

from MacBUS Connections

Online Bidders Beware

Rampant fraud with auctions, scammers persist

51,000 online fraud cases were entered in 2002, and more than half involved online auction complaints, which has now become the single largest category of Internet related complaints. For each victim actually reported, the FTC believes there are four others who didn't report. Current trends predict there will be 420,000 new auction victims by the end of 2003.

Auction fraud is rampant. A new trend has recently emerged where the scammer uses charge card numbers of previous victims to open new seller accounts, then with a separate identity ripped off elsewhere, sets up a bogus escrow service. The seller now insists to the winner of the auction that they use the escrow service, touting it's advantages over traditional means of payment. The victim sends the money, and both seller and escrow service disappear. In one case, the scammers were using stolen charge card identities obtained from a hotel employee.

One recent escrow service called "Premier Escrow"

ripped off hundreds of buyers before they were caught. Luckily a U.S. district Court in Virginia has dismantled the scammer's web site and seized the defendant's assets, pending trial. The FTC and law enforcement treats online fraud the same as brick-and-mortar fraud, and they'll prosecute every case they can. This is part of a coast to coast crackdown called "Operation Bidder Beware" which has already resulted in 57 civil law enforcement actions.

If you or someone you know is ripped off, use the FTC Complaint form at: <http://www.ftc.gov/ftc/complaint.htm> Article originally by The User Group Network is an affiliate of the News-Serve Network, <http://www.user-groups.net/News-Service>.

This article came from Connections, The Newsletter of the Macintosh Business Users Society of Greater Philadelphia. ●



***United We
Stand***

KMUG MEETINGS

Evenings

First Wednesday of each month at 6:30 P.M.
Bremerton Fire Station, 5001 Kitsap Way
(across from Dairy Queen & Denny's)
(park along Arsenal Way or in the parking

Luncheons

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

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

E3: A look at Apple's presence

By Peter Cohen, MacCentral

This week's E3 Expo (May 13-15) in Los Angeles draws the biggest video game and computer companies in the world, and Apple has a presence too. Why? Games are important to Apple, and being at E3 gives the company an opportunity to meet with key game developers and publishers in the PC and console market.

The meeting room, located in a spot near E3 Expo's main show offices, is an oasis away from the noise and craziness that the rest of E3 has to offer. Unlike the regular show floor, attendees visiting the Apple booth can have conversations at a normal level -- in fact, the spot even features a trio of private offices where Apple and other companies have been meeting throughout the week.

Apple's booth is open to the public, and has been attracting a steady crowd all week of Mac game publishers and developers, Apple fans and others have been stopping by to ask questions and to play games on the array of Apple hardware.

While the focus of the show is games, many attendees wandering by Apple's show room are asking questions about other Apple technologies, and

are looking for advice on how best to leverage Mac technology in their businesses and in their homes. Many people are expressing a renewed enthusiasm in Macintosh hardware and Mac OS X, and are interested in recent announcements like the iTunes Music Store.

Apple's meeting room features a number of Power Mac G4 1.42GHz dual processor systems set up with 23 inch Cinema HD Displays running the full versions of MacSoft's Unreal Tournament 2003 and Aspyr's Medal of Honor Allied Assault Spearhead expansion pack, all running LAN-based games served on an Apple XServe. All the gaming systems have been equipped with Bose noise-cancelling headphones and multibutton mice made by Logitech.

Other PowerBooks and iMacs populate the room, showing off titles like THQ Inc.'s new Finding Nemo games, Enigma and other titles. Another G4 tower has been equipped with NASCAR Racing 2003 Season, and there's a system showing off the Mac-compatible development build of America's Army, announced earlier this week -- a 3D military simulation game actually created by the U.S. Army. ●

INTERNET SHOPPING

by Don Diehl, KMUG Treasurer

There are too many atrocity stories circulating about internet shopping. Unfortunately there are real cases of gray market and refurbished merchandise, of unreasonable delivery delays and sales pressure for unwanted accessories. Perhaps we can provide a valuable service to our members by posting our net shopping experiences, both good and bad.

I recently have made three internet purchases and received first class merchandise, delivered at the prices quoted and on time. They were:

- Minolta S-414 digital camera, \$316 + \$18 shipping from www.digitalphotoclub.com
- NiMH batteries, 8 each 1850 mAh and a fast recharger, \$47 + \$6 shipping from www.ripvan100.com
- Circular polarizer filter, UV filter, 35.5 -> 43 mm adapter ring and filter pouch, \$43 + \$4 shipping from www.2filter.com

The best price on 256 MB Compact Flash data card was at Costco. ●

Rick's Roundup

*By: Rick Calicura,
DVMUG President Emeritus*

I recently upgraded my daughter's iMac (Graphite, Special Edition 400 MHz) to 384 megabytes (MB) of RAM and found that her 12-gigabyte (GB) hard drive had plenty of room on it to allow retention of her OS 9 data and applications and the added Jaguar and other software she had me install for her—Photoshop Elements 2, typical word processors and other items. She still has oodles of space to store more data. If you have an older G3, perhaps a beige model, and your Mac runs at about 333 megahertz (Mhz) and has sufficient RAM (a minimum of 256 MB) and enough free space on the hard drive, you are a candidate for Jaguar.

Accolade

Every once in a while you run into a company that

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PowerLook 2100XL***

PowerLook 3000***

* Requires a Jaguar-compatible TWAIN Data Source (DS).

** The Type1Scanner driver currently supports reflective scanning only.

*** Currently in beta.

Also of note: SilverFast (<http://www.silverfast.com/osx/en.html>) from LaserSoft supports over 150 SCSI and USB scanners from Acer, AGFA, EPSON, Linotype, Microtek, PFU, Polaroid, Quato, and UMAX. VueScan (<http://www.hamrick.com/>) from Hamrick Software supports hundreds of FireWire, SCSI and USB scanners from vendors including Acer, AGFA, Apple, BearPaw, Canon, EPSON, Genius, HP, Kodak, Konica, KYE, Linotype-Hell, Microtek, Minolta, Nikon, Polaroid, Plustek, and UMAX.

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deserves accolades for good customer service. Wiebetech is such a company (www.wiebetech.com). I ordered one of their SuperDrive Docks and was happy with the merchandise they shipped. Later I learned that the device shipped didn't perform the functions I had wanted (to run a 3.5" hard drive without an external power supply while connected to either my G4 or my Titanium PowerBook). I contacted Wiebe and they rechecked my original online order and admitted their mistake in sending me the next quality down. I was given an authorization number and returned the incorrect item. Simultaneously, they sent me the new SuperDrive Dock that is the device of my dreams. This little device is worth its weight in gold. I would suggest that you check DVMUG's BBS to learn about the User Group discounts that Wiebe offers MUG members. (Don't pay the prices listed on their Web page!)

New Card Reader Needed

While Jaguar is a superb operating system, a lot of providers have had to rewrite their software or change the ROMS in their devices. My flash card reader stopped working in Jaguar and the manufacturer was unable to provide me with a date when a Jaguar-compatible version would be issued. DVMUG Vice President Vern Laursen told me that Kingston makes a flash-card reader that is compatible with Jaguar. It was what I needed, but I was taken aback by the rather steep price of over \$50. I decided to think it over.

Then Asanté brought out a nifty little card reader that reads every type of photo-storage device including IBM's miniature hard drives. The device is called the Gini (6 in 1) card reader; it's small and complete in one package. Mine cost \$39 from Amazon.com (log on through our DVMUG web page so DVMUG gets a small commission) AND Amazon offers a \$10 rebate.

The beauty of this little device is that it is totally "plug and play" with Jaguar, though it requires installation of software from the included CD to work with earlier Mac operating systems. It will work under most any flavor of Windows as well.

With this device, not only can you copy photos from the computer to a memory device, you can copy BETWEEN memory devices. So, let's imagine that Cousin Joe, who has a Sony camera using memory

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sticks, took some wedding pictures of a family member when he was visiting Lower Slobovia and you want to have the full copies of those photos. With Gini, you can take his memory stick, insert it, insert your memory device, and actually copy the pictures from his to yours. Wonderful!

Password Problem

Some of you may have seen my post in the Gateway of DVMUG where I asked for help in eliminating the necessity of providing my password every time I opened my e-mail program in my Titanium PowerBook. What was especially frustrating was that the settings in my PowerBook were identical with those in my G4, but the G4 did not require a password. I tried every remedy that I could and that pesky PowerBook just would not give it up.

A short while ago, Apple released a new little utility called Keychain First Aid. I downloaded it and ran it...PROBLEM SOLVED! This took less than 3 minutes and I had been battling this problem for weeks.

Keychain First Aid is certainly worth downloading from the DVMUG BBS (New Uploads). If you still haven't taken advantage of this FREE club service, you may download Keychain First Aid from www.versiontracker.com or www.macupdates.com.

Life is good!

These highlights are from Rick's Column in the ApplePress, the Diablo Valley Macintosh User Group's newsletter. ●

Technology - MacCentral

Photoshop to Drop OS 9 Support with Next Major Release

By Jim Dalrymple MacCentral

Adobe's flagship product, Photoshop, will abandon Mac OS 9 support in its next major version, sources close to Adobe told MacCentral. While no final date has been set for the release of the next revision of Photoshop, Adobe is expected to introduce the product this fall.

"It's a big step for Adobe, but Apple made it clear that the future of the platform was going to be OS X," Jupiter Research analyst, Michael Gartenberg, told MacCentral. "The cost for developers to maintain two architectural releases is extremely prohibitive."

When Adobe announced Photoshop for Mac OS X in February 2002, the product was expected to bring creative professionals to Apple's Mac OS X operating system in large numbers, but there was no need for them to switch to a different OS -- Photoshop 7 was compatible with Mac OS 9.1 and Mac OS X.

This gave creative professionals the choice to stick with Mac OS 9, which was a comfortable and proven operating system for them. However, creative professionals who want to continue using Photoshop

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Frank and Ernest

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from MacBUS

First Cybersecurity Event for Department of Homeland Security

May 2003 - Computer security researchers have discovered a serious vulnerability in a commonly used open-source e-mail program called Sendmail that experts say makes a highly attractive target for a potentially devastating computer worm.

Many versions of Sendmail, which run on Unix servers and are estimated to handle about half of all e-mail traffic on the Internet, have what's known as a bufferoverflow flaw that's existed for as long as 10 or 15 years, said researchers at Internet Security Systems Inc..

The parts of the e-mail header that hold e-mail addresses, such as the "to," "from" and "cc" fields, don't parse data properly. The programming error

creates an opportunity for an attack that overwhelms the header's storage space and executes malicious commands, potentially giving a hacker full control of infected machines.

Apple Computer Inc., Hewlett-Packard Co., International Business Machines Corp., Silicon Graphics Inc. and Sun Microsystems Inc. are among the companies whose e-mail servers contain the flaw. Most were providing fixes for the flaw, according to a bulletin from the CERT Coordination Center, a federally funded research group. The Sendmail Consortium, the coordinating body for the development of the open-source program, was also offering an upgrade and a patch for the program on its Web site (www.sendmail.org).

The flaw was serious enough to evoke what was the first industry-government response to a cybersecurity event coordinated by the Department of Homeland Security, or DHS, which this week formally takes up responsibility for handling cyber emergencies.

This article came from MacBUS, MACINTOSH BUSINESS USERS' SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA.

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after the new version is released this fall will have no choice but to move to Mac OS X -- system requirements will call for Mac OS X 10.2 Jaguar or higher.

Although Apple still has some older models of Power Macs that will still boot into Mac OS 9, all new machines built in 2003 will only boot into Mac OS X. With the savings in development and support costs and the fact that Apple has moved its focus to OS X in hardware and software, other companies will probably announce similar initiatives.

"Other developers are likely to follow suit because it cuts their support costs, provides a stable platform and OS X is the way to go," said Gartenberg. ●

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The story also notes that Apple executives "took obvious glee" last week in noting that the new graphics software that is scheduled to appear in "Longhorn," Microsoft's 2005 version of its Windows operating system, copies features that have been in Mac OS X since 2001.

"You don't have to look too far to see that this is almost a direct copy of Quartz," Phil Schiller, Apple's vice president of marketing, is quoted as saying. ●

KMUG Meeting

Minutes

May 15, 2003

Our May 15 Kmug meeting started off with a wonderful demonstration from David Middleton on using the iDVD Tutorial and then showing us finished slide shows he had put together. He told us he uses Print Explosion software with Avery DVD Labels that he purchases at Office Depot for example. He made note that DVD-R should be used and to be sure they are DVD- "minus or dash" versus DVD+ "plus". Another good tip: when purchasing a new TV be sure your DVD Player is compatible. Later David showed Frank's CD with the updates of software that is available for member use. David also introduced us to a few free/shareware software programs such as DockFun, Pop-Up Zapper 2.2.1, Dropobliter8 for difficult to trash files, and Filexaminer.

Don Diehl stated the treasury is doing well and building. Also that there is a new web page in construction. The URL is homepage.mac.com/kmug1/.

Gwen Karuffroath explained that Mac Lab meets each Tuesday afternoon from 2:45 PM until 4:30 PM at the Jr. High School on Hostmark Street when school is in session. The last meeting of this school year will be on June 10.

Subjects of interest to members included, Ethernet cables for hardwiring, a lost partition, problems with printing from PDF files, .dat files, merge mail in AppleWorks, printing at only 125 Resolution if using Bright White paper and using Norton SystemWorks Wipe to completely erase data from a hard drive.

Frank Hartung, President, adjourned the meeting at 12:30 PM.

Submitted by,
Phyllis N Robie

Technology - MacCentral

Microsoft Takes Hardware, Software Ideas from Apple

By Dennis Sellers, MacCentral

"Futuristic, that is, except to a number of computer industry veterans who said that Microsoft and Hewlett were leaning too heavily on industrial design ideas that had originated with Apple -- like a spacious panel display the shape of a movie screen and a light-emitting-diode do-not-disturb feature embedded into the translucent plastic of the Athens's curvy case," John Markoff writes in the New York Times. "Not only has Apple been selling cinema-style flat panel displays for several years, but last year it filed patent application 20030002246, titled 'active enclosure for computing device,' which describes a machine that contains an array of rainbow-hued light-emitting diodes."

Mac users have long felt that Microsoft copies most of its best ideas from Apple. That opinion isn't likely to change if Bill Gates' sneak peek at a new computer and upcoming version of Windows is any indication of the future.

At last week's Winhec computer hardware conference in New Orleans, Gates showed a prototype of an office computer called the Athens PC that Microsoft designed with Hewlett-Packard. It's supposed to be a "futuristic prototype," but the snow-white system looks familiar.

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

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

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

KMUG

P.O. Box 1271, Silverdale, WA 98383

or come to one of our meetings and sign up!

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

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

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This month's newsletter editor was Joe Williams



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