

Saturday, January 1, 2000 6:10:10 AM

Subject: Macworld's Daily Tip [Andy Comes Through - 1/3]

Today's Tip: Andy Comes Through

Tip level: Intermediate

On occasion I have tip-writers-block -- a condition where, for the life of me, I just can't come up with a useful Mac tip. I had one of those moments just before Christmas and was saved by Macworld's own Editor in Chief, Andy Gore.

Here's the setup:

During a presentation I attended at the Macworld offices the presenter attempted to attach an external monitor to his PowerBook while the PowerBook was on. The monitor refused to display the PowerBook's video on screen and switching the monitor on and off had no effect. Andy walked into the room, saw what was going on, and offered this tip:

Close the PowerBook's lid until the machine goes to sleep. Then open the lid and press a key to wake the PowerBook. When the PowerBook wakes it establishes contact with all attached peripherals -- including those peripherals attached to the video port.

Sure enough, after following the procedure above, the monitor displayed the PowerBook's video.

+++++

Tuesday, January 4, 2000 6:00:10 PM

Subject: Macworld's Daily Tip [Silent Speakers - 1/4]

Today's Tip: Silent Speakers

Tip level: Intermediate

You've just plugged in those new USB speakers that Santa left under your tree, you press the Power button on your Mac's keyboard, and you hear

Nothing.

What's up?

What's up is this: The Mac's start-up sound occurs before USB is activated and therefore you won't hear this sound if the only audio connection you've made is via USB. If you really, really want to hear the start-up chime -- and hey, if that's what turns you on, fine by me -- connect an audio cable from your Mac's Sound Output port to the Audio Input port on your speakers.

+++++

Wednesday, January 5, 2000 5:42:31 AM

Subject: Macworld's Daily Tip [Labelous Affair - 1/5]

Today's Tip: Labelous Affair

Tip level: Beginner

If you're in the habit of playing audio CDs on your Mac, you know that whenever you insert such a CD, the Mac gives it a generic name along the lines of "Audio CD" or "Audio CD 2." If you'd like a more meaningful moniker appended to your CDs, download a copy of Miro Computer Products' Audio CD Labeller (yup, it's spelled with three Ls).

Audio CD Labeller is very easy to use. Just open an audio CD in the AppleCD Audio Player application and enter a name for your disc in the Disc edit field. The next time you insert that disc, the name you entered in that field will appear as the CD's title.

You can find your copy at <http://www.macdownload.com>.

+++++

Thursday, January 6, 2000 5:50:16 AM

Subject: Macworld's Daily Tip [Problematic Power?- 1/6]

Today's Tip: Problematic Power?

Tip level: Intermediate

It's only slightly possible that your Power Mac G4 (AGP) may issue three tones rather than its usual Chime of Happiness if you have any self-powered -- meaning they're plugged into a power source -- USB devices connected to the Mac.

If you experience these three tones or hear a truncated startup tone and then get no video, try unplugging these self-powered USB devices, restarting your Mac, and then plugging them back into the Mac.

+++++

Monday, January 10, 2000 5:43:59 PM

Subject: Macworld's Daily Tip

[Apple CD Audio Player Shortcuts - 1/10]

Today's Tip: AppleCD Audio Player Shortcuts

Tip level: Intermediate

You may have become so accustomed to mousing around within the AppleCD Audio Player that you've neglected to notice that you can use the keyboard to control many of this player's functions. For example:

Use the Up and Down arrow keys to adjust volume. Use the Right and Left arrow keys to move between tracks. Command-Left Arrow rewinds. Command-Right Arrow fast-forwards. The Space Bar stops and starts the player. Pressing the Tab key allows you to enter text in the highlighted field. Press Tab again to move to the next field.

+++++

Tuesday, January 11, 2000 3:55:23 PM

Subject: Macworld's Daily Tip

[Multi-Users for Multi-Printers- 1/11]

Today's Tip: Multi-Users for Multi-Printers

Tip level: Intermediate

Under Mac OS 9's Multiple Users, you can't designate a printer for a user's use unless that printer appears on the desktop. If you'd like to allow access to non-desktop printers, either grant access to All Printers or allow users access to the Chooser.

+++++

Thursday, January 13, 2000 5:23:17 AM

Subject: Macworld's Daily Tip [Speech Impediment- 1/13]

Today's Tip: Speech Impediment

Tip level: Intermediate

If you've attempted to launch IBM's ViaVoice's SpeakPad and find that the application appears to launch and then quickly disappears, try this:

1. Make sure that you've installed every component of Apple's Text-to-Speech software. If necessary, reinstall these components from your system software CD.
2. ViaVoice seems to like 10MB of virtual memory above and beyond the default setting of 1MB more than installed RAM. Give it those extra 10MB by increasing virtual memory by that amount in the Memory control panel.

+++++

Saturday, January 15, 2000 5:22:36 AM

Subject: Macworld's Daily Tip
[Tiny Excel Y2K Gotcha - 1/17]

Today's Tip: Tiny Excel Y2K Gotcha

Tip level: Intermediate

It appears that -- at least for the time being -- the whole Y2K thing was a big dud. But the flip of the millennial odometer did cause a tiny problem for Microsoft Excel. According to Microsoft, "Using Visual Basic to save a file in Excel, which is formatted for 4-digit dates, results in data loss. The dates are exported in 2-digit format instead. When the saved file is then read back into Excel that century information for the dates is lost."

If this sounds like the kind of situation that might cause you concern, Microsoft has issued a patch that correct this problem. You can find this patch at:

http://www.microsoft.com/macoffice/downloads/Excel98Y2K/Excel98Y2K_2.a.sp

++++
Tuesday, January 18, 2000 4:09:22 PM
Subject: Macworld's Daily Tip
[Sluggish Final Cut Pro - 1/18]

Today's Tip: Sluggish Final Cut Pro
Tip level: Intermediate

If you're running Mac OS 9 with Final Cut Pro and notice that the program is anything but perky, it's likely due to the fact that you have Virtual Memory turned on. If you can't live without Virtual Memory, download the Mac OS Audio Update 1.1, which might help speed things up a bit. You can find this, and all other Apple updates at <http://www.apple.com/swupdates>.

++++
Wednesday, January 19, 2000 3:02:51 AM
Subject: Macworld's Daily Tip [and Counting - 1/19]

Today's Tip: and Counting
Tip level: Beginner

Some of you may fondly recall T-Minus Ten, Mark Krenek's shareware automation utility. Well, recall no longer, Mr. Krenek has updated T-Minus Ten so that it includes new task types (reminders and insert keystrokes) and is now compatible with Mac OS 9. With T-Minus Ten you can configure hot keys and hot spots to launch applications, AppleScripts, and documents as well as create schedules to run back-up scripts.

The latest version (2.2) is \$20 and can be found at <http://www.macdownload.com>.

+++++

Thursday, January 20, 2000 2:52:30 AM

Subject: Macworld's Daily Tip [Wild Blue Yonder - 1/20]

Today's Tip: Wild Blue Yonder

Tip level: Intermediate

This tip can probably be filed under "Well, what do you know about that?"

Did you know that Apple recommends that you not take your PowerBook to elevations greater than 10,000 feet? Higher heights can cause anything from funky system behavior to -- and this is pretty darned rare -- a cracked case. Okay, so perhaps you have no intention of dragging your portable pal to the Andes, but you might want to keep this in mind:

Airplanes routinely fly above 10,000 feet. The fact that they do so isn't a problem on commercial airlines -- cabins are pressurized for you and your PowerBook's comfort and safety. The cargo hold on commercial flights is also pressurized so you need have no concerns about placing your PowerBook in the luggage compartment -- unless you're worried about ham-fisted baggage handlers, of course. However, the cargo holds on many private planes and air transports are not pressurized and their lack of pressure could be a very bad thing for your PowerBook.

Therefore, when travelling through the friendly and not-so-friendly skies, your best bet is to keep your PowerBook close at hand. And if you plan to ship it via air on Bubba's Cheap Air Freight Airlines, you might want to check to see that it will be travelling in a pressurized area.

+++++

Monday, January 24, 2000 2:54:10 AM

Subject: Macworld's Daily Tip [Spam Avoidance - 1/24]

Today's Tip: Spam Avoidance

Tip level: Intermediate

It seems that it's more and more common these days for websites to ask for your name and email address when you pay these sites a visit. Generally inquiries come when you download software updates or demos. Before filling out these forms you might wish to take these precautions:

On most of these pages you'll see a statement that indicates you'd like to hear more from these sites in the future. This statement is invariably accompanied by a checked check box. If you'd rather not receive unsolicited messages, uncheck this box.

If you're not sure you can remember to uncheck this box and know that you never, ever want to receive follow-up messages, lie. Yup, fill in a name and email address that are not your own. To avoid sending this material to another unsuspecting user, try to make up an outlandish email address -- something such as NoSpam@nosпам.com.

+++++

Tuesday, January 25, 2000 2:49:26 AM

Subject: Macworld's Daily Tip

[More About This Computer Tips -1/25]

Today's Tip: More About This Computer Tips

Tip level: Beginner

Did you know that when you're messing about inside the About This Computer dialog box you can switch to open applications by double-clicking on their icons? Better yet, were you aware that you could open the System Folder by double-clicking on the Mac OS icon? For more OS 9 tips like this, read Franklin Tessler's Top Secret OS 9 feature (page 74) in the March 2000 issue of Macworld.

+++++

Wednesday, January 26, 2000 9:27:05 AM

Subject: Macworld's Daily Tip [Look it Up - 1/26]

Today's Tip: Look it Up

Tip level: Beginner

As our world becomes increasingly electrified many of us have taken such referential relics of the past -- phone books, dictionaries, and thesauruses -- and shoved them into the recesses of a nearby closet. But suppose you need to quickly learn the definition of an unknown term. Are you willing to risk the precariously placed bowling ball on the upper shelf of that same closet in your desperate search for the dictionary?

No need -- not when you can use Navdeep Bain's \$5 shareware program, MacDICT. This simple tool takes a trip to the Internet to search for the definition of any term -- technical or otherwise -- you enter into its search field. You can also use MacDICT to translate words from one language to another. You can find your copy of MacDICT at <http://www.macdownload.com>.

+++++

Thursday, January 27, 2000 2:45:19 AM

Subject: Macworld's Daily Tip [A SCSI Trick - 1/27]

Today's Tip: A SCSI Trick

Tip level: Intermediate

You probably realize that internal SCSI drives on Macintosh computers are assigned SCSI ID 0 by default. But suppose you have no internal SCSI drive. Is it okay to assign SCSI ID 0 to an external SCSI device? You betcha! The only thing noteworthy about ID 0 is that the Mac will wait for the device attached to this ID to spin up and, if that device is bootable, the Mac will attempt to boot from it. Of course, if you've chosen to boot from a different device in the Startup Disk control panel, the Mac will first attempt to boot from that device.

+++++

Friday, January 28, 2000 2:52:00 AM

Subject: Macworld's Daily Tip

[Rage 128 and Voodoo 3 Coexistence - 1/28]

Today's Tip: Rage 128 and Voodoo 3 Coexistence

Tip level: Power User

It's possible to have both a Rage 128 and a Voodoo 3-based video card in the same Mac -- you just need to have a separate monitor attached to each card. There are a couple of gotchas to be aware of if you run this kind of setup. One important gotcha to keep in mind is that you should always run a hardware accelerated game from the monitor that contains the card you want to use.

For example: If you're playing MacSoft's Unreal Tournament and wish to run the game under Glide (the Voodoo card) rather than Rave (the Rage 128 card), be sure that the menubar appears on the monitor attached to the Voodoo card (for reasons unknown to me, games are finicky about menubar placement). To move the menubar from one monitor to another, open the Monitors & Sound control panel (or the Monitors control panel if you're running OS 9), click the Arrange button, and in the resulting window click and drag the tiny menubar from one monitor to the other.

+++++

Monday, January 31, 2000 3:29:01 AM

Subject: Macworld's Daily Tip [Missing DialAssist [- 1/31]

Today's Tip: Missing DialAssist

Tip level: Intermediate

There are times when you may want to add a prefix or suffix to the phone number you dial to reach your ISP -- when you want to cancel call waiting or add a calling card number, for example. If you open the Remote Access control panel you may wonder how to easily gain this capability. The secret to doing so is to use Apple's DialAssist control panel. The problem is, there's apparently no option within the Remote Access window for reaching the DialAssist control panel -- or there isn't unless you know this trick.

To enable the Use DialAssist check box you must change Remote Access' User Mode from Basic to Advanced. To do so, select User Mode from the Edit menu (or press Command-U), and click the button that appears next to Advanced in the User Mode window. Alternatively, you can select DialAssist from the RemoteAccess menu, read the resulting dialog box that admonishes you to change the user mode, and then muck about with the DialAssist settings.