

Kitsap Macintosh Users Group

KMUG Newsletter
Volume 20

November 2007
Number 11

New Location & Schedule for Mac Lab

The MacLab group has received the go ahead to start meeting at the SCC (Silverdale Community Center) in the "A" frame room. This will be the room for the rest of the year.

Dates and times are:

November 14 3:30 to 5:00 PM

November 28 2:30 to 5:00 PM

December 5 2:30 to 5:00 PM

December 12 3:30 to 5:00 PM

December 19 2:30 to 5:00 PM

*If you have any questions contact:
Warren Beauchene*

697-6681 or at beaucomputer@aol.com

from the DVMUG ApplePRESS

Rick's Place

By Rick Calicura,

DVMUG President Emeritus

We're having so much fun this year, it's hard to believe that it is almost gone, with Thanksgiving and then the Holidays coming up soon. As I write this, however, the important news is that Leopard—the latest iteration of Mac OS X, 10.5—is coming. Apple will release it next Friday, October 26.



I can hardly wait. Apple is retailing Leopard at \$129, or \$199 for a Family Plan. Or you can order it through Amazon.com (be sure you log onto www.dvmug.org and click the Amazon icon at the bottom of the home page so that DVMUG will receive a small commission) for only \$109 with FREE shipping AND no sales tax.

There are about 300 new features in Leopard. If you would like to see a demonstration of some of the major ones, you might want to check out this address: <http://www.apple.com/macosx/guidedtour/large.html>. (If you do not have a high-speed broadband

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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>

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connection, change the word “large” in the address to “small.”) The video demonstration is clear, well done, and interesting. I am hopeful that we will have a preview of Leopard at our November meeting. Of course we will try to cover many of the new items as well as everyday operation of Leopard at our Annual Workshop (formerly called SOYA [So Ya Got A Mac For Christmas....]) to be held at the Pleasant Hill Community Center on February 9, 2008. This year's tentative title: Mac Life '08.

The workshop, which will run all day from about 9:30 a.m. until 4-ish (when we do Questions and Answers) will include your lunch and have lots of handouts. We will have door prizes galore and great speakers. I may even take a hand at a part of it.

Digitizing Music

Having been down for just about 7 weeks with an injury sustained in Physical Therapy (YES! The therapy did the injury!) to my right ankle and foot, I welcomed the chance to begin some long-put-off tasks that I just hadn't previously had time to do.

You may recall that a while ago I wrote about my ION turntable that connects directly, via USB, to a Mac or a PeeCee. I have used this turntable quite a lot over the past weeks. I can report that it works flawlessly, and has proven a very effective and valuable tool in saving some of my favorite music from records that have long since gone out of production.

The software that came with it (Audacity) is just OK, but if you own Roxio's Toast, it comes with an application called Spin Doctor. While this software can be downright temperamental at times, occasionally crashing, it has never lost my data. It HAS lost track information, however, so I had to retype all the track information such as Performer, Title, etc. I discovered that it has built-in filtering, which allows you to remove or reduce pops, clicks, and hissing from your records. It also allows you to do some enhancement as well as to set up your music using the built-in graphic equalizer.

Once you have massaged the music, you must break

down the LP (or other record type) into separate tracks so that you can title them for your iPod or MP3 player. And get this! Spin Doctor will allow you to transfer all the music AND your track information into iTunes with a simple click on an icon!

The process does take time, since you must play your LPs in real time and Spin Doctor imports in real time. That is, if your record takes 45 minutes to play, it will take 45 minutes to import it. Next, of course, you must save it (if you don't and the application crashes, goodbye music, so be sure to save); then you can use the little track-creation tool that senses the quiet spots between tracks so you can label them.

Creating tracks should be the very last thing you do before importing the music into iTunes because the tracks do not save until you send it to iTunes. If you have created tracks and then do a save, your tracks will be gone. So, what I do is to run the filters with just a click of the mouse and then do another save. Finally, I'll identify the tracks and then export to iTunes.

Once your music is in iTunes, you can use Amazon or Google to find the artwork for the covers of your LPs. Most of my stuff is music I purchased when I was in college, over 50 years ago...mostly 1954, '55, and '56 albums, and mostly West Coast jazz. You'd think that covers for such old albums would be hard to find, but I have found it to be amazingly easy with those two resources. Once you have your music in iTunes, you should do a backup of your hard drive and, if you choose, you can also burn your newly salvaged music to CDs.

An aside—I was shocked at learning the value of some of these old LPs. Some are valued at over \$50 by collectors. I can't believe how they have appreciated in value from the \$5.95 I paid for most of them. I have one sampler from Columbia (issue number JZ-1) that I bought new for \$1.98; it has become much more valuable. I am sure sorry my mother threw out all of my comic books when I left for college! I imagine that my Number One

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issues of Superman, Captain Marvel, Planet Comics and Batman would be worth more than the 10¢ I paid for them, but alas! they are in a landfill now.

Netscape Reborn

For many years Netscape was the dominant browser, then it fell onto bad times after AOL bought it. While visiting one of my favorite Web places, www.macsurfer.com, the other day, I saw a brief report about a new version of Netscape (version 9) that was reported to be speedy and sported some nice new features.

Of course it is cross platform, and runs just as well on the Mac as it does in Windows or Linux. A feature of interest is automatic URL corrections—if you fail to type HTTP correctly or type “rog” instead of “org,” it will automatically correct the error. The new Netscape is also compatible with all Firefox 2 extensions (from Mozilla Add Ons) and features a sidebar that can be configured the way you want it.

I have found the new Netscape to be extremely fast, surprisingly so. However, it does NOT support Mail or Newsgroups at this time. While it is good and I will retain it, I will still choose Safari as my primary browser and Firefox as my secondary, followed by Netscape.

GIMPShop

I was going to download and post a piece of freeware (actually open-source ware) called GIMPShop on the BBS. It is an open-source equivalent to Photoshop, and I understand that this latest version is quite similar to Photoshop. Moreover, the price is right—it's free. Unfortunately, I couldn't post it on the BBS as it is too large a file, almost 90 megabytes, but you can download it from <http://www.photo-freeware.net/gimpshop.php> yourself and check it out. I suspect that there is a learning curve and it will not be as easy to use as iPhoto.

Freebies for November

La Cie SilverKeeper - I am sure that many of you are getting tired of hearing me and others from the MUG as well as the volunteers at the MacClinic urging you to back up before your hard drive dies.

Yes, all, YES, ALL hard drives (every single one of them) will die and it is going to happen at the worst possible moment. That is why we preach backing up your hard drive.

Backup software has generally not been free, but I just ran across an old standby that is 100% free and quite flexible with a lot of power. It is LA CIE SILVERKEEPER. I am going to place this in the NEW UPLOADS folder of the BBS for you.

But, you might be tempted to say, how can anything free be any good? Well, I know several people who can afford the best but have been using SilverKeeper for years and love it. You can do backups via a schedule of your choice; with Fry's selling external FireWire hard drives for around \$100 on sale (if you don't take the Contra Costa Times, you can check their ads at <http://www.tiny.cc/FrysAd>). I can't tell you how strongly I feel that you owe it to yourself to download this software and begin backing up your Mac regularly. SilverKeeper could save you untold grief.

Poker Poker is a simple poker game that will amuse those of you who fancy themselves real “studly” poker players. Simply open the Poker Disk Image (.dmg) and follow the directions. GOOD LUCK! (I hope you win). 🍏

from MacCentral

Privacy Groups Call for Do-Not-Track List *by Grant Gross, IDG News Service*

A coalition of nine privacy and consumer groups have proposed a U.S. do-not-track list that would allow consumers to opt out of advertising efforts that track their movements online.

The groups, including the Center for Democracy and Technology (CDT), the Consumer Federation of America and the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, called for the U.S. Federal Trade Commission to create a list of servers that track users online.

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Consumers could download the list and use security software to block sites that they don't want tracking them, under a proposal filed with the FTC Wednesday.

Right now, there's no easy way to opt out multiple tracking schemes, said Mark Cooper, research director for the Consumer Federation of America. "The consumer needs a clear and consumer-friendly opportunity to opt out of being tracked," he said. "We don't have that today. We have all kinds different approaches, and not-so-friendly interfaces."

The do-not-track list, similar in some ways to a do-not-call telemarketing list maintained by the FTC, would allow consumers to take control of their personal information online, Cooper said. While they would originally have to download the list and manually enter sites to block into security software, the privacy coalition expects that browser developers would create tools to automate that process, he said.

"This is a single step for consumers, and this is completely needed," said Pam Dixon, executive director of the World Privacy Forum. In addition to the do-not-track proposal, the FTC filing also called on the agency to require that companies collecting data disclose what data they hold to consumers who ask for it. The groups also called on the U.S. Congress to create an online consumer protection advisory committee that could work with the FTC on online privacy issues, and they created a new definition of personally identifiable information that includes things such as screen names and online behavior that can be used to pinpoint an individual.

The proposal also suggests consumers should receive contextual notice of tracking efforts, Dixon said. "When a consumer is online and clicking on things, they get the notice at the right time and the right place," she said.

The proposal comes a day before the FTC hosts a two-day workshop on behavioral advertising online. Representatives of the groups said they've had limited interaction with the FTC on the proposal so far, but they will talk about it at the workshop.

The Network Advertising Initiative (NAI), a

From MacCentral

Apple Releases Fix for iMac Freezing Issue

by Jim Dalrymple

Apple on Thursday released an update for its iMac consumer computer that fixes a problem with the computer freezing suddenly.


Apple said the update is recommended for 20-inch and 24-inch iMac models with 2.0 2.4, or 2.8GHz processors. iMac Software Update 1.3 (Leopard) and iMac Software Update 1.2 (Tiger) are available

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cooperative of online marketing and analytics companies, since 2001 has distributed a cookie-based system that allows users to opt-out of behavioral advertising. But members of the privacy coalition say the NAI effort has largely not worked, partly because online users often mistrust cookies. The NAI said a government-run program wouldn't work. The proposal would create a government-run list that would force computers to "call home to the government on a regular basis," the group said in a statement.

"This proposal for a government-run blacklist would break both the basic functionality and economic models of most, if not all, e-commerce and content-driven consumer Web sites," the group added. "It would also make much of the personalization available on the Web's most popular sites, enjoyed by millions, a thing of the past."

The do-not-track list would not block online advertisements, said Ari Schwartz, CDT's deputy director. Instead, the proposal would give consumers "more control" over who tracks them, he said.

Google, which has moved to acquire advertising giant DoubleClick, said in a statement it welcomed the privacy groups' proposal. "We need to review the proposal in more detail, but we welcome innovative ideas in this area and believe the industry as a whole should, too," a company spokeswoman said. 

from MacInstruct

How to Use RSS

What You Need

- Mac OS 9 or later
- An RSS reader (Download Apple's Safari for free)
- RSS Feeds (Free from thousands of websites)


Just as the Internet revolutionized communications in the early '90s, RSS is fundamentally changing the way we receive information. Years ago, before RSS came into its own, we visited websites that published news, posted links, and provided information. We bookmarked our favorite websites and checked them frequently, because there wasn't any other way to tell when they were updated.

No longer. Thanks to RSS - which stands for Really Simple Syndication - we can receive everything from news and blogs to podcasts and iPhoto pictures without even opening our web browser. These days,

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from Apple's Web site.

Apple acknowledged in early October that a software update it issued caused the computers to freeze. According to users the iMac became unusable, requiring a hard reset in order to recover.

Apple said it is encouraging its customers to install the update via the Software Update mechanism or the download link. 

you don't go to websites - websites go to you.

You can tap into the power of RSS immediately - and for free! We'll show you how.

Don't Bite the Website that Feeds

To get started, you'll need to find a website that syndicates its content. Usually, websites syndicate with what's commonly known as an "RSS Feed." Feeds are small files that are constantly and consistently updated with a website's newest content.

Where do you find these feeds? Sometimes they'll appear in the Safari and Firefox address bars. Other times, websites will simply provide an RSS link that says (surprise!) "RSS." Also watch for the unmistakable orange RSS images.

Once you've found a website with a RSS Feed, you're ready to add it to your RSS reader.

Adding an RSS Feed to Safari

In this tutorial, we'll add Macinstruct's RSS Feed to Apple's freely-available Safari web browser. Remember that this is just an example - you can add any website's RSS Feed to any RSS reader that tickles your fancy.

Here's how to do it:

1. Using Apple's Safari web browser, visit Macinstruct's homepage.

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Frank and Ernest

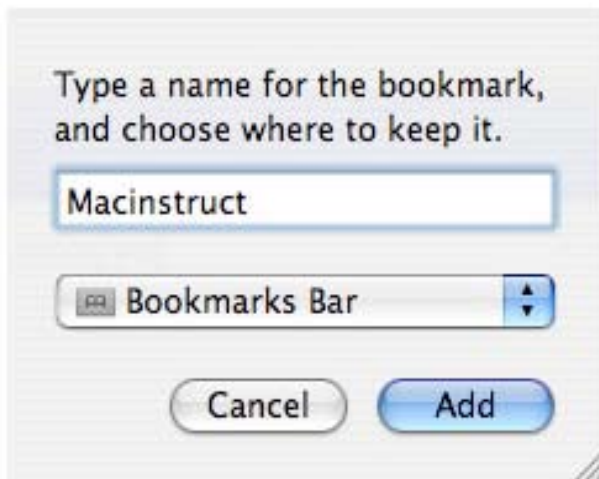


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2. Click the RSS button in Safari's address bar.
3. You'll be taken to Safari's built-in RSS reader. What you'll be looking at is Macinstruct's RSS Feed - those are our newest articles! To add the feed, click Add Bookmark... in the right-hand sidebar.
4. Since we want easy access to this RSS Feed, we're going to add it to our bookmarks bar. You can always always add it as a regular bookmark if you don't want it on the bookmarks bar. Click



Add once you've decided on a location.

5. We've successfully added Macinstruct's RSS Feed to our bookmarks bar. Now, any time Macinstruct publishes a new article, Safari will alert us. Notice in the image below that there's a (43) next to the collection of Apple RSS Feeds.

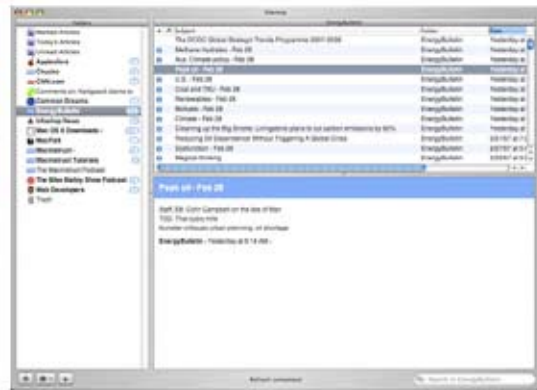


That means there's 43 unread articles in there!

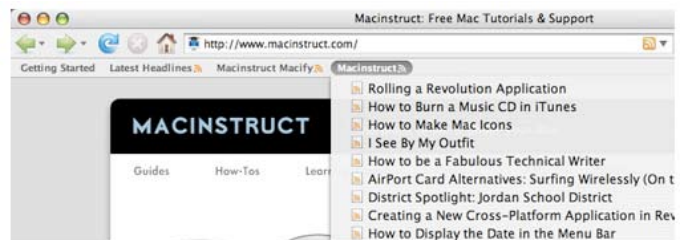
Other RSS Readers

Safari isn't the only game in town when it comes to reading RSS Feeds. There are dozens of RSS readers for Macs - many of which are freely available. If you're serious about RSS, you need to look into these freeware gems:

Vienna is, in our opinion, the best RSS reader for Macs. This application sports a three-pane interface similar to iTunes, Mail, and other Apple applications. That's a nice feature, but the best thing about Vienna



is its simplicity. It's an application that everyone can learn in a matter of minutes. We recommend it!



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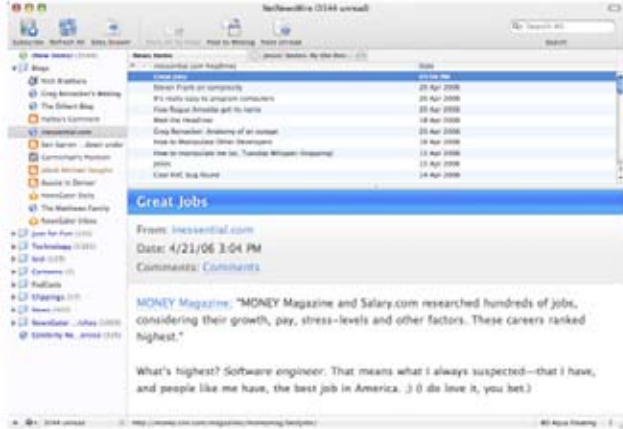
Disclaimer

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

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Firefox isn't technically an RSS reader, but it does a pretty good job of keeping track of RSS Feeds. In fact, it's almost as good as Safari. Almost.

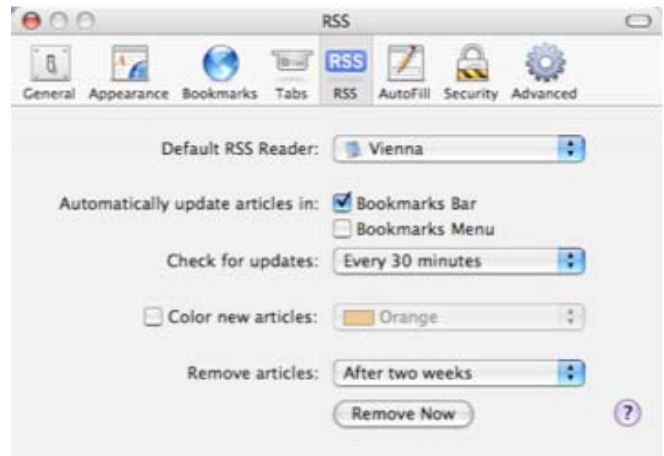
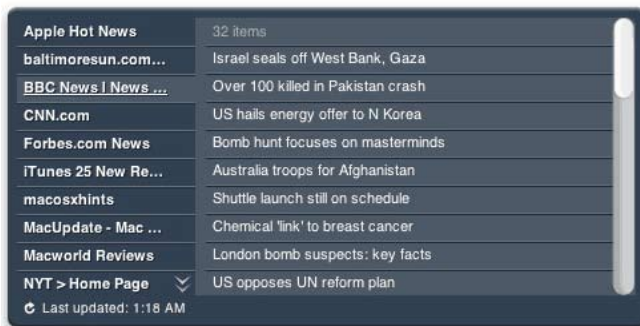
NetNewsWire is probably the de-facto standard



when it comes to Mac RSS readers. Everybody is raving about it, and lots of people are downloading the freeware version. Our opinion? Not bad, but you can probably pass on this one - especially since you have to pay \$30 for the full version.

News Reader is a cool RSS Dashboard widget for Mac OS X. Don't miss this freeware winner!

Configuring Safari for an RSS Reader



Safari sports seamless integration with third-party

RSS readers. Here's how to make the switch from Safari's built-in RSS reader to a third-party application:

1. From the Safari menu, select Preferences.
2. Select RSS.
3. Change the Default RSS Reader to a third-party RSS reader.
4. Close the Preferences window. Safari will now default to the third- party RSS reader. 🍏

Meet Your Macinstructor

Matthew Cone is a technical writer living and working in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In his free time, he does the desert rat thing and hikes and road bikes around the Southwest. The rest of the time, he studies straw-bale houses, reads Anarchist philosophy, and pretends to not be working. You can email him at: matt@macinstruct.com

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>***

----- **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!

----- **ABOUT KMUG** -----

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----- **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)



***KITSAP MACINTOSH USER'S GROUP
POST OFFICE BOX 1271
SILVERDALE, WA 98383***

