



A registered Apple Macintosh User Group  
February 2006~ Still only \$2.00



## January's Meeting WEB SITE STATISTICS

The January ABCC meeting had us analyzing web site statistics. Every web site keeps track of visitors and a bunch of other pieces of data. But what does it mean if your web site got "hit"? Who did the hitting? Did anybody get hurt? The police file a report?

ABCC President (and notorious ABCC Webmaster), Bernie Fox, showed us the latest stats on our own web site and provided definitions so we could figure out what was going on. For example, a "hit" is a single request from a web browser to be sent a single item. It could be a page of text, or a graphic. Since a "hit" is non-specific, it's often not a very helpful statistic. On the other hand, "pageview" means a whole page of data served up. It may have sounds and graphics on it, but those extra bits don't inflate the "pageview count." About two-thirds of the ABCC web site page views are involved in looking at back issues of the newsletter.

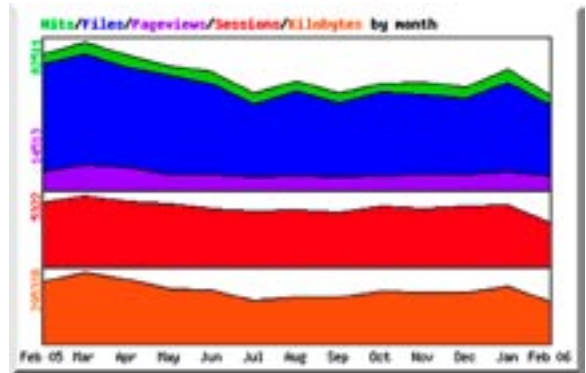


Image from [http-analyze.org](http://http-analyze.org)

ABCC Treasurer, Jim McClellan noted that the following web site has a good explanation of these technical terms:

<http://www.http-analyze.org//results.html>

## February's Program GETTING THE MOST FROM ADOBE ACROBAT 7.0

Maybe you have used Adobe's Acrobat Reader to view pages saved in the "Portable Document Format", aka "PDF." But there is much more to Acrobat than just the reader.

Come to the February ABCC meeting on Thursday the 16th at 5:30pm at Joseph Lane Middle school and find out how to make Acrobat do its tricks! See you there!



Image from [adobe.com](http://adobe.com)

## Next Meeting Thursday, February 16, 5:30 ~ 7:30 PM

The Apple Blossom Computer Club will meet at Joseph Lane Middle School, room #8 for it's monthly meeting.

### Agenda

1. Meeting starts at 5:30 P.M.
2. Introduction of members/ guests
3. Questions and Answers
4. Program: Adobe Acrobat 7.0.

### Treasurer's Report

Beginning Cash.....\$1,915.75  
Income:  
Dues .....120.00  
Interest .....0.69  
Expenses:  
Newsletter .....28.52  
Ending Balance .....\$2,007.93

Jim McClellan,  
Treasurer

The **Apple Blossom Computer Club** (ABCC) is an Apple Computer Inc., registered Macintosh and Apple ][ family user group. The ABCC publishes *The RoseByter* newsletter monthly which is posted to each paid up member and reciprocating user groups. ABCC participates in user group newsletter content exchange. The ABCC also maintains a WWW site at:

<http://www.abccmug.org>  
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## Membership

Just \$20/year! Mail a check along with your name, address and phone number to:

ABCC  
13748 Lookingglass Road  
Winston, OR 97496

## Current ABCC Leadership

### President & Web Master

Bernie Fox  
[brownfox@ramcell.net](mailto:brownfox@ramcell.net)

### Treasurer

Jim McClellan  
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### AOL User Group Rep

Phil Bowser  
[philip574@aol.com](mailto:philip574@aol.com)

Send your stories and newsletter ideas to the Editor, Philip Bowser, at [pbowser@mac.com](mailto:pbowser@mac.com). Plain text files are preferred, sent within the body of an email message or as an attachment. Photos, illustrations, and documents in excess of 2 megabytes should be mailed on a CD to:

427 NE Winchester Street  
Roseburg, OR 97470

Please understand that not all materials submitted will be accepted for publication and those that are will likely be edited.

## From [bobrankin.com](http://bobrankin.com) HOW TO CONVERT AAC MUSIC TO MP3 FORMAT

Some members have complained that they don't know how to use iTunes to make music files for their MP3 players. Bob Rankin's web site has this advice, and some cautions: One way is to burn the AAC track(s) to a CD. Then open the CD in iTunes and select the "Convert Selection to MP3" option.

JHymn will not work with iTunes Version 6 or higher. You may want to hang on to any Version 5s you may have on hand.

Bob's column has some strong cautions for users of JHymn: "Note that JHymn is not meant to aid music piracy, but it does contradict the iTunes user agreement, and may not be legal in your country. You should be aware of the legalities of DRM circumvention in your country and make your own decision whether using JHymn software is right for you. Then use JHymn only for making archival copies of your own music, for copying

*"The primary objective of copyright is not to reward the labor of authors, but [t]o promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts." "To this end, copyright assures authors the right to their original expression, but encourages others to build freely upon the ideas and information conveyed by a work. This result is neither unfair nor unfortunate. It is the means by which copyright advances the progress of science and art."*

*-- US Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor*

However, this method is slow and not really suited for people with a lot of tunes to convert. So, it's time for JHymn <<http://www.hymn-project.org/>>! JHymn helps users assert their fair-use rights to music they have purchased.

Using a "drag 'n drop" graphical interface for both Mac OSX and Windows JHymn is easy to use. (Please be advised that

tracks to an MP3 player, or for playing your music on a non-iTunes platform."



*Images from [www.hymn-project.org](http://www.hymn-project.org)*

hear your music anywhere

# NON-PROFIT CONQUERS DISTANCES WITH iCHAT-AV

By  
**Philip B. Bowser, NCSP  
OSPA Webmaster**

The Oregon School Psychologists Association is a typical non-profit that elects its Board members from all parts of the State. Some will travel up to 12 hours to spend four hours in a Saturday meeting. That much travel is never great fun, but in the winter months it can be downright dangerous, too! So on January 21, 2006, for the first time ever, the OSPA Board of Directors decided to use iChat-AV to bring distant members together electronically.

What is iChat-AV?

According to the wikipedia (en.wikipedia.org), "iChat-AV is a AOL Instant Messenger (AIM) and Jabber client for Mac OS X. Using a Jabber-like protocol and Bonjour for user discovery, it also allows for LAN communication. iChat-AV's AIM support is fully endorsed by AOL, and uses their official implementation of the AIM OSCAR protocol." In simpler terms, iChat-AV opens a window on your computer screen, and another window on the screen of a buddy who also uses the software. The two of you can then type text messages back and forth, or exchange audio (just like a speakerphone), or send the video and audio together. The



*iChat-AV screenshot shows the Portland meeting in the large image, Roseburg participants in the smaller. Note how better lighting improves the quality.*

one you choose is based on the speed of your Internet connection and the processing power of your computers. There is also a version that runs on Windows XP.

Most of the Board members assembled at the home of President-Elect, Jim Hanson, who has a high-speed Internet connection. Membership Chair, Justin Potts, connected his laptop to the Internet and plugged in an iSight video camera designed specifically for iChatting. Then he launched iChat-AV and tossed out an invitation for two more Board members to join him.

About 185 miles away, Oregon's NASP Delegate, Karen O'Brien, and the OSPA Webmaster, Philip Bowser, waited for the call. They had a home digital video camera connected to a Macintosh G4

laptop computer. When Justin's invitation appeared, they clicked on the "accept" button. A full-screen window opened, showing Jim's living room. Board members were moving their chairs into a circle and shuffling their papers in preparation for the meeting. A smaller picture within the picture showed Karen and Phil sitting at their table, ready to take notes.

Jim called the meeting to order and for the next five hours, people could see and hear each other almost as if they were in the same room. Missing were the handshakes, the hugs, and the hours of exposure to minimal driving conditions. This technology definitely has some potential!

If your group decides to try a "virtual meeting," you may want learn from OSPA's

*Continued on page 5...*

## MAC MUGS IN ACTION!

After the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, A.P.A.M. Borys, president of MacWoburn, contacted groups in storm-affected areas and put out a nationwide call to match computers with those in need. To date, some 70 computer donors have been matched with local user group members who have pledged to distribute these computers, without charge, to those in need.

In the course of setting up the program, MacWoburn became the sister group to The Southern Mississippi Macintosh User Group; both were interviewed by news sources and Terry Pollard made a short movie. Is your group benefiting your wider community?



*Image from macwoburn.org*

See Terry Pollard's video - [http://www.backstageshakespeare.com/movies/Katrina\\_MS\\_SMMUG.mp4](http://www.backstageshakespeare.com/movies/Katrina_MS_SMMUG.mp4).  
Read more about their efforts - <http://www.macwoburn.org/?p=rescuemacs> and <http://www.sm-mug.org/>.

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## CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS?



*from <http://flickr.com/photos/visualseed/86410009/in/pool-41224503@N00>*

You might think that your home computer desk is loaded with cool equipment. But can your gear compare with this one found on the Flickr photo web site? A fellow who calls himself "Visualseed" notes that the big displays are 30". The "tiny" one in the middle is a 23" connected to a Mac Mini. (Can you spot the iPod next to it?) Also find the Wacom tablet, 12" powerbook, 17" powerbook, Toshiba tablet PC, and Dell P4 (Why Dell? "Because it's cheaper!") Anyone for cord management?

...iChat from page 3

experience. First, get the fastest computers and the fastest Internet connections that you can. iChat-AV can handle up to nine separate audio or four separate video locations, but the computer that initiates the session needs some serious horsepower to handle all of the computations a maximum connection entails. Participant computers don't need nearly so much muscle. The two laptops used in the above meeting were rated for a single two-way video connection, although several simultaneous text chats came through just fine. (Text chatting was occasionally necessary to clear up questions such as "What did she say?!?!") Which brings up the next bit of advice.

Get some good microphones and put them as close to the speakers as possible! The teeny microphone embedded in a laptop's case will pick up a board member speaking meekly at the

far side of the room, but the people listening on the other side probably won't be able to understand very many of the words. Along those lines, your participants will be grateful if they do not have to listen to laptop speakers for hours at a time; connect a decent set of amplified external speakers. It's amazing how fatiguing it can be straining to pick up and understand a faint voice in a room full of echoes, coughs, sneezes, and rustling papers!

Be sure to add some lighting to the scene. Typical room illumination comes from above or the side, which casts dark shadows on faces. You'll need to position some fill-in lights down at eye level to remove those shadows and clearly separate the people from their backgrounds.

Finally, make sure to test out all of the equipment a couple of days before the meeting! You

may need to replace faulty cables, tweak some settings, or call a participant on the phone (how twentieth century!) to double check the spelling of their AIM user name. Use this time to discuss what your "Plan B" will be should the network go down unexpectedly.

iChatting may be the solution to overcoming long distances. It may even convince some reluctant Board candidates to run for election! iChat-AV was easy to set up and a snap to use the first time the Oregon affiliate gave it a try. The program itself is a free application that is a part of Mac OS-X and is a free download for Windows machines. Many current computers come standard with sufficient memory and processor speed, and high-speed Internet charges are coming down quickly. If your state struggles to get Board members to attend far away meetings, look into an affordable electronic solution – iChat-AV!

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## FLICKR BASED ONLINE GAME

Flickr <[www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)> is an online photo service. You can save your photos to Flickr, attach keywords to them to make them easy to sort, and invite friends and relatives to go online to view your images. Scott Reynen developed a fun game based on Flickr images that he calls "Fastr" <[randomchaos.com/games/fastr/](http://randomchaos.com/games/fastr/)>. Fastr finds a number of photos that share the same keyword. One by one, it shows you those photos. You try to guess the keyword. The fewer the photos you see before you know the keyword, the more points you get. (See how your illustrious editor did on this sample - obviously there were several other photos on the screen!)

Lots of people can play this game at once. A continuous running total of the point standings displays in the left column. It's probably not OK for kids because some people use rude player names.



Image from [randomchaos.com/games/fastr/](http://randomchaos.com/games/fastr/)

# APPLE CAUGHT SNOOPING!

According to a recent story reported by techtree.com and others, Apple's iTunes version 6.0.2 "phones home to the mothership" without the user's knowledge. Privacy advocates, already in a high state of vibration after the news that some Sony disks install "rootkits" without the users knowledge or permission, pounced on Apple quickly with their complaints.

To be completely fair, many users claim that Apple should have announced way in advance that iTunes 6.0.2 would obtain person data from the user's computer - in this case, reporting to the iTunes MiniStore which songs the user played so that the store could make recommendations of similar songs to purchase - and also have asked for and obtained the users' specific consent even before downloading iTunes. It's not enough for Apple to provide an after-the-fact method for opting-out; people tend to get tweaky when companies hide the fact that they are collecting information about users, their recreational habits, and their purchases.



The dreaded "MiniStore"!

Apple responded by making the MiniStore "off" by default. Should a user activate it, s/he will see a warning that says when iTunes library items get selected, information about them will be sent to Apple so the MiniStore can recommend related tunes and movies. The warning also reports that Apple does not store information related to users' libraries and that this happens only when the MiniStore is enabled. Users then have the choice to continue on or to abort the action.

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## AN INTRODUCTION TO MAC OS X SECURITY

by **Steve Stanger**

At the core of Mac OS X is Unix. Apple's version of Unix is called Darwin. One of the many ways Apple ensures that Mac OS X is one of the most secure operating systems available is by making the source code of Darwin available to developers. This is known as Open Source. This allows developers to examine the system security measures and can point out any weaknesses they may find. Improvements can then be made and security holes closed. This lays the groundwork for providing stronger security standards.

The Keychain application makes it easy to manage your passwords. Keychain can store all of your password information you use to log into file servers, FTP servers and Web servers. When you log into Mac OS X, the system opens your Keychain. OS X can be set to lock your Keychain when the system sleeps or is inactive for a time. The system will ask you for your password the next time you try to access secure data. Other users on the system cannot access your Keychain or its data. The Keychain application can be found in your Utilities

folder.

The Password Assistant is a user-friendly application that assists users in choosing secure passwords. Password Assistant can be accessed by clicking the "key" button that is present on all password choice dialogs in Tiger.

"Secure Empty Trash" is a form of permanent deletion, which allows you to "shred" your data when emptying trash. This command can be found in the 'Finder' menu. Secure Empty Trash deletes the file listing from

*Continued on page 7...*

...“Security” from page 6

the disk directory which is what a normal ‘empty trash’ does but then overwrites the data with random text to keep it from being recovered.

FileVault uses the latest government security standard (AES-128 encryption) to safeguard your files. FileVault protects all the data in your home folder. FileVault can be configured in the Security preference pane in System Preferences.

Auto Update can download

software updates automatically, so that you stay current with the latest security patches and software releases directly from Apple. Apple digitally signs the updates, so you can be sure they come from a trusted source.

Two Quick Security Tips: If you are not using file sharing - turn it off. File sharing can be found in the Sharing preferences pane.

In a work or multi-user environment a password should be required to wake the computer

from sleep or from the screen-saver. Automatic login should be disabled for all users of the system, ensuring that each user must enter their username and password before being granted access.

If you have any questions or comments about this Article please feel free to email me at [sstanger@maccompanion.com](mailto:sstanger@maccompanion.com). For more information about this topic and other Mac tips I invite you to listen to my weekly podcast - “The Mac Attack”.

<http://themacsattack.us>  
<http://www.stevecom.com>  
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## REVIEW: CASHBOX 0.49 by Frank Petrie

**P**roduct: Cashbox v0.49  
Company: MaxUp-grades <[wbyoung.ambitiouslemon.com/cashbox/](http://wbyoung.ambitiouslemon.com/cashbox/)>. Requirements: Mac OS X 10.3 or higher. Price: Donationware. Test Rig: G4 DP 1.42 / 1.5MB RAM / X.4.4

“Cashbox was designed from day one to be a quick and simple to use application for managing personal finances. As it has evolved, it has become more feature packed while keeping with the original goal of ‘simplicity’”. So, in other words, all I have to do is fill in the Pay-To-Order, and the amount of the deposit (not likely) or the withdrawal (all too likely) and I’m done?

‘Drag-n-drop to install.’ The interface is as plain as it is intuitive. You can set up as many accounts as you like and in the

drawer keep any information about such as the accounts number. Checking accounts and saving accounts go hand in hand. Some month’s you have to rob Peter to pay Paul, right? Cashbox keeps track of transfers between two accounts for you. And if you’re looking for specific transactions, you can easily search for them. Would you like a hard copy? That can be done with this little wonder.

If you’re coming from one of those free copies of Quicken that came installed on your Mac, but you find that it’s overkill for your needs, no problem. Cashbox imports files in the Quicken Interchange Format so you can easily import information from online bank accounts or other sources. And should you require a graphical report, it can be generated in many different ways so you can track where your money comes from and where it goes. And, of course, the real pain is when you have to reconcile. Cashbox’s built

in reconciling system will save you time and headaches.

Cashbox is another one of those perfect one-trick ponies. If you don’t need all the portfolio managing (I receive monthly hard copies from my various funds) and have no interest in planning your retirement or whatever, but just balancing your checkbook, look no further. This is all that you need. No fuss, no muss. And, of course, as it is donationware, if you use it for awhile and decide to make it part of your software arsenal, please donate some money to keep the coding community alive.

--©2006 Frank Petrie  
Email: [phranky@mac.com](mailto:phranky@mac.com)  
iChat: phranky

Archive: [home.comcast.net/~phranky](http://home.comcast.net/~phranky)



Image from [wbyoung.ambitiouslemon.com](http://wbyoung.ambitiouslemon.com)

## The Macintosh User Group Store

You are eligible to get good deals on new and refurbished Macs because you belong to the Apple Blossom Computer Club! Here's how to save yourself some money and help your club a little bit at the same time:

- 1) Go to <http://www.applemugstore.com>
- 2) Log in using the following ID and password (which changes occasionally)

**Good through ??-no expiration date in last email!**

**User ID: ipod**

**Password: nano**

3) Be sure to mention ABCC's group number, 45. This ensures we get points for all the purchases that our members make.

**RECENTLY  
IMPROVED!**

### 30% DISCOUNT!

As a user group member, you are entitled to a 30% discount any time you order directly from O'Reilly. When ordering, be sure to include the user group discount code: **DSUG**

- Order online at [www.oreilly.com](http://www.oreilly.com). Enter the DSUG code where indicated.
- Order by phone at **800-998-9938**. Ask for customer service and provide the representative with the DSUG code.
- Order by FAX at **707-829-0104**
- Order by email at [order@oreilly.com](mailto:order@oreilly.com)

Be sure to check out [ug.oreilly.com](http://ug.oreilly.com) for lots of information and features, such as blogging!



## Write For Your Newsletter!

Most of this newsletter comes from articles written by members of other computer clubs. (The clubs all agree to share newsletter content.) That's fine, as far as it goes, but your Editor believes this letter would be even more interesting and valuable if we would publish stories written by ABCC club members. Of course, that means YOU, gentle reader, will need to take pen in hand occasionally and send in a story! Send them to Philip Bowser (see masthead for address) and receive the grateful thanks of multitudes!

### Seasoned Oak Firewood

You haul. You split. \$85 a chord  
Call Bernie 672-2487

## Free Advertising for ABCC Members!

Members of the Apple Blossom Computer Club can advertise their goods and services in this newsletter for free. Contact the Editor to arrange YOUR advertisement! Keep in mind this is a small newsletter, so there will be space limitations.

### Let Me Write Your Web Page

Long-term ABCC member seeks small-ish web page authoring jobs, reasonable rates.

Phil Bowser  
541-673-8219