



Apple Blossom Computer Club  
A registered Apple/Macintosh User Group



Apr '08  
still only  
**\$2.00**

The

**ROSE**



**BYTER**

**Next Meeting**

**April 17, 7 PM**  
**McMenamins**  
Roseburg Station Pub & Brewery  
**700 SE Sheridan St**

**Agenda**

1. Meeting starts at 7 P.M.
2. Intro's of members and guests
3. Old business
4. New business
5. Program: How to get your free MacBook Pro.\*\*
6. Questions & (maybe)Answers

**Wikileak(s)**

If you're a conspiracy theorist, some sort of protester about some part of the *status quo* or just curious to see what's going on away from the tube, you might want to give <http://wikileaks.org> a look. Not only can you read all about just about any sort of something someone finds despicable, you can stir the waters with your own oar. Pick a side and hammer it out.

Or, you may prefer <http://wikileak.org> to discuss whether the ess'd wikileak is a good thing or not and what to do about it.

Both sites have undergone quite a history of officialdom cracking the whip at them, shutting them down, taking them to court, etc.

**Walt Pawley**  
[walt@wump.org](mailto:walt@wump.org)

**YOUTUBYTER**

by **Dave Archer** <dave@davearcher.com>

My Fellow Members,



Meet the lowly Blob. Another denizen of black water, miles down. Why do I just know blob fish soup would be a big seller in Phenom Phen. Which of course, made me think of last month's Rosebyter offering: Piglet Squid, that is, in the same light. Eeeek! For me, that would be like eating a plate of fried Disney characters --- an activity I dare not entertain. I call this a *blob fish* because I can't find it's actual name yet, Latin or otherwise. I know it lives deeper than nets go, so we won't be seeing one in a home aquarium anytime soon. Current science estimates 20 million as yet **unseen** species haunt the deepest, darkest reaches of our seas. At this moment, amazing space craft are diving, probing, and bringing us these photographs and in some cases, living samples of what they are finding. Every single day. It's like looking through the wrong end of Hubble. Ah yes, oggly-booglies are with us today, slurping and urping and darting and farting. Astonishing!

Sorry again, it seems no matter how many times I check to make sure my Youtube url's are *good for launch*, Chewybubba tells me he tried one and had trouble getting thare from thare. For instance, I just checked the Rod Steiger url below, and it worked perfectly. Even so, now, I am including the TITLE as well as the url. If you have any trouble, a quick search of Youtube by title, should get you the same video.

1. **Title:** ROD STEIGER ON JAMES DEAN.

I very much enjoyed this short piece (4 minutes or so) of actor Rod Stei- **2 -->**

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

Jack Webster <jackw@rio.com>

### 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.

Copyright© 2008, All Rights Reserved



When they gonna build a fire?

**<- 1 YOUTUBYTE** ger talking about actor James Dean as he knew and worked with him. There are several gems in this that allowed my already considerable respect for Steiger's art to soar even higher. Clear sound / good production values. **2**

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=FJxnekG5ZUA>

2. **Title:** Scotland the Brave

My brother Dale sent the club this one. Gives me chills through the core of my being. Thank you Dale. Scotland the Brave and the Green Hills of Tyrol played by the massed bands and bagpipes at the Scottish Festival in Estes Park CO in September 2004. Features the King's Own Scottish Borderers and the Marine Air Land Combat Band. Not great production, but who cares. It's real.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZuq\\_mMDg20&feature=email](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZuq_mMDg20&feature=email)

3. **Title:** Rare Marlon Brando screentest

If you watch this one you will see a 23 year old Brando "product test" for "Rebel Without a Cause". If you make it to the middle, give special attention to an amazing "after kiss" moment. Watch what Marlon tries to do with his eyelashes right after the kiss to show he is overwhelmed with "real" emotional chemistry, and meet a *brand* spanking new actor trying *anything* not to die on camera. Failing miserably. I have had a lifelong fascination with Brando. Can't help it. This video touched me as an artist because his blinking is what all artists do. Successful and otherwise. Humiliation / acclaim. Humiliation / acclaim.

A note: the above **Title** has a small "s" in screentest, so I report it to members exactly that way, because sometimes I notice that even a small variation in a Youtube title, gets me nowhere, or, off to some godforsaken mess I never, ever want to see again as long as I live. As of ten o'clock Monday morning last, Youtube *POWERS THAT BE* asked me to *please* assure all Rosebyters: The Company is currently up and running this problem down a very long, straight, and especially narrow silly-con ditch. A drug-impaired spokesperson informed me that Youtube expects "running speed" in the year 2525, if man is still alive, if woman can survive ..., in April actually. Odd. More later. I have to get back in my psychic foxhole now. Mother told me there would be WIFI's like this, but she never mentioned the nights.

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=j21RdkNGDcY>

4. **Title:** Mahalia Jackson - Didn't It Rain

In the 50's in San Luis Obispo, California, mom and I fell in love with Mahalia Jackson on Ed Sullivan. After high school I moved to my Uncle Rudy's place, an Angus ranch near Santa Rosa. I used to drive my late dad's old car, a VW bug, to San Francisco to this tiny movie theater in North Beach. I didn't even know it was North Beach. They showed one movie only for months and months. The projectionist was Kenneth Anger. The first time I saw "Jazz On A Summer Day" --- Newport Jazz Festival, 1958, I had wandered into the theater out of curiosity, then, so moved by Louis Armstrong, et. al, stayed to watch it four times. At the end of the documentary, Mahalia comes out and blows the crowd down with a few songs. *Didn't It Rain* is great. She ended the festival singing The Lord's Prayer, the best rendition I have ever heard in my life. I remember mom and I going to the music store in San Luis Obispo to buy Mahalia's albums. Mom especially loved her version of "Silent Night". Over the next year of junior college I made trip after trip to that little "art-film" theater, to watch *Jazz on a Summer Day*, three or four times each session. It's on dvd now, quite available. Mahalia could have been the greatest voice in pop music ever.

**3 -->**

# Does This Look Like A Band Of Terrorists To You?



by Walt Pawley <walt@wump.org>

This bucolic looking little of group of academic Mac users is really a nefarious band of EVIL HACKERS! They hardly fit the stereotypical view of unkempt Jolt Cola addicts buried in Twinkie wrappers, red eyed, drippy nosed and still unwilling to go to bed.

But this little group, which includes their college professor is busy hacking into wireless cardiac defibrillators and pace makers so they can change how they're programmed without the person in whom they're installed knowing

it's happening.

What does this mean? Well, for one thing, they can set them to kill the implantee. Indeed, they could then set the programming back to normal to cover their tracks.

Actually, their intent is not evil but they are hackers. They do their best to compromise wireless implant products so they can identify potential dangers. This allows the manufacturer to work on eliminating such dangers to their patients.

## <-2 YOUTUBYTER

Instead, she dedicated her life to the Lord and never made a secular album. I saw Aretha Franklin

(who grew up singing with Mahalia in church) on a talk show, when she was asked by the host, "Who was your greatest influence?" Ha! Aretha took it secular for Mahalia and they loved each other to the end. Not a shabby tradeoff.

[http://youtube.com/watch?v=J\\_LPVXPdkH0](http://youtube.com/watch?v=J_LPVXPdkH0)

My last contribution was too long. In my enthusiasm I made ten entries. So, this time, five. Here's the last.

5. **Title:** Simultaneity - Albert Einstein and the Theory of Relativity

One minute not to be missed. Will someone explain it to me later. Please. Oh ... forget it.

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=wteiuxyqtoM>

--

Dave Archer -- <http://www.davearcher.com> (541) 440-0002  
Dave Archer Studios, 1541 Buckhorn Road, Roseburg, OR 97470  
SEE DAVE ARCHER STORE - <http://www.cafepress.com/davearcher>

\*\* Don't believe everything you read especially on page 1.

-or-

## About April's ABCC Meeting

Acting on a comment (complaint?) of one of our number, it was decided to petition the group for input as to where we should hold our next meeting ... if it were to be at a sit down, no host eatery.

The response to this missive was, as seems typical, massively underwhelming. Frankly, it would have been a lot easier and less difficult to have simply made some unilateral decision rather than trying to nudge our group into expressing their opinions.

There were only two inputs that could be said to match ... and they both pointed to there being nothing wrong with our usual spot.

Considering the paucity of responses, it's suspected that petition should have been more clear that the alternate venue is *just* for this one meeting. There's currently no intent to switch to some other regular location for meetings. However, should care to, don't let that stop you from tossing your two cents into the ring.

So, come on downtown. Bring the ball or chain, as the case may be. Have a



bite to eat, a dram to drink and we'll see if we can all discuss whatever is on our minds at the time.



# Water Blogged Wump

Any trace of organization in these paragraphs is entirely coincidental

4



## The Path To Oblivion

Familiar with Project 28? You know... **“the fence”**. Actually, it’s just a high tech test setup to “secure” a 28 mile stretch of the border between Arizona and Mexico. Reports are that this did not go so well. There must be some truth to it because DHS has awarded Boeing a contract to do it again, but this time they’ve called on John’s Hopkins University’s Applied Physics Laboratory to do the testing. I find it quite ironic that a political party self aggrandized for it’s position against big government has managed to create several bottomless pits into which money must be poured. In the end, it might actually be cheaper to build a real fence across the Mexican border. Of course, we’d need to employ “illegal aliens” to do the work...

As you’re most likely well aware by now, former Governor Elliot Spitzer of New York has been drummed out of office by being suspected of habituating high priced prostitutes. I was struck by a statement made on PBS that transporting a prostitute across state lines was a federal crime. Sheesh! Does that mean that **when a prostitute goes on vacation** and gets on a plane to go from chilly New York to balmy Hawaii that people at the airline are prosecutable? Some years ago, the silliness of such a thought would have made it laughable indeed. Today, I’m not so sure. We seem to be able to create many laws that have insane side effects when taken literally. Apparently this is not a problem because we manage to practice selective applica-

tion of laws implacably.

One of things I do with my notes is annoy a lot of people. I’ve even done it intentionally, with the goal of eliciting a dialog on these pages. So, I just stumbled on an editorial, **“Are we becoming a ‘cargo cult’?”** by Bill Schweber, in which he expressed his concern about the fact that humans are adopting ever more complex technology about which an ever decreasing portion of them have a clue how any of it works. While I’ve noticed this since I was a youngster, I’m certainly not alone. For example, Arthur C. Clark wrote, “Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.” I’d be willing to argue that particular statement with Arthur, but the gist of the statement is true enough. Nobel winning physicist Richard Feynman was clearly aware of the issue, citing the Cargo Cult that arose on some South Pacific islands after WWII. People who design things today are “artists” who “personalize” devices—their activity has essentially nothing to do with how the devices work; just how they look. Even the bulk of engineers tend not to understand the real workings of the equipment they’re involved with. How many people have you heard from who know a little kid who “knows all about computers”? I would be last one to assert that there is no such thing. But I also know that these statements are made relative to the understanding of computers of the speaker. Most of the “professionals” I’ve worked with in computing don’t understand computers very well from my perspective. And that’s just one thing. We are embarking on a process of bringing whole new realms of technology to the fore. The effects of these new technologies are likely to be extensive, affecting electronics, mechanics and biology and all the sub-subjects they affect. Fewer of us than ever will have a true understanding of what these

technologies are really about. In my opinion, we are creating conditions to drive speciation amongst the hairless hominids.

I suppose it’s not exactly news any longer. As has been reported for a while, there’s potential for nano-wires/tubes to increase the energy density of batteries by as much as a factor of 10. So, why ramble on about it? Well, it’s because of the factor. **Ten times more energy from a battery is a huge increase.** Not that a great deal more would not be nice, but this change would enable all kinds of things that are simply not practical today. For the U.S., it might mean a huge reduction in the use of foreign oil. This, of course, would change the politics of the world radically ... if, the owners of the new technology aren’t headquartered in Dubai, something that seems increasingly likely as time passes. It’s quite likely the rest of the world would also avail itself of this sort of thing. This means that wealth will be flowing to those who create electricity even more than it does now. Places like the Sahara may become massive sources for such quantities of electrons. We may even find it economically viable to establish servo’d reflectors in close Solar orbit where the energy density is high and beaming that energy to satellites in Earth orbit that would convert the light to microwaves beamed to the surface for rectification. By then, the available technology might be much better.

Some of you are probably experiencing Micro\$hapht Office 2008 for Mac by now. Perhaps you’ve been somewhat disappointed in a few things that Micro\$hapht has chosen to leave out of the Mac OS X version that are in the Windows version. Interestingly, **these things happen to be the sort of things that are expected of MS Office in actual offices.** Of course, the Mac is blamed for these missing pieces, both by offices experi- **5 -->**

## <--Water Blogged Wump

encing the failure of MS Office X to live up to their expectations but also by Micro\$hapht's officers explaining why these things are missing. The excuse for the latter is that these missing things are hard to do, especially on the Mac, and Micro\$hapht had a firm date on which to release the product. Riiiiight... I'm sure that it has nothing to do with wanting to cram Windows into the workplace even more tightly than it already is (remember, new Macs do a bang up job of running Windows Vista).

One of the things most of us know almost nothing about, but that will have a great effect on us all, is what's happening to telecommunications infrastructure. **How important can anything with that many syllables be, anyway?** Quite, as it turns out. Polysyllabic obfuscations aside, what the Good Ol' Boys are planning in the board rooms for you will have a tremendous effect on us all. Wouldn't it be wonderful if they had your best interests to heart? You can kiss that notion, "Goodbye." They are concerned about basically one thing — how to keep their profits on the rise. So, in keeping with what we refer to as "competition", one of the principle tools of the boardroomers is attempting to force others into a position where they can be purchased "for peanuts". It's a winner take all game, for the most part, even when there's more than one winner. So, for example, we have Charter cable in our area. Their rates for things are about double the rates charged by their competitors. Unfortunately, the term "competitor" already does not apply to almost every cable company. They generally are given a monopoly by the government of the area in which they exist. This might not be so bad if that government would ride herd on them. Of course, that is not done unless the community rises up and threatens revolt. Hardly a likely scenario what with the claims of soon to come video on demand, VOIP, digital HDTV, etc. titillating consum-

ers. These things are real enough. What's not so real is the ability to provide them ubiquitously, and that ignores the prices being charged for these things.

As you know, Microsoft was judged a practitioner of monopoly by courts in the U.S. and E.U. One of their "punishments" was to provide complete interface data for their operating system(s) to licensees. This was to have been completed by now. Can you guess what giant company with the most high tech help in the world didn't carry out its sentence? **Oh, the problem is just too big.** That's their excuse in court for not doing what they were supposed to do. While the judge was supposedly not all that sympathetic to Micro\$hapht's plight, the finger slapping they got for not providing licensees with the data they need to provide applications that might compete with Micro\$hapht's was to extend the time they had to do so. Put another way, Micro\$hapht was told they did not have to help possible competitors for a few more years. Smacks me as of a sort of B'r'er Rabbit in the berry patch kind of thing.

One of the things I get from watching TV is a more enlightened view of my own shortcomings. For example, I found myself somewhat taken aback by a news report on KDRV about a proposed ordinance that would make taking a grocery cart from a store theft and, additionally, make it "easier" (somehow) for someone finding a cart away from a store to return it. Why did this strike me as peculiar? Well, **I've always been of the apparent misconception taking something that didn't belong to the taker was considered theft** ... period. But I must be wrong. The ordinance requires that the grocery carts be labeled with an announcement that taking them is theft in order for them to be stolen. I wonder if the label making lobby is behind this move.

I read today (from, an article published several weeks ago ...) that **NASA is parking one of the Mars rovers to**

**save money — and they don't even use gasoline.** I believe the figure was \$4,000,000. That's what we're "saving" by not operating one of the rovers in a year and reducing activities with the other. Now, if they were saving this money to give to me, I'd say it's a lot of money. However, from the perspective of the country as a whole, such a number is almost, but not quite completely unlike a saving. Actually, I may be wrong in that surmise. I'd not be all that surprised if it already cost us more to make the decision to "save" that money. Then there's the other costs we'll be incurring as a result of such "saving". What costs? Well, if we're not spending the money, we're not spending it on something, right? What are we not spending it on? May I suggest that it's mostly not being spent on salaries? So, there will be a bunch of people losing their jobs. Of course, they won't be "important" people — just scientists and engineers and their support people. The latter will get unemployment and probably qualify for welfare of various descriptions. What about the "rocket scientists"? Well, who needs 'em? Ah, let 'em eat cake. What's the excuse for shutting down the Mars exploration to a comparative crawl? Well, the money is supposedly needed to help pay for Bush's Mars initiative to put a Hum-vee sized rover on Mars. I suspect that four megabucks doesn't buy much of that project. If it does, perhaps they'll be duct taping a real Humvee to an old Saturn booster.

In keeping with the subject of the last paragraph, you might be interested to know that a study done by Oxford University classes **the most likely occupation to create an Islamic terrorist is engineering.**

Mercedes Benz is running a commercial on TV for one of their new vehicles that claims it's **"a car guaranteed to stop traffic."** **I ask you; is this something you buy a vehicle for?** Me ... I use a vehicle to move with, if not through, traffic. After all, we already have streets loaded **6 -->**

## <--Water Blogged Wump

with lots of other vehicles that seem to be able to stop, or at the very least, do a very good job of impeding traffic. What's the point in spending an inordinate quantity of money for a high performance traffic stopper?

Oregon has a "move over law"? It seems to be a big deal on local news reports the last few days. In particular, they're saying that the law was enacted several years ago and is not being followed. Gee. I wonder why. You don't suppose it might have something to do with not knowing anything about it, do you? So, how does the state decide to inform you? Why by the most practical way possible—a few days of strict enforcement in some areas. I'm quite certain at least **a few hundred people will learn more than they wanted to know** about it. On the other hand, most of us won't know anything is happening at all. Does it strike you that there might be a better way of informing the public? Or, am I the only one in the state who didn't know about it before it became "news"?

One of my pet peeves is "law". We have simply have way too many of them. They are also far too complex. I'm willing to posit that many are logically inconsistent in numerous ways. I'm reasonably certain that there is quite literally no one single person who has a complete command of them all ... if only because the length of life compared to the time required to handle all the documents involved is too small. While this seems a patently absurd situation to me, our response to it is to add more laws and increase their complexity to boot. **It's clearly an untenable situation but "works" well enough by being mostly ignored.**

I just heard a report on TV that some crosswalk in Ashland has been "deemed unsafe". **Of course it's unsafe. It's a bloody crosswalk!** You know—one of those places where it's legal for pedestrians to dare to dodge

vehicles which outweigh them by typically a factor of 200 or more and can easily outrun the fastest of us. Of course, the theory is that the vehicles are supposed to stop. Well, good luck with that. Theory is one thing. Reality is quite often something else. From my perspective it seems that our infrastructure is being run by reactionaries. The news just started off with a report on this subject. It occurred at the university. At the hearing, the failings of other crosswalks were also brought up. Hey - the poor girl who was killed there was at a university. Doesn't mean anything to you? It does to me. It means there are gobs of idiots who walk around without paying a bit of attention to their surroundings and think nothing (literally) of stepping off a curb into a street without looking at what's going on around them at all. In my day, it was especially females. I doubt that's so true today. Frankly, it's a whole lot easier for someone to avoid getting hit by a car than it is to avoid hitting someone with your car when they step in front of you. And there's that old bug-a-boo, physics. Newton would have easily come to the conclusion that getting in front of a traveling car was an asinine maneuver ... if he'd known about cars. No matter, we'll make crosswalks "safe", regardless of how much it costs.

Did you know there was an **Office of Administration? Apparently, it's a Federal "non-agency"** that the Whitehouse uses to hide a whole lot of crap that goes on. There's a lot of that going on in Washington D.C., where large "unofficial" organizations are instituted to deal with things that should be dealt with officially ... at least in my opinion. These organizations shroud the behavior of our government's privileged actors under cloaks that, mostly, keep their activities completely secret. Judges have, however, ruled that because of the nature of these organizations' activities, they are subject to the FOIA (Freedom Of Information Act) rules. For example, OOA is dragging it's feet because they are sup-

posed to cough up millions of Whitehouse emails. First, I find it curious that, if such email is supposed to be kept track of, that an outside organization would be tasked with the job. Second, I find it curious that the organization claims that the hard disks on which that email was archived have all been lost or damaged ... especially after having months to think about the whole thing. What will we do about this sort of thing? How much you want to bet we won't do squat?

Reportedly, Apple, Google & Nokia are lobbying for cell phone carriers to provide standardized interfaces and interoperability and reasonable pricing. Sadly, they are each operating independently, touting their specific agendas as what's important. I've long maintained that **the free-for-all approach to communications infrastructure is, at the very least, extremely wasteful.** And the waste is not just of money. I suspect the opportunity cost of not settling some issues is far higher than the huge sums blown to support "competition". In "third world" countries there's full standardization and interoperability ... admittedly for the wrong reason (politically created monopoly to fatten the fat cats). Having just one phone company does have its advantages. Absent that, having open standards and access to the communication system would do. Perhaps I'm just un-American, but from my perspective there are reasons to do things other than acquiring money. Maybe someday we'll figure out a means of operating to accomplish such things.

I just set the last paper issue of InfoWorld down so I could pick up the PowerBook to type this. **InfoWorld is not going completely away. It's just going "green";** dropping the print version in favor of publishing on the 'Web only. In my email, I've gotten several requests recently to choose to move to a "green" version of other publications. There are some credible arguments for the notion

# That Bane of the Macintosh User

“Last night I transferred a multi-gig folder from the G5 to the Storage partition on my external drive. When I got up this morning, I tried to delete the folder and there were a fairly large number of files that couldn’t be deleted for various reasons, so I used Terminal to delete those files, but got a strange message.”

This note was the result of my giving an ABCCer a command to type to empty the Trash of some recalcitrant files. Unfortunately for the existence of panaceas, there are file attributes that aren’t addressed by that incantation alone. In this case, they revolved around the **uchg** flag. This flag means that the file is “user immutable”. It even defies the Super User in a direct confrontation. The flag must be set to **nouchg** (another way to say that the **uchg** flag must be cleared) before it can be deleted. This is done via the **chflags** command.

If you intend to remove large amounts of data via Terminal (best for large stuff IMHO), the way to do it is NOT to first move it to Trash. That is an extremely time consuming function. OTOH, simply using Terminal to delete stuff directly is relatively quick. The first thing to do (and maybe all that will be necessary if the files are

not heavily guarded by their flags, etc.) is ...

```
rm -rf -drop-a-folder-here-  
... which means to type “rm -rf”  
(note the space after the “f”) and  
then drag the object to delete into  
the Terminal window until its border  
highlights, then drop it in the window.  
The drag and drop should fill in the  
full path to the object, fully escaped.  
PAY ATTENTION to what it did!  
It’s very easy to drag more stuff  
than you expected, so look before  
leaping—rm is non-recoverable,  
once done. If it’s not the right stuff,  
hit a down-arrow to dump the com-  
mand line. If it’s OK, hit RETURN or  
ENTER to make it go.
```

This will delete all the stuff that doesn’t need any other work and that doesn’t have to be done by Super User. If you get a raft of “permission denied” messages, that probably means you need to be Super User to do it. You can retype the whole thing with “sudo “ in front of it, or you can hit up-arrow to repeat the previous command (don’t hit RETURN or ENTER yet), type cntl-a (hold the Control key down and strike “A”) followed by “**sudo**”. You should see ...

```
sudo rm -rf -path-to-stuff-
```

structure to support these moves.

Got a couple hundred grand wearing a hole in your pockets? Well, you can lighten that load by booking a flight on SpaceShip Two at <http://www.virgingalactic.com/htmlsite/book.php>. This ugly (IMHO) website is the information portal into what is perhaps a **science fiction cliché. We have the billionaire financier and gifted but out-of-the-mainstream engineering genius**, competing with the governments of the world to get humans into space in a “practical” manner. It’s my impression that Burt Rutan’s brilliance as a designer has revolved around small craft and he’s getting to his end game

... after which you can hit RETURN or ENTER ... if it looks right.



It may ask for your password. If you want to do it, enter the password (if you’ve **sudo**’d recently enough, it won’t ask, it will just bloody do it!).

This will get stuff that’s merely locked as well. But it won’t get stuff that’s got its **uchg** flag set. That’s more complicated. To clear the **uchg** flag, I think this will work ...

```
find -drop-the-folder-here-  
backspace-the-/- -type f|  
while read x;do chflags  
nouchg "$x";done
```

Strictly speaking, backspacing the trailing slash (/) from the folder drag and drop is probably not a necessity but I do it because it generates syntactically proper file paths. If this process does not belch fire at you, you can do the deleting again. The easy way is to hit up-arrow until the **rm** command of interest reappears and then hit RETURN or ENTER.

So what is all that gobbledegook about, anyway? Perhaps it makes some sense to describe the basic **8 -->**

like so many of us. I hope he’s managed to fertilize a number of other potential geniuses to keep this process alive. It does not seem to be an easy road ahead. Perhaps we’ll learn some currently unsuspected physical principles that will change that. While it doesn’t seem likely, it could happen at any time and quickly because things orthogonal to our perceptions are not directly fathomable but would be all around us ... if they exist at all.

Did I hear that TV commercial right? **Moose cleanser?** Is there enough call for something to wash Moose with that it will support television ads? And if you can buy Moose cleanser, shouldn’t you also be able to buy antler polish?

## **<--Water Blogged Wump**

of providing such data over the Internet—reduction in paper, ink, fuel, etc., to say nothing of laying off the printing plant, lock, stock and barrel ... and lots of personnel. Sadly, about the only real beneficiary of these changes are the major stock holders—the real objective of these changes is not about “saving the planet”. It’s about keeping the profits flowing. The issue carried the objections of a reader which parroted my own. It won’t matter. The world of humans is changing to keep the profits “where they belong”. But I wonder what the real cost is; in money, **7** in opportunity, in environmental cost of the communication infra-

## ←-7 Dread Terminal

idea behind how a **\*nix** command line works. It's very simple which is also one of the reasons using a CLI (Command Line Interface) can be difficult—it's up to you to link simple things together to get a more complex result.

First, Terminal (or any other CLI presentation program, like **xterm**, say) will present you with a prompt. It's the stuff at the left where it's waiting for you to type something. Prompts are, in general, highly mutable, usually having something like their very own little programming language to use to create custom prompts of your choice. You can read about all this for any particular CLI program via it's "man page."

So, how do you read a "man page"? For Mac users, I like to recommend getting Carl Lindberg's "ManOpen" at <http://www.clindberg.org/projects/ManOpen.html> but you can also simply use Terminal by typing...

```
man -name-of-command-
```

This will present you with the first screen of the "man page" for the command you've named. There are gobs of "man pages" on your Mac OS X based computer, I have at least 1,652 "section 1" pages on this computer (there are at least nine sections). You can find out more about all this by using **man man**—reading the "man page" about the **man** command. Still, reading "man pages" with "ManOpen" is preferable for most things. Be sure to read through the "ManOpen" Help menu—it's its "man page", sort of.

From what's been presented so far, you may have come to the conclusion that the second basic idea is that what one types, starting from the prompt to the first space, is a command. Indeed. Actually, you can put lots of spaces in front of the first non-space and they're ignored (well, usually, anyway). The first contiguous set of non-space stuff is what will be interpreted as a command. Of course, not just any ol' thing

will do. It has to match something your computer understands and it can't read your mind (yet).

Once the CLI has found a command it can execute, it arranges the rest of the stuff on the line for the program you've commanded to make sense of. Strictly speaking, it's not the line's end that's used but rather the part to the left of some kind of terminating punctuation defined by the CLI. In our case, the first one of these is the vertical-bar (`|`, ie. "pipe"). One nice thing about many **\*nix** CLI's is that they tend to use a lot consistent syntax amongst one another, so learning one helps with learning others. I happen to be fond of "**bash**".

So we've typed the command **find** and a space, dragged and dropped the folder on the Terminal window and hit backspace (the fat delete key—upper right of main keys), to which we add the modifiers and arguments: **-type f**. This runs the **find** command to output the path to any file it finds down in the folder we dropped. The "`|`" pipes this output into the input of what comes next.

**while -stuff-;do -stuff-;done** is a CLI loop. The first **-stuff-** (ie. **read x**) is used to read one of the file paths found by **find** into a CLI variable I've named **x**. When **find** runs out of paths to output, the **while** loop will stop. The second **-stuff-** (ie. **chflags nouchg "\$x"**) does the work of changing the user immutable flag so that the file can be deleted.

If you've been reading the **find** "man page", you're probably wondering why all the fuss with the **while** loop. After all, **find** has the **-exec** and **-execdir** functions built into it to do CLI functions directly. While this is true, it is not without some problems that revolve around how we Mac users name things. We think nothing of using option key characters and punctuation in file names. Particularly heinous is the use of **/**. CLIs are nominally ASCII text based and have to use some characters to mean special

things. These special meanings aren't something you usually want cropping up in file names.



By experimenting with many, many possibilities, I found this syntax seems to hide the special meanings of at least some of those special characters from being interpreted as something besides part of a single file's name.

Why bother with all this CLI stuff anyway? After all, it's too hard to deal with. I just want to click the button and have it do it.

Yeah. The trouble with that is you need millions of buttons to do what you can do with the built-in CLI. For a lot things, people will happily charge you \$10, \$25 or more to do things that you can do in Terminal for free. Or, perhaps more to the point, is for the cost of your investing a bit of time understanding what your computer is all about.

And even if you can afford to buy all those buttons, it doesn't take very many of them for most of us to have trouble remembering which button does what. With the CLI's (or ManOpen's) **apropos** function, you can begin investigating how to do what you want with what you already have. Go ahead; type something in Terminal.

## unClassifieds

Need a manual?

Discount for ABCC members!



Apple Blossom  
Computer Club

<http://www.abccmug.org>

Give it a look.

Put in your own...

