



Apple Blossom Computer Club  
A registered Apple/Macintosh User Group



Jan '08

still only

\$2.00

The

ROSE



BYTER

**Next Meeting**

**January 17, 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
4. New business
5. Program: SlingBox and SlingPlayer by Joel Lee
6. Questions & (maybe)Answers



# Just One Left!

Our final macProVideo ticket for a free Mac educational video of up to \$50 value is up for grabs at the upcoming meeting. If you're unfamiliar with what these are, read a few of the last TRBs (there are reviews by your fellow members) and take a look at <http://www.macprovideo.com/>.

Marilyn Cox got the December ticket and, as of this writing, had not had time to cash it in. But we're expecting great things. ;-)



# SlingBoxen

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

⊗ Check it out. These guys have a sense of humor. And, if you want to find out the real skinny, come see one in action.

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:  
ABCC  
13748 Lookingglass Rd.  
Winston, OR 97496

## Current ABCC Leadership

### Treasurer

Jim McClellan

<mcclellan@charter.net>

### Apple Ambassador

Jim McClellan

### Web Master

Jim McClellan

### AppleScript Guru

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### Newsletter Editor

Walt Pawley <walt@wump.org>

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:

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

Please understand that materials submitted may not be used and those that are will likely be edited.

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**Following Fearless Leader**

From: Jim McClellan  
<mcclellan@charter.net>  
Subject: Re: Nationwide Internet access

Maybe something in the TRB about 3G would be interesting, particularly since so many use cell phones.

--

I'll take a stab at something by paraphrasing a piece I saw recently:

Cellular carriers and handset manufacturers have talked a lot about third-generation (3G) services for mobile phones. But in the US, they haven't been walking the walk. The real meaning of 3G has been hidden amidst promises of video features and zippy data speeds with fancy, capitalized meaningless names.

3G cellular technology will bring wireless data to your cellular phone. Boasting speeds from 144Kbps (roughly three times faster than a 56K dial-up modem connection) to 2.4Mbps (close to cable-modem speed), 3G networks let you surf the Web, play streaming music/video and

videoconference. There's even promises of 14.4 Mbps speeds in the future. (3.5G—4.0G—gotta keep that carrot dangling out there.)

Sound good? Well, yes, it does. Perhaps stateside users will eventually catch up with their European and Asian counterparts. A solid assortment of 3G-enabled handsets are now available. While several major carriers have offered 3G service, you'll need to be in an urban area to get it, "but most carriers plan nationwide rollout eventually".

I'm a bit more skeptical. Phone companies don't like to spend money on anything that doesn't return huge dividends for a very long time. With technology changing as rapidly as it is, I find it hard to believe that we'll see each carrier churning its services every three years or so. Whatever happens, it will be expensive. It's the price we pay for believing that competition is the best way to do things in combination with our inability to make government operated infrastructure work well.

## USAF wants to build Cyber Control System

excerpted from an article by Brian Robinson  
[http://www.washingtontechnology.com/online/1\\_1/32018-1.html](http://www.washingtontechnology.com/online/1_1/32018-1.html)

"As part of its evolving cyberwarfare strategy, the Air Force is looking for input on how to construct a command and control system that would support defensive and offensive operations in the event of an all-out attack on the country's information infrastructure.

According to a draft document, the Cyber Control System would monitor network activity across the Air Force's segment of the military's Global Information Grid. If the system detected an attack, it would alert Air Force cybersecurity personnel and automatically

take measures to mitigate and repair any damage to its networks."

--

OK. Here's the part that bothers me: Doesn't this sound a lot like the scenario in the **Terminator** series of movies? So, it's not about putting the machine's "finger" on "the button" but the way the future is shaping up, controlling the bytes might be just as important as blowing the beejeezus out of us. That, and if we do this and it doesn't kill us right away, do you think we won't automate the finger?

Date: Fri, 28 Dec 2007 18:52:01 -0600  
From: "Mr. Leonard Jefferson" <Mr.LeonardJefferson@carrinter.net>  
Reply-to: fedex\_delivery0001@hotmail.com  
To: undisclosed-recipients;  
Subject: Contact Fedex For Delivery Of Bank Draft

Greetings!

I have been waiting for you since to contact me for your Confirmable Bank Draft of \$800.000.00 United States Dollars, but I did not hear from you since that time. Then I went and deposited the Draft with FEDEX COURIER SERVICE, West Africa, I travelled out of the country for a 3 Months Course and I will not come back till end of March. What you have to do now is to contact the FEDEX COURIER SERVICE as soon as possible to know when they will deliver your package to you because of the expiring date.

For your information, I have paid for the delivering Charge, Insurance premium and Clearance Certificate Fee of the Cheque showing that it is not a Drug Money or meant to sponsor Terrorist attack in your Country.

The only money you will send to the FEDEX COURIER SERVICE to deliver your Draft direct to your postal Address in your country is (\$185.00 US) Dollars only being Security Keeping Fee of the Courier Company so far. Again, don't be deceived by anybody to pay any other money except \$185.00US Dollars.

Contact Person: Mr. Kenneth Reeves  
Email Address:fedex\_delivery0001@hotmail.com  
Telephone:+234-8058463259

Finally, make sure that you reconfirm your Postal address() and Direct telephone number to them again to avoid any mistake on the Delivery and ask them to give you the tracking number to enable you track your package over there and know when it will get to your address. Let me repeat again, try to contact them as soon as you receive this mail to avoid any further delay and remember to pay them their Security Keeping fee of \$185.00 US Dollars for their immediate action.

You should also let me know through email as soon as you receive your Draft.

Yours Faithfully,

Mr. Leonard Jefferson

# Modern Day Phishery— Got Your \$800,000 Yet?

My alter ego must be living an interesting life! I'd probably quit watching TV if he'd bother to clue me in on the nature of his travels. I mean, where'd he meet this guy—Leonard Jefferson—anyway? West Africa? Me ... I've never been there. Even my lapses into unconsciousness, which are relatively rare, would not allow me enough time to get there. So, Alter Walter must be traveling out of body or Mr. Jefferson has come here. Whatever, he's not letting me in on the story.

Of course, neither I or Alter Walter have met Leonard, know anything about him, his connections or \$800,000 (hey, if I can get up the \$185, I'm doing good and I'm pretty sure Alter is flat broke). This email is an example of what's known as "phishing".

The term is a result of what the process is like—trolling for suckers ... of the homo sapien persuasion. When I get one of these idiotic phishing expeditions, I wonder why they bother. I mean, who'd be dumb enough to fall for something so insane and, at the same time, be able to follow the trail to a means of blowing money in the direction of "Leonard"?

Maybe there are enough of us to pay off. I dunno. Sometimes I think the real money is made by the "bot wranglers" who sell time on their set of compromised computers to real suckers who think they will get rich quick by sending out such emails. I dunno.

Sadly, we don't seem to have anyone attempting to deal with these things very well. I guess a few major cases have been prosecuted but they aren't even a whole drop in the ocean of fraud flying about the 'Net.

Here's the real point: don't you get caught up by these things. Use the \$185 to buy Lotto tickets or something that's got a chance rather than blowing it to support some criminal.

# Water Blogged Wump

Any trace of organization in these paragraphs is entirely coincidental

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## The Last Hanger On

Chevron is a sponsor for **The News Hour on PBS**. They get to run a non-commercial about their company at the opening of the program. In that opening, they make an effort to point out that they are a “part of the solution” as well as giant oil company. In that effort they make the statement that they are already producing geothermal energy. They characterize it a number of ways, like clean, non-polluting, etc. They also characterize it as renewable. Renewable? Sheesh, I really have to wonder what technology they’re using for that one. Sure, there’s a pretty good store of heat in the fluids our continents float around on—after all, they’re just thick spots in a thin crust. But it’s not renewable by any method of which I’m aware. Sure, tidal gravitational forces can maintain the temperature regime for a while but all the energy given up to heat the magma that way result in a degradation of the planet’s orbit—ie. bring us closer to falling into the Sun. True, it’s exceedingly unlikely any of us will have to worry about it. Were it in the cards for me to observe, I’d be surprised if humans would have to worry about it all.

I feel like earth, air, fire and water have conspired to have me write about this all of sudden. First, I hear on a news program (perhaps mistakenly)

that some city can have 40 hours per week of a policeman for \$98,000. Then I see an article about avoiding fraud if you run a business over the Internet that accepts credit cards, the crux of which is that police file papers and not much else. Switching channels to see a different news report, there’s a piece where the C.O.P. is complaining about not having enough funding to do his job, punctuated by a citizen remark that they would not support any increase because the city and police increases to date had produced no improvement whatever—just the opposite. We seem to have developed a penchant for running up tax supported pay scales in many areas despite the results of those activities becoming less and less effective. **I’ve long observed to some few who’ve been unable to escape my voice** that there seems to be an inverse correlation between rates of expenditure and its effectiveness. I’m being intentionally vague—trying to maintain a modicum of political correctness—like I had a clue. One specific thing that I find very troubling is the behavior of the credit card business. From my perspective there’s more fraud being perpetrated by credit card companies than there is by credit card related identity theft. Consider that Citi Group offers at least 55 different types of credit cards. Chase offers many more and this, “Search our extensive list of cards to select the one that meets your needs.” Each one of these cards comes with a massive amount of small print that peripherally notes that all said small print is subject to change without notice. The basic concept of a credit card is simple. So why do we need so many “plans”?

Induction of barefoot and pregnant syndrome? Why do credit card companies outsource their “customer service”, especially given that they don’t pay much attention to how these outside organizations behave? Indeed, why aren’t the greedy geniuses who put us at risk this way at least under investigation if not rotting away in dungeons? Oh, yeah ... I forgot ... political correctness ... nothing is anyone’s responsibility ... except yours.

I suppose in a system that uses economic competition to create “standards”, one simply has no choice to but to endure the pissing matches of rich technocracies. It seems that Intel views Firewire as USB’s competition. I suppose the perspective is reciprocated. What I don’t quite understand, however is how those of us who have no voice in the process, other than voting with money, really have any input. Firewire has been plagued by some setbacks as it’s developed but it’s really only foisted two go-rounds on consumers - 400 Mhz and 800 Mhz, USB has moved from 1.0, to 1.1, then 2.0. The perspectives from which these two systems were created were quite different. For example, the initial high data rate of Firewire demanded the use of high quality signal paths, whereas the low rate of USB demanded little more than some kind of conductive path, ie. **cheap crap cables**. However, as USB data rates rose, people had trouble with cables and it remains a serious issue. USB 2.0 is rated at 480 Mhz., which makes it seem to the uninitiated like it must be faster than Firewire 400. Well, it can be for selected activities. But if you need sustained data transfer—like video, Firewire 400 easily demonstrates its superiority. Intel has decided that it wants to do away with Firewire, so it’s defining USB 3.0 which is to have a 4 Ghz data rate. It’s also not going to be very compatible with earlier versions of USB, as it will supposedly

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## <--Water Blogged Wump

require 10 conductor cables ... cables that will have to be shorter than older USB cables. In addition, special integrated circuits—“chips”—will be required to deal with the data at such high rates. Firewire is also undergoing some upgrade planning, targeting 3.2 Ghz, and will surely require special chips. But Firewire already requires special chips. This means that designers of USB equipment will need to undergo a paradigm shift that Firewire designers are already versed in. Expect initial messes when USB 3.0 hits. My prediction: Firewire will die. Why? It's not from Intel. These days, even Macs bow to Intel.

### **“Customers are demanding more electronic value in automobiles as part of their driving experience.”**

So opens the first paragraph of an article about changes in the way cars are being made. But I have to ask, “Do YOU really demand more ‘electronic value’, whatever that is, in the cars you buy?” I don't know about you but I got along just fine with cars that didn't have more than trace amounts of silicon, most of which was in the engine left over from casting the engine block. Well, assuming that you don't count the silicon that packs itself into every nook and cranny available as you drive—you know ... dirt. Sure, these cars didn't have high intensity LED lighting or dash mounted GPSs or media centers or cruise control. Crap, they didn't even have transistor radios or electronic ignition systems. But, you know, if something burnt out, you could patch it temporarily with a gum wrapper or, if the points overheated and fell out, you could bend their mount over to the distributor cam follower arm and fire the engine back up. There may be some value to many of the electronic things being crammed into cars these days but I'm partial to simple machines. They can be understood and kept working. More over, the onus is on the driver to make the thing go and stop and stay out of trouble. Increasingly there's a tenden-

cy to believe that vehicles should not be able to do anything “wrong”—like plow into other vehicles or stop the wheels under hard braking or drive into a skid. Ah, the good old days when carbon units were in control...

Einstein would really have enjoyed this. It seems **German scientists have made photons move faster than the speed of light**. Einstein was really put off by the concept of “spooky action at a distance”. Yet that is precisely what these scientists seem to be creating. They take two prisms, stuck close together, and measure the time it takes for photons to get from the source to the detectors. Then they move the prisms apart so that the path length through the system increases. Supposedly, some fraction of the photons involved travel through the separation via tunneling, which apparently requires zero time. Tunneling being a quantum effect, one might expect this phenomena to be something occurring in the nanometer region. And it does ... all the way out to a billion nanometers. Spooky stuff. And there seems to be a sort of epidemic of spooky stuff—quantum phenomena that have macroscopically detectable effects.

If you have a cold, **why would you want go to the store and buy additional mucus and congestion** to add to the crud you are already churning out? This is apparently what Alka Seltzer wants you to do. They just said so (again) on the TV. Then there's Tylenol. They sell headaches, or so they say, anyway. I never did fit into the drug culture very well.

Have you noticed the TV advertisements by SIPC - Securities Investor Protection Corporation? Very odd stuff. On the one hand, they act like a some sort of government agency—which, I suppose, they may well be. But on the other hand, they are a corporation. Perhaps they're patterned after FDIC—Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. In any case, SIPC claims to have recovered 14G\$ in assets for investors who've been on the wrong side of a securities broker-

age failure. This, **over 30 years, is less than half a gigabuck per year**. Now I'm certainly no financial whiz ... but this seems like pretty light recovery for the level of shady paper trading that has gone on over 30 years. Whether my surmise is right or not, it's still puzzling to me that SIPC has suddenly started advertising on TV. Perhaps politicians are mumbling about dispensing with SIPC? After all, they must be quite a nuisance to brokerages trying to cut themselves bigger pieces of the pie.

I'm pretty used to trying to fix broken stuff. Sometimes I'm successful. Sometimes I'm not. There are a lot of reasons for the latter. For example: my ignorance, my ever decreasing eyesight, the ratio of the cost of a new item to the cost of parts for an old item, the complete inability to obtain parts/materials, etc. Whatever the reason(s), when something can't be fixed, it can be very disheartening, both to me and to the person who owns it. Still, we keep on keepin' on. It's just the way things are. **We routinely put our trust in the mechanisms we surround ourselves with**. If there's a problem with this, it's that things don't fail quite enough. Surprised? Well, this notion stems from the fact that too many of us believe someone (else) must be held responsible for such failures. When such outcries are made, they are usually accompanied by statements that not “enough” was done to keep the failure from occurring. In cases where life and/or limb are involved, there's a tendency amongst our herd to sympathize with the “victim” and force the “perpetrator” to pay massive reparations ... whether or not said perpetrator really had anything to do with the victim's loss. This canonized irrational behavior catalyzes irrational approaches to “fixing” things simply because no one wants to be paying massive reparations whether justified or not. Sadly, we don't learn from endless repetitions of this scenario. If anything, we pile larger numbers of eggs in small- **6 -->**

## <--Water Blogged Wump

er numbers of baskets ... just the opposite of what makes sense. Al Capp was a visionary of immense proportion.

Tonight my wife is upset with herself (not that it keeps her from being nearly constantly upset with me)—**this evening she attempted to blow up her kitchen.** While not completely successful, she did manage to create quite a bang. Actually, it was one of those peculiar events we all seem prone to get caught up in from time to time. Here's how this one went. We have a sort of evening ritual of having a draught or two of her special blend of tea. This is made by boiling water in a pot on the stove and then pouring it into a similar sized carafe with the dry tea in it, whereupon it's allowed to steep for a bit. The carafe is a low heat loss device, made like a Dewar or Thermos bottle, but out of metal, not glass. These carafes are very nice gizmos—highly recommended—as they keep what you pour into them from changing temperature quickly without the use of additional energy. But tonight, Connie's kitchen navigational autopilot dropped a few critical bits. She carefully filled the carafe with water and stuck it on the stove to heat and put the dry tea into the tea pot and went into the living room to await the tea pot's whistle of escaping steam. Rather than the expected demure whistle, there was a loud bang as the carafe's pressed-on bottom explosively disconnected from the rest of the carafe. This was most likely the result of the small amount of glue used to hold the bottom piece in place turning to high temperature, and thus also high pressure, vapor. It really smelled things up. Such self induced surprises are not really all that rare. Most go unnoticed, which gives us a false sense of our own efficacy. But, occasionally, a "senior moment" can create effects that are hard to miss—like a big bang in the kitchen. Interestingly, I was able to hammer the bottom piece back on and, so far, the carafe has managed to behave much as it did before it blew

up, keeping the tea hot and fresh for hours after the steeping.

I just heard a plea for me to get involved with something or other on TV. Or, rather, I heard the tag line, **"A little of you goes a long way."** I think it was about me helping children. Right... If you think that statement applies to me (and if you know me, it's hard to imagine your not feeling that way), you should consider what it means to the typical child. Yeah, I'd be a big help.

Getting back to the kitchen, it's long been hypothesized that one of these days your kitchen would be self stocking. When it comes to refrigerators, that day has apparently come. I heard that one can now buy not mere "intelligence" in a refrigerator. **You can now buy refrigerators that require an Internet connection.** Apparently they monitor their shelves and, when you get low on something, it sends an order to a restocking facility automatically. A bit of Googling leads to United States Patent 6393848, "Internet refrigerator and operating method thereof", issued May 28, 2002. In which the three "inventors" claim almost every obvious thing one might do with an Internet connection and the associated "intelligence" as their idea ... when associated with a refrigerator. But I digress. It's hard for me to imagine a mechanism that would make sense of the load of stuff that we typically shove into a refrigerator. So, I have to posit that these self stocking, Internet connected refrigerators must have sensor laden compartments for well defined packages of stuff (I hesitate to refer to it as "food"). I suppose you could imagine using visual means of recognizing things but don't forget, when you shut the door, the light in the refrigerator is supposed to go out. Frankly, the kind of intelligence I'd like to see in a refrigerator is the kind that's put in before it's made. There are lots of things "wrong" with the refrigerators we typically use in our homes. First of all, they are "monolithic" in the sense that everything

6  
tightly fits into a close rectangular solid from which an AC cord (and pipe/hose for your ice maker's water—we don't have one, so forgive my leaving it out) dangles. While this is convenient to ship (if moving anything the size of a refrigerator can be termed "convenient") and requires almost nothing in the way of installation, it will eventually require "service". Almost nothing that needs "service" is readily accessible. Then there's my largest pet peeve about refrigerators—the part that gets hot (you did know that there is such a part, right?) is mounted right on the part you want to keep cold. Further, this hot part must get rid of its heat by dissipating it into its surroundings, ie. your kitchen. This might be OK in the dead of winter but can be less than pleasant in the summer. By separating the cold box from the pump and heat exchanger, one could greatly improve a refrigerator's efficiency (take a look at Sun Frost's designs—not quite what I'm advocating but in the right direction).

A few years ago, I cut almost all of an old apple tree down to what looked something like a large uneven sling-shot - a lopsided "Y". This was done for two reasons: 1) the tree was a prolific generator of large apples with the taste and consistency of pith balls and 2) its limbs were overhanging a building's metal roof which the tree's falling detritus was eating through. But I hated to waste the hearty roots, so I tried an experiment, grafting a some Spartan and Golden Delicious cuttings to the stump ends. These grafts have been growing rather well but, until this year, produced essentially no fruit. This year, they liberally rained apples to the ground before ripening—thinning the sets might have resulted in a much larger tree ripened crop. I decided that a number of apples that did ripen were simply too difficult for my limited abilities on the end of ladder standing on a steep slope to risk attempting to pick. I might have considered climbing the tree but 8 -->

# That Bane of the Macintosh User

The other day, Charter apparently decided to make some changes in their server layout. Of



course, they don't announce these things ahead of time to poor users. After all, we just surf the web, get email and download the latest games on our Windows PC, right? Well, not in my case. I do surf the web and get email but games are not high on my list of interests.

To do my stuff, I run an old Mac as a gateway to the Internet, including DNS - Domain Name System. What this means is that all the computers on my local network have names (well, when I bother to keep up with updating the configuration files). When those computers need to access another computer they know the name of, they contact the the gateway Mac and ask it what the real IP (Internet Protocol) address of the computer is.

Mostly this works very well. But on occasion, I'll suddenly find my internal email loaded with messages from the gateway computer telling me that it's having serious trouble. It happens so seldom that I don't really remember what the details of such events are from one to another. Thus I'm always sort of starting out troubleshooting from scratch. This time, I think I managed to kill a misconception I've had about how Mac OS X (Jaguar) gets addresses for the machines it's supposed to talk with for DNS when it doesn't have the answer at hand.

You can get IP addresses for nameservers by using the Whois tab in the Network Utility. Or, you can do what I generally do and use Terminal where

because my ISP is Charter. You'd use the root name of your ISP ("whois mcsi.net" or "whois rosenet.net" or "whois peak.org", etc.) in a command to find out about your nominal upstream name servers.

The "whois" command generally returns a bunch of boiler plate text followed by some sort of list of items amongst which are usually name server IP addresses, such as:

```
Domain servers in listed order:  
NS1.CHARTER.COM 24.196.241.11  
NS2.CHARTER.COM 24.213.60.79  
NS3.CHARTER.COM 24.197.96.17  
NS4.CHARTER.COM 24.205.1.12
```

The format will vary but the data should be comprehensible.

I had routinely used this sort of technique to get the nameserver addresses to support my internal DNS service. There are other methods one could use, notably the "dig" command. Anyway, when I'd gotten these IP addresses, I'd enter them in the optional "DNS Servers" box in the Network preference pane of System Preferences. That went well enough. But occasionally, my DNS server seemed to lose contact with the "outside world". After much fiddling, I'd find that my gateway computer didn't have the same addresses that Charter was listing—they'd changed their layout.

So, I'd put in the current numbers and things would go back to normal.

This turns out to have been a big mistake. The reason is that Charter, and most other ISPs, use DHCP (Dynamic Host Control Protocol) not only to pass out IP addresses to their clients but also to inform those clients of the IP addresses of the name servers they should use. While I have no direct proof, apparently when one puts data into the "DNS Servers" box, the IP addresses from your ISP don't get added to the pool. This probably is OK as long as you have at least one address of a DNS server listed in the box. But it ceases to function when none of the addresses entered match

those of DNS servers.

I think this may be the case because I was all set to enter the data from the list above into the "DNS Servers" box when the "(Opt.)" note tweaked my addled brain. Perhaps it would be better NOT to put anything in the box. So, I tried that, applied that and checked to see if it'd work. It did.

Then I decided to check further and see if what was going on made some kind of sense. I did this:

```
% cat /etc/resolv.conf  
search wump.org  
nameserver 68.116.46.115  
nameserver 68.116.46.70  
nameserver 68.185.34.67  
nameserver 68.189.122.19
```

Interestingly, this is not the same set of addresses that were present before I made the change in the Network preference panel and they are not the same as the ones displayed via the "whois" command. By using the "host" command, I was able to get names for each of these IP addresses. They are

```
rs1.mdfd.or.charter.com.  
rs1.gnps.or.charter.com.  
rs1.knwk.wa.charter.com.  
rs1.trlk.ca.charter.com.
```

From these names, one might surmise that our local DNS server is located in Medford. When it's too busy, it tries Grants Pass. If they are unreachable, it tries one in what might be Kennewick, Washington. Finally, it will try reaching Turlock, California.

This is not really surprising. A network like Charter's needs to distribute the load on its servers. There are lots of them. The ones in the "whois" list are their top level servers and not really intended to be used directly by their customers ... or so I've come to surmise. It'd be nice to have someone at Charter to confirm or correct such surmises. Not doubt people who could be associated with the company. My getting to interact with them directly is probably more difficult than my getting an audience with President GeeDubya.

7 I'll type  
% whois charter.com



# File Juicer

for Mac OS X

Hidden away at <http://echoone.com/filejuicer/> you'll find **File Juicer** by Denmark's Henrik Dalgaard.

**File Juicer** is something like CanOpener (still around after more than 15 years at <http://www.abbott-sys.com/co.html>) but seems to handle more stuff. I note that without having done much research, however, so you may find one or the other more suitable for your needs.

The basic idea is to allow you to extract embedded identifiable items buried in files. If nothing else **File Juicer** can pick out parts of those blasted **.exe** files Windows users seem to think are a good idea to pass around. Mostly, they are a great way to pass around viruses amongst Windows users.

For example, I dropped an ICab Web page archive file named "Configuring and Running X11 Ap" on **File Juicer**

whereupon it created a folder on the Desktop name "Configuring and Running X11 Ap Juice". In that folder were three other folders: gif, txt & zip. In "gif" there were 10 GIF images used to compose the page. In the "txt" folder there was a file labeled as ".txt" but contained mostly gibberish—the sort of thing one expects to get when looking at mostly binary data with a bit of real textual data here and there. Then in the "zip" folder was a single Zip file which unZip'd into a several files and folders, all of which seemed coherent.

I happened to have a Windows version of a program available—a **.exe** file, so I dumped that on **File Juicer** and got another folder on the Desktop containing wav, html, jpg, txt, URLs folders. As before, some of the data therein was largely useless but the "wav", "jpg" & "URLs" data was great.

Echo One will let you try **File Juicer**

for free for 13 days. They claim they may "watermark" some image files during this period. I didn't notice.

**File Juicer** has menu entries to "juice" your browser caches. Frankly, I'd recommend against "just doing it". Browser caches typically contain a huge amount of data which you probably do not want another copy of sitting in a folder on your Desktop. But this could be useful if you first cleaned the cache and then navigated somewhere straightaway and then ran **File Juicer**.

**File Juicer** is not expensive, especially if you need it, priced at \$17.95.

## 6<--Water Blogged Wump

these grafted limbs are not yet well enough established to support what amounts to a mid-sized gorilla. So, I had to leave some apples to their fate. As fall progressed and turned to winter they all fell off, save one. This lonely golden apple continued to dangle tantalizingly from a long, little twig, seemingly untouched. In fact, I just looked at the tree a few minutes ago and most of the apple is still there. I say "most" because about a week ago, I noticed that a small bird stood on the apple and pecked away at a hole beneath its feet. I studied the apple for a bit and realized that other holes had been opened. It is serving as a food source for these small birds this late in

the season. I suspect it is something of a treat, despite its not likely being particularly fresh any longer. It is, after all, a singular item in the environment. Since I noticed this, the apple's top has become increasingly pecked apart. When it finally hits the ground, I guess it'll be time for me to do some pruning. But 'til then, I think I'll leave it for the birds.

[Epilog: since writing the previous paragraph, we've had a spate of stormy weather. The apple was a victim of the storm. The right shot was taken in twilight. I'd hoped for more color. It made the efforts of the birds more clear. The next day the apple was gone.]

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