

NEWS BREAK

Volume 23, Number 6

September 2008

SEPTEMBER 3, 2008 MEETING

HOGDON IRC LECTURE HALL 2

MACSPEECH *DICTATE* VOICE RECOGNITION SOFTWARE – BRIAN FOLEY

Join us on **Wednesday, September 3** at 7:30 p.m. on the SUNY Oneonta campus in Hogdon IRC **Lecture Hall 2** (our new location for the fall) for our first MUG ONE meeting of the fall semester.

Our own **Brian Foley** will give an introduction to MacSpeech's [Dictate](#). Dictate types whatever you dictate into a microphone with amazing accuracy and with very little training. You can also navigate your computer with spoken commands with Dictate. Brian will cover some interesting things you can do with speech recognition, including creating podcasts and transcripts.

If time permits, **Elsa Travisano** will take us on a tour of [MobileMe](#), Apple's new subscription-based suite of internet software and services.

MUG ONE library materials will be available for circulation to MUG ONE members at the meeting.

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.

As always, the meeting will begin with a question and answer session and end with refreshments and a door prize drawing for current members.

For directions to MUG ONE's meeting site, see SUNY Oneonta's detailed campus maps at: <http://www.oneonta.edu/navigation/directions.asp>

IN MEMORIUM: JOHANNA KOENIG

It is with great sadness that we pass along news of the death of MUG ONE's much-beloved former Librarian and board member Johanna Koenig, on June 16 in Oneonta. Jo led a remarkable life and was a vibrant member of MUG ONE for many years. We will miss her greatly.

The Daily Star has Jo's full obituary.

<http://www.legacy.com/thedailystar/Obituaries.asp?Page=LifeStory&PersonID=111713553>



Apple introduced the iPhone 3G, iPhone applications and MobileMe internet suite this summer.

FALL 2008 MUG ONE MEETING SCHEDULE

The MUG ONE Board has cooked up a tasty assortment of programs for this fall. Each meeting will begin with a question and answer period and end with a door prize draw (current members only), refreshments and socializing.

Many meetings will also include "quick takes" – brief presentations on topics of interest – as time allows.

September 3

MacSpeech Dictate Voice Recognition Software
- Brian Foley

October 8 (note date change for this meeting)

Adam Engst!

November 5

MUG ONE Elections and Microsoft Office 2008
- Elsa Travisano

December 3

Holiday Meeting and Party

Mark your calendars, and be sure to join us!

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

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



Big changes are happening in the world of TV! The old analog broadcasting TV we've watched for the past fifty years is about to stop, and I mean stop dead: analog TV broadcasts in the US will end on February 17, 2009. (Analog programming on cable-TV systems will continue for until 2012.) After that it'll be all digital all the time, so you'll no longer be able to watch "Science Fiction Theater" reruns on your old Philco Predicta.



Of course, the old system is being replaced by something much better: digital TV. And equally of course, Apple has a hand in it. Let's take a look at the old and new television standards this month, and then next month we'll talk about the sometimes-confusing world of DVD standards.

Apple TV

A "set-top box" that links your TV set wirelessly to one or more computers. You download TV shows and movies from the iTunes Store, and synchronize or stream them from your Mac to the Apple TV's hard drive. Then you can play them on that 60" flat-screen TV in your living room via Apple TV.

HDTV (high-definition TV)

After more than 50 years of analog NTSC television, here in North America we're finally getting a new digital TV standard, complete with sharper pictures, better sound and less interference... or at least different interference: instead of occasional "snow," we'll get occasional drop-outs. (The basic rule with digital TV is: "A good picture or no picture.")

HDTV comes in two flavors: 720 and 1080. Those numbers refer to how many horizontal scan lines are displayed—more scan lines mean more detail. In addition, there are "i" (interlaced) and "p" (progressive) versions of each, and various possible frame rates. But don't worry—your new TV set will handle it all automatically, presenting the familiar mix of reality shows, soap operas, and toilet paper commercials with newly enhanced detail, clarity, and surround sound. Analog television broadcasting in the United States is scheduled to end in February 2009, so you'll need either a new TV that handles HD, a converter that changes the signal for your old analog set, or a cable or satellite

provider that continues to offer analog channels.

NTSC (National Television Standards Committee)

The 1941-vintage (that's a decade before Ricky loved Lucy) analog video standard still used in the majority of American televisions, VCRs, camcorders, and video games. NTSC is also the standard in Japan and much of Central and South America. Jokingly referred to by engineers



as "Never Twice the Same Color" because of its vulnerability to color shifts, NTSC is rapidly being replaced by digital HDTV, and NTSC broadcasts in the United States are scheduled to end in early 2009.

PAL (phase alternating line)

An analog video standard used in the UK and much of Europe, PAL is slowly being replaced by digital HDTV.

SECAM (Système Electronique pour Couleur Avec Mémoire)

SEE·kam · An analog video standard used in France and parts of eastern Europe, SECAM is slowly being replaced by digital HDTV. (Vive la différence!)

ETYMOLOGY 101

Ogg Vorbis, .ogg

A type of audio compression sometimes used as an alternative to MP3. iTunes and iPods can't play .ogg files, but audio programs such as Amadeus can read them and convert them to MP3 format.

The name, in case you're wondering—and how could you not be?—comes from ExquisitorVorbis, a character in Terry Pratchett's science fiction novel *Small Gods*, plus the slang term "ogging," meaning a kamikaze-style attack, that was used in the online game *Netrek*. What did any of this have to do with audio? Search us! http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exquisitor_Vorbis#Vorbis

pixel

from pictures (pics) element · A single dot on your screen, or on a digital camera's image sensor (in which case you're usually talking about megapixels, or millions of pixels).

spam

The bane of email, annual spam-related costs are estimated in billions of dollars (that includes all the time you waste wading through nonsense about Nigerian bank accounts and "personal performance" enhancers). In fact, it's estimated that two thirds of all email traffic is spam!

The term originates from a 1970 Monty Python sketch wherein everything on a café menu includes Spam™ and all conversation is drowned out by a background chorus

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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.

iBank 3 and iBiz 3: 20% Off

IGG Software is a small, Mac-only developer in Vermont. Their flagship products are iBank 3, a Leopard-only alternative to Quicken that's a great way to track bank accounts, credit cards, investments and loans; and iBiz 3, a cool tool for freelancers and others to manage clients, projects, hours and invoicing.

Apple user group members receive a 20% discount on iBank 3, regularly \$60, and iBiz 3, regularly \$50; downloadable, free trial available, money-back guarantee.

Discount code: *****

<http://www.iggsoftware.com>

This offer is extended through October 31, 2008.

NVIDIA GeForce 8800 GT Graphics Card: 30% Discount

The NVIDIA GeForce 8800 GT For Mac is designed to tackle everything your gaming, graphic designing, art-directing, illustrating, web browsing, photographing, video-producing HD-video-watching self can throw at it. With 112 processing cores and two DVI ports capable of driving two 30-inch displays at full resolution (2560x1600), you can run today's and tomorrow's most demanding visual computing applications.

You can purchase a GeForce 8800 GT for the first generation Mac Pro (Pre-2008) for \$199, a 30% discount from the regular price of \$279.

Promo code: *****

http://www.nvidia.com/object/geforce_8800gt_for_mac.html

This offer is valid through October 31, 2008.

Book Darts: 40% Discount

Book Darts, a clip-on archival passage/line page marker, marks your exact lines, locates them fast AND never hurts the book. Get free samples by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to 3945 Willow Flat, Hood River, Oregon 97031.

Book Darts retail for \$9.95, but this special user group offer is only \$5.95, 40% off. Domestic mailing is \$3.00 for any number of Book Darts. To compute your discount, enter the discount code in the comments box.

Discount code: *****

<http://www.bookdarts.com>

This offer is valid through October 31, 2008.

OfficeTime: 30% Off

OfficeTime is a Mac time-tracking tool that can sync up with iCal for a visual display of your day. You shouldn't have to think about how to track your time. OfficeTime feels intuitive and comfortable as it adapts to your style. With no learning curve, you'll be an expert user almost immediately. It is simply the best way to track your time.

Normally \$47.00, user group members can get 30% off by purchasing OfficeTime at the special user group price of \$33.90.

Promo code: *****

<http://www.officetime.net/>

This offer is valid through October 31, 2008.

Delicious Library at 25% Off

Delicious Library 2 is redefining your home library collection. While integrating seamlessly with .Mac, iTunes, Address Book and iCal, Delicious Library 2 categorizes, sorts and tracks all your media, tools, gadgets and toys. So if you ever need it, you'll have a comprehensive list of all your things, including both retail price and current value.

Regularly \$40, user group members can buy Delicious Library at the special user group price of \$20.

<http://www.delicious-monster.com>

(Install and launch, click "Buy License" and then "Upgrade." Open the "You Currently Own" menu and select "Apple User Groups Special Offer Code." enter ***** in "Registration Code" field.)

This offer is valid through October 31, 2008

CJRTOOLS ebooks: 25% Off

CJRTOOLS ebooks is a small, independent company that produces and publishes ebooks on Mac OS X software. The company's three newest ebooks are comprehensive books on Mac OS X Leopard. Other ebooks are available on iLife, Mail, TextEdit, System Preferences, Safari and Tiger.

Regularly priced at \$8 to \$15, user group members receive a 25% discount on any purchase of ebooks from CJRTOOLS' eSellerate or Kagi store. Specially priced book bundles are also available with the discount.

Discount Code: *****

<http://www.cjrtools.com/ebooks/order-mac-ebooks.html>

Learn more.

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<http://www.cjrtools.com/ebooks>

This offer is valid through November 30, 2008.

LaCie Hard Drives: Major Discounts

The LaCie 500GB Hard Disk, designed by Neil Poulton, with eSATA, FireWire 400 and Hi-Speed USB 2.0 (model 301313U), and the LaCie 250 GB Little Disk, designed by Sam Hecht, with FireWire and Hi-Speed USB 2.0 (model 301282) are simple, compact and efficient with quiet storage to backup, synchronize and secure your files, music, photos and video to one place.

User group members can purchase these drives at the special price of \$110 for 500GB and \$115 for 250GB, a \$30 and \$45 savings off regular prices.

Promo codes: 500GB: ***** 250GB: *****

Purchase by phone. (503) 844-4500 x2

Purchase the 500GB Hard Disk online.

<http://www.lacie.com/us/products/product.htm?pid=11062>

Purchase the 250GB Little Disk online.

<http://www.lacie.com/us/products/product.htm?pid=10978>

This offer is valid through November 30, 2008.

RiftVault Security: 20% Off

Securing your top-secret information on your computer, from credit card numbers to confidential files, has never been easier or more fun. Government-level 256-bit AES encryption on RiftVault ensures that your valuables stay out of reach from the most prying of eyes. Topped with unrivaled graphics and an intuitive design, you'll be surprised to find just how much more useful a safe can be - when it's on your Mac.

This exclusive \$31.96 offer provides a 20% discount off the commercial price of \$39.95. Coupon Code: *****

For more information and purchase visit Edgerift.

<http://www.edgerift.com>

This offer is valid through November 30, 2008.

The MUG Store: Your Haven for Cool Apple Stuff

At the MUG store, you can check out specials, blowouts, new Macs and special value Macs. Each one of them contains lists of products with prices set exclusively for your users. Plus you get points for your group every time one of your members buys!

User ID: ***** / password: *****

<http://www.applemugstore.com>

This offer is valid through September 30, 2008.

Apple User Group Market Podcast

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 after May 15, 2008: *****

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

Be sure to subscribe to the Apple User Group Market Report podcast. The AUG Market Report is a great source for information about Apple user groups, vendor discounts, special events 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>



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of “Spam, Spam, Spam, Spam, lovely Spam, wonderful Spam.”

Wi-Fi

We have it on good authority—the first president of the Wi-Fi Alliance, via Take Control author Glenn Fleishman—that Wi-Fi does not stand for “wireless fidelity,” or for anything else: it was chosen on a recommendation from a naming firm (an industry that should hire someone to come up with a better name for its companies).



Wi-Fi, although often used generically to refer to wireless setups, is a set of standards that includes data formats, security protocols, reliability, and a guarantee that devices will play well with others. It's also a registered trademark of the Wi-Fi alliance, whose logo can go on only totally compliant equipment.

wiki

WICK-ee · A reader-editable Web page—the famous Wikipedia being the foremost example. Wiki comes from the pidgin (not standard Hawaiian) word wikiwiki, meaning quick, and the original name for this type of site, a wikiwikiweb.

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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. Queries: xlex@33thingsbooks.com. Email Sharon (sharonLex@33thingsbooks.com) or Andy (Andy@33thingsbooks.com) about the Lexicon.



MAC 911 – HELP DESK Solutions to your most vexing Mac problems

By Christopher Breen

DIRECTLY ACCESSING THE DOWNLOADS FOLDER

Reader Charles Bilkin is unsatisfied with a Safari feature, he writes:

When I used Safari running under Tiger, my downloads would go to the Desktop. Now that I'm using Leopard, they go into the Downloads folder. I know that my Desktop is cleaner now, but I don't like having to open my Downloads folder whenever I want to get a file I've downloaded. Is there some way to turn this off?

Sure, just open Safari's preferences, click the General tab, and, from the Save Downloaded Files To pop-up menu, choose Other. In the sheet that appears, navigate to the Desktop folder in your user folder and click Select. Files you download will appear on the Desktop.

But before you do that, consider this: Perhaps you can have both easy access to your downloaded files and a clearer Desktop. Like so:

Enter an address like this in Safari's Address field:

file:///Users/yourusername/Downloads

(Naturally yourusername would be the name of your user account.)

Drag the small icon of the Downloads folder that appears just to the left of the address into the Bookmarks Bar and name it something like Downloads. Now when you want quick access to files you've downloaded, just click this new Downloads bookmark. When you do, the Downloads folder opens in the Finder.

Similarly, in Safari's Downloads window you can quickly get to your downloaded file by clicking the Magnifying Glass icon next to its name. The Finder comes to the fore with the Downloads window open and your file highlighted (unless it's a disk-image file that was automatically opened, in which case clicking this icon takes you to the window that shows you all the mounted volumes on your Mac). I also make it a point to drag the Downloads folder into a Finder window's Sidebar so that I can quickly open it from any Finder window.

Sound off in specific applications

Reader Alec Saunders sounds off on turning sound off for

specific applications. He writes:

I was wondering if there was a way to disable sound in certain applications. Specifically in Safari so I don't have to hear the sound in games.

The cheap and easy way is to just bang on the Mac keyboard's Mute key when you have Safari before you. Regrettably, this shuts everything up, which is probably not what you want.

JoeSoft's \$50 Hear, in addition to enhancing your Mac's audio in a wide variety of ways (equalizer and 3D effects included), provides a mixer component that allows you to separately adjust the volume of all the applications running on your Mac. In my book, \$50 is a lot to pay for just this single feature, but I also like its other features which helps me live with the price tag.

Adding 802.11n to older iMac

Reader Frank Blank has drawn a blank in regard to upgrading the wireless connection on an older iMac. He writes:

I have three Macs networked at home through an Airport Extreme Base Station. The MacBook and Intel iMac communicate like greased lightning. Communication with the 2.1GHz iMac G5 is much much slower. Since the laptop, Intel iMac, and AirPort Base Station utilize 802.11n, and the iMac G5 uses 802.11g, is there a way to upgrade the older iMac to the faster wireless speed?

The least expensive way to do this is to eschew wireless on the old iMac and run an Ethernet cable from the Base Station to the iMac. Your iMac's network performance will increase dramatically and its "g" wireless won't slow down the rest of the wireless network.

On the other hand, perhaps you don't feel like completely rearranging your home so that the Base Station and iMac sit near each other. If not, you can upgrade the iMac to 802.11n, but not internally. Apple's n- flavored wireless cards don't work with older iMacs.

You can, however, add 802.11n via USB. For example, Other World Computing sells the MaxPower 802.11n/g/b Wireless USB 2.0 Stick Adapter for \$50. Jack it into a USB 2.0 port, install the driver, choose it as the wireless adapter you'd like to use, and your older iMac is communicating at 802.11n speeds.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

If you've scanned the headlines lately or simply live downwind of the central portion of the 31st state, you're aware that far too much of California has been ablaze in the last month. It happens that I live darned close to a couple of these hot-spots and, having packed the car twice now with

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the idea of fleeing with family and felines when the reverse 911 call comes in, it's natural that my attention has been increasingly devoted to emergency preparedness--and that includes the protection and salvation of my data.

When Fire 1 ignited about a month ago, my office was a mess. I had files scattered across seven separate hard drives and three different computers. Had I been in a position where I had to leave Right Now, every bit of data I owned would have been lost. Fortunately I had time so I chose the brute-force technique--I threw all the computers in the car along with a duffel-bag full of hard drives. You can imagine the "You say you do this kind of thing for a living?" look I got from my wife who, wisely, had her most important data backed up onto a single drive that she'd stuffed into her purse.

Last weekend's Fire 2--closer than the first--saw little improvement on my part. Although I'd procured a new 750GB drive to feed Time Machine--and thus had a readily grabbable backup of my current work files, email, contacts, and calendars--the files I really wanted remained parsed out among a host of internal and external hard drives. And by "really wanted" I don't mean MacUser Help Folder columns from 1997, a Breen's Bungalow video from 2000, or even the iTunes-procured copy of Noel Harrison's *Life is a Dream*.

What I do mean is my photos and home movies.

I can replace music. I can let go of a couple of decades worth of work. I can buy another computer. But I can't replace the images of a child's first years or a parent's last. And to risk losing those images to a natural disaster--even one as natural and predictable as a hard drive crash--because I'm disorganized is just stupid.

So in the "fool me once/fool me twice" vein, I'm changing my ways, in these ways:

Gathered memories

I have multiple iPhoto Library archives scattered about. I've now copied those archives to a single hard drive. Similarly I've copied my Aperture libraries to that same drive. In addition, I've used Leopard's Smart Folder feature to seek out all Camera Raw images and copied those to that same drive. Yes, I have duplicate files. At some point I may sort through the images and remove the duplicates. For now, I'm happy to know that I have all my images within easy reach.

Home movies are easier as I haven't made a ton of them. A Smart Folder that looks for files with the extension .DV with a file size over 500MB nicely rounded up the movies I was after.

Out of the house

Fat lot of good a backup hard drive does me if a tornado

whips it into the next county. While on-site backups are fine, you need to get your data off-site as well. One way to do that is to lug hard drives from Location A to Location B. Another is to burn through your bandwidth like there's no tomorrow (cuz, who knows, maybe there isn't) and upload your most precious data to a server somewhere in The Cloud.

Like a lot of .Mac members, I have an iDisk that goes largely unused. Currently .Mac members are provided with up to 10GB of storage and, when MobileMe launches, that limit moves to 20GB. With a .Mac membership comes a copy of Apple's Backup application--one that can be configured to store items on your iDisk. At first I vowed to go through my photos, pare them down to the absolute keepers, and then upload those keepers to my iDisk via Backup. But then I realized I had too much stuff--20GB just wouldn't do.

So I explored other online options and came up with Mozy. This is an online service that allows you to upload an unlimited amount of data for \$4.95 per computer per month (personal use only, for this price). It includes a simple client (available for Mac or Windows) that lets you choose common files and folders (Address Book, Documents Folder, Keychains, and Microsoft Word Documents, for example) as well as select specific files and folders. It includes a scheduling component so your files are backed up automatically. And yes, it takes a long time to upload your files--like days long if you're dealing with dozens of gigabytes.

Aperture ho!

I like iPhoto a lot. The current version is fast and it provides just enough tools that I can perform nice looking edits without a lot of bother. But its ability to back up your pictures is primitive. When you query iPhoto's Help about backing up your iPhoto library you're offered the option of using Time Machine or dragging your library to another disk or burning it to CD or DVD.

I also like Aperture a lot and its ability to create vaults of my photos and easily save them to another drive has won me over. I've imported my iPhoto libraries into the program and have since saved them as part of an Aperture vault, which I'm in the process of uploading to Mozy.

A UPS that makes sense

A couple of years ago I got smart and installed two uninterruptible power supplies (UPS) in my office. And then I got dumb and plugged devices into them willy nilly. Last weekend, PG&E cut the power to aid the firefighters.

"No problem," I smugly thought, "I've got UPS."

Right. That is until the laser printer plugged into one drained it within seconds and the two Macs, one PC, one

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

Editor: Elsa Travisano

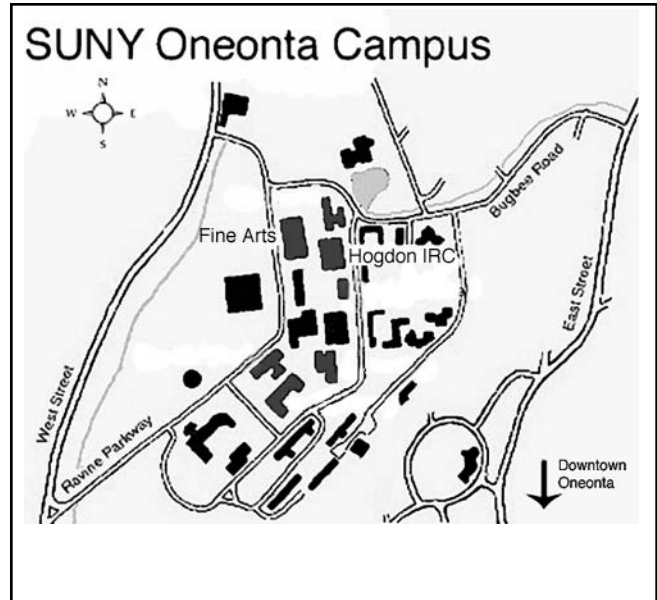
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Newsbreak is an independent publication not affiliated with Apple Computer, Inc. *Newsbreak* received an award for excellence at the January 2001 User Group University.



– *Mac 911, continued from page 6*

scanner, six hard drives, and powered speakers did the same to the other.

And that was a problem.

And it was a problem because with the TV out of commission and our local NPR stations loath to interrupt A Prairie Home Companion to alert their listeners about the proximity and direction of the fire, the Internet was my best source of information--a source I couldn't get to because I had no power.

So, while the power was out I occupied my time by unplugging every device in my office and creating a smarter UPS setup. And it goes like this:

I will no longer print with the power out. The laser printer is now plugged into the UPS' surge suppressor, but won't draw power from the battery.

UPS 1 is now jacked into my DSL broadband modem, AirPort Extreme Base Station, Ethernet switch, and telephone. And that's it. If the power goes down, I can still access the Internet.

UPS 2 will power my Mac Pro, monitors, and external hard drives. When the power goes out, I will unmount those external hard drives and then switch them off. This seems a better policy than letting them suddenly die when their juice is cut. In all likelihood, I'll switch this computer off when the power goes out.

I can do that because I've vowed to keep my laptop plugged in whenever it's in the office. When there's no power in the office, I'll use the laptop. If I'm feeling particularly miserly, I'll switch it off as well and use my iPhone and iPod touch to access the Web and email.

Sheesh... Sure, this has all been a bother, but it's a bother that I've left unaddressed for far too long. Maybe you have as well.

It's going to be a long, hot--and, at this rate, smokey--summer. Unpleasant as it has been (far more so for those who've dealt with it in a more tragically direct way) I feel better knowing that I'm more prepared to deal with it.

Macworld Magazine Senior Editor Christopher Breen is the author of The iPhone Pocket Guide (2007) and The iPod and iTunes Pocket Guide, second Edition (2006) (both 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>.



MACWORLD CONFERENCE & EXPO SAN FRANCISCO, JANUARY 5-9, 2009

The world's largest annual Macintosh event, Macworld Conference & Expo will be held January 5-9, 2009 at the Moscone Center in San Francisco. With Moscone's North and South halls both slated to be filled with exhibitor booths, Macworld Expo promises to be even bigger and better than last year. Apple User Groups will be prominently featured with events and services for show-goers.

For more information, go to IDG's Macworld website at <http://macworldexpo.com/>