



# Oak Creek Apples

A 501.c.3 Organization for Education on Apple Computers

Macintosh Users Group Newsletter

---

---

October 2009

<http://www.oakcreekapples.com>

---

## Meetings Calendar

### Wednesday, October 21, 2009:

- 🍏 Mac Basics & Beyond ... 5:00 PM
- 🍏 Main Meeting ..... 6:30 PM

## This Month's Meeting: Save the Snow Leopard!

For our October meeting, we will have another panel discussion, this time on the very hot topic of Snow Leopard. This highly touted package of software improvements is for your OS X operating system itself. To address a number of ongoing problems with Leopard (version 10.5 of OS X), Apple released 10.6, Snow Leopard, at a much lower price than is normal for operating system upgrades. Their reasoning was that because most of the improvements in this one are 'under the hood', as I outlined in last month's Newsletter, we shouldn't have to pay much for an upgrade that makes such small changes to the way we interact with our Apples.

What we will focus on this month are Snow Leopard bugs. Why do some applications crash whenever you do a **Save As** in them? What happened to your print drivers? What's the latest on that horrendous data loss bug that has been in the news so much in the last week? Meet with us on 10/21, and while you wait see my article below describing some personal findings.

## Notes From Last Meeting

For our October meeting, we held a panel discussion on Apple security. Though this topic is easy for us to dismiss as irrelevant for single users of an operating system that has a high reputation for innate security, there are basic security considerations that apply to all computers. A freewheeling discussion was enjoyed by all.



## Yes, You Need an App Deleter

By Alan Gore

In most cases, you can delete an unwanted application by just right-clicking on it in your **Applications** folder and then selecting the **Move To Trash** action. We pride ourselves on not needing the complex 'uninstall' process that Windows users have to undergo to exorcise the scattered remnants of an installed app from their system. On Macs, by contrast, everything an app needs is supposed to reside in its single folder under Applications.

Unfortunately, the situation is not quite that simple. Larger OS X apps may allocate cache space in the installing user's Library space, and in other ways leave small pieces of itself in folders other than Applications. Although deleting your app's folder inside Applications will always work as a way of making sure you can no longer call up the app, getting rid of any widgets, screensavers, preference panes and plug-ins it may have needed and recovering all the space they occupied is a job for an applications deletion utility.

I personally swear by **AppDelete** (<http://www.reggieashworth.com/moreinfo>). You just drag the unwanted app's main folder to the AppDelete icon, then watch AppDelete search out and destroy all the unwanted app's vestiges. The basic version of it is free. **AppCleaner** (<http://www.freemacsoft.net/AppCleaner/>) is also free and popular. Reasonably priced: **AppZapper** (<http://appzapper.com/>), and **CleanApp 3** (<http://synium.de/products/cleanapp/index.html>).

## Let's Have FUNd! – A Reminder

By Alan Gore

As I reported last month, OCAMUG is raising money for new laptop and a meeting projector of our own. Our goal is to raise, through contributions from members or others, the \$1950 it will take to buy both the laptop and the projector.

Since year-end is approaching, please note that because OCAMUG is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, anything you donate to us will be tax deductible, federal and state. We can also take donations of items that can be sold to raise cash. It doesn't even have to be Apple-related.

We're calling this effort the **OCAMUG FUNd Drive**. If you have any ideas that can bring us some cash or other donations, speak up at this month's meeting!

██  
Oak Creek Apples meetings are held at the Elks Lodge in West Sedona, just off Airport Road, on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, except July and August.

## Special Interest Group Meetings

### Mac Basics & Beyond SIG:

Jannah Riemer does more than show us how to point and click. There is always something to learn for all Mac users who don't make their living with special applications. This is a great place to get questions answered. The **Mac Basics & Beyond** SIG meets from 5 - 6:30 pm every 3rd Wednesday, before each Main Meeting. This month, Jannah will undoubtedly be called on to answer questions about this week's new product announcements.

## Snow Leopard bugs **SOLVED**

By Alan Gore

As a heavy user of Microsoft Office 2008, I found that upgrading to Snow Leopard on my 2007 MacBook Pro caused repeated application crashes. Word aborted on many occasions when I did a **Save As** on a document. Entourage crashed whenever I opened or saved a mail attachment. After doing some online spelunking, I found that a consensus culprit is emerging: font duplication! It seems that Snow Leopard installs its own version of several popular fonts.

If Office is used to using its own derivative of a font that Snow Leopard has just installed its own version of, Office can crash when asked to store that font into a document. This occurs precisely when you **Save As** a document to disk – hence the crash. The fix: open **Font Book**, the most useful little font handler utility you never knew you had installed on your system. Use Command-Tab to bring up a Spotlight window, and then type in ‘Font Book’. Scroll through the search results, and then double-click Font Book.app to start it. Click the **All Fonts** results filter options, then wait for the middle third of the app screen to fill with the names of all the fonts on your system. Font Book lets you divide this huge block of fonts on your system into genres: fixed width fonts, effect fonts, Web-friendly fonts, and so on. Clicking on a single font brings up a rich set of samples of that font. But what you need to do now is use Font Book’s ability to delete dangerous font duplications. To do this, select every font in column 2 with CTL A, and then select the Validate Font action from the File menu. This goes through every selected font on your system and looks for the existence of a duplicate. Font Book brings up the results in a new window; follow onscreen instructions to delete every font in the list that is labeled with a yellow warning triangle, rather than a green checkmark. When all your fonts are ‘green’, you should have a crash-free MS Office. You will also have familiarized yourself with a little program that is much useful in picking out a font than that long list of font names that you get in every application.

As for the infamous data loss bug revealed at the beginning of this month: it’s associated with the Guest account, which some users have enabled as part of a laptop anti-theft scheme, or just as a “sandbox” for the kids to play games without disturbing your vital files. Some users who reboot while being logged on as Guest

report losing all the user data associated with their normal account. While this is obviously a major oversight that Apple is scrambling to fix, the workaround is simple:

1. You have everything backed up, right? Well, back up everything one more time.
2. Go to System Preferences, then Accounts.
3. On the left, you will see a list of all accounts now set up on the machine. If there is an entry for "Guest Account, Disabled" then you're already done. If there is a "Guest Account, Enabled" entry, then click on it, then uncheck "Allow guests to log on to this computer". You are now safe from this bug.

Do not log onto the Guest account, or even re-enable it, until an update for this problem comes in from Cupertino.

The Snow Leopard developers were have written their own print drivers that supersede those traditionally provided by the printer manufacturers. The most controversial aspect of this change is the handling of scanners. When you installed SL, every manufacturer's crappy, poorly translated scan utility that you had loaded from the CD that came with the printer was replaced by a single Apple-designed interface. To find it, you went into the **File** menu in the **Preview** app and clicked **Import From Scanner**. It would then report not being able to find your printer-integrated scanner.

Everyone involved is still scrambling to fix this one. Hewlett-Packard came out with its own improved drivers that mostly fixed the problem, and then provided a second update to Apple to get auto-installed by Software Update. For other manufacturers, and for older printers, your experience may vary. Make sure your manufacturer knows about the problem, if it hits you,

---

## The Apple Mug Store

(<http://Applemugstore.com>) is a wonderful place to shop for real bargains, and is available to all Macintosh User Group members.

You can find the current **User ID & Password** in the email notifying you of the meetings of the month.

---



---

## Is Apple About To Redefine the Book?

By Alan Gore

My favorite apps on my new iPhone 3GS are two e-book readers. The free **Kindle** app lets me treat my iPhone as a miniature Kindle. I can browse the same Amazon book catalog as an owner of one of the three Kindle devices, pay the same price for books, and download in the same way. The **Stanza** app, also free, gives me access to a variety of non-Kindle book formats. These include pay formats from a number of different publishers, plus the free Project Gutenberg format for public domain works. On the small iPhone screen, these apps are great for reading sequential material, such as novels. Anything you would buy as a paperback and read all the way through handles well on the iPhone. If I have ten minutes in line at the Post Office, I can read a chapter on my 3GS. When I'm sitting in the doctor's office, I always have my own chosen reading with me, and don't have to settle for those old issues of *People* tossed out by the receptionist.

The iPhone screen, however, is not well suited to reference material. The new, larger sized Kindle is designed specifically for textbooks and other

reference material. Such works are big and heavy in book form, printed in limited editions, are revised often, may have detailed illustrations, and must be read “in every direction” with a strong navigate-and-search interface. There is increasing evidence that Apple is about to release a tablet format device that would work like a giant iPhone, with a screen from 7 to 10 inches diagonal. It would operate in the same way as an iPhone – all navigation and controls operated on the touchscreen – and might even run the same operating system.

If this were true, users would not have to learn any new interfaces; they would have available a larger version of the one they already know. To students, it would be an iPod Touch they carry in a backpack, not in the pocket. A textbook on such a device could not only carry illustrations, charts and diagrams that look just like the printed edition, but could be navigated with ease. Instead of fumbling through a printed index at the end of the book, you would bring up the same Spotlight-like search box you already know on the iPhone. You could make marginal notes, and then easily find them later.

If you read newspapers and magazines, an Apple tablet would be a better way of reading them: instant delivery of richly detailed subscription material, with videos and sound. Envision personalized content, and delivery of news from small neighborhoods.

Like the Touch/iPhone, such a device would be more than just a reader. It could run the same apps as these devices, with a ‘superstandard’ high resolution available that regular apps could offer as an upgrade for the tablet. More screen area for your e-mails and Web pages, for example. The existence of upgraded app versions on a tablet would be great selling point for conventional apps on the iPhone: if you like being able to build hiking trail maps on an iPhone, you might want to step up to running a similar app on a tablet with improved resolution and battery life. Would the sensor hardware of the iPhone (GPS, motion detector, magnetometer) also be matched by higher-powered scale-ups in a tablet? Could apps take similar advantage of that? By the end of this year, we may know.

## Membership

The Oak Creek Apples is exclusively an educational institution for the public on the use of Apple Computers, including maintenance, security, and software applications. Membership is open to anyone who wishes to belong. A dues-paying membership is a Regular membership (the member, spouse and their dependent children may participate, though only the member may vote). Guests and the public are welcome to attend our meetings on an occasional basis to become acquainted with the Group and its activities. Regular membership dues are \$25.00 per year to be renewed on the anniversary of joining the Group. In addition to participation in group activities, regular members receive a monthly emailed newsletter covering general and special-interest group activities, Apple news, and informative articles. A postal mailed version of our newsletter is still available for an additional \$8.00 annual fee.

To become a member when at our general meeting, ask one of our greeters at the greeting table at the back of our meeting room. One can also join the Oak Creek Apples by sending a check for \$25.00 payable to the **Oak Creek Apples** to:

**Membership Registrar  
Oak Creek Apples  
150 Color Cove Road, Sedona, AZ 86336**

Please include your email address and mailing address and phone number with the payment.

**We do not share our mailing list.**