



Double click

The Official Newsletter of
Macintosh Users East

March, 2007

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Should you get it? Page 3.



Total Leopard Guide

Stan goes through the features of the latest cat. Page 14.



Use YouTube

The latest from Chris on his favourite video service. Page 17.

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What is this thing?

In your hot little hands is the very latest issue of DoubleClick -- the Official Newsletter of Macintosh Users East! In particular this is the March 2008 issue. MaUsE is a motely collection of mostly harmless -- and sometimes tasteless -- collection of old and new Macintosh computer users. Owing to our fine taste in computer hardware and software, we clearly have more refined tastebuds, better hair and teeth, and no doubt, a finer lawn than your average computer aficionado.

This issue was published on a shiny MacBook Pro with a Dual Core Intel processor clocking in at 2.3GHz. All of that processing power was directed solely at pushing Adobe InDesign into the contortions required to deliver this issue as you see it. Everything not specifically attributed to the authors of their pieces can be blamed on me. Yes, me! For it is I, Aaron Vegh, who now commands this blistering pile of electrons! Ha ha! Michael Shaw steps away for a mere two months, and look what I've done to his normally chaotic magazine! Observe the use of grid in the layout! Carefully admire the choice of typeface and alignment! Note the consistency! In truth, I've done this before; back in the day, I was both a newspaper editor and a magazine publisher (that last one so brief as to last a single issue; no need for a sob story here, alas). But don't get your hopes up, folks. Professional layout this is not!

All of that is behind us now. This is really a kind of comeback story for me; a chance to try my hand at page layout after nearly a decade's absence. So bear with me as I have a little fun, and make some neat things with this little program.

So, articles! Yes, I'm always ready to receive them. Please send your submissions, complaints, observations, or pathetic whining about some software you'd like to review, to aaron@vegh.ca. I'd love to publish some letters to the editor next month, so don't disappoint! And moreso, don't force me to make any up, okay? Because I just might...

Next Meeting
Fear not! There will be another public meeting, to be held on March 26th, 2008, 7pm, at the Whitby Public Library Main Branch! This is on the south-east corner of Hwy 2 and Henry Street in Whitby. It's a gorgeous facility, folks, and one that should be enjoyed as often as possible. We'll have our usual assortment of engaging talks, plus our monthly raffle for great prizes! Come on out!

...But I WANT my iPhone!

You may want an iPhone, but you'll have to go underground to get it. So I did.



Aaron Vegh
Temp Editor

It finally happened a few weeks ago. Despite my initial decision to wait for Rogers to announce the launch of the iPhone in Canada, I couldn't take it anymore! There is simply no sign that Rogers is interested in making this happen.

So off to Buffalo I went!

This article explains what I did, and here are the results: a fully-functional iPhone with unlimited data and cell phone. Yes folks, this is a no-compromise solution. Let's get started.

Making the Purchase

Actually, the whole process was pretty easy, and buying it was no exception. A couple weekends ago, I swung by Hamilton to pick up my Dad, and we made the journey to Buffalo's Walden Galleria Apple Store. If you want

to go the other way, the nearest US Apple Store is in Syracuse, about four hours from Whitby.

In Buffalo, we enjoyed the sights of the busy Apple Store, checked out the new MacBook Air, and then walked out with two 8GB iPhones. The sales guy asked for our zip code, but was okay with the fact we were Canadian. We had to pay by credit card, since they were having trouble with folks coming in with tens of thousands of dollars and buying hundreds of iPhones at a time!

At the border, we declared the iPhones and paid about \$60 in GST and PST. The most painful part of that? The dreadfully long wait at the customs office. Brutally inefficient!

Unlocking

I couldn't wait to get home with the new iPhone. But a scary uncertain step awaited: because of Apple's partnership with AT&T in the US, the iPhone is locked to that carrier. This means that the phone will not



automatically work with any other GSM carrier (in Canada, your choices would be Rogers or Fido). To solve this problem, we have to "hack" the iPhone, using a free program called iJailbreak. This program is maintained by the very devout hacker community, and is updated every time Apple updates their iPhone software.

iJailbreak actually does two things:

it will unlock your phone so you can use it on any network, and it "jail-breaks" the phone, so it can run third-party software. This last step is totally optional, and may prove unnecessary when Apple releases its software development kit in early March.

Of course, I did the full meal deal.

I was pleasantly surprised to have no trouble at all. First, I put the SIM



card from my Fido phone into the iPhone (I kept the AT&T SIM card, just in case). Then I plugged in my iPhone using the included dock, opened iJailbreak and clicked the “Jailbreak” button. Three minutes later, my phone was unlocked and jailbroken. Right away, the iPhone showed “Rogers Wireless” as the network, and my phone number immediately rang through to it. Also, iTunes immediately recognized the iPhone as a real live iPhone, and I was able to sync all my data to it without trouble -- in fact, it’s a flawless, wonderful experience, having all your calendar and contact data translate seamlessly; something that hasn’t happened on the Mac since, well, ever.

Data

This was the big stumbling block for me: Canadian wireless data rates are notoriously expensive. It was my intention to use the iPhone’s 802.11g networking for the most part, and perhaps, pick up a small data package. But I was in for a big surprise when I called Fido.

“Hi, I have an iPhone now. Can I

have a data plan?”

“Yes sir, we have a \$7 unlimited browsing plan. Would you like that one?”

I couldn’t believe my ears. So I asked: “Look, this is an iPhone, you know what that is, right?”

He assured me that he did.

“And I can do whatever I want on the Internet with this plan?”

And that’s when some warning signs went up. Apparently, I was told, you can *browse* the web all you want, but you’ll be outside the plan (and incurring \$0.05 per KB) if you *download* anything.

If you know anything about how the web works, you’ll understand the insanity of this policy: bits are bits, and they are always delivered to whatever device you’re browsing on the Internet. Apparently, Fido only cares if you intend to keep those bits! Which is stupid, because the data still using their gear to get to you. So, I was told, go watch videos on YouTube all you want! Use Google Maps!

But... whatever! With some preparation, I could have unlimited data and use the iPhone exactly as I want.

The iPhone will protect you from most of the threat of downloading files because it doesn’t have local file storage. If you find a document on a Web page, and try to download it, Mobile Safari will give an error.

But there is one area where I was truly terrified I’d be downloading like crazy: email!

There are two types of email: POP (post office protocol) is the elder, and is in the most common use. If you have email through your ISP, then it’s most certainly POP mail. There’s a newer standard called IMAP (Internet Message Access Protocol), which is gaining wider acceptance. The difference is basic: with POP, you download all the messages from your server, and manage those messages entirely on your own computer. With IMAP, all the messages stay on the server: you simply use your email client to browse and manage them there. OS X’s Mail client does this brilliantly in either mode.

But did you catch the distinction? IMAP means you can use email without downloading! So, because I manage my own mail server, I

switched over to IMAP. Boom! No more downloading. And I have to be sure, as well, to not download any attachments when I’m using the Fido network for data. But just because I have a totally awesome hacking thing going on, doesn’t mean you can’t benefit from IMAP as well! Because there’s one other thing you have to fear with email: spam! And the iPhone doesn’t screen spam at all.

Gmail to the Rescue!

If you’ve followed me this far, you’re at the final stage before achieving iPhone Nirvana: what happens to your email at your Mac at home will be reflected, automatically, on your iPhone. And vice-versa. AND (and this is a big AND), you’ll benefit from Gmail’s second-to-none spam filtering! Here’s what you have to do:

You can use an existing Gmail account, or you can set up a new one for this purpose, at gmail.com (I created a new account for each of my two email addresses that I wanted on the iPhone). You can use it to filter all your mail, even from your non-Gmail accounts. To enable this feature, go



to the Settings page in your Gmail account, and choose “Accounts”. Then, under “Get mail from other accounts”, choose “Add another mail account”. It’s worth noting that the email account you use here must be a POP account; most are, but such providers as Hotmail don’t allow POP access by default.

You’ll be asked to provide your account details: your email address, incoming mail server and password. For the first little while at least, you may choose to leave a copy of retrieved messages on the server. That

way, should anything go wrong, you’ll still have your original messages.

After you save your changes here, Gmail will check your mail account, just as you would with your own desktop email client. But now for the vital step: setting up your desktop client to check Gmail instead of your main mail server.

In the Gmail account settings, choose “Forwarding and POP/IMAP”. Then, under “IMAP Access”, choose “Enable IMAP”.

Finally, take note of the Configuration instructions; they are specified

for both the iPhone and OS X Mail, so you’ll be able to use this setup for all your mail clients. Sweet!

By the time you’re done, you’ll have virtually spam-free email no matter where you are.

Final Impressions?

I’ve only had the iPhone for a week as I write this, but my initial impressions are incredibly positive: it’s a super-fast, responsive machine with a truly revolutionary interface. It really does work as advertised. For the first time, I really to have “The Internet in

my Pants”, which I can pull out and consult pretty much anyplace, anytime.

And, as developers are let into the walled garden, the number of applications for the iPhone is going to explode: this is a next-generation platform, and it’s going to do so much more than “just” phone, Internet and music and videos and maps...

My only regret is that I waited so long!

Find Out How!

Apple this month launched a new feature on its web site: a series of videos called “Find Out How”. These tutorials walk the new Mac user through the basics of using the Mac, moving from Windows, and running Windows on the Mac. Guess who Apple sees using Macs more and more?

At the same time, Apple has also posted a whole whack of text-based tutorials featuring such topics as customizing your Mac, working with the Dock, Mail, Address Book, Safari, iCal and iChat. If you can push through these videos, you’ll be a lot further ahead in your understanding of the fruitiest, juiciest platform out there.

Check it out at <http://www.apple.com/findouthow/macosx>.



You Take Care of Me, I'll Take Care of You

AppleCare may cost a little extra up-front, but it's worth it



Stan Wild
The Wild Man of
Whitby

Extended warranties - service plans. There are two schools of thought when it comes to extended warranties/service plans; those who will posit that they cost too much and are not worth buying, and those, like myself, who believe that some, not all, extended warranties-service plans can be worth the money. Allow me to share my point of view and experience with you.

Apple Care Protection Plan

Late last fall I purchased a new iMac, and, like all new Macs it came with the standard 1 year Apple Care and 3 months of technical support; I did not buy the extended Apple Care at that time, but last week, near the end of the first three months of owner-

ship, I went on line to the Apple Store and purchased the extended 3 year plan. Why?

My experience with my previous iMac had been that, despite all assurances from the cogniti that nothing ever goes seriously wrong with a Mac, something did go seriously wrong with my Mac necessitating a trip to our friends at 'Mainly Mac' and the installation of a new mother board. Fortunately I had purchased extended Apple Care on that machine, and so the cost of the mother board and labour, in excessive of \$400, was completely covered. the repair did not cost me a dime. Here's the clincher – the cost of the 3 year extended Apple Care that I had purchased when I bought that machine was under \$200, less than half what it would have cost me if I had not had the Apple Care protection.

But read on, you get more than just Apple Care!

Buying the Apple Care Protection

Plan also gives you two additional benefits:

Technical support is automatically extended from 3 months to 3 years, a very valuable addition. Over the years I have used Apple's technical support a number of times, and please believe me when I tell you that the techies at Apple have come through for me on each occasion and rescued me when I had no idea about how to get out of particularly difficult, worrisome situations.

The second additional benefit that comes with the Apple Care Protection Plan is a copy of 'TechTool Deluxe' for Mac OS X by Micromat. Michael has spoken of, and written about, this diagnostic utility that tests the critical system components of your Mac; if necessary, TechTool Deluxe can also repair your disk structure and rebuild your directories; it is a very useful tool to have readily at hand to use on a regular basis and/or if you think your Mac is not performing as it should.

SO, to answer the 'Why' question... OK, not everyone is going to have a serious problem arise with their Mac, but for me, spending the money up-front gives me peace of mind that for three years, if something does go wrong with my iMac, the cost of putting it right is covered by Apple; to my way of thinking the ACPP is well worth the money – for me Apple Care for my new iMac was a 'must buy.'

Note: I might add that I know of several members of MaUsE who, like me, had experienced serious hardware problems with their Macs in the past, and who were glad that they too had purchased extended Apple Care. Apple Care Protection - how easy is it to use? The answer, very easy! When you take your Mac to an accredited Apple Service Provider, once they have ascertained that you have a hardware problem covered by Apple, they enter your machine's serial number into Apple's data base where



they can instantly ascertain that the machine is currently covered by Apple Care, they will let you know approximately how quickly the service work can be performed, and once you have given the go-ahead, they will take care of whatever needs to be done to put your Mac back into full operating mode at no charge to you. The only real cost to you is the loss of your Mac for the time that it takes for the servicing to be completed.

Caveat: If the service provider should discover that it is not a hardware problem they will usually telephone you for instructions, if you give them authority to proceed with

the service, you will then be responsible for paying for it at their normal hourly rates.

H.P. Printers.

Last June I had purchased a low cost H.P. Printer, and when I checked with H.P. about extending their warranty beyond the standard one year, I found that the additional cost was greater than the cost of the actual printer, therefore I did not buy it.

However, when Staples/Business Depot offered me a one year replacement plan for a nominal cost, (\$10.99) I bought it and was glad I did; here's why...

Last October the printer stopped printing and nothing that I did (including uninstalling and reinstalling the software) could get it going again. Time to see if Staples' replacement plan was any good. I packed the offending printer back into its box (yes, I save the original cartons as suggested by the manufacturers) and trotted off back to the Pickering store prepared for a long discussion before they would do anything. At the store I was pleasantly surprised at how painless the replacement process was. I told the person at the service desk my problem, she in response called Ray from the computer department,

he quickly checked the box with the printer against my sales receipt, excused himself to go to the storeroom, a few minutes later he returned with a brand new printer, made a note on my receipt transferring the balance of the replacement time to the new machine, and sent me happily on my way it. Yes, my \$10.99 had paid off, Thank You Staples.

Oh yes; he did also tell me that if the new machine failed prior to the end of the 12 month replacement period, Staples would, if necessary, replace the machine a second time.

The Cost of AppleCare

AppleCare is Apple's warranty program, available for all machines. It provides an additional two years of hardware support beyond the first year, and extends the first three free months of telephone support to a full three years. It's affordable for desktop Macs, but may be troubling to justify for laptops. You be the judge! But remember: warranties are a huge profit centre, not just for Apple, but the entire industry.

iMac	\$199
Apple Displays	\$129
AppleTV	\$59
MacBook	\$299
MacBook Pro	\$399
Mac Mini	\$179

What's on Your Desktop?

Apple allows the Mac user to personalise their desk top. If you want to advertise your operating system, there's the space theme of Leopard.

Alternatively, you can delve into your iPhoto library and show pictures of your grandchildren, pets, places you've visited.

Another choice, that really makes the best of a 24 inch iMacs, is OSX Planet, donation-ware available from: <http://www.versiontracker.com/dyn/moreinfo/macosx/19828>

OSX Planet is an active desktop that gives shows Earth, complete with current cloud systems.

The OSX Planet Preferences let you customise your desktop even further. The software allows you to choose the projection you prefer, the centre point for your view and even the planet from which you'd like to see the view. You may select the cities you'd like marked on your view and track clouds, storms, volcanoes and earth quakes. If you'd rather look out than in, there is the option to look out into the universe and select a planet to

view: the Moon, Jupiter, Saturn and so on.

The preference pane is very easy to understand and navigate: I ran OSX Planet on "Tiger" (OSX 10.4) and it was flawless. On "Leopard", it still runs well but seems a little less stable. Those with eagle eyes will see that the screen shots were taken around 11:30 AM in the morning yet North America and Western Europe are still in the dark. Whilst this might be a political statement and may be a server issue, I didn't see these issues under "Tiger". When running, OSX Planet puts a small globe into the navigation bar across the top of the screen.

Every time someone has seen my iMac for the first time, OSX Planet has drawn a "WOW". Try it and see if you get the same reaction. Better yet, it's not available for Windows!

Peter Goodwin



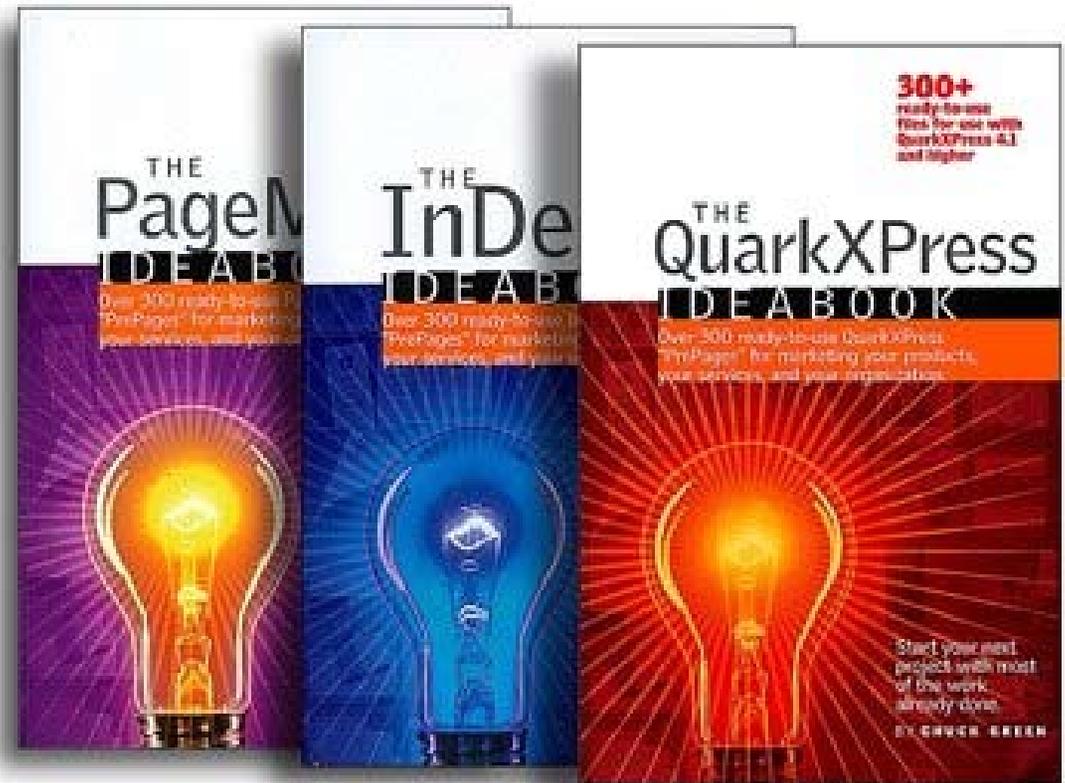
Ideabooks Make Layout a Breeze

If you do a web-search hoping to find some free InDesign and QuarkXPress Templates on the internet in order to get started on a designing project you are going to find plenty of them. Of course its understood that you may not find exactly what you want. And you will certainly find it true that with desktop publishing templates as well as with stuff like royalty-free photos, clip-art, fonts and software in general you only get what you pay for so don't expect anyone to be giving away hours worth of their time and creative abilities for nothing. Sometimes "free" is no bargain. You will have to pay for access to the really well-designed and higher-quality templates but if you make the right purchase plans you will find that higher-quality templates can be had very reasonably. This is where Chuck Green's Ideabooks fit in.

The Ideabook idea is simple. The Ideabooks available from < http://www.design-bookshelf.com/idea_books/index.html > are filled with well-designed templates for your

choice of desktop publishing programs. Modifying a well-designed template created by someone with a lot of experience with an application is far easier than starting on your own from scratch. With the Ideabook, you tap the talents of designer and author Chuck Green. He has researched, designed, and meticulously formatted over 300 extraordinary layouts in a clean, simple style that it easy to build on. Instead of spending 15 minutes to create a simple layout, you'll spend 15 seconds. If you do more complex projects like books, newsletters, catalogs, and reports you'll save yourself a lot of time and end up with a better looking document. You can't lose.

Ideabooks come in a choice of three flavours for InDesign, Page-



Maker, and QuarkXPress. I have all three of these programs but the Ideabook I was most interested in was the QuarkXPress IdeaBook. The QuarkXPress Ideabook lets you breeze through time-consuming document

stuff. I have the magical Markzware Q2ID plug-in for InDesign installed so I can convert Quark documents to InDesign documents anyway.

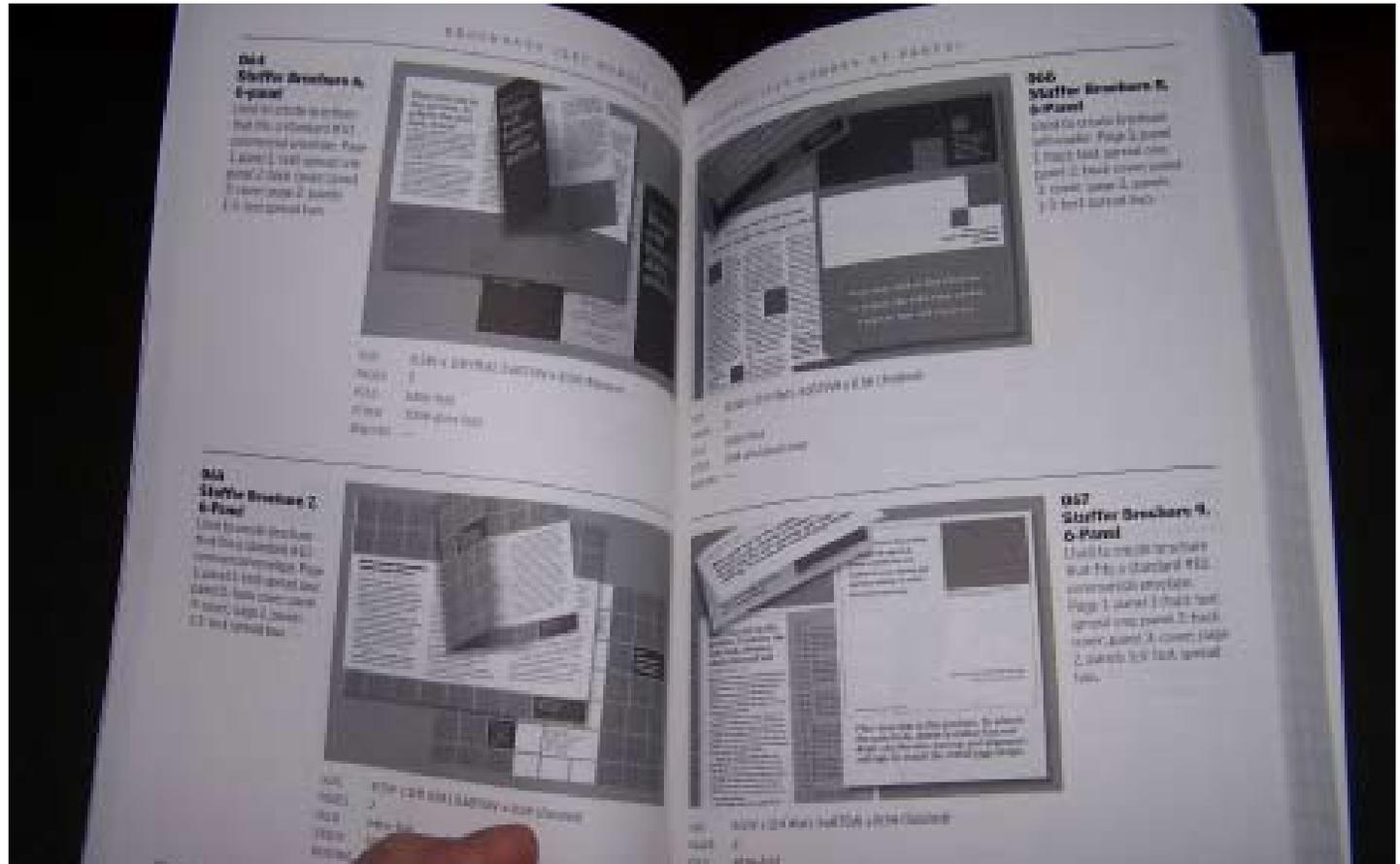
With Chuck Green's 276-page man-



ual and how-to guide I also received the QuarkXPress Ideabook CD-ROM with 315 Quark template files organized into in 19 different categories for use with QuarkXPress 4.1, 5, 6, 6.1, 6.5, and 7. The CD works with both Macintosh and PC versions of the Quark program. All of the Ideabooks cost \$60.00 with CD.

With Ideabooks there's no program to install and nothing new to learn. Just look through the pictures of the templates to find something you can use as a starting point. Open the file like you would any other QuarkXPress document. For further help the book features chapters on Turning Ideas Into Results and Adding the Professional Touches, and, so you can find exactly what you need when you need it. As a catalog it includes both visual and text indexes of all 315 documents.

Ideabook templates include all the informational parts and pieces: page-by-page layouts, dimensions, folds, margins, columns, gutters, guides, and placeholders for text and graphics (an excellent reminder of what to include).



There's lots of good stuff here. Check out Ideabooks on the < www.ideabook.com > websites. For InDesign > http://www.ideabook.com/indesign_templates.html For PageMaker > [\[book.com/pagemaker_templates.html\]\(http://www.ideabook.com/pagemaker_templates.html\) For QuarkXPress > \[http://www.ideabook.com/quarkxpress_templates.html\]\(http://www.ideabook.com/quarkxpress_templates.html\)](http://www.idea-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Michael Shaw

CheckUp 1.0

Even if this program didn't do anything particularly useful I would recommend it for its amusing interface - bright, colourful and fresh.

Use CheckUp to monitor the health of your Macintosh and enjoy the innovative user interface. As the name implies, this utility does not actually fix anything damaged on your Mac - it just checks it over and can let you know if it finds problems. It does have a useful Tools palette that runs five system maintenance scripts but mostly it shines out as a powerful and intelligent monitoring application for any Mac with PowerPC G4, G5 or Intel Processors. Since I am travelling in France I installed this on the little G4 iBook but I can see that there are features that will make it more interesting when I install it on the Intel iMac when I get back to Canada.

CheckUp 1.0 < <http://www.app4mac.com> > is designed to monitor the usage of CPU, Memory, Disk Drives and Network Adapters. You can display detailed information

about all running processes and pause or terminate these at any time. By adding rules that will be triggered when certain conditions are met for a specified resource on the computer, you can receive visual notifications. (For example, CheckUp can

alert you when a certain resource exceeds a certain value or when a hard drive seems to have hardware failures, even when the application is not opened, thanks to an innovative background process and the use of the S.M.A.R.T technology).

One of the most innovative feature of CheckUp is the ability to monitor a Mac on a network or via internet.



It's a powerful feature for IT administrators interested to check a remote computer or a remote server (one user license of CheckUp can be installed on two computers).

CheckUp is optimized for Macs with PowerPC (G4 or G5 only) or any Intel processors as well as Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger and Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard. It's a Universal binary.

CheckUp runs in English and French. Some features of CheckUp are free and some requires a user license. You can purchase a user license at this address : www.app4mac.com/store.html (one license of CheckUp can be used on two computers).

Michael Shaw

ArchMage

Archmage is the genre of arcade game where you need to shoot down the invading forces. In this case your realm is being bombarded by insects, rocks, orcs, etc. You must of course move back and forth and eliminate as many of the attackers as possible to keep your world safe. In this game your player rides the back of a unicorn or a dragon which is impervious to the attackers' weapons. You on the other hand, must watch out. Too many hits and the game is lost. As the enemy is destroyed, reward items come tumbling out of the sky. Collect these to help in your quest. They include bonus points and also better weapons.

I am sure this scenario sounds very familiar to you. But what makes Archmage different from all the other games of this type? First of all the graphics are great. I felt as though I was in a Role Playing Game rather than an arcade game.

Secondly, you are able to create different weapons to use with each level. Certain rewards falling from the sky are runes with different symbols on

them. The start of each new conflict takes you to a cauldron. With the recipes you learn from each successful level you can mix up a potion that allows you to hurl fire balls or poison gas at the attackers. The only limit here is the amount of runes you collect. Each recipe requires different tiles which, of course, get used up. You need to collect more as you defeat the enemy in each conflict. If in the middle of a conflict you feel the need to change your weapon, no problem. Push the space bar and the cauldron screen will reappear. I like the ice weapon which tends to freeze the enemy in place.

The third reason I like Archmage is that I didn't have to restart from the beginning when I got defeated. The start of each conflict gives you a map with three areas from which you can choose to attack. I can resume from anyone of those levels after I am killed. If I want to restart the game, I can choose a level I have already succeeded at.

A fourth reason is that you do not

have to get rid of all the attackers to win the level. It seems as though there is a finite number of attackers that pass through the field of play only once. You must eliminate as many as you can as they pass by. You are then given a percentage of how many you did in. Even this is somewhat flattering as you can get more than 100% success. You are not expected to kill all of the foes.

The last reason why I like Archmage is the fact that I cannot destroy the reward items that fall from the sky. The only problem with them is to try to catch them and still move around and kill the enemy. There is also a blue bar on the right which lets you know how far into the level you are.

Archmage is a nice little time waster. There is no brain power necessary to play it. The only choice that has



to be made is what potion to mix up. Each level can be played in very little time. You can then choose to exit the game or to proceed to another of the 35 conflicts. Archmage is shareware and can be played to a limited extent without paying the full \$20. It can be downloaded from Green Apple Games (<http://www.greenapplegames.com/macgames/archmage-mac.htm>). You will need Mac OS 10.3 or higher to play this game. As always, try it out as shareware and see why I like this game.

Marcel Dufresne

Macvide iPod Converter 1.0

Some of the most useful and powerful utilities I have written about in recent issues of the DoubleClick are the ones that can convert a document from one format into a more useful format. Whether you need to use a graphic converter to change a picture from JPEG to TIFF format, or convert a complete project or layout from PageMaker or InDesign to QuarkX-Press, the ability to painlessly convert between formats is a lifesaver. Having the right tool for the job can quickly made the difference between the impossible and a routine procedure.

Everone and his dog owns an iPod. In fact, I know one dog who owns three iPods. Macvide iPod Converter for Mac is a powerful application developed for Mac OS that can convert video and audio files such as AVI, MPEG, WMV, MOV, MP4, VOB, DivX, XviD, AAC, AC3, MP3, etc. to formats supported by iPod MP4, with fast speed and versatile functions. The Macvide iPod Converter 1.0 application is available for \$30.00 from:

http://www.macvide.com/Macvide_iPod_Converter/

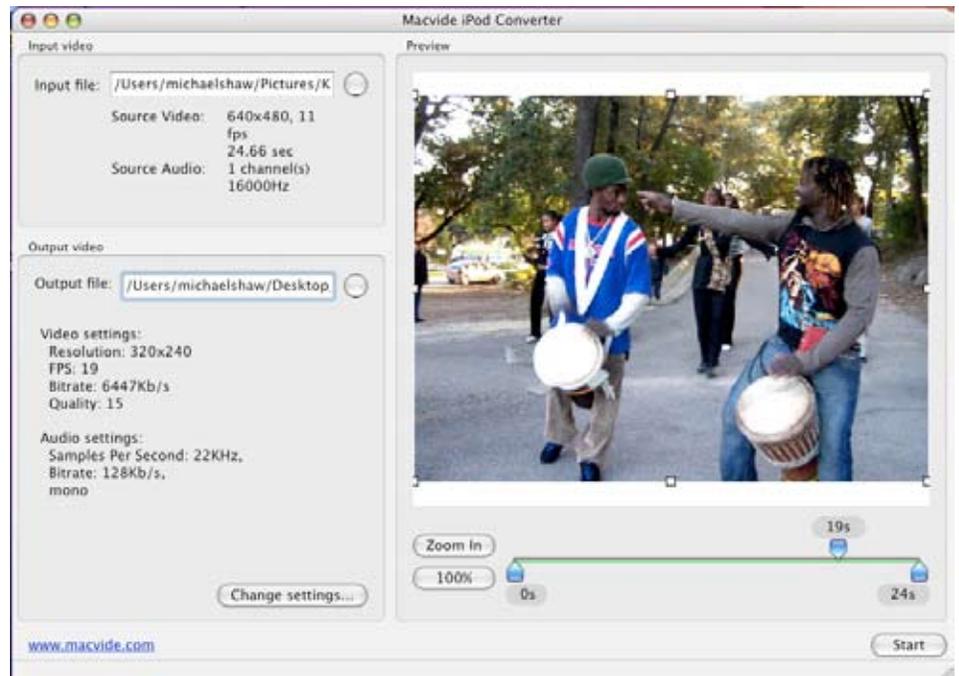
in two flavours, one PowerPC version for G4 (and older) systems and another for Intel Macs.

This converter converts various forms of video to MP4 for playback on iPod (iPod touch, iPod Classic, iPod nano), Apple iPhone, Apple TV and other portable MP4 players. Macvide iPod Converter provides powerful functions to set different settings for your video files. It allows you to select crop video area, the bit rate, frame rate, video resolution. Video preview with rangebar there you can choose video from first frame to final.

With Macvide iPod Converter 1.0 you will able to convert your Quick-Time movies on your computer hard drive to .MP4 movies for your iPod and watch them anywhere and anytime. It's very easy to use and it supports a lot of portable MP4 devices.

Macvide iPod Converter Features

- Input format supported: all popular Video formats including AVI, WMV, MOV, MPG, ASF, DivX, etc.



- Convert video to MP4 for multiple players: Convert video to MP4 on Mac OS for playback on multiple players including iPod, iPhone, PSP and Apple TV, Creative Zen, Archos, etc.
- Crop video: Crop your video area to remove the black video sides.
- Powerful video/audio output settings: Allow you to set video resolu-

tion, video frame rate, video bit rate, audio bit rate.

- Easy to use: A very user-friendly interface that guides you to convert video to MP4 for Mac.

Michael Shaw

Use YouTube while on vacation

When we travel for fun or pleasure we often wish to maintain a contact with family and friends. One way is with email. We can connect to the Internet very easily at many coffee shops, hotels or commercial WIFI networks. And it's fun to share your vacation activities.

Miss Mary and I have been married for 50 year so we decided to celebrate with a trip to Australia. We traveled April 2007 to see relatives, visit churches and walk in the footsteps of my Gt. Grandfather, the Rev. John Albert. He and his wife were married in England, came to Australia in 1857, while Mary and I were married in 1957. So 150 years later we traveled to the homes and churches and rough outposts were he and his family lived. He was the Rev. John Albert Greaves who lived in Wollombi, NSW on the convict constructed Great North road between Sydney and the interior. Part of his work was attending over the years to convicts prior to and at there hanging. You can see more at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xdeqoqJMXS0>

We used youtube.com to share our weekly Australian activity with our family. You can search "50th." at www.youtube.com/user/grandpachris. Lastly this month we vacationed in Panama City Beach, FL. While there Miss Mary was struck by a car. She suffered a fractured leg and many bruises but survived to tell the story. So after she was home from the hospital we put up a video to show the family she was OK. And these are also on the YouTube too. You can see more at: <http://youtube.com/user/GrandpaChris> and search for: Miss Mary's Rehab.

Enjoy your new entertainment source with Apple TV.

Chris Greaves

[Editor's Note: When the iPhone was introduced, Apple partnered with YouTube to provide YT videos directly to the iPhone. YouTube has been migrating their video from its usual Flash video format (which sucks, frankly) to Apple's supported MP4 format. Chris' videos have been converted almost completely,



[Miss Mary's Rehab](#)
From: [GrandpaChris](#)

[edit](#)

it seems, and I was able to watch them on my iPhone in better quality than you could see on YouTube!]

Photoshop Elements Video Frame Grab

Video is a streamed sequence of still images shown quickly enough to mimic the action of motion. When the process is done the old-fashioned way using a light source and plastic or celluloid film you can rely on a bright bulb putting out photons at the speed of light to illuminate each still image and a projector's mechanical tractor feed to pull the images through the light beam. If the film runs at 24 frames per second then the projector must pull 24 frames through the light beam every second.

With video played on your computer you must duplicate all of this electronically. All of the still images that make up the video must be stored on a single digital data document and then decompressed one at a time and flashed on your monitor in sequence. If your video was recorded to run at 24 frames per second then your computer video card and its software must be able to decompress the still images in your movie document, flash them onto your monitor, and compress them at a rate of 24 times per sec-

ond. This is achieved with a codec. A codec is a device or program capable of performing encoding and decoding on a digital data stream or signal. The word codec may be a combination of any of the following: 'compressor-decompressor', 'coder-decoder', or 'compression/decompression algorithm'.

Photoshop Elements can use this awareness of how video works to allow you to easily extract any single frame out of a video stream. With Photoshop Elements open, navigate to the "File" menu and down to the "Import" tab near the bottom of the list of available actions. Select to import "Frame From Video..."

A dialog window will open asking you to select the video that you want to extract an image from. Do it. A control window will appear with the video window in it. Directly under the movie there will be a slider that you can use to navigate through the series of frames in the video to find the one you want and under that you will see video control buttons that





will play the video and stop it when you see the image you want to extract. There is a large “Grab Frame” button that will grab the frame that is open in the video window and send it to Photoshop Elements where it will open automatically in a new image window.

Considering that all of the new point-and-shoot cameras have the ability to take short video bursts and considering how difficult it can be to catch the exact picture you want at the exact second it happens, especially with digital shutter lag, this might be the best way to catch pictures of some instamatic events in your life. Shutter lag is the delay between triggering the shutter and when the photograph is actually recorded. This is a common problem in the photography of fast-moving objects. In film cameras, the delay is caused by the mechanism inside the camera that opens the shutter, exposing the film. Because the process is mechanical, however, and relatively brief, shutter lag in film cameras is often only noticeable (and

of any concern) to professionals.

Shutter lag is much more of a problem with older digital cameras. In digital cameras, the delay results from the charging of the CCD and relatively slow transmission of its capture data to the circuitry of the camera for processing and storage. If your digital camera is more than a year old it probably suffers from excessive shutter lag and you may find that you have to wait for a few seconds or more between shots for your camera to finish processing each shot you take. Recent improvements in technology, however, such as the speed, bandwidth and power consumption of processor chips and memory, as well as CCD technology, have made shutter lag less of a problem.

Michael Shaw





Total Leopard: A Super Guide

In the December 2007 issue of DoubleClick I told you of my venturing into the jungle to meet Leopard, the new Mac operating system. You may recall that at that time I reserved final judgement on the new operating system because, frankly, I did not feel completely comfortable with it. But now, help is at hand, in late January 'Macworld' announced publication of 'Total Leopard,' a 90 page 'ebook,' their new 'Superguide' to Mac OS X version 10.5.

'Ah ha,' me-thought, here's my chance to have the experts at Macworld enlighten me and guide me in the paths of using Leopard, perhaps now I will understand what the heck I am doing when using the new OS;. So, I went on line and purchased the PDF download of the book.

Note: In addition to saving an easy reference copy on my hard drive, I have burned a back-up copy onto a CD for my library.

Total Leopard will take you step-by-step though OS 10.5; it give useful guidance that will help you to utilize

those features of Leopard that will suit your personal computing needs. To give you a sense of the book's style and focus here is my review; I suggest that you pay special attention to 'tips' throughout the Superguide, they are there to help you, I have identified a few of them in this review.

INSTALLING LEOPARD

For those of you who are about to install Leopard for the first time, the first section is a must read; you will receive good advice on the installation options available to you; what you really need to do before you install; the types of installation you can choose from; how to customize your installation, and, what features you can choose not to install during the installation process.

Tip: Total Leopard recommends that for most users 'archive and install' is the best choice. Should you choose to use the 'erase and install' option you may then need to restore certain data from a full system back-up that you have made prior to installation).

AFTER YOU HAVE UPGRADED—7 UPGRADE FIXES

Yes, you may experience some problems after you upgrade – insight into the seven most common upgrade problems and how to fix them – Good stuff!

INSIDE LEOPARD

A step-by-step look at the main components of the operating system.

The Finder and the Dock

Quick Look lets you look inside a file without having to open it. **** Tip: Zoom in for a quick look. **** Cover Flow which helps you browse files more quickly. • Stacks, a new way of looking at folders stored on your dock. • The improved Finder windows. **** Tip: Setting up your finder defaults. **** PLUS, three tricks to make YOUR dock work the way that YOU want it to...

Time Machine

The 'How to' on getting started and then 'using' this fantastic new feature:

• Backing up with Time Machine is easy, here's what you need to know to get you started. **** Tip: Erase Backups **** Finding Files - It's important to know how to find past versions of your files, here's how. • Making The Most of Time Machine – keeping accurate records of documents as you build, modify and improve them. There is an additional six page section towards the back of Total Leopard that covers in detail many of the aspects of Time Machine.

Spaces

You too can have multiple desk tops (workspaces) on your computer... If you want them! In this section you can lean: How to create multiple workspaces. **** Tip: 6 ways to save time in workspaces **** How to move between workspaces. **** Tip: Putting the 'Finder' in all workspaces. **** Etc.

Having read this section a couple of times, and, having seen the demos more than once, I am still not convinced that I personally want more



than one workspace, but, I recommend that you read this section carefully, you may well discover that multiple workspaces are an answer to one of your personal computing needs.

Mail

Leopard offers a number of new features that can simplify your life, Total Leopard offers a good primer on how to use each of the new features in 'Mail.' Apple has introduced a 'Simple Account Set Up' that will ease you into using the new mail boxes. • Make 'Notes' of specific items whilst in Mail that include text, web addresses, images, almost anything you want to keep track of. • Set up and save 'To Do' lists that you can utilize as and when you need them. **** Tip: Focus on unfinished tasks. **** 'Data Detectors' simplify the process of getting important contact information and event details into your address book and calendar. • You will also find useful information on 'Archiving Mailboxes' • 'Stationery' • 'Rich Text Formatting' and 'Productivity Improvements. **** Tip: Stopping

today's spam. ****

iChat

Use with a dot-Mac account or AOL's popular 'Aim' system; there are added new capabilities in iChat that include: • 'iChat Theatre' to help you share photos and visual presentation with other iChat users • How to get started when in a video chat. • 'Funky Video Effects - How to spice up your video chats using special effects from OS X's Photo Booth Program.**** Tip^: How to turn iChat into a Music controller. **** The list of 'how to do's' in this section include: Auto Acceptance of Chats • Audio and Video Recording • Multiple Logins • Chat Anywhere • Tabbed Chatting • Sharing Your Screen. **** Tip: Go incognito – how to hide from other users by becoming 'Invisible.' ****

Safari 3

Apple took the opportunity when introducing Leopard to release its beefed up Safari browser thus making using it a more pleasurable experience. 'Web Clips' (a new feature within Safari that is exclusive

to Leopard). • 'Improved Searching Capability,' • You can 'Bookmark Groups of Tabs.' • Expanded controls • Resizable text boxes • Recovery from accidental window closing • And more...

iCal 3

Leopard's version of Apple's calendar. Group scheduling - a new way to invite people to iCal meetings. • A new look that makes it easier to work with. • Easier to add or change the details of events. • A good improvement on a useful Mac feature. I am not sure that I know anyone who holds iCal meetings; that feature would seem to be applicable to people who work from home and/or who need to share their appointments information with others in different locations,

Automator 2

Do I really want to automate certain tasks? I humbly confess that this section has me baffled! It talks about creating workflow areas, capturing keystrokes, mouse actions etc., After reading it several times I am still non

the wiser. I have decided that 'automating tasks' is something that I will bypass at this stage of my life... But that does not mean that you should ignore the process, I am sure that for many of you who are technically more proficient than I, the process will seem as clear as the finest glass and be most useful.

Preview 4

Is Preview just a viewer for looking at images and PDF's? Well yes, it does that, but in OS X 10.5 it can now tackle a variety of other tasks. Working with PDFs – knowledge on how OS X 10.5 lets you take a PDF and manipulate it in a manner that better serves your needs; information that opens up a lot of opportunities for creative use of PDFs, cool stuff,.. • Graphic Powers – information on lots of new things, many of them features of iPhoto, that you can now do to, and with, graphics in Preview.

Parental Controls

A fairly extensive look at how to set up and manage such controls; includes items on: restricting programs



- controlling access • setting time limits • controlling guests, remote computers and intruders • keeping and eye on activity.

DVD Payer

The DVD player's capabilities have been enhanced in Leopard. Many new features noted here that you may not have been fully aware of.

Terminal 2

An update on Terminal's new features.

12 Hidden Features

Apple has told us that Leopard has over 300 new or improved features, here are twelve that you will want to take a look at; you may possible use some of them! Instant theatre • Add time to your screen saver • Preview your fonts • Custom keyboards • See a map • Hear voices (No, this is not a religious experience) • Get help • Turn snapshots into animations • Resize partitions (Something I have often wanted to do but could not) • Smarter dismounts • Dive into dictionary • Scroll background windows.

'Find Files Fast With Spotlight' Spotlight 101 • Creating good Searches • Advanced searches.

Wow! A full 8 pages on how to take full advantage of all that Spotlight can do for you. You can use Leopard's improved search tool to track down anything; well almost anything!

Comment: I have never understood what a 'Boolean search' is, and, in an attempt to remedy this deficiency in my knowledge I had checked my dictionary which informed me as follows:

Boolean – adjective - denoting a system of algebraic notation used to represent logical propositions, especially in computing and electronics... Yeah?

Noun – Computing – a binary variable, having two possible values called "true" and "false."

After reading the dictionary's definition I was even more confused! But, in the section on Spotlight there was a good example of what Boolean actually is that helped to clarify this term for me, something my dictionary had failed to do.

WORK THE WEB

A cornucopia of of tricks and tips when using Safari 3.

'Better Browsing'

All of us at some time or another go to the web to look for information; often the problem is that we are unsure of how to search and so we end up with masses of 'hits' that take forever to sort through. Here are techniques to make your browsing more efficient. • Reopen closed windows • Cut down on clicks • Do the time warp • Dig up forgotten passwords • Easier private browsing • Resize text boxes • Page loading – pie versus bar • Take control of tabs • Immediately close tabbed windows • Override form warnings • Reset selected tab data • Debug with web inspector • Speed surfing. (Keyboard shortcuts),

'Managing Bookmarks and RSS Feeds'

Tricks to improve how bookmarks and RSS feeds function. WOW, so many good ideas here. • Import bookmarks from other browsers • Hop to the right bookmark • Sync your bookmarks • Social bookmark-

ing • Create speakable Safari bookmarks • Shorten RSS summaries • Keep track of Safari's feeds • Create a personalized clipping service.

'Working With Downloads'

Every random file you download from Safari is automatically collected in your downloads folder located in your dock. - Tools to manage image files and PDFs. • Keep track of online purchases • Add web images to iPhoto • Choose a desktop image, Windows style • Save it for later • Send web pages • Halt those downloads • Discover a download's origin • Disable PDF viewing.

'Search Smarter'

Lots of good but simple tricks to really help you to search smarter. Yep, that's something that I need to do! Drag it to the web. • Get more results in Google. (My problem is that I often seem to get too many results). • Include (use) quotation marks to define your search. • Be negative. (No, not you personally, use of a minus sign to screen out words) • Use wild cards. (A new concept to me). • Ask for an answer. • Try an advanced



search - use of additional conditions to narrow your results. **** Tips on: Get and answer. • Search the blogosphere • Get more than just directions. • Find old web pages. ****

“AUTOMATE REPETITIVE TASKS”

Learn the secrets of Automator, Leopard’s automation assistant.

‘Learning The Basics’

Quote: “The beauty of Automator is that you don’t have to know how scripting works to automate complex tasks; the best way to learn Automator is to use it!”

Set your starting point. • Building the workflow. A step-by-step sequence you can practice with. • Testing the workflow. •••• Tip: Find the right finder. **** Saving your workflow. •••• Tip: Put your folders to work. ****

‘Using Variables and Loops’

Quote: “Among the most useful (of Automator’s more advanced tools) are variables and looping. Unfortunately, unless you’re an experienced scripter, they’re also potentially the most

confusing.” O.K. If you know what scripting is all about and want to use Automator like a prof, this section is for you, I wish you well in using it.

‘Troubleshooting your workflows’

Here’s what you need to do: To find mistakes, view the results. • When in doubt, disable actions. • Pause a workflow. • Track your workflow’s progress. • Take care when changing images.

‘ACCESS YOUR MAC FROM AFAR’

Taking advantage of Leopard’s new FileSharing and ScreenSharing features.

‘Sharing Files and Folders’

What to share. • Who to share with. **** Tip: Avoid user mishaps. **** How to share. • Accessing files.

‘Sharing your screen with others’ ‘Back to My Mac’

A new Leopard feature that lets you remotely access another computer that you own over a local network or the internet thus gaining access to

its shared volumes and controlling its screen. To do so you will need to: Check your requirements. • Configure your router. • Turn on ‘Back to My Mac’. • Configure your settings. • Using ‘Back to My Mac’ **** Tip: More .Mac tricks. **** Safety tips. • A work in progress. • Screen sharing. • iChat AV4 • Internet.

‘How ‘Back to My Mac’ keeps you secure:

.Mac password authentication. • Kerberos tickets (A security system that lets two parties who have previously identified themselves to each other to validate each other’s identity and securely share information). • IP security tunneling - a virtual private network protocol.

WOW! Really technical stuff.

‘TROUBLE SHOOTING YOUR MAC’

How to treat common OSX problems and protect your data.

Yes, even the most proficient users can sometimes have problems with their Mac, and, the rest of us are sure at times to get to the point of say-

ing when our computer misbehaves, “What do I do now?” Leopard has some fixes for common Mac problems; Total Leopard gives you six pages of proven ways to recover from common maladies.

‘BACKING UP WITH TIME MACHINE’

All the things you wanted to know but didn’t know who to ask! Here, almost at the back of the book (and at the end of this review) is lots more information about how Time Machine works and what you should and can do to use it efficiently. This section sure answered a lot of questions that I had.

Caveat Time Machine is good, very good, but it does have limitations in its back-up and recover capability; there’s a detailed list of things that Time Machine can’t do. E.g. Time Machine will NOT make a bootable copy of your hard disk’s system, you have to do that separately, and, for your own peace of mind, you SHOULD have a bootable back-up copy of your system.



‘SECURING YOUR CONNECTIONS’

Common sense advice on protecting your Mac from malicious hackers and programs.

Nothing very new here, but you should read this page because it may well suggest ways that you can make your computer safer.

A FEW PAGES OF HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS’

To complete the book the authors have offered useful suggestions on: ‘Must Have Software: • Utilities. (This section makes you aware that there’s always something new that you can add to your system, but you already knew that!), • Media tools. • Web helpers and more...

‘SOME FINAL THOUGHTS ABOUT TOTAL LEOPARD’ IT’S WORTH THE MONEY!

A well written, well organized book that is both easy to read and informative without containing too much techie jargon; there are good graphics and tip boxes throughout that are an excellent aid in drawing your atten-

tion to, and helping you to understand, specific topics. For reasons of space in DoubleClick, in this article I have often given you just the topics sub-headings hoping that they will alert you to the abundance of available information

If you have already installed Leopard there’s masses of good information to help you get the most from the new system, and, if you are right at the cusp, between OS X 10.4 and 10.5, this book has great advice about installing the new system, and, when you do, it will help you to understand how all of the new/improved features can be used.

Purchasing information: You will be offered three format choices when you go to purchase ‘Total Leopard’ on line from Macworld – <ebooks@macworld.com>:

Buy it in downloadable PDF Form for \$12.95 and get immediate access to the entire book – 90 pages! (Download size: 3.5 MB). • Get it on a CD-ROM for \$15 and you’ll always have a back-up • Or a lavish, full-size, full-color printed book on high-quality paper – \$24.99

In retrospect I’m kinda sorry that I did not order the printed book as I really do prefer reading reference material from the printed page rather than from my computer’s screen; (It’s a generational thing!) but, I was impatient; (Please Lord give me patience, and I want it immediately..) I wanted to get my hands on the book’s contents immediately rather than having to wait for it to be shipped to me by mail from the United States. Cest la vie! However, no real regrets, unquestionably the download PDF book I bought was an excellent buy,

Stan Wild



We Had a Meeting...

Images from our February 2008 Public Meeting



Thanks for Jim Danabie for the photos