

Kitsap Macintosh Users Group

KMUG Newsletter
Volume 20

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Number 10

from the DVMUG ApplePRESS

Rick's Place

By Rick Calicura,
DVMUG President Emeritus

If you missed the DVMUG/RMUG Film Fest, you missed one of our better meetings. One of the things that was most surprising was the breadth of interest in our applications. Our youngest filmmakers were a pair of very smart kids, Alix and Marina Katague, age 9 and 12, who created their very own Claymation production. This is not easy and requires mucho patience. Can you imagine children that age who can be so diligent and creative? Well, Dodie Katague is their dad—he and his wife have to be doing something right.

There is no top end, and I won't speculate on the oldest participant, but I would venture that there is no limit. I can't mention them all, but two that stood out for me were the shots of the SF Gay Pride day by Rose Bower, who must own a super camera as she had some of the clearest photos of the show. The grand prize went to a film of a safari to the Serengeti plain. All video, photos, AND music were done by the winner, Lynn Curtis. Others were really good. Some were humorous and some were tragic. Gil



Doubet lucked out and found some roller skaters who did a clever little dance for him, while Carol Hance covered the tornado disaster in her mother's hometown, Greensburg, Kansas. It must have been tough for her to visit and see all the devastation and destruction she brought to our screen.

I just wish I could include them all. I urge you to make it to next year's

production.

Goodbye, AppleWorks! With the appearance of Apple's new software packages, iLife 08 and iWork 08, I indicated on the BBS that I was so delighted with the new Pages that I would try to write my column for this month using this new word processor (and I am doing so). Perhaps you haven't heard? Apple Works has been declared to be at the "end of life" as a product from Apple. That's it! No more AppleWorks, though there are reports that some educators can still find copies to buy.

But the new iWork is just about half what Microsoft Office (Student/Educator Edition) would cost—and only 1/5 of the Standard edition of Microsoft Office. You can buy a single-use copy for just \$79 or you can buy a "Family Pack" for \$99. Since I have three

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United We
Stand

KMUG MONTHLY MEETING

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

Look for KMUG's
home page at

***[http://www.homepage.mac.com/
kmug1](http://www.homepage.mac.com/kmug1)***

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Macs living at my house, I bought the Family Pack and installed it on each of them. It **MUST** run on a machine that has OS 10.4.10 as a minimum, **AND** on a Mac with Intel chips, a G5, or a G4 that is 500 MHz or faster. If your Mac isn't up to this standard, then don't bother to buy the software.

The package consists of three items: Pages, the page layout application; Keynote, the presentation manager, and the new Numbers, a spreadsheet. Pages is now enhanced with more word processor-like features, so you can really go to town. Of course, spellchecking is included and so is Auto Correction, which you can train yourself. And finally, true fractions can be typed. When you strike the 1 and then the / and follow that with a 3, the application will yield "1/3." It automatically creates a true fraction when it sees the characters, no fooling around with superscripts and subscripts.

I am just beginning to tap the power of this wonderful application. So far I have used it for just a few word-processing tasks, including the creation of a personal stationery template (very easy) and I have used it for some page layout. The Pages layout ability reminds me of a poor man's InDesign, the professional-level Adobe page-layout software, but it's truly **MUCH** easier to use. One can easily "place" objects, photos, drawings, etc., into a document. It is possible to make transparent text boxes and rotate them as overlays. Really, I can't see how the ordinary computer user would need much more.

All reports indicate that the now familiar Keynote is head and shoulders above Microsoft PowerPoint. Listening to Leo Laporte's radio show, I was pleased to hear him reveal that he has been using Keynote in preference to PowerPoint for several years and that the new version is better than ever. I have not yet had a chance to use it, but look forward to trying it out.

And the long-awaited spreadsheet has arrived. Apple calls it Numbers. I have to confess, I tried to use it without reading any instructions and fell flat on my face. I was able to transfer a simple spreadsheet from Excel into Numbers without difficulty, but I'll have to do some studying to create a new spreadsheet. It

may be my obtuseness when it comes to creating formulas. When it comes to that function, I am taken back to my high school math classes, where I would simply freeze and my eyes would glaze over. I'll try to get a handle on this as I run into the need to do a spreadsheet. Reports are very positive about Numbers.

Buy AppleCare?

If you have read my columns for any time you will know that I have mostly been a proponent of AppleCare. I use the term mostly because there are circumstances where I am not certain of the value received.

However, I am a total believer in buying AppleCare when it comes to a new machine, never before on the market, and to the laptop models. Repairs on untried models are potentially more likely and could be expensive. Laptops, being such compact devices with so many features, and likely to suffer more wear and tear, are subject to many mishaps.

Speaking of mishaps, one wonders why as parents we succumb to the plaint of our kids for laptops when they go away to school? It's funny, but laptops, when away from home, seem to sprout legs and just walk away or otherwise mysteriously disappear, as opposed to a desktop that is less likely to develop the yen to travel. What I am politely saying is that there are thieves everywhere and if you do send your kid away with a laptop, be sure your homeowners' insurance will cover its loss.

Sometimes I ramble and lose sight of what I wanted to say. The subject was AppleCare, wasn't it? I'd like to tell you about my most recent contact with them. My Intel MacBookPro was giving me fits. After installing the new iLife 08, I had been trying to check out the Apple Video Tutorials with Safari to learn to use some of the applications. Sadly, no matter what I did, I kept getting the message that, despite my owning QuickTime Pro, there was a problem loading the QuickTime 7.x plugin.

Heck, the plugin was already there. And to make matters worse, I was able to view the tutorials

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perfectly using an alternative browser like Firefox or Camino. Both worked just fine, but darned if Safari would show me those videos. Safari played Fox News, You Tube, etc., but no Apple Video Tutorials. I ran every utility I had, I reinstalled QuickTime, I retyped my Pro registration, I ran Disk Warrior, I repaired permissions, I ran FSCK...the whole ball of wax, with no success.

Finally, I picked up the phone and dialed 1-800-SOS APPL and got through to a great tech. We worked together for the better part of an hour. He had me export my bookmarks to my desktop to preserve them, and we went through that System like Grant took Richmond. You would have had to have been there to believe the digging he had me do, but finally, after trashing a whole bunch of things from the User Folder and restoring my bookmarks, it worked perfectly.

This is an example of the usefulness of the unlimited telephone support you get for three years with AppleCare. It is not just for repairs, but for true support. You can't imagine the frustration that I put up with for two weeks. I had hesitated to call Apple, but finally gave up and all was put right within an hour, using my AppleCare.

If you are tempted to buy AppleCare—and you can buy the additional two years any time before the one-year warranty you got with your machine runs out—you need to know that you can shop around for a good price. As an example, Apple charges \$349 for AppleCare for the MacBookPro, but LA Computer Company (<http://www.lacomputerstore.com>) charges only \$232; AppleCare for the Mac Pro from Apple is \$249, LA Computer sells it for only \$179. At these prices, you almost can't lose. (No, I have no relationship whatsoever with them. Just tryin' to save you a bit of money.)

This Month's Freeware

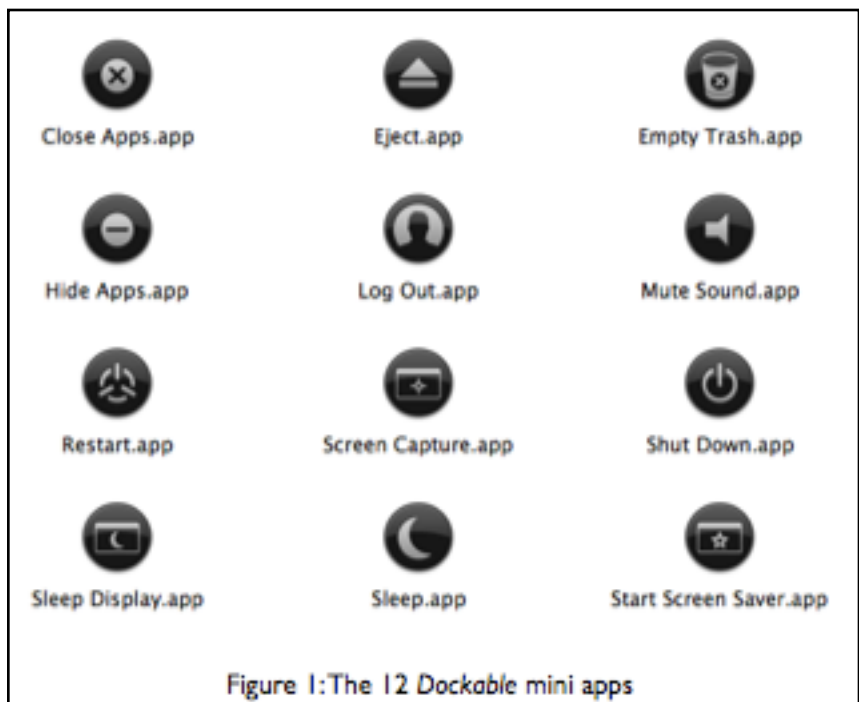
Have you heard of Dan Frakes? He is a Mac Guru of the first water! I enjoy reading his materials and checking out his finds. One of his recent finds is a piece of software that does things you would think would need AppleScript to accomplish.

Recently David Pogue wrote in the New York Times about software that would perform various functions with but a single click, but these programs generally run a bit on the expensive side. Frakes discusses a minor alternative, DOCKABLES. Dockables is a group of Cocoa applications contained in one folder that is just one download. You could place it in the document side of your dock (just to the right of the little vertical line is where these things go). When you want an action simply click Dockables and you will see these 12 apps:

Close Apps: Quits all running applications, including the Finder. (Unfortunately, there is no way to omit the Finder from this action.)

Eject: Ejects/unmounts all removable volumes. (Not just CDs or DVDs; external hard drives and connected flash drives, for example, are also unmounted.)

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Empty Trash: Does the same thing as the Finder's Empty Trash command.

Hide Apps: Hides all active applications and minimizes Finder windows.

Log Out: Logs you out of the current account.

Mute Sound: Mutes the system volume (although launching it again doesn't unmute).

Restart: Restarts your Mac.

Screen Capture: Takes a standard Mac, OS X full-screen screenshot.

Shut Down: Shuts down your Mac.

Sleep: Puts your Mac to sleep.

Sleep Display: Puts just your Mac's display to

sleep.

Start Screen Saver: Immediately starts whatever screen saver you've selected in System Preferences. Here is what the Dockables look like when you open the folder:

Frakes pointed out that if you knew AppleScript, it would be easy to create such mini applications, but if you don't have the time to learn, these are mighty convenient to have. And best of all it is free.

Usually, games are not of much interest to me, but there is one that, I confess, I enjoy fiddling with. It is similar to, if not identical to the hugely popular game Tetris, which may still be for sale. However, the game I have found is free. It is simply called QUINN and will be posted on the DVMUG BBS under NEW UPLOADS for September when the Newsletter goes to the printers and is posted simultaneously online for your reading pleasure. 🍏

from Mac Connection

Analysis: What Apple's iWork Moves Mean for Office

by Philip Michaels

In the second half of 2007, Mac users were supposed to have an Intel-native productivity suite offering, among other things, a presentation program, word processor, and spreadsheet tool. And they do—only this productivity suite doesn't come from Microsoft. Instead, it's Apple's iWork '08.

Last week's addition of the spreadsheet application Numbers to iWork finally created a full-featured successor to the now officially-abandoned AppleWorks, which had gone untouched since 2004. But does it also mean stiffer competition for Microsoft's Office suite, now that iWork offers three of the four apps included in Office? (And the fourth, Entourage, is matched by tools included elsewhere in Mac OS X.)

If iWork '08's release signals a renewal of hostilities that have been largely dormant since the late '90s, you'd have a hard time convincing representatives from either Apple or Microsoft. Perhaps that's because as intriguing as an iWork-versus-Office storyline may be in some quarters, the realities of the marketplace seem to nip any would-be feud in the bud.

Office: 'Still pretty entrenched'

For all the ease Numbers brings to spreadsheets, it's still a 1.0 version of an application, with all the mixture of potential and missing features that phrase implies. Office, on the other hand, remains the preeminent suite of its kind, used widely not just on the Mac platform, but among businesses of all sorts of shapes, sizes and computing platforms. "If you look at Office," said Tim Bajarin, president of consulting firm Creative Strategies, "it's still pretty entrenched" among business and education users.

Still, the arrival of iWork '08 comes at an interesting time in the Mac market—barely a week after Microsoft announced that the release of Office 2008 would be delayed until January. Microsoft cited what Macintosh Business Unit general manager

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Craig Eisler called a “perfect storm” of factors—the switch to Intel-based processors, a change in Office file formats, and the fact that Microsoft is building this version of Office with Apple’s Xcode developer tools.

Whatever the reasoning behind the delay, it doesn’t change the fact that Mac users will need to wait another five months for an Intel-native version of Office; iWork runs natively on both Intel- and PowerPC-based Macs right now.

For its part, Apple isn’t touting iWork as an Office replacement, let alone an Office killer. Rather, the company says, its productivity suite is aimed at people who’d prefer a Mac-like approach to tasks such as word-processing and spreadsheets.

“One of the things that you’ll see in some of our materials is, ‘Productivity the Mac way,’” said Rob Schoeben, Apple’s vice president of applications product marketing. “That means, ‘I bought a Mac on purpose. I bought into the idea that things should look right and be well-designed and really easy to use.’ They want to enjoy the way they work, they want their work product to look great, and [they want to be] fundamentally integrated into iLife. If you buy into all that, that’s going to be appealing.”

Meanwhile, executives from Microsoft’s Mac Business Unit don’t sound particularly threatened by another productivity suite, even one that’s developed by the same company that makes the hardware and operating system on which the suites run. While calling iWork ’08 “an interesting option

Mac Lab Back for 2007-08

Mac Lab meets at Fairview Jr High School on Wednesdays at 2:45 PM.

Meetings will be in Room 23. This room faces East and is behind some portable classrooms.

Mac Lab cancelation days fall within the school holiday plan. Therefore, there will be NO meeting on: 11/21/07, 12/26/07, 1/2/08, 4/2/08. The last meeting day will be 6/11/08.

**If you have any questions contact:
Warren Beauchene
697-6681 or at beaucomputer@aol.com**

for some users,” Mac Business Unit marketing manager Amanda Lefebvre said that the Mac version of Office appeals to users with very demanding document-sharing needs.

“For us, it’s about allowing people to deliver really great documents across platforms,” Lefebvre said. “With Office 2004, it’s proven that it is an essential piece of software. We will deliver on that even more with [Office 2008].”

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Frank and Ernest

BANK



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Document compatibility is crucial for any suite of applications that hopes to make hay in Office's space. And that appears to have been a major focus with the iWork '08 apps—the latest version of Pages, for example, delivers improved exporting to Word, even with graphics-heavy documents, while Numbers offers compatibility with many Excel spreadsheets, though users may need to modify some of them. (There is no support for macros in Numbers, and some formulas are unsupported as well.)

What's more, iWork shipped with support for the Open XML file format that's native to Microsoft Office 2007. Adding such support to the Mac version of Office is one of the reasons behind its delayed release, so its presence in iWork is "embarrassing" for Microsoft, according to one analyst.

"This was the ultimate insult to injury," JupiterResearch vice president and research director Michael Gartenberg told Computerworld. "Not only has Microsoft not delivered the ability to read and write Open XML in its Mac Office, but at the end of the day, Apple was the one who delivered."

Who iWork is for

Still, for users regularly exchanging files with co-workers and clients, Office's seamless compatibility will make it tough for iWork to make much of an inroad. Office "is still an essential piece of software for our customers," Microsoft's Lefebvre said.

While Apple's Schoeben describes iWork's compatibility with Office as "pretty solid," he concedes that there are users who would not want to drop Office in favor of Apple's suite. "If you need to constantly roundtrip with other people

who are using an Excel spreadsheet, you want Excel," he said.

But not every user works under those circumstances, Apple hastens to add. "If you're going to create something yourself, if 90 to 95 percent compatibility [with Excel] is fine, if you don't really care about pivot tables and macros and things like that, you'll prefer [Numbers]," Schoeben said.

Indeed, that's where Apple figures to make the biggest inroads with its latest version of iWork—among users who need a word-processing or spreadsheet tool for their personal use, but don't need all the features—or the higher price tag—of Office's apps.

"There are segments of the market where Office is overkill," Creative Strategies' Bjarin said.

Apple has another reason for bolstering its own productivity suite apart from trying to reach users who might otherwise be overwhelmed by Office.

The more powerful a suite iWork becomes, the less dependent the company is on Microsoft to produce timely Office updates.

What lies ahead

Consider that 10 years ago this month, Bill Gates appeared at Macworld Expo in Boston to announce a deal where Microsoft would buy \$150 million of Apple stock. More important, however, was the part of the Apple-Microsoft pact where the Redmond-based software giant agreed to keep developing a Mac version of Office. That move lent credibility to the Mac platform at a time when Apple was struggling.

These days, Apple's standing is dramatically different. The company just enjoyed its best quarter for Mac sales ever, and, with a market capitalization of more

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than \$100 billion and \$7.1 billion in cash on hand, it finds itself on a solid financial footing.

Yet, Apple and Microsoft continue to operate under a series of pacts that keep Office on the platform. The latest five-year agreement was announced in 2006 calls on Microsoft to develop Office for both PowerPC and Intel-based Macs.

And Apple's strong Mac sales momentum may be a major reason why Silverlight, Microsoft's new rich-media browser plug-in technology meant to compete with Adobe's Flash, supports Intel-based Mac systems as well as Windows PCs.

But while Office remains a fixture on the Mac platform, other Microsoft apps—everything from Internet Explorer to Virtual PC to Windows Media Player—have fallen by the wayside. What if Office were to join them once the current pact between

Apple and Microsoft runs out?

“It wouldn't be catastrophic,” said Bjarin, hastening to add that he believes a vibrant Mac version of Office remains part of Microsoft's strategy. “But it would be a significant blow.”

For that reason, Bjarin adds, enhancing iWork could be seen as “pre-emptive” move on Apple's part. Adding more applications and features to a productivity suite now spares Apple from the pressure of having to do it later.

JupiterResearch's Gartenberg took a more stark view in his interview with Computerworld. “Office for the Mac is just not a real priority for Microsoft,” he told the IT publication. “And that's not likely to change any time soon.” 🍏

Phillip Michaels is the executive online editor for MacWorld Magazine.

from MacCentral

8 Great Quicken Alternatives

By Gina Trapani

Freelance writer and web programmer



Quicken may be the most popular finance manager on the Mac, but because it has many features that a lot of us never use, it can be overkill. Fortunately, there are several options that are simpler to use, less expensive, and/or more focused than Quicken. If you don't want everything Quicken offers, one of these eight Quicken alternatives could be all you need.

1. Buddi

Buddi is a stripped-down financial manager that gets back to basics. Set up your accounts, and then use a simple form to enter and categorize transactions. The transaction category list also acts as your budget—for example, you enter your anticipated income in the Salary category under the My Budget tab. Buddi does not support multiple budgets or online banking; however, an available plug-in imports CSV data files, a format most banks offer for transaction downloads (payment requested; Wyatt Olson).

FinanceToGo: If you're accustomed to the double-
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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>

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entry accounting many businesses use, FinanceToGo's interface will seem familiar.

2. Budget

If sticking to a budget is your first priority, Snowmint's Budget is for you. Budget's interface nicely illustrates the old-fashioned envelope system of budgeting: each of your assets and expenses is represented by an envelope with an amount written on it. When you get paid, Budget automatically distributes your money into each envelope. And after you've paid all your budgeted expenses, Budget shows how much cash you've got left, in a special envelope labeled Available (\$30; <http://www.snowmintcs.com/>).

3. Burn

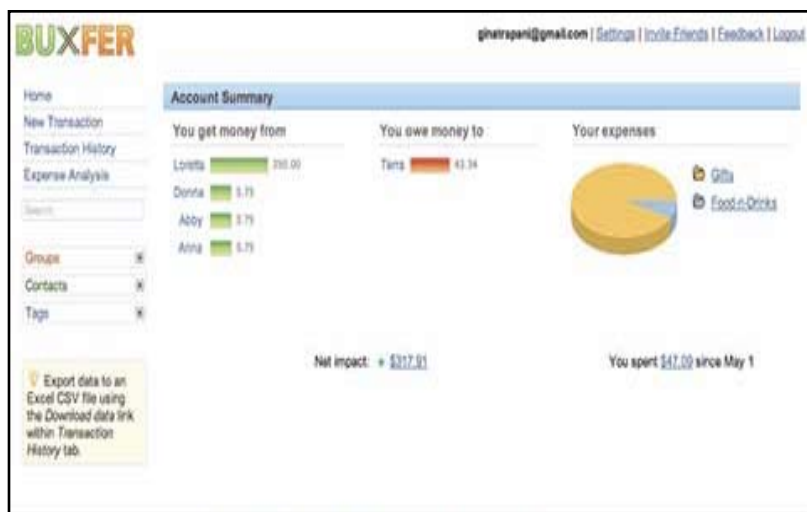
The first step to getting your spending under control is to track where every penny goes. That's the sole purpose of Burn. You're not going to find online banking or extensive reporting in Burn—you simply enter the item you spent cash on, the date, and the amount, and assign a category; Burn can then print out an attractive report that totals your expenditures (free; <http://www.blackholemedia.com/>).

4. Buxfer

Web-based Buxfer lets you tag transactions with keywords and generate reports. But Buxfer's killer feature is the ability to track who paid for what part of a shared dinner check, grocery bill, or gift—it's great for roommates, groups of friends, teammates, or coworkers. Full text-messaging support makes tracking transactions on-the-go easy. For instance, when you're buying movie tickets for yourself and your pals at a theater, text Buxfer the amount, the category, and your friends' names; the expense goes into your Buxfer account on the spot (free; <http://www.buxfer.com/>).

5. Debtinator

You've got debt spread across three credit cards, a mortgage, a student loan, and a car loan—all at different interest rates and fees. How much



Upload your transactions, then use Buxfer's social networking tools for tips and discussion.

should each monthly payment be? Debtinator helps you answer that question. Enter your current assets, income, and expenses into Debtinator, as well as each of your loan and credit card balances, interest rates, and fees. Debtinator calculates how long it will take to pay down the debt if you follow different payment strategies—such as the lowest-interest-payment plan, the minimum-payment plan, and the minimum-fee-only plan—and then it recommends your “best bet” strategy based on your income, expenses, and interest rates (\$15; <http://www.bassetsoftware.com/>).

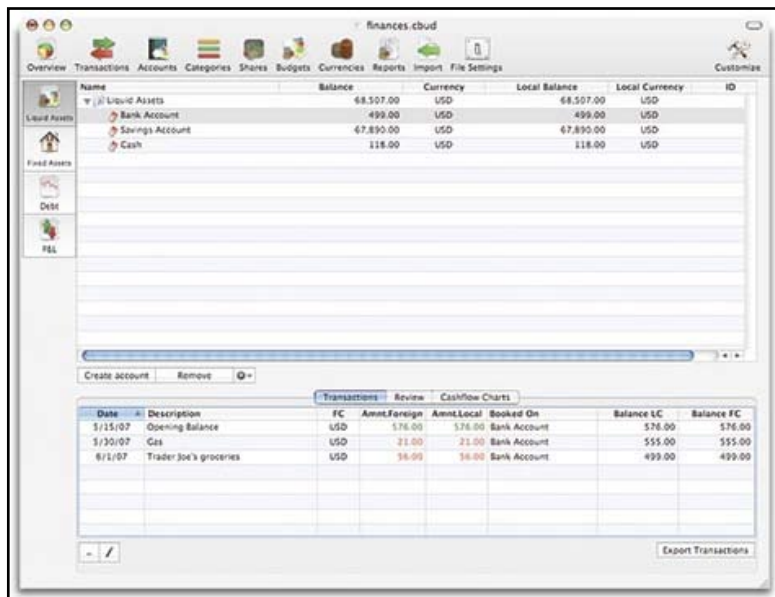
6. FinanceToGo

FinanceToGo () is based on the principle of double-entry accounting, so it feels better suited to business than to personal use. Double-entry accounting dictates that money move from one account to another in every transaction—so FinanceToGo treats every payee as an account, even your grocery store and your landlord. The three main reports that FinanceToGo offers also seem geared toward business: a balance sheet, a profit-and-loss statement, and an expense overview (\$45; <http://www.fastforwardsw.com/>).

7. iBank 2

iBank () is a solid alternative to Quicken, with a few unique extras. It lets you track your accounts, create multiple budgets, customize its category list, and manage scheduled and recurring transactions. You can also download stock prices directly into the program. If you can't stand your bank's cryptic one-

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FinanceToGo: If you're accustomed to the double-entry accounting many businesses use, FinanceToGo's interface will seem familiar.

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line transaction descriptions, you'll love the Smart Import Rules feature, which applies changes to transactions that meet specified criteria. You can also assign an image to a transaction—in case you need a photographic reminder of why those new sneakers were worth the \$120 you spent on them (\$50; <http://www.iggsoftware.com/>).

8. Wesabe

The Web-based Wesabe combines money management with social networking. Once you become a Wesabe member, you upload your bank-account transactions either manually or automatically. You can then tag these transactions with keywords, and Wesabe will associate any future transactions involving the same payee with those keywords. Additionally, the Wesabe community will offer you tips about your spending habits. For example, next to the entry for a purchase at Trader Joe's, a fellow Wesabe member might suggest a way to save \$5 on groceries. You can also create goals in Wesabe ("buy a MacBook," say, or "pay off credit cards"), and then browse through the goals other members have set; if you find someone with similar aims, you can compare notes and swap advice. Wesabe keeps your personal banking information private but does aggregate and display community data—such as how much Wesabe members spend on average at the Apple Store (free; <http://www.wesabe.com/>).

[Gina Trapani is the founding editor of the Lifehacker blog (<http://lifelhacker.com/>) and the author of *Lifehacker: 88 Tech Tricks to Turbocharge Your Day* (Wiley Publishing, 2007).]

When Quicken isn't enough

Quicken can't do a couple of things that you'll need if you're self-employed or you run a side business: it can't create invoices or track your receivables. You could try QuickBooks, but that's sometimes overkill for a small operation. Here are four alternatives.

There are several good programs that can handle invoicing and billing. Marketcircle's Billings (; \$59) (<http://www.marketcircle.com/>), for example, sports a clean, intuitive interface, is easy to customize, and has a great invoice editor.

Pretty Good Software's iRatchet (\$45) (<http://www.prettygoodsoftware.org/>), another general-purpose invoicing and billing system, costs a bit less than Billings; integrates with Address Book, iCal, and Mail; supports multiple tax rates, multiple timers, and multiple client projects; and tracks mileage and payments.

If you want to both keep track of the services you perform and create invoices, without a lot of other bells and whistles, Clickable Bliss's Billable (\$25) (<http://www.clickablebliss.com/>) is a good, inexpensive choice. It lets you set different hourly rates for a client; you can also create and customize invoice templates in HTML, and then print them as PDFs.

And for collaborating with many people on a file-based project and billing everyone's time, check out IGG Software's iBiz (; \$50; two-client server version, \$90) (<http://www.iggsoftware.com/>). It lets you associate specific files with a project and then tracks the total time spent working on those files. — Tom Negrino

Gina Trapani is a freelance web programmer and technology writer based in San Diego, California. 🍏

from the MacChUG Line

Clean Up Your Act!

Or: How To Keep Your Desktop Uncluttered and Place Downloads in the Dock



It is easy to redirect Downloads to a folder in the Dock.

Just follow these simple steps for Safari:

Safari Preferences

Select Safari Preferences in the Menu Bar. Click the General Tab in the window that appears. In the Save downloaded files to field select Other... In the next window, Navigate to Documents and Click New Folder. Name this new folder Downloads and Click Select.

For other Applications like Firefox or iChat, just follow a similar procedure for finding the Downloads location in each Application's Preferences.

Preferences Short Cut

Remember, the keyboard shortcut to get into an Application's Preferences is Apple + ,.

Navigate to the Downloads Folder in the Finder. Drag the Folder to the right side of the Dock, just to the right of the small vertical

crease. An alias of the Downloads folder will appear in the Dock. Ctrl + Click the new Dock folder and a listing of the files inside the Downloads Folder will appear. 🍏

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

----- **ABOUT MEMBERSHIP** -----

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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Newsletter Coordinator	Joe Williams (jwilly6173@yahoo.com)		

----- **RENEWING MEMBERSHIP** -----

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



KITSAP MACINTOSH USER'S GROUP

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