

NEWS BREAK

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June 2004

JUNE 1, 2004 MEETING

iLife '04 and GarageBand - Tom Fitzpatrick and Sven Anderson

Join us on Tuesday, June 1 at 7:30 p.m. in Hogdon IRC lecture hall #1 on the SUNY Oneonta campus for our June MUG ONE meeting. Tom Fitzpatrick and Sven Anderson will help us dig in deeper into the cool features of iLife '04, comprised of iPhoto 4, iMovie 4, iDVD 4, the just-released iTunes 4.5, and GarageBand.

Questions and answers, door prizes and refreshments will round out the meeting. And one lucky MUG ONE member will win a copy of iLife '04. Don't miss the fun!

For directions to the meeting, see SUNY Oneonta's detailed campus maps:

<http://www.oneonta.edu/navigation/directions.asp>

Or download John Maas's annotated Oneonta map: <http://www.mugone.com/images/OneontaStreetMap.pdf>

MACWORLD BOSTON 2004 UPDATE

Until June 18 user group members can register for discounted attendance at Macworld Conference & Expo, coming to Boston's new Convention and Exhibition Center July 12-15. To receive the discount, enter the user group discount code H0101 (zeros and ones) on the registration page: <http://www.macworldexpo.com>

O'Reilly Media is offering free Expo show floor passes. Email Marsee Henon at marsee@oreilly.com to get yours.

On July 12 the Apple User Group Advisory Board will be offering the second annual User Group Leadership Conference. This half day conference is open to all user group leaders and advocates. For registration information, go to <http://www.mugcenter.com/uglc/boston2004/>

Updated information on Macworld Boston user group activities can be found at <http://www.mugcenter.com/macworld/mwboston2004/>

MUG ONE TAKES A SUMMER BREAK

MUG ONE will take our traditional summer break for the next two months, with no regular meetings scheduled for July or August. If we decide to offer a special meeting (an evening of Photoshop training videos from Software Cinema is a possibility) we'll notify members by email.

Look for the next regularly scheduled MUG ONE meeting, and the next issue of Newsbreak, in early September.

Visit MUG ONE's web site at <http://www.mugone.com>



Apple User Group Advisory Board members Lorene Romero (vendor relations), Elsa Travisano and Sandy Foderick (new Bulletin editor) sporting henna Apple tattoos.

NEW EDITOR FOR APPLE USER GROUP BULLETIN

For the past two years MUG ONE president Elsa Travisano has worn two editorial hats. Elsa has edited Newsbreak, our monthly newsletter, since October 1997. When she was appointed to the Apple User Group Advisory Board in January 2002, Elsa also took on the editorship of the Apple User Group Bulletin and AUG Quick Bytes for the Apple User Group program. The AUG Bulletin, Apple's official user group publication, is distributed

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MEETING MINUTES: MAY 4, 2004

“Apple Product Overview” – Apple Senior Engineer David M. Marra

On Tuesday, May 4, 2004 at 7:30 p.m., President Elsa Trivisano began the meeting by introducing herself and welcoming members and guests to Hodgdon IRC lecture hall 1 on the State University College of Oneonta campus. She invited guests to join MUG ONE with inducements including membership extended through September 2005 and special raffle prizes from at least 12 vendors. Special prizes tonight included Microsoft Office X for Mac (educator version), Adobe Acrobat 6.0, Total Training for Adobe Photoshop CS DVD set (\$300 value), books from O'Reilly, Peachpit, McGraw-Hill/Osborne, Tidbits/Take Control and Sybex, You Control and You Synchronize software from You Software, and more.

Joanne Johnston sold several copies of the Breen's Bungalow QuickTime CDs at \$2 each and took seven new and renewing members' money while Elsa announced a G3 Powerbook for sale by a MUG ONE member. Contact Elsa for more information. She is seeking book and software reviewers for Newsbreak. The digital transition for the newsletter is a success so far. Please be sure to email mugone@mac.com or inform Joanne Johnston if your email or physical address changes.

Program

Without further delay, Apple Senior Systems Engineer Dave Marra began the fastest, clearest and loudest unamplified presentation we have had since he visited us last year. He began by stating that since January Apple had introduced 50 new products, including 12", 17" and then 15" G5 Powerbooks with Airport included, 12" and 14" G4 iBooks and 17" eMacs (starting at \$799, and schools can get them for as low as \$599). He covered them all! The 15" and 17" Powerbooks have a keyboard that illuminates when the ambient light dims! You can now order SuperDrives that burn CDs and DVDs on all models, including the iBook. SuperDrives write your files to CDs and DVDs in HFS and 9660 formats so they can be read by Mac or Windows systems. All have built in Bluetooth short range wireless technology to run peripherals. The newest Airport Extreme base station runs at 54 Mbps (faster!) and gets power from the ethernet cable, so no need for the clunky transformer power cable/jack. You know your computer has an Airport card if you see "Airport" in the Network menu under Preferences. Finally, Dave showed the new iPod mini. It weighs 3.6 oz, measures 3.6" x 2" x 1/2", and come in 5 colors for \$249.

On to software. Dave talked about Final Cut Express, a semi-pro video editing package with many of the top features of the Pro version that costs \$299, \$700 less than Final Cut Pro 4.0. If iMovie's one video and two audio tracks limits your

creativity, Express has 99 tracks for each.

On to iLife '04, the suite of iTunes, iPhoto, iMovie, iDVD and now GarageBand. They are all integrated to work seamlessly together. Use iTunes (free update to 4.5 available) to play back digital audio. The iTunes Music Store offers 700,000 songs that can be purchased online at 99¢ each.

iPhoto 4 is faster, imports 25,000 digital photos, organizes and archives to CD or DVD. A nifty feature is one click Enhance. Turn on sharing in the Preferences menu and you can share photos, slide shows enhanced with music from your iTunes play list, and even movies over a local network. iMovie allows nondestructive editing of your camcorder videos, or putting your photos into a video, adding audio and animation (Ken Burns effect) to them. You can now use the iSight camera to capture footage for iMovie, and it has new font support for text. You can use iDVD to burn your movies, but only if your Mac has a SuperDrive. Then you can play them on your TV. New Macs come with iLife '04 and buy it for \$49 retail, \$29 academic. The suite requires OS X 10.2.6 or later.

Next came GarageBand with 65 instruments sampled, not simulated. Over 100 more are available in GarageBand Jam Pack for \$99, \$79 academic. You can select or play and record up to 64 individual tracks and the software automatically matches tempo and pitch to sound best together. It exports an AIFF file to iTunes. Asked about importing a record collection, Dave pointed out that existing CDs can just be loaded on to your hard drive directly, but to get tapes and vinyl records you might need Sound Studio from feltpipsoftware.com. For sound input you might need an analog to USB adaptor for some instruments. You can record from speakers with the internal microphone (not recommended) or use a USB microphone.

Tom, Brian and Elsa started the silent raffle as Dave began to demonstrate iPhoto, showing how to do one-click red eye correction and photo enhancement. He cautioned not to install the software that comes with your camera, but to let iPhoto handle image importing and exporting. You can size your photos for printing on the fly now, and order photos and books from Kodak.

To demo GarageBand, Dave used an M-Audio Keystation 49e keyboard (\$100) to record a tune, then added drums and other instruments in several drag-and-drop tracks. When asked if there was a time limit, Dave said he never exceeded it, so I suspect the limit is your storage limit on the hard drive. Dave then manipulated some photos and made up a slide show with transitions, accompanied by the song he had just made played during the show. Nifty.

If you liked his presentation, Dave requested you write him at marra@apple.com or visit Dave's web site at www.marrathon.com. The presentation is all there, and he needs our feedback to convince Apple to let him continue doing this.

While we finished the raffle (every member took home a
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SOFTWARE REVIEWS



You Control

You Software www.yousoftware.com

\$69.95, \$39.95 user group download price through July 31, 2004.

You Control is a mini-suite of applications called “menu utilities.” It is an all-around helper that creates menus which you can access from convenient places. Menus can contain programs and files, utilities for tracking stocks, weather, international time, your calendar, address book, iTunes songs, your pasteboard, recent documents, newsgroups, and some other incidentals.

The basic thing You Control does is allow you to add menus to the menu bar or elsewhere on your screen. This can save you time if you want to be able to access, say, quotes to particular stocks you are tracking, without having to open a program or website to search for them. For example, you can have a menu of your favorite songs from iTunes which you can access from any place you specify on your screen to play them without having to open iTunes (very cool!) You Control can help save you steps in accomplishing daily tasks.

You Control also allows you to place a drop-down menu for any bunch of files that you need frequent access to (sort of like a Favorites bar that you can put anywhere, not just in your dock).

A great advantage is that you don't have to have your menu clutter your screen at all. You can create custom keystrokes to access them. The menu remains hidden until you hit those keys. This is very handy if you are the kind of person who likes the efficiency of hot keys.

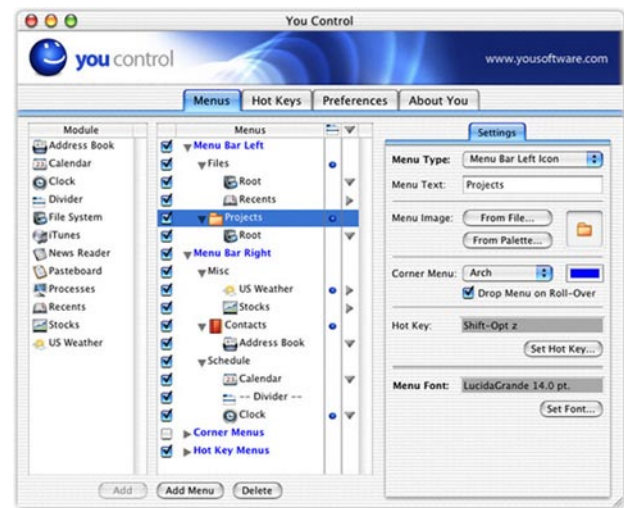
This program was fairly easy to get started with. It is a drag-and-drop deal - nothing heavy. The instruction PDF is only 30 pages long, and the real meat is only about 20 simple pages. Nothing to fear here.

The first thing I created was a weather menu. I arranged it to have the menu for the weather in Otego, NY in the Finder menu bar. It was a cinch. One drawback is that it is not entirely

current, (the report was from 30 minutes ago). The bigger drawback was that it was reported from the Monticello, NY, which is about 80 miles away! The weather service it uses seems not to be the most optimal.

Then I created a menu to track some stocks, but it turns out that they are not real-time quotes. They are from up to 30 minutes ago. This may or may not be of urgency to you, as it isn't to me, but I thought you should know about it.

You Control also can create a menu to a clock on your menu bar. “So what?” you may say, “I already have one.” Well, the clock that comes standard with Mac OS is pretty basic. With You Control, you can have the menu drop down the times in



multiple places. For example, I have the time for LA and Berlin displayed when I mouse-over the clock. The clock menu also has some other extras.

The pasteboard module is very useful. We have all had the experience of wanting to cut and paste multiple items at one time to several files or programs. You Control keeps a memory of up to the last 50 items you saved to the clipboard. I know I will use this constantly.

Several people have mentioned to me that they use programs (some of which are free- or shareware) that accomplish one or two of the utilities of You Control, and better, at that. This is true. But if you wanted to do all of the cool things this program does, you'd have to shell out more than the price of You Control. And you'd have to read a lot more documentation.

My take so far: Worth it if you need to accomplish two or more of the above tasks. For any one of them, I would check around for freeware, or a cheaper program. I suggest anyone interested check out the free trial first to see if it is right for you.

– BRIAN FOLEY

System Requirements: Mac OS X 10.2.6 or higher including Mac OS X v.10.3, internet connection for product activation.

SOFTWARE REVIEWS



iLife '04

Apple <http://www.apple.com/ilife/>
\$49. Academic pricing available.

The iLife suite of applications is one of the best reasons I can think of for owning a “modern” (OS X-capable) Mac. iPhoto 4, iTunes 4.2 (a free update to iTunes 4.5 is available online) iMovie 4, iDVD 4 and GarageBand allow regular people to do amazing things with photos, music and movies. Best of all, the iLife applications make it possible, and even easy, to share your creative stuff with others.

iPhoto

Almost everyone either takes photos or gets them from friends and family via email. iPhoto lets you import and organize your photos, scans and other images, keep them all together in one place, and share them through email, slideshows for iMovie and iDVD, books, prints, and even on .Mac web pages.

The first best thing about iPhoto is how easy it is to import photos. Plug in your digital camera’s USB cable or a card reader and iPhoto automatically opens. Then click Import. If there are pictures from an earlier import on your digital media card, iPhoto 4 now asks if you want to import them (earlier versions of iPhoto could only import a card’s entire contents). That’s all there is to it. Veterans of complicated imports using camera-supplied software will welcome iPhoto’s simplicity. However, it would be nice to be able to import only selected shots, as is possible with some camera software.

The next best thing is how fast iPhoto 4 moves. Now you can scroll speedily through your photo collection, even if it numbers in the tens of thousands. Resizing, editing and deleting images, switching between albums and modes; it’s all much faster. Users of slower Macs will especially appreciate the speed-up.

To help with searching and organizing, iPhoto 4 adds star ratings and Smart Albums, making it easier to find just the pictures you’re looking for. You can now assign star ratings to photos along with titles, comments and keywords, then create Smart albums of, say, all photos with the keyword “birthday” or with a rating of four stars or higher. New photos with the same keywords or ratings are automatically added to the Smart Albums. It’s still not possible to create albums within albums,

a feature request I often hear. I hope that capability will be added in a future version.

The last best new iPhoto 4 features are for enhancing your slideshows. There are new transitions to jazz up your presentations, including the cool rotating cube from Keynote. And you’re no longer limited to a single song - now you can use a whole playlist from iTunes, or even music you compose in GarageBand. Finally, it’s now possible to share your photos with everyone on the same network via Rendezvous.

iTunes

iTunes manages your music the way iPhoto manages your photos. It’s the one iLife component that is still free; iTunes 4.5, an upgrade that came out after iLife '04 was issued, can be downloaded from the Apple website.

iTunes lets you organize and listen to your music the way you want. To add music, copy the CDs you own into iTunes (yes, it’s legal) or purchase tunes online from the iTunes Music Store. iTunes 4.5 allows you to listen to the music and audiobooks you purchase through the iTunes Music Store (accessible only through iTunes) on up to five computers, up from the previous limit of three. You can also purchase audiobooks online from Audible www.audible.com.

For the CDs you “rip,” or add, to iTunes the program automatically connects to the internet to retrieve song title, performer, composer, album and genre information from the CDDDB online database. The iTunes Music Store supplies its own data along with each download. You can add or change the data if you wish, as well as rate each song with one to five stars. iTunes 4.5 retrieves and displays the album or book cover artwork if available, which can be printed for a CD jewel case insert. iTunes lets you listen to your music or audiobooks at your Mac, transfer songs or Playlists to an iPod or other MP3 player for listening on the go, and create CDs in audio format for listening on your home or portable CD player or in your car.

To customize your listening experience you can arrange your songs into Playlists, which can be ordered any way you choose. The same song can be added to multiple Playlists if you wish. iTunes 4.5 lets you create Smart Playlists to play songs based on a wide range of criteria including artist, composer, your star ratings, genre and year or range of years. It’s easy to make a Smart Playlist that plays random songs from, say, the years you were in high school. If you have the urge to share your Playlists, you can play them over a local network or publish them to the iTunes Music Store to let others enjoy your musical taste.

Another iTunes 4.5 addition, Party Shuffle, is a Smart Playlist that plays continuously from a Playlist or from all of iTunes. The latter is not recommended if your collection includes audiobooks, unless you don’t mind shifting abruptly from the tunes of the Grateful Dead to the short stories of Earnest Hemingway.

continued on page 5

– *iLife '04, continued from page 4*

iTunes integrates with the other iLife applications so you can add soundtracks to iMovie, iDVD and iPhoto slideshows. It also stores your GarageBand compositions. Note that iTunes is optimized for music and is not yet ideal for managing audiobooks. There's still no way to mark your place, or to skip from chapter to chapter. This becomes an issue when you're navigating through an audiobook that might be ten hours or more in length.

iMovie

iMovie is a video editing application that lets you create movies from digital video, still photos and even analog video if you have an adapter.

To bring video from a Firewire-equipped camcorder into iMovie simply switch the camcorder to VCR mode, connect it to your Mac with a Firewire (IEEE 1394) cable, launch iMovie, rewind or fast-forward to find the clip you want, and import it into your project. iMovie 4 also lets you capture a live audio and video stream from an iSight camera.

If you don't have a camcorder you can create iMovies from still photos. You can also incorporate still photos with your video clips. iMovie displays the contents of your iPhoto albums, so finding the photos you want is a no-brainer. The "Ken Burns effect" pans and zooms photos to create a sense of motion; this can be individually adjusted or disabled for each photo.

Once you've done your importing, the Timeline is where you assemble and edit your clips and photos, add a soundtrack, and apply special effects and transitions. iMovie 4 makes editing easier by allowing you to apply transitions and effects to multiple clips at the same time, even if they're not next to one another.

iMovie 4 now uses nondestructive editing, which means that the parts of a video clip you don't want to use are hidden rather than moved to the Trash. If you later decide to use those parts, they can be revealed on the Timeline.

When you're done, you can export your final product to iDVD, to videotape, to QuickTime format for web, CD or email distribution, or to your camcorder to play it back on a TV without a VCR or DVD player. You can publish your movie on your .Mac homepage, or create a Bluetooth version to beam to a cell phone or PDA. How cool is that?

iDVD

iDVD is where all your iLife projects come together. The application lets you turn your movies, photos and music into professional-looking DVDs to share with your family and friends. No computer is needed to view your efforts; just a consumer DVD player.

It's breathtakingly easy to choose a theme and pull together content in iDVD 4. Clicking on the Customize button at the bottom of the iDVD window opens a side drawer with buttons for Themes, Settings, Media, and Status. iDVD 4 ships

with twenty new themes; you can also purchase additional themes and use ones from earlier versions of iDVD. Choose a theme, then click the Media button to browse and drag photos or entire albums from your iPhoto Library, music from your iTunes Library and Smart Lists (sortable by title, artist and time to help you choose a song that's the right length) and movies from your Movies folder. Customize the fonts, colors, text and button size and location of the Theme menus in the Settings window. Finally, monitor how much DVD capacity you have left in the Status window - you can now burn a DVD up to two hours long.

Designing your menu navigation system requires planning, especially if it involves sub-menus. The new Map button helps by displaying a chart of your menus, movies, slide shows and folders.

GarageBand

GarageBand, the new addition to the iLife suite, is for creating and recording your own music, and it's been taking the music world by storm. GarageBand is a virtual sound studio that lets you play over 50 different synthesized instruments using the onscreen keyboard or a MIDI keyboard, record your own performances by plugging a USB or MIDI-equipped keyboard, guitar or microphone into your Mac, and lay down background tracks from more than 1000 prerecorded loops.

Like iMovie, GarageBand uses a Timeline with rows of tracks. Use the Browse button to search loops by genres, instruments and moods to find the sounds you want, then drag and drop into the timeline. Each MIDI instrument, real instrument or loop line that you add occupies an individual track with its own mixer controls. Tracks can be transposed to different keys, and individual notes can be edited and adjusted for loudness. In fact, there's a dizzying array of effects that can be added to each track. The number of tracks you can work with depends on your Mac's horsepower - the program is very demanding.

You can create compositions without touching an instrument by combining and manipulating loops. But you'll have much more control - and fun - if you add a microphone, an adapter for your guitar or a USB MIDI keyboard like the \$99 M-Audio Keystation 4. Finished recordings can be exported to iTunes so you can add them to iLife projects, burn them to CDs or listen on your Mac or iPod.

GarageBand is so capable, an overview barely scratches the surface. It's a remarkable addition to the iLife suite.

At \$49, and free with new Macs, it's hard to imagine a better bargain than iLife '04, or a more rewarding collection of applications.

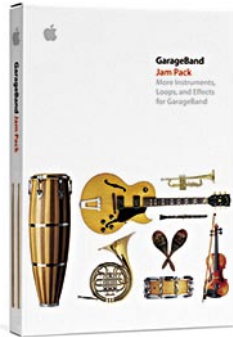
– ELSA TRAVISANO.

System Requirements: PowerPC G3, G4 or G5 processor, 600MHz or faster required for GarageBand, G4 or faster required for garageBand software instruments, 733MHz G4 or faster required for iDVD, 256MB of physical RAM, display with at least 1024-by-768 pixel

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– *iLife '04, continued from page 5*

resolution, Mac OS X v.10.2.6 or later (v.10.2.8 or later recommended), QuickTime 6.4 or later (QuickTime 6.5 included), DVD drive required to install GarageBand and iDVD, 4.3GB of disk space required to install GarageBand, iTunes, iPhoto, iMovie, and iDVD; or 250MB to install iTunes, iPhoto and iMovie only.



GarageBand Jam Pack

<http://www.apple.com/ilife/garageband/accessories.html>

Apple, \$99. Academic pricing available.

Now that you've cut your teeth on GarageBand, would you like to explore world music instruments and rhythms? Add rock, folk, hip-hop or electronic loops to your compositions? Are you searching for just the right guitar amplifier sound? Or maybe you're looking for sci fi sound textures to add to your iMovie?

GarageBand Jam Pack, Apple's collection of additional GarageBand content, lets you expand your musical horizons with an impressive collection of software instruments, loops and

special effects. Like GarageBand, the Jam Pack collection is royalty-free so you can use it with no worries about infringing on the rights of the recording musicians.

Loops are prerecorded musical performances that add virtual musicians to your composition. GarageBand Jam Pack comes with more than 2000 loops, over 100 new instruments and 15 new guitar amplifier sounds.

The collection also includes over 100 custom "mixing board" effects tailored by professional recording engineers. Effects can be applied to sweeten, distort or adjust the sound of individual sounds or entire tracks.

Exploring the collection is just plain fun. How many of you know what an oud sounds like? Or a djembe? (Music teachers can put down their hands). You'll find loops of both instruments, as well as a variety of vibraphones, electric pianos, drums, basses, synthesizers and many more sounds to enrich your compositions.

GarageBand Jam Pack comes on a DVD and installs seamlessly into GarageBand. Jam Pack loops are indicated with a blue "audio wave" icon in the Loop Browser, while GarageBand's pre-installed loops have a green musical note icon.

Many users will be satisfied with the loops, instruments and effects that come with GarageBand. But if you're eager for more, GarageBand Jam Pack is a worthy purchase.

– ELSA TRAVISANO

System Requirements: Macintosh computer with 600MHz PowerPC G3 processor or faster to use GarageBand; PowerPC G4 or G5 to use software instruments, 256MB of physical RAM, GarageBand software installed, Mac OS X version 10.2.6 or later, 3GB of available hard disk space, DVD drive for installation.

BEGINNER'S CORNER - DESKTOP PICTURES FROM IPHOTO

Want to do something amazing with iPhoto? It is simple and fun.

Do you have any pictures in iPhoto yet? If not, here's how to put one in:

- Open iPhoto by clicking on it in the dock.
- Now just drag any photo from anywhere on your computer (you can even use one attached in an e-mail) right onto the iPhoto window.

You just added a photo to iPhoto. Now here is the cool thing you can do with it, or any photo already in iPhoto.

- On the left side of the iPhoto window is a list of icons. The top icon is called "Photo Gallery". Click on that.
- Near the bottom of the iPhoto window there are four buttons labeled Import, Organize, Edit and Book. Make sure Organize is highlighted. If it isn't, click on it.

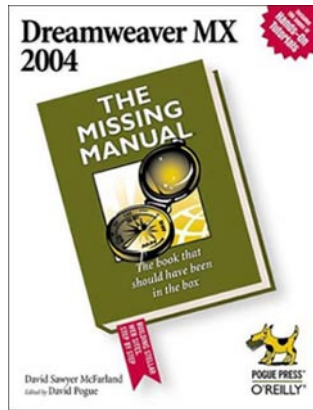
- Scroll through your photos until you find one you like. Click once on the photo you like, then look at the row of icons across the bottom of the Window for the icon labeled Desktop. Click that.

You should now have that photo as your desktop screen image, even after you quit iPhoto.

You can change the picture any time you like. It only takes a second. Just repeat the above steps.

If you highlight more than one photo from iPhoto (hold down the Apple key to select multiple photos) and then click Desktop, you will get a dialogue box to set "preferences" - like how long you would like the desktop to wait till it changes to the next photo in your series. The desktop screen image will rotate through all the photos that you highlighted, and change, say, every 5 minutes. Try this - you'll like it!

– BRIAN FOLEY



BOOK REVIEWS

Dreamweaver MX 2004, the Missing Manual, by David Sawyer McFarland. 836 pp. Pogue Press/O'Reilly, 2003. \$34.95.

The latest edition of the Dreamweaver Missing Manual series is much like previous versions in its logical, comprehensive explanation of Macromedia's leading web design software. Using this manual will enable beginners to systematically create a web site from scratch while giving experts access to clear, detailed illustrations of all that is new in the update from MX to MX 2004.

Comparing the tables of contents of the previous edition and this one, Cascading Style Sheets are really coming to the fore as the way to define the look of html web pages. An expanded discussion of them has become the first chapter instead of the third in Part Two: Building a Better Web Page. After the second chapter on basic page layout, CSS is returned to with a discussion of using it for layout with layers, something that I would not dare attempt without these clear explanations.

One perk of the book is that the author has posted ten folders of tutorial materials for download which correlate to the tutorials at the ends of the relevant chapters. Online there is also the finished tutorial as a web page, plus a page of errata.

One thing feature in Dreamweaver MX 2004 that gets only passing mention in the book is the expanded mode when in Layout view. I would have given it a bit of discussion for I find it extremely useful when dealing with a table that I have created by slicing up an image in Photoshop or Fireworks.

This a manual that will I keep on hand and use a lot, so I wish the outside margins were not 1.625" wide on a 7" wide page, while the gutter margins are only .625". One has to keep pressing on the spine to read it when it's on your real desktop. Not what I was taught to do with books. Other than that, I may leave home without this book, but I don't use DWMX without it.

— JOHN MAAS

Mac OS X Panther Hands-On Training, by Garrick Chow with Lynda Weinman. 939 pp. plus CD-ROM. lynda.com/books/Peachpit Press, 2004. \$35.

Years of Macintosh consulting have taught me that people have different learning styles. One Mac user wants to hear a process described, another prefers to read about it, and a third may need to watch a video to make the information stick.

If you're someone who likes to learn by doing, Mac OS X Panther Hands-On Training by Garrick Chow will be right up your alley. The book and CD set, part of Lynda Weinmann's Hands-On Training (H.O.T.) series, gives beginner to intermediate Mac users the chance to jump in and experience OS X 10.3 first-hand (pun intended). The book guides readers through the Panther interface, the various facets of working online, the iLife applications and networking by completing numbered exercises. These exercises start with very basic tasks like using scroll bars and changing folder views, then move to more involved undertakings like editing and arranging iMovie clips and configuring a wireless connection.

Some of the exercises start with a process (like opening a series of browser windows in Safari) and then show a quicker or more efficient way of doing the same task - in this case, by opening new windows in tabs. Tabbed browsing can be a hard concept to grasp. Trying out the two approaches through a guided exercise is a terrific way learn first-hand why and when tabbed browsing makes sense.

The book's grey-scale screen shots clearly label the relevant aspects of a particular exercise's windows and dialog boxes. The CD adds printed instructions, exercise files - particularly for the iLife application chapters - and a dozen QuickTime movies showing Finder and application features. My one complaint is the sans serif typeface used for the book's body text. It is distinctive looking but is hard to read, especially in larger doses. Aside from that quibble, it's a fine choice for learning Panther. If you like to learn by doing, this book is a winner.

— ELSA TRAVISANO

Special Offers from the May 2004 Apple User Group Bulletin

These special offers are brought to you by the Apple User Group Advisory Board. You must be a current user group member to qualify for these savings. Not a member? Join today and take advantage of all the benefits of membership.

Que Publications

Dreaming of touring the world, seeing your name in lights and partying like a rock star? Who knows? It could happen. Let Que's "MacAddict Guide to Making Music with GarageBand" free your inner rock star and show you how to create, perform and record your own music.

Get 40 percent off the \$24.99 book (free shipping for U.S. customers).

<http://www.quepublishing.com/title/0789732262>

Coupon code *****

Offer is valid until October 31, 2004.

Digital Element

Digital Element is offering Apple user group Mac Photoshop users a download bundle of all of their Photoshop plugins (Aurora 2.1, Verdant and Modelshop) for only \$199, a \$300 savings. (Offer only for the Mac version and for Apple user group members.)

<http://www.digi-element.com>

Coupon code *****

Go to www.digi-element.com, select Store, Order Online, Bundles and choose one of the two Mac bundles, each regularly \$439).

Offer is valid until August 31, 2004.

Boinx iStopMotion and iVeZeen

Looking for exciting ways to use your webcam?

Create amazing stop motion animations or time lapse recordings with Boinx iStopMotion. Use Boinx iVeZeen to record video with your webcam. (The iSight is particularly well supported.)

Apple user group members can get an exclusive 20 percent discount on Boinx iStopMotion and/or Boinx iVeZeen. iStopMotion is regularly \$39.95 and iVeZeen is regularly \$14.95.

This worldwide offer is valid until August 31, 2004.

Get free demos, more info and the free MiracleSight Screensaver.

macXware

macXware welcomes Apple user groups with a 15 percent discount on any macXware website order.

Current Titles

- MacFonts - 1000 TrueType Fonts & FontManager
- MoreMacFonts - 750 New TrueType Fonts & FontManager
- LogoCreator - Create Your Own Identity
- MacBurn - CD & DVD Burning Software
- MediaEdit Pro - Video, Audio & Image Editor
- ScreenRecord - Capture On-Screen Actions
- PhotoEdit - Photo Editor & Paint Tool
- MacPac - Boost Your Mac Power

<http://www.macXware.com>

Coupon Code *****

Offer is valid until December 31, 2004.

PodShop

Like peanut butter and jelly, some things just go together. PodShop has designed the perfect companion for iPod, an acrylic stand/display that complements the look and feel. PodHolder is a beautiful and functional accessory built at the perfect angle, allowing one-thumb access to iPod while preventing scratches.

Regularly \$9.95, PodHolder is available to Apple user group members for \$7.95, a 20 percent discount.

Offer is valid until December 31, 2004.

The MUG Store

The MUG Store always has great deals for you. This Month's highlights include

- Refurbished eMacs starting at \$599
- Refurbished iBooks with Combo drive starting at \$899
- Refurbished iMacs starting at \$999
- Refurbished PowerBooks starting at \$1,099

But the MUG Store isn't just about refurbished Macs. They offer free freight, great deals on new Macs and other products, plus one percent back to your group when you buy from the store.

To get into this exclusive User Group site order today

<http://www.applemugstore.com>

User ID: *****

This password expires August 31, 2004.



MAC 911 – HELP DESK

By Christopher Breen

Like the gophers who decimated my recent agricultural efforts, this month's Mac 911 digs beneath the surface to expose the difficulties of converting iTunes music files, extracting video files from DVDs, putting an end to

Office snooping, and bringing light to dim PowerBook keyboards.

Becoming a Convert

I imported my CDs into iTunes as AIFF files. Now that I have an iPod, I'd like to convert those songs to the AAC format. Is this possible or must I rerip all my CDs?

Steve Hawley, Jacksonville, North Carolina

You don't need to feed the CDs to your Mac again, as you can use iTunes to convert files from AIFF to AAC. To do so, launch iTunes and select Preferences from the iTunes menu. Click on the Importing tab in the resulting window, select AAC Encoder from the Import Using pop-up menu, and click on OK to close the Preferences window.

In the iTunes window, select all the songs you want to convert, and choose Advanced: Convert Selection To AAC. All the selected songs will be duplicated, leaving you with two copies of each song -- the original AIFF file and the new AAC version.

To easily locate and delete the AIFF files, choose View Options from the Edit menu, and in the View Options window that appears, enable the Date Added option and click on OK. Click on the new Date Added heading in the iTunes window to sort your songs by the date they were added to your iTunes library. The new AAC files will appear at the top of the list; the older AIFF tunes, at the bottom. Select the AIFF files and press the delete key to remove them from the library.

Move Videos onto Your Mac

I recently purchased a Sony DCR-DVD100 camcorder that writes its output directly to DVD. Although I can copy the output files to my hard drive and play the video clips using Apple's DVD Player, Sony didn't supply Mac-compatible DVD-editing software with this product. Is there any software I can use to edit my movie clips?

Stephen Hart, Houston, Texas

The difficulty isn't so much finding software to edit the movie clips -- you can use Apple's iMovie once you get your video out of the camera and onto your Mac. The problems are that the DCR-DVD100 lacks a FireWire port and that, as you've discovered, the bundled software is incompatible with Mac OS.

To move video from this camcorder to your computer, you

must either use the camera's S-Video port in league with an analog-to-digital converter such as Canopus's \$299 ADVC100 (888/899-3348, <http://www.canopus.us>) or extract the video from one of the finished DVDs the camera produces.

To extract the video, convert the VOB (Video Object) files on the DVD to a format compatible with QuickTime. For this task, I use OpenShiiva (donations accepted; <http://openshiiva.sourceforge.net>) to convert the VOB files to MP4 files. After the files are saved in the MP4 format, drag them into iMovie, where they'll be automatically converted to a format acceptable to the program.

Note that this technique is also useful when you've burned a video with iDVD and deleted the source files from your hard drive, and you later need to extract the video files from the DVD for re-editing.

Office Annoyance

I'm on a closed Ethernet network within my company and use Microsoft Office v. X. Everyone in the office has his or her own copy of the software, yet my copy of Entourage quits at least twice an hour due to a license-conflict message. I have installed a brand-new copy of Office, and the same problem still occurs. Any thoughts on this?

Paul Rosenblit, Freeport, New York

What you're seeing is the license-checking "feature" that was built into early versions of Microsoft Office v. X. It was created so that you couldn't run the same copy of Office on multiple Macs. Fortunately, this feature disappears after you install the Microsoft Office v. X 10.1.2

Update (http://www.microsoft.com/mac/DOWNLOAD/OFFICEX/OfficeX_1012.asp).

The Art of iTunes

Where does iTunes store its album art files?

Erik Davila, San Antonio, Texas

Album art is stored in each song file. The advantage to this scheme is that when you move a song from one computer to another, the album art moves with it. The slight disadvantage is that song files with artwork are a bit larger than those without.

To see the difference for yourself, drag a song file out of iTunes and onto the desktop. Select it, press 1-I, and make a note of its size.

Now go to Amazon.com and download the album art for that song. (For example, I downloaded the cover art from the The Ultimate Collection.) Highlight all the songs from that album in iTunes' main window, press 1-I, and drag the JPEG art file you grabbed from Amazon into the Multiple Song Information window's Artwork field. After clicking on OK to close the Multiple Song Information window, you'll find that all the songs you selected now carry the album art.

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– *Mac 911, continued from page 9*

Drag the original song's file to the desktop and press 1-I to view its size. The file is larger -- how much larger depends on the complexity of the album art.

Console Capers

While glancing through the console.log file on my computer, I found an entry that reads "I got a control baby!" Am I being hacked?

Fausto E. Castillo, Buffalo, New York

No, what you see is an example of programmerspeak. That message is generated by Microsoft Office v. X's WordPDE plugin and is completely harmless.

Rummaging through page after page of a log file is more likely to confuse -- rather than inform -- the average user. But you can put Console and log files to good use. If, for example, an application crashes every time you perform a particular action, launch Console (found in the Utilities folder within the Applications folder), click on the Clear button to remove other entries from the log, and then perform that action. After The Bad Thing happens, return to Console and see what it has to say.

Granted, a message that reads "Assertion failure in -[NSMenuItemAtIndex:], Menu.subproj/ NSMenu.m:638" won't enlighten most of us, but the person or company responsible for the well-being of your ailing application may appreciate such an informative bug report.

Losing the Light

Since installing Panther on my 17-inch PowerBook G4, my keyboard doesn't always light up in dark conditions. Do you have any suggestions?

Mitch Santell, Oceanside, California

Judging by messages posted in Apple's Discussions forum, robust keyboard backlighting on the latest PowerBooks remains a work in progress. Although some people found relief only by returning the PowerBook to Apple for repair, others fixed the problem by performing some of the following actions:

1. Cover the speaker grilles with your hands. The ambient light sensor is under the grilles, and covering them briefly may force the keys to shine.
2. Reset the Power Manager and zap the PRAM. To reset the Power Manager, turn off the PowerBook, simultaneously press and release control-shift-option and the power button, wait five seconds, and then press the power button to restart the PowerBook.

To zap the PRAM, restart the Mac while holding down the 1-option-P-R keys and wait for the Mac to chime three times. Let go of the keys and the PowerBook will start up.

3. Repair permissions with Disk Utility (Applications: Utilities).

If none of these procedures work, it's time for your PowerBook to take a trip to Apple.

TIP OF THE MONTH

Occasionally I'll download a disk image that doesn't mount due to a "no mountable filesystems" error. I've recently learned that I needn't discard these seemingly broken images. Instead, I launch Disk Utility, drag the disk image into the list of volumes in the Disk Utility window, select the image, and click on Repair Disk. If the image can be repaired, Disk Utility will fix it, and afterward the disk image mounts.

Nathan Wilairat, Berkeley, California

UNSOLICITED ADVICE

With the introduction of iTunes 4.2, Apple allows not only those with Apple IDs to shop at the iTunes Music Store (iTMS) but also AOL members who've created credit card accounts through the AOL Wallets feature. If you have both an Apple ID and an AOL account, you're welcome to create an iTMS account for each.

Why bother? This is a useful option if you'd like to purchase and play music from a host of computers. When you purchase music from the iTMS, you're allowed to play that music on as many as three computers per account. If you've already authorized your two Macs and PC at home and later attempt to purchase and play music on your computer at work via your Apple account, you'll find that you can't, because you've exhausted your authorizations. With the additional authorizations that come with your new AOL account, you can purchase and play music at the office as well.

Note, however, that purchased music is identified by the account that purchased it. If you buy music via your AOL identity at the office and want to play it at home on a Mac authorized with your Apple ID, you must authorize that Mac for the AOL account. To do so, simply attempt to play the file. You'll be prompted for your AOL ID and password.

Macworld contributing editor Chris Breen is the author of Macworld's tips and troubleshooting column, "Mac 911," as well as Secrets of the iPod: Fourth Edition and Mac 911 (Peachpit Press). Find Chris' books at www.amazon.com and www.peachpit.com. Get special user group pricing on

Macworld Magazine! Subscribe today at <http://www.macworld.com/useroffer>.

MAC OS X 10.3.4 UPDATE RELEASED

Apple released Mac OS X Update 10.3.4 on May 26. The free update is available to to Mac OS X 10.3 (Panther) users as a download via Software Update under the Apple Menu. It can also be downloaded from Apple's website as a 39.5 MB update for users of OS 10.3.3, or as a 79MB combined update for users of 10.3 and higher. The release includes updated Address Book, Mail, Safari, Stickies and QuickTime applications, improved sharing and directory services, improved burning and recording and previous stand-alone security updates.

<http://www.apple.com/support/downloads/>

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– the Macintosh User Group of Oneonta, NY

Editor: Elsa Travisano

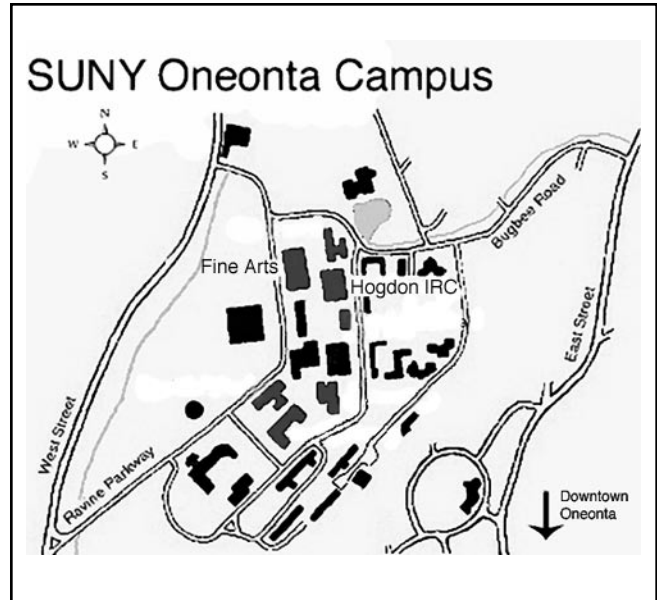
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– *May 4 Meeting, continued from page 2*

prize!), the diet Coke, Sprite, Oreos, and strawberry squares disappeared as we all communed. A very successful evening thanks to Dave, Elsa, Tom, John, Joanne and our members. [and Terry! Ed.]

More on iLife '04 next month when Sven Anderson and Tom Fitzpatrick will present “iLife '04 and GarageBand” on Tuesday, June 1 at 7:30 pm in Hodgdon IRC, lecture hall 1. If you didn't get to see Dave this month, or are eager to learn more about these amazing applications, join us for another view of these new programs and more of the fellowship and fun that is MUG ONE!

– TERRY L. HELSER, SECRETARY

– *AUGB Editor, continued from page 1*

monthly to user group leaders and members worldwide. AUG Quick Bytes is published on an as-needed basis and covers news and events that can't wait for the next Bulletin.

Elsa has found editing and writing for two monthly publications on a volunteer basis to be rewarding but extremely time-consuming. In May she decided to pass responsibility for the Bulletin to another Apple User Group Advisory Board member, Sandy Foderick of Zimmerman, Minnesota. Elsa's new UGAB responsibilities include an internal Board project, event planning and work on the Apple User Group Discussion list.

Never fear, Elsa plans to continue her editing and writing duties for MUG ONE's Newsbreak.

For more information about the Apple User Group Advisory Board and Apple's User Group program, go to

<http://www.apple.com/usergroups/contact/ugab/>

EARTHDESK 2.6 USER GROUP SPECIAL

EarthDesk replaces your static desktop picture with an animated, real-time rendered image of the Earth, continuously updating in the background while you work. The software supports eleven different map projections, political and satellite views, and renders accurate sun, moon and city lighting.

EarthDesk 2.6 now supports random map views, making for a much more varied and interesting desktop image. Additionally, the help system has been revised and polished to provide better ease-of-use under OS X 10.3.

EarthDesk requires a Macintosh computer with MacOS 9.1+ or MacOS X 10.1+.

Single user copies of EarthDesk may be purchased online for \$19.95 while registered users of any release of EarthDesk version 1.x are eligible to upgrade to version 2.6 for \$9.95. Users of EarthDesk 2.x need only download the new version with no fee.

USER GROUP SPECIAL

Through June 30, 2004, members of Macintosh User Groups may purchase EarthDesk for \$17.95 by using the following link:

In the comments section (on page 2 of the order form), you must include the name of the User Group of which you are a member.

For more information and to download an evaluation version of EarthDesk 2.6, please visit TimePalette's website at

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

Direct download:

<http://www.timepalette.com/software/earthdesk.dmg>