Macaholics UNANIMOUS

Welcome to Macintosh

by Sue Beal

It was movie night at our September meeting, complete with popcorn and Junior Mints! We watched the documentary "Welcome to Macintosh," which covered a surprising array of information about Apple and our beloved Macs. We got the inside scoop on how the company started, a glimpse into personalities and politics, an understanding of the dynamics of the company and some colorful anecdotes and side stories. My favorite was the guy who collected Apple equipment - 6,000 square feet of it and counting!! (My office seems clean and organized by comparison now!)

It was very entertaining and informative! Thank you Karen for the movie-style snacks and Video Dave, for your help! *MU*

applefritter
the obscure, the unusual, the exceptional

Mentioned in the movie: applefritter.com

iPhone Apps

submitted by John Hammerstrom

The Washington Post weighs in on their *35 Best iPhone Apps Of The Year (So Far)* - out of the 60,000 or so apps that have been released! Read about it here:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/08/16/AR2009081600099.html

About that iPhone Apps UKMUG Meeting

We are still trying to conquer the challenge of being able to *SHOW* what's on an iPhone - to a group. Anyone who has any ideas, please let us know. If we can do that, it will be a great meeting! *MU*

October 8th at 7pm, KL Library Community Room:

Getting Started in iWeb

For our October 8th UKMUG meeting topic, we welcome Emilie Stewart, who has been building websites with iWeb lately. She'll share what she's learned, starting at an introductory level for newbies and continuing on to some intresting things that "they say" can't be done!!

Emilie is always entertaining and she never fails to teach us about all kinds of new things!

Coming up in November will be Joe Kukella. Originally he was scheduled to talk on Keynote, but with the release of Snow Leopard, we thought that the new OS would be a better topic! Bring your Snow Leopard questions, and any other Apple-related questions - Joe is so knowledgeable!!

I heard this week that installing Snow Leopard will remove AppleTalk from your computer, so if you are still using AppleTalk, be forwarned!

—Sue

Come at 6:30 for the Beginners Circle:

New! Bring your laptop and your questions Sept. 10 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.

Introducing the iCar

Apple
iCar © 1999 Chris O'Riley www.Chris3D.com

It runs on air and sunshine! Thanks to Denise for this one!

The very first – and last – take your cat to work day.

www.yelp.com

submitted by Karen Beal

Boasts the first iPhone app with augmented reality. Users can put their iPhone camera in front of a restaurant, with Yelp's reviews then overlaying their real-world views. *MU*

A Hackintosh?

submitted by John Hammerstrom

For folks eager to try a Mac but never wanted to plunk down the high price tag to get it, the Hackintosh—that is, a regular PC tweaked to run OS X—has always been an attractive option. That said, it's not something you should take on lightly unless you're willing—even enthusiastic—to build and maintain a PC entirely from scratch. I can't guarantee it'll be easy, but if you follow this guide step-for-step (it's exhaustive) and stick with the same (or at least roughly the same) hardware as I am, I can vouch for a rock solid system that also happens to cost a good deal less than you'd pay for a comparable Mac.

For all the info: **http://lifehacker.com/ 5351485/how-to-build-a-hackintosh- with-snow-leopard-start-to-finish** *MU*

iPhone Executive

by John & Bernie Cooper

We thought the attached clipping from **www.frontgate.com** might be of interest to some of the UKMUGGERS - particularly those who have cancelled their landlines and only use their iPhone:

Desktop Executive iPhone Speaker System

Take hands-free conference calls from your iPhone or any Bluetooth-compatible device, and keep track of your schedule by syncing your iPhone calndar and contacts with your computer via the USB connection. When you need abreak, enjoy your favorite tunes with rich, clear audio while your iPhone charges on the dock, or switch on the built-in radio to catch the news. The music stops automatically when a call is received.

From Philips, retail $149. *MU*
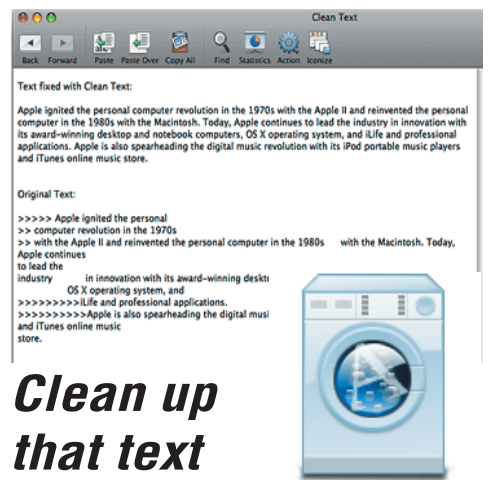
Clean up that text

Eliminates all text formatting

From UGN Info Manager
by Lynn Wegley

Apimac has released new versions of Clean Text, a tool dedicated to webmasters, graphic designers and magazine editors to reduce text cleanup time. Clean Text eliminates all text formatting and performs other useful functions, such as removing empty lines, removing unwanted spaces, removing tab characters, converting smart quotes, tabs, returns, and more.

It's a must when you have to paste some text copied from one document or application into another, and you want the text to get the attributes (such as color, font, dimension and style) of the new document instead of preserving the attributes copied from the old one. What's more, the brand new Quick Clean action let you solve with a single click the most common cleaning problems of text found in email messages, documents and web pages.

Clean Texte is available for $27.00 from the Apimac online store and is free of charge for all current customers. A free demo is available from the Apimac website.
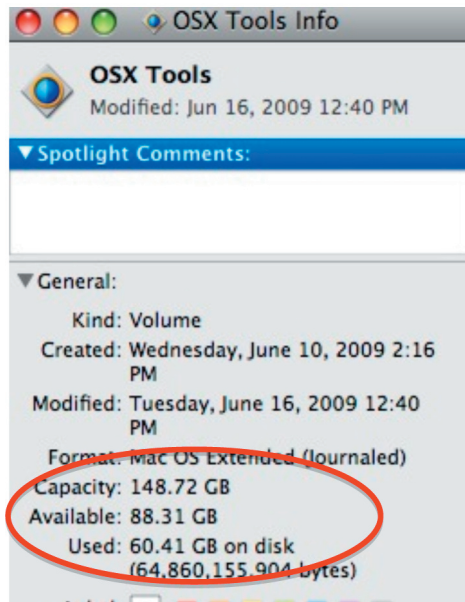
Download Link: **clean_text.dmg** *MU*

TIPS FROM TOM:

We often get asked: "my computer put up a message that I was running low on disk space, what does that mean?", or "I keep getting messages that I am low on disk space, but I just click okay and they go away".

Well-- those messages are very real, and are being sent by your operating system at very precise times (or, more correctly, very certain low space percentages). Your computer uses free disk space for many, many things, as do most if not all of the programs (applications) that you use each day. Sufficient free disk space is essential to the proper operation of your system and the programs on that system; the 'low disk space' messages are set to trigger at three particular points. When 1) your free space falls below the minimum recommended for your particular hard drive size; then 2) your free space has now become dangerously low and can/will affect the operation of your system; and lastly, 3) your free space has now become so low that your almost certain to have a corrupted directory (the 'card catalog' of your system) and most likely will corrupt files as well.

If you reach the third message it is almost certain that you will face a system crash in the near future; recovery from which is not certain and very difficult to repair.

OSX Tools Info

OSX Tools
Modified: Jun 16, 2009 12:40 PM

▼ Spotlight Comments:

▼ General:
  Kind: Volume
  Created: Wednesday, June 10, 2009 2:16 PM
  Modified: Tuesday, June 16, 2009 12:40 PM
  Format: Mac OS Extended (Journaled)
  Capacity: 148.72 GB
  Available: 88.31 GB
  Used: 60.41 GB on disk (64,860,155,904 bytes)

In general, the Rule of Thumb to follow is to always leave -at least- 10% of your total hard drive free. If you have a 120Gb hard drive, at least 12Gb should remain free-- minimum, and so on. You can check this easily at any time by simply selecting your hard drive on the desktop (a single click), then under File in the menu bar select Get Info-- a window similar to this will appear and will show your drive Capacity, Available (this is the important one) and Used. Remember, for the good health of your system, never let your hard drive available space fall below 10% of the drive capacity.

Digital Frame Tip
by Nancy Dillingham

Some interesting info to share: I have a 2GB standard San Disk SD card for a digital frame. I loaded photos and eventually got the message that the photo couldn't be moved because there was no more free space. Get info showed 1.69GB available with 149.7MB used. I tried everything I know to no avail so I emailed Tech Support at San Disk. This is their reply:

"The issue you are encountering is may have been due to FAT limitation. This means that there is a maximum amount of files that you can save on the root directory of your card. When transferring files to the memory card/USB flash drive, you may want to organize them into folders or format it in the FAT 32 file system."

So I moved a few photos off, created a folder, moved all the photos into the folder and then added more. And all is well and I learned something new! 𝓜𝐔

Another Rant

by Gary E. Kampel, SEMUG

I like to go into Yahoo and answer Mac questions. Yes, I should get a life. Here is one I did this morning ~ Gary

Q - Why are Macs so expensive? Apple Macintosh is a pretty big company, but why are their computers and laptops so expensive?

A - That's a good question.

I am not sure I agree with the basic premise, though. The size of the company doesn't have anything to do with the price of the product. For example, the biggest car companies don't price their vehicles higher than the smallest.

The last article I read that compared Macs to PCs was in PCMagazine ... yup PCMagazine. They compared comparable machines with equal (or near equal) hardware. It went up and down, but the bottom line was that Macs cost the same, or less, than their PC counterparts.

The difference is in the details.

Lets look at the operating system. (And I'm just going to compare Windows to Mac OS X ... sorry Linux users). Instead of multiple choices of performance and function with VISTA, all Macs get the same full-blown OS. High end or low, everybody gets the same chance to do the most for only $129 for Leopard as opposed to Windows Vista Ultimate for $319.95. You get it all for less than half the price.

That's not "so" expensive, is it?

Lets look at (out of the box) bundled software. And I'm not talking the 90 day trial versions, either. Apple starts you off with free photo storing, editing, and organizing software. Free movie and DVD authoring software. Free website creation software. Free music player/burner. Free music creation software. Its called iLife. And this was all written to just work with all Macs. Nothing to install. No drivers that need signing to work. And this doesn't even cover the calender, mail, address book and more that everybody gets standard.

Suppose you want to write a letter, create a spread sheet, or a presentation. For only $90 more you can buy iWork. Besides being easy to use, they open/save MSWord, Excel and PowerPoint documents. How many hundreds of dollars would a copy of Office cost you?

And don't get me started on Mac OS superiority on security. The last Mac virus was the 'AutoStart' last century!

Last, what is your time worth to you. I see thousands of PC questions in this Yahoo forum that aren't an issue with the Mac. How many hours have Windoze users spent researching their issue just to get back to doing something (anything) on their computers.

Mac Users have never experienced the "blue screen of death." Or had to deal with the frustration of P-n-P meaning PLUG AND PRAY. How much time do PCers spend just trying to get the box to DWIW (do what I want), instead of DWID (do what it does)?

Although I can go on, I want to observe that Mac haters hate Macs. I think the reason is that they've spent so much time working to learn how to get their PCs to work for them that they resent smug Mac-acholics (like me?) trying to get them to, at least, try moving over to the other side of the street.

After all their hard work to learn about MSConfig settings, or setting jumpers, or IRQ conflicts, or virus and hacking protection, or hardware and software compatibility issues ... oh the list goes on ... they don't want to believe that a computer can work as well as a Mac.

Try to get it. Macs just work.

If you add it all up - hardware, software, quality of life - I'm not just sold... I'm convinced. I prefer Apple and the Mac OS. Although I am thankful that they don't cost more than PCs, Apple's Macintosh would still be a bargain at twice the price.
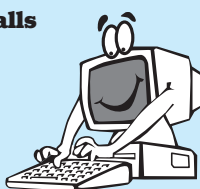
Hope this helps.

Gary MU