



The

ROSE BYTER

Apple Blossom Computer Club
A registered Apple/Macintosh User Group

May '07
still only
\$2.00

Next Meeting

Monday

May 21

5:30 ~ 7:30 PM

Room #8

Joseph Lane

Middle School

2156 NE Vine Street

Agenda

1. Meeting starts at 5:30 P.M.
2. Introductions of members and guests
3. Old business
4. New business
5. Ron from Computer Connection about Clearwire Internet service.
6. Questions & (maybe)Answers

New variable meeting schedule:

June: Thursday, the 21-st

July: Wednesday, the 18-th



Going on Safari

by **Walt Pawley** <walt@wump.org>

Quite some time ago, we began providing some support for O'Reilly publications as they offer discounts to user group members on their publications if we do. Many moons ago, the Safari Books Online e-reference library was created and O'Reilly offered user group representatives an opportunity to experience it first hand. We at ABCC ignored this opportunity for a long time. So, I investigated whether it was still possible to do and was delighted to learn that it was, so I signed up right away.

It took me a few days, but I finally pointed Firefox in the proper direction and logged in to look around. The experience is not all that unlike walking into a large library full of paper covered in words, diagrams and pictures on shelves as far as one's consciousness can take in. That's not to say that the site is messy. No, it just means that there are a very large number of subjects, sub-subjects and publications stretching out under one's finger tips on that entry page. Choices. Lots of 'em. I was yawning before I logged in and the thought of having to pick a few representatives from this collection so I might actually read them fatigued me even more.

The mechanics of looking into things are not difficult. There's a nice hier-

archical menu of subjects on the left and a search facility. This quickly gets you to lists of books on whatever matter you've selected. It should be noted that these are not just O'Reilly's publications. There are books from

Addison Wesley, Adobe Press, Alpha Books, Cisco Press, Course Technology, Financial Times Prentice Hall, IBM Press, Macromedia, Microsoft Press, Muska & Lipman, MySQL Press, New Riders Publishing, No Starch, Novell Press, O'Reilly, Peachpit Press, Premier Press, Prentice Hall, Prima Publishing, Que, Sams, SitePoint, Syngress, Wharton School Publishing

And books are apparently being added and updated all the time since you can find out "live" by subscribing to the RSS 1.0 feed (<http://search.safaribooksonline.com/rss>).

Now here's the thing (as a gross over simplification) - one pays for access to this material on a continual basis, ie. you rent access. Like most rental property, there are high and low priced properties. As near as I can see, the main difference between them is that for a lot of money per month (exact amount varies with number of employees, etc.), you can download the PDF versions of things for off-line

Letters

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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

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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. Mail physical media to:

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Mon, 23 Apr 2007 16:08:07 -0400
From: Phil Bowser
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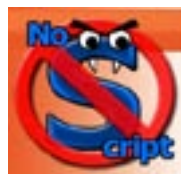
Dear Editor:

When's it gonna end?!?! How many different ways do the bad guys have to break into our computers and make them do THEIR bidding (or worse?) It's getting so I almost don't use my computer anymore. Can THEY watch me through my iSight camera? Can THEY see my bank account numbers while I pay my bills online? Do THEY know when I open my refrigerator door even though I'm on a diet? Can THEY use satellites to see what I'm reading in my back yard hammock? It's almost more than I can bear.

Wait a minute. I'm starting to feel better. Just a little bit. Deep breath. OK, I can talk rationally now. I've found a little something that can help with all this Internet anxiety. It's a "plug-in" for mozilla-based browsers such as Firefox, Flock, and Seamonkey. These browsers are pretty safe already, but apparently some bad guys know how to use JavaScript, Java, and Flash to sneak in under the tent flap. So NoScript watches while you browse and allows Java, JavaScript, and Flash only from those websites you trust. Here's how it goes...

You go to <http://noscript.net/> and download the latest version of NoScript that matches your operating system. (Yes, this helps even WinDoze users!) It says here you need to be using at least version 1.5 of FireFox. I believe there is a version 2.0 out there somewhere, in case you want to upgrade the browser before you install the plug-in. Follow the prompts and restart your browser. You'll know it's there when you see a little "S" on your window's status bar.

(If you don't usually view the status bar, you can turn it on under the "View" pull-down menu.)



And since the plug-in is "donationware," you might just want to send the author a couple of bucks to say "thanks" for all that hard work.

When you go to a web site now, NoScript will prevent possibly malicious scripts and Flash from kicking in automatically. Click on that little S to launch a menu of choices and select "Options." These decide how NoScript behaves. I recommend making sure "Automatically reload affected pages when permissions change" is checked, along with "Show message about blocked scripts", and "Forbid <a ping...>". If you have websites you visit often and trust, you can add them to your "whitelist" while your a stumbling around in the options section.

OK, let's say you go to a website that wants to launch Flash to show you a movie. Initially, all you will get is a note at the bottom of your screen that NoScript has blocked this action. If you click on the "options" button, you will have the opportunity to choose amongst options such as "always refuse", "always allow," and "temporarily allow." The BIG DEAL here is that YOU get to decide what others do with your machine. It adds another layer of safety to the browser's security measures.

There are a number of folks (besides my anxious self) who recommend NoScript. Recently the SANS Internet Storm Center advised the use of NoScript (yet again) saying simply, "Please, use NoScript!" The 5/06 edition of PC World magazine put NoScript at spot #52 in it's "100 Best Products of the Year" story and later noted that Internet Explorer 7 was still not safe enough because it "doesn't act like NoScript." The New York Times and Washington Post technology writers advise the use of NoScript, too.

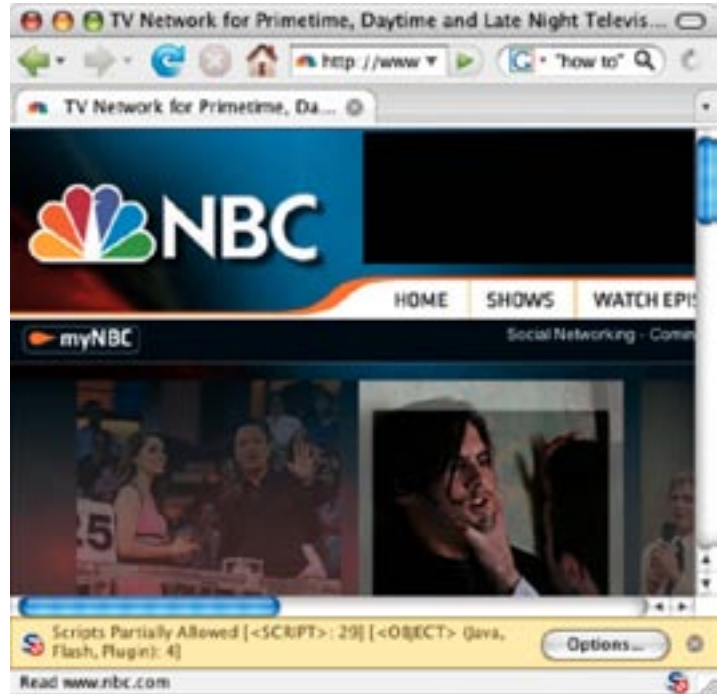
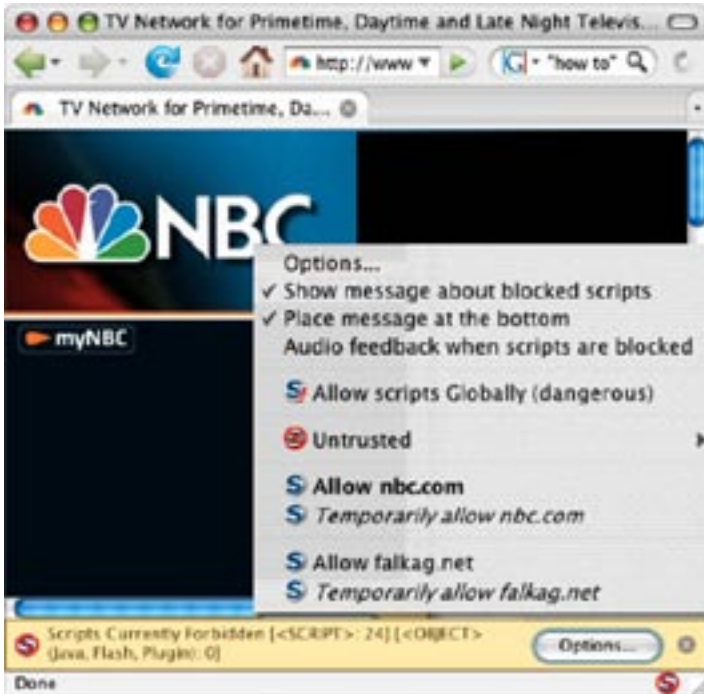
For your reference, I've enclosed a before and after picture that shows how NoScript blocks, launches a pop-up menu so you can decide what

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<← **Letters 2** you want, and then re-loads the page after you have changed the permis-

sions. Nifty, huh/ Next time, I'll tell you how well my aluminum foil hat is preventing my thoughts from being

read by passers by...



Wed, 11 Apr 2007 09:16:54 -0400
From: Phil Bowser
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Dear Editor:

I know I recently did a program for the club extolling the virtues of Apple's free iChatAV software. For those who were not there, iChatAV lets you have free "video-phone" conversations via the Internet. Well, yesterday I stumbled upon another piece of videophone software that may rival Apples!

"SightSpeed" works on Macs, Win-

doze boxes, and Linux systems. It works with a wide variety of cameras, including Apple's iSight (although firewire digital video cameras are not



supported.) There is a basic service, that is free, and a pay service that has more features (such as multiple simultaneous video chats.) So what's the

BIG difference?

Apple runs the iChatAV video feeds through America Online chat servers.

These are fairly notorious for slowing down and dropping connections, especially when the huge AOL membership tries to chat at once. SightSpeed brags about having its own servers and its ability to offer 30 frames per second reliably.

It costs nothing to download the software and sign up for a free account. So, give it a try.

<http://www.sightspeed.com>

Water Blogged Wump

Any trace of organization in these paragraphs is entirely coincidental

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“The ‘Web”

Here, in the “back country”, the effect of H-1B visas on locals’ ability to find decent jobs might be a bit hard to recognize. But if you dig a little deeper, I suspect you’ll find quite a few recent “early retirees” who’ve landed here because their jobs in the “big city” were either outsourced or “cost improved” by their company hiring young foreign nationals to replace them. Each year, big businesses lobby to increase the numbers of H-1B visas available on the grounds that they just can’t find the highly trained technical workers they need in this country. I don’t think they’re lying either. But I don’t see it quite the way the government does. It’s not that there aren’t plenty of qualified citizens for the jobs. Indeed, I posit that their numbers are legion. No, it’s not the qualifications that are the problem. It’s more about what these businesses “need”. **It can be summed up in a single word—cheap.** Consider that Bill Gates recently urged Congress to allow unlimited H-1B visas for “skilled workers”. Mr. Bill also urged Congress to improve our educational system and spend more on R&D. Interesting that he recommends we spend our tax money improving his company’s ability to make big profits. But that’s OK. Between illegal aliens and H-1B workers paying their taxes, the government will have plenty of money to put the rest of us on welfare. This shooting at Virginia Tech is nasty business. There’s little that can be done to undo it. Perhaps nothing is a

more accurate estimate. But it’s not stopping the media and politicians who live their lives via the media from spouting all sorts of nonsense about what we can and should do to “fix the problem”. It’s times like this when I wish I had an eidetic memory so I could quote back to you some of the platitudinous insanities I’ve been hearing from so-called newscasters from the national level on down to the local level. At the very least, newscasters should stick to reporting the facts and leave their personal notions to a commentary program. **Somehow, a very large number of people in this country have assumed that they have the right to be “safe”, whatever that means.** It’s not a valid assumption. Even if one accedes to the right, there’s still no guarantee of actually being “safe”. If passing laws could do that, we’d have no need of police. And even police are far from a “solution”. They mostly serve as a deterrent ... if people are sane and well. Lots of people are not sane and/or well. Many who would generally be thought sane and well, believe they can get away with whatever they do; most probably because they have a history of doing just that. Perhaps it’s just me, but I have the feeling that the more such events take place, the more our society in general disconnects from reality.

Apple has been sending me e-mail prompting my attendance at WWDC 2007 (World Wide Developer’s Conference). Considering that a ticket costs \$1,295, I’m surprised they don’t send a team of arm twisters to my front door. Something like 4,000 people pay to attend, so **Apple rakes in over five megabucks on tickets alone.** But for an attendee, the ticket is only small fraction of the cost. The Bay Area is not an inexpensive place to stay (well, not from my perspective) in a hotel, eating out of restaurants. Of course there’s also the plane tickets and rental cars and/or taxi. But you

get to develop software and hardware compatible with Apple’s computers if you work real hard and spend a lot more money. Such a deal. Actually, they should probably raise the price. During such an feature packed event (after all, you get to see Steve Jobs prance about on stage, live) 4000 people is just too many to provide the individual attention they tout.

Have you noticed the advertisements for the so-called “Secure Advantage” home loans? You can get a \$150K mortgage for only \$450 per month. Really? **Well, no, not really.** Indeed, not even close. At the interest rate they’re charging, after three years you’d owe about \$170K. But that’s OK because after three years you aren’t allowed to make the undersized payment any more. I suppose there’s some small number of people for whom such an arrangement would work out well enough. The way this is marketed, I’d class it dancing on the knife edge of fraud. The more likely scenario is that after three years, Quicken Loans will have been paid \$16,200 *and* a property worth at least \$150K.

“FORTUNES OF FLAGGING NAND MARKET MAY LIE WITH APPLE’S IPOD PLANS”, read the headline. What it’s referring to by “NAND” is a type of flash memory that’s mostly used in high capacity devices. It’s the same kind of stuff that makes most “flash drives” work. **What it amounts to is that there are very few applications for very large flash memory storage at prices that will pay for the parts.** Apple gets good money for their iPod stuff and sells ’em by the ton. There are other applications for the parts. One that may be appearing after Apple lubricates the manufacturing process is laptops that don’t have hard disks. Instead they’ll have perhaps 32 gigabytes or more of flash memory. One interesting potential is a laptop that is instantly on right were you left off last—the **5 -->**

<--Water Blogged Wump

longest delay would be something like how long the screen's backlight took to turn on.

Using some laser based surface ablation techniques, researchers in The Netherlands have produced **materials that mimic the hydrophobic qualities of lotus leaves** (which are apparently really good at shedding water). Not only can they make this stuff, they're really making a stamp to imprint the nanometer feature sized pattern in other materials. Then they simply press out copies. If they get to the point where this is cheap to do, and it sounds like it might have a shot at it, lots of stuff could use the technology. Clothes that keep you dry in a downpour strikes me as an immediate potential consumer application. Need to keep matches dry? Or, how about mailing envelopes that don't get soaked when the postman doesn't close the mailbox door?

PBS has been airing a series called America at a Crossroads, one episode of which I saw recently. It was about a case in which a sting operation was "successfully" carried out against a couple of guys who "might become terrorists". A great deal of time and expense was put into this sting and it resulted in the destruction of the lives of some people who had done nothing at all related to terrorism. Basically they were convicted of a fairly trumped up charge of money laundering of perhaps as much as \$10,000 ... with the addition that it might have been in support of terrorism, according to their accusers but not according to any evidence (indeed, the evidence was that the so-called money laundering was completely benign and would not even have been considered laundering if the stingers weren't so magnanimous). They were interviewing the guy in charge of the sting who was extremely puffed up about how successful his operation had been at fighting terrorism. **My reaction was that if this is the fight against terrorism,**

we have a very large pack of over-paid moronic stuffed shirts sucking up tax dollars just so they can feel good about screwing with us. After all, there are real terrorist activities out there. Somehow I'd feel a whole lot better if we were messing their activities up instead of pounding our chest about how we tricked both the "perps" and the jury into making convictions. Kinda makes Joe McCarthy look like a stand up guy.

"OMB: VISTA IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SET DESKTOP STANDARDS", reads the headline on an article in a federal government information technology magazine. **Clearly, not much has changed in the computer business.** A small cadre of muckitymucks are deciding that there's only one way to do things and referring to it as "standardization" instead of what it is really is; sole source supplying. What remains a mystery to me is the motive. Are these people just mind bogglingly stupid? Or, are they getting rich as a result of their decisions? Or, perhaps they're really foreign agents operating to assure our demise?

If you've been bad with your computer, you better watch out! The Department of Defense has decided it's tired of being the target of cyber-attacks and intends to go on the offensive against the attackers. There's currently no data on what this really means but the services are lobbying Congress for the right to go after "... adversaries ... defined as other countries, terrorists and criminals who attack DOD, civil and commercial networks". Sounds pretty open ended to me.

Rick Rashid, Senior Vice President, Research, at Microsoft is worried that our kids aren't interested in getting into technical work because the number of undergraduates enrolling in technical programs is decreasing in the U.S. Gee, I wonder why. You don't suppose it has anything to do with the fact that corporations, such as the one Mr. Rashid helps run, have extremely little use for technically facile Ameri-

cans in their businesses, even the parts they haven't shipped overseas? Micro\$hapht has been actively lobbying the feds to increase the H-1B import workers without limit. Another major reason for the decline is societal change in which reality finds itself way down on the list of concepts that resonate with its newer citizens. After all, reality is hard and takes time and concentration to come to grips with. **In a world that advertises "life takes faster money", there's no time for concentration.** Kurt Vonnegut's "Busy, busy, busy..." was prophetic indeed, though I suspect he didn't think it prophesy at the time; just an observation of events in the early '60s.

This evening I was working my way through my burgeoning pile of literature that flows in from my mail box and finally came upon the April 2, 2007 issue of InfoWorld (I get a bit behind—hence the pile). On the cover, in a red banner, it claims, "Final Print Issue". InfoWorld has been around for 29 years and will apparently continue on the Web. I have mixed feelings about this move. Certainly, it has its environmentalist upside (no longer using so many trees) and most likely even a monetary upside (electronic publishing and distribution may be less expensive). **But it won't be shuffling to the top of my pile any longer. It won't suddenly appear before me, largely unbidden, at a time when I'm disposed to pay it some attention.** Indeed, now I will have to actively seek it out. Will I? Probably not. It's not that I would not care to. It's just that I have to remember to do it. I suppose I could stick an entry into iCal and have it annoy me with preemptive messages that I chose to be annoyed thus. But I've never been a strong manager of my time and am too old a dog to start now. I envy people who are able to manage their lives so precisely. I also pity them for their apparent psychological need to do so, just as they reciprocate my psychological inability to mimic such

<--Water Blogged Wump

behavior. William Wordsworth penned in 1806, “The world is too much with us;” a phrase I’ve long recalled despite being a pitiful poetry student. It’s like a line dragged in the dirt between me and the chronic clock watchers.

Maybe Apple is losing a bit of luster in the third party development arena. They extended the WWDC (World Wide Developer Conference) “early registration” into May. Basically, “early registration” is about a discount for the fees involved. **Is there some alienation of developers when Apple declares its path is one of de-emphasis of computers, choosing to favor “consumer” products instead?** Or, perhaps it’s just fatigue due to Apple churning its development environment? With every change of the X in 10.X, Apple has orphaned lines of development for “new and improved” approaches. Developers are forced to keep up just to have their products run on new equipment. The resulting update spiral cuts more and more customers off ... unless they can also keep up, buying all new hardware and software. OK, so I’m exaggerating a bit. But it’s no exaggeration to note that this trend is accelerating. I don’t believe it bodes well for the future.

I’m not a big fan of the way cell phones are used and marketed. But I have to wonder about what seems to be a local campaign on KOBI, the NBC affiliate on channel 5 around these parts. **They seem to run a lot of ads with the mantra, “Let it ring.”** These ads are all about mayhem done by drivers using cell phones, perhaps in an attempt to drum up support for a passage of a bill outlawing use of cell phones while driving. The assumption is that passing such a law will “save lives”. It’s not impossible. But I wonder if anyone has bothered to compile statistics on deaths caused by cell phone using drivers compared to, say, deaths caused by people who simply drive into the back of slower traffic while *not* talking on their cell phone or

those who pull into the path of oncoming traffic while stone cold sober. For that matter, there’s another side to cell phones and driving that probably will go unmentioned in chambers. For some weeks I’ve gotten calls from a person on a very long commute home after a long and fatiguing week of working far away. We’ve talked for as long as two hours at a crack. This sort of behavior is most definitely not my norm. I tend to be a bit abrupt on the telephone, actually. But I knew this person needed to be kept awake and alert on the freeway where it’s very easy for hypnotism to set in when it’s dark, you’re tired deep and there are miles to go before you should sleep.

I saw a “cute” commercial the other day. **Now you can get a miniature motorcycle for your four year old that has electric start so he won’t have to strain to get it running.** Such a great idea! It’s bad enough that we think it’s cute that little children should be playing dress-up in leathers and a helmet so they can go bashing into things when we start their motocross miniatures but is it really a good idea to make it so easy they can do it all by themselves? Oh, you say you’ll just empty the fuel tank? Right. That’s sure to keep a kid safe. No way would he want to pour gas all over things and then fire up his bike. Yeah, right.

For the last several years, there’s been a lot of legal maneuvering around “lost” e-mail. **We seem to have developed a sense of indignity at the notion that any organization might not keep copies of all e-mail their personnel have had anything to do with in perpetuity.** I find this a peculiar attitude, to say nothing about it being practically insane. Then again, perhaps such organizations have always recorded all messages to and from their members. Perhaps we pee-ons just didn’t realize it all those years and there’re vast warehouses of AV tapes and file cabinets full of paper scattered around. Yeah. Sure there are. So, why is an e-mail message so different from a type written letter

on company stationary, a hand scribbled note on scratch paper or a telephone conversation?

Or, perhaps even face-to-face verbal conversations (eavesdropping records)? Especially when so few of us keep our own e-mails for very long—how long do you usually keep an e-mail? I happen to keep some a long time so I can refer to them if need be but most don’t last much longer than the time it takes to read the subject line followed by the time to hit command-d (very practiced, that).

Recently, in the suit by DVD Copy Control Association against Kaleidescape, Inc. for supposed license infringement, **the judge ruled that 20 pages of the 170 page license were so poorly worded as not to be part of the agreement.** This means that Kaleidescape can continue to sell their DVD-to-hard disk archiving system. I’ve long marveled at the copyright business. Occasionally, it actually benefits the creator of content by stopping abuse of their art or even providing them revenue. But they aren’t the people who’re pushing for all the content controls. That’s being done by very rich industry executives trying to increase the rate at which their riches grow.

Know about the Hatch Act? I just read that it inhibits federal government employees from engaging in politics while on duty. I also read that Henry Waxman was reading GSA Administrator Lurita Doan its “riot act” a while ago. Of course, it turned out as we’ve come to expect of such hearings; much ado to miniscule effect. Waxman is reportedly “going after” the White House next. Go get ’em Waxy! What the country really needs is squandering resources on repeatedly asking questions of people when their answers are already known. Does it have an effect? Yeah, but what effect is often less than clear. Sometimes the askee comes off looking like a real schmuck but it’s just as easy for the righteously indignant askor to schmuck out.

That Bane of the Macintosh User

As I've pointed out in the past, Regular Expressions, or "patterns", are one of those



things that can twist one's brain up in knots, a favorite pastime of the genuine geek. But they remain one of the most astoundingly useful inventions of computerdom and, I believe, are worth learning to use, at least a little.

In their simplest guise, patterns are just plain text. A typical use of patterns is to find matches for them in streams of text. This is what the **grep** command does. If you're like most of us, this doesn't sound terribly useful because if you want to find words in a document you just use the Find function. But what if you don't have just one document to look through—perhaps tens of thousands? Would you even bother? I wouldn't ... but I don't mind letting my computer do that.

One thing I do with some regularity is like **grep -r ... /etc**, where the ellipsis (...) is what I'm hunting for. This tells the **grep** command to return the file paths of any file in the whole tree under **/etc** that contains the pattern the ellipsis represents. Why do this? Well, **/etc** is an "invisible" folder that contains a great deal of the system's configuration data on *nix systems like Mac OS X (though Apple is beavering away at confusing the issue by moving all kinds of this stuff into other hidden places). When you're trying to understand why something happens, the scripts and configuration files in **/etc** are one of the first places to look.

Another common use for **grep** is to limit the output of the **ps** command. The **ps** command outputs the process status table. I normally use **ps -ax** to get a listing of all the processes with some auxiliary data

that's useful. However this returns numerous lines (use **ps -ax | wc -l** to count them)—too many for me to wade through reliably. So, I might do **ps -ax | grep Chicken** and obtain

```
12797 ?? S    3:59.14 /Applications/Chicken of the VNC.app/Contents/MacOS/Chicken of the VNC -psn_0_3495821313
21278 std R+   0:00.00 grep Chicken
```

where 80+ lines of data from the **ps** command have been filtered down to just those lines containing the pattern "Chicken" by the **grep** command.

This gives me the **Chicken of the VNC** entry that I was hunting for but it also gives me the entry for the **grep** command that is doing the hunting. If I'm just personally curious, this is OK but if I'm trying to write a script that deals with **Chicken of the VNC** I just want the first line. Something like this usually works OK, **ps -ax | grep Chicken | grep -v grep**. The second **grep** uses the **-v** flag to mean "output lines *not* containing the pattern **grep**"—it inverts the sense of the pattern match.

While using regular expressions which are just matching plain text patterns is clearly useful, their real "power" is in defining some characters as "metacharacters" which mean something other than themselves. Put another way, most characters just match themselves but metacharacters "do things". Of course, this is where the brain twisting comes in.

Here's a simple example of the **\$** metacharacter, which can be used to "anchor" a pattern to the end of lines. If I type **locate Terminal** (if you don't have a "locate database", you won't be able to test this stuff*), I get a list of about 450 lines, each of which is a path to something with the word "Terminal" (case counts here) in the path. But I just want to know where the Terminal application is. I know that applications normally are folders with names ending in **.app**, so I could use that to pick out the one entry in the list that I want with **locate Terminal |**

grep app\$. The **\$** is a pattern metacharacter which makes **grep** filter out all but paths which end in **app**. The result is **/Applications/Utilities/Terminal.app**. Just to see the difference, I suggest actually typing **locate Terminal** and letting it run the lines up your Terminal window. It won't hurt anything. It won't even take very long.

If you like word games, you might like to play with **/usr/share/dict/words** using **grep**. Suppose you need a six letter word ending in "d" with "t" as the second letter. By typing

grep ^t...d\$ /usr/share/dict/words you get a list of 19 possibilities. This makes use of three pattern metacharacters. The **^** says to anchor the pattern at the beginning of the line. The **\$** says to also anchor it at the end of the line. Use of these metacharacters together says that the whole line must match the rest of the pattern. Each of the periods matches one character. The **t** and the **d**, of course, match themselves. The list is

atloid, attend, ptinid, staged, stated, stayed, stewed, stiped, stoled, stolid, stoned, stound, stound, strand, strind, stroid, stroud, strowd, stupid

Or, perhaps you want to know about words that start with "anti" and end in "ment" but you don't care how long they are. You can do that with a command like **grep ^anti.*ment\$ /usr/share/dict/words** and get the list

antiamusement, antiatonement, anticomment, anticomplement, antiendowment, antiferment, antigovernment, antiparliament

The period as a metacharacter matches any single character. The asterisk following it says to match zero or more of any character. Thus the "dot splat" is a way to look over an arbitrary bunch of text between things.

Much of the above is over simplified—thar do be dreagons har. But trying to deal with all the potential pitfalls of using the command line with regular expressions would **8 -->**

<-- Dread Terminal

just complicate things way beyond my understanding. The fact remains that even without a thorough understanding of the details and gotchas, you can use regular expressions and the command line (Terminal) to good effect.

And the best way I know to learn about this sort of thing is to play with it.

* The “locate database” is a sort of index of most of the file names on your system. But it’s not kept up in real time. Instead it’s built periodically; usually weekly at 4:00 AM ... *if* you don’t turn off your computer. If you don’t leave your computer on (and for other reasons) you might find MainMenu from <http://www.santasw.com/> useful. It adds a tastefully small menu to the menubar that purports to do many things including rebuilding the “locate database”.



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Going on

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