

Comments on Tiger

by Steve Cox

OK, I've installed Tiger on a G4 iBook as well as a G4 iMac and have been running with it for over 10 days now. Just a few quick comments for anyone thinking of using OS 10.4. The system itself requires almost 4GB of hard drive and is happiest with 512MB of memory or better. Not exactly a lightweight when you consider OS 9.2 used under 100MB of hard drive disk space and was very happy with 128MB of RAM. There are some printer driver issues, a few program issues and problems with certain VPN and VoiP equipment providers. There are issues with external devices and internal PCI cards as well. After market processors are in limbo for a bit. A plus is the apparent efficiency in using Airport Extreme cards. My wireless range improved dramatically after installing the software. Spotlight is also pretty hot. It brings data search to a whole new level. Dashboard can be useful, but they've already discovered security problems associated with certain Dashboard

From NY Times

From Apple, a Tiger to Put in Your Mac

By DAVID POGUE

If anyone considers tomorrow a special day at all, it's probably because it's Friday, or because "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" movie opens, or because it's Uma Thurman's birthday.

But for one particular group of 25 million computer owners, April 29 is a much bigger deal. It's the day Apple releases Mac OS X 10.4, nicknamed Tiger - the latest version of the software suite that makes up the Macintosh operating system.

Ordinarily, of course, reading about operating systems is about as much fun as a seminar on tax policy. Very

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programs. All in all Tiger is pretty neat. I might wait a bit before installing it, give Apple a chance to iron out some of the issues. If you're running an older G3 machine you can ignore this message. The install disk is a DVD, not common on many older machines such as my G3 B&W or early iMacs. ●



KMUG MONTHLY MEETING

Luncheon

Third Thursday of each month at 10:30 A.M.
Solarium Room, All Star Lanes,
Myhre Road, Silverdale
(one block East of Silverdale Way)

Evening

First Thursday of each month at 6:30 P.M.
Solarium Room, All Star Lanes,
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***KMUG's home page is now at:
<http://www.homepage.mac.com/kmug1>***

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few people line up at 5 a.m. to be the first to upgrade the software in their microwaves, cellphones or cars.

But Mac OS X has recently become interesting even to people outside the Cult of Macintosh. The more Microsoft Windows is bogged down by viruses, spyware and disruptive security updates, the more miserable life becomes - and the more the long-suffering Windows majority begins to investigate virus-free, spyware-free alternatives like Mac OS X.

One nice thing about Windows, though, is that Microsoft sics a new version on its customers only once every few years. (Windows XP, for example, made its debut in 2001. The next version is scheduled for 2006.) Apple has asked its faithful followers to upgrade Mac OS X about every year, at \$130 a pop (or free with a new Mac). What could Tiger offer that could justify yet another expenditure?

Apple's Tiger Web site lists over 200 new features. Not all of them are, ahem, likely to set off a mass exodus to the Macintosh. Will anyone upgrade to Tiger because, for example, "you can easily find any glyph by typing its Unicode ID"?

Still, there are a few humdingers in that list. The most important is Spotlight, which is like Google for your hard drive. As you type into the Spotlight box in your menu bar, a tidy menu instantly drops down. It lists every file, folder, program, e-mail message, address book or calendar entry, photograph, PDF document and even font that contains what you typed, regardless of its name or folder location. This isn't just a fast Find command. It's an enhancement that's so deep, convenient and powerful, it threatens to reduce the 20-year-old Mac/Windows system of nested folders to irrelevance. Why burrow around in folders when you can open any file or program with a couple of keystrokes?

Out of the box, for example, tapping Command and the space bar highlights the Spotlight box. So if you hit Command-Space and type "Schw," the list shows every message Arnold Schwarzenegger sent to you by e-mail, every appointment you've got with him and, of course, his address book entry. It's all organized

neatly by category; a quick click or keystroke opens the item you want.

You can also save a Spotlight search as a "smart folder," a self-updating folder that always contains stuff that matches certain criteria - for example, all documents created in the last week containing the phrase "wombat mating habits."

Unfortunately, Spotlight can't "see inside" many programs other than Apple's, although that will change as software companies upgrade their wares. For example, Spotlight can search the contents of Word, Excel and PowerPoint files, but doesn't yet see the messages in Microsoft's Entourage e-mail program.

The second most heavily hyped Tiger feature is called Dashboard. It's a constellation of gorgeous miniprograms that appear or disappear en masse when you touch a selected key. They include real-time stock tickers, weather forecasts and airline flight information, along with a calculator, dictionary, Yellow Pages and other doodads. They're handy enough, and they appear with a dazzling rippling effect that turns your screen into the surface of a Zen pond. But Dashboard isn't a Tiger exclusive; the shareware program Konfabulator, available for

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Last day for MacLab

June 14th

Schedule Resumes in September

Mac Lab Meetings

Mac Lab is a Special Interest Group (SIG) associated with the Kitsap Computing Seniors. The Lab offers an opportunity for persons interested in the Macintosh computer to gain some hands-on experience and get answers to questions in an informal setting. The Lab is conducted by members of KMUG.

Mac Lab meets every Tuesday afternoon that school is in session.

The meeting is at Poulsbo Jr High in Room A2 from 2:45pm until 4:30pm. If you have any questions contact Gwen Kauffroath (360)377-1715; gwenk17@comcast.net

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Windows and older Mac OS versions, does pretty much the same thing.

On the other hand, some of the most groundbreaking new Tiger features are barely mentioned in Apple's marketing. For example, the new parental controls let you, the wise authority figure, specify which e-mail correspondents, chat buddies, Web sites and even programs are O.K. for your children. Older children may find the "whitelist" approach overly limiting, but the design is otherwise clean, effective and beautifully integrated.

Then there's security. Why hasn't Apple ever advertised Mac OS X's stellar security record? Maybe the company is worried that if it did, some determined hacker would deliberately spoil the party just to prove Apple wrong.

Even so, Tiger is the most impenetrable Mac system yet, filled with new defenses against the dark arts. Messages alert you - a little annoyingly, actually - every time you download a file that could theoretically contain a virus (because it contains a runnable program, even if it's compressed). And a new "stealth mode" in Tiger's built-in firewall makes your Mac invisible to ping signals from Internet predators who are hunting for computers to infect.

Mac OS X's built-in programs have been upgraded, too. Of these, iChat AV, which permits free audio and video phone calls over the Internet, is the most spectacular. Up to 10 people can join a single audio conversation. And as long as one of the participants has a G5 Macintosh, four Tigered people with fast Internet connections can have a full-screen video chat. Your three partners, wherever they happen to

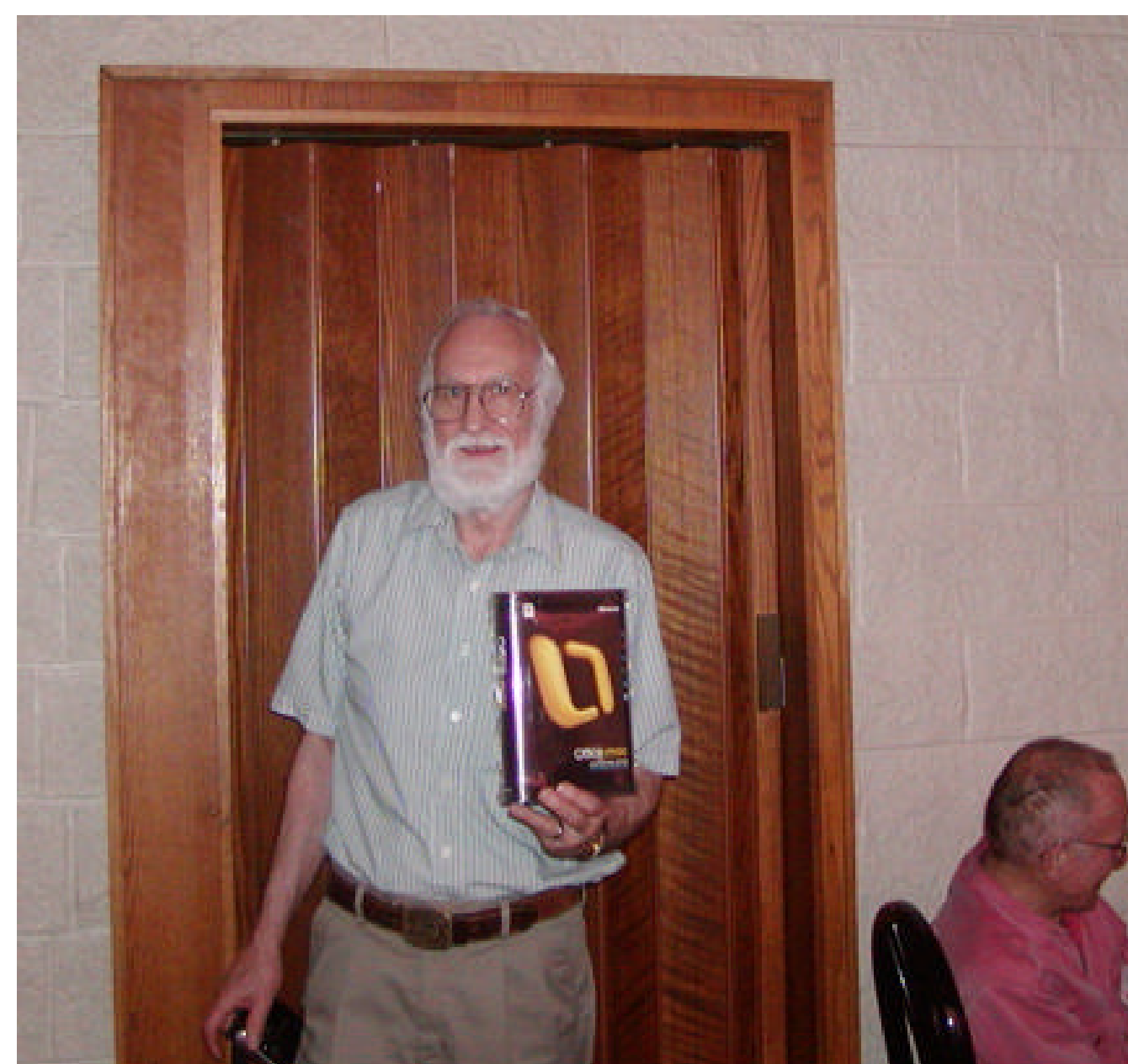
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Virtual PC Demo at April Meeting a Big Hit

Bruce Patrick demonstrated the newest version of Virtual PC at the April 21st KMUG meeting. The winner of the auction for the Office Pro for



Bruce Patrick demonstrates Virtual PC using KMUG's projector and iBook.



Bill Gremmert displays the Office Pro for Mac and Virtual PC package that he won in the auction.

Mac and Virtual PC was Bill Gremmert. The software for the demo and the auction was donated by the Macintosh Business Unit at Microsoft.

from PC Magazine

Why the Mac Mini is the New Altair

By Alice Hill and Bill O'Brien

On the many tech Web sites I visit each day, I started noting a lot of playful discussion on how Microsoft is the new IBM and Google is the new Microsoft, which got me thinking about Apple and more particularly, the new Mac Mini. What was it about the fever spreading through the blogs and Web sites that seemed so different, even for a hype machine like Apple? And that's when the light bulb went

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be in the world, appear on three vertical panels, gorgeously reflected on a shiny black table surface. It may remind you of the flat, spinning panels that imprisoned the trio of villains at the end of "Superman II." But it's a jaw-dropping visual stunt that can bring distant collaborators face-to-face without plane tickets.

The rest of the 200 features don't fall into any one visionary category; they're an assortment of tweaks and upgrades that pile up like something out of Gilbert and Sullivan:

The Safari browser now subscribes to R.S.S. news feeds,

And its "private browsing" mode conceals the tracks of online deeds.

There are archives now, and log files, when you send or get a fax;

You can make the pointer bigger on those Jumbotron-screened Macs.

You can start a full-screen slide show from some photos on demand;

And the voice that reads the screen aloud can lend the blind a hand.

There's a password-phrase suggestor meant to

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off: The Mac mini is the new Altair.

For those of you who don't remember the odd little machine that kick-started the PC revolution and caused a young Bill Gates to drop out of Harvard to write programs for a box that did little more than light up, the MITS Altair sparked a frenzy few personal computers have matched. Until now...

Consider this: There have been many Apple products that were oohed and ahed over, but what makes the Mini different is that hard-core PC users are seriously looking it over, car nuts are busy finding ways to jam one into a car's dashboard, home-media enthusiasts are lusting over a sleek Mini home-media server—and the product has been out only a week. When the tinkerers and hobbyists light up, that's what I call Altair fever. Unlike the other Mac products that looked great or were useful for listening to music or making a home DVD, the Mini is sparking hackers' curiosity to crack it open, make adjustments, and find new ways to use it. It's a computer hobbyist's delight this time, not the glee felt by an art director or budding novelist or amateur filmmaker.

In the meantime, Mac Mini Web sites that have sprung up literally overnight. There's detailed pictures

(<http://www.macnews.de/gallery/thumbnails.php?album=16&page=2>)

from two German guys who cracked open a mini and photographed the insides, even though they voided the warranty. When was the last time you saw the inside of anything built by Apple?

So where will this fever take us? If history is any judge, plan on seeing a whole new interest in small-form computers and other tiny fanless designs. The Mini has already kicked up interest in small machines from Logisys and Cappuccino PC. Not to mention the small AMD machine tailored for the poor that I wrote about in our very first PCMag.com column.

So here's to Apple (never thought I'd say that) for

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Adobe aims at Microsoft

By Laura Rohde, IDG News Service

Adobe Systems Inc.'s agreement to acquire Macromedia for approximately US\$3.4 billion will give the company a formidable collection of Web publishing and document management software — and will place it squarely in the path of tools rival Microsoft.

The deal marries Adobe's ubiquitous PDF and Acrobat Reader software with Macromedia's Flash products for creating media content. Adobe will also have a sizable portfolio of desktop software popular with creative professionals — including Photoshop, Illustrator, and Macromedia's Freehand and Dreamweaver.

"I see this as both companies bulking up against Microsoft," said Steven Brazier, an analyst at Canalsys.

The expanded Adobe could create a variety of rich media and Internet applications that use Flash, bumping into areas Microsoft has shown interest in, said Bola Rotibi, an analyst at Ovum. Although Flash is best known to Web surfers as a format for viewing animations, the technology is a powerful development platform, and Adobe said leveraging

it will be a "key component" of its strategy for a combined company.

"When you think of where Microsoft is headed with the future of its Media Player and Media Center PCs, this goes head-to-head," Rotibi said.

Adobe also gains Macromedia's base of ColdFusion Web developers. RedMonk analyst James Governor predicted that dynamic forms that allow users to create, change, and share information online will be one of the first products of the marriage. Graphics automation is also in the cards. Both of these capabilities would fly in the face of Microsoft's plans.

"Adobe's ambition in this acquisition looks like a bit of a Longhorn-killer to me," Governor said.

Microsoft has been working on dynamic-form technologies and a graphics system called Avalon as part of its upcoming Longhorn OS. By moving into these areas, Adobe may be trying to cut the software giant off at the pass, analysts said.

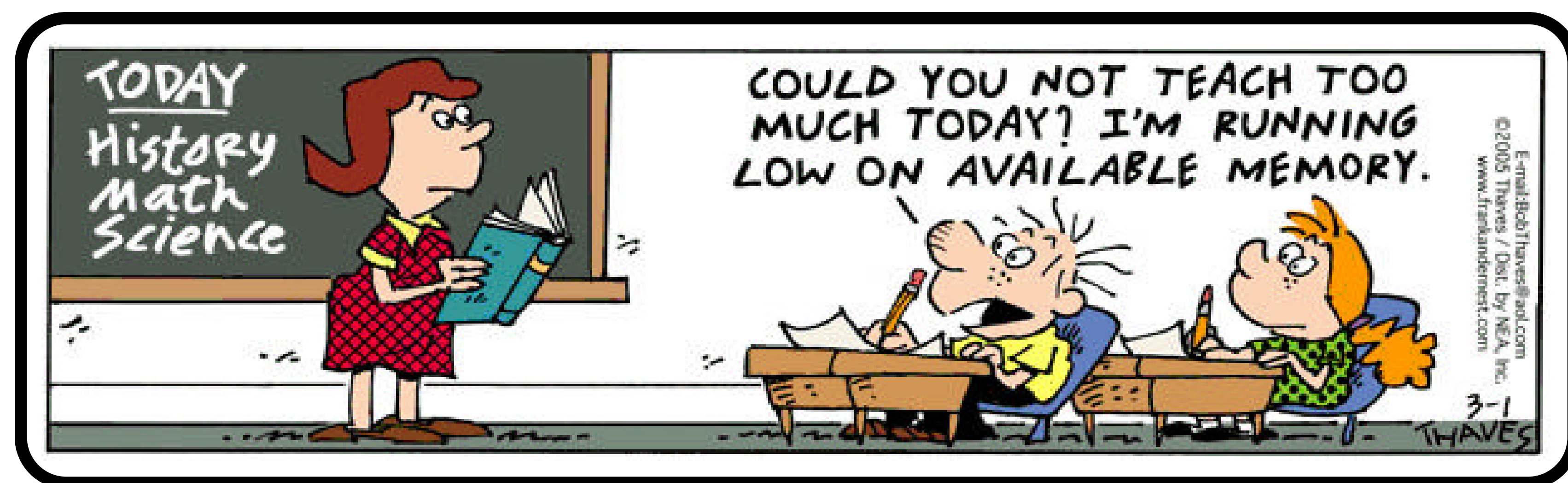
Meanwhile, developers anxiously await decisions about what products will survive the merger. Company executives declined to comment on product plans until after the deal's completion, but Adobe and Macromedia have several products that compete head-to-head — such as Dreamweaver and Adobe's GoLive, and Freehand and Illustrator.

During a conference call with company executives, analysts repeatedly raised the question of a possible antitrust investigation, but executives dismissed the possibility.

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breathing some life back into the PC industry, which in a bizarre circular-logic sort of way means IBM is surely waiting in the wings somewhere, and well, here we go again. ●

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From Macworld

MAC 911 WEBLOG

*By Christopher Breen, Contributing
Editor, Macworld*

Flipping over Floppies

Reader Gerrie E. Cooper has a stash of old floppies that contain fonts from Adobe, Agfa, and other

companies. It's bad enough that the fonts are stored on this prehistoric media, but said media is of the 800KB variety. He wonders what course to take.

I'm afraid that the answer is to find an old Mac (an SE on up to a beige Power Mac G3 will do the trick), insert the floppies into that Mac's drive, create disk images of the floppies, and then copy the images to the current Mac. Third-party USB floppy drives support 1.4MB HD floppies but not double-density 800KB disks.

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*Con't from page 4, Tiger in Your Mac
make yours more secure,*

*And the Grapher module draws equations simple
and obscure.*

*Then the Automator program is a geeky software
clerk -*

*You just choose the steps you want performed, and
it does all the work.*

*There's a lot of miscellany, lots of spit-and-polish
stuff,*

*But it works and doesn't slow you down - and these
days, that's enough.*

Now, if it weren't for that brilliant Spotlight feature, Tiger wouldn't be as important an upgrade as, say, last year's Panther edition. In fact, without Spotlight, you could make the case that Tiger is overpriced at \$95. (That's Amazon.com's price, after a rebate that's good through the end of May. A five-Mac license is available for \$150 after Amazon rebate, too, although it's worth noting that Mac OS X is not copy-protected and requires no Windows-style activation.)

But with apologies to Mac-bashers everywhere, Spotlight changes everything. Tiger is the classiest version of Mac OS X ever and, by many measures, the most secure, stable and satisfying consumer operating system prowling the earth.

If you're a Mac geek of the sort who'd get a kick out of high-end features like Automator and the advances in the underlying Unix engine, then Tiger is worth getting now. Of course, if you truly are a Mac geek, you didn't need a newspaper columnist to tell you that.

If you're just an everyday creative worker bee, though, consider waiting out the shakedown period before pouncing on Tiger. Apple will surely release a 10.4.1 update that fixes the tiny glitches, like the errors in the onscreen help system (which is, mercifully, infinitely faster than in the last version). And in the coming weeks, the handful of Tiger-incompatible programs (notably the excellent networkable calendar Now Up-to-Date) will be upgraded and made Tiger-ready.

And if you're a Windows refugee or someone who's never owned a computer, you'll find this Tiger remarkably tame and approachable. Who knows? Maybe April 29 will mean something to you after all. ●

Disclaimer

The KMUG Newsletter is a compilation of information related to the Macintosh community or areas which impact Macintosh computing. Content comes from a variety of sources: contributions, other user groups or internet news sources. All articles are given full credit for the author and it's source. The information presented in the KMUG Newsletter does not reflect the opinion of KMUG, but is presented for it's informational content.

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“There’s a lot of competition. CorelDraw outsells both of us in Germany, and there are open source products like Killustrator [which changed its name to Kontour in 2001 to avoid an Adobe lawsuit]. We don’t see it as an issue,” Adobe CFO Murray Demo explained. ●

Luncheon Meeting

KMUG Meeting

April 21, 2005

Don Diehl opened the meeting. There were 38 people present. Don said Microsoft-Mactopia had donated about \$1500 in programs to the Club. Bill Gremmert won the auction for the Microsoft Office 2004 Pro with Virtual PC Version 7.0 and Joan Benze won the door prize of Virtual PC Version 7.0. There is a second combination Office and Virtual PC package to be used as a door prize at the May meeting.

Don thanked Jim Bybee for making a mug for Mike Strube from Costco who presented a program on Digital Photography, a keychain for Shelley Watson and a LED flashlight for Bruce Patrick in appreciation for their contributions to the club,

There was discussion on the subject of whether to take a booth at the County Fair to give the public exposure to “Things Macintosh”. Items to consider were the the cost, hours needed to man a booth and whether other clubs in the area would be interested in making it a joint venture. The possibility that Apple might donate something to use as a raffle to draw people was mentioned.

Meeting Program for May 19th Bruce Patrick will be demonstrating Office for the Mac

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Adding Text to Pictures

Reader Lane Loman would dearly love to slap some text on pictures he plans to post to his website. He writes:

I own three Apple computers—an eMac, iBook, and Mac mini. I have been trying to find out how to put text on a picture for my web site. If iPhoto offers this possibility, I have not yet discovered it. Is there a program that you could recommend if adding text to photos is not possible with iPhoto?

Wonderful as iPhoto may be, imposing text on pictures is a lot to ask from a program that was designed largely as a way to organize, display, and lightly edit your digital photos. I admire your desire to use a bundled application to perform this task, however.

For this reason I suggest that you open your Applications folder and launch one of the Macs’ copies of AppleWorks. Cantankerous as AppleWorks can be, you can still drag a picture from iPhotos into a draw document, create a block of text within that document, drag it to where you’d like it on the picture, and export the results in the supported format of your choosing. ●

Bruce Patrick began his overview of Virtual PC with a clever audio-animation using Power Point from the Office 2004 program.

Submitted by:
Phyllis Robie

***KMUG's home page is now at:
<http://www.homepage.mac.com/kmug1>***

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To join Kitsap Macintosh User's Group, send name, address (e-mail and snail mail) and dues (see renewal below for membership fee to:

KMUG

P.O. Box 1271, Silverdale, WA 98383

or come to one of our meetings and sign up!

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Evening Meeting Chairperson Vacant

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(jwilly6173@yahoo.com)

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Discussion Chairman Lewis Coleman

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& Richard B. Nerf

Member-at-Large - Programs Richard B. Nerf

Other Members-at-Large As needed

Mac Lab Coordinator Gwen Kauffroath

(gwenk17@comcast.net)

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If you received a paper newsletter please check the membership expiration date on the address label.

To renew with the newsletter e-mailed to your computer, dues are \$20.

To renew with a paper newsletter, dues are \$30.

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Luncheon

Third Thursday of each month at 10:30 A.M.

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Evening

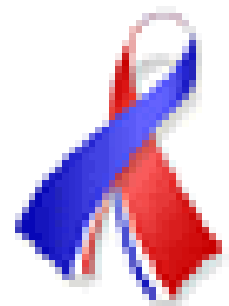
First Thursday of each month at 6:30 P.M.

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This month's newsletter editor was Joe Williams



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