

KeyMac Journal

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mike Wall

Well, I took the bull by the horns and installed Tiger (to mix up the animal kingdom a bit) on my iBook, and it was a non-event; no glitches, no problems, it just worked. And I'm really happy with it. The Install CD offers three types of installation; if your system has been behaving well the recommended and simplest is 'Upgrade', which is what I did. This leaves all your files, applications, and settings just as they were and simply replaces the operating system. When I rebooted I found Safari, e-mail, etc., worked as before and there is very little difference in the way the everyday things that most of us use operate. So there is no reason to worry about switching to Tiger, with one caveat; if you have some older and/or non-Apple software there is a slight possibility it might not work in Tiger. You may be able to find out about any compatibility problems on Apple's website. Also, there is a comprehensive article in the August issue of MacHOME about installing Tiger, including instructions for backing up your existing system in case you want to revert to it later. Much of what the article recommends is overkill in my opinion, I did hardly any of it. (*Editor's Note: Alan Houtzer recommends using the 'Upgrade, Archive & Install' type of installation; see KeyMac Journal, May issue.*)

I won't go into detail about Tiger's new features since there is an article on it elsewhere in this issue but the two top items in my book are the very powerful and fast search tool called Spotlight, and the wonderful world of Widgets which puts all sorts of useful items—a calculator, dictionary, weather, world clock, stickies and many other items of your choice—on your desktop with one mouse click, and removes them the same way.

New subject: the photographers among you have no doubt used iPhoto and iDVD to create slideshow DVDs which you can play on your home entertainment system, but like me you may have been frustrated by the fact that you can't (as far as I know) add narration or text to the pictures when you use this method, and there is a very limited number of transitions available. There's a better way: create your slideshow in iMovie. It's easy to import the still pictures you want to use and you can then add voice as well as background music, add text on

individual photos, choose from many different transitions, plus the "Ken Burns Effect," which is a neat way to add a little spice to the show. If you haven't already done so, give it a try. Maybe we'll do a program on this in the Fall. □



MONTHLY PROGRAMS

August 16: Trip to the Apple Store in Atlanta

September 20: Gladys Calhoun will present a program on the photo-sharing website Flickr, followed by a garage sale/swap meet of items relating to Mac computers and related fields (for example digital photo items).

OS X DISCUSSION GROUP MEETINGS

Activity Center At 10 a.m.

September 6

October 4

November 1

December No meeting



TAME THAT TIGER

Now that Tiger has been unleashed, several of our club members have made the upgrade. With that in mind, the editors announce a new *Key/Mac Journal* column that presents articles solely dedicated to the OS 10.4 operating system. This new segment, currently intended to appear only occasionally, is displayed under the above graphic. Club members who are considering upgrading to Tiger may find these articles helpful as well.

NEW FEATURE IN SAFARI 2.0

(available on OS X 10.4 - Tiger)

Safari RSS

(commonly known as Really Simple Syndication or Rich Site Summary)

One of Safari's new features is an RSS reader built into the browser itself. RSS is a way for websites, such as news organizations, community websites, and personal weblogs, to provide summaries of articles and other new content via a simple summary page called a *feed*.

With Safari 2.0 you no longer need a dedicated RSS client like Thunderbird or NetNewsWire to read these feeds. Safari RSS lets you take the feeds and view them together in a simple, ad-free list, so you can quickly find all the articles that interest you from across the Web.

When Safari encounters an RSS feed, it displays every headline and article summary right in the browser window. To read the complete article, click on the headline or summary to retrieve the web page. Safari has a slider control for customizing the displayed length of each article summary and controls for sorting and filtering displayed articles by date, title, and source.

Safari 2.0 comes with about 80 bookmarked RSS feeds (e.g., CNN News,, CBS MarketWatch, BBC News,

eWEEK Technology News). For other websites that offer an RSS feed, you know right away if you have landed on one, thanks to an RSS icon located to the right of the web address. Click it and Safari automatically displays the feed. Then bookmark the RSS feed so you can return to it later. Safari even tells you when your bookmarked feeds are updated with new articles, so you get the latest news without repeatedly refreshing sites. And if you enjoy scanning the news from all your favorite sites at once, Safari lets you aggregate feeds easily. Create a folder of your frequently viewed RSS feeds from a single window, then browse everything from technology sites to entertainment sites in one cleanly formatted page.

Personal Clipping Service: Using a different approach from that of a search engine, which searches millions of sites on the Internet, Safari zeroes in on only the articles that interest you. Enter a topic keyword into the RSS search field and Safari searches across the currently displayed RSS feeds for matching headlines, then displays the results on a single page. Simply bookmark your search to create a Personal Clipping Service and Safari RSS aggregates new articles that meet your criteria and lets you know when they arrive

The Big Question: Will I benefit from using this feature? Answer (*editor's opinion*): in a limited way if the internet is not a major source of how you obtain news or if you use and are satisfied with another RSS reader; definitely yes if (1)* you use the internet, even to a moderate degree, to keep you updated on news from a variety of sources or if (2) you would enjoy an easy way to check out various current news items of possible interest.

*Example: *The day after the news of the MasterCard security breach broke (June 18), your editor (who set the "Remove articles" features in the Preference pane to retain downloaded articles for only one week) entered the topic keyword "security" into the search field for all 80 collected RSS feeds and found 108 articles regarding security issues (some were duplicates) from 15 different outlets. Approximately 60% of the articles related to identity theft; the remaining 40% were about equally divided among homeland security, Social Security, and other areas of security, including that of foreign governments.*

For an in-depth treatment of Safari RSS, go to the following website and look for a 2-part series entitled *Everything You Wanted to Know About Safari RSS*, written by Francois Joseph de Kermadec: <http://www.macdevcenter.com> □

MASTHEAD

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to deliver faster PowerPC G5 processors in a reasonable time frame as well as its apparent inability to deliver a low-power version of the PowerPC G5 for use in PowerBooks. The advantage of the switch, for all users, is that Apple will be able to deliver machines whose speed is on par with comparable Windows PCs.

2) What About Mac-to-Mac Communications?

You'll certainly be able to network a PowerPC Mac and Intel Mac for data transfer, and it's very likely that you'll be able to FireWire Disk Mode, too. And you'll be able to connect an external hard disk to a PowerPC Mac and then move the hard disk (and all its data) to an Intel Mac. These are functions of the operating system and not of the processor.

3) What Happens to Classic?

At this point, it does not appear that the new machines will run Classic (OS 9). Classic is designed to run on the PowerPC, and getting it run on an Intel processor will be a major challenge. And, you know, it's been five years since Apple introduced OS X. That's a very long grace period for migration to the new operating system and the company may feel that it's time for everyone to move on. Of course, Apple may develop a Classic emulator for Intel-based Macs, but it's not likely to be a top priority for them.

4) When Should I Buy?

Assuming you're not reliant on Classic, it doesn't really make much difference whether you buy now or later. I will likely buy a new computer in the next few months, and I have no qualms about it. Many people upgrade every 18 to 36 months, so at some point, we'll all be getting an Intel-based Mac. My gut feeling? Buy what you want within the next year, and give Apple, and the early adopters, at least six months to work the bugs out of the Intel-based Macs.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Balance June 30, 2005: \$1231.66; Interest: .51; Balance as of June 30, 2005: \$1232.17

macHOME HOT TIPS 6/23/05

Excerpts from THE BIG PROCESSOR SWITCH

Q: I'm a bit perplexed regarding the practical significance of Apple's change from PowerPC to Intel processors. What will be the advantages to ordinary users like me? I am perplexed as I have heard many conflicting things. -- Phil O. (Editor's Note: The writer's four basic questions appear at the top of each answer.)

A: One thing I want to make clear before I answer your questions is that it may be up to a year before Intel-based Macs hit the shelves. A lot of things are still yet to be determined, and some of my answers will reflect that. So let's get started:

1) Why Change Processors?

The change was precipitated by IBM's apparent inability

WHAT OPERATING SYSTEMS do our members use? SURVEY RESULTS

A huge "thank you" to those who responded to the survey. This information helps your editors immensely.

Twenty-six members responded, representing about 55% of the membership. Of these, 16 persons have installed or about to install Tiger; another 6 persons use an earlier version of OS X; 2 persons exclusively use OS 8; 2 persons exclusively use OS 9. Several OS X users need to run Classic for some of their applications.