

Macaholics UNANIMOUS

The Official Newsletter of the Upper Keys Macintosh Users Group



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What's So Great About Vector Art?

by Sue Beal

It's always a little strange for me to write up what I presented... I feel like I'm in two places at once (when I'm really nowhere at all!). We had a small gathering for our April meeting. Given that the topic was a niche subject and we were up against the second Seder of Passover and Easter weekend... we drew several who had never been to UKMUG before, and that's always nice!

The topic came about when we lost our Final Cut Express speaker two weeks before the meeting and I needed to fill in; I had had several people challenge me (nicely) recently about what I do and why people think building graphics in vector is so great. Robert Sax sat with me while I made a poster for him and I think it changed his life! He really enjoyed seeing the process. So I hoped others would also enjoy it.

As most of you know, I am a graphic artist by trade. That's a broad term. Most of what I do is not creating original art; it's pulling together logos, type and photos or clip art to produce printed pieces. Once in a while I draw something original. More often I am tracing to recreate art that has been lost or changing clip art to suit a special need. My drawing style has always been an illustration style; I am best at drawing mechanical and hard-edged things like boats, buildings, hardware and diagrams. I can't draw soft things like people, animals and such.

Adobe Illustrator is my weapon of choice. But it is so much more than just a drawing tool!

Vector and Bitmap

This is the main dichotomy in graphics. Photoshop is probably the most amazing program ever invented, and it can do things no other program can. Photoshop is made for photos; continuous tone images comprised of pixels, or dots of color.

Vector art, on the other hand, is based on mathematics. Basically you have points, lines and arcs. Drawing is done by placing points and defining the length and angle of line segments that

connect them, making a shape. Then you decide how that shape, or object should be painted - filled and stroked. Using many of these objects, and layering them, you create drawings!

Why Vector?

One of the most important things one ever learns as a commercial artist is that before you start, you have to know where you are going to end up. If someone comes to you for a logo, you need to think beyond the business card they need next week. If they are successful with their new venture, that logo could end up on posters, merchandise, tee shirts, even billboards! If you start in a bitmap program and start small, at some point you'll have to start over and do it all again, bigger. If you start in a vector program, you never have to start over!

(That said, there are some great effects available in Photoshop that aren't available in vector programs. A graphic artist needs both tools to get the job done.)

Here's a short list of the strengths and advantages you get with a vector-based program:

- Enlarging your art results in no loss of quality, no matter how big it gets.

- The files are usually smaller because the images are defined mathematically. The exception is when something is insanely complex, with a lot of objects.

- All fonts today are made from vectors! It's easy to turn the fonts into their vector outlines and then manipulate them to make really cool graphic effects!

- It's easy to rearrange objects on the page in vector. That

May 14, 7pm, KL Library

Back To Basics:

Macintosh 101 with Joe Kukella


In response to some of the questions I have been getting recently, I asked Joe Kukella from Macintosh Systems Solutions to come up and help us cover the basics of using a Mac. Whether you are a recent switcher from the PC, a newbie, or even a seasoned Mac user, you are guaranteed to have a couple of "aha" moments when Joe comes to town! Bring your questions, let's make him work!!

makes it easy to change a piece from a business card to a poster, to a web ad... whatever is needed... very quickly.

- Spot color definitions and separations (used for some presses and for tee shirts) are a breeze in Illustrator.

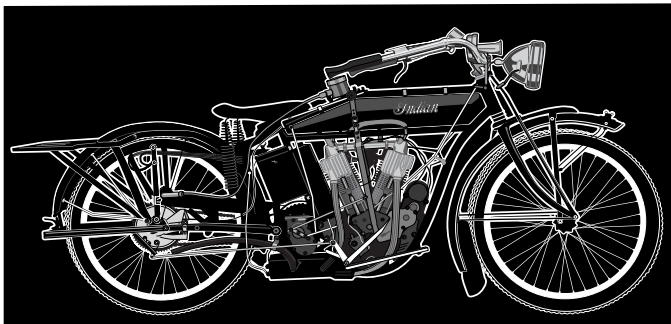
- PDF files can be cracked and contents extracted for other uses (legal ones, of course!)

- AI can export other file types like PDF, JPG, BMP, TIF etc., so files can be saved for others in any format needed.

- Sophisticated effects like gradients and transparency are no problem. 



Bitmap (photo)



Vector (drawn)



Give this site a twirl...
www.willitblend.com
 from Martin Masters

Get Cash for Your Gadgets!

by Karen Beal

Gazelle is a fast and easy way to sell or recycle your gadgets. Every item gets and offer, and you get paid to be environmentally responsible. Gazelle pays for shipping, and they'll even send you a box!

Check it out:

<http://www.gazelle.com/>

Lorem Ipsum Lore!

submitted by Karen Beal

Possibly the most widely-read bit of Cicero's writing is the "Lorem ipsum..." text used to simulate actual text content when mocking up a page layout. It is actually a chunk of text hacked out of his "de Finibus Bonorum et Malorum" ("The Extremes of Good and Evil"), from 45 BCE.

Dangerous or Entertaining?

Posted by: Gary E. Kampel
 SEMUG User Group Digest

Are you out there ... in cyberspace? Ever click on a link and enter your name and some information about yourself? Want to know what *anybody* can find out about you? Check out iSearch:

<http://www.isearch.com/> Enter your name (or one of your friends). Be prepared to be surprised at what anybody can learn about you.

Squeeze More Juice from your iPhone/ Touch Battery

from <http://machintsandtips.com>
 by Ed Shepard; Small Dog Electronics

Here are twelve tips suggested by Apple and learned from our experience to help wring a little extra juice from an iPhone or iPod touch battery.

1. Use Current Software
2. Turn off Wi-Fi when not in use
3. Turn off Bluetooth when idle
4. Use Airplane Mode in low- or no-coverage areas
5. Turn off 3G
6. Dim the brightness
7. Fetch new mail less frequently
8. Turn off push mail
9. Auto-check fewer email accounts
10. Minimize use of location services such as Maps
11. Minimize use of third-party apps
12. Lock Your iPhone when idle; and use Auto-Lock

Bonus tip: Use iPhone Regularly. For proper maintenance of a lithium-based battery, it's important to keep the electrons in it moving.

Top 5 Free System Applications for Mac Os X

from John Hammerstrom

Caffeine

Caffeine is a tiny program for Mac that puts an icon in the right side of your menu bar. You can click it to prevent your Mac from automatically going to sleep, dimming the screen or starting screen savers.

Carbon Copy Cloner

Carbon Copy Cloner is software for Mac that helps you clone, synchronize, or backup. Key features include:

- Complete, bootable backups
- Backups are non-proprietary, so you can access them
- Fast, incremental backups copy only the items that have changed
- Archival backup for items that have been deleted from the source
- Block-level disk-to-disk clones
- Backing up across a network
- Schedule backup tasks on an periodic basis, or you can indicate that a backup task should run when the backup device is attached

AppCleaner

AppCleaner allows you to thoroughly uninstall unwanted apps. Installing an application puts many files throughout your System using up space on your hard drive. AppCleaner finds all these small files and safely deletes them

Drop an application onto the AppCleaner window. It will find for the related files and you can delete them by clicking the delete button.

Deeper

Deeper is an excellent Mac app that allows you to enable and disable the hidden functions of Finder, Dock, Dashboard, Exposé, Safari, Login window and many Apple's applications.

EverSave

EverSave allows you to save all of your documents in a specific time interval or by changing the frontmost application. You can access EverSave easily on Mac OS X's status bar. EverSave always runs in the background. It is being controlled by five different tabs in a single window - this makes configuration quickly and user-friendly.

For more info go to:

<http://techtites.com/2009/04/08/top-5-free-system-applications-for-mac-os-x/>

Get organized today with TopXNotes™ - the premier Personal Note Manager for Mac.

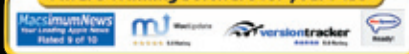
Top rated by Charles Moore, Macsimum News, The Macintosh Guild, and Macworld Magazine.

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TIPS FROM TOM:

This month, there was a lot of cyber buzz about the Mac Bot Net Trojan horse. First, I'll give you a little summary of the press we saw, and then I'll give you Tom Mulhall's wisdom on this "threat." —Sue

The Press:

Quoting researchers at Symantec, CBC News reported that the first ever bot network of Macintosh computers has been spotted. Moreover, these zombies were infected with the OSX.Iservice (iService) Trojan, which was the payload delivered by illegal copies of Apple iWork '09 and Adobe Photoshop CS 4 downloaded from peer-to-peer file sharing networks.

"OSX.Iservice is an interesting piece of malware—not only does it make use of Mac OS internals, but it is also the first Mac botnet that we are aware of," said Mario Barcena and Alfredo Pesoli, researchers, Symantec Ireland. "With malware authors showing an increasing interest in the Mac platform, we

believe that more advanced [user interface] spoofing tricks may be seen in the future."

Source: <http://mac.blorge.com/2009/04/17/the-ibot-network-attacks-nothing-will-ever-be-the-same/>

Tom's Reaction:

This is exactly the perfect "socially engineered" piece of malware but certainly it is not the first we have seen.

This type of Trojan Horse has been around for a while. This one was contained on pirated illegal copies of commercial applications. One has to purposely download the pirated version, install it, then okay the install with a password. User initiated, user caused!

This is not really big news. Only made so by the virus program makers and those having a slow news day.

In reality, it's sort of a "you got what you deserve" bot!

If it is not a sealed package or you don't know where it came from- NEVER install it on your computer! [MU](#)

Damen: Photo-realistic Illustrator

from Jim Spencer

Here is a link to a digital artist who does amazing 'Photo-realistic' illustrations, using Illustrator and Photoshop:

http://www.bertmonroy.com/fineart/text/fineart_damen.htm [MU](#)



Friends don't let friends use Windows.

Macintosh Systems Solutions

1001 Truman Avenue @ Grinnell. Key West. 305.293.1888



Apple Specialist

Apple Authorized Sales, Service, and Training from Key Largo to Key West. Cool.

Free Info:

Portrait Retouching Techniques in Photoshop CS4

Posted by: Gary E. Kampel
SEMUG User Group Digest

MacGroup TV: Special Guest Scott Kelby

MacGroup of Detroit is presenting the newest edition of MacGroup TV in April, with very special guest Scott Kelby doing his latest Portrait Retouching Techniques in Photoshop CS4. You can watch this meeting on your computer, on your iPod, on your iPhone or on your Apple TV using the link below or by searching iTunes for MacGroupTV.

<http://itunes.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewPodcast?id=299402089>

Visit MacGroup Detroit.

<http://www.macgroup.org> [MU](#)

Favorite Widgets? Stay Up To Date!

by Graham Thomas

These are two widgets that I have tested and seem to work well. Widget Update is a free Dashboard Widget that can automatically check for updates to all the other Widgets that you have installed. It supports Apple's software directory, DashboardWidgets.com, MacUpdate and Version Tracker. It will present you with a tidy link list of all the updates found, enabling you to read release-notes and download the updates quickly and painlessly.

If you find Widget Update useful, you may also want to check out its sister-widget, App Update.

The widget site is: <http://gkaindl.com/software/widget-update> and you can get the app update widget by clicking on the link on that page. [MU](#)

Love the Mac Ads?

by Graham Thomas

If you love the latest set of Mac ad, go here and earn something about them, behind the scenes!

<http://blogs.zdnet.com/gadgetreviews/?p=3422&alertsprmo=100911&tag=nl.rSINGLE> [MU](#)

Nine Pieces of Free Software I Use Every Day

from www.thesimpledollar.com/
submitted by Karen Strobel

Karen wrote: I get the following blog emailed to my daily. It's most interesting. Following is an article about free software:

I spend hours each day at one of my two computers - either my desktop Mac (a Mac Mini - the most cost-effective type of Mac) or my Linux laptop. As a result, finding a core set of software to use for the things that I do every day is vital. Also important to me is that this software is cross-platform - I'd like to be able to run many of the same things on my Mac and on my laptop. I'm also pretty frugal, so I like to look for free software options.

After a lot of searching and a ton of trials of different pieces of software, I've found nine pieces of free software (both open-source and otherwise) that I use every day on both my Mac and for Linux - and all of these are available for Windows as well. With only a few little exceptions, these software packages are the only ones I use during a

given day. I will also say that in many cases, I have donated to the creators of the software - my belief is that you should support what you actually use, and I certainly do use these pieces of software.

Firefox

<http://www.mozilla.com/firefox/>

My web browser is my primary tool, and Firefox is unquestionably the best option available to me for cross-platform use. It's stable, fast, and runs every web application and web site that I need without a bit of worry.

Evernote

<http://www.evernote.com/>

I use Evernote for pretty much all my text editing, not only on my Mac and my laptop, but on my iPod Touch as well and also on my parents' Windows PC.

iTunes and Juice

<http://www.apple.com/itunes/> and
<http://juicereceiver.sourceforge.net/>

I often listen to radio stations via the web browser. And I listen to a number of podcasts and I like to be able to access them anywhere.

Skype

<http://www.skype.com/>

I use Skype for both voice chatting (i.e., telephone calls) and video conferences. You can do this for free to other Skype users or make unlimited calls to

Note: This is just a little overview! There is much more information in the blog, which was posted on 14 April 2009. Go see! —Sue

phone numbers in the US and Canada for just \$2.95 a month.

Tweetdeck

<http://www.tweetdeck.com/>

I'm a Twitter addict - and Tweetdeck makes it very easy to do what I like.

OpenOffice

<http://www.openoffice.org/>

Quite often, I need to edit and share documents with friends. I also use spreadsheets to keep track of my money, plus I use presentation software as I begin to engage in speaking opportunities. For most people, this means ponying up for Microsoft Office, but OpenOffice includes document creation, spreadsheets, presentations, databases, basic drawing tools, and lots of other little bits - and it doesn't cost a penny.

Audacity

<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>

I've been experimenting with podcast recording for a while now, trying to figure out what I want to do and how I want to do it. I've found that Audacity does everything I need to do - I can edit pieces together, add music snippets, move pieces around, record from the mic, and it all just works.

Freemind

<http://freemind.sourceforge.net/>

Freemind is basically a workspace where you can jot down little pieces of ideas, connect them together, and organize them really easily. If you do creative work or are dealing with a large project, give it a shot.

BOINC

<http://boinc.berkeley.edu/>

BOINC takes your unused computer cycles and contributes them to large research projects, like SETI@home or protein folding. [\[W\]](#)

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Upper Keys Mac Users Group

A nonprofit organization devoted to the use (and sometimes abuse) of the Macintosh computer. Subscriptions are \$25.00 for one year. Contents © 1993 - 2009 by the Upper Keys Macintosh Users Group except where noted. All other rights reserved.

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MU Classifieds • MU Classifieds

*Call or email Sue if you have something to give away or sell!
Classified ads are free.*

The Upper Keys Humane Society has an **IMAC COMPUTER FOR SALE**. It was purchased new last November but has never been used. It was purchased for bookkeeping and general office use but the bookkeeper did not like the payroll program (Aatrix) so they decided to go back to a PC. The specs are as follows:

OS 10.5.5, 2008, 17" display

1.893 MHz core 2 duo processor

512 MB memory

149 GBHD

Model FA710LL/A

Appicare Protection Plan

Asking price is \$850.00

Contact John Thomas at (305) 451-4516 if interested



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