Macaholics UNANIMOUS

The Official Newsletter of the Upper Keys Macintosh Users Group

Apple User Group

July 2013 Volume 21 Issue 08

"Emails and Phishing and Spam! Oh my!"

by Sue Beal

In June we welcomed back Jack Buccellato and Chris Muller of All Keys ComputerGuys (yes, they added an 's'!). With this presentation, they intended to "scare us safe" - so we can enjoy our digital lifestyle but be smart about it.

Spam and Phishing

These are closely related. Spam is unwanted email. Phishing is when people try to get information from you that you shouldn't give out. They most often do this through spam emails, but they may also do it through click-through ads on the internet, or even by telephone.

The term spam comes from a 1970 Monty Python's Flying Circus skit. In this skit, all the restaurant's menu items devolve into SPAM. When the waitress repeats the word SPAM, a group of Vikings in the corner sing "SPAM, SPAM, SPAM, SPAM, SPAM, SPAM, SPAM, SPAM, lovely SPAM! Glorious SPAM!" drowning out other conversation. This got translated to unwanted internet messages of varying types, drowning out the wanted messages.

Privacy

Jack says there's no such thing as privacy any more! You're always under surveillance, with cameras everywhere. Your social security number, driver's license and even your grocery store discount card all provide information about you. It's not a conspiracy... most of the time it's to sell you something. Good old American commerce!

continued on page two

Chris talks over a question with Maria Martinetti.

About UKMUG

UKMUG meets at the Key Largo Library Community Room on the second Thursday of each month. Speakers begin at 7pm. and may go as late as 9pm.

Are you a beginner needing Mac help? Come at 6:30 and bring your Mac and your questions. There will be some experienced users there to help for the half-hour before the formal presentation starts.

Voluntary annual dues are collected in Jan-Feb-Mar: $25.

OUR NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, July 11, 2013

7pm at Key Largo Library Community Room MM 101.4 Oceanside

Eight Things You Should Know About Social Media Networking

Can 1 billion people be wrong? Facebook doesn't think so!

Social media networking online is here to stay. Learn the eight basic truths about social media networking to boost exposure for your business or organization.

by Jackie Harder

Jackie Harder is president of Key Dynamics Coaching and Consulting. Her mission is to help individuals, businesses and organizations succeed. A former newspaper editor and president of the Key Largo Chamber of Commerce, Jackie has worked with hundreds of businesses and organizations of all sizes. She has lived in the Keys for 35 years.
http://www.key-dynamics.com/

In the second part of the program, Jackie will get into the details of creating a Facebook page for business and setting up a Twitter account.

Bring your PC-using friends!

Beginners: Come at 6:30 for Beginner's Circle - bring your question and get help.

Emails and Phishing and Spam

continued from page one

Email Scams

Got a friend stuck in a foreign country and needing an emergency loan? Yeah, me too! Lots of them. We all know these are scams.

But there are new email scams very day, and sometimes they're good enough to fool you.

- Don't click on a link in an email, or download anything that you're not positive is from a trusted source for a good reason. If you feel you must check something after seeing a worrisome email, go independently to the site and log in, don't use the link.

  You can hover your cursor over a link in an email - don't click - and it will show you what the URL is behind that link.
- Don't input any information about yourself unless you're on a trusted site and it's something you really need to have correct about yourself.
- Watch for signs of fraud, even in emails from trusted sites. It might look like your bank or eBay, but when they say "Dear Customer" instead of using your name, they're phishing! People you trust know your name and they'll use it.
- Look at the logo and colors for distortion and inaccuracy.
- Look at the spelling and grammar. This is a huge giveaway. If scammers ever learn to write a sentence properly, we'll all be in trouble!
- Look at who the email was sent to. If it's addressed personally but you see a bunch of email addresses in the recipient, it's a dead giveaway.
- Look who sent it and where the reply-to is. Is that a valid address or does it look funny?

Stop, think, and question everything.

More email tips

When people forward emails and leave all the recipients in there, it is a big boon to scan bots that do nothing but patrol the email servers looking for valid addresses to sell to marketers and spammers. Don't do it. Copy and paste the part of the email you want to forward, leaving all those addresses and headers out, and put your list of recipients in the BCC field so they don't all get passed along.

Passwords

Passwords are the place to start, to protect your identity. I know, it's like going to the dentist - you dread attacking the problem. But if you don't address it, you could have serious problems from the neglect!!

Who are you fooling with those post it notes all over your computer? You may as well leave the keys to your house, car and safe deposit box under the front mat!

Repeat after Jack: "I will use strong passwords. I will use strong passwords..."

Kathy Miller shows off our door prize, which Jim Spencer won by answering a question. The twisted balloon sculpture of a fish on the reef was made by Kathy. She is available to make and deliver custom balloon creations for special occasions or can be hired on site to spice up an event, making balloons in costume, complete with schtick! Contact her at 305-304-8861.

Jack says the best defense is a good offense, and that means using passwords strong enough to be darned difficult to crack!

Never, ever, ever use your name, a child, spouse or pet's name, your phone number, address, social security number, anyone's birthday or wedding anniversary. They are all too easy to guess!

Jack's recommend approach is not that hard: Have 3 levels of passwords.

1. The first is a simple, disposable, easy to remember password for unimportant things like your recipe website or the Wall Street Journal online. What's the downside of someone getting this password? They can read the paper? Ok, then!

continued on page three

The crowd gathers (42 people!) and friends catch up.

Karen puts out a spread for us.

Jack takes questions before the break.

Emails and Phishing and Spam

continued from page two

2. Medium strength is for when some personal information is involved and it would be inconvenient, but not earth shattering, if someone got it, like for Facebook or eBay. 8-12 characters.
3. Level 3 is a super-duper strong one for protecting your financial and identity information. 12-16 characters.

The password secret

How do you come up with these and remember them?

Jack says to think of a phrase that means something to you. Maybe a quote or a song lyric. Something that is *yours*.

Write it down. Look at it. Start substituting. Use numbers for some letters, like a "3" looks like a backwards "E"; a "6" looks like a "G"... like that. Use some capitals and some lower case letters too.

Add some symbols into it. You can use * @ ! ~ + and more. (Can not use / & $ > ( ) ; and quotes, these have special meaning and confuse html.)

Settle on a suitably arcane password that you can remember, then write it 500 times.

Shred the paper you wrote on, burn it and throw salt on the ashes. DO NOT write it anywhere near your computer. Just say NO to post-it notes!

Jack says you should try to change your passwords twice a year. Don't go any longer than a year.

Passcode questions

Many sites ask you to answer a couple of simple questions. They keep these on file and if you ever need help with a password (or sometimes, just randomly) they ask these to verify it's you.

Jack says, "don't be honest!" Make up answers that you can remember, but don't use any information about yourself that someone could guess.

Store passwords in your browser?

NO, NO, NO! Think about it. Anyone who gains physical access to your computer has all the keys to your kingdom if the passwords are stored. Set passcodes on your iPhone and iPad, and a good password on your laptop and even your desktop. Don't make it easy.

Lessons we learned

1. Always know what your ordered and who you deal with, and don't be fooled by imitators.
2. Be skeptical of everything in your email, even when it looks like it's from a trusted source.
3. Legitimate retailers will always address you by name
4. NEVER click on a link in an email and then log on, even if you trust them, go through a browser for access.
5. Nothing is free. If it sounds too good to be true... it isn't legit.
6. Keep your passwords current, complex and in your head.
7. Limit the personal information you put out there.

Miscellaneous Points

Why do people want you to click through to websites, even when they are not asking for logon or other information? It's called "click bait." When you click a link, someone makes a few pennies. Don't feed the kitty.

Don't click on emails to unsubscribe unless you know they're from a trusted source. Doing so just tells them they've got a "live" email address.

Block email from sites you don't like by using the Mail>Preferences>Rules. Mark

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Jack helps out during Beginners Circle with Pat Lawler and Greg Dowell.

Mary Anne Roper & Neil Boyce.

Iris Vihlen and Pat Lawler.

John Hammerstrom and Diane Marshall.

continued from page three

everything you suspect as "Junk" in Mail to teach it how to filter your email better.

It helps to have one "throwaway" email address to use for dumb stuff, like when a new site insists on an email address even though there's no real need for it. Get a freebie from gmail and use it for that.

Protect your WiFi with a strong password. Many brands come out of the box with Admin as the password, or Password as the password. Make sure yours is secure!!

If you're on a PC your chances of getting hacked are higher, as there are many openings in the operating system that can be exploited. On a Mac, the OS is secure, but scammers still try to trick you into letting them in. Don't let them!

WiFi from a jailbroken device is more vulnerable to hacking, because jailbreaking removes all the protection Apple gave you.

Anything you put on the airways or in an email is subject to Federal scrutiny, ever since the Patriot Act II. Any communication can be read, logged, etc. Be aware!

People are selling apps that are supposed to protect your privacy. They can't. They just want your money. Only YOU can protect your privacy.

That wraps up the first half of Jack's presentation. Part two was about what's coming in iOS7. There's a lot of good stuff coming, but rather than write it up, I refer you to the Apple website, where there's lots of info about it!

Thank you, Jack and Chris for a great evening. I feel safer!! MU

PC Magazine's 8 Simple Tips for Mac Security

Read the full article at: http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2408623,00.asp

Macs are secure, but they aren't invincible. Here are eight ways you can increase the security of your OS X systems.

These are listed in order of paranoia—the first two are mandatory really, while the last few are tailored to the extremely security-conscious:

1. **Back Up Your Data With Time Machine:** Never rely solely on iCloud for backup. Apple makes backups incredibly easy with Time Machine
2. **New Software Updates Ready? Hit 'Install' Right Away:** Unpatched software still one of the most common vectors for computer attacks.
3. **Use Secure, Strong Passwords.** Use multiple "insanely secure" passwords.
4. **Know Your Source:** The few instances of Mac malware we've seen have all entered users' systems by fooling the user into downloading malicious email attachments or downloading a legitimate-looking piece of software.
5. **Disable Java and Flash Plug-ins:** This closes popular attack vectors on Macs. For instance, the Flashback malware that infected over half a million Macs earlier this year, exploited systems through Java.
6. **Install an Anti-virus:** If your mentality is that "you can never be too safe," there are lots of popular, free options out there that will protect your system from the various Trojans, viruses, and phishing scams that occasionally ensnare Mac users.
7. **Use a Stronger Firewall:** OS X has a built-in firewall (disabled by default) that blocks incoming connection attempts. Turn it on. For more protection try the popular OS X firewall, Little Snitch.
8. **Encrypt With FileVault 2:** If your Macbook is carrying State secrets or similarly confidential information, you can enable this built-in feature to encrypt your entire hard drive.

There you have it. As mentioned earlier, tips 1 and 2 are mandatory, really. This list is by no means exhaustive, so feel free to share your own Mac security tips on the website (see URL above). MU

Homeland Security weighs in on social engineering and phishing attacks

submitted by Diane Marshall

This is an excellent summary of the problem and what you can do about it, and it's your tax dollars at work! It covers;

- What is a social engineering attack?
- What is a phishing attack?
- How do you avoid being a victim?
- What do you do if you think you are a victim?

US-CERT
UNITED STATES COMPUTER EMERGENCY READINESS TEAM

Check it out: http://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/tips/ST04-014 MU

A creative & unique way to fund an album

submitted by Karen Beal

Emerging French artist ALB funded his "Golden Chains" album in a very creative, very digital way. See it and hear a cut:

http://www.adweek.com/news-gallery/advertising-branding/worlds-best-commercials-2012-13-150657#alb-golden-chains-12

I have been so vigilant about spam since Jack's talk that I dismissed the email I got from AT&T about my MAIL UPDATE. Turns out, it really was AT&T trying to tell me if I didn't access my bellsouth.net (ukmug) account online through Yahoo, it would be closed down.

Sure enough, a week later, it was doing that thing where it asked for the password incessantly, and it never connected. I went online, logged on, and now all is well.

By the way, when I did that -- I did not follow the link in the email. I went independently to log in. Jack would be proud!! —Sue

Extend the battery life of your MacBook, no matter how old it is

submitted by John Hammerstrom

The battery life of the brand new MacBook Air is an enviable 12 hours or more. If you can't afford to run out and buy a new one, don't worry: there are still things you can try to help preserve and extend the life of your older MacBook's battery.

Read about it here: http://gigaom.com/2013/06/22/extend-the-battery-life-of-your-macbook-no-matter-how-old-it-is/ MU

Technical Support Hotline

"We're not getting anywhere, Mr. Johnson. May I have a word with your computer in private?"

Violent Night

(to the tune of Silent Night)

Silent Mac, broken Mac!
System bombed, screen went black.
Books suggested things;
I tried e'em all:
Shift key, desktop file, clean reinstall.
Now my deadline is tight,
This Mac's been silent all night.

Violent night, horrible night!
Lost my cool, filled with spite.
Threw my Mac through the balcony door
Watched it fall from the 20th floor,
Now I'm sleeping in peace;
Thank God I had it on lease.

Thanks to Denise Malefyt for this one.

Time Machine bug affects Mountain Lion users

submitted by Pamela Marmar

A bug apparently exists in Apple's Time Machine backup routines in Mountain Lion that can prevent recent backups from being used for a full restore. To see if your backup is not proper do the following:

Double click on the Time Machine icon on the desktop, then click the arrow in the window next to backups, then the arrow next to Macintosh. Click the arrow in front of the dates then the arrow next to Macintosh HD

You should see these folders: Applications - Library - System. If the folders are there you are ok.

If you don't see them, go to http://pondini.org/TM/Home.html Section A4

Read more: http://reviews.cnet.com/8301-13727_7-57587543-263/time-machine-corruption-bug-may-prevent-backups/ MU

Google wants to provide internet access to remote parts of the world with solar-powered balloons

submitted by Karen Beal

Right now, 5 billion people — or two thirds of the world's population — lack access to an affordable and reliable Internet connection. Which means they lack access to critical information — medical information that can save lives; scientific information that can improve farming; technical information necessary to build a modern economy; and educational resources that can cultivate young minds.

With Project Loon, Google is launching an audacious experiment that will hopefully make a dent in this serious problem. The experiment involves putting a fleet of high-altitude balloons into the air.

Read more and see the video: http://www.openculture.com/2013/06/google_provides_internet_access_to_remote_parts_of_the_world_with_solar-powered_ballons.html MU

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TIPS FROM TOM

Summer Power Computing

by Tom Mulhall

With hurricane season upon us, and with the normal summer run of excessive power outages, brownouts and voltage surges, now is a great time to check the power protection on your computer.

You do have power protection; right? I don't mean one of those "surge" strips (which are mostly useless with the type of power issues we have in the Keys), I mean a real UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply), preferably with automatic voltage protection.

Generally, in the Keys, a good UPS will last anywhere from two and a half to upwards of three years; beyond that, time and charge cycles takes their toll on the battery, and power hits take their toll on the protection electronics in the unit, which then becomes ineffective. So, it is always good to first, test your unit each year to assure the battery is still functional, and second, to replace your unit every three years or so to assure that you have proper protection.

It is also very important to not "overload" your unit. Virtually all UPS units are rated in "VA", this is for the most part meaningless to most users, as all equipment is generally rates in "watts". To get watts from VA multiply VA times 0.6 to get the actual maximum watts rating for a unit (i.e.: 750 VA equals 450 watts). You should then use a unit that is rated, at least, 1.5 times your total watts for your computer and all other peripherals that will be run off the UPS.

For instance, if your total watts are 300, your need a UPS rated for 450 watts, or 750 VA.

Now... testing: Connect only your computer to the UPS (not any external devices at all; also disconnect all external device from your computer except the keyboard and mouse. Restart your system, and then make sure that all program are closed -- you should have nothing running except the Finder. Now pull the wall plug on the UPS and measure the time until the unit goes to a constant beep, indicating that the battery is going dead. When this happens, plug the unit back in immediately.

If all is well (and properly rated), you should get a minimum of 10 minutes of "run time" on battery power; anything less indicates a failing battery.

In conclusion: Low runtime on battery means you need to replace the UPS. Age of more than three plus years also means it's time to replace the UPS.

Tip from Sue: When you buy a new UPS, take a marker and write the date on it. Then you'll know its age at a glance. MU

Sleep -vs- Power Down: The debate continues

submitted by Pamela Marmar

Pam passed along this short article about the pros and cons of each position. Tom Mulhall agrees with the Apple approach, which is why I decided to publish this, along with the fact that is concise and well written. Not everyone agrees about this issue, so read and think for yourself! —Sue

OSX Tips: Sleeping your Mac vs. Powering Down

For a desktop Mac, Apple recommends sleep instead of power-down unless your Mac won't be used for "a few days." For example, see page 16 here: http://manuals.info.apple.com/en_US/imac_mid2011_ug.pdf

For a laptop, they recommend sleep instead of power-down unless it won't be used for "a couple of days or longer." For example, see page 17 here: http://manuals.info.apple.com/en_US/MacBook_13inch_Mid2010_UG.pdf

The explanations I've heard from electrical engineers are that the frequent "inrush" of current can cause premature wear on some components; and frequent heat-to-cold cycles can wear others.

When you put your Mac to sleep, most everything including the disk and of course the display, are powered-down, but a "trickle" of power remains to certain components. (See About Energy Saver sleep and idle modes in Mac OS X for details about what does and doesn't run during Computer Sleep.)

According to Apple's Environment Reports, a sleeping recent iMac or Mini draws about 1.5 watts of power. At the typical electricity rate of about 11 cents per kilowatt-hour, an iMac or Mini sleeping 8 hours per day will add about one cent per week to your power bill. Even a Mac Pro (just under 7 watts) would be under a nickel.

In addition, the process of powering-up (a "cold start") takes considerable energy. Depending on the particular hardware, and the sleep time involved, that can easily use more power than letting your Mac sleep. And the frequent "inrush" of current can shorten the life of some electronic components.

And, of course, if one Mac in a hundred has a premature component failure, the energy involved in producing, shipping, and installing a replacement may be many times the energy "saved" by powering off for short periods.

There's another caution to always powering-down at night.

OSX automatically runs some "maintenance" procedures early in the morning (between 3:15 am and 5:30 am, local time). If your Mac is powered-off at that time, they will not run.

If you're running Snow Leopard 10.6.x or later, however, and your Mac is asleep when one is scheduled, it will run shortly after your Mac wakes up. But if you're on Leopard 10.5.x or earlier, they run only if your Mac is awake and running. See OSX Maintenance Scripts for details.

This came from James Pond's website, which seems to some great, plain English, common sense Mac tips: http://pondini.org

And one more thing to think about - in the Keys, our power is highly erratic; we have lots of brown-outs and spikes. So checkout this accompanying article by Tom Mulhall about protecting your sensitive equipment in the Keys! MU

Rethinking Facebook

by David Fisher from
http://lewrockwell.com/orig12/fisher-david2.1.1.html

I saw this article and while it seems a little extreme on the side of paranoia... well, it's a point of view worth thinking about. There's more on the website, I just excerpted some it it here. —Sue

Facebook has recently begun a trial of its new "graph search engine." This should scare the living daily lights out of anyone, for the reasons I'll explain below.

Graph, as used in this context, doesn't mean a bunch of lines or bars explaining a set of numbers. Rather, it refers to a form of mathematics. Most people would more understand it as a network.

For those of you who are mathematically and statistically inclined, this is what a "decision tree" looks like. If I assign probabilities to each vertex for a possible outcome, I can then calculate the probability of eventually reaching the final right hand vertex.

Now back to Facebook's graph searching. Say I'm a government agent and I want to find all of the people who "like" Infowars.com, have participated in 2nd Amendment rallies, regularly comment about police brutality and live within my jurisdiction. Can do.

Now that Netflix (and a host of other services) allow you to let them post on your facebook page every movie or television show you watch, you can see the aggregation and identification capabilities.

This graph search "feature" was more than likely funded by the intelligence community for their and the military's benefit. They call it "population centric ISR," ISR being an acronym for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

Facebook (and oh, do you use your facebook id to login to other sites? Tsk. Tsk.) has just turned itself into the biggest intelligence tool in the world. MU

"WITH EMAIL, I MAY BE LESS PRODUCTIVE BUT I'M SO MUCH BUSIER!"

The seven best OS X tricks you're not using

by Sharon Zardetto, http://www.macworld.com/article/2033168/the-seven-best-os-x-tricks-youre-not-using.html?%23tk.out_mod?=obinsite

submitted by Graham Thomas

It's a tough job, but somebody's got to do it: find overlooked OS X tricks. Sometimes I hunt for them; sometimes I just run across them. Here's a collection that I bet includes items you've missed, too.

1. Force Quit the current app

Press Shift-Apple menu and the generic Force Quit command changes to one that force quits the current app.

Pressing Shift before or after opening the Apple menu changes the Force Quit command to Force Quit [Current Application]. By reflex, I've always pressed Command-Option-Escape, selected the frozen app in the dialog box if necessary, clicked the Force Quit button, clicked the confirming dialog box, and then closed the window. But now I'll use this menu trick to save myself those extra steps.

2. Take a break from notifications

The Notifications pane hides a temporary On/Off switch (top). Drag down the pane to see the switch (middle), and then turn notifications off for the rest of the day (bottom).

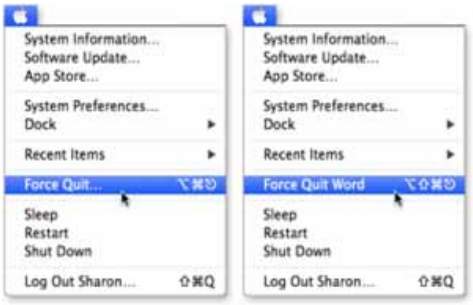
Want some temporary relief from those helpful, yet intrusive, notifications from Apple's Mail, Calendar, Reminders, and other apps? You don't have to turn each one off through System Preferences, because there's a hidden On/Off button.

As a reminder of its Off state, the Notifications icon turns gray in the menu bar. Notifications helpfully turns itself back on the next day so you won't forget to reactivate it.

Here's a shortcut: You can quickly turn Notifications on and off temporarily with a simple Option-click on the Notifications icon.

3. Empty the Trash from the Dock

You don't have to go all the way up to the Finder > Empty Trash menu if your cursor is down near the Dock. Control-click the Trash to get a short menu with an Empty Trash command. If sensitive data is an issue and you want to erase your files more securely (the standard Empty Trash command leaves information that can be recovered with special utility software),



press Command before or after opening the Trash menu for the Secure Empty Trash command.

4. Relaunch the Finder

Press Option before opening the Dock's Finder menu to see the Relaunch command.

5. Rearrange your status icons

I have quite a collection of utilities that, along with OS X, put "status icons" in the menu bar at the top of my screen. You probably do, too. At the far right, you have some immovable icons: Notifications and Spotlight, and Users if you have multiple accounts on your Mac.

The order is not immutable: Command-drag an icon and others scoot out of the way so you can drop it where you want. The general constraint is that OS X's icons remain to the right of any third-party items.

Make sure to drop the icon in the menu bar, or it disappears with a puff of smoke. You can reverse most accidental deletions by going to System Preferences and turning the item back on from the relevant pane (Date & Time, for instance, or Sound). You might need to relaunch non-OS X items to make them reappear.

6. Go directly to your system info

Need to look up your Mac's processor type or speed, or check your laptop battery's charge cycles? Pressing Option before or after opening the Apple menu changes the About This Mac item to System Information. (Usually it takes three steps to get to System Information: You must choose About This Mac, click More Info, and then click System Information.)

7. Log out quickly

Pressing Option when you use the Apple menu also changes the Log Out command. It loses the ellipsis that signifies an impending dialog box, which means you can skip the Are You Sure You Want To Quit… dialog box. You'll still get to save any changed documents before the logout proceeds. MU

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Kim keys4kim@comcast.net 305-394-3220

dummies.com
is a great place for useful and brief Mac Tips and Tricks! Check it out!

Did you see that picture of you, taken at the last meeting?

http://ukmug.pbworks.com/

Come at 6:30 for the Beginners Circle:

Bring your laptop and your questions 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.

Free Manual for New Mac Users!

This 69-page PDF guide (from Makeuseof.com) supplies you with numerous tips, tricks and free applications. Download it from **http://ukmug.pbworks.com/**

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Also taking Hazardous Household Waste.

Macaholics UNANIMOUS

is the official newsletter of the

Upper Keys Mac Users Group

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