



The

ROSE BYTER

Apple Blossom Computer Club
A registered Apple/Macintosh User Group

Jul '07
still only
\$2.00

Next Meeting

Wednesday
July 18. 6:30 PM
Cookout at
Dogwood Motel!

Agenda

1. Meeting starts at 6:30 P.M.
Come early and play. ;-)
2. Introductions of members and guests
3. Old business
4. New business
5. Program: Burping, mostly.
6. Questions & (maybe)Answers

New variable and tentative meeting schedule:

August: Tuesday, the 21-st
September: Monday, the 17-th

Maybe It's Just To Support iPhone?

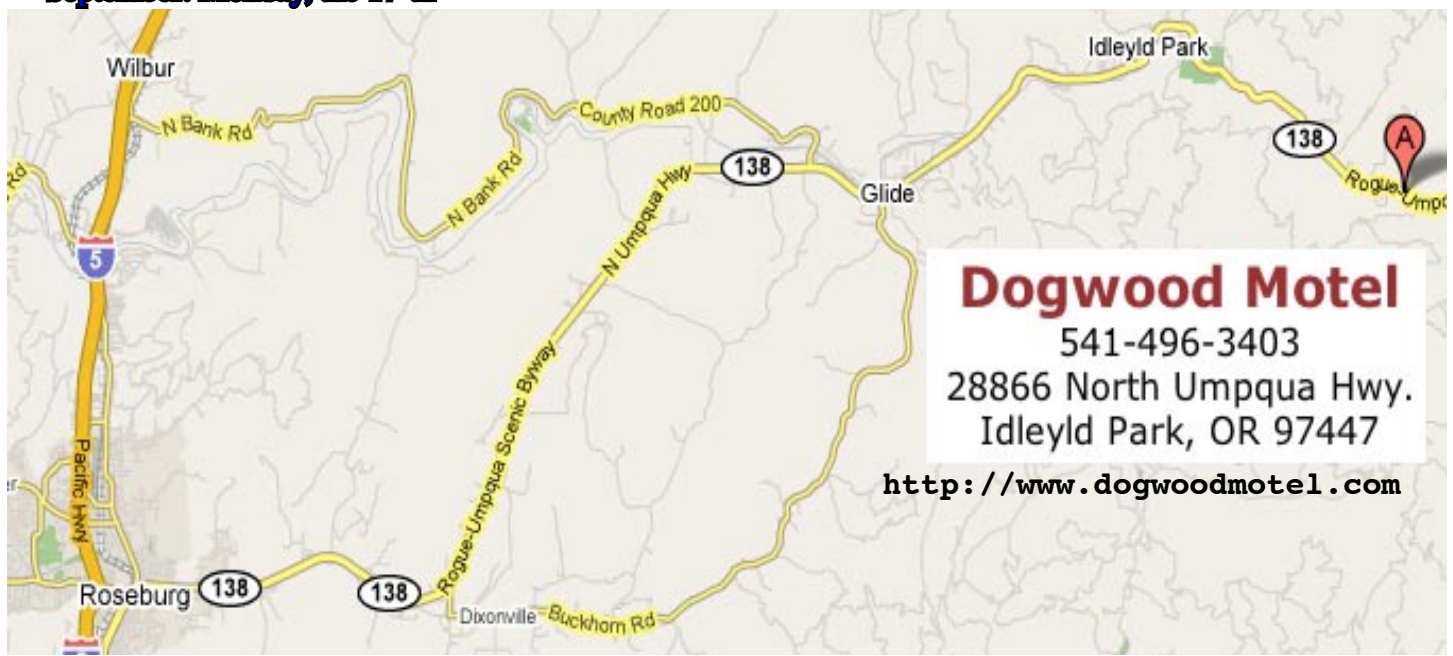
AT&T Inc. has started offering a broadband Internet service for \$10 a month. The DSL plan is a concession made by AT&T to the Federal Communications Commission to get its \$86 billion acquisition of BellSouth Corp. approved last December. Does it help you any? Probably not.

The \$10 offer is to new customers in the 22-state AT&T service region willing to sign up for a year and have AT&T phone service. The modem is free.

The plan was not mentioned in a Friday news release and is slightly hidden [I didn't look long, but I didn't find it] on the AT&T Web site. Apparently it's mentioned during the DSL sign-up process.

The service provides download at 768 kilobits/sec and upload at 128 kbps, matching the speeds of AT&T's \$19.95/mo plan in the nine-state former BellSouth area and the \$14.99/mo plan in the 13 states previously covered by AT&T.

adapted from AP by Walt Pawley <walt@wump.org>



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541-496-3403
28866 North Umpqua Hwy.
Idleyld Park, OR 97447

<http://www.dogwoodmotel.com>

Apple to Adopt Sun Microsystems ZFS over HFS+?

by Walt Pawley <walt@wump.org>

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! Send with your name, snail- & e-mail address & phone to:
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13748 Lookingglass Rd.
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Current ABCC Leadership

President

Walt Pawley <walt@wump.org>

Treasurer

Jim McClellan
<mcclellan@charter.net>

Apple Ambassador

none

Web Master

Still up in the air a bit

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. Mail physical media to:

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“Bruce Ten

Sun Microsystems chief executive Jonathan Schwartz is claiming that Apple next week will announce a plan to replace the default Mac OS X file system [HFS+] with the Sun-developed ZFS. This file system change will come with Leopard (Mac OS 10.5), perhaps in October.”

I ran across the above via email and you can check it out and what some others are saying at <http://www.macintouch.com/readerreports/harddrives/topic3300.html>.

It seemed like a bit of strong shift for Apple to have decided upon without more press coverage ... not that there aren't gobs of web pages “covering” it. I got curious and so started Googling, clicking, downloading and reading. In the “coverage”, there are many inconsistencies. I guess this is hardly surprising amongst roughly 250,000 voices. My sense of the impending change is that it's not quite ready for prime time as Apple's default filing system.

So, what is ZFS?

I sure didn't know. And, frankly, after looking through the specifications and some hype, I still don't. Indeed, there seems to be some distance from the promise of the specifications and the wonders growing from the heap of hype. Still, it may be the future of filing systems for some time to come, so what is it?

To quote neowin.net, “ZFS is the world's first 128-bit file system, supporting 18 billion times the storage capacity of current-generation 64-bit systems. A zettabyte is equal to 1,024 exabytes or 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 bytes.” Kinda lets us in on the “Z” part but is a bit strange as $2^{128}=340,282,366,920,938,463,463,374,607,431,768,211,456$. Perhaps this, “ZFS has a data storage capacity of 256 quadrillion zettabytes and a maximum file size of 16 exabytes (that's 17179869184 terabytes)”, from worldofapple.com clears that up.

Or does it? Who knows. Who cares. None of us will ever live long enough to fill such a repository should one ever have the capacity. Let's say we get really good at nanotechnology and can make “memory crystals” which can store bits in the space of a single nanometer edged cube (conceivable to the dreamer as atoms are small enough to produce a structure of such size ... but just barely). Assemble 10^{21} of these into a data cube a centimeter on a side (don't accidentally stir it into your coffee). You'd need a stack of “sugar cubes” 10,000 meters on a side to hold the data that a single ZFS file system could hold.

- 1 byte = 2^0 1
- 1 kilobyte = 2^{10} 1024
- 1 megabyte = 2^{20} 1048576
- 1 gigabyte = 2^{30} 1073741,824
- 1 terabyte = 2^{40} 1099511627776
- 1 petabyte = 2^{50} 1125899906842624
- 1 exabyte = 2^{60} 1152921504606846976
- 1 zettabyte = 2^{70} 1180591620717411303424
- 1 yottabyte = 2^{80} 1208925819614629174706176
- 1 xonabyte = 2^{90} 1237940039285380274899124224
- 1 wekabyte = 2^{100} 1267650600228229401496703205376
- 1 vundabyte = 2^{110} 1298074214633706907132624082305024



Senators to Push for Registry of Drug Makers' Gifts to Doctors

By GARDINER HARRIS

WASHINGTON, June 27 — In the midst of a Senate hearing about the money and gifts that drug makers routinely provide to doctors, Senator Claire McCaskill mentioned that she had a brother who runs a restaurant. "And he said that the most lucrative part of his business was the private room that is used mostly by drug companies" to entertain doctors, said Ms. McCaskill, Democrat of Missouri. "He said that you wouldn't believe how much expensive wine these guys buy." The tab often totals thousands of dollars, she said later.

Marjorie Powell, senior assistant general counsel for the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, assured Ms. McCaskill that major drug makers no longer offer doctors expensive dinners. The industry's code of ethics mandates that free meals be modest — pizza, for instance, Ms. Powell said. "I would, with all due respect, suggest that there has been a change in your brother's restaurant in recent years," she said.

Ms. McCaskill pressed, "Are they allowed to buy alcohol?"

Ms. Powell responded, "Our code does not go into that level of detail."

The senator said, "So they can." The hearing did not go well for the drug industry. At its end, Ms. McCaskill and

Senator Herb Kohl, a Wisconsin Democrat who is chairman of the Special Committee on Aging, said they would push for legislation that would create a national registry of gifts and payments to doctors by the makers of drugs and medical devices.

Ms. McCaskill said the Senate was in the process of adopting ethics legislation that would bar senators from accepting meals from lobbyists. And any gifts or payments to senators must be recorded, she said. "And if it's good for Congress," she said later in an interview, "it's good for the medical profession in terms of cleaning up all this lobbying — because that's what it is."

Mr. Kohl said that if the industry's gifts and payments to doctors were appropriate, no one should object to making them public. He said he was concerned that the payments and gifts have "an impact on the quality and cost of medical treatments."

Drug makers continue to underwrite expensive meals and weekend get-aways for doctors, according to dozens of interviews with doctors. For instance, in a letter dated Dec. 4, AstraZeneca, a London company, invited doctors to attend a weekend training session in February at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress in Orlando, Fla., to learn how to give marketing lectures for Symbicort, an asthma medicine. In addition to paying doctors' flight, car and hotel costs, AstraZeneca offered a \$2,700 stipend, according to an invita-

tion letter. Michele Meeker, a spokeswoman for AstraZeneca, said that the Florida event had complied with all industry ethics guidelines and that the stipend was "fair market value for their time."

Asked whether the drug industry would support a mandatory national registry of payments and gifts to doctors, Ms. Powell told the committee that similar state efforts had become enmeshed in difficult details — like deciding whether free drug samples should be classified as gifts. "There are those kinds of complexities that would make a registry very difficult," she said.

After the hearing, Ms. Powell's trade association released a statement criticizing the state registries, saying they "disarm doctors by inhibiting access to critical scientific information about the benefits and risks of treatment options that help patients win their battle against disease."

The laws have led to some embarrassing disclosures: that some doctors earn hundreds of thousands of dollars from drug makers, that doctors who are paid by drug makers tend to prescribe more of their drugs, and that some doctors who have been hired to perform clinical trials have serious medical disciplinary records.

A New York Times/CBS News poll in February found that respondents overwhelmingly disapproved of doctors' accepting payments from drug makers.

So ... What's Really Going On?

Beats me. Hey, if docs are worried about it, maybe it's time some of the rest of us began paying attention too.

For some years, I've puzzled over the reason that advertisements for prescription drugs that are pretty unique run *ad nauseum* on television.

For example, Neulasta® commercials have been running for years at a high concentration. If you watch almost any

sort of network TV, you've probably seen some of them.

What is Neulasta® for? Well, if your oncologist needs your help in figuring that out, may I suggest that you run screaming from the examining room as quickly as your legs or wheel chair will carry you—you're in dire need of a competent physician.

Perhaps that's the scariest part. Are

there really practicing physicians with licenses who really know almost nothing about their business?

Does the siren call of the profit motive regularly pervert those who take the Hippocratic Oath? Does it cloud the peer process in the medical community? Is your life often just an opportunity for someone to turn a buck?

Really makes one want to stay healthy.

by Walt Pawley
<walt@wump.org>

Water Blogged Wump

Any trace of organization in these paragraphs is entirely coincidental

4



Momma Said There'd Be Days Like This

Whereas Reagan's "Star Wars" weapons systems may still be off in the somewhat distant future as a practical matter, **real "ray guns" are starting to become "practical"**. I quote the last word because I wonder just how practical a ray gun that cuts holes in whatever its beam falls on really is. One nice thing about a flying bullet is that it is a tightly confined energy system, occupying a small volume at any instant. A ray gun could have a similar property—packing all its output energy into something like a soliton or short pulse but I don't think that's what the military has in mind at present. Note that we're talking about solid state lasers here, not the stuff of the THEL (Tactical High Energy Laser) program. While THEL's testing shot down targets successfully, it also uses deuterium fluoride as "fuel", which is pretty nasty stuff to deal with besides being expensive. The army reportedly envisions mounting 100 KW laser "cannons" on vehicles which would carry the electric generator to power the cannon. This is not quite realistic ... yet. In 2005, a 25 KW "cannon" fired for 300 seconds. There are already techniques to achieve the 100 KW power and higher.

For several years Eudora email client software (the sort of software most of us would use to get and send email) had a mode in which you could put up with advertisements to have the program work with all its features. And, unless your screen was just too small, these ads were largely unobtru-

sive. Perhaps the worst aspect of them was when the ad server at Qualcomm would fail for long periods. This caused Eudora to threaten to revert to unsupported mode if you didn't get the ads back ... like there was something you could do about it in the first place. Fortunately, this did not happen often. That is apparently all done with now, what with Eudora going open source as Penelope. But it's far from the end of **ad supported software. It's a concept that seems to be gaining steam.** Google has some large businesses evaluating their ad supported office productivity software. So far, they haven't said, "No." Not to be outdone, there's Microsoft Office Live. I'm old fashioned. I don't care to have software work only if it has an Internet connection with which to "call home". Even worse is the software that works only over the Web, something also in Google's bag of tricks. I've seen a couple of articles of late that point out that traveling to a country that nominally uses a language other than yours can really throw a curve into what you see when you fire up a Google Web app.

I've been unmotivated to write for quite a while but today is iPhone day and by the time I'd seen the 50-th adulation report about how Steve Jobs has master minded Apple since the 1970's I had something to say. Jobs may well deserve a good number of accolades for Apple's success ... but not from the early days. It troubles me that media pundits drool all over themselves praising Jobs as a sort of technical super genius. He's not, though I'm sure he's had some technical acumen rub off on him through association over the years. He's hammer locked Apple's engineers into several **bad designs — one of which is the Macintosh**, believe it or not. While the various incarnations of Mac OS faked being "nice", it was not until Mac OS X came along that Apple

finally used the technology that was available in the 1970's to provide a reasonably stable platform. Since Mac OS X was introduced, Apple has been busy fixing parts of it that weren't broken. I sure wish they'd fix the stuff that is broken and let us have a little peace. I'm also sure that ain't gonna happen.

Rob Preston is VP & Editor-in-Chief of InfoWeek magazine, one of the major IT (Information Technology) rags. Every week these days there's something about H-1B workers and/or outsourcing—often many somethings. The reason is quite simple: companies are, and have been, discarding well educated, hard working, productive American technical workers in favor of cheap foreign workers (who's general competence and productivity I can only surmise from of the effects of their employment). Rob thinks that the way American IT workers can ensure their jobs is to be lean, mean, production machines (my para-phraseology). It's too bad Rob is suffering from what I'd call a mainstream disconnect from reality. **He's laboring under the mistaken notion that the people making the decisions to employ H-1Bs and outsourcers to replace their employee rosters are paying attention to their employees.** For the most part, that's simply not true. It's my opinion that many of these people are operating according to a formula they believe leads to "success". And, they're probably right ... if one applies their measure of success to the process.

Something peculiar seems to have happened to birds this year. Perhaps even last year though my memory is sufficiently suspect that I'm not sure. We have a few cherry trees around us. In years past, we basically had to fight the birds to let the cherries ripen enough to be really good. I can recall a few years seeing the Royal Ann tree behind the house besieged by **5 -->**

<--Water Blogged Wump

birds to the point were the whole tree was aflutter and the noise annoying. Not a speck of cherry would remain on the tree or the ground. This year there were some cherries that got pecked at but many of those we could not reach are desiccating on the tree as I write, becoming pits surrounded by a sweet cherry flavored leather.

I've finally managed to scrape my carcass off the couch long enough to put on a bathing suit and very worn out, very cheap, old "running" shoes and walk down to the North Umpqua. It's about a 550 foot walk this time of year. I discovered that **I've atrophied a good deal over this last year**. What I typically do is get into the river at our place, walk upstream and then float back. The first day, I didn't get very far. When I say "walk", it's really something of a euphemism for stumbling about like a drunken, largely depilated, pot bellied bear dressed in ill fitting underwear. There's a fair current in the river as it flows by our place. Between fighting the current and fighting to maintain one's footing on slippery rocks, I think it's pretty good exercise. For someone with my problems, it's also handy that when I crap out, I can float back. I usually don't go down in the heat of the day, choosing 4 or 5 in the afternoon instead. There are far fewer people on the river then. The osprey tend to be on the hunt by then. Ducks and geese are out with their ducklings and goslings foraging for goodies. Very rarely, you might even see a ferret or otter. I'm going to have to get out there as much as possible. I'd like to get back to feeling like it wasn't a big effort.

AMD and Intel have long been locked in a battle over who has the "best" chip to run the x86 architecture. Apple has apparently thrown its hat into the Intel corner of the ring. Personally, I rather wish Apple has stayed with IBM's Power architecture—not because it's particularly great, though I think it's better than x86, but because

it represented the only mainstream alternative to x86. This has meant that at least open source software had a motive to develop in some sort of processor independent mode. **With Apple's switch to x86, a major force for real open software development has been quashed**. But that's not the end of this de facto standardization. In the war between AMD and Intel things have moved well beyond just the processor architecture. Now their chips are "supporting" things previously considered either external hardware or some sort of software. This does make motherboard design easier—slap one chip with a zillion leads and a couple of DIMM sockets on a board and you have a workable computer; multiple processors, multi-level cache, graphics, sound, networking, what have you, all set to go.

In keeping with the massive efforts learning to muck about with the extremely dinky, scientists have recently found a compound that will bond metal to silicon dioxide. Dubbed "**nanoglue**", **organosilane** can self-organize into a monolayer interface between the two materials. Apparently the adhesion is five times stronger than currently used techniques. It sounds to me like the behavior is rather like a soap film or cell wall in which the molecules have differing affinities to bind with materials at "each end". In other words, organosilane is apparently quite polar relative to copper and silicon dioxide. OK, so you probably won't keep a tube of the stuff in your kitchen miscellaneous stuff drawer. But if you're making things like integrated circuits, it sounds like it should be a real boon.

Pretty much on que (ie. as was expected), the Micro\$hapht bull has started its rampage through the china shop. **"Officials with the Redmond, Wash., software maker"** have declared the Linux kernel in violation of 42 of its patents, Linux GUIs (Graphics User Interfaces) infringes 65, OpenOffice uses 45, email programs violate 15 and other open source software run afoul

of 68. Last year Steve Ballmer declared that if you weren't using SUSE Linux, then you were in violation of Mr. Bill's inventions. It's really a very interesting ploy. There's no point in "going after" the open source producers—they have little or no money. While Mr. Bill might not care, his lawyers would likely balk at not getting the big payday from their efforts. So, Mr. Bill has to target his own customers ... at least the ones with big, deep pockets full of cash. Now does Mr. Bill want that cash? You bet he does. But ... he doesn't want to get it in court for patent violation. Instead, he wants to scare the money into license fees, etc. for using Micro\$hapht products—which Novell's SUSE Linux essentially is now that they've kissed and sealed their board room deals.

Allied to the getting stuck posterior by the Longhorns of the Micro\$hapht bull is the wrangling over GPL 3 (General Public License, version 3) being written by Richard Stallman of The Free Software Foundation. I won't try to explain it to you (if you're interested—and it's some thought provoking work about how our future is going to be—you can look at <http://www.fsf.org>) but Micro\$hapht has accused it of attempting to **"tear down the bridge between proprietary and open-source technology that Microsoft has worked to build with industry and customers."** Indeed. Perhaps this is because the bridge is highly selective, dotted with toll booths and cloaked in secrecy. One thing GPL 3 covers is the fallout from just what Micro\$hapht has done with Novell. As much as Apple's persistent unwillingness to be truly open has annoyed me and numerous others, the Mac OS is a far more open platform than Windows ever thought of being.

The sad part of all this, from my perspective, is that there's some potential to reverse the insanity of most "intellectual property" patents. But it's my considered opinion that we'll be wiped out by several large asteriods **6 -->**

Call for Q & A

Do you have a skill or are familiar with a program? Would you be available to share your expertise?

Please email mcclellan@charter.net, so we can let our members know, via email (not The RoseByter). Also, if you have a question about software not listed below, please come to a meeting and ask. If you really need help before a meeting, email me and I'll try to find someone to help you.

Acrobat

Address Book

AppleWorks

ClarisWorks

Digital/Video (shooting/editing)

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coming together at the Earth from different directions simultaneously before that takes place. Why? Money talks. Who has the money? I don't think I need to tell you.

CERN is getting their act together to operate the LHC (Large Hadron Collider), a 27 kilometer circular cave just choked full of great big, high tech stuff. Hadrons are protons or related particles (I suppose one needs to be a Quantum Chromodynamicist to understand the relationship). **Why toss protons at things in cavern underground?** Mostly because they're a lot heavier than electrons so they crash into their targets with far greater energy. Out of the energy of such collisions, debris consisting of subatomic particles spew all over, often triggering even more debris in a kind of cascade. By studying "pictures" of this debris captured in various detectors, at least some of the constituents of the universe have made their presence known. These "pictures" create what most of us would think of as a "lot" of data—expected to be about 15 petabytes per year (see page 2). To deal with all this data, CERNs data center

Eudora

Excel

Excel/Word (Beginning)

FileMaker Pro

FireFox

iCab

Illustrator (Beginning)

iMovie

InDesign

Internet Explorer

Mail

Panorama

PhotoShop

PhotoShop Elements

QuarkExpress

Quicken/Quickbooks

Safari

intends to "farm out" the analysis function using a three tier approach involving perhaps 100,000 computers or grid. Serving as the "fountainhead" or Tier 0, are the computers at CERN which will ship data subsets to 11 Tier 1 centers in Europe, North America and Asia. The Tier 2 data centers are mostly located at more than 250 universities around the planet. All of this computing power is connected via some of the most advance high speed networking presently available. Exciting times in particle physics and cosmology may be just around the corner in 2008 if all goes according to plan. For instance, we may find out what dark matter is all about. Perhaps a GUT will gain the provenance of some real evidence.

Since I'm way behind the news front, you may already be aware that some pacemakers may not function properly in the presence of an iPod. To be fair, this notion is the result of a study in which about 50 percent of 100 pacemaker users had detectable "electrical interference" when an iPod was operated two inches from the patients' chest. In one case, the pacemaker actually stopped working. Now, before

you get all worried about how dangerous iPods must be, you should know that such results would be likely is any high speed computing device was used similarly. Put another way, **iPods may have been magic for Apple's bank account but they're just ordinary stuff from an engineering perspective.** As for the pacemaker that stopped—it may turn out to have been a good thing to have discovered; pacemakers should be a great deal better designed than that. There are lots of ways that high frequency electrical noise can get generated and I'm quite certain that an iPod's output is much lower than many of them. On the other hand, most of the really bad ones are not things you'd carry in a shirt pocket. With electrical noise, distance is a very big issue because field strength falls off as the square of the distance from the source of the noise. None the less, pacemakers should be designed to work reliably in a hideous electrical interference environment.

I'll wind up this month with something I would normally not do. ABCC has been experiencing some rough patches of late and it's resulted in some radical changes. I wish I could tell you what the reason(s) for many of these changes are but I truly do not know. For a time, it appeared that ABCC might even fold up its tent and fade away—something which could still happen. For me, at least, it'd be a shame. I like the fact that ABCC is one of the oldest Apple user groups in the country. It's old enough to have tradition. One of those traditions, which is of questionable value in my opinion, is that a small group has usually done most of the work. We seem to have lost some of the people in that group over the last two months. So you're invited, encouraged, prodded, cajoled, asked, pleaded with to help fill the voids. You, too, can be a board member or an author (please do!) or a software "expert", sharing your experience with others. You can inspire others. All you have to do is try.

That **Bane** of the Macintosh User

Lately I've done some messing around with DVD image files, creating them on one computer and then transferring them to another computer for "burning". Such image files tend to be about 4+ GB (gigabytes) long.

I could use the good ol' Macintosh method of mounting a share point (a folder or hard disk that's been declared shareable) from one computer on the other computer via AppleTalk. It's been my experience that this method is not particularly quick, so moving 4+ GB that way didn't appeal to me. I have done it. I should have timed it but it seemed to take much longer than some other methods I've used.

For example, one method you could use for such things is **rsync**. Perhaps best used for moving gobs of files at a time, especially when you already have copies at both ends that just need to be "synchronized", **rsync** works just fine to send or suck a file from one machine to another even if it's only resident at one end first. It does take a bit of setting up and I have all my computers configured to deal with **rsync** automatically. Done reasonably, it's quite secure. It also moves data at pretty much the raw channel's capacity. But you have to know passwords and file paths on two machines to do it. For example, I might type into Terminal:

```
rsync DVD.iso wump@rdy::ftp/Desktop/
```

whereupon the sleeping computer named **rdy** could be heard spinning up its hard disk to wake up enough to process the **rsync** path **ftp/Desktop/** and ask me for a password. If I don't fat finger the password, the file copy would commence.

Even with just one computer **rsync** can be handy. It's good for copying whole folder trees. Indeed, **rsync** is often used as the foundation of backup methods. For such activity, it normally only copies data that's been changed which can result in huge speed improvements.

But I sort of settled in to using FTP for moving these DVD images around. You don't have to remember quite so much and can readily muck about looking at two computer's file systems to figure out what to do. You can even use auto-completion to have the FTP program type most of the path names on both computers for you. Generally you do things in short steps rather than having to put everything into what can be a giant command line. Like **rsync** the FTP protocol is pretty light weight—meaning that it doesn't waste time during data transfers.

The FTP client provided by Apple in Mac OS X is what's known as "lukemftp". This is because it was written by Luke Mewburn. The "lukemftp" has a long history and is very stable. But I recently ran afoul of some minor oddities,

7 the first of which sent me on a wild goose chase trying to figure out what was going on with Apple and FTP in general.

It started when I noticed that **ftp** reported the correct file size when a transfer was started but, if the file were large like 4+ GB, the progress bar would fill up about half way through, the ETA would go blank and the final report would claim a negative number of bytes had been transferred.

Since I've been a member of the beany doffing class for about 50 years, it was clear to me that this was an artifact related to bugs in handling file sizes larger than 31 bits. So, I started looking to see what version of the **ftp** client I had and what version Apple was providing on their newest systems. Many programs report their version number if you invoke them with a **-v** or **-V** or **--version** flag. Not the **ftp** client. So, I read the man page. Indeed, I **grep**ed the man page for mention of "version". The word is in there but it has nothing to do with reporting itself.

So I got on the Web and eventually found where "lukemftp" was hosted. But that site had not been updated in a long time and carried a message that "lukemftp" had been segued to "tnftp". I eventually found the site for "tnftp" and it's still being developed by Luke Mewburn. However the last version was created in 2005. I d/l'd a copy of the source, decompressed it, read the READMEs and fired up a default compile. Oddly enough, it created a new **ftp** client with nary a hitch.

So, I did some testing. It seemed to work just fine so I carefully replaced my **ftp** client on a couple of machines with the one I'd compiled and went on my merry way. I filed a Bugreport with Apple and wrote Luke to thank him for telling about typing **ftp about:version** to get the version number.

As chance would have it, I managed to do things a bit different during one of my sessions. I had these two DVD images to transfer. I fired up **ftp** and copied the first image to the burning computer. Then I went to that computer and started the burn. Then I went back to the other computer and mucked about until the burner went ding-dong and the DVD drive tray popped out. I cleaned up the burner's dross and went back to transfer the other image. I'd not quit **ftp** so I re-opened the connection and fired up the second transfer. It all went great.

As I was sitting there, thinking about something else, my eye caught these two negative numbers at the bottom of the Terminal window. It was the transfer report. Clearly there are still some bugs in there. So, I copied the Terminal window into an email to Luke. At this writing, I've not heard from him but I'll wager he fixes it ... or tells me how I am wrong.



Apple's Site's New Clothes

From: randy <randy@sac.sticare.com>
Subject: Re: new apple website
To: Macintosh News and Information <Mac-L@lists.listmoms.net>
On Jun 15, 2007, at 12:39 AM, David Ledger wrote:

> At 13:08 -0700 13/6/07, randy wrote:
>> Just as a point of interest, Apple, and a number of other
>> companies, were recently sued over the use of tabbed interfaces.
>> (Someone, apparently, has an enforceable patent on the concept.)
>> I suspect the new button-bar look is a response to this.
>
> I don't see that getting very far. From what I've read about the
> patent, the old Mac Chooser is 'Prior Art'. The Printer pane /
> Network pane choice wasn't by paper folder type tabs, but the
> patent doesn't specify what the selector has to look like. The
> System Prefs also shared a pane with selector 'tabs' at the left.
>
> I'm surprised Apple don't have the patent. That they haven't
> probably means the technique had been used before in character
> screen windows systems.

Patent lawsuits are very expensive to see all the way through, and the results are hard to predict. Just the fact that the suit has been filed means that it is likely that Apple will reach some sort of settlement with the plaintiff.

Personally I think that allowing patents on abstract concepts of how things look in software is a really bad idea. And patents can be drafted so that they are so ambiguous that you don't know what has been covered by a particular patent. This allows companies to make a living by being nothing other than patent trolls. That is just plain wrong.

Randy B. Singer
Co-author of The Macintosh Bible (4th, 5th, and 6th editions)

Macintosh OS X Routine Maintenance
<http://www.macattorney.com/ts.html>

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

Amongst Randy Singer's many activities, he regularly tunes into Mac-L to help people with their problems. So do I but Randy is a much more voluminous contributor than I. We tend to see the Macintosh from very different perspectives and his perspective is much more resonant with that of most of Mac-L's inhabitants than mine.

But I was struck by his last paragraph above. It's a sentiment that I've held for many years and illucidates what seems the almost inevitable fate of organizations run by rules, especially when the public is not a participant. Indeed, in the case of



patents, I'd not feel too uncomfortable claiming that the public has become more victim than mere bystander.

Contrary to what seems the popular opinion, patents were not created to protect inventors. The concept was that by providing some protection for inventors, ideas would become publicly available and thus increase the propensity for invention in society. In other words, patents were granted to provide the motivation to publish the nature of inventions.

One thing that's always bothered me about patents is the novelty test. Supposedly, the claims of a patent are supposed to be such that a peer of the inventor would find the content novel.

In my opinion, this is seldom the case, especially lately. As Randy points out, patents are written with the notion of covering huge conceptual arenas by cloaking claims in obscurity. If you don't believe me, go read some patents at random.

We've long known why this sort of thing happens. It's explained by...

"The **Peter Principle** is a colloquial principle of hierarchiology, stated as "In a hierarchy every employee tends to rise to his level of incompetence." Formulated by Dr. Laurence J. Peter in his 1968 book *The Peter Principle*, the principle pertains to the level of competence of the human resources in a hierarchical organization."

[lifted from Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Principle]

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