Southern Maryland Mac User Group

20058-D Point Lookout Road
Great Mills, Maryland 20634
Meetings second
Monday of the month from 7pm to 9pm
at the SMARTCO warehouse.

February 2004

I could say that this issue will make up for last months issue, but it really boils down to what I have to put in here. This month I have a lot, and I'm sure by tomorrow I'll find more. As with everything in life, it comes in droves sometimes.

Things I put in here are also things that appeal to 'me'. I try to keep in mind what others are interested in seeing, which leaves a very limited group. Everyone is encouraged to send me articles to be included in these newsletters. Even though I know all of you pretty well, I don't know everything ☺ Let me hear from you!

Those who were at the January meeting met our good friend Axel, who was visiting from Holland. He really enjoyed his stay and meeting all who were in attendance. He's back home now, but looks forward to his next visit to the U.S. We always have a great time while he's here, and we work him hard in this Mac room here at SMARTCO. The place did look pretty good for the last meeting, but then more stuff arrived and has crowded us once again. One of these days this room will be 'perfect', but which century that will be is any ones guess hehehee. We'll keep trying ☺

This month I picked the most enjoyable articles sent out by MaMUGs, and I do think you'll enjoy the reviews given.

Real People Reviews
by Daniel M. East

Mac OSX Killer Tips
by Scott Kelby
New Riders Publications
Street price: 29.99
Review date: January 31, 2004

DESCRIPTION (What's it do? What's it got?): This is the must-own book for any level of Mac OS X users. Fun, a "good read," and it defines the term "dog-ear" (you know, folding

that little top corner of the page to mark your place)as you find the gems Kelby provides for everyone from the newest beginner to the power user in all of us.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS: The appearance of this gorgeous book will grab you and the content will keep you. Plain English combined with easy to follow images and graphics are like no textbook I've ever owned, and I seem to be learning more this way. With a nod towards the musical at heart, like myself, with chapter titles that make me grin - even the corny ones – I found myself really wanting to read on. If you think you know OS X, this is not only validation, but you may even find yourself surprised by one or two of these "Killer Tips."

LIKES : As is the case with all of Kelby's "Killer" books, his writing style is easy and concise. I found that, even with tricks I knew, he put the explanation into words that I could convey better when asked. Again,
this is one beautiful looking book as well.

Some great tips include ways to speed up any Mac, so this was terrific for me and my trusty ol' TiBook. There is info on how to remove some little personal annoyances (like bouncing in the dock) and shortcuts to
access preferences. It made me want to run right to my Mac and try a whole bunch of the tricks I'd learned. From organization to optimization and just silly fun pranks, your Apple bookshelf is truly empty without
this one, folks.

DISLIKES : Nothing, nothing, nothing. (Ok, so I found a type-o)

HOW DOES THIS PRODUCT COMPARE? : In this particular case, I wouldn't really compare this book to others, rather than to say that this is another book to have in the very front of your bookcase. Even after having sat with this book for a few weeks, I find myself grabbing it for reminders, hints and the occasional "didn't I see that in the book" references. Yep, it's all about the "dog-ears."

WHO MIGHT ENJOY THIS PRODUCT? Again, this is the book for anyone with a Mac using OSX.3.x.

FINAL THOUGHTS: You know, a lot of books come across my desk and I really do enjoy all of the perspectives, help and information by some really
great authors. What I really want to say is this; every time I read a "Killer" book by Scott Kelby, I learn SOMETHING. When I see his presentations, I learn something. Kelby is direct, concise and
informative for his audience on any level and you never get the impression that his work is over your head or "dumbed down." Get thisbook and enjoy it.

OVERALL RATING: 5 stars out of 5 EXCELLENT

For more information, visit: http://www.scottkelby.com

Daniel East is the founder and president of The Mid-Atlantic Macintosh User Groups Team (MaMUGs) - a division of The Apple Groups Team; a member of The Apple Consultants Network (ACN); a member of The Apple Developer Connection (ACN); a panelist on "PC Talk Radio;" a live speaker/presenter and a freelance columnist for several Mac publications.

KICK THE TIRES by Frank Petrie

Product: SuperDuper! v1.0.1 (v55)
Company: Shirt Pocket <http://www.shirt-pocket.com/>
Price: (US) $19.95
Requirements: Macintosh OS X 10.2.8 or later
Test Rig: iBook G4/933/640 MB RAM
Review Date: 22 January 2004

There is one rule that if you haven't learned by now, then pack up your   G5 and give it to me! BACK UP YOUR FILES REGULARLY! As easy as it is to   do, most of us never think of it until we lose all our files. Too late, Homer.

"SuperDuper can be used as a flexible disk copying utility, but it goes   well beyond mere duplication. Its unique "Safety Clone" feature lets   you install potentially risky drivers or system updates without fear of creating an unbootable or unworkable system — or losing access to your critical personal data."

OK. Prove it. (Even though the majority of my data doesn't deserve the epithet 'critical').

THE GOOD

Installation is a breeze. Double click the installer package. Very, very straight forward brushed aluminum UI. Very simple to navigate. In fact, it prompts you through the whole process. Like that ... a lot!
(Particularly with my memory.)

The preferences are few but exactly what you need. You choose how you would like your data handled, a copy script and compression (none, low, medium or high). And the latest feature that has been popping up in shareware - "Automatically check for updates." Gotta love it. The computer does the work.

But SD! comes with some added toys like "Safety Clone." A Safety Clone is a bootable copy of your system, stored on another hard drive or partition, that shares your personal documents and data with the original. You actually use the Safety Clone as your startup volume!

"You can safely install any system updates, drivers or programs on the Safety Clone, without worrying about what might happen to your system.
If anything goes wrong, you can simply start up from the original system. SuperDuper has preserved it in its original, pre-disaster state – but all your new and changed personal documents are totally up to date." But don't count on using this as your regular back up. Still, ALWAYS do a regular Back Up!!!

SD! comes prepackaged with four user scripts to back up general groups of files. But you can of course create your own scripts to satisfy your own specific needs.

I was able to back up my 25 GB of data to an external hard drive, with low compression, in about 55 minutes. Not bad.

THE BAD

Nada.

THE UGLY

Nada.

NUTSHELL

Does exactly what it says it does. A 'one trick pony' of good stock, with an extra trick or two. And twenty bucks is a reasonable price for such a critical tool. Currently, there are a number of BackUp systems
available for X out there; some as stand-alones, some as a part of suites. Can't say as I've found a bad one (although I seem to be the only person on the planet that has problems operating Carbon Copy Cloner!).

You can download a test drive of SuperDuper! from the site. As I said, there are many backup apps out there, some free, some not, some barebones, some with extras. But only you will be able to decide which package feels best for you. Go on. Kick the tires.

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The Mid-Atlantic Macintosh User Groups Team (MaMUGs)
http://www.mamugs.org
- a division of The Apple Groups Team
Email: phranky@mamugs.com
iChat: phranky
Providing camaraderie, cooperative programs, events, training and Knowledge sharing for Apple/Macintosh User Groups free of charge.

The Mid-Atlantic Macintosh User Groups Team (MaMUGs) employs anti-virus protection, however, given that messages and/or attachments can be altered, modified and/or fabricated by outside parties, we cannot
guarantee that any communications are "virus-free." We recommend testing any e-mail, attachment, image and/or other types of messages prior to opening and/or viewing.
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Kick the Tires
by Frank Petrie

REVIEW

Product: Panther: The First 100 Days

Company: Apple Computer, Inc.
Price: (US) $119.00
Requirements:
Test Rig: iBook G4/933/640 MB RAM
Review Date: 02 February 2004

There were some significant workflow changes with the release of the black cat, among
them, mainly the new Finder. So, I thought it would be interesting, as it didn't take that
long to develop new habits for the
beta, to look back and see how I was adapting to some of the bigger changes in Panther.

As it is an election year, I thought that I would tip my chapeau to E.B. White and judge
Panther the way he has judged presidents over time by their first 100 days of
performance.

THE GOOD

Apple has made installation about as 'no brainer' as it can be. The only choice that you
have to make really is the kind of install you want. And that would be 'Install and Archive.'
Even though you have
backed up your hard drive (AND YOU HAVE!!!), better safe than sorry.

Apple advertised that Panther had 2,451,982 changes in it (or some such number). Some
you see, some you don't and some play hide and seek.

Their are new forms of Easter Eggs built into Panther. For instance, open your Address
Book, pick an entry and click the Edit button. Now go to one of the phone number fields
and type in 10 digits with no breaks
or punctuation. Now hit Tab and look at the number. The parenthesis and dash have been
added for you; the computer took care of the formatting.
Sweet. I personally think that's more valuable then a hidden picture of One Infinite Loop.

I've started to learn the three biggest changes and incorporate them into my workflow,
but it's going to take a little more time. First is the Command-Tab function that brings up
all currently running apps. I
had developed a habit of using that keystroke combination to toggle between app and I'm
quite comfortable with the Dock, so it's going to
take me some time . Of course, if you operate solely from the keyboard, I imagine that
this feature is indispensable.

Second would be Expose. I'm a GUI person (in a nice way, of course) and I found reaching

for the F keys for these functions a bit awkward. But hey! You can go into Exposé's preferences and kill the keys and use Hot Corners! Seeing as I don't use the Screen Saver function, this has worked out great. I use it constantly.

Without a doubt, the biggest change is the Finder. And I don't know how it has affected you but it has sped up my workflow immeasurably. For example; I download a .dmg of some new app and StuffIt decompresses it
and it shows up in my Finder as a mounted volume. I read the Read Me files and then simply drag the new app to the Applications folder in the second pane, then go back to the first pane and click the arrow next to the .dmg file and unmount the disk. All in one window! I love it!

THE BAD

My experience is that Mail has become more buggy than Fort Myers in summertime. I don't know why but in Jaguar I was able to manage three separate accounts with minimal trouble. But in Panther, I'm constantly
having to fidget with it. Not happy.

THE UGLY

Nada (unless you're not a fan of the brushed aluminum look).

THE CLOSE

Panther is another huge step in the evolution of Apple's modern operating system. And with such large steps being incorporated faster and faster, problems are a realistic expectation. Was Jaguar this problematic. Did Jaguar have as many huge new features Not nearly.

All-in-all, I'm quite impressed with Panther, even with the hiccups. If you're still using OS 9 for other than for a specific piece of software, it's time to step up.

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Friday - January 30, 2004
FBI favours Macs
By Macworld staff

A former FBI chief of computer intrusion investigations has admitted that the FBI uses Macs running OS X.

The machines are the choice of FBI agents in the know who have found that they can do "just about anything: run software for Mac, Unix, or Windows, using either a GUI or the command line. And they're secure out of the box".

The details appear in an article in Security Focus < http://www.securityfocus.com/cgi-bin/sfonline/columnists-item.pl?id=215 > in which reporter Scott Granneman recalls an interview with Dave Thomas, former chief of computer intrusion investigations at FBI headquarters, and current assistant special agent in charge of the St Louis Division of the FBI.

In the interview Thomas makes the revelation: "If you're a bad guy and you want to frustrate law enforcement, use a Mac".

This is because while police and government agencies know what to do with seized Windows machines, they don't know how to recover information from Macs. Currently law enforcement personnel in the US are sending impounded Macs needing data recovery to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who have built up a knowledge and technique for Mac forensics that is "second to none," according to Thomas.

Monday - February 02, 2004
Apple/HP deal is go

By Macworld staff

Apple CEO Steve Jobs initiated the HP/Apple deal that lets HP offer digital music products and services to its customers.

The LA Times (registration required) reports that while HP's own efforts to design a music player were unsucessful, Jobs contacted HP CEO Carly Fiorina to urge her to consider making use of Apple technology.

"Why go with an inferior product and an inferior music store?" Jobs asked.

The two companies commenced negotiation in December, with Jobs and Fiorina delegating the detail to HP's vice-president of marketing for consumer PCs (and iPod-owner) Tom Anderson, and Apple's vice president for worldwide operations, Tim Cook. The deal was nailed down just days before the event.

The report adds that HP's move to use technology from another firm is not unprecedented, HP's laser printers and digital cameras are made by others under an OEM agreement.

Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak said the only hurdle Jobs may have faced in the move would have risen from the fear of "alienating" many in the Mac community who mistrust Microsoft.

Describing the Windows world as focused on "expedient profits", Wozniak said: "Bringing the expediency of iPods to the Windows world benefits both PC users and Apple."

Wednesday - February 04, 2004
Anger over Panther-only Safari

By Macworld staff

Apple released Safari 1.2 on Tuesday night – but Mac users are frustrated that the brand-new Internet browser requires the most current version of Mac OS X to function.

Safari's system requirements demand that Mac OS X 10.3 be installed; causing concern to many of Apple's now 10 million OS X users who have not yet upgraded from a previous version of the 21st century operating system.

"What about us Jaguar users?" a reader asked: "Is Mac OS X 10.3 so radically different that they can't make Safari backwards-compatible?", he complained.

Readers are irked at feeling "forced" to move to the latest version of the operating system each year, with many desiring some kind of upgrade path from previous operating system versions.

Safari 1.2 offers several powerful new features: the ability to resume downloads; a feature that lets users see image sizes; extended Tabs support; and features that take the browser closer to providing accessibility for some users, such as the ability to Tab between form elements on a Web page.

"Apple did the same when they launched iCal and iSync which were locked into Jaguar," a reader observed.

Some Macworld readers have become so annoyed that they are beginning to ask what they are being "forced" to pay for: "Apple releases a new OS each year, which to my mind say two things: Mac OS X is not a finished complete operating system or Apple's sales machine is creaming money from users."

Apple's assumed response is that it continues to focus on developing new features and applications within each generation of its operating system. For example, OS X 10.3 introduces in excess of 100 features in the box, such as Exposé, Font Book, iChat, the capacity to open Word documents using TextEdit and the best yet implementation of Mail.

Despite Apple's consistent delivery of strong reasons to move to new generations of its operating system, readers consider the company's tardiness in delivering a version of Safari all OS X users can employ as reason to question Apple's business practices.

Drawing a comparison, a reader asked: "Is Apple now all about shareholders, marketing and sales?"

Should Apple deliver Safari for all versions of Mac OS X? Have your say. -->
http://www.macworld.co.uk/forums/msgs.cfm?msg=23760&forum=1&tz=300

Friday - January 30, 2004
Windows move angers US teachers

By Macworld staff

Teachers in North Virginia are angry as the education authorities there are forcing them to switch from Macs to PCs – and a host of existing educational resources appear likely to be lost in the move.

Teachers in the Arlington Public Schools District are particularly annoyed because they say they have not been adequately consulted about the move: "Why shouldn't instructional staff be the first to be consulted on instructional issues?" one teacher asked the local Northern Virginia Journal.
http://jrnl.com/cfdocs/new/ffx/story.cfm?paper=fx&section=st&snumber=06

Just 40 or 50 of them were involved in the decision-making process, with a larger meeting January 15 inadequately publicized, they claim.

Macs dominate the existing set up in the school area – except in administration. Supporting both systems has taken its toll on the technical staff, decision-makers claim.

"But teachers have hundreds of documents such as worksheets, templates and research projects, which would all be either lost or have to be redone if the PC platform was adopted," the report says.

Director of technology James Carroll has evidently not been watching the Mydoom worm, and is unaware of the in-house platform of choice at the FBI
http://www.securityfocus.com/cgi-bin/sfonline/columnists-item.pl?id=215
– he claims a move to PCs would make for "better support and more reliable networks."

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The look of things to come.
Here's a sneak preview of the new tools in Office 2004 for Mac. They will help you present your ideas with more impact and seamlessly share information with your colleagues, no matter which platform - Mac or Windows - they use.

Efficiently manage your information Features such as the Office Project Center and Notebook Layout View in Word help free your time-and your mind-from countless everyday tasks.

Project Center in Office 2004 for Mac keeps your most important information within reach by providing quick access to all the e-mails, files, contacts, and schedule information related to a specific project. It's an easy, elegant way to stay on top of it all. Office 2004 makes it easier than ever to manage your information with features such as Notebook Layout View in Word. You will be able to quickly take notes, search and flag relevant information, and even record audio directly into your Word documents.

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I jokingly told some that this issue was going to be 20 pages hehehehe, and it easily could have been, but I'm going to stop adding articles and reviews for now ☺ Hope you found something in here that was useful or enlightening. Let me know what your interests are and what you'd like to see in here.

Laura M. Phillips
Ambassador