

*from MacCentral*

## ***Apple's Bud Tribble on Mac OS X Security***

*by Jim Dalrymple*

There has been a lot of talk in the press recently about how secure Mac OS X really is and how much Mac users have to be concerned about security. While Apple said they are very serious about security concerns, Mac users, for the most part, have been unaffected.

“Proof of concepts are out there but end users have not been affected by exploits in the wild the way they typically are with some other platforms,” Bud Tribble, Apple’s vice president of Software Technology, told Macworld. “It’s never good to say don’t be concerned about security, however, the actual affects on users of our platform are minimal.”

Tribble — who worked for Apple as manager of the original Macintosh Software team where he helped to design the Mac OS — said often times there is more to the story than what is originally reported by the press.

One such incident happened earlier this month (related article on page 2) when a Swedish man set up his Mac mini as a server and invited people to try to break into the system and gain root control. Within hours of the challenge going live, it was over, as a hacker gained root control of the Mac mini.

What was not initially reported, however, was that anyone that wanted to hack the machine was given access to the computer through a local account (which could be accessed via SSH), so the Mac mini wasn’t hacked from outside” root access was actually gained from a local user account.

“There is certainly a tendency to make news out of every potential exploit on the Mac simply because it is more unusual than on some other platforms,” said Tribble. “A lot of times when you look behind the news, it is a little bit of a stretch.”

That said Apple does fix security issues in Mac OS X whenever they arise, but most times, these are before the issues are even known publicly.

“These updates tend to be more preventative,” said Tribble. “They aren’t exploits in the wild that you are actively trying to prevent. Users should never be complacent about security “we aren’t here. We are

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***United We  
Stand***

### **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,  
Myhre Road, Silverdale  
(one block east of Silverdale Way)

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

*from MacCentral*

# ***Mac OS X Hacked in 30 Minutes? Not Quite!***

*by Jim Dalrymple*

Claims of Mac OS X being hacked in under 30 minutes are not quite what they seem, according to Dave Schroeder, Senior Systems Engineer at the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

A recent ZDNet article told the story of a Swedish man who setup his Mac mini as a server and invited people to try to break into the system and gain root control. Having root control of a computer allows you do install applications, move or delete files.

Within hours of the challenge going live, it was over as a hacker gained root control of the Mac mini. However, Schroeder says there are some facts that were not made clear in the article that contributed to the hacker being able to gain access to the computer.

Anyone that wanted to hack the machine was given access to the machine through a local account (which could be accessed via SSH), so the Mac mini wasn't hacked from outside — root access was actually gained from a local user account.

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## ***Con't from Page 1, Apple on Security***

extremely proactive in paying attention to these things and eliminating them when we find them.”

Many Mac users openly boast about the lack of antivirus and security software they use on their computers because the Mac is a safe platform. Apple points out that a lot of security measures are looked after for the users, so even the most inexperienced computer user can feel safe when using a Mac.

“We actually build a lot of security functionality into Mac OS X including things like download validation, flagging junk mail, making sure the ports are turned off, and we have a firewall there if you need it. There are a lot of things we do,” said Tribble. ●

“That is a huge distinction,” said Schroeder.

Schroeder points out that, by default, Mac OS X machines will not give any external entities local account access; not have any ports open; and most consumer machines will also be behind personal router/firewall devices, further reducing exposure.

“Mac OS X is not invulnerable,” said Schroeder. It, like any other operating system, has security deficiencies in various aspects of the software. Some are technical in nature, and others lend themselves to social engineering trickery. However, the general architecture and design philosophy of Mac OS X, in addition to usage of open source components for most network-accessible services that receive intense peer scrutiny from the community, make Mac OS X a very secure operating system.”

Schroeder is so sure of the Macs security if setup properly that he is having his own security challenge. According to his Web site, the challenge is as follows: simply alter the web page on this machine, test.doit.wisc.edu. The machine is a Mac mini (PowerPC) running Mac OS X 10.4.5 with Security Update 2006-001, has two local accounts, and has ssh and http open - a lot more than most

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## ***MacLab is Back in Session***

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 **Wednesday** afternoon that school is in session.

The meeting is in the Mt.St. Helens Lab (Room 17) at Ridgetop Jr High School from 2:45pm until 4:45pm. If you have any questions contact Gwen Kauffroath (360)377-1715; gwenk17@comcast.net

*from MacCentral*

# *Analysis: Intel News Hints at Future Apple Products*

*by Laurianne McLaughlin*

At the Intel Developer Forum, you usually see as many product codenames as you do plaid shirts on the tech-confab's attendees. But at last week's session in San Francisco, you also saw a few hints at what could be in store for Apple's portables and desktops.

Intel uses its developer forum to give PC industry customers and partners a detailed look at its upcoming roadmap and new technologies. For Apple users, that could mean extremely power-efficient notebooks in the second half of this year, and desktop PCs with quad-core processors in early 2007. Intel also announced a funding deal that could put Intel processors inside Apple servers.

The week began with the announcement that Intel and Transitive will work together to apply Transitive's QuickTransit binary translation technology to servers based on Intel's Itanium 2 and Xeon processors. That would let Intel-powered servers run software written for older RISC machines. (Itanium 2 powers Intel's most powerful servers, while Xeon powers more modest corporate servers.)

Apple users need little introduction to QuickTransit: It's the translation technology behind Rosetta, which enables Apple's new Intel-based machines to run applications written for the PowerPC platform. Translation software earns its keep during transitions from one processor architecture to another, albeit with

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## *Con't from page 2, Hacked?*

Mac OS X machines will ever have open. Email das@doit.wisc.edu if you feel you have met the requirements, along with the mechanism used. The mechanism will then be reported to Apple and/or the entities responsible for the component(s). Going after other hosts/devices on the network is out of bounds. ●

a performance hit.

The announcement that Transitive will support Itanium 2 and Xeon has Apple watchers wondering: Can we expect Apple servers with either chip sometime in the near future?

"Apple has said nothing and is so secretive that we'll likely not know until the official announcement," says Shane Rau, Program Manager for PC Semiconductors at market research firm IDC. "However, it would make sense that, as it transitions its client systems to Intel chips, Apple would also use the technology to transition its Xserve server systems over to Intel chips, like Xeon."

Keep in mind that servers today represent a tiny percent of Apple's business—about one percent, says Tim Deal, a senior analyst at Technology Business Research. Apple sells Xserves mostly to its core markets, including creative, design, and higher education. The PowerPC G5 chip currently fuels Apple's highest-end servers; switching to an Intel processor would be primarily a marketing advantage, Deal says.

"It's been important for Apple to overcome objections regarding sales of its servers into the large or mid-size enterprise," Deal says. "Apple's been challenged by a pervasive perception that its server offering is not compatible with existing technology."

Itanium 2 and Xeon would speak for themselves: They are components IT customers already know well, Deal says. As for when those chips might make an appearance in the Xserve, that remains to be seen.

## **Dual-core details emerge**

Lower-power, dual-core chips also got their moment in the Developer Forum spotlight, as Intel revealed more details regarding three long-awaited products: "Merom" for mobile computers, "Conroe" for desktop PCs, and "Woodcrest" for servers. All are based on Intel's new Core micro-architecture, which is a descendant of the design for Pentium M (developed for mobile computing.) These new chips

*Con't on 4, Future Products*

## Con't from page 5, Future Products

are designed to be extremely power efficient, whereas Intel's first dual-core chips threw a ton of heat inside PC cases, hindering performance and limiting design options.

The new chips will be manufactured using 65-nanometer technology, a process improvement that lets Intel make smaller chips that draw less power—perhaps 30 percent less than today's comparable chips, Intel says. Intel plans to roll out even more efficient 45-nanometer technology in 2007, the company also revealed last week.

Power-efficient chips have two big implications for Apple. It gives the company room to make highly creative notebook designs in late 2006, while raising the possibility of making an “ultra-mobile” PC—a tiny machine that's smaller than a notebook but bigger and more functional than a PDA. Ultra-mobile PCs have already been discussed among Wintel PC makers. Microsoft has recently let out a few hints regarding “Origami,” a prototype software environment for an ultra-mobile PC; Samsung showed a prototype device at the CeBIT tradeshow

in Europe.

“Power's a key issue,” Deal says. “From a design standpoint, Apple constantly surprises us.”

These new chips could let Apple widen its mobile product line, says IDC's Rau. That would allow Apple and other PC makers to further segment their desktop PC offerings.

### **Quad-core coming?**

In the other big news from IDF, Intel unveiled more details regarding its plans for quad-core chips. Intel said it plans to release its first quad-core chip for desktop PCs, codenamed “Kentsfield,” in the first quarter of 2007. But this chip won't really meld four central processing units into one chip—as rival AMD plans to do with its quad-core chips coming in 2007.

Instead, Intel's “Kentsfield” will combine two dual-core chips into one package. This isn't the most efficient design strategy, but it will help Intel get quad-core chips to market at the same time as AMD. Of course, Intel will improve the quad-core design as quickly as possible. For Apple users, quad-core chips will mean a huge amount of horsepower compared to today's highest-end Apple desktops. ●

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from MacCentral

## ***Microsoft Bails on Windows Media Player for Mac***

*by Jim Dalrymple*

Just three days after announcing continued support for the Mac version of Microsoft Office at Macworld Expo, Microsoft officials said Friday that the company has halted development for Windows Media Player for Mac.

Microsoft Public Relations Manager Adam Anderson said in a recent News.com article that

the move was a business decision for Microsoft.

“Like any other company, we have business priorities. Our focus really is in delivering the best experience to Windows customers,” Anderson told News.com.

Microsoft's Macintosh Business Unit General Manager Roz Ho stood before the crowd at Steve Jobs keynote on Tuesday and reiterated Microsoft's support for the Macintosh version of Microsoft Office, and told the crowd that the company is “here to stay.”

Microsoft and Apple signed a technology agreement that lasts for at least the next five years, but only covers Microsoft Office, leaving Microsoft an

***Con't on page 5, MS Bails***

*from MacWorld*

## **Mac 911 Help Desk**

**By Christopher Breen**

Thrice-named reader Rene Linda Lopez would like some help with her iPhoto images.

She writes:

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

Let's start by locating your files.

By default, iPhoto stores your pictures here: youruserfolder/Pictures/iPhoto Library/year/month/day where year/month/day equals something along the lines of folders named 2005, 12, and 30 to represent pictures made on December 30, 2005. If you've edited any images made that day, you'll find the edited versions in the date folder and the original images in a folder called Originals.

If luck is on your side, the corrupt image is one you've edited. In such a case, you can select the

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### ***Con't from page 4, MS Bails***

opening to cut any other product from its offerings available to Mac users. Microsoft has announced plans to update its Messenger client later this year. Mac Business Unit representatives also expressed interest in continuing to develop Virtual PC during an interview with Macworld editors this week. ●

corrupt image in iPhoto and choose Photos > Revert to Original. As the command hints, this replaces the edited version with the original, which you are then free to reedit. If iPhoto doesn't have the wherewithal to revert to that image, you can always try reimporting the thing from the Originals folder that houses it.

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

If the image won't be opened for love nor money, you're not completely out of luck. You still have a tiny copy of the image in the date folder's Thumbs folder. It's small consolation, I know, but in cases where you've lost a picture you treasure, sometimes a little is better than nothing.

To delete that corrupt image, just select it in iPhoto and choose Photos > Move to Trash.

And if you're a pack-rat who doesn't take a lot of pictures, check your media cards to see if the image remains there. Or if you've got an iPod with video, perhaps you've stored a copy on it. Count yourself blessed if you've switched on the Include Full-Resolution Photos option in the Photos portion of the iPod Preferences window. 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 \$8 File Juicer to extract

***Con't on page 6, Help***



## Con't from page 5, Help

images from an iPod.

Finally, if a lot of your images appear to have gone south (or have disappeared), it may be because iPhoto's library needs some attention. You can give it that attention by rebuilding the library and recovering orphan photos from the library. To do so, hold down Command and Option and launch the program. A dialog box will appear that offers you the option to rebuild iPhoto's small thumbnails, rebuild all the photos' thumbnails, rebuild the iPhoto Library database, and recover orphaned photos from the iPhoto Library folder. ●

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from MacWorld News

## ***Force Mail to Go 'Old School'***

***By Rob Griffiths***

I'm somewhat "old school" when it comes to my e-mail messages. I like to see them in plain text, without any Web page (HTML) markup, fancy colors, background images, font changes, or other garish effects to distract from the message itself. And don't even get me started on what some of the more outrageous spam messages may look like.

Thankfully, in Mail you can get rid of any images that don't come attached to messages. Besides toning down your HTML mail, this also takes away one of the spammers' favorite tools. (Spammers embed images in HTML mail that are specifically designed to ping their servers and verify that e-mail addresses are good.) Choose Mail: Preferences, click the Viewing tab and turn off the Display Remote Images in HTML Mes-

***Meeting Program  
for  
April 20th  
Jacob Walters  
from CompUSA  
will discuss iLife 06***

sages option.

But what about the message itself? If someone used HTML to "pretty up" a message, or attached the images to the message itself, you'll still see the results. But a quick trip to the Unix side of OS X can solve that problem, too. Quit Mail and launch Terminal (Applications/Utilities). At the prompt, type this command, then press Return:  
`defaults write com.apple.mail PreferPlainText -bool TRUE`

You'll just get the prompt back, as though nothing had happened. But next time you launch Mail, and retrieve new messages, you should find that the vast majority are displayed in beautiful, pure, plain text. There may still be some exceptions, especially with the more virulent spammers, as they tend to not even include a plain text version of their messages. But everything else should be text only. You can take this a step further by making Mail use the fixed-width font of your choice, too. Go to Mail: Preferences and click on the Fonts & Colors tab. Enable the Use Fixed-width Font for Plain Text Messages option (and optionally choose the font, if you wish). Then you'll not only be seeing plain text,

***Con't on page 7, MAIL***

### 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.

Luncheon Meeting

## ***KMUG Meeting***

***March 16, 2006***

Roy Kauffroath called the meeting.

Frank Hartung brought a short movie for us to watch.

Lewis chaired the questions and answer session.

Jeff Peterson from Olympic Printers was the speaker. Their business specializes in refilling cartridges, repairing printers, and advising people how to shop for a printer.

He says that the cheapest printer isn't a bargain because the cartridges are expensive and they don't yield as many pages per cartridge as the better printers. He says that 25% of their business was repairing printers. But the printers are getting lower priced and it doesn't pay to work on them. They charge \$65.00 an hour to work on printers. The manufacturers are putting chips in the cartridges so that you can't refill some of them. HP Laser models 1200 and 1300 are the same except the 1300 has the new microchip in it and it costs \$10.00 more. HP has a single toner built in drum. This is less expensive than the Brother with two drums. Olympic is a

Brother Authorized Service Center. Dell's free printer is not a good deal. Lexmark and Dell are the same except for the chips. Most all new printers are USB and won't work on older computers with parallel ports or serial ports. HP is a good printer and it can be worked on. It is good for all around printing. Cannon, Epson and Brother have individual ink tanks, so they are better for photos. Laser Jets cost less per page to print. They are fine for business letter etc. But Laser Jets only have one kind of paper. You wouldn't be able to use photo grade paper. Epson has the printer head built into the machine. Cannon has replaceable print heads. HP has the print head built into the ink cartridge. HP has 600 holes that spray the ink. If these get dry, you can set them on a wet paper towel for 30 seconds and it may open them up. If it doesn't tap them on the wet towel and you may get more life from your cartridge. You can weigh them to see if they are really empty. HP and Cannon use some of the same parts. They are made by the same company.

If your printer doesn't want to work, check your cable connections, download new drivers and restart. The printer needs to be off for 20 minutes to reset itself. ●

submitted by,  
Gwen Kauffroath

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### **Con't from Page 6, MAIL**

but you'll be seeing it in all its fixed-width glory, which (for me, at least) makes for easier reading.

If you ever tire of plain text, you can reverse the effects by quitting Mail, launching Terminal, and repeating the above command--just change TRUE

to FALSE.

I may be old-fashioned, but I just find it much easier to read a nice, clean font on an unfettered background. If you do, too, you'll like this trick.

Bob Griffiths is a Senior MacWorld Editor covering the tips, tricks and utilities beat. ●

### ***Need some technical assistance?***

***There are several local people who are in the business of providing technical assistance for the Mac. You may have seen and heard them making presentations and answering questions at KMUG meetings. If you need help, look at the Professional Technical Assistance Referral area on the KMUG Website.***

***<http://www.homepage.mac.com/kmug1>***

***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), phone number and dues (\$20/year) to:

**KMUG**

**P.O. Box 1271, Silverdale, WA 98383**

or come to one of our meetings and sign up!

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(gwenk17@comcast.net)

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Renewal notices will be delivered by email.

Renewal dues are \$20.

----- **ABOUT MEETINGS** -----

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**This month's newsletter editor was Joe Williams**



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