



Apple Blossom Computer Club
A registered Apple/Macintosh User Group



Jun '08

still only

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The

ROSE



BYTER

Next Meeting

June 19, 7 PM

**The Dave Archer
Museum**

1541 Buckhorn Rd

Agenda

1. Meeting starts at 7 P.M.
2. Intro's of members and guests
3. Old business
4. New biz (&MPV door prize)
5. Program: Dave Archer's eclectic artifact collection & million volt painting demonstration.
6. Questions & (maybe)Answers

<http://www.abccmug.org/>

by **Jim McClellan**

[<mcclellan@charter.net>](mailto:mcclellan@charter.net)

When was the last time you checked out the above website?

Why?

What do you like best about our website?

What do you think the website appeals to? Members, new people, other?

What changes and/or additions would you suggest?

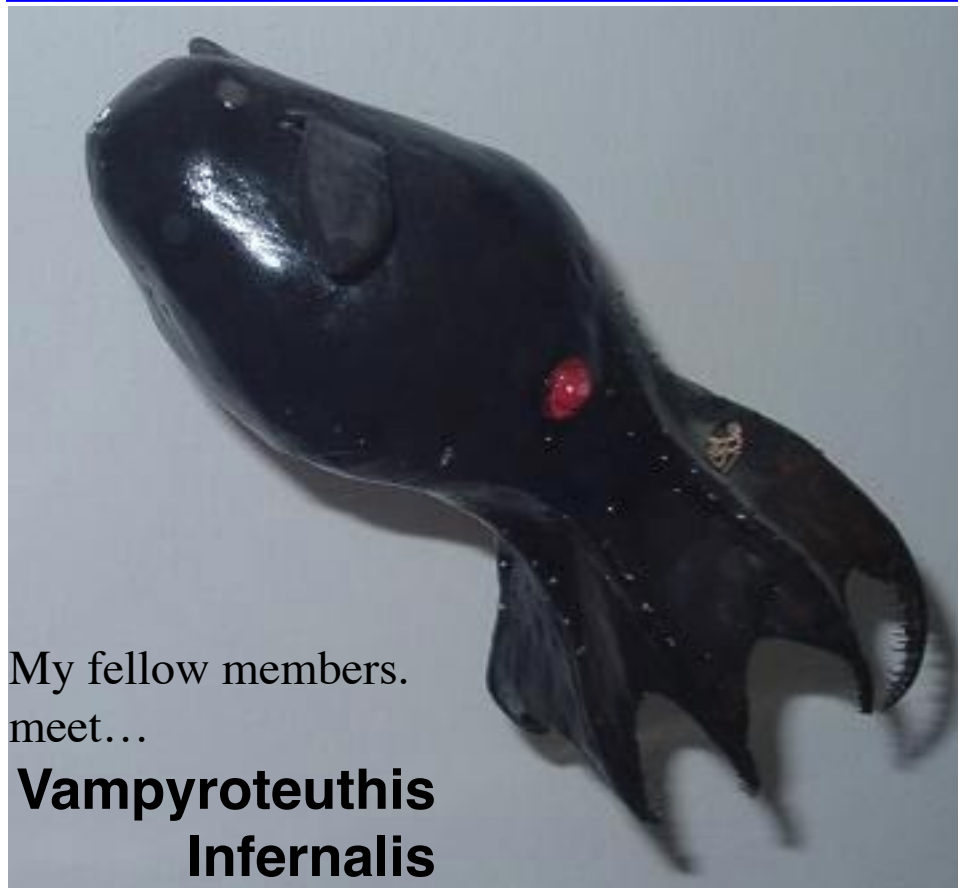
How often do you check the site?

If we made the changes you mentioned above, would you check the site more frequently?

Send me a note, eh. ;-)

YOUTUBYTER

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



My fellow members.
meet...

Vampyroteuthis Infernalis

Vampyroteuthis Infernalis: One of the nastiest little buggers on the planet. Each tentacle is completely covered on the inner surface, with dozens of needle sharp, serpent like fangs, all curved inward.

Translated, the above Latin reads: "Vampire Squid from Hell." About a foot long, this tropical denizen is among the most fascinating deep water animals on earth. It was first described in 1903 by a German teuthologist who

identified it as an octopus, because it had, he thought, eight arms. Then another pair of thin arms was discovered, tucked into pockets outside the web that connects the eight arms. Taxonomically speaking, it hovers between octopus and squid in its own order: Vampyromorpha.

For its size, Vampyroteuthis has proportionally the largest eyes of any animal in the world. A six-inch specimen will have globular eyes an inch

The **Apple Blossom Computer Club** (ABCC) is an Apple Computer Inc., registered Macintosh and Apple][family user group. The ABCC publishes *The RoseByter* newsletter monthly which is posted to each paid up member and reciprocating user groups. ABCC participates in user group newsletter content exchange. The ABCC also maintains a WWW site at:

<http://www.abccmug.org>

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

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<-1 YOUTUBYTER across, approximately the size of the eye of a full-grown dog, but blood-red. Vampyrotheuthis may compensate for the blackness of the abyss in which it lives by being equipped with an astonishing series of photophores; lights all over its body-except for the inner surface of its web-that it appears to be able to turn on and off at will. For movies: see Youtube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=es70i4xPY8g&feature=related>

A fascinating ten minute interview with the late Aldous Huxley. It's like peeking through a keyhole time machine. Brave New World was one of my favorite books for awhile. Don't remember much of it anymore. In the novel I remember, the "Hatchery" was where factory farmed human babies were produced, complete with rides on conveyer belts. Has this movie ever been made? What I love about this Youtube, is listening to a brilliant man answer questions. Good sound and synch too, for me at least.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jq5_Zt0Fqk

In my youth all through the fifties, Salvador Dali did television. When I lived with my Uncle Rudy at 18, I saw Dali frequently on "The Today Show" with Jack Parr. This is an appearance on "What's My Line?" I had two favorite artists at the time; Dali and Picasso. Everybody else hated them. I watched keenly, to see how both visual artists used the media to push their careers. Later, I followed Dali's example, doing over two hundred tv shows, including "Eye to Eye" with Connie Chung. I also appeared on a takeoff game show based on, you guessed it: "What's My Line".

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXT2E9Ccc8A>

This is a peek at an incredible Japanese animatronic Albert Einstein head attached to a robot. Check out the great facial expressions. The puppet talks like Einstein too; however, they have more work to do on the lips. The great man's mustache doesn't quite cover the flubbing.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PoBPkgjFIo4>

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See DAVE ARCHER STORE: <http://www.cafepress.com/davearcher>



What Would You Like To Learn About Using Your Mac Today?

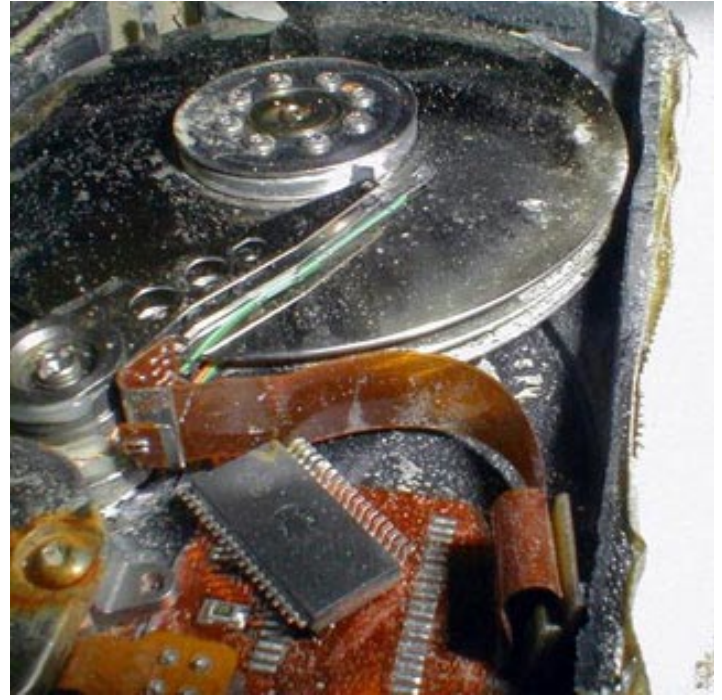
Those nice folks at Mac Pro Video have graced us with yet another coupon for a free learning video. The videos are not just sit-and-watch movies. They can be viewed that way but, more importantly, they can be used as well indexed reference material. For your chance to win the coupon, come to the meeting or drop a note to walt@wump.org if you can't make it. Attendees get first dibs.

<-Click coupon to learn more.

Try Not Doing This At Home 3



NASA's Johnson Space Center engineers recovered this Seagate hard drive from the wreckage of Space Shuttle Columbia in February 2003, with about 400 megabytes of data from the CVX-2 experiment.



Ontrack Data Recovery service extracted 99% of the data on the hard disk containing the results of the CVX-2 experiment, which were so complex that the scientific analysis was just recently completed.

Talking About Making Buggy Computers

Not being able to build an ideal “photonic crystal” to manipulate visible light, University of Utah chemists have discovered photonic crystals with the diamond-like structure in the iridescent green scales of the Brazilian *Lamprocyphus augustus* beetle.

One reason such photonic crystals are sought is to develop computers that run on light (photons) instead of electricity (electrons). These crystals can also be used to increase the efficiency of solar cells. They may even be able to make microscopic lasers from them.

According to theory, a diamond-like structure is what's needed to manipulate light, but the crystal lattice must be sized to have the right “band gap” to do what's intended. Diamond's carbon atoms are packed to tightly for this. Our little green friend here does this with a lattice made of chitin and air ... kind of an open sponge of fingernail material ... from which its scales are made.

Lamprocyphus augustus



Water Blogged Wump

Any trace of organization in these paragraphs is entirely coincidental

4



Real Apple Blossoms

I've been wanting to write about this for some time. Honda has been touting that they're the most fuel efficient car maker in the world. While that's very nice, I have to wonder why this is considered a good reason to buy their products. That they use less fuel to build their products than anyone else may or may not have much to do with how much fuel their products will require when you use them. True, it's a "green" thing and **we're all gaga for green these days**. I suppose you're annoyed with my failure to understand that they really are saying that the cars they build are the most fuel efficient vehicles you can buy. If that's what they're really trying to say, why don't they just say it?

As "master" of one of the last households on the planet that actually gets their television in the good old fashion way, via an antenna that's not pointed at a satellite, the coming forced conversion to digital transmission has me somewhat concerned. I have to wonder whether our illustrious elected officials have not been sold a bill of goods once again. Why not? They're pretty good at missing what's important in what they hand down. I might not be so concerned if the conversion were voluntary. It's not. The reasons given for this are that we can get more channels at better quality. But, it's my considered opinion that the real reason is that the FCC wanted wanted to turn "unused" radio spectrum into a few billion dollars and allow the purchasers to further consolidate their strangle

hold on media. I'd like to believe I'm wrong. But here's the deal. I now have a digitally capable TV. It's got a decent receiver; not the hottest one I've ever encountered but not bad. KPIC is running tests (correction: they're no longer testing) of their digital transmissions right now. I suspect they might look pretty good ... if you were located right under their transmitting antenna. We're not. Still, their analog signal comes in here with very little distortion. The only time we even get "sparklies" is when the neighbor is running a motor in his garage. Switch over to 19-1 and we get a truly amazingly good quality picture. Well, sometimes. And, sometimes, it even lasts for a few minutes before getting hinky and throwing up square blocks of color or even fading to black with "Weak signal or channel not available," in the middle of the screen. With analog TV we receive several other channels with widely varied quality. In some cases, the image is almost completely washed out with noise and certainly not watchable. Even so, the sound is reasonably good. **Guess what happens with digital TV when the blocks appear. Sput. Sput. Quiet.** I do not see this is an improvement. Basically, "through the air" TV, as of 2009 in the U.S., will essentially become little more than a curiosity indulged in by "purists" living in the hearts of transmitting areas. The economics of broadcast television will likely become untenable in the form it takes today. An interesting oddity, this. In the so-called Third World, people now have free access to information via TV. Here, we're eliminating it. Hi-yo, Sancho! Tilting at windmills is not exactly a new experience for me and my trusty G3 steed. We roam the Internet together, doing good deeds when we can. And like my literary counterpart, the rewards for our efforts fall into those well described by the phrase, "no good deed goes

unpunished." For example, **Sancho was recently attacked by a lightning quick cyber-villain; agent of an Internet Evil Doer.** In less than 10 minutes, the attack filled over 100K of log file space, but Sancho was up to the task of protecting me. In return, I sought to put an end to this miscreant. Some quick research pointed out that the Evil Doer was part of British Telecom's broadband network. I petitioned the queen of British Telecom to investigate this ne'er-do-well. I suspect the queen has been usurped; for audience, replaced by minions in India. Despite several attempts, this most likely ersatz queen refused to grant me audience because I failed to proffer my non-existent BT username and email address. My last "effort" was somewhat less polite than I normally care to be but I don't feel too bad about it since it was clear that in the absence of the data anyone not a direct customer of BT can provide, the queen pays no mind to the missives that come her way. I certainly hope British health care does not take its future direction from BT. But, to be fair, this queen's behavior is not unique to BT. In this day and age, I believe the job of "technical support" is to make certain no one who has a clue what their company does is bothered by customers' communications.

Interesting noise from the tom-toms in techno-news. While reading these sorts of tea leaves is an extremely iffy business, at best, I'm starting to believe that many of the "high tech" manufacturing hot spots in the world are coming down with **the Flint, Michigan economic syndrome**. Probably not all that big a surprise, really. The primary reason for moving production to such places was that there was an opportunity to take advantage of the poor conditions there. Of course, doing this improved conditions there. And, naturally, with the coming of better conditions, come inflation and

<--Water Blogged Wump

higher expectations. That, and the tax incentives have time limits. So, after a while, it's time to move on to some other places and do it all over again. We call it "free enterprise" and extol its supposed virtues religiously. Does it really have all the virtues it's supposed to have? No doubt it has virtues aplenty ... if your perspective is from being on the receiving end of the profits. That seems to be a problem with virtue: it seems to be highly dependent on one's perspective. There's a lot of change in the wind.

I've made little secret of my disdain for Intel's processor architecture. Apple's choosing it has not squelched my expression of this opinion. I definitely prefer the PowerPC architecture. I realize most computer users don't know that such things exist, much less what effect these things have on them. That being the case, I won't bore you with the reasons I have this opinion. While preferring the PowerPC architecture, I don't particularly like it either. Computer architectures are things not even nerds amongst us have paid much attention to since Intel's became the de facto "standard." Even IBM is not doing any real innovating here. They continue to develop Power architecture technology despite its falling from favor in all but "niche markets." **IBM is improving the speed of their chips** by dumping more and more power into them while using all the other "tricks" to reduce the need for power ... just like Intel and AMD. Still, they're pushing the envelope a whole lot, recently announcing a water cooling technology that's more effective than previous versions. Why? Well, they don't reuse the water. You need to have a continuous supply of water because it's not recirculated. But they don't intend to end things there. They plan to design the chips so that the water will flow through them in the future and be "green" because they'll use waste water. I didn't catch what sort of ethereal clock frequencies they were getting on these chips

Undoubtedly, many gigahertz. I suppose there's some market for such things. To me, it's just a silly waste of resources. There's lots of room for improvement by simply using better architecture. I've never met a technical manager who could be made to believe it, much less understand it.

If you've been buying RAM for newer computer systems, you may have noticed that it's dirt cheap. Well, mostly, anyway. I don't believe working bandwidth has ever been less expensive. In keeping with tradition, this is not because everyone is selling at a loss and making it up in volume. They are simply emptying deep pockets to "compete." **Take Qimonda**, for example. In fact, **Infineon wishes you would**. They've been trying to sell their stake in the memory maker for a while and haven't been successful. Just in case you think my deep pocket theory of economics is bogus, you should know that it's reported that a consortium of memory suppliers is considering buying a controlling interest in Qimonda just to get their production off the market.

Does it bother you that we now have an "identity theft protection" industry? It bothers me. Once upon a time, we were all assured that Social Security Numbers would never be used for identification. Riiiiight. Once upon a time, if your credit card was used by an unauthorized person, you were covered. But have you noticed that, despite all the hoo-haa about it in both politics and media, despite millions being spent both publicly and privately, we don't seem to be doing much about any of this? We make laws, creating agencies which proceed to point out that they don't begin to have enough money to address "the problem," but they do manage to hire more and more people to shuffle a burgeoning mass of paper. At that point, the agencies have entered into the arena of, "we can't do that because it interferes with" some other agency(ies); ie. "it's not my problem." In the mean time, the problem (identity misap-

ropriation in this case) does much better than merely continue. In the few cases resulting in arrests, the perpetrators seem to behave like they are the token sacrifice of their industry to placate the population. Perhaps Craig Ferguson has it right when he talks about Texas. He says people are polite in Texas. He points out that lots of people pack firearms in Texas. Maybe we ought to eliminate a lot of our government and start training citizens to use and respect firearms.

Even the USPTO (United States Patent and Trademark Office) has begun to believe they're participating in the junkifying of technologies these days. For example, one of their spokespersons reported **a claim was filed for a patent on a better way to stand in line while waiting to use an airplane toilet**. USTPO is being flooded with applications, over 500,000 per year now. Small wonder, after at least a decade of granting patents for things that have been in use for nearly a century or even longer. Like much of what's wrong with our society, it has a lot to do with lawyers. Patents are something that they can sue about and suing is how they make a lot of money. Perhaps we'd do well to make some changes in the nature of the practice of law. I'd suggest starting the segue by studying the principles of Gowachin law. Should you care to, there's a beginning at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gowachin>, though I strongly suggest reading the original materials this entry references. Frank Herbert's done some great stuff, despite his Dune muck that's been presented by popular media. The whole sequence of Bureau of Sabotage books can really get your inner rebel's juices flowing.

IBM is spinning out the design of some new memory chip technology that might even supplant hard disks. Called "racetrack" memory, it uses spintronics — the spin angular momentum of electrons — to store data. The storage medium is

That Bane of the Macintosh User

There's been a problem perplexing me, on and off, for some time. To those of you who turn your computer off when you leave it and turn back on when you want to use it, this is not usually a big deal ... unless you don't have a "live" internet connection. The problem has to do with time and how Mac OS X keeps track of it.

First of all, most of you know that your computer has a built-in clock that is powered by a battery. If you don't know this, you should. On some models of Mac, having the clock battery get too discharged can result in it becoming seriously flakey in many ways besides not knowing what time it is. So, you want to beware of such things.

But that's not the problem here. We can assume that there's nothing amiss with the hardware of the Mac; not even a weak battery. Now, assuming that you have a "live" Internet connection and have checked the box for



"Set Date & Time automatically:" in the Date & Time preference panel, when you start up your Mac, it will get a quick setting of the time from

the configured server(s) "out there." The results will go into your Mac's time keeping hardware. If you don't have a "live" connection, your Mac may stick with the time it's been counting in its battery operated hardware.

This is a great way to do things, except for the fact that computer clocks are like every other clock; they keep time at their own rate. It turns out that is OK, too. The geniuses of the Internet have created something called "Network Time Protocol" which is designed to synchronize your computer's clocks with the high-falutin'est clock in the world. When you check that box in the Date & Time prepane you're also giving your Mac permission to run `ntpd`, the "daemon" which does the synchronizing. This is really

great if you don't turn your Mac off much, which is really the way the Mac OS is intended to be used: 24/7/365.

Or, rather, it would be great if it always worked. For a fairly large class of clock chips in Macs, there is a problem. In Apple's infinite wisdom, when you visit the Date & Time prepane, it updates the file, `/etc/ntp.conf`, whether you wanted it to or not. So what? Well, there's the rub. Apple has hard coded appending "`minpoll 12 maxpoll 17`" to the line(s) that get written into `/etc/ntp.conf`. This little add-on limits the rate attempts to synchronize to occur no more often than 2^{12} seconds or about one hour and eight minutes. This would be fine except that NTP has some caveats that will keep a clock with too much drift from synchronizing if it doesn't try often enough. Unfortunately, real clocks fall into this category all too frequently when `minpoll` is 12. Indeed, the creators of NTP suggest that `minpoll` be set to 6: about one minute. This would be too much of a load on servers

6

7 -->

<--Water Blogged Wump

nanotubes fabricated as "racetracks" from the surface of a chip, down into its interior and back up to the surface again. It's expected that as many as a 100 bits can be written into each racetrack and each racetrack will only take a square micron. That's the density that will supplant disk drives. I surmise that with some development, much longer racetrack nanotubes could be fabricated and even smaller domains of constant spin will be sensible. Provided the heat generated by operating a racetrack can be kept under control, the bandwidth of large scale memories could explode. **We may not be far from having pocketable petabyte memory "crystals."** Such things could record the focus of a human's perception for a lifetime in a small box.

KPIC News just had a blurb about ethanol in your gasoline. I've had some small experience with such things. A lot of the concerns people have about "gasohol" as it's mandated by current Oregon law are, for the most part, vacuous. This is not to say that some people will not experience some unfortunate accelerations in their car's rate of decline. In particular, old cars that are running OK mostly because they're well coated with sludge on the inside, will likely get cleaner, thus loosening up their tolerances by exposing the actual metal surfaces under the sludge. Without going into much detail, some of the issues were addressed in this news report by interviewing a local mechanic. What he had to say was not unreasonable. Then, to balance the report, they did an interview with a producer of "gasohol." I had no trouble with what he was saying until

he pointed out that **adding ethanol to gasoline raises its octane rating so it provides more power**. This is utter poppycock. Unless your engine is "detonating" or "pinking," increasing the octane rating of a basic fuel will not change the power output. A lot of people believe that higher octane is somehow "better" and, of course, the marketeers of fuel certainly would not want to interfere with your paying a premium price for something you don't need. If your engine is "pinking" and it's supposed to run on fuel of an octane that you're using, something is wrong. Either the rating on the fuel is bogus or the engine has some sort of malfunction occurring: frequently a damaged spark plug; less often these days, a carbon deposit; or a bit of metal that is sticking out enough to retain too much heat at its tip.



were it not for the fact that once a client computer's clock is synchronized, the polling automatically increases toward the **maxpoll** setting.

I've piddled around with this issue for some time. On some of my own computers, I've set **/etc/ntp.conf** to values of my choosing from time to time. But all I have to do is forget that and "check" Date & Time in System Preferences and — POOF! — it's undone what I did. So, a few days ago, I got pretty serious about seeing if I could "fix" this. It shouldn't be all that

hard. All I had to do is find out where the default **minpoll** value was stored and change it from 12 to 6. Easy. Riiiiiiiiight.

I did a lot of **grep**-ing around in likely places. I did a bunch of hunting in the **sysctl** data (a huge set of parameters about how your system works) and that uber-repository, the **NetInfo** database. I pawed around in **StartupItems**. Then expanded the search to just about anywhere in the **/System/Library** or **/Library**. The word "**minpoll**" was exasper-

atingly difficult to find. I wrote the on-line masters of Mac OS X to see if they could help. I got a reply ... from someone who didn't understand the problem. Thoroughly daunted, I did what I didn't want to do and **grep**-ed the whole System folder for **minpoll** as superuser, putting the expected onslaught of useless crap into a file for subsequent analysis. To my surprise, this didn't take all that long and only returned three lines of data. One was the link to one of the other two and those two were copies of one another. So I did ...

```
hexdump -C /System/Library/PrivateFrameworks/Admin.framework/Versions/Current/Admin | less
```

... from which I was able to snatch the following little snippet.

0001c250	65 72 22 00 6d 69 6e 70 6f 6c 6c 00 6d 61 78 70	er".minpoll.maxp
0001c260	6f 6c 6c 00 20 00 00 00 25 40 20 25 40 20 25 64	oll. ...%@ %@ %d
0001c270	20 25 40 20 25 64 00 00 5f 64 65 73 63 72 69 70	%@ %d.._descrip
0001c280	74 69 76 65 4e 61 6d 65 00 00 00 00 5f 61 64 64	tiveName...._add
0001c290	72 65 73 73 00 00 00 00 5f 6d 69 6e 50 6f 6c 6c	ress...._minpoll
0001c2a0	45 78 70 6f 6e 65 6e 74 00 00 00 00 5f 6d 61 78	Exponent...._max
0001c2b0	50 6f 6c 6c 45 78 70 6f 6e 65 6e 74 00 00 00 00	PollExponent....
0001c2c0	73 65 74 4d 61 78 50 6f 6c 6c 45 78 70 6f 6e 65	setMaxPollExpon
0001c2d0	6e 74 3a 00 6d 61 78 50 6f 6c 6c 45 78 70 6f 6e	nt:.maxPollExpon
0001c2e0	65 6e 74 00 73 65 74 4d 69 6e 50 6f 6c 6c 45 78	ent.setMinpollEx
0001c2f0	70 6f 6e 65 6e 74 3a 00 6d 69 6e 50 6f 6c 6c 45	ponent:.minpollE
0001c300	78 70 6f 6e 65 6e 74 00 61 64 64 72 65 73 73 00	xponent.address.

You can see the text (on the right, above) represented by that rectangle of hexadecimal gibberish (on the left). In that text, there's clearly some indication that this file has something to do with the issue. By changing to **otool**, I was able to dump a disassembly of the code to a file where I found the following:

-[NetworkTimeServer init]:

```
910729b8      mfspr      r0,lr
910729bc      addis      r2,r12,0x1000
910729c0      stw       r31,0xffff(r1)
910729c4      addi      r2,r2,0x16a0
910729c8      stw       r0,0x8(r1)
910729cc      addis      r4,r12,0x1000
910729d0      stwu      r1,0xfffa(r1)
910729d4      or        r31,r12,r12
910729d8      lwz       r0,0x4(r2)
910729dc      lwz       r4,0xc84(r4)
910729e0      stw       r3,0x40(r1)
910729e4      addi      r3,r1,0x40
910729e8      stw       r0,0x44(r1)
910729ec      bl        0x91089c70
; symbol stub for: _objc_msgSendSuper
910729f0      or        r2,r3,r3
```

```
910729f4      beq       0x91072a08
910729f8      li        r0,0x11
910729fc      stw       r0,0x10(r2)
91072a00      li        r0,0xc
91072a04      stw       r0,0xc(r2)
91072a08      lwz       r0,0x68(r1)
91072a0c      addi      r1,r1,0x60
91072a10      lwz       r31,0xfffc(r1)
91072a14      mtspr     lr,r0
91072a18      blr
```

-[NetworkTimeServer initWithConfigurationString:]

Now, admittedly, this sort of thing is not something a typical computer user is going to make much sense out of. In my case, I've worked with many assembly languages and, while the PowerPC is not one I've committed to memory, I can sort of follow it. There's that, and I have a lot of practice with hexadecimal. The sequence I've shown in **red** fairly leapt out at me. It's setting two memory locations to values compiled into the instructions themselves: 0x11 = 17 and 0xc = 12; our mystery values. And this is occurring in an initialization routine. if one assumes the names at its beginning are meaningful.

←--7 Dread Terminal

I next did a **hexdump** of the file and

```
000029f0 7c 62 1b 79 41 82 00 14 38 00 00 11 90 02 00 10 | |b.yA...8.....|
00002a00 38 00 00 0c 90 02 00 0c 80 01 00 68 38 21 00 60 | |8.....h8!..|
```

In the following, I'm testing my understanding of the way the **xxd** command is used, that my addressing of the byte I need to fix is right, etc.

```
$ cd /System/Library/PrivateFrameworks/
Admin.framework/Versions/Current/
$ xxd -s 0x2a00 -l 8 Admin
0002a00: 3800 000c 9002 000c
          8.....
```

Next, I switched to another Terminal window so I wouldn't disturb the data in the one I was working in. I used the **sudo -s** command to switch to superuser mode and did this:

```
# cd /System/Library/PrivateFrameworks/
Admin.framework/Versions/Current/
# ls
Admin          Resources
# cp Admin Admin_copy
# xxd -s 0x2a03 -l 1 Admin
0002a03: 0c
```

```
# echo '0002a03: 06' | xxd -r - Admin
# xxd -s 0x2a03 -l 1 Admin
0002a03: 06
```

The **cd** switched my current working directory to the directory holding the file I needed to change so I didn't have to put in that monster path name on each command. The **ls** verified that my current working directory contained the stuff I thought it should. I used the **cp** command to make a copy of the file before modifying it so that I could get back to ground zero if need be. The first **xxd** command serves

looked into it for something like the instructions I'd just found. Here's a little clipping of that **hexdump**. I know

enough about PowerPC instructions to guess that the "**li r0,0x11**" is the **38 00 00 11**.

to check that I had things just right and it produced an output that I could copy and paste into the next command line. That command line sends the address and value to the input of **xxd** in reverse (**-r**) mode, which writes data into the specified file. The dash (**-**) by itself tells **xxd** to take the input from the **echo** command. The final **xxd** repeats the first to check that the value I put in actually made it to the file. To do this, I really typed two up-arrows and a RETURN.

Finally, it was time to check if this would work. I opened the System Preferences. Then clicked on the Date & Time icon, which changed the window to the Date & Time preference pane. I then typed cmd-Q to quit System Preferences and clicked on the Terminal window that was not in super-user mode. The **cat** command presents the contents of the file **/etc/ntp.conf** in the Terminal window.

```
$ cat /etc/ntp.conf
server time.apple.com minpoll 6 maxpoll 17
```

As you can see, the horrible 12 is gone.

I'm not recommending that you do any of this unless you really understand what you're doing. Messing around with programs this way is really quite dangerous to the proper functioning of your system(s). Moreover, the values need to change depending on what version of the OS you're using. Indeed, everything above is predicated on a PowerPC architecture and Mac OS X.3.9 in particular. In the Intel architecture, the data would undoubtedly look quite different.

Coming Soon to an ABCC Near You!

For a change, we have a couple of meeting dates planned more than five minutes in advance!

First, there's July's meeting, on the 17-th, at the Dogwood Motel for an afternoon of frolicking by the North Umpqua River with burgers, dogs and pot luck.

Then, for August 21, we get to tour Creative Images Printing where they should have a brand new, high capac-

ity printing press that can print more than one job at the same time. Hey, that's just in time to get the political flyers out.

Perhaps you have some notions? Don't keep them to yourself!

One more thing: There are lots and lots of Mac users in our area. I'll bet you know quite a number who aren't members of ABCC or any other Mac User's Group. Encourage them to join.

unClassifieds

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