

MacBits

OS X REVIEW

Ready & Rolling...OS X (it's a "10" not "ex")

by Mark Fosgate, Club Secretary

I've been able to use MS Word/Excel 2001, Quicken 2000, and PhotoShop 6 with no problems in Mac OS X. Because of the stability of OS X, I can leave running, hidden in the background, all of my routine apps, like Internet Explorer (IE), Entourage, Fire, Sherlock, QuickTime 5, and many others, including the Classic environment of Mac OS 9. When I need to switch apps, I just CMD-TAB till I get the one I want or go down to the Dock (hidden also) and select the app I want, and I'm instantly ready to go. No more waiting for an application to start up. When the machine goes to sleep, I just touch the keyboard and it's instantly

awake. With the release of several freeware & shareware utilities, OS X is now very customizable & very easy to network with other Macs & PCs.

For those of you that have missed screensavers, Apple now includes several to select from and third party developers are providing a lot. So far, all have been free. More are coming and you can count on the really cool ones down the road to have a small fee attached. Another thing you can do now is set a different background for folders that you open as well as for the desktop.

The Dock can hold an almost unlimited amount of applications within its framework. Your initial settings will determine how much shrinkage the Dock will go through as you add more apps to it. I currently have 34 items in my Dock, grouped by the way I use things (like Internet apps, text apps, graphics apps, etc.). When you add items to the Dock, all you are adding is an alias to the application, although there's no clear indication that it's an alias (a probable near future change).

For those concerned with security, Mac OS X has a built-in firewall (ipfw) that can be accessed through a terminal window (you have to know where to look). Or you can use a \$25 shareware utility called

Brickhouse (look on the www.versiontracker.com search site) that gives you easy-to-use access to the firewall functions. The author has even made available groups of presets that you can import and save, for average home use all the way up to using your computer as a hosting device. Other shareware firewall access programs and commercial firewalls are available or being finalized. You can also use hardware routers.

For the seasoned Unix user, Mac OS X comes with an additional CD called Developers Tools to enhance the OS and develop applications, plus the terminal window provides Unix command line interface. For those that like the X Windows environment, Tenon and others have released tools to run X Windows apps from the Mac GUI. So people that like or need GIMP (an open-source program much like Photoshop) can run up to version 1.2 now.

Everyday, there are more applications, utilities, and games released to run native under Mac OS X. And hold on

continued on back



Mark

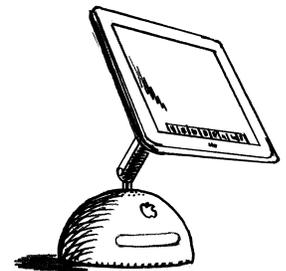
The New iMac G4

Worth the Wait?

[EDITED EXCERPTS from a slightly geeky look at Apple's new baby]

by John Apfelbaum, noted club guru on open s/w

What do I think of Apple's latest entry level PC [the new iMac]? Good marks for adjustable screen, great support for Firewire, video, and wireless devices, and having a DVD-ROM/CD-RW burner as part of the base configuration. None of



the new iMac configurations are shipping and the entry level won't be for months. And then there's speed and price...you can get a great web surfer/general use machine for less money by going with an x86 commodity PC running Linux (Windoze never recommended). But for unique styling and specific features, you might want the iMac.

FOR A DETAILED REVIEW of features & price/performance value of the new iMac compared with x86 PCs running Linux, please see John's full article:

www.concentric.net/~johnapf/apple.html

CALENDAR

EGPL: THE FIRST WEDNESDAY evening of every month, **MacMAD** hosts an informal help session at the Eau Gallie Public Library (EGPL), Pineapple Avenue (next to Conchy Joe's restaurant on the Indian River Lagoon), 7:00-whenever.

MPL: ON THE THIRD TUESDAY evening of every month, at the Melbourne Public Library (MPL) on Fee Avenue (downtown Melbourne, near civic center), **MacMAD** hosts educational programs featuring speakers on a variety of Mac-related topics.

Wed., Feb. 6 EGL
 Tues., Feb. 20 MPL
 Wed., Mar. 7 EGL
 Tues., Mar. 20, MPL
 Wed., Mar. 4, EGL
 Tues., Mar. 18, MPL

Making Music on the Mac?

If you're recording music on your Mac, we'd like to hear from you. Contact Cammie at cammiedonaldson@earthlink.net

MacMAD

Macintosh Meeting & Drinking Society Established 1984.

MacMAD does not condone or support software piracy.

On the **WEB** www.macmad.org
<http://bbs.macmad.org>



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If you are experienced with software or hardware, and wouldn't mind a few calls for help, VOLUNTEER: call Cher at 724-8981.

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to your hats, folks, because this summer (late July) there will be an avalanche of applications available for OS X as Apple will start including OS X on ALL new shipping units. Thousand of developers have committed themselves to porting existing software & creating new applications. Some apps will be aimed squarely at the casual user, but many more developers are thinking along the lines of the enterprise folks and that, my friends, can only be good for increasing Apple's market share. The *nix world has already created quite a few applications for the Mac OS X environment.

There are some things that Mac OS X doesn't support yet, like my Handspring PDA (although Palm just released a Preview Beta of their software). But when I absolutely need to sync my PDA, I can boot into Mac OS 9 and do so from there. My OS of choice now is Mac OS X, with Mac OS 9 running on top for the times that I need

THE MINUTES

About Last Meeting, January 15, 2002

by Mark Fosgate, Club Secretary

Kathy Pihlaja Lacina opened the meeting at 7:10pm with approximately 40 persons present.

Kathy's first order of business was to explain to the club populace the need to curtail the current amount of time one is in office. Current bylaws specify a two-year term for club board officers (President, Vice President (vacant) and Secretary).

Kathy asked for a motion to change the club bylaws to reflect a one-year term. Cameron (Cammie) Donaldson made the motion to change the bylaws and Dr. Maurice Kurtz seconded the motion. The members present took a vote with no one against. The motion passed.

Cammie Donaldson volunteered to take over the duties of club editor every other month [even-numbered months].

Kathy then introduced Cammie Donaldson as the guest speaker of the night at about 7:20pm. Cammie gave a very good presentation on how to create and use a database using FileMaker Pro version 5. A lot of the info that Cammie presented applies also to ClarisWorks or AppleWorks database functions as well. FileMaker pro version 5.5 is now native to Mac OS X as well as Mac OS 9.

Dinner site voted on was Bennigan's. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Photoshop (demo'd at the San Francisco Macworld Expo; estimated release date 2nd quarter 2002). Other things will come soon. As of this writing, OS X version 10.1.2 has been released. You can now burn CDs and watch DVD movies (very well, I might add) and if you have a superdrive (the DVD burner/CD-RW burner combo drive in the high-end Macs, including the new iMac G4 800), you can create your own home/business movies or slide shows for use on a regular DVD home player. Roxio (makers of Toast for Macs) recently released an update to their software, so now you have two ways of making CD-Rs: Apple's and Roxio's.

Apple is upping the ante with their own new apps and PC users are converting because they see how easy the Mac makes video editing (iMovie2 & Final Cut Pro 3), digital image cataloguing and editing (iPhoto), and music cataloguing (iTunes2 & the new iPod). Database management is supported by FileMaker Pro 5.5. There are now over 2,500 Mac OS X native applications out there and more being announced daily. Stay abreast of releases & updates with www.versiontracker.com.

Apple specifies a minimum of 128MB of RAM to run Mac OS X and Mac OS 9.2.2 together. This is a bare minimum. I recommend upgrading to as much memory as you can afford, within reason. I have 384MB of RAM installed in my 333 iMac. All new shipping Macs will support 1GB of RAM or more.

Rumors are that Version 10.2 is coming soon. Things can only get better as Apple releases additional updates to this exciting new era in Apple's history.

[Ed: Mark's awesome review was about 900 words too long for this Li'l Bits newsletter, so if you're thirsting for more details about OS X, check out www.macmad.bbs OR email the editor, cammiedonaldson@earthlink.net. WORTH THE READ!]

MacMAD

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