



Southern Maryland
Mac User Group

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Meetings second
Monday of the month from 7pm to 9pm
at the SMARTCO warehouse.

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FRESHLY SQUEEZED REVIEWS: Leave Your Mark by Frank Petrie

Product: iWatermark

Company: Script Software <www.scriptsoftware.com/iwatermark/>

Requirements: any Mac running OS X 10.3 or higher

Universal Binary: N/A

Price: \$20.00 USD

Review Date: 23 May 2006

If you're a listener of Adam Curry's 'Daily Source Code,' then you are probably familiar with his recent legal trouble. A picture that he had recently posted of his daughter on Flickr, wound up in a European tabloid. They never asked his permission to use that picture. And if you place your photos online with something like iWeb, you're in the same boat. So, what can you do to protect yourself from intellectual property theft?

Script Software declares, "Watermark is the worlds No. 1 watermarking application for Mac and Windows. Stylishly Copyright all your images in just minutes. ... iWatermark is integrated to work with Photoshop, ACDSee, iPhoto, Cumulus, Portfolio, PhotoStation, iView and other photo organizers."

What was once (hopefully) a digital utopia is devolving into business as usual. So, you have to protect yourself. Will iWatermark do it?

THE JUICE

Drag-n-drop installaion. (It's a fav around my house.) iWatermark reads the following image formats: JPEG, TIFF, PNG, Photoshop (Requires Quicktime), PICT (Macintosh Only), and BMP. Writable formats: JPEG, PNG, PICT (Macintosh Only), BMP (Windows Only), and TIFF.

There is a ton of batch editing features here, too. You can watermark entire folders of images at once, scale all your images to be the same size, create thumbnails of your watermarked images, use text, TIFF or PNG logos for your watermarks. iWatermark can also be used to convert your file's format.

THE RIND

Nada.

THE PITS

Nada.

THE PULP

Script Software's iWatermark delivered on all of it's promises without fail. The one problem that I have (and it would appear to be true of the other visible watermark software) is that I can change the meta data in any file once I have accessed the information. If that's the case, where's my protection?

Now, I can hear some photographers pulling their hair out. I am not an avid photographer. If the mood strikes me, fine. If it doesn't, fine. So, in the comments section, would those of you immersed in digital photography set me and the rest of us lay people straight?

Thanks. We'll put you on our Christmas card list.

RATING: 9 out of 10

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Training Your Golden Retriever to Retrieve Email

Have you always wanted to train your golden retriever to retrieve your email for you? Well, if you follow a careful training program, your golden retriever will be retrieving email for you in no time at all. This breed of dogs naturally seeks to retrieve things. It's in their blood. So it's just a matter of teaching your retriever to do what comes naturally to have him help you get your email.

For best results start your training when your dog is very young. After your dog has become accustomed to retrieving sticks and tennis balls you might try hurling an old keyboard once in a while. When your dog brings your keyboard back to you, scratch your pooch behind his ear while saying, "Good dog. Thatta boy. Good dog."

Place the keyboard at your feet and encourage your dog to randomly paw keys on the keyboard. Lavish praise on your pooch when he hits keys that are close to the keys you use to retrieve your mail.

Reward your dog with tasty treats only when he starts showing an interest in how your email program works. Golden retrievers are naturally intelligent dogs. If they see you sitting at the computer they are bound to become curious about what steps you take to retrieve your email.

Then one day when your dog is very comfortable at pawing your keyboard and has familiarized himself with all the keystrokes you use to retrieve your mail, say in a friendly frisky voice: "Go get email. That's a good dog. Go fetch email."

You might be surprised to see how easily your dog will retrieve your email. But don't forget that golden retrievers were bred to do this sort of thing. It's one of their instincts to log on, grab all new messages, and log off.

Once your golden retriever masters the process of retrieving your email, this activity will be one more way for you to bond with your dog. Don't be surprised if your dog bounds onto your bed early in the morning begging you to switch on the computer so it can retrieve email.

That's the point you will know to give your dog his own email account. That way you can sleep later in the morning while your pooch is enthusiastically bounding around retrieving email on his own.

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