



Apple Blossom Computer Club
A registered Apple/Macintosh User Group



Nov '07

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The

ROSE



BYTER

Next Meeting

**Thursday,
November 15, 7 PM
Pine Grove
Community Church
1729 Buckhorn Rd**

Agenda

1. Meeting starts at 7:00 P.M.
2. Introductions of members and guests
3. Old business
4. New business
5. Program: Phat chewin'.
6. Questions & (maybe)Answers

Milestones

The October 16th column in the Apple User Group Bulletin includes, “the Apple Blossom Computer Club: four members started a club in 1981 and one has been a member ever since. Happy anniversary to a worldwide list of some of our oldest groups.”

1977 AppleRock
<http://www.applerock.org/>
(Greetings to President Joan Paletti.)

1979 Apple-Q inc
<http://www.apple-q.org.au>
(Congratulations to President Bob Irwin and Apple-Q members.)

1981 Apple Blossom Computer Club
<http://abccmug.org/>

1984 dBug - Seattle Mac User Group
<http://www.dbug.org>

**The New Ipod Touch
the iPhone without the phone, if you will**

by Joseph Lipshutz

I know ... you were really wanting to go down and get a new iPod—with all that hype, memory and features—but were hesitating because you didn't want to look like a kid. You want to look mature and all, or something like that. Well I don't have that problem. My vanity is not in the way at least as far as iPods are concerned, especially my new iPod Touch 16Gig.

Let me tell you about this little hummer. It does some really neat stuff—way beyond my brothers Nano 2Gig. I take it everywhere I go and the kids at school ... well, they are envious. I can vouch for that.

For example, I can access the Web using Safari on any WIFI thru a scaled down version of Tiger, complete with widgets. The small 3.5” screen is high def and automatically switches between landscape and portrait mode and will, with a cute touch feature, zoom in and out making it very readable. It has a scrolling feature that is almost mesmerizing. You can “flick” your finger lightly on the screen and the response approximates a rolodex—as if the image is mechanical and not digital in the way that it moves. With the zoom feature, the small screen handles tasks you wouldn't expect it to. The battery is good enough to watch 5 hrs of video or a whopping gargantuan 22 hrs of songs. No speakers but good fidelity on the earphones. And because the system is Tiger, there

is the friendliness of a known operating system.

This one has 16 Gig of storage for whatever—another whopper. I've only had it a few weeks and have downloaded a bunch of music and only used somewhere around 2 Gig.

It syncs easily with my iBook, updating calendars, photos, contacts and music but doesn't transfer docs. It does it all this with a USB cable—no ejecting when done. It is hot swappable.

It has an auto update feature to upgrade the system and has 2 keyboards; a touch screen keyboard that is available when needed as well as the keypad.

Because it is not a phone it doesn't text and I don't know if it can handle instant messaging. I am interested to try that out. It is made to work on the Web so I am thinking it may.

And, it is Beautiful—right down to wanting to have a rag with you all the time to wipe off the latest fingerprint. I got a cover for it on eBay from Hong Kong. It is sort of a rubber shock retarding, stretchy material for practical reasons and to “remove” this glitzy finish.

You could say it does what older iPods do but does it much better and does much more of it. This one was \$400, but when Mom is in a buying mood it gives me the edge. I really like my new “Touch”.

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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From: Jim McClellan
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Shortly after I purchased an iBook G4, I decided to connect with my local network and the Internet and email via a wireless connection since my iBook G4 came with Airport software.

After a few issues were resolved, this seemed to work great. Then after several months I began to have connection problems that I couldn't resolve myself. A phone call or two to Walt brought a question from him wondering if I was using a wireless phone near my iBook. I answered, that I had recently purchased one and it worked fine.

Walt then mentioned that some wireless phones have been known to cause problems with computer wireless

<-3 Video Ed.

didn't work. About this time I got a requester kind of out of nowhere, telling me that their computer was not able to identify my machine, and that perhaps I had the cookies turned off. I assume I'm accepting cookies, because I haven't had a problem in the past, and I don't know how to turn them off anyhow. At that point I gave up and went to bed.

Next day, morning, 7AM Pacific Standard Time, my changed password still didn't work, so I changed the bloody thing once again, which the new word was also accepted by them. Nope, that didn't work either. At this point Walt contacted me to see how things were coming along. I told him about my problems, including what the requester had told me. He suggested that I contact Gosia, which seemed reasonable, and which I was sooner or later going to have to do on my own anyhow. So I sent an email to Gosia on a weekend, so I didn't get an answer to my tear stained, sniveling email until Monday, fairly late in the day. At that point Gosia provided me with a new

connections! I'm not very electronically or mechanically inclined, so was surprised to learn this. My solution was to normally keep the wireless phone in another part of the house. This seemed to resolve the problem.

I mention a wireless problem I had in case some of you folks are or have had similar problems.

Now I only use my Airport software when I go somewhere that has wireless connections available, like motels when I travel or Gotta Hava Java on Garden Valley Blvd. where we have been having our ABCC "bored meats". If you would like to attend these, let either Walt or I know and we'll see you get a notice of the date and time. These sessions are mainly where we try to decide what our future ABCC meetings will be about.

password. That one didn't work either, which didn't surprise me a bit but what I did get this time was another requester stating, "Each computer must be authorized before it can play NED tutorials. Please connect your computer to the internet, and click the tutorials page 7 update button."

That little boxed in message in the middle of my screen set some rusty gears in my think tank to churnin'. I'm on DSL, which means that the internet is always connected. However, said DSL is also connected to the PC via a wireless modem. So I says to myself, "Do you suppose that bloody PC is somehow the root of the problem?" I shut off the PC, but NED still didn't recognize the Mac. So I also shut off the Mac, left the PC turned off, then restarted the Mac, and bingo, away we go, working just like it's supposed to.

By the time I got NED to accept my machine, and get the downloading started it was about 7:30PM. That's when I found out there were a total of 133 separate video's, all of them between 2 and 4 or 5 minutes each. Some might have been longer, or even shorter, at that point I didn't

iPod Touch



MacProVideo Nonlinear Educating

Dale Nelson
<dnelson@cmspan.net>



At ABCC's last meeting, Walt arrived with a door prize that consisted of the winner's choice of one of a series of teaching videos put out by MacProVideo, the most expensive costing \$49.95, and I believe the least expensive was \$29.95 if my recollections are correct. This prize was to be awarded to someone willing to write a story about the experience of using it. Well, I didn't exactly want to write a report but the MacProVideo boys had a video that teaches one how to use Adobe Photoshop. Now I happen to have an Adobe Photo program already in my computer, and even though at the time I didn't really have a burning desire to learn how to use it, after some arm twisting and events beyond my control, or perhaps because of my control, I agreed to try the Adobe Photo tutorial out and do the report, which follows.

However, before I begin the report let me explain why I wasn't really so keen on learning Adobe, and how it came about that I decided Adobe Photo might just be the best for me in the long run. You see, I already have a PC with Corel Photo Paint installed, which I'm perfectly happy with. Corel Photo is a very powerful program, and the ease of use so outshines Adobe Photo in my book, that I didn't care to change to the more difficult Adobe program. BUT – the way that things regarding me and computers usually shake out, or perhaps more understandably, the way one thing seems to lead one off in another totally unexpected and different direction from the way I have it figured in the beginning, it was becoming more and more obvious to me that I was going to end up eventually having to work with Adobe Photo if I was going to stay with the Mac. Regarding that last remark, the first attention gathering slap up alongside my head was when I found out that Mac doesn't have a large enough market for Corel, so they quit making stuff for the OS X several years ago.

Well, I figured that wouldn't be a problem, I didn't need the top of the line, latest, most expensive version anyhow, so I purchased an older one, a combo of Corel Draw and Photo Paint for Mac, either version 8 or 9, (they are up past 11 now) off eBay, and tried to install it. Ha! It didn't work, so what does one do in these types of dire situations? One calls very loudly, "WALT." So Walt says, "No problem," and proceeds to spend hours on my machine, installing stuff that makes the Corel program think my machine is a vintage MAC so that the Corel program would work, all to no avail. Which was the reason Walt worked so many hours on it, nothing he did worked, which drives him nuts, and makes him more determined than ever, but just frosts me, and in a short time I'm ready to bunch the entire thing.

Well, in the end Walt did it, through some of his magic, Corel Draw is in this machine, not the one I purchased, but Walt wouldn't give up until I had Corel in this MAC, so an older version (not as old as the one I purchased on eBay) is installed, and I can use it. So why would I want to learn the infinitely more complex Adobe program? The truthful answer is, "I don't." So now is the time for me to rationalize. I need it for a backup; after all, Corel did create a lot of problems. Adobe is a more powerful program that is used by professionals – perhaps I should learn to use it also. The opportunity is knocking at my door, it might be wise to avail myself to these fruits. So even though I was dragged into this program bucking and snorting, it did to me seem like the wise choice. So here we are. I've downloaded the videos and I'm working on a report that I really don't want to do, about a program that I really didn't want to learn in the first place and lucky you are getting to read about it. One more thing before we start, I'm sure that by using the videos provided by MacProVideo I will at least learn enough about Adobe

Photo Paint that if I will connect the laser printer to the Mac, I will at least, and at last, be weaned from the PC.

At the meeting, the door prize that was handed out was an address that would provide the winner with the information that was required to claim the prize. That's what I ended up coming home with, information that would get me in contact with MacProVideo, which would then provide secret numbers in order to claim my prize.

At this point, I was told via email that in order to claim my \$49.95 tutorial I was required to email Gosia at MacProVideo, and in the body of the email, I was to include the secret, non-transferable certificate number, which I did. Gosia welcomed me aboard, told me I'd need NED to be able to view the videos that I've just won and proceeded to tell me how to go about reaching that goal. Forging right along, I followed instructions and downloaded NED, which stands for Nonlinear Educating Device, which is a must have if one is planning to watch the forty nine dollars and fifty cents worth of video learning tools for mastering the program that one is interested in. Don't get me wrong here, I think these guys have the right idea, they have a large selection of tutorials available right now, and I suppose are adding more all the time. It's just at this point I was getting exasperated because for some reason, nothing was working.

As had been required, I had chosen a secret password, and the NED program downloaded in a flash, no problem. But when I tried to download the tutorial using exactly the same password, it didn't work. After many minutes – nay – perhaps hours, I was getting nowhere. I thought maybe I was messing up on the password, that I'd misspelled the original and nothing was working. So I clicked on their "Forgot your password" and changed over to a completely new one, which was accepted by them, but still 2 -->

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Any trace of organization in these paragraphs is entirely coincidental

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Our Meetings?

Speed is a funny thing. Every day, what constitutes speed seems to shift upward just a bit. Either the specification goes up, or the relative speed/cost goes up. One of the arenas to which most of us pay little attention is Ethernet. Ethernet started out in the single megahertz region—the neighborhood of 1,000,000 bits of data per second. It was somewhat squirrely and expensive and didn't go very far. That has, of course, changed over the years. Macs have come with gigabit/sec Ethernet ports for some time now. **We take such things for granted ... if we think of them at all.** But I can tell you from experience that pumping signals around at gigahertz rates is not as easy as it might seem to the uninitiated. A few years back, I moved my equipment from 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps because I could get adapter cards for about five bucks a piece and the two switches I needed were under \$50 each. Today you can buy 10 Gbps Ethernet equipment. It's not so cheap ... yet. But, for many purposes, I expect that it might become nearly so in the not too distant future. It won't matter to me. Most of my stuff won't fill a 100 Mbps hose, much less a 10 Gbps data culvert. But newer equipment will. Fiber-to-the-home may be something the big boys never get around to delivering on but fiber-in-the-home may be just around the corner.

In keeping with Adobe's need to churn it's product base, they now have a comparatively new excuse—3D PDFs. I suppose it had to happen. In a world

where 3D is the way things are, creating a “standard” for displaying 3D is actually long overdue. Adobe was probably getting a bit worried about someone in the CAD (Computer Aid Design) world getting one of their proprietary viewer schemes to be taken as the standard by the general public. Sadly, I suspect the primary thing this move is apt to do is burgeon the crap level on Web pages and in email. After all, one wouldn't want to seem behind the times now, would one? But there are practical values to having a ubiquitous player for 3D, just as there is for planar documents (sheets of paper, etc.). I do not, however, feel we'll be treated well by Adobe relative to 3D PDFs any more so than we've been treated by Adobe for 2D PDFs. For example, I d/l'd a Google book today to do a bit of research. **It was a PDF. But Preview would not open it, nor would Acrobat Reader 5.5.** More precisely, neither showed the intended content - mostly just blank pages. It was necessary to use Acrobat Reader 7.X to see the pages with print on them. I expect this need for an ever increasing Acrobat Reader version to continue unabated.

Once again (and no doubt to occur repeatedly) human bandwidth has dropped important issues. **Do you remember about a year and half ago, everyone was yammering about “net neutrality”?** The House of Representatives even passed a measure to require it. But the good ol' boys in the Senate didn't want to give up their lobbying income from big media so they tanked it. In the mean time, there's been enough uproar about other things that the issue has pretty much died. Now I don't pay any attention to the games the big boys play; I'm just not greedy enough to care about them except in principle. Still, I'd wager that there's a been a lot of high level shuffling to get things as consolidated and wrapped up as possible. Things

like filing gratuitous patents and copyrights and back, er ... board ... room deals. I think you can expect a whole lot less real choice though there'll be a gigantic number of “packages” to provide them, each one claiming to be a special, premium product. Selling is often a bit like magic, misdirection works to ensure that the hand is quicker than the eye.

Speaking of misdirection, are you aware of the fight between OOXML and ODF? OOXFL was knocked down but is far from out ... unfortunately. Why unfortunate? Well, **OOXML is Micro\$hapht's so-called Open Office XML** definition of formats for the intended future of their ubiquitous “office productivity” software. Micro\$hapht has been attempting to get an ISO standards document for OOXML approved for some time and, despite their heavy handed attempts at fixing the vote, it didn't make the grade ... this time. It seems that there are still several nations who find Micro\$hapht's feigned “openness” somewhat less than sincere, especially in light of technical deficiencies and clear attempt to preclude other players from using OOXML. In the mean time, ODF (Open Document Format) products are gaining momentum in much of the world, especially in international government circles. Apparently some governments have decided that feeding Micro\$hapht on a regular basis just because they want to be fed is not in their best interest.

It seems if you use Micro\$hapht's XP operating system, it will automatically download updates to things. Moreover, there's some pretty strong proof that it doesn't stop there but actually installs some updates without the owner's intervention or permission or much in the way of notification (supposedly there is an obscure log entry ... the sort of thing only the well versed MS nerd is likely to locate, much less look at). **Almost, but not quite, 5 -->**

<--Water Blogged Wump exactly like a computer virus.

AMOLED—sounds a bit like something we'd be shipping to Iraq to support the troops. And, I suppose we might just do that, too. It stands for Active Matrix Organic Light Emitting Diode. What really makes it significant of late is that AMOLEDs can now be made full color and flexible in a 4 inch 150 μm thick sheet that displays a 320x240 array in 16.77 million colors. Perhaps in a few years, we'll be able to carry around a high performance computer system in a ball point pen.

It'd really work as a pen, too. But It would also pull out in a 13 inch, high resolution display/keyboard that could be laid out on a table, your lap or even held in one hand. When you're done, dump off the spilled coffee and loose crumbs, click the button on the pen and it'd roll up into the pen, squeegeeing off the sticky bits on the way. Of course, it'd "double" as a TV, music player, cell/satellite phone, etc.

Ever horribly behind in my reading, I managed to get to a NASA article on the Altair version of the Predator B. **Somewhat reminiscent of Lockheed's U2 in shape, its wingspan is about twice its length.** Like the U2, it's designed to fly very high for a very long time. Like its military counterparts, it does this flying without carrying a pilot. The stated objective of Altair is gathering Earth sciences' data rather than targeting enemy combatants. It sounds like a wonderful scientific endeavor. It recently passed its flight tests which will enable it to be deployed ... over our air space. Ah. That's interesting. It can no doubt be of immense value to Earth science to have a sensor laden aircraft loiter at 60,000 feet for perhaps 30 hours at a crack. It could look down on a broad swath of the midwest to locate supercells—the weather patterns that create bad tornados—for example, notifying storm chasers and also deploying sensors. But, it could also be used for other things ... like domestic surveil-

lance. Of course, it could be used for more politically acceptable purposes like border patrol or search and rescue operations or wild fire management. Like almost anything one cares to name, it's not the instrument that's at fault for the way in which some of us choose to use it. I wish I could point to a spotless track record of our choices or even our collective responses to "bad" choices made on our behalf.

One of the great problems with modern technology is that it is, in fact, modern. For example: once upon a time, I drove a sports car in SCCA (Sports Car Club of America) road races and one of the requirements was aircraft safety belts. There were four belts, all which came together at a clasp that closed with a simple lever. In contrast, our modern sedan has a typical lap/shoulder belt that clips into a center of the car clasp with push button release. A few days ago, I managed to have trouble getting the belt into it's clasp and apparently levered the two plastic shells covering its mechanism apart (not an easy task as I later found out) with the metal bit that slides along the belt. I retrieved the plastic cover pieces from the crannies between the seats and the center console, put them aside and, carefully, put the belt's metal bit into the clasp and got under way, vowing I'd do something about it later. I did. I put the covers back on. They seemed to snap into place. But that situation did not last long. Apparently, once forced apart, they don't really like to stay together any longer. Oh, well, a real use for duct tape! But I put that off for a few days and the car was driven without the covers on the clasp. This didn't seem to be a serious problem ... until the red release button fell off. After that, the clasp ... wouldn't. You could put the belt's metal bit into the clasp but it just popped back out. Great. I drove home and, once again, forgot to look into fixing it. But eventually, I got roun' tuit. The red release button would fit on and the two shells would go on. Great. Red Green would have

been proud of the application of the duct tape (Red Green is a personality on a CBC TV program by the same name who lives in the Canadian outback and "fixes" everything with massive quantities of duct tape). But it didn't work. After some considerable bad behavior on my part (use your imagination about venting frustration) while examining and experimenting with the seat belt's mechanism while largely upside down and needing four hands (these days I have to hold my glasses on), it finally came to me that there must have been another part that fell off and did not get recovered. I felt around all over the place under the seat and eventually discovered a small metal rod in a crease of a seam of the floor rug. After having looked at the mechanism as long as I had, I even "knew" where it went. But there are details to how it goes in there that were not obvious. Indeed, I suspect they might not be fathomable by mere examination by anyone not involved in the design of the thing in the first place. After some considerable fidgeting with this stuff, I finally hit on how to configure the innards of the mechanism around the rod. Back on with the plastic parts and a nice duct tape wrapping and it's back in working order. Sadly, cussing at electronics while standing on your head seldom yields similar results whether you hold your glasses on or not.

An email wafted through the other day from a publisher. It mentioned that **our legislators are considering a bill to extend the moratorium on taxing Internet access for seven years.** I didn't bother to read the article the email pointed to—the headline was enough to flash boil a cloud of steam from my ears (no wonder I have tinnitus). Why do we need such a law? Is it written in stone that just because a fair number of people do something that the activity must be taxed? Perhaps that only relates to things that were once at least partially financed by tax funds at some point. Take the

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current fixation on “global warming” and “being green” for example. Is this a preamble to a tax on breathing? After all, we will be expanding the funding to provide breathable air. Perhaps we can all be fitted with some sort of spirometer that will be read by automated equipment that sends the data to the taxation center over the Internet, for which we’ll also be taxed.

According to a techno-rag, Symantec claims **there’s a new “evil”** exploit of Windows-IE. Some aspect of how IE (Internet Explorer) deals with PDF files can result in downloading a file from 81.95.146.130 named “ldr.exe”. They claimed that the site was still functioning as of Oct. 23. Today it’s Oct. 29. First I tried seeing if there was a name that went along with that IP address. No dice. But I was able to get some data from a “whois” query that indicated it was part of RIPE (a European domain name registrar). A further “whois” query result from RIPE narrowed this down to an IP address belonging to RBusiness Network, The Century Tower Building, Ricardo J. Alfari Avenue, Panama City, Republic of Panama, which is apparently a ISP in Panama called rbnnetwork.com. That name is registered via <http://www.OnlineNIC.com> to ABSOLUTE CORP. LTD., FLAT/RM B 8/F CHONG MING BUILDING 72 CHEUNG SHA WAN RD KL, Hong-kong Hongkong CN 999077. Clearly, this is not an arrangement that cries out that it’s all above reproach. Oh, yeah. “ldr.exe” is still there, in case you want to take a look at it. “This server is known for hosting malicious software,” Symantec warned. Here’s what puzzles me. I can chase down a good deal of data about this. If it leads to real people, they’ve signed agreements about acceptable use which preclude “evil”. If it doesn’t lead to directly to real people, then move upstream to the people providing connectivity. They, too, have signed agreements about acceptable use and have a responsibility to deal with the

issue. What it comes down to is what seems to be the way of dealing with most everything these days—people who are supposedly responsible, do nothing. And in the case of Internet connectivity, forcing issues is not really all that difficult, usually requiring little more effort than typing a few characters into a program. Shutdown an ISP’s connection to the Internet and I suspect it won’t take long for the telephones to start ringing and they won’t be audio robots complaining.

Researchers at JHU (Johns Hopkins Univ.) have been **experimenting on broken cats**—neurologically paralyzed so they can’t walk. They’ve been implanting chips in the cats’ spinal column and have obtained truly astounding results, restoring almost completely normal looking locomotion. The chip essentially reconnects spinal column nerves and mediates the signals, even providing coordination between adjacent limbs. I have no idea how the researchers envision the future of their efforts but I can easily imagine this sort of bionics providing immense benefits and not just for skeletal muscles. For example, the mediation aspect could ameliorate the appetite for the morbidly obese, perhaps without needing highly invasive surgery. Or, perhaps such chips can bridge the gap on reattached limbs.

A recent post said, “The m2m (Machine-to-machine) Market Gets Ready To Explode”. They expect a factor of ten increase in spending for such stuff. A couple of key markets are supposed to be GPS and cellular. While I don’t disagree that these will continue to grow rapidly I suspect we might not see the undercurrent of m2m jabber via LANs (Local Area Networks) and WANs (Wide Area Networks) as it grows into a larger and larger flood. **There is already a sort of “hive mind” provided by the Internet of which most of us, me included, are largely unaware.** As we implement sensory equipment in more and more places, that hive mind can become “conscious”,

and indeed, that’s pretty much what some people are striving to accomplish forthwith, both in government and industry.

Unlike humans with their mere bicameral minds, the hive mind will be multi-cameral. At the same time, we’re going about enervating a “hive body” as well. The m2m stuff is not limited to pure computation. There are “end effectors” out there in droves, many of which are already linked and coordinated. We call them factories. Once upon a time, humans provided the linking and coordination in factories (and even motive power) but not so much today. I’d be less troubled about this if ON-OFF switches were still mechanical. But these days, the power comes to the “intelligence” of the machines and we give our permission to function by a logic input—something that can, at least theoretically, be completely ignored.

As you probably know, **Mac OS X.5 (Leopard) is in the wild.** I’ve not messed with it, nor do I have any current intention of doing so (old equipment, old brain, no money, etc.). Then there’s also the reports I’ve been seeing from email lists that I follow with comments from those who love living on the bleeding edge ... and seem to enjoy complaining about it. I must confess the rationale for paying high dollar to implode one’s operation makes little sense to me. But, I guess it’s nice to have a cadre of people who do that so the rest of us don’t have to. As near as I can tell, it’s mostly not that the new system doesn’t work as advertised that people are complaining about. Instead it’s more than what’s been advertised is not nearly so wonderful as it is just plain annoying. That, and there’s the ever popular “it worked just fine the way it used to be and now it doesn’t and, worse, can’t be fixed because Apple changed the whole thing from open to proprietary”. “Higher diamondoids”—sounds a bit like something from a science fiction novella about a race of uber-oids inhabiting some bizarre planet **8 -->**

That Bane of the Macintosh User

Mac OS X keeps a series of log files in the `/var/log/` directory. This folder is normally invisible to GUI-only Mac users ... probably a good thing.

In a time honored fashion, the log files are “rotated”. This means a script is run periodically that renames all the current log files from `logfile(N)` to `logfile(N+1)` and makes a brand new `logfile`. The previous `logfile(LAST)` is lost.

So, for example, the `system.log` file is “rotated” every day by executing the `/etc/periodic/daily/500.daily` script, and seven days worth are kept. Unfortunately, many things that go on don’t make themselves clear in well over a week.

Since last month’s column on thwarting FTP attackers brought to mind that I needed a long term logging capability on my gateway Mac, I choose to not have log files dumped automatically at all. But this causes trouble if you simply using integer based numbering scheme for log file names.



To avoid this, I decided to use DDM-MMYYYY, where DD is a two digit day number, MMM is a three letter

month abbreviation and YYYY is the four character year number (if I’m still around when the year rolls over to 10000, this may be a problem) to create file names for “rotated” logs since this is done at most once per day.

I did the editing so that the original code would not be lost, just not executed, if it was inappropriate. If you follow the code fragment, you can see that almost all of the historic “rotation” code is still executed. But this code eventually runs out of files to work on and simply wastes a bit of CPU time at 3:15 in the morning. Two lines of original code were commented out since they would cause trouble if they were run under the modified scheme.

To get the name to “rotate” the current system log file to, one first uses `X=$(date|awk '{print 0$3$2$6}')` to produce a value in

`X` that’s almost what we want. It does this by taking the output of the `date` command and using `awk` to pick out the parts needed and the stick them together with a “0” in the front. For the 1st to the 9th of the month, this is all we need but for the rest of the of the month, we get three day digits. To remedy this, `X=${i}.${X:0-9}` clips off the leading “0” if it sticks out too far. The `mv` command renames the current `system.log` file to `system.log.DDMYYYY`. The `touch` etc. commands makes a new, empty `system.log` for the coming day. Finally, the “rotated” log file is `gzip`’d (compressed) if possible.

While this process uses up disk space, it generally does so very slowly ... and if it doesn’t, you should have plenty of evidence to figure out why.

As a practical matter, the first thing I’ve learned in the little more than a month this modification has been in place is that my procedure for excluding egregious FTP attackers caught 25 of them in October. It cost 156K of disk space to find this out. Better, as time passes, I should amass a data base of such attacker’s IP addresses.

```
echo ""
echo -n "Rotating log files:"
cd /var/log
for i in system.log; do
    if [ -f "${i}" ]; then
        echo -n " ${i}"
        if [ -x /usr/bin/gzip ]; then gzext=".gz"; else gzext=""; fi
        if [ -f "${i}.6${gzext}" ]; then mv -f "${i}.6${gzext}" "${i}.7${gzext}"; fi
        if [ -f "${i}.5${gzext}" ]; then mv -f "${i}.5${gzext}" "${i}.6${gzext}"; fi
        if [ -f "${i}.4${gzext}" ]; then mv -f "${i}.4${gzext}" "${i}.5${gzext}"; fi
        if [ -f "${i}.3${gzext}" ]; then mv -f "${i}.3${gzext}" "${i}.4${gzext}"; fi
        if [ -f "${i}.2${gzext}" ]; then mv -f "${i}.2${gzext}" "${i}.3${gzext}"; fi
        if [ -f "${i}.1${gzext}" ]; then mv -f "${i}.1${gzext}" "${i}.2${gzext}"; fi
        if [ -f "${i}.0${gzext}" ]; then mv -f "${i}.0${gzext}" "${i}.1${gzext}"; fi
#     if [ -f "${i}" ]; then mv -f "${i}" "${i}.0" && if [ -x /usr/bin/gzip ]; then gzip -9 "${i}."
#     touch "${i}" && chmod 640 "${i}" && chown root:admin "${i}"
# 23 Sep 2007 1342
# Modification to keep system.log files by date rather than rotating them
# NOTE: no provision for deleting the accumulation is provided!!!!
    X=$(date|awk '{print 0$3$2$6}')
    X=${i}.${X:0-9}
    mv -f "${i}" "${X}"
    touch "${i}" && chmod 640 "${i}" && chown root:admin "${i}"
    if [ -x /usr/bin/gzip ]; then gzip -9 "${X}"; fi
    fi
done
if [ -f /var/run/syslog.pid ]; then kill -HUP $(cat /var/run/syslog.pid | head -1); fi
echo ""
```

Snippet of Modified `/etc/periodic/daily/500.daily` Script

←-2 Video Ed.

know, because I didn't stick around to see them all download. That night at 2AM I woke up, and decided to see how it was going, wondering if everything was finished, and there were still 35 video's to go. When I checked again 12 hours from the beginning, at 7:30AM, the download was complete.

Once downloaded into the NED tutorial, it's a simple click on the NED icon, and that opens some options. At this point, a click on tutorials in the upper left corner of the open NED window, and the tutorials are opened. At this point I only have one, but if there were more than one, I'd choose the one I wanted, and click on the text. There is a little picture to the left that doesn't do anything. In this case the tutorial says, "Mastering PhotoShop CS3," and a click on that highlights it, then a click on the "Open" button reveals another window, with a list on the left hand side of 18 headings of subjects being taught, ranging from Interface Overview to Advanced Selection Tricks. Clicking on Interface Overview, there are 12 subtitles tell-

←-Water Blogged Wump

in a star system we've just decelerated from light speed into. **Bizarre, higher diamondoids are.** They lie in the realm between lower diamondoids (carbon molecules < 1 nm) and CVD (Chemical Vapor Deposition) diamonds (2 nm to 1 μm), from 1 to 2 nanometers in extent. They are hard and strong like their larger cousins but come in a somewhat limited number of configurations (most likely because of their defined size range and the sizes of carbon-carbon bonds). I think Dave Digby, a mathematician I once knew, would have loved higher diamondoids. Dave reveled in space filling problems like pentaminos (where you try to fill a checkerboard with all 12 five tile pieces and one four tile square). Anyway, higher diamondoids are very likely going to be appearing (or, rather, hiding 'cuz they're really small) in



ing about customizing menus, using different tools, palette locations, along with the length of each video in minutes and seconds. As an example, the customizing menus video is 04:14 long.

The shortest video I've found is "Exploring Marquee Tools," which is 34 seconds long. Double clicking on the "Customizing Menus," opens the video screen to the right of the list. The video is simply the screen that Adobe PhotoShop uses when it is opened. The audio that is included with the video is very well done, easy to hear and understand, while the mouse arrow goes to places on the screen that the narrator is talking about, then at each point of his lesson the same requesters are opened just as if it was in the photo program itself, so that one can see exactly what is being talked about, on the same Adobe Photo screen that will be used when the student does these moves.

Finally, when a photo is needed for part of the lesson, such as a lesson on how to remove red eye, the photo is there, the mouse clicks where it's supposed to, as the narrator talks the

products coming your way.

I guess **I'm just dumber than the average fence post.** We seem to be seriously considering providing illegal aliens in this country with driver's licenses. The concept fairly boggles the mind—well, mine anyway. The only argument there seems to be for doing this is that by getting the identities of all these illegal aliens who'll be thrilled to sign up, we'll have all that data to thwart terrorism. Right... Assuming any illegal alien is dumb enough to sign up, are they the ones we need to worry about as far as terrorism is concerned? Oh, well, it may not matter much in the near future anyway. We're doing a great job of devaluing the dollar and disenfranchising the citizenry at large in this country. It may not be all that long before illegal aliens will simply buy the country and have us summarily put out.

student through the process, showing exactly how to remove red eye caused from the camera flash. This lesson is taught using a video that lasts 2 minutes and 17 seconds. So in winding up my report on MacProVideo tutorials, if the one that I'm using is an indication of all of them, I don't see how a person could go wrong. I think the tutorials would be money well spent if a person really wants to learn to use a complicated program like Adobe Photo, or some of the video editing software that's available now. In fact there are even simple programs that a tutorial might provide some insight that makes things easier. I highly recommend if you are purchasing a new or different program that will take some learning, check out **macprovideo.com**.

Let me add, even though I didn't want to do this at the start, I'm certainly glad that I did. This is a really slick way to learn how to use your computer.

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