny of \$2,495 USD.

Parasolid® <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parasolid> is a multi-threaded modeling kernel and is used by Nemetschek, because it is 12 times faster for 3D rendering and smooth shapes render about 5 times faster and perhaps that is why it performs so well under Mac OS X Snow Leopard (multi-threading). But this was introduced in VectorWorks 2009.

http://www.plm.automation.siemens.com/en_us/products/open/parasolid/index.shtml

Probably more importantly, is the effort to capture the 3D Dimensional Constraint Manager (D-Cubed 3D DCM) for positioning parts in assemblies and specifying 3D shapes directly, thus greatly improving workflow processes.

http://www.plm.automation.siemens.com/se_se/products/open/d-cubed/products/3ddcm/index.shtml

The AutoCAD users believe in the teamwork approach to computer-aided design, but in my experience, they tend to focus on things that in reality, don't matter to the final design as much as they pretend it should. From what I've seen, the individual contributor can shine using Vectorworks and with the current economic conditions being what they are, the individual contributor will survive, while the team players have been getting benched, because their final product is too expensive. They also seem to downplay the significance of BIM (Building Information Modeling) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Building_Information_Modeling that Nemetschek has been championing and AutoDesk (AutoCAD provider) has also been working with in a big way.

No matter how you cut the Vectorworks vs. AutoCAD cheese, Vectorworks has always been easier to use and the latest release is even more easier to use than the previous version. Now THAT is change I can believe in! We've given Vectorworks another solid 5 rating and Nemetschek deserves it. 80 new improvements. Really? When I watched the videos, I was simply amazed. They put in a lot of hard work to improve the workflow processes and as far as I'm concerned, it isn't Vectorworks that is behind, it is AutoCAD that needs to catch up.

Vectorworks vs. AutoCAD

Chad Owens wrote over a year ago the following;

I have been using Vectorworks for 15 years, since it was Minicad, v.7, currently using VW 2008. I've followed its evolution and expansion, and I would consider myself a true power user.

Recently I got a new job in an office that has traditionally used AutoCAD. For years I've been aware of the fact that AutoCAD was the "original cad program", and is considered the industry standard for architects and engineers, blah blah blah. Back in the day I even took some chiding from experienced cad operators for not getting on the Autodesk bandwagon.

I am resigned to using AutoCAD 2008 here in this office, and I am quickly gaining proficiency. One thing I have learned is that there aren't a whole lot of people who are truly experienced at using both platforms; it's opposing camps, and there's a lot of denigration of the "other", based on ignorance and insecurity.

I have to say honestly that I think Vectorworks is a much better platform, and please trust me that I have no connection with Nemetschek or any of its affiliates, nor do I have anything against Autodesk.

In general, Autocad still clings to the "command line" as a necessary interface. This means you do a lot of typing, which, as far as I'm concerned, has nothing to do with drawing. Just to draw an arc, you might have to press 3 or 4 different keys, not counting multiple hits on the space bar or enter key. In Vectorworks, you can assign any key to any task, so if you don't want to use the cursor to pick a tool button, you can opt to press JUST ONE KEY, and voila, you're using that tool, you don't even have to press enter or space. So your keyboard will last twice as long.

Here are several specific areas where VW beats AC hands down:

1. lineweights: AC has the most bizarre, ancient way of dealing with lineweights, a holdover from when plotters really used different pens to plot different lines. Now that almost everyone uses dpi printers, this outmoded approach is stultifying. In Vectorworks, any object can be any lineweight, you can edit and create custom lineweights easily, and the lineweights are properties of the objects themselves, not tied to layers or to an objects color, as AutoCAD users prefer.
2. layers: AC has layers, VW has layers, but VW also has classes, which are like layers, but add a whole new level of organization lacking in AC.
3. multilines: want to draw a polygon with parallel lines? In AC; good luck. It's limited, quirky and buggy. In VW it's a piece of cake, there are 4 different ways to do it, with the offset parallel line to the left, to the right, equally spaced from the defined vector, or at a settable offset, and it only takes a few clicks to get started, not going through some elaborate setup scheme like in AC.
4. arcs: AC has a very limited way of drawing arcs, and most users suggest that you draw a circle, then draw lines and edit away the parts you don't want, leaving an arc behind. VW has 6 different modes for drawing arcs, super easy and intuitive, and highly accurate, no editing required.
5. move: In AC, like the arc tool, you have to click several times just to move an object from one location to another, even using the newer command system based on grip handles. With VW, the cursor is also the move tool, so when you pick an object, you can just move it immediately, no further key commands required. Want to move and copy?

Just press and hold the option (alt) key and it leaves the original and creates and moves a copy.

6. drawing scale: In AC, to quote from AutoCAD for Dummies, "Changing the drawing scale factor of a drawing after you've drawn it is a tedious and complicated process in AutoCAD." It's really ridiculous. In VW, you can change the scale with a click, at any time, and change back and forth, to any scale you can imagine. Also, in VW, each layer can be at a different scale, so you can have enlarged details, or different many different scales all on the same drawing. In AC, everything has to be at the same scale. True, you can display different scaled views of parts of your drawing in AC, but you have to set up viewports and it's not that easy. Managing scales is much easier in VW.

7. text: what a hassle in AC! Defining text styles = headache. In VW, you can type away, in any font you want, at any size, on any layer, you can pick a text object and rotate it, flip it, whatever you want. You can even change true type fonts to polylines, and edit them like any drawing geometry. AC 2008 has annotative text properties, but even this new development is clunky and bizarre. In VW you can use simple tools that define leaders, drawing labels, titles, etc., that stay the same font size, regardless of scale changes, if you want, or you can just type straight text that follows the size changes of the scales.

8. platforms: AC only runs on windows, VW works great in windows or mac.

There are many more comparisons I could make where VW beats AC, but I have yet to discover a single thing that AutoCAD 2008 can do better than VW 2008, if anyone has a specific example I'd love to hear about it.

If you still doubt me, try "why I love AutoCAD" in a Google search; you won't find much.

If you're weighing options, I would urge you to consider Vectorworks. Maybe if enough users make the switch, VW will become the industry standard, and the world will be a better place for it.

Bring it on, AutoCAD lovers...

<http://arch.designcommunity.com/topic-20125.html&highlight>

I took courses in AutoCAD for a AE firm that no longer exists. AutoCAD was so expensive they only bought every odd version and did not populate it on all computers, which really made working on projects rather challenging when requesting support. It was not a good experience. The learning curve is considerably less for Vectorworks.

Terminology - <http://www.objectofdesign.com/2007/06/30/terminology-autocad-vs-vectorworks/>

What I like about Vectorworks besides ease of use, is that it is inclusive and not exclusive. Not only is it cross-platform, but it also plays nice with AutoCAD file formats.

Conclusion

For best use of your time and your customers that need 3D AE designs now and not later, this app works wonders.

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Besides our website and consulting efforts, we also create *macCompanion* as a freely available PDF-based monthly. It averages about 100 pages per month. July 2006 was the 4th-year anniversary of this labor of love. The *macCompanion* staff is an all-volunteer team of writers and reviewers from many parts of the globe, and they also have a great wealth of knowledge and experience in their backgrounds. That base of talent also continues to keep growing as the Macintosh Professional Network expands.

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The *macCompanion* Staff