kitsap macintosh users group

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from NCMUG News

How Important Are Your Photos?

Tips on Establishing a Digital Workflow

by Eric Chazankin
NCMUG Board member

What do you want from your digital photos? For most people, they are pretty important, or we wouldn't have gone to all the trouble to invest in digital cameras, memory cards, and other equipment, and go take them in the first place. They are also often very difficult to replace, as they each record a unique moment in time. Some may turn out to be more desirable, some may be less; but it's pretty universal that we wouldn't be capturing photographs if we didn't want them for some reason. Most photographers also care about having their final results turn out as well as possible.

One of the major differences between professional photographers and amateurs lies in the repeatability of the final result. An amateur may be able to tolerate some photos coming out properly, and others not (though this can still be very annoying!); a professional has to produce work of consistent quality to stay in business. This can be a challenge given the many steps a photo goes through between the time it is captured, and printed (or emailed, or viewed on-screen, or whatever its final destination is). "Many steps?" some will ask; "I thought I was pretty much done after I pressed the shutter release!" If you care about preserving your pho- tos, and having quality results, it pays to think carefully about what happens AFTER this step. Even more so with digital than with convention- al photos, lots of stuff can happen after a photo is taken.

A "workflow" is the process of what happens between taking the picture and reaching the final step. One way professionals achieve the consistency

Con't on page 2, Workflow

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Con't from Page 1 ,Workflow

they must have is by cutting down on the chances for things to change or go wrong between these two points; they establish a consistent set of steps that will allow them to only vary things when they decide to, to achieve their creative vision. The steps followed will differ depending on the needs of each person; but just thinking about this workflow, and practicing some consistency, can go a long ways towards helping any digital photographer.

Save Those Photos You can download from a camera or use a card reader. I recommend card readers, because they don't eat your camera batteries, they can stay at your computer ready for use, and they generally require no special software; but either method can work just fine. If you have a high-resolution camera or take many photos, you will benefit from the fastest card reader possible. USB2 card readers are cheap, readily available, and work fairly well (IF your computer has USB2 ports; if you have a G4 iMac or other machine with only USB 1 port, find another method!). Firewire card readers are faster in real-world use than USB2 readers, but are more expensive and harder to find. Either can work well for most users. Backing up digital photos is really important, and really easy. It's easier to delete a digital photo than trash a conventional piece of film, but its also much easier to make backups of that precious image than that piece of film (duplicates of film lose significant quality from the original; digital backups do not). Many people may have seen Ansel Adams' famous image "Monolith, the Face of Half Dome." Several years after capturing this image with a large-format camera, fire struck Adams' Yosemite Valley darkroom, and the original negative was slightly damaged (many negatives of other im- ages were destroyed completely). Prints from this negative made after the fire show slightly less of the top edge of Half Dome, due to this damage.

In the dgital age, there is no excuse for losing an original image, since backup is a simple matter. I never erase a memory card until I have its original contents saved to at least two different places. Note I say original contents: here we arrive at a crossroads depending on how picky you are. When you use an "integrated" photo application (like iPhoto), which both downloads and then works with (processes) your digital photos, the files on your memory card can be changed when they are saved by the program. I'd rather archive the original files directly from the memory card, and then make the decisions later myself. If I find a processing program did something to a file I didn't like, I can always go back to the original. If you're a beginner, you may be just fine with the software making some of these decisions for you. Again, pick a method that works for you and be consistent; then you will always know what to expect at the other end.

Whatever method you are using, backup. It cannot be said often enough for digital photos. This can be to a second internal hard drive, an external hard drive, a recordable CD or DVD, a web space (such as comes with a .Mac account) if the files are not huge or numerous, or an iPod used in disk mode. The more important your photos, the more places you should have them backed-up. I use two backups as a minimum; most of the time, I save them to different hard drives on different computers at different locations, plus burn them to a CD or DVD. Another possibility is to use a RAID array, a system of multiple hard drives which automatically keeps multiple copies of anything saved on it on more than one disk, so that if one fails, the data is not lost.

Hard drives fail. Laptops are stolen. Fires happen. CDs and DVDs do not last forever. Establish a

Con't on page 3, Workflow

Con't from Page 2, Workflow

routine, so that every time you take a photo, the first thing you do is back it up, BEFORE you erase the memory card. Do NOT ever check the box that says "delete photos after downloading," because the download process in some software can fail from time to time! Do NOT erase your memory card until you are SURE the photos on it have been downloaded successfully, and preferably backed-up to a second location. Do use the camera you will be shooting with to erase/re-format your memory card after you have safely saved your photos, rather than doing so in the computer; and whatever you do, be consistant.

Organize Those Photos: Anyone who has enthusiastically been taking digital photos for a while has probably experienced difficulty finding a photo they are looking for. There are several options for organizing the photos you have taken; again, the exact method you choose is less important than picking a method and using it consistently! Some options are:

Organize by hand: By this I mean, set up folders and sub- folders on your hard disk that are labeled in such a way that you are easily able to locate the photos you want; this can be by date, subject, or whatever method works for you. When downloading a memory card, its contents go into a folder that is labeled to allow YOU to identify its contents, when looking through hundreds of other folders from other down- loads. This method is a bit primitive and labor-intensive, but it affords maximum control. For this reason, I personally use this method; but it is not for the faint of heart, and probably not for most beginners!

Use a highly-automated program: iPhoto is an example of this method; it will download your photos and automatically place them in a "roll" separate from others, which you can label. For many people, this is all you need, and it can work very well; but the options for customizing the organization are limiting. More advanced photographers can easily out- grow this method.

Use a more-advanced organization program: With the popu- larity of digital photography, there are a number of more advanced software packages aimed at organizing photos in sophisticated ways, along with other functions. Often, these allow the attaching of "Metadata" or keywords to each image file, to allow searching for specific images in a very sophisticated way; the problem with this is that to be useful, someone (you!) has to attach this data to the files in the first place (some metadata, like date, shutter speed, aperture, lens focal length, etc., are typically saved by the camera when the photo is originally taken). These are not image editors in the sense that Photoshop (or Photoshop Elements) are, though they often include basic image-editing tools. Full reviews of these software packages are beyond the scope of this article, but they include:

Apple's Aperture, which has been described as "iPhoto on steroids;" this gives you much more control, but like iPhoto, requires that photos be saved in its own proprietary format; it also has excellent RAW-format processing controls, for those shooting photos in RAW format (if you don't know what this is, you probably don't need to worry about it!). Adobe Lightroom is still technically a "Beta" program and a free download from Adobe, which will expire at some point in the future unless you purchase it from Adobe when the final version is released. This does many (though not all) of the same things that Aperture does (though it has fewer RAW controls), but can reference the original files wherever they are, without changing them or converting them to its own format; it also has a different look and feel than Aperture, which some may like and others may not. I use Lightroom for some organization, creating proof sheets and slide shows; it generally works well for me, though it can be slow at many tasks (this may improve with the final version).

Extensis Portfolio: This is really focused on organization tasks rather than basic processing tools, and has many available. I've played around with an earlier version and found it a bit difficult to get up to speed on it, but some users really like it.

Whatever method you use, USE IT! Again, consistency is key; that way you'll be able to find the photo you want, when you want it!

Con't on page 4, Workflow

Con't from Page 3, Workflow

Process Those Photos These days, many cameras allow printing directly to compatible printers, never going through a computer at all. Recognize that this is a choice, not to do any processing; depending on your expectations for your photos, this can be a perfectly valid choice. However, almost any digital photo will benefit from some degree of processing. iPhoto allows some basic processing itself; it also allows you to specify an "external" image editor, which I recommend if you have one. Photoshop Elements is very good; full Photoshop is better. How to process your photos is a huge topic: many books are available on the subject! I used earlier versions of Ele- ments for a while, not wanting to pay the high price for full Photoshop; when I finally did, I was struck by the additional flexibility and capability its tools provided to me- but it takes time and work to learn them! An honest assessment of what you expect from your photos will help you to choose the level of complexity that is right for you. When you choose it, stick to it! (but don't be afraid to re-evaluate your needs from time to time, if something is not working right!)

Manage That Color: I'm only going to touch on this briefly, as it is another huge topic; but anyone who really wants consistent, repeatable results, particularly in printing, needs to be aware of this. Color changes from one device to another; that is, a camera may see colors one way, a specific monitor another way, and a specific printer yet a third way (and there are signifi- cant variations between different types of paper used in the same printer!). This explains why some people have difficulty getting printouts that look the same as the images on their screen, and vice versa.

Color Management is a system of "profiling" the color through each step of the process, to achieve consistent, repeatable results. It can take many different forms, and be done to many different levels of precision. The most basic is using the Monitors preference panel to generate a profile for the monitor you are using; this is simple, and a big improve- ment over doing nothing! Another step is to buy a profiling device to generate a profile for your monitor (they start under $100 these days).

Printers' color output can be controlled by the printer software (which can be satisfactory for many casual users, if the printer, ink and paper are kept consistent-usually paper from the same maker as the printer yields the best results). Note: Paper is absolutely crucial to the quality of output from an inkjet printer. Even many fairly basic, four-color inkjet printers can yield excellent results when a really high-quality paper intended for printing photos from that inkjet printer is used; people are frequently shocked at the difference in results. While there are several excellent inkjet paper manufacturers these days, the easiest method to start with is usually going to be to stick with high-quality paper from the same maker as your printer.

A much better method to manage print color is to use profiles generated for the specific printer and paper you are using; these can often be downloaded, but only for higher-end professional-level photo printers and higher-end papers intended for such printers. Certain services will also generate custom profiles for a given printer and paper, and it is possible to buy a package of hardware and software that will generate custom profiles for almost any combination of monitor, printer and paper (though at a cost - usually over $1,000!). Also, to really take advantage of profiles, I have found that the full version of Photoshop is basically required. Whatever method is chosen, the key is to use only one method of color management at a time—if you are using profiles, turn off color management in the printer driver!

Most users can't justify the most elaborate color-management schemes; but just being aware of this issue, doing something in this department, and being consistent when you find a method that gives you good results, will go a long way to improve the quality of your photos. After all, the objective is not to get bogged down in the technicalities of dealing with your photos, but to get from camera to print (or other objective) in a way that works. Once you make all the deci- sions along the way, stick to them! Your photos will show the difference.

Con't on page 5, Workflow

interesting facts from faqs.org

What was the Cray Super Computer Connection with Apple?

Cray and Apple, seemly at opposite ends of the computer spectrum, do have some subtle links. It was known that Seymour Cray used an Apple desktop some of the time when designing the Cray-2. It is also known that Apple had a sequence of Cray machines starting in March 1986 with an XMP/28 followed by another XMP in Feb 1991. A YMP-2E arrived later in 1991 and finally an EL from Dec 1993 to Jun 98. It is said that Apple's first XMP was bought by Steve Jobs after he just walked into the Cray facility in Mendota Hights.

Originally purchased to help out on a computer on a chip project, the machines eventually earned their keep running MOLDFLOW an injection plastic modelling program (producing some results in the form of Quicktime movies) and later as a file server. Other applications were CFD codes for disk drive design improvement and one source reports ".. they sometimes ran the first XMP as a single user MacOS emulator ... They had a frame buffer and a mouse hooked up to the IOP."

What is less known however is that the small active display panel on the T3d was an Apple powerbook. The powerbook ran a Macromedia presentation showing the T3e cube of cubes logo with an orbiting growing/shrinking sphere. The display at one site was changed to alternate with a presentation plaque display. It was rumoured that one site engineer ordered a collection of spare bits that, over time, comprised a complete new powerbook.

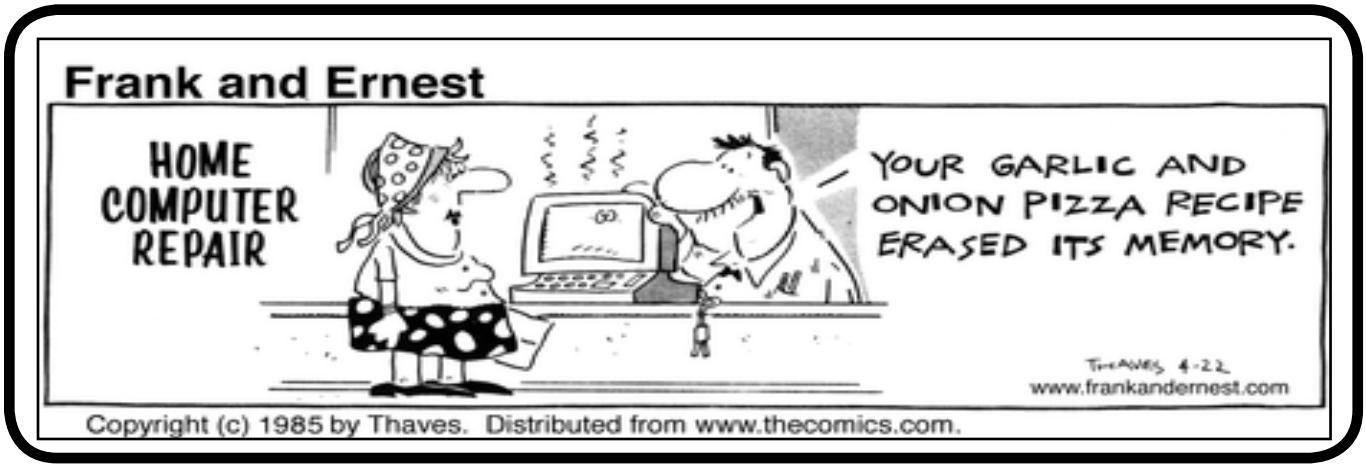
According to a CCC inside source Seymour Cray and the Cray Computer Corporation used Macintosh desktop computers almost exclusivly for work on the Cray-3 and Cray-4 projects. Much of such work was just moving text and graphic files arround on a shared network.

The recent (Sept 1999) launch on the www.Apple.com web site of the G4 Macintosh computers displayed a YMP-8D computer on the processor page. Whilst there was no direct reference to that particular machine there was a requote of the Seymour quote about "using an Apple to simulate the Cray-3" in a sidebar. (prob this should be Cray-2 ED). The G4 is being touted as a "Supercomputer for the desktop" and with the performance figures of a Gigaflop/s (1 CPU) it is certainly up to at least 1992 supercomputer cpu speed. The YMP pictured on the site would have had 0.333 Gflop/s per cpu but was sold as sustaining 1 Gflop/s, for the whole machine, on real life applications. It remains to be seen if the G4 can match the memory size, memory

Con't on page 6, Cray

Con't from page 4, Workflow

Eric Chazankin is a Board member of NCMUG, the North Coast Macintosh Users Group located in Santa Rosa, CA.



from Mac 911

Solutions to Your Most Vexing Mac Problems

By Christopher Breen

Restoring sidebar entries:
I accidentally removed the Computer entry from the Finder sidebar. How can I get it back? Nathan Parker

It's easy enough to lose things in the sidebar drag them out, and they disappear in a puff of smoke. Thankfully, they're easy to replace. Choose Finder: Preferences, click on the Sidebar tab, and enable Computer. Your computer will reappear in the sidebar. Want to add other items to the sidebar? Just select them in the Finder and press Command T.

Smarter backup burning:
I've got a smart folder in the Finder to track files cre ated or modified after a certain date. I would love to be able to burn the contents of this folder to a disc for backup. But it looks as though it contains only aliases. Is there any way to burn the actual files to disc? Victor Navone

You can do it, if you use Automator in league with a burn folder. First, in the Finder create a burn folder (File: New Burn Folder.) Next, grab a copy of Johan Carlsson's Get Smart Folder Contents Automator action (macworld.com/1461). Install this action and then create the following workflow:

1. Get Smart Folder Contents . From the popup menu, select the smart folder that contains the files you want to back up.

2. Copy Finder Items . Choose the burn folder you just created from this action's To popup menu. Assuming you'll always be burning the folder's contents to disc immediately after running this workflow, click on the Options triangle and en able the Replacing Existing Files option. This will ensure that the workflow copies only truly new files to the burn folder (see top screenshot). Once you've configured the workflow to your satisfac tion, choose File: Save As and save the workflow as an application.

When you're ready to copy the current contents of your smart folder to the burn folder, doubleclick on the app you've created. Insert a blank disc in your burner, and click on the burn folder's Burn button.

You can accomplish much the same thing less conveniently without Automator. Just create a burn folder, open the smart folder containing your recently modified files, and drag its contents to the burn folder. Although the smart folder's contents are aliases, the burn folder will burn the original files to the disc.

Tweaking Pages' templates:
Is there any way to change the default paper size and font in Apple's Pages documents? My new documents always open in A4 paper size, and I end up changing them to letter size every time. David Albrecht

My fervent prayer is that a future version of Mac

Con't on page 7,Mac 911

Con't from page 6, Cray

bandwidth and IO capacity of this 8 year old Cray. Supercomputers these days do a Teraflop/s. There is however no doubt that it will be cheaper to buy.

The popular Macintosh telnet program developed by NCSA has an icon which is an XMP surrounded by a network with Macs. NCSA had a Cray accessed by Macs and thus needed to develop such a program. NCSA - National Centre for Supercomputer Applications.

Con't from page 6, Mac 911

OS will allow you to save individual Page Setup configurations for each application A4 in Pages, US Legal in Keynote, and so on. Until that happens, you have to hold out hope that the application in question provides a way to modify its templates and save those modifications. Fortunately, Pages does.

For example, if you routinely choose the Business Letter template from Pages' templates sheet, choose it, make the changes you want to its font and Page Setup settings, and choose File: Save As Template. Give it a name you're likely to remember My Business Letters, for example and click on Save. The template, complete with your new font and Page Setup settings, will be saved to the My Templates folder and will appear when you click on the My Templates entry in Pages' templates sheet.

A roomful of zoom :
Recently, I attended a workshop where the presenter was using Keynote. When he wanted to show something on his screen in detail, he was able to zoom in on the cursor. Do you know how he did this?
Greg Larson

My guess is that he used the Universal Access preference pane, like so:

Launch System Preferences and click on the Universal Access preference pane. In the Seeing tab, enable the Zoom option and click on Options. In the sheet that appears, set the Maximum Zoom slider to 2 and leave the Minimum Zoom slider where it is. Enable the Only When The Pointer Reaches An Edge option at the bottom of the sheet and click on Done. Next, in the Keyboard Shortcuts tab of the Keyboard & Mouse pane, make sure you've enabled all the Universal Ac cess shortcuts.

When you're ready to highlight something on screen, press Command option equal sign (=). Your Mac will zoom in by a factor of 2x, with the cursor in the middle of the magnified area. To move around, simply drag to an edge; the screen will scroll in that direction (see middle screenshot). To zoom out, press Com mandoptionminus key (). To toggle zooming on and off, press Commandoption8. You can customize all of these keyboard commands in the Keyboard Shortcuts tab of the Keyboard & Mouse preference pane.

Slimming Mail's IMAP messages:
Sometimes, when I'm using Mail to check my IMAP e mail account for one brief text message, I have to wait while a message with a huge file attachment downloads first. Is there any way to look at just the headers before Mail downloads entire messages?
Tony Sturges

Mail won't allow you to download just the headers. But it will let you download your messages without their attachments.

To do this, select Preferences: Accounts and select your IMAP account. Click on the Advanced tab. In the Keep Copies Of Messages For Offline Viewing popup menu, choose All Messages, But Omit At tachments. From now on, Mail will download just the messages. To retrieve attachments, you will have to click on the Save button in the messages that contain them.

For POP accounts, you can ask Mail to prompt you before downloading messages over a certain

Con't on page 8, Mac 911

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 at

http://www.homepage.mac.com/kmug1

Con't from Page 7, Mac 911

size. To do so, select the POP account, choose the Advanced tab, and enter a value in the field that reads Prompt Me To Skip Messages Over X KB. When a message comes in that exceeds the size you've set, Mail will ask you whether you want to skip it.

I do wish Mail was a bit more flexible in this regard. Let's say you've set up a schedule to download your mail every hour and you're not sitting in front of your computer when it starts. If you don't respond to Mail's prompt within 15 seconds, it will go ahead and start downloading messages even if they exceed your size limits. Entourage, on the other hand, allows you to download a portion of any message that exceeds a certain size. This means you can peruse the subjects at your leisure offline and then choose exactly which messages you want to download.

Covering your tracks:
I'd like to delete specific, saved Google search entries without having to reset Safari. Is there a way to delete such cached entries individually? Via the Internet It's possible to cherrypick the searches you'd like to clear, but frankly, it's a pain in the neck.

As Mac 911 forum reader Peter Weber explains it, this is what you have to do: quit Safari, launch the Property List Editor from the Developer Tools (an optional installation found on the Mac OS X Installer disc), open /Library/Preferences/ com. apple .Safari.plist, and look for recent searches in the Recent SearchStrings. Once you've found that list, select each entry you'd like to remove and click on the Property List Editor's Delete button. Close the window and click on Save in the sheet that appears, and the entries you deleted will no longer appear in the list of searches.

If you'd rather save your neck, there are a couple of ways to clear out old searches en masse. The first is to click on the magnifyingglass icon in Safari's Google search field and choose Clear Recent Searches. This prevents prior searches from appearing as autofill entries. Firefox includes a similar feature. Just controlclick on the Google search field and choose Clear Search History. To complete the cleansing, open Safari: Prefer ences, click on the AutoFill tab, and click on the Edit button next to the Other Forms entry. Choose .google.com from the sheet that appears and click on Remove. This zaps any Google autofills. If you want to prevent Safari from recording your searches in the future, turn on Private Browsing (found under the Safari menu). With Private Browsing on, Safari won't add Web pages to its history, it will automatically remove items from its Downloads window, it won't create autofill entries, and it won't add searches to the Google search field.

Sunk by sync:
In iPhoto, I can create perfectly synchronized slide shows in which the images and soundtrack match up perfectly. But when I try to export such slide shows to a QuickTime movie, the pictures and sound fall out of sync. What can I do?
Craig Crossman

The solution is to not use iPhoto. Instead, open a new iMovie project, import your pictures as still images (you can import multiple images by drag ging them into the clip bin), adjust their length as necessary (by selecting a photo, clicking on Show Photo Settings, and adjusting the tortoise hare slider), and add a soundtrack to one of the program's two audio tracks. When everything is to your liking, export the project as a QuickTime movie. Choose File: Export, click on the Quick Time tab, and select an export setting from the Compress Movie For popup menu. Or send it to iDVD by choosing Share: iDVD.

If you've already exported your iPhoto slide show as a QuickTime movie and you'd rather not recreate it in another application, drag the movie into a new iMovie project. Place it in the timeline, and choose Advanced: Extract Audio to place the movie's audio into a track of its own. Once you've got the audio separated, you can pull it back into sync (see bottom screenshot). Again, choose File: Export to save the syncedup movie in

QuickTime. You can do something similar with

Con't on page 9, Mac 911

from Mac Central

Apple Delays Leopard Until October Because of iPhone

by Peter Cohen

Apple released a statement noting that Mac OS X v10.5 "Leopard" won't be released until October. The cause of the delay? The iPhone.

"iPhone has already passed several of its required certification tests and is on schedule to ship in late June as planned. We can't wait until customers get their hands (and fingers) on it and experience what a revolutionary and magical product it is," reads a statement published by the company.

Getting the iPhone ready for its June launch has had an unintended consequence, however: QA and "some key software engineering" resources allocated to Mac OS X needed to be diverted from their work to finish the iPhone. As a result, Apple won't release Leopard at its Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) in June, as it had first planned.

"While Leopard's features will be complete by then, we cannot deliver the quality release that we and our customers expect from us. We now plan to show our developers a near final version of Leopard at the conference, give them a beta copy to take home so they can do their final testing, and ship Leopard in October. We think it will be well worth the wait. Life often presents tradeoffs, and in this case we're sure we've made the right ones," reads the statement.

Con't from Page 8, Mac 911

GarageBand 3: launch it, choose New Movie Score from the opening window, name your project, and click on Create. In the resulting project window, drag the movie into the Video track to separate the video and audio (into the Video and Video Sound tracks, respectively). You can now nudge the audio track to get it into sync. Choose Share: Export Movie To Disk when you're done.

Tip of the month

Launching at the Office:

Every time I install Microsoft Office, it insists on putting all the Office applications in the Dock. I have quite enough applications there already, thank you. There's only one Office application I do want there: the Project Gallery Launcher (/Applications/ Microsoft Office 2004/Office/ Project Gallery Launcher).

The Project Gallery Launcher streamlines two daily tasks: First, I often use templatesmy electronic letterhead, fax cover sheet, or a blank document to start new documents. The Launcher makes the process of picking a template and starting a new document simple. Second, I can easily look up recent Office documents from the Launcher, which

Con't on page 10, Mac 911

from the Stanford Mac Users Group Newsletter SMUG

What Are RTFD (Rich Text Format) Files?

by Ric Smith, SMUG director

I have recently become aware of files with the .rtfd exten- sion, primarily because not all OSX applications can open this format and this is a format that some applications use for documentation files. After some investiga- tion, I uncovered some interested facts and uses for file with the .rtfd extension.

First, we may be familiar with files with .rtf extension, which is an acronym for "rich text format". .rtfd, which is an acronym for "rich text format document", are related to .rtf files (we shall see how later).

Some .rtfd facts:

• NeXt brought the file format to Apple in 1996 when Apple acquired NeXt.

• A .rtfd file is actually a package, similar to the way .app applications are packages. A package is a OSX affectation which is really a folder where the contents

Con't on page 10, RTFD

Con't from Page 9, Mac 911

has a preview pane that lets me view those docu ments by date (Today, Yesterday, This Week, Last Week, and so on). Best of all, it's really quick. For years I ignored the Launcher, but now that it's living in my Dock, I use it much more often. And since picking a template requires opening the Launcher anyway, why not keep it close at hand?
K. M. Peterson

Tools of the trade

The Extended Network:
You've got an iMac in your home office, a Mac mini nestled into your livingroom entertainment center, and a MacBook that follows you around the rest of the house. For you, the days of one computer and one Internet connection are overyou want access to the Web from wherever you are. Here are some tools that will help.

Wireless Router
With a wireless router you can blast your cable or DSL connection throughout your house. Countless companies, including Link sys, Netgear, Belkin, and DLink, offer wireless-G routers for around $50. Or you can go with the higherpriced ($199)though more easily config uredApple AirPort Extreme Base Station.

AirPort Express Base Station
If you opt for the AirPort Extreme Base Station, pick up one of Apple's $129 AirPort Express boxes. It will extend your wireless network by linking it to the larger Extreme Base Station. This used to be a confound ing process, but with the latest AirPort software, it's a cinch.

Power-Line Adapters
If wireless won't reach, try a pair of HomePlug adapters. These devices plug into your home's power outlets and transfer data across your electrical wiring, and they're available from a variety of vendors, in both USB and Ethernet flavors, for around $120 a pair.

USB Network Adapter
You'd like to network your TiVo receiver, but it has no Ethernet port. No problem. Pick up a USB network adapter from your favorite Mac accessories vendor. These small devices, which cost a little over $20, offer a USB connector on one end and an Ethernet port on the other. Plug a USB device into the connector, and string an Ethernet cable between your router and the adapter. With a little fiddling, that device should appear on the network.

A Hefty Hunk of Cat5 Cable
Sometimes, only wires will do. When you need to add an old com puter to a network, keep some Category 5 Ethernet cable on hand; a 25foot cable should do.

Christopher Breen is a Senior Editor for Mac World and the author of Secrets of the iPod and iTunes, fifth edition, and The iPod and iTunes Pocket Guide (both Peachpit Press, 2005).

Con't from page 9, RTFD

of the folder are normally hidden. In the case of .rtfd files, the contents are a .rtf file and one or more images files, nor- mally a .tiff. The enclosed .rtf file has embedded refer- ences to the images files, which don't show up when viewing the .rtf files directly.

• While .rtf files can be read by some word processor on both Macs and Windows, .rtfd can NOT be read by most Mac word processors and as far as I have been able to determined, not by Windows programs (since it is in fact a folder).

So what use is it? First, in OSX, It can be read and creat- ed directly by TextEdit. If you create a file in TextEdit not containing images, you can save the file as RTF, Word, HTML and Word with XMl. But if you create a file with images, you can only save the file as a RTFD or a web archive.

Second, several classes of applications use it for internal text storage. This is because it combines a simple text format (rtf) and images, and the applications can use a standard OSX system GUI for the editing, saving pro- grammers coding time.

If you receive a .rtfd file, you can peek into the

Con't on page 11, RTFD

Mac World News Update

Centrino Updates and Mac Laptops

By Philip Michaels and Jonathan Seff

If you're the sort of person who keeps one eye continually trained for the slightest hint of a Mac product announcement, it's probably time to start your Updated Apple Laptops vigil. The company hasn't made any noise about upgrading its laptop line, but its chip supplier just did -- on Wednesday, Intel unveiled an upgraded Centrino notebook platform that promises better processing capabilities, improved power management, and faster wireless connectivity, to name just a few of the claims. And it's a safer bet than any wager you could have made during last weekend's Kentucky Derby that these new processors that are part of the updated platform will find their way into an Apple product before long.

Get the details about Intel's announcement:
http://www.macworld.com/news/2007/05/09/santarosa/index.php?lsrc=mcweek

How can we make such a claim after attending an event where Apple was nowhere in sight? Because sometimes, the past is prologue. Last July, we descended upon Intel's Santa Clara headquarters as the company unveiled its Core 2 Duo processors. Apple was a no-show at that event, too, and yet, just a few months later, both the MacBook Pro and MacBook lines migrated to the Core 2 Duo. It's likely that a similar upgrade will happen with the new-and-improved processors Intel announced Wednesday. Besides, Apple has about 891,000 reasons to keep pushing for improvements to its laptop line. That's how many portables the company sold during its fiscal second quarter this year when Apple turned a $770 million profit. Sales of laptops in general and the MacBook in particular are helping drive that stellar financial performance, as we've noted before, so it only makes sense for Apple to keep on innovating.

So what can Mac users expect when -- excuse us, if -- these so-called Santa Rosa chips wind up in some sort of Apple laptop in the coming months? You won't see a major jump in raw processing speed. Intel's new processors range in speed from 1.8GHz to 2.4GHz; by way of comparison, the MacBook Pro currently tops out at 2.33GHz while the fastest MacBook runs at 2GHz. What you will see, however, is a faster frontside bus -- the chips have an 800MHz frontside bus, compared to the 667MHz version you'll find in the Core 2 Duo chips currently powering Mac portables. A faster frontside bus moves data more quickly between the CPU and the chipset (in this case, the Mobile Intel GM965 Express chipset), which contains the memory management and connects to main memory through the memory bus (often running at the same speed as the frontside bus) -- that's where the performance gain is likely to come from. But keep in mind that most the benchmarks and demos touted by Intel showed big improvements compared to the original Centrino systems from 2003 -- much less so when compared to the last Centrino systems. How much of a performance difference Macs users will see from the Core 2 Duo processors in today's MacBooks and MacBook Pro's may be less dramatic. And the 802.11n wireless component to the Centrino platform is something Apple already has in place. Better power efficiency, however, should translate to better battery life in many situations.

Another feature in the new platform is an optional capability called Turbo Memory. Intel says

Con't on page 12 Centrino

Con't from Page 10, RTFD

its con- tents. Select the file, and either "control click" or "right mouse click", and then select "show package contents" from the menu list. You then see the .rtfd directory. Inside, as stated earlier, is a text formatted file (.rtf) and image(s), usually .tiff. Additionally, if you removed the .rtfd extension, you should see the folder directly with its contents. This becomes an easy way to grab the images from the document. Returning the .rtfd extension changes it back to the original file.

Con't from Page 11, Centrino

the feature improves responsiveness and multitasking capabilities by using (currently) 512MB or 1GB nonvolatile flash memory cache to reduce hard drive hits; that will let applications launch faster and reduce battery consumption, among other benefits. Only a handful of PC makers are including Turbo Memory in their initial releases with the new chip, and it's unclear to us anyhow if the technology will be incorporated in any potential Mac offerings--although it's a pretty safe bet that we'll never see a Mac marketed as "Centrino-powered."

We'll definitely get a better idea of what these chips have to offer once laptops based on them arrive in our Lab -- should Apple actually announce such a laptop, of course.

Internet to the Rescue

iPod Revived

Use Google to solve your tech problems.

I was hooking up an iPod Nano to my Mac to add more songs and recharge it. For a brief moment a "sad face" popped up on the screen and then all was blank. It was dead as a doorknob. I looked at the instructions and tried resetting it by holding down the "pause key" for 10 seconds. No good - still dead.

With thoughts of having to make an appointment at the apple store and talk to a tech, I decided to try a Google search for "iPod Nano sad face". The first pick on the search gave me the answer! Hold down the center and menu keys at the same time. Success! Every thing works. I suggest you give "Google search" a try when having problems with your Mac or anything else. I even use it to find out how to fix my Jet Ski...

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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---------- RENEWING MEMBESHIP ----------

Renewal notices will be delivered by email.

Renewal dues are $20.

---------- ABOUT MEETINGS ----------

Luncheon Meetings

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

This month's newsletter editor was Joe Williams

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