



Two Macworlds worth of stuff!

Saying he had enough news for two Macworld Expos, Apple CEO Steve Jobs unveiled new software, new hardware, new technologies, and a host of updates to familiar software, at Macworld Expo San Francisco on January 7th.

Jobs announced a number of new programs, including the free Safari, the first Apple branded web-browser and Keynote, a presentation program with stunning graphics and effects which Jobs revealed he has been using for Macworld presentations for the past year.

Also unveiled was Final Cut Express, a \$299 version of the original Final Cut Pro, intended for serious hobbyists.

In the update department, Jobs announced iPhoto 2 and iMovie 3, both of which will be available as free downloads from Apple, and iDVD 3, which will not be available as a download. With the announcement of iDVD3, Jobs unveiled a new program for Apple's digital Hub applications, which will now be

packaged as a product. iTunes 3, iMovie 3, iPhoto 2, and iDVD3 will be bundled into a program called iLife, and be sold through Apple and resellers for \$49. The programs will remain free when pre-loaded onto new computers.

When it came to computers, Jobs had major announcements for fans of laptops. He announced a new, larger PowerBook, with a 17" screen, new, faster Firewire, and Airport Extreme, a backwards compatible wireless standard which offers connections 5 times faster than current Airport Base station. Jobs proudly announced that this computer, using the same flat panel display used in Apple's top-of-the-line iMac, now sports the largest laptop display in the world.

In keeping with the old adage that good things come in small packages, Jobs also announced a new, smaller G4 laptop, modeled after the



G3 iBooks, which will still be sold, but based on a G4 processor and packaged in a stylish aluminum case. Buyers will be able to order a custom version of the 12" computer which includes a DVD burning Superdrive.

The announcements brought attendees at the Keynote, a Macworld tradition, to their feet a number of times, and Jobs elicited sustained applause for both the hardware and software announcements.

Safari, the browser which was released in Beta form as a free download, is a mac-specific web application which runs only under OSX. Jobs called it the fastest browser for the Mac, and asked Mac users to test it. The Safari software includes an elaborate feedback section, which allows users to report bugs back to developers

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GCMAC to Take Hamfest by Storm Again

Gold Coast Mac continues what has become an annual tradition when it returns next month to one of the biggest technology festivals in the Southeast, the Tropical Hamboree set for the weekend of February 1st at the Miami-Dade Fair and Expo center. This year, Gold Coast Mac will have an even

bigger presence than past years.

For the past two years, Hamboree organizers have generously donated two booths in the main show hall, which GCMac has used to display Apple technology, answer questions, and promote GCMac. Our booth has been one of the highlights of the show, attracting hundreds of people who lined up for a chance to win posters and other prizes by tossing an apple into an iMac shell.

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MacCenter Ad



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

And So It Goes...



Happy New Year!
Ok, so I know it's a bit late, but for most of you, this is the first time I've seen you since the big holiday meeting in December. Now, that was a way

to end the year! I don't think we've ever given away so many gifts in a single night, and I know a lot of people went home with smiles on their faces. Everybody who attended the meeting went home with something, and a few winners won big in the raffle; the first and second prizes went to the same person, one lucky guy who bought a handful of tickets. Now, that was one merry Christmas!

We had a great time, and we did a lot of great things for Gold Coast Mac. The income generated by the raffles has put the organization into great financial shape for the coming year; that, combined with the income from the Orange Bowl beer stand, has not only prevented the need to raise dues for the coming year, but it's provided us with a financial cushion in tough times. That's good news for the future of an organization which more and more people are finding useful, and it's one of the things I'm most proud of as President.

I'm also proud to tell you that we will continue to have a high quality newsletter, at least for the foreseeable future. Board members Giuseppe Di Franco and Esver Camacho have agreed to assume the duties of newsletter editor, a decision which gives me great pleasure. What you're reading today is the result of their work, so thank them when you see them. I'd also like to thank those members who responded to my call for articles to help make the newsletter worth reading. A number of people turned in some great work, evidence of the talent we are so lucky to have in our group.

I will continue to write a number of articles, and my usual columns, as much of what I write covers the happenings within our group. However, we would love to have your user stories, tips and tricks, or even opinions. This newsletter is for you, and we want to make it uniquely

Gold Coast Mac. Just a few articles a month from the membership will help it continue to be a major benefit of membership.

So, that's where we ended 2002, but as I said at the start of this column, we've entered a new year. What's on the agenda for the rest of my final term as President?

Well, it just so happens I have a few ideas.

First, I intend to devote a major amount of effort to the area of meeting programs. We've had some great programs in the last 18 months, but it's getting tougher to get companies to come to Miami and present. This means we're going to have to be creative in coming up with interesting ideas generated from within our own resources. We have an amazing pool of talent here, including people who've never considered presenting a program to the group. We intend to seek out those folks and involve them in the meeting programs.

I'd also like to give more help to members of the group who have yet to make the decision to move to OSX. At the Holiday meeting, more than 70 percent of the people attending claimed to be using OSX, and that's great. However, there are some people who simply won't make the change, and we need to support them as best we can. For that, we need suggestions from the OS9 users, and some help from more knowledgeable users of OS9. If we can get enough interest, I'll devote a section of each meeting to OS9, and we could even get a SIG going.

SIGS are another area which needs some updating. We've been running the same sessions for some time, while the Macintosh world has evolved. Maybe it's time for some additional SIGS, if we can find people to lead them. How about digital photography, or maybe, using the digital hub? Is there a need for assistance in apple iApps, like iSync, iCal and the like? Send me an e-mail with your suggestions, especially if you'd be willing to get the ball rolling. Remember, you don't need to be an expert to get a SIG together; the best SIGS is where people get together to

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GCMAC Volunteers reach out to West Coast groups

The story of the MacBus is known far and wide in the Macintosh user community, and over on Florida's West Coast, they wanted to get a look at it and the people who travel in it. The weekend of January 18th, they got their chance!

Volunteers from Gold Coast Mac boarded the world-famous MacBus that weekend for a trip to Fort Myers to support West Coast user group leaders who gathered at a special Saturday meeting.

The trip was made at the request of Brenda Hess, President of the Southwest Apple Computer Knowledgeable Society, (SWACKS), who met Gold Coast Mac presenters at last July's Apple User Group University in New York, and asked if there was any way our group could share its expertise with other Macintosh groups.

Hess told GCMAC leaders that she was impressed with the enthusiasm

shown by the Gold Coast Mac team, and she wanted to help bring some of that to the west coast groups, which are made up mostly of seasonal residents and retirees.

GCMac volunteered to make a visit if a time could be arranged, and Hess invited members and leaders of three other groups to meet jointly to hear our presenters.

A special Saturday group meeting was arranged at the Innovative Training Institute in Fort Myers, and members from Naples MacFriends, Punta Gorda's SW Florida Macintosh User Group, and the Englewood Area Macintosh User Group agreed to join in.

Gold Coast Mac Vice President Rose Lynn arranged the volunteers, and was joined in the trip by GCMac President Dave Game and Vice President Esver Camacho. Members Richard Lynn and Jim Bollinger shared bus driving duties, and Katey Lynn joined the group to make sure we all behaved.

Nearly 40 West Coast user group members attended the meeting, which

included a presentation by Rose on organizing and managing an effective group. Esver shared his effective Mac-world presentation on the need to prepare members to begin the migration to OSX, and Dave shared his presentation on the effective use of video and Mac Video tools by user groups. GCMac brought a host of donated giveaways for door prizes, and took almost half an hour of questions and answers.

After the meeting, about 20 of the attendees hosted dinner for the Gold Coast Mac team.

The trip, which was fully funded by the members who donated their time, is part of the continuing effort by Gold Coast Mac to reach out to other, smaller user groups who may lack the resources and talent our

group is lucky to enjoy.

The user group leaders praised the quality of the presentations, and said they'd learned a lot from the interaction. Many says they'd be interested in traveling to Miami to visit a Gold Coast Mac meeting, and were assured the invitation is always open.

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exchange ideas; even the least experienced person has ideas we can all use!

Finally, a look for the months ahead in the group's organization. Elections are still months away, but we already know we'll have a number of board members who won't be returning. If you believe this organization is important, give some thought to running for the board, or for one of the officers position. I hear there'll be a vacancy at the top in June!

I'm fired up for 2003, and I expect this to be one of the greatest years Gold Coast Mac has ever enjoyed, truly a Happy New Year!



School Daze @MacCenter

By Rose Lynn

I took the all day class "Introduction to OSX last week. OK, so I'm a little slow on the draw. I have it installed, I've

seen it presented on stage by the BEST... that would be Esver Camacho and Steve Jobs but I just couldn't get myself in the groove.

See, I've always been surrounded by MacExperts so my confidence level shrinks except when I do some spectacular thing that surprises them all.

NOW let's talk about MacCenter and Apple. It is my understanding that the MacCenter/Apple certified training center is one of few in the country and I believe the only one in the Southeast. It had to set MacCenter back many bucks and I know many hours of consulting with the powers that be at Apple.

The classroom is extremely comfortable with an eMac for every student and refreshments to keep you stirred for the 8 hour stint. There were 9 in the class I attended and everyone enjoyed Ron's presentation on the big screen and his ability to keep us moving and learning. The CD we received is invaluable and a manual... what a concept. After all, I started on my 128k with a manual and would never have learned how to even turn it on without it.

I know the pricing appears to be a shocker but do the math. Where can you go to get 7 hours of learning on the Mac from beginners classes to the major big stuff? I confess that I am generally not good at regimented learning but this was fun, informative and the inhibitions I had when I went there are long gone.

As a reviewer, I highly recommend MacCenter Training. As a friend, I urge you to take at least one class. You will thank me.



THE WEBMASTER

By *Dave Game*

davegame@mac.com

Take a hike! That's the message the folks at DirecTV internet had to over 100 thousand customers, when it abruptly decided in mid December to shut down it's nationwide DSL high speed internet service. At this writing, they are scheduled to pull the plug as of January 31st, leaving subscribers scrambling for a replacement.

As you might expect, the reason was money. It wasn't that DirecTV wasn't making a profit; it was, more than covering it's costs. However, it's beancounters looked at the crystal ball and decided that it wouldn't make enough profit to satisfy them, and in light of it's failed merger with EchoStar, it decided to resign the game. At least it gave customers 45 days notice, and apologized.

Gee. Thanks! So, what to do now?

Well, if you were one of the unlucky people caught by the corporate abandonment, there are some choices. You could always go back to Bellsouth, which as the 'last mike' provider, actually delivered DirecTV DSL to your home. That is DirecTV's suggestion for users here, and it claims to have negotiated a smooth transition, with some special signup offers from Bellsouth. However, you will have to get a new DSL modem from Bellsouth, as your old DirecTV setup won't work. You'll also lose the built-in networking provided by the DirecTV router/modem, and the static IP address they offered as part of their service. If you don't know what that is, you probably won't miss it. If you do know what it is, you probably need it, and need another provider to get it!

Those folks are joined by that fairly large group of people who'd rather be slathered down with honey and staked out at a fire ant mound then turn to BellSouth for communications services. They need someone else, and member Doug Noble has done a lot of research to help them come up with an answer. I'm stealing shamelessly from his suggestions, which were shared on the Gold Coast Mac list-server.

DSL providers include: Earth-

link - first three months \$21.95/month, then \$49/month, includes free modem. www.earthlink.net/home/broadband/dslswitch/directtv

SnappyDSL - a local provider, recommended by Neil Littauer - charges \$59.99/month plus \$50 for the modem, AND includes static IP. Business rate is \$69.99/month. snappydsl.net/Snappyweb1/Services/Services_DSL_Special1.asp

And of course Bellsouth FastAccess DSL. <http://contact.bellsouth.com/directvoffer/> \$45/month IF you have the extra cost Complete Choice option on your



phone line. They use PPPoE which requires software on your computer unless you have OS X or an external DSL router like Linksys that handles the PPPoE.

You need to request an Ethernet modem if you are a Mac user. They do have a current special, \$19.95 for first 3 months, and a rebate on the modem (you pay up front then ask for a rebate, as part of their pitch to DirecTV customers!).

Doug's choice ended up being Lightspeed DSL service from Netrox.net. Netrox is offering DirecTV customers the same price, \$49.99/month, waived all setup costs and gave Doug a free router/modem (enabling sharing of the connection with up to 8 computers). This is a residential price but they will do it at that price for small offices also. Standard service is dynamic IP, not PPPoE, so no software is needed for OS9 users. A Static IP address is \$10 more per month.

www.netrox.com/Products_and_Services/Residential/DSL.html

There are a few things you should consider. Most of the providers require a 12 month contract with penalties for backing out early, so ask a lot of questions to be sure you pick the right company

and service. Also, if you are considering changing your local phone service as well, be cautious. As we've detailed in a previous column, Bellsouth won't provide "Last Mile" service to DSL customers who have Supra Telecom lines, because of some choices Supra made in setting up accounts. If you already have Supra and DSL, you should be OK in switching to anyone but Bellsouth, which generally declines to provide DSL to Supra customers, even if it technically possible. If you want to switch providers, make sure you have DSL lined up first with someone other than Bellsouth. Supra customers have reported that if they have DSL from a non-Bellsouth provider when they make the switch, Supra makes the technical arrangements needed to keep it. If in doubt, ask FIRST.

Also, now may be the time to investigate if Cable might be an option. Broadband providers are more numerous, and many people are very happy with their broadband internet service. If Cable is available in your area, ask your local provider. Make sure they offer full, two way service. Some providers with older systems have one-way internet which also needs a phone line, and that is NOT what you want!

This may not be the last shakeout in high speed internet, so you may want to consider planning for the possibility. I know some people who are on their fifth e-mail address because of changes in internet providers. Consider getting something like a dot Mac account, and use that as your e-mail address. Have it forward mail to your new provider, where you'd read it using your normal e-mail program. This way, if your new provider follows DirecTV Internet into history, all you have to do is forward your dot Mac (or other e-mail service) account to the new provider, and your e-mail correspondents are none the wiser! I call it e-mail portability, and just like phone numbers and soon, cell phone numbers, it's becoming more critical as our digital identification becomes so valuable!

Finally, you can learn more about options, providers, and high speed service in general at a great website, dslreports.com. Anything you want to know about high speed internet, including real word reviews of service from providers, is available there. Good luck!

GCMac celebrates the holidays with Prizes and Gifts

There was a lot of luck at the Miami Museum of Science December 4th, when dozens of Gold Coast Mac members walked in with tickets, and walked out with prizes, winners in the biggest single night of giveaways in the history of Gold Coast Mac.

13 winners went home with prizes awarded in the Gala Holiday Raffle, which gave members the chance to win 15 software prize bags collectively worth well over \$5000. There were only 13 winners, because two extremely lucky members who bought multiple tickets won multiple prizes in the raffle, including the amazingly lucky Grand Prize winner, who also won the second prize and walked home with software valued at almost \$3000.

Prizes were drawn by an unexpectedly voluptuous Santa, played to perfection by Sally Carlon.

While those folks may have been the big winners of the evening, there were lost of other chances who get some Christmas cheer. Susan Lynn won the Giant

Holiday gift basket, which included gifts and rare Apple memorabilia. There were hosts of other door prizes, including t-shirts and

souvenirs, but those members who stayed through the end of the meeting were rewarded with a treat. Throughout the year, Gold Coast Mac volunteers collected software and other goodies to present as gifts at the Holiday meeting. They were wrapped by Santas elves, and presented under the tree at the museum as members entered to help get them excited. At meeting's end, Santa presented a gift to every member attending, more than 100 in all.

The goodies were just one part of a great Holiday meeting. Members were treated to refreshments, cookies. Punch,



and pastelitos provided by GCMac President Dave Game, and had a chance to socialize and share the holiday spirit. Secretary Andre Perwin created and demonstrated a great holiday Hot Disk, and the membership was treated to a great presentation by Jack Quattlebaum, Apple System Engineer, who updated members on the latest changes to OSX, and answered questions about migration and changes in Apple's OS Planned for the near future.

A number of new members joined the group, and strong renewals by expiring members helped keep our membership healthy into the new year.

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This year, the group is adding a new component to our participation, by setting up a Macintosh sales area in an expanded booth. With the help of volunteers, GCMac will be selling donated Macintosh computers and accessories which we have been unable to place through our Mac-a-Difference program, as well as surplus



parts, software, and computer related items. We are also giving members the opportunity to take part in the sale.

Members who have items they would like to convert to cash are welcome to bring them to our Hamboree booth Saturday, February 1, or Sunday, February 2. If members want to donate the proceeds to the group, booth volunteers will accept the items and price them for sale. If they would like to sell the items for their own benefit, our only requirement is that they stay in the booth while the items are being sold, and clearly mark the items which are selling. We have a limited number of admission passes available for members who volunteer to help with the booth, but others will need to pay the small admission charge at the door. Parking at the Hamboree is free.

Members wishing to donate items for sale, or who wish to bring items to sell, should e-mail Dave Game at davegame@bellsouth.net to make advance arrangements.

Even though the focus of the Hamboree is on amateur radio, there has been in recent years a growing computer component to the event. In the main hall, a number of vendors set up displays selling computers and accessories, including lots of used and refurbished items.

Those looking for even bigger bargains should plan to visit the electronics flea market and swap shop located in a second exhibit hall. Individual sellers set up shop by the hundreds, selling everything from hard to find computer parts, cables, and photo gear, for pennies on the dollar.

Gold Coast Mac takes advantage of the access to people already interested in technology by promoting the Macintosh and the benefits of being a member of a user group. The success of the event depends on members who are willing to donate part of their weekend to help with the booth. We need volunteers to help with set-up Friday, January 31st, and to help staff the booth Saturday and Sunday. A limited number of passes are available for members who commit to volunteering. If you're interested, please e-mail Dave Game.

SonicWall Firewall provides Content Filtering for Networks

By Doug Noble

Recently, I was asked to help a school install Internet access for the classroom Macs. They already had an Ethernet network installed. I recommended DirecTVDSL (formerly Telocity) as the provider and ordered their DSL service. One advantage of their service over some cable and DSL providers is the provision of a fixed IP address. So if the school wanted to host their own website, it would be possible. Service was connected in less than 2 weeks.

Usually to provide shared access to DSL, I install a Linksys DSL router, typically available under \$75. It connects between the DSL modem's Ethernet port, and the Ethernet network, allowing Macs and PCs to share the DSL transparently. However in the case of a school, concerns over the content available on the net prompted us to investigate other options which would allow the blocking of XXX and other objectionable sites. One option would be to install software such as Intego ContentBarrier on each Mac. However, this would require individual installation on each machine, and keeping every Mac updated would be a challenge. Plus, there's the possibility of the software being circumvented by the users. A centralized solution would be more preferable.

After doing some research, I found the SonicWALL Pro 100, (www.sonicwall.com) a firewall and DSL router which performs a similar function as the Linksys, but in addition offers a Content Filtering Subscription to CyberPatrol's CyberNOT™ List, ideal for educational institutions. The CyberNOT™ List classifies objectionable material into 12 categories from a dynamically updated database of over 1.5 million URLs.

This enables the SonicWALL device to monitor usage and control access to unproductive and objectionable Web content according to established criteria. Every week, the SonicWALL automatically accesses the CyberNOT list and updates its list of URLs, without any manual intervention. You can set the

Content Filter to allow/deny access to the following categories.

- Violence/Profanity (graphics or text)
- Partial Nudity
- Full Nudity
- Sexual Acts (graphics or text)
- Gross Depictions (graphics or text)
- Intolerance (graphics or text)
- Satanic/Cult (graphics or text)
- Drugs/Drug Culture (graphics or text)
- Militant/Extremist (graphics or text)
- Sex Education (graphics or text)
- Questionable/Illegal Gambling (graphics or text)
- Alcohol & Tobacco (graphics or text)

The Network Administrator can specify domains or hosts (e.g., "yahoo.com") that can be allowed ("Trusted") or denied ("Forbidden"). This feature can be used to customize the Content Filter List, or to allow Web access to sites on a custom list. With careful screening, this can be close to 100% effective at blocking objectionable material. The SonicWALL can optionally scan both the filename field and host field for specific keywords, and block any requests that contain them. For example, if the administrator enters the keyword "sex," access to sites such as <http://www.hotsex.com> will be blocked. When a site is blocked, a customized screen is displayed instead of the site, explaining that the site has been blocked.

Overall, I am impressed by the SonicWALL. It is easily configured via a web browser, and offers many firewall options. There are three ports - the WAN port connects to the Ethernet port on the DSL modem. The LAN port connects to the Ethernet network. A third port, labeled DMZ, allows internal and external access to a web server. A log file is emailed to the administrator every day, so I can see the many intrusion attempts and viruses which have been blocked by the firewall, as well as attempts to access banned sites.

The SonicWALL Pro 100 Education model, available for about \$1000, includes the first year's Content Filter Subscription; after that it's approx \$400/year. Not cheap, but the peace of mind it offers is worth it!

GCMac presented with Big Check, Offers Big Thanks

Gold Coast Mac was presented with one big check at the Holiday Meeting December 4th, and honored the volunteers who made that check possible.



The check was presented by Orange Bowl Concessions, the company owned by Richard Lynn which manages all concessions at the Orange Bowl, including the beer stand operated by Gold Coast Mac.

The giant check represented a payment of just under \$2500, the profits realized by the group for the operation of the beer stand for 6 UM home games last fall. Nearly \$700 in additional income was generated by tips throughout the season.

Since 1999, GCMac has earned nearly \$10,000 for the group thanks to the hard work of volunteers and the opportunity presented by Orange Bowl Concessions.

The 2002 season was one of the best ever for volunteers, with virtually every member of the Board working at least one game, and some games attracting as many as a dozen volunteers. The extra staff made it possible for GCMac to make unique offerings, including a full selection of mixed drinks which helped boost the group's profits.

Those volunteers were honored at the Holiday meeting with certificates of appreciation from President Dave Game, who served as bartender and who was one of the board members who worked each game in the 2002 season.

Orange Bowl Concessions was so pleased with the group's performance, they have asked us to expand our role for the 2003 season and consider taking a second concession stand, a proposal which is under consideration.

Funds from the Orange Bowl games have been used in the past to purchase computers and a projector for meetings, and to help defray operating expenses.

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and even allows users to include snapshots of web pages which don't display properly. Jobs said the only reason Safari was released as Beta was because Apple hasn't had the chance to test it on all of the millions of pages on the web.

The release of the \$99 Keynote software came as somewhat of a surprise to expo attendees. Offering sophisticated tools for including charts and multimedia in presentations, impressive use of Quick-time effects, and classic Apple intuitive ease of use, the program demonstrated the ability to produce impressive presentations using Apple's included themes. Some attendees wondered, however, if Apple needed to create a product it hopes to sell which competes with Microsoft's standard in the presentation world, Powerpoint. However, Apple bowed somewhat to reality by allowing Keynote to both import and export presentations in Powerpoint format.

Attendees at the keynote were given a treat; Jobs sent each one of them home with a copy of Keynote.

Apple leveraged its phenomenal success with Final Cut Pro by announcing the \$299 Express version, intended for serious hobbyists and pros wanting to experiment with Final Cut Pro, but who were unwilling or unable to handle the program's \$999 price tag. Final Cut Express keeps the same file format, interface, and general feature list as its Pro cousin, but eliminates some items of interest only to video professionals, like the ability to work with uncompressed video. Final Cut Express is intended to be used with DV cameras only, and will give experienced iMovie fans the ability to import their projects into its more sophisticated environment. Projects created in the Express version can be used without change in Final Cut Pro.

Some users may not feel the need to switch after using iMovie 3, which was demoed at the Keynote but which was not ready until January 25th. The OSX-only

upgrade to Apple's premier digital application adds a raft of new titling effects, graphics effects, and transitions, while enhancing the user interface to allow



for much easier editing. Gone is the need to make an awkward switch from video to audio mode; now, the video timeline simply grows as you work on it, and snaps back when you are working elsewhere. More sophisticated audio controls, similar to those in Final Cut, have been added, allowing volume to be adjusted on the timeline. For the first time, iMovie is also capable of storing the information needed to create chapters in DVD projects.

That will be helpful with the new version if iDVD. Version 3, which will be included in the iLife package, included a more sophisticated interface, a larger number of unique themes for DVDs, and the ability to use chapter information from both Final Cut and iMovie to create chapters in your DVD Project. The chapterization feature drew sustained applause from the audience, as it answered one of the biggest complaints about the consumer-oriented iDVD. Working together with iMovie, DVD creators will now be able to skip the required output of their movies before burning them to DVD. A simple click will transport you from the iMovie3 timeline to iDVD3, where your project will be ready to burn. The new version can also be extended with AppleScripts to automate parts of the production process.

iPhoto 2 offers some changes in the

user interface to make it easier to use, and brings a new feature Apple calls one-click enhance. With a single click, the software analyzes color, white balance, and density, and makes corrections based on some sophisticated rules.

Drawing on the iLife idea of integration between Apple's iApps, iPhoto will now allow you to use music directly from iTunes for your slide shows, and will allow easy use of photos in iMovie. New to this version is the ability to archive your photo library to CD or DVD.

As much interested as the software generated, Jobs brought down the house with the announcement of the two new laptops. The new 17" PowerBook offers a 1440x900 resolution, about the same viewing area as a 19" CRT. Starting at a hefty \$3299, the 6.8 pound, 1" thick aluminum computer is equipped with a Superdrive for creating DVDs, Firewire 800, with data transfers twice the speed of original Firewire, Airport Extreme, which works with existing Airport networks, or

with new Airport base stations which transfer data five times faster than the existing Airport.

For those with PDA's or smart cellular phones, the new TiBooks include Bluetooth for short range connections, and if you work in low

light, you'll appreciate a uniquely Apple innovation, a lighted keyboard which carries depending on ambient light. Gone is Titanium, which looked beautiful but which proved to be a problematic material

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For User Groups, Thank You Never Seems to be Enough

By Rose Lynn

Thanksgiving, Christmas, Chanukah, New Year's and all of the other celebrations that end our year and begin a new have passed and we tend to reflect back on the good fortunes we celebrate.

Times have not been good economically for the business community which as you know trickles down to the wonderful people who make user groups function. That has not stopped Gold Coast Mac and I am proud to say that our supporters, our member volunteers and our board of directors are all as great as ever.

Throughout the year we proudly share software, gifts and "only for user group" special deals from companies large and small. Our local retailers and vendors have open door policies for our members and we are so fortunate to have them.

Our volunteers make it possible for us to pay the bills, provide state of the art equipment for demos, arrange for locations for SIGs and special meetings, share our knowledge and leadership with other user groups, perform at meetings, correspond with speakers and continue our established relationships.

We are so blessed that it would be impossible to name names as I had intended when I began and I know of no one who asks specifically for thanks or recognition. Some have it in their nature to acknowledge "the extra mile" and some do not. Some are givers and we need them to provide for the takers but that is the way it works with volunteer organizations.

We only ask that the next time you see the e-mail address of a vendor or a volunteer, type a smiley face and hit send, shake their hand and say you noticed, support their efforts even if the end result isn't just for you.

I've said it before and I'll say it again, we enjoy what we do because we are involved. There is room for you all in some way. We want you to enjoy your user group and the best way is to be involved. Ask a board member to other volunteer how.

Thanks for being special members of a special user group and may you all have a healthy happy 2003!

The Jaguar Review - To OSX or Not to OSX, that is the question!

By Avi Learner

The other day I was called into a client's office to do some service for an overdue Mac OS machine update to Mac OS 9. The client is a publisher working primarily with PageMaker, Photoshop, Illustrator and the like. They don't use Quark in his shop, but we will talk about this later. Their entire office runs on FileMaker Pro and Intuit's QuickBooks. They have only two PCs: one for QuickBooks and the other acting as a "gateway" to the Internet.

This client is lagging a little bit behind the times in that quite a few of the machines in his office are still running some flavor of Mac OS 8.xx. While all of his office equipment machines are PowerPC, many of them are of the older G3 models and won't run Mac OS X that well. He has asked me a few times when will

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for computer cases. The Powerbook case has been redesigned, with ports on the side ala the iBook instead of at the rear, behind a door. The Powerbook is based on a 1 Ghz G4 processor, and will be available in about 2 months.

Expo attendees were almost as excited about the smaller laptop, an aluminum PowerBook based on the G4, but using a 12" screen. Starting at \$1794, the slightly thicker but much lighter computer comes with a combo drive, is airport extreme capable if you add an airport card, and like it's big brother, includes Bluetooth. Clocking in at 867 MhZ, the 12" PowerBook also includes a new Nvidia Geforce4 420 graphics processor, for stunning games and fast displays. A Superdrive is available as an extra cost option.

Jobs told the audience that 2003 will be the "year of the laptop", and predicted that many people will begin to move away from desktop computers to laptops as their primary computer. No changes were made to Apple's desktop line at the expo, but it's expected Apple will announce some speed increases, and enhancements such as Bluetooth and Airport Extreme, for the desktop line within the next month.

Medina named Member of the Year

Gus Medina was named the first Gold Coast Mac Member of the Year at the annual Holiday Meeting December 4th, honored for his volunteer spirit and commitment to Gold Coast Mac.

Medina was one of 10 Members of the Month selected by the board throughout 2002 for the contributions to the group. In 2002, for the first time, the board decided to create a special honor to be granted to someone from that group of volunteers. Medina's selection as the first recipient was unanimous.

Medina, husband of board member Sandy Medina who was herself a nominee for the award, was selected for the continuing effort he has shown on the group's behalf. Gus worked at nearly every Orange Bowl game in 2002, traveled with the leadership to the SRUGC Conference in Atlanta and helped with planning and setup, and worked with the group's Hamfest booth.

Because of her nomination and the nomination of her Husband, Sandy was excused from voting for this year's award.

GCMac President Dave Game told the group that Gus is a fantastic example of the user group spirit, through the way he was always available to do whatever was needed, without recognition. That changed with his selection for the award.

Gus was presented with a framed certificate of appreciation, and a more concrete show of the group's appreciation, a Palm M505 PDA which was donated by a member.

The first Member of the Month eligible for the 2003 award will be selected for the January meeting.



RESOURCES

www.gcmac.org

A free information source intended for Gold Coast Mac members and Macintosh Enthusiasts worldwide. Here is where you'll find.

Latest GCM News	Meeting Information
Latest Macintosh News	Online Calendar
Online Chat and Conferences	Online Membership Form
Member Resources	Official GCMacReference
Newsletter PDF's	Something New Everyday

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 Director..... Jim Bolinger 305-223-9400 limbolin@bellsouth.net
 Founding Dir.. Van Martin 305-235-2621 vanmartin@aol.com

Retail Partners

The retailers below often extend discounts to Gold Coast Mac members.

RESSELLER	AREA	PHONE
The Apple Store	The Falls	305-234-4565
Computer Village	Coral Gables	305-667-7400
CompUSA	The Falls	305-234-5600
CompUSA	Dadeland	305-670-5030
CompUSA	North Miami	305-620-1800
MacCenter	Ft. Lauderdale	954-486-5500
The MacStore	Ft. Lauderdale	954-680-9806

Hot CD/Lending Library

Hot CD of the month:

The latest public domain and shareware collected for you.
 Created by Jan Barkan and Andre Perwin.
 Member price: \$15. Non-members \$18.

From CD training courses to How-to videotapes. From self-help books to User Groups newsletters from around the nation. If it can help you to be better Mac user, chances are you'll find it in the GCM library. Items available for Check-out at the monthly meetings. All items are free, though some require a refundable deposit to ensure their return.

GCMac Mailing Lists

The Best way to keep up-to-date with the latest information from Gold Coast Mac is to sign up for one of our e-mail list servers. This is an automated e-mail "party line" which takes your message and shares it with everyone who is on the list. To join any of our lists, simply send an e-mail to the list address with SUBSCRIBE LISTNAME in the subject of the e-mail!

General Gold Coast Mac News	news@gcmac.org
Items for Sale/Want to Buy	sales@gcmac.org
Jobs, Hiring or Seeking	jobs@gcmac.org
Tech Support/Help	support@gcmac.org

Info Around the Clock

305-447-7888

The Gold Coast Mac Connection is our 24 hour hotline. information on club events, the next meeting, and a place to leave a message if you need help or more information.

Special Interest Groups

Have a special interest? Can you help others, or do you need to learn? We need you both to take part in our monthly Special Interest Groups (SIGs). If you don't see an interest here, start your own! **Open to members only.**

Photoshop

Time: 7:00pm to 9:00pm
 Location: Atlantis Academy, 9600 SW 107 Ave
 Leader: Giuseppe Di Franco
 gdifranco@mac.com - 305-598-2017

Advance Users

Time: 7:00pm to 9:00pm
 Location: University of Miami
 Leader: Andre Perwin
 aperwin@miami.edu - 305-284-1939

iMovie

Time: 7:00pm to 9:00pm
 Location: Atlantis Academy, 9600 SW 107 Ave
 Leader: Dave Game
 davegame@gcmac.org - 305-639-4525

Hardware

Time: 7:00pm to 9:00pm
 Location: Atlantis Academy, 9600 SW 107 Ave
 Leader: Charlie Carlon
 ccarlon@earthlink.net - 305-253-5093

Music

Time: 7:00pm to 9:00pm
 Location: Atlantis Academy, 9600 SW 107 Ave
 Leader: Joe Podgor

Beginners

Time: 7:00pm to 9:00pm
 Location: Apple Store, Falls Shopping Center
 Leader: Felicia SternBach
 mycollie4@aol.com - 305-238-9188

Sign up at a general meeting, or contact the SIG leader directly. You will be given confirmation of the SIG by e-mail. Please advise the SIG leader in advance if you are unavailable to attend. SIGs are subject to cancellation for lack of participation.

Educational Director, Jim Bollinger
jimbolin@bellsouth.net
Updates at www.gcmac.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



eMAC WINS AWARD

VideoMaker magazine has awarded Apple's eMac system with the Best Video Editing System under \$2000 dollars. iMovie 2 ease of use, and iDVD 2 capabilities has given this system a true edge when it comes to easy video editing. It also helps the Superdrive capabilities that Apple has included in the latest models of the eMac.

APPLE IS ALL OVER CANADA

Apple computer has struck a deal worth 12.5 Million dollars with Eastern Townships Schools in Canada. The deal will put an wireless iBook computer in all 3rd grade, and above, student by 2005. This is the first deal of it's kind in Canada. The Sudents are to keep the computer trthroughout the school year. Teachers as well as student will receive training as part of the deal.

APPLE UPDATES OSX..AGAIN AND AGAIN

It seems the only thing going up faster than the price of gasoline is the version numbers for Apple's OSX Jaguar. 10.2 was released just a few months ago, and already, Apple is on it's third revision. Version 10.2.3 is now available through Apple's Software Update or through Apple Support. Even as we speak, rumor sites are reporting the release of 10.2.4. So far there is no concrete news about this one.

MAYA RELEASES FREE PERSONAL LEARNING EDITION 3D SOFTWARE

In a move to take the 3D industry by storm, Alias Wavefront has released a "no time limit, and no pressure" edition of their professional 3D animation software. The free version is called Maya Personal Learning Edition v4.5. As the tittle says, this is to encourage new users (mostly students) to learn the program, and become future power users of their pro version. Maya has been used lately by Lucas Art and other big Movie production companies for their special effects. More info at <http://www.aliaswavefront.com/mayapple>

TOUCHSCREEN 17" iMAC

Troll Touch has developed an touchscreen for the 17" iMac. This one will retail for about \$879. Implementation will take place at the company's headquarters in Valencia California. The company has developed touchscreen for other Aple systems including Apple 23" Cinema display.



Join Gold Coast Mac!

Members get special benefits, such as access to our popular Special Interest Groups, a newsletter mailed monthly to their home, the chance to win fabulous prizes at our meetings, and of course, exclusive discounts at computer stores and Macintosh vendors you just can't get anywhere else. All memberships are individual, and run for a period of one year. If more than one person in a family wants the benefits of membership, each must join. Please fill out the form below completely, and print clearly. The information you supply determines where your newsletter is sent and how we can contact you.

Please consider registering online. It's faster, and you can use a credit card! Visit www.gcmac.org/html/member.html

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OS X be ready for "prime time." To the publisher, the operating system he is using is at the core of his "bread and butter," so if it has failings it detracts from his ability to perform, ergo he loses money.

So I was a bit miffed as to why he wanted to spend the time and money to upgrade to OS 9? His response was, "I have heard so many problems people have had with OS X that I am reluctant." I can understand this, because as I said before he relies on his equipment "running" in order to make a living. My response to him at this time was, "Yes Roy, OS X is ready for 'prime time', but it's now a matter of 'scale of economy.'" They have the latest version of Adobe's InDesign – the successor to PageMaker and quite the competition for the publishing monster Quark.

Let's face it; our economy is in the crapper as far as it comes to growth. Every company and industry I know of has scaled back, especially in IT expansion or equipment upgrades. Companies cannot afford to retool with new machinery and software at the pace with which the computer industry pumps out new stuff. In the Mac world we have come to expect Apple to WOW us every six months with new hardware and software. And we all know that our beloved Mac costs us more than the average PC.

So I talked him into making an OS X partition and setting up InDesign and Photoshop and any other software he was using (Word, Entourage, Explorer, etc). He has since called to thank me saying, "I loathe going back into OS 9 now, OS X is great and it doesn't crash! When can we switch the rest of the office?" He has a pretty fast G4, but many of the machines

he has are older Macs or Performas.

So I told him that the older machines would all have to go, in order to convert to OS X. At \$799, the current crop of Snow iMacs would surely fill the bill for most of the non-art, or editorial staff he has, but replacing 20 or more Macs is still a commitment of some cash. I imagine they will convert their Art Department where the "meat and potatoes" are made first, then gradually phase out the older Macs in favor of newer machines running OSX.

If you are undecided about whether or not to switch to OS X, I highly recommend it providing your current machine has the horsepower (at least a 400mhz G3 processor). If your box isn't up to the task, consider a new Mac. They are all a better value than ever before. I think fairly low priced considering the power and features inside.



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