



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.

July 2006

As we've been talking about over the past two meetings, SMARTCO is moving! The only thing we don't know right now is 'when'. Please make sure you look at <http://www.smmug.net/> before the next scheduled meeting of August 14th to see if we'll still be in this building or our new location. Or you can just e-mail me at LadyBear@ladybear.com to ask, just put SMMUG in the subject line so I can identify you easily.

Macworld Daily News

Wednesday - July 05, 2006

CrossOver lets Windows apps run on OS X, sans Windows

By Peter Cohen, Macworld.com

[CodeWeavers](#) has announced plans to release CrossOver Mac this summer. The \$60 software will allow Intel Mac users to run Windows applications - including some games - without having to buy or install Windows itself.

Boot Camp and Parallels Desktop both provide this capability for Intel Mac owners already. Boot Camp, software from Apple currently available in beta form, makes users reboot their Macs and run Windows. Parallels Desktop is a 'virtualisation' utility that enables the Windows operating system and Windows applications to run in Mac OS X, within another window (or, alternately, in full screen mode).

CrossOver Mac will take this one step further - it eschews what CodeWeavers chief operating officer Jon Parshall calls the "box within a box approach".

"What you see running is an application sitting in your Dock or your Applications folder," Parshall said.

Both Boot Camp and Parallels Desktop work because the new Macs utilise the same microprocessor that's found in Windows-compatible computer, and CrossOver Mac employs the same basic principle. This wasn't possible before January, when Macs depended solely on PowerPC-based microprocessors made by IBM and Freescale. The presence of an Intel processor inside the Mac forges a close enough resemblance to get Windows and Windows applications to work.

Although Boot Camp is free and Parallels Desktop is reasonably priced, both software applications require an expensive copy of Windows in order to work - and that's the biggest benefit for CrossOver Mac. It works without having Windows installed altogether, thanks to the underlying code that powers the software.

WINE-powered

CrossOver Mac is based on the same core technology that powers CodeWeavers' Linux-based offering: an open-source project called WINE. WINE - a self-referencing acronym that stands for 'WINE Is Not an Emulator' - is a compatibility layer that provides alternate implementations of the code referenced by Windows applications in order to work. CodeWeavers uses publicly available versions of WINE in order to develop the CrossOver product, and contributes its code changes back to the WINE project, according to Parshall.

Applications running on CrossOver Mac will offer performance comparable to apps running natively on Windows, according to Parshall, with all the same capabilities and functionality as they would if you were running Windows.

CodeWeavers' specific focus is getting CrossOver to run commonly used business applications, he said. Right now the company's Linux product runs Microsoft Office applications, Access, Project, Vision, Lotus Notes, Quicken, FrameMaker and other products.

Gaming possibilities

Gamers have a strong interest in Boot Camp, as it allows them to play games that won't run natively on Mac OS X - Parallels Desktop has disappointed gamers because it doesn't include native graphics driver support so it isn't suitable for running 3D games. CrossOver Mac won't suffer that problem, though Parshall cautions that CodeWeavers' specific area of focus isn't on games.

The company said it hopes "to offer support for a limited number of games" but hasn't yet determined the final mix of supported applications. Parshall told Macworld that the popular shooter Half-Life 2 is on the list, and while he said that it isn't technically on the supported list of application, the new 2K Games-published FPS Prey also works well.

Viruses, malware not as much of an issue

Another benefit of CrossOver Mac's approach to running Windows software is that it's much less susceptible to infection by Windows-based viruses or malware than a true Windows-based solution, according to Parshall.

"A virus needs to affect the guts of Windows," he explained.
"Theoretically, if you were really, really good you might be able to get your virus to run under WINE, but we've yet to hear about anyone who has, even in the laboratory."

Parshall said he expects that this protection will extend to CrossOver Mac as well.

CodeWeavers plans to release CrossOver Mac in July or August, 2006. It will cost \$59.95 for a single-user licence.

FRESHLY SQUEEZED REVIEWS: More Hits, Fewer Misses by Frank Petrie

Product: Opera 9

Company: Script Software <www.opera.com/>

Requirements: N/A

Universal Binary: N/A

Price: Free

Test Rig: G4 1.42 Ghz DP, 1.5 GB RAM

Review Date: 28 June 2006

Fortunately, no one has died in the browser wars because they're heating up again. And with each new release, the battle heats up.

"Opera 9 enhances the way you access, share and use online content by including innovative widgets - fun, small and useful Web programs - and support for BitTorrent™, the popular file distribution technology. Even while adding these improvements, Opera 9 maintains

the security and speed millions of Opera fans have come to expect."

So ... does it?

THE JUICE

Installation is the standard drag-n-drop. Opera 9 is now FREE. No ads or such. The revenue is derived from service plans for their mobile connections. You can buy from a variety of Protection Plans that cover either your phone, pocket PC, or desktop.

Opera 9 comes with integrated bit torrent, your selection of search engines, widgets that you can keep in you sidebar or run outside the browser, a community site with 300MB of storage space from which to share photos and files. And, like Apple's widgets, there's a tutorial on how to build your own.

Also, if you register with Opera for free, you get your own web mail account - yourname@operamail.com.

THE RIND

This browser loads pages at a blinding speed. By far, faster than any other browser out there. Yes, faster than Firefox or Camino. Without question. You can also set the size of the browser's cache and schedule it to update the page in the background at specified times. So, if you constantly visit the same pages, as most of us do, this browser becomes a real speed demon.

As in Firefox/Camino, you have various skins and extensions to choose from. And they have separate GUIs tailored for Mac, Linux, and Windows.

It's handling of bookmarks takes some getting used to. I really like the way it handles tabs in the toolbar. Click on the folder of choice and right at the top you can choose to open all items or just the bookmark that you want. Plus, you bookmark any page from within the

folder that you would like to file it.

Customization is Opera's forte. As an example, when I launch Opera 9, I can get the home page, the last page that I worked on, or several other options.

THE PITS

Media. At first, a video stream dropped out after about five seconds, when I first installed it. Once I relaunched Opera 9, the problem appeared to have cleared up. Also had a problem with java in a World Without Borders chat room.

THE PULP

Browsers are falling behind development software. From authoring tools from RapidWeaver to the open-soure Drupal, I am finding that EVERY browser that I use, be it Firefox, Camino, Safari, et al., has flaws in reading the new source codes.

But the developers of Opera 9 seem to have given themselves a swift kick in the pants and have placed themselves directly in the center of the browser wars. I'm going to try this for about another week (I don't get much play time doing these reviews) but I wouldn't be surprised if I adopted it and kicked out a couple of applications. Most definitely worth a test drive.

RATING: 9 out of 10

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Thank you.