

Magazine of the Apple User Group of Canterbury Inc.

Applebyte



April 2009



Waimairi School

April 29th 7:30 pm

APPLEBYTE is the monthly magazine of the Apple User Group of Canterbury Inc.

Submissions for publication are due by the 12th of the month of publication. Please submit all articles to

editor@appleusers.co.nz

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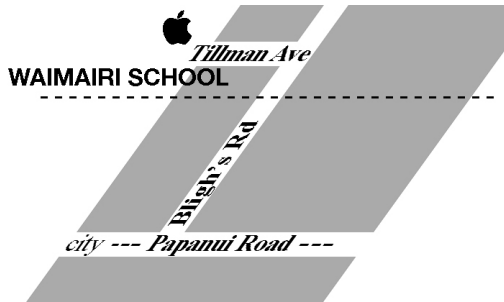
Cover photo: "Autumn" (Peter Fitchett)

Meeting venue

Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month (except December) beginning at 7:30pm, at Waimairi School at the end of Tillman Avenue, off Bligh's Road.

Drinks and snacks are available while we all calm down after the excitement of the meeting.

Some members carpool to get to meetings. If you don't have a car and find it difficult to get to meetings, please contact a committee member to arrange transport. Usually there is someone living near you who can offer a lift.



Meeting programme

Wednesday 29th April 2009

Monthly Meeting

- Welcome and News
- MacBasics
- Photoshop CS4 - Bart
- Hard Disks - Peter
- Information Exchange

Come along and share your passion for Apple products. Learn about the latest technology, and enhance your skills. And meet with old and new friends over supper.

Visitors welcome.



Submitting your article

Electronic submissions are preferred (to save wear and tear on my fingers). Just choose whatever format suits and send it to:

editor@appleusers.co.nz

One page is roughly 450 words. Most articles are less than 4 pages, but longer articles may be accepted if of particular interest or relevance. Please ask in advance if you are planning a longer article.

Please write clearly; short sentences are recommended to help you do this. Use a spell-checker. If you are quoting some other article, please include an acknowledgment of your source.

Pictures can help explain your article, so by all means include one (or more) if appropriate. The format is not important - jpeg, tiff and gif are all fine, but try to provide a high quality image (300 dpi) if possible.

For screen shots, you can use the build-in Apple functions Apple-Shift-3 or Apple-Shift-4, or a utility such as Snapz Pro, available from:

<http://www.macdownload.com>.

Next Deadline: 12 May 2009

Prez sez

Bart Hanson

Hi AUGC Members,

This is my first Prez Sez in my new (old) role as President of our fine group.

A supposedly cool friend from my past once pointed out some drop-outs to me saying they were "users". When I asked what he meant he explained that they "did" drugs. Education comes in funny ways. More education came my way several years later from another truly cool friend when I started "using" a Macintosh. I did this in Libraries and any places I could find a Mac to play on. I always carried some spare floppy discs, one of which contained some utilities which allowed me to "copy" programs to run on other more convenient or rather, less protected Macs. I had fun with those simple early games, ClarisWorks (which I still use except it's called AppleWorks now) and ClarisDraw (later to become MacDraw).

Anyway how could I not become a member of the Apple User Group. At that time, around 1992, AUGC had roughly equal members of Apple II



users and a growing number of Macintosh users who the former group feared would never learn to program anything. By way of explanation, programming was a big part of being an early computer user. These new Mac users merely clicked buttons and pushed a mouse pointer around, they were lazy users who could not remember even a dozen text commands. Well, some of those Apple II users eventually did become Macintosh users and at least one of them is still in our club and edits our magazine.

Apple progressed fitfully for the next few years while most of the world slammed the Mac as being a mere toy, after all, schools used them didn't they? Those who understood that elegance in programming was of vital importance, stuck with the Mac. When 95% of the world was using Windows, it was easy to call the Mac "proprietary" and not compatible with the computers most of the rest of the world was using. Apple did a sterling job of keeping things compatible while slowly adding innovations of its own. The war was still being lost, however, and the Mac Operating System was continually being added to and yet still did not have preemptive multi-tasking or protected memory.

Steve Jobs arrived back at Apple when his new company, Next, was purchased. This purchase included the Nextstep Operating System. Nextstep was built on Unix foundations, and Apple masterfully built on this to develop MacOSX. This allowed users to install and use the new OS X while still providing a compatibility layer for the Classic OS (by then at version 9.2)

Apple became the worlds number one vendor of UNIX overnight and Microsoft's Windows has slowly become the proprietary OS. Ever since then Microsoft has been trying to keep up, adding features (often copied from MacOSX) on top of it's own old crumbling foundations (DOS) seemingly unable to make the hard decisions and re-invent itself as Apple managed to do. One of the ironies of all this is that MacOSX has a powerful command line (text based) OS with all of the beautiful GUI (Graphical User Interface) on top.

Enough of my raving and back to you, the club. Your committee met at Jim Pollard's house and we resolved to keep the committee meetings shorter than the club meetings, which is as it should be. As discussed at the AGM and effective immediately is the option to pay a reduced sub if you do not require a printed hard copy of the magazine. This will save you money as well as help save the planet. What could be better? A digital copy in PDF format, with clickable URL's and in colour, is available from the club's website, <http://www.appleusers.co.nz>, that you can optionally print out and take with you to the smallest room of your house.

We hope to bring a wide range of subjects and speakers to the meetings this year so see you all there!

P.S. I thank Nigel Cooper for his fine stewardship as the previous President and hope I can match his efforts, a tall order indeed.

Special offers

Peter Fitchett

Note: These specials are available to all user group members.
Contact Peter (web@appleusers.co.nz) for access or coupon codes.

WebYep Web Editing Software

The PHP-based CMS "WebYep" (<http://www.obdev.at/webyep/>) offers handy plug-ins for Dreamweaver, RapidWeaver and Freeway. It can also easily be integrated into existing websites either via these plug-ins or via direct source code editing. The outstanding features of WebYep are its extreme ease-of-use for editors and the minimum integration effort for web designers. These features make WebYep an ideal solution for small-to-medium websites.

This Apple user group special is 20 percent off the regular price of EUR 29.00

This offer is valid through **June 30, 2009**.

MacScan Protection

MacScan from SecureMac (<http://macscan.securemac.com/>) quickly detects, isolates and removes spyware from Macintosh computers using both real-time spyware definition updating and unique detection methods. It also includes Internet clutter cleanup and blacklisted cookie detection and removal. Since 1999, SecureMac.com has been at the forefront of Macintosh system security. The site also operates as a clearinghouse for news, reviews and discussion of Apple computer security issues.

Regularly available for \$29.99 (US), this special Apple user group discount is 20 percent off. Try before you buy with free trial.

This offer is valid through **October 31, 2009**.

designProVideo.com

designProVideo.com (the sister site of macProVideo.com) produces pro-level tutorial videos for Adobe CS4 and Final Cut Studio. Their trainers are Apple courseware authors and respected industry professionals! Watch tutorials online or download them to your computer. There's no need to wait for discs to be sent in the mail. Start learning now! Check this out at <http://www.designprovideo.com>

Apple user group members can save 40% off the regular Online Tutorial Library subscription price of \$25 (US). For just \$15 (US) a month, you

can access the entire designProVideo.com Online Tutorial Library. As a subscriber, you'll also receive an additional 25% discount on all HD Tutorial downloads!

This offer is valid through **July 31, 2009**.

TimeTable

TimeTable (<http://www.stevenriggs.com>) reads and filters iCal calendar data and calculates the hours spent in the events. It is the easy way to list the amount of hours that you have scheduled in iCal. TimeTable makes it simple to track and bill for your time without keeping a second record outside of your calendar. You even can find trends and analyze your calendars.

Using this special offer, Apple user group members get a 20% discount. A trial version is available.

This offer is valid through **July 31, 2009**.

The Mac U

You love your computer, but you are only getting a small percentage of its potential use. The Mac U (<http://www.themacu.com>) was created to help you tap your Mac's full potential by assisting you with Mac OS X, iLife and other applications. A membership to TheMacU.com provides downloadable Mac video training courses, online video tips and tutorials, news and reviews and Q&A. Try it free for 15 days.

The regular price is \$6 (US) per month after the 15-day free trial; user group members take 33% off with this special user group price. The training is in English only.

This offer is valid through **May 31, 2009**.

Note: These specials are available to all user group members. Contact Peter (web@appleusers.co.nz) for access or coupon codes. For further specials, see our website.



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iPhoto'09 update

Adam C. Engst

10 Undocumented Changes in iPhoto'09 8.0.2

I know we're starting to sound a bit like a broken record in our criticism of Apple's patronizingly minimal release notes. However, this isn't selfish whining - you, the users of Apple software, are the people who are hurt by Apple's refusal to describe exactly what changes from version to version of different programs, iPhoto in this case.

Sure, some changes are things that will simply work better the next time you perform that particular task in iPhoto. But with other actions, as the saying goes, once burned, twice shy. For instance, in the initial release of iPhoto '08, if you dragged an iPhoto library package onto iPhoto's Dock icon to open it, iPhoto instead imported the contents into the current iPhoto library. That was horrible behavior, and after seeing it happen once, who would ever try it again? Well, I did, when I was updating that page in my "iPhoto '09 Visual QuickStart Guide" for Peachpit (which I've just handed in to Peachpit, and will also be turning into an ebook soon too), and I was happy to discover that Apple had indeed fixed this egregious error.

So what follows are my top ten undocumented changes in iPhoto, some of which appeared in iPhoto '09 8.0 (that's Apple's official name and version number, confusing as it is), and others of which changed between the initial release of iPhoto '09 and iPhoto '09 8.0.2, the most recent release. If you've found any other significant changes, do let me know!

Open iPhoto Libraries Directly -- In earlier versions of iPhoto, there were a number of tricks for switching among different iPhoto libraries, most recently holding down the Option key when launching iPhoto and choosing an iPhoto library in a standard Open dialog. You might ask, "Why can't I simply double-click an iPhoto library package file to open it, or open it as I would any other file?" Like so many other things with iPhoto (remember how many years it took before iPhoto let us name photos directly, rather than just in the Information pane?), this basic concept eluded the iPhoto team for a while.

Apple has finally seen the light, and with iPhoto '09, iPhoto library packages act like normal documents. You can double-click them to open, drag them to iPhoto's icon in the Dock, or open as you would any other document. iPhoto can be running or not - it doesn't matter, and it remembers your last-opened library on subsequent launches of the iPhoto application. In my testing, iPhoto will occasionally become a bit confused and will still prompt you to select the double-clicked iPhoto library package again in a custom Open dialog (often with duplicated entries), but overall, it works cleanly.

Sharing via the Shared Folder -- Another major annoyance with versions of iPhoto prior to iPhoto '09 was that you couldn't just put your iPhoto Library in the /Users/Shared folder to share it among multiple accounts on the same Mac, since iPhoto always set the permissions on thumbnails to the account that imported the photos, preventing other accounts from editing those photos and having the edits reflected in the thumbnails.

That limitation has now been fixed in iPhoto '09, so you can share an iPhoto library merely by moving it to /Users/Shared and then double-clicking it to open in iPhoto from each account. You may be prompted to repair permissions on the first access - click the Repair button to do that. Note that this also works for storing an iPhoto library on an external hard disk that's shared among users or on a network volume for access across a fast network.

Only one person may access a shared iPhoto library at a time.

Movies in Slideshows -- In another one of those inexplicable lapses, iPhoto '09 still can't play movies internally; double-clicking a movie opens it in QuickTime Player. But it does have one new movie-related capability - movies can play in iPhoto '09's totally revamped slideshows. Just add them as you would a photo, and when the slideshow gets to them, they'll play in their entirety before the slideshow moves on to the next photo.

Thumbnails in Slideshows -- This feature falls into the category of something so subtle that you might never notice it. When you play a slideshow in iPhoto '09, moving the mouse pointer causes the slideshow controls to appear, as before. But if you move the mouse pointer to the bottom of the screen, a row of thumbnails appears, with a white outline sliding left to right that shows the currently displayed photos. You can even drag the white outline to jump around in the slideshow. (iPhoto does display the thumbnails very briefly before it shows the slideshow theme picker dialog, so at least there's a possibility that you'd discover it on your own.)

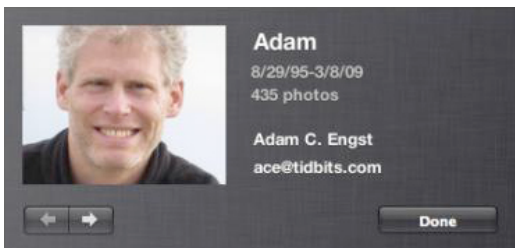
Faces Plus Address Book Equals Facebook -- In the first two versions of iPhoto '09, when you named an unrecognized face, iPhoto would autocomplete the name from previous entries, but that was it. Starting with iPhoto '09 8.0.2, iPhoto also suggests names from the contents of Address Book, complete with email addresses.

If you've already created a name in iPhoto, you'll see two entries for that name in the menu of suggestions, whenever you're naming a face. To solve this, rename the person's snapshot in the Faces corkboard, selecting the suggestion from Address Book. In my testing in iPhoto '09 8.0.2, this works only if the original name in iPhoto differs from the name from Address Book, so you may need to rename the snapshot to a different name first, then connect it with the Address Book entry. Once you've connected the snapshot's name with the Address Book entry, you can

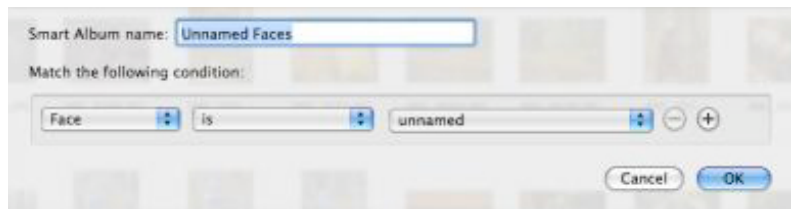
change the snapshot's name to anything you like, and it will retain the full name and email address from Address Book.

No one will miss noticing this addition, but you may not realize why it's important. When uploading photos to Facebook, for them to receive tags linking to the Facebook profiles of the people pictured in the photos, you must have each person's email address in the Information dialog (select a snapshot in the Faces corkboard and either click the i button or press Command-I). It's important that it be the email address the person has used for Facebook, so check their profile if you're unsure of which email address to use in iPhoto.

The full name field is also important when uploading to Facebook. You probably want to refer to family and close friends purely by first name in iPhoto, but when you upload to Facebook, iPhoto uses the full name field, so "Tonya" becomes "Tonya Engst" on Facebook.



Make Unnamed Faces Smart Album -- Another highly welcome feature that's new in iPhoto '09 8.0.2 is the enhancement of iPhoto's smart album capabilities with regard to faces. In iPhoto '09 8.0, there was a Name criterion, and you could enter text to match against. Now the Name criterion has been renamed to Face, and when you choose either Is or Is Not as the match, you get a pop-up menu to choose from. The first item in that pop-up menu is "unnamed," so if you choose it, you get a smart album that contains all the photos for which iPhoto has detected faces, but to which you haven't yet assigned names.



As an added bonus, once you name each face in a photo while in that album, iPhoto updates the album on the fly, immediately removing the now-named photo from the album and displaying the next photo with an unnamed face.

One more thing. iPhoto sometimes identifies random objects or textures as faces. When it does that, just click the X button in the corner of the white rectangle surrounding the thing that isn't a face to remove it. Deleting incorrect face rectangles (or even rectangles around the faces of

people you don't know) will remove the photos from your Unnamed Faces smart album.

Naming Suggested Faces Directly -- You're training iPhoto to recognize your friend Sally's face, so you double-click her snapshot on the Faces corkboard, and click the Confirm Name button to confirm or reject photos that iPhoto suggests might also contain Sally's face. Let's say iPhoto does a good job with Sally, and most of the suggested photos are indeed her, but one or two are of Sally's sister Jane. Starting with iPhoto '09 8.0.2, you can Control-click one of the close-ups of Jane, choose the Name command from the contextual menu, and enter Jane's name. Previously, you would only have been able to reject the pictures of Jane while training iPhoto to recognize Sally.



Detect Missing Faces -- In organize mode, if you Control-click a photo or selection of photos, the contextual menu as of iPhoto '09 8.0.2 contains a new command: Detect Missing Faces. My understanding is that sometimes iPhoto does a poor job at identifying faces in pictures on its initial scan, and this command lets you force it to run again on a subset of your collection, with less stringent guidelines. I've tried using Detect Missing Faces on photos that contain faces that iPhoto didn't identify the first time, but only once in a number of attempts did it actually detect a previously missed face. Oh, and for reasons known only to Apple, the little lozenge that appears under faces that you haven't yet named now contains the text "unnamed" instead of "unknown face." Go figure.

Rescan for Location -- Also new in the contextual menu that appears when you Control-click a photo in iPhoto '09 8.0.2 is a Rescan for Location command. Although I haven't been able to test this, I believe that the point of this command is to enable iPhoto to pick up geotags that are added to photos by third-party tools like Houdah Software's HoudahGeo and Ovolab's GeoPhoto. I also gather that iPhoto '09 8.0.2 now allows you to enter latitude and longitude values directly when geotagging photos. Personally, I'm waiting for a GPS-enabled Canon PowerShot camera before I get more involved with Places.

Descriptions, Not Commands? Last, and absolutely least, Apple made several truly minor changes in the new black Information dialogs that debuted in iPhoto '09 for photos and face snapshots. Initially, iPhoto used imperative tags: "Enter photo location," "Enter description," "Enter full name," and "Enter email address." Starting with iPhoto '09 8.0.2, Apple switched to purely descriptive tags that lack the capitalized "Enter" command: "photo place," "description," "full name," and "email address."

Most people should be able to figure this out, and once you've entered a full name or an email address in those fields, you'll know how to do it in the future. But overall, I think losing the "Enter" command is a move in the wrong direction, especially since these new black Information dialogs indicate that something is a user-addressable field only with bright

white text (gray text is read-only) and with a field border that appears only on mouse-over. It may be attractive, but it's not very discoverable, and the text change makes it worse.

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Adam Engst is the publisher of TidBITS and Take Control Books. He has written numerous books, including the best-selling Internet Starter Kit series, and many magazine articles - thanks to Contributing Editor positions at MacUser, MacWEEK, and now Macworld. His innovations include the creation of the first advertising program to support an Internet publication in 1992, the first flat-rate accounts for graphical Internet access in 1993, and the Take Control electronic book series. His awards include the MDJ Power 25 ranking as the most influential person in the Macintosh industry outside of Apple every year since 2000, inclusion on the MacTech 25 list of influential people in the Macintosh technical community, and being named one of MacDirectory's top ten visionaries. And yes, he has been turned into an action figure.

StatPlus:mac

AnalystSoft updates StatPlus:mac, a heavy-duty mathematical and statistical analysis suite for Mac users, by making the product easier to use and adding new types of graphics and calculations. The updated statistical package is now available in English, French, Spanish, German, Italian and Russian languages, and is offered at deep discounts to multiple license buyers and educational facilities. The new volume discounts are structured to make StatPlus:mac affordable during the current economic downturn, and make the cost of the powerful statistical package almost an order of magnitude lower than ever before.



StatPlus:mac has all the features from Microsoft Analysis Toolpak offered in Excel 2004. However, unlike Microsoft Analysis Toolpak, StatPlus:mac is available in Excel 2004 and 2008 while extending its functionality and bringing it to entirely new level. Unlike Microsoft Analysis Toolpak, StatPlus:mac offers its users dependable performance and accurate, repeatable results - exactly the way the much more expensive statistical packages such as SPSS do. The new release of StatPlus:mac adds more types of data analysis and processing as well as a number of brand-new graphs, including statistical charts and ever control charts like CUSUM and XBar chart, that are not available in Microsoft Excel and are hardly accessible in other statistical packages such as SPSS.

The revised discount program makes powerful statistics affordable to educational facilities and multiple license purchasers. Packs of 5 and 10 licenses are offered at significant discounts, bringing the bottom line down up to an order of magnitude. During the current economic downturn and scaled down budgets, AnalystSoft empowers students and teachers in schools and universities with dependable calculations and precise graphs.

With StatPlus:mac, there is no need to learn a new user interface. Knowledge and skills in using Microsoft Excel are easily transferred to the new statistical package as it benefits from sharing the convenient and straightforward interface used in Microsoft Excel.

StatPlus:mac offers Mac users advanced statistical analysis and precise, repeatable calculations that were long omitted from Microsoft Excel, and supports strict ISO standards such as ISO2602:1980, ISO 2854:1976, and ISO 3207:1975. The package performs all basic and advanced statistic functions such as determining descriptive statistics, correlation analysis, regression analysis. Advanced analysis include ANOVA (including GLM ANOVA), Design of experiment procedures (Latin squares analysis), nonparametric statistics and time series and survival analysis, to name a few.

StatPlus is cross-platform, and has versions for Mac and PC. The product supports Microsoft Excel 2004 and 2008 for Mac, while the PC edition works in Microsoft Excel 2003, XP, and 2007 and as standalone package.

About AnalystSoft: <http://www.analystsoft.com/>

Founded in 2001, AnalystSoft specializes in developing software tools for performing complex mathematical and statistical analysis. The company is dedicated to delivering fully featured products for prices that are affordable to teachers, engineers and college students.

Editor's First Look:

Easy installation. Good integration with Excel. Very useful tutorials & example files. But I may need to brush up on my Stats knowledge!

AKVIS Sketch 8.6

Photo-to-Sketch Conversion

April 1, 2009 - AKVIS Software Inc. announces the release of AKVIS Sketch v.8.6 for Windows and Macintosh. The software converts photos to pencil drawings and watercolor paintings. Version 8.6 improves the way a photo is converted into a watercolor painting and fixes the compatibility bug that caused the Sketch plugin to crash on Macintosh computers+Photoshop CS3,CS4. It also improves plugin compatibility on Windows and adds support of 32 bit images to the plugin (earlier available only in the standalone version). Upgrade for registered users is free.

AKVIS Sketch is an award-winning program for conversion of photos into pencil sketches and watercolor paintings. Make any photo look like a B&W or color drawing, imitate the technique of graphite or color pencil, charcoal or watercolor painting.

The program works in an entertaining way. It allows observing the conversion of a photo into a drawing/watercolor in real time and even interrupting the process when the required result is achieved.

Once you have converted your photo into a drawing, you can add some special effects (the Background tab). Create a blend of a drawing and a photo; imitate motion or add "time machine effect" by swirling the background. Put an accent to certain parts of the image by blurring the rest of it in an artistic way. It proves especially useful when the final drawing contains too many details on the background that divert attention.

Besides, the parameters on the Canvas tab allow adding a rough surface to your image, as if it has been drawn on canvas, corrugated paper, brick wall, etc.

It is also possible to add a signature or a greeting to your pencil drawings to personalize the work of art.

Version 8.6. of AKVIS Sketch improves the way a photo is converted into a watercolor painting and fixes the compatibility bug that caused the Sketch plugin to crash on Macintosh computers+Photoshop CS3,CS4. It also improves plugin compatibility on Windows and adds support of 32 bit images to the plugin (earlier available only in the standalone version).

Many photo editing enthusiasts have already appreciated the Sketch' s features. Take a look at the examples gallery (many created by users) at

<http://akvis.com/en/sketch/examples-pencil-drawing.php>

Sketch can be useful on many occasions. Surprise your friends and relatives by presenting them their pencil portraits. Make a watercolor

drawing out of a photo from your last nature shooting to decorate your room. Convert your own photo into a color sketch to print on a T-shirt. Create a comic out of your party videos.

The program can be helpful to designers who need to quickly bring images to one style for a web-site or an advertisement booklet.

Using batch processing in Photoshop or Paint Shop pro (only for the plug-in version) you can even convert a film into a cartoon. Like here:

<http://akvis.com/en/sketch-tutorial/cartoon-film.php>

For a free trial, AKVIS offers 10 days of fully functional use. Details are available at **<http://akvis.com/en/sketch/index.php>**

Upgrade for registered users is free.

AKVIS Sketch is available as a stand-alone application, as well as a plugin to a photo editor.

The plugin version of AKVIS Sketch is compatible with Adobe Photoshop and Photoshop Elements, Corel Painter, Corel Photo-Paint, and Paint Shop Pro, ACD FotoCanvas, and Ulead PhotoImpact. AKVIS Sketch runs on Microsoft Windows 2000/2003/XP/Vista and on Macintosh Mac OS X 10.4-10.5, PowerPC/Intel.

AKVIS Sketch Home License (plug-in or standalone) sells for \$72 USD or 55 Euro, downloadable from **<http://www.akvis.com/>**. Home users can enjoy the full line of AKVIS plugins in the AKVIS Alchemy bundle (Sketch, Chameleon, Stamp, Retoucher, Coloriage, Noise Buster, Decorator, Enhancer, LightShop, SmartMask, ArtSuite, Magnifier and ArtWork) for USD \$325 USD, huge savings over purchasing each separately.

Also AKVIS Sketch comes bundled with AKVIS ArtWork (photo-to-oil painting software) and AKVIS ArtSuite (frames and effects) with a discount of 44 USD in the Artistic Bundle.

For business licenses consult the official web-site. One license key allows activating the software on two computers, for example, on a desktop and a laptop.

More information about AKVIS Sketch:

<http://akvis.com/en/sketch/index.php>



Apple to Switch OS Again

Press Release

Cupertino (CA) - Starting next week, every new Mac sold will come preloaded with a copy of *Windows Vista Premium*, the result of a new direct licensing agreement between two fierce rivals. OS X Leopard will be still offered, albeit as a paid upgrade.

Some analysts and investors are worried that Apple's switch to Windows signals the end of Jobs' era and others suspect the CEO himself, who is on a medical leave, plotted this Windows switch as a way of ensuring the long-term success of the Mac platform once he steps down. Needless to say, the loyal Mac base is enraged. Fumed users are accusing the Mac maker of betrayal, warning that favoring Vista at the expense of the company's own operating system will take away Mac's shine and appeal, reducing the system to a pretty, but otherwise dull beige box.

Apple and its arch rival Microsoft have reached a game-changing licensing agreement that will see the Cupertino-based consumer electronics giant preload Windows Vista as the default operating system on all Macs, starting next week. The startling announcement arrives after quiet but intense negotiations between Microsoft's CEO, Steve Ballmer, and Apple's operations chief, Timothy Cook. According to early reports, Apple had desired to preload every Mac with a copy of *Windows Vista Ultimate*, though were negotiated into *Vista Premium*. "We are super excited to empower Mac users with *Windows Vista Premium*, nearly the most feature-complete Windows version ever," Cook said in a statement. "We thank our friends at Microsoft for their continuing commitment to the Mac platform. Preloading Windows on every new Mac sold removes the fear of switching. It's our insurance policy - whether you need it or not," he said.

Apple's switch to Windows will not hike Mac prices up. The company said all new Macs will boot Windows Vista out-of-the-box. OS X Leopard will not be provided unless customers purchase the \$129 operating system separately, and then install it on their own. Many analysts are shocked by the news. A high-profile Mac analyst, Gene Munster, is convinced Jobs is losing control over Apple. "*The Mac OS X is heart and soul of the Mac user experience*," Munster said, warning that preloading Vista on Macs at the expense of OS X will impact brand loyalty severely. "*Apple is handing over control of the most important aspect of the Mac user experience to its rival*," he said. "*Mac users will never forget this.*"

Some Apple investors are allegedly prepping a lawsuit and will demand that most of Apple's board of directors step down. Some investors suspect that Timothy Cook, who is currently in charge at Apple while Jobs is on his medical leave, may have ousted Jobs and seized control of the company. They remind us that prior to joining Apple, Cook served as

vice president of Corporate Materials at Compaq. Ex-Apple employees now claim Cook has been pushing Jobs to license Mac hardware to OEM vendors ever since he was hired. Cook allegedly thinks this would enable Apple to post double-digit market share gains. According to these sources, the two executives often fought over the matter of Mac clones, but the intense meetings always ended with Jobs threatening to show Cook the door. *"There is clearly bad blood between Steve Jobs and Timothy Cook,"* Munster warned.

"It's the saddest day for Mac users in Apple's entire history," said Eliza Block, a 31-year old philosophy graduate student at NYU who wrote the popular *2across* crosswords iPhone program. *"The empire of evil has taken over,"* she said. But there is another facet to this story. Some industry watchers closely associated with Apple's plans point their fingers at Jobs. They claim the CEO himself plotted and personally approved the Windows switch, and then deliberately stepped out of view allowing Cook to take the fall. One source told TG Daily, *"Jobs temporarily appointed Cook to shield himself from public criticism."*

At the end of the day, when dust and high tensions cool down, both Microsoft and Apple will profit from the move. Microsoft has its new business with Apple that will boost Vista's licensed sales. Apple will also profit from forcing new Mac buyers into the \$129 OS X Leopard purchase, since the operating system will no longer come preloaded on every new Mac free of charge. End users get piece of mind by having the best of both worlds.

What do you think? Will you run Vista on your new Mac? Or would you rather capitulate and be taxed an additional \$129 to get OS X Leopard with your new Mac? Is Apple's Windows switch spelling doom for the platform, or is this a long overdue first step in the right direction?

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Suppose you were an idiot.
And suppose you were a member of Congress....
But then I repeat myself.

Mark Twain

There is no distinctly Native American criminal class...save Congress.

SPECIAL: Still using older Macs? You may want to check out some very special prices for older software at
MagnumMac

Finder Tools

Kirk McElhearn, Macworld.com

Looking for some quick time-savers? Chances are you don't need to hunt down a new utility, you just need to take advantage of the tools OS X already offers.

1. Spring-Loaded Folders

If you drag a file over a folder and pause, the folder will pop open and show its contents after a short delay. Drag the file over another folder in that window, and that folder will also open. Use this "spring-loaded folder" feature to move files deep into your folder hierarchy without having to open individual windows. And there are two shortcuts: press the spacebar while holding a file over a folder to open it immediately, and press the escape key to cancel a move before you release a file. This feature is on by default. If you'd like to change the delay, go to Finder: Preferences and adjust the Spring-Loaded Folders And Windows Delay slider.

2. The Toolbar

Have certain files, folders, or even programs you want access quickly from any Finder window? Drag their icons onto the Finder's toolbar at the top of the window. Drag an icon to a space in the toolbar—say, to the right of the buttons—and wait a second; the cursor will show a plus-sign (+) icon, and then the item will be added to that space. Command-drag an icon to remove it from the toolbar. Control-click on the toolbar and select Customize Toolbar from the contextual menu for even more options.

3. The Path Bar

Choose View -> Show Path Bar to reveal this bar at the bottom of your Finder windows. It shows you exactly where the selected file is in your computer's folder hierarchy, no matter which view you're using. You can drag files or folders into other folders shown in the path bar, so this is a good way to move files up to a higher level in your hierarchy. You can also go to any folder by double-clicking on it in the path bar.

4. Proxy Icons

That tiny icon you see in the title bar of every Finder window is more than just eye candy. Control-click on it to reveal a pop-up menu showing the current folder hierarchy. Select a folder to jump there. If you hold down the command key while selecting a folder, it opens in a new Finder window.

5. Arrow Keys

There's no need to click your way around the Finder. Press command-up arrow to move up in your folder hierarchy, and Command-down arrow to enter a folder or open a file or program. Press a single arrow key to move around in a window. Press the up- and down-arrow keys to move through List View, Column View, and Cover Flow View. Press the right- and left-arrow keys to move around in Icon View.

RouteBuddy

Vector based road map of New Zealand

RouteBuddy provides native Mac OS X support for a number of Garmin, TomTom, and NMEA GPS devices - allowing users to manage, swap and display their GPS data using high-precision vector-based road maps. RouteBuddy enables you to record tracks, transfer, import and export, manage and share data in a wide range of formats, search for addresses and points of interest.

RouteBuddy can also be used as a standalone mapping product without a GPS device for you to add and manage your geo-data, and calculate routes from which you can print turn by turn directions.

The New Zealand Road Map includes: Motorways, interconnecting state and local roads, including detailed roads in cities. Points of Interest include travel locations and rest stops. RouteBuddy gives you the ability to add a limitless number of personally preferred POIs or waypoints to your database.

For more information about RouteBuddy and the features it offers please visit the website <http://www.routebuddy.com/>

The free RouteBuddy 2.3 demo can be downloaded from:
<http://www.routebuddy.com/download/>

The RouteBuddy application costs US\$99.50, and requires Mac OS X 10.4 or later.

The New Zealand Map costs US\$99.50

For a limited period* we are offering New Zealand Macintosh User Groups a discount of US\$50 off the purchase of the RouteBuddy Application together with the RouteBuddy map of New Zealand making the total purchase price US\$149.

Visit the RouteBuddy Store at <http://store.routebuddy.com/> (or from within the free demo copy of RouteBuddy) to see the full range of worldwide map products available. RouteBuddy is not locked to one map, and the application enables you to use any of the RouteBuddy Map products you purchase; these maps which will be expanding over the coming months to include topographical maps in addition to the road maps.

Note: This special is available to all user group members.

Contact Peter (web@appleusers.co.nz) for access or coupon codes.

Offer ends on 31st May 2009.

Review: Today 1.6

Bob Carpenter

Mac OS X comes with iCal. iCal allows you to create events on your calendar and create to-dos so you can keep track of things you need to finish. So why would you need anything else? Well, if you have multiple appointments during the day, you might not be able to see them all if some are in the morning and some are in the evening. Also, iCal's window can be too big to leave up on your screen. This is especially true if you're using a smaller MacBook screen.

As a result, some iCal alternatives or companion programs have started to appear. One of these programs is Today from Second Gear. Today gives you a daily view of all your appointments. It also shows your to do items (called Tasks in Today). Since Today doesn't attempt to replace iCal, but work with it, it gets the advantages and the disadvantages as well.

When I first saw it, I thought of Microsoft Entourage's "My Day" feature. I don't say this as some sort of disparagement of Today. I've seen "My Day" and it's a good way to see what you need to accomplish that day. It wouldn't make me buy Entourage, but it's a decent model. Today only shows one day at a time. You can see additional days by scrolling through them, but there's no way to see a weekly or monthly schedule. Honestly, iCal already exists to do that.

The advantages of using iCal's database are numerous. You can add events or tasks in Today and they immediately appear in iCal. If you remove an event or to-do in iCal, it's immediately removed in Today. Since it works with iCal, any events and tasks can be synchronized with other Macs or other devices (like the iPhone or other cell phones) supported by iCal. I was surprised that the date fields didn't include a date chooser. I did like the fact I could enter the date manually. However, having the date chooser option would be handy. To be fair, iCal doesn't offer this option either.

With the good comes the bad. iCal's to-do functionality is rather limited compared to what I'm used to having at work where we use Microsoft Outlook. Currently, my recurring tasks are setup as appointments because there's no way to set up an iCal recurring to-do. Also, if I double-click on a recurring appointment in Today, iCal returns me to the first instance of the recurring appointment instead of the instance that matches the day I'm looking at. Talking to the developer, it's an iCal limitation since each recurring entry has the same ID. Therefore, there's no way for an external program to know which occurrence you wish to see. This is only a problem for recurring appointments. If it's either a Task (to-do) or a single appointment, then double-clicking the item

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 **Authorised Reseller**

brings up the same item in iCal.

Today allows you to only show some of your iCal calendars. That's useful to me because I have a special calendar called "Automator" that's only used to kick off programs like my monthly DVD data backup. I wouldn't want these fake appointments showing up as items I need to accomplish.

For tasks, Today allows you to sort them by: calendar, priority, title, or due date. That's useful since different people will have different ways they want to see their tasks (to-dos). You can also hide the Tasks portion of the window to allow you to see more of your appointments if you don't use tasks. On a more basic level, Today can either be run as a normal application that appears in the Dock or as a menu bar item. If you use the menu bar option, the Today window is still a separate window. However, Today no longer appears in the Dock or appears when you use Command-Tab to switch between applications. If you choose to close the Today window, clicking on the Today menu bar item makes the window reappear immediately.

Today's interface is nice, but it has a few non-obvious extras that you don't find until you start clicking on items. For example, if you click the section of the window that says "Today is <today's date>" or just shows the current date if the month is too long to display "Today is", you'll end up back at today's date regardless of how far backwards or forwards you

go. Note: version 1.6.1 gives you a visual hint that this area is clickable by changing the background shading when you move the mouse into this area. It's quite subtle though so it can be easily missed. Also, if you click on the section of the window that has your current date on it with the day of the week included, you'll see a monthly calendar that allows you to select any day of the month or choose future or previous months.

I can't say that there's anything Today does that iCal doesn't do. However, if you're keeping your calendar in iCal and you have a busy business or social calendar (or both), Today does show you that information in a more informative format to allow you to better plan your day. However, if you don't use iCal now, I'm not sure Today will change your opinion about using it.

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Geotagging

Derrick Story

Thanks to the release of iPhoto '09, there's been a lot of buzz around the idea of adding location data, called geotags, to your photos. The newest version of Apple's photo-management software—along with online services such as Flickr—can now read this location data and place your photos on a map. Geotags also give you new options for searching your library, as you can find photos based on where they were taken, rather than when they were taken. But how do you get that geodata in your images in the first place?

One option is to manually apply the latitude and longitude after the photo is already on your Mac. To that end, several Mac programs, including iPhoto '09, can help. But if manual labor isn't your thing, another is to use a tracking device that records the data while you shoot. You can then sync the photos and the data when you're back at your Mac. Here are four affordable Mac-friendly gadgets that record the approximate location of where you're taking a picture every time you snap the shutter.

The all-in-one approach

The most obvious avenue to geotagging photos is to put GPS smarts right in the camera. Unfortunately, this option hasn't really caught on yet with camera makers. That's partly due to the technical restraints: the GPS chip puts extra strain on the camera battery, and the camera has to manage all of that data it's collecting. Nevertheless, Nikon has taken a stab at producing a GPS-enabled camera with the \$500 Coolpix P6000.



Nikon's point-and-shoot camera can geotag your photo as soon as you take the shot.

When the GPS feature is enabled, the camera determines your position via satellite and adds the location to the image's EXIF data. But the convenience comes at a price. For one thing, the GPS feature can take a while to warm up once you activate it. Although I only experienced a lag of a few minutes when shooting out in the open, other users have reported having to wait as long as ten minutes after turning on the GPS. The GPS doesn't work well inside buildings, under bridges, and near other obstacles to a clear sky view. Also, turning on GPS increases battery drain, so you'll want to make sure you have an extra battery or two on hand if you're geotagging images.

Good for: If you like being on the bleeding edge of technology and are willing to put up with some inconvenience for an all-in-one geotagging option, a GPS-enabled camera such as the Coolpix P6000 is an enticing

option. But most photographers will likely find the technology still a bit too immature for practical use.

A clever workaround

Satellites aren't the only way to determine your location. There are Wi-Fi hotspots all over the world and Skyhook Wireless has surveyed millions of them, logging latitude and longitude coordinates for each. If you're near one of these tagged hotspots, then a Wi-Fi device can approximate your location.

Eye-Fi takes advantage of Skyhook's work with its \$99 Eye-Fi Explore Video card. This 4GB SD memory card works with nearly any SD-capable camera and includes Wi-Fi. When you take a photo, the Explore card looks for a nearby Wi-Fi hotspot and then notes its location. When you upload the images wirelessly, the Eye-Fi Manager software on your Mac accesses the Skyhook database and adds the appropriate geodata to the photos. It then saves the tagged images to your computer (it can import photos right into iPhoto if you like) or sends them to online services such as Flickr.



Pop the Eye-Fi Explore memory card into your camera and it will track your general location as you shoot.

Good for: This approach works well when you're in a city or any location that has Wi-Fi hotspots for the Explore card to locate. But if you're out in the boonies, then you're going to have to use satellite-based GPS to log your location.

Geodata in your hot shoe

Another approach to geotagging is to carry around a small piece of hardware that can track your GPS coordinates. Jobo's \$175 photoGPS, for example, is a small, black GPS device designed to slide into the hot



Jobo's photoGPS slides into your camera's hot shoe and records your coordinates each time you take a photo.

shoe of your DSLR. (It technically also works with compact cameras that offer hot shoes; however, in my tests, the device occasionally loses the connection.) When you snap a photo, the camera triggers the photoGPS to record location coordinates. The device can keep track of approximately 1,000 locations. A flashing green light confirms that the GPS data was captured. When you're done shooting, you simply

connect the device to your Mac, launch its software (you must be connected to the Internet), and the program syncs the location data with the pictures. During the download process, the software supplements the basic coordinates with data from Tele Atlas, including country, city, street, and nearby points of interest. All of this information can be

written directly to the JPEG file, or stored as an XMP sidecar file for raw files.

When you're heading into an environment that may block a GPS reading—for example, when you go inside a building—you can use the nifty GeoHint button on the right side of the device to manually capture a reading. If the photoGPS can't get a position for subsequent photos, it will use the manually recorded data for the photos. This is also a good way to capture GPS data when the photoGPS isn't in your camera's hot shoe—for example, when you're using a compact camera. Press the GeoHint button each time you move to a new location and the software will tag the photos when you get home.

Good for: The photoGPS is best for DSLR photographers who aren't otherwise using their hot shoe. It has fairly sensitive GPS tracking, and the bundled software provides lots of location data such as points of interest.

Geodata in your backpack

If you don't want anything attached to your camera—after all, you may have other uses for that hot shoe—and don't want to press any buttons, you might prefer a device that is constantly recording geodata while you're taking pictures. That's the approach that the petite Gisteq PhotoTrackr Lite takes. This \$129 device runs for 14 hours on a single AA battery and can record as many as 250,000 locations. And the PhotoTrackr is sensitive enough that you can leave it in your backpack while you're out shooting.

Before you hit the road, you use the bundled Mac software to synchronize your camera with the PhotoTrackr. After you capture all the shots you want and return to your computer, you transfer both the images from your camera and the data from the PhotoTrackr. The software then matches the timestamps to give you the coordinates you need. When the photos have been tagged, you can import them into iPhoto or upload them to an online service that supports geotags.

Good for: This device is great for outdoor photographers who want to travel light and endure minimum fuss while shooting.

Figuring out what's best for you

Although none are as accurate as a high-end GPS unit, for a modest investment, any of these devices will put you on the road to geotagging your images. With new cameras being announced all the time, keep an eye out for user-friendly models that include GPS—ultimately this offers the best long-range solution. In the meantime, if most of your shooting is



Just keep the PhotoTrackr Lite in your camera bag and it will track everywhere you go with your camera.

in urban settings, and you record primarily in JPEG, the Eye-Fi Explore is a reasonable approach. But keep in mind that you must follow its specific workflow—including uploading to the Eye-Fi Manager after every shoot—to get the geotagged data. The Jobo photoGPS and Gisteq PhotoTrackr are more versatile devices. You can record geodata anywhere and then choose which shots you want to tag at your convenience, when you return to your computer. Both have Mac compatible software and let you shoot in Raw or JPEG.

Clue in iPhoto '09

One final note about using any of these tools with iPhoto '09: if you are using GPS hardware to geotag your photos, go to the Advanced tab in iPhoto's Preferences, and make sure Automatically is selected for the Look Up Places option. Now when you import a geotagged photo, iPhoto will automatically look up the embedded GPS coordinates and add the country, state, and city to the image's metadata. This will make it easier to search your photos within iPhoto.

[Derrick Story publishes a weekly photography podcast called The Digital Story and is the author of several photography books. Look for his iPhoto '09 training series on Lynda.com.]

News

This month has been very busy with releases of new products and features, particularly at the beginning of the month; however, soon after, many of the more interesting items were withdrawn. What a pity.

A web browser with facial control - want to try squinting, winking and even poking your tongue out at your browser?

Qualcomm's new cellular network: based on tiny receivers inserted into flocks of pigeons! The pigeons will be genetically enhanced to provide protection against predators.

The Guardian ditches print, switches to Twitter; 'nough said; News now sent in 140 character chunks.

Scientists worldwide admit hoax: Al Gore's Nobel Prize rescinded amid overwhelming evidence that global warming is an elaborate hoax.

Google Gmail Autopilot will reply to e-mails for you, including offering up your bank account number when Nigerian princes want to cut you in on a great deal.

iMumble

iCan't write

iCan listen daily

iCan think

iCan disagree

iCan mutter

iMumble

and iCan write!

Another month

another magazine

another page to fill

another empty email

to fill an empty page

to fill an empty magazine

to fill your letter-box

Happy reading!

SeniorNet Mac

Computer Training Lessons: Two-hour sessions, once a week for four weeks. Course notes are provided. Classes are small with a maximum of six students and two tutors per lesson.

Social Events: Held on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Newsletter: Supplied every two months.

The **Learning Centre** is situated in the Cranmer Centre Poolhouse, which is accessed from Montreal Street at the Armagh Street corner.

Contact: If you would like to join SeniorNet Mac and are in the 55-plus age group, please contact Tom Mitchell at (03) 338 9837, or email:

t.mitchell@snap.net.nz,

or else leave a message on the club's answerphone at (03) 365 2003.

Group contacts

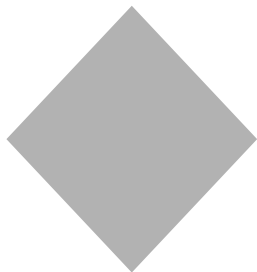
Website <http://www.appleusers.co.nz>

Mailing Lists **Peter Fitchett** (3) 960 8189
listadmin@appleusers.co.nz

The AUGC Discussion List is for members who wish to discuss club matters.

The HELP list is open to all Mac users who wish to give or receive assistance.

About the user group



Aims

The Apple User Group of Canterbury Incorporated (AUGC) is a non-profit organisation which exists for the purpose of exchanging ideas and expertise about the use of Apple computers, the Macintosh operating systems, and related hardware and software.

Committee

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Help: A full list of helpers and volunteers can be viewed in the Contacts section of our website.

Snail Mail: PO Box 31-053, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Website: <http://www.appleusers.co.nz>



Apple User Group