



The

# ROSE BYTER

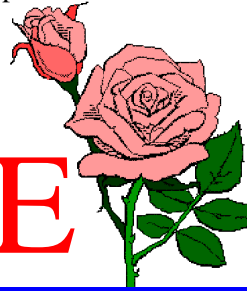
Apple Blossom Computer Club

A registered Apple/Macintosh User Group

Nov '06

still only

\$2.00



## Next Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 16

5:30 ~ 7:30 PM

The Apple Blossom Computer Club will meet at

**Room #8**

**Joseph Lane**

**Middle School**

**2156 NE Vine Street**

**Roseburg**

## Agenda

1. Meeting starts at 5:30 P.M.
2. Introduction of members & guests.
3. Questions and Answers.
4. Program: Terry will demonstrate the program Shadow and Bernie will show/talk about the program NeoOffice.
5. We'll talk about future programs and the applications you would like to have demonstrated at future meetings.
5. Show off any new gear you have obtained, tricks you have discovered, or products you have created!

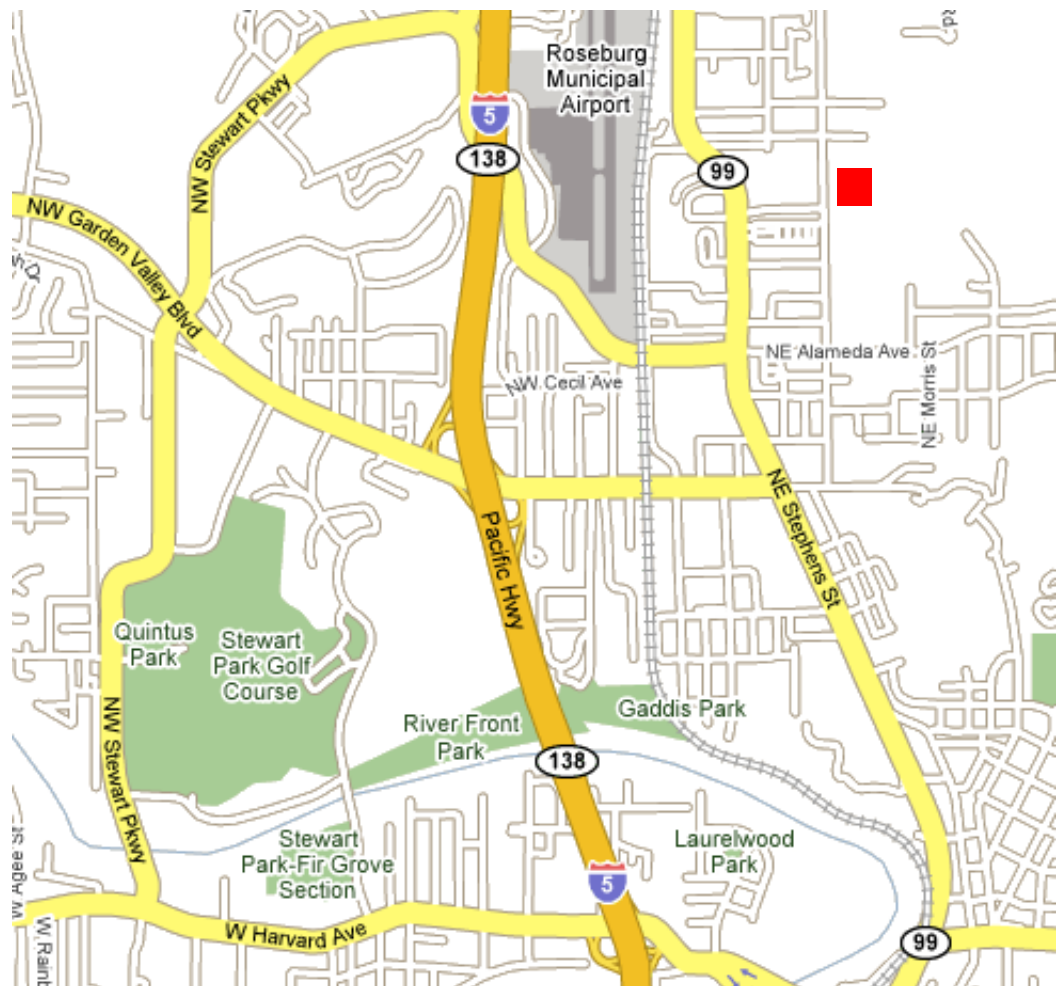
Terry Cooper <tscooper@charter.net>

## New Take Control Ebooks Help Readers Purchase Macs and Digital Cameras

"Take Control of Buying a Digital Camera," now in its third edition, helps readers sort out the latest camera trends and marketing jargon in order to find a camera that matches their budget, needs, and style, whether they want an inexpensive snapshot camera or a professional digital SLR camera system. Written by professional photographer and instructor

Larry Chen, the book includes a printable, customizable shopping checklist, specific model suggestions for different types of cameras, 25 color photos illustrating important concepts, and tips for taking better photos.

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# Update Mania 2

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>

## Membership

Just \$20/year! Mail a check along with your name, address and phone number to:  
ABCC  
PO Box 638  
Winston, OR 97496

## Current ABCC Leadership

### President & Web Master

Bernie Fox <brownfox@ramcell.net>

### Treasurer

Jim McClellan <mcclellan@charter.net>

### Apple Ambassador

Terry Cooper <tscooper@charter.net>

### AppleScript Guru

Jack Webster <jackw@rio.com>

### AOL User Group Rep

Phil Bowser <philip574@aol.com>

Send your stories and newsletter ideas to the Editor, Walt Pawley, at <walt@wump.org>. Plain text files are preferred, sent within the body of an email message or as an attachment. Physical media should be mailed to:

**676 River Bend Road  
Roseburg, OR 97470**

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

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## ABCC October 31st Financial Statement

Beginning Balance	\$1,950.32
Income	
Dues	\$70.00
Interest	0.79
Expenses	
Newsletter	\$31.44
Ending Balance	\$1,989.67

Walt Pawley <walt@wump.org>

At the last ABCC meeting, I brought up the subject of updating. It's a sore subject for me. I like to actually use my computers to do things that I care about.

Constantly having to update software to keep things working is not one of those things.

Once upon a time, back in the "good old days", an operating system was software written with the objective of NOT breaking pre-existing applications. Not to say that this goal was well met all that often. When it wasn't, it was mostly the fault of incompetence on the part of computer vendors. People today, both users and suppliers, seem to be update happy. Every announcement of an OS upgrade by Apple is a social event, where "points" are earned by getting updated before anyone else. Vendors rush to have their applications ready for the changes.

Users seem to care. A peculiar behavior considering that so little of real value is part of these updates and their cost is high.

Were it just the lack of really important functions presaged by updates, it would not matter all that much. But Apple has frequently changed all kinds of things seemingly whimsically. Even this might not be all that bad if they'd leave things alone, but whimsy piled on whimsy has yielded a very confusing melange of "features" which are bit like standing on a hard floor, well strewn with marbles.

Here's an example of how wonderful the ever shifting foundation under your Mac can be. I was recently accosted by an alert from Skype\* that said I should download the new version. I have a tendency to ignore such messages routinely

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## New Take Control Ebooks continued from page 1

<<http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/buying-digicam.html?14@@!pt=TRK-0015-TCMUG&cp=CPN31208MUG>>

Adam C. Engst's "Take Control of Buying a Mac" helps readers decide which Mac is right for their needs and provides carefully researched advice about exactly when to buy, based on historical trends. The book, now in its section edition, has been thoroughly updated

to cover Apple's new Intel-based Macs and current product line. Also new is a detailed section that explains how to transfer user data - documents, applications, and settings - from an old Mac to a new Mac.

<<http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/buying-mac.html?14@@!pt=TRK-0010-TCMUG&cp=CPN31208MUG>>

# Nominations as of October 30th for upcoming Elections

Brian Sundquist <cottagehill@cmspan.net>

President:	Ambassador:	Director:
Bernie Fox	Terry Cooper	Phil Bowser
Walt Pawley	Phil Bowser	Pat Champion
Brian Sundquist	Walt Pawley	Bernie Fox
Treasurer:		Brian Sundquist
Jim McClellan		Trina McConnell
Walt Pawley		Walt Pawley

# AppZapper Critique



by Jim McClellan <mcclellan@charter.net>

Last month, I read the meeting notice on page one and was interested in AppZapper. When I realized I would be unable to attend the meeting I thought I'd try to use it anyway.

Well, no one ever said I was a good reader! I thought I read where AppZapper would let you delete specific versions of an application. Since I had several versions of Transmit (the application I use to maintain [winstonoregon.net](http://winstonoregon.net)), I thought I'd use AppZapper to get rid of only the older versions on my laptop.

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## Update Mania

but my sense having left me, I did as the alert suggested. I dutifully, and mindlessly, installed the new version per the instructions - dropping the new application where the old one was, thus wiping out the version that I knew worked.

Of course, the new one doesn't work. Here's where the fun really begins. I go back to the Skype website looking for clues about why this is happening. After quite a bit of frustration, I discover a bit of print too large to be called "small", but not exactly demanding much attention amidst all the hype, either. It said I had to be running at least Mac OS 10.3.9. Apparently, it really means what it says.

It should have a **flashing banner** or the like to get your attention. Clicking download should annoy you with the need to be up to snuff before starting the transfer.

I think, "No matter, I'll just download the old version and re-install it."

Yeah. I'd do that. But Skype doesn't seem inclined to provide old versions. Indeed, they don't even make contacting them very easy. Once I did get through to Skype's tech support, the e-mail instructions on what to do to help resolve the issue surprised me a great deal. They asked that I edit one of Skype's `.plist` files (plist = Property LIST). This is beyond what is nominally expected of a Mac user. But I did it, intending to send

them the results the change was supposed to enable. However, Skype was crashing long before the `.plist` had any effect. Not being able to supply them with the file they wanted since it never got generated, I e-mailed them back the Skype crash log and some of the system log with related entries along with some explanatory text. I got a nice e-mail back asking me to send them the file they wanted. I wrote them back, this time with HTML mail with **large red type** asking that they read what I wrote. I can't say this did any good. I've never heard from them again.

Each time I sent them e-mail, I asked for a location from which to download the earlier versions. This question, or any other, for that matter, was never addressed, even with a platitude. It troubles me that software will tell you to update to new versions of itself that it should know will not work. It troubles me that knowing about the version issue, the installation instructions make no mention of it, must less tell you how to avoid losing functionality if the new version fails (ie., don't install the new one in such a way that the old one is wiped out). Anyway, I gave up on Skype ... at least, for a while. I was idling looking at my collection of crud in `/Applications` and happened to wince at the sight of Skype. Not having heard anything from their tech support in some time, I thought I should drop into the web site and see if anything had changed. Indeed, it had. It

Yes, it sounded like a great idea! I need to digress a bit here to say that I store the various codes needed to access [winstonoregon.net](http://winstonoregon.net) for updating in the Transmit application.

When I ran AppZapper and selected Transmit, in the blink of my tired old right eye, Transmit was gone from my hard drive! Every cotton picking version!

Fortunately, I had a current copy of Transmit on my regular computer! It had the codes I needed! This proved that backing up, in my case from my laptop to my regular computer, is essential. Particularly when you are doing something for the first time!

Yes, AppZapper works! It deletes applications (all versions)! I may have missed something that AppZapper has to do only one version, but I missed it!

was still not supposed to be compatible with my computer. Well, who knows? So I downloaded and installed and ... it failed. I didn't bother to e-mail Skype tech support. Anyway, "new" was definitely not going to work.

Coming to that conclusion, coupled with Skype's seemingly complete indifference to almost any issue, I got the "bright idea" of typing "Skype old versions" into Google. Hey, it's a long shot, but worth pulling the trigger. That got me to a place I didn't know about but one I'll try not to forget -

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

I'm not much for piling on laws, but I'd seriously consider making the keeping of old versions available a requirement for commercial software vendors. Sadly, oldapps has mostly free or open source software on the site.

But, I was able to get

`Skype_1.4.0.35.dmg`

(after five newer versions didn't work) that fired up, let me log back into the Skype network and even recognize all my old settings which I'd not bothered to toss in the trash yet. It even told me I should download and install the new version. I don't think so.

\* Skype is a program to allow you talk not only from computer to computer but with regular telephones. You can even buy a handset for your computer.



# AppleCare Story

I bought an Intel iMac in March.

It's been giving me some lessons in patience with "fast" user switching and waking up from sleep but I attribute most of that to the paltry half megabyte of RAM [Ed: perhaps Dave meant **giga**-byte].

Apple kept showing up on my caller ID as missed calls last summer and finally they caught me at home it seems I'd paid buku (\$170?) for an applecare extended warranty but I hadn't activated it. They called me to encourage me to activate the account, and I thought ... why not ... since I paid for it! I'm usually pretty wary of such contracts, but with the Intel thing, I felt it prudent to protect the investment.

A day or so ago, my mighty mouse began to refuse to scroll down. It would scroll up just fine. It has a button on the top that can be used to scroll both vertical and horizontal, but it wouldn't work

I had some time on my hands tonight, so I called. Took about 10 minutes to get through to "Pete" from India. Once I'd described the problem, Pete gave me an article number, sent me to Apple's support website and waited while I loaded a movie instructing me to clean the mouse, by using a damp, lint free cloth to move the scroll button about, while holding the mouse upside down. It made sense well enough. So much for the "optical" mouse concept. These puppies can be hobbled just like an old mouse with a ball inside. The trick seemed to have some effect, as the mouse could now scroll up a bit but not consistently.

When Pete heard the results, he suggested I login with a different user account and see if the problem still existed. It did, same problem remained (secretly, I noticed that it was not as bad).

Then Pete suggested that I boot up the machine with the install disk and navigate to the license agreement page, where I would find a window that would allow for some scrolling. Viola! Scrolling up and down quite nicely.



Pete then instructed me to reinstall Mac OS 10.4.8 using the archive feature to preserve my user accounts, settings and software. He went on to suggest that I trash the "Previous System" folder created by the installer. I did so and now I'm waiting for the OS, Quicktime and iTunes to update via Software Update. It's all happening quite quickly, thanks to my wireless broadband connection purchased for \$40/month from Douglas FastNet (DFN). They even have a techie who is a Mac guy! After the reinstall of the OS had started, I let Pete go off the line and wished him a pleasant day in India. He thanked me, wished me a pleasant evening and we terminated the call.

It has been a while since I've been at an ABCC meeting, so I wanted to share all this news. In conclusion, I love my new iMac and my new DFN connection. I thought I was destined to a life sentence with dial-up due to my remote residence, but that was wrong. DFN was out here and had me surfing at BLISTERING speed within about one week from the call. I also wanted to share that I think the tech support I received was quite successful. The gentleman was well spoken and knowledgeable.

From a teacher's perspective, AppleCare deserves a gold star. Now if I could just get the school district to ease up on the anti-Apple policy and let my cube's update themselves via Software Update ... what would I have to complain about?

## Cheap Free Speech

What I'm about to launch into may strike some people as an attack on the principle of free speech. In [Water Blogged Wump](#), I made reference to what was an early instance of election tele-phony-ism. Since that was written, the pace of phone calls from robot calling machines claiming to be a person has increased. Believing in the principle of free speech, every time I answer such a call, I loudly point out to the machine that it's a liar and not the person it's claiming to be. Yes, it's pointless, but I do it on the off chance that there's some poor schmuck who's job it is to listen in.

While I don't care to have politicians calling me up and asking for my vote or urging me to vote, I'd put up with that. There are a few reasons. First, if a person calls, when I yell back at about the crap they're dishing out, there's at least some chance they'll get the message. Second, unless the politician arranged gigantic conference calls, it'd be pretty hard for them to cover every phone in the country several times, like their machines currently do. Third, people have a right to free speech we've stretched to the breaking point for politicians.

Machines, on the other hand, have not yet been given the right of free speech. Besides they're just playing a recording. Indeed, were it not for their controllers, they'd most likely do little more than take up space and serve as ballast. They do as they're bidden by the perpetrators. I believe said perpetrators are guilty of some real crimes. First, there's fraud. I can't recall a single one of these recordings that didn't claim to be the person who made the recording. Second, we're in the habit of answering telephones when they ring — mechanical calls are harrasment and being done for a politician should not be an excuse. Third, I suspect that these calls are a big business for a handful of fat cats. Perhaps if I were a candidate for some office, their sales people would call on me so I could identify them. I'd swear out a complaint.

Ed.



# Water Blogged Wump

Any trace of organization in these paragraphs is entirely coincidental

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**Sadie** — by Dave Archer, 2005

**Conspiracy theories;** they're all around us. Indeed, much of modern big media is all about conspiracy theories. One popular one is that the PBS TV network is a pinko plot to undermine America. I suppose it depends on ones definition of "undermine". I happen to like at least some of the material on PBS. For example, that subversive Bill Moyers did a piece this evening about "Internet Neutrality". Bill had a number of people talk about how good it will be to put the likes of Disney, AT&T and Haliburton in a position to keep us safe from data that we certainly would not want to know about. This whole liberal "Network Neutrality" conspiracy is a ploy to avoid paying three times (or more) for the bandwidth you use (you pay for yours, the site at the other end pays for it again and the media people want them to pay for it yet some more). After all, "they" know "best" ... don't they?

[PS: if you didn't see this PBS piece, I whole heartedly recommend that you watch for it to come around again. Your Internet freedom, to say nothing of many others, is definitely at risk from within.]

One of the things that was established long ago was a newsletter editor account on AOL. It's free for limited use. I don't think anyone's used it for some time. Just to check things out, I hunted up the last password I knew and tried it. Sure enough, it worked. **Gotta give AOL credit** for not blowing it away! But AOL does seem to have a few problems. Never a really speedy service, they're now so heavily loaded that it's pretty routine for queries to time out (providing a "Server

not found" error). Indeed, I thought I should try to get an update on the access software for Mac OS X just in case the old stuff doesn't work anymore. The first time I tried downloading it, I got

"Could not resolve host  
'download.newaol.com'".

This means that their DNS (the part that makes system names and IP addresses correspond, ie. download.newaol.com = 64.12.204.18) is so loaded that it could squeeze me in for just one operation. I tried again and finally got through. AOL management apparently hasn't learned that having all the eggs in one basket is unwieldy as well as risky.

Have you heard of RoHS? It's the European Union politicians' knee jerk response to the terrors of lead poisoning resulting from leaching of lead from old electronics tossed into landfills - Restrictions of Hazardous Substances. The trouble with this is that there are no incidences of lead leaching from electronics in landfills but electronics companies must meet RoHS specs to do business in Europe. I've seen estimates that there over six pounds of lead in a typical TV set. If there were that much lead in TV sets, I suspect we'd be melting them down to get the lead out. It seems there may be little likelihood of such things ever becoming a big problem to almost anyone. No matter, "**lead is dangerous**". It can be. No question. But I'd much rather encounter lead than either sodium or chlorine. Well, that is, unless I got them out of a salt shaker (Sodium Chloride - NaCl - is table salt, just in case you didn't know).

Sadly, IMHO, Apple has chosen to dump the PowerPC. This very well may turn out not to have been such a great idea for making higher performance Macintoshes in the long run. While Steve Jobs got too impatient to sell high clock rates to wait on IBM's chip developments, he may have chosen the architecture that runs out of steam first. Don't get me wrong; I'm not all that big a fan of the PowerPC architecture (I think it's very wasteful and too complex) but the **Intel architec-**

**ture is a sequence of kludges piled on top of one another** - an abysmal mess. The Intel architecture only functions as well as it does because of the truly massive effort to make compilers (the programs that convert the gibberish programmers type into machine instructions) wring every bit of optimization possible out of things. I'd rather like to see Apple continue with both PowerPC and Intel architectures, especially now that IBM has finally gotten their new implementation off the launch pad. But, what I'd really like to see is Apple making their own processors. It's a big risk, mostly because processor design tends to get too wrapped up in The Committee Effect (where it's politically necessary to implement every cockamammy asininity a committee member manages to get recorded in the minutes), but it's also a huge opportunity. There's a huge amount of performance to be gained simply by not using ten instructions to do the work of one. There are even a few people out there who even know how to do it.

I keep several computers running here on a 24/7 basis, some of which even have a UPS keeping them up through power glitches. In most cases, **I don't let the computers boot to a desktop without stopping for at the login window.** This probably seems like a terrible inconvenience to most Mac users. However, I do it this way because I want to keep the passwords I've assigned "fresh" in my leaky gray matter. Recently, during a discussion of data security, I recommended that someone switch from auto login to manual login. The logic being that if someone steals the computer, it'd be harder for them to gain access to the critical data stored on the computer. Strictly speaking, this is true. But, it's not really all that much of a safe to break into if a thief has the computer in their control. So, it gets back to what I suggested originally - if you have data on your computer that needs to be kept secret, you need to encrypt it. Specifically, I do NOT recom-

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mend password protecting the boot process (either Open Firmware or Extensible Firmware Interface) as forgetting the password is at best, extremely traumatic. I wish I could recommend a specific encryption method but there are very many available. All have some problems. The trick is to choose something you feel comfortable with and use it properly. Don't use your "normal" password to operate the encryption - it's much more likely someone will find it somewhere on your computer than something used just for the encryption. Even this tends to be problematic because you don't want to lose access to the encrypted data by forgetting the password. As Roseanne Roseannadanna was fond of saying, "It's always something."

According to PBS, **since 1983 over 2,000,000 IVF babies have been born.** IVF stands for In Vitro Fertilization, aka. making embryos in test tubes instead of by the time honored method. Recent research indicates that the average price paid for an attempt is over \$10,000 and attempts might average something like 50% successful. That works out to something like 1.5 gigabucks per year. I did notice in those minimal researches that IVF has entered the sphere of commonplace marketing. There are clinics that will perform up to four attempts and not charge you if they don't produce a baby. There's "IVF for less..." and other clinics which use that as their target to under-price. Here come the clones.

I was reading a techno-rag editorial about the state of IT (Information Technology). It seems that the good ol' **U.S. of A. is still "leading the way" by "graduating" more certified IT people than any other country** - well ahead of even India. I found this an interesting perspective. When I was the age of these newly certified IT people, there were certifications alright, but they were specific to manufacturers, primarily IBM. It turns out that despite the fact that people don't say so, IT certification means "Microsoft certification". Interestingly, this editorial was right next to an piece describing how the constant effort of dealing with securi-

ty issues was sapping "the enterprise", keeping business from happening. Yup, those bean counters sure are smart. They saved a pile of money buying cheap hardware and annually paying Micro\$haft to license their software and hiring herds of certified IT people to keep the patches current and trace where the data that got lost went. Yup, they sure are smart.

Apparently in the Windows world, the **Firefox web browser is locked in a battle with Internet Explorer** much as was the case once upon a time with a browser known as Netscape. People who've been using Firefox are moving to IE 7 because of "rendering problems". Hmmm... I don't Windows much but I use Firefox on the Mac a fair amount. It's pretty seldom that I run across a web site that won't render reasonably in Firefox. I wonder if we're not just getting another round of the same old thing - Micro\$haft web page creation software that purposefully creates pages with non-standard specifications that only Micro\$haft's latest browser knows about. Despite all the nice rhetoric from Redmond that Micro\$haft is going to play nice with all the other kiddies for a change, things seem to be moving pretty much along the same paths they always have. Sadly, the response of the non-Micro\$haft cyber community will probably be to create yet another international standard that will screw things up even more.

I watch way too much TV. But I make something of an effort not to watch too much local programming. Yes, I know that's bad citizenship. Mostly my reasoning is that **the "comedy" reported about local events is just too funny for me** to stand. Still, I manage to pick up snatches of it from time to time. Such was the case this morning. There was a piece on about how the Red Cross helped people out after a fire with necessities like shampoo... I didn't hear the rest of the report because I was choking with laughter. Shampoo is a necessity? Cripes! No wonder I have a ton of medical problems. I haven't used anything like shampoo in more time than I can recount. My shampoo level is most likely dangerously low. I better call the Red Cross for assis-

tance right away.

Not that who I'm voting for or not voting for is of any importance but I felt the urge to point out that one person I would definitely NOT be voting for if it ever became an issue is Gordon Smith. It's not that I don't care for his politics or anything like that. I don't know anything about such stuff to have such opinions. It's just that I have a hard time with the way he, or someone seeming to act on his behalf, spends money, perhaps not even taxpayer money. You've probably gotten the phone call yourself. You know the one - where a **recording is played which claims to be Gordon Smith.** My wife got one on her cell phone. About two hours later, I got one on the house land line. In these days of modern communications, this sort of political harassment may not even be all that expensive. But it's at least very rude. I don't need the actual politician calling me for my support, much less a computer with a recording which lies about what it is. Perhaps we should be indicting people who do this for fraud?

Lately I've been hearing something like a mantra from victims of crime that everyone "has the right to feel safe in the own home." While I suspect that this is not one of the rights of which Americans are legally entitled, there is some grain of truth in it in the sense that people are allowed to feel however they care to. Indeed, it's very unlikely that the home is statistically a "safe" place, simply because it's highly likely that most people spend the majority of their time at home. Moreover, the most likely person to make your home unsafe is ... YOU. Feeling safe now?



# That **Bane** of the Macintosh User, the **Dreaded**

7

I can recall the angst, anger, despair, outrage, even outright horror, over Apple's



announcement that Mac OS X would be based on Unix. Macophiles everywhere cringed at the notion that they might have to learn something arcane and use their keyboards to run their computers. By now, I imagine that most Mac users have come to the conclusion that the transition was not all that terrible after all. As the odd man out, I was happy to hear Apple's announcement and even happier to find out that they didn't mess it up all that badly in the Unix department.

And that's what I'd like to write about here - the part of your computer you probably don't use all that much, if at all. So, if you don't use it, why should you care? Well, perhaps you shouldn't. But if you have an interest in how to make your computer more useful without spending money, learning a little about the Unix underpinnings of Mac OS X can be very helpful. I believe that learning about such things can make you a better user of the GUI (Graphics User Interface), demystifying many misconceptions we often arrive at from using just the GUI.

I can't guarantee that I'll not get too "geeky" here. But, I'll try not to do that. Some of the things worth knowing about are, however, inherently able to become brain twisters. That can even be fun, but usually it's just frustrating because you're trying to get something done and the "geeky" is fighting you (it sure fights me often enough). I think the fight is often worth it. It can result in tremendous time savings or getting information from your computer that you might not live long enough to do all the clicking and dragging required of your mouse.

## Where to begin

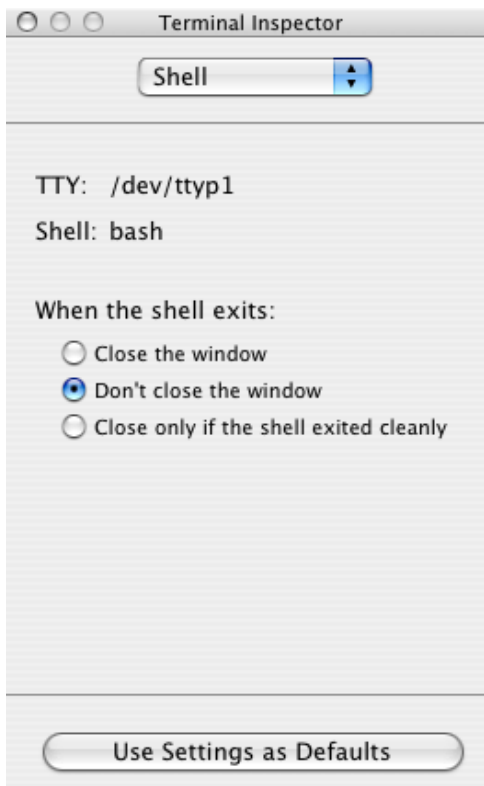
Perhaps the first thing to demystify a bit

# Terminal

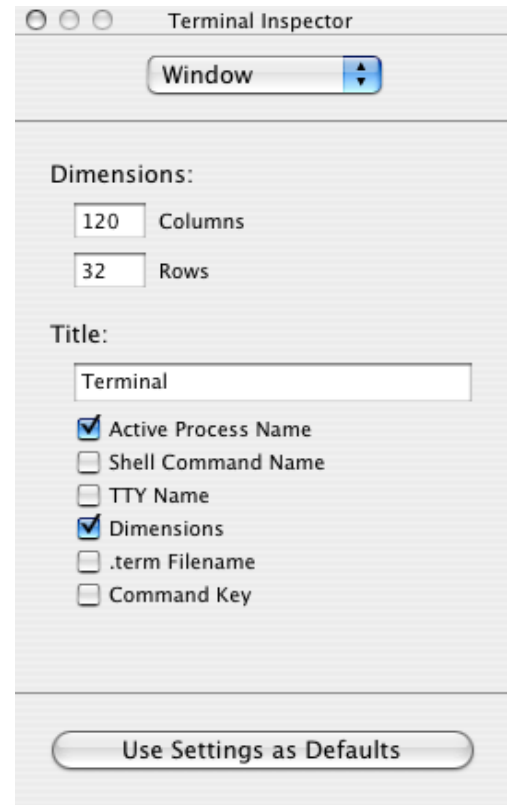
is the **Terminal** application. If you have trouble finding Terminal, it's in the **Utilities** folder in the **Applications** folder.

If you find the Terminal icon and double-click it, you should get a little window with some gibberish in the upper left. It can even take a little time for this gibberish to settle down because the logging-in process of a Terminal session is not necessarily instantaneous, especially the first time. When it settles down, you could use the window as is ... but I don't think you'd like it. It's too small to be really useful, so the first thing I do is make it bigger in such a way that it will start bigger. Here's how.

- 1) Chose **Window Settings...** from the **Terminal** menu. This should result in a window that looks like...



- 2) Mouse the **Shell** pop-up and choose **Window** to get to a window like...



- 3) Put the number of characters wide and number lines high you want in a nominal Terminal window in boxes (I like 120 and 32 respectively and recommend these settings unless your monitor is small relative to the font size). **IMPORTANT:** after entering these numbers, hit the Tab key or click into the **Title:** box - it's a glitch, sigh...
- 4) Click the **Use Settings as Defaults** button.

As you could see, if you went through the process above, there are a lot of other settings. I normally don't mess with them. YMMV (Your Mileage May Vary).

## OK, so now what?

Now that the cursor is sitting there on the left of the window, to the right of the CLI (Command Line Interface) prompt, what do you do next? Well, normally, you

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wouldn't be looking at that window unless you had something to do and that would guide you. But since we don't have anything in particular to accomplish, we'll have to dream something up. For example, I wanted to get the main **Terminal.app** icon to include in this article. I did that by typing the [blue](#) stuff in

the box, and up popped Preview showing the icon. Note that I didn't have to type the file name because I copied it and pasted it in. This process was very quick and I didn't have to paw around in a bunch of windows, to find it.

## So, how does this work?

```
mobi:~ wump$ locate Terminal | grep icon
/Applications/Utilities/Terminal.app/Contents/Resources/icon.icns
mobi:~ wump$ open /Applications/Utilities/Terminal.app/Contents/Resources/icon.icns
```

them with a set of arguments (things the program is supposed to take into account). So [locate Terminal](#) starts the "locate" program with the argument "Terminal". I know that when I do this, the computer will produce a list of all the files in the current "locate database" with the word "Terminal" embedded somewhere in the path to the file/folder.

By itself, this is often not very useful. For example, if I did just that much, I'd get a list of 451 lines of text to paw through. Since I'm horrible at pawing through things and guaranteeing that I'll find something, I'd rather let the computer do it. It's much better at being thorough than I am.

This is where the [| grep icon](#) comes in. First, there's the "|" (a vertical bar character, not a lowercase "L"), also known as the "pipe" function. This is one of what are referred to as "redirection operators". It's called a pipe because it carries the output of the stuff to its left, to the input of the stuff on the right. So, in our case, the "|" pipe presents the 451 lines of data the [locate](#) command generates to the input of the [grep](#) command.

**GREP? GREP?** What the heck is that? Good question. I know part of the story behind that name. But it really doesn't matter all that much. The important part is what [grep](#) does. Remember about the not getting "geeky" part I started with? Well, [grep](#) can get really "geeky". But, it often can be useful without spiraling into the whirlpool of the deep geek. What [grep](#) does for us here is to test each line of input for the presence of the string "icon". If "icon" is in the line from [locate](#), the line is output by [grep](#). Another way to think

about it is that [grep](#) filters text data. It was a happy accident that only one of the 451 candidate lines contained the substring "icon".

You might ask, "Doesn't this take a long time to do? After all, there are a lot of lines to look at." Yes, there are. But this process occurred faster than I had time to think about it - essentially instantaneously. I can tell you from experience that very much larger problems can be dealt with readily.

I then typed [open](#), hit the space bar, grabbed the mouse and dragged it across the output line (shown in [red](#)) and typed a "command-c" followed by a "command-v" (copy paste). The [open](#) command is something pretty much an Apple-only thing. It is essentially the same thing as having found the file in a Finder window and double-clicking it.

## How do I know what to type?

Aye, that's the rub, me 'earty. You can get an idea of how many commands are available to you by typing something like...

```
mobi:~ wump$ locate bin/|wc -l
2528
```

(NOTE: the last character above is a lowercase "L", not a vertical bar) This estimate is based on the notion that commands reside in directories which end in "bin". It's not necessarily true but it's mostly reasonable. I probably have a bit more than most Mac users since I mess with stuff that adds commands. Still there are a lot of commands even in basic Mac OS X installations that can be used with Terminal. Each of them has their own rules. It's hopeless to (for me, at

When one runs Terminal, a "shell" is started. A shell is basically a program that accepts textual data and attempts to interpret it as meaningful. Meaning, to a shell, is largely involved with running programs and controlling the flow of data amongst them. Mostly programs are run by specifying their names and following

least) to begin to think in terms of knowing all about all this stuff.

Fortunately, there are some commands that are intended to help figure out what commands might be useful and what those do and how they work. One is [apropos](#), to help find things. Another is [man](#), to see what they do and how they work. Though I am a fan of the CLI, I think there's a neat, little GUI program that makes this a lot easier for us. It's called ManOpen and you can get it from <http://www.clindberg.org/projects/ManOpen-2.5.1.dmg>. So, you don't have to know CLI commands to begin finding out things about CLI commands.

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