Macaholics UNANIMOUS

The Official Newsletter of the Upper Keys Macintosh Users Group — Apple User Group — August 2009 Volume 17 Issue 09

Four Free Web Tools for Groups

by Sue Beal

PB WORKS - for building websites
EVITE - for coordinating an event
DOODLE - for schedule coordination
SURVEY MONKEY - for following up.

What a useful set of tools! Special thanks to Karen Beal, Diane Marshall and MaryAnne Roper for introducing us to four very useful resources! I've already put two of them to use for UKMUG, and I thank those of you who followed the emails and played along.

PB WORKS

Formerly called PB WIKI, this is a tool for building a simple website that can be developed collaboratively by the members of a group, company or family. The term WIKI (as in WIKIpedia) means collaboratively built.

The builder decides whether the site can be viewed by anyone or is private and can only be viewed by those allowed in. The idea is for a group to work together to build on an idea, or a project, through the site. For a family it could be a shared history and news site. For a business it could be used for communicating policy, collecting suggestions or accessing documents. Diane repeated a quote, that it is "like myspace or facebook on steroids."

To set one up is very simple. Go to **pbworks.com** and get started! You pick a color scheme, then create pages and folders (which are securely stored on the pbworks.com website for you, for free). Upload graphics and content. Mess with it until you're happy. Then invite people to view it and participate. People can participate as reader, writers or as the administrator.

I set one up for UKMUG following the meeting. It took me about two hours, mostly because I took the time to index and upload all of this year's newsletters, as well as to scan and upload all of the old UKMUG photos I could find. I invited everyone to view, comment and contribute, and some did. Go see!

By the way, if you did visit, and if you are getting an email every time someone else visits (and this bugs you), go back in and change your account to turn notifications off. See page 2.

For free you get 100 users and 2GB of storage. There are some other restrictions but they aren't very limiting. This is pretty nice, for a no-cost website.

There is a training tutorial on PB fundamentals also available. Another PB site, built by Karen, is **http://klcommunitygarden.pbworks.com**.

There is also a free website building/hosting service on Google. Go to google.com and pull down the "more" menu to get started with that one.

SURVEY MONKEY

Survey Monkey is an easy way to collect data from a group of people and analyze it. The site, called **surveymonkey.com**, calls it "intelligent survey software for primates of all species."

It's easy to build a survey, and since you invite those who will respond, it's

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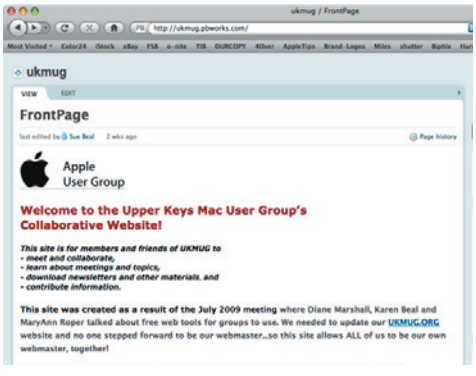
Come at 6:30 for the Beginners Circle:

New! Bring your laptop and your questions Aug, 13 at 6:30, and for a half-hour prior to the main meeting we'll have experienced folks available to help, one on one, or in small groups.



http://ukmug.pbworks.com/

Aug. 13th
7PM
KL Library

Come and enjoy some "Earthly Delights"

Google Earth

An Introduction

Presented by Kathy Miller

We've been buzzing about Google Earth all year... ever since Ken Morley gave us a little glimpse in January with his iMovie presentation.

Google Earth is a virtual globe, map and geographic information program. It maps the Earth by the superimposition of images obtained from satellite photos, aerial photography and 3D imagery.

Kathy graciously agreed to brush up on it and show us how to get started. Google Earth is a huge and wonderful topic... you don't want to miss this one!

Kathy is a part-time Mac user with talents in many fields. She works as a personal assistant in Key Largo, she teaches Tai Chi and she is an accomplished actress... you may have seen her in one of the Key Players productions. She calls this "part one of an introduction"... that gives you an idea of how much there is to see and learn!

Four Free Web Tools

continued from page one

secure and private.

There are 20 types of questions you can ask, for example: simple answer, multiple choice, check a box, rating scale, essay box, numerical, voting... just to name some. A survey is limited to 10 questions, but they can be multiple-part, complex questions like: "rate each of these 15 items" or "have you ever (list 20 activities) - check all that apply..." questions.

You can even allow logical branching -- if they answer Yes, then ask this question; if No, ask something else.

There are templates to help you get started, and a tutorial.

The results are reported and interpreted for you, you can see the raw data, as well as graphs and charts of the results. Survey Monkey keeps all of your surveys on the site, over time.

The basic service is free, and with that you get 100 responses. You can upgrade for very reasonable rates, if you need to.

I did not have time to make a survey for you to test but there will probably be one coming, as soon as I can get a little time to set it up. Watch the MU for more details!

DOODLE

Doodle.com is a handy site that allows a group of people to coordinate their schedules for an event or meeting. It's free and easy to use. Both Karen and Diane have used it. Diane used it to set up a bicycle trip to Missouri with a group, and Karen uses it regularly to schedule field trips for the Orchid Club.

Here's how it works: You create a "poll" or question on the Doodle site. You give it the event info, then use a calendar to define a range of possible dates and times. You send out an email link to those whom you want to participate. They respond, and you follow the results online as they vote.

When people respond they get the calendar-like set up, and they block in red-yellow-green (no good, ok, and good) as the schedule pertains to them.

EVITE

Evite makes the invitation and RSVP phases of an event easy! This one came to my attention when Mary-Anne Roper used it to schedule a 90th birthday party for her mother.

MaryAnne showed us how easy it is the got to evite.com and do your own invitation. First you must register and sign in, then:

1. Choose a design/look. Upload images, pick stock ones, play with it.
2. Fill in the info - date, place, time, phone number, etc.
3. Set up how you want to get responses.
4. Pick options, like guests should be asked to pay or bring something.
5. Add email addresses and send it!
6. Sit back and get an email every time someone responds.

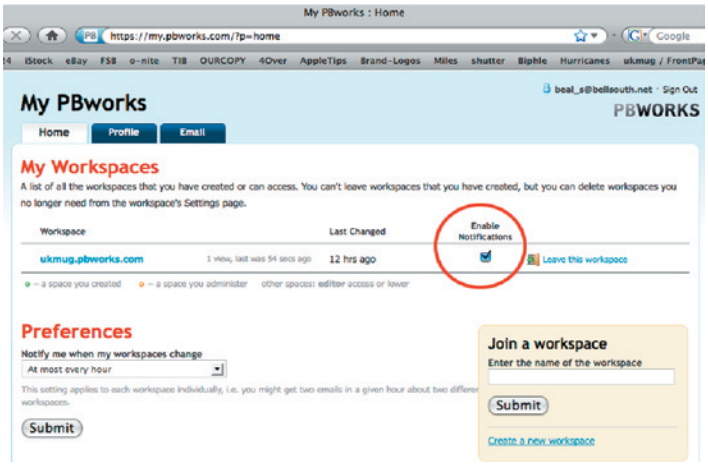
Pretty easy! Easy enough that all of you reading this got an evite invitation to our Google Earth meeting .

You can also use it for recurring events (it will send periodic email reminders), you can poll your guests, you can show everyone who else is coming or keep it private... there are lots of options.

You can also print and mail for the ones on your list who are not email-savvy. MU

http://ukmug.pbworks.com/

TURN NOTIFICATIONS OFF



Go to my.pbworks.com and log in.

About an inch down you'll see a line that starts with the name of the UKMUG website.

There's a checkbox to the right... uncheck it. (You can also change the frequency of notification, under Preferences)

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evite®

Save Some Money!

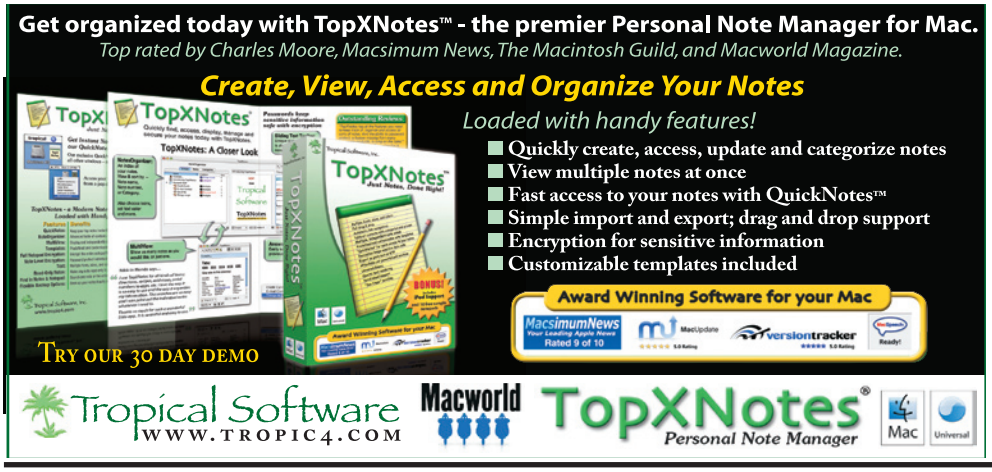
Thanks to Debbie Shepherd for the info and to Karen Beal for forwarding

This is information that might be of help to you. I was at a meeting today in Marathon and one of the detective's I work with gave me this. She used to work for the Florida Highway Patrol.

Effective Oct 1, 2009 the cost to renew your Florida driver's license will be $53.00. Currently, it is around $15.00

You can renew your drivers license early. If your license expires next year or the year after, renew it before Oct 1, 2009, and save money.

Effective Oct 1, 2009 the cost to renew your Florida tag will increase by 35%. Just like your Florida drivers license, you can renew your tag early. You can also renew your tag for two years at today's cost, saving you even more money over the long run. MU



Scanning Photos for Use in iMovie

by Ken Morley

Sue asked me to share what I learned about scanning 35MM slides for use in iMovie and digital slide presentations. I have no plans to print them, but if I did, the largest print I would make would be 8 x 10.

Through some serendipity, a twenty minute appointment at the local Apple Store Genius Bar metamorphosed into a one hour One-to-One session with Scott, their team's expert in digital photography. Here are the highlights of what I learned.

http://www.scantips.com/

Probably the most important thing I learned was a reference to a web site with the most comprehensive but simplified explanation of scanning and rendering color images I have seen. The writer's main audience was a person making hard copy pictures, not images for iMovie and iDVD. But he had more of what I wanted than I had found elsewhere. The url is above.

Scan at 600dpi.

The relationship between dpi and pixels is difficult to grasp, and in many ways they are unrelated. But a 35MM slide has tremendous detail imbedded in it. You probably need 400 dpi to capture enough of it to fill a TV screen. After all, regardless how big your TV set is, the finest resolution you can possibly show is 640x480 pixels (up to 1280x720 with high definition). Scan at 600 dpi in case you decided to print a picture. If you think you will be making an 8x10, make a test print at 600dpi. If the quality is not good enough, then go to 1200dpi. Also in iMovie I will be using lots of Ken Burns affect which is the equivalent of cropping the original and then blowing it up to full screen.

Save to iPhoto in TIFF.

iPhoto normally saves in JPEG to create smaller data files. Every time you change and save a JPEG file you lose quality. By the time you color correct, crop, etc and then manipulate the picture with Ken Burns, you might have saved the picture several times and lost quality. The TIFF files are larger, but they don't deteriorate no matter how many times you work with them. Even though the file is larger, storage costs are coming down fast.

I still have much to learn and would appreciate input from others about making images for iMovie and iDVD. MU

Computer Gender

submitted by Denise Malefyt

A Spanish teacher was explaining to her class that, in Spanish, unlike English, nouns are designated as either masculine or feminine. 'House' for instance, is feminine: 'la casa.' 'Pencil,' however, is masculine: 'el lapiz.'

So, a student asked, 'What gender is 'computer'?'

Instead of giving the answer, the teacher split the class into two groups, male and female, and asked them to decide for themselves whether 'computer' should be a masculine or a feminine noun.

Each group was asked to give four reasons for its recommendation. The men's group decided that 'computer' should definitely be of the feminine gender ('la Computadora'), because:

1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic;

2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else;

3. Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long term memory for possible later retrieval; and

4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your income on accessories for it.

The women's group, however, concluded that computers should be Masculine ('el computador'), because:

1. In order to do anything with them, you have to turn them on;

2. They have a lot of data but still can't think for themselves;

3 . They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they ARE the problem; and

4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that if you had waited a little longer, you could have found a better model.

The women won.

Friends don't let friends use Windows.

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for 4-8 people.

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In September:

"Welcome to Macintosh"

For our September 10th UKMUG meeting topic, we will have a screening of this new film:

WELCOME TO MACINTOSH is the first documentary of its kind to mix history, criticism and an unapologetic revelry of all things Apple into a movie experience. The film explores the early years of Apple, the many challenges Apple has faced, and what the future may hold for the company and its products. Ex-Apple employees, engineers and community members offer insight on the company's innovations, failures, cultural impact and what the future may be like beyond the reign of its co-founder Steve Jobs. Interviews include notable Apple personalities Andy Hertzfeld, co-creator of the original Macintosh, Guy Kawasaki, long time Mac evangelist, Leander Kahney, author of the book `Cult of Mac`, Jim Reekes, creator of the Macintosh start-up sound and Ron Wayne, original co-founder of the Apple Computer Company. MU

VISIT

http://ukmug.pbworks.com/

UKMUG's Collaborative Website

Post questions and requests for help

Post tips and tricks

Post your favorite links

Comment on all things Mac and UKMUG

Check on upcoming meetings

ASG
"All Systems Go"
Computing

• Repair
• Upgrades
• Custom Systems
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ROBERT SAX 305-453-3039
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Need to Email a Really Big File?

by Sue Beal

Here are two free sites to use: YouSendIt.com and FileFactory.com. Both allow you to upload to their FTP site and then point your email recipient to the file so they can download it. You SendIt allows for up to 100 MB and you file stays available for download for a week. I did not find FileFactory nearly as friendly to use, but some of our readers swear by it! MU

Download a Great Podcast Today

by Sue Beal

Here's a link to my friend Marty's radio shows from San Francisco State University.

I control-click the link and download them to my desktop and then listen in iTunes, but you can also listen over the internet with a regular click on the link.

His shows are great - lots of variety and lots and lots of information and background about what you're listening to! Each show has a different theme. Once or twice you might hear Key Largo and my name mentioned!!

http://3dradio.mypodcast.com/ MU

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

Applecare Protection Plan

Asking price is $850.00

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

Notes from Our Readers:

More Special Characters

Thanks for the special characters menu -- I just wasted about a half an hour one day trying to recall how to access the ñ! Another thing it took me forever to find is foot and inch marks, as opposed to quotes:

option shift e = ´ (foot mark)
option shift g = ˝ (inch mark),

Pat Evans

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I own about a dozen of these E-Books, and they are great! I just ordered the one about using the Mac Command Line . . . gotta get back to my old Unix roots!

—Bob White
Also recommended by Sandra Beese

Diveheart.com

Chicago area volunteers were joined with Florida volunteers to introduce participants from the Rehab Institute of Chicago June 27 thru July2. At the end of July the Shriner Group visited Key Largo, diving with Capt. Slate. Pictured are spinal injury participants; UKMUG member Eugene Hasiak is circled.

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We are pleased to announce our New Epson 9880 44" Printer with Vivid Magenta Technology. For all UKMUG Members we offer 20% off Printing Prices. We also offer photo restoration, as well as Stock Photograpy for your web site.

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219 Second St. • Key Largo FL 33037
(305) 451-4601 • ukmug@bellsouth.net