



Oak Creek Apples

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

Macintosh Users Group Newsletter

December 2007

www.oakcreekapples.com

Meetings Calendar

Wednesday, December 19, 2007:

🍏 Mac Basics & Beyond ... 5:00 PM

🍏 Main Meeting 6:30 PM

This month the general meeting will be festive - music and cider (non-alcoholic) will be provided, and attending members and non-members are asked to bring finger foods to share. In past years, this meeting has always been a winner.



In addition to the goodies and fellowship, Dick Searle

(and Ken Hughes?) will share thoughts and first impressions of the most recent Mac operating system, Mac OS X 10.5 (Leopard). Published reports and reviews of the new system have been generally favorable (particularly with respect to Time Machine, the back-up function) some questions have been raised as to whether other parts are actually improvements. Come and hear what another member (or two) has to say.

And as time permits, Jannah will walk us through the creation of an illustrated card (Christmas, greeting or other) from start to finish, proving the project to be a simple matter.

Now if all that isn't enough, a copy of Leopard will be raffled off.

Notes From Last Meeting

Dick Searle was good enough to prepare the following write-up about last months meeting. Thanks, Dick.

NOVEMBER 2007 OCA MEETING WRITE-UP

The new generation of Apples iPods was the subject of a presentation by Atol Mueller at our November meeting. Atol is owner and manager of MacClinic, the Apple authorized dealer in Sedona, located at 2756 West Hwy 89A in West Sedona.

Atol brought along a selection of iPods and accessories to display and demonstrate for the group. Almost every existing model of the iPod has recently seen significant changes in terms of substance, style and storage capacity. In addition, The iTouch, a new model in the iPod line starting at \$299, has been introduced. It is kind of an iPhone wannabe in that, like the iPhone, demonstrated at our September meeting, it can browse the internet but you can't use it as a phone. The iTouch lacks the iPhones mail, Stocks, Maps and Weather applications. Otherwise it looks and acts like the iPhone. My guess is that over time these or similar additions will be provided. When that happens I will seriously consider it as a traveling companion on trips.

The original iPod is still with us. It is called the Classic and looks similar to the original 5 GB version introduced in 2001 except that storage capacity has

increased to 80 and 160 GB, enough to store 20,000 and 40,000 songs according to Apple. The clip-on your sleeve iPod shuffle has grown smaller, 1.1 x 1.6 x 0.4 inches and at \$79 is the low cost affordable model of the line. It can hold up to 240 songs with its 1 GB capacity. In between these extremes in cost and storage capacity is the iPod nano starting at 4 GB capacity and a cost of \$149. Of course playing recorded sound is not the only capability of the iPods. With the exception of the Shuffle all the iPods can show pictures and play video.

Atol demonstrated some of the iPods with various portable speaker systems that are available. The performance of all speakers is to some degree a compromise between size (portability), output volume capability, and quality of sound. Those Atol demonstrated sounded pretty good considering their relatively compact size. In the ensuing discussion it was stated that, for the individual listener, the best quality sound along with portability and reasonable cost is obtained with earphones.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

An exciting line-up of topics are being viewed for future meetings.

In January, Bob Shuman has agreed to do a presentation on preparing a slide show.

Later in the year, we hope to have an instructor from Yavapai College give us the nitty-gritty on digital scrapbooking.

And beyond that, programs on preparing and uploading videos to Youtube, using Windows on Mac (Bootcamp, Parallels, VMware), iMovie, Backing up (we all do that, don't we?), iLife 08, and certainly other topics which you, the members, would like to hear about and/or offer to present.

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.

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

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Last month we noted that USB 3.0 was coming. One of our newer members pointed out how great that was, but what was USB 1.0 and 2.0? So, I hope this helps a bit.

From the Small Dog Archives
12/16/2003

Serial Isn't Just For Breakfast
By Duane Letourneau

A Tech Tails reader named Wayne wrote to me saying, "I'm hoping you can clear something up for me. I have an eMac

and a 14" white iBook, both with USB ports. Sometimes I see devices which say they will work with "USB 2.0" ports. Is this what my computers have? What's the difference between "USB" and "USB 2.0" ports?"

First off, USB is an acronym for Universal Serial Bus, developed in the early nineties by Intel. The interface we call USB was envisioned as a replacement for the aging Serial and Parallel ports used in the PC world. I first saw USB devices at (the now extinct) NetWorld Boston in 1993. Intel had displayed a menagerie of products, from modems to joysticks. While interesting, there were other more exciting things to ponder (including Novell dropping an anvil on running servers about 20 times over the week to demonstrate their new fault tolerance system).

Everyone gave a collective yawn and went back to discussing 100MBit networking and a new network technology called "Switching." It was not until 1998 when Steve Jobs turned the computer world on its collective ear and introduced the iMac, that USB finally gathered a head of steam. Making the keyboard and mouse of the iMac USB signaled the beginning of the Serial revolution.

USB 1.0, and its offspring, used the tried and true Serial protocols, packaged with a new connecting interface, at a higher speed and with a new idea called "Plug and Play." USB 1.x transmits and receives data (but not at the same

time) at 12 megabits per second. While not rabbit-fast, the protocol is useful for keyboards, mice, modems, and low speed data transfers. The Plug-and-Play idea didn't work for the Windows world for a variety of reasons until Windows 98 was released (Historical note: when USB was shown in 1993, Microsoft was evangelizing a new OS called "Windows 3.1 for Workgroups").

By 1999, Intel had organized the "USB 2.0 Promoter Group," including Intel, Compaq, HP, Lucent, Microsoft, NEC, and Philips Electronics. USB 2.0 had two major goals:

- 1) Beat Apple and FireWire... no, no, no... but I bet they were thinking about it... It was increase the speed of USB.
- 2) Maintain compatibility with the 1.x specification.

To their credit, they succeeded with most of their goals. USB 2.x provides up to 480 megabits per second of bandwidth and is compatible with existing USB 1.x devices. However, you cannot use USB 2.x devices on a USB 1.x connection.

Apple recently introduced USB 2.0 in the Power Mac G5 and the new 20-inch iMac, which Apple internally calls the "iMac (USB 2.0)," as well as USB 2.x support in Mac OS X 10.3 "Panther." These are the only current Macintoshes with USB 2.x support.

Last Year, Apple introduced FireWire

800, besting USB 2.0 in two very important areas. The first being speed, and the second being the ability to "daisy-chain" FireWire devices and still achieve high speeds (a feat that USB, even with 2.0, still cannot manage).

While Apple calls it FireWire and Sony calls it iLink, the IEEE call it 1394. What really gets me excited is the IEEE 1394.1 specification; Apple is calling it "FireWireLess." You get the picture. :)

Mac requires some effort, it should be fun and not make you want to toss the thing out of the closest window!

That said, there are a couple of simple things that one can do to make managing your Mac easier. One of those things is understanding the way your Keychain works. Keychain is the program that keeps your password(s) saved so that you're not prompted every time to input it into your computer. For example, whenever you access your email account with Mail or save a password with Safari, Keychain remembers it for next time.

However, your Keychain can be tricky unless you understand these features:

1) You create an administrative password when you set up your Mac for the first time. That means that you should either write it down in a safe place (in case you do need to recall it for some reason-- trust me, you don't want to get locked out of your computer after trying too many wrong ones), OR make it blank (most people don't need to password protect their Macs, anyway; it's just a feature that newer operating systems have to keep your data safe). If you identify with the latter, leaving your password blank is a great option (no fuss! just press the return key when prompted!).

2) If you ever change your password, your original keychain needs to be deleted. If you did create a password when you set up your Mac, and for



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Here is something which is often little understood, even by longtime but casual Mac users. Listen up!

Keychain, Smechain

By Kali@Smalldog.com

Kibbles & Bytes #530 8/24/07

Let me tell you-- I am all about making the computer work for you. I maintain that while getting the most out of your

some reason have forgotten what it is, you will have to do a Password Reset, using your original Restore Discs that came in the box (side note: Small Dog offers this service in our Retail Service Department because it's such a pain!). However, once you reset the password with your Restore CD, you're not done. To work correctly, you then need to log back into your computer, go into your Utilities folder (found in the Applications folder), and open Keychain Access. From there, you must delete your original keychain with your username (not the System keychain).

How many of you out there have ever forgotten your password, or have had to delete your keychain? Let me know what your experiences have been or if you have any comments to share!

Disk Images for New Users

By Ryan, ryan@smalldog.com
#533 9/14/07

The standard downloaded software distribution medium used by OS X is called a Disk Image (.dmg). Disk images are, in my opinion, the best way to package software for distribution over the Internet to a Mac. However, many people do not grasp the concept of disk images.

When you download a new software application for your Mac, it will most likely come as a disk image. This will look like a little hard drive on a piece of paper and will have the extension ".dmg" amended to the end of the file-name. You double click this icon and it will mount the Disk Image on your desktop; it will normally look like a white disk drive icon and will automatically open. Your computer treats the mounted Disk Image as if it were an external hard drive or USB flash drive.

Now drag the software program's icon from the Disk Image window and place it in your Applications folder. This is the full extent of the installation process, but I often see people running software programs like Firefox directly from the Disk Image. They try to throw away the Disk Image and it will not let them because it is in use. When you are done with the Disk Image, unmount it by throwing it in the trash and then throw out its related .dmg file.

You can also create Disk Images of your software CDs and other non-startup disks by selecting them in the Disk Utility program located in Macintosh HD/ Applications/Utilities. Once selected in the Disk Utility application, click "New" from the toolbar and select "Disk Image from device". One benefit is that you can mount the Disk Image and run games that require a disk without the annoyance of actually carrying the disks with you--provided the game doesn't include protection against this. Another use is to make backups of your disks

and then put away the originals so they do not get damaged. You can burn your Disk Images to CD or DVD by clicking burn in Disk Utility and then selecting them. You can also restore a hard drive with a Disk Image made from another hard drive by selecting your destination hard drive in Disk Utility, clicking the restore tab on the right-hand pane and dragging the blank destination hard drive to the destination field.

Manage Your Holiday Mailing List With Address Book

Posted Dec. 7th 2007 6:00PM by Dave Caolo

<http://www.tuaw.com/2007/12/07/manage-your-holiday-mailing-list-with-a-address-book/>

There's something about hand writing the names and address of each of your holiday card and gift recipients. That "something special" is frustration! Hand cramps, errors, wasted envelopes. How pleasant.

Forget all that and let Apple's Address Book take care of it for you,

First, create a new Smart Group. I went through my list of contacts and identified the lucky few who will receive cards from me this year (jealous?). In the note field of each, I added the keyword "holiday."

Next, I selected "New smart group..." from the File menu and set the criteria to be "Note contains 'holiday'." Next, I named the Smart Group "Holiday" and presto! My list was complete. In the future, I can add new contacts to the list by simply typing "holiday" in their notes field.

Now to print. Address Book prints directly to standard Avery labels. With your new Smart Group selected, simply select "Print." The print dialog box appears. First, set the "Style" menu to "Mailing Labels." Then, click the "Layout" tab and select the labels you're using. Then click print and you're all done!

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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