



The

ROSE



BYTER

Next Meeting

Jan 15, 7 PM

**American Legion Hall
406 SE Oak Ave**

Agenda

1. Meeting starts at 7 P.M.
2. Intro's of members and guests
3. Old business
4. New biz
5. Program: Alternatives to Macintosh - more & better than one might expect.
6. Questions & (maybe)Answers

Recent Purchase

by Jim McClellan
<mcclellan@charter.net>

Last week the mouse I used with my iBook G4 quit working to the extent that I decided it needed replacing. I had used it for perhaps a year and it worked pretty good.

I emailed Walt and he looked on the Web at **newegg.com** and found one that looked interesting. He emailed me the URL and I checked it out. It was a XGene optical mouse that was Apple "like". The price, \$8.99 with a \$4.00 discount and FREE shipping. I ordered it and it arrived several days later (today). After using it for a few hours, it appears to be well worth the price!

I must assume it is put together "cheap", but it sure works better than the one that quit because of a wiring

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Youtubyster

by Dave Archer <dave@davearcher.com>



Nichollisia borealis

Fellow Members, meet Mr. (or) Ms. Plesiosaur, found in '08, the remarkably well-preserved fossil of a reptile / dinosaur-era sea creature found in a Canadian mine is turning out to be a gold mine for paleontologists.

The **Cretaceous**-period, dubbed *Nichollisia borealis*, is not only a new species—it represents a whole new genus, scientists announced on March 20. It is also one of the oldest and most complete plesiosaur fossils ever unearthed in North America. Plesiosaurs were carnivorous reptiles that roamed the seas between about 205 million to 65 million years ago.

Mine workers found the intact creature about 200 feet (60 meters) deep in a surface mine in Alberta in 1994. The 8.5-foot-long (2.6-meter-long)

creature is almost perfectly preserved. The newfound reptile also gave them a window into an ancient seaway that once cut through North America and teemed with marine life.

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Over the decades I have taken a lot of jokes etc., after having been one of the so-called "real beatniks" in 1960, in San Francisco's North Beach.

I figure most people who kid me about hanging out with a generation of visionaries, poets, painters and show people in one very small neighborhood, are only jealous. They have to be. My god, what an experience. In defense then, here is this month's name-dropping column from your humble correspondent.

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

<http://www.abccmug.org>

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←-1 YOUTUBYTER

Steve Martin called me

last year for recollections of North Beach for his recent memoir: "Born Standing Up". Here is a list I sent him to help jog his memory.

EL MATADOR: Barnaby Conrad's digs, showing bullfight movies, bull-fighter, writer, painter and club owner.

JAZZ WORKSHOP: Lenny Bruce, Pharaoh Sanders, Miles Davis, Thelonious Monk, Sonny Rollins, Oscar Peterson, Mose Allison, Dave Brubeck

BASIN STREET WEST: Tina Turner recorded an early album there (not sure when)

HUNGRY "I": Opening shows for: Woody Allen, Bill Cosby, Barbara Streisand, Kingston Trio, Mort Saul, Dick Gregory, Smothers Brothers, Frank Gorshin, Professor Erwin Corey, Chad Mitchel Trio, The Limelighters, Issac Hayes, Jonathan Winters, Johnny Mathis, Peter, Paul & Mary, Odetta, Joan Rivers, Tom Lehrer, Ronnie Schell, Glenn Yarbrough, The Gateway Singers, Godfrey Cambridge, Meriam Makeba

PURPLE ONION: Phyllis Diller, Maya Angelou, (singing & dancing), Pat Paulsen, and so many more.

SUGAR HILL: Muddy Waters, Lightnin' "Sam" Hopkins, Sony Terry and Brownie McGee, Barbara Dane and others.

FOX AND HOUND / COFFEE AND CONFUSION: Steve Martin, Janis Joplin, Hoyt Axton, Dino Valente, Terry Wadsworth, Randy Sparks, Tim Hardin, J.C.Burris, Alex Lukeman, Eric Weissberg, Nick "The Greek" Gravenites, Pete Stempfel, Tom Hobson, David Crosby, David Frieberg, Perry Letterman, Walt Brown, Ramblin' Jack, Dave Van Ronk, Dan Hicks, James Gurley, David Meltzer, Elmer Snowden (legendary jazz banjo), Ellen

For Youtube movies I recommend this month.

---Dan Hicks, one of my oldest friends sings "All Of Me" on a Saturday afternoon with his Bayside Jazz Band . . . at the original Sweetwater Saloon, Mill Valley, California . . .

Faust, Herb Pederson, Butch Waller,

POETS: Lawrence Ferlingetti, Bob Kaufman, Gregory Corso, Ginsberg, and all, plus, Patrick Seamus O'Sullivan in tri-corner hat, cape and sword.

CATEGORY: all his own: Paul Krassner

COMMITTEE: Howard Hesseman (bar tended the Coffee Gallery) and worked with Larry Hankin, et.al.

THE OLD SPAGHETTI FACTORY: flamenco troupe led by Ernesto!

COYOTE (Cast Off Your Old Tired Ethics) ... founder, Margo St. James

FAMILY DOG: Chet Helm was just starting it ...

BILL GRAHAM: was pre-concert days, performing in the park with: The San Francisco Mime Troupe

HOEY GOOEY LOUIE: basement restaurant where we all ate bar-b-que pork ribs on rice with cabbage for \$1.25 ... pork buns were a dime ... um ...

EDSEL FONG FORD: Herb Caen's favorite outrageous insult-waiter in Chinatown, where we all ate Tomato Beef for a buck and got called every bad name. Edsel always told us: "you think you're artists but you bums, bums".

BOB COHEN: amazing guy, recorded on reel to reel, many acts, Janis, etc. Might have recorded you at Coffee & Confusion, he was a sound engineer among other things.

Was this a hot bed of culture about to explode all over American life or what? Remember, these people were all unknown, just doing their first shows. I hung with these people for the greatest ten years of my life. Where else would any young artist want to be? Paris, naw.



iDon't

A Hackintosh Story

by Walt Pawley <walt@wump.org>

Once upon a time, I ventured into a PC recycling facility, wherein the cyber-elves beavered away the hours hacking up old PCs, mining for nuggets of working and still useful hardware, whilst turning everything else into base materials to be sold as scrap. I was there primarily because they occasionally acquired some small fraction of Macintosh hardware amidst the mountains of PC stuff. Every now and then, I'd find something useful.

Naturally, to do my gleaning I needed to talk with their technical people. Many interesting tidbits came up during these discussions. One of them was that they knew of some PC "hackers" who'd managed to install Mac OS X on their PCs. While not impossible in those days, it would have been a real feat of fortitude and technical acumen to accomplish such a thing without inside information from Apple ... more inside than being a mere Apple developer. But the clues to how this magic was accomplished way back then remain a mystery. Indeed, all there was to go on was their word that this had happened – no physical evidence was ever available.

The Darwin project is an open source project developing a version of *nix which parallels releases of Mac OS X. Of course, the parts that make Mac OS X, Mac OS X are very carefully left out of Darwin. Darwin apparently does

a pretty good job of being an open source OS, though I've not actually run it by itself. One day, perhaps. But I digress. This is where the hacking comes in – bridging the gap between Darwin and Mac OS X without help from Apple, thus creating the possibility of the Hackintosh.

A Hackintosh is some sort of PC that's running Mac OS X. More precisely, It's a PC that looks like it's running Mac OS X because clearly some of what it's running is not quite the same as what comes from Apple. I think Apple is missing a tremendous opportunity by not making a version of OS X for installation on suitably equipped PCs. Amongst the buyers would be corporations. It would not matter all that much that not every combination of oddball hardware that can be made to function under Windows XP, more or less, was not supported – Microsoft Vista already has that caveat. Oh, well...

As time went by, I began to notice communications that indicated that Mac OS X had been successfully installed here and there on PCs. This tweaked my interest enough to start looking on the Web (duh...). By the time I'd made that magnificent leap of mental process, the Web was awash in all sorts of Hackintosh data. Surely some of it must be good stuff: meaningful data that could be put to real

use. Yeah. Surely.

The first thing one stumbles into is that there are several versions of DVD image files floating around the 'Net that all purport to work easily ... for someone, anyway. The next thing you discover is that each of these images is "supported" by gobs of posts all over the place asking how to make it work, sprinkled with tiny amounts of sweets indicating that it did indeed. Many "helpful" posts with what are supposedly "instructions" to aid the poor clueless, ordinary user, also exist. For the most part, these are written in incomprehensibly "in" language and relate almost not at all to anyone's needs. Navigating this ocean of flotsam must require a degree in being under 20 years of age.

Curiosity took over when I had the opportunity to acquire a fairly modern PC some time ago. I decided to begin attempting to see if I could get a Mac OS X version running on it in small partition. So, after a lot of searching, I finally located a link to a version that I could download and burn to a DVD that was supposed to be just the thing. That DVD didn't make it. Neither did the half dozen others I've tried since. I've tried asking questions on forums, emailing to the "help" addresses, etc., all without much success. Each version supposedly solved lots of

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<–1 Recent Purchase

problem where the wire comes out of the mouse. This time, I put some duct-tape on the wire at this location hoping to protect the wire connection.

I use my laptop in my easy chair in the living room so I can watch TV while working. I used to use the track pad, but spilled coffee on it and it doesn't work as well as when it was new! I now use the mouse on the arm of my rocker/recliner and hope it continues to work.



<–2 YOUTUBYTEER

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3X7bfqZtP00>

---Seven Spanish Angels ... 1986 ... Ray Charles and Willie Nelson sing a brilliant song.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63A__INJecI

---First movies of Elvis Presley. This film footage was shot at a high school prom in Texas 1956.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y1a15gfj_kY

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Any trace of organization in these paragraphs is entirely coincidental

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My Mirror's Eye View

I'm pawing my way through this techno-rag when I see an advertisement with very little, though relatively large, text. To wit: PEOPLE JUST ASSUME I WENT TO SCANNING SCHOOL. TRUTH IS, I MAJORED IN INTERPRETIVE DANCE. Perhaps you've seen it. It's touting Canon scanners. It seems to me that this ad is indicative of a major problem facing us all. Scanning school? Is there such a thing? Is sticking a piece of paper on a glass surface and pushing a button something one needs to be specially trained for? Sure, there are nuances: things like keeping the glass clean and understanding how resolution is expressed throughout the process. The latter might even be a bit more than a lot of people can fathom without some help – it can be a bit sticky, here and there. But most people should have little trouble with it if they simply think it through. It's very basic stuff. So, what's this problem I perceive? Clearly, it's not about scanning in particular. I'm not quite certain how to explain it in a single paragraph, or whether I could really explain it at all. We seem to live in a world where very specific training is thought to be some sort of panacea. **I differentiate "training" from "education,"** which is something I'm inclined to believe is meant to operate in conjunction with one's intelligence to deal with whatever arises in one's life ... whether one's been trained to deal with the specifics or not.

Have you heard of "Internet2"?

Google claims there are "2,930,000 English pages for Internet2" as of this writing. I had not heard of it. I've been hearing about Web 2.0 for some time. Internet2 and Web 2.0 share an attribute from my perspective. That attribute is a murky vagueness enabling hyperbole of practically any sort. Judging solely on the count of pages using the term, practically every sort of hype must be flowing freely. I guess I'm just off the dots. I get puzzled by things like Internet2 and Web 2.0. There doesn't seem to be anything in either that's fundamentally new. There doesn't seem to be anything of real value. For the most part, Internet2 seems to be about setting up an separate packet switched backbone with higher bandwidth than is generally available on the current Internet. And, of course, "advanced" applications for the communications will be used. Yeah – a bottomless sinkhole – an "investment" eater – an excuse to support high paid professionals with the taxes you pay. I suppose Web 2.0 one of those advanced applications. As near as I've been able to tell, **Web 2.0 is largely a matter of stuffing even more useless crap in front of you** than you have to wade through now. Give me a break! Right now, I have to download 10 to 15 ads, complete with singing chimpanzees and dancing bears and girls in bikinis frolicking in scrolling sub-windows, framing a three paragraph text "report" that was the reason I wanted to see the page in the first place. Of course, the report is the last thing the browser renders, so I have to sit through appearance off all that garbage if I want to read it. So, if we're going to be forced to download even more crap, I guess we do need faster connections to do it on. So, once again, we schmucks out here in the hinterlands will fall behind "the mainstream" that live in large cities. One other thing bothers me about all this, regardless of where one lives – it's going to be priced much higher than

things are now. Do we really need yet another class separator?

Portuguese researchers have manufactured FETs (Field Effect Transistors) on what's being referred to as a "paper interstrate." I'm not exactly sure what an "interstrate" is and trying to find out yielded some curious results. First, Google asked if I didn't really mean "interstate" and proceeded to give me to references to that despite not being what I'd asked for. In addition, **Google claimed to have 32,900,000 pages about "interstrate," which stuck me as a bit odd considering that it's assumption is that I don't know how to spell.** I'd normally agree with that assumption and, the result from <http://dictionary.reference.com> did too. It offered no definition of the word at all, prompting me to select from a long pallet of alternatives instead. One would think that a word used on over 32 mega-pages would appear in some reference publication, somewhere. So, I'm guessing here, but I suspect that "interstrate" is being used in this context to refer to an insulating layer that's both "inside" the transistors and used as the substrate – some parts of the FETs are on one side and other parts on the other side. Assuming that this surmise is correct, it's a very different way to make FETs than is typical of classical silicon "chip" making approaches. In any case, as long as the paper they use and the processing are not ridiculously expensive, this development could go a long way toward making portable devices with screens that are big enough to do something with. How about an iPhone with a 12 inch screen and Qwerty keyboard big enough for ham hands, that rolls up into a pocketable package? Probably not a lot of tactile response from the keyboard, but at least you might not need a jeweler's loupe to read the display.

I rather liked this: **"Today, datacenters consume up to 30 times** 5 -->

<--Water Blogged Wump

more energy per square foot as a typical office.” As bad as that sounds, I just wonder how many square feet of office it would take to serve that same data with “typical office” methods. Yes, I happen to be someone who’d very much like to be able to talk with a real human being at a local office when the corporation I’m attempting to deal with is being typically implacable. But I’m not going to try to say that you can provide detailed data about a company and its products via humans the same as via a well operated data center. Sadly, much of the energy used by data centers is squandered on asinine, incessant advertising rather than providing information you might actually use to make decisions. Maybe this is just an effort to keep the cost of sales very high so that VPs of sales won’t lose their corporate clout.

Ever since we moved to the Roseburg area, I’ve been registered as a Republican and my wife has been registered as a Democrat. These registrations have nothing whatever to do with our politics ... except that if we want to get data about candidates in general, it’s nearly a necessity. **I may have to give up my registration as a Republican for the future**, however – today I got a “2009 Membership Statement”, indicating my membership is “pending” and declaring my renewal fee would be \$5. It comes complete with a nine digit “member number” and due date letting them sober up from their New Year’s party. I must confess that I didn’t know I was a member of the “Republican National Committee.” After all, I must be a member because this is a renewal, not an invitation to join. Oh, well, I intend to let my “membership” lapse. It may even be time to change my voter registration – “Not a member of a party” is sounding pretty good to me about now.

Got a little data you need to store and no place to put it? Why not use Amazon Web Services? Only \$0.15 per gigabyte per month. Cheap, eh?

And, if you store a lot, there are big discounts. For example, if you store over 500 terabytes with Amazon, they’ll only charge you \$0.12 per gigabyte per month. That works out to a measly \$60,000+ per month. There’s something about that kind of bothers me about this. Imagine that you realize how much you’re blowing on this service (\$720,000 per year) and decide to pull your data onto your own hardware. If you have a fast cable connection, it only takes 500,000,000 seconds (5,787 days or 15.8 years). Clearly, if you’re going to use such a service for such capacious storage, you’ll also need 10 Gbps fiber connections to them. That will reduce the time by a factor 1,000. Something tells me that that much bandwidth is not exactly cheap even if you’re located across the alley way to the storage facility. This scenario might seem idiotic on the surface and would be if one decided to do it from scratch right now. Hard disks are running about \$0.11 per GB right now – one off. I suspect they can be had for less than \$0.08 per GB in million unit orders. Of course, there are a few other expenses involved than just having a pile of hard disks lying around. Note that I said “million unit orders.” That’s twice what we’d need to store the data. But, it’s not enough to reliably store the data. That takes redundancy. Even redundancy is no guarantee: just an improvement in the probability of being able to read the data correctly when you need to. Depending on your paranoia about losing the data, you might well need several million units. Of course, you’ll need facilities, power, interfacing, personnel, etc., too. I suspect that if you can generate that much data that needs archiving, you have a head start on a lot of those requirements already. Besides, what good is data if its never looked at? **Services like Amazon’s sound a lot like the much fabled write-only memory (WOM) to me.**

University of Geneva researchers have done some experiments about Einstein’s “spooky action at a distance”

that yield a tantalizing result – not that I understand it. It involves entangled photons, one of which is launched into a 18 kilometer long fiber optic cable stretched out in one direction and the other launched into a similar fiber going the other way. The entangled photons are detected by “unbalanced fiber optic Michelson interferometers.” Statistics are amassed over a long time to be certain of environmental effects. What’s so tantalizing about this? **Apparently “spooky action at a distance” has a speed associated with it.** This experiment indicates that the speed is 10,000 times the speed of light or more. Assuming that this is the case and technology could be developed to use such speed, lots of interesting things might be feasible. Entanglement spectroscopy would be a real eye-opener in astronomy. Warp 10,000 anyone? Engage. Flitting around the local stars would be just short jaunts. Traveling across the Milky Way, just a few years. Even intergalactic travel would fall within a current life time. One problem with traveling like this might be that one half of you would have to go in one direction and the half in the other. Probably messy business, that. There is another hypothesis that has some considerable weight, however. It’s that “spooky action at a distance” does not exist and that quantum mechanics is right.

Have you ever seen the movie, Blade Runner? I like science fiction, so it’s one that I sat through a long time ago. I enjoyed it a lot. Like most science fiction, the technical nature of things is stretched here and there beyond what seems credible. I put it that way because **reality has a way of rising to the challenge of creating things once thought incredible.** But that’s not what this is about. Many years after seeing Blade Runner, I saw a documentary on the making of the movie. It pointed out that, due to big wigs not being able to make up their minds, the artistic people had lots of unexpected time to be creative and careful; **6 -->**

<--Water Blogged Wump

the result being that Blade Runner was a masterpiece of art on film. I had not really focused in on that conclusion despite how the movie did its work so well. So I took the opportunity to watch it on several occasions, one just recently. I've paid less attention to the story and more attention to scenes and gestalt. It is, in my opinion, an artistic masterpiece. Perhaps you don't particularly care for science fiction. No matter. If you like beautiful art, I still recommend seeing Blade Runner. It doesn't matter if you follow the story or even the characters (though it helps) – just steep yourself in the elixir of the images.

Quite without public fanfare, or even slight mention, Apple has dropped what I believe may be the straw that broke this camel's back. It's called "code signing." From their developer's web pages on the subject, "Signatures do not alter how your code runs and are ignored by Mac OS X versions prior to Mac OS X v10.5." After that statement, there are numerous pages refuting the notion that signatures will not affect how code runs, whether yours or someone else's. In fact, that's just about all the subsequent pages do discuss. **There are weasel words to the effect that code signing is not going to be used for "digital rights management" but seems to be tailor made for just such efforts.** Apple's code signing technology is implemented with a "public key" system. These are very effective. Despite the assurances that code signing is all about making things work better, there are two problems that will make that supposed panacea fail. First, there's the point that "hackers" won't be able to make changes to things. Sounds good. High security. It also means that working with programs to deal with bugs will become much more difficult (as though it was not hard enough now), even impossible if you're not one of the "chosen." Second, at first, the usage of code signing will be fairly straight forward, but as time passes,

the melange of requirements programs will be mired in to work with one another can easily become unwieldy. The primary effect will probably be that one will pretty much be forced to keep everything "up to date" and "integrated." Put another way; it will be expensive. Apple could easily shoot themselves in some place more devastating than the foot with this technology. PC-BSD and Ubuntu are looking better all the time.

I just read a sub-headline that goes: High-speed serial data all but replace parallel buses ... I find this somewhat amusing. Back in the "good old days," serial data transfer was thought to be synonymous with "slow" by most people working with computers. Why not? About all it was used for was telephones and modems that worked at a whopping 10 characters per second. So, if you needed to move a lot of data over short distances, you used a fat cable with lots of wires. To be fair, we didn't have multi-Ghz capable integrated circuits to deal with high frequency data either – today we slap a high speed, complex transceiver sub-system onto a circuit board that's about the size of my little fingernail. From the waning days of mini-computers – before the advent of so-called personal computers – I recall C. Norman Winningstad (a very rich electronics engineer who started a number of Oregon's technical companies) musing in wonderment about the use of so many wires to do what could easily be done with just two. By that time, it was hard to disagree. But even today, we've not really come to grips with this sort of thing. **Had it been done rationally, we would not have ethernet, firewire, USB, etc.** Instead, we'd have a single physical protocol for interconnecting things. The things would be designed to be self identifying and largely functional without special software. But we don't develop things rationally. Instead, we use finance, politics, marketing and committees (mostly composed of people who don't really know what they're

working on), all of which have little to do with true efficacy in creative design.

6

I've mentioned before that computer memory prices are about as low as I've ever seen them. They are even lower than most of the nerdly types are aware ... if you need the right kind, anyway. For example, how's \$9.99 for 4 GB of pretty fast RAM sound? Here I went and blew \$15 more just a few months ago. Why are these prices so low? The answer is simple: supply and demand. This was happening before the world at large perceived the current economic crisis. Bundle that with an already weak product market and you have a sure fire recipe for their very large losses to put some memory makers under. What could be done to turn this situation around? Well, there are a few things. One would be to start making motherboards for PCs with many more RAM slots or, at least, a means for adding many more RAM slots. **With modern operating systems, having gobs of extra memory can not only enable handling many problems faster but also can hide the effect of nasty bugs long enough to make some programs useful.**

But a better solution is to start building computers from large numbers of communicating chip level computers, each with their own memory. Such machines could be essentially expandable without limit, both in effective speed and capacity. Lest you think this just the wild speculations of an increasingly senile ol' techno-coot (OK, so the description applies...), this is something that could have been done in the 1980s. Today, we can do this far better. If there's a serious issue to keep something like this from becoming very large, it's heat dissipation. So what? That's the problem with data centers right now. If there's a serious downside to this notion, it's simply that Intel and AMD would not be sucking up huge fractions of the price of every computer we buy ... unless they're the ones who do it. I'm not holding my breath. [BTW: 7 -->

<-1 Hacintosh story

problems. None of them solved mine. All kinds of options, choices, methods of formatting and much more were to no avail, not that most of what they are all about makes any sense to me anyway.

All this occurred over a period of many months. I found yet another new version available the other day and thought I'd give it a go since I hadn't made the effort in some time. The image file trickled in over the 'Net, finally getting done. The md5 checksum matched what it was supposed to match. The image burned into a bootable DVD. It didn't work either. So, I tried a few of the typical things that are supposed to make all the difference. They didn't work either. The one thing I hadn't tried was using a plain ol' IDE drive to install on instead of a brand new SATA drive. I happened to have one I could scrap the data on, so I installed it, booted up the DVD and used Disk Utility (yes, the Mac utility - this DVD was getting that far) to format the hard disk. The subsequent install got all the way through and then came to a screeching halt with an error message. I tried a few times, having read that installing again worked for some people. Hey. What do I know?

It didn't work for me. But the error

<--Water Blogged Wump

that \$9.99 price for 4 GB was real for a very short time during the Christmas Silly Season, but the \$15 more deal is still available.]

I had not heard of this, though I have to say I'm not surprised. Fourteen complainants sued Apple in the UK about their "Mac vs PC" ads. One has to wonder why, especially in light of the court's assessment. One of the complaints was directed to the notion that viruses infect software not hardware. While the subject didn't come

7 up, the term "PC," taken in the context of computing in general, simply means "Personal Com-

puter." message did provide something of a clue. I didn't know what it meant. I still don't. But as I researched it, it seemed that I was missing some essential point that I'd seen somewhere before. Eventually I recalled it being something about the acronym GUID. This turns out, amongst other things, to relate to a means of partitioning a storage volume. I did more research and found a reference to the fact that Disk Utility can partition a volume using GUID partitions and how it's done. So, I tried that on the IDE drive.

I could hardly believe my eyes and my ears when the installation managed to complete. Wow! It worked. It even made noise. This really surprised me because the PC-BSD (a version of FreeBSD) that I mostly use on this machine doesn't work with the sound system and it's nominally targeted at PCs. Windows knows how to make the sound go. A little looking around and I found that the built-in ethernet didn't play, which is a common experience if the forums are any guide. Both PC-BSD and Windows have no apparent trouble making the ethernet port work.

I'll probably play with this some more if only to see if the built-in ethernet can be made to work [NOTE: got it working a few days ago] but it's clear that serious use of such an arrangement is a very risky venture. Apple

puter." Macs are "Personal Computers" for the most part - notable exceptions by intent are the MacServes, though they make perfectly good PCs, too. Even if one chooses to ignore the literal meaning — as most of us are wont to do — and differentiate into Apple and non-Apple PCs, there's still the issue of the software running on the computers. In fact, that's what's really at issue: the difference between Micro\$hapht Windows and Mac OS X. The fact that Windows on a Mac is no less susceptible to malware than Windows running on other hardware isn't something the Ads bothered to bring out. Worse, there was no men-

tion in the complaints of the fact that other operating systems could be run on hardware suitable for running Windows. The court did bring this subject up, concluding — I believe mistakenly — that these other operating systems are unsuitable for other than server usage. What bothers me about all this is that **despite arriving at a reasonable decision, many of the considerations made on both sides of the were simply wrong.** I wonder just how frequently court decisions are made by considering nonsense rather than facts.

PS: since the initial writing of this note, I've come to realize that the ethernet was not working very well. Why it doesn't seem to handle long flows of data will probably remain a mystery to me.

In the time that's passed, I've found yet another "distro" — distribution — of a hacked Mac OS X that's supposed to work on the sort of PC that I have. Like all "good" distros, it didn't either, though it did manage to install under certain conditions — mainly limiting the RAM to 2 GB rather than 8 GB I have in the machine. It also crashed a lot.

It turns out that one needs to "tune" their installation as a rule. This involves getting involved with all the pseudo-technical mumbo jumbo that passes for information these days and trying various combinations of hacked up software to find the stuff that fits. One thing for sure: it doesn't all just work the way Mac users expect stuff to.



tion in the complaints of the fact that other operating systems could be run on hardware suitable for running Windows. The court did bring this subject up, concluding — I believe mistakenly — that these other operating systems are unsuitable for other than server usage. What bothers me about all this is that **despite arriving at a reasonable decision, many of the considerations made on both sides of the were simply wrong.** I wonder just how frequently court decisions are made by considering nonsense rather than facts.



Back Up!

by Jim McClellan
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Just another short article on the need to backup!

As I have written several times in the TRB, I use **Super Duper** to back up my G5 every night. My laptop iBook G4 is connected to the G5 via an Ethernet cable connection. Much of what gets backed up every night are files that I am really concerned about.

The other day I was working on one of those files and decided to save it. I forgot to change the name and just used Cmd-S. Then I realized that I had made an error and really didn't want to try to re-do the file. So, I used the file I had backed up the night before and made the appropriate change in the file and then saved it! Thank goodness for having a current backup!

External hard drives aren't that expensive. Get one and appropriate software and backup your files! Do it today!



[Ed Note: Good advice, IMHO! Also, note the cmd-s issue. I long ago started saving intermittent versions separately. Much safer.]

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Commission to fund research on China's cyberwarfare capabilities



by Ben Bain, Dec 29, 2008, FCW

A commission established by Congress to monitor issues important to the United States' relationship with China is looking for a contractor to analyze the capabilities of the Chinese government and its affiliates to conduct cyberwarfare and exploit computer networks.

The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission (USCC) issued a request for proposals Dec. 19 for a contract to produce a one-time unclassified report that would:

- Identify and assess major actors in China — state-affiliated and state-sponsored — who appear to be engaged in developing cyberwarfare capabilities.
- Explain how different organizations involved in those activities might be linked to one another.
- Assess the state of development of China's cyberwarfare doctrine.
- Provide a timeline of alleged Chinese-based hacking and intrusion into U.S. computer networks and those of U.S. allies.
- Analyze the vulnerabilities of U.S. government computer systems and civilian infrastructure and offer applicable policy recommendations.

USCC was created in October 2000 to investigate the national security implications of the trade and economic relationship between the United States and China and submit an annual report to Congress, with recommendations as appropriate. The leaders of the House and Senate appoint the commissioners.

The government will award the contract based on a combination of proposed costs, technical value and abilities, the RFP states. Submissions are due by Jan. 21, 2009.

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[Ed note: I have to wonder why the concentration on just China. Of all the convictions for such activity, I can't think of any that involved more than a smattering of people and none were state sponsored. Most weren't sponsored at all — just some over enthusiastic nerdy type gone berserk.

This is not to say that such attacks can't be organized. I'd be most concerned about college students who don't attend all their classes but get good grades in "computer science."]

unClassifieds

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