

August 2000

Phaseout of TeleFinder Software During September

by Paul Lemieux

We have acquired a copy of the WebStar web/mail server software. Now that we have this software we will begin an orderly transition of our BBS/Web Site over to run under WebStar. In order to do this we will require the cooperation of our members.



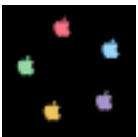
Here is the tentative schedule for the phaseout:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| August 31 | Complete backup of server and archive of backup to CD-ROM. |
| September 1 | Closeout of all non-TMUG member accounts and deletion of all mail files associated with those accounts. |
| September 1-7 | Verification of all TMUG member accounts for whether dues are up to date or not as of June 1, 2000. If dues are not current as of June 1, 2000, then those accounts will be closed and those files will be deleted as well. |
| September 8-14 | Memory upgrade of server to at least 64 Mb of RAM
Installation of MacOS 9.0.4
Hard drive repartition |
| September 15-30 | Transition of mail accounts and personal web sites over to WebStar |

The important thing for the members to do between now and August 31 is:

- 1) Download all the mail files from your TeleFinder mailbox to your hard drive and delete them from your TeleFinder mailbox.
- 2) Send me (Paul Lemieux) (plemieux@tmug.org) an email letting me know to switch your account over to POP3.
- 3) Install a POP3 email client on your machine. Outlook Express, Eudora, Claris EMailer, and NetScape Communicator all will be acceptable.
- 4) Send me (Paul Lemieux) (plemieux@tmug.org) an email with your user name and your TeleFinder password.

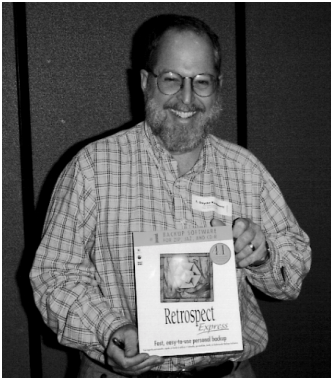
I have no way to get your password out of the server since it is encrypted. If you don't send me your password, your mailbox will be operational but inaccessible and I will have to reset it to something when we switch servers because I will have to manually create all the accounts.



Keep an eye on the Web site (www.tmug.org) for information about the transition.

Inside

Prez Zez	2	July Meeting Notes	3
Faster Than a Speeding	3	Upcoming Meetings	3



Prez Sez: The Mac is Back!!!

Smythe Richbourg

The news is out: Macs are popular. Not just popular with Mac users, but popular with the mainstream press. Now, we within the Mac camp know the truth, that Macs have always been great computers for business, home, and school. After two years of record sales, the iMac has started to make even dedicated PC companies sit up and take notice. And the press has seen the light, too. Business Week recently had a great

article about "The Cube," Apple's newest strange and wonderful design.

What is The Cube, you ask? Well, according to some, it's the computer that will bring Macs into the offices of those professionals who don't really want to have computers in their offices, except for the information and connection to the outside world that they bring. Think of the richly appointed offices you may have seen: doctors, lawyers, corporate board members. These people break the bank when they decorate their offices. They want to portray themselves as well-off and fashionable, powerful, but not faddish. These folks wince when their Information Technology wonks make them put in an ugly beige PC for email and web access. Many of them buy desks that mask these devices. But you just can't hide a huge hulking monitor, and the ugly keyboard and mouse associated with them is sure to be an eyesore as well. And the candy iMacs are no better.

But now, with Apple's 8-inch G4 clear lucite cube gleaming on their desk, and the matching new mouse glowing a soft red, next to their Cinema Display, they have something stylish, powerful, and beautiful. Even if the evil IT overlord doesn't like it, these folks have ways of getting what they want. And that's good news for Apple in the corporate sphere. Think I'm kidding? Brian Lipscombe's terse review of The Cube on The Professional Mac's web page says it all:

"What can I say? This model is clearly controversial, as it doesn't really fit between the iMac and G4 tower lines. I think of the G4 as an executives machine, stylish, yet unobtrusive. It offers all the speed and expandability (through USB and FireWire) that most users will need. Those who want one will find a way to buy one, period."

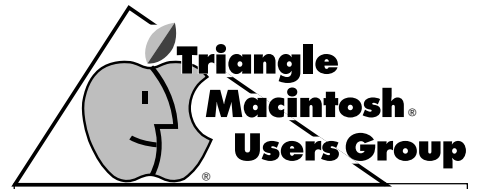
So, who do you know that's high on the food chain and hasn't heard about new Mac Power? I mentioned to a former IBM exec friend that the iMac could easily handle the transition of her family movies to DV. She was complaining to the group of us that she could play the scenes, but the whole movie would never play correctly. I said, "You need to get an iMac," and, instead of her whichmac.shtml saying, "What?!?! A Mac toy???" she said, "Too expensive!" I said, "Well, it's only a grand, and it includes iMovie." She laughed, but then paused and I could almost hear the thought: "A grand? For a good computer and the software to make movies from my digital camera?" Ripe for picking.

Same thing happened with my chiropractor. He makes video for his cable-access station promo show, and hates lugging his bench and other gear to the TV station for filming. Two grand for an iMac DV and a camera would save him huge amounts of time, effort, and hassle. He could film it all right in his office and take patients in between filming sessions, and edit it all down after they've left. Less time on the road, less time out of the office, more time seeing people. And you know what time is, right?

Mac On!!!

Here are the URLs for pages that I've referenced in this article:

- <http://www.applelinks.com/articles/2000/08/20000803115951.shtml>
- http://www.businessweek.com/bwdaily/dnflash/aug2000/nf2000082_872.htm
- <http://www.professionalmac.com/articles/>



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TMUG Web Site:
<http://www.tmug.org>

July Meeting Notes

The featured speaker at the July meeting was Brendan Covenay, president of 4D, formerly known as Acius Software. Best known for their high-end relational database (also called 4D), 4D recently purchased WebSTAR, makers of Web server software. They are currently heavily involved in fixing the bugs in the WebSTAR software, and expect the newest version (with all bugs fixed, plus a few new features) to be available later this year.

Mr. Covenay donated 10 copies each of 4D and of WebSTAR software as door prizes, as well as another copy of WebSTAR for TMUG to use as a replacement for TeleFinder. Thank you, Mr. Covenay, for coming to our meeting and especially for your generous donation to TMUG!!

Faster than a speeding ...

by Alec Whittaker

I have been fortunate that my career has allowed me to live and to work in more than a dozen countries. I retain an interest in the local affairs of many of the countries where I still have friends. And I enjoy seeing the world from their often very different perspectives. For instance, today I learned that Singapore, using its usual system of Draconian punishments (no, not caning but a \$1,000 fine) to enforce laws against drivers who use cellular telephones has reduced its accident rate by 13%.

Most days, on the Web, I read the Times of London, the Parisian Le Monde and the Singapore Straits Times. My Malay, Czech and Portuguese are less than adequate but English is the Operating System of the business world and Indonesia, the Czech Republic and Brazil all have English language newspapers on the Web.

Waiting for a page, even with a 56k modem is a slow business and speed is the main reason I took advantage of Time-Warner Cable's introductory offer on their Road Runner service. Their advertising shows a virtually instantaneous Web access and an offer of \$25 connection fee, half-price service for two months (\$20/month) and no cancellation fee if you don't like it, is hard to resist. But perhaps the time to download is as much a factor of the Web page design as the speed of the medium.

Time-Warner's subcontractor had obviously not been doing this for long. He found it necessary to borrow tools from me and had no way of attaching the coaxial splitter to my brick house. He promised to return at a future date when "next in the area" but, a month later, it still dangles from the cable. It was my fault that I didn't open the modem box until he had left only to discover that the Ethernet card furnished fitted a desktop model. A call to the Road Runner Help Desk resulted in a the correct Farallon PCMCIA card about \$200 (retail) being delivered next morning.

The \$25 connection fee is for "self installation" which involves nothing more than loading the Ethernet card driver and connecting the cable modem to the incoming coax and Ethernet card. From the time the correct card arrived I was on the Internet within ten minutes.

So how fast is high-speed? One thing I have learned is that the design of the Web page affects the speed as much as does the connection. One example: www.apple.com should be a well designed home page; at 56k (Mindspring) it took 31 seconds to download, on Road Runner 8 seconds.

Other Web pages are less well designed and the time differences are less impressive. The objective is to read a story, so the results are shown with two intervals. The first is the point where enough text is available to allow a "New Window with this Link," the second the time for a complete download. In most cases that is the time for the stop-light" to "grey-out" although I did discover that some pages seem never to use that indicator and an apparently complete page still shows as loading. Of course, I did a complete reload each time to avoid loading from cache.

Apple.com	Road Runner:	08s
	Mindspring 56:	31s
<u>LondonTimes</u>	Road Runner:	17s / 1m29s
	Mindspring 56:	1m04s / 3m21s
<u>Le Monde</u>	Road Runner:	10s / 1m08s
	Mindspring 56:	19s / 3m26s
<u>SingaporeTimes</u>	Road Runner:	51s / 2m09s
	Mindspring 56:	1m19s / 2m44s

Downloads were made using Netscape 4.08.

I haven't made a decision to stay with the Road Runner service, \$40/month is a bit pricey to save 2 minutes per day and I have had some annoying problems, related I think to the Ethernet card, which result in my Mac refusing to wake from Sleep mode and needing to be restarted. There seems to be a work-around by opening any other program before putting it to sleep. But don't send me any email at Road Runner just yet.

Upcoming Meetings:

Look forward to cleaning out your closet of older Macs, software, and peripherals for the September Swap-Meet on Monday, September 11th. The Swap-Meet will start at 5:30 and last about an hour. Hand-held computer fans note that we will have a presentation by Palm's top evangelist after the Swap-Meet. An extended Q&A session will also be held for those interested. Check back for updated information.

In either October or November (stay tuned for which meeting), we will feature the audio side of the Mac: MP3, midi/music, sounds, etc. If you have suggestions for sounds to include, send an email to Eric McFall at: afdesigns@mail.com

December brings TMUG's famous Annual Stocking Stuffers meeting, featuring neat (and inexpensive) games, peripherals, and other software, all ideal holiday gifts.

TRIANGLE MACINTOSH USERS GROUP

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership & Directory Membership Only Renewal

Name _____

Business (if applicable) _____

Street _____

City/State/ZIP _____ Phone _____

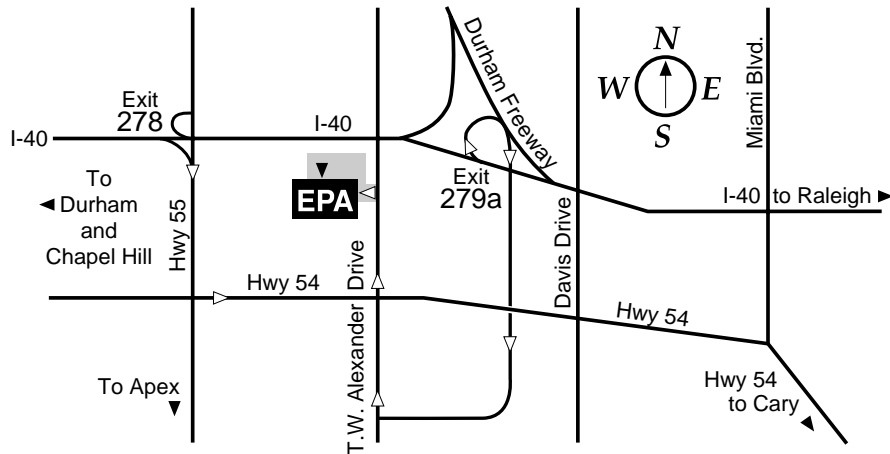
Membership dues are \$35/year. Make check payable to TMUG and send to:
TMUG P.O. Box 28623 Raleigh, NC 27611

The Triangle Macintosh Users Group • TMUG
Meeting on the Second Monday of every Month at 6PM
at the Environmental Protection Agency auditorium in
RTP



P.O. Box 28623
Raleigh, NC 27611

Map to TMUG Meeting Site at the EPA



From Points West:

Take I-40 to Exit 278 (Hwy 55)
go **South** to Hwy 54;
turn **left** (east) to Alexander Drive;
turn **left** on Alexander Drive;
take **left** into EPA parking lot.
Enter building near flags.



From Points East:

Take I-40 to Exit 279a;
bear **right**; proceed to traffic light;
turn **right** on Alexander Drive;
cross over Hwy 54;
take **left** into EPA parking lot.
Enter building near flags.

First Class Mail

PLACE
STAMP
HERE