

KeyMac Journal

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October, 2005

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bob Beaupre

First, a personal note: Our oldest child, a teacher, had her fiftieth birthday so we gave her an iBook. Her response was: "Thanks for the best birthday present I can remember. Kind of a combination of extremely useful tool and a really fun toy."

She looks forward to many hours of looking through the manual and playing on it to find out all it can do.

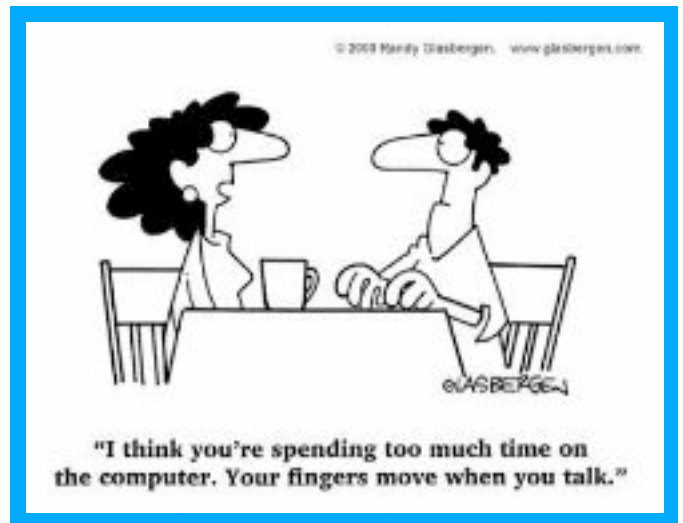
Like my daughter, I wanted to see what all the Tiger could do. So I bought a book, 700 pages, *Mac OS X Tiger* by Maria Langer. I hope to bring it to the next meeting.

While looking for the daughter's letter, I received an e-mail from Apple, which stated, "Choose from over 1200 Dashboard widgets." You can do a Google search for Dashboard widgets which will bring up the Apple address for an informational site on widgets as well as addresses for many other helpful sites.

I realize that many of our members are happy with OS 9. I was terrified considering OS X, but Tiger seemed easy and Dashboard and the Widgets alone make Tiger so very attractive. KeyMac members and staff are so helpful that nearly all members should consider moving up to Tiger.

Dashboard is like a very large desk where everything you want is in sight. It is sort of like an organ keyboard, everything you want to use right in front of you.

Stock values, weather today and for the week, music, games, unit conversions, world clock, phone book, translations, even tracking airplane flights. What more could you ask? There are now over 1400 of them and growing constantly. My impression is that most of them are free. □



MONTHLY PROGRAMS

October 18: Mike Wall and Jack Leitch will demonstrate burning CD's and DVD's using iPhoto, iMovie and iDVD. Included in the discussion will be the use of CD's to back up important information on your hard drive.

November 15: The subject is .Mac and Jacob Miller, of Adamant Technology, will be the speaker. .Mac offers innovative software and many services.

December: No meeting.

OS X DISCUSSION GROUP MEETINGS

November 1: 10 a.m. at the Activity Center.

December 6: Holiday Gathering at the Country Club.

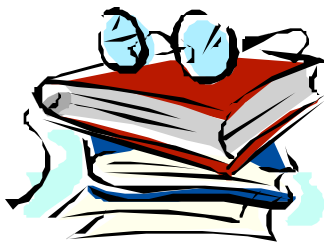
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TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance September 8, 2005	\$1192.02
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**KeyMac Library**

Did you realize that there are many publications available to you through our Library?

Mac OS X Panther Edition *The Missing Manual*
 Mac OS 9, *The Missing Manual*
OS X for Dummies
Quicken Guide for Macintosh Performa Users
 CD's: Games, sample software, internet tools, audio & music, tools to tweak your Mac. etc.
 VCR's: four tapes of different KeyMac meetings focusing on OS X.

Please contact Al Kishbaugh if you are interested in borrowing any of these. □

✓ it Out

Concerning the Mail application when sending a new message: Display the New Message screen. In order to place a recipient's name that is already in your address book into the To: field, do one of the following actions. Begin typing the e-mail address, if you know it, or click on the Address tab in the menu bar and scroll down the addresses to find the one you want. From there, either drag the address into the To: field, or double click the address. □

Inviting Reader Response

If you have had a different experience from the one discussed below or have a comment as to a more effective, efficient solution, please e-mail one of your editors. We are introducing, on a trial basis, a column that can be interactive among our club members.

MOVING PHOTOS FROM THE IPHOTO LIBRARY TO ANOTHER DESTINATION

Usually when you import photos into iPhoto from your digital camera, they will appear with the title something like "IMG_1496." At that point you might change the title to something more descriptive, such as "FilmFestival." However, if you subsequently drag this photo onto the desktop, it will still show the title as "IMG_1496" and you will have to rename it on the desktop.

To overcome this: After changing the title in iPhoto, click on Share in the menu bar (or use the keystrokes Shift/Apple/E) and click on Export. When the Export Photo screen appears, choose File Export; choose Original Format (if JPG, otherwise choose JPG format); choose Use title; choose Use extension; click on Export. The next screen appears and in the Save As field you either rekey in the same title or key in another one (*note: if you did not change the title in iPhoto initially, it will remain there as "IMG_1496"*); choose the destination (in this case, Desktop), and click OK. The photo with the new title now will appear on the desktop. □

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The box said, Win95 or better required... so I used a Mac !"

Tim Scoff

THE COMPUTER GHOST A Fable

By Margret E. Nordquist

A computer is an electronic device that accepts, processes, stores, and outputs data at high speeds, according to programmed instructions—or that's what it is supposed to do; but from the time I was a computer novice, I suspected that a ghost had taken up residence in my central processing unit. I knew only a male could create so much mischief, so I named him Nerd.

At first, Nerd was a timid creature who occasionally sent documents into never-never land, hid saved documents from my view, locked up the computer screen or keyboard, or gave me a blank screen; however, when the worldwide web entered my computer, he became hyperactive. Electronic messages (e-mail) disappeared from the screen and had to be retyped; addresses could not be found; mail was not received, or returned as "undeliverable." Nerd was working overtime to keep me in a constant state of aggravation.

Then came the computer viruses that had to be controlled by anti-virus programs, as did the junk mail that peddled products from birth control pills to Viagra. The e-mails that offered instant riches by helping men from Africa recoup their fortunes in the United States doubled and tripled in my inbox.

Three years ago, when we returned from a 2-week vacation, I found my e-mail inbox overloaded with 2999 mail messages, more than any storage capacity can accommodate. E-mails were returned to legitimate senders because my inbox was full.

"I've had it with PCs," I told my husband, Walter. I will get a new computer, an Apple computer. Those hackers do not target the Mac Operating System like they do "Windows."

"W-e-l-l! You'll be on your own. I won't be able to help you with any of your problems since I am strictly a PC person."

"W-e-l-l," I replied, "You can't take care of my problems now, and I won't have any problems because all Mac computers are user-friendly, even elementary school students know how to use them. And, I will get rid of Nerd."

"Who is Nerd?"

"Nerd is the computer ghost that has been playing havoc with my computer."

"You must be kidding," Walter the electronics expert laughed. "Good luck."

My daughter, Dagmar, who worked for Apple Computer at the time, came to my rescue. She delivered a brand new eMac, loaded with software, including Microsoft Office. All I had to do was plug it in.

"Since you are so used to PCs, I thought you might want to have the Windows Office program with Microsoft Word, Entourage E-Mail, Excel spreadsheets, and Power Point presentations," she said, "so I loaded it onto your computer. Now all I have to do is to back up on your PC and transfer all the data to the eMac."

Little did I suspect that transferring data also gave Nerd a ride onto my virgin Mac computer. He became active right away. He wouldn't allow the vital e-mail address book to be transferred to the alien Mac. So I printed out pages and pages of address book data and re-entered the information.

It seemed to be worth the effort since I no longer received junk mail nor did viruses invade my computer. I had to learn, however, that things in Mac world are done differently, but I became proficient.

Quietly, a frustrated Nerd inside the new alien hard drive was smoldering, gathering strength like hurricanes do. He struck suddenly last year. My "Writing" folder that contained all the stories and memoirs I had written, could no longer be found. A visiting Dagmar was able to retrieve the most important story about my cats, but Nerd would not let go of the rest of the folder.

When Tiger, the new and improved Apple Operating System, made its debut, I was tempted, yet reluctant to buy it. But then on an impulse I did, plus Microsoft Office 2004, and iLife 5, hoping that all that new software would remedy my computer problems.

Nerd was hiding behind the hard disk, snickering, but went into full action mode when I started to load Tiger. I had been assured by members of the Key Mac Computer Club that there was nothing to it, so I backed up the system and inserted the Tiger CD into the DVD drive. I got as far as "Select your Destination" (my Hard Drive), but the HD was grayed out, so I could not select it.

Since, I had extended my Apple Care Protection Plan, I called their Technical Service. After a 12-minute wait, my call was answered by a friendly tech person in Austin, Texas. During the 2-hour session, we checked

the hard disk, ran the Repair Disk program, tried to load Tiger several times, but Nerd was on high alert and prevented all rescue operations.

"It must be a damaged Tiger CD," I was told. "We'll send you a new one." After a few days, the new Tiger CD arrived. I tried to load it, but got no further than "Select your Destination."

Another call to Apple Care. "We'll have to erase your hard disk and reinstall the software," I was told, and foolishly I agreed. I think Nerd must have used his telepathic powers.

To make a long story short, the "erase and reinstall" did not work. I had to take the computer to CompUSA in Greenville, and they were able to install Tiger and get it up and running.

Back home, I started to install Office 2004, but could not import the backed-up data from Office 2001. There were 10 updates available for download—free. Thinking that this would solve my problem. I clicked "Install."

That was the command Nerd had been waiting for. It opened the door to all his buddies for a "let's destroy Margret's computer party." After 30 minutes of download, they succeeded—the screen went black, black like in a "black hole." I restarted the computer and got as far as loading Apple Tiger when the screen turned blue, like in frozen, and frozen it stayed.

The friendly tech person, this time somebody in Canada, offered little hope after I refused another "erase and install" option. I would have to get a "third party disk utility." Since I didn't know what it was, but it sounded like something I would have to purchase in a computer store and install by myself, I politely refused; instead I asked for the tech guru's supervisor.

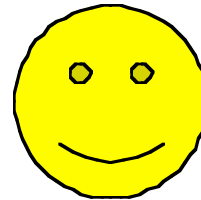
"Well, madam, we don't have supervisors here at Apple, but I can transfer you to a Product Specialist." After another long wait, I was connected and insisted that Apple, under my Apple Care Plan, either repair my computer—and I wasn't going to take it back to Greenville—or send me a new one.

After a few more time-consuming, complicated tests, the Product Specialist concluded that either my hard drive had been corrupted or my downs converter (electrical power supply) damaged.

"We will send out a technician with the proper parts within a couple of days, and he will fix your problems."

"Well, that should take care of my problems," I sighed to the frozen blue computer screen.

Then I noticed a smiling icon blinking at me



I clicked on the icon, and the following appeared on my screen:

"You don't really think a new hard drive will get rid of me, do you?"

Furiously, I typed: *"Sure, it will. You will be discarded with the hardware."*

"What about the backup data you'll have to import to get back all your old files? I'll just latch onto one of them and move to your new hard drive."

"What do you want of me?" I cried in desperation. "Aren't you tired of being a ghost? Don't you want to go on to the next level, like heaven?"

"Not really. I am more like the guy in the Capital One TV commercial—I like to aggravate people; however, I think I have done enough to you. So here is the deal: I will move on, but to do that you will have to forward me to one of your friends or foes in your address book."

"Oh, I couldn't do that!"

"Well, then I will remove your address book and forward myself, and I will take all addresses with me to punish you."

So here I am, with a rebuilt computer, searching for e-mail addresses to enter into my blank address book. Nerd has gone, I don't know where, but BEWARE if your computer starts acting weird and you were in my e-mail address book—he might now reside on your computer. Somehow I miss him because I no longer can blame him for any of **my** computer problems. □