



Apple Blossom Computer Club
A registered Apple/Macintosh User Group

Oct '07
still only
\$2.00

The

ROSE

BYTER

MacProVideo Education

Next Meeting

October 18, 7 PM
Pine Grove
Community Church
1729 Buckhorn Rd

Agenda

1. Meeting starts at 7 P.M.
2. Intro's of members and guests
3. Old business
Bylaws Amendment, final reading and vote.
4. New business
5. Program: MacProVideo computer educational video demo
6. Questions & (maybe)Answers

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

One of the great benefits of belonging to an Apple computer user group is that we get email notices and special offers via the "Apple User Group Bulletin". Such a deal!

Or, maybe not. After all, the motive of a business is to acquire more money than they spend, possibly by providing something of value to those from whom they acquire it. Despite the "warm fuzzies" Apple users are famous for feeling, it's a phenomena not really supported by the facts. The contents of the AUGB proves that from time to time. I managed to fall victim to one of the third party offers below the invitation to the Apple User Group Wine and Cheese Reception.

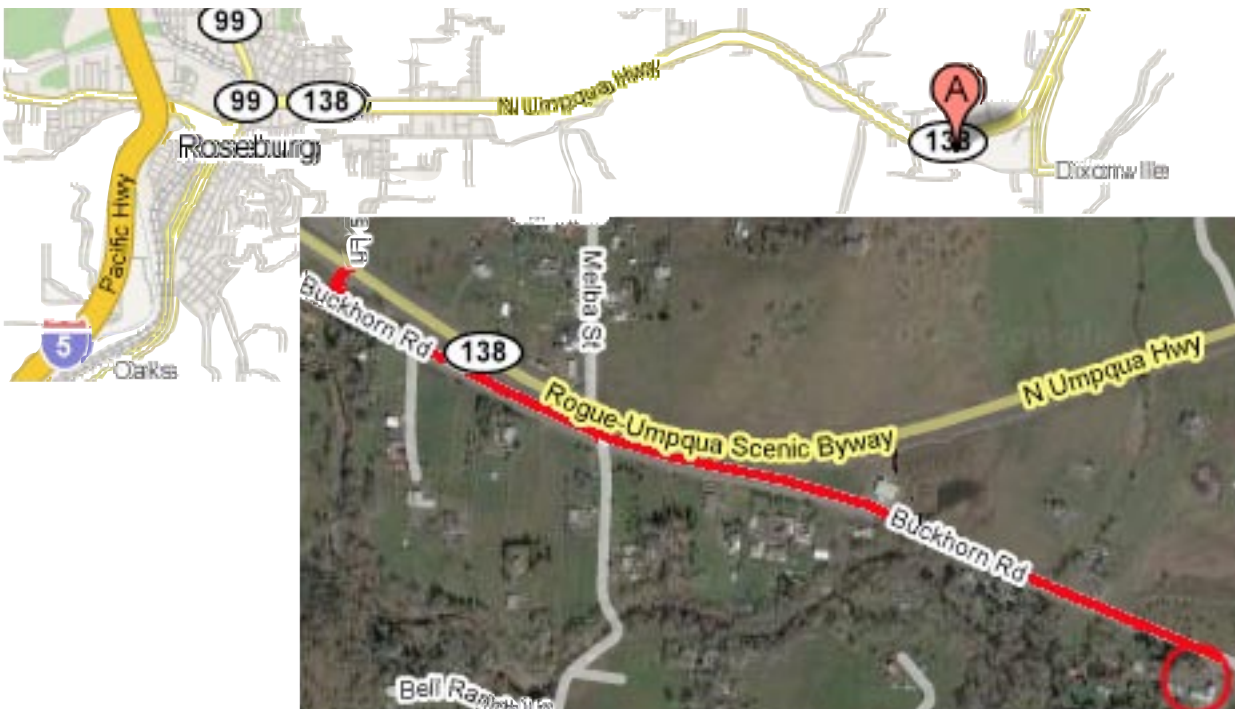
It seemed like it might be a good idea for a user group to have video learning material available to members when I read about a 30% discount and a user group free demo program for MacProVideo instructional videos. So, after reading the notice, I went to their web site and investigated. It looked pretty good. So, I signed up. I got my username and password and logged in to download the two demo videos.

That's when things started to go down hill. Yes, there are two "free" videos. But, you need to install N.E.D. (Nonlinear Educating Device—The friendly tutorial video player) software to download and view them. Yes, I could have discovered this by paw-

ing through their Web site. But it was not mentioned at all going in to the point where you sign up.

I sent some email to Gosia, my contact at MPV, expressing my concern. Why did we need some special piece of software just to download a video? Ah, Well, NED is much

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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>

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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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Quince Blossoms Of April

Subject: phone calls

From: Phil Bowser
<philip574@aol.com>

Just read the 'Byter and noticed that you got a call from somebody who offered you a "last chance" on your credit cards. It reminded me that I got a call recently from a REAL LIVE PERSON who wanted to consolidate all of my credit card debt at a lower interest rate. All I had to do was answer some questions.

Well, I don't carry any credit card debt, so I knew this person hadn't the foggiest. I decided to ask MY question first - "Since I'm on the Federal Do Not Call list, isn't this call a violation of Federal law?!?!?"

Click!

[Ed. Note: FWIW, the FDNC listings need to be re-upped every five years—they go by fast!]

From: Jim McClellan
<mcclellan@charter.net>

Subject: Re: Root stock pear

This email reminded me of eating quince jelly when I was a kid. I don't remember where we got it, but if I remember correctly, we had it fairly frequently. I assume my mother made it, but I don't remember seeing the fruit itself.

...

Some of you may be aware that I've been rather interested in the sort of fruit that might arise from the blossoms I've seen on the root stalk that's burgeoned out from beneath the graft. Why do we have such a Franken-tree? Well, in the early days of this pear tree's life, we had a flood that smashed it to a stub. So there seemed little harm in just letting it go. Besides, that area of the yard is extremely dry in the summer. It wouldn't survive anyway.

But it did. The root stock actually seemed to flourish. Eventually the grafted stalk put in an appearance. In the last few years, several fruits have

set from some of the blossoms but none have managed to develop ... until this year. This year there's been exactly one fruit hanging from the root stalk portion of the tree. The grafted stock is so loaded some of it was weighted all the way to the ground, with one limb propped up with a stick, looking like a fishing pool yarding on a whale.

No one seemed to know what sort of pear this root stalk was. Good reason, as it turns out ... it's not a pear. Apparently many pear trees are grafted to quince root stalk. So I did a bit of research into the nature of quinces, not having any exposure to them in my recollection. I was quite surprised to find that most people posting Web pages about quince thought they were pleasantly flavorful, fragrant, colorful and good substitutes for either apples or pears.

Certainly these reports would be difficult for me to verify. First off, the fruit on our tree looked very like an apple. The pictures on the Web were "less handsome", looking a bit like hanging yellow cloth bags containing very peculiar ensembles of odd stuff. And, as it became larger, the fruit appeared to be bright white in color rather than most fruit's being green.

But I read that quince were bright yellow when ripe. A few days ago, I saw that our quince was beginning to show signs of turning yellow. I decided to leave it on the tree. But each day the weather's had some comparatively violent periods that have dropped Golden Delicious apples like there is a conspiracy to ruin the fruit crop here. That and the fact that we have some very large raccoons around here who've been eyeing this stuff up all summer. Now I don't mind passively feeding the wildlife around here to some extent but there was only this one fruit, now clearly a quince.

So, this afternoon I went to see if the quince was still there. It was. **3 -->**

<— Letters 2 And, it was yellow, if not quite bright yet.

I decided I should test to see if it was “ready” but cradling it in my palm and tipping it a bit to see if it would fall off. Not yet. I was in the process of carefully putting it back in a position where it’d have some potential support when the vision of a goodie munching raccoon came to mind. I reached in with my other hand, found the stem with my thumb and applied pressure to break the stem’s bond to the stick it grew from.

The quince was a full handful, very much the same sort of size as a large Gravenstein apple. It was nice and

firm, with a coat of fine, nearly invisible fuzz well on its way to falling off. My nostrils are not quite dead but they are far from sensitive compared to my wife, say. Still, the fragrance of the quince is, indeed, very nice.

So, I’ve got to do some careful pruning this winter, encouraging both the pear and quince sides of this combined tree to be strong and fruitful. I’d like to try homemade quince pie. --

Walter M. Pawley
<walt@wump.org>

The Lone Quince



<— 1 MacProVideo

more than just a video downloader. It manages the learning process for you and makes everything easy. Why, users are just thrilled to have NED. And, it’s free!

Yeah. I’m sure.

Well, you *can* download NED for free. Which I did. Of course, it’s like nearly everything else is getting to be ... if you don’t run the latest release of Mac OS X, too bad. Or, almost. They did have a version for 10.3.9. I d/l’d both of them and fired up the Panther version. But I was also heavily involved in a bunch of other stuff at the time and I missed this transient red balloon that describes what icon to click to download videos. So, when I got around to looking at NED to do the d/l’s, the clues were few and far between. Still, I managed to click around a bit and finally hit on the magic combination to get the d/l’s running.

Thinking it a bit strange to put such cryptic software in the hands of people needing tutorials to operate their computer, I once again emailed Gosia with my thoughts on the matter. The reply read, in part, “...we always thought the bright red bubbles saying ‘Click here to get your tutorials’ were pretty self explanatory.” Indeed they would be, but I hadn’t seen any ... yet.

Some time after being chided, I noticed that d/l progress was very slow. It didn’t complain. I let it run over night. I was wrong. D/l progress was nil. So, I thought about writing to Gosia for instructions on what to do about it but then decided to simply kill the program (it wouldn’t quit) and start it up again and see what happened.

Well what do you know! This time I was watching and a red balloon with nearly visible yellow lettering was there at the icon to click. By the time I’d managed to squint out what it said, it dimmed and vanished. User friendliness at its best! But I was able to log back in and restart the d/l process where it left off.

Still very busy, it was a couple of days later that I managed to start looking at the tutorial videos I’d d/l’d. First of all, they are only videos to NED. To everything else they are “does not compute”. So, NED is much less about helping the user than it is about hamstringing the user. Persevering, I sat through about 20 minutes of material and didn’t find it all that bad. Well, except for the part where you had to buy other videos to get tutored on how to get the data into the program so you could use what you learned in this video. So, in my mind it was time to put together a demo for our group.

I got the group’s external hard disk out, copied both NED installers, one

to the Panther partition and one to the Tiger partition. I was rather curious to see how they’d embellished NED to work so much better in Tiger than in Panther. The d/l’d files had been placed in my Documents folder in a folder named, strangely enough, NED. So, I copied the whole 1.64 GB of NED to the Documents folder of the “abcc” user on external drive. Then I dismounted the drive, took it to my PowerBook, mounted it there and rebooted the PB on the drive’s Tiger partition, whereupon I installed NED and fired it up. Sure enough there were more icons than there were in the Panther version. And there was still the short lived red balloon with nearly illegible verbiage in it.

But there were no tutorials present. So, I mucked about and finally found a means of “energizing” them. But that didn’t work either. Alerts about unauthorized machines kept appearing, telling me to log in and “update”. So I tried that too. No luck. So, I wrote to Gosia about my efforts and their results to at least get a “Yes, you can do it and [perhaps] here’s how...” or a “No, it’s one of NED’s features to protect you that everyone loves”. No response. I waited a few days and wrote again, this time to anyone at all at MacProVideo. No response. I can only conclude that they’ve fallen off the planet or I’ve managed to

Water Blogged Wump

Any trace of organization in these paragraphs is entirely coincidental

4



Just Like My Life—At Least The Bomb Didn't Blow

Technology is just soooo... much fun these days.

Well, I guess it is in some respects. It can be fun to use technology to present prepackaged entertainment, for example. Indeed, **I suspect there's far more storage space allocated to copies of music and video than anything else.** Well, unless you take into account the available space on media which is still available to be used. But that one is a tough call; perhaps it only comes in a distant third. The twitch and jerk crowd also manages to spend too much time with their technology playing the latest games. I must confess to a near complete state of cluelessness regarding these things. I'm too old and tired to care for all that twitching and jerking these days, I guess. And, if your own life is not complex enough for you, you can put on your magic technology cloak and wander through simulated worlds aplenty. There are lot's of ways to have fun with technology. You most probably are familiar with more than I, so write me a note about your cyber pass time, eh.

There's also the satirical form of fun — the kind I seem to have — a lot. I recently was doing some work with a hard disk that gave me considerable trouble. The problems revolved around trying to get Classic installed

on a multi-drive system running the most recent version of Tiger on a fast MDD (Mirror Drive Door) G4. Nothing seemed to work. Either *you needed Classic already installed to install Classic* or you needed to boot on OS 9.2.1 (earlier versions didn't seem to boot) from CD to install it ... but that didn't work either because the installer refused to run. So I yarded the drive out the of computer, stuck it in my

trusty ol' Firewire box and managed, with some odd behavior in the process, to get Classic running on the drive by using some much more ancient equipment that's not so finicky. But the problems with this 250 GB drive in the Firewire box were things that should not have been happening. After all, everyone knows that if you want to run a drive larger than 132 MB on an old G3/G4, you just need to use Firewire. Riiiiight... As I sat there thinking about things it finally sunk in that while I'd run larger drives here via Firewire and USB, I'd not actually done that with my external futz box. 120 GB was as large as I'd done. It's an *old* futz box; way old, by modern standards. So, I made some queries and bought a new box so I'd be ready to deal with 48 bit LBA addressed drives (stuff bigger than 132 GB). When it arrived, I set up a drive to check it out, turn it on and ... nothing. Well, not quite nothing. The power LED was pulsing on at a slow, steady rate. Characteristic of a switching power supply that's experiencing a fault after starting - they tend to try to run then stop when they sense the fault, over and over. Ain't we got fun now? Well, not really. See, the shipping cost on the box was about 1/3 of the price. Thus shipping it back and paying for shipping on another box would have doubled the price. And then there's the hassle of dealing with customer "service" (isn't that an animal husbandry term). So, I tore

into the box, yarding out its innards to get to the power supply; a near *tour de force* of miniaturization, which my failing eyesight finds so appealing. I studied it and its behavior for a while. Nothing obvious. I mulled it over in my sleep and checked a particular section. I needed the specs on a chip to figure out whether what I was seeing was OK or not. Unfortunately, these days markings on these things are exceedingly cryptic and there are far too many such parts available. It took the better part of a day of Intersleuthing to find something that made sense, much less actually matched (never did find that). It gave me enough of a clue to find a surface mount inductor that was open—this is a weensy glob that's supposed to have a microscopic coil in it. I soldered a bit of 30 gauge wire-wrap wire across it. New futz box works find now.

The ABC Evening News had an "exclusive" report tonight. They claim, as a result of the claims of a number of government types, that China is operating a program to break into American government and military computers. I can't refute this but I suspect it's most likely not so much a Chinese government program as it is just the fact that there's a lot of old Windows stuff used by lot of Chinese. One of factors cited to support the notion of it being Chinese government is that the Chinese government is very repressive on the traffic they'll allow on the Internet, so they must know all about it. It's not impossible. Perhaps it's not even improbable. but I'm inclined to have my doubts. Over the years, I've not noticed that the best and brightest drift into government positions that control things. Indeed, **the noise emitted by the best and brightest in government is quite likely to get them removed from government and in China it might simply get them removed.** But there is a lot to be said for computers in China to be the 5 -->

<--Water Blogged Wump

primary sources of “attacks”. My own log files corroborate that. [see Dreaded Terminal for more]

Have you noticed that companies like Microsoft and IBM are offering up large numbers of their patents for use in open source software. Isn't that magnanimous of them? **Giving up all that hard earned intellectual property to the motley world of largely unemployed nerds.** Yeah, that's what's happening. You bet. For a slightly different perspective one can look at some recent changes in patent law regarding novelty requirements. Apparently some legislators woke up to the fact that huge numbers of patents have been granted for doing what comes naturally. That and the actual time line of developments supposedly using the patents. Were these companies to sue so-called infringers for their supposed heinous behavior, the true nature of the patents might come out. I don't doubt that such companies have people working on products that incorporate the ideas but they also have highly paid patent trolls who need something to do too. The fact that they patented other people's intellectual property, possibly even violating open source licenses to do it, seems to go unnoticed.

I recently got an email from one of the lists that descends upon me saying, **“Subject: Customer Data Leaked on LimeWire”**. Sadly the article made very clear that the author didn't know what LimeWire is any more than the lady whose computer had the data on it in the first place. But, the subject line is apparently literally correct in the sense that the Gnutella peer-to-peer networking program that made the data available was LimeWire. The article makes it sound like LimeWire in particular is the problem. Actually, there may be as many as hundreds of Gnutella networking programs of which LimeWire is only one; albeit a popular one. The real problem is the rampant cluelessness of the people

using computers. It's not hard to limit the content one shares with the world over P2P networking. But people seem prone to put all their eggs in one basket. Indeed, they may not even realize it's very feasible to make lots of baskets to put things in and keep them separated. I find it troubling that a company like Citigroup outsources its activities to little companies and pays so little attention that such things are allowed to happen to customer data. Perhaps the real trouble is that the fat cats are just too fat.

I guess I'm missing something ... again. I have little in the way of opinion about whether we should have provisions like measure 50 or not. But one side ... the side which big business seems to be supporting ... is arguing that Oregon's never amended the state's constitution to deal with specific types of products. I suppose there might even be a thread of truth in this notion if one defines the nature of the specification tightly enough. But this argument seems pretty much vacuous to long time Oregon residents.

I can't recall an election in which several measures amending the state's constitution weren't on the ballot. But I pay very little attention to such things and don't study politics present, much less past. Still, if there's something about Oregon's government I find aggravating it's the fact that our constitution demands amending to do almost anything, or so it seems, at least. Constitutions should be about fundamentals, not about highly specific things ... just as computer operating systems should be stable and largely unchanging. But we don't seem to care about the latter so I suppose it's too much to ask that we consider doing the former.

I just got off the phone with a person, a suspected female, who had a very far east accent. She spoke in an extremely rapid cadence as though it were somehow necessary to compress whole sentences into a cacophonous burst of high pitch chirps and squeaks. No doubt, she did this a lot, knew every

question verbatim from the pit of her stomach and was bored out of her mind dealing with the likes of me all day (or more probably, night), day after day. First would come the squawk suggesting that I did this or that, punctuated by the question, **“Isthatrightyesorno?”** Sadly, the periodical to which this lady was attempting to get me a free subscription is one I actually bother to read a bit. What's sad about it is that they somehow justify outsourcing their subscription processes. I doubt very much the group actually creating the magazine made that decision. Much more likely it was a decision by the board of the media holding company to which they're tied. In other words, it's more likely a decision based on how to make the big stock holders richer. Probably looks like a great idea on paper. After all, you don't think for one second that any of the people making such decisions ever deal with the operational results of their decisions, do you?

If you're likely closer to the end of your life than the beginning, you probably recall a time when the United States Postal Service actually worked. No, it wasn't perfect. But by and large it was accurate and inexpensive. I think I know why. Once upon a time, there were lots of post offices. They were run by your neighbors. Perhaps they were just a corner in the grocery store or the malt shop with a couple of different slots to put outgoing mail in and maybe a cabinet of boxes to get incoming mail through. Today, if I send a message to my next door neighbor, it gets picked up at my mail box, carried to the Roseburg Post Office, where it's piled with all the area's outgoing mail and sent to Eugene, where they mix it with other mail coming to the Roseburg area, sort it all, send it back to Roseburg, stick it on the delivery vehicle and put it in my neighbor's mail box. Er, ... **or they would if the process worked right.** I suppose it more often works than not. Indeed, if one were a betting man, the

5

6 -->

On page 7 there should be a rather colorful array of shell script text heeled over onto its side 'cuz it just didn't want to fit otherwise. Before trying to tell you what it's about, I thought you might be interested in how the coloration was obtained.

Earlier in the day, I'd gotten around to d/l-ing and installing Aquamacs Emacs. Emacs is a text editor on steroids one could make a career out of learning to use. I am *not* an Emacs

<--3 MacProVideo

annoy them enough to have attained *persona non grata* status. I don't doubt that latter as annoying people seems to be one of my personality traits.

Well, all that last bit ends up not necessarily being true! SNAFU being the order of the day after day, things smoothed out suddenly. Apparently servers and the like had been incognito and email wasn't making the trip. So I hauled everything back out of the box, hooked it up and tried again. Success!

My opinion is still that MacProVideo could lighten up their stranglehold on the user, provide .mov files that played directly in QuickTime Player and that were downloadable with standard tools like HTTP or FTP. Your opinion may be quite different and, I believe, I'll be able to give you the opportunity to form that opinion for yourself at our next meeting. See you there!

<--Water Blogged Wump

odds would be considered very good that it would make the trip. But the trouble with that is that every single mistake in the process affects people. And in a system like the one we use now, nothing is ever anyone's fault so there's little real impetice to correct problems that arise. I can hardly wait for the time when the powers that be decide it's necessary to outsource mail sorting. Might as well write your letter, stick a stamp on it, lick the flap, seal it up and light a match to it ... well, that is, if you can still get a match that is not so safe it doesn't work.

wizard, which is rather the point of Aquamacs Emacs - it brings the functionality of Emacs to the native Mac OS X environment. So, I decided to see how the script would look and opened it in AE. Nice. I knew that BBEdit did similar things so I looked at it there too and decided it was more artistic in AE. So, copy and paste into the page. Ugh! Just B&W. So, I tried exporting to PDF. Again, B&W. One more choice, HTML. I opened the result in a browser and, ta-da, colors.

But I still couldn't get them into the page layout. It occurred to me that I could place RTF docs. So, I imported the HTML into (shudder) MSWord, changed the setup to landscape and saved it as an RTF file. This retained the colors when placed. Fun, eh.

The basic idea of this script is that crackers bang away at your machine trying sequences of usernames and passwords, leaving gobs of data in the computer's log files about who failed to log in. It can really pile up. So this script sleeps for 10 minutes, wakes up and looks at how the log file has changed, locates the IP address of abusers and sets the firewall to eject them, greatly reducing the size the log files would attain otherwise. Of course, it also keeps the crackers from continuing to try cracking your system.

Line 1 is the "shebang" line, identifying the script as a Bourne Shell script. Lines 5-8 set some choices for things into variables so they only need be changed in one place. Line 11 defines a function that picks the size of the log file out of a directory listing for the file. Lines 14-19 are a mishmash that looks at the data over the last 10 minutes in the log file and extracts candidate abusers identities, if any. Lines 22-38 are the rest of the program.

The first thing the script does after getting through the preamble is obtain the current size of the log file. The next thing it does is enter a loop that never exits of its own accord.

In that loop, the first thing it does is go

That Bane of the Macintosh User

to sleep for 10 minutes whereupon it wakes up and gets the size of the log file again.



If the size difference from 10 minutes ago is too small, it goes back to sleep because if there's a cracker he's not very busy at it—yet.

But if there's been a big change in the log file, it then uses Line 28 to count the number of times the FTP daemon was launched in the last 10 minutes. If that count is large enough, it then tries to find the crackers' computer identities and shut them down using the "ipfw" command and logging that it's done so.

In any case, the last thing the script does before going back to sleep is to set the current log size into the variable for the log size 10 minutes ago so that it will be right when the script wakes back up again (Line 37).

After writing this script, I ran it for several days very successfully, knocking my average log sizes down by two orders of magnitude. So, I thought I might as well translate the shell script into a Perl program, since it frequently used Perl anyway. I never did find out whether the Perl program worked, however.

See, I'd discovered this web page that told me how to be cleverer about securing a Mac OS X system and there were a few items I wasn't doing, so I "fixed" them. Unfortunately, these activities seem to have removed xinetd's ability to log what it's done though it still does things. This script and the Perl version both need those entries to function. So, I'll either have to figure out how to turn xinetd's logging back on or rewrite things to use another data source, like /var/log/ftp.log.

```

1 #!/bin/sh
2 # Monitor the system log file ${SLOG} for FTP crack attempts and shut them down
3
4 # Default data
5 SLOG=/var/log/system.log
6 SNORTIME=600
7 TRIGCHARS=3000
8 TRIGFTPS=20
9
10 # Function to get the size of the system log file
11 function getLogSz () { ls -l ${SLOG}|awk '{print $5}'; }
12
13 # Function to extract IP addresses from log to ban via ipfw
14 function getAbusers () {
15     tail -c ${PREVSZ} ${SLOG} | \
16     perl -n -e '/xinetd.*START: ftp.*from=::ffff:(.*)/ && do { $a=hex $1;$c=hex $2; \
17         -e '$b=int $a/256;$d=int $c/256;$a%=256;$c%=256;$b.$a.$d.$c";$x{$a}++ };' \
18         -e 'END{while(($a,$b)=each %x){print "$a\n" unless $b<${TRIGFTPS}}}'
19 }
20
21 # Get the start size of the system log file and loop to sleep
22 PREVSZ=$(getLogSz)
23 while true; do
24     sleep ${SNORTIME}
25 # Wake up and smell the change in the system log file
26     CURRSZ=$(getLogSz)
27     if (( CURRSZ-PREVSZ > TRIGCHARS )); then
28         FTPS=$(tail -c ${PREVSZ} ${SLOG}|perl -ne '/xinetd/ && /START: ftp/ && print' - |wc -l)
29         if (( FTPS > TRIGFTPS )); then
30             ABUSERS=$(getAbusers)
31             for ABUSER in ${ABUSERS}; do
32                 ipfw add deny ip from ${ABUSER} to any
33                 logger "${ABUSER} denied access via ipfw"
34             done
35         fi
36     fi
37     PREVSZ=${CURRSZ}
38 done

```



Cows

Not all that long ago, PBS ran a program on cows and their relation to mankind. A bit over 50 years ago, I got to be a real cowboy for a while. So, strange though it might seem for a dyed-in-the-wool cyber-nerd to do such things, I was pretty eager to do some “cow punchin’” when Dale Nelson let me accompany him recently.

The picture on the top right probably looks pretty bucolic to most of you but to me, it’s a modern maze of transformer corrals and chutes. The world of cowboyin’ I stepped into 50+ years ago was at least 50 years behind the times then, so it was very like time traveling to the turn of the last century in many ways. Our corral was made of small barked, delimbed logs, stacked between double posts. We had one chute, just for loading cows on trucks, and two gates, one to keep cows from going up the chute and one to let cows into the corral. Unfortunately, I don’t have pictures.

Nor did we have machines like that green thing. It’s also a chute—a squeeze chute. The cow comes in at one end, usually enticed by the prospect of diving out the other end in one giant leap for cowkind, but is stopped the operator closing the exit around the cow’s neck as it dives through—there’s some skill involved. Once the cow is captured in the squeeze chute, the sides can be compressed so that the cow is largely immobilized.

As bad as that sounds I can attest that it’s almost certainly better than the “good ol’ fashioned way” ’cuz I got to do some of that. We used a cutting horse and a “heeler”. The latter was usually my job. It consisted of wading around the corral amidst the herd, dropping a lariat loop in front of the hind feet of the desired cow, pulling the loop shut and dallying the end of lariat off on a corral post. The cutting horse rider would drop a loop over the cow’s head, take a couple dallys on the pommel and back the



horse up while I’d tie off my dally and come back to throw the stretched cow.

Once the cow was down, whatever work it needed was done. Instead of a squeeze chute, we used weight—our weight. This was not always adequate. Just imagine how hard you’d jump if someone slapped a red hot iron on your shoulder blade. Now multiply that by maybe 15 times and add horns.

This technique had its drawbacks. Besides being dangerous to the cowboys, a lot could go wrong with the work on the cows. Brands can burn too deep, get infected and fester up. Castration, especially on a larger bull-ock, can fail to heal, get infected, etc. Cutting off a horn too deep can...

Additionally, the people and horse(s) are also in harm’s way. Heelers get kicked, gored, squashed, caught up their lariat and trampled under hoof rather routinely. I have literally been trampled by whole herds several times. Horses are targets for the ire of cattle. Their riders can get dumped and suffer the heeler’s woes.

Yup, working cattle is safe for neither the cows or the cowboys. Thanks for lettin’ me tag along, Dale.



unClassifieds



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