

macCompanion

YOUR GUIDE TO ALL THINGS MACINTOSH

Apple Computer Maintenance & Support

Protect your investment.



August 2009
Vol. 8, No 8
\$2.50
ISSN: 2150-3141

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



Trying Times

By Robert L Pritchett

In anticipation of obtaining a new "Day Job"[™], a headhunter interviewed me for what I thought was one of the sweetest Mac job positions in the Pacific Northwest. It had been previously filled, but apparently the person didn't work out, so I was contacted and interviewed no less than 4 times (3 by the headhunter) after being considered earlier, but passed over. The job was a help desk position as support for around 400 or so Macs in a decidedly PC-centric environment. Many of our current and former *macCompanion* staff have been down this road before – providing support and maintenance services in a PC world. We comment on this topic all the time. After all, our stated mission at *macCompanion* is in providing knowledge about Macs and software apps used in businesses – and we have been doing it for nearly 9 years, so this should have been a "shoe-in" job for me.

A lot has happened since I took jobs as computer and network tech support, getting my MCSE certifications from Microsoft and obtaining my Apple Product Professional

status from Apple.

So I read up on what I have been missing via the Apple Certified Training Manuals, published by Peachpit. I found they are rather wanting in certain areas, since the books are designed as helps in obtaining Apple Certifications and focus their attention that direction. Even those certifications have been streamlined, since some of the books were published.

Gene Steinberg has been busy discussing talking points regarding Apple hardware and its impact on Microsoft over on the *MacNightOwl* lately.

Dennis Sellers has enlisted Dave Merten over on *Macsimum News* to discuss Support with his *MacOSG Support Center*.

Over on *MacWorld*, even Christopher Breen got into the act with his recent Mac911 article on *Mac upgrades and gotchas*.

I gathered a few websites that might be of interest to you:

Apple Computer Maintenance and Support

[AFP548](#) - Server Support Site for Mac OS X Professionals

[AppleCare](#) - Products and Services

[Apple Consultants Network](#) - Apple's Preferred Consultants

[Apple Remote Desktop](#) - Apple's preferred system for Remote Desktop support

[Apple Support](#) - Apple's own support page

[Mac Admin Corner](#) - Random tips and tricks for administering Mac OS X clients

[MacEnterprise](#) - IT Professional Support for Macs in the Enterprise

[Mac Help Desk](#) - Support Site for Mac OS X Professionals

[Tech Support Forum](#) - Macintosh Tech Support Forum

[Mac Automation Made Simple](#) - Podcasts

[Mac OS X Support Essentials](#) - Google Books

[MacTech magazine](#) - The Journal of Macintosh Technology

[Macintosh Reference Guide](#) - Peachpit

[Training & Certification](#) - Apple's Training And Certification Program

Meanwhile, just to show you how tough things have become, the company that posted the position decided to combine UNIX, PC and Mac Help Desk responsibilities ("internal reorg") instead of seeking to fill the Mac Help Desk position with a temporary part timer (that would have been me). The headhunter was blindsided

on this one (who politely listened in on the conference call) and it was rather telling that the company had 3 managers asking me questions and none - repeat - none, knew anything about Macs (or claimed not to)!

It had been so long since I had remapped a network drive, I think I stumbled a little on that question. And do you know what to do on a PC when MS Word is totally hosed? (You can't just plist your way out of that one like we can on a Mac.) Oh, and do you know how to provide support Macs in an MS SharePoint environment?

My original premise to the headhunter was that a Mac support person needs to know a whole lot more about "cross-dressing" PC/Macs than a PC person (who knows how to perhaps navigate the esoteric menu list in XP Pro and can hurt him or herself in the DLL registry) and should be paid proportionally to the knowledge garnered from years of experience in both camps. No way should the Mac tech support person be treated as a lower-paid stepchild in the Enterprise. Don't you agree? By definition, a Mac Support person knows both camps.

Anyone want to work as a 3-in-1 "computer oil capacity" for slave wages? {The job apparently was reposted recently as a MAC Help Desk Technician position (as in Moves, Adds and Changes) and has the exact same job description as the Mac Help Desk position...I was told I was not a "good fit". I know when I am not wanted!}
;^0

Other News

Former Day Job

My former day job employer took me to court (2-hour teleconference session) about how I had been ruining his company as the only full-time employee (besides himself). He even had witnesses testifying against me to claim I should have been fired months earlier, instead of being let go. And he put the issue in the Salt Lake Tribune in June in an article entitled "Job Loss". I look back now on that previous job experience that ended in March and realize just how toxic and time-consuming that was. So before being accepted into a job, walk in with eyes wide open, ask solid questions and get official documentation. (By the way, the judge finally ruled in my favor.)

Also, by the time you read this, I understand that a former company I worked for (InStar) will also have removed all of the remaining employees from its payroll. They are all currently looking for new jobs.

Sonofusion Reactor

The Alternative Energy User Group, of which I am currently president, has been given permission and authorization to build the 14-gram-sized Sonofusion Reactor by Roger Stringham, over in Hawaii. We also have a local person who developed a cold fusion reactor we still need to touch bases with, to see if we can mix his technology with Roger's, to see if we can come up with an alternative energy Reeses Pieces™ that would become a cool (pun intended) "gotta have".
<http://maccompanion.com/RenewableEnergy/PresentationsPage.html#18>

Many of the prototype pieces for the Sonofusion Reactor arrived on my birthday.

US Debt Clock and Unemployment Index

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

Missing from the clock is the **Official Unemployment Index**, which also conveniently omits all who are self-employed, who cannot find work. Many states are taking loans from the Federal Government in order to meet their unemployment claims, since those funds have been drained. After discussion with many (formerly) self-employed, who are not allowed to be on the unemployment rolls because they own their own businesses, I believe the unofficial "rate" is much closer to 50% than the official 10%.

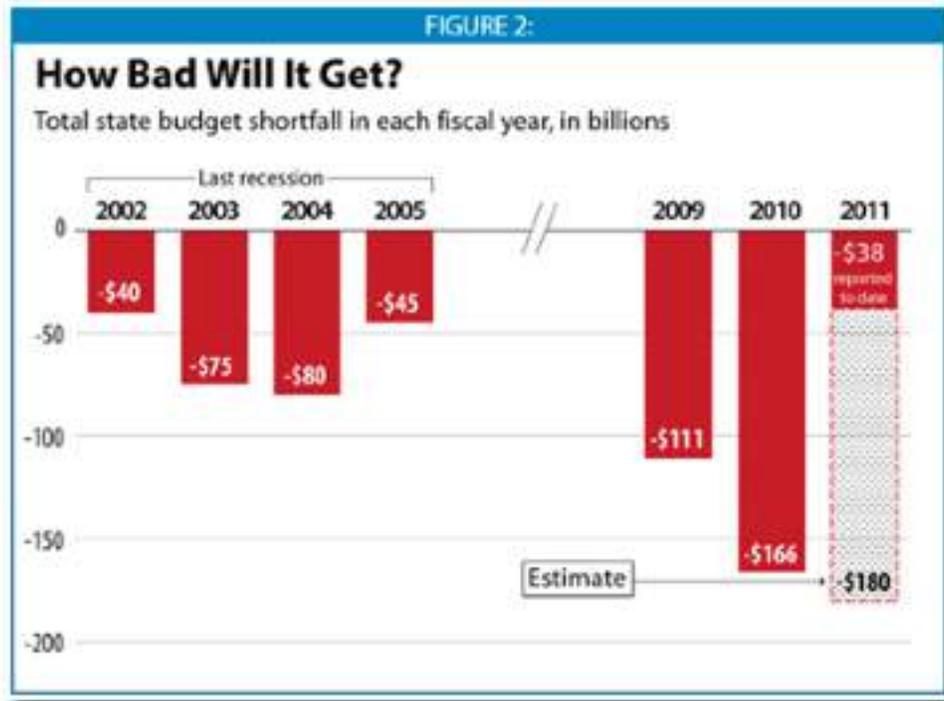
There were well over 20 million "Lone Wolves" (non-employer businesses) in 2007
http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/economic_census/010314.html

Regarding averages, if you have one foot in an ice-bucket and the other in boiling water, you should not be feeling any pain from frostbite or 3rd-degree burns, because "on average", you would be standing in buckets at normal air temperature for water. We are supposed to believe everything is fine and to obey the Seth Lords without question.

When the unemployment cheques and government jobs run out, expect to see a revolution. Too many states are on the verge of bankruptcy now.

<http://freedomarizona.org/2009/01/30/46-of-50-states-could-file-bankruptcy-in-2009-2010/>

<http://www.cbpp.org/cms/?fa=view&id=711>



Indeed, these are trying times. Perhaps this will help in your job search - <http://www.macompanion.com/macc/companions/macjobs.html>

The American Grand Jury

I was chosen to be on the [American Grand Jury](#) and I voted July 8, regarding presentments related to the birth certificate and other documents that should be readily available to the citizens of the USA from the POTUS. The presentments also claim treason of the person who currently occupies the White House against the citizens of the USA. The votes were unanimous from 38 members and is one of 10 juries so far.

Read the 44-page Citizens' Rule Book and discover your other two votes - http://www.patriotnetwork.info/Citizens_rule_book.htm

May the force be with you!

Robert L. Pritchett, Constitutionalist

Interesting Links

Birthers

So you probably never realized you are worth more dead to our current "legal guardians" than alive.

6 Good Reasons to Avoid the Flu Shots

(the vaccine song) SAY NO TO THE VACCINE

Swine Flu - H1N1

Swine Flu Media Central, 2009

Swine Flu Propaganda – Redux

Make Your Own Flu Vaccine

10th Amendment Center

Socialism, Marxism, Communism & Obama

Signing Away Our Freedom with "ISM"s

Rationed Health Care Plan (PDF Chart)

Drink the Kool-Aid (Song)

Poisoned Grandmother?

Death At An Apple Manufacturer In China

Death By iPhone: Apple and China's Cultural Time Bomb (Caution: Bad Language)

Pritchett Cartoons (by John Pritchett, Hawaii)

Cash for Clunkers: Another "Government Bondoogle"TM

A Constitution in FULL Crisis



According to Hoyle...



Mac OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard: The End of the Line for the PowerPC

August 2009

by Jonathan Hoyle

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macCompanion

<http://www.jonhoyle.com>

Next month, Apple will be releasing its next generation operating system, Mac OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard, a replacement for its previous Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard. I had intended this month to review 10.6 (within the confines of Apple's NDA), but found it essentially a **repeat of last year's article** (<http://www.maccompanion.com/macc/archives/August2008/Columns/AccordingtoHoyle36.htm>) on Snow Leopard following WWDC '08. Rather than reiterate the same things again, we will wait until its official release, whence I may devote a column to review it fully. This month, I'd like to talk a little bit about the PowerPC processor, as its reign dies with 10.6.

PowerPC: 1993-2009

One might quibble with the dates here. The AIM (Apple-IBM-Motorola) alliance [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AIM_alliance] created the PowerPC in 1991, and the first Power Macintosh was sold in 1994. It was 2006 when Apple stopped production of PowerPC-based Macs, but as a chip the PowerPC is still being used today. So why 1993 and 2009?

I chose 1993 as the start date, since that is when the first PowerPC development tools became available for the Macintosh consumer. (I refer to the beta release of Metrowerks' offering, not that God-awful cross-compiling strategy that Apple was using at the time.) I pick Snow Leopard's release as the PowerPC's end, as the current 10.5 OS still supports the G4 and G5 processors (whereas 10.6 does not).

So this is it for the PowerPC processor. This is not simply a Snow Leopard statement, but an Apple statement in general. Apple's recently released Final Cut Pro 7 and Logic Studio are Intel-only, despite its running on 10.5 Leopard (a PowerPC-supported operating system).

This should not be terribly surprising news. After all, it was three years ago this summer that Apple officially killed off the PowerPC line of processors. And although there are a fair number of G4's and G5's still out there in the field, they are a diminishing breed.

Truly Seamless

Apple's transition from 68K to PowerPC was an amazing success. If you think Apple's recent transition from PowerPC to Intel was seamless, then you need to go back in time by a decade to see what was seamless really is. The 68K emulator was fast and extremely versatile. Although it did not support the 6888x Math co-processor, most anything that ran on a contemporary 68K machine (such as the Centris 610) would also run on a Power Mac.

And not just applications. Plugins, dynamic libraries, code resources and other programming components can be 68K and run inside a PowerPC-based application. This is one of the significant differences between the 68K/PPC transition and the PPC/Intel transition: plugins and libraries must match precisely the architecture on its hosting OS X app: 32-bit PowerPC, 64-bit PowerPC, 32-bit Intel or 64-bit Intel.

Another difference is performance. From nearly the beginning, the 68K emulator's speed was quite reasonable. By the end of the 90's, the 68K emulator was running faster than any previously sold 68K Mac. The Rosetta emulator on Intel is not too bad, but a high end G5 still smokes it, even three year later.

Users on PowerMacs in those days often did not know if their favorite app was running native PowerPC or was 68K-emulated ... frankly they didn't care. Why should they?

The Real Hero

Yes, the 68K to PowerPC was an amazing success for Apple ... perhaps more successful than it had any right to be. Apple had been very slow with its development tools, and with no native PowerPC applications, there would be no compelling reason for Mac users to leave their 68K architecture. Symantec, owners of Think Pascal and **Think C**, the dominant developer tools provider at the time, had no interest in investing in this new processor. Apple's tool were too high end for the casual developer. That might have been the end of it until ...

In walks Metrowerks, with what would be called **CodeWarrior**, a development environment that was simple to use and allowed users to select their choice of programming languages (Pascal, C or C++) and back end (68K, PowerPC or both). More than any one single force, Metrowerks saved Apple's bacon and paved the way toward a successful PowerPC platform. In the late 1990's and early 2000's, Metrowerks CodeWarrior became the dominant development

environment, eclipsing Symantec's Think tools and Apple's MPW.

It's hard to imagine what the Mac world would look like today had the PowerPC failed.

The successful birth of the PowerPC platform was strongly thanks to the birth of CodeWarrior. Ironically, the death of the PowerPC was also the cause of the death of CodeWarrior. Despite the protests of its user base, Metrowerks sold off its Intel compilation tools in 2005, just weeks before Apple announced its Intel transition, turning CodeWarrior from a monopoly to irrelevant over night.

PowerPC Evolution

The first Power Macintoshes (6100, 7100, 8100) came with System 7.1.2. System 7 evolved into System 7.5, then Mac OS 8 and 8.1. From 1994 through 1998, Apple supported its operating systems on both its 68K and PPC platforms. Then in late 1998, Apple introduced Mac OS 8.5, which dropped support for 68K Macs. In 1999, Apple introduced Mac OS 9, its final Classic offering, as work began in earnest on Mac OS X. With Mac OS X (public beta in 2000, released in 2001), Apple ceased support for all pre-Steve Jobs PowerPC processors, requiring the G3 or later processors.

All this time, the PowerPC processor continued to hum along. The initial 601 processor ran at 60 MHz or faster, but before too long speeds grew ever faster, with the PowerPC G4 running at 1.5 GHz and faster. However, these AIM processors began to lag behind their Intel equivalents with time. Apple had always prided themselves in being faster than their Windows rivals, but found themselves falling behind.

At the 2003 WWDC, Steve Jobs announced that the Macintosh line will move to a new processor, the PowerPC G5, made not by AIM but exclusively by IBM. The expectation is that IBM would be able to keep up with Intel whereas AIM hadn't. As it turned out, IBM failed to deliver on its promises as well. At the 2003 WWDC, Steve Jobs had promised a 3 GHz G5 system by the following year. At the 2004 WWDC, Jobs had to eat his words, and was uncharacteristically sheepish about publicly failing to meet his commitment. It would be there for 2005 "or else".

"Or Else" happens

I can only imagine what the back room discussions at IBM were like in 2004. Steve Jobs can threaten all he wants, but he just made a big transition to their G5 processor, and what was he going to do now? What choice did he have but wait? What's the alternative, switch to Intel? I'm sure there were plenty of snickers then.

Say what you want about Steve Jobs, but don't piss him off. And definitely don't make him look bad in front of his own developers at WWDC. IBM called Steve Jobs' "bluff", and paid the price. IBM invested \$3 Billion in this venture, with Apple being its primary customer. They broke their commitment to keep up, and they ended up with a very expensive lesson learned.

The rest is history. Apple announces its transition to Intel at the 2005 WWDC. At the 2006 WWDC, the final PowerPC-based Macs are discontinued. One year, and Apple is out of the PowerPC hardware business. However, the installed base in 2006 was still heavily PowerPC-based, which is why the 10.5 Leopard OS (highlighted at the 2006 and 2007 WWDC's) needed to run on both PowerPC and Intel based Macs. However, that is not the case today. When Snow Leopard is released, it will have been more than three years since the discontinuation of PowerPC-based Macs. Three years is a long time. It seemed pointless to Apple to continue to support these old machines with a new OS.

10.6: Not a Big Loss to PowerPC Users

In fairness, 10.6 wouldn't have been of large interest to PowerPC owners anyway. The reason for this is that many of these machines are still running Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger. 10.5 Leopard ran a bit sluggish on all but the fastest of G5's, so the transition was not so compelling. Furthermore, moving to 10.5 means no more Classic. If you had no need for Classic, there was little reason to hang onto your Power Macintosh, and you probably had already transitioned to an Intel Mac over the past four years. But, if you still hadn't clicked the Classic habit, you had no choice but to hang onto your PowerMac/10.4 system. 10.6 would not have changed that, even had it supported the G5.

However, those who have already made the jump to Intel-based Macs, 10.6 Snow Leopard is a much more compelling proposition. If you are on 10.5 Leopard (as most Intel-Mac users are), your \$29 upgrade fee buys you performance improvements and OS enhancements that will make your computing experience much smoother. If you are still on 10.4 Tiger, then your costs are no more than the \$129 that you would have paid for Leopard, but instead you get Snow Leopard (essentially a better upgrade for the same price).

One of 10.6's advantages that it had over 10.5 was the ability to optimize on a single hardware family. On 10.5, all its code had to allow for the possibility of running on either PowerPC or Intel; for 10.6, it could rely exclusively on Intel processors. This makes it easier for the developer targeting 10.6, since no Macs made prior to 2006 would need to be tested.

Conclusion

Soon, references to the PowerPC processor will seem as nostalgic (and as irrelevant) as do references to the 68K family of processors. As I write this, I still have a PowerBook G4 by my side (shut down, not been on for nearly a week), and an old Power Mac G4 upstairs I use as a server. I have mostly weened myself off of old Classic applications, and find little reason to go back. Still, there is a nostalgic side of me that keeps me from getting rid of my G4's, even if such delaying causes me to lose whatever profit I might glean from selling now

On my Intel-based Macs, I am looking ever forward, excited to run prerelease versions of Snow Leopard and take advantage of the better performance. I am ready to say Hello to the future ... still hesitant to saying Goodbye to the past ...despite knowing it is only a matter of time.

As someone once told me: All things are only a matter of time.

Coming Up Next Month: Apple's newest development tools!

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

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

MacFevre — Ramblings of a ‘Fevre’ induced Mac man



Is Apple phasing out the Academic versions of its software?

By Wayne LeFevre

Final Cut Studio 3 was released with little to no fan-fare this week. That in itself is a bit of a mystery. Many are touting it as nothing but a point release, and that there shouldn't be such a hefty charge for such. Speaking of the price, the price plans that Apple has come up with are too a bit of a mystery. The price for the full version is \$999. That is a full \$300 less than the previous version. A boon to those purchasing for the first time. Up-graders too will find justice in the world with an upgrade price of \$299. \$200 less than the previous upgrade price. At a huge disadvantage, though, will be the academic crowd.

For reasons unknown, Apple decides to price it \$899. Only \$100 less than the full price, and \$200 more than the price of the previous academic offering, one has to wonder why anyone would bother accepting such restrictions. Academic versions of software by Apple have always been a bit of a blessing/curse relationship with those that purchase it. Usually, it allows those attending schools, those instructing at schools, and even the schools themselves to purchase the software at a great discount. With that discount, however, is knowing that you cannot upgrade that version, ever. Not to the full version, and not to the next version.

Most of the time, the Academic version of the software is very deeply discounted, sometimes more than 50% of the original full price. Usually, when the next version comes along and an institution would like to upgrade, they simply purchase the next Academic version. Essentially, with a package like FCS, giving them 2 versions for around \$1,400 versus \$1,800 for those two versions upgrading through the normal route. (\$1300 original plus an additional \$500 to upgrade to next version.)

With the new pricing scheme, however, why would anyone go with the Academic version? I can only assume that Apple is trying to phase out the Academic version. With no ability to upgrade, and assuming the next version is the same cost as this version, going the same route would cost an institution approx. \$1800 for two versions of Final Cut Studio. By purchasing the full version at \$999, and the next version at \$299, for a total cost of \$1,300. That's a savings of around \$500. Not a small price for schools already being hit by budget cuts, with students and faculty at a similar economic disadvantage. This is disappointing to me personally, as I, (in all actuality my wife,) is an educator and we have saved many dollars through the Academic store.

So who do you suppose is Apple targeting the new software for? Clearly they want the indie producer. I believe they are also targeting those users who now work with Final Cut Express that want the extra features of the Studio package, but can't quite get themselves over that thousand-dollar mental price barrier. But I am truly flummoxed by the Academic price. Perhaps they think that the intellectuals have gotten too much of a discount in the past. Maybe they figure that students are more than likely to simply grab the latest copy from bit-torrent or other means of "sharing." But at a time in history when we really should be supporting any way we can our future generation, you would think that one of the few companies that is actually making money hand-over-fist these days would be supporting the educational system any way they can. (Especially when schools, normally the only places one sees Apple computers in the wild, start to cut budgets and think that they can save money by switching to inexpensive PCs.)



Doc_Babad's Macintosh Tips

- A Macintosh Tip or Three...

By Harry {doc} Babad © 2009

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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

Disclaimer and Boiler Plate: When briefly reviewing share-freeware I will often use the developers' product, functions and features descriptions. All other comments are strictly my own and based on testing. Why need I rewrite the developers narratives, if they are clearly written?

Acknowledgements — As the occasion warrants, some of the Tips I share come from Paul Taylor's Hints & Tips column <http://www.mac-hints-tips.com>, and are used with his permission. If you have tips to share send them to Paul — paul@mac-hints-tips.com. I also use user group published tips with their consent if I can make the contact with the appropriate officer. Where I use any one else's tips for this column, I acknowledge both their source and their contributors. Yes, I do write down and share some of the tips I've discovered while Macin' around. If a tip or hint comes from a more traditional commercial source, I both acknowledged that fact and almost always modify the tip to personalize it for our readers.

Where a sentence or paragraph is italicized, it's my contribution unless other wise noted. Oh, I almost forgot! Unless otherwise noted, all the tips and tidbits I share, where appropriate, work on my computer. If I don't own the software but if the tip sounds interesting, I'll so note that information at the end of that specific write-up.

Tips I've provided this month, as always in a random order, include:

- § A Missing Partition Western Digital 500GB external hard drive
- § Organize your Folders via "Keep Arranged by" shortcut in OSX
- § Problems Backing Up, Cloning with Super Duper, my iMac's Hard Drive on Partitioned Western Digital External Drives
- § Choosing a Good Password
- § Keyboard Cleaning Tip
- § Make 'paste and match style' the default behavior
- § How to Make the Sidebar Work Like the Dock

- § Spelling Help in Cocoa Applications
- § Neatly Arranged Icons
- § Knowing at a Glance If Your File Changes Have Been Saved
- § Copy and Delete at the Same Time and Other Related Tricks
- § Working With Duplicated Files/Folders or Conveniently Placed Alias'
- § Sneak a Peek at a Deleted File

...And the Tips

A Missing Partition Western Digital 500GB external hard drive



Q: I have a Western Digital 500GB external hard drive. Both FireWire (FW) and USB. I partitioned the drive into two partitions. But now when I connect the hard drive, only one partition shows up. I tried both the USB and FireWire and it's the same. When I connect the hard drive to a Windows computer, sometimes both partitions show up and sometimes only the one. What's going on and how can I fix this problem? I'm so frustrated that I'm about to buy a

new hard drive! ~ Crazy J

A: There may actually be some hardware problem with the drive itself, but before replacing it I would suggest trying the following:

Backup any important data on the drive immediately.

You could first try using the Disk Utility (in /Applications/Utilities) to examine the drive to see if it can see both partitions, even if one of them is not mounting.

I'd then use Disk Utility to repair the partitions. If that doesn't work I'd suggest reformatting the entire drive using Disk Utility and re-merging the partitions.

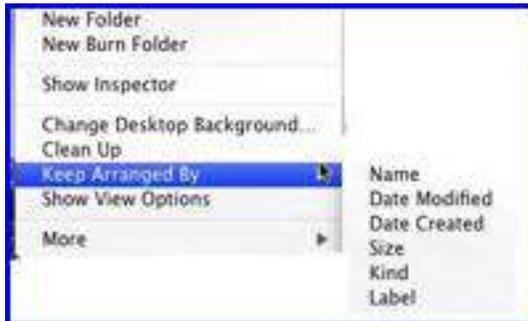
I use a WD My Book drive myself, and I have found it to be more reliable since installing the ([WD Drive Manager](#)), though be sure to get the correct one for your particular drive).

The Unofficial Apple Weblog - TUAW.com

Courtesy: Paul Taylor Hints & Tips — July 2009

paul@mac-hints-tips.com

Organize your Folders via "Keep Arranged by" shortcut in OSX



We often like to have our folders arranged either by name or by kind or by date, but Mac's right click (two-finger click) allows you only to arrange the files once. After that any new files you add just keep piling up at the end. There's a neat trick to keep your folder arranged in a particular way. After the right click, just hold the OPTION key. It changes

the 'Arrange by' to 'Keep Arranged by' and then you can choose how you want to keep your folder organized

Arkit Agarwal
MacTips.org

Problems Backing Up, Cloning with Super Duper, my iMac's Hard Drive on Partitioned Western Digital External Drives

In addition to the problem described in the previous tip, doc sez, I've at times had problems completing a backup (a full clone) using either a FW WD 500 GB and 1 TB drive portioned respectively into three and five parts. The software I use is Shirt Pocket Software's *SuperDuper 2.5*

<http://www.macupdate.com/info.php/id/13803/superduper%21>. The backup gets frozen three-fourth of the way to completion. My solution, is to stop the backup, ignore the warning message and then start the backup anew. This action pretends that I'd not just previously started the incomplete backup. The software breezed through the material already backed up, and then completes the cloning at its usual speed.

Harry {doc} Babad
macCompanion.com

Choosing a Good Password

Besides finding a perfect spouse, I think that one of the more difficult things in life is choosing a password. When I first began using computers, having only a small list of passwords was pretty simple. However as your responsibilities grow and as more and more websites demand password protection, I find it a struggle to keep up. I have already run the gamut of family names and birth dates and now struggle to find the meaning of life, or at least the current passwords, so that I do not forget them in the weeks to come.

I believe a coworker has the perfect answers to these password questions. He searches his room for interesting objects and then changes the spelling of them and uses them as his passwords.

The Apple Knowledge Base has a helpful article on how to choose a good password. In this article are hints on how to develop good passwords and where to use them.

Good passwords are over 8 characters long and contain a mix of many different character types. Avoid using city names, street names, names of people (real or fictional), pet names, words found in a dictionary or popular book, phone numbers, birthdays, anniversaries, or simple combinations of these. Avoid using a recognizable spatial pattern of keyboard characters, such as a couple diagonal lines of keyboard keys, such as "njimko".

However, creating a good password is only half the battle. You then have to figure out if this is a password that you are going to use forever, or if it is something that you are going to change often. A good password for your user account on your own machine is something that you may never have to change, so it can be something pretty complex. However there are a lot of websites out there that require you to change your password often.

On Apple's Service Provider website, for example, you are forced to change your password every three to four months. In addition to that, if your web browser is idle for more than several minutes, you have to log back in. Needless to say, having a good secure password that is easy to use is essential.

In the above mentioned Apple Knowledge Base Article, you will also see some great links on how to change passwords in multiple venues such as Keychains, Open Firmware, Safari, and your System Preferences. However, if you use Apple's Filevault feature of OS 10.3 and you lose its password, you are out of luck and will lose all of your data. Be especially careful with that password! Resetting a user account password in OS X is one of the most common phone calls we get here at Small Dog, and it is a fairly simple procedure. An excellent article from the Apple Knowledge Base that will tell you how to do this:

<http://support.apple.com/kb/HT1274>

Troy K. - Small Dog Electronics

Courtesy: Paul Taylor Hints & Tips — July 2009

paul@mac-hints-tips.com

Keyboard Cleaning Tip



My 4-year old G5 came with a white keyboard that shows all the crud that falls into it. In the past, I would unplug it from the computer, shake it, spray air into it and use an old, clean mascara brush to run along the keys. The mascara brush really picks up the lint and gets under the keys.



For even better cleaning, the key caps can be pried off, but I have had trouble with the keys sticking after I put them back on. The clean mascara brush is great, but use it frequently.

Doc sez, some years ago, I actually bought a "DataVac Electric Duster", a reverse *dust buster sized device* for cleaning electronics. The price, under \$50 [USD], a tool that I've used for 10 years. It is a noisy but powerful blower, with a variety of tips that focus air where you need to clean. Since a six-pack of 10 oz cans of compressed air costs about \$30, {Costco, Amazon} I figure on a life-cycle cost basis, I'm ahead.

Linda Cameron The Finder,
Mid-Columbia MUG, Kennewick, WA
Harry {doc} Babad
macCompanion.com

Make 'paste and match style' the default behaviorr

If you copy information from styled pages -- web sites, documents, etc. -- you're aware that if you then paste that information (Command-V) in a style-aware application, the style gets pasted, too. Most of the time this is just annoying. The workaround is to use Paste and Match Style (Shift-Command-Option-V) instead. However, it's a pain to do this every time.

Yesterday on Twitter, a [solution made the rounds](#): just use the Keyboard Shortcuts tab of the System Preferences panel to set Paste and Match Style to Command-V. Open that panel, click the plus sign, leave the first pop-up set to All Applications, enter *Paste and Match Style* in the Menu Title box, type Command-V in the Keyboard Shortcut box, then click Add.

An anonymous tipster submitted a command-line version of this modification, in case you want/need to run it remotely or push it out via Apple Remote Desktop:

```
defaults write .GlobalPreferences -dict-add NSUserKeyEquivalents "Paste and Match Style" -string "@v"
```

After changing the shortcut via either method, Command-V will do a Paste and Match Style in any application where it's possible; in others (such as Excel), Command-V will still paste as usual. There is, however, a downside.

If you're trying to paste copied images (such as into iChat), Command-V won't work at all. So as cool as this solution is, I don't use it myself, as I do this quite a bit. Instead, I simplified the Paste and Match Style shortcut (in 10.5) to Command-Option-V. This requires much less in the way of finger gymnastics, making it nearly as easy to use as Command-V. As an alternative, you could add a second shortcut for Paste as Command-Option-V (or whatever you like). Then, when you need to paste an image somewhere, use Command-Option-V instead of Command-V.

Mac OS X Hints – Macworld
Wed, Jul 8 2009 • Submitted by [robg](#)

How to Make the Sidebar Work Like the Dock



You can customize the sidebar of the Finder window by adding other icons that make it even more powerful. For example, if you use Photoshop a lot, just open the window where your Photoshop application resides, drag the Photoshop icon right over to the sidebar, and the other icons in the sidebar will slide out of the way.

Now you can use this window kind of like you would the dock — to launch Photoshop, just click on its icon in the sidebar, plus like the dock, you can even drag-and-drop images you want to open right onto the sidebar's Photoshop icon. Reference: Scott Kelby's [Mac OS X Tiger Killer Tips](#).

I've done that with MS Word and FileMaker Pro sez doc. However, I prefer accessing such often used applications and or folders using a combination of:

§ [Unsanity's shareware haxie Fruit Menu](#), and
§ [DEVONtechnologies free X-Menu](#).

These are more easily accessible to me, one under the apple in my Macintosh's main menu bar, the other as a menu item that is available from every application, document or folder. Why, I usually hide the sidebar, despite the fact that I am a devotee of using windows in list view. –Doc!

Apple Pro Tips
Courtesy: Paul Taylor Hints & Tips — July 2009
paul@mac-hints-tips.com

Spelling Help in Cocoa Applications

If you do not know how to spell a word, Cocoa applications will help. Start to spell the word. Now hold down the F5 key and you get a list of words starting with what you have typed. This works only in applications written in Cocoa. So forget using it in AppleWorks or MS Word or other Carbon-based applications.



It works in TextEdit, Pages, and Safari. In Safari it does another bit of magic in the "Search" box. While you are typing a search term, Safari suggests longer search terms (one or more keywords) without you doing anything but type. When you hold down the F5 key, Safari helps with your spelling.

And just in case you want to stretch a bit more, my favorite tool for checking spelling, especially when working with recipes is Google. Yes, I said Google. Just type the word you want to check, into Google's search field, and more often than not you get the correct spelling as a "did you mean" hint. Doc.

Phil Russell - Mouse Droppings, Corvallis, OR
Courtesy: Paul Taylor Hints & Tips — July 2009
paul@mac-hints-tips.com

Neatly Arranged Icons

Do you like your icons neatly arranged?

Once in a while would you like an icon out of that neat order? Or on the other hand are your icons in disarray (and you like it that way)? Once in a while you might like an icon in a neat position alongside another icon? It is so easy. All you do is hold the Command key down. If the icons are set to appear in neat rows, the Command key will let you place an icon out of sequence. On the other hand, if your icons are in disarray, the Command key lets you place one in sequence next to another icon.

You might ask, "how do you set the icon's appearance?" Command/J is "Snap to Grid." The same keystroke undoes Snap to Grid.

You can also do this en-mass, by choosing the Finder's > View Menu > Show View Options [Command-I and set you ordering and window appearances preferences there. Doc.

Phil Russell - Mouse Droppings, Corvallis, OR

Courtesy: Paul Taylor Hints & Tips — July 2009

paul@mac-hints-tips.com

Knowing at a Glance If Your File Changes Have Been Saved

This is one of my favorite Mac tips. I'm a frantic file saver. It comes from my old advertising days and using OS 9. In OS 9 you didn't have to remember to restart your machine once a week as it would crash several times a day. Sick of losing hours worth of work I started hitting Command/S like a manic person.



With this tip I have settled down and can know at a glance if it has been saved or not. How you ask? The little icon at the top of the file. If it has been saved the icon is full color, if it has had changes it will be washed out. Nice, huh?

And just in case you forgot, you tell if a file has been saved by also checking the red close button to the left hand side of your document's menu bar. If the red button is clear, it's been saved. If not the red button will contain a nice easy to see black spot, one that looks like a bullet. Doc.

Marilyn Halpin — Mac-Fusion.com

Courtesy: Paul Taylor Hints & Tips — July 2009

paul@mac-hints-tips.com

Copy and Delete at the Same Time and Other Related Tricks

If you're archiving a file to disk (let's say to an external FireWire drive for example), you can drag the icon of the file you want to archive directly to that drive and the Mac will write a copy to that drive.

However, your original file still lives on your current hard drive. If you want to have that file deleted from your drive as soon as it's copied to another drive, just hold the Command key as you drag your icon, and the Mac will do two tasks for you: copy the file to the new drive and delete the original from your original drive.

Reference: Scott Kelby's [Mac OS X Tiger Killer Tips](#)

Apple Pro Tips

Courtesy: Paul Taylor Hints & Tips — July 2009

paul@mac-hints-tips.com

Working With Duplicated Files/Folders or Conveniently Placed Alias'

Put a Duplicate Copy Elsewhere — In a similar vein, if for some reason you want a duplicate copy of a folder filed document, on your desktop, the use the Option key and drag the file from its home to the desktop. You'll see the arrow icon turn into a plus sign. I use this method to create extra copy of old files I want to completely reedit and update. When done, you change the file name to reflect its current status. For example TMF Fundraiser Letter 2008 can be transformed to TM F Fundraiser letter 2009.

Put an Alias Elsewhere — I tend to be relatively well organized, and have created and maintained a folder structure for all my usual projects and tasks. Therefore, when I want to work on a project, like this column, I create an icon of my stored, often nested, folder and place it on my desktop. That too is simple. Select the folder for which you want to create an alias. No don't use the Finder keyboard shortcut Command-L. That creates an alias but leaves it in the folder where you created it. Instead, select the icon {folder, document – it doesn't matter} and start to drag it while pressing the Command Option Keys. Actually you drag a little first, otherwise you're simply moving the folder to a new location. When done correctly, the icon transformed to an alias which has a curved arrow in the lower left hand corner. Put the alias where you need it to be. And do your thing with the document or folder.

Harry {doc} Babad
macCompanion.com

The Northern Spy



A Tale of two Classes of Tale

By Rick Sutcliffe

Technology News and Views Since 1983

The best of companies (the upper class)

1. Logos Bible Software (Feature of the month)

CEO Bob Pritchett {not Robert L Pritchett of MPN, LLC and macCompanion}, describes this as a family business, though it now has over 160 employees, and regularly sends the Spy's other mailbox (in the TWU computing science department) ads for programmers who want to write "code that matters". Located just across the bump at the forty-ninth parallel and down to Bellingham WA, it's got potential for a relationship, though none of his students have taken the bait as yet.

For years Logos has been offering the PC world an ever elaborating library of Bible study software, but the Spy has steadfastly ignored same, as he'd always rather run real software on a real computer, and never mind the cheap imitation machines that crash daily. Things are looking up, for Logos products are now available on the Mac.

He was sent for review the Scholar's Library (standard level) on disk for \$629.95 (no printed manual included). This is one of a series of products available in five versions, ranging from the Bible Study Library at \$259.95 to the Scholar's Library: Gold at \$1379.95 (W*nd*ws has

two more versions including one at \$149.95)

The program installs as Libronix DLS, which, as readers will recall from a couple of months ago, confused the Spy, given that the packaging just mentions Logos Bible software, and Libronix appears only in the fine print copyright notices. Apparently Libronix is a Logos subsidiary, which makes sense, as it could be marketed as a standalone eBook library manager and used in other contexts.

At the Scholar's Library level the customer receives a vast number of Bibles, Bible MS fragments, lexicons, reference materials, study tools, and a considerable collection of history, theology, ministry, leadership, and other resources. At the very top end (:Gold), a number of additional works are added into the mix, including critical apparatus, apologetics works, more references, and multivolume sets such as The United Bible Society Handbooks and the journal Semeia. The Logos site has a detailed comparison chart of the various products along with a large number of supplemental offerings that can be added as one-offs (for a price of course).

When you first fire up Libronix you get a news (home) window and an alert box (can be turned off). This gives Logos two opportunities to upsell to new library materials, upgrades, and the like. For instance the latest alert wanted to know if I would like to upgrade my Nelson unlock (if I had it) to over 500 works, including additional materials by John MacArthur and new reference works the company publishes.

For Christians, the Living Word means everything, and the Written Word (mediated by the Holy Spirit) that reveals Him is their only source for doctrine. Getting it right is therefore critical. (Aside: some travelers found in Christian churches tend to extend this to being right about everything else as well, an unfortunate side-effect, but one that will pass when both faith and self-righteousness become sight.) However, this means one needs to know: 1. What the word says, 2. What it means in the original context, 3. How to apply it in the current and personal context.

Bible software handles the first of these and assists with the second. The third may be aided via an extensive library of commentary,

apologetics, and Christian living advice, as well as an uncommon dose of common sense, though it is always amazing how much light the scriptures themselves throw on the commentaries.

Thus, the heart of any Bible software is the search engine, and Libronix, as befits a library manager paradigm, places this menu immediately after Apple's obligatory File and Edit menus and approaches the function liberally. (Should he use that term here?) The user has the option of a basic search (defaults to all available resources), a Bible search (defaults to all available Bibles but can be specified down to specific versions, Bible books, or even MS fragments), and Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic morphological searches (type the English word and specify the conjugation or declension).

A morphological search will produce a list of results with the tagged original language context, paralleled in what ever texts the user has specified. The default for Greek is all the Logos-supplied texts that come with their morphological tags. It took the Spy a couple of tries and a trip to the help files to determine how to use this tool, but it is quite powerful, even if non-intuitive.

Crossing the bar, the "Go" menu offers the choices "My Library", "Topic Browser", and "Reference Browser" for direct access to the complete indexed text of specified or selected resources. For instance, one can pull up the complete eBook text of, say, a specific John MacArthur title, if it is available in the purchased collection. Using the View: menu, one can then display a hyperlinked contents pane for navigation through the book in question.

The "Favorites" menu allows one to maintain a list of commonly accessed texts, partly for restricting searches, if so desired.

The "Tools" menu allows one to manage the contact details, set up an account and purchase additional books and resources from Logos, define "collections" do some library management, do Bible study with a passage or exegetical guide, a word study, or a parallel version (KJV, NIV and NASB) comparison. For instance, Typing John 1:1-2 in the passage guide gives a list of all the resources (commentaries, etc) with

material available explicating that passage. The exegetical guide for the same passage (you can switch back and forth from either) gives a word by word breakdown of the verses hyperlinked back in to the context. (It would be better if the hyperlinks were to a Greek Lexicon, though.)

Logos earns an A+ from the professor for the web site, which not only has detailed product and individual resource info, but support, blogs, RSS feeds and a wealth of information.

In all, the Spy has only minor quibbles. First, as previously noted in this space, installation was confusing, with a customer ID, a customer code, an activation code, and a serial number to consider. It required an email to complete the process. If this arcane installation process is a PC world staple, it's no wonder the Mac side harbours so many refugees. Second, personal information is requested multiple times--when installing, when setting up an account, in the program info, when asking for the widget (Bible lookup), etc. Once is enough. Third, the Tools/Account Management menu item has nothing to do with the user's account at Logos, and is merely yet another repository of personal information sent to them for who knows what purpose. Fourth, some information of the website is not coordinated. For instance, the product info says that the Scholar's Library: Silver is the lowest to have the Vulgate, but the product comparison shows it is now in all versions. Fifth, and perhaps most important, there is no obvious way to add works to Libronix except through Logos. Finally, two products, and a few of the site tools, such as software update, are still PC only.

The bottom line: The Logos product is not (yet) the thousand pound gorilla of Bible study software. That honour goes to Accordance, available only on the Mac, and for many in religious Studies, sufficient reason by itself to buy that platform (their killer app). On the other hand, for scholars it is light years ahead of, say, free software such as the late Ken Hamel's Mac version of Online Bible--not that the latter isn't a useful program for casual study, but it's future is perhaps unclear.

However, the Libronix/Logos product is, nonetheless compelling, especially for a first version of an initial Mac offering. The UI is well done (doesn't look like a port), searches are fast and comprehensive, the

morphological mark up excellent, and the web-based support superb (contact support not tested enough to say). If what you want to do is manage a large library of related materials, this is the product for you. It would be interesting to see Libronix as a standalone eBook manager, at least allowing user materials to be added, and perhaps as a university textbook container. (Somebody has to do it, so why not?) Buy at least the scholar level, if you can spring for the bucks. Highly recommended.

2. Apple

earns another mention in this category, at least at the date of this writing, when the company released financial results for fiscal 2009's third quarter ending June 29. iSteve's little outfit earned revenues of \$8.34 billion and netted quarterly profits of \$1.23 billion, or \$1.35 per share. These results compare to \$1.19 per share, in the corresponding quarter a year ago, and represent their best non-holiday quarter yet. Other figures appear to show Mac shipments up, against the market trend, iPod touch and iPhone sales leading that sector's way, and Apple one of the most profitable telephony enterprises. Can't complain about all this if you're either a customer or a shareholder.

The worst of companies (the under class)

1. Palm

Reports on the once-great and now fading diva of the smartphone business suggest that large numbers (as high as a scarcely believable 40%) of Palm Pres are being returned. If even half true, it may be the final death knell for a company that lost its vision somewhere along the road. Pity.

2. Microsoft

Another once-important icon of the industry seems to be fading. Few people are interested in Vista Service pack 2 (er, Windows 7), and the lumbering behemoth seems mired in the tar pits of despond, sales declining, unable to either polish its one old idea or create a new one. Maybe the U.S. of A will have to come up with a rescue package.

3. Rogers (clunker of the month, perhaps of the year)

Readers will recall the Spy's misadventures last month trying to buy an iPhone, ones that ended with Rogers in contradiction over

whether he was eligible to do so, and if not, why not.

After some contradictory debate with ill-equipped and poorly trained low level service types over a supposed contract the Spy was under (one he had no knowledge of) he was passed to a higher-level "management" person, who thought himself better informed.

Following one or two more non-information-containing messages, he finally advised the Spy that when he'd taken the phone over from his employer he inherited the tail end of a service contract that was in effect to October 7, 2009. Advised that this was news, the service fellow blamed the employer for not telling him. Questioned further about the date, whose only obvious significance was the day the Spy had taken over the contract (and therefore irrelevant except by extraordinary coincidence to any preexisting agreement) the service rep changed this story, now claiming the employer's renewal date for this five and a half year old phone had been October 1, and was valid to 2009.

Further advised that not one but two Rogers reps at the time (and one more since) were specifically asked and replied there was no extant contract and the relationship was to be month-to-month, he ducked and evaded, but would not reply to the point or take any responsibility. The Spy was under contract, it would cost \$200 to cancel, no there was no recourse, tough--all his employer's fault. The lack of any evidence for a written or oral agreement at the time was of no consequence. If Rogers said there was a contract, there was, and per its terms. Pull it out of thin air, why not, as far as the Spy was concerned. 'Course, the Spy cannot prove he was told there would be no contract any more than Rogers can produce his name on an agreement to anything. If he lived in the U.S. of Litigation, some lawyer could have fun with this.

The Spy finally gave up and ordered a cancellation and severance (without prejudice) of all relationship as of whichever magical October date they arbitrarily imagined a contract to exist. It wasn't worth a lawsuit. Besides, the incident does provide fodder for entertainment in this space, as well as a cautionary tale on corporate intransigence, stupidity, deception (possibly not deliberate) and single minded evasion

of responsibility. Perhaps it's worth tracking down more senior management or making a complaint to the CRTC, but the Spy has many other fish to fry, and Rogers seems already quite cooked in its own incompetent fat.

This bottom lines: First and obviously, the Spy will never purchase products or services from Rogers again, and must advise his readers to avoid the company like the plague, and therefore to boycott iPhones in Canada until there is competition (second source Fido is owned by Rogers).

Second, he has learned that in the absence of something in writing, a telephone contract is whatever the company says it is, so if and when he obtains a new cellphone from someone else, it will be a purchase only, and he will require in writing an undertaking that there are nothing but month-to-month obligations. Who knew you need a written contract to prove that there is no contract?

Third, he will purchase the functionality of phone and PDA separately, if at all. He uses a cell when traveling, but automobile use is about to be outlawed, he can't use it in an airplane, and an iPod touch will do everything else necessary, because all the places where he finds himself stationary have Wi-Fi.

Fourth, although per the Spy's First Law, one ought not to pass laws against stupidity, nearly all law is just that. In this case, it ought to be a requirement that all contracts for utility service be in writing, the term also stated on the bill (it was not), and with a thirty-day period to cancel if on reflection, the terms are not acceptable.

Finally, the more carefully considered bottom line. Tales like these are so ubiquitous, from nearly all providers, and including many that star land lines as protagonist, that the Spy is becoming convinced the days of telephony must be numbered. Suppose Wi-Fi (or some successor) were ubiquitous (as it is becoming in some cities). Wouldn't telephone companies be as obsolete as typewriter manufacturers? Would they be missed any more than the platen? What's a platen? Just so.

Software received

includes Freeway, the latest iteration (version 5.4) of the web site creation software from Soft Press. (Nice web site there. One assumes it was created with the product.) The Spy will move one of his many web sites into the product and try for a review in either September or October.

Strange incident of the month

is courtesy of Amazon, who on discovering that they were selling unauthorized editions of George Orwell's books reached into customer's Kindle eBook readers and deleted the files, then refunded the purchase price. They could, so they had to, but how 1984ish is this?

Medium Technology Product of the Month

is the Spy's new pressure washer, a BE product under the PowerEase brand name (they have others, such as XTreme) and purchased from incomparable tool store KMS (new Langley branch on the Bypass). BE is a local assembler combining Honda engines with pumps from various manufacturers on a small trolley, but produces products that are not at all bad. Good quality workmanship, does what it says, works like a charm. Would that high technology were always so. The only flaw: The inexpensive gun on the supplied wand locks up under high pressures and the trigger cannot be pulled to release it. BE doesn't have its own domain, but its site content is fairly professional looking, though slightly out of date.

Motivation for the project: Getting a machine that can easily handle a long extension-style wand, so the Spy can wash the whole two-story house standing on the ground. (A severed rotator cuff tendon makes it difficult for this old croc even to carry and set up his twenty-two foot wooden ladder, much less to hang on with one hand and wash with the other.) Worked, too. Son Joel now has his old pressure washer with the non-standard connectors and the shorter reach. Hmm. See some common elements here?

--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>

Logos: <http://www.logos.com/mac/>

Accordance: <http://www.accordancebible.com/>

Online Bible: <http://www.online-bible.com/maonlinebible.html>

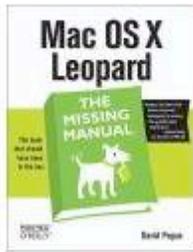
Soft Press (Freeway): <http://www.softpress.com>

BE (Pressure Washers): <http://bep.dreamhosters.com/>

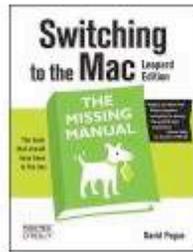
KMS Tools: <http://www.kmstools.com/>

Books

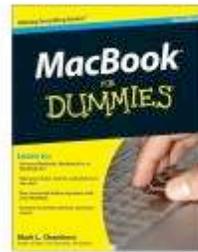
Amazon macCompanion Store



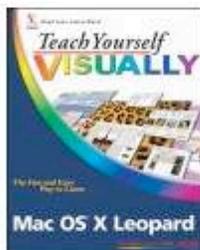
[Mac OS X Leopard: The Missing Manual](#)
by David Pogue
\$23.09



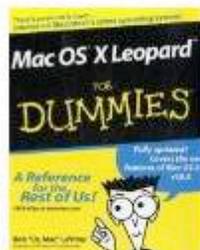
[Switching to the Mac: The Missing Manual, L...](#)
by David Pogue
\$19.79



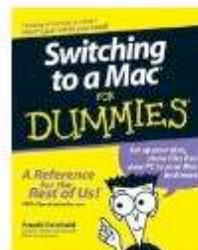
[MacBook For Dummies \(For Dummies \(Computer/...](#)
by Mark L. Chambers
\$16.49



[Teach Yourself VISUALLY Mac OS X Leopard \(T...](#)
by Lynette Kent
\$19.79



[Mac OS X Leopard For Dummies \(For Dummies \(...](#)
by Bob LeVitus
\$14.95



[Switching to a Mac For Dummies \(For Dummies...](#)
by Arnold Reinhold
\$14.95



[Mac OS X Leopard Bible](#)
by Samuel A. Litt
\$23.09



[The Little Mac Book, Leopard Edition \(Littl...](#)
by Robin Williams
\$13.59



[The Mac OS X Leopard Book](#)
by Scott Kelby
\$14.99

Apple Training Series: Mac OS X Advanced System Administration v10/5 - A Guide to the Advanced Aspects of System Administration with Mac OS X and the Mac OS X Server

Reviewed by Robert Pritchett



Author: Edward R Marczak
Peachpit

<http://www.peachpit.com/store/product.aspx?isbn=032156314X>

Released: July 18, 2008

Pages: 383

\$65 USD, \$71 CND

Requirements: Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard, having read both the *Server Essentials* and the *Support Essentials* books. Root level access on Macs. Knowledge of the Command Line Interface needed.

Skills Assessment Guide

ISBN: 9780321563149

Strengths: Contents will help in preparing for the ACSA exam.

Weaknesses: Occasional typos in text.

Errata

Introduction

"This in-depth look at advanced topics in Mac network administration shows system administrators and other IT professionals how to use Mac OS X Server v10.5 within a multiplatform, heterogeneous environment. Following the learning objectives of the Apple Certified System Administrator course, this book is a perfect study aid for the Apple Certified System Administrator exam."

What I Learned



This book contains information not revealed in the *Server Essentials* book, also reviewed this month.

A solid knowledge of the Command Line Interface is needed.

Familiarity with DNS, NTP, firewalls and RADIUS would be extremely helpful.

There is some duplication of information between this book in the first part and that of the *Mac OS X Deployment* and the *Server Essentials* book, also reviewed this month.

The importance of this book is how it is laid out with the intent of helping us understand "Apple-think" regarding admin support and in passing the certification exam for the [Apple Certified System Administrator](#).

I also found these sites to also be of tremendous help:

[AFP548](#)

[Apple Remote Desktop](#)

[Mac Admin Corner](#)

[MacEnterprise](#)

[MacTech magazine](#)

Conclusion

This book tends to be a bit overpriced on the cover, but it does provide a solid foundation for preparing for the ACSA exam.

Head First Networking

Reviewed by Robert Pritchett

O'REILLY®

Authors: Al Anderson, Ryan Benedetti

O'Reilly

Released: May 2009

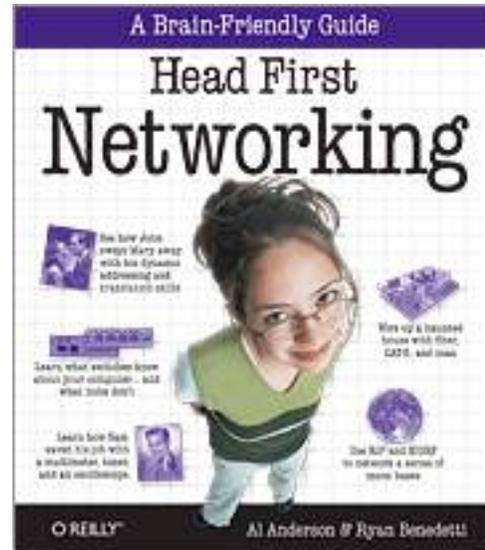
Pages: 536

\$55 USD, \$69 CND

ISBN: 9780596521554

Strengths: Good foundation on networking infrastructure for beginners.

Weaknesses: Outdated technologies emphasized. Overly simplistic in its approach to educating on networking infrastructures.



Introduction

Frustrated with networking books so chock-full of acronyms that your brain goes into sleep mode? *Head First Networking's* unique, visually rich format provides a task-based approach to computer networking that makes it easy to get your brain engaged. You'll learn the concepts by tying them to on-the-job tasks, blending practice and theory in a way that only Head First can.

With this book, you'll learn skills through a variety of genuine scenarios, from fixing a malfunctioning office network to planning a network for a high-technology haunted house. You'll learn exactly what you need to know, rather than a laundry list of acronyms and diagrams. This book will help you:

- Master the functionality, protocols, and packets that make up real-world networking
- Learn networking concepts through examples in the field
- Tackle tasks such as planning and diagramming networks, running cables, and configuring network devices such as routers and switches
- Monitor networks for performance and problems, and learn troubleshooting

techniques

- Practice what you've learned with nearly one hundred exercises, questions, sample problems, and projects

Head First's popular format is proven to stimulate learning and retention by engaging you with images, puzzles, stories, and more. Whether you're a network professional with a CCNA/CCNP or a student taking your first college networking course, *Head First Networking* will help you become a network guru.

What I Learned

I used to teach low voltage courses for union electricians. This book actually identified which wires in a Category 5 cable are positive and negative and which direction the signal flows in the solid and striped wires. Otherwise, most of the information was dated and superficial. I tend to agree with the reviewers on Amazon.com.

The book follows the tried-and-true methods of the excellent Head First series. It falls short on being up-to-date on networking technologies.

Conclusion

"Visually rich", yes, technically rich, not so much. Great place to start, but you need other books to dig deeper.

Apple Training Series: Mac OS X Deployment v10/5 - A Guide to Deploying and Maintaining Mac OS X and Mac OS X Software

Reviewed by Robert Pritchett



Author: Kevin M. White

Peachpit

Released: June 27, 2008

Pages: 384

\$60 USD, \$66 CND

Requirements: Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard. Having previously read *Support Essentials* and *Server Essentials*. Apple Remote Desktop. Knowledge of the Command Line Interface.

Skills Assessment Guide

ISBN: 9780321502681

Strengths: Helps prepare for the ACSA, log with the *Directory Services, Advanced System Administration* and *Server Essentials* books.

Weaknesses: Occasional typos in text.

Introduction

"Mac OS X v10.5 Deployment v10.5 uses a combination of task-based instruction and strong visuals to teach intermediate and advanced users how to deploy a wide range of files and systems to multiple users in a large organization. Author Kevin White takes readers through the deployment of software, ranging from individual files, to complete systems, to multiple users, discussing the range of methodologies used. Intermediate users will learn how to use Apple deployment tools, including Disk Utility, PackageMaker, Apple Software Restore, and NetBoot. Advanced users will learn how to customize deployment solutions with scripts to provide post-installation configuration. Throughout the book, users learn how to tie all of the



Mac OS X Deployment v10.5

A Guide to Deploying and Maintaining Mac OS X and Mac OS X Software

Kevin M. White



solutions together to create fully integrated software and hardware deployment plans."

What I Learned

This book spends time going over the Apple Remote Desktop, so in order to really appreciate it, a copy of that software app is crucial.

The importance of this book is how it is laid out with the intent of helping us understand "Apple-think" regarding admin support and in passing the certification exam for the [Apple Certified System Administrator](#).

I also found these sites to also be of tremendous help:

[Apple Developer Connection](#)
[Apple Remote Desktop](#)
[MacEnterprise](#)

Conclusion

This book is intended for those who are Apple System Administrators and those who plan to use Apple Remote Desktop to do troubleshooting and maintenance remotely.

the myths of security: what the computer security industry doesn't want you to know

Reviewed by Robert L Pritchett

O'REILLY®

Author: John Viega

O'Reilly

Released: June 29, 2009

Pages: 260

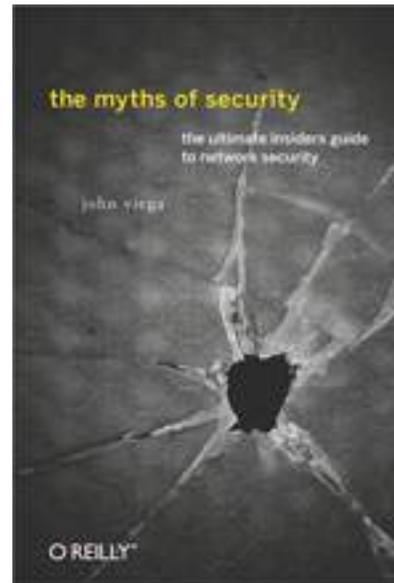
\$0 USD, \$8 CND

ISBN: 9780596523022

Strengths: A compilation of unvarnished opinion-pieces regarding computer security topics.

Weaknesses: Much of the information is rather superficially discussed.

Broadcast



Introduction

"If you think computer security has improved in recent years, *The Myths of Security* will shake you out of your complacency. Longtime security professional John Viega, formerly Chief Security Architect at McAfee, reports on the sorry state of the industry, and offers concrete suggestions for professionals and individuals confronting the issue. Why is security so bad? With many more people online than just a few years ago, there are more attackers -- and they're truly motivated. Attacks are sophisticated, subtle, and harder to detect than ever. But, as Viega notes, few people take the time to understand the situation and protect themselves accordingly. This book tells you:

- Why it's easier for bad guys to "own" your computer than you think.
- Why anti-virus software doesn't work well -- and one simple way to fix it.
- Whether Apple OS X is more secure than Windows.
- What Windows needs to do better.
- How to make strong authentication pervasive.
- Why patch management is so bad.

- Whether there's anything you can do about identity theft.
- Five easy steps for fixing application security.

Provocative, insightful, and always controversial, *The Myths of Security* not only addresses IT professionals who deal with security issues, but also speaks to Mac and PC users who spend time online."

What I Learned

The book reads like screenscrapes from a Blog. The author could not have written it without having left McAfee, but they hired him back anyway. And by the way, he does use a Mac. I love his subtle comparisons between platforms. And he did dedicate one chapter, oh so briefly, regarding Apple security. Some of his chapters are one-pagers.

Take the book as a gauntlet thrown down at the feet of the multi-trillion-dollar per year computer security business. John Viega describes the security emperor as not having any clothes – and then describes ways and means of how to dress him/her.

The book isn't so much an overview and "tell all" as it is an action book describing what can/will be done from an "insider". The fact that he switched platforms speaks volumes.

He has put into words the way many feel about computer security technologies, whether they are "Crap-CHAs", Personal Firewalls, Anti-Virus packages or improving authentication processes (he doesn't much care for signatures and certificates either), nor does he have any kind words regarding VPNs. And he has a special dislike for HTTPS. He certainly has no love for computer security programming books that are outdated and decades old.

He does, however provide some direction regarding technologies he is personally involved with and will be revealed sometime on the near future – less invasive and fewer keystrokes.

The book reads like a smorgasborg of a little here, a little there, for a full plate of a bit of everything on computer security. The book has an Index, but no Reference section and get this, no web links, except in precious few places.

The publisher of the book apparently asked him to include the female gender in the text, so there are some funny lines with gals being called guys in sentences with "her/she" instead of him/he".

I found most intriguing, his discussion regarding "Responsible Disclosures" by software manufacturers and those who would capitalize on their vulnerabilities and security update processes.

Conclusion

Buy the book if you want to get a better idea of the current situation, regarding the computer security industry – and maybe get a glimpse of what may appear in the near future. It is a call to action for the industry.

Don't buy the book, if you are looking for in-depth and annotated documentation on computer security and protocols.

Apple Training Series: Mac OS X Server Essentials, 2nd Edition - A Guide to Using and Supporting Mac OS X Server v10.5

Reviewed by Robert Pritchett



Authors: Schoun Regan, David Pugh
Peachpit

Released: January 7, 2008

Pages: 538

\$60 USD

Requirements: Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard and at least two Mac-based computers that can run under Mac OS X 10.5.

Skills Assessment Guide

ISBN: 9780321496607

Strengths: Outside Apple's Knowledgebase, this is it for documentation regarding Mac OS X Server.

Weaknesses: Occasional typos in text. Not very helpful for practical server support.



Mac OS X Server Essentials Second Edition

A Guide to Using and Supporting Mac OS X Server v10.5

By Schoun Regan and David Pugh



Introduction

"The only Apple-certified book on Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard, this comprehensive reference takes support technicians and ardent Mac users deep inside their operating systems, covering everything from networking technologies to system administration, customizing the operating system, command-line programming, and more. Keyed to the learning objectives of the Apple Certified Technical Coordinator certification exam, the lessons in this self-paced volume serve as a perfect supplement to Apple's own training class and a first-rate primer for computer support personnel who need to troubleshoot and optimize Mac OS X as part of their jobs. Self-quizzes and chapter tests reinforce the knowledge gained along the way."

What I Learned

The book does have an occasional editorial typo. It misses the opportunity to address deeper topics in eMail support and in 3rd-party apps such as Ruby on Rails, etc. It is not comprehensive, but rather focuses most of its attention on passing the ACTC and ACSA certification exams.

What was revealing is there isn't that much different between the server version and the stand-alone version of Mac OS X. It is the "extras" that come with the server version that make all the difference. The hooks into non-Mac legacy systems (read Microsoft "services") in version 10.5 is also a welcome plus.

The importance of this book is how it is laid out with the intent of helping us understand "Apple-think" regarding server-based support and in passing the certification exams for both the [Apple Certified Technical Coordinator](#) and the [Apple Certified System Administrator](#).

I also found these sites to also be of tremendous help:

[AFP548](#)
[MacEnterprise](#)

Conclusion

Start with the book and then if need, be go attend a class in order to pas the exam. It is that simple.

Apple Training Series: Mac OS X Support Essentials, 2nd Edition - A Guide to Supporting and Troubleshooting Mac OS X 10.5

Reviewed by Robert Pritchett



Author: Kevin M. White

Peachpit

Released: December 22, 2007

Pages: 592

\$55 USD, \$66 CND

Requirements: Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard..

Skills Assessment Guide

ISBN: 9780321489814

Strengths: Helps prepare for the ACSP and a better understanding of Mac OS X.

Weaknesses: Occasional typos in text.

Errata



Introduction

"The only Apple-certified book on supporting Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard, this comprehensive reference takes support technicians and Mac aficionados deep inside the new operating system, covering everything from installation to networking technologies, and more. Following the learning objectives of the Apple Certified Support Professional exam, the lessons in this self-paced volume serve as a perfect guide for Apple's own training class and a first-rate primer for computer support personnel who need to troubleshoot and optimize Mac OS X as part of their jobs. Lesson-review quizzes reinforce the knowledge gained along the way."

What I Learned

As old as this book is, it still has value. It apparently was rushed to print, because of all the typos. The errata sheet barely covers the baddies.

The importance of this book is how it is laid out with the intent of helping us understand "Apple-think" regarding admin support and in passing the certification exam for the [Apple Certified Support Professional](#).

I also found these sites to also be of tremendous help:

[Apple Consultants](#)

[Apple Knowledgebase Support](#)

[Mac Help Desk](#)

[Macintosh Reference Guide](#)

[Tech Support Forums](#)

Conclusion

This is the foundation book on which the other Apple Training Series books are based. It is time for an update. I suspect that won't happen until after Snow Leopard is released.

Software

AstoundSound Audio Enhancer Version 2.1

Reviewed by Ted Bade



GenAudio
12999 E. Adam Aircraft Circle
Suite 200
Englewood, CO 80112
<http://genaudioinc.com/>
\$39.95 USD

System Requirements: Leopard (10.5.1) or higher, 1 GHz Intel or PPC (G5) processor, 1GB RAM, Stereo audio output, Internet access

Strengths: Easy to use, great audio enhancements.

Weaknesses: Not a lot of tweakability for the geeks in the crowd.
For a 30-day demo of this product: <http://genaudioinc.com/>

Introduction

This little gem is a neat and simple way to enhance the audio coming from your Mac. It adds depth and dimension to audio output and does it with a simple easy to understand interface.



This program used some of your massive computer power to perform a bit of Digital Signal Processing magic. Using a variety of techniques, it adds back depth and dimension to standard stereo sounds. The details of how and why this works can be a bit complicated, but the effects will make your ears tingle with pleasure! AstoundAudio installs as a system preference pane. There are three basic settings and "Off" to choose from. You select the listening mode to be either Movies, Music, or Games. The audio expander then manipulates the output audio in a fashion that best suits that usage. One might think it a little pretentious of the programmer to assume what sounds best for your ears, but the results speak for themselves. If given more controls, most users might not even touch more than this level of control, and even those people who are into tweaking things, would probably become complacent with one particular set up that works well for them.

I found the results to be spectacular over all. Audio is always better with headphones and the enhancements here sound even better with the controlled environment of the headphone. It is very hard to describe with words the subtle differences that are added to output audio when this application is used. While it doesn't have the depth of live audio, it comes a lot closer than the standard un-enhanced audio that normally comes out of a Mac. You really do have to hear it to appreciate it. Luckily the company's web site offers some examples of enhanced audio. While I am sure their examples are fine tuned for best hearing, they do give

a great sound “feel” for the results you will get.

My only complaint about this product is that there is so little to tweak. Other than basic DB level or selecting a format of audio you wish to enhance, there are no controls. On one hand, this is a good thing, because tweaking audio can be a lot of work. Which means the average user will love simply selecting one button and enjoying the results. People who like to poke about with technology, might not be as happy.



Conclusion

Overall, I thought this program was really great. I enjoy the expansion and added dimensions that this brings to my music and movies on the Mac. If you are looking for a simple to use audio enhancer, you would do well to give AstoundSound Audio Enhancer a try. Why continue to listen to dull dimensionless audio when a simple solution like this program exists?



DiscLabel 6.0.1 — Customize/Personalize your media packaging the SmileOnMyMac way

Reviewed by Harry {doc} Babad © 2009

[SmileOnMyMac, LLC](#)

info@smileonmymac.com, or support@DiscLabel.com

Released: 10 June 2009; Size: 23.1 MB

Individual \$35.95; Family Pack: \$54.95 (up to 5 computers in one household)

Upgrade from earlier versions of DiscLabel: \$15 USD

System Requirements: Mac OS X 4.0 or later including Leopard; PPC/Intel, printer access.



Strengths: With its enhanced interface and added features, this product is, for now, the leader in the Macintosh media labeling software. Using its excellent and downloadable 80-page manual makes it easy to polish your label/insert creation skills beyond the intuitive. If you don't like manuals, who does, play, the DiscLabel user interface is truly intuitive (e.g., Mac-like.)

Weaknesses: Nothing worth noting – but I still can't make up my mind which of the two leading media labeling product is best. — I use both, not quite randomly: but!

Previous Reviews: [DiscLabel 4.1.1 by Harry {Doc} Babad](#)

User Levels: All— Beginner/Intermediate/Advanced

Multilingual Versions are available for English, Japanese, German, Italian, and French users.

[Demo Download Page.](#)

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

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

Disclaimer: When briefly reviewing some aspects of a software product I will often use the developer's product, functions and features descriptions. 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

One of the most difficult aspects of being a software reviewer is being caught between a rock and a hard spot between two products whose functionality and interface you love. I find myself in such a quandary when reviewing SmileOnMyMac's DiscLabel 6.0.1, and previously reviewing Belight Software's Disc Cover, now 2.3.1.

Over the years, starting with Version 1.x of these products, I find myself acting as a human pendulum: going back and forth between these two powerful but easy to use tools, on a random whim basis. Indeed during all of my upgrades, all of the CD/DVD I've archived labels for repeated use or as templates have remained useful and their design elements accurate as the day I created them. Indeed as far as I'm concerned, I can not tell you that one product is better for you or me to use than the other. — It's more a thing on how easily and naturally design elements flow into the individual but comparable interfaces. When all is said and done, except for nuances, there are very few ways to create a great, easy to use and functional piece of labeling software, or for that matter word processor.

Although the features of the two programs are comparable, there may be differences, depending on your software and hardware setup. The kinds of information you want to archive and how easily you can extract information from your burner or graphics or video software to add to the disc label. It's all about how much 'contents' detail do you want on your data music, photo or videodisc labels. If any of these things matter significantly read the fine print. This could be especially true if you want to directly incorporate lots of information on your labels. The ease of use of a given product, depending on your support software might make a difference. There may be such differences other than the look and feel of the interface to help you choice.

DiscLabel helps you make great looking labels for your CDs, DVDs, and related materials. The software package contains everything you need to design, print and apply custom media labels and inserts. This major upgrade features new design

tools, such as multiple layer support and gradients, as well as interface improvements that simplify the creation of new designs. We've streamlined the new design creation process, whether the user wants to use a template or create a custom design from scratch."

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. Then decide which preference setting you prefer and start to create your media labels, CD Jewel case Covers, CD Jewel case booklets, CD Spines or... A comparable list of design features is available for use with standard and multi-set DVDs and also assorted media specialty products like *business card* CDs.

The download is a fully operational free trial version of DiscLabel CD and DVD labeling software. It is identical to the purchased version, except that it stamps the word "Demo" on all printouts. The "Demo" stamp is removed from printouts once the product is purchased and the associated registration information is entered in the registration dialog.

Using the Software



Since most of the CD's and DVDS I create are data CDs for which I create readme files, there are few labeling distractions to force me to chose more complex labeling software features.

For my 'collections' I use disc-cataloging software and add a reader to the CD along with a catalog. Recently I've used just a combination of the PrintFinder {Windows} application 4.4.2 outputting to a PDF file and

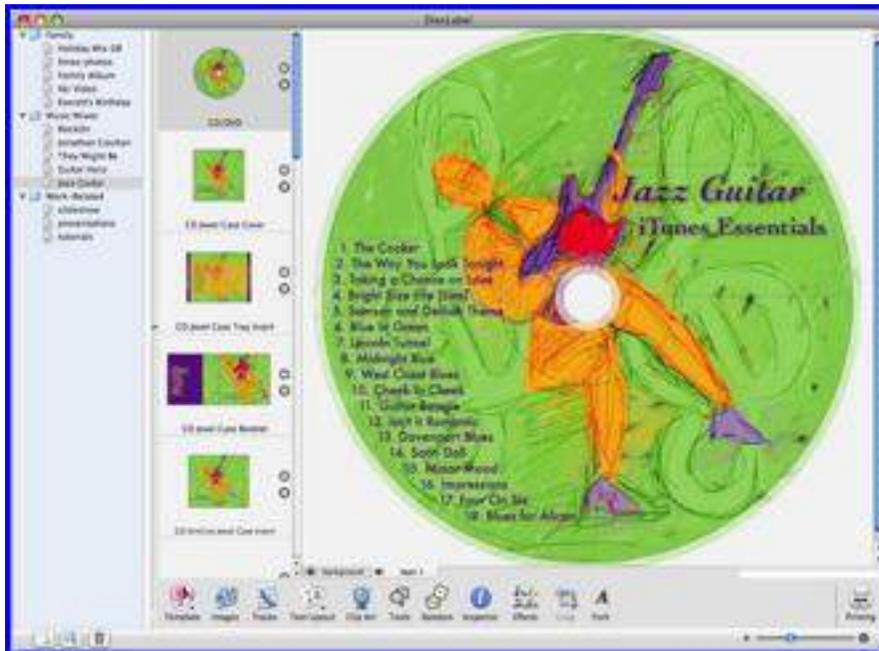
occasionally tweaking the result in Acrobat Pro, mainly for esthetic purposes.

<http://www.macupdate.com/info.php/id/16935/printfinder>

I do have twos foibles, that could have affected the recommendations in this review – It's a full disclosure thing.

Complexity of Media Labels — I do not as a rule go in for fancy and artistic media cover labels, so defacto only scanned the rich collection of available templates. In this set, I found the business labels potentially useful, should I want to step out of my KISS labeling mode.

The rare times I want to:



a) Duplicate a music CD I do a high resolution scan of the label,

b) When I create a music sampler, I make a highly transparent (muted) collage of the artists represented, or the album cover showing the artists, from images I've gathered from Google Images or the Internet. I

found the redesigned and more flexible new montage tool for creating easier to use when recreating a sampler cover. It allows the use of a wide variety of photomontage styles and facilitates adding them to design elements.



The DiscLabel Toolbar

My CD/DVD Label Stationary Limitations — I now use only full coverage disc media, for labels, since it allows me a less "holey" graphic, that better highlight my background graphics. However, both allow me the option of selecting the paper {Brand and Layout template) on which I print. Forcing the products to default to a full coverage label has been an unsolved trial and error problem. I've not been able to elect to show the new design or the pre designed templates ONLY in full coverage format. This makes it harder to judge layout appearances. However, when going to print, all the extraneous guidelines and 'shadow effects' disappear. I have not yet figured out why the previous example only shows the full coverage view.

Well perhaps tomorrow.

Enhanced Features –Kudos



- Simplified interface for creating new designs and selecting templates – It's even easier than in the previous 4.x version I'd reviewed.
- New inspector palette for easy editing of object, image, and text properties. I did have one gripe about the inspector pallet. I could not, to ease my poor eyes, figure out an easy way to make the pallet window large, by dragging on its right-hand lower corner. For shame, since many of us have older eyes, and

working through Apple's *Universal Access* preferences panel, make the changes to the whole OS, not just to part of an application.

- Enhanced image import palette offers multiple options for inserting images and can add images into all label and packaging design elements simultaneously.
- Text Layout Templates, a feature I had missed, if it was a part of an earlier version of Disc label. These templates serve to allow placement of large amounts of text, in a more attractive mode than I'd been able to achieve by trial and error.
- A well-designed 80-page users manual that can be downloaded as a PDF for reference, away from my computer. As my readers may note I like to read printed users manuals.
- Include (and edit!) multi-line text laid out in a circle. This feature worked well, with one exception, for me. I could not figure out how to change the spacing between the first line of a circular text grouping and the second.

Annotated Additional Key Features of Note

Random Design Generator — A fascinating toy, which all functions randomized, can on rare occasions create an archive quality design for use as a future template. They didn't for me, but I never win, even pennies, at Lotto. This is a feature that reaches out to the inner child in us.



Enhanced Montage Tools — A powerful and flexible new montage tool for creating a wide variety of photomontages and adding them to design elements. I wonder whether the tool allows one to create a 'classical' jigsaw montage with the different image arranged in overlapping arrangements; a montage variant I could not find a way to create. After an hour of work, the best I could do was a simple five to seven image montage, achieved by trial and error. The two examples below, which I find interesting, are

Google images reproductions. However when working with the montage feature, my greatest irritation was not being able to do away with the shadow effect associated with large hole CD medias. I use only full coverage labels. Note this effect was absent from, the other templates for CD inserts, booklets and the like.



Note: There are no edges or seams on the music oriented cover collage. But that is likely to require a more

professional imaging program like those sold by Adobe.

As noted above working with collages becomes harder when creating disk labels.

Conclusions and Recommendation

DiscLabel' is simple, it's elegant, it's feature-rich, combines an user intuitive interface with industrial weight design features accessible to mere mortals or design impaired users. DiscLabel is affordable, it's attractive, and of course, bet of all — it works. That will put a grin {smile} on your face. Since, every disc needs a label, as trite truism, except for my teenage grandson why not create one that is attractive. Anyone exposed to my hand marked {Sharpie Media Marker} output will understand why software is better!

What many of us prefer is a label that either 1) communicates the media's contents simply, 2) has great style suggesting that we do too; or 3) does both well. DiscLabel's attractive; ca. 150 pre-designed templates look as though you'd hired someone who knew what they were doing to design your label. Use the redesigned templates as a starting point, or as a basis for a template redesign; it is easy and fast. Of course, if you know what you're doing, or want to take a few hours to play, you can design your own, too. DiscLabel can simply add your design to its other templates, so you can use it again and again. That's what I've done for my professional consulting media label needs.

So I'm delighted to be Macdicted to both products, as I discussed in the introduction to this review... not being able to decide, so I keep using *'LabelDiscCover'* or *'CoverDiscLabel'* ...whatever. Also, I'm stingy so the best rating I give for complex products is 4.5 macC's — so be it! Call it still acting like a rebellious academic, as a youthful college professor in the mid-60's I hated curves.

I agree with Cyril Richard, in a review posted on the DiscLabel web site that "labeling a CD or DVD can give it your own personal touch as long as you do it right. DiscLabel takes you through it in an intuitive interface and offers loads of templates to work with. The program can import images and track lists from pretty much any source, like iTunes, iPhoto or Toast, giving you complete freedom as to the content you use to assemble your labels."

I found it excellent value, and extremely well worth considering if you are going to make more than one or two media labels a month. Indeed, other than not being able to make up my mind between competitive products, I would purchase this software from my own pocket were I not a software reviewer. I am again pleased to give it a 4.5 macC rating.

Drive Genius 2 Version 2.2

Reviewed by Robert L Pritchett



Prosoft Engineering, Inc.
303 Ray Street
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-621-2412

Contact: http://www.prosofteng.com/contact_us.php
http://www.prosofteng.com/products/drive_genius_sysreq.php

Released: July 28, 2009

\$99 USD

Requirements: Mac OS X 10.4.9 or later, 256 MB RAM,
DVD drive

Strengths: Competes with TechTool Pro and DiskWarrior.
"Ready for Snow Leopard".

Weaknesses: Defrag app has "issues". Not ready for Leopard.
Data Rescue II may be needed to recover from defragging.
RAID not supported.

Downloads: <http://www.prosofteng.com/downloads/>

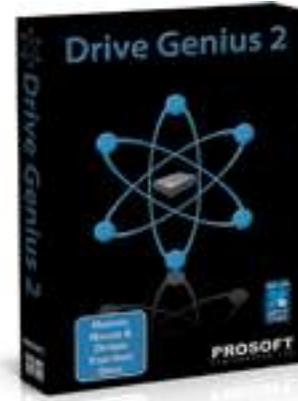
Reviewed on MacBook Pro with Mac OS X 10.5.7.

Introduction

I got "fragged" by this app!! It took out my production machine and I had to reinitialize and restore from backup. The machine says to backup *before* using the app. **Do so** (I didn't). The Press Review says it is ready for **Snow** Leopard. I personally do not believe it is "ready" for Leopard.

Maintain, Manage and Optimize your Hard Drive

Is your Mac running slower? Is your hard drive filling up and you don't know why? Are you seeing the beach ball more and more? Try Drive Genius 2, the best hard drive utility on the Mac platform - Defrag, DriveSlim™, Repartition-on-the-fly and Clone are only a few of the award-winning features of Drive Genius 2. Recently awarded the Editor's Choice award from MacLife Magazine, Drive Genius 2 is used by Apple at the Genius Bar as part of the ProCare Yearly Tune Up.



Drive Genius 2 now includes DriveSlim™, the fastest, easiest and safest way to get more out of your hard drive. This new feature helps you to get the most out of your Macintosh by identifying unnecessary files that are clogging and filling up your hard drive. Reclaim space on your hard drives for files that you really used and need.

Drive Genius 2 is the best disk utility for the Mac platform. A brand new user interface, DriveSlim™, Disk defrag, directory repair and repartition on-the-fly are only a few of the award-winning features of Drive Genius 2. Optimize your drive with Drive Genius 2. Yes, this is the same product used by Apple at the Genius Bar to defrag your drive!*

*Part of ProCare Yearly TuneUp

Traditionally, hard drive maintenance and management has been difficult, time-consuming and confusing. In many cases people skip these critical activities — sometimes leading to disaster. Thankfully, Drive Genius 2 makes these tedious tasks painless, fast and easy. {Eat rocks, ProSoft! If I skipped this "critical activity", I would not have a negative story to tell.}

What is the most popular feature of Drive Genius 2?

Drive Genius's most popular feature is disk defrag. It has the ability to optimize the drive, by putting all pieces of the file together that over time have become fragmented and spread in various locations across the drive. It then combines all the empty free space together into one contiguous block. This in turn improves the overall speed and performance of the drive.

What is the difference between Drive Genius 2 and Data Rescue II?

Drive Genius 2 is a disk utility that features a wide array of features including; directory repair, repartition on-the-fly, device/volume cloning, integrity testing, benchmarking, secure erase and several other tools to help maintain your hard drive. Data Rescue II is emergency hard drive recovery software. It is used to recover data from a crashed, corrupted or unmountable hard drive. It also has the ability to recover deleted files.

How often should I defrag my hard drive?

Depending on the size of files you typically work with... every 2 months or so. If you are working with smaller files (Microsoft® Office, emails) we would recommend running defrag every 3 to 4 months.

I thought OS X automatically optimized the hard drive?

OS X only optimizes files under 20MB. It also only optimizes the files not the drive, so even though the smaller files are optimized there can be empty space in between the files themselves. Drive Genius 2 has the ability to optimize the drive, by putting all pieces of the file together that over time have become fragmented and spread in various locations across the drive. It then combines all the empty free space together into one contiguous block. This in turns improves the overall speed and performance of the drive. Drive Genius 2 is also used at Apple's Genius Bar in their Apple ProCare program for this primary feature.

Can I really repartition my hard drive without losing any data?

Drive Genius 2 is able to repartition your hard drive 'on-the-fly' (no need to reformat the hard drive) allowing you to add, delete, hide or expand partitions live.

Why do I need a bootable DVD?

The bootable DVD allows you to boot directly from the DVD, so you can work directly on your main boot drive. You can run it as an application to work on other internal or external hard drives.

Why should I choose Drive Genius 2 over the competitors?

Drive Genius was originally introduced in at Macworld San Francisco in 2005, and since that time it has become one of the top selling utilities at the Apple Store. It has been reviewed and evaluated by all the major Mac publications and has received glowing reviews and awards. It was named "Labs Winner" as the best tool in its class by MacUser - UK magazine 2 years in a row. Drive Genius 2 is also used at Apple's Genius Bar in their Apple ProCare program.

What is Prosoft's support policy?

Prosoft takes pride in the best customer service possible. We do that by offering low cost replacement DVDs and reasonable upgrade policies. If a customer loses their DVD or needs an updated one mailed, it is only \$7.50...enough to cover our costs. We also offer unlimited FREE pre and post technical phone or email support. Our support team is located in our corporate office in Northern California and is available from 8:00am to 5:00pm PST.

What I Learned

Is defragging even necessary with Mac OS X? In my experience, no – and I'm not alone. "Mac OS X's HFS+ filesystem has some safeguards against avoidable fragmentation."

<http://www.macfixit.com/article.php?story=20070301091515843>

You might be better off cloning the drive instead. It might take a lot less time to do so (see Jeff Garnet's *Backup vs. Cloning* blurb) –

<http://www.maccompanion.com/macc/archives/April2009/Columns/MacTIPs.htm>

The clone function in *Drive Genius 2* gives the warning that it will remove all existing data from the drive it will clone to. Heed the warning.

Maybe the defrag per *Drive Genius 2* works on other systems, but it failed abysmally and dramatically on my MacBook Pro. I have to wonder about those "glowing reports", when I see about a 50-50 split between those who laud this app and those who describe their experiences as the app having trashed their machines. It happened to my machine too.

Do you know what "invalid catalog PEOF" means? I do now –

http://support.apple.com/kb/TA21624?viewlocale=en_US

Do you know what to do in case you get "Filesystem verify or repair failed" when using Disk Utility? <http://discussions.apple.com/thread.jspa?threadID=1783770>

You reinitialize. That is what you do. I did in order to be able to "see" my hard drive again. "Initialize" on the Drive Genius 2 DVD works. Thanks (snarky remark). Mac OS X DVD could not even see the drive after it was defragged. In fact, when I began using the Mac OS X DVD, the screen went black. That is when I PRAMED and then used the verbose method and found the system only recognized the DVD and not the internal hard drive. It was *that* bollixed!

By all means, backup before using this app. Use Time Machine to recover. I lost more than 2 weeks of work – and it is my own fault for not heeding the warning ProSoft Engineering provided in the program. And *Drive Genius 2*, for the price, really needs to combine *Data Rescue II* instead of having it as a separate package.

I wholeheartedly agree with Danny Greg (*Surfbits* Reviewer) about the User Interface Design; very pretty, but rather ineffective. If ProSoft Engineering devoted as much time to getting the defrag app to work as well as they did the eye candy, then this would be a much better product.

I can't believe that the Apple stores use this product for defragging hard drives in customer machines. Defragging takes forever and then you don't know if you will come out the other side unscathed or not from the experience. I don't like getting fraggled!

Optimizing a drive is not the same as defragging. Removing the PPC scruff from Intel-friendly apps is a healthy way to optimize.

Other Reviews

About This Particular Mac - <http://www.atpm.com/14.05/drive-genius.shtml>

Amazon - <http://www.amazon.com/ProSoft-Engineering-52100-Drive-Genius/dp/B001329LRW/macCompanion> -

<http://www.macompanion.com/macc/archives/February2009/Columns/SafeSecure.htm>

Surfbits - <http://www.surfbits.com/?p=1515>

Conclusion

This app needs more work, before *I* recommend it! Perhaps I'll try it again when Snow Leopard is released. Then again, if Apple Corp. were smart, they would make it so defragging is *completely* unnecessary (along with rewriting permissions, etc.).

ProSoft Engineering may take pride in its customer service, but why not make a product that doesn't require calling in for help (or frantically searching on the Internet) to begin with?

Most of the operations in Drive Genius are available as command line activities anyway. You tell me if it is worth \$100 USD. Convince me. I dare you.

Its core efficiency is in partitioning on the fly. Perhaps that makes it worth getting?

Toon Boom Studio

Animation Software for your Mac

Reviewed by Michael Potter



Toon Boom Studio

Current Version: 5.0

(Version Reviewed: 4.5)

Pricing:

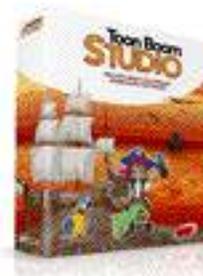
Standard Version: \$399.99

Upgrade from Studio 4 or 4.5: \$99.99

System Requirements:

Mac OS X 10.4.7 or later; G5 or Intel processor; 512 MB RAM; 1280x1024 or higher display resolution; Internet connection required for product activation.

[Tutorials](#)



Introduction

For as long as I can remember, one of my “life’s goals” has been to write, direct and produce my own animated short. No doubt countless hours plopped in front of the television every Saturday morning as a young boy watching cartoons directed by the all time greats in animation such as Ollie Johnston, Chuck Jones, Friz Freleng, Walter Lantz, William Hanna and Joseph Barbara, and Tex Avery contributed in no small way to my dreams. These men could take an ordinary pencil sketch and make you believe it’s a living, breathing, creature by painstakingly creating anywhere from 12-24 individual drawings for every second of animation the audience would see on screen. And, at each step along the way, these drawings would be further brought to life by teams of in-betweeners, inkers, painters, background artists, editors . . . to say it was painstaking work would be an understatement.

But there’s a lot more to producing an animated short than simply understanding the physical challenges in doing so. There’s also this little thing called “talent” that comes into play, and I’m

afraid without it, the best most of us can do is a stick-figure flip book. Now “Talent” is one of those umbrella words that encompasses a wide range of aptitudes such as an innate sense of comic timing, a natural artistic bent, an eye for staging and choreography and, of course, years of schooling. And while a package such as Toon Boom Studio can’t help foster the Super Genius within you, it can take away the need to worry about the technical side of things as you work to hone your other skills.

Before I go on with the review, I’ll need to come clean about something: this look at Toon Boom Studio took me forever to write. The result of my dawdling is that this review is terribly, horribly, late. Why? Well, the simple truth is that, initially, I found the software to be somewhat intimidating to review with all the power it brought to my hands for creating animation. By that, I mean to say that Toon Boom Studio is an awesome tool looking for someone with all the traits mentioned above such as talent and artistic skill to really make it sing. And while I may have grandiose dreams of producing my own animated short some day, I’m handicapped by one important fact: I’m not an artist and I openly admit that I lack an “eye” for the finer detail needed to make ordinary animation, great animation.

But that disclaimer out of the way, I do feel the tools found in this package are no different than the rich feature sets found in Adobe’s InDesign and Photoshop, Apple’s Final Cut, or Autodesk’s Maya and that, as with these apps, the results achieved through Toon Boom Studio will only be as good as the input you give it, no matter how much hand-holding the developers might do.

So I say all that to make clear that this review will be written from the perspective of someone new to animation and to Toon Boom Studio itself. My presumption while writing this is that experienced animators will already be using this software — or software very similar to it, such as Toon Boom’s own professional level application, Animate.

Learning to Draw

So how does Toon Boom make its Studio product more accessible for folks like you and I? By creating a library of seemingly boundless documentation, training and examples for us to work with and learn from as we use their product.

In a world where “documentation” no longer means a book included in the box, but a pamphlet stuffed in a CD case highlighting “what’s new”, it’s refreshing to find a User Guide that actually takes us through the process of learning to use the software. And while Toon Boom’s

documentation is provided in PDF format, it's very easy to navigate and is written in a clear, concise, manner with plenty of illustrations to help reinforce our learning.

Unless you're the type to just dive in and stumble about until you come up with something that looks vaguely like an animated short, I strongly recommend taking the time to work through the User Guide, because it includes everything from the Toon Boom Studio basics, to drawing, to inking and painting, to exporting your content to various media. And it teaches us these skills in chapters that are organized in a way to make it easy to build your knowledge of the app from the ground up.

A quick glance at the User Guide tells us that the folks at Toon Boom know their animation, because anyone familiar with the tools used for more traditional cartooning, will recognize immediately terms such as onion skinning, pegs, inking and painting, camera positioning and even the creation multiplane scenes for adding dimension to your cartoons the way Walt Disney did in his groundbreaking short, "The Old Mill". There's even a feature where you can rotate the drawing space while working — just like traditional animation tables. In other words, similar to the use of terms such as "pasteboard" and "cut, copy and paste" found in layout programs before it, Toon Boom Studio adopts a familiar approach to applying old skills to the new technologies.

But the learning with Toon Boom doesn't stop with its comprehensive User Guide. Other learning materials available for the novice animator via their web site consist of several tutorials on topics covering cut-out video, advanced multiplane scene planning, creating web games and animated greeting cards. Most include PDF documentation as well as sample material to use while working through the lessons. I found the QuickStart tutorial particularly helpful as it went more in depth with topics from drawing and painting, to lip syncing, creating clipping masks and more and it was useful to work with objects and characters already created. Additional resources found at Toon Boom's site are a good collection of Tips and Tricks plus links to more advanced training material that can be purchased separately.

I found the wealth of documentation and training very welcoming to a beginning animator and I like that, with the exception of their official Workout and Video Training series, most of the material is available for free to anyone who clicks through to their eLearning page and wants to find out more about the software before purchase.

So What Can You Do With Toon Boom Studio?

I would guess that, like me, most folks looking to get into animation have a particular style they'd like to emulate and, in that regard, Toon Boom Studio doesn't disappoint. If you're a fan of cut-out animation like the characters found in South Park, looking to make the next Wallace and Gromit using Stop-Motion techniques, interested in exploring Rotoscope animation as was used to create scenes in Walt Disney's classic, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs", or prefer to create and animate from scratch on screen, it's all possible with Toon Boom Studio. A nice bonus for those seeking to stick to more traditional methods, Toon Boom Studio can talk to TWAIN supported scanners so you can import your original pencil on paper drawings directly. (disclaimer: The version of Toon Boom Studio available to me for this article was 4.5, so I did not play with the Stop-Motion feature which wasn't part of the application until the current 5.0 release.)

No matter which discipline of animation you choose, Toon Boom Studio has the capability to follow the workflow necessary to carry your project through from drawing the first cell to the final export.

This might be done with management of your cut-out character's components, cleaning up hand drawn figures, coloring your "cells", setting up cameras for the scene, and capturing images for stop-motion films. And getting those characters into their scenes when the animation is complete is just as easy. Once your masterpiece is finished, the new version 5 now includes easy publishing to Facebook and YouTube in addition to previously available formats of Flash and QuickTime.

Toon Boom Studio In Use

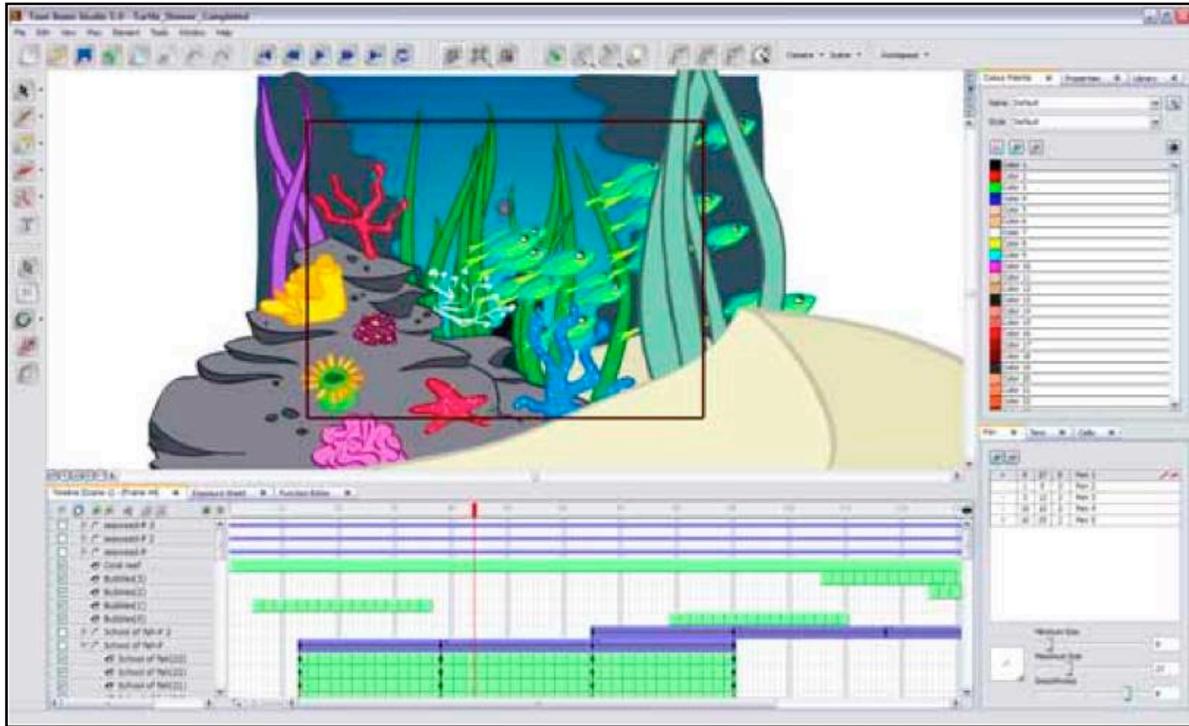
I'll admit that I started out with a distinct disadvantage, and it's one I'd like to highlight at the outset: creating original animations from scratch within Toon Boom Studio using only a mouse, as I was trying to do, is akin to attempting to tie your shoes with boxing gloves on. Sure, it can be done, but unless you've got the mousing skills of a modern day DaVinci, the results will be less than satisfactory. Instead, serious users will want to consider picking up a tablet to help create your illustrations so, for most folks, something like the Bamboo Fun from Wacom is essential to get the most from this application. For other animation techniques, such as cut-out and stop-motion, a mouse should be just fine.

When you first fire up Toon Boom Studio, you're presented with a window to set the parameters for your project such as format, frame rate and camera size. There are also a number of buttons that will hot-link you to the various sections of Toon Boom's website for tutorials, eLearning, their forums and support. A nice touch, but I can't help thinking that space could be better utilized for other purposes. Or left off altogether.

Once you've created your project — or opened an existing one — you're presented with a screen that will feel very familiar and comfortable to anyone who regularly uses an application like Adobe Flash. And, in fact, the most recent release has made several interface changes that make it even more like the most recent Adobe Creative Suite such as the ability to tear toolbars away so they float freely in the work area or combine them in a tabbed window at the side of the screen. They've also enhanced the older button-set found in version 4.5 with a new look and feel. In all, the most recent updates are nice, but it still doesn't feel 100% like a Mac app to me, and that's no doubt due to its multi-platform roots. Still, the interface appears to be leaps and bounds ahead with version 5, so I can no longer complain about how ugly Toon Boom Studio 4.5 was.

The rest of the interface is divided into three basic components: Menus; Toolbars; and Views. Menus and Toolbars I think everyone has a handle on, but let's talk about the various "views" available to you for a moment.

Each of these "views" (and they refer to tool palettes as views too), will be used during the course of working on your animation project. Of course there are the palette views that expose tools like colors, pens, libraries, properties, etc. and there's also a Timeline view where your animation layers and the timing of the objects on those layers are managed. But the "meat" of the interface is right in the middle of the screen and that's where you can switch between the Camera view and the Drawing view as well as side and top views of your animation. All of the "views" can be tweaked to suit your preferences. You can swap them around, resize them and hide the ones you don't need. The same can be said for the Toolbars.



Toon Boom Studio 5 Interface – Image © 2009, Toon Boom Animation, Inc.

While I'm talking about the interface, I should also mention that Toon Boom Studio makes use of several "Workspaces" such as a Drawing workspace and a Scene Planning workspace. Each is designed to make working on that aspect of your animated short easier. And if the default Workspaces don't meet your needs, you're free to create new ones that do.

Of course, there would be no point in having an application like this unless it helped make some of the more difficult and time-consuming aspects of animating your short easier, and since every cartoon begins with a drawing, let's talk about the tools for doing that.

Drawing in Toon Boom Studio is accomplished with little more than two basic tools; the pen, and the brush. The primary difference between the two is that the pen is used for creating vector based lines that are “center based” while the brush can be used to create lines (shapes) that have variable thickness and take into account pressure sensitivity when using a tablet. Shapes created with the brush are also vector drawings, but instead of being center based, the contours follow the edges of your lines instead. Much of my initial trouble with drawing within Toon Boom Studio came from not fully understanding the fundamental differences between these two tools, so I had difficulty editing contours and was perplexed by the need to “Extract Center Line” before I could reshape more than just the edges of strokes created with the brush. In other words, I failed to follow my own advice and work through the examples in the manual first! Although, when I did turn to one of the available online tutorials, I had trouble getting it to work the same as the lesson suggested. Perhaps I’ll have the opportunity to take another crack at it in the future with the recently released Toon Boom Studio 5 to see if things have improved.

In addition to the brush and pen tools, other drawing and design tools at your disposal include an eraser, shape and polyline tools, powerful text tools, invisible lines, contour editor, plus a cutter and scissors. All of these combined allow you to approach your project much like a traditional animator would, from creating initial sketches of your characters, to tracing those sketches (inking) and, naturally, scaling, rotating and repositioning your drawings within the scene.

Painting your creations is made incredibly easy thanks to Toon Boom Studio’s color palettes. The idea is to create a unique color palette for each character as well as for the other objects within your scene. Then, as your drawings are completed, you can simply select paints (swatches) from the palette appropriate to that object while applying color and, in doing so, your final animation will have consistent coloration from start to finish. What makes the color palettes particularly powerful is that your swatches of color — as they’re called in Toon Boom Studio — can consist of not only solid colors, but gradients and textures too. And Toon Boom Studio also offers the creation of palette “styles” to accommodate different lighting conditions your character may find themselves in.

As you might expect, coloring characters and objects using these palettes is incredibly easy and familiar to anyone who has ever picked up a virtual paint bucket to fill an area in MacPaint, but one feature of Toon Boom Studio related to coloring I wanted to mention is its ability to recognize and fill areas with gaps in them.

Granted this Automatic Close Gap feature only works with smallish gaps, but what a time saver this is! And, let's face it, sometimes there's supposed to be a gap and artificially closing it so you can paint the area may adversely affect the final output, so this is a welcome feature to have. The Automatic Close Gap tool can be set to recognize small, medium or large gaps and if the application comes across a gap it feels is too big, it'll not paint the area. For all other gaps that fall outside the abilities of the automated gap detection feature, Toon Boom provides a Close Gap tool you can use to draw invisible lines to seal off these gaps so an area can then be filled.

With characters created, the next step is to bring life to those characters, and the heart of doing that within Toon Boom Studio can be found in the Timeline and Exposure sheet views. It's here the elements of your short are placed and the movement of your characters is created as you manage the layers of your project. These layers could consist of drawings, imported images, camera positioning, effects, peg elements such as motion path layers, sound, annotations and other media. To be honest, I'm still learning how the timeline and exposure sheets interact with each other and the best way to use them to create more complex animations, but when I approached the animation using "traditional" methods, I found the timeline to be much easier to work with than that found in applications like Flash, because there was no need to create keyframes just to create a simple "flip-style" animated short using my quickly sketched stick figures. Although, admittedly, as you advance your skills with the program and tackle other types of animation, things like keyframes and Toon Boom's advanced Lip-sync tools will very much come into play.

When your project is complete or you'd like to share its progress with others during creation, Toon Boom Studio provides an impressive array of export tools to choose from that includes PDFs for still frames of your characters or scenes, to snapshots for promotional material, to print for storyboarding and proofing to, of course, movies or individual scenes from your production. There's even an Export to HTML option to ensure your movie is set up properly for distribution on the web.

It's a Wrap

As I mentioned at the start of this review, Toon Boom Studio is an amazingly advanced tool for a product that's intended to be used by folks at home and there is so much more to cover than what space allows in a small review such as this one, but it's safe to say that for anyone who is seriously looking to dip their toes in the inkwell of animation, you're not going to go wrong by adding a few clams to your budget to pick up this package.

Again, I want to emphasize for budding animators and folks new to Toon Boom's products how important it is to work through the tutorials provided to get the most from this application, because how you interact with all the available tools found in Toon Boom Studio will vary widely depending on whether you're creating traditional animation, working with cut-out puppets, or creating a stop-motion feature to rival the likes of Tim Burton.

Toon Boom Studio really is a complete animation studio in a box and the techniques it covers are broad enough — and complex enough — to make any budding animator happy.

Mike's Suggested Add-ons:

A Wacom or other Mac compatible drawing tablet is strongly recommended; A Web Cam or Digital Camera for Stop-motion projects; A Scanner with TWAIN support to import your paper drawings.

VoodooPad 4.1.2 - A PIM to put your brain into or better yet most of the tidbits and trivia you collect



Reviewed by Harry {doc} Babad © 2009



Flying Meat, Inc
<http://flyingmeat.com/voodooPad/>

Release Date: 20 April 2009; Size 6.2 MB Download

Cost: \$29.95 USD €23,65 [Euro], Upgrade \$14.95. VoodooPad Pro costs \$49.95 [USD], €39,45 [Euro]. Voodoo Pad Lite is free but limited to 15 pages in a document, and of course feature limited.

System Requirements: Requires Mac OS X 10.5 or later



Strengths: Flexible, easy to learn and use, its more then a text editor or to-Do list, and will store and make available information you can need in the future.

Weaknesses: None worthy of mentioning; I did not test VoodooPad Pro.

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 briefly reviewing share-freeware I will often use the developer's product, functions and features descriptions. All other comments are strictly my own and based on testing. Why need I rewrite the developer's narratives, if they are clearly written?