

MacBits

The eMac... Apple's New Value-Priced G4

by Cammie Donaldson

Four days to deadline and random occurrences of I/O Error -36 won't let us reliably backup our 80-page catalog on the G3. Hours on the phone with three different vendors' tech support lines are eating up schedule and we're considering renting Mac time at Kinkos or blowing several hundred bucks on a used G3 iMac when BINGO...in steps Apple with the perfect solution for our situation & budget, the eMac.

The eMac is Apple's most

affordable G4 system (\$1100), with a top-quality 17-inch flat CRT display (five crisp screen resolutions up to 1280 x 960!), 40GB hard drive, built in CDRW drive, ethernet port, firewire, USB and very nice stereo speakers — all in one compact computer that's smaller than most stand-alone PC displays. The eMac design looks like the old



all-in-one iMac but is slightly smaller, all white, and its body is made of polycarbonate plastic, the same material used to manufacture bulletproof glass. So if the neighbors take potshots, I guess my computer will be safe. And for wireless fans, the eMac is Airport-ready.

Mark Fosgate initially described it as a 50-lb. brick on my desk but actually it fits

nicely in the corner and with its white exterior would all but disappear if it weren't for the rather loud fan noise. This is the noisiest Mac I've ever owned, but since it immediately doubled our production and

enabled us to deliver our catalog for printing just one day after the initial deadline, I've learned to live with the noise. Besides, the speakers sound so great I can drown the fan out by playing a CD. And speaking of CDs, this thing makes burning CDs so easy you're almost not sure it happened. It really is VERY convenient to have the CD burner built into your Mac. Pretty soon I'll be able to upgrade to a DVD burner anyhow.

If you're into burning music CDs, you'll be happy to know that iTunes comes bundled with the eMac, as does iPhoto and

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This month's 3rd Tuesday

Tues. Aug. 20 Program 7-9 pm at Melbourne Public Library

Make OS 9 Turn on a Dime

with Mark Fosgate

For those of us who haven't made the leap to OS X, Mark Fosgate, club secretary, will give a friendly little review of how to optimize your system setup under OS 9. If your OS isn't running smoothly and efficiently, nothing else will. Do you ever wonder what all those control panels and extensions are and whether you really need them? Does "allocate more memory to your application" sound like something only a geek can do? Take heart! After Mark's presentation, you'll be ready to tune up your OS 9 and keep it humming until you're ready for OS X... which will be the topic of September's meeting!

C A L E N D A R

FIRST WEDNESDAYS AT EGPL, 7PM

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-whenver.

3RD TUESDAYS AT MPL, 7PM

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. Followed by dinner somewhere.

Tues., Aug 20, MPL

Wed., Sept 4, EGL

Tues., Sept 17, MPL

Wed., Oct 2, EGL

Tues., Oct 15, MPL

Can't get enough? Check out our Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings on www.macmad.org.

Join the SpaceCoast Macintosh Users Group (scmug.org) for lunch every Friday

at the Merritt Square Picadilly Cafeteria, 12:30 p.m. For more tech events, check out www.spacecoasttech.com.

SO ANYHOW, IF YOU WANT A NEW ZIPPY LITTLE MAC WITH A NICE BRIGHT CLEAR SCREEN, OS X POTENTIAL AND INTERFACES TO EVERYTHING, but your wallet's a little thin, think eMac. In the interest of completeness, I searched online for eMac reviews and here's some responses from educational users:

I think the key word here is TCO (Total Cost of Ownership). That's what the PC world lacks, especially when you start multiplying them in a large school network. With a Mac, you plug in the main, ethernet, keyboard, mouse and Boom!!! you're on the network!!!! TRY THAT ON XP!!! These all in one boxes may not be upgradeable but when you have ONE company making EVERYTHING ... that saves VALUABLE time when installing a new education network ... and who says u can't use Mac's with PC Networks!!! you aint used Macs properly!! Dont get me wrong. I

work with PC's and have 7 at home, Mac's do have their downfalls but for an all-round system you can't go wrong.

"Superb machine for All Schools"

I'm the computer consultant for my all-PC school board in an Ontario, Canada, school district. Until the past year I was very against all Apple products. With the advent of OS X I am a convert. It's too bad that my school district is too myopic to see the benefits of the much cheaper to maintain Mac series of machines. Overall, the level of productivity of our school district's students would improve

immeasurably if 1,000 of these new eMacs were installed, not to mention the reduced cost to our region's taxpayers due to the long-term sustainability of these machines compared to the licensing costs of an equivalent Windows XP setup (the latter, of course, has fewer capabilities compared to OS X).

"Best computer for EDU. Period."

Windows morons don't understand ... it doesn't matter what platform you start on, it's what you learn that counts. From a school

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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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Apple's eMac... *continued from front*

iMovie, as well as AppleWorks and lots of other stuff like the World Book Encyclopedia and things students and people with time to learn would love. The eMac was originally designed for the low-budget, high-needs, rough-and-tumble schoolroom but is such an awesome little machine that Apple was forced to capitulate and sell it to all of us. It runs OS X, the Classic environment and, for those of us compelled to continue living in darkness, OS 9.2.2. After the next deadline, I hope to switch back and forth a bit and get used to OS X. Rumors are that QuarkExpress will be OS X ready by January...

So what are the downsides? Well, I can

THE MINUTES

About Last Meeting, July 16, 2002

by Mark Fosgate, Club Secretary

Jim Staal, club president, opened the meeting at 7:10pm with approximately 20 persons present and gave kudos to the membership on submitting articles to the club newsletter.

Jim gave the floor to Jay Fleming, club VP, who gave us an overview of the types of Tuesday meetings we will be having for the next several months.

Ray Legall, Co-VP with Jay, introduced the guest speaker of the evening, Chris Kridler of the Florida Today newspaper, whose passion is storm chasing. Chris gave an entertaining presentation on how she uses her iBook and an older PowerBook in the pursuit of her storm chasing. This has her own website for more details on storm chasing: <http://www.skydiary.com>.

Ray Legall showed a part of a DVD training set that is available through tackyshirt.com.

From the TackyShirt website: TackyShirt is producing and distributing a DVD-format training program that will teach consumers how to use Apple's recently introduced, next-generation operating system, Mac OS X. The product will consist of approximately 16 hours of video distributed in a single package on four DVDs, with an MSRP of \$49.99. The video content will cover every aspect of OS X from simple mouse usage to more advanced multi-platform file sharing. The information will be presented in a logically structured, entertaining and educating manner, so that the viewer will be familiarized with all the idiosyncrasies and features of Mac OS X. They'll know it's capabilities, and they'll know how to keep out of trouble.

Dinner site voted on was Bennigan's. Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

upgrade memory and hard drive space and not much else. But you know what? I bought a blue & white G3 thinking I would upgrade it and the truth is, next year it will probably be a doorstop and I'll be breaking out the plastic for a G5. All I ever did was add memory, a hard drive, and a SCSI card that I'm no longer using. In my publishing-intensive business, I've had to come to grips with the fact that technology changes so fast that every two years, I'm buying all new everything. It kind of kills the profit but makes life exciting, or so I try to tell myself.

New eMac Reviews & Accolades...

continued from front

admin point of view, it should not be about what the kids might be using when they leave (yes, it will probably be something like Windows, but a version that bears as much resemblance to the Windows of today as DOS does to Windows 95), it should be about overall value and when you look at overall value, Macs beat PCs all over the block with a hockey stick. The presence of modern Macs in a school is an easy and EXCELLENT way to quickly tell if your kids' school is going to expand their minds, or (if it's full of PCs) if it's just a cubicle farm team.

Did You Miss the Storm Chaser?

July's meeting featured the work of a real live storm chaser and creative sparker, Chris Kridler. See hundreds of really WOW photos of storm events and yes, some classic Florida sunrise and sunset pix at Chris' website: skydiary.com, which also features KID-STORM, with facts about tornadoes, lightning, hurricanes, and storm chasing for big kids and little kids alike.

TO 3RD TUESDAY MEETING, August 20...

Bring a friend! Come to the meeting and join us for dinner!

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