



Rmug News

January 2006

This Month

RMUG Meeting, Saturday morning
January 21, 2006 9-11:30 AM

All Mac users, new & old are invited
to attend the next RMUG general meeting
at:

Yaks Koffee Shop
3274 Bechelli Lane
Redding, CA

Coffee and various eats are available
during our "Get Acquainted" time, 9am to
10am. There are classes for "Beginners"
and "Intermediate" from 9:15 to 10:00 am.

Topics this month will include
discussions and observations about
MacWorld from those that went, along
with personal creativity comments,
wisdom and issues as well as the usual
Q&A.

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Rmug Officers

Dale Josephson - President
Jim Pace - Vice President
Charlotte Ruskowitz - Treasurer
Jacque Martin - Secretary
Pat Henderson - Librarian
Ken Lorenz - Editor
Barbara Benefield,
Louise Zegers,
- Hospitality

President's Letter

I always like to guess what will be introduced at MacWorld, and with websites such as thinksecret.com it is pretty easy to be close. I am sitting at home in the midst of a horrible cold and it may be my medication or I may have struck on the MacWorld surprise. It is software that may have features best done with the intel chip so we old Motorola types will move on in a year or eighteen months when our particular model of intel is introduced. It is so obvious, yet so grandiose, that most of us missed it. Apple isn't just going to debut a set top box for digital music and movies as so many pundits have predicted, Apple is going to introduce a whole house distribution system. The new distribution model will allow digital movies to be shared but not copied. Devices such as laptops, other PCs or Macs with a sufficient version of iTunes installed will be able to share the video library with wired or wireless networks. There really is a reason to get the 30" Apple Display and minimum G5 to drive it properly. It will be your video center at home. The rumor is the new mac Mini will grow just a bit to accommodate cheap 400 GB 3 1/2 hard drives. The new mini will probably support 2 GB of ram and still be in one slot.

There are other strong rumors that there will be a 13.5 inch sub-iBook powered by an intel chip. It would make good business since for Apple to introduce the standard models before they introduce the high horsepower models.

I, as a businessman, want iMacs or above to conduct business. How about HDs that could be turned on and off like the server models but lets have this feature at all higher end levels, not just the X-Serve. Apple, just plan on some extra HDs being installed and please remember the four drive bays in the Mirror Door G4s? We have lost these features in your new line up and miss them!

Now on a non computer subject. How many of you have a full bottle of cough syrup that is not outdated somewhere in your home? How about Aspirin, AlkaSeltzer and your other favorite cold remedies. I was caught off guard recently when my surprise holiday guest showed up. I sure wish I had some medicines stocked up but I did not. So as one friend to another, please get prepared as colds are a pain and for the most part miserable wastes of time. You don't even feel good enough to read and your back will already be sore from too many hours spent laying down.

RMUG Information

Why RMUG? The Redding Macintosh Users' Group was formed to help members and new users obtain maximum enjoyment and performance from their computers. This is accomplished through group activities and our direct affiliation with Apple™.

Resources: RMUG resources include monthly mailings from Apple™ and numerous outside vendors. We have a library of public domain programs, games and shareware software. We have videos and other computer-related guidebooks and information.

Meetings: RMUG meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month from 9:00 to 11:30 am – contact any club officer for meeting location. The meetings give members and visitors an opportunity to share information, opinions, personal experiences and techniques regarding Macintosh computer systems—hardware & software.

Membership Information: We invite you, as a guest, to attend our next monthly meeting. If you decide to join RMUG, your membership fee includes your whole family. We need your help as much as you need ours! Please participate!

Welcome To Our Meetings: Call the President, Marcus Harner at 245-0895 or contact other RMUG officers for help. Go to <http://rmug.org/membership.html> for numbers.

Membership Dues: \$24 / year. Includes newsletters, access to shareware, monthly workshops, troubleshooting help. Payment of dues can be made at the monthly meetings or send them to: *Charlotte Ruskowitz, 6538 Mossom Ln., Anderson CA 96007* . Please make check payable to: Redding Macintosh Users' Group.

SECRETARY'S NOTES:

MINUTES - RMUG MEETING, DECEMBER 10, 2005

The December meeting was held at the YAKS Koffee Shop. Thirty-three members and guests attended.

We have another new member: Lacy Lamoire. Welcome

Dues are due for 2006: \$24. Please pay Charlotte.

The following are tips and answers to questions asked.

. When Jimi tried installing new RAM, it doesn't appear to work – her screen stays blank . When she took the RAM out, the machine booted normally. Michael said the RAM had not seated – that you have to push real hard to get the sides to snap in.

. Pat asked, with her iMac running Tiger, when she prints, the printing starts with the last page and will not double side even tho one box says print double side. Michael said, in page setup, to select the printer she is using, and, in Print Dialog Box, check the Print Both Sides box, and also Ascending or Descending for her particular preference as to how printer prints. She will have to set this every time unless she saves to go to this setup every time.

As an alternative, saving as a 'PDF' will print from 'Preview', and you can open any PDF with Preview. The PDF Browser is not Apple, it is in the Adobe Reader Suite. Adobe Reader 7.02 is the most widely used.

. Lacy needs someone to give her lessons in InDesign. She now uses Quark. She will pay a reasonable sum. Ron said iWork had a very good page layout program. Ken uses a different one for the Newsletter – Create????

. Clearwire. Mary said Clearwire bought some of Digipath's equipment. Clearwire is radiowave beamed line-of-site from a tower.

You can select up to 3 different speed connections, good, better or best. Dave has purchased this and likes it very much.

. Frontier DSL. Pat has purchased this.

. Dale said a new edition of 'Color It', an Image Editing starter program, is back. He put 5 copies on the table as door prizes. Michael prefers Photoshop Elements 2 or higher as a starter program toward Photoshop Elements CS.

. Dale discussed 'Handbrake', a program he has found that will rip MP4 files from DVDs????? (See Dale as I may not have this right.)

. Michael offers classes at the Anderson Senior Center every Monday from 1 – 3 except Holidays when the building is closed.

Elections were held for Officers for 2006. Officers are:

President – Dale Josephson
Vice President - Jim Pace
Treasurer - Charlotte Ruskowitz
Secretary - Jacquie Martin
Librarian – Pat Henderson
Editor - Ken Lorenz
Ambassador - Michael Peters
Hospitality - Barbara Benefield, Louise Zegers

Holiday Gift Guide Program:

NOTE: Other than my own wish list, I do not guarantee the accuracy of any of the others. Too much information coming too fast. Please ask the person whose suggestion it was for more (or accurate) information.

Jacquie would like a new Nikon camera. She thinks here preference would be the new Nikon D200 and new lens, 18-200mm f/3.5-5/6 G ED-IF AF-S VR DX Zoom-Nikkor. The camera runs \$1,699.99; the Lens \$749 .99. TOTAL PACKAGE COST: \$2,450.

She is also looking at the Nikon D50 (from \$799. including lens) and D70.

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SECRETARY'S NOTES CONTINUED:

Joe and Louisa are thinking of upgrading their 15" iMac to a 20" iMac G5 from Small Dog for \$1,145. There is also a 17" Laptop PowerBook, refurbished, 1 yr. Warranty for \$2,000. With a 1G chip (\$119) and Extended Warranty (\$139), it would run \$2,258.

Dale brought in to show: Wireless keyboards and mice; Apple Airport Extreme Bay Stations, big and small; a second Hard Drive with USB and Firewire; Backpack from Staples (\$69. - \$75.) that will hold a 17" laptop. He had a Bluetooth card (\$39.) at the shop that he would part with for \$20.; From Small Dog he found an iSkin ProTouch XT Keyboard Protector, Blush, \$19.99; He suggests that everyone get screen protectors for their iBooks and PowerBooks, Approx. \$22., and that they not use chamois as they ruin screens.

Ron passed around a telescope for young people to use – I think it was in conjunction with a computer.??? Each of his grandchildren is getting one for Christmas. Ron also is making Christmas Cards from old pictures to mail to family and friends. He guarantees return phone calls from these.

Mary said you can also put the pictures on blankets by blowing them up and printing them for transfer on special paper she got at Joann's. This all sounded so interesting that Mary is going to do a demo for us as our March program.

There were others, but I lost track.

Thank you very much, all of you, for participating.

[Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be Saturday, January 21, 2006, at Yaks Koffee Shop.](#) The program will be a round table discussion of new and exciting finds at Mac World. If you attended, please participate.

The Board Meeting will be over lunch following the regular meeting.
All are welcome to attend.

Jacquie Martin, Secretary

Old Dogs New Tricks:

IT'S YOUR STORY – JUST DO IT.

Computers are becoming more and more common. This makes it easier to relay information than it has ever been possible. This in turn increases the responsibility of relaying information to your generations following you. May I strongly recommend writing "your story."

Each time I have said this in a group I always get the reply, " But I am just little ol' me. What can I write about"? Or some expressions like that. And it may be true you are not a famous actor, politician, or hero of some type but you have a wealth of information that needs to be passed on to future generations.

Let's consider some of these possibilities. Your medical history of you and your family can be valuable to children and grandchildren. If your mother and 2 of her sisters died of breast cancer your daughters and granddaughters need this information. If your dad and 2 of his brothers died with heart trouble your sons and grandsons need this information. This can be "preventive maintenance" for them.

Family stories need to be passed down to future generations. Your grandparents who left their home in England, Ireland, or wherever made a bold adventure and probably through hard times so you could enjoy the freedom to read this "your story." You probably have famous preachers, outlaws, actors, inventors, or war heroes in your story. Raise the dignity of coming generations with the stories that were passed down to you.

Common family traits are passed from one generation to another. Make a list. Uncle Bill was quick tempered that made him hard to get along with. Aunt Jane was quiet, devout, and momma to the rest of the family. Your grandpa was the serious hard working type. Or whatever traits your family had. It will show up in your kids and grandkids.

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**OLD DOGS NEW TRICKS
CONTINUED:**

You may have strong religious or moral convictions to pass along. The stories like: Your mother and I were both virgins at our wedding. I hope you will follow our example. Or the story of: Your grandfather was a rebel when he was young. He was in trouble with the law most of the time until his religious conversion at 33. After that he became a model husband, father, and citizen. Or a story of Uncle Aaron. He wasted most of his life in prison. Grandkids learn a lesson. You can waste your life also. Don't do it.

Tell about ballpoint pens. You heard there were pens that would write a year without filling and you said, "That is not possible." Tell about automatic transmissions. There were cars that didn't have a clutch and you knew that must be a joke. Tell about microwave ovens that could cook on a paper plate and you said, "There is no way that can be done."

It is said, "When a man dies he takes a library with him." That library is inside of you. Leave a record for the coming generations. Its "your story – just do it."

By Allen Hall

Correction:

On page 3 of the December newsletter, you mention what to do if you forget your password in OS10.

It is wrong that you have to completely erase your hard drive and reinstall. All you need to do is insert your OS X Install CD, boot from the CD by holding C down on bootup, and at the first screen, go to the File menu and choose Reset Password. You can reset any password in the system (including administrative and root passwords)

Jake H
Technology Dept.
Red Bluff Joint Union High School District

Thank you for the information Jake. I ran this

by a couple of the gurus here with regard to safety and privacy and got the following response.

Editor

Hey Michael,
Do you know for a fact that this is true? If so, the OSX is not as secure as the OS9 was.
Your thoughts please. Ken

Heya Ken.
I actually do not know if this is "gospel" or not perhaps we should ask Dale?
I will forward this to him and ask. MJP

So Dale what do you think about the security of OS X if anyone with an install CD can change your passwords?MJP

And how much security do you need? The answer is yes if I can sit down in front of your computer and boot your computer from a System CD for the appropriate OS or newer then the VERY FIRST TIME YOU GET "File" "Edit" etc etc across the top of the screen you go under "File" and "Reset Password" is like the 2nd or 3rd item down.

That is not much of a security breach though. You must have possession of the machine to do this. I could do the same with the VAX computers I used to run for DOD/DOE. If you make it to where the computer is physically located, you can take it over. If you are remote in a different room and can not get to the computer you can not change anything.

Now lets say I am a bit paranoid about people getting onto my computer? I would not set it up to log in automatically and I would have only one ADMINISTRATIVE user and that would be me. Now I would set up my computer to ask me for my password each time I logged in. Now if someone changes the password without my permission I will know the next time I try and log in as I will not know what they changed it to. Remember if there are 2 or more ADMIN users you may not know for awhile about the security breach.

If I were running a DOD/DOE facility, I would have a rule that ANY TIME you walk away from your computer to the point you can not see the screen

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CORRECTION CONTINUED:

YOU MUST "logout"! This would prevent unauthorized access. Again this would work since only you know the password to get back in and if it has been changed with-out your permission, someone gets fired.

Hope this clears up the mud a bit.

dale j

Hints and Tips:

Avoid Voice Mail Runaround

Tired of the "voice mail" runaround? Go to <http://paulenglish.com/ivr/> to find the secret numbers and tips to bypass phone menus to get to a human.

Paul Taylor

Spring Cleaning!

Time to get out those lint-free cloths and go to work on your computer both externally and internally! Luckily, this isn't as involved as my grandmother's spring-cleaning. (Does anyone beat rugs anymore?) We'll start with the outside of the computer. Have you been looking at greasy fingerprints on your laptop or LCD display?

How to Clean the LCD

1. Turn off the computer or display. You may need to turn off the computer in order to turn off some Apple displays.
2. Dampen a clean, soft, lint-free cloth or paper with water only.
3. Wipe the screen. Do not spray liquid directly on the screen.

You may also use a mild glass cleaner that contains no alcohol or ammonia.

While there are many commercial products available that will work without damaging the plastics, Apple has tested a product called Klear Screen, made by Meridrew

Enterprises, and found it does not cause any harm to the plastics. Packages of 12 Klear Screen sell for \$9, or you can buy three packages for \$23 <http://www.smalldog.com/product/40942/atcontest/>

How to Clean the Keyboard

Take care not to spill any liquid on the keyboard. If you do, turn off your computer immediately. Disconnect the keyboard from the computer immediately.

If you spill liquid that is thin and clear, turn off your computer, unplug the keyboard, turn it upside down to let the liquid drain out, and let it dry for 24 hours at room temperature. If after you take these steps the keyboard doesn't work, take it to your Apple-authorized service provider for repair.

If you spill liquid that is greasy, sweet, or sticky, unplug the keyboard and take it to your Apple-authorized service provider for repair.

WARNING: Do not use acetone, alcohol, or any alcohol-based cleaner on your computer. Never spray cleaner directly onto your computer. Liquid could drip inside the screen or case and cause an electrical shock.

To get crumbs out of your keyboard, you can hold it upside down and give it a few shakes, use a clean brush to try to brush the crumbs out, or use a can of compressed air (be careful though, since these can contain moisture). When we are cleaning grimy, well-used keyboards to prepare them for sale, we use a paper towel sprayed with Simple Green to clean up the keys. Again, don't spray directly on the keyboard.

The best bet for a tidy keyboard is to cover it with a protector. The iSkin protectors do a good job without drastically changing the feel of the keyboard, though it does take some time to get used to the feel.

iSkin ProTouch PB Arctic White Keyboard protection for PowerBooks and iBooks: \$19.99
iSkin ProTouch PB Sonic Blue Keyboard protection for PowerBooks and iBooks: 19.99

continued on page 7

HINTS AND TIPS CONTINUED:

iSkin ProTouch Abyss Indigo Blue Keyboard protection for Apple Pro Keyboards: \$34
iSkin ProTouch White Frost Keyboard protection for Apple Pro Keyboards: \$34.
http://www.smalldog.com/search/do_search.php?words=protouch/

Cleaning the Outside of the Computer

Follow these general rules when cleaning the outside of your computer and its components:

1. Shut down your computer, and disconnect it from the power, Ethernet, and modem cables. Laptop users should remove the battery.
2. Use a damp, soft, lint-free cloth to clean the computer's exterior. Avoid getting moisture in any openings. Do not spray liquid directly on the computer. Don't use aerosol sprays, solvents, or abrasives.

Really dirty computers might need the Simple

Green treatment (but always spray on a paper towel, not directly on the computer).

Cleaning the Inside of Your Computer

If you aren't in the habit of repairing permissions after installing new software, now is a good time to do this. Occasionally, user permissions associated with files or applications are set incorrectly. Each Mac comes with an application called Disk Utility. Launch that, click Verify or Repair Permissions, and you are all set.

Small Dog Electronics

Can't Find That "Odd Character?"

Need to get an odd character for your writings? (I know I needed lower-case lambda all the time for my notes.) Your Mac has any number of other alphabets tucked away. You can view and use them selectively by selecting Edit > Special Characters from the Finder's menu bar.

TMUG Insider, Pleasanton, CA

Safari Spellcheck

Did you know you can spellcheck in Safari as well? What's that you say? Why would I want to spellcheck someone else's webpage? It's not FOR that, silly. Command/semi-colon (;) runs spellcheck, as usual. Run it while in a text entry box on a webpage to check what YOU just wrote, before you post it to that chat board.

TMUG Insider, Pleasanton, CA

Credit to:


<http://mac-hints-tips.com>

Submitted by Charlotte

Privacy Invasion:

You've probably heard the saying, "Paranooids have enemies too." Sometimes conspiracy theorists actually uncover a conspiracy. And sometimes the people who claim the government is listening in to their conversations are right. Let's take a look.

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PRIVACY INVASION CONTINUED:

If someone were to tell you that the governments of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States had worked together to build a worldwide system for monitoring every bit of electronic communication on Earth - phone calls, faxes, radio, e-mail, and even satellite transmissions - you'd say he was nuts. It's straight out of the latest edition of *Government Conspiracies and You*. But it happens to be true.

If someone were to tell you that your office color laser printer might including a secret, hidden code on every piece of paper - a code that the police could use to trace it back to you - you'd say he was nuts.

It also happens to be true.

Can they hear you now?

Meet Echelon. It's been described as "the largest signals intelligence and analysis network for intercepting electronic communications in history." With estimates saying it intercepts three billion messages a day, it's hard to argue with that description. Echelon is run by the world's English-speaking democracies, which banded together during World War II to share intelligence. When the Cold War started, they started Echelon.

Back then it focused on spying on the Soviets' signals. Today it's used ostensibly to track terrorists and drug dealers, although there have been other uses - a former CIA director said it was used to spy on foreign companies and prove they were using bribes to win contracts.

Here's how it works. Each of the Echelon member countries is responsible for monitoring a different region of the world. The U.S. handles Central and South America as well as most of Asia, including China. Canada keeps tabs on the northern parts of the old Soviet Union. Britain handles Europe and Africa. Australia listens to the Pacific Rim countries. New Zealand takes care of the western Pacific Ocean.

You can even find a nifty map of Echelon stations from the good folks at

GlobalSecurity.org...

These countries maintain monitoring stations and satellites that listen in on every possible frequency, funneling all those transmissions to computers that search for certain words and phrases in the "Echelon Dictionaries." Those computers are networked, so everyone is sharing with everyone else.

Write the wrong thing in an e-mail, and someone might notice.

So in theory, nothing is said in a phone conversation or sent in an e-mail that couldn't be picked up by Echelon.

You might think to avoid the watchful eye of The Man by, say, sticking to paper. But you'd be wrong. Dot matrix

I remember an episode of, I think, one of the *Law and Orders*. In it, detectives had a printed page and needed to find the source. So they looked closely at the paper using Special TV Detective Tools and found the serial number of the printer hidden on the paper. A call to the printer maker led them to the office that owned it.

I make fun of technology on TV all the time; I especially love when they "zoom and enhance" on a photo so they can make out a license plate shot with a cheap cellphone camera from a mile away. Naturally, I attributed this hidden serial number to Hollywood writers gone amok.

I was wrong.

Although your printer manufacturer doesn't tell you about this, color laser printers these days routinely print the serial number of the printer on every page that comes out in almost-invisible yellow ink. They do this at the behest of the Secret Service, which wants to track counterfeiters.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation uncovered this, and found these coded dots on pages from lots of printers from Brother, Canon, Dell, Epson, HP, Kyocera, Lanier, Lexmark, Ricoh, Savin, Tektronix, and Xerox. (You need a blue light and magnifier to see the tiny dots.)

The Xerox folks told the EFF that the dots could only be decoded by the Secret Service. That turns out not to be the case. The EFF itself was able to decode the Xerox pattern; it shows the date and time the printout was made as well as the printer's serial number. (The EFF even kindly put up a program that lets Xerox DocuColor owners decode it for themselves.

What's the big deal? As EFF's Seth Schoen put it,

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Policies

This newsletter is published monthly for the Redding Macintosh Users' Group and is distributed to all club members.

No other individual, group or business may use any portion of this newsletter without prior written permission.

RMUG News welcomes articles and questions relating to Macintosh or Macintosh compatible computers. Articles may be hand written, typed, or submitted on a 3.5" floppy disk (using any popular word processing program).

Submissions must be accompanied by the author's full name, address and telephone number. The submissions become the property of RMUG unless otherwise specified.

If you have a change of address or other questions, please notify the newsletter editor or other RMUG officer as soon as possible.

Deadline for submissions is the last Saturday of each month. E-mail or deliver all material to:

Ken Lorenz

E- mail submissions to:
krlore@cwnet.com

OR

rmug@rmug.org

(stuff files if possible)

Ad Rates

RMUG members are invited to place "Wanted", "For Sale" & "Trade" ads in the newsletter at no charge. Business cards or commercial accounts are welcome at the rates listed above. One of the best reasons for belonging to a user's group is to let other people know about your activities, as well as learning what other people are doing with their computers and software. Please give your business cards or ads to the newsletter editor.

<p>AD Rates</p> <p>\$4 – business card</p> <p>\$6 – quarter page</p> <p>\$9 – half page</p> <p>\$15 – full page</p>
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Advertisements in the RMUG newsletter will not influence reviews or critiques of hardware, software companies or stories.

RMUG does not endorse any specific dealer or product, but we do encourage the distribution of information which may assist club members in identifying best buys and services.

Editorial

Well, Happy New Year everyone! I hope this finds all well with you and yours.

Personally, I would be much happier if I were in San Francisco right now, but the dictates of other responsibilities precluded that for us this year. I had actually talked Donna into going with me, if only. Lots of neat stuff going on down in the city.

Remember our meeting this month is on the third Saturday, not the second, because of MacWorld.

Looking forward to our meeting on the 21st to hear about all the cool products and demonstrations that will be discussed by those of us who were able to attend.

Jim has been going over the bylaws of our illustrious organization in an attempt to bring them up to speed with our current circumstances.

As I understand it, they will be posted on our website so that any member who would care to review and comment on them will be able to do so.

Modern technology makes it so easy for the government to keep track of everything that you do on line with your computer. With data mining and the complicity of hardware & software producers and ISP's because of government coercion, it is especially important to stand up and demand that your civil liberties and right to privacy be protected. Can anyone still believe these rights are not threatened?

Ken



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PRIVACY INVASION CONTINUED:

the fact that the EFF could decode the dot patterns "suggests that other people may be reading it." Which means that it could soon be impossible to print an anonymous flyer - something that rebellious groups, including our own Founding Fathers, were always able to do. Anonymity is a cornerstone of freedom...

What's particularly troubling is that these printer companies never told anyone this was being done. Nor are they required by law to do so. They simply began stamping every one of your documents with a code traceable to the printer you used, without your knowledge, at the government's request.. And scientists at Purdue are -working on expanding the technology to ink jets as well.

So imagine you print up a flyer decrying what you think are a local politician's lies. He doesn't like it, so he asks his friend in the police department to identify the printer used. His friend discovers it's an HP DeskJet 123 with the serial number A173451K and that the document was printed on November 5, 2005 at 11:11 a.m. The police contact HP, which could potentially identify you if you sent in the warranty card).

Bye-bye, anonymity. Bye-bye, privacy.

As Schoen points out, although no one has yet shown that inkjets also print hidden codes, "The technology has been more or less invented," he said, "The question is, has it been deployed anywhere and how would we know?"

Indeed.

USA Today
Andrew Kantor, Roanoke Times.