



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.

March 2004

Macworld Daily News

Tuesday - February 10, 2004

G5 PowerBook 'this year'?

By Jonny Evans

Microprocessor experts expect Apple to release new G5 Power Macs soon and posit the release of a G5 PowerBook "this year".

In-Stat/MDR's Microprocessor Watch editor-in-chief Peter Glaskowsky, who attended briefings with Apple at Macworld Expo San Francisco, writes: "In announcing the new Xserve G5 at MacWorld Expo, Apple CEO Steve Jobs glossed over what we consider the most interesting fact about the new system: it represents the debut of IBM's 90nm (nanometer) PowerPC 970FX, which Apple calls the G5."

This new generation processor offers one crucial advantage against the G5 currently used in Apple's desktop Macs. The latter processors were made using IBM's 130nm manufacturing process. This different manufacturing method means the new G5 has a, "maximum power consumption of 55W at 2GHz, down from the 90W" of the current Power Mac chip, Glaskowsky said.

"We expect to see new G5 desktops soon, with faster processors, and G5 laptops later in the year", he said.

In its brief 'Quick Reference' guide, IBM describes the typical working power consumption of the 970FX as: "12.3W@1.4GHz, or 24.5W@2.0GHz" – potentially more impressive, and much less than the current processor's typical power needs of 51W@1.8GHz.

This difference means the Xserve G5 does not require as statuesque a series of fans to ensure the machine does not overheat. It also offers a glimpse of a road map of what Apple has called "the engineering challenge" of building a G5 PowerBook.

IBM has already revealed that the 970FX offers power-management features – meaning a processor capable of speeds of 2GHz could be clocked down, in order that it generate less heat in use.

IBM has released some details pertaining to the new processor. They reveal that these processors can reach speeds from 1.4GHz to in excess of 2GHz, with a bus interface that's ten per cent faster than the current G5 – 1.1GHz from 1GHz.

All told, Apple and IBM appear set to deliver on Apple CEO Steve Jobs' promise that the Power Mac G5 would reach 3GHz in 2003.

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This was a good article, but I cannot post it here, below is the url for you to go read for yourselves.

Thursday, February 12, 2004

School laptops earn high marks in survey of users

<http://www.pressherald.com/news/state/040212laptops.shtml>

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Real People Reviews
by Daniel M. East

Product: Down and Dirty Tricks/Photoshop CS Edition by Scott Kelby

Manufacturer/Vendor/Developer: New Riders Publications

MSRP:\$39.99

Review date: February 15, 2004

PULL QUOTE: "If you have Photoshop CS, you have to have this book."

DESCRIPTION (What's it do? What's it got?): Once again, Scott Kelby has come out with a "must own" book that gives you all of the coolest features of a product, explained in a way that nearly anyone can actually try for themselves. Yet again, I find myself "dog-ear" crazy with almost as many corners as there are pages in this fun book of knowledge. If you have Photoshop CS, you have to have this book. Experience level isn't the key since even the most expert PS users will love this latest offering.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS: Like other Kelby books, this one is not only full of information that you will just want to try and play with, but it looks good, too. Beautifully laid out and designed in its own right, each page features great sidebar info and tips that further help make the most of Adobe's flagship product.

LIKES : As mentioned, it looks great, reads great and sidebars are full of info. In particular, there are tips that will help small and home business users look like they've spent thousands on marketing when they've simply done it all themselves. Digital photography, text effects, logo designs and advertising design tricks are all there and explained so that anyone can really do them all. It is fun to suddenly have Kelby's help to make that light bulb over your head light up.

DISLIKES : I want more! If you are listening, Scott; how about

volume 2?!

HOW DOES THIS PRODUCT COMPARE? : While there are a few decent PScs books, none give you this kind of "coolness factor." This is not only great information that isn't in textbook format, but it looks great teaching you to use PScs in the way it was intended...your way.

WHO MIGHT ENJOY THIS PRODUCT? Again, if you have Photoshop CS, you must have this book.

FINAL THOUGHTS: Ok, so it's no secret that I'm a Kelby fan. Every time I watch him present, I learn something. The same goes for his books and videos. I have used Photoshop in its various carnations since v1.0 and still feel that I have a lot to learn about it. The key, for me, is in keeping my interest and showing me things I can really use - both as a professional and for home use - so that I can produce the kind of images that I envision in my own head.

OVERALL RATING: 5 out of 5 stars 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.

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Real People Reviews
by Daniel M. East

Product: LogoCreator
Manufacturer/Vendor/Developer: MacXware MSRP: 39.95
File Sharing Vulnerability Discovered in Mac OS X

Fri Feb 27, 1:54 PM ET

Add [Technology - Ziff Davis](#) to My Yahoo!

A security issue that could result in stolen passwords and data on Friday was revealed for Apple Computer Inc.'s Apple Filing Protocol, a component of Mac OS X ([news -web sites](#)) 10.3.2, a k a Panther. The file protocol allows Macintosh ([news -web sites](#)) users to access files on remote systems. □

An alert on the vulnerability was posted to the [Security Focus BUGTRAQ Alert Service](#).

In Mac OS X 10.2, Apple updated Apple Filing Protocol (AFP) to permit secure connections over SSH (Secure Shell) protocol. However, Chris Adams, a system administrator in San Diego, Calif., noted that while users could request secure connections, the system will not issue any alert or indication if an SSH connection is unavailable and then defaults to a non-secure connection. He noted that the only indication was a negative one—users must be aware that an alert "Opening Secure Connection" did not appear.

According to Adams, this could result in users sending unencrypted passwords over an insecure connection.

"Login credentials may be sent in cleartext or protected with one of several different hashed exchanges or Kerberos. There does not appear to have been any serious third-party security review of Apple's client or server implementations," Adams wrote in his report on the vulnerability.

Speaking with eWEEK.com, Adams said that any such activity would only come as the result of an active attack. "OS X does warn you before using unencrypted passwords and AFP does prevent passive password collection by encrypting the log-in process to protect the password on its way to the server. This problem allows you to trick it into sending the unencrypted password to you instead of the intended server," he said.

Adams pointed out that this sort of problem was not unique to Mac OS X.

"As with Microsoft's Windows file sharing, AFP was designed for trusted LANs and some of the basic assumptions change when these systems are placed on the public Internet. Users on a secured LAN face relatively little risk; the most exposed are those using AFP over the Internet without a VPN," he said.

Check out eWEEK.com's Security Center at <http://security.eweek.com> for security news, views and analysis.

Users of AFP on a secure network, Adams said, should have little to worry about.

Adams said, systems open to remote connections, such as in educational institutions, would be vulnerable to "man in the middle" attacks, where a third server could intercept and harvest passwords surreptitiously.

Compounding the problem, Adams added, was that SSH connectivity for AFP would not work at all in the initial releases of Mac OS X 10.3 and 10.3.1.

Adams observed that the problem arises from the fact that AFP treats SSH as an option rather than a user requirement.

Though his BUGTRAQ warning provided workarounds, such as manually configuring a SSH tunnel or using SFTP instead, Adams suggested that SSH should be enabled by default for both client and server and the user interface modified to clearly warn when the system is unable to establish an SSH tunnel.

SSH incorporates a number of extensively analyzed security precautions. Adams said that this is merely a matter of including those in the AFP user interface.

Though Adams said he first reported this bug to Apple in early December 2003 and followed up weeks later, he received no response from the computer manufacturer.

However, he told eWEEK.com that a final notice that he was going to release the information publicly resulted in a response on Friday.

"It was what I was hoping for originally," he said, a notice that Apple was looking into the issue and was offering to coordinate efforts.

An Apple representative declined to expand on Adam's statement.

Review date: February 20, 2004

DESCRIPTION (What's it do? What's it got?): This is a fun, simple to use logo creation tool that brings great looking results to any level of designer. Great for home business, ad design or just for fun.

MIN. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: G3 or better (G4 or better recommended); OS 10.1x or later (10.2x or later recommended); 256 Mb RAM; (512 Mb recommended) 120 Mb hard disk space.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS: This is just fun. If you ever wished you had all of the big expensive design tools to make a big impression, this puts a lot of great effects, layout and design into a very affordable package.

LIKES : LogoCreator provides a lot of options for designing a logo. Lots of effects and controls that will really make it easy for nearly anyone to make a great logo. Simple step-by-step methods really are fun to try. This is an especially great tool

for creating web graphics.

The interface is easy to follow and there are tons of templates. Another nice option is that you can export into a huge variety of file types for easy use in other applications. 2D is fun, but 3D options and objects are all right there; I found myself just playing with options and images with simple control panel options.

DISLIKES : When you start the application, you must select an option from the style libraries which can feel a bit limiting, although it is not. I'd like to see a "search all" option in the initial setup. I'd also like to see the option of a single paneled window AND the multi-palette option. There seem to be a few extra steps for things like resizing, but this is just a learning curve issue.

HOW DOES THIS PRODUCT COMPARE? : Some "print shop" type applications are far more broad in scope, but with lower quality results vs. LogoCreator. There are too many to mention here, but most are also really dated in appearance and output quality with less options for export.

WHO MIGHT ENJOY THIS PRODUCT? This might be a great tool for user groups who want logos for newsletters, web sites, business cards and more. Perfect for small businesses and home businesses that need a modern logo, and/or to update several logos, for a fresher appearance and company image.

TEST SYSTEM: Apple Titanium PowerBook G4 500 - 1Gb RAM - 10.3.2

FINAL THOUGHTS: While some pros might find this a little like cheating, it is fun. LogoCreator is a terrific tool to inspire ideas for other tools. It gives you a lot of bang for the buck and is a product that has found a home in my design folder.

OVERALL RATING: 4 out of 5 VERY GOOD

For more information, visit: www.macxware.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.

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