

NEWS



BREAK

MACINTOSH USERS GROUP, ONEONTA, NEW YORK

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ACROBAT HEADLINES OCT. MEETING

Adobe Acrobat will be the headline software act at the next meeting of MUG ONE. Come witness Professor Terry Helser's Acrobatic feats as he shares his newfound expertise in this very powerful and useful program, which does much more than create PDFs (portable document files).

October is also officer election time, and time to join or renew your MUG ONE membership.

Join us on Tuesday, October 5 at 7:30 PM in lecture hall #1 of Hogdon IRC on the SUNY Oneonta campus (see map on back). For more information, call Terry Helser at 607/436-3518 or Jay Manning at 607/433-1305.

TRADE UP YOUR MAC AT MUG STORE

Apple's Diane Cohn informs us that the Macintosh User Group Store now allows you to trade in any PowerPC Mac or better towards any new or used Mac that the MUG Store sells, including the latest G4s. For example, if you have a beige Power Macintosh G3 mini-tower you can trade up to a G4 400 MHz machine for as little as \$400 (depending on configuration, condition, etc.).

Call the MUG Store at 800/689-8191 if you're interested in trading in your Mac. A MUG Store rep will ask how much RAM your Mac has and if you have the original box, software disks or CD, keyboard and mouse, and will then tell you the trade in value of your Mac. You can order a new Mac, then send in your old Mac for trade after you transfer your data, and get the trade amount credited to your credit card, or you can send in your old Mac, get a credit on account, and subsequently buy a new Mac. In either case, the sender pays to ship the Mac to the MUG Store. Before the trade in is accepted, the Mac is tested for 48 hours to make sure it works.

Be sure to check the MUG Store for its amazing deals on used and new Macs at <http://www.applemugstore.com/>

New MUG Store Password After October 1, 1999:

login = eukanuba
password = yummy

ELECTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP DUES

October is the beginning of MUG ONE's new year. We celebrate the change of seasons with officer elections and membership renewal.

Our first order of business at the October meeting will be to elect the officers who will carry MUG ONE forward into the millenium. All are welcome to run for office. The positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer will be up for election, and we will discuss whether we should change the office of Program Chair(s) to appointed rather than elected positions. If you'd like more information on what responsibilities a particular office entails, or would like to put your name forward, call Jay Manning at 607/433-1305.

Membership for the 1999-2000 year is also due in October, and we're making it easy for you to join or renew. Just fill out the enclosed form and bring it to the October meeting along with your check for \$24 (\$18 for full-time students), or mail to Joanne Johnston at 9 Wisteria Avenue, Oneonta, NY 13820.

USB CARD READER AVAILABLE FOR LOAN

MUG ONE has purchased a SanDisk ImageMate USB card reader to enable users of iMacs, blue and white G3s, G4s and older Macs with USB boards installed to transfer photographs from MUG ONE's digital camera. See Jay Manning for more information.

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SEPTEMBER 7, 1999 MEETING

Welcome Back! About 7:40 PM several old and new friends gathered in IRC-1 on the Oneonta State College campus. We once again had to shoo out a class, so even the first Tuesday slot may in danger of being booked for classes in the future, but we are safe at least for this semester. Our schedule is to meet on October 5, November 9 (actually the second Tuesday to enable you to attend "Miz Wizard's Science Secrets" by Jane Curry at 8 PM in the Hunt Union Ballroom. It is free and well worth the effort to come.), and December 7. More on that later.

Elsa started our meeting by describing MUG ONE for guests who were not yet members. Among the benefits are *Newsbreak*, the raffle, technical and non technical help, the raffle, access to Elsa and Jay, the two most knowledgeable Mac professionals in the world (define world?), the raffle, access to our software and hardware lending library, ...and much more.

Which brought up the suggestion that the group buy a flash card reader with USB cable to transfer the digital camera picture files to your computer in literally a "flash". That is definitely NOT possible with the current SCSI cable method. Trust me. All agreed it was a much needed addition to the camera, which is on almost continual loan.

The Q&A session brought out the news (see the September issue of *Newsbreak* for details) that WordPerfect 3.5 is now available free. Jay managed to get it off the net overnight and can give you a copy on a Zip disk you bring to him. Much easier than getting it yourself over a modem.

Elsa defined a "filter" as part of a program that translates documents from one format to another. *MacLink Pro* is no longer bundled with the system software but is available separately. Filters are built into many programs now, and Jay says a freeware program called BBEdit will remove all those unknown character boxes from results that only partly worked. BTW (by the way) OS 9 is coming, scheduled for an October launch.

Susan Brower, our local Apple Higher Ed rep., is scheduled to demonstrate the new iBook on November 9. At \$1600 it has a significant drool factor, especially in Blueberry, I think. What other wonders will she spring on us straight from our heros in Cupertino? Come and find out.

The conversation turned to communication options, and Elsa reports that Time Warner Cable hopes to offer their Roadrunner cable modem service by the new year, and perhaps as early as November. That led Jay to look for the Road Runner website, which we found at www.stny.com/twc/elmira/roadrunner.html. Check it out. Not cheap, but may be the easiest and fastest way to get a dedicated line to the Internet without tying up the phone. It also SHOULD be really fast. We also discussed cheap hard drives, FireWire, the new protocol for super-fast connections for hard drives and digital video cameras, and a new iMac model possibly due in October and the ORB removable storage medium that costs \$29 for a 2.2 GB disk read by a \$200 drive.

By then Jay had cleared most of the conflicts from the IRC-1 Mac so he could demonstrate *Spring Cleaning 3.0* from Aladdin. Among the 12 utilities you get for your, you guessed it, \$29.95 + shipping and handling, are programs that trim "fat code" from your drive, remove all the files left behind by programs you have long since discarded, can find documents when the original is long gone, and generally make your Mac a "lean, mean operating machine" according to the script Jay was trying to read with as close as he gets to a straight face. You can also get *FlashBack*, again a \$29.95 utility that allows unlimited undoes to be done, or can get it bundled with *Private File* (user group priced at \$19.95 while supplies last) for only \$39.95. An order form/price list was and will be available for Aladdin products. Ask Jay for one. The one suggestion we would be wise to heed though, is to archive everything you want to get rid of on a Zip or other disk for at least a month to be sure you don't need it. And during that month use all your applications to be SURE everything still works. In other words, backup.

After the demonstrations, T-shirts, mouse pads, markers, foam apples and software were raffled off to every member who came. Much more of this to come at every meeting this fall! We ended the meeting with cookies and soda. Thanks to everyone who made this a super meeting!

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 5 in IRC-1 at 7:30 pm. Membership dues are now being gladly accepted. Send a check for \$24 (\$18 for students) to Joanne Johnston, 9 Wisteria Ave., Oneonta, NY 13820 or bring it to the meeting to share in the cheer to be had this year.

– TERRY L. HELSER, SECRETARY

GET 40% OFF ALL PEACHPIT BOOKS!

Peachpit Press makes a terrific offer available for user groups. When we order 11 or more books at one time (any mix) we can get 40% off the cover price on all their titles! With shipping a modest 50¢ per book, this is a deal too good to pass up.

Peachpit publishes more than a hundred Macintosh-related books at all levels including the *Macintosh Bible*, Robin William's *Little Mac Book* and other books for beginners, the *Visual Quickstart* books, *Start with a Digital Camera* and others in the *Start* series, the *Wow!* books for artists and designers, the *Real World* books, the *Non-Designers* series and the *On the Web* series. They also publish the Macromedia Press books and have just joined with Adobe to publish books from Adobe Press, including the *Classroom in a Book* series. Check out all their titles at <http://www.peachpit.com>.

We ordered from Peachpit for several years in the past, and are pleased to be again offering this great service for members.

We'll be putting an order together at the October meeting. We'll have catalogs and sample books from the various series for you to peruse. Call Elsa Travisano at 607/433-2569 if you'd like to order and can't make it to the meeting.

REVIEW: GUIDES TO HELP YOU NAVIGATE THE WORLD OF WINDOWS, MAC STYLE

Windows for Mac Users: The Macintosh-to-Windows Guide, by Cynthia L. Baron & Robin Williams. 421 pp., Berkeley: Peachpit Press, 1999 \$19.99

The PC Bible, 3rd Edition, by Robert Lauriston. 939 pp., Berkeley: Peachpit Press, 1999 \$34.99

Thanks to the recent, powerful and welcome resurgence of the Macintosh platform, the Mac seems truly here to stay. But let's face facts. This is a Windows-dominated world: a world where Microsoft's Bill Gates is richer than God, and Windows runs on over 90% of the world's PCs. These computers include two I use in my daily routine, but then again, one of these is a Mac.

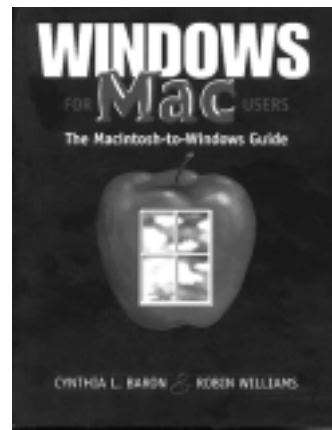
I remain a staunch Mac partisan, but like a lot of other longtime Mac devotees, I have specific reasons that have driven me into the arms of the ubiquitous if inelegant Windows operating system. In my case, the reasons differ with the location. A Hartwick College-provided Toshiba laptop running Windows 95 sits in my school office, just to the left of the ancient and slow but apparently unkillable Mac IIxi that has been my chief office computer for many years. I use the Toshiba for email and the internet, because the Mac IIxi, while still okay for word processing, just doesn't have the speed or muscle to cope with web connectivity. I can read my students Microsoft Word documents with equal ease on either machine. When it's time to relax, I sometimes play strategy games that don't exist in Mac versions on the sleek and powerful 300 MHz beige Mac G3 that graces my desktop at home. This modern Mac can smoothly run Windows (and even DOS) in emulation mode, using that extraordinary program from Connectix, *Virtual PC*.

As you can see, I've brought rather specific and circumscribed expectations to the Windows world. Consequently, I've been slow to apply myself to learning the ins and outs of the Windows operating system. But Robin Williams, a celebrated name in the Mac world for her sequence of lucid and engaging books on the Mac and on cross-platform computing, sails to the rescue. Teaming with Cynthia Baron, the author of books on web animation and the digital portfolio, Williams has produced yet another engaging book of instruction that is brilliantly conceived for its audience. The audience it addresses is the large body of experienced Mac users who are learning to negotiate the Windows environment, usually while maintaining a strong foothold in the Mac world.

Williams and Baron's four great strengths are humor, clarity, a detailed knowledge of both operating systems, and—perhaps most important—a deep understanding of the assumptions and expectations an experienced Mac user is likely to bring to Windows. *Windows for Mac Users* explains the differences, advantages and disadvantages of Windows NT, 95, and 98. It leads one step by step through the logic of the

Windows "tree-like" file structure, and explores basic functional differences between such fundamentals as the mouse, the keyboard, disk handling, and the monitor. It leads the reader through the "Anatomy of a Window," and introduces one to that folder, indispensable in Windows, labeled "My Computer." It warns one when a Mac-like instinct for enhanced utility is bound to be frustrated, e. g.: "don't bother trying to make new folders in the windows for 'My Computer' or 'Control Panels'—you're not allowed."

Williams concludes in a personal sketch that "after working on this book, my opinion of Windows has changed—it's worse than I thought," But she and Baron nonetheless devote extraordinarily detailed and patient attention to the problem of extracting the most functionality from the Windows platform.

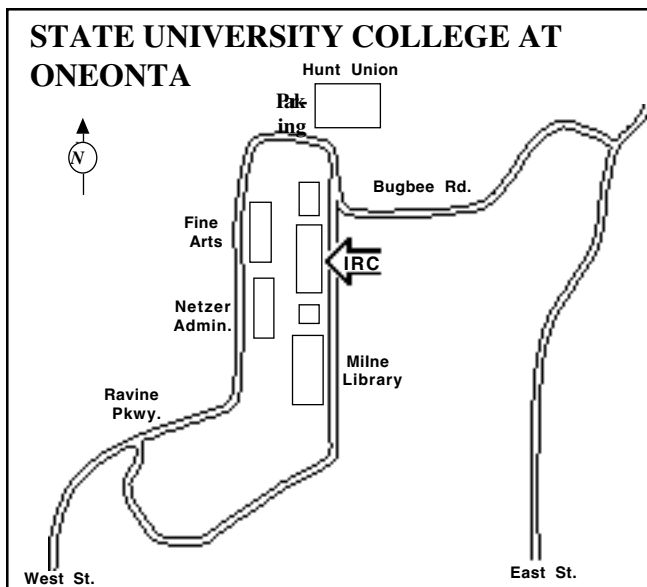


They look in particular at how to discover and exploit Windows equivalents to such Mac standbys as desk accessories, control panels, file names, memory allocation, finding files, fonts, printing, and more. The excellent index offers a long string of Windows equivalents to such Mac-like features, spelling out their Windows names—which are usually just different enough to throw off a Mac

user. There is also a strong chapter on how to reconfigure your desktop so it looks and functions in a more Mac-like manner. And there's a lot of useful advice on that most important Mac survival skill, file transfer across platforms.

My one complaint is that *Windows for Mac Users* treats the running of Windows in emulation mode far too briefly and dismissively. Williams and Baron go with the old wisdom that Windows emulation on a Mac is slow, limited and frustrating. The new wisdom, which I can cheerfully endorse from experience, is that with the arrival of the whiz-bang G3 processor, and with recent refinements in *Virtual PC*, Windows can be run on a Mac with exceptional smoothness and stability. I suspect this may not have been clear when *Windows for Mac Users* went to press. In fact, there are now those who claim that the fastest and most stable current environment for running Windows is on a Mac G3 or G4 equipped with *Virtual PC*. Just be sure to have plenty of RAM aboard to run both operating systems—Windows is a memory hog. I found 64MB barely sufficient to run both systems, and I am much happier after an upgrade to 128MB. Fortunately, RAM is cheap these days. [though prices are heading up again. Ed.] Though it would be helpful to have a little more here on Windows emulation,

— continued on page 4



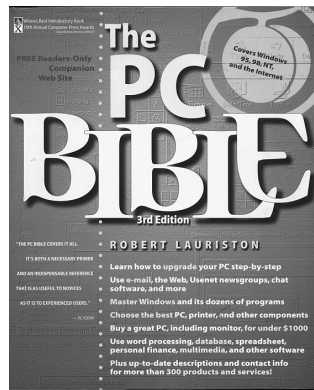
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– *Windows, Mac Style cont.*

Windows for Mac Users is nonetheless exceptionally useful for Windows emulators, since the Windows side of your Mac looks, thinks and acts exactly like a PC, and everything Baron and Williams say about Windows directly applies.

Robert Lauriston's *PC Bible*, 3rd edition, resembles Peachpit Press's familiar *Mac Bible* now in its 7th edition. Jay Manning pointed out in a recent review in these pages that the latest *Mac Bible* is really aimed as beginning users. Like the *Mac Bible*, the *PC Bible*, which runs to nearly 1,000 pages, is forced, despite its length, to give each of its many topics the once-over-lightly. An experienced Mac user will find much general information about computers in this book that he or she already knows, yet there is, of course, no attempt to engage with a Mac user's assumptions and expectations when that user enters territory made unfamiliar by the Windows OS. The *PC Bible* is clearly written, but it lacks the humor and sophistication Williams and Baron bring to their subject.



Which book should most members of MUG ONE buy, assuming that they're engaging in a dalliance with Windows? Some experienced Mac users might want to keep *The PC Bible* as a generalized reference to pull off the shelf. Less experienced Mac users who also need an overall introduction to computing, might want to peruse the *PC Bible* more thoroughly. But Williams and Baron's *Windows for Mac Users* is clearly the instruction manual for the rest of us, and if I had to buy one book on the subject, this would be it.

– THOMAS TRAVISANO

SEPT. 3 OFFICERS MEETING REPORT

Jay Manning, Terry Helser, JoAnne Johnston and Elsa Travisano, fortified by a truly monumental vegetarian pizza, convened under a striped umbrella on the deck at Ruffino's Pizzeria for the September 3rd MUG ONE officers meeting,

The first topic was the drawbacks of our current practice of electing program chairs. With one program chair moved to California and the other two unable to come to officer's meetings, program responsibility has fallen to Jay, Terry, Elsa and Tom Travisano. We agreed that it would be more realistic to make program chairs appointed, rather than elected, positions. We will propose this change at the October elections.

We then discussed programs for the fall. Microsoft, Aladdin, Adobe and other vendors have offered us packaged programs in lieu of providing presenters. Jay gave a presentation for Aladdin in September, and Terry will do one for Adobe in October. For November, we have invited Susan Brower to introduce the iBook. December is traditionally the games and gift suggestions meeting, and we can request more programs from Adobe if we wish.

Jay described the lengthy process of downloading photos from the group's digital camera via serial cable, which can take an hour or more!. He does this for many camera borrowers due to limitations of their own systems. A SanDisk USB card reader (@\$49), could handle photo transfers almost instantaneously. We agreed to propose the purchase a SanDisk card reader for the group, as well as a stock of Zip disks to facilitate the photo transferring process. The SanDisk reader will allow users of Macs with USB ports to transfer images from the camera into their computers.

Elsa gave Terry the tee shirts, mouse pads, tote bags and other door prizes she amassed at MacWorld. We are well stocked for door prizes at least through to the millenium. By then darkness had settled in, so we brought the meeting to a close.

– ELSA TRAVISANO