

Apple Introduces iPod nano

SAN FRANCISCO—September 7, 2005—Apple® today introduced the iPod® nano, a revolutionary full-featured iPod that holds 1,000 songs yet is thinner than a standard #2 pencil and less than half the size of competitive players. The iPod nano features an ultra-portable, lightweight design with a gorgeous color screen, Apple's patent pending Click Wheel and the ability to hold 1,000 songs or 25,000 photos. iPod nano works seamlessly with the iTunes® Music Store, the world's number one digital music service. The iPod nano is available immediately in a 4GB model priced at just \$249 and a 2GB model priced at just \$199, with both models available in stunning white or black designs. "iPod nano is the biggest revolution since the original iPod," said Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO. "iPod nano is a full-featured iPod in an impossibly small size, and it's going to change the rules for the entire portable music market."

iPod nano is the perfect combination of innovative design, storage capacity and ease of use. Thinner than a standard #2 pencil and weighing only 1.5 ounces, iPod nano comes in two models—the

4GB iPod nano holds up to 1,000 songs and the 2GB iPod nano holds up to 500 songs. iPod nano features Apple's innovative Click Wheel for precise, one-handed navigation, and its ultra-portable design fits into even the smallest pocket making it easy to take iPod nano to the gym, in the car, traveling, commuting or anywhere you go.

The most fashionable and wearable iPod ever, the iPod nano features optional accessories including lanyard headphones,

which integrate the headphone cables into the lanyard, so users can wear their iPod nano around their neck without dangling headphone cables. For customers looking to personalize their iPod nano with colors, an optional set of iPod nano Tubes in pink, purple, blue, green and clear offers fashionable protection in a sheer casing while enabling full operation of all functions including the Click Wheel. Optional armbands available in gray, pink, blue, red and green allow users to wear their iPod nano as the ultimate fashion and sports accessory.

iPod nano features the same 30-pin dock connector as the iPod and iPod mini, allowing it to work effortlessly with a wide range of over 1,000 accessories developed for iPod, including home stereo speakers and iPod car adapters for an incredible music experience at home or in the car.

Featuring seamless integration with the iTunes Music Store and the iTunes digital music jukebox, iPod nano includes Apple's patent pending Auto-Sync technology that automatically downloads a user's digital music collection, photos or Podcasts onto iPod nano and keeps it up-to-date whenever iPod nano is plugged into a Mac® or Windows computer using USB 2.0. With its stunning, high-resolution color screen, iPod nano allows users to display album art while playing music, view photo slideshows or play games in full color. iPod nano features up to 14 hours battery life* and completely skip-free playback, as well as new stopwatch, world clock and screen lock applications.



actual size

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Triangle Adherents of Palm Information Technology (TAPIT) (Palm Computing SIG)

Meets at 6:30 p.m. on the 3rd Monday at the Prime Outlets Mall (in the Food Court). The Mall is on Morrisville Rd, off I-40, opposite direction from the airport; Smythe Richbourg (palmnews@tmug.org)
<http://tapit.interpug.com>

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SAY WHAT?

The things you learn from the TMUG mail list...

afaik as far as I know
amiigas ask me if I give a *#!
brb be right back
btdd been there done that
btw by the way
bykt but you knew that
fwiw for what it's worth
gmta great minds think alike
gtg got to go
hth hope this helps
iirc If I recall(remember) correctly
imho in my humble opinion
imnsho in my not so humble opinion
oam on another matter
ymm your mileage may vary
ttfn tah tah for now
tyl talk (type) to you later

Then, there are the ever-popular reasons for things to go wrong: Someone needs to **rtfm** – read the fine manual, or maybe there's an **ebkac** – error between keyboard and chair, or a **pebkac** – problem exists between keyboard and chair. Or it's just an "ID ten tee" error (write it with numerals and you'll see it – **ID10T**)

And last, but not least, with this crowd, one should never forget **ROFLMAO**, Rolling On Floor, Laughing My Ass Off.

Want to learn more?

<http://jargon.watson-net.com/>

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

Why do we love our Macs so much?

User groups do a great job of getting the word out about Apple products. Now, Apple has a site to help your members explain the why, what and how of making the switch.
<http://www.apple.com/switch/> [from Apple User Group newsletter]



For Your Eyes Only: Virtual Private Networks

by Kevin van Haaren, kevin@vanhaaren.net

Recent articles in TidBITS and discussions in TidBITS Talk have mentioned virtual private network (VPN) technologies. VPNs are usually brought up as a tool for securing communications across insecure networks. Glenn Fleishman used a VPN to hide all his network traffic while connected to public wireless hotspots during the South by Southwest Interactive conference, and I mentioned VPN technology in TidBITS Talk as a way to enable Apple's Remote Desktop to control computers behind a firewall. But what exactly is a VPN? This article is intended to explain some of the concepts and terminology behind VPN.

<http://db.tidbits.com/getbits.acgi?tbart=08028>
<http://db.tidbits.com/getbits.acgi?tlkthrd=2324>
<http://db.tidbits.com/getbits.acgi?tlkthrd=2329>

A VPN is a way of securely connecting computers across insecure networks such as the Internet. Although this might sound straightforward, building a secure network involves several subtleties beyond simple encryption. Security requires authentication—each communicator must prove its identity to the other end. Even the encryption component can be difficult—how do you exchange encryption keys on a network that's insecure?

Why VPN? Why would you want a virtual private network? Most people use them to connect with corporate networks while traveling or working at home, but they have other uses as well. The primary reason I installed a VPN was so I could travel with my laptop, but still access home resources like my iTunes library and email server, resources that are normally protected from other computers on the Internet by a firewall. I also used it at home initially to protect wireless connections that were "secured" by the easily breakable WEP. When I upgraded to an AirPort Express and a Mac mini using the far-more-secure WPA security instead of WEP, I decided to keep using my VPN as a paranoid defense against the possibility that someone figures out how to break WPA. A VPN can also provide a secure connection for programs such as Apple's Remote Desktop 2, which has weak security on its own.

Do you perform tech support for your extended family, or for home users at a business? Ever run into problems trying to help them remotely because they are behind a firewall? Upgrading to a firewall that provides a VPN can solve this situation by bypassing all the firewall rules, letting you connect and troubleshoot problems remotely.

Firewalls for Security Broadband users are often wisely advised to install a DSL or cable router with a built-in firewall to protect their home networks, and most use Network Address Translation (NAT) to share the single public IP address that their Internet service provider allocates among several computers. The firewalls in these low-cost routers are usually enabled by default. Or, if you only have one computer, you can activate the firewall built into Mac OS X with the click of a button in the Sharing preference pane.

Firewalls restrict access from the Internet to the local network. If my father has a firewall protecting his home network and I want to provide tech support for him, I can't just fire up Apple Remote Desktop or a VNC (virtual network computing) program and connect to his computer. There are two reasons for this problem: first, to which IP address do I connect? The public IP address is just the address for the router, not for his computer. Even if he can tell me the IP address that appears in his Network preference pane, that IP is a private address assigned by his NAT firewall and not directly accessible from the Internet.

The second reason is that most firewalls employ a "speak only when spoken to" philosophy. Examples of this idea in action include the Web and the iTunes Music Store: I can view pages from a Web server, but not until my browser makes the initial connection to the server; similarly, the iTunes Music Store can display within iTunes, but only after my computer has sent it a request to send me the info. To extend the analogy, the request for a remote control connection would have to come from the remote computer first to get through the firewall, and since the remote computer won't necessarily have a person in front of it, it's hard to generate that initial request. (See Chris Pepper's article, "What's a Firewall, and Why Should You Care?" in TidBITS-468_, for more detailed information on firewalls.)

<http://db.tidbits.com/getbits.acgi?tbart=05291>

Open the Ports One frequently recommended solution to getting through a firewall is to open the port (or ports) an application uses to communicate. Network applications talk using ports. Stealing an analogy from Chris's firewall article, ports are like apartment numbers in regular mail addresses. If you send a letter to a friend in an apartment building, the building address is not enough: an apartment number is needed to get the letter

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to the right apartment. Similarly, a computer's IP address is not enough to get network data to the correct application. The port number is used to direct the data to the correct program such as the Web or mail server. Most popular Internet services have a default "well known" port number.

<http://www.iana.org/assignments/port-numbers>

NAT-based firewalls can redirect incoming traffic to a specific computer on the internal network based on the port number. If you need to use the same application to connect to multiple computers on the internal network there are two options available: configure the firewall to listen on additional non-standard ports and redirect those ports to the standard port on the destination computer (not all firewalls support this capability), or connect to one of the internal computers, then use that computer to access the other computers on the network.

With simple firewalls, opening a port opens it to everyone on the Internet. More complex firewalls can limit access to a port based on things such as source IP address and time of day.

Mac OS X has a full-featured firewall built-in, but Apple's preference pane limits your options to the simplest configurations - opening a port opens it to everyone on the Internet. Third party tools such as Brian Hill's BrickHouse can provide GUI access to a much broader range of functionality, or you can use even more full-featured tools like DoorStop X from Open Door Networks or IPNetSentry from Sustainable Softworks.

http://personalpages.tds.net/~brian_hill/brickhouse.html
<http://www.opendoor.com/doorstop/>
http://www.sustworks.com/site/prod_ipns_overview.html

Even with the more advanced configuration options that BrickHouse or your cable or DSL router offers, building these exceptions can be time consuming and error prone (IPNetSentry takes a different approach for this reason, looking for suspicious activity and, when triggered, banning the intruder). Some simple facts of Internet use can make maintaining these rules difficult. For example, adjusting access for someone with an ever-changing dynamic IP address can be frustrating, or even impossible if you are trying to make the change from a

dynamic address not already configured in the firewall rules.

Another issue that opening firewall ports cannot solve is unencrypted data streams. Anybody on the network path between the source and destination can use simple tools to extract the traffic. If you use VNC software for remote control, others on the Internet can view exactly what you are seeing/typing. VNC does encrypt the initial authentication made to a remote computer, but if you use it to change a password or unlock a remote screen saver, the password is sent unencrypted. Both FTP and telnet also send your password as plain text.

The ideal solution is to make your local computer connect over the Internet, through the remote firewall, bypassing all the rules, to any number of computers or devices behind the firewall. Additionally we want to keep those communications secret from prying eyes, and we want to ensure the connecting computer is really the one it is claiming to be.

Virtual private networks were designed to provide this solution by creating a secure tunnel through which all traffic flows from you—wherever you may be on the Internet—to your network. Several types of VPN are available: a group of open protocols referred to as IPsec; Point-to-Point Tunneling Protocol (PPTP); Layer 2 Tunneling Protocol (L2TP), frequently used with IPsec; SSH tunnels; and SSL VPN.

you shouldn't allow
any computer to
connect to your
network if you
don't explicitly trust
its maintenance
and security

http://www.freebsd.org/doc/en_US.ISO8859-1/books/handbook/ipsec.html
<http://www.microsoft.com/ntserver/ProductInfo/faqs/PPTPfaq.asp>
<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/community/columns/cableguy/cg0801.mspix>
http://www.infoworld.com/article/03/10/24/42TCsslvpn_1.html

IPsec Originally, IPsec was used on corporate enterprise networks as a way to connect remote offices over cheaper Internet connections instead of more expensive dedicated lines. Large dedicated VPN firewalls would be placed in each office and connected together. Fortunately, the costs of implementing these systems has dropped considerably over the years, with many inexpensive home routers including VPN capabilities for

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only a slightly increased cost.

IPsec uses a two-phase system to establish the VPN. In phase one the identity of each participant is authenticated. Phase two is the actual exchange of encrypted data. Each phase negotiates the various methods to be used for authentication and encryption key exchange. To increase the security of the tunnel the two phases re-negotiate, re-authenticate, and exchange new encryption keys at periodic intervals.

PPTP & L2TP PPTP is an older and less secure VPN technology developed by Microsoft. PPTP is still quite popular (especially in Europe) because it is built into Windows. L2TP is a combination of Microsoft's PPTP and Cisco's L2F (Layer Two Forwarding) technology. L2TP over IPsec encapsulates the L2TP traffic in IPsec packets. The use of IPsec allows the authentication phase of the VPN to be encrypted, something PPTP does not support otherwise. Mac OS X supports both PPTP and L2TP over IPsec, both configured via Apple's Internet Connect application.

SSH SSH tunnels are a popular method of encrypting and authenticating communications between computers. An SSH tunnel uses a port forwarding model where ssh on the client side gathers all data packets sent to a particular port and sends them through an encrypted tunnel. The server on the far end (running sshd) decrypts the packets and forwards them to the appropriate destination.

Unfortunately, an SSH tunnel is a computer-to-computer system. If I want to use SSH to multiple computers behind a NAT firewall, I must either open additional ports on the firewall, one for each system, or tunnel to one machine, then connect from that computer to other machines. Both methods can be complex to set up. An additional limitation of SSH tunnels is that they support only TCP connections, and not UDP. As a result, ssh tunneling is insufficient for applications like Apple Remote Desktop.

SSL VPN SSL VPNs are the current hot items in networking. An SSL VPN uses standard Web protocols for authentication and encryption. This approach enables the VPN to work through restrictive firewalls that block the ports of other VPN protocols. SSL VPN technology offers a range of capabilities. At its simplest, the VPN may be a reverse Web proxy, providing authenticated Internet users access to intranet Web servers behind the remote firewall.

SSL VPNs can also provide Web-based file browsers that enable users to access Windows and NFS file shares on the remote

network. No special client is needed for this, as the VPN hardware handles the translation from network shares to Web pages.

More advanced SSL VPN units offer functionality similar to SSH tunnels. The user logs in to a Web application and launches a Java or ActiveX client that configures all port forwarding options. In this configuration, just ports needed for an application are tunneled, so the chance of infection from viruses and Trojans is greatly reduced. This limited access enables many corporations to use an SSL VPN to provide network access to untrusted computers, such as employees' home computers and vendor systems for supporting internal applications. Additionally, many handhelds with wireless networking and Java support can tunnel in via an SSL VPN, too.

High-end SSL VPN products offer a complete TCP/IP stack that encrypts packets across an SSL link, an approach called "IPsec replacement" mode because it provides the security of a full IPsec VPN while still being able to work through restrictive firewalls.

<http://www.nwfusion.com/reviews/2004/0112revmain.html>
<http://openvpn.net/>
<http://www.f5.com/>
<http://www.caymas.com/>

SSL VPNs are popular in enterprise networks, but the current high cost of entry keeps them out of the reach of most home and small business users. Because of their flexibility and low cost, I focus on IPsec VPNs for the remainder of this article.

VPN to What? Once you select a VPN protocol, you need to decide the type of connection you want to make: computer-to-computer, computer-to-network, or network-to-network. The computer-to-computer connection enables access only to the individual remote computer. Computer-to-network enables one computer access to all devices on a remote network. And a network-to-network connection enables entire offices of computers to communicate, without the need to configure each machine. Most people are interested in connecting a laptop or small home office machine to a remote network (computer-to-network), so I focus on this scenario.

First, you need to pick a VPN client. Mac OS X includes an IPsec implementation based on Racoon from the KAME Project. As with many Unix applications, you configure the software via a text-based config file. "Simple" configuration examples are available online.

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<http://www.kame.net/racoon/>
<http://www.kame.net/newsletter/20001119/>

After examining the available documentation, I decided there must be a better way. Fortunately I was not the only one with this idea. A quick Internet search turned up several graphical configuration tools. VPN Tracker (\$90 for a personal license, \$200 for a professional license) from Equinux, and IPSecuritas (free) from Lobotomo are two of the most popular.

<http://www.equinux.com/us/products/vpntracker/>
<http://www.lobotomo.com/products/IPSecuritas/>

Additionally, many VPN firewall makers have produced Mac OS X versions of their client software. Check Point and Cisco both offer Mac OS X clients for their VPN products. Be sure to check the supported configurations and versions of the software. Cisco only recently added support for dual-processor Macs and Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger, although there are reports it doesn't completely work even with 10.4.2. MacInTouch has a lengthy list of reader reports on the Cisco VPN client.

<http://www.checkpoint.com/press/2004/mac120704.html>
http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/sw/secursw/ps2308/products_user_guide_book09186a00802e1fa2.html
http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/sw/secursw/ps2308/products_data_sheet0900aecd801a9de9.html
<http://www.macintouch.com/tigerreview/incompatibility.html>

Next, to connect your Mac to an entire network via VPN, your network needs a VPN router. Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger Server has many nice VPN configuration options built-in. Academic versions of Mac OS X Server are typically available starting at \$250; retail is \$500 or \$1,000. If you have not yet upgraded, going from Jaguar to Tiger Server is about \$370 more than going to non-Server Tiger (non-academic).

In theory, a Mac running the client version of Mac OS X should be able to act as a VPN router too, but most of the documentation I've found is for Mac OS X Server. Instructions for setting up a FreeBSD box as a VPN router are available, and they may translate over to Mac OS X.

http://www.lugbe.ch/lostfound/contrib/freebsd_router/

I don't have a spare Mac capable of running Mac OS X lying around, so I began looking for a small dedicated VPN router. Most manufacturers of broadband routers offer VPN versions of their products for \$10 to \$20 more than the nonVPN versions (see below for links to a number of common devices).

When looking for a VPN router, watch out for products labeled "IPsec Pass-Thru"—these are not what you want. IPsec Pass-Thru enables a VPN connection to work through the device, but does not mean the router can act as a VPN end-point. The specifications for a true VPN router should list the number of VPN tunnels the device supports.

<http://www.dlink.com/products/?sec=0&pid=274>
<http://www.dlink.com/products/?sec=0&pid=5>
<http://www.netgear.com/products/details/FVM318.php>
<http://www.netgear.com/products/details/FVS328.php>
http://www.linksys.com/servlet/Satellite?childpagename=US%2FLayout&packedargs=c%3DL_Product_C2%26cid%3D1115416832406&pagename=Linksys%2FCommon%2FVisitorWrapper
http://www.linksys.com/servlet/Satellite?childpagename=US%2FLayout&packedargs=c%3DL_Product_C2%26cid%3D1118334818868&pagename=Linksys%2FCommon%2FVisitorWrapper

Some routers have third-party firmware upgrades available that add VPN server support. The Linksys WRT54G is the most commonly upgraded router, with the Sveasoft firmware upgrade providing a variety of sophisticated features to what Linksys provides.

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

Quick Tiger Update When Tiger shipped, it introduced a VPN bug that slowed down certain VPN connections. After I upgraded to Tiger, a ping to my server through a VPN connection took around a thousand milliseconds. Normal ping times with my VPN are about 4 milliseconds.

This problem has been resolved but requires upgrading to at least Mac OS X 10.4.1 plus upgrading your IPsec front-end. IPSecuritas version 2.1 and VPN Tracker 4.0.1 both work properly Mac OS X 10.4.1 and later. At the time of this writing, Check Point had not updated their IPsec clients to work with any version of Mac OS X 10.4. Cisco's latest release seems to work fine for me. Again, verify that the software's documentation shows your particular configuration is supported before installing.

The Double-edged Sword of VPN After selling you on the concept of using VPN to bypass firewall rules, I'm going to reveal that this is also one of the biggest dangers in using a
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CoreMusings: Web Browser Roundup

by Dan Pourhadi

Show of hands: How many of you Macites use Safari, Apple's Web browser, to surf the vast network of cookie recipes and rebate deals known as the Internet? I'd say a good 90% of you are quite comfortable with its slick brushed-metal interface and its speedy rendering of picture-full pages, as well as its tabbed-browsing and darned-good pop-up blocking. (The other 10% are probably stuck in OS 9, using Netscape or Internet Explorer—my heart goes out to you fine, unfortunate folks.)

After polling some of my friends and random strangers by the bus-stop, I was alarmed to see that so many people use Safari but have so little experience with other, more mature browsers (sans IE).

Cue the collaborative gasp: *"What? There are other browsers? Nahhh."*

Au contraire, friends, there are several other browsers—several other good browsers—that deserve a pat on the back and a free lunch at Portillo's. Let's take a look at 'em, shall we?

Firefox

Firefox is the open-source Web browser that's gettin' a whole lotta press these days as being the #1 alternative to Internet Explorer—at least on Windows. See, them Windows folks are having problems with Bad People doing Bad Things to their computers, all because of Microsoft's policy allowing (encouraging, demanding) its programmers to drink on the job. (Disclaimer to Microsoft lawyers: Joke! Ha! Ha)

Because IE is so susceptible to viruses and hackers (I once wrote that using IE is kinda like leaving your door unlocked

and opened widely with a sign that says, "Steal Things"), everyone with half a brain and a desire to help—or at least a reluctance to harm—others is adamantly promoting the use of Firefox instead.

Firefox on the Mac may not be the bastion of secure browsing as it is on Windows, but only because the Mac is just as secure as-is. What Firefox does offer, however, is expandability that, when the two browsers are placed side-by-side, causes doctors to mistake Safari as a tuberculosed lung. Firefox enables users to install a wide array of plug-ins that can make the browser dance on its head while effortlessly juggling motor saws and flaming breadsticks. For example, a plug-in called miniT enables you to reorder the position of your browser tabs; Adblock removes those flashy punch-the-monkey ads right from web pages; ForecastFox provides access to a one-click weather forecast right in the browser toolbar. The list goes on.

Firefox also supports various "themes," so if you're a closet artist and you're looking for a way to express your buried anguish and suppressed teen angst, you can customize your browser's appearance to best represent that emotional distress. Or if you just, you know, get bored with Firefox's default theme, and you're easily impressed by shiny colors and glowy buttons. Whatever floats your boat.

You can download Firefox for free from www.getfirefox.com.

Camino

I hesitated to add this one. There was a time when Camino was the bee's knees, the cat's pajamas, the eel's ankle, and the skunk's stripe, but since Safari made its

debut and Firefox stole the spotlight, Camino has been slowly losing its already-isolated importance in the Mac world. However, I came to realize that if I didn't mention it, I'd be e-mail bombed by every Mac Fanatic who has been a Camino fan for so long but doesn't have the will or the power to let go; so I figured I'd save us all a little headache and put it in for old time's sake.

Camino is the proficient (but sadly under-loved) son of the Mozilla Foundation; the B-student brother of the straight-A, Heisman-winning Firefox. Camino has basically one strength that Firefox and Mozilla lack: it's made by a Mac developer solely for the Mac community. There is no Windows or Linux port, and that gives the developer the rare opportunity of tinkering with Mac OS X-specific features, allowing him to optimize it in ways that Firefox can only dream of. (The supposed effect of that, of course, is better performance.)

Unfortunately, that's all Camino really has going for it. Those who stick with it seem to do so because of an unexplainable loyalty to the platform: it was around before Safari, and it touted superior features that Safari later adopted. But the gap has closed, and Safari has caught up—and passed—Camino in terms of features and, from my experience, speed and performance.

Camino is free from www.caminobrowser.org.

OmniWeb

I beat my brain for hours trying to think of a suitable analogy for OmniWeb, but the best I could come up with was along

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the lines of, “OmniWeb is as great as the thing that’s so great. You know... the thing.”

While that may not be thoroughly descriptive, it certainly makes the point. OmniWeb is the Toyota Prius of Web browsers; it has so many features, it makes the newspaper seem lackluster. The Omni Group took the basic, boring-ol’ concept of a Web browser and refined it to a point of unprecedented superiority, adding functionality up the ying-yang. OmniWeb has a suite of features that take Internet surfing to the next level of Awesomeness, expanding the concept of browsing beyond “Type address, hit enter, click link.”

Take, for example, their dazzling implementation of the famed tabbed-browsing. In other browsers like Firefox and Safari, “tabs” are just that: tabs under the address bar above the page contents. In OmniWeb, however, tabs are actually thumbnail images of the page itself, conveniently placed in a drawer on the side of the browser window. As if that isn’t enough to convince you of the divinely-blessed nature of OmniWeb, consider

what you can do with the tabs: If you have multiple windows open, you can actually drag tabs between the various windows. You can also take one window and place it in the tab drawer of another, or take a tab and separate it into its own window—features that Safari users resort to dubbing as “witchcraft” so as to stifle off embarrassment.

Want more? Well how about a nifty aspect of OmniWeb called “Workspaces,” which “enables you to save browsing instances—which pages are open, which tabs are open, and even the browser window’s position and size—so they can be loaded later with a single click.” Not useful, you say? Well, you’re wrong. Workspaces are great for people who visit a wide array of related Web sites at once, eliminating the need for them to manually open the pages (in the way they prefer) each and every time they’re interested in viewing them. A bonus to this is a feature called “Auto-save while browsing,” which remembers the characteristics of your browser as you surf the Web and immediately loads it after you quit and reopen OmniWeb. So, for example, if your browser somehow

crashes, relaunching it will return you to the state you were in right before the crash, saving you the headache of having to find the pages all over again.

OmniWeb has a boatload of other ingenious features: Web site-specific preferences, Web form-enhancers, an advanced and customizable search box, the ability to highlight a link by typing its first few letters, sophisticated bookmark and history management, a cure for cancer, cheap gasoline, and a waffle iron that IHOP would be jealous of.

OmniWeb, unlike most other Mac browsers, isn’t free -- but it’s one of the few in the world worth paying for. You can purchase it for \$30 from www.omni-group.com.

Dan Pourhadi is a freelance technology writer from the Chicago suburbs. Aside from writing for Passages, he has contributed to MacAddict Magazine and writes a weekly column for Macteens.com. He maintains a fitfully-updated, though semi-interesting blog at www.pourhadi.com.

PRESS RELEASE

Genealogy Podcast: Family History Hour begins new broadcast method

Bradenton, FL 17 August 2005, 11:00am: Popular genealogy columnist, Pat Richley, better known as DearMYRTLE to her readers, has overcome the after-effects of Hurricane Charley and resumes the weekly broadcasts of DearMYRTLE's Family History Hour internet radio show.

“It’s an honor to interview leaders in the field of family history research. I’m learning along with my listeners about the latest online and offline resources for climbing our family trees,” says DearMYRTLE.

“Fortunately, computer technology has

advanced in the last 12 months, so listening to the pre-recorded internet radio show is only a mouse click away. One may tune in to the show anytime 24/7, facilitating listeners from throughout the world. Alternately one may elect to download the radio show for playing on any mp3 player.”

About Pat Richley

Pat Richley is a computer consultant and since 1992 has worked as a part-time instructor at Manatee Technical Institute in Bradenton, Florida. She is the author of “The Everything Online Genealogy

Book” (Adams Media, 2001) and is celebrating her 10th year writing as DearMYRTLE. Her genealogy column was originally published on AOL and is now on the Web at DearMYRTLE.com.

Pat serves as editor of the Manasota Genealogical Society’s Cracker Crumbs Newsletter, gives genealogy “how-to” seminars locally and nationally, teaches at her local genealogy computer group and recently accepted the position as a regular contributor to Everton’s Genealogical Helper Magazine.

Mac OS X Tiger Killer Tips

By Scott Kelby

ISBN: 0321290542

New Riders, 367 Pages, \$29.99

reviewed by Victoria Maciulski



I got this book hot off the presses, and I'm glad I did! It covers all of the ins and outs of little things you want to do, like getting photos someone sent you in an e-mail into iPhoto (page 211), or turning the several photos someone sends into an instant slideshow (page 210).

Perhaps you want to get your Mac to quit asking you for your password for everything (page 187), or add words to the end of file names (page 42), or stop Classic from launching without permission (page 184—yes, Classic is still there in Tiger). He shows you how to use the same Widget more than once (page 128, handy if you want to see what the weather is in several locations), copy something from your Yellow pages widget to your address book with one click (page 129), and make your address book display senior sized phone numbers (page 244).

Scott organizes the info into chapters with not-very-useful names, such as “Fly Like an Eagle,” “Cool and The Gang,” and “Cheap Trick.” Luckily, he has given each chapter a subtitle that helps you know what it is about. Chapter 8 is called “She Drives Me Crazy,” with the sub-title “How to Stop Annoying Things.” Beginning on page 177, it gives you really good tips on how to customize your OS X to stop automatically doing things that you don't like.

I had no idea you could get Stickies to spell for you (page 289), create your own Web Cam using Image Capture (page 141), uncover where web links are going before you click on them (page 222), get definitions without launching Dictionary, or have iCal send invitations to a scheduled event (page 255).

Kelby doesn't limit his tips to OS X. He gives you lots of tips on iPhoto, iMovie HD, iDVD 5, iCal, iChat, GarageBand 2, Mail, Address Book, Preview, Stickies and TextEdit. The book is easy to read and understand—no technical mumbojumbo. I can recommend it heartily.

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Conejo Ventura Mac User Group (CVMUG)
Ventura, CA
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Virtual Private Networks (continued from page 6)

VPN. Firewall rules exist to increase security; bypassing that security in any way creates very real risks. Many companies are surprised to find themselves infected with Trojan horses and viruses even though they had firewalls in place. It turns out that many laptop users would go home, connect to their unprotected home Internet connections, get infected, then connect via a VPN (bypassing all the firewall rules) and spread the infection all over the internal network. Of course, such problems are less likely for Mac users, but we still cannot become complacent.

Some VPN clients include a client firewall, similar to the firewall built into Mac OS X, to protect against these types of vulnerabilities. Other clients check a list of rules before a VPN connection is allowed. Some examples of rules include ensuring an up-to-date anti-virus product is running, certain security patches are installed, and the computer's firewall is running.

Even with these protections, you shouldn't allow any computer to connect to your network if you don't explicitly trust its

maintenance and security. The reverse is true too; you shouldn't connect your computer to any networks that you don't implicitly trust; you may be opening yourself to attackers on their network.

Kevin van Haaren works for a large corporation primarily supporting Windows computers, with the occasional Mac call thrown in to make the week more interesting. This has prepared him well for the job of herding his two cats.

PayBITS: If Kevin's article helped you, he asks that you consider a donation to the EFF, which works to keep encryption systems legal for everyone. <http://eff.org/support/>

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Getting Beta All The Time

by Frank Petrie

Product: Firefox 1.5 beta

Company: Mozilla

www.mozilla.org/projects/firefox/

Requirements: OS X 10.2 or greater

Price: Freeware

Test Rig: PowerMac G4/DP 1.42Ghz/1.5 GB RAM/OS 10.4.2

Review Date: 09 September 2005

Just as the browser wars were starting to heat up again, they have cooled down very rapidly. Yes, iCab is still making a run at it, as is Opera. And OmniWeb seems like it will always be around. But this latest beta from the Mozilla Firefox Project, code named 'Deer Park,' renders Camino pointless and blows the doors off of Safari.

"Firefox 1.5 Beta 1 is now available for download. This is the first Beta release of our next generation Firefox browser, to be released later this year, and it is being made available to our developer and testing community for compatibility testing and to solicit feedback."

Now, I know that I'm arriving late to the party. But I always felt like Firefox still had two too many toes in the Windows world for me. Granted, that's what themes are for, but I didn't find enough difference to part with my beloved "snap-back" button. But now...

THE JUICE

Drag and drop installation. Import Safari bookmarks? A snap. Even though the coders I'm sure will find bugs, from an end user's standpoint, I found the beta to be incredible! I can only dream of what the release candidate will be like! With only several hours of kicking the tires, I was amazed at its rendering speed. All the preferences that you should expect

from a browser are there.

Once, I reviewed my prefs, I just went about my business as if it was Safari. Didn't skip a beat. Here is some of their list of improvements:

- Automated update to streamline product upgrades... and updates to Firefox may now be half a megabyte or smaller. Updating extensions has also improved.
- Faster browser navigation with improvements to back and forward button performance.
- Drag and drop reordering for browser tabs.
- Improvements to popup blocking.
- Clear Private Data feature provides an easy way to quickly remove personal data through a menu item or keyboard shortcut.
- Answers.com is added to the search engine list.
- Improvements to product usability including descriptive error pages, redesigned options menu, RSS discovery, and "Safe Mode" experience.
- Better accessibility including support for DHTML accessibility and assistive technologies ...[s]creen readers read aloud all available information in applications and documents or show the information on a Braille display, enabling blind and visually impaired users to use equivalent software functionality as their sighted peers.
- Report a broken Web site wizard to report Web sites that are not working in Firefox.
- Better support for Mac OS X (10.2 and greater) including profile migration from Safari and Mac Internet Explorer.
- New support for Web Standards including SVG, CSS 2 and CSS 3, and JavaScript 1.6.

Maybe I'm just getting used to sidebars because of Mail, iTunes, etc., but this is the first time that I've ever used a browser where I felt compelled to leave the sidebar open. And that's no small feat. I value my desktop real estate more than Park Place in Monopoly.

The Help is easy to navigate and actually gives you thorough answers to your questions.

THE PITS

Nada.

THE RIND

Nada.

THE PULP

This project has become so logical that it's frightening. Simultaneous releases for OS X, Linux and Windows. Isn't there some sort of law against that?

Firefox is more than just THE browser. It is the greatest advertisement for open-source coding. To that end, they are always looking for some "heavy lifting" coders. If you can pitch in, do it.

The release of Firefox 1.5 is expected to be at the end of this year. Nice Christmas present, eh?

©2005 Frank Petrie - Macsimum News contributing editor, Freelance writer, Curmudgeon

Email: phranky@mac.com

iChat: [phranky](#)

Archive: home.comcast.net/~phranky

Firefox art courtesy of Mozilla

