Maclanta

TM

MACWORLD TOKYO 2002

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On March 21, at approximately 11:30 am Melbourne time, Apple's CEO, Steve Jobs commenced his keynote speech at Macworld Toyko. While this was with a "reasonable" viewing time to see a streamed QuickTime broadcast of the keynote live for those of us in Australia and the Asia Pacific region—normally we have to stay up late at night to watch them—there was no live QuickTime broadcast, nor in fact any real "live" coverage from the major Macintosh News sites. All the major news started following after the keynote had concluded.

At the time of writing this article, there was no sign of a "view-on-demand" stream of the keynote, but there is some hope that such stream may be made available at a later date.

Anyway, there were a number of announcements made during the keynote and some are far more important than others—and they aren't necessarily the obvious ones.

In an unprecedented step, Jobs announced at the beginning of his presentation all the topics he would cover during the keynote, which included:
• Mac OS X
• Digital Hub
• iMac
• Bluetooth
• Cinema Display
• iPod

Courtesy of Apple

Mac OS X
Jobs started one of his standard presentations on Mac OS X and its Unix core, followed by "guest" presentations including Adobe talking about the Japanese versions of InDesign and Photoshop; Ergosoft discussed two Mac OS X only packages, EG Bridge and EG Word, that provides an extremely powerful input method for Japanese; FileMaker demonstrated how easy it is to use FileMaker on an iMode internet enabled mobile phone; Maya and Final Cut Pro were demonstrated.

Digital Hub
Following the Mac OS X presentations,

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Chris Waldrip, President
(chris_waldrip@atlmug.org)

The conclusion of the first quarter of the year arrives with the end of March. And it has been a challenging first quarter, full of learning opportunities for your new Board of Directors. Beginning the year without a true Secretary and Vice-President left us short-handed but with the addition of Brian and Bruce, that issue has been resolved. The Board also purchased a new laser printer for AMUG in the first quarter. Hindsight being 20/20, more experience, better communication and additional review could have assisted us in making a better decision, but this new printer will serve AMUG well through the coming years as we continue to grow. Overall, this first quarter of 2002 has been a learning experience for the Board of Directors and myself. But the lessons learned can only help us do a better job as the

AMUG Board of Directors

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Message From The President

year progresses.

This March also saw the spring incarnation of our Maclanta Xpo unfold. While smaller than our previous Xpos, it was a good event. The SwapFest was also smaller, but the variety of merchandise was improved. We had to trim back the number of classes that were offered in our MacCollege sessions, but we did have good attendance for the classes that remained. And those attending the Microsoft presentation on Mac Office v.X most assuredly learned something new about this great suite of applications. We also learned some valuable lessons that will make future Xpos dramatically better.

I'd like to take a moment to thank the many volunteers who helped with the Xpo—without your help, Maclanta Xpo wouldn't be possible. I'd also like to thank those who volunteered to review some products at the last General Meeting. I look forward to reading those reviews. For those new to writing product reviews, I've included some reviewing tips in my "How to Write for Maclanta" article on page 7.

Speaking of volunteers, the Board was saddened to learn that John Kanaly has decided to end his tenure as the leader of the New User Special Interest Group (SIG). For more than 10 years, John has met with folks and helped them with their questions and concerns abot their Macs. The Board is working to develop another SIG or class to fill the vacancy of the New User SIG, but we doubt anyone will be able to replace John and his tireless work on behalf of AMUG. I'd like to extend my sincere thanks for your efforts over the many years, John.

While our New User SIG is being retired, you can find information on the new SIGs we've created this year on the (newly redesigned) AMUG web site

(http://www.amugonline.org). Interested in Mac OS X? Looking to enhance your digital video skills? We have two new SIGs to address your questions. In the near future, we'll also be developing an Internet SIG and a RealBASIC SIG. We're also looking into developing a Gaming SIG for those of you wanting to enhance your fast-twitch muscles. Is there an area you'd like to see represented by a Special Interest Group? Then maybe you could help organize it. You don't have to be an expert on the topic, just have a willingness to create topics, find speakers and schedule the meetings with the assistance of our Education Director, Stan Allen (stan_allen@atlmug.org). If you have questions or want to help with a SIG, feel free to contact Stan.

And, as I mentioned, our web site had a face-lift in March. It's been nearly a year since the site has undergone a change of this magnatude. The tab interface should be familiar to visitor's of Apple's web site, yet distinctive enough to be immediately recognized as the AMUG site. Robert Cameron and Todd Johnson have both worked very hard over the past several months to get the new site together and up and running. As a web site is a constantly evolving entity, you can expect to see small tweaks and changes over the coming weeks, but the overall look has been finalized. If you like what you see, or have any suggestions for improvement, drop me a line at chris_waldrip@atlmug.org. Until next month.

Maclanta Staff

Editor-in-Chief......................Robert Cameron
Contributing Editor.................. Chris Waldrip
Contributing Editor.............David Whitehead
Staff Photographer ....Scott Steinbrink
Staff Photographer ....David Whitehead

Can you write? Hold a camera? Proofread? Layout pages? Join us! Contact Robert Cameron at robert_cameron@atlmug.org to find out how you can help.

IN THE NEWS

Blizzard Patches Diablo 2, Lord of Destruction for OS X
Blizzard Entertainment, in keeping with its promise, has released patches to update Diablo 2 and its official expansion pack release, Lord of Destruction. The updates Carbonizes both games, finally enabling game play natively in OS X. In fact, Blizzard released the patches a full four days early! http://www.blizzard.com

Dantz Ships Retrospect Backup 5 for OS X
On March 26th, Dantz Development Corp. announced the availability of Retrospect Backup 5, the first version to support OS X (OS 9 is also supported). There are four editions available; Retrospect Express Backup for personal backup, Retrospect Desktop Backup for a single workstation, Retrospect Workgroup Backup for small networks of computers, and Retrospect Server Backup for larger computer networks. Retrospect Backup 5 is capable of backing up and restoring all OS X files and info—a feature highly anticipated since the release of OS X a year ago—and supports many different media including optical drives, tape drives, removable cartridge drives, and hard disks. http://www.dantz.com

Apple to Support Bluetooth in OS X
Steve Jobs demonstrated Apple's Bluetooth technology for OS X at Macworld Expo Tokyo. "Bluetooth" is the name for a short-range wireless connectivity technology between a computer and Bluetooth-enabled peripherals, PDAs and cell phones. Apple will make a preview version of its Bluetooth software freely available in April. Apple will also make available a Bluetooth USB adaptor for $49, which will make any USB-based Mac Bluetooth-enabled. http://www.apple.com/bluetooth/

FileMaker-Based Online Chat System Available
Brian Dunning is offering Weblet Chat, an online chat application which uses FileMaker Pro databases and CDML or Lasso for $29, and includes the FileMaker databases and fully commented format files for integration into your website. This is a full-fledged online chat system similar to AOL's and MSN's Instant Messengers.

You will need to know CDML or Lasso to make your own format files, but tutorials are also available at his site. You will also need FileMaker Pro or Unlimited to host the databases over the Web. http://www.briandunning.com

MUG Center Opens Discussion Board
The MUG Center, which is an online resource for Macintosh User Groups, has created a discussion board (online forum) for user group leaders, members, and enthusiasts. The discussion board is "dedicated exclusively to user group issues, events, challenges and opportunities." http://www.mugcenter.com

Palm Desktop 4.0 for Mac Available
Palm, Inc. has released Palm Desktop 4.0 for Mac OS X and OS 9. Making the jump from version 2.6, this version includes new features such as support for OS X, vCard and vCal formats (for sharing information with Entourage, OS X Address Book, and Palm Desktop for Windows), and the ability to mark individual records as private so they can be hidden and forced not to print. Palm notes to m500 series users that the Notepad application and conduit are not supported with this release. Note

also that while the software runs in OS 9 and OS X, Palm does not recommend using the application when switching between different systems because "files are stored in different locations for Mac OS 9 and Mac OS X resulting in two different User Data files and potential loss of data." http://www.palm.com/support/macintosh/mac_desktop.html

Mailsmith 1.5 Release Supports OS X
Bare Bones Software has released Mailsmith 1.5, compatible with OS X and OS 9. Mailsmith is Bare Bones' e-mail client software. The new version includes a new streamlined filter creation process (and SpamCop support for reporting unsolicited e-mail), imports messages from Eudora, Emailer, and Mail, and supports drag-and-drop import of "mbox"-formatted mailboxes. Users of BBEdit will recognize its text-editing abilities and grep search capabilities in Mailsmith. Mailsmith is also scriptable (in addition, recordable) with AppleScript. http://www.barebones.com

Software Extracts Files From DVDs
Heuris, which makes the MPEG Power Professional encoding software, have released Xtractor for Mac and Windows. This product can extract ("rip") audio and video files from unencrypted DVDs. Users can extract various types of MPEG1 and MPEG2 streams, recovering the original assets for re-working. The company's website does not specify Macintosh OS requirements. http://www.heuris.com

WebStar 5.1.1 Patch Fixes Potential Security Bug
4D Inc. has released the 5.1.1 update to WebStar (server software for OS X and

REVIEW: FILEMAKER PRO 5.5

Stephen D'Andrea
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FileMaker Pro has often been considered one of the most elegant and powerful programs available for the Mac. Like the best application software it offers an easy-to-navigate interface for the new user and an extensive range of features and options for the experienced and demanding database designer. The latest version, 5.5, offers some convenient additions and new features which provide improved starting points for the neophyte while offering significant improvements for experienced users and developers.

For those unfamiliar with FileMaker Pro the application offers users the ability to easily create databases of information. If you have used an address book application on your Mac or used a printed phonebook, you've used a database. If you've ever been frustrated with an address book program's limitations or were intrigued with the possibilities of using the data you viewed, you'll be interested in the functions and tools provided by a program that allows you to database design and editing. Anyone who needs to organize and access information, manage people or data—whether it's a list of your company's

The basic process of creating a database has not changed with this release. The user defines the fields of information, creates layouts or "views" that show all or selected bits of the information, and then enters or imports the data which will go in those fields. FileMaker Pro allows the user to keep this process very simple, while offering many controls for using and relating the data once it is entered; it also provides moderately sophisticated graphic tools for designing a good-looking layouts.

With any program that offers a powerful range of features and abilities also comes the potential for a very steep learning curve. FileMaker Pro is no exception, but the company has attempted to address this issue by providing users with options for pre-made templates or guided production when creating databases. While experienced high-end users will find the templates too limited and bland, they provide a good starting place for the novice, giving enough familiar territory for the uninitiated to become acquainted with the functions of FileMaker. These templates also offer a solid launching point for future development once the user gains more confidence and knowledge about the program's capability and potential.

screen real estate over eye candy, the tool bars can be hidden.

Like the best applications, FileMaker is surrounded by a thriving community of resources, tutorials and support available on the installation CD and through the Internet. In addition to the example databases included on the CD, a phenomenal variety of databases are available for download, some of them free, most of them completely usable,

Hit the ground running: FileMaker Pro offers familiar tools to easily and quickly create visually appealing layouts for your databases.
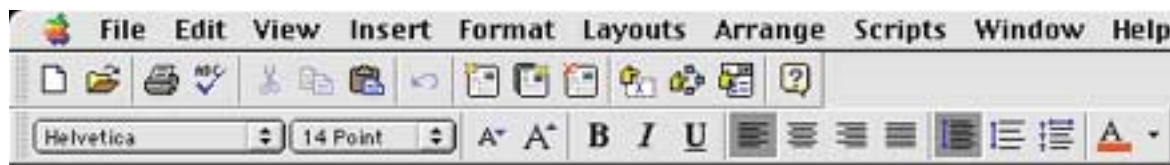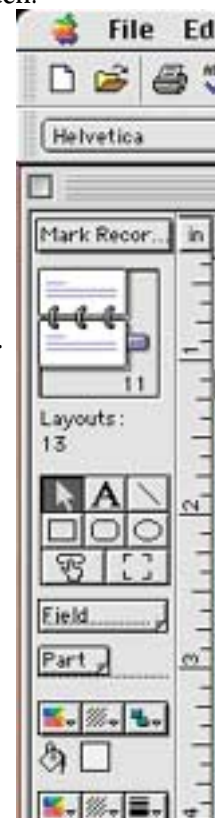
though the ability to edit the fields and layouts is disabled. Notable among the free software are those offered as part of the FileMaker Solutions Framework, a part of the FileMaker web site. The files are immediately usable if you're ready to begin entering or importing data, or FileMaker's "wizard" can guide you through customizing layouts and fields to suit your particular needs, and to personalize the database to your business or organization.

Toolbars: FileMaker Pro provides quick button access to commonly used commands, which can easily be hidden.

employees, a recipe collection, a sales inventory, or your CD collection—also needs a good database. If you also need to comprehensively report on data in a wide variety of ways, with the potential to share the information across networks and platforms, FileMaker Pro offers the control and flexibility you need.

Along these lines, one of the new features is cosmetic—the inclusion of toolbars similar to those in Microsoft Word and other applications. For some users, this feature will provide reassurance as to where commonly-used functions (such as Open and Print) and text controls reside. For those who prefer

Other new features

In addition to the ease-of-use improvements, version 5.5 expands FileMaker

Maclanta Xpo 2.0

MacCollege

Stan Allen, Education Director
(stan_allen@atlmug.org)

The latest session of MacCollege was held Saturday, March 23rd at Maclanta Xpo. MacCollege is AMUG's free series of classes open to the public featuring topics of interest with an emphasis

on new Mac users. MacCollege is held twice yearly, usually in conjunction with Maclanta Xpo.

Seven one-hour classes taught by AMUG experts were held in the Education Center at Saint Joseph's Hospital of Atlanta. Online registration gave attendees reserved seating for the limited number of classes held. The instructors, all AMUG members, volunteered their time and expertise to the public, hoping to educate new users and gain

awareness of the educational mission of AMUG to the public at large.

Special thanks go out to the AMUG volunteer class instructors:

Jay Cann
Introduction to OS X Class Instructor
David Whitehead
iPhoto AND iTunes Class Instructor
(great job, David!)
Adam Hawkes
Airport & Home Networking Class Instructor
William Moss
iMovie Class Instructor
Jaddie Dodd
Intro to Photoshop Class Instructor

Is there a topic YOU feel qualified to teach? We'd love to have you as a MacCollege instructor! Why not give something back to others by sharing a small amount of your time and knowledge? Many have learned a lot through membership in AMUG. MacCollege

gives members a chance to help others as other AMUG members have helped them.

To get information on becoming a MacCollege instructor, contact me at stan_allen@atlmug.org.

Swapfest

Doug Franks, Program Director
(doug_franks@atlmug.org)

This year's spring Swapfest was another bargain hunter's paradise. We didn't have any $140 iBooks (not an urban legend, I saw it) for sale this time but there were some great deals on laptops, laptop parts, PPCs, G3s, and software. We had over 25 people register to sell their Mac goods and a good turnout of bargain hunters showed up as well. Helping me out at the vender check-in desk were Mr. William Moss and Mr. H. Dewey Norton. Thanks a lot for your much-needed help!

If you have some old Macs or Mac

parts and pieces that you are no longer using, then the AMUG Swapfest is the place to sell them. If you are looking for that part on eBay that you keep getting outbid on, then the Swapfest is for you.

We will be reviewing what went right and what didn't at the spring Swapfest so we can make changes and improvements. We are looking at attacking BIG-name local vendors also for the next Swapfest. If you have any comments or ideas, please send them to

doug_franks@atlmug.org.

Thanks to all who attended the spring Swapfest and look forward to seeing you at the next Swapfest, to be held September 28th, 2002.

Jobs moved on to his now standard Digital Software packages blurb with demonstrations of iDVD, iTunes, iMovie and iPhoto.

iMac

Jobs announced that demand for the new LCD based iMac has been incredible with over 125,000 units already sold and Apple have moved into full volume production with 5,000 units shipping a day and they are hoping to catch up with the full demand shortly.

He then dropped a small bomb shell regarding the cost of the iMac. Stating "that due to significant increases in component costs for memory and LCD flat-panel displays, the company will increase the price of all new iMac models by US$100. Effective immediately."

No doubt this was a hard decision for Apple to make, and actually announce in a keynote speech, but personally, I believe the small increase in cost is far better than reducing specs on processor speed, standard RAM or hard drive space, which is what PC vendors seem to be doing.

There is some good news though: Anyone who has an iMac currently on order will have the original price honoured and for Australian buyers there is even better news, the [AUS]$200 increase does not take effect until April 2, 2002, which means that you can still order an iMac at the old prices of [AUS]$2,995 for the CD-RW, [AUS]$3,495 for the Combo and [AUS]$4,195 for the SuperDrive model. After April 2, they will be [AUS]$3,195, [AUS]$3,695 and [AUS]$4,395 respectively.

Introducing Bluetooth

The biggest announcement coming out of Macworld Tokyo was Apple's an-

nouncement that it will be incorporate support for any USB equipped Macintosh running Mac OS X 10.1.3.

Bluetooth: A new wireless protocol to allow computers and peripherals work together without cables. Photo courtesy of Apple

Currently, you'll need to purchase a [AUS]$99 USB-Bluetooth adaptor and then in April, you'll be able to download a copy of the "Bluetooth Technology Preview" from the Apple Bluetooth web page.

Bluetooth is a protocol that is designed to connect computers and peripherals like keyboards, mice, PDAs, mobile phones and printers together wirelessly. While you can also enable File Sharing via Bluetooth, the protocol only supports data transfer at 1Mbps at a maximum range of about 10m, so it won't be replacing Airport, but Bluetooth can still be useful to move that small file or two.

23" Cinema Display HD

Jobs announced the addition of a fourth member to the Apple LCD family—the 23" Cinema Display HD.

The 23" LCD has a resolution of 1920 x 1200 pixels with a 16:10 ratio and supports 16.7 million colours. The resolution supports High Definition Television (HDTV) content with room to spare, making it perfect for use with Final Cut Pro editors who are creating content for this medium. It will also allow a desktop publisher to view a 11" x 17" two-page spread.

The Apple Cinema HD Display (23"

flat panel) is available for [AUS]$7,599 and requires Mac OS X 10.1.3 or Mac OS 9.2.2 to operate.

New iPod options

The last of Job's announcements was a new 10Gig iPod model that can have up to 2,000 songs stored on it. The 10Gig iPod is available immediately for [AUS]$1,095 from the Apple Store and resellers.

A new Contacts option allows you to view names, address and phone numbers that can be downloaded from Microsoft Entourage, Palm Desktop and Mac OS X Address Book.

You can also have up to 20 preset equaliser settings that are setup in iTunes.

The 5Gig iPod is still available for [AUS]$895 and includes the new Contacts feature. Owners of the original 5Gig model can update their existing iPod to support the Contacts option by downloading the iPod Updater 1.1 from Apple's website. http://www.apple.com/ipod/download

In the United States, you can now order your new 5 or 10Gig iPod with up to two lines of 27 characters each engraved on the back for an additional US$49. At the time of writing, this option was not available in Australia, but hopefully it will become so in the future.

REVIEW: BE A RADIO DJ WITH THE iROCK 300W

Chris Waldrip, President
(chris_waldrip@atlmug.org)

Last month our Publicity Director, David Whitehead, reviewed Apple's iPod. But I'm amazed he didn't talk about one of the greatest add-on purchases for the iPod—iRock's (http://www.myirock.com) iRock 300W. This $40 device essentially makes your iPod an FM radio station.

If you own an iPod, or any other device with a 1/8" headphone jack, and can't use headphones or other cables to listen to the sound, then iRock's 300W is the device for you. The iRock 300W is a small, almost alien looking, device that connects to the headphone jack on your iPod. Once connected, and powered by two AAA batteries, the iRock 300W takes the audio from your iPod and broadcasts it as an FM signal. It's that simple.

You only need to work with two buttons—power (with an accompanying power light) and a frequency selector. You have four FM frequencies to choose from—88.1, 88.3, 88.5, and 88.7. Turn it on, select a frequency, and start playing your music and you're suddenly a DJ with your own portable radio station.

Once it's going any FM-capable radio within roughly ten to fifteen feet is capable of receiving the signal. This is great for using in your car, or within a room or two of your home. For longer distances you may want to look for something else, though. Also, keep in mind that any FM stereo within range can receive your signal, so other drivers may suddenly start looking around oddly as you drive by.

While four frequencies should be enough, in larger cities like Atlanta you may experience problems. Real radio stations will easily overpower the tiny signal from your iRock 300W if they're close enough. But it's mainly non-commercial stations that use the range of frequencies available, and in most places they aren't all being used.

Here in Atlanta, at least between west Cobb and downtown, I've found 88.3 to be the best frequency. But on a recent trip from northwest Tennessee to Atlanta I had to change frequencies every couple of hours. I had preset the four frequencies available on my stereo so it was a simple matter to change the radio when I had to change the iRock 300W's frequency. I should also note that the batteries lasted through my eleven-hour tour of Tennessee, although they were somewhat weak and the iRock was a bit more susceptible to interference by the end of my trip.

The iRock is a great little device, and while its technology isn't revolutionary (think Mister Microphone), its application here is greatly appreciated. Some serious thought even went into the device, thought that wasn't required. When not in use the headphone jack plugs into the back of the device, and the ergonomic shape of the device makes turning the power on easy.

The iRock 300W is a great device that does what its made and advertised to do. The price is reasonable, and the operation is simple. Out of five peaches, I'd give it five.

Company
iRock! (http://www.myirock.com)

Reviewer's Rating: 5 peaches

HOW TO WRITE FOR MACLANTA
Chris Waldrip, President
(chris_waldrip@atlmug.org)

One of the hidden treasures of AMUG is the wide experience of our membership with various software and hardware products. The trick is trying to get that experience communicated to the rest of the membership.

Stop and think about the software and hardware you use on a daily basis. More than likely some of it is used by many other members, but is there something special you do with your software or hardware? A certain tip you found to save time or effort? Maybe there's a special piece of software that you use, that others may be unfamiliar with. You may not think that your experiences are worth communicating to others, but that is most certainly not the case. Your thoughts on an unfamiliar piece of software can be more important to a fellow member than an in-depth article from an expert with the software. Personal day-to-day experience with something can be far more valuable.

If you've thought of something you'd like to write then here are some things you should keep in mind.

First, be yourself. You don't have to impress anyone with your ability to use a thesaurus. You should write like you'd talk to your friends. Good grammar and spelling are always appreciated.

If you're writing a review, then you should make some notes about the product before you get started. What's the name of the product, who makes it, how much does it costs, what is it suppose to do, how easy is it to use, and what type of experience does a user need to use it? And while you're using your software, jot down notes during activities you think someone may be interested in, or an area that's a little more complex than necessary. Insights

MARCH MEETING SUMMARY

Stan Allen, Education Director
(stan_allen@atlmug.org)

We had a great turnout for the March meeting with over 50 people in attendance. After our usual Q&A session at 7:00 pm, where Members get their questions answered by experts, the featured presentation was made by FileMaker, the makers of the world's easiest to use database program. Experienced Mac users may have recognized the speaker, Software Design Engineer Andy LeCates. He was the person doing the onstage demo of FileMaker for Mac OS X during the Steve Jobs keynote at Macworld San Francisco in January.

Andy gave a 90-minute presentation on FileMaker, which included some in-

Andy LeCates (center)

FileMaker as there are Mac users? Even though Windows users get a free full-featured database program, Microsoft Access, with Microsoft Office for Windows, they are still purchasing copies of FileMaker Pro. Why, you ask? Because FileMaker Pro is by far the easiest full-featured database program to use. I can personally attest to this, having attempted to use Access at work on a PC after using FileMaker Pro at home on my Mac. In my opinion, FileMaker Pro is one of the most well-designed and intuitive software applications ever conceived. Maybe it's because FileMaker is actually a subsidiary of Apple.

Another surprising feature of FileMaker is how easy it is to link a database to a web page. You can create your database in FileMaker and link it to a web page with just 2 clicks of your mouse. Now that's easy! The presentation also previewed the new FileMaker Mobile database program for the Palm handheld device. Now you can easily create a database for your Palm!

As usual there were plenty of door

Chris Waldrip with the night's best prizes

teresting facts. Did you know that there are at least as many Windows users of

prizes awarded to the attendees, including 2 copies of FileMaker Pro and 1 copy of FileMaker Mobile. Something new was done at this meeting's door prize giveaway. In order to encourage members to write reviews of software products, a copy of FileMaker was given away to someone just for agreeing to write a review on it! Want to write a review of your favorite software product? Just get in touch with newsletter director Robert Cameron (robert_cameron@atlmug.org). The rest of the prizes were given out at the break and at the conclusion of the meeting.

Congratulations to all the winners!

March Raffle Winners

Mike Bausch	Borland T-shirt
Ryan Carruth	FileMaker Pro 5.5
Stephen D'Andrea	FileMaker Pro 5.5
Howard Davis	Gold Coast Mac User Group mug
Howard Davis	Grammarian X
Todd Johnson	Gold Coast Mac User Group mug
Art Jones	FileMaker Mobile for Palm OS
Jim Redmond	*Office 2001 Bible*
Scott Steinbrink	Grammarian X
David Whitehead	Borland T-shirt

Thanks for joining AMUG:

Mike Bautsch, Jeffrey Bond, Wiliam Carithers, Charles Haynes, Barry Kanne, Larry LeSueur, Hugh Mims, Aimee Painter, Stephen Presta, Gordon Zimmerman

And for renewing your membership:

Robert Flack, Mike Henigan, Kelly Hilliard, Kathleen Innes, Henry Jacobs, Donny Limbert, David Stembridge, Wheat Williams

Next Meeting: April 16, 2002

Doug Franks, Program Director
(doug_franks@atlmug.org)

Hooking Into the Digital Hub

Many AMUG members have or are thinking about buying a digital camera, DV Camcorder, iPod, card readers, or some other cool device. We will show you what's out there, what you will need, how it works, and how to be productive with this technology on your Mac. Members and guests, feel free to bring your equipment and show it off! We would also like everyone to speak up and describe their experiences.

Courtesy of Apple

Courtesy of Apple

AMUG Meeting Schedule

General Meetings
(Usually on the 3rd Tuesday of the month)

1/15/02	Apple; Jack Quattlebaum, speaker
219/02	Home networking (file sharing/DSL/Cable/wireless)
3/19/02	FileMaker
3/23/02	Maclanta Xpo 2.0
4/16/02	Hooking Into the Digital Hub
5/14/02	Andy Ihnatko
6/18/02	Macromedia
7/16/02	PDAs
8/20/02	Apple Computer Macworld update
9/17/02	Genealogy
9/28/02	Maclanta Xpo 2.5
10/15/02	Buying & selling online (eBay and other sites)
11/19/02	Cool gadgets and games for your Mac
12/17/02	Holiday party and iTools (how to make a home page)

Board of Directors Meetings
(Usually on the 1st Wednesday of the month)

1/2/02	7/3/02
2/6/02	8/7/02
3/6/02	9/4/02
4/3/02	10/2/02
5/1/02	11/6/02
6/5/02	12/4/02

Note: Remember, all dates and topics are subject to change. Please check the web site and online community for updates. All general meetings, except for the Maclanta Xpo, are at Macquarium, and all board meetings are held at Saint Joseph's Hospital's Education Center, unless otherwise noted.

Special Interest Groups Schedule

4/9/02	Mac OS X SIG	5/18/02	Basic Systems Training (Basic use of the Mac OS)
4/20/02	Basic Systems Training (Basic Mac OS troubleshooting and maintenance)	5/27/02	Multimedia SIG
4/22/02	Multimedia SIG	6/11/02	Mac OS X SIG
		6/15/02	Basic Systems Training (The Internet)
5/7/02	Mac OS X SIG	6/24/02	Multimedia SIG

Get the latest updates at http://www.amugonline.org/education/

Pro's ability to secure and restrict access to databases made available over networks and through the Web. Perhaps you'd like everyone in your company to be able to search for employee addresses, but some employees would not like their phone number published. Database access can now be tailored so a user's sign-on restricts their access to a range of records, as well as the particular fields visible in those records.

As many software companies increasingly attempt to serve the need for web-based access, FileMaker offers the ability to "instantly" publish a database to the Internet. The process is easy but like many automated procedures the results may require some tweaking before they are exactly what you had in mind. No doubt this publishing feature will continue to improve in future releases, but for the time being the results are acceptable. The resulting Web database very closely resembles the design and functions of the original file and can be fully accessed and even modified from within a browser window.

Users who are familiar with Microsoft Excel and would like to provide more flexible access to the data in their spreadsheets will appreciate the improved functionality of importing named ranges of cells from Excel.

For users with more sophisticated needs, FileMaker Pro can exchange and update data with ODBC-compliant applications including Oracle and Microsoft SQL Server. FileMaker's powerful-but-often-confusing scripting capability has been improved and expanded, with a more intuitive interface and support for up to 20 script steps, retaining the functions when carried over to Web-hosted databases.

FileMaker has offered cross-platform compatibility for some time, allowing users to share files over an intranet or seamlessly between Windows and Mac versions of FileMaker Pro. Version 5.5 now adds support for Windows 2000 Professional.

Working (mostly) in X

FileMaker Pro was one of the first programs to fully commit to Mac OS X (not too surprising, as FileMaker is a subsidiary of Apple) and the latest release offers a completely native version. The CD includes installers for both Classic and OS X. But it's obvious their commitment is still being refined. Two features, ODBC import and toolbars, supported in FileMaker Pro 5.5 for Mac OS 8.1 through 9.1 are not supported in the OS X version. FileMaker Mobile, the soon-to-be-updated application that allows FileMaker databases to be accessed on a Palm device, is not yet supported by Mac OS X.

FileMaker continues to include a printed manual with the program and it's a good introduction to using the product as well as a handy reference for the multitude of features. The built-in online Help system is also well organized and provides a lot of useful general information.

The improvements and additions of version 5.5, as well as FileMaker's promising future development of the product, add to FileMaker Pro's reputation as one of the most important applications made for the Mac. More information about FileMaker Pro is available in a Flash-driven "Overview Presentation" on the FileMaker web site (http://www.filemaker.com). A fully-functional 30-day trial version is available for download.

System requirements
• A Mac with a PPC 601 processor or higher/G3 computer or higher (excluding G3 upgrade cards) for OS X
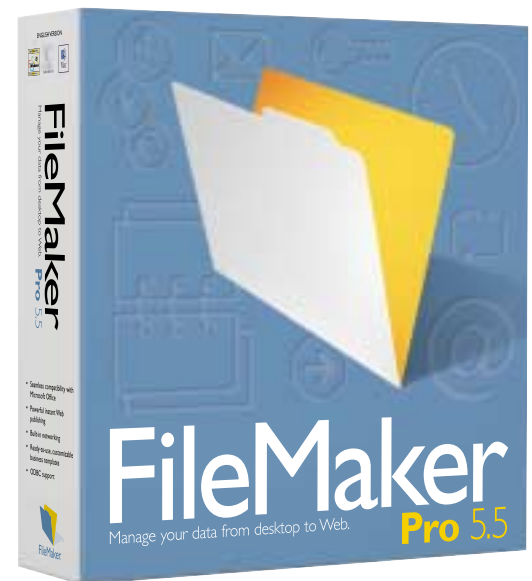• at least 32 MB of RAM/128 MB for Mac OS X
• at least 24 MB of available hard drive free space
• a CD or DVD drive
• System 8.1 or later
• Mac OS 8.6 or later required for Web Companion and ODBC features.

Pricing
$249 Basic version, allowing networking with up to nine other users
$149 Upgrade for owners of FileMaker Pro 2.1 or later FileMaker Pro Developer Edition 4.0, and FileMaker Developer 5.

Filemaker related Web sites
http://www.filemaker.com
http://www.filemakerworld.com
http://www.fmforums.com
http://www.databasepros.com
http://www.vizmotion.com
http://www.fmptraining.com
http://www.ironclad.net.au/lists/fmpexperts/
http://www.advisor.com/www/FileMakerProAdvisor/

Reviewer's Rating: 4 peaches

Do you want to review your favorite software? Send it in to
robert_cameron@atlmug.org!

How to Write For Maclanta

like these will be of immeasurable help to the beginner.

If you're writing a how-to article, then you should decide on a straight-forward topic, maybe a single feature of a software product. You should state, in advance, what experience level users should have with the product. And you should write as if you were working with someone of that experience level. You may want to define technical terms that are important, yet potentially unfamiliar to the target audience you're writing for.

Regardless of the type of article you're writing there are some other things you should keep in mind. Your article should be at least four to five paragraphs in lengths. You should submit your review as a Word file or a plain text (SimpleText, TextEdit, BBEdit, etc.) file. Screenshots, or product shots, are encouraged—remember a picture is worth a thousand words! Simple screen shots can be made in either Mac OS 9.x and earlier, or Mac OS X, using command-option-3 for whole screen, cmd-opt-4 for a marquee selection tool for shots of part of the screen, or cmd-opt-caps lock-4 for just a window. There are also third party programs (SnapzPro for example) that allow for more advanced screen shots. Mac OS X comes with a similar application called Grab, which is located in the Utilities folder inside the Applications folder.

And lastly you should communicate your intent to the Newsletter Director. This will allow space to be allotted for your review, and will keep duplicates from being submitted. When you're ready to have your review published, contact Robert Cameron at robert_cameron@atlmug.org.

HOW DO YOU USE YOUR MAC?

Stan Allen, Mac User

(*stan_allen@atlmug.org*)

I use my Mac for a lot of different things. Its flexibility is one of the things that make it superior to a Windows PC. Actually, this is not a "how I use my Mac" story exactly, but more of a "this old Mac" story.

I work at a Catholic hospital as an audio-visual technician. One of my responsibilities is to provide 24/7 music on one of our hospital closed-circuit channels. This channel has a view of the hospital chapel and is used to broadcast Mass into the patients' rooms live daily. When there is no service, there is a view of the chapel with the music playing at all times.

We rent the rights to 10 CDs of music for this purpose. In the past, we have used a standard CD player to play the music continuously. The problem with this approach is that the player and even the CDs themselves do not hold up for that kind of continuous use. After getting a price of over $200.00 to replace yet another CD player after just one year of use, I started thinking of another way to solve the problem.

This is where the Mac comes in. I recently received a donation of a Power Mac 7200/75 from the hospital library. It had been used for a few years in a kiosk that had recently been discarded. I was glad to receive the machine, but as a multimedia machine, its useful purposes are limited. It has very few upgrade options and since it was designed for use in a kiosk, it only had a minimum configuration of Mac OS 7.5, 16 MB of RAM and a 500 MB hard drive.

Still, I figured that, with some minor upgrades, I could turn it into a 24/7 digital music playing "jukebox" using iTunes and AppleScript. All I needed for this was OS 9, the minimum RAM requirements for the OS (64 MB), and enough hard drive space to store the MP3 files that I would "rip," or digitize from the 10 music CDs I had licensed.

After I figured how much hard drive space I would need to store 10 CDs worth of music, (60-75 megabytes per CD), I used the AMUG Online Community to find and purchase a good used 4-GB drive for $35.00. I then got on the web and found the cheapest price on the RAM I needed ($19.97 plus ship-

ping) and ordered it. Finally, I had an extra copy of OS 9 lying around from when I purchased my last Mac, so I donated it to the hospital.

After getting all the hardware upgrades and OS 9 installed, I installed a copy of the free music program from Apple, iTunes 1.1 and began "ripping" or converting all the CDs to MP3 digital audio files that would be stored on the hard drive. This is where I ran into my only problem. The 7200 was dreadfully slow at this because its processor wasn't up to the task. To speed this up, I took the CDs over to my brand new dual-GHz Power Mac G4 and ripped the CDs. It took only a couple of minutes to rip each CD with the G4. It's a very speedy machine! I then copied the MP3 over to the 7200 using the built-in networking on both machines. I copied all the files

into my iTunes music folder inside the documents folder and added them all to my iTunes music library using the "add to library" command. Then I set iTunes to loop continuously while it played all the tracks.

Now that I had my "jukebox" put together, I wanted to make sure that I didn't have too restart it every time there was a power failure. I could have bought an uninterruptable power supply, but we're talking no budget here. Since the Mac has all these capabilities built-in, configuring it to restart and start playing after a power failure is pretty easy.

I just went to the Energy Saver Control Panel and chose the "auto start after power failure" option. Still, I needed iTunes to launch and start playing automatically when the Mac restarted. To accomplish this, I had to write my first AppleScript!

Actually, it was not too hard at all. I

had played around some with Apple-Script before, so I at least knew some of the processes involved in writing a Script. First I launched the Script Editor application located in the AppleScript folder in the Apple Extras Folder on the hard drive. AppleScript was automatically installed when I installed OS 9. Then, using the online help and looking at the sample scripts, I was able to write the basic script I needed to get the job done. Here it is:

```
tell application "iTunes"
    activate
    tell application "iTunes"
        play
    end tell
end tell
```

Easy enough, especially since the script editor has a syntax checker that tells you what you did wrong. Just click the "check syntax" button in the Script Editor and it will at least give you a clue to anything you might have done incorrectly in typing your script.

After testing the script, I saved it as a self-running application and put it in the startup items folder inside the system folder. This will make the script run every time the Mac is started up.

And there you have it! With software that comes free with every Mac and a few small hardware upgrades ($61.00 total), I now have a 24/7 MP3 music-playing machine that starts itself up and continues playing music automatically after a power failure. It should keep playing until a hardware failure occurs, hopefully many years into the future. By then, I'll probably have another Mac lying around to replace it. And that is how I used that particular Mac.

How do you use your Mac?
Write in and let us know!

OS 9). The update fixes what the company calls a "potential security bug."
http://www.webstar.com/downloads/webstarupdates.html

iMac Prices Increased by $100

Citing the rising costs of memory and flat-panel LCD displays, Steve Jobs of Apple Computer announced at Macworld Expo Tokyo that the new iMac line is increasing in price by $100. The starting model is now $1,399, the mid-level is $1,599 and the high-end model is $1,899. All orders placed on or before March 20th will be honored at the original price.

Apple Introduces 10GB iPod and Software

On March 20th, Apple revealed a new addition to its iPod line: an iPod with a 10GB drive, for $499. This complements the 5GB iPod, $399. At the recent Macworld Expo Tokyo, Steve Jobs commented that "With the new 10GB iPod, you can listen to your music continuously on six round-trip flights between San Francisco and Tokyo and never hear the same song twice." In addition, Apple has made free software available that allows iPod users to download and store contact lists of up to 1,000 names and addresses. These contacts lists can be transferred from Entourage, Palm Desktop or OS X's Address Book. For enhanced playback, Apple has added 20 equalizer presets. Custom laser engraving is also now available to personalize your iPod. Engraving runs $49 for up to two lines of text. http://www.apple.com/ipod/

Apple Introduces New 23-inch Flat Panel Display

At Macworld Tokyo, Apple introduced its newest display, a 23-inch flat panel display capable of 1920 x 1200 pixel res-

olution. It is less than two inches thick with an active-matrix liquid crystal display. The new display will be available in April for $3,400. Apple expects that it will be purchased by creative professionals who use Final Cut Pro to author HDTV content in its native resolution, which will easily fit on the screen with room to spare. http://www.apple.com

Macromedia Shipping Flash MX and Flash Player 6

Flash MX, Macromedia's latest version of its Flash development environment, and Flash Player 6 are available now from http://www.macromedia.com. Flash MX is $499 ($199 upgrade); Flash Player 6 is free.

Flash MX includes a natural and a Bezier-based drawing tool, a Free Transform tool, and Pixel-Level Snapping Control; an improved Timeline, ActionScript for developing data-driven Internet applications; integration with application server and transport protocols using URL-encoded or XML data; and shared runtime and author-time libraries. http://www.macromedia.com

Adobe Revenues Down But Company Still Profitable

Adobe reported that its revenues for first quarter of fiscal 2002 were $267 million, compared to $329 million a year ago and $264.5 million for the previous quarter. Assuming the purchase of Accelio Corporation for $72 million in stock will be completed in April, and assuming there will be no change in global market conditions that affect its customers, Adobe targets its revenue at $305-$325 million, a gross margin of 92%.

Apple Introduces Remote Desktop

Apple announced its solution for monitoring an all-Mac network: Apple Remote Desktop. This software, billed as "remote control for your Mac," allows an administrator to view what is

happening on any Mac on the local are network or remotely via the Internet. Drag-and-drop is also supported for distributing software, and Remote Desktop can be used for group demos, providing online assistance to individuals, auditing software, and performing file maintenance. There are two editions: a 10-client edition and an unlimited edition (which supports up to 5,000 Macs). Both editions require a server running OS 10.1 or higher. Client machines can be running OS 8.1 or higher.
http://www.apple.com/remotedesktop/

MySQL Studio Released for OS X

MySQL Studio, produced by PremiumSoft, has been released for OS X. MySQL Studio is a set of graphical interface for configuring MySQL and creating databases, tables and indexes. Requires OS 10.1 or higher.
http://www.mysqlstudio.com

Sibelius 2 Music Notation Software Carbonized

The Sibelius Group has announced Sibelius 2 for OS X and OS 8.6 and higher, expected to be available around the end of March. This release includes more than 200 new features and enhancements such as playback of non-adjacent staves; improved recognition of staccato, tenuto and tied notes in Flexitime; more than 300 instruments and 130 types of manuscript paper; many additional keyboard shortcuts; contextual menus; improved graphics import and export; and additional plug-ins. The Sibelius Group claims to have released the first OS X-native music notation software, but it appears that NoteAbility Pro (http://debussy.music.ubc.ca/~opus1/NoteAbility/NAwelcome.html) was actually first. The Sibelius Group has beaten Coda Music, however; Coda Music's Finale, considered by many to be the industry standard, is not expected as an OS X application until at least 2003.
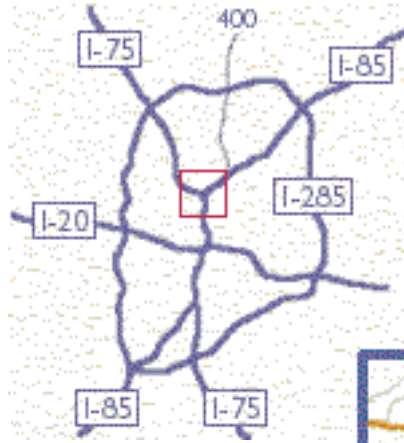http://www.sibelius.com

AMUG meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month at Macquarium (1800 Peachtree Street NW, Suite 250; 404-554-4000).

Meetings start at 7 pm and consist of a 30-minute Q & A session followed by a major presenter and then a raffle for free software, hardware, and stuff.

Go to http://www.amugonline.org/meetings/ for detailed driving directions.

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