



Oak Creek Apples

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

Macintosh Users Group Newsletter

November 2007

www.oakcreekapples.com

Meetings Calendar

**Wednesday, November 21,
2007:**

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

Many of you already know Atol Mueller, who runs the local Mac outlet MacClinic. Atol will present a program on the highly versatile and very popular iPod. The iPod, you will learn, is an instrument not only for the young, but for the young at heart! It's so much more than a music player – you can store photos, listen to audiobooks and, depending on the model, watch TV shows and videos, among other things.

Come, learn and enjoy!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

What with the October 26 release of Mac OS X 10.5.x (Leopard), we will be looking forward to a review of its many features by an as yet unknown volunteer. Among these features: **Time Machine** will back up your entire system, or just selected items. **Quick Look** lets you peek at an entire file without opening it. **Mail** will let you write notes (colored text, graphics, attachments, etc.). **iCal** has a new way of sharing files and information – with the event drop box you can add documents, pictures, video by dragging them into an event. And the new **synthesized** English voice, Alex, delivers a surprisingly natural intonation.

Another as yet unknown volunteer will present a report on the newly

offered iWorks 08, which includes Pages '08 (word processing and page layout), Numbers '08 (spreadsheets for everything from family budgets and event planning to invoices and complex financial reports), and Key-note '08 (presentations, complete with Apple-designed themes, cinema-quality animations, and voiceover narration), plus import and export compatibility with Microsoft Office.

Oak Creek Apple 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 how to point and click. There is always something to learn for all Mac users who don't make their living using 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 the Main Meeting.

Notes From Last Meeting

Our October meeting opened with 11 attendees listening attentively as Jannah dealt with a number of user questions. And as she says, "There are no dumb questions." Several had to do with the need to defrag (not), DiskWarrior (does not defrag), value of adding software updates immediately or waiting for bugs to develop and be squashed, and Safeboot (restart holding down shift key) for working around issues caused by software or directory damage on the startup volume.

Jannah again doubled as moderator for the Main Meeting, explaining that we, as members of the club, needed to contribute our shared knowledge to make the Club a viable entity.

Morgan Stine was with us to provide an overview of the iPhone. Morgan has long been in the Apple corner; he admits to having worked with hand-me-downs for many years, having inherited an Apple 2 after working with a dying TRS 80. It was Apple and Mac from there.

His love affair with the iPhone is apparent. After allowing us to inspect the little wonder as well as see it on the screen, he went on to describe

the many intricacies which permit Morgan and his wife to conduct their businesses with increased ease. He then proceeded with the Apple video which described visually in intense detail the many other attributes. My response to his presentation: "Oh", "Ah", "Gee whiz!". I may not have use for all that it can do, but, gosh, do I want one!

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.

Jannah Riemer
Mac Consulting

Problemsolving • Repair
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iPods, digital cameras too!
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(928) 203-0362

Faster USB 3.0 Is Coming

Chris Mellor, Techworld
Monday, September 24, 2007 12:00 PM
PDT

Intel and other companies have formed a group to promote the USB 3.0, which should deliver more than ten times the speed of the existing USB 2.0 standard.

The third-generation Universal Serial Bus interconnect will transfer data at speeds up to 4.8Gbit/s, ten times faster than USB 2.0's 480MBit/s. It will be backwards-compatible with USB 2.0, which is backwards-compatible with the first USB 1.1 definition.

Intel stated that the USB 3.0 specification would be optimized for low power and improved protocol efficiency. The USB 3.0 ports and cabling will be designed with both copper and optical cable capabilities, meaning even higher speeds will be possible in the future.

The USB Implementers Forum (USB-IF) will act as the trade association for the USB 3.0 specification.

There is also a Wireless USB (WUSB) transfer format and this operates at 480Mbit/s, the same as USB 2.0, in its 1.0 incarnation. Intel also revealed a WUSB 1.1 interconnect format, operating at a speed of up to 1Gbit/s.

Jeff Ravencraft, Intel's technology strategist, said: "The digital era requires high-speed performance and reliable connectivity to move the enormous amounts of digital content now present in everyday life. USB 3.0 will meet this challenge while maintaining (USB 2.0's) ease-of-use experience."



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We now stock Apple Computers

Safe Sleep: Don't Move That Laptop!

by Matt, matt@smalldog.com

Small Dog Tech Tails #585 11/06/07

The last-generation PowerBook G4 (1.67GHz with dual-layer SuperDrive) and all Intel portables have a feature called Safe Sleep. When you put any of these machines to sleep, the contents of memory are written to the hard drive. The main benefit of this is that you can swap your battery and wake the machine almost instantly to where you left off, or if your battery is fully depleted and your computer puts itself to sleep, you will not lose unsaved changes.

A word to the wise: when you put the portable to sleep, wait until the sleep light is “breathing.” This indicates that the contents of memory were successfully written to the hard drive, and that it is no longer spinning.

Your hard drive contains circular magnetic platters spinning somewhere between 4200RPM and 7200RPM, with

“arms” that swing back and forth over the platters to read and write data. If the platters are spinning, and a sufficiently powerful blow is dealt to the computer, the “arms” can make contact with the platters, resulting in data loss and a flaky or trashed drive.

The force of quickly picking up a laptop or changing its orientation from horizontal to vertical is enough to close the infinitesimal gap between arm and platter, scratching the platter and causing irreversible damage to the device.

#527 8/3/07

The Top Five Things to Know About Your Computer

By Kali, kali@smalldog.com

When using OS X, certain things are very important to remember. And some, maybe not so much. Seriously, if you only know five things about your computer, let it be these:

1) Version of the Operating System (OS): Some examples are OS 9, or OS X (Roman numeral for 10); OS X even gets more complicated because there are different versions of it, from 10.0 up to 10.4 (and soon to be 10.5). Knowing your specific version is huge; so much depends on it. For example, very few printers work on anything older than 10.2 anymore (with the exception of the Brother Laser Printers we sell). Simi-

larly, many programs these days only have OS X compatibility, and you have to know which exact version they support (currently, Quicken 2007 only supports 10.3+ while TurboTax 2006 still supports 10.2+). Combine the OS version with the name of your computer model (iMac G5, iBook, etc.) or the style (all-in-one, laptop or separate tower & screen), and we or your local service center will be that much closer to meeting your needs.

2) Administrative Password: OS X REQUIRES a system password that you select the first time you set up the computer (however, you are now able to make it blank-- just don't forget that you did it!). It may be helpful for you to write it down for future reference; even if you don't need it to start up the computer (the default setting remembers it at login), it is needed for most software installations and diagnostics. A convenient template to use can be downloaded as a PDF from <http://www.apple.com/support/mac101/cheatsheet> (just don't forget to put it in a safe place that you'll also remember!).

3) Type of Drive: If you have a newer computer, you either have a Combo Drive (Burns CDs, Reads DVDs) or SuperDrive (Burns CDs + DVDs). The drives that read these types of media are often referred to as optical drives. If your computer is older (but really, how old is old?), you may have an optical "ROM" drive that cannot burn media. I'm sure many of you are still using Zip

drives or even Floppy drives too!

4) Type of Hardware Connections: This definitely depends on your computer's age; Apple started using USB connections primarily back in the late '90s, so most of you use these ports for printers, digital cameras, keyboards, mice, etc. Prior to that, many systems used ADB (round little 4-pin ports for keyboards and mice), Serial (9-pin ports for printers), and SCSI (often pronounced "scuzzy" that had a bulky rectangular shape for various drives and scanners). Peripherals using any of those three most likely are not compatible with new systems, or if you could make it work, it's not worth the money you've spent on it! For screens, Apple currently uses industry-standard VGA and DVI connections. However, they used to use a proprietary connection called ADC (for the plastic Apple Display series). Depending on what you'd like to connect, you may need to use an adapter for the port on your computer. For example, MacBooks have a mini-DVI port that will need either a DVI connection on the other end (for digital screens such as the Apple Displays), or VGA (for analog screens).

5) Internet Service Provider (ISP): Knowing what internet provider you have and the type of service helps a great deal. You may have a "high-speed" connection such as DSL (provided by Verizon or another local phone company) or cable (provided by your cable TV company), or a slower dial-up service such

as Earthlink, AOL, or local phone company. Now, satellite services offered by companies such as WildBlue provide pretty fast Mac-compatible service as well. For one, many people use an email service that is part of their ISP, so knowing who you use is imperative when migrating all of your emails to a new computer!

Hopefully this provides some insight into what you need to know the next time you call for tech support or bring your computer in for repair.

Email Etiquette By Dawn D'Angelillo
Small Dog Tech Tails #585 11/06/07

Exerpt
Basic Email Etiquette

1. Never type in ALL CAPS unless you are very angry.
2. Provide white space. Reading small type without some white space can be very hard on the eyes.
3. Be brief. People who read hundreds of emails each day tend to skim over the very long ones.
4. Always remember that people take the written word very seriously. I often find it difficult not to sound too extreme when I'm sending emails. Trying not to sound

too clinical or terse after responding to 40 emails can be hard.

5. Try to include the message thread and at least the pertinent thread. This makes it a lot easier to recall the original question. Also, include a meaningful subject line. When inboxes are overflowing with spam, it's easy to miss an important email if it has a lame subject like "file" or "meeting."

Expanded Rules

6. Pause before hitting send. Have you sent email to the wrong person with dire consequences? It is easy to misaddress an email. Be careful. Never send something by email that you don't want the world to read, or be prepared to face the consequences.

7. When sending to a list, it doesn't hurt to be completely obsessed with the details. It's my responsibility to send electronic newsletters to Small Dog Electronics' lists. This is something that I tend to rush through rather than being a stickler for details. This past week, I incorrectly pasted information into the subject line of our Tech Tails newsletter. As I watched it leave my outbox, I felt ready to die of dishonor. I've developed a checklist to make sure that I don't continue to screw up. I advise a similar action if you frequently send newsletters or announcements to large groups.

8. Determine when to include carbon copies and when to reply all. My rules are:

Cc: Used when no action is needed by the reader, but you want him or her to be party to the conversation. If any action is needed by the reader, don't Cc, but put him or her in the "To" field.

Reply All (which sends the message to everyone -- the sender and all other recipients): Only use Reply All when your answer has some effect on all the readers. Do not reply all when the answer is only for the sender. An example of when not to reply all would be when you receive a reminder for an upcoming meeting that was sent to 100 people and you want to tell the sender that you will be there with a quick "I'll see you then!" This doesn't need to go to 100 people.

Bcc: Use when sending to a group of people, since many may not want their email addresses publicized.

9. It is not necessary to respond with just "Thank you." When I first starting working at a computer company, I sent what I thought was a polite response to a co-worker that simply said "Thank you!" after he answered a question. Boy, did I get told off for what I thought was a nice gesture. As I learned more, I realized what a pain it is to stop what you're

doing to open an email and then read nothing more than "OK, thanks!" A simple thank you became an annoying inconvenience for the receiver. Now, I thank people in advance to avoid a second interruption.

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.

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