

## Upcoming Programs

### September

#### The Making of Super 8½" Using Final Cut Express

*Douglas Harned*

For those of you too young to remember or who are not film fans, "8 1/2" is a Fellini film of the 60s. It is supposedly an exploration of a film directors subconscious and is filled with imagery of what may be his dreams, or perhaps his imagining of what might go into the film, or perhaps what is really happening, or perhaps it's all a joke by Fellini. Harned has created a derivative or perhaps a homage using Final Cut. It can be seen at <http://www.filmaxis.org>.

**NOTE:** You may want to watch Harned's work in advance so that you can concentrate on the Mac technology rather than the movie during the presentation.

**Member Favorites** are short presentations by members on their favorite freeware or shareware application, game, script, tool, trick or tip. Members are invited to step forward to present; there is plenty of room on the schedule.

*If you wish to be included on the schedule please contact Allen Emory at [aemory@earthlink.net](mailto:aemory@earthlink.net).*

## PREZ SEZ



*Allen Emory,  
tmug President*

## TMUGers:

Has the summer been hot enough for you?! It has for me, made me far too lazy. Sorry for the lack of updates. But that stops now!!

When considering topics for meetings, Photoshop always comes to the top. In August, TMUG member **Kim Kellam** will give us a presentation on improving your digital photos with Photoshop CS. Kim works for the News and Observer, where he, among other things, actually teaches N&O staff Photoshop skills. I don't think we could ask for a better resource.

Please don't miss this chance to learn from a master. Help us get the word out. Everyone is always looking for Photoshop tips and tricks, I'm sure we are all going to get something from this.



Also, we are going to hold a raffle for a copy of iLife '06. Tickets will be \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Bring a \$5 bill and join in the fun. TMUG raffles are open to anyone attending. If we sell enough tickets to cover the cost, we will hold the raffle at the meeting.

We also have a few door prizes to given away—members only, though :)

Of course we will have our Q & A session. Bring your questions, we'll find the answers.



I need a few TMUG volunteers for a cool project, it will be fun. Look for another email, but I just want you to be thinking about joining in a small project that will be fun and good for the group (hmmm, what could this be!?)

Thanks for reading, I'll not let the heat get the better of me.

— Allen



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## WANT TO KNOW?

### From the Treasurer

**New members in Jun/July:** Jeffrey Evensen, Philip Southall, Wayne Sutton

**Server report:** While the tmug.org web site still has most of its old look, there have been many changes under the hood in the last 6 months, and the next couple of months will likely see a fresh new look and new capabilities. The old mail server is on the verge of being retired (new members are on the new mail server already), and new spam-fighting capabilities will be implemented when the new mail server comes online 100%. In addition, xcom is experimenting with transforming the Web site into a wiki (see Smythe's article in last month's *Get Info*).

**Members:** 86 (down about 10 in the last 2 years or so), with 11 of those in grace. The 11 have all had letters sent to them, along with a bunch of others. I have deactivated e-mail accounts of all lapsed members, in preparation for shutting the old mail server down. We'll see if anyone mentions that they are no longer getting mail...

**Money in bank:** \$4,373. Despite the potential drop in members, we are still maintaining our bank acct. However, it might be a good time for another raffle, especially since I would like to resurrect the idea of a new projector. At the last meeting, the limited projector resolutions made my presentation with the MacBook a bit of a pain.

## WANT TO JOIN?

Just fill out the form below and mail it in (along with your check). Or better yet, bring this form with you to a meeting! TMUG meets the second Monday of each month in the Mutual Life building in downtown Durham.

### TRIANGLE MACINTOSH USERS GROUP

#### Membership Application

Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

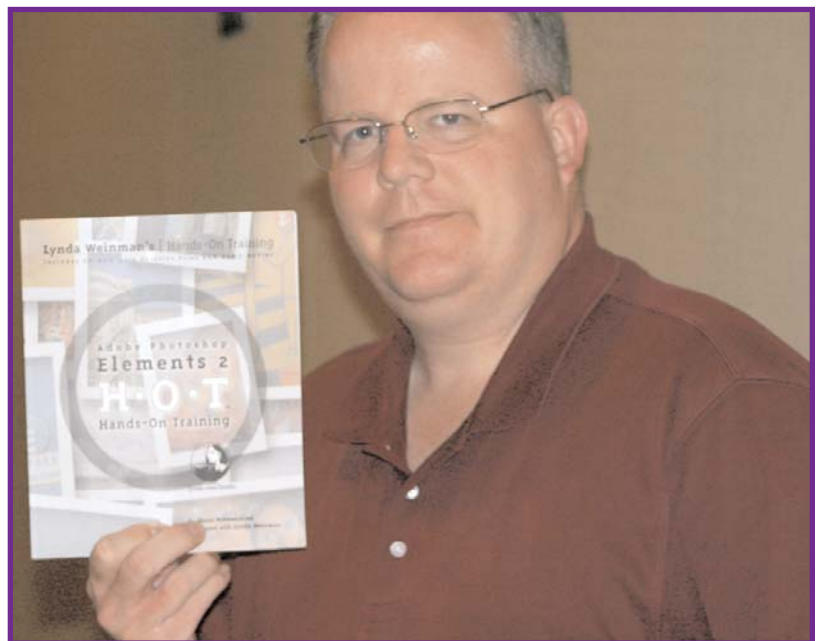
Membership dues are \$35/year. Make check payable to **TMUG** and mail to:  
TMUG, PO Box 28623, Raleigh, NC 27611

## JULY'S DOOR PRIZE WINNERS



**Linda Fisher** won a copy of OmniGraffle, which Omni provided for John Transue's presentation of the app at the meeting.

**Jeff Cole** won the book "Photoshop Elements – Hands On Training"



**Jackie Journiette** was kind enough to photograph the winners.

## Avoid the Most Common Mac OS X Font Mistake

by Sharon Zardetto Aker, [sharon@takecontrolbooks.com](mailto:sharon@takecontrolbooks.com)

The Mac OS X approach to fonts is something that can leave users baffled, and no wonder: many different types are supported, they can be stored in a multitude of places, and Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger installs some duplicate fonts as a default... and that's just for starters.

In many months of font research for the recently published "Take Control of Fonts in Mac OS X" and its companion volume "Take Control of Font Problems in Mac OS X," I trolled the Web and lurked on many message boards, intrepidly experimented on my own Macs, and served as the emergency contact for graphic designer friends (and their friends, and their friends' friends). Of the many misunderstandings and management mistakes users make, one stands out as the most common: consolidating fonts into a single Fonts folder.

<http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/fonts-macosx.html?14@@!pt=TB831>

<http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/font-problems-macosx.html?14@@!pt=TB831>

I don't know exactly what motivates people to do this. (I'm not sure what motivates me to dig into the details of using the Mac — I just do, even when I'm not going to write about it.) But many users explore their systems, change things, and sometimes run into trouble. The Font Book application included with Tiger is such an improvement over its previous version that there's seldom any need to deal directly with Fonts folders. (And graphics professionals who need more than Font Book use third-party font managers that protect them from needing to know about Fonts folders.) But perhaps a user adds a font and wants to get rid of what appear to be duplicates, or she comes from a Mac OS 9 background where it was more "normal" to manipulate font files manually. Whatever the reason, when you first start poking around on your drive looking for where fonts are stored (perhaps by doing a Spotlight search for folders named "Fonts"), you may be surprised to find at least three different folders, and perhaps four, from Tiger:

- In the System directory (/System/Library/Fonts)
- At the "shared by all users" level (/Library/Fonts)
- In your home directory (-/Library/Fonts)
- In the Mac OS 9 System Folder (/System Folder/Fonts) if you've installed Classic.

Installing Adobe's Creative Suite adds another Fonts folder (in /Library/Application Support/Adobe/Fonts), and if you have Microsoft Office, you get yet another (in

/Applications/Microsoft Office 2004/Office/Fonts).

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

<http://www.microsoft.com/mac/products/office2004/>

Many people, when faced with this seeming mess, decide it's ridiculous to have fonts spread all over the place and start shuffling the files around, combining them in only one or two Fonts folders.

Despite the apparent simplicity, wholesale consolidation is a mistake, because where your fonts are stored controls what applications (and, on a multi-user Mac, which users) can see those fonts. Most fonts are stored in various locations for good reasons. Here's the scoop on each of the Fonts folders listed above.

### System Fonts Folder

Tiger installs 30 fonts in this folder (/System/Library/Fonts). Several of them are so important that if you remove them, your menus and dialogs can implode into gibberish and your Mac will refuse to start up. These all-important fonts are LucidaGrande, Geneva, Monaco, and Helvetica. Only slightly less important are Keyboard and LastResort, fonts that don't even show up in your Font menus. Whether or not the two AquaKana OpenType files are dispensable is a matter of some debate; my considered opinion is that, since Apple went to some trouble to keep them invisible - they don't show up in Font menus - you should leave them alone. In fact, leave the System Fonts folder completely alone: don't put fonts in it or take them out.

The System Fonts folder has its own unique way of interacting with you when you try to remove any of its fonts: drag a font out and a copy is automatically made in the destination, with the original left in place. The only way you can really remove a font from this folder is to send it directly to the Trash: drag it there, or select it and press Command-Delete, or Command-click or right-click on the icon for a contextual menu and choose Move To Trash. You'll have to supply an administrative password along the way. But while that's good to know in an academic sense, all these safeguards against accidental removal of system fonts should remind you to leave them all alone!

### Library Fonts Folder

Fonts in this folder (/Library/Fonts) can be "seen" by all user accounts, so they're available to every user of the machine.

*continued on page 5*

## Avoid the Most Common... *continued from page 4*

On a single-user Mac, there's really no difference between storing fonts here or in the User Fonts folder. Tiger puts 35 fonts in this folder; Apple's iLife and iWork applications put their fonts here, too.

### User Fonts Folder

Each user account on the Mac has its own Fonts folder (~/.Library/Fonts); the fonts in it are available to only that user. Tiger doesn't install any fonts in this folder; Microsoft Office puts its fonts here - Office X provides 15 fonts, but Office 2004 donates a generous 77 font files! If you're the only user, this is where you should put any fonts you install. On a multi-user Mac, you might want to keep some fonts private to a specific account (so they don't clutter other users' Font menus); to share them with all the users of a specific machine, they must be in /Library/Fonts.

### Classic Fonts Folder

If the Classic environment is installed on your machine, only the fonts in the Mac OS 9 System Folder (/System Folder/Fonts) are available to Classic applications (they're also available to your Tiger applications). Unlike Tiger's wider choice of font types, only Mac TrueType and PostScript Type 1 fonts work in the Classic environment. Tiger automatically smoothes fonts on the screen in only the Mac OS X environment, so if you want your Type 1 fonts to be drawn correctly on the screen (instead of with the famous, dreaded "jaggies") in Classic, you need Adobe's ATM Light version 4.6.2 or later installed in Classic.

<http://www.adobe.com/products/atmlight/main.html>

### Adobe's Fonts Folder

As befits the inventor of PostScript fonts, Adobe provides a generous assortment of fonts with its applications. But when they're in their default location, only Adobe applications can access them (/Library/Application Support/Adobe/Fonts). If you want to use these fonts in all your applications, you must move them to the Library Fonts or User Fonts folder. That sounds like a good deal until you see how non-Adobe applications handle the plethora of typefaces for these OpenType fonts: Warnock Pro, for instance, has 32 different typefaces that Word lists in about two dozen entries! Moving a few of your favorites, and turning them on and off through Font Book, is a better plan than indiscriminately moving all of the Adobe fonts to another folder. (Note that you won't see these fonts in Font Book unless you move them to one of your Tiger Fonts folders; Adobe's folder "belongs" to Adobe's applications, so Font Book doesn't manage its contents.)

Another mistake users make in regard to the Adobe Fonts folder is deleting it after moving its fonts to another Font folder. Adobe buried a subfolder in it (/Library/Application Support/Adobe/Fonts/Reqrd/Base) that holds more fonts, ones that are used by Adobe applications for things like its tool palettes. Without these fonts in that folder — in that specific folder path — Adobe applications don't even open.

### Microsoft's Fonts Folder

This folder (/Applications/Microsoft Office 2004/Office/Fonts) is a red herring that leads to quite a bit of confusion in the category of "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing." If you know that Tiger supports "application Fonts folders" such as the Adobe one just described, it's perfectly reasonable to assume that this folder holds fonts for Microsoft applications, especially because each of the fonts in it shows up in your Fonts menu. The confusion starts when you take a font out of the folder and realize it still appears in your Font menu. Or, you add a font to the folder, and it doesn't show up in your Font menu. Or, you notice that all its fonts are also in your User fonts folder and you decide to delete one or the other copy of the over six dozen duplicate files.

This folder is a mere storage bin; Tiger doesn't access it at all, which is why altering its contents has no effect on your Font menus. Microsoft Office copies these fonts into your User Fonts folder the first time you run it; the originals stay in place, to be copied for the next user account that runs Office, and so on. Tiger accesses only the copies in the User Fonts folder.

### Fonts, Fonts, Everywhere

Don't assume that just because Tiger uses so many Fonts folders that it doesn't matter which one you use for your fonts, or that the best approach is to collect all your fonts together for easier management. It's better to understand the differences between the folders and store your fonts based on how (and who) you want to access them.

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*Sharon Zardetto Aker, who has written about the Mac since its birth in 1984, made her first foray into electronic publishing with her recent "Take Control of Fonts" titles. Between them, the two ebooks contain over 350 pages of this kind of information about fonts.*

## Grab Your iPod and Run

by Mark H. Anbinder [mha@tidbits.com](mailto:mha@tidbits.com)

Apple and Nike last week jointly announced the Nike+iPod Sport Kit, a two-piece wireless gadget available in late June that pairs Nike sneakers and an iPod nano to help runners track their performance. The iPod will display info and provide audible feedback during the run, and will sync your running stats to iTunes when you connect to a computer running iTunes 6.0.5 (available soon as a free download). The same info can be synchronized to Nike's [nikeplus.com](http://nikeplus.com) Web site, where you'll be able to match up against other runners.

<http://www.apple.com/ipod/nike/>  
<http://www.nikeplus.com/>

Nike's new "Nike+" shoe styles, beginning with the Nike+ Air Zoom Moire, include a pocket under the insole to hold the Nike+iPod sensor, featuring an accelerometer that wirelessly transmits your running stats (including distance, time, pace, and calories burned) to an iPod nano's matching receiver, which plugs into the nano's dock connector.

Before running, you can select a "Power Song" that will help you past those slow stretches, offering extra inspiration at the touch of a button. The iTunes Music Store will offer special music iMixes suitable for running, with introductions recorded by athletes.

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## From MacCompanion:

We intend to make July an exciting month by "gifting" away lots of items from software firms, hardware manufacturers and book companies.

Why? Because it is a lot more fun to "gift" than to receive! And my 50th birthday is next month as well as being the 4th official year of MacCompanion's life, so we are going to celebrate!

A list of gifts and donors are posted at <http://www.maccompanion.com> and that list will change as we get closer to the 2nd week of July.

Please contact your MUG memberships and let them know.

Apple says the Nike+iPod Sport Kits will be available in late June for \$30 at [apple.com](http://apple.com), [nike.com](http://nike.com), Apple Stores, Apple authorized resellers, Niketown stores, and select Nike retailers; the iPod nano (\$150 to \$250) and Nike+ sneakers (\$85 to \$110) are, of course, sold separately. The company says the sensor's built-in battery won't be replaceable, and battery life will depend on usage and other factors, so you may end up having to buy new sensors every so often. The unit is water-resistant, meaning that it shouldn't have trouble with the soaking associated with rainy runs, although it won't withstand sustained submersion.

There's no inherent reason why this clever joint project couldn't (though it doesn't) work with other iPod models sporting the dock connector, but I suspect Apple wants to encourage runners to use iPod models with solid-state memory rather than a less shock-resistant hard drive.

For some opinions about the Nike+iPod Sport Kit from Adam, who in another life is a competitive runner, listen in on his MacNotables podcast on the topic.

<http://www.macnotables.com/archives/2006/649.html>

The rules are that listeners and readers have to be subscribers (free registrations) to MacCompanion and the Mac ReviewCast. So come play.

We will be announcing the recipients on the Mac ReviewCast the 2nd week of July.

Links to the Mac ReviewCast podcast and the Enhanced version (iTunes accessible) are posted at <http://www.maccompanion.com>.

And recipients don't have to be just residents of Canada or the US either. There is a little something for everybody on the Planet Earth.

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**The Mac Nurse** is a new free site for apple mac users, with free tech support, tips and tricks, tutorials, articles and reviews.  
With best regards, Mark Howson, [teammarkhowson999@gmail.com](mailto:teammarkhowson999@gmail.com)

[www.themacnurse.com](http://www.themacnurse.com)

## Mac 911: Solutions to your most vexing Mac problems

by Christopher Breen

### Put together your PDFs

*How do I combine two or more PDF files? — Wally Eater*

You can do this with Adobe Acrobat 7.0 Standard—and spend \$299 for the privilege—but there are less-expensive alternatives. If you're the do-it-yourself type, you can accomplish this with Automator. If you'd prefer a ready-made solution with more options, pick up a copy of Monkeybread Software's free Combine PDFs 2.1. Just launch the utility and plopp the PDF files you'd like to combine onto its main window.

You can drag the documents up or down the list to position them in the resulting file. When you're done, click on Merge PDFs. Note that if you mix landscape- and portrait-oriented PDFs, you're asking for trouble—when you print, parts of the PDFs will be cut off. If possible, reformat your files so they all print the same way.

### Dealing with duplicates

*How do I find out which iTunes playlists contain a certain song? — Joe Feil*

In recent versions of Apple's iTunes, control-click on a track and, from the contextual menu that appears, select Show In Playlist. The resulting submenu will list all the playlists that include that track. You can use a smart playlist to help you locate songs that appear in multiple playlists. For example, create a smart playlist (File: New Smart Playlist), set it to Match All The Following Conditions, and then add these conditions: Playlist Is 90's Music, Playlist Is Not Beatles, Playlist Is 30GB 5G Selection. The resulting playlist would display only tracks found in all three of those playlists (see "Sort Smarter").

If you want to take a sterner approach toward duplicates, choose Edit: Show Duplicate Songs. In the list that appears, you can then weed through the tracks and remove any you deem unnecessary. Note that some aren't really duplicates—one track may be a live recording of a particular tune, while another may be the studio version. Take a gander at the Album column to see if it's actually a different track.

Another option is Doug Adams and Charlie Strauss's Corral iTunes Dupes 1.0 (free). It's able to tell the difference between a studio and a live track, among other things, and tosses duplicates into a Dupes playlist for you to sort through.

### Mac 911's shortest answer ever

*I would like to use my older, smaller iMac keyboard with my new*

*Power Mac because I lack desk space. The problem is that there's no way to open the SuperDrive door because there isn't an Eject key on the iMac numeric keypad. I know I can click on a disc already in the SuperDrive and drag and drop it into the Trash, hold down the mouse button when booting, and so on. But what if there is no disc already present in the drive? Is there a workaround? — Larry Kidd*

Press and hold the F12 key.

### iPhoto fixation

*How can I find and fix or delete corrupt image files in my iPhoto library? — Rene Linda Lopez*

Let's start by locating your files. By default, iPhoto 6 (part of Apple's iLife '06, \$79) stores your pictures here: your user folder/Pictures/iPhoto Library/Originals/year/roll number. The year is the year you imported the photos, and the roll number is the number iPhoto assigned to the roll—Roll 143, for example. If you've edited any images, you'll find the edited versions in your user folder/Pictures/iPhoto Library/Modified/year/roll number.

However, with iPhoto 6, pictures need not be stored this way. Go to iPhoto: Preferences and click on Advanced. Here you can choose to disable the Copy Files To iPhoto Library Folder When Adding To Library option. Do so, and your pictures will stay where they are, in the structure you've created.

In previous versions of iPhoto, you'll find your pictures by following this path: your user folder/Pictures/iPhoto Library/year/month/day, where year/month/day would be something along the lines of 2006/05/28 (representing pictures created on May 28, 2006), for example. If you've edited any



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## Mac 911... *continued from page 7*

images created that day, you'll find the edited versions in the date folder and the original images in a folder called Originals.

Now that you know where the files are, let's look at those that may be corrupt. If luck is on your side, the corrupt image is one you've edited. In such a case, you can select the corrupt image in iPhoto and choose Photos: Revert To Original. If iPhoto fails, you can try re-importing the original image from the folder that houses it.

But before tossing images that won't behave, I attempt to open them in a different application. For example, some JPEG files I work with refuse to open in Apple's Preview but will open in Adobe Photoshop. If you can successfully open the image in another application, put the Save As command to good use and create a fresh copy.

Even if the image won't open for love or money, you're not completely out of luck. You still have a tiny copy of it—the thumbnail. In iPhoto 6 you can find it here: your user folder/Pictures/iPhoto Library/Data/year/roll number. In earlier versions of iPhoto, thumbnails are in the date folder's Thumbs folder. This picture is small consolation, but in cases when you've lost a shot that you treasure, it may be better than nothing.

Still not satisfied? If you're a pack rat who doesn't take a lot of pictures, check your media cards to see whether you left a copy of the image there. Or if you've got a video iPod, perhaps you've stored a copy on it. Count yourself blessed if you've enabled the Include Full-Resolution Photos option in the Photos portion of the iPod preference pane.

If you have, just rummage around in the iPod's Photos folder to find your image. If you haven't enabled this option, you can use Echo One Software's File Juicer (\$9) to extract lower-resolution images from a color iPod (see "Juicy Photos").

### A more colorful TextEdit

*I use Apple's TextEdit to write long blocks of text for e-mail messages and for forum comments. My eyes are getting a bit older, and I find that the bright white background makes them sore. Is there a way to change the background color to something less glaring?*  
— Jack Howard

Choose Format: Fonts: Show Fonts. In the resulting Font palette, click on the fourth icon from the left at the top of the window (the one with the small page icon). This pops up the Colors palette, where you can then choose a new background color (see "A More Colorful Palette").

### Choosing a startup volume

*In the February 2006 Mac 911, under Ready for the Worst, you speak of using a FireWire drive to boot a Mac. How do I select that drive if I can't boot the Mac? — Dick Larson*

When you start up the Mac, hold down (and keep holding down) the option key. When you do, a mauve Startup Manager screen appears, displaying icons of all the bootable volumes attached to your Mac. Your FireWire drive will be one of them (assuming, of course, that you've installed OS X on that drive).

There can then be a longish delay while the OS scours your Mac for bootable volumes. When your Mac lets you, click on that drive and click on the right-arrow icon; the Mac will boot from the FireWire drive. (This feature was introduced with the iMac [slot loading], iBook, PowerBook [FireWire], Power Mac G4 [AGP graphics], and Power Mac G4 Cube, so this technique works only with these and later Mac models.)

### More on iPhoto libraries

*My iPhoto library has become overburdened with 3,000-plus photos from my digital life documentary. What I really want to do is remove groups of photos and put them on my backup drive or a CD. Can you give me a safe method for doing this?*  
— Via the Internet

The trick to doing this is using a smart album. To begin, find some way to identify the pictures you want to archive and then delete from your library. If you'd like to archive older pictures, this is a cinch. Just select File: New Smart Album, and configure the resulting sheet to read Date Is Before X, where X is the date you've determined as the dividing line between the photos you want to keep on your Mac and the ones you want to archive. iPhoto will create a smart album that contains the photos you'll archive.

If you want to archive photos by content, you'll have to find another way to sort them. One way is to use ratings, and another is to use keywords. To assign ratings to a group of photos, select the photos that will be archived and then control-click and choose the rating you want from the My Rating command in the contextual menu. (This is not a good way to go if you routinely rate your pictures, as some you don't want archived will likely end up in the mix.)

To assign keywords to a batch of photos, select those photos, click on the Keyword icon

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(the small key icon) at the bottom left of the iPhoto window, and drag the photos to the keyword you wish to assign. If there's no appropriate keyword there, make one of your own by choosing iPhoto: Preferences, clicking on the Keywords tab in the resulting window, clicking on the plus sign (+), and then typing a keyword.

Now create a smart album based on that keyword or rating. With the photos in the smart album, select that album and choose Share: Burn (called Burn Disc in versions of iPhoto prior to version 6). You'll be prompted for a blank disc. Click on Burn when you're ready to go, and iPhoto will burn your photos to the blank disc or discs.

If these photos are precious to you, I'd suggest backing them up more than once—and to media other than CD-R or DVD-R. The Export command in the Share menu allows you to save your files to a hard drive. I don't believe CD-R and DVD-R are the "forever" media some claim.

With your photos safely archived, you can now delete them from your iPhoto library. To do so, select all the photos in your smart folder and choose Photos: Move To Trash. Your photos will be placed in iPhoto's Trash. To delete them from your drive (and you're really, really sure that you've backed them up properly, yes?), control-click on iPhoto's Trash entry in the Source list and choose Empty Trash.

### The desert island question

*Those of us known for our devotion to the Mac are often asked the Desert Island question. You know what I mean: "If you were stranded on a desert island with your PowerBook (or, soon, MacBook Pro), which applications would you want with you?"*

Seems to me that if you were truly marooned, you'd likely use your laptop to bash in the huskier variety of coconut. So I'd like to propose a more realistic scenario: Let's say you've just wiped your PowerBook's drive because you're sick and tired of the way applications abruptly quit, your hard drive is stuffed with things you've accumulated over the past two years, and everything seems to be moving so sloooooowly. After installing Mac OS, which applications would you install to make your laptop ready for prime time?

I was just in that position. Here are the applications and utilities I installed to return my PowerBook to productivity.

- Apple's iLife '06 (\$79): A Mac isn't a Mac without a copy of iLife.

- Microsoft Office 2004 (\$399): Office is the standard for offices, and mine is no exception. Word is what my editors demand, and until Apple's Mail offers a more robust set of rules, I'm sticking with Entourage.
- Apple's iWork '06 (\$79): In nearly every regard, iWork is no match for Microsoft Office. The major exception is Keynote, which makes PowerPoint look utterly primitive.
- Bare Bones Software's BBEEdit (\$199): Now that I'm doing lots of Web work, BBEEdit is an essential tool for creating and formatting my stuff.
- TLA Systems' DragThing (\$29): I can't recall the last time I used Apple's Dock. There are oodles of great Dock alternatives for the Mac, and this is the one I prefer.
- Ambrosia Software's SnapzProX (movie edition, \$69; stills-only edition, \$29): There's no better tool for still and motion screen captures.
- Mozilla's Firefox (free): Safari is a perfectly fine browser, but I prefer Firefox with a few select extensions from the Mozilla development community site—specifically, Greasemonkey (free; [macworld.com/1126](http://macworld.com/1126)) and Flashblock (free; [macworld.com/1127](http://macworld.com/1127)).
- Panic's Transmit (\$30): When I need to move files to and from my book publisher's File Transfer Protocol (FTP) site, I do it with Panic's Transmit. Only Apple makes a more Mac-like interface.

### Tip of the month

Tricked-out 'Tracker: When people visit VersionTracker.com or MacUpdate.com in search of software updates, they often wait for the home page to load, type the keyword, wait for the hits page to show, click on the desired hit, and then arrive at the update they want.

A much quicker approach is to do your search in Safari's Google search field. Just type your keyword plus versiontracker or macupdate. For example, `handbrake versiontracker`. When you press return, Google shows you the hits. The first link is usually the one that you're looking for. Click on it for the update. — *Gabriel Dorado*

If you'd like to narrow your results further, type `keyword site:www.sitename.com` (replacing keyword with the thing you're looking for and sitename with the name of the specific site you want to search). With this formula, Google will return results from only that site. — *Ed*