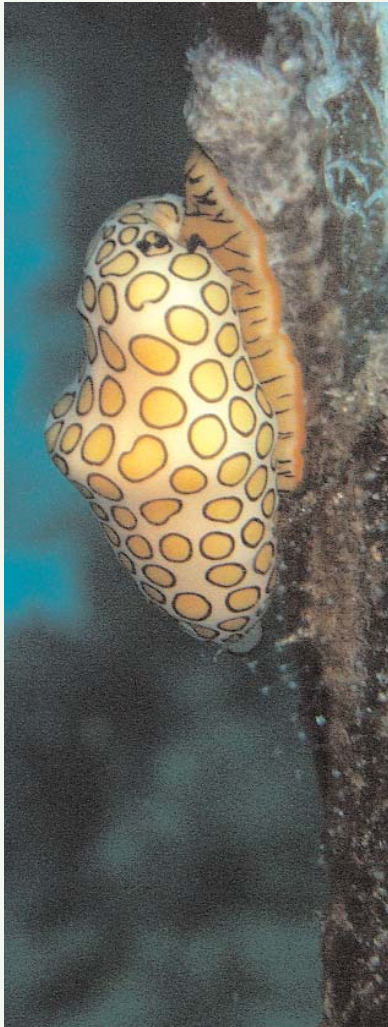


GET # INFO

Guess what this is!



Clue: This photo was taken on a recent dive trip in the Bahamas.

The answer will be in August's *Get Info*.

Here's a chance to contribute to the newsletter. Send acronyms to Melanie Crain, hcrain@nc.rr.com. They will magically appear in a future issue of *Get Info*.

PREZ SEZ



President Duane Reaugh

Intel/OS X: The New Frontier

It has certainly been an eventful month in the world of Apple. Steve Jobs announced that the Macintosh is moving to the **Intel platform**. This had been rumored for a few months but widely dismissed by lots of people, including myself. The laptop speed has been hindered by the lack of a low-power-consumption G5 so it will really help that market segment. I am not so sure it is the right move for the desktop/tower market. Apple has been telling us of the advantages of the PowerPC over Intel for years. It would

make more sense to offer Intel processors for laptops and PowerPCs for the desktop. Apple and software vendors will have to support both platforms for a few years, anyway.

Apple also announced a **dual-binary format** where programs will contain both the PowerPC and the Intel code in the same module. While the programs may be slightly larger, users won't have to keep track of different versions for different processors. With all of the multimedia contained in most programs, the actual code part is probably very small so I don't think programs will get more than 10-20% larger.



...I don't think
programs will
get more than
10-20% larger.

July's program will be **Podcasting and Dashboard Widgets**.

Apple recently released version 4.9 of iTunes which includes support for Podcasting. But just what is Podcasting and how can it be useful to you? If you come to the July meeting you can find out from our most gracious presenter, Francis Shepherd.

Also, we are planning to add a new feature to our Q & A session over the next few months. At the beginning of the Q & A session, we will take a little time to introduce and cover a feature of Tiger (Mac OS 10.4). This month we will feature Dashboard Widgets. In the coming months we will set aside a little time to cover Spotlight, Automator, What's new with iCal, Address book, Safari (including Safari RSS)

We will continue to present these mini demos as long as we have members wanting to step up and present. So... STEP UP!

— Duane

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All members are invited to the following Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings:

Triangle Adherents of Palm Information Technology (TAPIT)

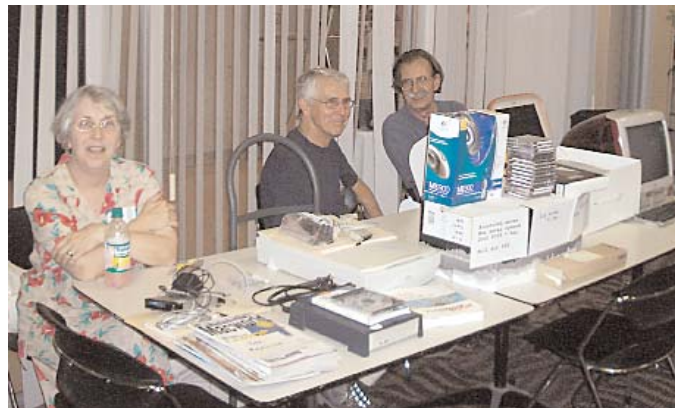
(Palm Computing SIG)

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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MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

June's TMUG Swap Meet



Did They Jump, Or Were They Pushed?

Bill Davies, williamdavies@yahoo.com

Apple rocked the tech world on June 6, 2005, by announcing that Macs using Intel processors would be heading towards the market by mid-2006. (Jobs was mum about whether they would be the only vendor building the hardware for these new systems. Phil Schiller said later that only Apple will build Intel-based Macs.) Is the world turning upside down, or what?

Let's back up a minute and look at the big industry picture.

About six months ago, IBM sold its entire computer operation to Lenovo, a large off-shore manufacturing conglomerate. IBM got out of the computer manufacturing business. That's not to say that IBM doesn't still make microprocessors, because it does. But IBM never used its own processors in the computers it made, so now some clone maker in Asia can make computers called IBM computers and use the most generic, cheap parts it can find.

In 2001, Sony and IBM announced a jointly designed processor called CELL, which is apparently a media-rich processor designed to work best in a cluster of processors. However it wasn't until about six months ago that Sony actually started announcing some numbers. Sony's Kutaragi likened a single Cell chip to IBM's 32-node RS/6000-based chess supercomputer Deep Blue. The exponential scaling rate suggests Cell really doesn't come into its own until you use lots of them together.

That's certainly the design philosophy: "With built-in broadband connectivity, microprocessors that currently exist as individual islands will be more closely linked, making a network of systems act more as one, unified 'supersystem.' Just as biological cells in the body unite to form complete physical systems, Cell-based

electronic products of all types will form the building blocks of larger systems," was how Kutaragi described the Cell concept back in 2001. To put this into context, it would take 2200 PowerPC 970 chips—aka the G5—to yield just over ten teraflops (much the same as you get from 2000 Athlon 64s) getting similar performance out of just 64 Cell cores is impressive. So IBM and Sony are getting very cozy with their new processor, and you have to imagine that IBM probably doesn't really have much interest in pushing the 970 architecture when the CELL blows the doors off the PowerPC 970.

Following that, roughly a month ago, Microsoft announced that its new "game" console would dump Intel microprocessors and that it would use two very high-powered version of IBM's PowerPC chipset to drive the xBox 360. The unit contains a three-core IBM PowerPC processor, clocked at 3.2GHz and capable of handling six threads simultaneously. Each core has an AltiVec vector engine for handling multimedia data. It should sell for under \$500. So here we have Microsoft, in one of its rare moments, designing and building its own closed hardware, much like Apple has been doing for the past 30 years. And Microsoft did all their software development and prototyping for these machines on Apple PowerMac G5 computers! Microsoft has not licensed any aspect of its xBox 360 system to other manufacturers. Very likely you'll subscribe to Microsoft to use the box.

Do you think xBox 360 is just a game console? If so, guess again. The xBox 360 will be the nerve center of an entire home media center architecture for gaming, audio, and video. This thing is like a Mac mini on steroids. The Mac mini looks like a rag doll in comparison to the xBox 360. I don't think Intel was too happy to

see Microsoft parading this fantastic new box and noting that it did not have Intel inside. So IBM and Sony are now working together. IBM and Microsoft are now working together. Do you think IBM has much incentive to burn the midnight oil to juice up Apple products? Apparently not. Enter Intel, who wants a piece of this pie, and is motivated.

Ostensibly, this looks like a good thing for Mac users, whatever those are nowadays. As I noted last month, I would not buy an Apple laptop right now, or a Mac mini, because neither has the horsepower to properly do HD video. IBM has been unable to provide a G5 chip that runs cool enough to live in a laptop. iMac G5s are melting components at an alarming rate due to the heat. And as recently as this past weekend's Sacramento Bee, we were told that laptop sales are eclipsing desktop sales because people want to take their data and carry it around with them wherever they go. So Apple really needs an ultra-fast laptop that offers acceptable media performance for our ongoing convergence of voice, telephony, video, and data—one that won't burn your loins.

The good news is that Apple has been secretly developing Mac OS X for Intel processors for the past five years. And apparently OS X flies on Intel processors. Steve Jobs said that all public demos of OS X have been done on Intel processors without telling people that the CPU wasn't a Mac.

So in the final analysis, I will conclude that Apple was pushed, rather than saying that Apple jumped ship. The technology triumvirate between Apple, Motorola and IBM fell apart and never really bore fruit. The competition came to IBM and got far superior microprocessors and performance out of IBM. Apple was continually

continued on next page

Did They Jump... continued

getting the short end of the stick. Intel has the resources and the engineering talent to push the envelope with its microprocessors.

So I do hope this all works out for everybody. Once again, if you buy into this new paradigm, you'll need to update your software to get recompiled versions that run on the X86 architecture. Perhaps horrid pieces of software like VirtualPC will be a thing of the past. Perhaps Mac users

will have a much easier time of running those corporate software programs that we've been unable to run all these years because we did not have an Intel processor. We'll find out if the bean counters in corporate America are locked into the Windows operating system, or just locked into low-cost commodity hardware with Intel processors.

I can guarantee you one thing: we will all have to re-evaluate what "being a Mac user" actually means once you see OS X

running on an Intel processor. If you have enjoyed being in a cult for the past 22 years, you may not enjoy this move to the mainstream with (presumably) commodity hardware running Apple's highly secure, highly innovative designer OS.

(c) 2005 Bill Davies, MacNexus, the Sacramento Macintosh User Group

Apple with Intel Inside! Will we call it Mactel?

by Victoria Maciulski

The rumors have been flying fast and furious lately. Apple talking to Intel about a switch. They popped up around May 20 or so in the Wall Street Journal, then faded away as a bunch of pundits said it was just a ploy by Apple to get negotiating power with IBM. Those pundits don't know Steve Jobs very well. He is very intense and seems like the kind of guy who wouldn't waste his time bluffing.

Now it is official. Apple will begin shipping some of their Macs with Intel microprocessors next year, and convert the entire line of computers by the end of 2007. CEO Steve Jobs announced it at his Worldwide Developers Conference keynote address in San Francisco.

Secret Double Life

It has long been rumored that Apple had a secret Intel project as a "just in case." I remember reading rumors back in 2002. Dell Computer had successfully commoditized computers by then (turned them into commodities, where the only consideration is price, because most people see them as all the same). Apple has had a hard time competing on price, largely due to the cost of the PowerPC processors. And there has been trouble with IBM. Most of us remember shipping delays of new models over the past couple of years, due to IBM's inability to produce sufficient numbers of processors. And, IBM hasn't delivered on its other

promises. No 3GHz and no portable-friendly G5s.

Jobs confirmed that Mac OS X has led a secret life for the last five years where it has been developed in tandem for PowerPC and Intel processors under a project called "Marklar." Tiger is completely ready to run on Intel. He demonstrated Marklar on a 3.6GHz Pentium 4 system, including iApps.

Jobs also demonstrated Rosetta, which translates binaries on the fly to transparently run PowerPC code on Intel processors without any porting work. It comes from Apple having adapted Transitive's QuickTransit code morphing engine. Transitive announced their product in October 2004, saying that QuickTransit allows applications to run "transparently" on multiple hardware platforms, including Macs, PCs, and numerous servers and mainframes. This technology should help Apple to put all the folks with PowerPC based computers at ease. Your investment is not "at risk" because of this change. The "universal binaries" should enable apps designed for Intel to still run on our PowerPCs.

Major Vendor Support

Adobe and Microsoft have both publicly committed to compiling its software for Macs using Intel processors.

New Developer Tools for Intel

Xcode 2.1 is available now supporting both PowerPC and Intel development, and the creation of "universal binaries" that run on both processors. Apple is encouraging developers to create for Intel. Dashboard Widgets, scripts and Java code don't need to be re-worked to run on Intel-based Macs, while Cocoa apps developed with Xcode will require a few days of porting work and recompiling. Carbon apps developed with Xcode will require a few weeks of work; apps developed with Metroworks CodeWarrior will need to be moved over to Xcode.

A developer kit with a 3.6GHz P4 Intel-based "Mac," OS X 10.4.1 for Intel, and Rosetta will begin shipping in mid-to-late June.

The next version of Mac OS X will be "Leopard," and will be released in late 2006 or early 2007. Leopard will mainly focus on the transition to Intel/x86. As Apple succumbs to commoditization of hardware, Leopard will focus on unique features including an extremely graphically rich user interface makeover, leveraging the meta-data technology (we call it Spotlight) introduced in Tiger.

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Conejo Ventura Mac User Group
(CVMUG), Ventura, CA
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Viewing Mac OS X Through Windows

by Ron Feiertag, NCMUG member

About one month after sinking my teeth into my first Apple, metaphorically speaking, I decided to write about my experiences. Why could a newbie's point of view be interesting to you? Aside from my dazzling writing (wink), this is an account from the perspective of someone with twenty years of experience as a Windows user. Does Windows beat the Mac in any way? Read on. Some of the tips that I discovered and described here could also benefit your computing experience.

I decided to switch to the Mac after viruses, adware, spyware and other malware wrecked my computer. Mac was the obvious alternative to Windows. As easy as it was for me to buy and operate my new iBook G4, it would have been nice if the salesperson had told me that Apple will release the next version of its operating system in less than one month's time. I still might have decided to buy an iBook with Panther to use immediately instead of waiting for Tiger, but it would have been useful to have this information before I made my purchase.

To learn about my iBook and its operating system I read the manuals that came with it, but they left most of my questions unanswered. I then attended training events such as the "Switch at Six Workshop" at the Apple Store. Then I joined the North Coast Mac Users Group, which was the nearest group to me. I read its most recent newsletter and joined its mailing list. Finally, I read *"Switching to the Mac: The Missing Manual"* by David Pogue. He is the author of many books and is a technology columnist for the New York Times. His book gave me useful information that I did not have before I read it there. For example, how to place an eject button at the top of my screen. That button came in handy for me.

His book also discusses the UNIX-based foundation of Mac OS X. I remember hearing about the Internet in the early 1990s but I was concerned that I would have to learn UNIX to use it. Soon after that, Netscape Navigator appeared and we were able to use a browser to surf the Internet with ease. Twelve years later we have made so much progress that I own Mac OS X and I am again faced with the prospect of learning UNIX in order to be able to make better use of my Mac. I realize that learning UNIX is not a necessity, but with Mac OS X it could turn out to be helpful.

It did not take me
long to find 12 ways
that AOL for the
Mac was worse than
AOL for Windows.

One benefit of belonging to NCMUG is this users group's Members Helping Members Program. I was troubled by error messages in Excel for things that I did not view as errors, such as my purposely entering a date like 5/1/05 as text. In answer to my question, a member told me how to make the change that I wanted by using the Preferences portion of the drop down menu. I found that Preferences for both Excel and Word had many additional ways that I could customize each of these programs to make them easier for me to work with. I also changed my computer's System Preferences to eliminate annoyances. For example, my computer screen used to go dark after three minutes of inactivity, such as when I was reading an article

online. I eliminated this problem by making an adjustment to System Preferences. In addition to recommending that new users customize their preferences, I recommend that you customize Excel toolbars, and especially customize the commands. I added a button for "clear contents" and another button for "delete rows" by customizing those commands. This allows me to do tasks with a single click that used to take several clicks, saving me a lot of time on many Excel worksheets. I found out how to do this by doing a search for "Add to toolbar" in Help for Excel.

Both Mac OS X and Microsoft Office should have informed users of how to customize their products. The first time that this software is used on a new computer, there should be a message saying: "Here are the default settings that we chose to make, and you can accept them or you can change any of these defaults to settings that would make your computing experience more enjoyable for you."

It did not take me long to find 12 ways that AOL for the Mac was worse than AOL for Windows. These problems include the increased number of clicks that it takes to reach saved messages, messages that I identify as spam require more clicks to delete on AOL for the Mac than on Windows, and Mac users are shown the weather forecast for the current day on our Welcome Screens, but Windows users are shown three day weather forecasts. I know of no good reason for not sharing with us the same three days of weather forecasts that are available for Windows users. With all of these problems, why do I stay with America Online? AOL allows seven screen names for each account, enables excellent tracking of stock portfolios, provides charts of stocks' performance over many different

continued on next page

periods, and includes some unique content. I sent my complete list of problems to AOL so they could use it to improve AOL for the Mac in the future.

Windows users do not have to be concerned with permissions and fonts in the way that Mac users do. Permissions is a bug that Apple needs to fix. Permissions should never be an issue for an owner of a computer that no one else is ever supposed to access. It would also be nice if Apple gave its users the capability of resizing photos and documents in the way that Windows users can.

More software is available for Windows than for the Mac. Whenever I moved

from one computer to another, I always lost use of some software that would no longer run on the new operating system.

And Windows allows you to delete some cookies and keep others. With a Mac, I do not know what cookies are on my computer.

The stability of the Mac is what attracted me to it in the first place, but the iLife suite of programs is what makes me happiest about owning a Mac. iPhoto makes management of photos easy. The Mac makes duplicating photos easy. iTunes increases my enjoyment of music. Apple's online music store has a tremendous variety of music available at the affordable

price of 99 cents per song. I recommend that you always preview a song (by double-clicking it) before you buy it. Otherwise you could end up with a different version of a song than you wanted to buy. Always remember to sign out before leaving the online store. When you listen to iTunes, click on Visualizer and turn the Visualizer on. What you see on the screen will be as beautiful as what you hear.

© 2005 Ron Feiertag. This article originally appeared in the North Coast Mac Users Group newsletter, June 2005.

BOOK REVIEW

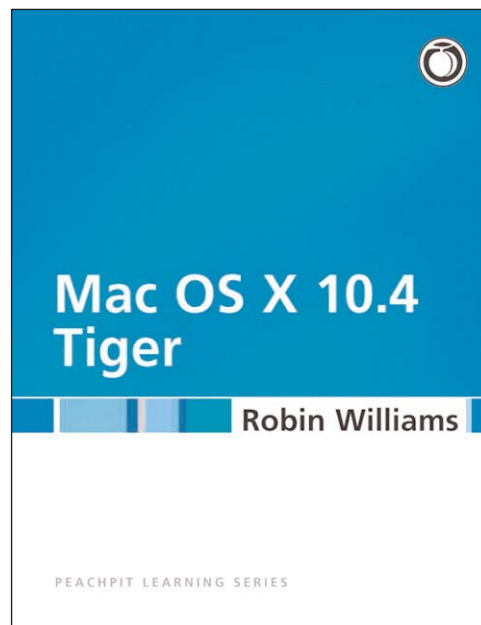
Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger: Peachpit Learning Series

by Robin Williams; 432 pp. Peachpit Press, 2005. \$29.95.

Reviewed by Elsa Travisano

Mac OS 10.4 Tiger is here, and beloved Mac author Robin Williams is ready to be your guide in *Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger: Peachpit Learning Series*. The book's seventeen chapters take you from upgrading to Tiger to basics for new users, making Tiger work for you, and finally, new Tiger features in detail. Each chapter explains particular Tiger features and offers several topic lessons so you can explore each feature in detail. The topic lessons are short, easy to follow and self-contained, so it's easy to dip in without working your way through an entire chapter if you wish. But don't be surprised if, like me, you find yourself reading the book from cover to cover. Williams' trademark crystal-clear instructions and reassuring style make the book

a joy to read. The inviting design features full-color illustrations throughout and a first-rate index to help you find exactly the information you're looking for. *Mac OS 10.4 Tiger: Peachpit Learning Series* launches the Peachpit Learning Series, which plans to feature open-ended, self-paced learning from favorite Mac authors. (The second series title, *Getting Started With Your Mac and Mac OS X Tiger: Peachpit Learning Series* by Scott Kelby, is aimed at novice Mac users.) *Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger: Peachpit Learning Series* is aimed at beginner to intermediate users, but I recommend it for users at all levels. After all, everyone is a beginner when it comes to Tiger. Like all books by Robin Williams, this title is most highly recommended.



©2005 Elsa Travisano. This article originally appeared in Newsbreak, the newsletter of MUG ONE – Macintosh User Group of Oneonta, NY.

“Like all books by Robin Williams, this title is most highly recommended.”

Don't you love all your children?

by Frank Petrie

Product: PodLock

Company: Micromat www.micromat.com

Requirements: Mac OS 10.3,

a FireWire connection, an iPod

Price: \$39.97 US

Test Rig: PowerMac G4/DP 1.42Ghz/

1.5 GB RAM/OS 10.4.1

Aaaah. My little bundles of joy. There's Air Bob my PowerBook. Then Home Bob my G4 tower. And, of course, the twins – 1G iPod (Dr. Bob Pod) and 4G iPod (Bob Pod). I love all of my children.

But I don't have all the necessary items to take care of all of them. I have tons of toys for Air Bob and Ground Bob, but nothing for the twins. Until now.

Introducing Micromat's PodLock.

Now, I can make an invisible partition on the iPod, defrag their data and backup. Even restore. And perform searches lists of my music, photos and voice recordings. Oh, the kids will have hours of fun and I can finally get them cleaned up! I'll start with Bob Pod. He could use the most attention.

THE JUICE

Slide in the CD-ROM, click the PodLock installer and download the PDF manual. The installer also serves as your uninstaller should you decide against using the product. The program also creates a folder named PodLock on the iPod's main volume, installing a special version of the program there, as well, allowing you to mount and unmount the iPod's password protected data partition on other computers that do not have a full version of PodLock installed on them. ("PodLock's secret partition only prevents casual observers from gaining access to your iPod data. For truly secure data protection consider using Mac OS X's FileVault encryption for data saved to your computer's hard drive.")

The interface is very intuitive. Your iPod's specs can be found in the pod's window (name, software version, etc.). The song listings are dynamically updated when you press the Songs List button. That and other features are the same for both photos and voice recordings, too. As I currently have neither photo storage capabilities or a Griffin iTalk, I'll take Micromat at their word.

The song listings are dynamically updated when you press the Songs List button.

Now, before you start using any of these functions, make sure that you make a backup of your iPod. It is, after all, hard drive based, like your computer. Once done, I ran PodLock's Checkup and found 15 fragmented files in my main volume, which contains my music. So, PodLock fixed those files, but now I have to run my optimizer application of choice to optimize the volume (sorry Micromat, I use DiskWarrior). Even if you don't find any fragmented files, you still have to run a separate optimizer to organize your file blocks. (So while I was at it, it seemed as good a time as any to optimize my other drives.)

So far, we have only dealt with the Media functions. But PodLock is valuable for its Data Volume functions. You can create a password protected data volume for transporting important files from point A to point B via your iPod (a field allows you to set the size of it). The minimum size is fixed at 500 MB. PodLock allows

you to set and change the password used to mount the password protected data volume. And there's a delete button that erases all data on the password protected data volume when selected.

THE PITS

This isn't a practice of Micromat alone, not by a long stretch, but do small packages HAVE TO COME IN SUCH LARGE BOXES!?! Appliances are getting smaller as their packaging keeps getting bigger. Go figure.

THE RIND

A separate optimizer? Doesn't Micromat sell one? Hmmmmm... I'm a bit on the fence about this one, because if I want to cleanup only my iPod before a trip, I have to find another CD to complete the procedure. Not terribly efficient. I'd think future versions of PodLock would benefit greatly from a scaled down optimizer meant to only work with PodDock. Please don't try leading this horse to water!

THE PULP

Our iPods get battered about everyday, both physically and electronically. And while a multi-billion dollar industry has blossomed to dress up iPods with colors, leather and rubber (sounds like a fetish, eh?), we never really think about maintaining the inner working of them. Well, now's the time to start.

Micromat's PodLock was created for just that. But for nearly \$40 US, I'd still like to see an optimizer in it so it can function as a self-contained solution. Otherwise – very nice, very nice.

RATING: 7 out of 10

© 2005 Frank Petrie, Freelance writer, Macsimum News contributing editor, Curmudgeon, e-mail: phranky@mac.com

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Guy Kawasaki

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Prosoft Engineering

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Data Rescue, Data Backup & Data
Recycler; available globally. No exp.

XtraLean Software

\$9 off Shutterbug; available globally.
Expires 7/31/05

Web Mail Options

by T. Smythe Richbourg

Part 1: A few days ago, my AOL program starting quitting one minute (exactly, as far as I can tell) after I get to the Welcome screen. 8< 8< snipitty snip snip 8< 8< ...get rid of AOL...

When I read your first sentence, that's exactly what ran through my mind – DITCH IT!!!!

I heartily recommend that no one ever, ever, never, no, never use ANY e-mail address from ANY ISP ANYwhere for the rest of the time that e-mail is in use. I cannot state this strongly enough. Find one of the online places where they offer free web mail and make it your new home. It frees you from ever having to explain to people “Yeah, well, when we moved, I couldn't get BillyBobISP to give me a local phone line, so I have to change my e-mail address again.” And, if RR does something stupid in their service levels, you are not tied with any type of bond to them. This is the e-mail equivalent of Local Number Portability.

Choices, or “One from column A, Two from column B”. There are three major players in the US for free e-mail addresses: Yahoo, Gmail and Hotmail.

1) Hotmail (Listed first because, sad but true, it is the oldest. I had a Hotmail account before their evil overlords bought it and ruined it for Mac users.) Hotmail is owned, operated, and entwined with Microsoft in so many ways it groans when I sign in on my Mac. But, just because I think all spam is the result of M\$ allowing bad practices and policy to roam unchecked all over the Internet, I have a couple of accounts there. Amazingly, I can sign up for one, do nothing, post it nowhere, and within a week I am getting spam from 10 different places on it. But, if I need to sign in at a “free” hotspot and don't want to really give them my contact info, I have a real

e-mail address I can check and e-mail back from. You have to sign in once every 90 days to keep the account active. Clean out the junk mail at that time.

Rambling aside on the utility of “throw-away” e-mail accounts. (Hint: on throw-away accounts like this, don't use your real name, or anything else that is remotely true. Create a persona that owns each one, check it every month or so, and you've got a safe identity to throw out when a friend says “Hey, check out this new gaming forum!” or “Win a free iPod by answering one single question.” (Not all of those are fake, I have found. On the Gadgeteer's web site, (<http://www.thegadgeteer.com>), they joined one of those things, won the iPod, reviewed it and the process, and raffled it off to those in their “downline” who helped them win it.) If you're doing something like running for your neighborhood association presidency, use one of these. If you win, keep it for your term, then just don't use it anymore. Your “real” account is safe, hasn't been signed up to some nefarious service by some kid whose loud party you broke up by calling the cops, or filled with offers from whoever stands to gain by sending unsolicited commercial e-mail to presidents of neighborhood associations. This is the e-mail version of a private line and a second, public phone line that you can uninstall or change the number on at will. You'll be amazed how useful it is. (And now, back to your regularly scheduled long involved answer.)

2) Yahoo was the first service to make it easy to use web mail. They have a great record of uptime, do an increasingly fine job of spam filtering, and have a ton of other services. They are adding storage all the time. Used to be, you would have 5 MB. Then it went to 250 MB. In a few days it will be 1 GB. You can set up other accounts to be pulled into this über-

account, have them color-coded and sorted, and adjust your out-going mail to be replied to any e-mail address you want. Their mail sending facility is flawless – I have never gotten an error message back from Yahoo that I couldn't send because of not being signed in correctly, incorrectly formatted return address or anything else. They hide this from the user completely – hit send, the mail goes out.

There is a paid level to Yahoo mail, which actually, back in the day, was a part of the free service. You can get higher levels of spam protection, can check your mail from any POP e-mail client, get more storage and other services. This used to be somewhat tempting. It's not anymore for one simple reason:

3) Gmail. The benevolent dictator of the web strikes again. When it first started, Gmail was the first to offer a free account with a gig of online storage. I don't think you could even buy that much at Yahoo at the time. Folks thought “Who would ever want to keep that much stuff online?” Turns out quite a few people. A few years back, you had to have an invitation from someone who was on the service in order to get an account. I don't think that's the case anymore, but if you find you do, just ask the list. You'll get a dozen invitations inside an hour, guaranteed. Gmail also still offers free the feature that sets it on the top of the heap to most users: POP access from any mail client. I can tell Gmail to check all my e-mail accounts, let it filter the spam, and just check that account in OS X's Mail.app, set up rules in Mail.app based on who the mail was sent to, filter them all back out into individual mailboxes, send mail from whichever account I care to, and never again go to Gmail's web site. Or, if I'm at a conference or traveling and my laptop's not online, go to a web

continued on next page

Adobe Photoshop Elements 3 Unleashed

reviewed by Elsa Travisano

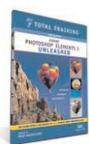
Total Training

<http://www.totaltraining.com>

800-561-7138

DVD – 6 hours, 13 minutes

\$59.99



Photoshop trainer Deke McClelland delivers a boffo beyond-the-basics instructional course for Photoshop

Elements 3 in Total Training's

Adobe Photoshop Elements 3 Unleashed.

Aimed at intermediate to advanced users, the six-hour DVD delves into the surprisingly sophisticated features of Elements 3. McClelland's clear, understandable instruction is second to none, and his special brand of self-deprecating humor keeps the training lively and engaging. The DVD's ten lessons are divided into short topic chapters of about five minutes each, making it easy to consume the training in small bites or to zero in on specific topics of interest. The first lesson, "The Art of Imaging," introduces various palettes, layers, brushes, tools and techniques, most of which are explored in greater depth later. Subsequent lessons include "Making the Most of Quick Fix," "Adjusting Colors,"

"Using Adjustment Layers," "Importing CameraRaw," "Selection Techniques," "Photorealistic Distortions," "Healing & Sharpening," "Effects, Filters & Layer Styles," and "Text & Shapes."

McClelland teaches us how to leverage Elements 3 features like the Photo Bin which actually surpass the full-fledged version of Photoshop CS, as well as how to apply keyboard shortcuts and tool techniques to speed up our work.

Familiarity with the Elements 3 interface is assumed, but McClelland always makes sure viewers know how to find the tools, palettes, etc. that he uses in the lessons. In those instances where Mac and Windows instructions vary, both methods are presented without favoring one platform over another. A Launchpad application installs the 17.5 MB training application, a 96 MB project files folder and Deke's Presets (custom gradients, styles and textures for Elements 3) onto your hard drive. Project files and preset installation is optional but strongly recommended. Registering with Total Training entitles you to \$100 worth of royalty-free images from Photospin.com. Like Photoshop Elements 3, the *Adobe Photoshop Elements 3 Unleashed* DVD

requires OS X, Windows XP or Windows 2000. Deke McClelland's training videos usually feature an entertaining "concept." For *Adobe Photoshop Elements 3 Unleashed* McClelland dons a lab coat and, surrounded by bubbling beakers and backed by a Periodic Chart of the Elements (get the connection?) Deke welcomes us to Dekester's Lab. To keep matters from getting too serious, he starts each lesson with a chemistry-based joke or routine. Some of the jokes actually help us to understand the topic better; the rest just make us glad (if sometimes groaning) for the laughs that energize this exceptional learning experience.

Most highly recommended.

System requirements:

DVD drive, Mac OS X, Windows 2000 and WindowsXP.

Mac training requires QuickTime 5.0.2 or later.

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Web Mail Options continued

kiosk and check everything right there.

And with one gigabyte of storage, I can hold quite a bit of sent mail, attachments, or whatever, right there on the web account if I choose to. That's a lot of potential for no investment!

So, what's best for you? The traditional answer for all computer questions - all together now... "It depends on what you want to do!" From your statement "Just need e-mail basics: read, right, automatic save, search, attachments, etc., and simplicity," setting up Gmail and grabbing it from a mail client on your computer

would probably be the best. You could maintain the control of having it offline, the flexibility of checking it from anywhere online, the benefit of never having to change your e-mail address because you hate your ISP, great spam filtering. All this and cleaner teeth, whiter whites, and more body in your hair!

This may be a good topic for a meeting: how to set up a remote connection to a Web mail account. Or just Web mail basics (walk through a sign-up with each service, show configuration, etc.) If there's interest in that regard, e-mail Allen at his personal ISP address every day until he

relents and lets us have this program. Or just suggest it nicely one time to his vp1@tmug.org account.

Oh, and by the way, welcome to the REAL internet! Almost everyone starts their internet journey through AOL. Some escape early, others linger for years, like you, stuck by their e-mail address. If you're there and reading this, start planning your escape today. It's better outside.

Smythe Richbourg
AOL-free for 10 years

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