

NEWS BREAK

Volume 24, Number 3

May 2009

MAY 6, 2009 MUG ONE MEETING

APPLE SENIOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER
DAVID M. MARRA

APPLE ILIFE '09 AND IWORK '09 – DO MORE WITH YOUR MAC!

MUG ONE is delighted to welcome Apple Senior Systems Engineer Dave Marra for his eighth annual presentation on Wednesday, May 6, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in Golisano Hall classroom 103 on the Hartwick College campus.

Discover creative new ways to work with digital photos, movies, music and more with iLife. The new iLife '09 suite features exciting new updates to iPhoto, iMovie and GarageBand, in addition to iDVD and iWeb.

Also, explore how easy and fun word processing, spreadsheets and presentations can be with iWork '09. The new iWork '09 productivity suite features major updates to Pages, Numbers and Keynote, and all are compatible with Microsoft Office. iWork and iLife, two great ways to work and play, only on a Mac!

As always, the meeting will begin with a question and answer session and end with a door prize drawing for current members and refreshments for all. MUG ONE meetings are free of charge and open to the public. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call Brian Foley at 607-988-7031 or email Elsa Travisano at mugone@stny.rr.com

For directions, download the Hartwick College campus map at <http://www.hartwick.edu/x529.xml>. Golisano Hall is #31 on the map (#2, Arnold Hall, has been replaced by a grassy space). Gerry Stoner has created a gray-scale version of the map with an arrow to our meeting place <http://www.mugone.com/images/HartwickMapBW.jpg>.

MUG ONE LIBRARY AVAILABLE AGAIN

The MUG ONE library should be available at the May meeting, thanks to Terry Helsler and Tom Travisano.

They took care of transferring the MUG ONE book cart from the IRC building on the SUNY Oneonta campus and the library books from temporary storage in Terry's basement to the library's new home in the 103 Golisano Hall storage closet. Thanks to Terry and Tom for taking time on a Saturday morning to make the move.

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



Apple Senior Systems Engineer Dave Marra will demo cool ways to use iLife '09 and iWork '09 on May 6.

COOL FREE PODCASTS – ITUNES U AND MACGROUP TV

Some of the best audio and video content at the iTunes Store is yours for free. **iTunes U** is a collection of over 100,000 free lectures, audiobooks and language lessons from colleges, universities, PBS stations and museums around the world. Take the [iTunes U guided tour](#) or click on the iTunes U link in the top left pane of the Apple Store and start exploring.

For some of the best user group presentations around, check out the [MacGroup TV](#) podcasts from MacGroup Detroit. For their April meeting president Terry White (who is also Director of Creative Pro Technical Sales, North America for Adobe Systems) hosted bestselling author Scott Kelby for a program on *Portrait Retouching Techniques in Photoshop CS 4*. Don't miss it!

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APRIL 1, 2009 MUG ONE MEETING

THE MANY USES OF PREVIEW – Mark Dye

On April 1 we met at Golisano Hall on the Hartwick College campus. It is so easy to set up the laptop with their screen, that even Brian can do it.

It is easy to get to Golisano Hall, and it seems that most of our group is fine with the new digs. This time there was no game on the upper playing field, so parking was a breeze.

Announcements and Discussion

Elsa started the meeting by announcing that there was some lukewarm coffee available from a previous Hartwick event. There was a mild stampede to the refreshments table.

It was announced that Macworld Conference and Expo in San Francisco is moving its 2010 conference dates to February 9th - 13th. Also - May is once again Marra Month, with Dave Marra covering iLife and iWork for us on May 8th.

We also talked about turning the MUG ONE site in to a blog format, for more interactivity, and shifting the format of Newsbreak from a traditional two column newsletter optimized for printing to a blog-like format that would be easier and less time-consuming to produce. There was general support for both concepts. These will be explored during the summer.

Then there was a discussion concerning the different kinds of surge protectors available.

With the thunderstorm season now underway, Elsa recommended that everyone make sure that their Macs and other valuable electronic equipment are protected by surge protectors, not just power strips that provide extra outlets but no surge protection. It's especially important to have surge protection for the cable that connects your computer to the internet, whether that is an Ethernet cable, telephone/DSL cable or coaxial cable.

One member asked whether a surge protector whose status light was no longer illuminated was still good. She was advised to replace it with a new surge protector, as the lack of a status light usually indicates that the unit is no longer effective.

Program

Then Mark Dye took the helm and showed us versiontracker.com and many of its features. One of the free downloads he showed us was Byki, a powerful and personalized language-learning system.

Mark also talked about Onyx, the maintenance program, and how to use it to clean your cache.

We were taken on a tour of the menu bar. Mark gave us some of the many reasons to have as much RAM as possible, and talked about the combinations of RAM sticks you can have in your computer, and how to find the best

combination for your needs. He also covered the difference between *emptying* your trash, and *secure emptying* your trash.

Free alternatives to Microsoft's Office suite were discussed. The main ones were OpenOffice and Neo Office. Both are pretty robust programs, and can do almost anything most users would want.

Mark then introduced us to Rand_Catalogue_2009.pdf, which is also a free download.

One of the programs that Mark uses and highly recommends is Tex-edit (also downloadable free, from versiontracker.com). It is a text editing program that is packed with many more features than the TextEdit program that comes with your Mac, but is not nearly as bloated or expensive as Word.

This was a very well thought out presentation and was well received. Dave Marra's got a hard act to follow.

The raffle was drawn and the meeting ended with Terry's wonderful goodies.

– BRIAN FOLEY

LATEST TAKE CONTROL EBOOKS

Adam and Tonya Engst of Take Control have released several new ebooks in the past month. Be sure to take advantage of the **30%** user group discount on all Take Control Ebooks.

Take Control ebooks come in PDF format so that you can read them on your computer or print them out (all or in part) – the choice is yours. Most titles can also be ordered as printed books.

Once you've purchased a title, minor updates can be downloaded for free – just click the link on the front cover to see if any updates are available.

Take a look at Take Control's latest offerings at <http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/> or browse their catalog at <http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/catalog.html>.

Then use coupon code ***** at checkout to get your discount.

Not sure if a title is right for you? Download a free sample from the book's description page.

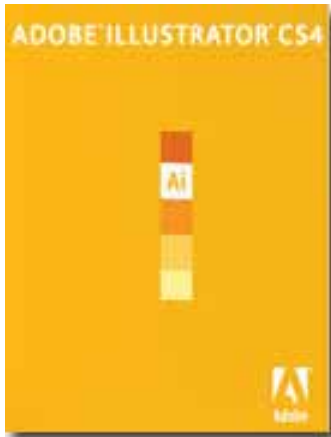
Here are links to the latest Take Control titles:

[Take Control of Your Wi-Fi Security](#), Glenn Fleishman, 108 pages, \$10

[Take Control of Recording with GarageBand '09](#), Jeff Tolbert, 134 pages, \$10

[Take Control of Making Music with GarageBand '09](#), Jeff Tolbert, 117 pages, \$10

[Take Control of iWeb '09](#), Steve Sande, 152 pages, \$10



ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR CS4 FOR MAC

Adobe <http://www.adobe.com>

\$599; \$199 upgrade. Educational price \$199.

Upgrade requires a previous licensed version of Adobe Illustrator CS3, CS2, CS, Macromedia FreeHand MX, 10, or 9 software.

Adobe Illustrator CS4 adds a number of appealing features and tools to the Mac-standard vector drawing software. These enhancements, notably multiple artboards, transparency in gradients and the whimsically named Blob Brush, make the application a desirable purchase or upgrade for professional illustrators and graphic artists, as well as for serious hobbyists..

The biggest news in this latest version of Illustrator for the Mac is **multiple artboards**. Prior to CS4, Illustrator was limited to a single artboard in a document, which meant that users could only work on one page at a time. Now you can add up to 100 artboards of varying sizes and shapes to a single document and arrange those artboards however you choose (see illustration).

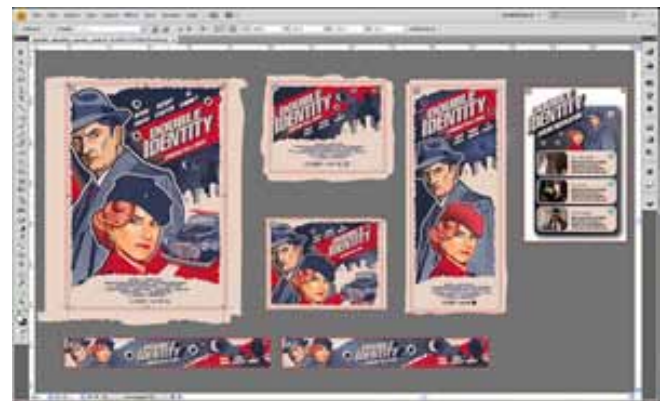
The single document approach makes it vastly easier to work on documents with multiple pages and on projects with multiple elements. Each artboard you create can be saved, printed and exported separately, and some or all of the artboards in a document can be combined into a multipage PDF.

Like other CS4 applications, Illustrator's document windows are viewed as **tabs**. This means that each new document opens as a tab at the top of a single resizable window, with the Illustrator tools and panels anchored on either side.

For my money, the **Workspace Switcher** in the Application bar is one of Illustrator CS4's coolest enhancements. A workspace is a particular arrangement of windows and panels that can be customized to suit your needs and preferences. Illustrator now comes with a collection of pre-made workspaces – Automation, Essentials (the default),

Like Freehand, Like InDesign, Like Photoshop, Painting, Painting and Proofing, Typography, and Web. The Painting workspace includes the brushes, stroke and symbols panels, while the Like InDesign workspace includes the swatches, character and paragraph styles panels. You get the picture. These workspace choices are invaluable if you're accustomed to working with another Adobe application and want a familiar interface, or for particular tasks like working with type or preparing a web-optimized document.

Gradient transparency and **on-object gradient adjustments** are two CS4 additions that are likely to make designers hearts beat a little faster. Gradient transparency means that you can create gradients of several colors for an object and



Adobe Illustrator CS4 features multiple artboards

control how much you want to reveal of what's underneath. On-object gradient adjustment (Adobe calls it "Gradients Eposed") means that the controls appear right on the object rather than on a separate panel – very intuitive.

The **Blob brush tool** is a particularly sweet addition that makes Illustrator much easier for users who struggle with paths and vector outlines. It's a paintbrush sketching tool that lets you draw an object with multiple strokes, and then melds it into a single filled object. No more wading through a forest of individual brushstrokes to manually combine paths! You can also use the Blob brush to modify objects with one or a series of strokes. Used with the Eraser tool and the Smooth tool, the Blob brush gives a more painter-like (or Photoshop-like) experience.

Spring-loaded panels, which expand when you drag an object on top of them, **Spring-loaded tabs**, which let you move an object from one document to another by dragging it to the document's tab, and **Smart Guides**, which appear on the objects themselves rather than on a separate panel are among the user interface enhancements that put tools and panels where you need them.

You can download free [30 day trial versions](#) of Illustrator CS4 and other CS4 applications or request a trial DVD of the entire Creative Suite 4 Design Premium for \$10.

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THE X LEX – Monthly Excerpts for MUGs from **Take Control: The Mac OS X Lexicon**

TWO FACED TERMS

Two for the price of one this month, with terms that have two different meanings; sometimes they're related meanings, and sometimes... not so much.

authenticate

1. A fancy-schmancy word for "supply a password." Every so often, the Mac will ask you to authenticate something; other times, it takes a more down-to-earth approach and simply asks for your password.
2. Certify as valid, as with a digital certificate—encrypted data that guarantees the authenticity of a Web site..

bit rate

The number of bits of data processed in a certain amount of time, commonly expressed in kilobits or megabits per second (kbps and Mbps, respectively). The expression is used in two distinctly different ways:

1. The encoding rate of an audio or video file, as in "When creating MP3 files, a bit rate of 160 kbps is considered good quality." In this case, the bit rate has nothing to do with how long the file might take to transmit (or how long it takes to play!). Instead, it has to do with how much data is packed into each second of playing time.

A higher bit rate (256 kbps versus 128 kbps, for instance) includes more of the original content; it discards less detail, thus providing better quality, although in a larger file. However, different encoding formats (AAC versus MP3, for instance) can produce similar file sizes with different end results in audio quality because of the differences in their compression algorithms.

2. Data transmission speed, such as on a network: "802.11g Wi-Fi maxes out at 53 Mbps."

library

1. In Font Book, a user-defined group of fonts the Mac can access no matter where they're stored on your disk—they don't have to be in a Fonts folder.
2. In Unix, the Mac's underlying framework, a subprogram that can be called upon by any other program in the operating system or in an application; that's why Mac OS X has so many Library folders.

protocol

1. A set of standards for a specific type of connection and data transfer; it's the P in many of the acronyms you're used to seeing: IP, HTTP, FTP, and the double-whammy TCP/IP.

2. A type of droid adept at human-cyborg relations and fluent in millions of forms of communications. See <http://tinyurl.com/c3rlpa>.

rip

1. To copy audio or video to a hard disk from a different (usually optical) medium, such as a DVD or CD. The original, although in digital format, is usually so large that the copy is ripped in a compressed format, such as MP3 or Ogg Vorbis.
2. (raster image processor) Something that converts a document from vector to raster format so that it can be printed. This is done every time text is printed, because all PostScript, TrueType, and OpenType text consists of vectors. These days the process is most often handled in your computer by the operating system, but PostScript printers do the conversion in the printer, and high-end imagesetters use a separate box called a rip.

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Take Control: The Mac OS X Lexicon is an ebook available at <http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/mac-lexicon.html>. User-group member discount, 10% on all Take Control titles: coupon code CPN31208MUG.

Excerpt files for user group publications: <http://www.33thingsbooks.com/XLex.html>. Queries: xlex@33thingsbooks.com. Email Sharon (sharonLex@33thingsbooks.com) or Andy (Andy@33thingsbooks.com) about the Lexicon.



– *Illustrator, continued from page 3*

Learn more about Illustrator CS4 by going to <http://www.adobe.com/products/illustrator>, or by watching [Introducing Illustrator CS4](#) and other videos at AdobeTV.com,

–ELSA TRAVISANO

Adobe Illustrator CS4 System Requirements

PowerPC G 4 or G5 or multicore Intel processor, Mac OS X v10.4.11–10.5.4, 512MB of RAM (1GB recommended), 2GB of available hard-disk space for installation; additional free space required during installation (cannot install on a volume that uses a case-sensitive file system or on flash-based storage devices), 1024x768 display (1280x800 recommended) with 16-bit video card, DVD-ROM drive, QuickTime 7 software required for multimedia features. Broadband Internet connection required for online services.

Special Discount Offers from the Apple User Group Bulletin

These discounts are brought to you by the Apple User Group Advisory Board. You must be a current Apple user group member to qualify for these savings.

Learn to Build iPhone Apps in Two Says: O'Reilly 30% Discount

Hey, it's not rocket science. You really can learn to develop mobile applications for Apple's iPhone and iPod touch in just two days. All you need to do is to attend O'Reilly's hands-on workshop, "Build, Compile and Run Your iPhone App in 2 Days."

Instructor Joe Heck, iPhone app developer from Walt Disney Interactive Media Group, will quickly get you up to speed on the basics. During the workshop, you'll create two real iPhone apps, compile them and install them on a device.

Dates and locations:

* May 16 & 17 in San Francisco

* June 27 & 28 in Chicago

* August 8 & 9 in Los Angeles

* September 19 & 20 in Seattle

User Group members receive a 30% discount with code ***** when registering online. Sign up today! (Seating is limited and these workshops will fill up quickly.)

Join the iPhone App community.

<http://training.oreilly.com/introiphoneapp/>

This offer is valid until September 18, 2009.

TimeTable: 20% Off

TimeTable reads and filters iCal calendar data and calculates the hours spent in the events. It is the easy way to list the amount of hours that you have scheduled in iCal. TimeTable makes it simple to track and bill for your time without keeping a second record outside of your calendar. You even can find trends and analyze your calendxars.

Using this special offer, Apple user group members get a 20% discount.

Download a 14 day trial version.

<http://www.stevenriggs.com>

Purchase.

<http://www.stevenriggs.com>

This offer is valid until July 31, 2009.

designProVideo.com: 40% Discount

designProVideo.com (the sister site of macProVideo.com) produces pro-level tutorial videos for Adobe CS4 and Final

CutStudio. Their trainers are Apple courseware authors and respected industry professionals. Watch all tutorials online or download them to your computer. There's no need to wait for discs to be sent in the mail. Start learning now!

Apple user group members can save 40% off the regular Online Tutorial Library subscription price of \$25. For just \$15 a month, you can access the entire designProVideo.com Online Tutorial Library. As a subscriber, you'll also receive an additional 25% discount on all HD Tutorial downloads!

Subscribe today and save!

<http://www.designprovideo.com>

This offer is valid until July 31, 2009.

Apple User Group Market Report, Resource Blog & Vendor Discount Offers

Looking for information on a past offer? Tom Piper of the Apple User Group Advisory Board publishes a single page with all current offers, expiration dates and codes. Watch for intermittent special offers.

Password until May 15, 2009: *****

<http://homepage.mac.com/ugab/offers/vendorcodes.htm>

Continuing User Group Offers

Continuing offers on publications include:

- Mac|Life magazine charter subscription
- Macworld Magazine special subscription offer
- Take Control ebooks – now a 30% discount!
- Peachpit book club
- O'Reilly Publishing discount offers

Apple User Group Market Report podcast

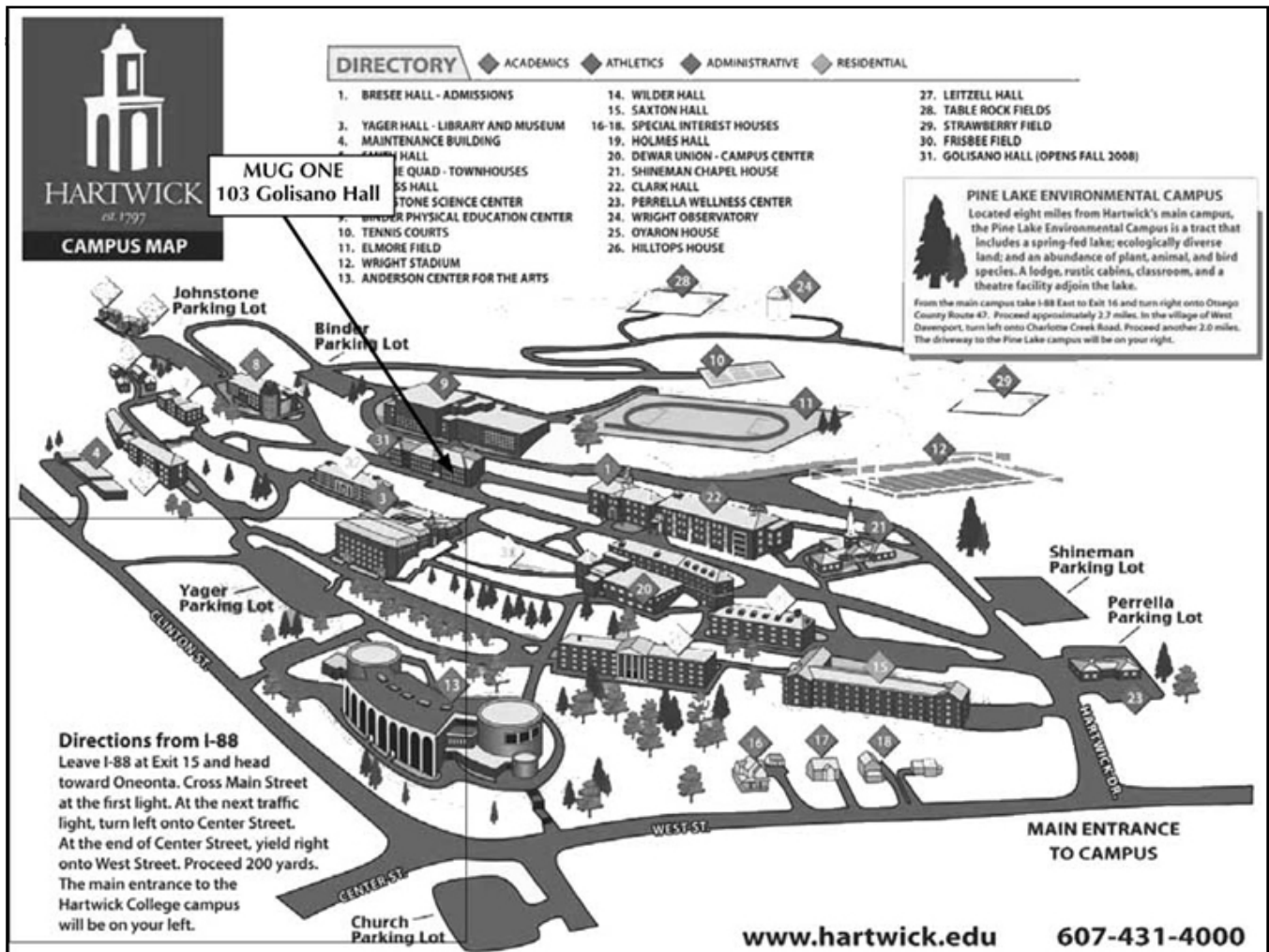
Be sure to subscribe to the Apple User Group Market Report podcast. The AUG Market Report and Resource blog are great sources for information about Apple user groups, vendor discounts, special events, interesting reviews, stimulating training and more.

Apple User Group Market Report podcast:

<http://homepage.mac.com/ugab/resources.html>

For public information about vendor offers and more visit:

<http://homepage.mac.com/ugab/offers.html>



HARTWICK COLLEGE DIRECTIONS

The Hartwick College campus is on West Street in Oneonta, about a quarter mile from the SUNY Oneonta campus.

Enter the campus from the main West Street (upper) entrance and bear left at the fork. Golisano Hall is dead ahead after you have passed, on your right, Clark Hall, Bresee Hall and the empty space formerly occupied by Arnold Hall.

When entering Golisano from the side door, room 103 is on your left on the ground floor. Entering from the front door, room 103 is on your right.

At this hour you may park where you find available space. Unless another event is taking place on campus, you should be able to find parking close to Golisano Hall.

If you find no parking before you reach Golisano Hall, hook around to the right. There should be parking spaces available in the evening behind Bresee Hall and Clark Hall.

Newsbreak is the monthly newsletter of MUG ONE – the Macintosh User Group of Oneonta, NY

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