

FIRST LOOK: **ADOBE CS2** | **TIGER ARRIVES!** p.17

Macworld

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The Mac Product Experts

TIME-SAVING TIPS

41 Secrets of the Mac Efficiency Experts



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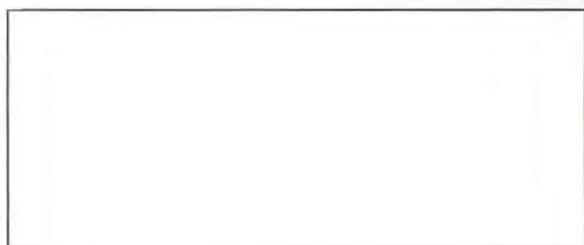
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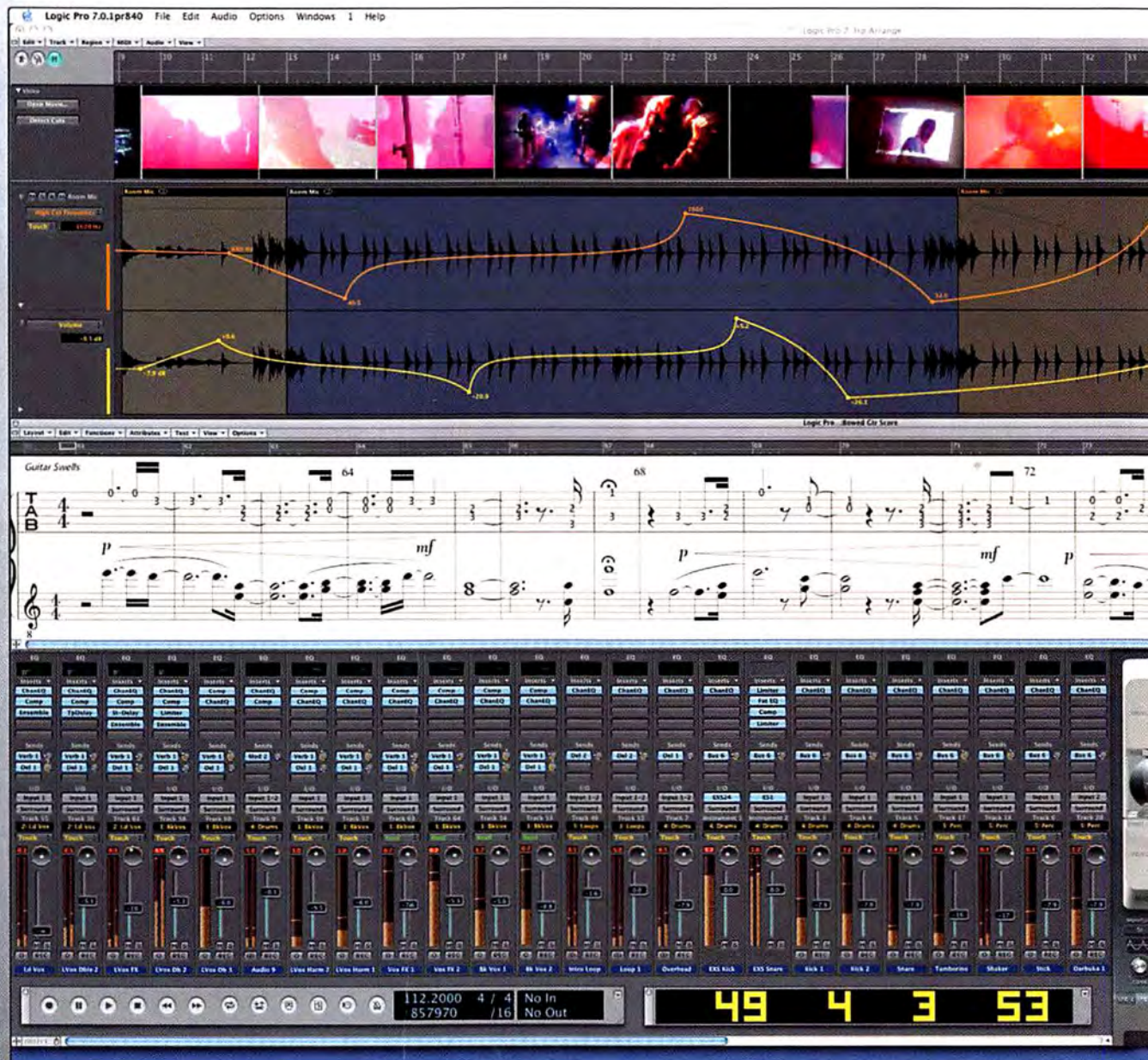


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New **iPod Minis** and
iPod Photos Reviewed
and Rated, p. 26



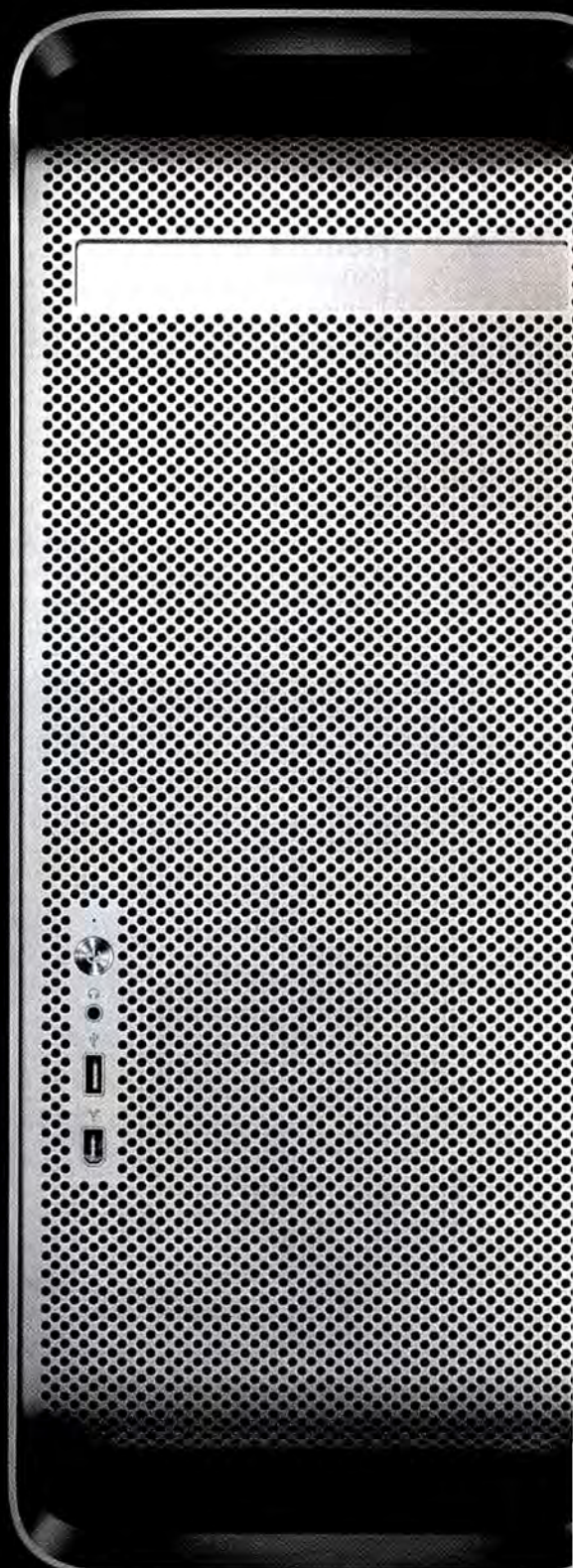
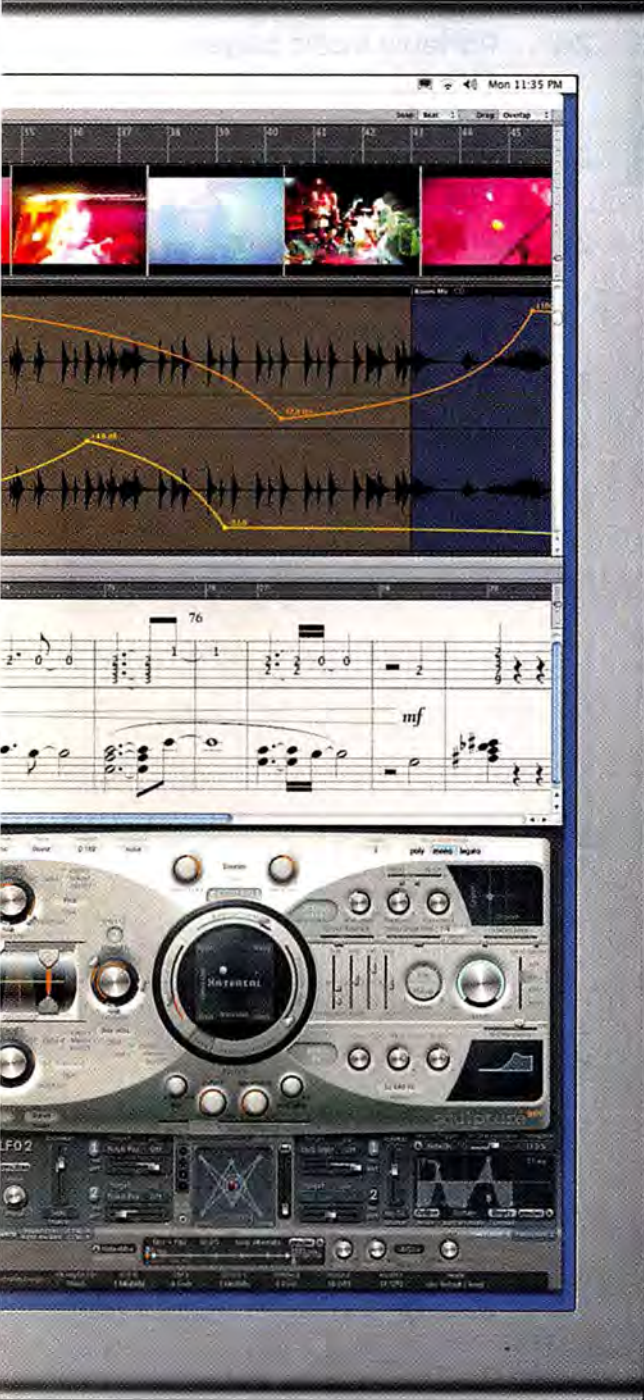


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Macworld

OPINION

9 From the Editor's Desk

JASON SNELL

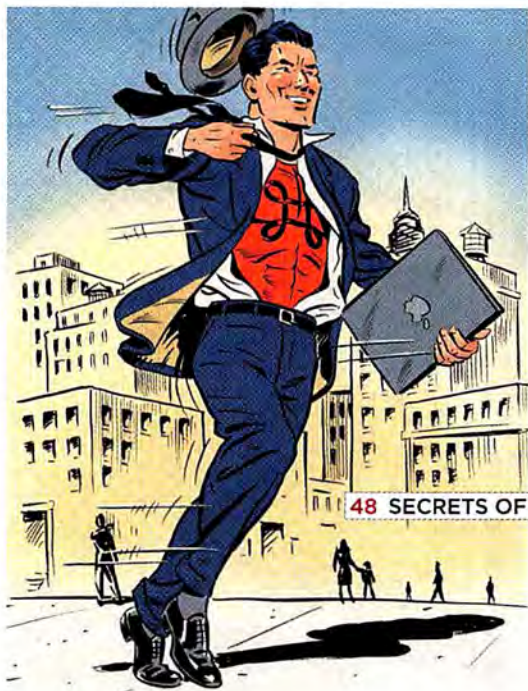
The crusade to eliminate piracy from the face of the earth has special interests fighting over consumer rights. In the meantime, enjoy your iPods and TiVos.

14 Feedback

Readers respond.

MAC BEAT

- 16 Here's all the news from the world of Macs: a new look at Apple's market share, Tiger arrives, iTunes Custom Cards, a digital music update, Oregon Public Broadcasting uses iBooks, Macs in science, and biometric security devices. Also, Apple's increased PowerBook RAM—is this the start of something good?



48 SECRETS OF MAC SUPERHEROES



On the Cover
Photographs by Peter Belanger



The Virtual CD

All readers now have free access to the contents of the CD-ROM that comes with some copies of *Macworld*. To view the contents of the CD, go to the following URL (broadband Internet recommended): <http://cd.macworld.com/2005/06/web-nugget>

REVIEWS

- 26 **Portable music players**
 4GB iPod mini (second generation)
 6GB iPod mini (second generation)
- 27 **Portable music player**
 30GB iPod photo
- 27 **Photoshop plug-ins**
 Enhancer 2.0
 Eye Candy 5: Nature
 Color Efex Pro 2.0

32 Top Products

34 More Reviews



36 Game Room

PETER COHEN
 Get a sneak peek at the new Mac version of *The Sims 2*. Also, we've got reviews of *True Crime: Streets of LA*, *GooBall*, *Cosmo Bots*, *Tennis Titans*, and *Kill Monty*.

44 Mac Gems

DAN FRANKS
 Stream any audio with an AirPort Express, fine-tune your monitor's brightness, easily connect to Windows SMB volumes, accessorize your Mac mini, and take control of your open apps and windows.

SPECIAL SECTION



MAC MINI BUYERS' GUIDE

Selected newsstand copies of this issue contain a special 20-page "Mac Mini Buyers' Guide" supplement (it begins after page 72). Whether you're a longtime Mac fan or a recent

convert, we'll show you how to outfit your new Mac mini with the right gear, the best utilities, and the little extras that really maximize your mini's powers. If you don't have the supplement, don't worry: you can download it for free from macworld.com/0468.

COVER STORY

48 Secrets of Mac Superheroes

Are you using your Mac and its programs the best way possible? We asked some Mac experts for productivity-enhancing tips on using e-mail, browsing the Web, troubleshooting, and much more. Learn how you can change your computing habits to save time and work more efficiently.

FEATURE

58 First Look: Adobe Creative Suite 2

Check out this preview of the updated Adobe Creative Suite—and get your first look at CS's revamped applications, tighter integration, and new project-management tools.



SECRETS

66 WORKING MAC Monitor Misbehaving Macs

TED LANDAU

Need something that can fix freezes, open unopenable apps, and diagnose slowdowns? It's called the Activity Monitor—and you already own it.

68 DIGITAL PHOTO Faking Your Focus

JULIE KING

A little finagling in Photoshop Elements can make images from your point-and-shoot look like shots taken with an expensive camera.

70 CREATE Start Your Own Podcast

CYRUS FARIVAR

Join the Podcast revolution! We show you how to record and publish your own audio broadcasts.

74 PLAYLIST Brilliant Playlists

CHRISTOPHER BREEN

We've got seven inspired smart playlists that will quickly sort through your massive iTunes library and find just the songs you want to listen to.

78 MOBILE MAC How to Use Hotspots

GLENN FLEISHMAN

Learn how to find and access public wireless hotspots—without sacrificing security.

80 GEEK FACTOR 3 Cool AppleScripts

ADAM GOLDSTEIN

These simple tricks let you slim down images without leaving the Finder, confine a document to a specific number of pages, and have your screen saver signal to iChat that you're away.

82 HELP DESK Mac OS X Hints

ROB GRIFFITHS

Clean up text copied from the Web, quickly enter URLs in OmniWeb 5, preview multiple fonts, add the latest Java support to Mozilla browsers, access an encyclopedia from the command line, and more.

86 Mac 911 CHRISTOPHER BREEN

Make cross-platform PowerPoint presentations, automate Office 2004 updates, create selective online searches, block annoying mail, create multiple on-the-go playlists, and more.

BACK PAGE

120 Hot Stuff

Check out our favorite new stuff.



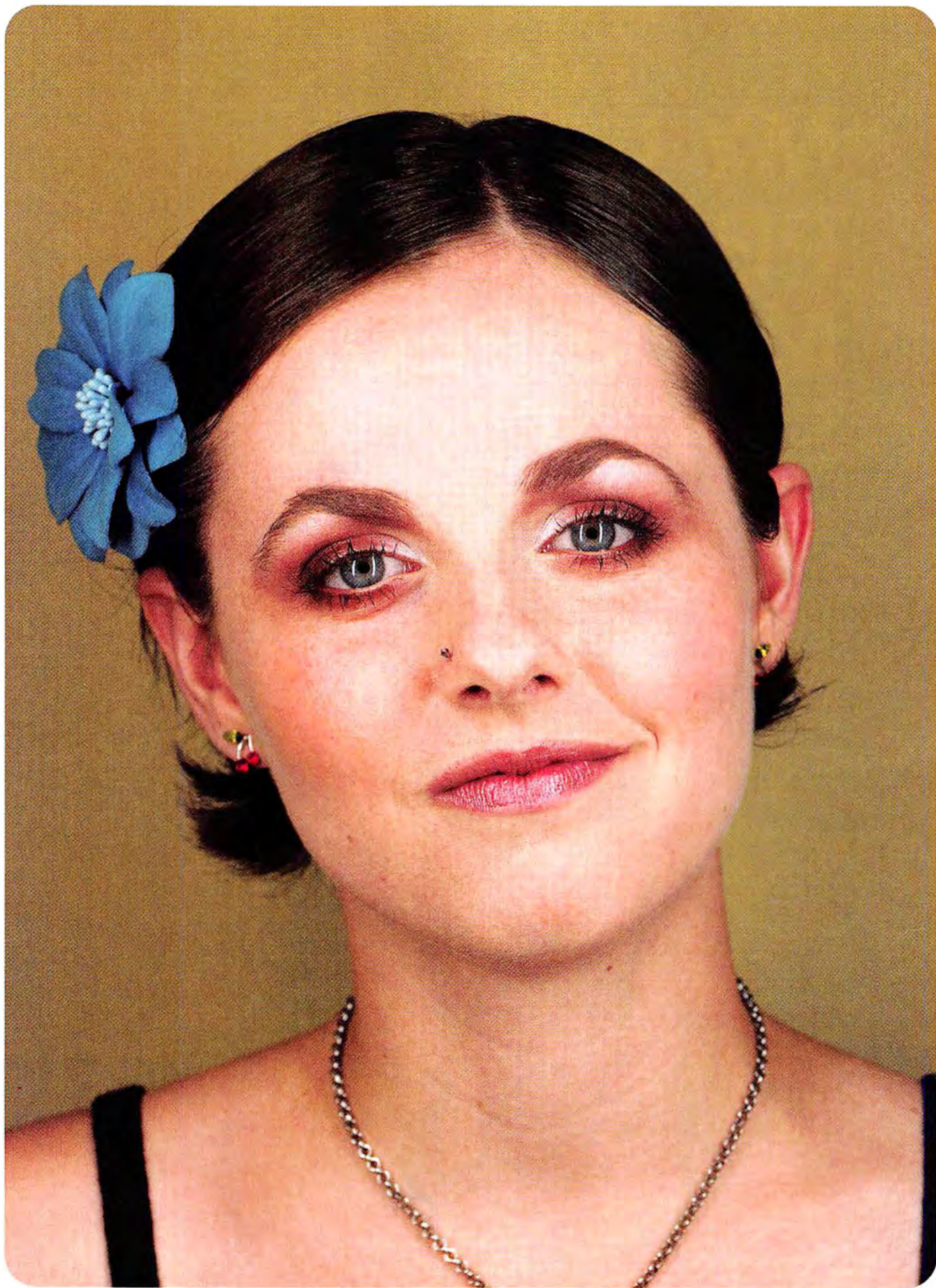
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Back when Apple Computer promised Apple Records that it wouldn't switch from computers to the music industry, the idea that the two companies would ever be in the same business seemed silly. Yet today there's no telling where computers stop and music, movies, and television begin. The result is a potentially cataclysmic clash over your rights as a consumer—and Apple is right in the middle.

The Fight for Your Rights

The most recent battle is being fought in the U.S. Supreme Court, in the form of *MGM v. Grokster*. (A ruling is expected not long after this issue comes out.) The movie studio is attempting to hold the creator of file-sharing software responsible for the illegal activity of its users. Under some interpretations, a win by MGM could make devices like the iPod *illegal*, because they can be filled with illegally downloaded music.

It's legal to record TV shows on a VCR or a TiVo. You can legally copy CDs to iPods. So far, the courts have ruled that you're free to move your stuff from device to device and enjoy it wherever you like.

Unfortunately, the studios and record labels are working hard to roll such freedoms back. The *Grokster* case is just the latest example: the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) of 1998 is another. Under the guise of fighting piracy, it made an end run around your freedom to move your stuff, by making it illegal for anyone to create ways for you to exercise that freedom.

Innovation at Risk

Like any good company, Apple wants to serve its customers by creating new technologies. But Apple must also stay on good terms with music companies if it wants the iTunes Music Store to survive (no tunes, no iTunes). And if there's ever going to be a handheld Apple video player or an Apple Movie Store, Apple has to be on good terms with the movie and TV industries.

To see how this conflict plays out, just look at iTunes. Load up your iPod at home and bring it into work. Using iTunes, can you drag *your* music out of *your* iPod and onto the hard drive of *your* work computer? No, because Apple is worried that the music industry will see the iPod as a piracy-enabling device.

Or consider Apple's iTunes Sharing feature. Ever since Apple introduced it, it has gradually become less useful. You can share MP3s with anyone, but you can't share files you download from the iTunes Music Store. In previous iterations of the software, you could share your music with anyone on the Internet, but then a software update crippled that feature.

Apple isn't alone. Several companies offer CD- and DVD-burning utilities, for example, but those pro-

grams can't copy commercial Hollywood DVDs—that would be illegal under the DMCA. Want to make a backup copy of your *Finding Nemo* DVD because you're worried that your three-year-old will scratch the original beyond repair? You're out of luck (unless you want to use illegal DVD-copying software).

Arr, There Be Pirates

Of course, the studios and record companies aren't really worried about iTunes sharing and DVD copying. They're afraid of piracy. Music, movies, and TV shows are traded illegally at an alarming and accelerating rate.

But piracy is nothing new. People have been copying movies, TV shows, CDs, and records since the dawn of recordable media. Worrying about college kids pirating music and movies is like worrying that they'll stay up late and drink beer—these things are givens. But they grow out of it. And most adults, if given the opportunity, will be honest and *buy* their music, movies, and computer software.

Meanwhile, the crusade against piracy is trampling the rights of everyday users, and useful features are disappearing from products. Does this stop the pirates from pirating? No, but it does make life less convenient for the rest of us, and it makes creating compelling products tougher for companies like Apple.

Give Peace a Chance

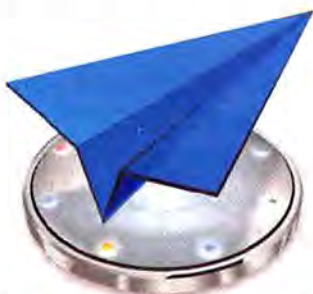
In my dreams, the Supreme Court will rule in *Grokster's* favor, the DMCA will be ruled unconstitutional, and Congress will stop favoring the needs of media corporations over consumers' rights. Oh, and I also want a pony.

In reality, we'll likely continue living with compromises. Sometimes consumers' rights will be reduced, but at a level we can live with, as with the iTunes Music Store. Sometimes media companies will win, and new technologies will be crippled.

In the meantime, enjoy your iPods and your TiVos. Let's just hope that we live in a world where there's more where they came from. □

What side of the rights divide do you stand on? Let us know at macworld.com/0504, or send an e-mail to jason_snell@macworld.com.

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FEEDBACK

Is Your Mac Safe?

Ask Mac fans why we prefer the Mac to the Windows PC, and you'll likely get long lists of reasons. Most of those lists will have one item in common: we don't have to worry about viruses, spyware, and other digital pests that plague our PC-using counterparts. But is that sense of security really warranted? That was the question we set out to answer in March's "Mac Security: Fact and Fiction" feature. Judging by the responses to that story, many of you aren't feeling so complacent. ☐

Security Insecurities

JOHN HALE

Your article on Mac security ("Mac Security: Fact and Fiction," March 2005) is the kind of thing I subscribe to *Macworld* for. However, the section on antivirus software missed the mark. Security software should follow the medical dictum "First of all, do no harm." But that's exactly what many Mac antivirus utilities do—something the article did not address. As a visit to almost any Mac forum will confirm, the biggest offender appears to be McAfee's Virex, but Symantec's Norton AntiVirus and Intego's VirusBarrier can also cause problems. Protecting your Mac without creating even more problems is a real dilemma.

ANDY PETERS

I don't get it. In "Mac Security: Fact and Fiction," you say, "No virus outbreaks affected Mac users in 2004." But then, in "Select Your Shield," you tell your readers that "the programs did a good job of finding viruses" on your test drive. If there are no Mac viruses, what exactly did these programs find? Maybe they found a Windows virus attached to an e-mail message in your Junk folder—but that virus can't do anything to your Mac, so who cares? You conclude, "Any of these programs will provide the basic protection every Mac user needs." Seems to me that *not* buying any of these programs will do the same thing. What do I get if I spend \$60 on a highly rated Mac antivirus program?

No software is perfect, but flaws seem particularly glaring in antivirus apps that touch all your files. And while it's true that the average Mac user may never see a single virus, it isn't safe to assume that this will never change. Also, Mac users who work in a multiplatform environment (meaning most of us) are doing

Windows colleagues a big favor by keeping workspaces free of viruses.—Ed.

MAC CARTER

As a longtime user of Virex and Norton AntiVirus, I think both programs are ineffective at best. So I was elated to see that Intego's VirusBarrier was your Editors' Choice for virus protection. But when I bought and installed VirusBarrier, I discovered that in addition to the \$60 price, Intego charges \$30 a year for virus-definition updates after the first 12 months. Your article makes no mention of this extra fee.

You're right: the effectiveness of antivirus apps depends on having current virus definitions. And every antivirus vendor charges for those definitions, typically after the first year.—Ed.

Mini: How Sweet Is It?

MANOLIS KROUSSANIO TAKIS

I just want to add my two cents on the Mac mini and its installed RAM ("Small Miracles," March 2005). Based on my experience with my iBook, 256MB of RAM is enough for most of the applications I use—Adobe Photoshop and Apple's Mail, Safari, AppleWorks, Preview, iCal, and iPhoto, usually all open at once. Sure, Photoshop and iPhoto sometimes take a few extra seconds to complete some actions, but you can't have instant gratification all the time.

LINDA WUNNER

I was at first really excited about the Mac mini. I thought it would be perfect for me—until I read the specs. How can Apple put only 256MB of RAM and one slot into this machine? It's insane! The price for RAM upgrades, the difficulty of adding AirPort networking and Bluetooth, and the slow 4,200-rpm hard drive add insult to injury. Do you really think you are fool-

ing anyone, Steve? When we do the math, we can figure out the final cost. No, I don't think I will be buying a mini.

Mellel versus Nisus

DR. RON RHODES

You should reconsider your ratings of Mellel 1.8 (★★★; March 2005) and the significantly more expensive Nisus Writer Express 2.1 (★★★★; March 2005). As the author of over 30 books, I've tested all the word processors for the Mac, and I've found that while Mellel performs flawlessly, Nisus has so many bugs that it's impossible to use. For example, if you double-space footnotes in Nisus and then close the document, those footnotes appear single-spaced when you reopen it. If you try to reorder paragraphs that have endnotes by selecting and dragging those paragraphs, then the endnote numbers and their content at the end of the document vanish into oblivion and won't reappear until you close and restart the program. I could go on. Nisus is not ready for prime time.

So Long, AppleWorks?

BRIAN SMITH

As a longtime AppleWorks user, I was intrigued by the announcement of the new iWork suite ("Sweet Software Suites," *Mac Beat*, March 2005). After having a closer look, though, I have to say that Apple may have a winner here—but iWork ain't AppleWorks, that's for sure. Gone is the spreadsheet, gone is the database, gone are the paint and draw sections—all sacrificed for the sake of Apple's competition with Microsoft PowerPoint. Fortunately, I can still use AppleWorks for my accounting and membership-mailing routines—for as long as it will run on whatever new OS Apple foists on us. But how long will that be?

Picking on Eddy

MATTHEW MIGNAULT

I recently purchased an iMac G5, and now I understand why Apple users have always been such a proud group: the G5 is an elegant machine, and I can't see myself going back to a PC. But I'm disappointed by the amount of fan noise the G5 emits. Take a look at the discussion forums on Apple's own Web site, and you'll find plenty of documentation of the problem. So I was surprised to read in "The 20th Annual Editors' Choice Awards" (February 2005) that the iMac G5 system is "whisper-quiet." Who are you kidding? The G5 is not a quiet computer—let alone whisper-quiet—by any stretch of the imagination.

The iMac G5s we reviewed had fans that were commendably quiet. But you're right—there have been many reports to the contrary since then. We're looking at those reports now to see whether they merit coverage.—Ed.

SIMON RINGSMUTH

The computer held up by the Editors' Choice figurine (February 2005) appears to

be a Mac SE. Why the SE? *Macworld* doled out the first Eddy Awards in 1985, when the hottest Mac around was the 512K. The SE didn't debut until 1987. The 512K or the original 128K would be a better choice.

The original Eddy was holding up a Mac Plus. At a later date—around 1990—we revised the statue to use the form factor of the Mac SE and Classic. It has remained so ever since.—Ed.

Stop Your Sobbing

SCOTT BROWN

What is it with your *Feedback* column? In every issue, it's mostly complaints. For example, in the March issue, 11 of the 12 letters were negative in tone, if not outright complaints. I don't want propaganda, but I'd like to see some balance in the column. Otherwise, you should call it "Whine Bar."

It's Just a Tool

RAY SCHOCH

A Harley-Davidson is only a motorcycle, and a computer is only a tool, folks. Sure, I prefer the Apple version to the Microsoft

version of this particular tool, but that shouldn't mean I have to spend a month's income every year to replace it. It makes neither economic nor ecological sense to toss aside expensive and perfectly serviceable tools simply because they're not the latest and shiniest.

CORRECTIONS

In "Reviewed: iLife '05 and iWork '05" (April 2005), we incorrectly state that AppleWorks is free with all new Macs. In fact, the suite is not bundled with Power Macs and PowerBooks.

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Apple's Uphill Climb

When Apple released its sales numbers for the last three months of 2004, it gave market research firm IDC the chance to compare Apple's place in the computer market with the big PC vendors' shares. So is Apple gaining ground or falling behind? Turns out it's doing a little bit of both.

BY JIM DALRYMPLE

According to IDC, Apple's share of the desktop market continued to rise at the end of 2004, while its laptop position slipped. Over the course of the year, Apple gained nearly 1 percent in the U.S. desktop market and about 0.5 percent in the world market (the numbers don't include the Mac mini). After a rise during the year, Apple's U.S. laptop market share dropped back to roughly what it was one year before, and its world market share fell a bit. Why are laptop sales down when desktop sales are up? Apple declared 2003 the "Year of the Notebook," but it hasn't pushed laptops as hard since then. Also, rumors of a G5-based PowerBook debuting at Macworld Expo in January 2005 may have kept many customers from purchasing a new PowerBook.

The Mac Mini—Will It Help?

While the desktop numbers are positive for Apple, they don't take into account what could be one of the most significant moves Apple has made with its desktop computers in recent years—the release of the \$499 Mac mini.

The Mac mini could potentially be one of the best-selling Macs that Apple has in its arsenal. By giving the mini a price tag that even the most price-conscious consumers find affordable, Apple has set up the new desktop as a wonderful first Mac for switchers or students, or as a second Mac for the home.

Not many consumers would consider adding a \$1,299 iMac to their \$99 iPod shuffle purchase, but a \$499 computer is a much easier sell. And Windows users



TIGER ARRIVES

accustomed to purchasing relatively inexpensive hardware can now replace a PC with the Mac mini and not suffer the sticker shock that's normally associated with buying a Mac.

Analysts also see the mini's potential. "The luster that the brand currently has because of sales of the iPod, combined with what is perceived as a very affordable product carrying the prestige of the Apple brand, is definitely going to help them," says Jupiter Research analyst Michael Gartenberg.

Apple is known for having a strong, identifiable brand that people are willing to pay more money for. So does that prestige wear off when you pay only \$499—instead of \$1,000 or more—for the computer? Not with a desktop computer that you can sling under your arm and walk away with.

"The fact that Apple is priced within reach of the rest of the market is psychologically very important. And, of course, it's a beautiful design—people look at that computer and they break out into a smile," says Gartenberg. "They are not saying that about Dell's machines."

Does Market Share Matter?

As much as any company would like to boast having the highest market share in the industry (as Apple can do easily with the iPod), does market share really matter? After all, Apple reported its highest quarterly revenue and net income in the company's history with a \$295 million profit for its first fiscal quarter of 2005.

Apple has been fighting market-share numbers for many years. Of course, the company can't ignore the numbers altogether, but it's more important for Apple

The wait is over—Tiger is here! Beginning April 29, Mac OS X 10.4 will be available worldwide. The latest version of Apple's advanced operating system has more than 150 new features, including Spotlight—a sophisticated desktop search tool for finding anything on your Mac—and Dashboard, a semitransparent desktop layer for accessing frequently used widgets such as calculators, Address Book contacts, and weather information. For our comprehensive coverage, visit macworld.com/tiger, and be sure to check out the next issue of *Macworld*.



to have a strong overall strategy—keeping the iPod and Mac names on the tips of people's tongues—than to chase numbers that mean little to regular consumers.

According to Ross Rubin, director of industry analysis for NPD Techworld, which provides sales and marketing information to technology companies, "market share is kind of a moot point in the evolution of the Mac."

iPod: Apple's (Still) Rising Star

There is no question that the iPod has lifted Apple's profile from that of a niche computer company to that of a market-leading powerhouse in the music realm. Apple has used the popularity of the iPod to market other products in its lineup—including the Mac. Once people take a look at Apple as the maker of the iPod, they start to see the bigger picture of what the company has to offer.

Apple's naysayers have been waiting for the competition to drop the hammer on Apple and wrench away both music-store and MP3-player market share. But even with names such as Sony, Napster, and Microsoft targeting Apple, the iPod's success has only increased.

"What's interesting is that people have been saying from day one that the iPod is great, but just wait until the competitors come up with equivalent models and Apple can't compete. Well, it's been three and a half years, and it hasn't happened yet," says Gartenberg.

In fact, there are other flash-based MP3 players on the market that boast more features than Apple's recently introduced iPod shuffle, but evidence suggests that they aren't as popular as the shuffle.

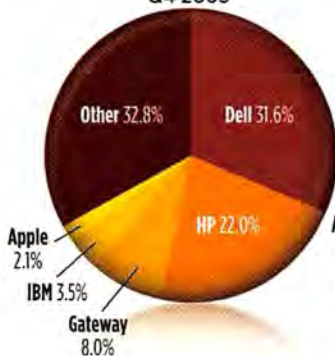
Jupiter's Gartenberg concludes that "we are past the discussion point of 'Will Apple be in business next year? Will the Mac be around next year?' Only the foolish among us are still debating that question."

Although Apple will never catch up in the computer game, the popularity of the iPod and the iTunes Music Store make for a pretty large target on the company's back. To continue its popularity, Apple must continue to innovate, and to force the competition to follow in its footsteps. □

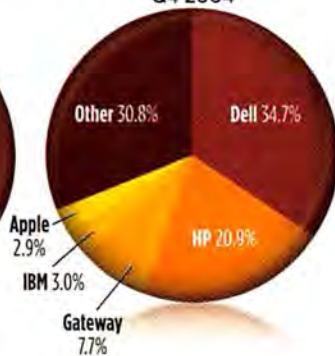
Macworld.com News Editor JIM DALRYMPLE covers, among other things, Apple financial reports.

U.S. Desktop Market Share

Q4 2003

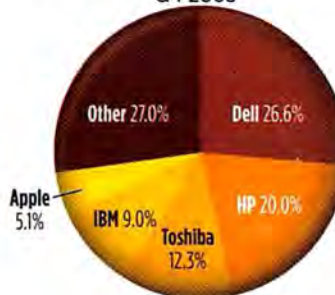


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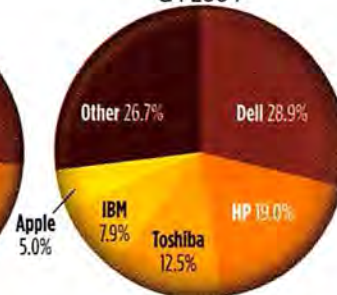


U.S. Portable Market Share

Q4 2003

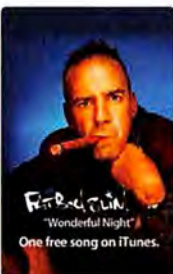
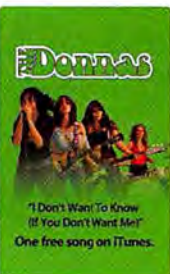
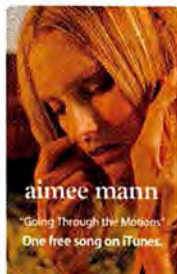


Q4 2004



APPLE EXPANDS ITUNES CUSTOM CARDS

Take My Single, Please



At 2005's Grammy Awards, artists including Bono, Norah Jones, Brian Wilson, and Stevie Wonder came together to perform a version of the Beatles' song "Across the Universe." The next day, the recording went on sale at the iTunes Music Store, with all proceeds going to tsunami-relief efforts in Southeast Asia. Apple also created 500 iTunes Custom Cards for the charity recording and sent them to major radio outlets to generate buzz for the single. Each instantly collectable card featured a picture of the song's star performers on

the front and a special download code on the back, which let the card's owner download the song from the iTunes Music Store for free.

The cards were so successful that Apple expanded the program: bands participating in March's South By Southwest music conference (www.sxsw.com) in Austin, Texas, could promote a single by passing out as many as 200 numbered copies of their own cards. The cards featured original artwork and a code for a specific song. Bands such as Calexico, Aimee Mann, Fat Boy Slim, and Elvis Costello handed them out.

Chris Bell, Apple's director of iTunes product marketing, says the program will continue: "We have some other promo-only programs similar to SXSW coming up. Stay tuned."

Custom Cards are designed to replace traditional promotional CDs—they're a lot easier to lug around than stacks of CDs and can be more cost-effective—and, of course, they drive people to the iTunes Music Store.—CHRISTOPHER BREEN

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE DIGITAL MUSIC WORLD?

Listen to the Music

It's time once again to bring you up-to-date on some of the recent news in the digital music realm.—JONATHAN SEFF

Creative Drops Prices

Claiming that it would "further drive our momentum" in the digital music-player market, Creative Technology dropped prices of its Zen Micro MP3 players. Although CEO Sim Wong Hoo says Creative is "putting our competitors on the defensive," the new prices came six days after

Apple announced its updated iPod mini line—and almost exactly match Apple's new pricing (www.creative.com).



Billboard Counts Digital Downloads

Although *Billboard*, the 111-year-old music-industry publication, has been tracking digital music downloads from places such as the iTunes Music Store for the past year, digital sales have been relegated to their own sections. *Billboard* recently began integrating digital track purchases into its "Hot 100" chart and added a new "Pop 100" chart—both track airplay, retail single sales, and digital track sales (www.billboard.com).

Although *Billboard*, the 111-year-old music-industry publication, has been tracking digital music downloads from places such as the iTunes Music Store for the past year,

Sony Goes Flash-Based

For the first time in the history of the company's Network Walkman, Sony is releasing seven digital music players that use flash-based memory instead of hard drives. The music players will support MP3 and Sony's ATRAC3 files (www.sonymstyle.com).



HARDWARE BEAT



DVI Booster, from Gefen (www.gefen.com): Unit extends the length of a DVI connection between a Mac and its display by 30 to 50 feet (\$249).

FastMac G4, from FastMac (www.fastmac.com): Processor upgrade for CRT-based iMacs with slot-loading optical drives replaces the existing CPU with a Motorola 7410 processor running at 550MHz with 1MB of Level 2 cache (\$200).

NuPower replacement batteries, from Other World Computing (www.macsales.com): Higher-capacity batteries for 14-inch iBook G3 and iBook G4 models are rated at 59 watt-hours and 71 watt-hours, 12 percent and 29 percent more than Apple's stock battery, respectively (59-Wh battery, \$120; 71-Wh battery, \$140).

TDP-S25U, from Toshiba (www.toshibadirect.com): Portable projector features Digital Light Processing technology; 2,000:1 contrast ratio; 1,800 ANSI lumens; and native SVGA 800-by-600 resolution (\$999).

Tempo-X eSATA 8, from Sonnet Technologies (www.sonnettech.com): PCI-X host controller for Power Macs provides eight external Serial ATA ports (\$300).

VX924, from Viewsonic (www.viewsonic.com): 19-inch LCD shipping in May features 1,280-by-1,024 native resolution and delivers 4-millisecond video response time across the entire color scale (\$499).

NETWORKING BEAT



27dBm Base Station Transceiver, from QuickerTek (www.quickertek.com): Transceiver boosts wireless networking output of Power Mac G4s and G5s to 500 milliwatts, the maximum output allowed by the FCC (\$160).

Timbuktu Pro 8.0, from Netopia (www.netopia.com): Update enhances remote-control software's security by offering an integrated Secure Shell client that encrypts and compresses data streams (\$100; contact Netopia for upgrade pricing).



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OREGON PUBLIC BROADCASTING TURNS TO MACS FOR PLEDGE DRIVES

Members Like You



If you've ever watched a local public television station's pledge drive, you've probably noticed that the fundraiser isn't a very high-tech operation. Volunteers answer calls and then fill out slips of paper with donor information. The slips are collected and tallied by hand, and the data is entered into a system. So I was pleasantly surprised when, during a recent volunteer session at Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB), each

volunteer was greeted by a shiny white iBook, instead of a pen and slips of paper.

Each iBook runs a custom OS X app called OPB Pledge, an elegant program that turns the tedium of hand-completing pledge paperwork into a simple and time-efficient task. Completed pledges are held in a queue on the iBook and then transmitted wirelessly to the database server, which sits on an Apple Xserve. The database server and its administration interface run on open-source software, so there aren't any licensing fees.

The pledge system has eliminated manual data entry from the OPB fundraising drives, and it has helped reduce the turnaround time between taking a pledge and collecting the money—a process that used to take six to eight weeks. Like Macs in general, the system just works.—ROB GRIFFITHS

APPLE FURTHERS ITS INROADS INTO THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

The Science of Macs

As Apple produces faster computers, and as OS X's Unix core makes the operating system an even more viable option for researchers, Macs continue to make strides in the scientific community. Adding another notch to its belt, Apple recently made the shortlist of five companies that are "the best qualified to implement new technologies that will advance genomics research," according to a report published by market research firm BioInformatics (www.gene2drug.com). The survey asked 600 genomics researchers which technology company they prefer.

"We are really pleased about it," says Liz Kerr, Apple's director of science and technology markets. "It's nice when you know that you have a great solution, but then to see it broadly reflected in a piece of research like this is really gratifying."

News of the research hasn't changed Apple's approach to the science market, but the company has begun taking its message on the road. At the end of March, it launched a national road show focusing on high-performance computing in the sciences. The road show visited San Diego, San Francisco, Boston, New York, and Cincinnati.

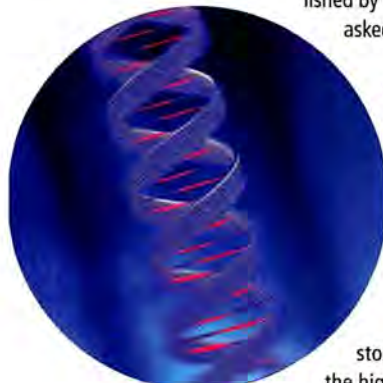
Kerr says that hardware releases like the Xserve G5 and the Xsan storage-area-network file system demonstrate Apple's commitment to the high-performance-computing market. But Apple's success in the sci-

ences isn't just about the hardware. OS X has played a large role in converting sci-

entists, and it will continue to do so. Kerr is a featured speaker at the upcoming Bio-IT World Conference + Expo, where she'll talk about the benefits of OS X 10.4 (also known as Tiger).

On May 18, Kerr will present "Apple and Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger: Energize Your Workflow," a session dedicated to an overview of Tiger and its relevance to the "drug discovery process." Kerr will focus on Automator, a technology that helps streamline repetitive tasks; Xgrid-based distributed computing; and other Apple software relevant to scientists and IT managers.

"Clearly, with OS X we stopped being a niche player," says Kerr. "That's one of the reasons we are seeing so much success—this is the market that gets that more than any other."—JIM DALRYMPLE

CREATIVE
BEAT

Canvas X, from ACD Systems (www.acdsystems.com): Cross-platform workflow system for people who create, edit, present, and distribute technical illustrations and other graphics files supports more than 100 file formats and features annotation, mark-up, and redlining tools (\$400; upgrades, \$50–\$200, depending on version).

Poser 6, from Curious Labs (www.curiouslabs.com): Updated 3-D tool for creating realistic human figures adds revamped user interface, OpenGL hardware acceleration, cartoon-outline rendering effects, and better support for Flash (\$269; upgrade, \$129).

Quark Publishing System 3.5, from Quark (www.quark.com): Workflow-management software features integration with QuarkXPress 6, edit tracking with redlining capability, QuickConnect for tracking and managing applications, and support for Mac OS X Server and Xserve; at press time, no ship date had been announced (contact Quark for pricing; upgrade, free).

STORAGE
BEAT

External Hard Drive Silver Series, from Iomega (www.iomega.com): External hard drive with 7,200-rpm mechanism and USB 2.0 interface comes in 80GB, 160GB, and 250GB capacities (\$119–\$199, depending on capacity).

Forensic BayDock, from WiebeTech (www.wiebetech.com): External FireWire desktop storage system for file recovery adds Serial ATA support in both Dual BayDock and Quad BayDock configurations (SATA Dual BayDock, \$1,100; SATA Quad BayDock, \$1,800).

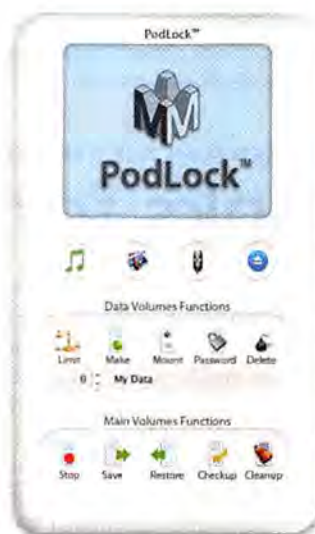
Impression 2.7, from Babel Company (www.babelcompany.com): Backup software features redesigned user interface, the ability to disable file segmentation in file-copy mode, and an automatic-burn option for unattended backups to optical media (\$50; upgrade, free).

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BIOMETRIC SECURITY OPTIONS EXPAND FOR MAC USERS

Put Your Finger Here

Biometric devices—which analyze biological traits—have long been seen in sci-fi movies: voice identification to trigger secret doors or retinal scans to open private vaults.

This technology has been somewhat slower to make it into everyday life, and even more so for Mac users than for PC users.

Sony was the first company to come out with a consumer-level biometric device that's compatible with OS X. The

\$100 FIU600/M Puppy fingerprint-identification device (macworld.com/0457)

lets you turn your fingerprint into your OS X login password. The USB device can also work with multiple users, with different fingerprints acting as passwords for different users.

At the CeBIT trade show held in Hanover, Germany, in March, SanDisk (www.sandisk.com) unveiled another Mac-compatible biometric device. The company's Cruiser Profile is a USB 2.0 flash drive with embedded fingerprint-identification technology. About the size of a pack of gum, the 512MB (\$100) and 1GB (\$200) drives began shipping in April.

The Cruiser Profile is made up of two tethered parts: the drive itself; and the identification hardware, which stores fingerprint images and activates the drive when the user presents a matching print. As with Sony's Puppy, the Cruiser Profile processes the fingerprints internally without using your Mac—making it more secure. Mac users aren't on an even footing with the Cruiser Profile—the drive includes three Windows-only utilities—but iPod shuffle users will feel right at home: SanDisk's drive also comes with a lanyard. —BRAD COOK AND

JONATHAN SEFF



SanDisk's
Cruiser
Profile

IS INCREASED RAM THE START OF SOMETHING GOOD?

Thanks for the Memory

Apple's last round of PowerBooks introduced a lot of features worth getting excited about—faster processor speeds, 8x SuperDrives, a new trackpad, and Bluetooth 2.0. But one addition to the PowerBook line is particularly important in my book, and it could have a far-reaching effect on Mac users: more RAM.

Apple finally made 512MB of RAM standard on every PowerBook model. Previously, only the high-end PowerBooks—the faster 15-inch model and the 17-inch model—shipped with that much memory. The other three configurations came with a paltry 256MB (unless, of course, you ordered more as part of a build-to-order option).

Anyone who has added additional RAM to a Mac has surely noticed the benefit of such an investment. As *Macworld* has noted on multiple occasions—most recently in our reviews of the Mac mini (macworld.com/0508) and the iMac G5 (macworld.com/0509)—512MB of RAM is necessary to enjoy the smooth, peppy performance of OS X.

Apple's move seems to indicate that the company recognizes this fact, at least when it comes to computers aimed at pro users. In addition to the PowerBook line, Power Mac desktops also ship with 512MB of RAM. The consumer products—the iMac, iBook, eMac, and Mac mini—ship with only 256MB. Although users of those products can add more memory, Apple's memory prices are noticeably higher than what other RAM merchants charge, and buyers of consumer machines are not always inclined to install upgrades themselves (especially in harder-to-upgrade models such as the iBook and the Mac mini). As Apple tries to attract more switchers, it needs to make sure that the out-of-box experience is a good one—instead of making things unnecessarily difficult for people the company is trying to win over with appeals about ease of use.

The costs of boosting installed RAM (without raising prices for consumers) would be outweighed by a better user experience and the amount of goodwill that Apple would generate. —PHILIP MICHAELS

INTERNET
BEAT

GoodPage, from Tari (www.goodpage.info): HTML- and CSS-authoring tool offers WYSIWYG selection and navigation of documents viewed at the code, structure, or browser level (\$149).

PocketMac Safari Scrapbook, from Information Appliance Associates (www.pocketmac.net): Tool automatically collects and archives the history links that Safari produces, saving text and content for later retrieval (\$18).

Speed Download 3, from Yazsoft (www.yazsoft.com): Download manager has been rewritten for performance as much as 50 percent faster than its predecessor's (\$20; upgrade from version 2.X, free).

Transaction 1.0, from Maxprog (www.maxprog.com): Online sales manager for software developers features data analysis and reporting mechanisms specific to online sales (\$59).

WebDesign 2.6, from Rage Software (www.ragesw.com): HTML source-code editor adds support for JavaScript, XML, ASP, and VBScript while enhancing syntax coloring with customizable options (\$30; upgrade, free).

MULTIMEDIA
BEAT

Black Box, from M-Audio (www.m-audio.com): Device for guitarists combines amp modeling, beat-synced effects, guitar and mike preamps, and drum tracks with an audio interface designed for recording on a Mac or a PC (\$330).

DMC 8280, from Digital Mind (www.digimind.com): USB 2.0-based digital music player features a 30GB hard drive, a built-in FM transmitter, and Mac and Windows compatibility (\$299).

Flix Exporter, from Wildform (www.wildform.com): Utility for creating FLV and SWF video files from Adobe After Effects, Final Cut Pro, and other applications that support QuickTime plug-ins debuts on the Mac platform (\$99).

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NEW SOUNDS KEEP APPLE'S MUSIC APPS FRESH

Thrown for a Loop

Apple's GarageBand has made it fun and easy to create songs made entirely out of loops—snippets of instrument recordings that you can layer and repeat for as long as you want. Start with a drum loop, bring in a bass line, add some punctuating percussion, and drop in a horn section, and you've got yourself a homemade, royalty-free song to post on the Web or use as a soundtrack in your latest iMovie. Although Apple includes a lot of loops, it's easy to get bored with the same content after a while—and all the people out there with the same music apps are overusing the same sounds. To spice up your songs, here are some companies that offer Apple Loops—formatted sounds ready for use in GarageBand, Logic, Final Cut Pro, or Soundtrack.—JONATHAN SEFF

COMPANY	CONTACT	PRICE PER PACKAGE	SAMPLE LOOPS
AMG	www.sample4.com	£30–£60 (about \$58–\$116)	iSci-Fi: melodic beds, effect beds, effect shots, and music effects for use in sci-fi films
Apple Computer	www.apple.com	\$99	Jam Pack 4: Symphony Orchestra: more than 2,000 strings, brass, woodwind, keyboard, and percussion loops
Bandmateloops.com	www.bandmate-loops.com	\$10–\$20	Bandmates DJ—Scribbles & Scratches: a collection of 75 edited table effects that can serve as the basis for more-sophisticated scratch phrasing and rhythms
Beta Monkey	www.betamonkey-music.com	\$30	Alt and Modern Rock I: 1,000 grooves—everything from slower ballads to frantic power pop
Drums On Demand	www.drumson-demand.com	\$50–\$80	Volume 3: Upbeat & Aggressive: Song Sets, plus 1,700 kick, snare, rim, hat, and ride patterns
M-Audio	www.m-audio.com	\$100	Best of ProSessions—Volume 2: Liquid Cinema: highlights from Hollywood composer Jeff Rona
PowerFX	www.powerfx.com	\$10	Cool School: 19 horn loops inspired by late-1950s Miles Davis
SessionLoops	www.session-loops.com	\$50	Drum Foundations Volume One Multi-Track: hundreds of rock loops from drummer Simon Phillips
Ultimate Sound Bank	www.plugsound.com	€99 (about \$133)	SonicBoomBox: 4,000 loops including hip-hop sounds, acoustic-guitar riffs, brass phrases, and more
Zero-G	www.zero-g.co.uk	\$170	Pro Pack For GarageBand: 11,000 loops with collections including Cuckooland Unhinged, Nu House, Pure Mayhem, and Voices of Africa





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Meet iFi:



Reviews

OUTSTANDING:
VERY GOOD:
GOOD:
FLAWED:
UNACCEPTABLE:



iPod Mini

Second-Generation iPod Offers Improved Battery but Lacks Extras

BY CHRISTOPHER BREEN

In the computer world, when a new version of an existing computer offers modest improvements in processor speed, more hard-drive space, more built-in RAM, and perhaps a better graphics card, the update is sometimes referred to as a "speed bump."

The machine is enhanced in ways that make it more desirable, but there's nothing earthshakingly different under the hood.

Although we don't refer to the iPod's speed, "speed bump" could fairly describe the new iPod minis, the latest generation of Apple's wildly popular midsize music player. Like speed-bumped computers, these iPods include no new features. However, the new minis—available in capacities of 4GB (\$199) and 6GB (\$249)—do offer vastly improved battery life. The new 6GB model holds more music than the original 4GB iPod mini (4GB; May 2004) but has the same price. In addition, the pink, green, and blue models sport more-vivid hues than the original mini, thanks to a metal-flake coating on the case. (The silver model looks the same as the original. The gold model found in the first generation of minis has been discontinued.)

All Charged Up and Ready to Go

While the new colors and greater storage capacity of the 6GB model are the new minis' marquee features, the most impressive thing about these iPods is their play time. The original mini's play time is rated at eight hours, and that's pretty close to the mark. In my tests of a first-generation iPod mini, I found that when you shuffled songs on a fully charged unit and didn't touch it after pressing play, the iPod would play for a little more than nine hours.

The current minis are rated at 18 hours of play time. Under the same "press play and walk away" conditions, my green 6GB iPod

mini played for an astounding 26 hours and 16 minutes. This hints that Apple's specification of 18 hours of play time is a real-world figure—that you can expect the battery charge to last for a good 18 hours (and possibly longer), even when you perform such actions as switching on backlighting for short periods of time, searching through contacts and calendars, adjusting the iPod's volume, and jumping from one song, album, or playlist to another. If you need an iPod that plays for long stretches of time between recharges, this longer battery life alone makes the second-generation minis worth your serious consideration.

Missing in Action

These new minis are also notable for what Apple leaves out of the box. Although you'll find a cable for transferring music via USB 2.0, the Apple iPod Dock Connector to FireWire Cable that was once bundled with every iPod is now an optional \$19 accessory. Likewise, the power adapter that accompanied the original iPod mini must be purchased separately for \$29.

In the past, when fewer new Macs shipped with USB 2.0 ports, the absence of a FireWire cable would have been more than a minor inconvenience. With earlier iPod models and versions of iTunes, transfer via USB 2.0 was noticeably slower. Apple appears to have made improvements that bring USB 2.0 transfers into line with FireWire. In my tests, a dual-2GHz Power Mac G5 filled a 6GB mini in 15 minutes

and 17 seconds over a USB 2.0 connection. Using a FireWire cable shaved a scant 18 seconds off that time.

Apple might argue that by omitting these items, it has been able to deliver a 4GB mini for \$50 less than the original and a 6GB model for the same price as the first mini. Add the value of the minis' enhanced play time, the fact that USB 2.0 is found on all current Macs, and the reality that for some people it's no more of a chore to plug an iPod into a computer to charge it than it is to hook it up to a power adapter, and Apple's decision makes sense.

But as a veteran iPod user, I am disappointed. I often charge my iPod at night so it's fresh in the morning, and, like me, my computers sleep at night. An iPod won't charge from a sleeping computer, so if you lack a power adapter and want to charge your iPod overnight, your computer must remain awake. Also, while most of my computers have a FireWire port, few of them include a USB 2.0 port. People with similarly middle-aged computers who are considering buying one of the new iPod minis must figure in the cost of the FireWire cable (or a USB 2.0 PCI card or PC Card).

Macworld's Buying Advice

Speed bump or no, the iPod mini, with its more vibrant sheen and impressively improved play time, is a winner. While I'm sorry that Apple chose to cut corners by dispensing with the bundled FireWire cable and power adapter, many people will find the lack of these items no sacrifice at all when they can get a 6GB mini for the same price as the previous 4GB model or save \$50 on the latest 4GB iPod. □

4GB IPOD MINI (SECOND GENERATION)

RATING: ★★★★★

PROS: Cool colors; outstanding battery life; price dropped by \$50.

CONS: Does not include FireWire cable and power adapter.

PRICE: \$199

COMPANY: Apple Computer, www.apple.com

6GB IPOD MINI (SECOND GENERATION)

RATING: ★★★★★

PROS: Cool colors; outstanding battery life; new, larger capacity.

CONS: Does not include FireWire cable and power adapter.

PRICE: \$249

COMPANY: Apple Computer, www.apple.com



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30GB iPod Photo

Fewer Accessories, Lower Prices Distinguish Smaller Model

BY CHRISTOPHER BREEN

When Apple released the second-generation iPod mini, it also tweaked the iPod photo line. It did so not by updating the interface or adding new capabilities to the colorful music and picture player, but rather by slashing \$150 off of the price of the 60GB model and replacing the 40GB version with a 30GB iPod photo. This new, smaller-capacity iPod photo costs \$349 and holds approximately 7,500 songs or 25,000 photos.

Same "Old" iPod Photo

Apple replaced the 40GB iPod photo with a 30GB version, reviewed here, but the 60GB model remains nearly the same (it even has the same Apple model number). A few of the trappings have changed, though, such as the price: the 60GB iPod photo now costs \$449, down by \$150 from \$599. And a FireWire cable, AV cable, and dock are no longer included.

Apple removed some previously bundled accessories: the FireWire and AV cables, the iPod photo dock, and the carrying case.

In my tests, the 30GB iPod photo had the same battery life as the 60GB model, exceeding Apple's promised 15 hours of play by 93 minutes (backlighting, EQ, and Sound Check were turned off for these tests). When connected to a TV by the now-optional AV cable, the new 30GB iPod photo projected a slide show for about two hours. This iPod charged as quickly via USB 2.0 as it did via FireWire. And its colorful interface still looks great.

The 30GB iPod photo is thinner than the 60GB iPod photo but just slightly thicker than the fourth-generation 20GB iPod, so it fits nicely into cases, docks, and speakers designed for earlier iPods.

Macworld's Buying Advice

This new iPod photo is slimmer and more affordable than the previous 40GB model. This, in addition to the iPod photo's bright, colorful display, may take the sting out of losing necessary extras. □



RATING: ★★★★★

PROS: Good play time; beautiful, bright screen; more attractive price than previous model; fits in older iPod accessories.

CONS: No bundled FireWire cable, AV cable, or dock.

PRICE: \$349

COMPANY: Apple Computer, www.apple.com

CHRISTOPHER BREEN is the editor in chief of Playlistmag.com and the author of *Secrets of the iPod and iTunes*, fifth edition (Peachpit Press, 2005).

Photoshop Plug-ins

Helper Applications Expand the Photoshop Platform

BY JAY J. NELSON

In the world of image editing, Adobe Photoshop has become a platform unto itself—it's certainly much more than a single application. A thriving cottage industry of plug-ins, filters, and actions has emerged around Photoshop's architecture, and today there are supplemental plug-ins or actions for nearly every need, interest, and user level.

In this review, I look at a variety of Photoshop plug-ins: Akvis's Enhancer 2.0, which reclaims detail in shadows and highlights; Alien Skin Software's Eye Candy 5: Nature, a plug-in that lets you add naturalistic special effects to objects; and nik multimedia's Color Efex Pro 2.0, a set of tools that mimic—and in some cases surpass—traditional photographic lens filters.

These products are designed to work within Photoshop, but they also work

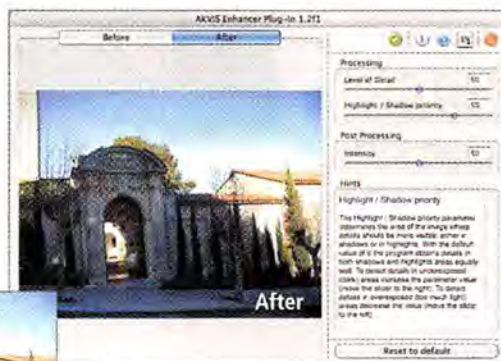
with a variety of other imaging programs that adhere to Photoshop's plug-in standard, such as Adobe Photoshop Elements 3.0 and Macromedia Fireworks MX 2004.

Enhancer 2.0

You can't always be in the perfect position to shoot a photo, and sometimes you also don't have enough time to choose the proper camera settings for the available light. Too often, the disappointing result is that either the important part of your photo is in a shadow or the whole picture looks hazy. Akvis's Enhancer 2.0 fixes



continues



Bad Positioning It was impossible to avoid standing in a shadow when taking this photo, and the shadow obscures much of the beautiful detail on the front of the building. With minor tweaks to Enhancer's default settings, the shadow areas were lightened and much of the detail was restored—without blowing out the sky or the lit courtyard.

PHOTOSHOP PLUG-INS COMPARED

COMPANY	PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE	CONTACT	WHAT IT DOES	PROS	CONS
Akvis	Enhancer 2.0	★★★★	home version, \$69; business version, \$78	www.akvis.com	Corrects exposure; reclaims detail in shadows and highlights; minimizes haze; sharpens.	Easy to use; excellent detail and sharpening results; helpful user manual.	Can't save settings; can't enter numerical values; preview is not resizable; no zoom; questionable value for Photoshop CS and Photoshop Elements 3.0 users; poor tech support.
Alien Skin Software	Eye Candy 5: Nature	★★★★	\$99	www.alienskin.com	Adds naturalistic special effects.	Large variety of unique effects; helpful presets; easy-to-use interface; 16-bit output.	Some effects don't look realistic.
nik multimedia	Color Efex Pro 2.0	★★★★	Rick Sammon Edition (12 filters), \$80; Standard Edition (19 filters), \$100; Select Edition (45 filters), \$160; Complete Edition (75 filters), \$230	www.nikmultimedia.com	Provides digital lens and lighting effects.	Wide variety of filters; flexible pricing; professional results.	Unclear how to choose one of the four differently priced sets.

these problems by revealing detail in both shadow and highlight areas without blowing out highlights or plugging up shadows. Amazingly, it works.

Akvis says that Enhancer intensifies color transitions, thus strengthening the difference between adjacent pixels in color gradations. That means you can dramatically improve most photos, especially those in which strong light falls behind your subject, casting a shadow.

Besides enhancing shadow and highlight detail, Enhancer can also improve details in a photo's midtone areas, making it an effective tool for sharpening an otherwise well-exposed photo. In my tests, it provided an

added punch that was especially beneficial for photos of industrial objects such as buildings, bridges, and vehicles.

Because of the algorithms Enhancer uses, it's also extremely effective at removing the haze that sometimes shows up in a photo (haze is usually the result of nonoptimal camera settings).

Enhancer's preview window provides just three slider bars in an easy-to-use interface; you can quickly improve a photo through simple trial and error. Unfortunately, since you can't type values directly into the dialog box, and you can't save settings for future use, you'll wind up doing extra work if you cancel out of the dialog box or

if you want to use the same settings on multiple pictures.

While the program's Before and After buttons are handy for quickly viewing the effect of your changes, the preview window is not resizable, nor can you zoom in. Sometimes this forces you into a few rounds of applying and reapplying Enhancer's effects.

In my tests, Enhancer seemed to produce shadow and highlight adjustments similar to what an experienced user could achieve with the Shadow/Highlight command in Photoshop CS, CS2, and Elements 3 (see "First Look: Adobe Creative Suite 2," page 58, for more on Photoshop CS2). Enhancer's ability to also sharpen midtones is unique, making it useful for sharpening details in well-lit photos. For users of earlier versions of Photoshop, Photoshop Elements, Macromedia Fireworks, or any other application that doesn't have Photoshop CS's Shadow/Highlight feature, Enhancer is a valuable tool. For Photoshop CS or Elements 3 users, its greatest value is in sharpening midtones.

Be sure to check out Enhancer's manual; it's helpful for understanding which settings to use for common problems. I had some trouble installing the upgrade from version 1.3 to 2.0; however, Akvis is working on the problem and it will likely be solved by the time you read this. Tech support was somewhat slow to respond and not too helpful.

Color Efex Pro 2.0

Fully equipped professional photographers carry a carefully chosen array of lens filters and light reflectors to make the most of the lighting conditions in any situation and to add artistic flair to images. This is a viable approach in digital photography, though software can often produce similar effects.

The plug-ins in nik multimedia's Color Efex Pro 2.0 provide up to 75 professional-quality filters that let you reproduce or go way beyond traditional lens effects. For example, the red filter enhances skin tones, the blue filter improves blue colors and brightens skies, and the green filter makes foliage much greener—all without affecting the rest of the photograph.



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Color Efex Pro divides the filters into two categories: Traditional and Stylizing. The Traditional filters include effects such as B/W Conversion, Classical Soft Focus, Vignette, Darken/Lighten Center, Fog, Remove Color Cast, Graduated Blue (and other colors), Polarize, Silver and Gold Reflectors, and White Neutralizer. The Stylizing filters include artistic effects such as Indian Summer, Midnight, Monday Morning, Old Photo (both color and black and white), Pastel, and Solarization.

Sunshine is one of the most amazing filters in this set—it transforms the dull colors in a picture taken on a cloudy day into the colors you'd see on a bright summer day. In effect, it frees you to take photos under cloudy conditions, because you can adjust the lighting later if you want to.

All the filters can be applied to 8- or 16-bit images, in RGB, CMYK, Lab, or Grayscale color modes. If you have a Wacom graphics tablet, you can even paint the filters onto your image using various pressure-sensitivity settings.

The filters are available in several different collections. The \$80 Rick Sammon Edition includes 12 filters chosen by photographer Rick Sammon, as well as four interactive lessons showing how he uses them. The \$100 Standard Edition includes 19 filters; the \$160 Select Edition adds 26 more filters for a total of 45; and the \$230 Complete Edition includes all 75 filters. nik multimedia could do a better job of indicating who would benefit most from each collection, rather than just listing the included filters.

Color Efex has been evolving for more than five years, with constant input from professional photographers. In the Pro 2.0 version, the brilliance of its programmers,

and their attention to the needs of pro photographers, is obvious. I recommend it highly.

Eye Candy 5: Nature

Sometimes the subject matter of an image screams for a special effect, such as smoke, rust, water ripples, paint drips, or icicles. When you want to reinforce a marketing message in an image, these tricks can be very effective but also very difficult to produce.

Eye Candy 5: Nature is a set of ten filters that add natural effects to objects or text. My favorites are Drip, which either melts things Salvador Dali-style or adds paint drips to text and other objects; Icicles, which makes any object look as though it had been hit by an ice storm; Rust, which can add realistic corrosion or moss, mold, or mildew; Smoke, which creates smoky effects ranging from volcanic eruptions to steaming coffee; and Ripples, which makes your object appear to be underwater, with many options for surface ripples. Other effects include Fire, Corona, Squint, Water Drops, and Snow Drift.

Nature is the second of three upgrades to Eye Candy 4000—Textures was released in 2004 (♦♦♦♦; March 2005), and Impact will ship sometime this year.

Nature's filters work on any nonwhite or nontransparent area of a layer, such as an object you've copied, a drawing you've pasted from Adobe Illustrator, or some big text.

Each filter's interface is slightly different, but they all have one pane for Settings (presets) and one or more panes for controlling the filter's variables. Each filter includes dozens of presets you can use for instant effects; this is necessary because these filters have more controls than most people could master. Fortunately, when you discover a

continues

Sunshine
nik Color Efex Pro 2.0

Basic Advanced

Saturation Correction 40%

Cool Color Reduction 30%

Light Casting Algorithm a

Light Intensity 25%

Radius 40%

Select Prefilter 7

Prefilter Strength 50%

Before After

Save Load Help Cancel OK

Here Comes the Sun The Sunshine filter in nik Color Efex Pro 2.0 adds realistic daylight to photos taken at dawn or dusk or under cloudy conditions.

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combination of settings that creates an effect you like, you can save it as your own preset and even share it with other users. Two features in the interface help you understand the controls: pressing your keyboard's help key launches filter-specific help, and mousing over an item in the dialog box brings up a brief description of that item in the lower left corner of the box.

More Photoshop Plug-ins

See our reviews of Akvis Chameleon 2.1, a tool that helps you match the edges and lighting of an object to a new background; Digital Gem Professional 1.0.3, a noise-reduction plug-in and Photoshop action set; and Mister Retro's Machine Wash Image Filters and Machine Wash II Image Filters, two packages of Photoshop actions that reproduce distress effects such as rust, paint peel, splinter, and other texture effects (macworld.com/0433).

These plug-ins are just a few examples of the broad range of creative enhancements available for Photoshop users. To further explore the wide world of plug-ins, check out Adobe's plug-in page (www.adobe.com/products/plugins/photoshop/) and ThePowerX-Change (www.thepowerxchange.com).

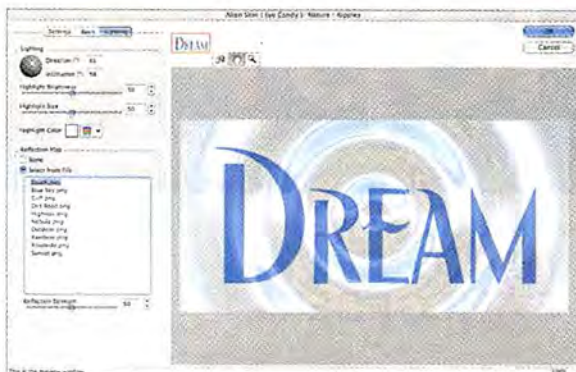
Ripples Eye Candy 5: Nature offers 43 preset ripple effects and lets you create and save your own.

All of the filters support 8-bit and 16-bit images in RGB, CMYK, and Grayscale modes. The 16-bit support is valuable because effects rendered in 16 bits per red, green, and blue channel can have finer gradations, and therefore greater realism, than effects rendered in 8 bits per channel. (You won't see the difference on your display, but the printed result will be superior.) Some of the filters can also create a new layer and save their effects to it, resulting in a separate layer containing just the effect of the filter without the original selection. And if you want to be really efficient, you can use Photoshop actions to automate the process of applying Nature effects to a batch of images.

Most of the effects that Nature produces are photo-realistic, though some seem to be more inspired by nature than truly natural. For example, Snow Drift looks like a painted illustration, and the drops in Water Drops are a bit too uniform.

Macworld's Buying Advice

For photographers, nik Color Efex Pro 2.0 is a professional lens-filter factory, with



dozens of filters that are useful right out of the box. The biggest challenge is deciding which version of this product you want to buy. If your work involves commercial art or marketing, Eye Candy 5: Nature's creative possibilities and ease of use make it a bargain. Enhancer 2.0's ability to sharpen midtones is good, but because the Shadow/Highlight feature in Photoshop CS and CS2 and Photoshop Elements 3 can do much of what Enhancer does, that plug-in is most valuable for users of other image-editing applications. You might consider buying Photoshop Elements 3, which costs just a bit more, instead. □

JAY J. NELSON is the editor and publisher of Design Tools Monthly (www.design-tools.com), the executive summary of graphic design news.

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MINIDV CAMCORDERS

★★★★ Optura 40 (\$999), from Canon (www.canon.com):

The Optura 40 produces excellent video and respectable still photos, supports a true 16:9 mode, smooths the effects of a shaky grip, and is easy to use (November 2004; macworld.com/0130).



★★★★ DCR-PC109 (\$899), from Sony (www.sony.com):

This camcorder requires a docking station but has excellent image stabilization. It also has a spot-focus feature, headphone and mike jacks, and a hot-shoe (November 2004; macworld.com/0130).

FIREWIRE HARD DRIVES

Company	Product	Rating	Price	Contact	Capacity	Comments
PORTABLE HARD DRIVES						
LaCie	Mobile Hard Drive by F.A. Porsche	★★★★	\$319	www.lacie.com	100GB	Low cost per gigabyte; not very fast.
G-Technology	G-Drive-mini	★★★★	\$279	www.g-technology.com	60GB	Complements Power Mac G5 design; great performance; very fast; a bit expensive.
DESKTOP HARD DRIVES						
OWC	Mercury Elite 800 Pro	★★★★	\$450	www.macsales.com	400GB	Great performance; not great design details.
LaCie	d2 Hard Drive Extreme with Triple Interface	★★★★	\$219	www.lacie.com	200GB	Attractive; competitive price; supports FireWire 800 and 400, as well as USB; slow FireWire 800 transfers.

Go to macworld.com/0314 for more hard-drive reviews and specifications.

MACS

DESKTOP

Product	Processor	Display	Rating	Go to macworld.com/	Best Price ^A	Speedmark Score ^B
	G5/1.6GHz	17 inches	★★★★	0172	\$1,240	150
	G5/1.8GHz	17 inches	★★★★	0173	\$1,405	162
	G5/1.8GHz	20 inches	★★★★	0174	\$1,800	163
	G4/1.25GHz (Combo drive)	17 inches	★★★★	0167	\$789	129
	G4/1.25GHz (SuperDrive)	17 inches	★★★★	0168	\$989	129
	G4/1.25GHz	not included	★★★★	0316	\$479	117
	G4/1.42GHz	not included	★★★★	0321	\$589	123
	G5/1.8GHz	not included	★★★★	0177	\$1,437	165
	G5/dual-1.8GHz	not included	★★★★	0158	\$1,800	194
	G5/dual-2GHz	not included	★★★★	0157	\$2,198	212
	G5/dual-2.5GHz	not included	★★★★	0156	\$2,697	237

PORTABLE

	G4/1.2GHz	12 inches	★★★★	0178	\$950	106
	G4/1.33GHz (Combo drive)	14 inches	not rated	0179	\$1,235	not tested
	G4/1.33GHz (SuperDrive)	14 inches	★★★★	0180	\$1,419	116
	G4/1.5GHz (Combo drive)	12 inches	★★★★	0398	\$1,479	not tested
	G4/1.5GHz (SuperDrive)	12 inches	★★★★	0399	\$1,690	136
	G4/1.5GHz	15 inches	★★★★	0400	\$1,755	136
	G4/1.67GHz	15 inches	★★★★	0401	\$2,025	142
	G4/1.67GHz	17 inches	★★★★	0402	\$2,418	148

^AFrom a PriceGrabber survey of retailers as of April 14, 2005. ^BSpeedmark 3.3 is Macworld Lab's standard test tool for benchmarking systems running Mac OS X 10.3 (Panther). For information on Speedmark testing, go to www.macworld.com/speedmark.

DUAL-LAYER DVD BURNER

★★★★ d2 DVD± RW 16× FireWire, with Double Layer (\$189), from LaCie (www.lacie.com):



This DVD burner can burn 8.5GB of data to dual-layer DVDs. Although it has a relatively slow read speed, its performance is very good overall. Its excellent Mac compatibility includes OS X and iLife support, and it comes with the full version of Roxio's Toast Titanium (macworld.com/0313).

COLOR LASER PRINTER

★★★★ LaserJet 2550Ln (\$600), from Hewlett-Packard (www.hp.com):



This inexpensive, networkable color laser printer offers crisp text and very good color fidelity, and it supports Apple's Rendezvous. But its paper capacity is only 125 sheets, so you might consider paying the extra \$100 for the optional 150-sheet paper tray (macworld.com/0083).

DIGITAL CAMERAS

7.1-MEGAPIXEL DIGITAL CAMERA

★★★★ PowerShot G6 (\$699), from Canon (www.canon.com):

This digital camera takes photos with excellent color quality and clarity. It also has easy-to-use menus, Raw-format support, a live histogram, and the fastest lens (f2.0) of cameras in its class (macworld.com/0206).



ALSO RECOMMENDED:

Company	Product	Rating	Price	Contact	Mega-pixels	Go to macworld.com/
Epson	L-500V	★★★★	\$350	www.epson.com	5.0	0282
Epson	PhotoPC L-410	★★★★	\$200	www.epson.com	4.0	0249

COLOR INK-JET PRINTERS



★★★★ Photosmart 8450 (\$250), from Hewlett-Packard (www.hp.com):

This network-capable ink-jet printer uses eight inks to print excellent-looking photos (macworld.com/0280).

ALSO RECOMMENDED:

★★★★ Stylus Photo R800 (\$399), from Epson (www.epson.com); January 2005; macworld.com/0246

★★★★ Pixma iP8500 (\$350), from Canon (www.canon.com); February 2005; macworld.com/0275

FLATBED SCANNERS

MIDRANGE SCANNER

★★★★ CanoScan 9950F (\$400), from Canon (www.canon.com):

This CanoScan raises the bar for midrange scanners by offering high optical resolution, improved scan quality, and more-intuitive software controls (macworld.com/0188).



LOW-END SCANNER

★★★★ CanoScan 8400F (\$150), from Canon (www.canon.com):

The 8400F has limited film and transparency support but is a great all-around scanner with some high-end features and a low-end price (macworld.com/0187).



NEW: DISPLAYS



21-INCH DISPLAY

★★★★ 321 LCD Monitor (\$1,599), from LaCie (www.lacie.com): It's pricey, but this 21.3-inch LCD, with its 10-bit color support and antiglare hood, delivers accurate color (macworld.com/0384).

19-INCH DISPLAY

★★★★ MultiSync LCD 1960NXi (\$729), from NEC (www.necmitsubishi.com); October 2004; macworld.com/0081

17-INCH DISPLAY

★★★★ SyncMaster 172X (\$539), from Samsung (www.samsung.com); October 2004; macworld.com/0081

IN THE MACWORLD LAB

Hardware Products We Tested This Month

DIGITAL SLR CAMERA

★★★★ Olympus Evolt E-300 (\$1,000), from Olympus (www.olympus.com):



This digital SLR is well built and yields very good picture quality. But except for its 8-megapixel sensor, it doesn't have any features or improvements that its competition hasn't had for well over a year (macworld.com/0422).

PORTABLE FIREWIRE HARD DRIVE

★★★★ 60GB On-The-Go 7200rpm 8MB Cache (\$236), from OWC (www.macsales.com):



This fast little drive doesn't have many connection options, but it has an eye-catching clear case design and comes loaded with lots of useful utilities. It's also reasonably priced (macworld.com/0314).

PORTABLE FIREWIRE HARD DRIVE

★★★ FireFly 20GB USB 2.0 (\$170), from Smart-Disk (www.smartdisk.com):



This supersmall drive will fit easily in a shirt pocket. The downsides are its relatively slow performance and high price per gigabyte. You also can't boot from it into OS X (macworld.com/0314).

DESKTOP FIREWIRE HARD DRIVE

★★★★ G-Drive FW 400GB (\$529), from G-Technology (www.g-technology.com):



This fast drive complements the design of a Power Mac G5, offers great performance, and has tons of storage capacity, but it is a bit expensive (macworld.com/0314).

DESKTOP FIREWIRE HARD DRIVE

★★★★ ToughTech 800 250GB (TT-250) (\$300), from WiebeTech (www.wiebetech.com):



The ToughTech may cost a bit more than most drives, but it has great FireWire 800 performance, a USB 2.0 connector, and a very sturdy case (macworld.com/0314).

Top Products are those we've recently reviewed in a comparison of like products. As new products become available, we will update the list. For longer reviews of these products and for other product recommendations, go to www.macworld.com/reviews.

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REVIEWS

More Reviews

For complete reviews of the products listed here, visit www.macworld.com/reviews.



★★★★ Popcorn ▲ (\$50), from Roxio (www.roxio.com);
★★★★ DVD2oneX 1.4.1 (€50 [about \$68 at press time]),
from DVD2one (www.dvd2one.com): Copying DVDs, even
just to back them up, is a legal landmine, but these two pro-
grams will do the job. DVD2oneX 1.4.1 has very fast encod-
ing and additional options, but it's rather pricey. Popcorn,
though slower to compress content, is easier to use and
includes disc-burning capabilities (macworld.com/0406).



★★★★ Cubase SX 3.01 (\$799), from Steinberg
(www.steinberg.net); ★★★★★ Logic Pro 7.01 ▲ (\$999),
from Apple Computer (www.apple.com); ★★★★★ Digital
Performer 4.52 ▼ (\$799), from Mark of the Unicorn



(www.motu.com): These applications give you tons of
audio-editing power for less than \$1,000 each. MOTU's
Digital Performer is the best choice if you have Digide-
sign or external DSP hardware, is perfect for film scoring,
and is the easiest to use. Steinberg's Cubase has fallen
behind somewhat on the Mac; its plug-ins are limited,
and it doesn't support AU, but it remains powerful for
MIDI editing and external hardware. Logic wins out with
its sheer volume of instruments, effects, and tools. It cov-
ers all bases, from guitar amps to drum machines to
physical modeling, as well as CD mastering and burning
(macworld.com/0407).

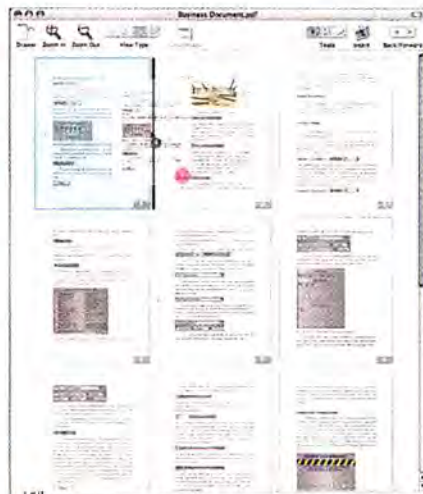
★★★ QuickBooks Pro 2005 (\$200), from Intuit
(www.intuit.com); ★★★★★ AccountEdge 2005 (\$300),
from MYOB (www.myob.com): Intuit's QuickBooks still
has the advantage over MYOB's AccountEdge when it
comes to ease of use. But if you're looking for an appli-

cation that's packed with features, that can grow as
your business grows, and that's continuously updated
and enhanced to make managing your business finances
easier, AccountEdge is clearly the better choice (macworld.com/0408).



★★★★ GyazMail 1.2 ▲ (\$18), from Gyaz Square
(www.gyazsquare.com): This e-mail program gives you
many advantages that Apple's Mail doesn't. For example,
it can queue messages or send them immediately; it can
check different accounts on different schedules; and it
lets you control whether mail rules (or filters) are applied
to outgoing mail, applied to incoming mail, or applied
manually. It also has a powerful custom search feature
and much more (macworld.com/0414).

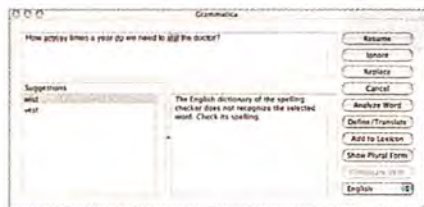
★★★★ Acrobat 7 Professional (\$449), from Adobe
(www.adobe.com): This is a very impressive update that
comes at a fair price. This version of Acrobat Professional
eliminates the need for some expensive third-party
plug-ins, gives you enhanced preflight functionality,
adds commenting support in version 7's free Reader
application, and has an improved Review Tracker (macworld.com/0415).



★★★★ PDF2Office 2.0 Professional ▲ (\$129), from
RecoSoft (www.recosoft.com): Converting basic PDFs that
include primarily text, images, and some formatting is
uncomplicated with PDF2Office, which does the job
quickly and effectively. But as the complexity and size of
a PDF increases (with many pages and with tables that
have hidden borders), you'll need to strategize to get
acceptable results (macworld.com/0417).

PDFpen 2.0.1 (\$50), from SmileOnMyMac (www.smileonmy.com): PDF files are a simple and elegant way to distribute forms, instructions, and other information. But manipulating PDF files and filling out or creating new forms can be difficult unless you're using a straightforward utility like PDFpen (macworld.com/0416).

NewsFire 1.0 (\$19), from David Watanabe (www.newsfire.com): NewsFire is an excellent application, and we highly recommend it. It's a great value compared with other RSS news readers in its category, and we expect that it will only continue to improve. It has a few minor hitches, but none of them are deal breakers (macworld.com/0419).



Grammarica 6.1 ▲ (\$30), from Ultralingua (www.ultralingua.com): This fast application gives you a consistent interface for checking your spelling and grammar from within many different programs, and it provides more-detailed information about grammar than Microsoft Word's grammar checker. However, Grammarica could stand some improvement, so we don't recommend shelling out the money for it just yet (macworld.com/0418).



DESIGNED FOR CHILDREN

Kid Pix Deluxe 3X

Kid Pix Deluxe 3X (\$40; from Software MacKiev (www.mackiev.com)): The latest version of the famed children's art program goes beyond simple drawing—it also includes a host of background images, stickers, animations, and prerecorded sounds that will help kids get started. Its iLife integration allows children to import photos from iPhoto and to use music from an iTunes library as a soundtrack for artistic creations. Kid Pix Deluxe 3X keeps it simple and fun (macworld.com/0413).

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Game Room

BY PETER COHEN

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Mayor of Simpleton Keeping your residents happy and healthy isn't as easy as it looks in *The Sims 2*.

SIMULATION

The Sims 2



We all know that if only the people around us took our advice, they'd be happier, healthier, and generally better human beings. But while you won't get any thanks for meddling in the lives of your friends and coworkers, you can have the smug satisfaction of directing the destinies of *virtual* friends, with Aspyr Media's *The Sims 2*—the much anticipated successor to what may just be the best-selling computer game of all time. The new version, which is set to be released in June, has all the voyeuristic thrill of the original, improved graphics, and long-term challenge: your decisions—both good and bad—affect entire generations.

Like the original game, *The Sims 2* puts you in control of people called sims, who live, love, work, and play in a virtual world. You can create your own sims or choose from premade sims and sim families. Although sims live independently of your actions, you help direct them to get jobs, develop friendships, pick places to live, decorate their homes—everything people do in the real world. How successfully you help your sims do these things determines how well the game goes.

While the general mechanics of playing will be familiar to fans of the original game, this version's look is a welcome improvement. The *Sims 2* features an entirely new 3-D graphics engine that lets you zoom in on your sims with amazing detail. It also puts a significant load on your Mac—if you haven't upgraded since you bought *The Sims*, you may need a new computer to play.

BETA TESTED

PROS: New 3-D engine; support for genetics and aspirations adds to the challenge.

CONS: Higher system demands than the original; old expansion packs aren't compatible.

PRICE: \$50

COMPANY: Aspyr Media, www.aspyr.com

The preliminary system requirements call for a 1GHz G4 or faster, running OS X 10.3.4.

The game's changes are more than skin-deep, though. These sims are also a lot more independent. For example, you don't need to fuss over them to make sure they're fed, entertained, or put to bed. You'll focus instead on bigger goals. You spend entire lifetimes with your sims, from youth all the way to old age and death. And families of Sims can pass down DNA to their kids, affecting generations to come.

The game also gives more depth to your characters' personalities. For example, they retain memories—both good and bad. They also have aspirations. By helping them achieve their aspirations, you'll earn points you can cash in on furnishings, appliances, and other niceties.

If you really can't get enough of your virtual friends, you can record the action and play back your sim films whenever you want.

The original *Sims* spawned a multitude of expansion packs. They won't work with the new version, but there's plenty here to keep you busy.

The Bottom Line The *Sims 2* keeps what was fun about the original while offering a huge amount of new challenge.

continues

News Feed



Golf Season

Aspyr Media is planning to release the 2005 edition of its best-selling golf game, *Tiger Woods PGA Tour*, in June. The new version features even snazzier graphics than the impressive 2003 version, along with Tiger Proofing, an editor that lets you alter the course by changing fairways, greens, bunkers, and more.



Space Pilot

If you are intrigued

by Guild Software's *Vendetta Online* but don't want to pay the monthly online fees, check out Freeverse's *X2—The Threat*. This new single-player game puts you in the cockpit of a spaceship as you explore, raid, or trade. It's a bit like Ambrosia Software's *Escape Velocity*, but in 3-D.

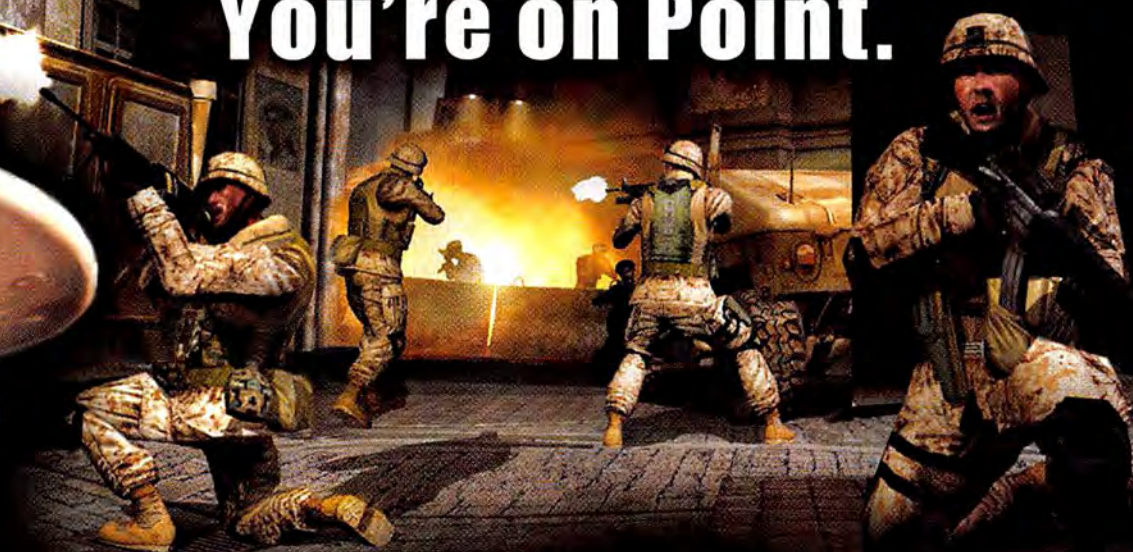


The Force Is with You

June should also see the release of Aspyr Media's

Star Wars Battlefront. This crossbreed of *Battlefield* 1942 and *Star Wars* franchises lets you participate in your favorite *Star Wars* battles as infantry or from the cockpits of famous vehicles.

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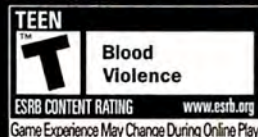
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Don't Fence Me In You'll have to block alien bugs to win at Cosmo Bots.

PUZZLE

Cosmo Bots

RATING: ♦♦♦♦

PROS: Fast pace; easy to pick up.

CONS: Repetitive music; no traditional save feature.

PRICE: \$20

COMPANY: Cornerstone TSP Games,
www.ctspgames.com

If you were a fan of the arcade classic Qix or Ambrosia Software's Barrack, you should consider Cosmo Bots, by Cornerstone TSP Games, a must-have. The game offers retro arcade action that's more addictive than a bag of potato chips.

In the game, creepy little alien bugs have infested your space station. The only way to eradicate the menace is to shoot beams that fill the empty space around a framed perimeter. Pressing the spacebar or clicking on a right mouse button reorients the shooter vertically and horizontally. To win,

you must fill up 85 percent of the frame. If the bugs touch the beams emanating from your shooter, you die.

When you fill a portion of the board that contains one of your myriad foes, that buggie is blasted to smithereens. Occasionally, doing so will also spawn power-ups—such as fast shot, slow motion (which slows your enemies down), score multipliers, and time bombs. You'll also run into power-downs, which may slow your shooter, speed up everyone else, or do other nasty things. You can collect bonuses if you finish each level in enough time.

Despite its simple rules, Cosmo Bots gets relentlessly difficult fairly quickly. It will certainly keep you on your toes. The lush graphics and pumping techno soundtrack help as well—though you may find the music repetitious after a while and choose to turn it off.

With more than 500 levels, there's a lot of game to play. The levels are divided between nine worlds, which also serve as starting points for new games. Although it's not as convenient as being able to save at each new level, this means that you don't have to start at the very beginning each time you play.

The best part is that you won't need anything fancy to enjoy the game. Cosmo Bots supports OS 8.6 and later.

The Bottom Line Cosmo Bots is easy to learn but hard to master. It's sure to please gamers who are looking for addictive arcade-style fun.

continues

Top Downloads | Kill Monty



Kill Monty, by Freeverse Software, is an homage to classic arcade shooters such as Robotron: 2084 and Smash

TV—and a useful reminder that games don't have to be complex to be a lot of fun.

Freeverse's plucky heroine Jen finds herself in a room with doors on all sides. Through the doors come marching hordes of evildoers: suit-wearing monkeys, decks of playing cards, sharks, and more. Your goal is to blast them before they can do her any harm.

Along the way, you can grab power-ups. The more accurate you are with your firepower, the higher the Carnage meter rises—increasing the rate of power-ups and extra lives. As you progress through the game, you'll

unlock new difficulty levels, stages, and playable characters.

Controlling the game is fairly simple; you can move with the keyboard and aim with the mouse, or you can use keyboard controls for both actions. That said, I wish the game supported game pads.

The Bottom Line Kill Monty proves that good games don't need a lot of sophistication to be really fun. This addictive twitchfest is worth checking out.

RATING: ♦♦♦♦

PROS: Simple controls; unlockable features.

CONS: No game-pad support; more violent than typical Freeverse games.

PRICE: \$13

COMPANY: Freeverse Software,
www.freeverse.com

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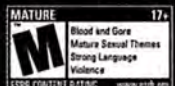


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CNET says "All sorts of music – classical, rock, and jazz – sounded refined and natural." In fact, our QuietComfort® 2 headphones deliver audio that's so crisp and clear, you may find yourself discovering new subtleties in your music. *Travel & Leisure Golf* simply says, "Forget 'concertlike' comparisons; you'll think you're onstage with the band."



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Kung Fu Fighting A lot of the combat in True Crime: Streets of LA is hand-to-hand.

THIRD-PERSON SHOOTER

True Crime: Streets of LA

RATING: ★★★

PROS: Large map; destructible environments; varied game play.

CONS: Confusing controls; lame script; no cross-platform support; already old on consoles.

PRICE: \$50

COMPANY: Aspyr Media, www.aspyr.com

Taking its cues from the popular (though sadly Mac-incompatible) video game Grand Theft Auto, Aspyr's True Crime: Streets of LA lets you explore what it's like to walk on the bad side.

In the game, Russian and Chinese gangs are threatening to take over the streets of Los Angeles. As Nick Kang—a renegade undercover cop with a penchant for kung fu—you must find out what's going on and put an end to it. But whether you do this by following the rules or by shooting first and taking names later is entirely up to you.

The game features 240 square miles of Los Angeles, re-created with impressive detail—except perhaps for the absence of traffic and smog.

Everything you do as Nick Kang affects his rating as a good cop or a bad cop. That rating in turn determines how the True Crime story line branches. If Kang uses deadly force and causes mayhem on the streets during high-speed chases, his bad-cop rating will increase. If he uses his badge and sends a warning shot when apprehending a perp, he'll earn brownie points. Shooting on sight will send Kang's rating into the red.

You can help Kang earn extra points—and let him flex his skills—by having him answer unrelated calls from police dispatch while driving around town. The crimes range from humorous (two rival

sushi chefs in a knife fight) to serious (a pimp beating a hooker in the street).

Really, though, it's easier to let Kang be the bad guy he obviously wants to be. He's rude, treats his coworkers like dirt, and is generally a very unlikable character. Nick Kang isn't an antihero—he's just a jerk. It's tough to care about what happens to him.

Kang has a wide variety of martial-arts and cop moves at his disposal, but learning your way around the keyboard to master them is more difficult than it should be. (Despite the game's console roots, it doesn't support game controllers, which would make fighting easier.) Hand-to-hand combat—though fun at first—grows tiresome quickly; it's rarely more challenging than just button mashing until your opponent drops.

The game does offer some good fun with destructible environments. While beating up bad guys in restaurants, warehouses, and other locations, you'll lay waste to tables, chairs, boxes, and other objects. It also features an impressive soundtrack chock-full of commercial hip-hop, hard rock, and metal, and voice acting from an A-list cast.

Unfortunately, the actual script leaves a lot to be desired. Nick Kang's dialogue is rife with trite one-liners. Also, the game takes a weird turn midway through, with some supernatural mishmash that doesn't really fit in with the rest of the plot.

Internet and LAN-based online play helps extend the game beyond the single-player story. However, you're limited to challenging other Mac players.

By the way, True Crime really deserves its Mature rating—the game is filled with sex, violence, and strong language.

The Bottom Line It's no Grand Theft Auto, but if you like third-person shooters and are looking for a game that lets you explore your thug side, True Crime: Streets of LA might fit the bill.

ACTION

GooBall

RATING: ★★★

PROS: Simple controls; lots of levels to challenge you.

CONS: Slows down at high resolutions.

PRICE: \$25

COMPANY: Ambrosia Software, www.ambrosiasw.com

In Ambrosia Software's GooBall, you're the Goober—a many-eyed alien blob encased in a gooey ball of slime. That

continues



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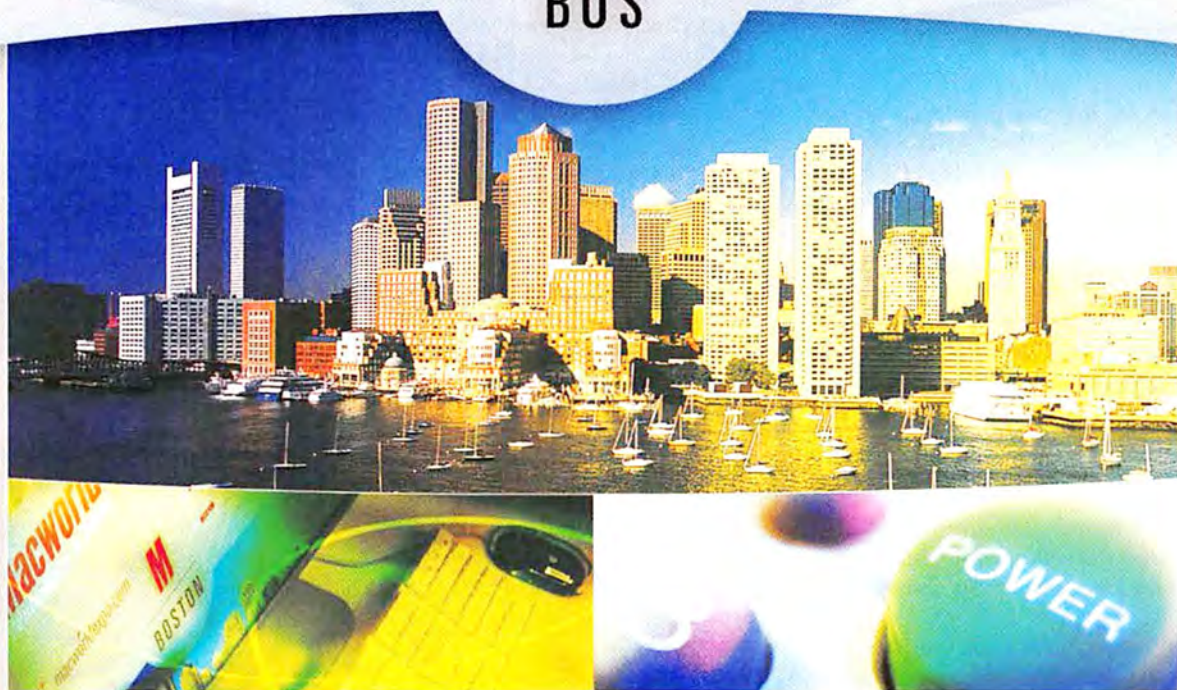
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Sticky Mess GooBall lets you climb up walls and jump over platforms to reach your goals.

slime serves as both propulsion and protection as you collect points and wend your way through mazes on platforms floating high in the air. Cartoonish and colorful, GooBall is a fast-paced and vertigo-inducing thrill ride.

You're not all goo. At the click of a button, you can change the composition of your goo ball from sticky to hard and back again—making it easier to jump, circumambulate, and even climb walls. This is useful because your goals—gems, aliens, and the like—are often just out of reach. Some platforms are separated by a distance that can be traversed only by building up momentum and timing your jump just right. Luckily, you can switch to sticky mode midflight to recover from a badly judged trajectory.

GooBall takes you through six worlds, each more difficult than the last. To play, you'll need a G3 running OS X 10.3 or later. The game lets you choose your system settings, including resolution, volume, windowed mode, and difficulty. However, even owners of new Macs may notice sluggish performance when playing at high resolutions with all the graphics settings turned up.

The Bottom Line GooBall is an interesting twist on the classic rolling-marble platform game—and quite a lot of fun. But don't expect to get top-notch graphics and speedy performance.

ACTION

Tennis Titans

RATING:

PROS: Unlockable characters; varied game play.

CONS: Windows resize in full-screen mode; slow even on fast hardware.

PRICE: \$20

COMPANY: Skunk Studios, www.skunkstudios.com

If you're looking for some casual fun that doesn't involve death and mayhem, check

out Tennis Titans, by Skunk Studios. This lighthearted game puts you in control of adorable, big-headed cartoon creatures as you test your mettle on the tennis court.

The game's action is broken into two basic challenges: Classic mode, where you play a three-round match against your opponent; and Rings mode, a two-minute race to collect as many rings as you can by winning the rally. You'll unlock new characters and locations by winning matches. Four courts will bring you to the woods, a tropical island, a modern arena, and a Greek temple. A one-round Exhibition mode lets you return to courts you've already conquered to compete against the character of your choice.

Tennis Titans is easy to pick up and play. However, to take advantage of special shots—such as topspin, lobs, driving power shots, and sneaking drop shots—you'll need a multibutton mouse.

I ran into a few trouble spots along the way: playing the game in full-screen mode resized the windows of other applications I had open. The game also left a cursor visible on screen. Despite claims that the game supports 500MHz systems, performance was slow on



Serve's Up Play a few sets with adorable cartoon characters in Tennis Titans.

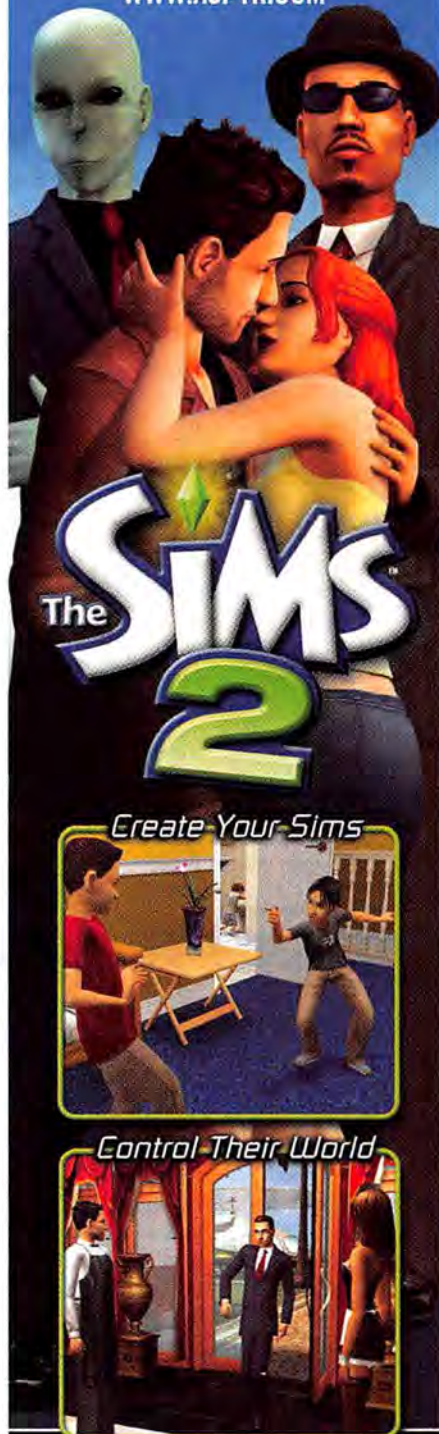
my 1.5GHz G4. You can download the game and play it for an hour without paying for it. I recommend doing so and giving it a try on your system before you buy.

Tennis Titans isn't meant to be a hardcore tennis game. It's relaxing and enjoyable fun. Though it doesn't offer multiplayer support, it does let you compare your high scores with those of other Tennis Titans players online.

The Bottom Line Tennis Titans is a cute, inexpensive sports game—and a fun way to pass the time. □

If MacCentral.com Senior News Editor PETER COHEN really drove the way he does in True Crime, he'd be behind bars.

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Challenge Everything

Mac Gems

If you have Apple's AirPort Express, then you probably know you can use iTunes to wirelessly send your music to speakers connected to the Express. But this technology, called AirTunes, has several drawbacks, the most significant of which is that it can broadcast only audio playing through iTunes. If you want to listen to RealAudio or Windows Media files, or audio being played in a Web browser, then you're out of luck.

But never fear, for the folks at Rogue Amoeba can help. The company's \$25 **Airfoil 1.0.1** (★★★★; www.rogueamoeba.com) lets you stream audio from any application to an AirPort Express. And it couldn't be easier to use.

In Airfoil's main window, you choose the application providing the audio you want to transmit. You

whereas AirTunes mutes local audio when broadcasting, you can set Airfoil to play audio on the local computer while it's being played via your AirPort Express (although the two signals may be slightly out of sync). And audio-effect plug-ins that don't work with AirTunes—the popular Volume Logic, for example—will work via Airfoil. Just tell iTunes to play locally—not via AirTunes to your AirPort Express—and let Airfoil send the audio.

One Airfoil quirk has to do with how it interacts with running applications. If you elect to install Airfoil's Instant Hijack component, clicking on the Transmit button commences the transmission immediately. However, Instant Hijack uses Unsanity's Application Enhancer—which some people don't like using. The workaround is to either select the desired audio program in Airfoil before it's launched, or allow Airfoil to relaunch it if it's already running when you begin transmission.

Bright Light! Bright Light!

I recently bought a great 20-inch wide-screen LCD—but I didn't buy it from Apple. Sadly, I couldn't justify the \$1,000 (plus tax) that the shiny aluminum model I'd been eyeing for so long would have cost. Instead, I turned to a third party and found a display with the same 1,680-by-1,050-pixel resolution as Apple's display for a little more than half the price. It's got one major problem, however: it's too bright.

I don't mean that it's a little bit too bright; I mean that it's "staring at the sun" bright. During the day, in a well-lit office, it's almost bearable, but in the evening I pretty much need to break out the welder's helmet. I've used the display's controls to lower the brightness as much as I can, but on this particular model, if a level of 100 means "prison tower spotlight," a level of 0 is still "police car floodlight." And no amount of OS X display calibration has helped.



GO TO WEBLOG:

The Mac Gems Weblog (www.macworld.com/weblogs/macgems/) contains longer versions of these reviews, as well as some Web exclusives.



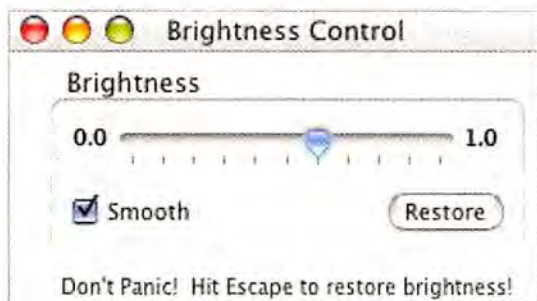
Free Expression Airfoil frees your AirPort Express from its iTunes-only audio shackles.

can pick a running or recently used application, or you can navigate to any application on your computer. If you have more than one AirPort Express, you then pick which one to transmit to. Click on the Transmit button, and your chosen application's audio will begin playing through the speakers connected to your AirPort Express. You can control the volume level of the signal via Airfoil or link the volume level to your Mac's volume control.

Since it works with any program, Airfoil is a great way to listen to Webcasts of sporting events (or any other streaming audio) on your home stereo. However, keep in mind that just like with iTunes, there's a slight delay between when a sound is produced by an application and when it's played through your AirPort Express.

Airfoil even offers advantages for people who are simply broadcasting iTunes audio. For example,

Promising Prospect: Witch



Not Too Bright Brightness Control tones down the brightness of non-Apple displays.

It turns out that I'm not alone in this experience. Scavenging the Net for a solution, I was fortunate to come across Splasm Software's free **Brightness Control 1.0.3** (★★★★; www.splasm.com). The latest entry in my library of one-function wonders, Brightness Control's claim to fame is that it provides a slider control for dimming your display's screen. Somewhere between the black screen and full brightness is the pleasant "just right" that made my new monitor's light levels tolerable for unshielded use. (A Smooth option makes the transitions between brightness levels, well, smoother.)

If you accidentally set your brightness to 0, don't worry—just press the escape key to restore full brightness. (Or press ⌘-Q to quit Brightness Control; its setting applies only when the application is running.)

Because it's simply dimming the screen, Brightness Control doesn't offer increased contrast to compensate for a lack thereof at the lowest brightness levels. Being able to dim multiple displays independently would also be helpful, although I understand why that would be technically difficult. And since its purpose is to adjust a systemwide setting, I wish it worked as a preference pane or a menu item instead of as an application that remains open (in the Dock and on screen). But those quirks aside, it has made my brand-new monitor usable, and for that I'm extremely grateful.

SMB Made Easy

With OS X 10.3, Apple made the Mac a full citizen on Windows networks. For many Mac users, the biggest advantage of this move was the ability to connect to shared volumes on Windows computers (and other computers providing SMB/CIFS shares). Unfortunately, there are a couple of problems with OS X's built-in connection methods, which involve using the Finder's Connect To Server dialog box. The first is that you need to know how to format the SMB URL of the target computer. (If you click on the Browse button in the dialog box, you may be able to see the desired Windows share, but only if it's on the same network subnet—and even then it's not guaranteed, due to a slightly buggy Network continues

Two of my favorite OS X features are the ⌘-tab Application Switcher and Exposé. But I wish there were a way to combine them—a way to use the former's keyboard control to navigate directly to a particular window. Luckily, my colleague (and Macworld contributing editor) Rob Griffiths pointed me toward Peter Maurer's Witch (www.petermaurer.de), a prerelease version of a utility that fits the bill.

Pressing and holding a keyboard shortcut (option-tab by default) brings up an overlay showing a vertical list of open applications along with each's windows. Pressing the tab key repeatedly, or holding it down, lets you choose the window you want

to switch to; releasing the option key brings that window to the front and makes its application active. As with OS X's Application Switcher, applications and their windows are listed in the order of recent use—the current program first, then the next most recently used program, and so on. The list even includes minimized windows, which makes Witch the only way to use the keyboard to access minimized windows.

Witch provides many additional features for working with windows. Pressing Z while a window's name is highlighted zooms that window (the equivalent of clicking on the window's green



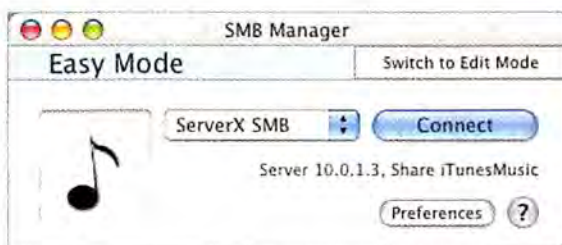
Which Window? Witch lets you quickly access any open window in any application.

zoom button), thus providing one of the only ways to access this feature via the keyboard; pressing M minimizes the window to the Dock; pressing W closes the window. All of these actions happen without the window actually being brought to the front, so you can modify every open window from within Witch without having to switch to those windows individually.

You can also set up different keyboard shortcuts that restrict Witch's overlay to subsets of windows (only minimized windows or only those belonging to the currently active application, for example). Witch also lets you set up keyboard shortcuts for window-related features that function all the time—not just when Witch's switcher overlay is on the screen—such as the ability to close all minimized windows.

Finally, Witch provides a number of options for customizing the appearance of the switcher overlay, including translucency, background and text color, shadows, and whether or not to display application names next to window names.

Witch is still in development, but I've found it to be one of the stabler pieces of beta software I've tested—and it's one that I'll be using regularly.



One-Click Connections With SMB Manager, connecting to Windows shares is easier than ever.



Fantastic Plastic PlasticSmith's range of Mac mini accessories includes (from left to right) the mini Tower, the mini Grandstand, and the mini Skirt.

Browser implementation.) The second is that many users find that they have to type in their password every time they connect—for some reason, no matter how many times you select Add To Keychain in the password dialog box, it doesn't work. Great for security; bad for convenience.

You can make an alias of a mounted Windows share and then double-click on that alias to initiate the connection in the future; you still need to provide your password, but at least you don't have to remember and type the URL format. Or you can create an AppleScript to mount a Windows volume without having to enter your password. But if you connect to a number of Windows volumes, it's a pain to create one of those scripts for each share.

All of this is a long-winded way to say that I'm glad I came across Supinfo's free **SMB Manager 1.5** (★★★★; macworld.com/0395), which saves your

login information and lets you quickly connect to frequently accessed Windows shares. Enter information for as many favorites as you like, give each one a descriptive name and even a custom icon, and never enter a password again. (If you've been using the Finder's Connect To Server dialog box for a while and have added a number of favorite servers, SMB Manager can even convert them to SMB Manager Favorites.)

Once you're set up, the application's Easy mode lets you choose the favorite to which you want to connect (via a pop-up menu), and you then click on Connect. You can bring SMB Manager to the front by pressing a systemwide keyboard shortcut, so it works much like the Finder's Connect To Server dialog box. (You can even set SMB Manager so that it doesn't show up in the Dock.) And if you frequently connect to the same shares, you can tell SMB Manager to connect to those particular shares at launch.

If you often connect to Windows SMB shares, forget the Finder; SMB Manager will make your connections much easier.

Accessories Mini

When Apple announced the new Mac mini, I knew it wouldn't take long before companies started making accessories for it. The first products came from PlasticSmith (previously known for its Lapvantage laptop stand). Easily the most interesting product in Plastic-

THE CONQUEST

DiskWarrior is Now OS X Native

It's the indispensable utility that repairs problems such as disks that won't mount, files you can't trash, and folders that have disappeared. MacUser magazine said, "It's the fastest and safest data recovery utility you can buy."

Macworld magazine said, "DiskWarrior is by far the best disk utility available for the Mac; it can repair virtually any disk problem you may

encounter...and it is likely to become the only tool you'll want to keep with you at all times."

David Coursey, ZDNet AnchorDesk, agrees in an article comparing disk utilities. He used it to fix a disk that no other utility could. "DiskWarrior is a great product, not just because it fixed a pretty serious screw-up, but because it showed me what it planned to do in minute detail before doing it."

But disk damage isn't the only threat to your data. As hard drives get older, the drive mechanisms



Phone: 1-800-257-6381 Fax: 281-353-9868 Email: sales.info@alsoft.com Web Site: www.alsoft.com

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smith's mini lineup is the \$50 **mini Tower** (★★★★; www.plasticsmith.com). If even the Mac mini's tiny 6.5-inch-square footprint is too big for you, the mini Tower lets you turn the Mac mini on its side in a stand that takes up only 7.25 by 2.75 inches of desk-top space.

But that's just the functional side of the mini Tower—it also happens to be quite attractive. The stylish stand is made of a pair of polished acrylic slabs connected by another piece of acrylic, just over 2 inches wide, that wraps around three sides. (The fourth side is open to allow you to slide your Mac mini inside.) Each narrow edge has two long slits; the ones on the front accommodate your mini's optical-drive slot—so you can insert the mini with its top facing either left or right—and the others provide ventilation. (My initial concerns about ventilation were put to rest when, in my testing, the Mac mini's fan turned on no more often when in the case than when out of it.)

Another useful Plasticsmith product is the \$40 **mini Grandstand** (★★★★). Available in either laser-cut steel (the mini Grandstand steel) or the same polished acrylic as the mini Tower (the mini Grandstand clear), the Grandstand is a monitor stand that's just tall enough to fit over the top of your Mac mini, and that supports displays as heavy as 60 pounds—it's an effective use of space. The clear version is more eye-catching, but the steel model looks a bit more professional and hides cables and such.

The final product in Plasticsmith's Mac mini accessory trio, the **mini Skirt** (★★★), just may take the award for best accessory name of 2005. On the other hand, it won't win too many awards for functionality, since it doesn't really do anything—it's just an acrylic base for the Mac mini. But it looks cool, and Plasticsmith has done a great job of making the Skirt a perfect fit for the Mac mini; I give it plenty of aesthetic props.

The \$25 standard mini Skirt is outdone only by the \$40 mini Skirt glo, which features a built-in blue or white LED and frosted, nonpolished edges (which diffuse the light). Plug the glo's USB cable into one of your Mac mini's USB ports, and you're glowing (a power switch lets you turn this effect off when you get tired of otherworldly illumination). Unfortunately, the Mac mini's two USB ports leave little room for luxuries such as a glowing computer stand, but the company promises that a USB hub version is in the works.

If you have a Mac mini and want your desk to hold it in the most space-efficient manner possible, the mini Tower and mini Grandstand are both great accessories. If you just want people to stop and look, slip on a mini Skirt. It's all form and little function, but it's nice to look at. □

Senior Writer DAN FRAKES (www.danfrakes.com) is the author of *Mac OS X Power Tools*, second edition (Sybex, 2004), and the reviews editor at Playlist-mag.com. Send your thoughts on this column, or on things you'd like to see in future columns, to macgems@macworld.com.

CONTINUES

begin to malfunction. Eventually, the malfunctions become so severe that the drive simply stops working. DiskWarrior can automatically test for hardware malfunctions, giving you the chance to back up your data before it's too late.

Be prepared. Don't wait until after you have a disk disaster to buy your copy of DiskWarrior. Bob LeVitus, aka Dr. Mac, said, "I feel naked without DiskWarrior." You can believe MacHome magazine when they said, "DiskWarrior is a quick, one-click solution to faster, more stable hard drives."



SECRETS OF MAC

SUPERHEROES

HIGHLY EFFECTIVE MAC USERS SHARE THEIR SMART WORK HABITS

We are all creatures of habit. But sometimes those habits aren't doing us any good.

Take the way we use our Macs. All too often, we figure out a way to do something—surf the Web, handle e-mail, or any other little computing chore—and then keep doing it that way forever.

How often do we take a critical look at the way we do things, figure out a better method, and change our habits?

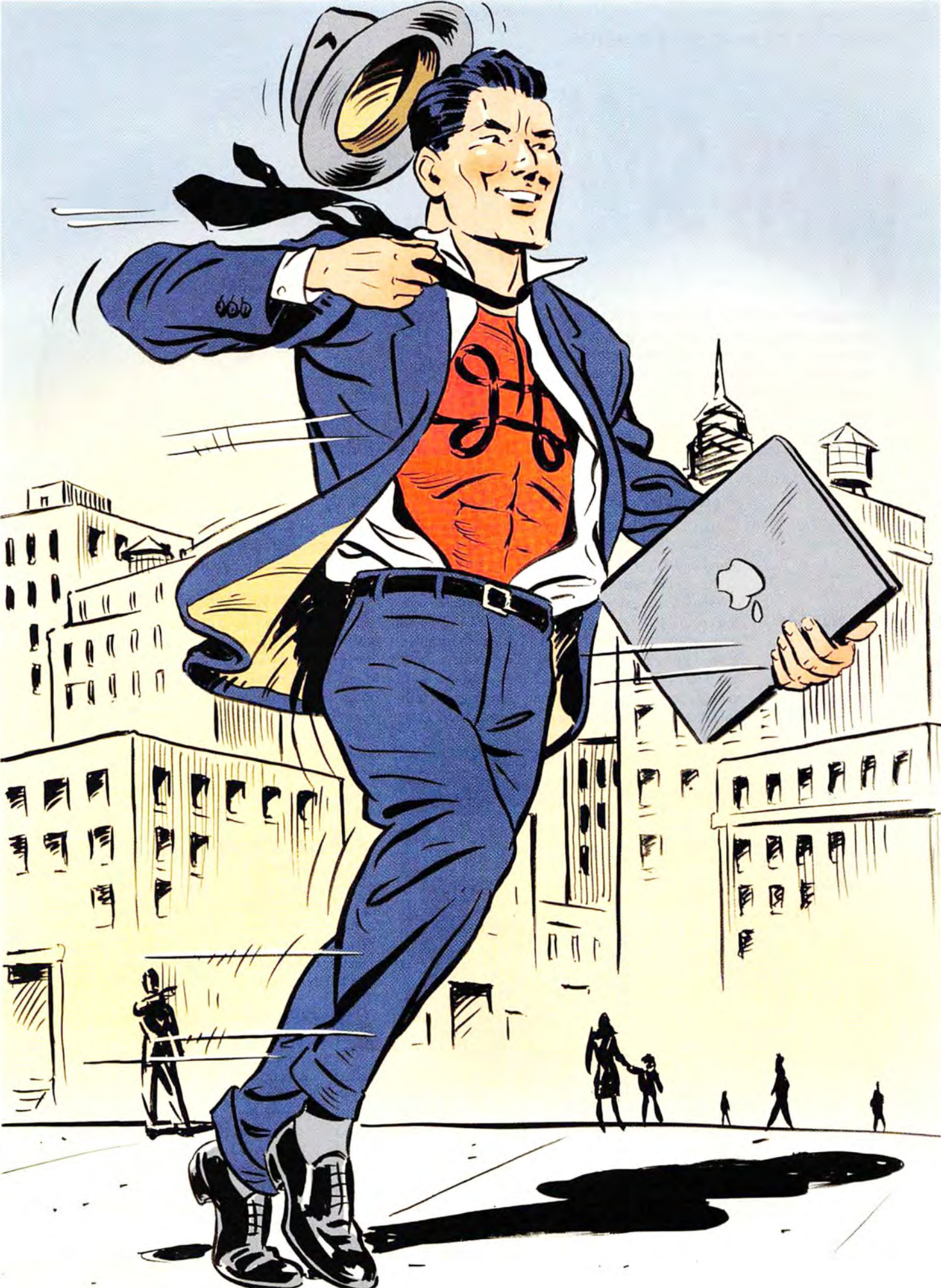
Well, here's a chance. We asked some of the most knowledgeable users we know to let us in on a few of the secrets that help them make the most of their time and get the most from their Macs. Specifically, we wanted to know about their computing *habits*—not just keystrokes and commands (though we got those, too), but comprehensive

approaches to using applications efficiently.

For example, Merlin D. Mann has some advice for handling your e-mail inbox. He also explains how he uses Entourage to implement the ideas of productivity guru David Allen. Dan Frakes suggests some AppleScripts that make quicker work of e-mail chores. Kirk McElhearn offers tips on using your browser's newer features for nimbler surfing. Troubleshooting ace Ted Landau lists the first six things you should do when your Mac gets balky. And some *Macworld* contributors explain which utilities they couldn't work without.

None of our experts' suggestions are exactly revolutionary. While all of us could be doing these things, few of us are. But it's never too late to break a bad habit—and adopt some good ones.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
JONATHAN CARLSON



WEB SMARTS



By now, you may think you know pretty much everything you need to about surfing the Web. But as browsers and Web sites continue to evolve, our surfing habits don't always evolve with them. Here are seven habits that any self-respecting Safari user should have right now. (If you're not a Safari fan, don't worry: most of these tricks work, with slight variations, in the other major browsers, too.)

Controlled Search

Select text, hold down the control key, and click to perform Google searches on the selected phrase.

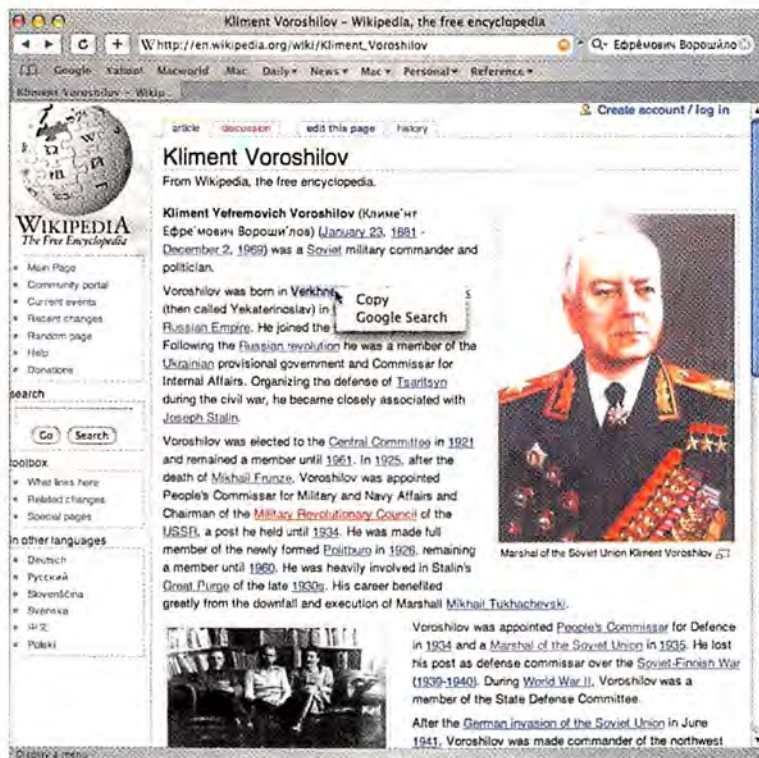
1 OPEN SEARCH RESULTS AS NEW TABS Tired of the Google two-step—that tiresome toggling between a long list of search results and the corresponding Web sites? It may be better to first open up all the sites in their own tabs and then browse them. In Safari, the easiest way to do so is to first make sure you've enabled Tabbed Browsing: in Safari's preferences, click on the Tabs icon and select the Enable Tabbed Browsing option. Once you've done that, hold down the ⌘ key when you click on any link you want to open; the page will appear in its own new tab, with the Google results page still in the foreground. (You

can press ⌘-shift and click on the link if you want it to appear in the foreground.) Once you've opened all the results you want, press ⌘-shift-left arrow or -right arrow to navigate through the tabs.

2 SAVE INSTANT BOOKMARKS FOR QUICK ACCESS When you know you'll need to go back to a specific page repeatedly for a couple of days but never again thereafter, don't add it to your list of bookmarks, where it'll stay until the end of time. Put it on the Bookmarks Bar instead. To do so, just drag the URL from the address box to the Bookmarks Bar. Give the resulting bookmark a name and click on OK. From then on, a single click will take you to that page. When you don't need the bookmark anymore, just drag it up and off of the bar, and it'll disappear in a puff of smoke.

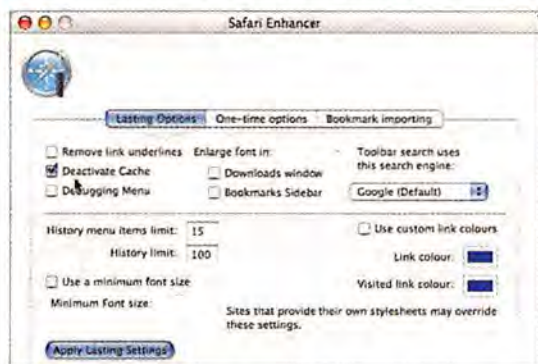
3 ONE-CLICK SEARCHING If you want to find out more about something you see on a Web page, you can do a quick Google search on it by selecting the phrase, holding down the control key, clicking on the text, and then selecting Google Search from the resulting menu. Safari will jump to Google and return search results for the phrase (see "Controlled Search"). Note that this won't work on link text.

4 ALPHABETIZE YOUR BOOKMARKS If you have lots of bookmarks, you know how much of a headache it can be to scroll through your Bookmarks menu to find the one you want. Save yourself time by keeping your bookmarks in order. Jerry Krinock's SafariSorter (free [donations accepted]; macworld.com/0435) will sort your bookmarks alphabetically; it'll also weed out duplicate bookmarks and make the menu more manageable. Each time you add a bunch of new bookmarks, run it again. A couple of seconds once in a while will save you plenty of time in the long run.

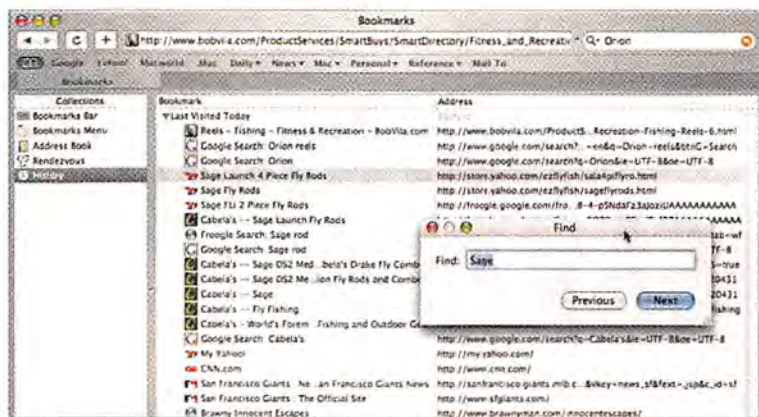


5 CENTRALIZE YOUR BOOKMARKS If you've ever used a browser other than Safari, you probably have two different sets of bookmarks on your system. Safari automatically imports bookmarks from other browsers the first time you run it, but after that you'll need a third-party application such as Gordon Byrnes's Safari Enhancer (free [donations accepted]; macworld.com/0436), which lets you import bookmarks from other browsers or from a flat HTML file. After you've corralled all your bookmarks, use an app such as SafariSorter to get rid of the duplicates.

6 TURN OFF THE CACHE The cache is useful for dial-up connections (it stores previously viewed pages, letting you skip a new download). But Safari may actually display pages faster over a broadband connection if you turn the cache off. Instead of



Stash the Cache Safari Enhancer lets you turn off caching; doing so speeds up Web-page display over a broadband connection.



wasting time searching for previously viewed pages and images on your hard disk, Safari just downloads everything. You can also speed up browsing by deleting the cache of favicons (those tiny icons that many Web sites display in front of their URLs in the address box). Safari Enhancer can do both.

7 LET HISTORY REPEAT ITSELF You probably know that you can use the History list to find pages you've viewed recently. But to make using the History list easier, don't just scan it. *Search it.* Press ⌘-Option-B to display the Bookmarks window; then click on History in the Collections list. Press ⌘-F and type a word you think is in the title or URL of the page you're looking for. Press return to go to the first page with that word, and press ⌘-G to go to the next. Once you've found the page you're looking for, just double-click on it to view it again (see "Historical Search").—KIRK MCELHEARN

Historical Search It can be tough to wade through a long list of sites you've recently visited. But pressing ⌘-F in the History window lets you search the URLs and titles therein.

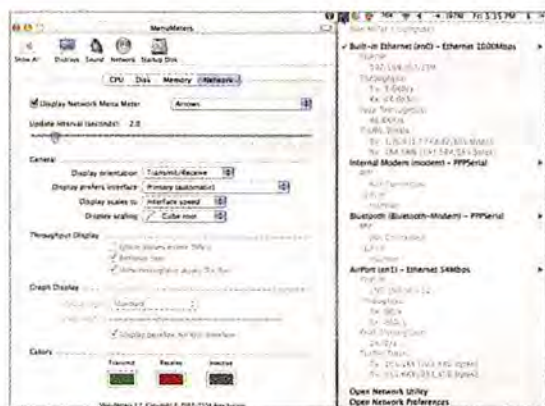
SOFTWARE WE CAN'T WORK WITHOUT

Butler As a launcher, Peter Maurer's Butler is similar to both LaunchBar and Quicksilver. Just press control-spacebar and start typing the name of an application, folder, Web shortcut, or file—Butler shows you the matches as you type. Press return to launch the selected item. But Butler does much more than that. It can also control iTunes and enable Fast User Switching without taking up space on the menu bar, and it supports simple but useful macros and multiple clipboard items. Butler isn't the friendliest application around—its user interface takes work to master. But once you've done so, it's a hard tool to live without (\$18; www.petermaurer.de/butler).

MenuMeters To keep an eye on my system's innards without opening and closing something like Activity Monitor, I use MenuMeters, from Raging Menace. Its space-efficient graphics on the menu bar let me keep an eye on CPU

usage, disk activity, memory utilization, and network activity, and each module can be individually enabled, disabled, and customized. CPU-hogging processes become obvious, excess disk activity is easy to spot, and I can monitor upload and download speeds—all with nothing more than a glance at the menu bar (free [donations accepted]; macworld.com/0452).

Print Window Sometimes I need to know—or show someone else—what's in a folder on my system. But OS X doesn't make it easy. There's no File: Print Window command, and while I could drag and drop a Finder window onto a printer in the Printer Setup Utility, the output isn't pretty. But when I drag and drop that same Finder window onto the Dock



System Spy MenuMeters puts a small, at-a-glance system status report in your menu bar.

icon of SearchWare Solutions' Print Window application, I can specify what I want printed, how I want it sorted, whether I want icons included, and whether I want to include and expand any subfolders. The Advanced, for-free version adds even more control to the process (\$15 [free version available]; macworld.com/0453).—ROB GRIFFITHS

THE INBOX MAKEOVER

Each e-mail message in your inbox demands your time and attention. Filters and rules are great for reducing some of that demand, shunting easily defined mail such as e-newsletters and personal notes to their appropriate folders. But important e-mail messages are often hard to define and organize with automatic, rules-based management. They require filters and rules that reside only in your brain.



The key to managing these important messages is to evaluate each one for the response it requires and then quickly convert that evaluation into action. What follows is one such system (based in large part on an approach suggested by productivity guru David Allen in his excellent book *Getting Things Done* [www.davidco.com]). Your particular work and e-mail volume may dictate some changes to these basic ideas, but they're a great place to start.

SOFTWARE WE CAN'T WORK WITHOUT

LaunchBar You know a utility has become indispensable when the keystrokes that invoke it have become part of your muscle memory. No tool has done this for me as completely as Objective Development's LaunchBar. I press ⌘ -spacebar; type a few characters from the name of the application, preference pane, document, Web bookmark, or contact name; and press return—and then, *poof!* LaunchBar opens the right thing. When I'm using another person's Mac, I find myself futilely pressing ⌘ -spacebar, frustrated that I have to find and launch applications manually in the Finder (\$20; macworld.com/0450).

iKey Ever since I bought CE Software's QuickKeys back in 1988 (the first program I ever bought for my Mac), I haven't been without a macro launcher like it. Now I rely on Script Software's iKey, but my two main uses remain the same: switching among my most commonly used (and always open) applications with the function keys (F1 for Nisus Writer, F2 for OmniWeb, F3 for Eudora, and so on) and typing small bits of boilerplate text such as my snail-mail address, Web URL, and more—surely, you couldn't expect me to type Cheers. Adam manually at the end of every e-mail message (\$30; macworld.com/0451). (Disclaimer: I wrote the manual for the latest version of iKey.)—ADAM C. ENGST



Setup

Start by stripping your e-mail directory structure down to seven basic folders, each defined by the action that its messages require (see "Reduce Your Folders"):

- > **Inbox** For unread and unprocessed items only.
- > **Respond** For messages requiring only short responses that can be ticked off in five minutes or less. You'll periodically go through this folder and send off those quick responses.
- > **Action** For e-mail that requires anything beyond a quick response—work, research, or a detailed answer.
- > **Hold** For items—such as new login information and package-tracking URLs—that you'll want close by in the next few days; prune weekly.
- > **Waiting** For mail that's likely to require action when its sender gets back to you.
- > **Archive** For anything you want to save for future reference. This is where you can put all those subfolders for particular projects or topics that you're probably using now. But with all the search tools available in today's e-mail clients, you may even be able to do without those.
- > **Trash** For spam, junk, and anything you'll never need again.

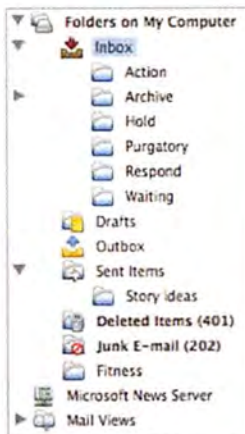
Triage

With those folders in place, going through your inbox means focusing on the action each message requires. If it requires action, either do it now or put it in the right folder for deferred action. If not, archive it or delete it.

Whenever you're in doubt about where to file something, ask yourself whether you can just respond or act immediately. Like a short-order cook, you want to stay focused on making sandwiches, not

on putting the orders into pretty piles.

If you can knock off a reply the first time you see a message, do so. But if you accumulate items that need a bit more attention, concentrate on getting them all in the right place, and then go back to your work—return only when you have time to start chipping away. Above all, don't let unprocessed mail live in your inbox: this is a lazy habit that invites procrastination, guilt, and inaction.



Reduce Your Folders Cut down on the number of e-mail folders you have, and define each by the kind of action that the messages inside it require.

Timing

A surprising number of people set their e-mail programs to check for mail every minute. That's building 500 interruptions into each workday. As a quick experiment, look back over your last two weeks of e-mail and count the messages that absolutely required a response in less than sixty seconds. My guess is that you won't find too many.

The key, then, is to retrain yourself. First, adjust your e-mail program to check for new mail once every hour. (In Mail, that setting is in the General preference pane; in Entourage, it's in Tools: Schedules.) If an hour is just too long, you can try something like every 15 or 30 minutes (see "Adjust Your Timing"). Then start batching your e-mail work into hourly "dashes" of 8 to 10 minutes at a go. You can use that time to sort new messages, send the replies you can, and then get out.

Keep It Short

Finally, when you do respond to your mail, keep your answers as concise as possible. Don't sit on old mail because you dread crafting a long response. Just keep the ball in motion by clarifying, asking questions, offering help, or even saying "I don't know." You can always write more later.

The point of all this is to stay focused on doing just the work each message requires. That, in turn, means less time treating e-mail as an end in itself and more time using it as the tool that it is.—MERLIN D. MANN



Adjust Your Timing Stop checking your e-mail every five minutes. Instead, set your e-mail client to check less frequently—ideally, every hour.

THE BEST APPLESCRIPTS FOR E-MAIL

Apple's Mail and Microsoft's Entourage 2004 are powerful e-mail clients, but they can't do everything you might want. Thankfully, both apps support AppleScript, so clever scripters can provide us with downloadable scripts that add features. Even better, you can assign keyboard shortcuts to these scripts for quick execution.

Entourage

There's a thriving community of scripters for Entourage. If the scripts I've listed here aren't enough, check out ScriptBuilders (macworld.com/0437) and The Entourage Help Page (macworld.com/0438) for more. All Entourage AppleScripts should be installed in `/your user folder/Documents/Microsoft User Data/Entourage Script Menu Items`.

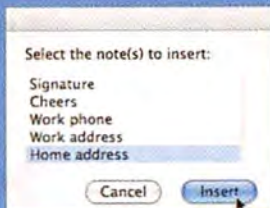
Categorize Duplicate Contacts Do you sync Entourage to a PDA? Do you end up with duplicate contacts? This Allen Watson script finds dupes and assigns them to a new Duplicate category; you can then decide what to do with that category's entries (free: macworld.com/0439).

File Msgs in Folder If you've got lots of folders and subfolders, filing them by dragging them to a folder or clicking on the Move button can be a hassle. File Msgs in Folder, another Allen Watson script, lets you file messages by pressing a keyboard shortcut and then typing the first few letters of the desired folder's name (free: macworld.com/0440).

Insert Notes This script from Barry Wainwright lets you place frequently typed text in Entourage Notes, which you can insert into e-mail messages (free: macworld.com/0441).

Send Complex HTML with Inline Files Complex HTML—tables, CSS, or anything other than basic formatting—is rarely necessary in e-mail. But when it is, Rob Buckley's *Send Complex HTML with Inline Files* not only lets you send such content but also embeds images and other files referenced by the HTML in the message (free: macworld.com/0442).

Sync Entourage—Address Book, Sync Entourage—iCal Even if you're a big Entourage fan, you may want to use it with iSync and other software that takes advantage of OS X's Address Book and iCal data. These handy scripts from Paul Berkowitz synchronize your Entourage Contacts and Calendar with OS X's personal information applications (\$19 each; macworld.com/0443).



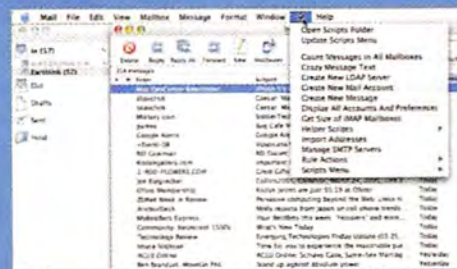
Quick Text With the Insert Notes script, you can quickly add small bits of boilerplate text to e-mail messages.

Mail

Mail doesn't have the same scripting enthusiasm behind it as Entourage does, but there are still some great scripts out there. Mail scripts belong in `/your user folder/Library/Scripts/Mail Scripts`.

Built-in scripts Apple provides a slew of useful scripts with OS X; they're available from Mail's Script menu and documented at www.apple.com/applescript/mail/ (free; already installed).

Show Flagged Messages, Show Unread Messages, Show All Messages
Ever wish you could view *just* unread messages in Mail? Or just flagged messages? In Tiger (OS X 10.4), Mail will have *smart* folders that let you do both. But you can get these features in OS X 10.3 now, thanks to Mac OSXHints.com: the Show Flagged Messages and Show Unread Messages scripts do just what their names say; Show All Messages restores the standard view (free: macworld.com/0445). —DAN FRANKS

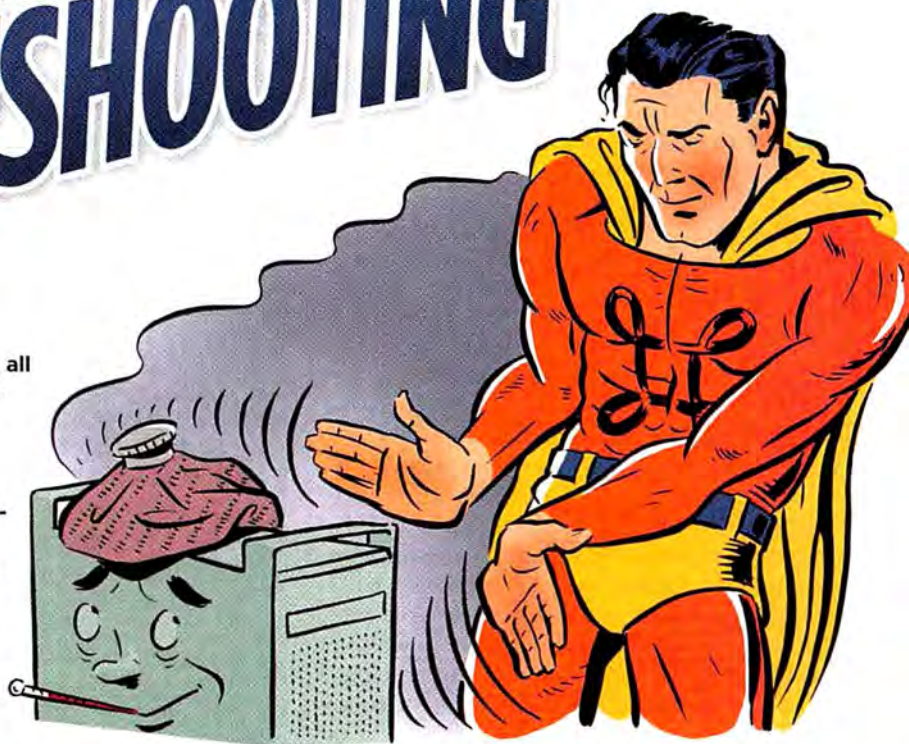


Thanks, Apple Don't ignore the scripts that come built right into Apple Mail—they include tools for importing addresses from other e-mail clients and for configuring remote mailboxes.

SIX STEPS TO FAST MAC TROUBLESHOOTING

When something goes wrong with your Mac, all you care about is getting it fixed fast. Maybe you're on the road with your PowerBook and you need to give a presentation in an hour—you don't care why something went wrong, or even what the best long-term solution may be. You just want to get your Mac working well enough to see you through the meeting; you'll worry about the rest later.

For such stress-filled times, here are the quick-and-dirty troubleshooting steps you need to follow. (For more ideas, see *Working Mac*, page 66.)



1 RESTART If your Mac's performance has slowed to a crawl, or if your applications are freezing, restarting is often all you need to do to get back on track.

2 LOG IN WITH STARTUP ITEMS DISABLED Log out of your account and log back in—but hold down the shift key when clicking on the Log In button. Continue to hold it until the desktop background

appears. You've now disabled your Startup Items, the applications that load automatically when you log in. If one of these items was causing a conflict with the software you were trying to use, you should now be good to go.

3 SWITCH TO A CLEAN ACCOUNT Log in to a separate account, ideally a test account set up in advance for just such occasions. To make this go as quickly as possible, use Fast User Switching (enabled from the Accounts preference pane). If the problem does not occur in the test account, it's likely due to a file that affects only your Home account. You can

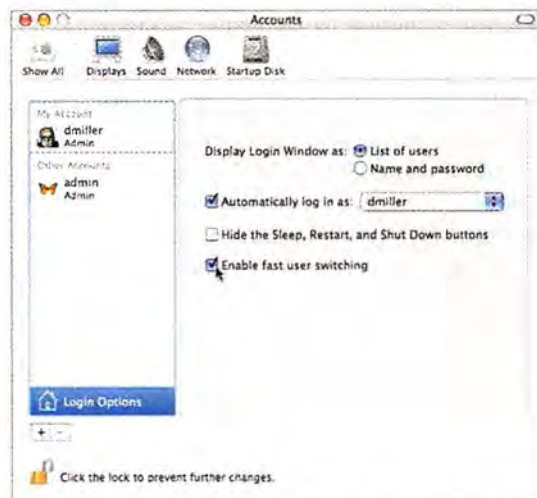
SOFTWARE WE CAN'T WORK WITHOUT

DragThing When I configure a new Mac, the second thing I install (after the latest version of Mac OS X) is James Thomson's DragThing. With this palette-based launching utility, I can create any number of palettes that can hold anything I like—applications, documents, URLs, folders, and more. I can then assign hot keys, view the contents of folders, quit and force-quit applications, switch applications while hiding others, and move items to the Trash (\$29; www.dragthing.com).

You Control Much like the old Now Menus, You Software's You Control lets me pack a load of helpful utilities into menus conveniently hidden in the corners of my Mac's desktop (or invoked via a hot key). My You Control menu includes a weather module, a news reader, an iTunes controller, a calendar, a list of recent items, a list of mounted volumes (with hierarchical menus), and a list of the users I've created on my Mac (\$20; www.yousoftware.com).—CHRISTOPHER BREEN



In Control You Control lets you control iTunes, as well as all sorts of system functions, from menus it places in the corners of your desktop.



A Clean Break If restarting your Mac doesn't help, try logging in to a "clean" account—but first turn on Fast User Switching.

LET ENTOURAGE MANAGE YOUR PROJECTS

While a lot of Mac users rely on Microsoft Entourage 2004 for e-mail and simple calendar management, many ignore its Project Center. That's too bad, because the Project Center is a powerful project-management tool. Here are some of the ways I use it (as with the advice in "The Inbox Makeover," much of this advice was inspired by David Allen's book *Getting Things Done*).

Set Up Filters

Entourage 2004's Project Center is where you collect appointments, tasks, e-mail, notes, and other documents, grouped by project, in one convenient location. The key to making it work is to use Entourage's automatic filtering tools.

When you create a new project, you can define filters that tell Entourage to automatically associate specific e-mail messages, contacts, documents, and tasks with that project. Once you identify the key attributes for each project (contact information, likely e-mail subjects, and so on), those tools will automate a lot of your project maintenance, giving you more time to focus on the real work at hand.

I like to create a new Entourage project early in a project's planning stages, because the Project Center's filtering can come in especially handy during a project's ramping-up period, when my task assignments and e-mail messages are typically in a flurry. It helps to be as aggressive as possible about using consistent e-mail subjects for each project (for instance, begin the subject for all "XYZ Corporation"

project e-mails with the letters XYZ)—this is especially necessary when you work with the same people on different projects, and therefore can't just file all messages from one colleague as part of a single project. Even if others don't adopt your nomenclature, at least their replies to your messages will contain your disciplined subject lines and be filtered accordingly.

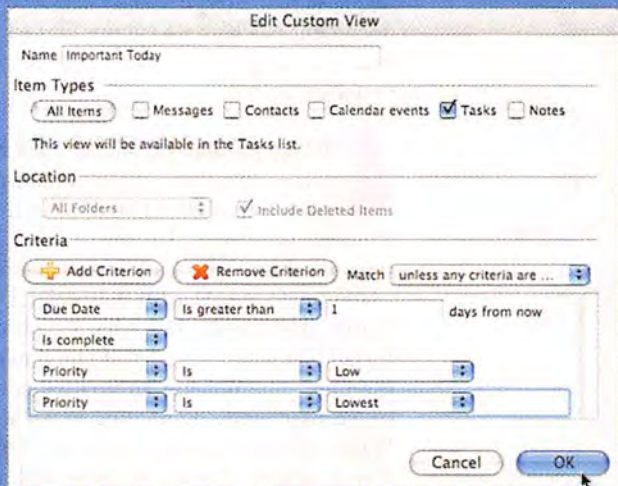
Create New Categories

You might find Entourage's preloaded Categories (Work, Personal, and so on) useful, but I don't. I prefer using categories for the specific purpose of identifying where or how each of the tasks in my to-do list needs to be performed.

So I use my own categories, such as Errand, Office, Home, Online, and so on. That way, I can quickly identify all the tasks I need to be doing at any given time. If I'm in the office, I need to do the Office tasks and can safely ignore the Home ones. (You can assign more than one category to a given task.)

Customize Views for Current Tasks

If you have more than a few items in your Tasks list, you may find it hard to locate all your high-



A New View Need to see what's really important in your Entourage task list? Create a custom view that excludes the unimportant stuff.

priority tasks. You can remedy that by using a handy Entourage search trick that finds matches by determining what they are not.

In my Tasks area, I created a custom view called Important Today (by selecting File: New: Custom View). After selecting Match Unless Any Criteria Are, I chose these criteria: Due Date Is Greater Than 1 Day From Now, Is Complete, Priority Is Low, and Priority Is Lowest (see "A New View").

You could add other criteria—for instance, to filter out projects that aren't related to work (Jamie's Soccer Team or Costa Rica Vacation)—but that's the general idea.

Custom views like this are useful throughout Entourage: the time you spend creating a good one will save you countless hours of manual searching and make sure that nothing falls between the cracks.

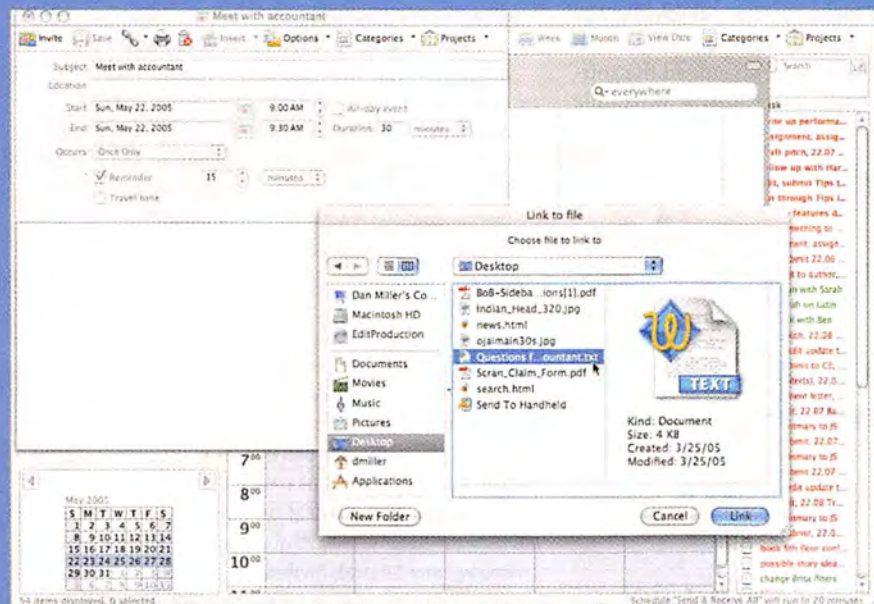
Link to Text Files

A lot of folks (including me) like to maintain information in simple plain-text files. (For example, I keep a list of the questions and issues I want to discuss with someone the next time we meet.) These files are small, efficient, and extremely portable, and you can create and add to them from many different apps.

Entourage supports this habit: it lets you quickly attach any kind of document to tasks, appointments, and other Entourage objects. So I can link my list of questions to the appointment when I'll need to ask them, for instance.

Just pull up the appointment, task, or contact you want to attach your document to. Go to Tools: Link To Existing: File, and then locate and select the text file you want to link to (see "Stay Connected").

Now you're never more than a couple clicks away from your important text-based information—and that information is always in the appropriate context. —MERLIN D. MANN



Stay Connected Linking simple text files to appointments, contacts, and tasks in Entourage lets you keep notes and other context-relevant information close at hand.

diagnose that later. If you'll need access to a specific document (such as a Keynote file) while in the test account, copy the file to your Public folder before switching accounts.

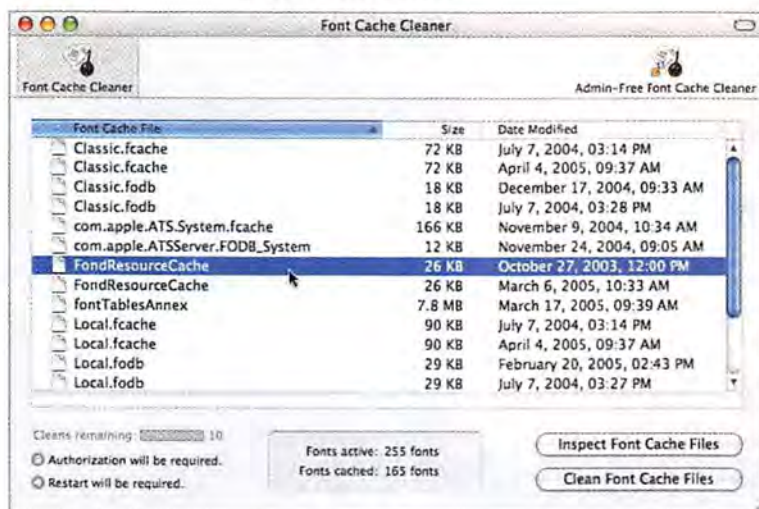
4 DO DISK REPAIRS VIA SINGLE-USER MODE To fix a corrupt directory, the common recommendation is to use Disk Utility's Repair Disk option. The only problem is that you can't repair the current startup volume with Disk Utility. Instead, you need to start up from a Mac OS X Install CD and run Disk Utility from there. But what if you don't have an Install CD handy, or what if you don't have time to use one? The quicker alternative is to boot up in single-user mode by holding down ⌘-S at startup. When the text prompt appears, type `fsck -fy`. This is almost identical to using Disk Utility. When you're finished, type `reboot` to restart the Mac.

5 REPAIR DISK PERMISSIONS If you're seeing error messages that say you don't have permission to do whatever you're attempting, select Repair Disk Permissions from Disk Utility. You can (and, in fact, should) do this when you boot from the startup volume that is giving you trouble.

6 CLEAN UP CACHES A variety of third-party software can help speed up your recovery time. Having printing problems? Use Printer Setup Repair (\$20; macworld.com/0447); start with its Temp & Preference File Management options. Problems with fonts? Use Font Finagler (\$10; macworld.com/0448) to delete potentially corrupt font caches. Other mysterious symptoms? Use TinkerTool System (\$9; macworld.com/0449) to perform tasks such as rebuilding the launch-services database and deleting all system cache files. To be on the safe side, download the software right now so you'll have it when trouble strikes.—TED LANDAU

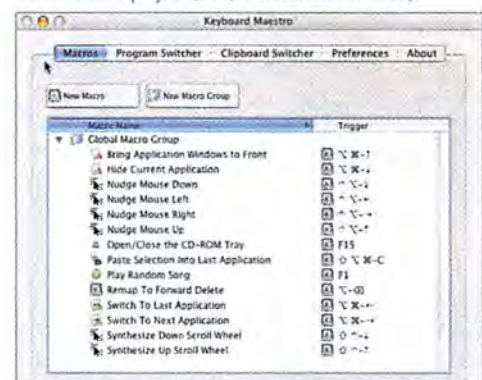


Neat Type Font Finagler can speed up your system by cleaning up your system's font cache files.



SOFTWARE WE CAN'T WORK WITHOUT

WireTap Pro I admit it, I have a weakness: I'm a radio junkie, the kind of guy who will sit in his car until a program is over rather than turning off the radio and going in to work. Unfortunately, sitting in the car for hours isn't exactly productive. So I use WireTap Pro, from Ambrosia Software. Like TiVo for the Web, this little app can record my favorite audio streams. It'll record audio on schedule and, once the recording is done, save the results in one of several audio formats. It can even save the audio into an iTunes playlist (\$19; macworld.com/0455).



Keyboard Maestro Call me a heretic, but I think OS X's ⌘-Tab application switcher stinks. It's poorly designed, poorly implemented, and ugly as sin. My favorite program-switching app? Stairways Software's Keyboard Maestro. With a simple, user-customizable interface, it lets me switch among open apps and windows, launch or close applications, and kick off time-saving macros (\$20; www.keyboardmaestro.com).

iSeek Google, Froogle, Dictionary.com, the weather in Maine: No matter what kind of Web search I need to do, Ambrosia Software's iSeek lets me run it and grab the information from a single search field in my menu bar. If I want to run any other searches—say, first-edition books at BookFinder.com—I can create my own iSeek search modules or download any of dozens more from Ambrosia's Web site (\$15; macworld.com/0456).—JEFFERY BATTERSBY

JEFFERY BATTERSBY is a network analyst at the law firm of Finkelstein & Partners in Newburgh, New York. Contributing Editor CHRISTOPHER BREEN is the editor in chief of Playlistmag.com and author of *Secrets of the iPod and iTunes*, fifth edition (Peachpit Press, 2005). Contributing Editor ADAM C. ENGST is the publisher of TidBits. Senior Writer DAN FRANKS is the reviews editor at Playlistmag.com and the author of *Mac OS X Power Tools*, second edition (Sybex, 2004). Contributing Editor ROB GRIFFITHS is the author of *Mac OS X Power Hound, Panther Edition* (O'Reilly, 2004) and runs the Mac OS X Hints Web site. Contributing Editor TED LANDAU is the author of *Mac OS X Help Line, Panther Edition* (Peachpit Press, 2004). Freelance writer MERLIN D. MANN also runs the 43Folders Web site (www.43folders.com). KIRK McELHEARN is the author of several books, including *iPod and iTunes Garage* (Prentice Hall, 2004).

Clicks well with others

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- Works with any dockable iPod or iPod mini



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First Look:

Adobe Creative Suite 2



Adobe (www.adobe.com) is doing two things with its brand-new Creative Suite 2. First, all of the suite's applica-

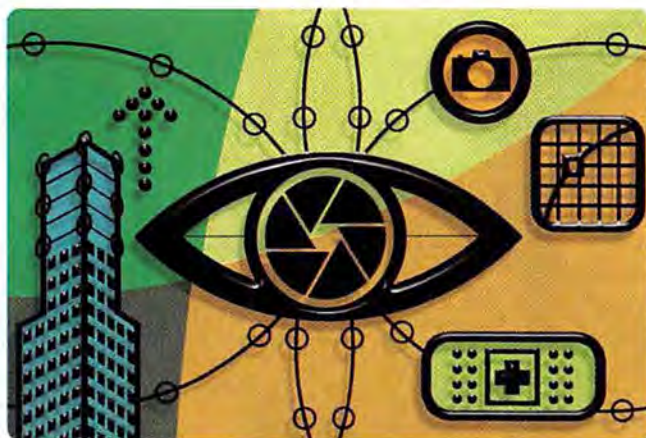
tions—Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, and GoLive—have gotten major upgrades, with promising interface tweaks and new tools for handling the latest graphics technologies. Second, Adobe is attempting to make CS more of a *suite*, integrating the apps more tightly and providing a new, centralized tool—Adobe Bridge—for managing projects. (Match *that*, Quark and Macromedia.) We got an early look at the new suite, and here's what we saw.

**ADOBE'S REVAMPED
CREATIVE SUITE SPORTS
UPGRADED APPS,
TIGHTER INTEGRATION,
AND NEW PROJECT-
MANAGEMENT TOOLS**

ILLUSTRATIONS BY GLENN MITSUI



CS2 Photoshop



Photoshop CS2 includes a bunch of powerful new filters and editing tools, tighter integration with Illustrator graphics, support for 32-bit images, and improved handling of the Camera Raw format.

Image Warp

The new Image Warp feature lets you easily wrap flat graphics around three-dimensional objects in your images and then tweak the results directly to make them look natural.

Reduce Noise

Noise reduction often produces some blurring. This new filter removes digital camera noise and JPEG compression artifacts while preserving photographic detail—especially helpful if you shoot in low-light conditions. You can also control noise in each color channel separately.

Spot Healing Brush

This retouching tool lets you remove objects from photographs without having to first sample from a source point. Just select the Spot Healing brush, select a brush size large enough to encircle the object, and click—and the object disappears.

Optical Lens Correction

This new filter allows you to adjust and correct a broad range of camera-lens imperfections—barrel or pincushion distortion, chromatic aberration, vignetting, and perspective problems in all three dimensions—and lets you monitor your progress with a live preview on an alignment grid.

Vanishing Point

The new Vanishing Point filter allows you to define perspective planes in your image and then lets you paint, clone, transform, or drag objects onto them. The objects will automatically fit the perspective, no matter where on the plane you place them.

32-Bit High Dynamic Range (HDR)

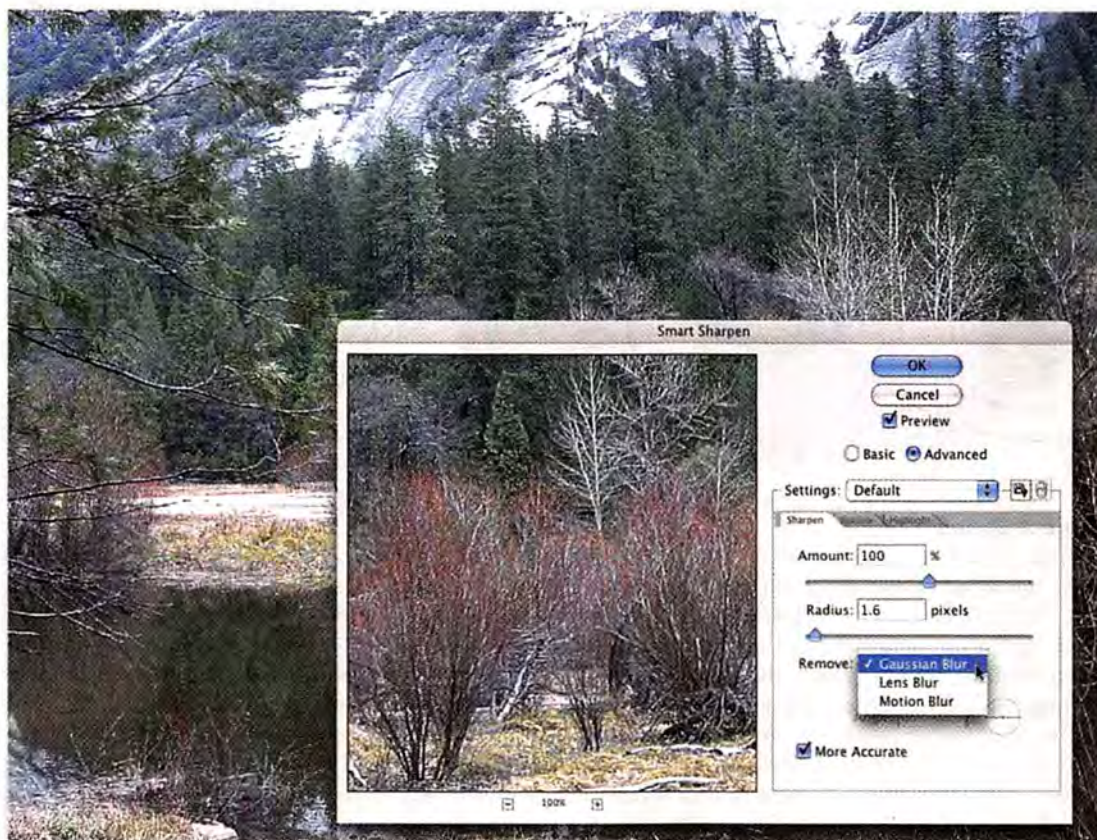
The new Merge To HDR command lets you combine several exposures of the same shot to get the broadest possible tonal range, from dark shadows to bright highlights. The previous version of Photoshop introduced more-advanced editing of 16-bit images; Photoshop CS2 doubles that, to 32-bit images. Not all editing capabilities are available in 32-bit HDR mode, but you can convert an image to 16 or 8 bits once your images are combined.



Beautiful Eyes A new Red Eye tool lets you easily remove the red in a subject's pupils by selecting the tool and clicking on the red part of the eye.

Smart Objects

The new Photoshop's Smart Objects feature lets you scale, rotate, warp, and transform raster and vector objects on layers of a Photoshop image without losing image quality. Illustrator vector graphics that you integrate into a Photoshop document remain live and scalable, and if you edit an image in Illustrator, your changes will automatically appear in the Photoshop file. For linked duplicates of embedded graphics, just edit an image once—all linked copies will update at the same time.



Smart Sharpen

Until now, the Unsharp Mask filter was a photo retoucher's best friend. But Photoshop CS2's new Smart Sharpen command lets you choose which kind of blur you want to control—motion, Gaussian, or lens.

Multiple-Image Camera Raw

Photoshop CS2 handles raw images more flexibly and productively. With the new Camera Raw workflow, you can select and batch-process multiple raw image files at once (while continuing to work on other images), and then export them to the format of your choice, including the new Digital Negative format (DNG). You can now automatically adjust exposure, shadows, highlights, and contrast; you can also preview shadow and highlight clipping. The

program also offers dynamic or preset tone-curve adjustment; cropping and straightening tools; and multiple-color sampling.

Menu Customization

Photoshop now lets you choose from among new preset task-based workspaces for different kinds of jobs—prepping images for the Web, painting and retouching, prepress, and more. When you choose a preset workspace, the program highlights the menus you'll need for that job. You can also create and save your own custom menu sets with color-keyed menu commands, and then select them at will.—JACKIE DOVE

What Else Is New

- > New PDF engine is compatible with Adobe Acrobat 7.0.
- > High-capacity RAM compatibility allows Power Mac G5 users to devote more than 2GB of RAM to the program.
- > Smart Guides show you where to line up objects on multiple layers of a canvas.
- > Image Processor command lets you identify multiple images for batch processing.
- > Script Events Manager window runs actions and scripts at specified points in your workflow.
- > WYSIWYG font menu.
- > Animation (for the first time in Photoshop).

For the Right Price

Here are the list prices for the new Adobe Creative Suite 2 and its components; you can expect to pay less. (Upgraders, of course, will pay way less.) Note that Adobe CS now requires product activation.

PRODUCT	PRICE
Adobe GoLive CS2	\$399
Adobe Illustrator CS2	\$499
Adobe InDesign CS2	\$699
Adobe Photoshop CS2	\$599
Adobe Creative Suite 2 Standard*	\$899
Adobe Creative Suite 2 Premium*	\$1,199

* Includes Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, and Bridge. * Includes Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, GoLive, Bridge, and Acrobat 7.0 Professional.

InDesign CS2



"Efficiency" and "productivity" may not turn heads. But what about "fewer keystrokes to accomplish repetitive tasks" or "fewer nights in the office"? That's what Adobe is aiming for with **InDesign CS2**.

Object Styles

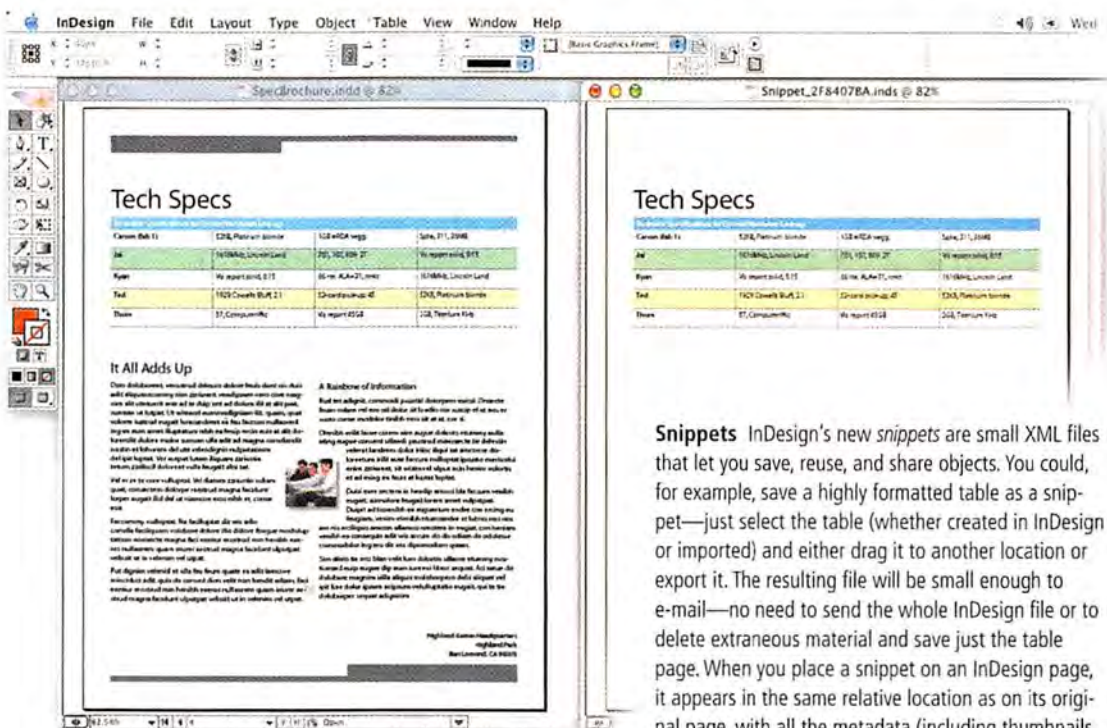
Object styles are designed to save you time and help you avoid design inconsistencies. Say you lay out a weekly newsletter with sidebars that always have the same paragraph styles, text wraps, and drop-shadow settings. Make this combination of settings an object style, and you can apply the entire combination at once to every future sidebar. You can also use the Object Style palette to create, delete, copy, and edit the styles. Those styles can include transparency, drop shadows and feathering, text-frame options, text wrapping, fill and stroke colors, and stroke and corner effects. You can base an object style on another object style, so when you change the original, all related styles reflect the change. If you don't want changes to the parent style to affect child styles, you can break the link between them.

Text Handling

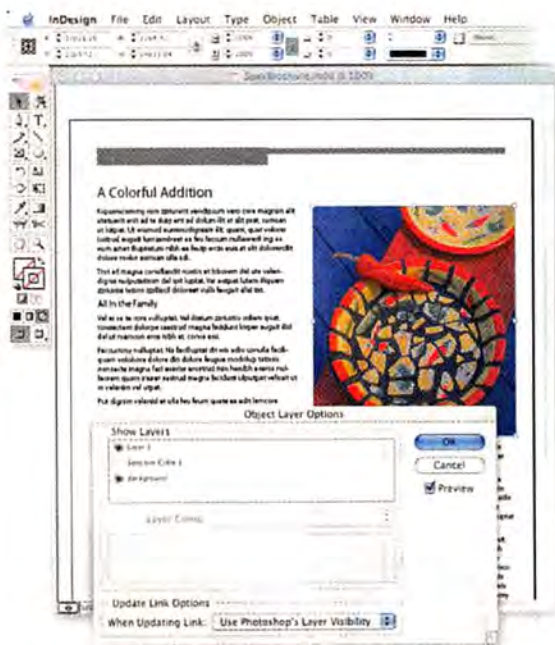
The new InDesign lets you drag and drop text between paragraphs, frames, views, layout windows, Story Editor windows, and documents. You can even drag text from another application into an existing InDesign text frame. The program can also correct text as you type. In addition, Adobe has refined the way it handles styles in imported Microsoft Word and RTF documents: you can rename imported styles to avoid conflicts with InDesign style names, you can overwrite InDesign styles with Word and RTF styles, and you can map Word and RTF styles to existing InDesign styles.

Anchored Objects

Usually, it's best to have images, sidebars, and callouts near the point where they're referenced in the main text. But as text flows change, it can be hard to



Snippets InDesign's new *snippets* are small XML files that let you save, reuse, and share objects. You could, for example, save a highly formatted table as a snippet—just select the table (whether created in InDesign or imported) and either drag it to another location or export it. The resulting file will be small enough to e-mail—no need to send the whole InDesign file or to delete extraneous material and save just the table page. When you place a snippet on an InDesign page, it appears in the same relative location as on its original page, with all the metadata (including thumbnails, fonts, and color swatches) intact.



Reveal Layers Adobe continues to integrate the suite's applications by giving you greater control over layers in native PSD files. You can now hide or show a PSD file's layers and layer compositions. While before you might have saved five variations of one image as separate TIFF files and then placed them one-by-one in an InDesign layout, you can now keep all five versions in one PSD file and test their suitability by toggling layers on and off. (You can see and manipulate adjustment and PSD layers in QuarkXPress 6.5, but not transparency.) You can also display layers in an Illustrator file, but you must first save it as a PDF 1.5 or 1.6 file and opt to include layers.

keep track of those reference locations. With the new version of InDesign, you can anchor an object to a point within a text frame. If the point in the text frame moves, the anchored object goes along for the ride.—TERRI STONE

What Else Is New

- > Footnote support, including ability to import from Word.
- > Ability to export multiple pages as separate JPEGs.
- > Can now place all or a range of pages from multipage PDFs.
- > WYSIWYG font preview.
- > Better support of XML, including attribute-based mapping and linking of InDesign files to XML files.
- > Can replicate transformations, such as scale and skew, from one object to another.
- > Ability to convert objects from one shape to another with just one click.

Bridging the Suite

When Photoshop CS debuted in 2003, the fleshed-out File Browser was my favorite feature. I used it to quickly scan folders full of image and PDF files (searching visually and via metadata and keywords) and to prioritize images with the Flag command. Creative Suite 2's Bridge is the File Browser writ large.

You can summon Bridge from Illustrator, InDesign, GoLive, and Photoshop. It lets you view PDF, PSD, .ai, .indd, and Camera Raw files, as well as the image formats File Browser already handled so well. There are several view modes, but Filmstrip and Slideshow are especially useful when you need to zip through a big batch of files.

Once you locate a file, you can add keywords and metadata, label it, and give it a star rating from one to five. (The latter two abilities help you manage files, as you can filter by label and star rating.) And if you choose Compact mode, which shrinks Bridge to a floating palette, you can

drag and drop any file from Bridge into a document created in CS2. Or just double-click on the thumbnail preview to open the file in the original application.

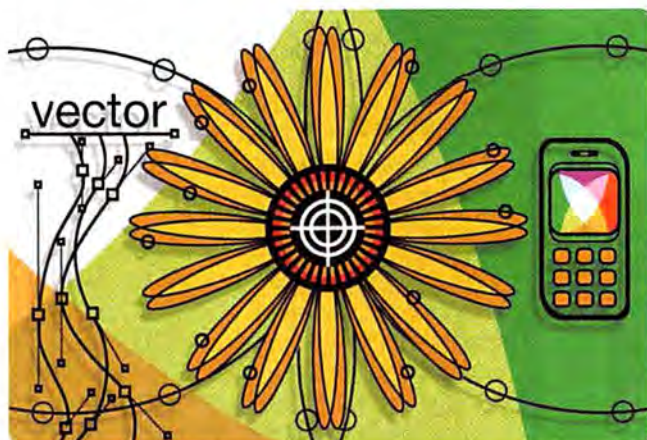
Bridge is also the jumping-off place for Adobe Stock Photos, where you can browse and buy royalty-free photos from several large stock agencies, including Photodisc, Comstock, and Digital Vision.

If you install the entire CS2 suite, you'll also get Bridge Center, Help Center, and Version Cue access. Bridge Center is where you synchronize color-management settings, so on-screen colors (including spot colors) look the same across all suite programs; it also includes an RSS news reader and tips for using Adobe programs. Help Center brings information for every suite component into one location. And Version Cue lets you create new Version Cue projects, as well as search and preview existing ones.—TERRI STONE



Bridge Preview In the new Bridge Preview window, navigational and informational panes run down the left side, and thumbnails use up the rest of the space on the right side.

Illustrator CS2



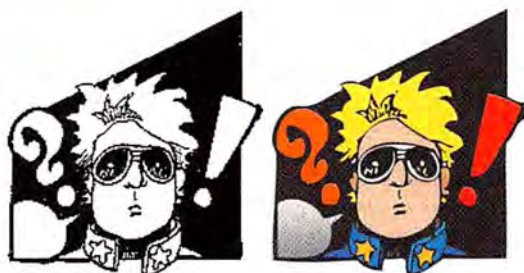
Illustrator CS2 packs some excellent new drawing tools, as well as an updated Control palette that makes the program much easier to use but doesn't alter any of the previous version's palettes or keyboard commands.

Living Color

Click on an enclosed area with the Live Paint tool, and Illustrator—just like a bitmapped paint program—will automatically fill the area with the current color. Live Paint can even fill areas that aren't completely enclosed, thanks to a user-customizable gap detector that lets you automatically close paths that have gaps, or simply ignore the gaps and fill anyway.

Automatic Tracing

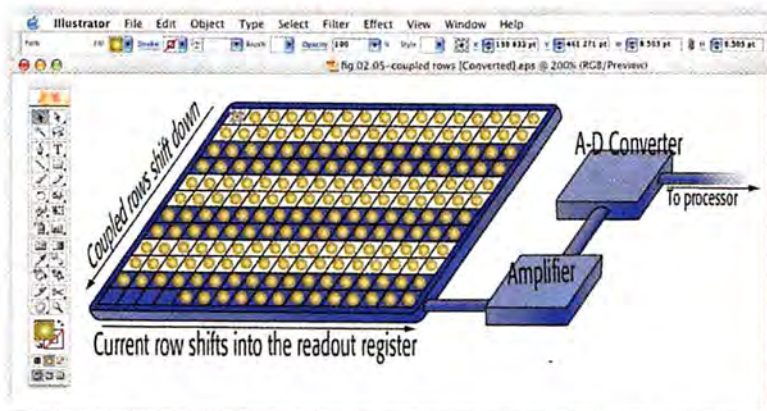
Adobe has finally updated Illustrator's auto-trace tool. The new Live Trace feature provides incredibly fast autotracing (black-and-white or color), as well as a unique interactive interface. After importing a bitmapped image and telling Illustrator to autotrace it, you can tweak any number of tracing parameters, and your tracing will be automatically updated. You can change tolerances, thresholds, and tracing methods, and save these configurations as tracing presets. Tracing remains "live"—even across sessions—until you tell Illustrator to expand the tracing into normal Illustrator paths and fills.



Teamwork The new Live Trace feature converts grungy bitmaps (left) into vectors almost instantaneously. Afterward, the Live Paint tool can make short work of dropping in color and gradient fills (right).

Better Integration

When opening or placing a Photoshop file, you can now choose from among any layer compositions that may be included in the document. You can apply Photoshop filters to placed images using the standard Photoshop Filter Gallery and remove or change these filters later. You can also now tint images within Illustrator to create duotone effects.—BEN LONG



Taking Control Just like the toolbars in Photoshop and InDesign, Illustrator's new Control palette spans the top of the screen. But it works more like an object inspector: Click on any object in your document, and the Control palette will fill with simple controls for that object. For example, if you click on a path, the toolbar will offer Fill and Stroke pop-up menus, Brush and Style controls, and dimension and position fields. The full palettes can be instantly popped out of the Control palette, for quick access to secondary parameters.

What Else Is New

- > **Workspaces**, which let you define custom window and palette layouts that you switch between using a simple menu.
- > Ability to align strokes to the inside, outside, or center of a path.
- > Automatic printer tiling for printing out large images.
- > Expanded support for mobile graphics formats.
- > PDF/X support and general PDF enhancements.
- > Improved Macromedia Flash (SWF) export.
- > Better support for Wacom tablets.
- > Simple type enhancements.



Building on GoLive's designer-friendly interface and Site Window-based site management, **GoLive CS2** moves fully into the age of Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) and mobile devices.

CSS Everywhere

It wasn't hard to link style sheets in the previous version of GoLive, but now you can set a default style sheet for new pages. You can also now use your Web page's CSS button to link to a style sheet. And you can create, assign, or edit styles in multiple ways—such as applying a class to a table row from the Table palette or editing a style by double-clicking on it in the CSS palette.

Interface-lift

The CSS document interface has matured. There's now a split-window code view, which has an Info column preview, makes the preview optional (you can turn it off and use the new Inspector preview instead), and lets you double-click on a property to jump to its editing tab. You can also "collect" a set of properties and then apply them to another style later. And you can now change the order of fonts. The toolbar and menus are all more CSS-oriented. You can now use buttons in the Style menu to add

Think Small Now that people use cell phones to cruise the Web, designers need to think in all sizes. GoLive goes beyond Web-site design, with page-building and -preview features for myriad mobile devices.

the proper structural tags—`` and ``—instead of the deprecated bold and italic tags, `` and `<i>`.

Tighter Integration

Integration with Photoshop and Illustrator was already good, and now it's better. JPEGs can automatically generate Smart Objects. PDF exporting includes Mobile PDF (optimized for mobile devices) and security options that restrict copying, printing, and more. Improved InDesign-to-GoLive flow makes it easier for print designers to move their work to the Web.

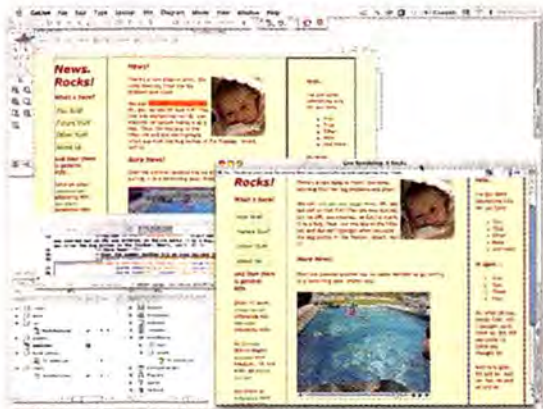


What Else Is New

- > Better color management—you can open multiple swatch palettes and build your own palette, and then share it across the suite.
- > Improved file versioning.
- > Improved collaborative workflows with Version Cue.
- > More-secure FTP, with support for FTP via SSL (FTPS) and SSH tunneling.
- > Support for better extensions through changes to the software development kit (SDK); extensions can also communicate with other CS2 applications.
- > Paste Special menu that gives you control over how you paste from Word.
- > Windows Media objects.
- > Support for popular blogging software.

New Default Doctype

The default *doctype* (or document-type declaration) changes from HTML 4 Transitional to XHTML 1 Transitional. With this, uppercase tags are flagged red, and you can use Rewrite Source with its improved options to make them lowercase.—DEBORAH SHADOVITZ



Grid Work Layout Grid now writes CSS, so you can easily create `<div>` tags, which let you create pages of columns and rows without tables—the currently preferred technique. Just drag a CSS layout from the new CSS tab; then start adding content. To format the layout, assign attributes to the autocreated classes.

GoLive CS2

Monitor Misbehaving Macs

What's the best troubleshooting tool you already own but have probably never used? Activity Monitor, a utility tucked away in OS X's /Applications/Utilities folder. Most users can ignore its geekier features and focus on its straightforward ability to resolve mysterious freezes, open unopenable applications, and diagnose performance slowdowns.

Force-Quit Anything

If you've ever had an application freeze—and who hasn't?—you probably know about the Force Quit command (Apple: Force Quit or ⌘-option-escape). It brings up a window from which you can shut down even frozen-solid programs. What you may not know is that many programs (technically referred to as *processes*) aren't listed here, even though they're running.

Hidden Processes For instance, the Dock has no Quit command, and it doesn't even appear in the Force Quit window's list of active programs. If the Dock won't budge, here's how you can get its motor running again:

1. Launch Activity Monitor and select My Processes from the pop-up menu at the top of the main window.
2. Look for the Dock in the Process Name column. To find it quickly, type Dock in the toolbar's Filter field. Select the Dock item.
3. Click on Quit Process at the top of the window.
4. In the dialog box that appears, click on Force Quit. The Dock should briefly vanish from your screen; when it reappears, it should work as usual.

"In Use" Documents Activity Monitor can also help when you can't delete a document because your Mac claims that it's in use. This means the document is linked to a currently running process, typically the application used to open it.

To delete the document, you first need to quit the application. But what if the app isn't listed in the Dock or anywhere else you'd normally look? Turn to Activity Monitor for help.

For example, Microsoft Entourage uses database files to store your e-mail messages (the files can be found in */your user folder/Documents/Microsoft User Data*). Normally, you wouldn't want to delete these; if you did, you'd lose *all* your e-mail. However, if you have two Macs, you may want to delete the files on one Mac and replace them with the newer files on the other Mac. This is the case for me whenever I go on a trip; I want to transfer the latest versions of the files on my desktop Mac to my PowerBook. That way, I start the trip with all my latest e-mail messages and appointments at hand.

The problem is that Microsoft Office's Database Daemon constantly uses these files. This hidden process allows appointment reminders to pop up on your screen even when Entourage isn't running. The solution is to use Activity Monitor to locate the process and quit it *before* you try to delete the files. After replacing the deleted files with updated ones, relaunch the Microsoft Database Daemon. It's located in /Applications/Microsoft Office/Office.

Quit Applications That Other Users Opened

The Fast User Switching feature in Panther (under Login Options in the Accounts preference pane) is a fantastic time-saver. It lets an additional user log in to an account without making other users log out. That's as handy for a computer lab as it is for a home computer on which every family member has an account. The problem is that some applications work only for one account at a time.

Say a user with another account has iDVD running. If you want to launch iDVD, the other user must quit the application. But what if he or she isn't around? If you're the Mac's administrator, you can use Activity Monitor to manage this:

1. From the pop-up menu in Activity Monitor's main window, select Other User Processes.
2. Locate iDVD in the list and select it.
3. From the toolbar, click on Quit Process; then click on the Quit button.
4. Enter your administrator password when

Quit with Care

In these examples, I generally recommended selecting My Processes from Activity Monitor's pop-up menu. Why not select All Processes instead? If you do, Activity Monitor includes administrative processes in the list. Quitting these processes can cause unstable behavior (also known as system crashes). Unless you're confident in your knowledge of what is safe to quit and what isn't, don't mess with administrative processes.



asked. You can now go ahead and relaunch iDVD using your own account.

Check for CPU Drain

Your Mac's performance has gradually slowed to a crawl. When you type a letter in your word processor, it takes several seconds for the character to appear on screen. True, restarting or quitting all open applications would probably solve this problem. But if you'd rather avoid that hassle, give Activity Monitor a try:

1. From Activity Monitor's main window, select My Processes from the pop-up menu.
2. Click on the % CPU column header—this reorganizes the list to show you what's taxing your Mac's CPU the most. Make sure the triangle next to the column header points downward. If it doesn't, click on the header again.

3. All of your open processes will appear in descending order—that is, the ones using the greatest percentage of your CPU's power start the list.

4. In general, most processes will stay under 20 percent—often well under, although they may briefly spike higher. If one application shows a consistently higher percentage, especially if it's much higher, it's the likely cause of your Mac's slowdown.

Note: Activity Monitor itself can significantly drain the CPU, mainly because it scans your Mac every two seconds. You can calm it down by shifting this value to every five seconds (go to Monitor: Update Frequency).

5. If you find a culprit application, quit it.

The last time I had this problem, I found that Safari's % CPU was over 90 percent. I quit Safari, and my Mac's performance returned to normal. Whatever the cause, it was a temporary glitch. When I relaunched Safari, the slowdown did not return. Perhaps a Web page had triggered the CPU drain.

Check for a Memory Leak

If CPU usage does not reveal why your Mac is traveling at bumper-to-bumper speed, your system may have run out of memory. If this happens frequently, either you need to open fewer applications at a time, or you need more RAM. But occasionally the problem is due to an application bug that causes a memory leak. In other words, the application uses a steadily increasing amount of memory over time—until there is no memory left for anything else. Check for leaks this way:

1. In Activity Monitor's main window, select My Processes from the pop-up menu.
2. Click on the Real Memory column header. Make sure the triangle next to it points downward. If it doesn't, click on the header again.
3. All your open processes will appear in descending order, with the ones using the greatest amount of your memory at the top of the list.

Live Mac Stats

Want a convenient way to check how your Mac divides memory between what's currently in use and what's still available? Or how about a continually updated timeline of your Mac's CPU usage? To see these and other graphs in living color, simply select the appropriate tab (CPU, System Memory, and so on) from the row of tabs at the bottom of the Activity Monitor window.

But you don't have to limit yourself to the main window. You can view graphs in separate floating windows and more. For example, choose Monitor: Show Floating CPU Window: Show Vertically to see a bar, updated in real time, tucked on the left side of your screen. My favorite is the Monitor: Dock Icon option. Use this to put the performance graph of your choice in the Dock so you can monitor your Mac all day long (see "Dock Trick").



Dock Trick Get a view of your CPU usage, updated in real time, with Activity Monitor's Dock icon.

4. Activity Monitor updates these values every few seconds, so watch for a process's memory value that's heading skyward. That process is your leak.

5. If you find a culprit, quit it. If you don't, check again, this time looking at the adjacent Virtual Memory column.

If your Mac returns to normal speed, you may still be able to use the application. With some luck, the



leak may not recur—but if it does, contact the app's developer to report the bug.

Underappreciated Troubleshooting Tool

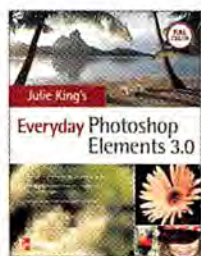
Activity Monitor can be a powerful ally in your quest to keep your Mac running smoothly and at top speed. The next time you run into a problem you can't figure out, pull out Activity Monitor and try some of these tricks. □

Contributing Editor TED LANDAU is the author of *Mac OS X Help Line* (Peachpit Press, 2004) and the director of support services for Doctor Mac Direct (www.doctormacdirect.com).

Memory Check Do you suspect that a rotten application is slowing down your Mac? Watch Activity Monitor's list of all open applications in descending order of memory usage. The pie chart shows you how much memory is in use and how much is free.

Faking Your Focus

To draw attention to an important part of a scene—for example, an object in front of a cluttered background—many photographers will shorten the image's depth of field. This narrows the camera's focusing range and leaves anything outside of that range blurred. But many point-and-shoot digital cameras have trouble taking these artistic shots.



By the Book This article is an excerpt from *Julie King's Everyday Photoshop Elements 3.0*, by Julie King (2005; reprinted by permission of McGraw-Hill/Osborne).

Faux Focus The leafy background distracts from the statue in the original photo.

In that situation, you'll need to resort to a bit of digital trickery. With Adobe Photoshop Elements 3.0 (\$90), you can manipulate your image's focus to create the illusion of a shortened depth of field.

Blurring Large Areas

Whereas sharpening increases contrast along color boundaries, blurring reduces contrast to create the illusion of softer focus. When you want to blur a large area, apply the Gaussian Blur filter (see "Faux Focus").

Step 1 To select the area of the photo that you want to blur, choose the Selection Brush tool and set the Mode to Mask. Paint over any areas that you want to remain in focus—in my image, this was the garden statue. Elements turns these areas red for easy detection. If you mess up, hold down the option key while painting over the unwanted section of the mask. When you're done, change the brush's Mode to Selection to generate a selection outline around the background.

Step 2 Copy the selection to a new layer by pressing ⌘-J.

Step 3 Apply the Gaussian Blur filter to your selection by choosing Filter: Blur: Gaussian Blur. Use the Radius control to set the amount of blurring (I set the

value to 4.0 for this image). Select the Preview option so you can preview the effect in the image window. When you're done, click on OK to close the dialog box and apply the blur.

Step 4 The one hang-up with this and most blurring filters is that the effect often spills a little beyond the boundaries of your selection outline. To remedy the problem, use the Eraser tool on the blurred layer, dragging over areas that shouldn't be blurred. For example, I dragged the Eraser along the border between the background and the statue's jacket to bring the sharpness back to the fringes of the flowers. Use a very small, soft brush for this bit of cleanup work. If the blur effect missed some pixels that you want to be soft, use the Blur tool (discussed later) to touch up those areas.

Step 5 Merge the blurred layer and the underlying layer by pressing ⌘-E.

Creating a Gradual Blur Effect

In the previous example, all the leaves in the background are about the same distance from the subject, so you can apply the blur consistently throughout the selected area. Suppose, though, that the background contains objects at varying distances—as seen in my photo of a lavender field (see "Distance Viewing"). To realistically mimic the effect of a shortened depth of field, the blur needs to become stronger as the distance from that focusing point increases.

Step 1 Duplicate the Background layer by dragging it to the New Layer icon in the Layers palette (or press ⌘-J). This step assumes that your image contains just one layer; if not, duplicate the layer that contains the area you want to blur.

Step 2 Select the Gradient tool (see "Gradient Options"). In the options bar, click on the arrow next to the Gradient Picker **A** and select the Foreground To Transparent gradient. Next, click on the Linear Style icon **B**. Note that the icon in the Gradient Picker will fade from the current foreground color to transparency; in the figure, the color was black, but you can use any color.

Step 3 In the Layers palette, create a new empty layer above the layer you want to blur by clicking on the New Layer icon.



Tip To quickly adjust the Strength value for the Sharpen and Blur tools, press the number keys. Press 0 for 100 percent, 9 for 90 percent, 85 for 85 percent, and so on.

Step 4 To produce a gradient on the new layer, click on the spot where you want the blur to be at full intensity and drag your mouse across the image, releasing at

the point where you want no blur effect. For this photo, I dragged from the top of the image to about two thirds of the way down. After you release the mouse button, a fading gradient appears over your image. Where the layer contains paint, the image will receive the blur; where the layer is transparent, no blur will occur. In the translucent areas, the blur will be applied at varying intensities, with darker areas getting a heavier impact.

Step 5 Return to the Layers palette and \mathbb{H} -click on the gradient layer. This step selects all nontransparent areas of the layer. Note that the selection outline doesn't accurately reflect the extent of the selection, so don't worry that it doesn't appear to encompass areas that are translucent in the gradient layer.

Step 6 Click on the eyeball icon next to the gradient layer to hide that layer. Then click on the duplicate layer that you created in step 1.

Step 7 Choose Filter: Blur: Gaussian Blur to open the Gaussian Blur dialog box. Raise the Radius value as needed to produce the maximum amount of blur you want (I set the value to 1.0), and then click on OK. To compare the blurred and original images, just click on the eyeball icon for the blurred layer.

If some areas didn't blur enough, try using the Blur tool to strengthen the effect in those regions. Use the Eraser to remove or lessen the blur in areas that became too soft. You can also reduce the opacity of the blurred layer to lessen the effect throughout the entire image.

Step 8 When you're satisfied with the blur, get rid of the selection outline by pressing \mathbb{H} -D. Delete the gradient layer and then merge the blurred layer and the underlying layer.



Softening Focus with the Blur Tool

Sometimes you may want to make focus adjustments only to small areas of your image. Or your image may be so intricate that creating a selection would be too difficult. In these cases, use the Blur tool. When you click or drag with the Blur tool, you blur pixels underneath your cursor. Blurring the background also makes the foreground appear sharper.

Step 1 Create a new empty layer to hold the blurred pixels by clicking on the New Layer icon in the Layers palette.

Step 2 Select the Blur tool. (It shares a fly-out menu with the Sharpen and Smudge tools.)

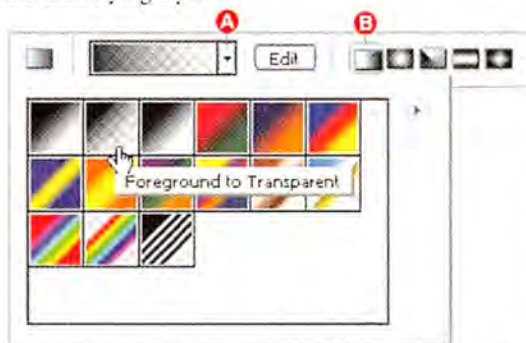
Step 3 Set the brush options. If you need a precise edge between the blurred and sharp areas, select a hard brush. If you want the blur to fade at the edges of your strokes, use a softer brush. (The options bar doesn't offer you a precise hardness control for the Blur tool, but you can press shift-[right bracket] to raise the hardness by 25 percent, or press shift-[left bracket] to reduce the hardness by 25 percent.)

Step 4 Set the Mode option to Normal, and set the Strength value to 30 percent. The Strength value determines how much change you produce with each click or drag. Start low—you can always apply the tool multiple times to the same pixels if necessary.

Step 5 Select the Use All Layers option. It enables the Blur tool to see through your new layer, which will hold the blur information, and access pixels on underlying layers.

Step 6 Return to your image and click on or drag over the pixels you want to blur. It's a good idea to zoom in when you're working on the borders of the areas you want to blur. As you work, adjust the Strength value as needed to create more or less blurring with each swipe of the tool. To reduce the blur effect throughout the entire image, reduce the opacity of the blurred layer.

Distance Viewing To increase the strength of the blur in the areas farther from the focusing point, I used a fading selection outline.



Gradient Options To create a gradual blur from the top of an image, set the Gradient tool as shown. Then click and drag with the Gradient tool.

JULIE KING is the author of *Julie King's Everyday Photoshop for Photographers* and *Shoot Like a Pro! Digital Photography Techniques* (McGraw-Hill/Osborne, 2004 and 2003).

Start Your Own Podcast

Imagine running your own radio station—but without the hassle of transmitters, expensive hardware, or training. With Podcasting, it's that easy. Podcasting is amateur radio at its best: people from all around the world are recording their own broadcasts on topics ranging from technology to religion. Listeners subscribe to the broadcasts, which are downloaded to iTunes or to an iPod for listening on-the-go.

Podcasts let you interact with audiences in a way that blogs can't. Last December I started my own Podcast, *The Wanderlust Geek* (www.wanderlustgeek.com), to share my travel stories from around the world. Writing down the same stories would have taken a lot longer. And sharing my tales verbally added a level of intimacy that written words couldn't have achieved.

It's surprisingly easy to join the ranks of Podcasters. In fact, you probably already have most of what you need. Once you've recorded your broadcast, you simply put it online and distribute it to others through an online syndication technology called RSS (Really Simple Syndication). Think of RSS as a beacon that announces when new online content is available. Listeners use an RSS reader, such as Thunderstone Media's iPodderX (\$20; www.ipodderx.com), to find available podcasts and download them to iTunes (for more on how to find and listen to Podcasts, see "Are You Listening?").

What You Need

To record a Podcast, you need a few basic pieces of equipment:

Microphone Most iMacs, laptops, and eMacs have internal microphones. But I've found these mikes a bit lacking in both range and sound quality. I recommend going with an external computer mike instead. You can pick up a simple one from Radio Shack for around \$30. It's definitely worth the investment.

The latest PowerBooks and desktop Macs (excluding the Mac mini and the eMac) offer audio-in jacks, so you plug the mike right into the computer. If your Mac lacks this port, you'll need to plug the mike into a USB audio interface such as Griffin Technology's iMic (\$40; www.griffintech.com). To get the best perfor-

Tip Place your mike at a 45 to 90 degree angle relative to your mouth. This will reduce the plosive sound that words beginning with the letter *p* can cause.

mance, Griffin recommends plugging the iMic into a self-powered USB hub instead of directly into a Mac.

If you have an iPod, you can use Griffin's \$40 iTalk voice recorder to record Podcasts while you're out and about. The iTalk plugs into the top of your iPod and records audio as a WAV file, which you can later download to iTunes or import into editing software. You can even go hands-free with the help of a clip-on mike such as Griffin's \$15 Lapel Mic.

Headphones You'll also want to plug a pair of headphones into your Mac so you can monitor your voice as you record. This allows you to hear your voice as others will hear it, and to detect background noise your ears might not otherwise pick up.

Software If you're recording directly to your Mac, you'll need special software to capture the audio as you speak. There's a wide range of options to choose from. If you have the iLife '05 suite, for example, you can use GarageBand 2 for these tasks. However, I've found that the simplest—and least expensive—option is HairerSoft's Amadeus II (\$30; www.hairersoft.com) for recording and the free Audacity (audacity.sourceforge.net) for editing.

Recording Your Podcast

To begin recording in Amadeus II, go to Sound: Characteristics and set Number Of Channels to Mono, Sampling Rate to 44100Hz, and Sampling Size to 16 Bit. Under the Sound menu, select Record. A new window containing a volume meter will appear (see "Hitting the Mark"). Practice reading your text at the volume you'd be using if you were recording. If you have a naturally quiet voice, you can boost the levels by moving the gain sliders, which are located underneath the volume meter. For a clear, full sound, the volume levels should occasionally peak into the red but usually remain in the green and yellow areas.

continues



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Are You Listening?

If you're not quite ready to start your own Podcast, you can still get in on the craze by subscribing to other people's Podcasts. The first thing you'll need is a Podcasting client, such as iPodderX, which regularly checks various preset sites to find new content for download. Once you've launched your client, you can use its built-in directory to add new Podcasts. If iPodderX doesn't list the Podcast you're looking for, you can add it by going to Podcasts: Add A Podcast Feed. Then copy the RSS feed address (it usually ends in .xml) and paste it into the Podcast Feed URL field.

You can have iPodderX check specified feeds for new content to download. It will add the Podcasts to a new iTunes playlist. If you have your iPod configured for an automatic update, all you have to do is plug in your iPod; iPodderX will do the rest.

Here are some Podcasts to get you started:

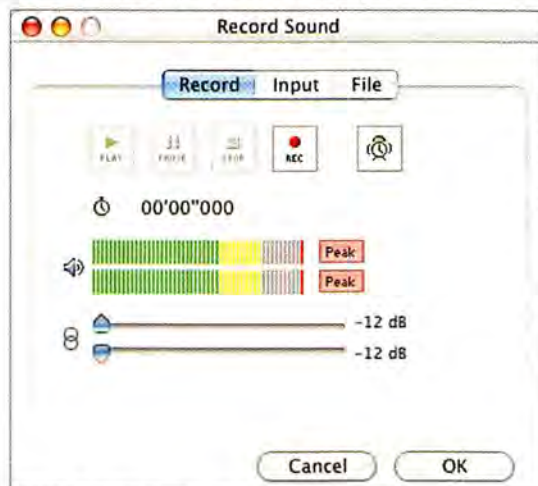
- > **Daily Source Code** (www.dailysourcecode.com)
- > **The Dawn and Drew Show** (www.dawnanddrew.com)
- > **Reel Reviews** (www.mwgblog.com)
- > **MacCast** (maccast.blogspot.com)

When you're pleased with the levels, click on the record button and start talking. If you're alone, imagine that you're speaking to someone else in the room and ignore the fact that you're being recorded. You want to make your Podcast as intimate and conversational as possible. When you're done, save the recording as an AIFF file.

Editing Your Podcast

After you've recorded your voice track, you can use Audacity to combine multiple takes (getting the best from each one), to delete awkward pauses, or to add embellishments. For editing ideas and instructions on using Audacity, go to macworld.com/0472.

To give your recording a more professional touch, consider adding a short musical intro. But remember to stick to noncommercial music that doesn't require a license from the Recording Industry Association of America. You can create your own clips with programs such as GarageBand. Sites such as FindSounds (www.findsounds.com) and Opuzz (www.opuzz.com) offer free or inexpensive royalty-free music clips for download.



Hitting the Mark Use Amadeus II's volume levels to create a rich, full sound. When you speak, the levels should barely peak into the red areas.

Once you're satisfied with your recording, export it as an AIFF file.

Uploading Your Podcast

To prepare the exported audio file for the Web, drag it into iTunes and then open that program's Importing preference pane. From the Import Using pull-down menu, choose MP3 Encoder. From the Setting menu, choose Custom. Then set the Stereo Bit Rate to 128 Kbps, the Sample Rate to 44.100 kHz, and Channels to Mono.

Return to the library and select the newly imported track. Under the Advanced menu, choose Convert Selection To MP3. Open the song information window (⌘-I) and fill in the Song (in this case, your Podcast entry), Artist, and Album fields. Then press ⌘-R to bring up the file in a new Finder window, and change the file's name to better reflect its contents—for example, samplepodcast-2005-06-01.mp3.

Once that's complete, upload the file to a Web server. Many ISPs offer free Web space for customers. If yours doesn't, you can usually pay a small fee to have someone host your audio files. Got a .Mac account? Just upload the file to your Sites folder.

To make your audio file easily accessible to others, you need to create an RSS feed for it. The easiest way to do this is to create a Weblog. Although you can use any blogging software, Blogger (www.blogger.com) is the easiest to set up.

When the blog is up and running, go to www.feedburner.com and type in your blog's address. If you use Blogger, you'll type something like this: myblog.blogspot.com.

On the next page, scroll to Additional Services, select the SmartCast option, and then click on the Hide Details link. Enable the ping audio.weblogs.com option at the bottom of the section. Now when you update your blog with new Podcasts, audio.weblogs.com will add them to its list.

Return to your Blogger page and create a new entry. You may want to add a little message with details about your Podcast, as well as any technical information, such as file size. In the entry, add a link to the audio file on your Web server. The link will look something like this:

```
<a href="http://www.example.com/example_podcast.mp3">Download my podcast here</a>
```

Promote Your Podcast

You can publicize your Podcast at Podcast Alley (www.podcastalley.com) and in the iPodderX directory (ipodderx.com). At Podcast Alley, click on the Add A Podcast link at the top of the page and type in the appropriate information: the title of the Podcast, the feed address, and so forth. □

CYRUS FARIVAR is a freelance technology journalist who lives in the San Francisco Bay Area. His blog is at www.cfarivar.org.

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Brilliant Playlists

As our iTunes libraries swell to gargantuan proportions, it can become difficult to manage the music we listen to (or would like to listen to if we could only find it). Thankfully, iTunes offers a leg up with the Smart Playlists feature, which lets you create dynamic playlists containing exactly the kind of music you want in iTunes and on your iPod. But to do their job well, smart playlists need your help.

playlist

Want more tips on digital music? For iPod- and iTunes-related expert advice and breaking news, as well as reviews of all the latest gadgets, check out playlistmag.com.

New Music All the Time

iTunes' Play Count feature keeps track of how many times you listen to individual tracks. If you're sick of hearing the same old stuff and want to start exploring the deeper recesses of your music library, start by creating a smart playlist that reads Play Count Is 0 (see "Explore Your Library"). Then you can limit the number of songs in the playlist or the playlist's length (in either hours and minutes or by the amount of space the playlist consumes). In the Selected By pop-up menu, you can further narrow your choices by telling the playlist to pick songs by Album, Artist, Genre, Song Name, Highest or Lowest Rating, Most or Least Often Played, or Most or Least Recently Played (although the universe may implode if you choose Play Count Is 0 and then select Most Often Played). Be sure to enable the Live Updating option, so iTunes will check to see what you've played (in iTunes or on the iPod) when you next sync your iPod. It'll then replace any listened-to songs in the playlist with tunes you've never played.

Be Exclusive

In iTunes 4.5, Apple enhanced the Smart Playlist feature in an important way. Previously, there was no easy way to keep sections of your library from appearing in a smart playlist. For example, let's say you've digitized all your old records for the sake of posterity but you don't want any of the songs on them to ever appear in a smart playlist. Sure, you could add a "vinyl" comment to each archived song and tell the smart playlist not to include any song with that com-

ment, but wouldn't it be easier if you could simply tell the smart playlist to exclude all songs within certain playlists? Well, with iTunes 4.5 and later, you can.

In this example, just place all the songs you've ripped from vinyl into a playlist called From Vinyl. Then configure a smart playlist so that it reads Playlist Is Not From Vinyl. From there, you can further narrow down your choices by including or excluding other playlists.

Shuffle Along

The Autofill feature Apple created for the iPod shuffle works more intelligently than a "how about I fill up your iPod with whatever I like" solution—but it could be smarter. For example, I like Brian Wilson's "Barnyard" as much as the next guy, but I prefer that my iPod be filled with songs that are more than seconds-long musical appetizers. Likewise, I don't want to pack my shuffle with songs contained in large WAV files (the one uncompressed format it supports), with holiday music during the summer, or with comedy routines when I'm heading to the gym.

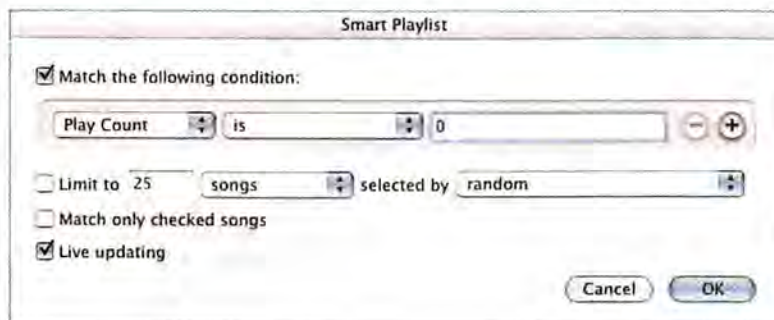
So I built a smart playlist made up of tracks that were longer than two minutes (and shorter than eight minutes), that were not WAV files, and that were not tagged as Holiday or Spoken Word (see "Keep It Small"). By limiting the playlist to 490MB, I was able to see exactly what was going to go on the shuffle (if you leave the Limit To option disabled, Autofill will choose a subset of tracks from a potentially much larger playlist of songs). As with my other smart playlists, I left the Live Updating option enabled.

Once you've created a smart playlist you like, select the iPod shuffle in iTunes' source list and choose the new playlist from the Autofill From pop-up menu. To refresh the contents of the smart playlist, just select everything in it and press the delete key. Because Live Updating is switched on, the smart playlist will automatically repopulate with music.

View Your Purchased Music

Although the Purchased Music playlist that iTunes creates the first time you buy something from the iTunes Store, it doesn't automatically include music you've purchased elsewhere. To view your purchased music, click on the Purchased Music playlist in the source list. (Continued)

Explore Your Library
Probe the depths of your iTunes library by accessing tracks you've never listened to.



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900mAh (44% more vs stock) for all 40GB iPod 4G,
40GB & 60GB iPod Photo ...\$34.95

600mAh (up to 50% more vs stock) for all iPod minis ...\$29.99

Instructions and needed tools are included with all iPod battery replacement kits. In addition, online videos let you watch how it's done at www.eshop.macsales.com/shop/ipod/ipodinstall/

We also offer a battery installation service. For a cost of \$49 and the cost of the battery you choose, a proper box with a pre-addressed return overnight airbill can be sent. You simply place your iPod and this package will be delivered overnight to our technicians. Within 24hrs the new battery will be installed and your iPod will be on its way back via overnight service. You get your same iPod back, quickly - safely - and with a battery that will last far longer than what you had stock.

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CHECK IT OUT

iPod Protection

Having recently lost my 60GB iPod photo, I looked into a few things I should have done. So do as I say—and not as I did—by following these iPod-protection tips:

Mark It Apple offers free engraving on new iPod and iPod photo models—take advantage of it. It's tough to pretend that an iPod reading "I Belong to Bubba. Hands Off!" is the property of anyone but Bubba. If you already have an iPod, a local jeweler will be happy to scrawl some identifying sentiment on the back.

Track It Inspice's SmartProtect (www.inspice.com) can assist in the recovery of stolen personal electronic devices. You protect your items by registering your gear's serial numbers with the service (at no cost). Anyone—the police or a potential buyer, for example—can check with the service to see whether you've reported it stolen.

Cloak It When I travel for business, I often place data files on my iPod as a backup. To protect those files, Micromat (www.micromat.com) offers the \$40 PodLock—a utility that creates an invisible password-protected partition where you can store your data. The program won't secure your music and photo libraries, and there's nothing in it that will stop someone from reformatting the iPod, but it can help prevent thieves from accessing your private documents.

Music Store should contain all your purchased songs, it doesn't always. Reinstalling iTunes or reconfiguring your music library can confuse the playlist and make it forget that you bought those songs. However, you can create a smart playlist that never forgets. Configure the top row of pop-up menus in a new smart playlist like so: Kind Contains Protected AAC. Give it a name such as Backup Library, and click on OK. All the purchased music files in your library are now in one playlist.

The iPod Mini Playlist

Many people—especially those who own iPod minis—wish that the iPod shuffle's Autofill feature worked with other iPod models. If your iPod is set to update automatically, and if your iTunes library contains more music than your iPod can hold, iTunes will create a playlist of music to fit—but iTunes isn't discerning about what it puts in that playlist. It's just as happy to copy huge AIFF, WAV, Apple Lossless, and audiobook files to your iPod as it is to grab the tiniest MP3 and

AAC files. If you want to pack as much music as possible onto your mini, you need something smarter.

With that in mind, create a series of Kind Does Not Contain conditions for AIFF, WAV, Apple Lossless, and QuickTime files—which take up a lot of storage space. Then, to avoid packing the mini with songs encoded at high bit rates (the higher the bit rate, the larger the file), limit your playlist to songs that weigh in at less than 192 Kbps. You'll certainly want to exclude the Audiobooks genre as well. Finally, be sure that the top of the playlist reads Match All Of The Following Conditions.

If you rate your music, consider adding a rating condition that reads My Rating Is Greater Than *number of stars*. Be sure to limit the size of this playlist with the Limit To option at the bottom of the Smart Playlist window. For a 4GB iPod mini, this option should read Limit To 3500 MB (you must use megabytes rather than gigabytes because the GB field won't accept decimals, as in 3.5GB).

Once you've created this playlist, select your mini in the Source menu and click on the iPod Preferences button. Now enable the Automatically Update Selected Playlists Only option, select the smart playlist you created for your mini, and click on OK. Now the mini will update with your playlist.

In the Mood

Unless you're the kind of person for whom the party never ends, you're going to want to listen to a far different kind of music on Sunday morning than on Saturday night. A great way to do so is to use iTunes' Comments field to create smart playlists.

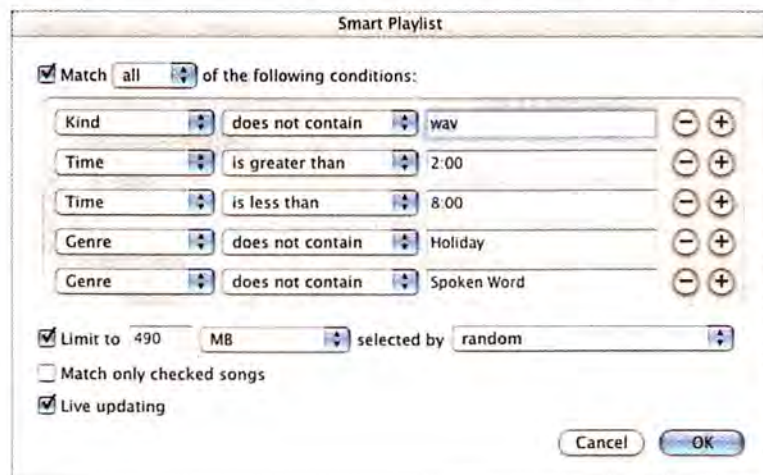
As you traipse through your music collection, find songs for particular situations—mellow sounds for hungover Sunday mornings, or energetic tunes that will get your heart pumping while you exercise. Select multiple songs and choose Get Info from iTunes' File menu. In the resulting window, click on the Info tab and enter an appropriate word in the Comments field (*Exercise*, for example).

When you're ready to compile your playlist, configure the top row of pop-up menus to read Comment Contains *whatever*, where *whatever* is the mood or situation you'd like a playlist for—Comment Contains *Exercise*, for instance. Because of its limited storage space, mood playlists are great for the iPod shuffle.

The Audiobooks Playlist

The fourth-generation iPods, iPod minis, and iPod photos place audiobooks in their own special playlist. If you have an earlier iPod, you can fake an audiobooks playlist. Just configure the top row of buttons to read Genre Contains Audiobook.

Keep It Small The iPod shuffle's Autofill feature is nice, but you can do better with a smart playlist.



Contributing Editor CHRISTOPHER BREEN is the author of *Secrets of the iPod and iTunes*, fifth edition (Peachpit Press, 2005).

iPod is already your essential music companion when you're on the move, with the i-Station an ultra-portable docking and 2.1 speaker system from Logic3, you can now play your favorite tracks out loud in the comfort of your home. With its stylish design, compact size and its powerful sub-woofer speakers (12 Watts RMS) turn your iPod into a powerful and convenient sound system for every occasion. The dock, which fits the iPod, iPod mini & iPod Photo, even recharges the iPod battery while it plays, leaving you to enjoy your music. i-Station can be synchronized with your PC or Mac via USB or FireWire (cables included) and can also be used with other portable audio devices such as iPod Shuffle, MP3, MiniDisc and CD players.

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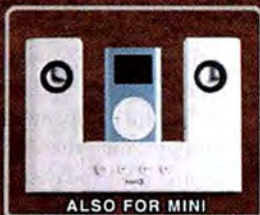


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How to Use Hotspots

You'd have to be living far, far away from a Starbucks not to know that Wi-Fi hotspots are everywhere these days. Since we last looked ("Hop on a Hotspot," *Mobile Mac*, March 2004), thousands of new hotspots have come online. Just about every U.S. metropolis is now a wireless hot zone. Even the smallest burghs seem to have one or two hotspots—sometimes down at the local Dairy Queen.

But using those hotspots to get online isn't always easy. Some spots are free, some charge a fee, and the choice between the two isn't as obvious as the pricing might make you think. And then there's the whole issue of how to use a hotspot without letting that guy in the corner snoop through your e-mail messages with his handy wireless packet sniffer.

Find Your Spot

Your first option for finding a hotspot is to guess. These days, you're likely to find free Wi-Fi just by strolling down the street with your laptop and periodically checking for available networks with free software (such as Alf Watt's iStumbler; www.istumbler.net). Here are some likely bets:

- > Coffee shops and restaurants: Starbucks isn't the only national chain offering Wi-Fi. Schlotzsky's Deli, for example, provides wireless access in its company-owned stores. And Panera Bread has opened hotspots in several hundred of its bakeries nationwide; it plans to eventually turn all its shops into free hotspots.

- > Libraries and universities: In locales ranging from tiny towns in Colorado to sprawling metropolises like Los Angeles and Seattle, an increasing number of public libraries now offer free Wi-Fi in every branch. Many universities—such as Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland—have added guest access to their wireless networks. (Check the guest policy in advance: some organizations require that

Location	Address	City
West Western Highland Inn	220 Avenue Parkway	Cambridge (Massachusetts, US)
Feder Kink's Cambridge Harvard Square	1 Miller Pl	Cambridge (Massachusetts, US)
Harvard University Libraries	Harvard Street	Cambridge (Massachusetts, US)
Starbucks 31 Church	31 Church Street	Cambridge (Massachusetts, US)
Starbucks Broadway Marketplace	468 Broadway	Cambridge (Massachusetts, US)
Starbucks Central Square	655 Massachusetts Avenue	Cambridge (Massachusetts, US)
Starbucks Harvard Square	36 JFK Street	Cambridge (Massachusetts, US)
Starbucks Shepard Post	1562 Massachusetts Ave	Cambridge (Massachusetts, US)

Provider	SSID	Connection	Payment	Pricing
Guest WiFi	guestwifi	802.11b Wi-Fi	Free	USD 20.00 per day

Hotspot Finder JiWire's downloadable, OS X-compatible locator will find the nearest hotspot—and you don't have to be online.

you have some sort of affiliation, or that a patron or a staff member vouch for you; others require a library-card number or an academic ID for access.)

- > City streets: Several cities—including but by no means limited to New York; San Jose, California; and Portland, Oregon—now offer free wireless access in downtown areas and public parks or squares.

If you'd rather not rely on the hit-or-miss method, there are several good online directories, such as the Wi-Fi-FreeSpot Directory (www.wififreespot.com), WiFinder (www.wifinder.com), and the Wi-Fi Zone Finder (www.wi-fizone.org).

But such directories won't do you much good if you can't get online. JiWire (macworld.com/0478) now offers the only downloadable OS X-compatible directory, and it's updated monthly (see "Hotspot Finder"). The company also provides the underlying technology for the hotspot locators used by Intel.com, USA Today.com, Yahoo, and many other sites. (Disclaimer: JiWire sells advertising for my Web site, Wi-Fi Net News [www.wifinetnews.com], and I write articles for its site.)

Mile-High Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi has sprouted in some pretty odd locations in the past year, including the Washington State Ferries (in the waiting areas and on board); several airlines (for example, on Scandinavian Airlines and Lufthansa, thanks to Connexion by Boeing); and the Hampton Jitney, a shuttle service that takes Long Island residents from the Hamptons to Manhattan (and vice versa).

The ferries use a complex antenna system to connect to Wi-Fi stations at ferry docks; the planes employ phased-array antennas pointed at satellites, which relay traffic to and from ground stations; and the Hampton Jitney relays network traffic via a cellular data network.

Hotspot Security

Pay for Play

If you travel regularly for business, free hotspots may not work for you. Constantly shuttling from airport to airport, hotel to hotel, and convention hall to meeting center doesn't leave much time for searching out the nearest wireless coffee shop.

It's true that many hotels now offer free broadband access. But all too many still charge guests a fee for the service. If you'd rather not pay \$10 to \$15 extra per night at the hotel, or \$8 to \$15 for a couple of hours of access at the airport, then consider a monthly service plan from a dedicated hotspot service.

While there has been a bit of a shakeout over the past couple of years, dozens of hotspot operators remain in the game in the United States. Only a few have networks big enough to provide truly useful nationwide coverage, but many offer no-fee roaming, which lets you use the same account name and password to access different networks.

T-Mobile and SBC are now the two largest hotspot operators in the United States. T-Mobile, the cellular company, has more than 5,400 wireless locations around the country, including Starbucks, Kinko's, and Borders stores, as well as some airports and hotels. SBC Communications has more than 6,000 hotspots in its basic network, including UPS Store, Mail Boxes Etc., and Barnes & Noble locations.

Both providers offer two plan types (see "How They Compare"): a monthly, all-you-can-surf service and a pay-as-you-go hourly or daily plan. These day passes allow unlimited access for 24 hours from the time you activate them and are good throughout the provider's entire network. Not surprisingly, you'll pay a higher rate for the short-term plans. (Other providers offer similar arrangements but rarely let you roam across an entire network for 24 hours.)

Just to make things trickier, SBC offers plans with and without roaming. Its own network includes locations that SBC operates directly; strangely enough, it also includes McDonald's restaurants. (Note that if you live on Big Macs while you're on the road, you can buy McDonald's-only service at \$2.95 for two hours; see macworld.com/0477 for details.)

If you're an SBC customer, you can't currently use any hotspots on the T-Mobile network, and vice versa. But everyone in the Wi-Fi industry expects that to change in the near future.

In contrast to T-Mobile and SBC, which operate their own hotspots, Boingo doesn't own any hotspot equipment or locations itself. Instead, it gives you a piece of software that lets you connect at 16,000 locations (worldwide) belonging to dozens of networks, and you don't have to set up an account for each one. Boingo just released an OS X version of that software.

When you connect at a Wi-Fi hotspot, all the data you send and receive—every password, e-mail message, and Web page—moves entirely in the open over the network. Any other user on the same network can extract information about you with free and easy-to-use software. But you can take some simple steps to secure your data.

> Use SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) to send and receive e-mail. This will protect your password and the contents of your messages. Not every ISP offers SSL e-mail, but most corporate systems and all the popular OS X e-mail apps—Apple's Mail, Qualcomm's Eudora, Bare Bones Software's Mailsmith, and Microsoft Entourage—support it. To implement SSL in your particular client, check its Help menu. The dedicated mail service FastMail also offers SSL e-mail, as well as secure Web mail.

> Secure your Web browsing. Secure-Tunnel (www.secure-tunnel.com) offers an OS X-compatible service that, for \$3 a month, lets you browse the Web through an encrypted tunnel to its servers. Note that you don't need this additional layer for already-secure pages.

> Employ a virtual private network (VPN), which encrypts all data traveling between your machine and a remote server. You can rent VPN service by the month from HotSpotVPN (www.hotspotvpn.com), or buy the Buffalo Secure Wireless Gateway (\$160; macworld.com/0427), which lets you set up a VPN server on your own network.

Striking a Balance

It's always hard to pay for something you can get for free—but it's wise to remember that you get what you pay for. The paid sites offer reliability and easy availability, while the free sites offer the obvious bargain. But with the growth of unlimited monthly service plans that cap your expenses at in-network locations, there's no reason not to opt for both: use a free site when you can, and use a paid site when you have to. Combining the best of both worlds means you'll never have to worry about finding a connection. □

GLENN FLEISHMAN is the author of *Taking Control of Your Airport Network* (Peachpit Press, 2005) and a frequent contributor to *Macworld*.

HOW THEY COMPARE

SBC, T-Mobile, and Boingo are three of the biggest hotspot networks in the United States. Here's how they stack up in terms of price and availability.

SERVICE	LOCATIONS	DAILY FEES	MONTHLY FEES	URL
Boingo Wireless	16,000 (including airports, and SBC and Wayport locations [excluding McDonald's])	\$7.95 for 24 hours	\$21.95 (no cancellation penalty)	macworld.com/0410
SBC FreedomLink	6,000 (including UPS Store, Barnes & Noble, and McDonald's locations; airports; hotels; and smaller networks)	\$8.33 for 24 hours (unlimited access at all locations; three-session minimum)	\$19.95 for home network; \$39.95 for home plus roaming (one-year commitment, \$100 early-cancellation penalty)	macworld.com/0411
T-Mobile HotSpot	5,400 (including Starbucks, Kinko's, and Borders locations)	\$9.99 for 24 hours (unlimited access at all locations) or \$6.00 per hour (one-hour minimum)	\$19.99 for subscribers to T-Mobile cellular service; \$29.99 for nonsubscribers (one-year commitment; \$200 early-cancellation penalty); \$39.99 for a flat, no-commitment plan (no cancellation penalty)	macworld.com/0412

3 Cool AppleScripts

AppleScript has been around since the days of System 7. Despite its maturity, snooty Mac programmers often look down on AppleScript for being too simple, too easy to learn, and too much like English. Of course, those are precisely the traits you *want* in a computer language. Here are three cool things AppleScript can do for you.



By the Book This article was adapted from *AppleScript: The Missing Manual*, by Adam Goldstein (2005; reprinted by permission of O'Reilly Media).

1 Slim Images Down in a Jiffy

Photoshop is the embodiment of pro image editing, but it's a memory and processor *pig*. If you'd like a very simple graphics program—one that works completely in the background—OS X has your ticket. It's called Image Events.

For example, if you take pictures on a digital camera or use a scanner, then you've probably got a bunch of bloated TIFF files that are far too big to e-mail or post on a Web page. So what should you do? Convert your files using AppleScript.

If you look in Image Events' dictionary, you'll find that the save command lets you specify exactly what format to save an image in. (To see the dictionary, open Script Editor in your /Applications/AppleScript folder, select File: Open Dictionary, select Image Events from the list that appears, and click on Open.) Here's a script you can use to convert any image files to space-saving JPEGs. In Script Editor, type the following:

```
--Part 1:
on run
    display dialog "Please drag image files
to this script to turn them into JPEGs"
end run
--Part 2:
on open draggeditems
    repeat with currentFile in draggeditems
        tell application "Image Events"
            set openedFile to open (currentFile as
alias)
--Part 3:
            set fileLocation to the location of
openedFile
            set fileName to the name of openedFile
--Part 4:
            save openedFile as JPEG
            close openedFile
        end tell
--Part 5:
        tell application "Finder"
            set the name of file fileName of
fileLocation to (fileName & "-.jpg")
        end tell
```

```
end repeat
```

```
end open
```

Save this script as an application by selecting File: Save As and choosing Application from the File Format pop-up menu. Give it a memorable name (such as Convert2JPEG.app). Now when you drag a bunch of files onto the script's Finder icon (known as a *droplet* because it runs an AppleScript when you drag and drop files or folders onto it), you'll transform your once-big images into compact JPEGs. Here's how the script works:

- > Part 1 handles what happens if you simply double-click on the droplet: the script presents a dialog box telling you to drag and drop files instead.

- > Part 2 tells AppleScript to iterate through the files you dropped one at a time, and to set the `openedFile` variable to the currently open file.

- > Part 3 sets two other important variables: `fileLocation` (the folder that contains the current image) and `fileName` (the name of the current image).

- > Part 4 converts the image to a JPEG and saves it.

Unfortunately, Image Events isn't smart enough to rename your file with a *.jpg* extension. That means if your original file was called *horses.tiff*, your new JPEG file will still be called *horses.tiff*. This is a recipe for massive confusion when you try to open the file in Adobe Photoshop or Apple Preview, since your image's extension (*.tiff*) won't match its actual format (JPEG).

- > Part 5, therefore, tells the Finder to rename your file with the correct *.jpg* extension. The Finder does this by finding the file you want to rename (`fileName` in `fileLocation`) and then appending `-.jpg` to the end of the file name, producing a fully working JPEG file with the correct extension.

2 Shave a Page Off Your Document

If you write letters and e-mail messages—or computer books, for that matter—you've probably experienced the dreaded one-page-too-long problem. It goes like this: you're typing your document, but when you come to the end, you realize your document is just one page longer than you want it. And if you're like most people, you sigh deeply and then

get to work on shrinking the individual fonts in your document. The trouble with this approach, of course, is that it can take a long time to select blocks of text and change their font sizes, especially if you need to modify multiple fonts on dozens of pages.

Microsoft Word provides an AppleScript command that takes care of all this text-squeezing business for you: `fit to pages`. The trouble is that Word has hundreds of different commands in its dictionary. Does Microsoft really expect you to spend several minutes scanning all the entries in the left pane to find the `fit to pages` command? Yep.

Never fear. To open Word's dictionary, launch Script Editor, select **File: Open Dictionary**, find Microsoft Word in the list, and click on **Open**. Choose **Edit: Find: Find and type Fit to Pages** in the Find field. Click on **Next** twice.

The definition of the command tells you that it's meant to squeeze your fonts "just enough so that the document will fit on one fewer pages." The light-blue document text indicates that you have to tell `fit to pages` which document you want it to work with.

Armed with this information, you can write your script in Script Editor:

```
tell application "Microsoft Word"
  activate
  display dialog "Shrink document by a
page?"
  fit to pages (front document)
end tell
```

To shrink a document, open it in Word and then run the script from Script Editor (click on **Run**). The script will bring Word forward and then display a confirmation dialog box, asking if you want to shrink the document by a page. You're left with two options:

- > If you click on **OK**, the script proceeds with the next statement (`fit to pages`) and squeezes the front document down by one page.

- > If you click on **Cancel**, the script ends.

After you click on **OK**, Word finds out what it'll take to knock one page off your document and adjusts the font sizes throughout the document.

3 Automatically Tell iChat That You're Away

One of iChat's coolest features is that it lets you notify your friends as to whether you're around. When you're at your computer, you set your iChat status to **Available**; when you're out, you set your status to **Away**. Conveniently for you, AppleScript can do the same thing automatically.

Of course, that's nothing really unique. To add real power, you can have your script set your status to **Away** only if your screen saver is running.

Here's how:

```
--Part 1:
on idle
```



GO TO WEB:

Go to macworld.com/0396 to download all the AppleScripts described in this article. For a quick introduction to this nifty technology, see "Amazing AppleScript" at macworld.com/0403.

```
--Part 2:
tell application "System Events"
  if (the name of every process) contains
"ScreenSaverEngine" then
--Part 3:
  tell application "iChat"
    set the status to away
  end tell
end if
end tell
--Part 4:
return 10
end idle
```

Before your script will run properly, you have to select **File: Save**. For **File Format**, choose **Application**. Select the **Stay Open** option, so your script runs in the background all the time. Save the file somewhere accessible, because you can run it only by double-clicking on its icon in the **Finder**.

Here's how the code works:

- > Part 1 is an *idle handler*. To AppleScript, that means "run the following code whenever this script isn't busy doing something else." To you, it means the script will run constantly.

- > Part 2 tells System Events to get a list of all currently running programs on your system. Then the script checks to see whether that list contains **ScreenSaverEngine**—OS X's screen-saver program. In other words, part 2 checks whether your screen saver is running. If it is, the script proceeds to part 3.

- > Part 3 sets your iChat status to **Away** if your screen saver is running. That way, your friends won't try to chat with you.

- > Part 4 tells the idle handler to check back again in 10 seconds. The result is that your script checks every 10 seconds to see whether your screen saver is running.

When your screen saver isn't running, the only indication you'll have that your script is running is that its icon will appear in the **Dock**. Because you turned on **Stay**

Open for the script, the code continues checking your screen saver forever (or at least until you control-click on the script's icon in the **Dock** and choose **Quit**). □



ADAM GOLDSTEIN is the teenage founder of GoldfishSoft (www.goldfishsoft.com), a software company specializing in games and utilities for OS X. Through June 1, 2005, you can get a 25 percent discount and free shipping when you buy his book *AppleScript: The Missing Manual* from www.oreilly.com. At checkout, use discount code D5AP5C.

Mac OS X Hints

The Insiders' Tips You Won't Get from Apple

Clean Up Text Using Summarize Service

Have you ever come across a selection of text you'd like to keep—for example, a how-to on a Web page or an article on your local paper's site? You may have tried copying it and pasting it into TextEdit or Stickies, only to end up with the text *and* all its distracting formatting, links, and spacing. Here's a quick and easy workaround.

If the program you're using supports OS X's Services feature (as is the case for most Apple apps, as well as The Omni Group's products and Bare Bones' BBEEdit), you can use the Summarize service to clean up the text for easy saving. Start by selecting the text within the source application, and then choose *application name: Services: Summarize*.

A new window will open, and you'll see a cleaned-up version of your text. Next, move the Summary Size slider to the 100% mark; this will force the service to show every word in your original selection. Then press ⌘-C to copy the text to the Clipboard (it's already all selected by default), switch to your final destination (a Stickies note, a Word document, or whatever), and press ⌘-V to paste.

If the text isn't in a Services-aware application, drop it into TextEdit as your first step. If you have TextEdit in Plain Text mode (go to TextEdit: Preferences), doing so will get rid of almost all the formatting. Using the Summarize service will then remove any remaining excess line breaks and other oddities.

Enter URLs Quickly in OmniWeb 5

Autocompletion of URLs can be a real time-saver in browsers. If you've visited www.cnn.com before, for instance, you'll probably only have to type *cn* before your browser figures out that you're heading there again, and it will complete the URL for you. Most browsers complete starting from the front of the URL only, but The Omni Group's OmniWeb 5 (\$30; www.omnigroup.com) also autocompletes from the end of the URL. So if you often visit a deeply buried page on a large site (www.example_bank.com/balances/checking/jun05/, for instance), you can type only the end of the URL (*jun05*), and OmniWeb will fill in the entire address for you.

Preview Multiple Fonts with Font Book and Exposé

Do you work with a large number of typefaces and often add new ones to your system? Do you wish you had an easy way to preview a number of them simultaneously without first installing them? You can preview a font without installing it by double-clicking on it in the Finder, or by dragging and dropping the font onto Font Book's icon (either in the Dock or in the Applications folder). Drag and drop multiple fonts at the same time, and Font Book opens a new preview window for each one. Unfortunately, Font Book cascades these windows, so you can see only one at a time.

Using Exposé, though, you can easily review all the previewed fonts at one time. Just press F10, the Exposé Application Windows keystroke, and the windows will arrange themselves across your screen. As long as you haven't opened more fonts than your monitor can fit, you'll be able to see enough detail to determine which fonts you want (see "Line 'em Up"). To install a font, just click on its window to make it come to the foreground, and then click on the Install button. Press F10 again, select the next font, and repeat.



CHECK IT OUT

Trash Images in a Flash



Apple's Preview tool is a useful way to scan and review a bunch of images quickly. Select them all in the Finder, and then drag and drop them onto Preview. The application opens one main window with a side drawer that contains image thumbnails. Click on any thumbnail to view the full-size version. Typically, you might then make note of the ones you don't want to keep, switch to the Finder, and send the unwanted images to the Trash.

Here's a time-saver—instead of deleting images from the Finder, delete them right from within Preview. Just drag the image you don't want directly from the drawer to the Trash. You can drag only one image at a time, but this is still faster than switching to the Finder to get rid of images. You can also drag images to other locations from Preview's drawer—directly into Photoshop for additional editing, for example, or into other Finder folders to create copies.

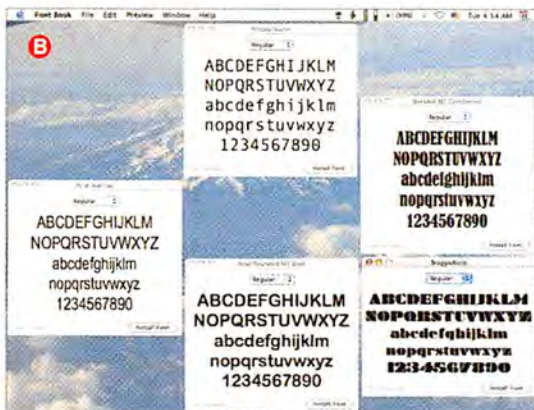




UNIX TIP OF THE MONTH



Line 'em Up Using Font Book by itself to preview many fonts simultaneously is difficult **A**. So press F10 to access Exposé's Application Windows mode **B** and clearly preview each font in its own window.



Add the Latest Java Support to Mozilla Browsers

If you use a browser other than Safari or OmniWeb, you might find that there's a slew of interesting Java-based Web apps you can't see. For instance, the physics applets at www.walter-fendt.de/ph14e won't work in Mozilla-based browsers such as Firefox, Camino, or Mozilla (all free; www.mozilla.com).

Why? The Mozilla-based browsers don't use the latest version of the Java Virtual Machine. (See macworld.com/0380 for the deeply technical explanation if you're interested.) Thanks to the open-source nature of the Mozilla browsers, though, this problem has a solution.

Start by visiting the Java plug-in site (macworld.com/0381). Download the latest available package by clicking on the file name below the Latest File Releases header. A new Web page will appear. Click on the first entry (javaplugin) in the Latest File Releases list. As of this writing, the file is called JavaEmbeddingPlugin0.9.0.zip.

After the download completes, quit your Mozilla-based browser and open the JavaEmbeddingPlugin folder. Open the Binaries folder inside, and then drag and drop the two files located there (JavaEmbeddingPlugin.bundle and MRJPlugin.plugin) into your Mac's top-level Library/Internet Plug-Ins folder. You may have to create this folder if you haven't installed Internet plug-ins before.

Before you can use the plug-in, you need to check one last thing. Its functionality depends on the order in which your plug-ins load: the MRJPlugin.plugin continues

Quick-Access Encyclopedia

Wikipedia (www.wikipedia.org) is a large, community-driven encyclopedia. Anyone can add new records or modify existing ones. The idea is that over time community members correct each other, and you'll wind up with a very detailed collection of facts. It may not be the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, but it's a great starting point for learning.

However, loading the Web site, entering your search terms, and clicking on the search button can be time-consuming. Lo and behold, by writing a simple script, you can run your queries from a Terminal window instead.

Unix holds executable programs in a folder called *bin*, so go ahead and create a *bin* folder in your Home directory, at the same level as Documents, Pictures, and so forth. You can do this via the Finder or type `mkdir ~/bin` in Terminal.

Once you've created this folder, make sure Unix knows about it when it looks for programs to run. In Terminal, create a file named `.bash_profile` in your home folder (or edit that file if it already exists). Start by typing `pico .bash_profile`.

Next, add the line `export PATH=~/bin:$PATH`.

Now press control-O (for Write Out) and then press return (to save the file). Then press control-X to exit the pico editor. Close and reopen your Terminal window; this will read the newly created `.bash_profile` file, telling Unix to look in your local *bin* folder for executable files.

All that's left to do is to create the Wikipedia script. Type `cd ~/bin`, press return, type `pico wp`, and press return again. You're now editing the new script. Enter the following two lines:

```
#!/bin/bash
open http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:Search?search=$(echo $@ | sed 's/\ /+/g')
```

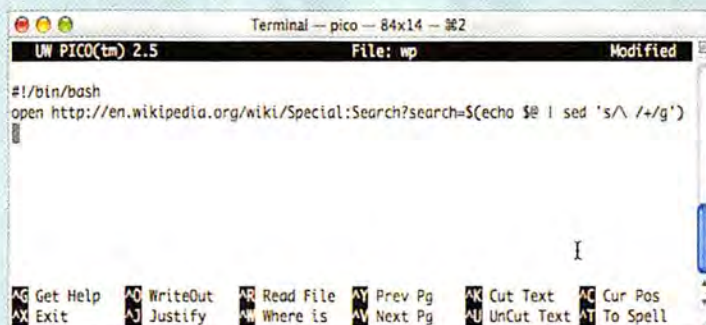
When you're done, the entry should look like the image in "Wild Wiki Ways." As before, press control-O, return, and then control-X to save the file and quit the editor. The final step is to turn your script into an executable file. To do this, type `chmod +x wp`. Press return to turn those two lines of text into a simple program.

To use your new script, just type `wp some text to search for` and press return. Replace `some text to search for` with your search topic. Short phrases—`wp racehorse` or `wp macintosh`, for example—will probably lead to broader results.

When you press return, your default browser will open and load the Wikipedia results page for your search terms.

Here's a short bonus tip: If you've already installed a text-mode browser such as *links* or *lynx* (fink.sourceforge.net), then modify the above script so that the results display directly in your browser. Just replace the second line of the script with this text, replacing `lynx` with `links` if appropriate:

```
lynx http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:Search?search=$(echo $@ | sed 's/\ /+/g')
```



Wild Wiki Ways With this simple two-line script, you can use Terminal to browse entries quickly on the community-built encyclopedia Web site known as Wikipedia.

OS X 101

Sidebar Savvy

As of OS X 10.3, Apple added something new to the left side of every Finder window: the sidebar. You can activate items in the sidebar with one click, as opposed to the double-click required in a normal Finder window. In its stock form, the sidebar contains useful time-savers, but if you customize it to fit the way you work, it can become a truly useful tool.

Take a look and you'll see that the sidebar has two halves, separated by a light gray line. (Can't see the sidebar? Double-click on the small dot located on the left side of your Finder window). The upper half contains icons for your computer; hard drives and partitions; and any connected servers and removable media, such as CDs or your iDisk. You can store pretty much anything you like in the lower half, but by default it contains shortcuts to your main user folders, including Desktop, Documents, Movies, Music, and Pictures. It also contains a shortcut to the systemwide Applications folder.

To make your sidebar more useful, go to the Finder: Preferences menu, select the Sidebar tab, and deselect any of the items you don't want to see. Alternatively, you can remove shortcuts by dragging their icons off the sidebar and dropping them into the normal Finder window—when you release the mouse button, the shortcut will vanish in a puff of smoke. Don't worry—only the shortcut gets erased, not the original item. To add something to the sidebar, drag and drop it into position (see "Places, Everyone!").

You can add anything to the bottom portion, including files, folders, and applications. For example, do you have a particular file you use regularly, such as your Quicken data file or a presentation you reference often? If so, consider giving it a spot on the sidebar. Deeply buried folders are also good candidates. Instead of opening a whole bunch of folders to reach the depths of your filing system, jump to the right spot with one click. Likewise, store frequently used applications in the sidebar, and you won't have to make a trip to the Dock to activate them.

If you're choosing between the sidebar and the toolbar, here are a couple of things to keep in mind: The relative size and position of shortcuts in the sidebar will change with the window size, but they will stay put in the toolbar. Shortcuts in the sidebar support pop-open folders, but those in the toolbar do not. You might want to consider keeping your application and document shortcuts in the toolbar, and your folder shortcuts in the sidebar.

For more-advanced sidebar tricks in previous *Mac OS X Hints*, see the tip on viewing paths when using folders from the sidebar (July 2004); the advice on using a superskinny sidebar (November 2004); and the very cool but very advanced tip

on colorizing the sidebar's background (January 2005).



Places, Everyone!

Adding an item to the sidebar is easy; simply drag and drop it from a normal Finder window into place. You can store files, folders, and even applications here. When you want to remove an item, just drag it off the sidebar and watch it disappear.

file *must* load before two Apple-provided files, Java Applet.plugin and Java Applet Plugin Enabler. To ensure that this is the case, view the Plug-Ins folder by date (choose View: As List, then click once on the Date Modified column header to order the files from newest to oldest). If MRJPlugin.plugin is listed above the other two files, you're home free.

If it's not, open Terminal, type `touch "/Library/Internet Plug-Ins/MRJPlugin.plugin"`, and press return. You've just changed the plug-in's date stamp to the present date and time; it will now appear at the top of the list in the Finder. Launch your Mozilla-based browser again and load the physics site mentioned earlier. You'll find that the applets now all work as expected.

Skip Clicking on Samples in the iTunes Music Store

Listening to 30-second song snippets at the iTunes Music Store is a great way to get acquainted with a new band. Just search for an artist's songs and then click on each song in turn to get a sense for the artist's sound. But all this clicking just to get an earful can be a pain.

The following AppleScript takes care of that problem. Open Script Editor (in Applications/Utilities), and type in the following code:

```
on idle
    tell application "iTunes"
        next track
    end tell
    return 29.5
end idle
```

Select File: Save, give your new script a name, and select Application from the File Format pop-up menu. Choose the Stay Open option. It doesn't matter where you save the script; you just want to store it where you can get to it quickly. (Consider dragging it to the Dock, the sidebar, or the toolbar for truly fast access.)

Now visit the iTunes Music Store and search for something. In the results box, double-click on the first sample. Before the clip ends, switch to the Finder and launch your saved script. When you do, iTunes will jump to the next sample, play it for 29.5 seconds, and keep going until all samples have played.

Yes, you'll miss the last 0.5 seconds of each one, but there's a good reason this figure is set below 30 seconds. If you set the script at 30 seconds, iTunes will reach the end of the first sample and stop. By using a value just below 30 seconds, iTunes doesn't quite finish playing, so it jumps to the next sample. Since you selected the Stay Open option, this script will keep working until you quit it.

Contributing Editor ROB GRIFFITHS is the author of *Mac OS X Power Hound*, *Panther Edition* (O'Reilly, 2004), and runs the Mac OS X Hints Web site (www.macosxhints.com).



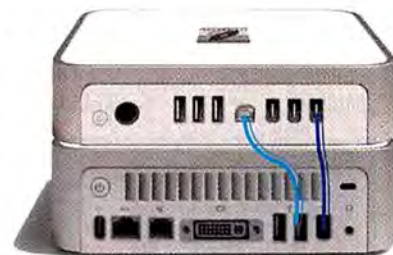
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Solutions to Your Most Vexing Mac Problems

Cross-Platform PowerPoint

I've been using Microsoft PowerPoint v. X for some time, and I've had only one problem. When I need to present my files on a Windows computer, minor incompatibilities often arise. For example, text that is white on my Mac is black on the PC. I've learned to anticipate this and always check my presentation first on a PC when I won't be using my own laptop. What gives?

Aaron F. Kopman

Though Macs and Windows PCs share better than they once did, they still don't always see eye to eye. With that in mind, you should take certain precautions when you use a Mac to create a PowerPoint document that your audience will be viewing on a Windows PC. Those precautions include the following:

Use Common Fonts If you choose a font on the Mac and the PC doesn't have it, the PC will substitute a font you may dislike. To avoid trouble, stick to fonts that are present on both platforms, such as Arial, Times New Roman, Courier, and Symbol. If you're sure the presentation will appear on a PC that has a full version of PowerPoint installed (not just the PowerPoint Viewer application), you can also use the fonts that Office installs on both platforms. These include Century Gothic, Copperplate Gothic, Tahoma, and Verdana.

Use Common Graphics and Video Formats As a Microsoft product, PowerPoint prefers graphics and video formats commonly found on PCs. For graphics, that means saving images in the PNG, JPEG, or GIF formats. PowerPoint for Windows is not hip to QuickTime, so if you must include video, use Windows' AVI format.

Use File Extensions File extensions tell Windows what kind of file it's dealing with. If those extensions

document, and the person sitting at the PC will have to add the .ppt extension to the file's name in order to open it.

Consider Upgrading Office 2004 includes a new feature that you might find helpful—Compatibility Report. When you produce a presentation in PowerPoint 2004 and save it, by default PowerPoint checks the document to see whether it's compatible with other versions of PowerPoint. If it isn't, you'll see a message indicating that there are compatibility issues. Click on the Compatibility Report button in the Save dialog box, and you'll learn what the problems are (see "Windows-Friendly Presentations"). If PowerPoint can fix a problem, the Fix button will become active. If PowerPoint can't fix the problem, it will offer ways to work around it (for example, using an AVI movie rather than a QuickTime MOV file).

AutoUpdate Doesn't

After I installed Microsoft Office 2004, the Microsoft AutoUpdate application launched and wanted to get the Service Pack 1 update. Everything seemed to go fine until AutoUpdate simply announced that the update did not complete successfully. Repeated attempts failed. How can I make it successfully apply the patch?

Markus Mock

Microsoft's AutoUpdate might itself be in need of updating. To do so, download the latest version at macworld.com/0346. If that doesn't do the trick, toss AutoUpdate's preference file: select Go To Folder in the Finder, type ~/Library/Preferences, and delete the file named com.microsoft.autoupdate.plist.

If AutoUpdate remains uncooperative, put it aside for a moment and download the Service Pack update directly from macworld.com/0357. If the update installs as it should, run Disk Utility (/Applications/Utilities) to repair your Mac's permissions. If AutoUpdate still won't work, you need a fresh start. Run the Remove Office app (/Applications/Microsoft Office 2004/Additional Tools/Remove Office) and then reinstall Office.

Selective Searching

I have a list of several Web sites I want to search for information or images. Do you know any way that I can limit a search to a list of Web sites?

David Warkentin

Windows-Friendly Presentations

PowerPoint 2004's Compatibility Report can help make your presentations more presentable across platforms.

Putting iLife to Work

Creating Practical Projects With Apple's Creative Suite



TIP OF THE MONTH

Mail Swap

I may be the last person in the world to discover this one, but I just learned that you can swap two adjacent characters in Apple's Mail by positioning the cursor between the two characters and pressing control-T. This is useful because I'm always typing *teh* for *the* and *becuase* for *because*. It also works for invisible characters such as tab and return. [This technique also works in Apple's TextEdit.—Ed.]

Christopher Wright

Google lets you limit searches to a single Web site or a group of Web sites. The trick is to phrase your query correctly. You need to use a combination of site: *the site you want* and the OR variable.

Travel to www.google.com (or type directly in Safari's Google search field) and enter something like this in the Search field: `grunion site:stanford.edu`. This limits your search for the noble fish to Stanford University's domain. Or you can enter `grunion site:stanford.edu OR site:pepperdine.edu OR site:ucsd.edu`. Now you and the grunion are really off and running—this query searches the sites of all three universities for information on your piscine pal.

Killing the Messenger

In Apple's Mail, is there any way to block the messages from a specific sender?

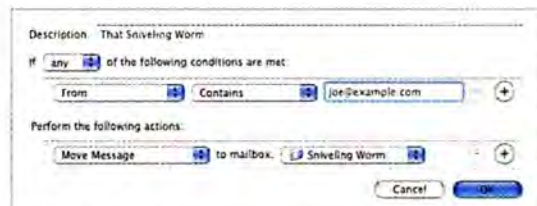
Sid Koss

Your ISP is the only one that truly has the power to block messages, and few ISPs offer such a service. You can, however, create a Mail rule that deletes messages from particular individuals. Go to Mail: Preferences and click on Rules. Click on Add Rule and type a name (for example, Get Lost!) in the Description field. Then use the pop-up menus to create a mail rule that reads:

From Contains `joe@example.com`

Delete Message

Note that applying this rule isn't such a hot idea if you've recently had a spat with your significant other and have sworn that you'll never speak to him or her again. Such a rule could easily delete the groveling make-up note that person sends your way. A better option is to create a new mailbox—called Sniveling Worm, say—and create a rule that moves mail from



Ruling the Unruly Use Mail to quarantine messages from people you loathe.

your ex into this folder (see "Ruling the Unruly"). To do this, create a rule that reads as follows:

From Contains `joe@example.com`

Move Message To Mailbox: Sniveling Worm

When you want to let bygones be bygones (or want to revel in your former sweetie's despair), fling open this mailbox and read the messages you've diverted.

Mining for Movies

Is there a way to save QuickTime movies from the Web to my Mac for future viewing, so I don't have to return to

the original Web site? When I choose Save As in Internet Explorer, all I get is a link.

Fred Schneider

If you can't save a file with the Save As command, it's because that file's owners don't want you to save it. But that doesn't mean you can't.

The simplest way to do this is with Djodjo Design's free iGetMovies (macworld.com/0489). Another way is to do it yourself, by following these steps:

Open the QuickTime preference pane, click on the Plug-In tab in the resulting QuickTime window, and make sure the Save Movies In Disk Cache option is selected. Now play the QuickTime movie you want to save until it has fully downloaded to your Mac. (You'll know it's done when the gray progress bar fills the timeline.) Next, download a copy of Marcel Bresink's free TinkerTool (macworld.com/0296) and launch it. Click on TinkerTool's Finder tab, enable the Show Hidden And System Files option, and click on Relaunch Finder.

Double-click on your startup volume's icon and then follow this path: `/private/tmp/501/TemporaryItems`. Once you're in the TemporaryItems folder, switch to List view and click on the Size column. The large file that rises to the top of the list—the one whose name begins with `QTPluginTemp` and contains a string of numbers—is what you're after.

Drag this file to the desktop and rename it, giving it a `.mov` extension—My Cool Borrowed Movie.mov, for example. You'll be asked to confirm that you really want to add the `.mov` extension. Do so with my blessing, return to TinkerTool, undo your past actions to make invisible files disappear again, and enjoy.

Nix the Nagging

I'm out in the sticks and still have a dial-up modem. I'm on a Power Mac G4, running Panther, and using Microsoft Entourage. Every five minutes, an Internet Connect alert pops up reminding me that my connection is still active and asking whether I wish to remain connected. How can I keep this box from appearing?

Heather Lose

Open your Mac's Network preference pane, choose Internal Modem from the Show pop-up menu, select continues



HELP THE HELP DESK!

Send your tips to mac911@macworld.com. If we publish yours, you'll receive a dandy mug. All published submissions become the sole property of Macworld.



TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Hard-Drive Helpers

I recently upgraded my Mac. I'd hoped to take advantage of Apple's Setup Assistant, which allows you to transfer data from one Mac to another via FireWire. Alas, Setup Assistant failed to recognize the hard drives attached to my old Mac's PCI host adapter card. What to do? I found the following tools helpful.

Mike Bombich's **Carbon Copy Cloner** (donations accepted; www.bombich.com/software) clones one bootable volume to another. Shut down the new Mac and string a FireWire cable between the two machines. Then start up the new Mac with the T key held down; it'll boot into FireWire Target Disk Mode. Launch Carbon Copy Cloner on the old Mac and choose the volume you want to clone. Select a volume on the new Mac as a destination. (Cloning a large volume can take several hours.)

Shirt Pocket's **SuperDuper** (\$20; www.shirt-pocket.com) is a handy (and fast) tool for making a straight bootable clone of a drive. It can also back up your user files and create something called a *Safety Clone*. Through symbolic links and aliases, this bootable clone of a volume shares your personal documents and data with the original volume. Should you install something on the Safety Clone that makes your Mac go blooey, it's a simple matter to boot from the original system.

ProSoft Engineering's **Drive Genius** (\$99; www.prosofteng.com) can create an exact duplicate of a hard drive—right down to partitioning the target drive so the resulting cloned volume is exactly the same size as the original. Unlike Carbon Copy Cloner, Drive Genius doesn't allow you to clone the active startup drive to another volume—you must boot either from another volume or from the Drive Genius CD.

the PPP tab, and click on the PPP Options button. In the resulting window, deselect the Prompt Every X Minutes To Maintain Connection option, and click on OK. Internet Connect will now get off your back.

Missing MIDI

I've dragged a MIDI file into Apple's iTunes. It plays fine there, but when I sync my iPod to iTunes, I receive an error that says the track "was not copied because it can't be played on the iPod." How can I play this track on my iPod?

Slade Barnett

To wrap your brain around this one, you have to understand what a MIDI file can and can't do on your Mac and iPod. Unlike an MP3, AAC, or AIFF file, a MIDI file doesn't have any sound-wave information.

Instead, the file contains instructions that tell a music synthesizer (including the one built into Apple's QuickTime) what notes to play and how long to play them. When you drag a MIDI file into iTunes and click on play, QuickTime's built-in synthesizer plays the notes that the MIDI file tells it to. Unlike your Mac, an iPod doesn't have a synthesizer, so it can't play MIDI files. To prevent you from even trying to make this happen, iTunes simply tells you that the file format is incompatible with the iPod and refuses to copy it to your portable pal.

But you can play your MIDI tune on your iPod if you first convert it to an audio file. You have a couple of options for doing so. The easiest is to select the file in iTunes and, from the Advanced menu, choose the Convert Selection To command. iTunes will create an audio file using QuickTime's synthesizer sounds and the encoder chosen in iTunes' Importing preference pane (the AAC Encoder is chosen by default).

If you don't care for the sounds QuickTime uses, you can drag the file into Apple's GarageBand 2, where the various MIDI tracks open as separate Software Instrument tracks (see "Import Business"). Once in GarageBand 2, you can change the instrument sounds, as well as alter each track's volume and panning (its position in the stereo field). So, for example, a bagpipe version of "Amazing Grace" can quickly become a rousing steel-drum one.

When you're done, choose File: Export To iTunes to export the track as an AIFF file. In iTunes, you can leave it as is or convert it to MP3 or AAC before moving it to your iPod.

On the Go-Go-Go

How do I create multiple On-The-Go playlists on my iPod?

From the Macworld.com forums

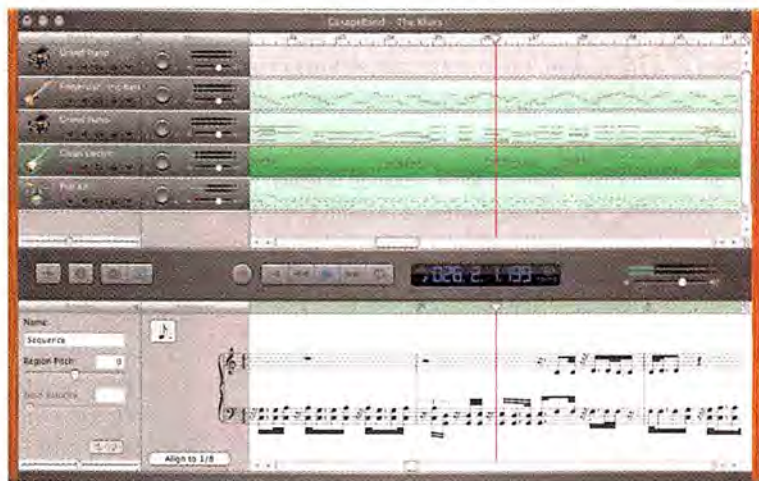
To create an On-The-Go playlist on your iPod, select a song, genre, artist, composer, or album, and then press and hold the iPod's center button until you see the entry blink. Travel to the Playlists screen, select the On-The-Go entry at the bottom of the screen, and press the center button. Scroll to the bottom of the resulting On-The-Go screen, select Save Playlist, and press the center button again. Finally, in the Save screen that appears, choose Save Playlist and press the center button once more.

This saves the playlist as Playlist 1. The numbers in the names of subsequent playlists created in this fashion will rise in increments of one—Playlist 2, Playlist 3, Playlist 4, and so on. You're now ready to create a new On-The-Go playlist and save it in the manner just described. □

Contributing Editor CHRISTOPHER BREEN is the editor in chief of Playlist-mag.com and the author of *Secrets of the iPod and iTunes*, fifth edition (Peachpit Press, 2005).

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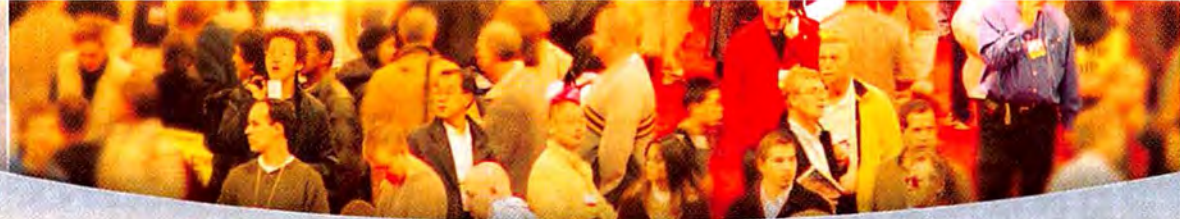
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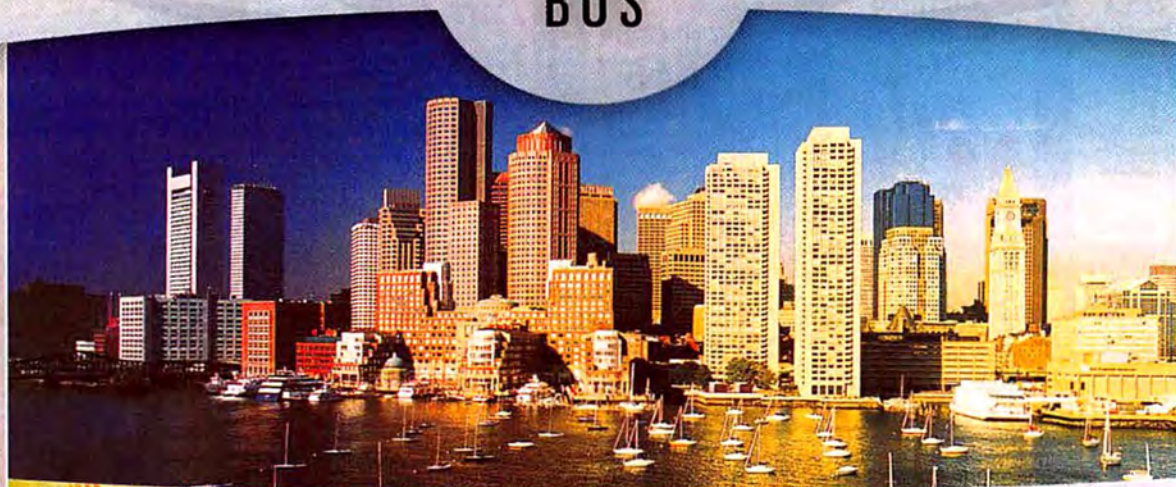
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Doctor Mac Direct	doctormacdirect.com	34
eCost	ecostmac.com	89
Freeverse Software	freeverse.com	29
GEICO	geico.com/myquote	71
Griffin Technology	griffintechology.com	57
Insider Software	insidersoftware.com	35
Iomega	iomega.com/30day	23
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Other World Computing	800-275-4576	75, 98-101
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Quark	quark.com	4-7
SIGGRAPH 2005	siggraph.org/s2005	24
Small Dog	smalldog.com	8
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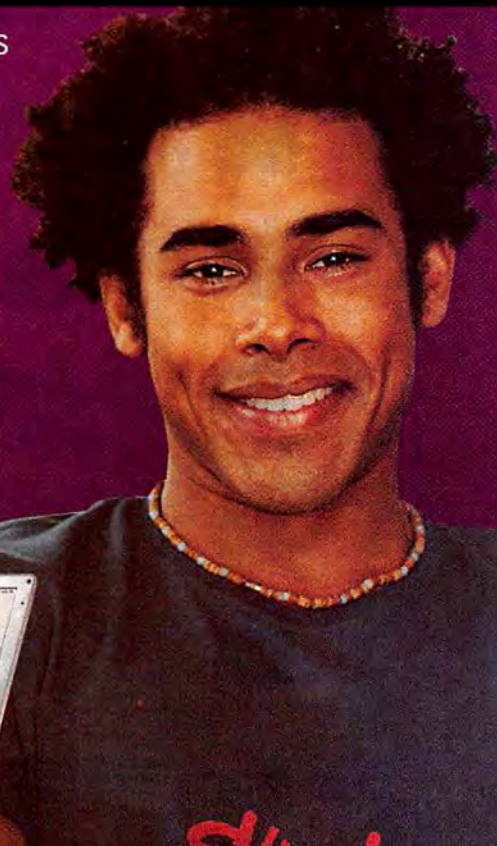
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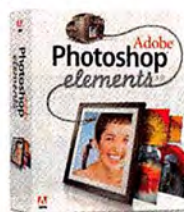


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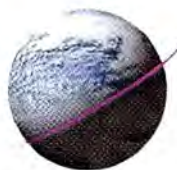
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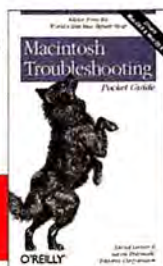


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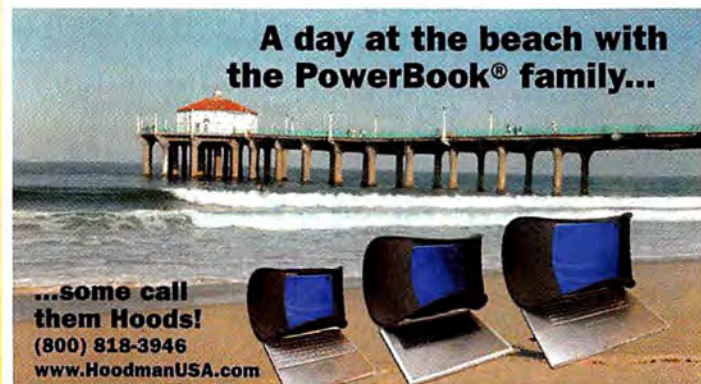
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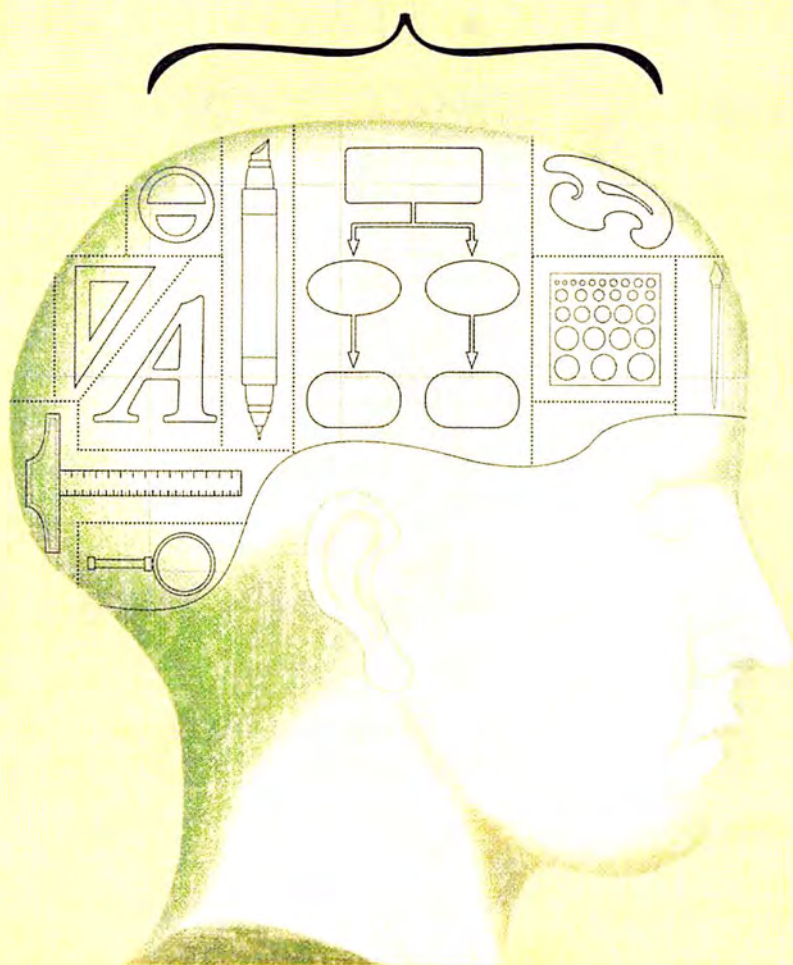
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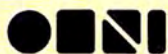


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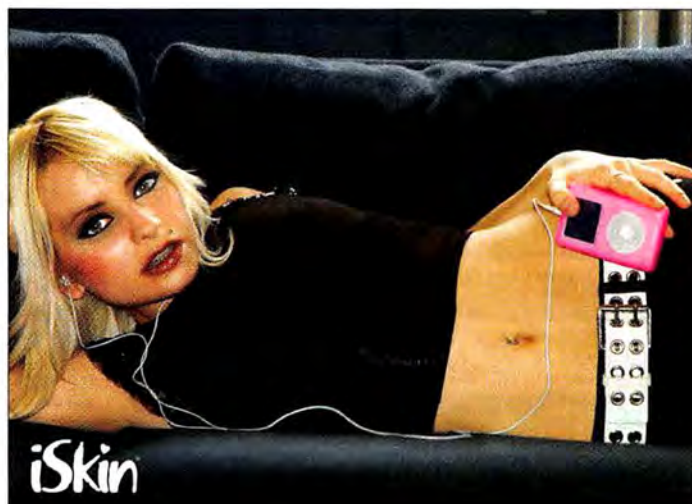


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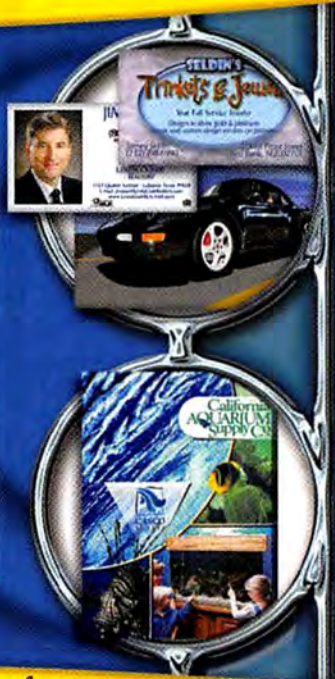
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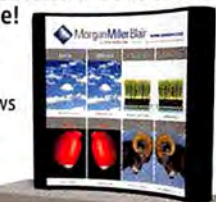
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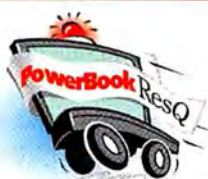
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Disctop Pro

Sure, my Mac can play DVDs and audio CDs, but when I insert a disc in my optical drive, all I see on the desktop are generic icons. So I tried Disctop Pro, a free preference pane that displays the disc on my desktop as if I were peering into the drive. With Disctop Pro, you not only see the disc with cover art (thank you, Amazon.com)—when you insert or eject a disc, you see it move onto or off of the screen from a specific position, depending on which Mac model you have. You can even control playback from the icon and set the icon's opacity so it doesn't obscure too much of your lovely OS X desktop (www.mekentosj.com).—JONATHAN SEFF



LaunchBar 4

If you ask me, every Mac user should use Objective Development's \$20 LaunchBar, a productivity-enhancing utility. I mean, why would you not want to type the first three letters of a song, press enter, and listen to it immediately? Why drill down four folder levels to get to a document when you could type two letters of the file name and press an arrow key? And the latest version has a much more OS X-like configuration pane, lets you scan more parts of your system, and lets you specify the types of information you want to search for—by typing the abbreviation ea for e-mail addresses or it for iTunes, for example (www.obdev.at).—JENNIFER BERGER



Squeezebox2

I've converted all my CDs into digital form and stored them in a closet. Now when I want to listen to music in my living room or bedroom, I use a music player from Slim Devices. The company's new Squeezebox2 (\$249; wireless version, \$299) offers numerous features—such as digital output, FLAC file support, 802.11g wireless networking, and improved server software—for high-end audiophiles, but I love its gorgeous new high-resolution gray-scale display and its built-in Internet-radio and alarm-clock features (www.slimdevices.com).—JASON SNELL

WHAT'S HOT

Brought to you by John Moltz of the Crazy Apple Rumors Site (www.crazyapplerumors.com)

- 1 The Mac increased its share of the desktop market in the fourth quarter, and analysts predict that the trend will continue. Mac users vehemently denounce this report before saying, "Wait. Did they say increased?"
- 2 An iPod shuffle knockoff—the Super Shuffle—that was touted at a German trade show turns out to be a publicity stunt. Unamused, Apple chastises Germany—"No David Hasselhoff Special Edition iPod for you."
- 3 Apple settles a suit against a 22-year-old developer who posted Tiger online for download. Details are sketchy, but suffice it to say that someone's going to be writing "I will not post Tiger online for download" a lot.
- 4 PyMusique, which lets users download DRM-free songs from the iTunes Music Store, is released, killed by Apple, re-released, and then killed again. Fittingly, sources indicate the app's code name was Rasputin.



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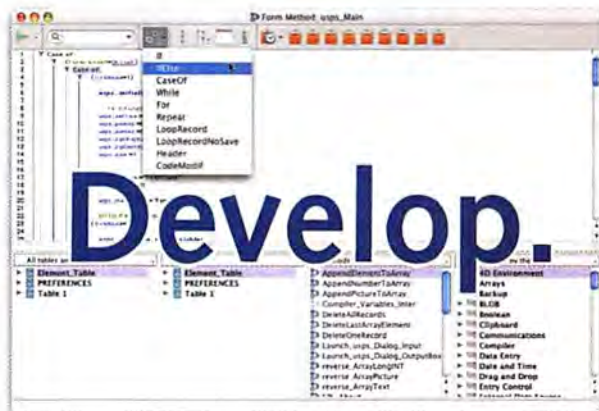


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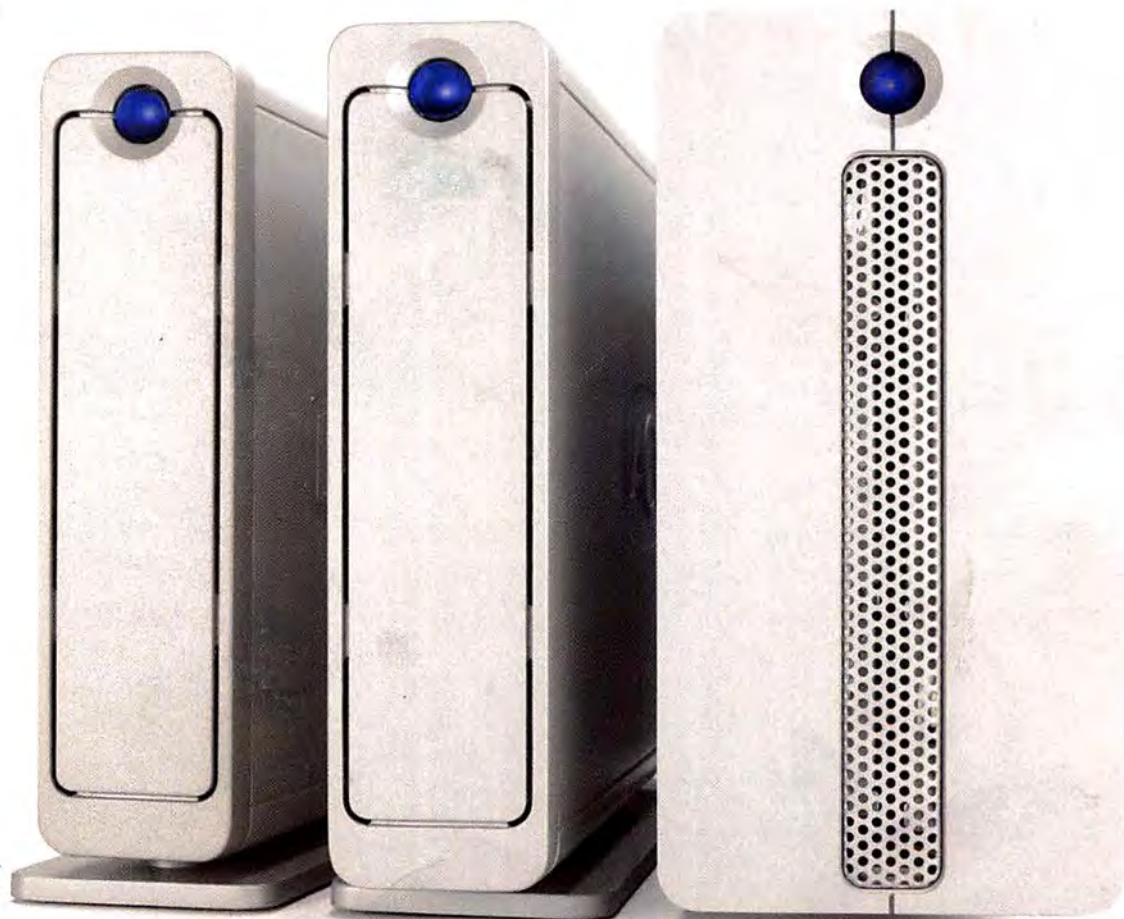


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