

KEYMAC

JOURNAL

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bobby Morrison, the Apple Solutions Consultant formerly at the Apple Store inside the CompUSA in Greenville, has been training sales people in Best Buy stores in the region since the CompUSA deal with Apple ended in December. He asked for a meeting of the local Mac user groups recently, so Wayne and I joined with folks from the Greenville, Greer, and Spartanburg MUGs to see what was going on. Depending upon your perception, not much and quite a lot.

A "big-box" store in Greenville, not yet allowed to be named (hint: the store is painted navy blue and yellow), will be opening a Mac area in-store, one-fourth the size of the old CompUSA Apple area. They won't be stocking lots of expensive inventory, but they will order things for delivery in two days. They will be working to get service people trained on Macs and will some day have Apple-certified techs. Yawn...

Meantime, there is sort of confirmed rumor that iPlace, formerly in Greer on Pelham Road, is moving to the commercial area next to High Cotton restaurant in the Greenville West End. Their service will be done at a different location, but the early story is that they will be stocking computers and a wide range of accessories in the new store. We'll see.

There is a need for a better service solution for our area – nothing better on the horizon right now than the Apple stores in Atlanta. And, AppleCare is truly a world-class program that everyone should have. More as we know it.

- Gene Madill

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DockLock 2.0

Software Review

A very common problem for many Mac users is that the layout of the Dock seems to change on its own. "There used to be an icon for ___ right here, but it vanished," they will say. Then they look suspiciously at their computer as if it is doing things behind their back.

Now, no one who isn't using your computer at the time of the mysterious disappearance can be certain why this happens. However, I would guess with high degree of certainty that this is most likely user error. The majority of these instances are caused by inexact mouse usage. Let me explain.

The proper way to delete an icon from the Dock is to click and hold the mouse button down over that icon, then drag it off the Dock area. As this is done, a little puffy cloud symbol appears with the icon to indicate it will disappear if released. As the icon disappears, the system makes a little 'poof' sound to indicate what is happening. Unfortunately, all it takes is a fraction of an inch of movement when clicking on an icon for the Mac to interpret this as an intention to delete that icon. It is very easy to make this movement in one fast motion by mistake, thereby changing the Dock permanently. Even experienced users, in a moment of inattention, can make this mistake. If your sound is turned down or there is a lot of ambient noise, the 'poof' goes unnoticed in the background, and the Dock has mysteriously changed "on its own."

DockLock is a small, inexpensive utility program which fixes this problem. It locks icons in place on the Dock so that they cannot be changed accidentally. In

addition to the namesake function of locking the Dock, DockLock gives you control over many other details of how the Dock appears and functions. The user can change back to a 2D dock if the default Leopard 3D look is not to your liking. The Dock settings can be password protected to add more security. Icon bounce, Dock size, magnification, position, autohide, and contents can all be controlled and locked down to your liking with this utility.

DockLock comes with a manual and extensive help, which explains that getting back to the preferences for the program requires the user to hold down the control key on launching. This can be frustrating if you are one of those "I'll read the manual later" kind of people. You have been warned.

Unix gurus can make many of these tweaks through the Mac's Terminal application. DockLock gives these settings an intuitive interface so that us mere mortals can change them. Furthermore, DockLock's help file lists in detail how to make each change using the Terminal, so in essence, DockLock can be used as a command line reference for controlling the Dock.

I can't end a discussion of DockLock without talking about what a great bargain it is. If you only need DockLock to make sure your icons don't move on their own, then it is free and you don't need to register. Just make sure to NOT enter a password in the security section of its preferences, and it will continue to function without being registered. If you do choose to purchase the program for the ability to change those other settings, it is only \$8! This is a fantastic deal. This \$8 license includes all computers owned by a person, including that of their spouse. There are

educational and volume licenses available also.

I corresponded with the developer, Edward Castle, and asked how and why he choose to be so generous. He said, "Well, as to the why . . . I guess that I would ideally want all my software to be free. I have no pressing financial reason to charge, but DockLock seemed to offer a great compromise, meaning only heavy users would likely need to register." In my mind, this is an example of how great the Mac software developer community is.

DockLock is for Leopard only. Sorry, Tigers. It is available online at http://www.armelline.com/DockLock_2.0.html. *We will be giving away two copies of DockLock at the May 20th regular meeting.*

KeyMac Club Schedule for '08

All meetings are in the Keowee Room as far as we know.

OS X Meetings

June 3rd 10am
August 5th 10am
September 2nd 10am
October 7th 10am
November 4th 10am

General Meetings

May 20th 10am
June 17th 10am
July - no meetings
August 19th 10am
September 16th 1:30pm
October 21st 1:30pm
November 18th 10am
December - no meetings - Holiday Party December 9th at the Club

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Apple Lore

Sosumi

[There are a lot of great stories in the tech world that need to be told. This is one of them.]

Today's story is the history of the Mac system sound called Sosumi. It's that pleasant little Xylophone musical note. You can hear this sound on your Mac by going to System Preferences>Sound. Then scroll down the list and select Sosumi. What we're really interested in is how Sosumi got its name.

First, the background. Apple Corps Ltd. was founded in 1968 by the British rock group The Beatles. Apple Computer, Inc. was founded on April 1, 1976 by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak, and Ronald Wayne. Apple Computer's unfortunate choice of names set it on a collision course with Apple Corps. In 1981, the two companies forged a cease fire. Apple Computer paid Apple Corps \$80,000, and Apple Computer agreed not to enter the music business while The Beatles' corporation agreed not to enter the computer business.

Not surprisingly, it was easy for The Beatles to uphold their end of the agreement. However, as personal computers went through their amazing evolution, it became harder and harder for Apple Computer to stay out of music. This legal battle would haunt Apple for years. The Beatles would sue Apple Computer a total of four times. This led to the unfortunate situation where Apple's legal department became the final authority in what the computer would be allowed to do. Apple legal cancelled music projects and changed names within computer code itself to obscure the

growing musicality of their computers. Eventually, the musical abilities of the computer became too strong to ignore, and Apple would change tactics finally winning in 2006.

Our story, however, happens in 1989, when Apple Computer was in the middle of this bitter struggle. At this time, System 7 was under development. The sound engineer in charge of the Apple Sound Manager for the new system was named Jim Reekes. Jim was testing hundreds of sounds for possible inclusion in System 7. He had just come up with the sound we know today as Sosumi, which he called Xylophone. Very quickly, a negative ruling came back from Apple legal: too musical, change the name. In addition to this, legal ruled that he had to change the name of an important variable in his code from 'noteCmd' to 'frequencyCmd' which caused the entire application to break.

Frustrated with the extra work caused by the red tape, Reekes was discussing how to rename Xylophone with his department when in a flash of inspiration he blurted out his idea for both the perfect name and the perfect revenge: Let It Beep! (A pun on The Beatles song title 'Let it Be.') This idea was a big hit, causing the majority of the department to collapse into laughter. Finally, one more literal soul pointed out that they could never get away with that. Reekes, responded with "So sue me."

Wait a minute. So sue me? Sosumi!

The new sound was named Sosumi and Reekes had his liaison with legal make up a story about a Japanese meaning for the word that had absolutely nothing to do with music. Legal was appeased, and that's how the system sound Sosumi got its name.

Much Ado at MS

First, the good news. A patch entitled SP1 (Service Pack 1) has been released for Microsoft Office 2008 for the Mac. This fixes a long list of problems in both stability and security. If you own Mac Office, make sure you download and install this important patch. Although the update addresses over 1,000 issues, it still does not cover all the reported bugs in Office. Ouch.

Next, on to lighter fare. This problem does not effect Mac user at all, but it is still worth noting. Users of MSN Music got a nasty surprise this month. Microsoft announced that as of August 31 of this year they are pulling the plug on the license servers that authenticate music purchased through their service. Don't worry, says Microsoft, as long as your current computer continues to work, you'll have no problems. If you upgrade your computer, need to reinstall Windows, or have to buy a totally new computer, however, the music you already paid for can no longer be played. Sorry.

When Office 2008 came out, it was missing Visual Basic. This meant that it was not truly compatible with Office 2007, and that many complicated scripts that had been professionally developed stopped working. Business customers howled. Well, howl no more because the Mac team at Microsoft, which had previously said it wasn't practical to bring VB to the new Office, now says they have changed their minds. VB will be in the *next* version of Office. No clear word on how long that will be. Sometime before 2012, says MS.

Ah, Microsoft. You always know how to make me laugh.

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Menubar Date

Every now and then someone asks how to have the Mac display the date in the Menubar. Mike Wall sent me a tip on two ways to achieve this. There is a way to edit your System Preferences to achieve this effect. There is also a third-party, free application that will do this.

Adding the date to the Menubar by editing the System Preferences is a multistep process. Apparently, this trick only works in Leopard.

1. Go to System Preferences>International, and choose the Formats tab.

2. Next to Dates, click the Customize button. First, note how the date is formatted to begin with, as you may want to restore this later. Now format the date how you would like it to appear on your Menubar. You can spell out the day, include the year or not. It's all up to you. Experiment. When you've got the format you want, click in the text field (where the format changes have shown up). Select all and copy the date format. Select the OK button, or to have the date revert to how it was before you started the editing process, hit Cancel.

3. Now we want to edit the Time portion, so click the Customize button next to it. The Mac uses the Medium size for the Menubar, so you must change the drop down menu from Short, which is the default each time you go to this screen, to Medium. If you do not do this, your changes will not show up in the Menubar. Place the cursor in the text box where the medium time format is displayed, and paste the date format in. You can also reposition your cursor where you want the date to appear and type any characters to set it off. In this example, I used brackets. When done, click the OK button.

Type text and drag time elements to customize a format.

Show:

[Jan 5] 7 : 08 : 09 PM

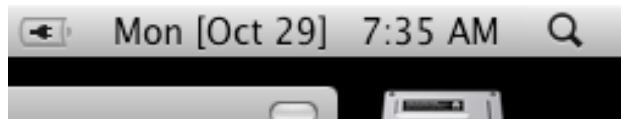
Time Elements

Hour	<input type="button" value="7"/>	AM/PM	<input type="button" value="PM"/>
Minute	<input type="button" value="08"/>	Time Zone	<input type="button" value="EST"/>
Second	<input type="button" value="09"/>	Milliseconds	<input type="button" value="000"/>

Before Noon:

After Noon:

If you've done these steps correctly, the date will immediately display next to the time on the Menubar. If it does not, review the steps for something you missed. I, for instance, forgot to

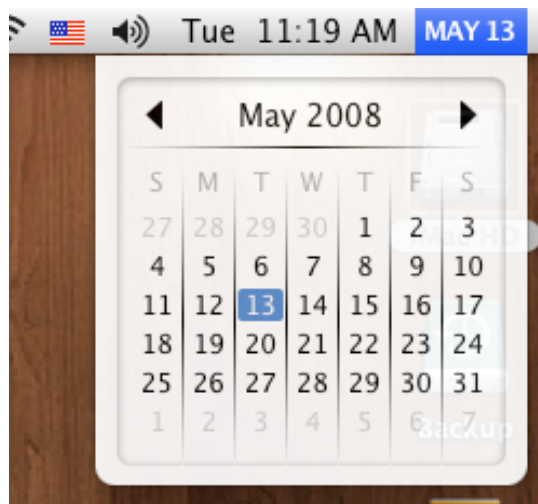


set the format to Medium the first time I tried this.

I would consider this approach a bit of a kludge. In computer lingo, a kludge is a sloppy, inelegant solution. The reason I would classify this as a kludge is that it is not editing the Menubar only, which is what we're trying to accomplish, but editing a system wide setting. This means that any other program on the Mac that uses the medium time setting will suddenly have the date included, whether you want it to or not. That is how global settings work.

Adding the date to the Menubar is both easier and less kludgy by using the free program MagiCal. Plus MagiCal is a solution that is good for system versions 10.3 and up. This app has a wide array of configurations in how the date will appear, and it also has a tear off calendar that can be positioned anywhere on the desktop.

Magical is available on the web at <http://www.charcoaldesign.co.uk/magical>.



KeyMac Journal Legalese

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