

# KeyMac Journal

Volume 11, Number 3

<http://www.keymug.com>

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## President's Message

### New resources and more entertainment!

I happened upon the web site of a long-time Mac guru, Bob "Dr. Mac" LeVitus

<http://www.boblevitus.com/index.html> .

He has a unique Mac troubleshooting and training business—via the web. With a plug-in to your browser, they can resolve issues over the web, and via phone if they need to. I called and discussed the resource opportunity and after reviewing the FAQ and the other information, it appears to be a genuinely good resource. They said the average call for troubleshooting results in a charge of \$30 to \$60, and training is \$60 an hour. Check it out. You can sign up for their free tip newsletter and see their free resources.

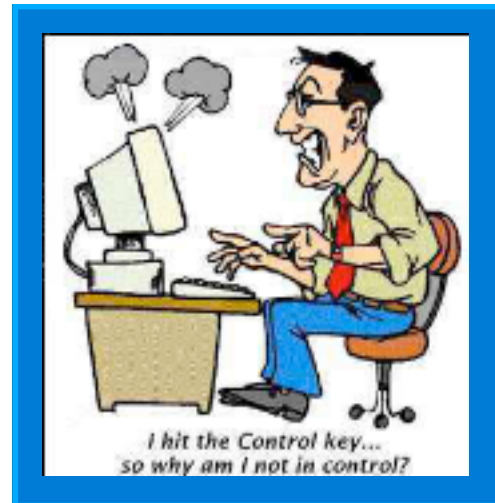
And, the other good part is that they offered to do an interactive video podcast to our KeyMac meeting, with a mike set-up for Q&A, etc. Their suggestions for topics were Backup, The 10 Shareware Programs Everyone Should Have, and The Dr. Mac 10 Best Tips. Sounds great—we are going to try to schedule one soon..

Plus, they alerted us to a number of other resources (software firms, et al) that are anxious to do the same kind of interactive calls.

Meantime, Wayne and others will be carrying the load. May is going to be a fun session on web sites.

See you soon,

*Gene*



## MONTHLY PROGRAMS

**March 20:** Gerry Holzman and Wayne Walker will discuss and demonstrate the use of iPhoto and iTunes.

**April 17:** "The State of the Words" A conclusion of the two part review of Word Processors for Macintosh computers, and if time allows a look at the powerful but forgotten utility Activity Monitor.

**May 21:** Exploring web sites.

**June 19:** "Power Googling: How to maximize your search efforts in Google."

## OS X DISCUSSION GROUP

*Informal gatherings where members help members*

**May 1** 10 a.m. to noon  
**June 5** 10.a.m. to noon.

**Editor's note:** The KeyMac Club's web address is now located on the heading of the *Journal*. Members are asked to register and should visit the site often for updates.

**MASTHEAD**

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**PUTTING YOUR HARD DRIVE ON A DIET'**

by Wayne Walker  
(part one)

I'll bet that when you bought your hard drive you thought, "That's so much space! It will take forever to fill this one up." Hard drive capacities, like computer power, have been steadily increasing for decades, so the hard drive you purchased a while back soon starts to seem crowded as time goes by. Since prices are falling as capacity is going up, it is always tempting to immediately buy a new drive. At the same time since prices are coming down fast, postponing the purchase until you can find just the right deal is often part of the process. Depending on the situation, sometimes a new hard drive isn't really needed at all. Sometimes we just need to put our hard drive on a diet. This article is the first in a series of techniques for slimming down a bloated hard drive.

**Treasurer's Report**

Balance Feb. 12, 2007	\$1051.44
Deposits: dues paid	250.00
Interest:	.43
Balance March 13, 2007	\$1301.87

**Hard Drive Diet Tip #1 -- Speak English, please.**



The Mac is very multilingual. In fact one could argue that it's too multilingual. Hidden within your Macintosh operating system and the programs that run on it is the ability to speak several languages. For instance, did you know that your Mac speaks Amharic? Not only did I not know my Mac spoke that language, I didn't know what that language was before I looked it up—and I'm a former linguist.

**ANNUAL TRAINING CLASSES**

**AppleWorks** Thursday, April 12 9-12 a.m.  
(Word Processing and some basic Spreadsheets, if there is enough interest)

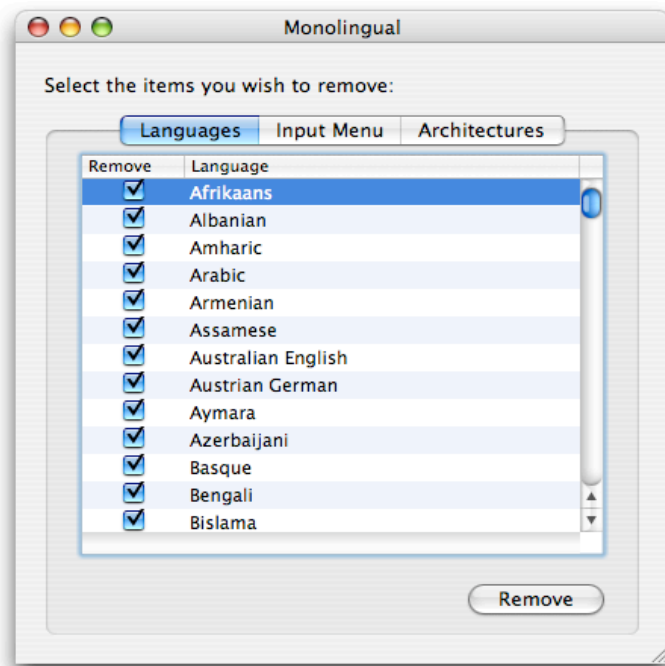
**Mail and Internet** Thursday, May 10 9-12 a.m.

The classes will be held in the Cherokee Room at the Activity Center which is limited to fifteen people. If interested please notify Jack Leitch ([phyjac@mindspring.com](mailto:phyjac@mindspring.com) or 944.6255) or Gene Madill ([madillg@bellsouth.net](mailto:madillg@bellsouth.net). or 944.7161) as soon as possible.

Amharic is the second most spoken Semetic language in the world after Arabic and is the official language of Ethiopia. There. Even if you don't learn how to slim down your hard drive, at least you're more prepared for that Jeopardy appearance. Surprisingly, Hebrew is only the fourth most commonly spoken Semetic language. Bonus points for knowing the third, but please remember to phrase your answer in the form of a question.

Most of us only want to communicate with our computer in one language, and even if someone is incredibly gifted in languages out of 132 languages installed on your Mac there are at least a couple you're not fluent in. Removing these language packs will save space on your computer. Monolingual is a free utility which removes unwanted languages from your

operating system and all your programs automatically. According to the Monolingual website, you may experience a savings of up to 200 mb. I ran Monolingual on my MacBook hard drive which has far less programs installed than my desk-top Mac and saved 157 mb. Fast, easy, free.



As pre-configured, Monolingual recommends leaving 15 major languages un-touched. I complied with that recommendation. It is also a good idea to uncheck (leave intact) all the various forms of English. You never know when the next wonderful piece of software you want to install just happens to be in Australian English.

This points out another unexpected benefit of Monolingual. I learned that I speak four languages that I didn't previously know I speak. Canadian, New Zealand, Australian, and UK English. Although I won't go so far as to say I speak them fluently, since George Bernard Shaw famously said, "England and America are two countries separated by a common language."

Monolingual also has the capability of removing unnecessary architecture code from programs. Currently the format of any modern program for the Mac is in universal binary. This means that it contains the necessary code to run on a PowerPC architecture computer or a computer with an Intel CPU. While the software is universal binary, your computer is not. It is either one or the other, so part of the code on any modern program is bloatware on your computer and is not used at all. However, there is another competing product that I like a bit better for dealing with this issue,

so I will save the full discussion of dealing with improper architecture code for a my next article in this series.

Monolingual is completely free. The current version as of this writing is 1.3.7. It can be downloaded at <http://monolingual.sourceforge.net>

## ColorSync Utility to Quickly Shrink Images

from Smalldog.com

I discovered this tip by accident. A customer asked how he could quickly reduce the size of digital images for sending via email. The customer didn't want to use iPhoto or Mail to do this (see Mac Treat #14 for how to resize photos in OS X Mail.) Also, he didn't want to download the excellent (and free) ImageWell application (linked below.) Basically, he wanted to do what he was used to doing in Windows—right-clicking on an image to resize it.

To do this in Tiger, select an image you wish to resize. Right-click on the image, or, if you use a laptop or a single-click mouse, click on the image while holding down the control key (usually the key located in the lower left corner of the keyboard.) A contextual menu will open up. In this menu, select "Open With" and chose "Color Sync Utility."

In ColorSync Utility, click on the square resizing icon, which is second from the right. If you don't see the square resizing box icon, click on the oval tic tac-looking button on the upper right corner of the ColorSync window.

When you click on the square resizing box, a menu will open up, with an option to Resize: scale. You can chose how small you want the image to be by percentages. You won't see the changed to the image until you save it. IMPORTANT NOTE: the new, smaller image will overwrite the original image unless you choose Save > As and rename the new image. This is why iPhoto is great—nondestructive image editing means you can always revert to the original photo.

However, for quickly resizing an image, ColorSync Utility is fast—it only take four steps, including saving the image.

Download ImageWell to make simple image edits (including scaling them down)here:

<http://www.xtralean.com/IWOOverview.html>

## Instantly Backup Your Address Book Mac Treat #17

By Ed@Smalldog.com

This Mac Treat is about how to instantly back up your Address Book—so, in the absolutely worst case scenario, you'll have access to all your addresses.

I typically use iSync and .Mac to backup and sync my Address Book across multiple Macs, and on my Treo cell phone. However, a few months ago something happened during the iSync process, and all my addresses were tripled. What a pain! Luckily, I religiously (maniacally) back up my Address Book using its extremely easy File > Back up Address Book feature. I was able to use this to restore everything from my back up. From there I reset iSync and .Mac sync preferences, and I was back in order.

How to do it:

1. Launch Address Book.
2. In the menu bar at the top of the screen, browse File > Back up Address Book
3. A dialog appears, asking where you want to save your Address Book back-up. Note that by default, the current date will be added to the saved file name. Choose where you want to save the backup, then click Save.

That's it. I typically email a copy of this back up file to myself—so I'll have it saved on my email web-server. You can also burn it to CD or save it to a flash drive iPod. If you are worried about security or privacy, you can easily lock your exported address in an encrypted disk image. Read how on our blog:

<http://blog.smalldog.com/article/318/creating-an-encrypted-disk-image>

It's easy to restore your Address Book from the backed up file. To restore: In Address Book, choose Revert to Address Book Backup from the File menu. In the resulting dialog, locate your backup file (it ends with a .abbu extension), select it, and click Open.

Finally, you can also export all your addresses as a group vCard. To do this,

1. Launch Address Book.
2. In the menu bar at the top of the screen, browse File > Export Group vCard.

3. A dialog appears, asking where you want to save the group vCard. Choose where you want to save the backup, then click Save. vCards can be opened, imported and read by most modern PIM applications, including Palm Desktop and the Daylight Productivity programs.

## Finding your Lost Address Book

By Don@Smalldog.com

I was innocently working at my Mac when I needed to look up an address. When I opened the AddressBook application, I was stunned—there were none of my 750 addresses present. All there was was a blank database. I had a bit of fear I had lost all those addresses from 20+ years of storing them on my Mac when I realized that I had them on my MacBook, synced to my .Mac account, had a recent backup on my spare drive, had them on my iPod and on my cell phone.

Nevertheless, I was not happy that they were gone when I needed them. I discovered an interesting tip, if you find yourself in a similar situation. If you follow this path ~Library -->Application Support--> AddressBook you will find both a file entitled "AddressBook.data" and a file entitled "AddressBook.data.previous".

If you should find yourself with an empty AddressBook, simply close the AddressBook application and change the name of "AddressBook.data" to something like "lost my way.darn" or anything but AddressBook.data. Then, change the name of "AddressBook.data.previous" to "AddressBook.data". Open the AddressBook application and all your names and addresses should be recovered.

The real lesson here is very clear. If you have ANY critical information on your Mac, make back-ups! I love the signature of my friend, David Lerner, from Tekserve in New York city—"May You have 1000 Backups and Never Need One".

## FYI

The following is an interesting web-address of one person's thoughts on useful sites.

**Lloyd's List of The 25 Most Useful Sites on the Internet:**

<http://www.aiapvc.org/25mostuseful.htm>

## Harold, the Computer Guy

I was having trouble with my computer.

So I called Harold, the computer guy, to come over.  
Harold clicked a couple of buttons and solved the problem.

He gave me a bill for a minimum service call.

As he was walking away, I called after him, "So, what was wrong?"

He replied, "It was an ID ten T error."

I didn't want to appear stupid, but nonetheless inquired,  
"An ID ten T error? What's that, in case I need to fix it again?"

Harold grinned..."Haven't you ever heard of an ID ten T error  
before?"

"No," I replied.

"Write it down," he said, "and I think you'll figure it out."

So I wrote down I D 1 0 T

I used to like Harold