



Hints & Tips

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Welcome!

These tips have been culled from user group newsletters, Macintosh-related books, magazines, and other sources. Thanks to all who have contributed and provided this valuable information to the Macintosh community.

Several hundred new tips are added to the Hints & Tips Database each month, with 60–70 of them featured in this monthly newsletter.

If you haven't used the searchable Database of tips available on this website, I urge you to give it a try. For \$4.95, you can access the entire library of tips for a month. For \$48, you can have access for a year. It is a lot easier and faster than going through a pile of newsletters and magazines looking for that tip you read about a few months ago.

If you like this newsletter, the best way to support it is to subscribe to the Database.

— Paul Taylor
paul@mac-hints-tips.com



General

Apple Discussions

If you have an Internet connection of any kind, you have access to one of the most useful help systems around—Apple's Discussion forums. Here you can read questions and answers on a wide variety of topics, and post your own questions if you like.

There are separate discussion forums for various kinds of Apple hardware (Macs, Airport, iPod, and so on), and also for the full range of Apple system and application software (iPhoto, iTunes, AppleWorks, and the like); and yes, older hardware and system software are still covered.

There are two levels of participation in these discussions—you can browse existing topics freely from the start, but in order to post questions of your own, you need to register. This is a painless process and gives access to some other interesting areas of the Apple website as well. To locate the discussion area and register to post questions, proceed as follows:

- Direct your Web browser to the address (www.apple.com).
- Click the tab labeled "Support."
- In the same general area, click the word "Discussions."
- Here you can see a listing of the main discussion forums and, by clicking any one of them, can read other people's questions and answers. You cannot yet, however, post questions of your own. To do this:
 - Look for a small "house" icon in the right hand part of the page, and click the word "Login" beside it.
 - After reading some general explanation text, click the "Login" button.
 - Click the "New Account" button and follow the instructions to create an "Apple ID" and password that you will use in future to enter the Discussions area (at the fifth bullet point above) as a registered user. You will find that after the first time, you won't even need to enter your Apple ID and password to do this—they will be remembered. Seeking help is now quite a simple process:
 - Go to the Discussions page and Login.
 - Click the relevant discussion forum title.
 - Click the link "Post a New Topic" (above the topics list, towards the right side of the page).
 - Enter your question, taking care to make the Subject line as descriptive as possible. Some folk will never read past that line unless the gist of your inquiry is clear from it. Look at other people's postings for good and bad examples.
 - You will note at the bottom left of the message form a pop-up menu labeled "Subscribe to this topic." Leave this menu set to "email," which means that each time someone posts a reply to your question, you will be advised by email. This saves you from having to check the Discussions web page more often than necessary.
 - To post your question, click the "Add Topic" button.

- The page you then see can be confusing. It seems to indicate that you need to click yet another link to post your question. That is not so. Simply click the “Discussions” link in the header once more, re-enter the relevant discussion forum, and you will see that your question has indeed been posted. If you subsequently revisit your posting (by clicking its entry in the topic list) you will also see any replies that have been received. A row of small icons above each message enables you to reply or take other actions. (You can even edit or delete your original posting if you like.) If you allow your mouse pointer to hover over each icon in turn, you will see what their functions are.

Note that if a reply is helpful, you should click the “+” button, which gives a “credit” to its author. People who have accumulated many such credits are promoted to higher “levels,” as indicated below their names at the left of each message.

The Apple Discussion forums are moderated, which means that you will rarely read anything that isn’t reasonably polite and constructive—a welcome change from many of the “open” forums you may have used in the past. -Steve Cooper

AUSOM News, Melbourne, Australia

Give Classic More Memory

If you run several Classic applications at the same time, you may wish to give Classic (not the individual application) more memory. Go to System Preferences. Select “Classic.” Make sure you are not in the Memory/Versions tab. Now Option/click the “Memory/Versions” tab. This reveals a new button, Adjust Memory, in the lower right corner. Click the “Adjust

Memory” button and a new dialog appears allowing you to boost Classic memory.

Mouse Droppings, Corvallis OR

Cracking Installer Packages

An application that unexpectedly quits as soon as it is launched usually has a corrupt preference file (or files). So, the first thing you should do is find the suspect files and toss them into the trash. Move any matching files to the trash, and then try to launch the application again. Hopefully, it will start up normally and you’ll be back in business.

On the other hand, the application itself could be corrupt. CharlesSoft’s Pacifist (\$20; www.charlessoft.com) is a shareware utility that allows you to crack open installer packages and extract applications and other files. Download the utility and launch it. Now insert the Mac OS X Install CD and click “Open Mac OS X Install Packages.” You’ll soon see a list of available packages. Click the caret to expand Contents of Essentials.pkg, and then click the caret to expand Applications. Once you’ve spotted your application, highlight it and click “Expand To.” Choose a location for the application and enter your administrator password.

Apple Pickers MUG, Indianapolis, IN

Is That Really Email from Microsoft?

Be careful. In recent months, hackers have been using fake emails saying they’re from Microsoft. These emails warn the recipients that their computers are at risk by some terrible security problem and urge them to download a file to fix it. Of course, this file is a virus or

some sort of malicious code, and before the unsuspecting recipients know it, they’ve been infected.

Microsoft has released a guide to verifying if a Microsoft security-related message is legitimate at www.microsoft.com/security/antivirus/authenticate_mail.asp. If you’ve gotten these messages before, it’s a good idea to check out this guide so you’re better able to judge the validity of any email message from Microsoft.

TMUG Insider, Pleasanton, CA

Flash Hidden Games

Check out the following in Flash MX 2004. Click on the tiny ‘TM’ near the number 2004 in the About Flash dialog. The About screen will load with a choice of six different games... loads of fun!

Sterling Ledet

Reduce the Size of the Sidebar

Does the Sidebar sometimes occupy too much space in Panther? Grab the gray divider bar and drag it to the left. You can stop to just see the icons without the text, or you can drag the divider all the way to the left and eliminate the Sidebar entirely.

Mouse Droppings, Corvallis OR

Ways to Force Startup from a CD

Holding down the “C” key during startup is supposed to force your Mac to start up from the CD or DVD in its optical drive. Often, that doesn’t work, so here are some other ways to do it:

- During startup, hold down the Option key instead. At the resulting window, choose your CD or DVD as the startup volume.
- During startup, hold down the Shift, Option, Command, and

Delete keys. This should force your Mac to bypass its hard drive and look for any other volume with Mac OS on it.

- Insert the CD or DVD while Mac OS is running, choose Apple Menu > System Preferences > Start-up Disk and then select your CD or DVD and restart your Mac.

Be sure to wait for the startup chime before using any of these key combinations, and to use a CD containing a version of Mac OS X that is at least as new as the version your Mac shipped with—earlier versions won't work.

*MacFixIt.com
via Design Tools Monthly*

Scroll-Wheel Mouse?

If you're a user of a scroll-wheel equipped mouse, you may be happy to learn that you can use the wheel to scroll windows horizontally simply by holding down the Shift key.

I've only tested this trick in 10.2.1—it works in many applications, although not all—and of course it will not function in applications that do not already support the scroll-wheel.

And also: <http://article.gmane.org/gmane.comp.audio.emagic.logic.users/165517>

If you enter "horizontal scroll" into Google you will find quite a lot of information about mice that can scroll horizontally. Some have five buttons! -Alan Winslow

TMUG Insider, Pleasanton CA

Data Lost?

If all of a sudden your hard drive won't mount, the first step is to use your Disk Warrior CD (latest version is 3.0.3) for Alsoft (www.alsoft.com) and have it rebuild the

directory. If Disk Warrior says that the disk is too damaged to rebuild the directory, use Data Rescue for ProSoft Engineering (www.prosoftengineering.com) to recover whatever data is on the disk. If there is something physically wrong with the disk, you may be out of luck, period. But if there just was a software corruption of an otherwise ok disk, Data Rescue should be able to recover your data.

I suggest having both products as part of your basic file utilities. Really, they should come with every new computer! Use Disk Warrior on a regular basis to fix directory problems before they grow and become a "Data Rescue" problem.

Regarding Data Rescue, you will need a separate disk that is larger than the amount of data you want to recover. There are other details you should know before you use it. That's why those who want to prevent the agony of losing priceless data at a critical hour should buy the software now and learn how to use it. If you never have to use it, think of it as the best and cheapest insurance you never had to use!

A. Victor Goodpasture, ProDigital

The Learning Center

If you are not a subscriber to .Mac (that is Apple's "dot-Mac service) you may not have encountered the Learning Center. To locate it, direct your Web browser to www.mac.com/1/learningcenter/. It will quickly become obvious that there is a substantial range of tutorial material here—often a lot easier to digest than trawling a Help file.

Make sure to click the main headings in the left column to see relevant lists of tutorials in the column to the right, and watch

those disclosure triangles!

A good number of the tutorials are in movie form, or offer movies as supplements to the main text. Since that is so, you really need a broadband Internet connection to use the Learning Center effectively, which could be another good reason for splashing out on one!

An important tip is to watch out for buttons labeled "Learn More," and to click them all. Otherwise, you will see only an overview of the topic.

You might wonder why the Learning Center is in the .Mac area of the Apple site if you don't need to be a Mac subscriber to use it. The answer seems to be that if you delve deep into some of the tutorials, into the "expert tips" area, you will be asked for your Mac ID and password. The bulk of the content, though, appears to be accessible to non-subscribers.

At the moment, the main Learning Center subject areas are Mac, Mac OS X Panther, iLife '05, iPod, Keynote and iLife '04. If you use any of these products (remembering that iLife includes iPhoto, iMovie, iTunes and iDVD), a visit to the Learning Center could prove very worthwhile.

-Steve Cooper

AUSOM News, Melbourne, Australia

Improve Security by Storing Your Keychain on a USB Flash Drive

If you like the convenience that Apple's Keychain scheme provides, but want to add a little more security to the mix, get a USB flash drive and store your keychain on it. That way, your keychain will only be accessible when you physically insert the drive into the USB port.

To move an existing keychain to a flash drive, insert the drive,

and then navigate to `~/Library/Keychains`. Locate the keychain you want to move and then just drag it onto the flash drive. Then, delete the original from the Keychains folder.

To enable the newly copied keychain, open Keychain Access (found at Applications/Utilities/), and choose File > Add Keychain. Then, navigate to the keychain on your flash drive and click “Open.” From that point on, whenever an application requests a password stored in the keychain, you’ll need to have the USB flash drive inserted. Otherwise, the automatic password entry won’t work.

TMUG Insider, Pleasanton, CA

X Mac OS X

Recovering from a Freeze

What to do when your Mac stops dead—it is not such a big deal.

There are few things more alarming to a beginner than a Mac that stops dead and doesn’t respond to either mouse or keyboard. Happily, such events are rarely as serious as they may seem, and recovery is usually undramatic if you follow a simple procedure.

There are significant differences between Mac OS 9 and Mac OS X in this situation, so they are covered separately in this article. The Mac OS X situation is much simpler and is treated first. If you are using Mac OS 9 (or earlier), skip the next few sections and look for the “Mac OS 9” heading.

In fact, if you read the whole of this article, you will observe that a freeze in Mac OS X is much less disruptive than it is in Mac OS 9, and much easier to recover from. This is in fact one of the nicest features of Mac OS X, together with

the fact that you will experience such events much less often in the first place.

Mac OS X

What is a freeze? (OS X)

We say that that a program freezes when it no longer responds to mouse or keyboard input, and shows no other sign of activity. You will find that you can work with other programs on the Mac, but every time you move the arrow cursor over the window of the frozen program, it turns to the spinning rainbow ball and you can’t generate any further activity in that program.

It is quite possible to postpone fixing the freeze; for instance, if it is your Web browser that is frozen, you can continue to use your email program or any others you might need, without needing to attend to the Web browser. Sooner or later though, you will have to attend to the frozen program.

Forcing a quit (OS X)

Force the frozen program to quit by holding down the Command and Option keys together, and while holding them, briefly pressing the Escape key. (The Command key is the one with the cloverleaf, to the left of the space bar, while the Escape key is at top left of your keyboard, usually marked “esc.”) Alternatively, you can select “Force Quit” from the Apple menu.

Either way, you will see a window listing all of the programs currently running, including the Finder. Click the name of the one that seems to be frozen (even the Finder if appropriate), then click “Force Quit.” The selected program will quit and everything else will continue to work normally. You can then simply relaunch the problem program, which will function

as usual. (If the Finder was the problem, it will have relaunched automatically.) There is no need to restart the Mac.

Logging out/in (OS X)

If you continue to see problems (e.g. the offending program freezes again), you should log out and log back in again. To do this, close any open programs, then from the Apple menu choose “Log Out.” The display will clear to a plain background, then after a short time you will see the “Log In” screen with your name. Click the accompanying picture and enter your password in the box that appears. Click the “Log In” button to continue.

Restarting (OS X)

On the odd occasion, you may find that you are unable to force quit the problem program, and/or are unable to log out or restart using the Apple menu. If that happens, it is time to force a restart.

Most Macs running OS X will have been made in the past couple of years. On these machines you need to press the start button for about six seconds, upon which the Mac will shut down. Release the button, then press it again briefly to restart the Mac. If pressing the start button for six seconds doesn’t shut down your Mac, you will need to try one of the methods outlined in the Mac OS 9 section for older Macs (see the “Forcing a restart” heading).

Mac OS 9

What is a freeze? (OS 9)

We say that that a program freezes when it no longer responds to mouse or keyboard input, and shows no other sign of activity. You will find that you won’t be able to do anything useful with the rest of the Mac either, until you’ve resolved the freeze.

A freeze is not usually caused by any mechanical defect, but rather by a software glitch. While it is possible just to turn the Mac off at the wall switch and then back on again, there are better methods which may save you from losing work in progress, and are certainly kinder to your Mac's electronics and hard disk.

Forcing a quit (OS 9)

Quite often, all that has happened when you observe a freeze is that the application (program) you were working with has tripped up internally. With a bit of luck, all other programs and processes are still working, and if you could just get the frozen program out of the way, you'd be able to continue working.

Attempt to force the frozen program to quit by holding down the Command and Option keys together, and while holding them, briefly pressing the Escape key. (The Command key is the one with the cloverleaf, to the left of the space bar, while the Escape key is at top left of your keyboard, usually marked "esc.")

You will see a dialog that includes a "Force Quit" button. If you are lucky, clicking this may result in the program's quitting, enabling a return to normal operation of the Mac. If this happens, you should save any work still open in other programs, then restart the Mac normally. (Although you can skip this "restart" step, it will ensure that any residual problem has been cleared.) Quite often, though, the program will not quit and you have no option but to force a restart.

Forcing a restart

When you force a restart, the Mac's screen goes black, you hear the startup chime, and the Mac

starts normally. The technique for forcing a restart varies from Mac to Mac, so read on until you find the one that suits yours. (Your Mac's manual may also be helpful.)

Until a couple of years ago, the standard way of forcing a restart was to hold down the Command and Control keys together, then press the power button (i.e. the "start" button on or near the keyboard). If your Mac has such a button, try this method first.

Some desktop Macs of this vintage also have a restart button on the front of the main box, marked with a small triangle icon.

If you have an iMac (not a flat screen model), you have a special restart button. To find it, look in the recess on the side of the iMac where all the cords plug in. If you see two small white buttons towards the lower edge of the recess, and if the forward button is marked with a little black triangle, that is the restart button. If your iMac has the kind of CD drawer that slides out towards you and has an "eject" button on it, you will have to look further. Within the iMac's side recessed area, and towards the back of it, you will see two small holes one above the other and about 15mm apart. You need to poke something slim (a straightened paper clip is the standard tool) gently into the upper hole until you feel a resistance. A further gentle push will activate the restart switch.

Most PowerBooks and iBooks also have a special restart button, either on the back edge amongst the various plugs, or above the start button on the keyboard panel, tucked into the grille below the screen. In any case the button is marked with a tiny triangle icon.

If your Mac was made within

the past couple of years, you won't find a restart button of any kind. What you are meant to do in this case is press the power button and keep it pressed for about six seconds, when the Mac will shut down. Then release the button and press it again briefly to restart the Mac.

Practice!

As long as you have no unsaved documents, you can do no harm by practicing these techniques. In fact, I recommend that you do.

~Steve Cooper

AUSOM News, Melbourne, Australia

Using Disk Utility and FSCK File System Maintenance in OS X

When the computer cannot start up normally, you may need to use a disk repair utility. Mac OS X includes two utilities for this: Disk Utility and fsck.

Tip: For Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger or later, you should use Disk Utility.

In some situations, file system errors may prevent the computer from starting up to a normal state. This could occur after improper shutdown, forced restart, or power interruption. These symptoms indicate you should use a disk repair utility:

- *Partial start with command line*

The computer starts up partially then pauses in a command-line (text only) environment. A message such as "file system dirty, run fsck," may appear. Below the message, there is a command line, indicated by a number sign prompt (#). Commands you type in this environment appear next to the prompt. When this happens, run fsck from the command line.

- *System starts up partially but does not display a command-line prompt*

The computer may start up but

fail to reach the login screen, or it may reach the login screen but fail to reach the Desktop after you log in. In this case, you must start up in single-user mode.

Try a Safe Boot

Mac OS X 10.2 can Safe Boot. If you have not yet upgraded to 10.2, 10.3 or later, then skip to the next section. A Safe Boot may allow you to restart successfully using a reduced version of system software. In Safe Mode, an automatic disk check and repair may resolve your issue. Follow these steps:

1. Start up in safe mode.
2. After the system is fully started up, restart again normally.

Safe Boot is a special way to start Mac OS X 10.2 or later when troubleshooting. Safe Mode is the state Mac OS X is in after a Safe Boot. Starting up into Safe Mode does three things to simplify the startup and operation of your computer:

- It forces a directory check of the startup volume.
 - It loads only required kernel extensions (some of the items in /System/Library/Extensions).
 - It runs only Apple-installed startup items (some of the items in /Library/StartupItems and /System/Library/StartupItems, and are different than login items).
 - Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger only: It disables all fonts other than those in /System/Library/Fonts.
 - Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger only: It moves to the Trash all font caches normally stored in /Library/Caches/com.apple.ATS/(uid)/, where (uid) is a user ID number such as 501.
 - Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger only: It disables any Login Items.
- Taken together, these changes

can work around issues caused by software or directory damage on the startup volume.

Safe Mode can be useful for troubleshooting. However, certain Mac OS X features do not work when you are started up in Safe Mode. For example, you can't use DVD Player, capture video in iMovie, use an AirPort card, use some audio input or output devices, or use an internal or external USB modem.

To start up into Safe Mode (to "Safe Boot"), do this:

1. Be sure the computer is shut down.
2. Press the power button.
3. Immediately after you hear the startup tone, press and hold the Shift key. **Tip:** The Shift key should be held as soon as possible after the startup tone but not before.
4. Release the Shift key when you see the gray Apple and progress indicator (looks like a spinning gear).

During the startup, you will see "Safe Boot" on the Mac OS X startup screen. To leave Safe Mode, restart the computer normally, without holding any keys during startup.

A Safe Boot for Mac OS X takes longer than a normal startup. This delay will occur when you see the progress indicator (looks like a spinning gear). It can be quite long (several minutes) depending on how long it takes to check and repair the directory (if needed). This delay is normal for a Safe Boot and caused by two of the things that happen during a Safe Boot:

- Safe Boot forces a directory check of the hard drive. This is identical to using Disk Utility's Repair Disk or the `fsck -fy`

terminal command.

- The cache of kernel extensions used to speed startup is ignored. (The cache file is /System/Library/Extensions.kextcache)
Note: Safe Boot is not a feature of Mac OS X 10.0 to 10.1.5.

If the computer successfully restarts, you do not need to do any more troubleshooting. If the issue persists, go to the next section.

Try Disk Utility

In most circumstances, you check and repair the disk using the Disk Utility application included with Mac OS X.

1. Insert your Mac OS X CD-ROM disc or Restore DVD disc, then restart the computer while holding the "C" key.
2. Once started up from CD or DVD, choose "Disk Utility" from the Installer menu. **Important:** Do NOT click "Continue" in the first screen of the Installer. If you do, you must restart from disc to access Disk Utility.
3. Click the First Aid tab.
4. Click the disclosure triangle to the left of the hard drive icon to display the names of your hard disk volumes and partitions.
5. Select your Mac OS X volume, if necessary.
6. Click Repair.

Disk Utility checks the disk. If the Verify and Repair buttons are dimmed in the Disk Utility window, make sure you have selected a volume to check.

When to use fsck instead

Starting with a Safe Boot or using Disk Utility while started up from CD or DVD eliminates the need to use `fsck`, but there are situations in which `fsck` may be necessary.

- Your Mac OS X disc is not immediately available.

- Your CD-ROM drive is not immediately available.
- You can't start with a Safe Boot.

The fsck utility may be able to verify and repair a disk in such a situation.

Tip: If you use a Mac OS X Extended (Journaled) formatted volume, such as with Mac OS X Panther, you will probably not need to use fsck. If you do use it for some reason, be aware that benign error messages can appear. **Tip:** If you're not sure how your volume is formatted, and you can't start from your Mac OS X volume to check, type: "diskutil info /". If you see "File System: Journaled HFS+", then it's a Journaled volume.

How to use fsck

The fsck utility is run from the command line. This means that you must type a text command at a prompt (#), rather than using the mouse pointer to open an application. Examples include the Terminal application and single-user mode. Start in single-user mode to reach the command line.

Note: If necessary, perform a forced restart as described in the Emergency Troubleshooting Handbook that came with your computer. On desktop computers, this is generally achieved by pressing the reset/interrupt button, which is marked with a triangle. On portable computers, this is generally achieved by pressing the Command/Control/power keys. If a portable computer does not respond to this method, you may need to reset the Power Manager.

You may use a key combination when starting up the computer to enter single-user mode or verbose mode, either of which can be used for troubleshooting and in software development. This document

applies to Mac OS X and Mac OS X Server versions 10.0 and later.

1. Shut down computer if it is on.
2. Press the power button to start the computer.
3. Immediately press and hold the Command (Apple) key and one of the following:
 - "s" key for single-user mode
 - "v" key for verbose mode
4. To exit single-user mode type: reboot
5. Press Return.

You have successfully entered single-user or verbose mode when you see white text appear on the screen.

1. If you do not develop software, verbose and single-user modes are only needed when troubleshooting the computer for a startup issue.
2. You cannot enter single user or verbose mode if the computer owner or administrator has enabled Open Firmware Password Protection.
3. When in single-user or verbose mode, the keyboard layout is US English.
4. At the command-line prompt, type: /sbin/fsck -fy
5. Press Return.

The fsck utility will go through five "phases" then return information about the disk's utilization and fragmentation. Once the check is finished, if no issue is found, you should see "*** The volume (name of volume) appears to be OK."

If fsck alters, repairs, or fixes anything, it will display the message:

```
***FILE SYSTEM WAS
MODIFIED**
```

Important: If this message appears, repeat the fsck command until it no longer appears. It's OK if

you need to do several "passes" of fsck, because first-pass repairs may uncover additional issues.

6. When fsck reports that, "The volume (name of volume) appears to be OK.", type: reboot
7. Press Return.

The computer should start up normally and allow you to log in.

The -y flag

This tells fsck that you want to answer "yes" to all questions about fixing, repairing, or salvaging information. This is the optimal approach, as answering "no" to any question causes fsck to stop. You cannot determine that all necessary repairs have been made until fsck completes and gives its final report.

The -f flag

Forces fsck to check "clean" file systems when preening.

Apple Barrel, Ridgecrest, CA

Compressing Files (.zip) in One Click

One of my favorite Panther features is the ability to create .zip compressed files from within the OS (basically, this shrinks the file size, ideal for files you are going to email—smaller file sizes mean faster file transfers).

To create a compressed file, either Control/click on the file, then choose "Create Archive" (which is Apple-speak for "Make a compressed .zip file"), or you can click on a file, then go to the Action menu (the button that looks like a gear up in the Finder window's toolbar), and choose "Create Archive" from there. Either way, it quickly creates a new file, with the file extension ".zip." This is the compressed file.

You can also compress several different files (like 3 for example)

into one single archive file—just Command/click on all the files you want included, then choose “Create Archive of 3 Items” from the Action menu. A file will be created named “Archive.zip” (that’s it!).

By the way, if someone sends you a .zip file, don’t sweat it—just double-click it and Panther will automatically decompress it.

TMUG Insider, Pleasanton, CA

Dock Volumes

Q: Can I put a link to all of my volumes in the Dock?

A: You could simply drag your drive and network volume icons into the Dock, which works just fine. Or you could take a craftier approach: drag the invisible Volumes folder into the Dock for access to all of your volumes in one folder. Do this by selecting “Go To Folder” from the Go menu in the Finder. Type “/Volumes” and click “Go” to open the invisible Volumes directory.

From the top of the Finder window, drag the little folder icon for the Volumes folder into the Dock. You won’t be able to access most removable drives via the Docked Volumes folder, but it’s still handy.

MacAddict Magazine

Gain Access with your Mac OS X Admin Password

It is important to remember that anyone with an administrative password can access any of the files on that computer (unless, of course, the files are encrypted). Normally, the administrator has to log into the root level or use the Terminal application to review the files in another user’s directory, but if a computer is set to lock the screen when the screensaver is activated, the administrator can

simply press any key and then enter his username and password in the unlocking dialog box. When he does so, the screen unlocks to the account that was open before the computer was put to sleep.

TMUG Insider, Pleasanton, CA

Panther Keyboard Shortcuts

Most keyboard shortcuts are consistent from program to program on the Mac, but there are exceptions. The “Hide All Windows” command in Photoshop, for example, should be Command/H like most other Mac programs, not Option/Command/H. But using the new Panther Keyboard control panel, you can easily change any keystroke in any program. You can also make up a new keyboard shortcut for menu commands that doesn’t have them. You will love this!

Mouse Droppings, Corvallis OR

Deleting Passwords

Q: I am running OS 10.3 and have saved a number of passwords when asked by the operating system. There are some that I would now like to delete. I remember doing this some time ago, where I was able to bring up a list of passwords. I believe it had to be done through the Administrator. I cannot now remember how to do it! Can you help me in this matter?

~Paul Thomas

A: You’ll need to open Keychain Access, which you can find at Macintosh HD > Utilities > Keychain Access. Once you’ve opened it up, you’ll see a list of password items that have been saved. If necessary, click the Lock to unlock your keychain. You’ll be asked to put in your administrator password. Once the keychain is

unlocked, you can simply select an item and choose Edit > Delete.

macHOME HotTips

Registration Codes for Your Applications

When you get new software, one of the most important items is the registration code. Whether you register online or receive the code in the software package, it is crucial you keep track of that all-important number! Many install CDs or floppies come with the number printed on the label, or stickered on the CD case. Those are simple ... as long as you have the software, you have the registration code. However, if your CD case gets cracked, or you replace the paper or plastic sleeve with a real jewel case, be sure to remember to transfer that code! Taking a moment to make a tiny sticker or tape a snipped-out code number to the case can save you hours (or days!) of grief if you ever have to reinstall the software.

~Virginia Chilcote

MouseBytes, St. Petersburg, FL



Internet

Google: Are You Using It To Its Fullest?

A search engine is a program that searches for specified keywords and returns a list of the documents or web sites where the keywords were found. Alta Vista, Google, and Ask Jeeves are examples of search engines that look for documents and/or subjects on the Internet. Some definitions of Google refer to it as a verb, such as “Google it, now.” Time-after-time Google shows up as one of the best. But are you using it to its fullest? There are so many ways to search on Google.

Did you know that if you type “one decade in seconds” (without the quotes) that you will get the answer (315,569,260).

Calculator

To use Google’s built-in calculator function, simply enter the calculation you’d like done into the search box and hit the “Enter” key or click on the Google “Search” button. The calculator can solve math problems involving basic arithmetic, more complicated math, units of measure and conversions, and physical constants. To learn how to use the calculator, go to <http://www.google.com/help/calculator.html>.

Google Made Easy

Go to <http://www.google.com/options/index.html> and use the categorized icons.

Doodles

If you want to see some of the first Google logos or doodles go to <http://www.google.com/holidaylogos99.html>. Dennis Hwang is the fellow that draws the doodles and has produced almost 150 of them. He actually is Google’s international webmaster. If you want to suggest a theme for a Google doodle, send him a note at doodle@google.com

Games on Google

Just type in “Google Games” in the search engine and you’ll find that many people have created games to be played with Google. I discovered one called Googlewhacking. It was mentioned on the *NBC Today* show a couple of weeks ago. It’s played this way: you think of two words and type them in the search box. The idea is to get the resulting web sites down to ONE. Yes, one! This is more difficult than it sounds. It took me a while to do it but I got it.

Finding NONE doesn’t count. Got to get it down to ONE. Let me know if you get it and what words you used. I will tell you though that Cruciate olives got 65 results. Now, that’s a pretty low count. And wireless pizza got 1,320,000 results. Go figure!

Compare Search Engines

You might want to try another search engine such as Yahoo or Alta Vista or Teoma. Check out the Noodletools site to compare search engines and you decide which one is best for you. I think you’ll agree that Google is the best. <http://www.noodletools.com/debbie/literacies/information/>. -Virginia Chilcote

*MouseBytes, St. Petersburg, FL
via TMUG Insider, Pleasanton, CA*

Change Your Default Web Browser

Your Mac launches a Web browser when you click on a link to a Web page in an email message, text file, etc. You can control which Web browser is launched by doing this: In Mac OS 9, go to the Internet control panel and select the Web tab. At the bottom of the Web pane, select your preferred Web browser from the Default Web Browser pop-up menu. In Mac OS X, launch Safari and choose Safari > Preferences. In the General tab, choose a Web browser from the pop-up menu next to Default Web Browser. After that, any time your Mac automatically launches a Web browser, it will be that one.

Design Tools Monthly

Paparazzi and SiteSucker

Courtney Wright mentioned a program called “Paparazzi,” for saving the content of a web page. If you have a web page displayed, and want to save a copy of it, then you

can start Paparazzi, then enter the URL of the web page (drag and drop from the Browser will do it). Then Paparazzi can access the web page itself, and save to a PNG file, which Preview can read.

You may want to rename the file, since Paparazzi just sticks png on the end of the URL. This program may be contrasted with SiteSucker (current OS X version is 1.6.3), which, given a URL, downloads the web page together with other pages linked to it, down to a specified depth. This is important, for example, if you want the pictures, as well as what is in the source html file.

But it can fall down if the web page has complicated links to other web pages, or (even worse) links that refer back to a page you have already downloaded. -Bruce Craven
AUSOM News, Melbourne, Australia

Check Your Credit Report for Free

Recent U.S. legislation requires the three major credit reporting companies—Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion—to provide anyone who asked with a free credit report once every 12 months (so you can get one credit report from each company all at once, or you can request a report from one of the companies every four months to be on the lookout for problems).

www.annualcreditreport.com/
www.epic.org/privacy/fcra/
www.epic.org/privacy/preemption/

*The Finder, Mid-Columbia MUG,
Kennewick, WA*

A Shortcut for Accurately Selecting Text on a Web Page

If you’ve tried to highlight text on a Web page by dragging your mouse across the text with the button depressed, you know how

awkward it can be. Often either some of the text you meant to select is left out, or else headings, figures, and other elements are mistakenly included in your selection. Fortunately, there's a much cleaner and easier way. Simply click just to the left of the beginning of the text you want to select, release the mouse button, position your insertion point immediately following the last part of the desired text, hold down the Shift key and click again. When you do, all the text between the two click points is highlighted and selected.

TMUG Insider, Pleasanton CA

Thinking in Reverse

MacValley member Norah Graham writes: "I often use www.dictionary.com as it has multiple dictionaries and a thesaurus, but I have recently found a nifty alternative.

It is one thing to know the word, but how often have you known a concept but could not think of a word to describe it? For that you need a reverse dictionary, and I found one at <http://www.onelook.com/reverse-dictionary.shtml>. You type in a description and it pops out the words.

You can also search for delimited strings so, if you know how the word is partially spelled or you are looking for crossword answers, you can find them.

MacValley Voice, Northridge, CA



MS Entourage

Correcting Capitalization

Do you have Entourage insisting on capitalizing the first word after each period? Does Entourage always want to AutoCorrect the first letter

of a sentence to a capital letter, even after an abbreviation, like "Add 50 ml. Of solution"?

To fix this problem you need to turn off the Auto Correct command. Many people miss this ability to turn it off because instead of looking in Entourage's Tools menu, they look in the preferences.

In the Tools menu find the AutoCorrect command. Select it and in the resulting window you'll see the "Capitalize first letter of sentences" option. Disable this option and Entourage will no longer do the capitalization thing after an abbreviation.

You can also leave this option on but click the Exceptions button and add any abbreviations you like in the "Don't Capitalize After" field. *Apple Pickers MUG, Indianapolis, IN*



Email

Junk Mail Caution

Junk mail (or "spam") is becoming a bigger nuisance every day, and you may be tempted to take drastic action to curb the flow. It is possible that your ISP allows you to set the sensitivity of spam filters that he applies, or you may be able to make a similar choice in your email program.

The purpose of this item is simply to warn you against becoming too aggressive in this regard. The simple reason is that the less tolerant your spam filter is, the more likely it is that wanted mail will be discarded without your ever seeing it.

Junk filters work by looking in each message for data that is known to be typical of junk mail. Words and phrases, source addresses, routing, and more are examined and a "score" given for each suspect

item found. Messages with an aggregate score above a defined level are rated junk and are filtered out.

If your email program does the filtering, you do at least have a chance to review the suspect messages to see if any are wanted, but if your ISP does the filtering, you will never see the filtered messages at all.

A very common situation in which wanted mail may be filtered out occurs if you order something online, or send any other kind of message which results in an automatically-generated response. Such responses commonly contain data typical of junk mail even though they are not, and unless you are alert to the possibility, you may never see the response.

Even if a message is otherwise quite innocent, it may be filtered because of the presence of some "suspect" term or phrase.

I recently read of a woodworking hobbyist who almost lost many messages from friendly folks not in his existing address book because they contained more than two instances of the word "inches."

There are a few things you can do to reduce the possibility of losing wanted mail:

- If you receive a message from someone "friendly" but previously unknown to you, add that person to your address book straight away. That should ensure that future messages from that person will get through to you.
- Don't ask your ISP to implement very aggressive junk mail filters. Use your email program's filters instead. That way, you will at least have the opportunity to review mail that has been rated as junk.
- If your email program's junk

filters can be “trained,” as Apple Mail’s can, pay attention to doing so. The more you train, the more accurate the filtering function will become. (Note that you should continue to train Apple Mail even after switching it to “automatic” filtering mode. For more information on Mail’s junk filter, open its Help menu and enter “filtering junk mail” as the search text.)

- Do check your filtered junk mail before finally dispatching it to the trash. Just scanning the subject lines is usually sufficient to sort the wheat from the chaff. If you do need to check the text to be sure, remember that Apple Mail will not display any images in a message rated “junk” unless you ask it to. That knowledge may make your task a little less challenging.
- When writing to friends, don’t use subject lines like “Hi there,” “Hello” or “A surprise for you.” Instead, try to include some meaningful words. Otherwise, they may just trash your message without reading it.

~Steve Cooper

AUSOM News, Melbourne, Australia

Auto-Opening Hyperlinks

Q: I’ve used Macs for years, but for some reason I don’t know how to include a usable link in an email message so it automatically opens the webpage. Any help?

~Linda Phillips

A: There’s no trick to adding a hyperlink to your email messages; you just type it in and click send. It is a user’s email application that determines how those hyperlinks are handled.

Older email applications are a bit fussy with hyperlinks, so to be on

the safe side, you should include the “http://” as part of the link.

There is no way to tell a hyperlink to automatically open when the mail is received, however. And that’s a good thing. Consider for a moment the chaos this would cause. Not every emailer is as benevolent as yourself, and you can just imagine the sites that would be auto-triggered by spam. And it would surely be a crippling security issue on the PC platform, which continues to be plagued by viruses and spyware.

macHOME HotTips



GoLive

Finding Your Buddy List

Have you started using iChat yet? If you haven’t and you have friends or family who are frequently on their computers, it is a totally cool way to communicate.

One of my children works in an environment where personal phone calls are not possible. She works on a computer all day and iChat is allowed, so we can carry on short conversations as needed. Another of my children has a very busy schedule. I can send him an iChat message (something to the effect of “hello son, remember me?”) and what do you know, I get a phone call. Works every time.

Seriously, I can leave him a message no matter what time of day it is and he will either immediately come back for a conversation or get back with me later.

My iChat tip is this: I discovered that if I had a conversation going on with one person I couldn’t figure out how to get my Buddy List open to start a second conversation with someone else. I finally resorted to

asking a friend from Apple and as it turns out the answer is quite simple. Hold down Command/1 (that is the number one) and it will pull the Buddy List up for you.

*Mouse Tales, North Coast MUG,
Berea, OH*

Easier Table Selection

Ever find yourself working in a table cell and need to select its encompassing table, or even an outer table if you’re working in nested tables? Of course, you can use the mouse, but if you prefer the keyboard instead, try this:

Control/Return moves you outward one level in the nesting hierarchy. Need to move inward? Press Return to move down one level. ~Deborah Shadovitz

Mac Design Magazine

A Word About What

Q: Whenever I try to copy a bit of text from Microsoft Word into iChat, an attachment appears in the iChat window instead of the text. What’s going on? ~Bill Dunn

A: Word text is formatted in such a way that iChat thinks it is a graphics file instead of text. When you send one of these attachments, recipients see a black bar rather than words. The secret to resolving the issue is to strip out that formatting before you bring the copied text into iChat.

Although you can do this by pasting the text into a text editor, copying it again, and pasting it into iChat, who needs the aggravation? I prefer Carsten Blum’s free Plain Clip, an application that strips formatting from text stored in the Clipboard, combined with Jean-Daniel Dupas’s free Spark 2.0, which lets you create hot keys for launching applications and

documents, executing AppleScripts, and controlling iTunes. I've used Spark to create a key combination that invokes Plain Clip, so when I want to copy text from Word into iChat, I copy the text, press Command/Shift/C (the hot key I created to launch Plain Clip), and paste the text into iChat.

*Chris Breen's Mac 911
via TMUG Insider, Pleasanton CA*



Photoshop

Find Out What's New in CS2

What better way to see what's new with Photoshop CS2 than by using one of CS2's new features to find out. Just choose Window > Workspace > What's New in CS2. Then go through each menu item. Photoshop will show each new feature highlighted in the menus. To get back to normal view, just choose Window > Workspace > Default Workspace.

Layers Magazine

Faking a Split Neutral Density Filter with Photoshop and Camera Raw

Have you ever come across an exciting scene with a dynamic, powerful sky, but the results after capture have been disappointing? Maybe that stunning sky was washed out, or the foreground was plugged up. That's because the light was stronger in the sky, and the exposure required was different than that needed for the foreground. Because of the limited dynamic range that can be captured on a camera, photographers may use a split neutral density filter. This filter allows us to expose for a brighter sky by filtering it down.

What if you don't have a filter?

You could use a tripod and shoot several images at different exposures and mix them together. However, if you've shot in the RAW format, you can also fake it in Photoshop and still get a very good result.

Here's how:

1. Open your RAW image in Photoshop Camera Raw.
2. Make the adjustments for the best exposure in the foreground. Don't worry about blowing out the sky at this point.
3. Click "OK" and save the image as a .tif or .psd. This will release the RAW file, allowing you to open the image in Camera Raw again.
4. Open the original RAW image in Camera RAW again.
5. This time make the adjustments for optimum exposure in the sky. You now have two images open. The following steps are the same that you would use for a multiple-exposure image.
6. Choose the Move tool; click-and-drag the darker image into the lighter image document as you hold down the Shift key to center the image.
7. Click the "Add a Layer Mask" button (second to left at the bottom of the Layers palette).
8. Press the "D" key to reset the foreground and background colors.
9. Choose the Gradient tool; set the options for linear, foreground to background. The gradient will create a smooth blend between the top and bottom layers by using the layer mask. White shows the layer contents, while Black hides the layer and reveals the layer beneath.
10. Drag the gradient tool

vertically. The transition will happen in the dragged area. Make a short drag for an abrupt transition between layers. Make a longer area for a smoother, softer transition.

This is an easy technique that can add a lot of impact to your images without too much effort.

Check out my training videos at www.photoshopCD.com for other useful techniques. -Colin Smith

*Studio Photography
& Design Magazine*



iPhoto

Flummoxed by iPhoto

If your iPhoto 5 rendered slideshows are too bulky, you may be choosing the "wrong" slideshow. <http://www.macworld.com/weblogs/mac911/2005/04/iphotoflum/index.php>

The MUG Center

www.mugcenter.com

via TMUG Insider, Pleasanton, CA

Trimmer iPhoto Library

Q: Is there any way to make Apple's iPhoto save changes to an original photo, short of moving the altered photo completely out of the program and importing it again? For example, when I reduce red-eye, I end up with the original photo and the altered one. Sometimes this is a waste of hard drive space. -Eric Anderson

A: I agree that this feature is both a blessing and a curse. Granted, you can always gain access to your unaltered original: just select the edited picture and choose Photos > Revert To Original. But iPhoto makes the magic happen by squirreling away two copies of the photo—the

original and the edited version.

To free up hard-disk space, consider Martin Fuhrer's free iPhoto Diet (<http://pages.cpsc.ucalgary.ca/~fuhrer/personal/freestuff/iphotosdiet/>). This utility slenderness your photo library by eliminating duplicate photos, removing backups of rotated or modified photos, stripping out your photos' thumbnail icons, and locating and disposing of photos never added to an album.

*Chris Breen's Mac 911
via Mouse Droppings, Corvallis, OR*

Suffering From iPhoto Overload

Digital photography is a wonderful technology. It enables us to improve our photographic skills through experimentation with different settings, compositions, and exposures; the list of alternates goes on. Without the expense of film and developing, many of us are taking more pictures than ever. Add to that the flexibility to edit images using Photoshop or Photoshop Elements and a need arises to save original images as well as the edited versions.

All this flexibility can result in so many pictures in your iPhoto library that you one can't locate the one of Aunt Suzie you want to send to your grandchildren.

There are ways to successfully catalog images in iPhoto if you limit the number of photos you place in iPhoto. That doesn't address the issue of how to keep original images for future use and edited ones to enjoy now.

If you are like me and many other photographers, you are taking and editing more photos than you actually need to keep for ready-access through iPhoto.

For those of us seeking an

alternative, Apple provides a way called "Image Capture". It can be found in your "Applications" folder. Here's one way to use it for better image management.

1. First, after opening the application, go to "Preferences > General" and, in the pull down menu in the camera section, select "Image Capture."

The next time you connect a camera or other memory device you will see asking where to download your images, do an "Automated Task," an Options button, and the "Download Some" and "Download All" buttons.

From the pull-down menu next to "Download To: select a folder or create one of your own. This will store your images in an intermediate folder instead of iPhoto. I've used names like "camera images", "holding folder," etc. The purpose is to capture your camera's data in a known place. Except for those with more expensive cameras, the files will be in .JPG format.

2. After the downloading is complete, go to this folder and begin changing the names of the images. For example, change an image with a name like DCP12345.jpg to a name and date code like: Auntsuzie050328.jpg. This indicates it is a photo of Aunt Suzie taken on 2005 (05) March (03) the 28" (28). How you code your images is your decision; do what you feel comfortable doing. I strongly recommend a date code element to help you know which photo of Aunt Suzie you are working on.

3. If you are a serious photographer (e.g. you paid more than \$200 for your camera and it has settings), you should save a

copy of the original camera data file (jpg for us cheapies or tiff or RAW for the pro's) in your photo archive folder. If I was a serious photographer, I might keep these files in an iPhoto Library ONLY if it was a library that I NEVER modified. Personally I think a separate iPhoto Library devoted to ONLY original camera images is a sensible approach, but professionals might worry about degradation during the import to the iPhoto Library and prefer to have a separate folder in their Pictures folder to store original data.

4. You now have a set of images that you have renamed and MAY have stored a copy of in your Archive folder/system. These images are in your "holding" folder; they most likely have a .jpg extension. Use your version of Photoshop, Photoshop Elements (2 or 3 or later) to open each image.

Do NOT do any editing of the original image. Then do a "Save As" on each image where you choose Photoshop (creates a psd extension) as the file format and save to an "import" folder.

With the exception of a special event (wedding, etc.), you may want to collect images on a calendar basis. I personally save these images to a folder named by each yearly quarter. The name of this "import" folder becomes the name of the Film Roll when imported into iPhoto; choose a name for the import folder that makes sense when you view the film roll in iPhoto.

5. Finally, open iPhoto Library Manager or iPhoto to get to the library that will hold your images. Import the set of images from the "Import" folder to iPhoto. Once in, you can clear out the images in

the “import” folder OR delete the “import” folder if you have given it a unique name.

Separate from the file/image management issue, you should be aware that iPhoto keeps two copies of your images. Your original imported image is retained. Any modifications create a NEW image with the same name.

You always have the ability to “Revert to Original;” this throws away any changes and brings you back to the imported file.

-Jerry King

MacFriends Report, Naples, FL

Pictures Going Out

Q: Is there a way that I can email photos from iPhoto without having the actual picture in the message of the email? I would like it to be sent as an attachment, instead of the way it is sent now, as an attachment that is visible in the message section.

-Riki Fritz

A: You’re to be commended for your sensitivity in sending large files. It is actually the mail reader that determines whether or not the images appear in the body of the message.

There is a way you can get around it, though. First, go to the Finder, click the Desktop, and choose File > New Folder. Give it a name.

Now open iPhoto and select the pictures you want to send. Choose Share > Export, set the picture size and then click “Export.” Save the images to the folder you just created on your desktop.

Now open your mail application. Create a new message, and then add the folder to it as an attachment. It’ll be compressed and encoded and sent out strictly as an attachment.

macHOME HotTips



iMovie

iMovie Click Tricks

Q: How do I change the position of titles in Apple’s iMovie? Except for the subtitle effect, which appears along the bottom of the screen, titles are in the middle of the frame.

A: You can change where some titles appear by clicking on the title in the Preview window and dragging it to a new location—from the middle of the window to the bottom, for example. To find out which titles support this feature, move your cursor into the Preview window after you’ve selected iMovie’s Title tab. If the cursor changes to a cross hair, you can modify the title’s location.

This trick also works with iMovie’s “Scale Down” transition and a few effects. Select “Scale Down,” and then click anywhere in the Preview window and the effect will scale down to that point. Click in the “Preview” window to change where the Electricity, Fairy Dust, and Lens Flare effects occur.

*Chris Breen’s Mac 911
via TMUG Insider, Pleasanton, CA*

Convert VOB Files for iMovie

In the April 2004 issue, you suggested using OpenShiiva to convert VOB files to a format readable by iMovie. If you own a copy of Roxio’s Toast Titanium (\$80; www.roxio.com), you can convert files easily. Open Toast and click on the “Video” tab. Drag and drop your VOB files into the Toast window, as though you were creating a disc. Within Toast, select the video file to convert, and then select “Export Video” from the Disc menu. You’ll be prompted to save the converted file as a .dv file, which can be read by iMovie. There are

some limitations depending on the audio format (for instance, Dolby Digital AC-3 requires Toast with Jam), but they shouldn’t apply to your DVD source discs. When you’re done converting, you can quit Toast without saving the project.

-Martin Dellwo

*Chris Breen’s Mac 911
via Apple Barrel, Ridgecrest CA*



iWork

17 Things You Might Not Know You Could Do with iWork

If you’ve installed iWork on your hard drive but haven’t had a chance to really dig into it yet, maybe this article will inspire you to do so. Giles Turnbull takes you on a romp through this production suite showing you lots of fun and useful things to do with it.

www.macdevcenter.com/pub/a/mac/2005/04/12/iwork.html

*The MUG Center
www.mugcenter.com
via TMUG Insider, Pleasanton, CA*



Laptops

Buy PowerBook Now or Later?

Q: I still use the PowerBook G4 (Titanium) and it is time for me to upgrade. I was going to purchase the new PowerBook G4 that was announced a few weeks ago, but I have this really horrible feeling deep down inside that the second I hand over my credit card for the purchase, Steve Jobs will unveil the new PowerBook G5s. Of course, I’ll have just spent everything I can spend and won’t be able to afford to upgrade for at least two to three years. Now, some people are saying that the PowerBook G5s

are just around the corner and others are saying that it's at least 18 to 24 months away. I need a new computer but am willing to wait if the next generation models are not too far away. What would you do?
-Jerry Smith

A: Your question hits very close to home. There has been very little news about the PowerBook G5 except for Apple personnel saying that it will be a long time coming because of the challenges of putting the powerful (and excessively hot) processor into a PowerBook. The only other information we've heard comes from DigiTimes, a Taiwanese newspaper with a somewhat spotty record of accuracy. The newspaper recently reported that Quanta Computer has been awarded the contract to produce PowerBook G5s in Q2 2005. It could very well be a misprint or a misinterpretation. Apple's second quarter runs from January 1, 2005 to March 31, 2005, so it is possible that the article is referring to the recently announced revisions of the PowerBook G4.

Apple's products typically have a lifespan of six months before they are updated. So we can assume that an announcement is at least four months off. Apple's WWDC (Worldwide Developer's Conference), being held June 6-10, is an ideal venue for unveiling a product as monumental (and as coveted) as the PowerBook G5. I must stress that this is just a supposition; I have absolutely no additional information to confirm this date. It could very well be another year or more before we see a PowerBook G5.

You're obviously looking to make a long-term investment though, so here's something to consider.

Since you plan on holding on to your new PowerBook for at least two to three years, you have to ask yourself, what if the first generation of PowerBook G5s don't quite have all the kinks worked out of them? Can you afford to make a long-term commitment to a new product with no track record? Is it more prudent to wait for the first revision to the PowerBook G5s after they've been road-tested by thousands of users? The answers to these questions may help you to decide whether or not you want to wait for the PowerBook G5.

Now, if you absolutely need a new computer in the next two months, you might consider buying the low-end iBook or even the Mac mini, both of which have faster processors than your TiBook, and selling it once Apple announces the PowerBook G5. Yes, you'll lose some money in the sale, but at least you'll have something to tide you over until the fabled beast finally steps out of the shadows.

macHOME HotTips

Apple Recalls Some PowerBook Batteries

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and other international safety authorities, Apple is voluntarily recalling certain lithium ion rechargeable batteries that were sold worldwide from January 2004 through August 2004 for use with 15-inch PowerBook G4 (Aluminum) notebook computers. These batteries were manufactured by LG Chem, Ltd. of South Korea.

The affected batteries could overheat, posing a fire hazard. Apple received four reports of these batteries overheating. No injuries have been reported.

Apple urges you to stop using your battery and to order a replacement battery immediately. If you continue to use your battery, do not leave it unattended, and check for signs of overheating. Apple has initiated an exchange program and will provide eligible customers with a new replacement battery, free of charge. No other PowerBook or iBook batteries are part of this recall.

Identifying your battery:

The recalled batteries have the Model Number: A1045 and serial numbers that begin with: HQ404, HQ405, HQ406, HQ407, or HQ408. Batteries with the affected serial numbers contain cells that were manufactured by LG Chem, Ltd. of South Korea during the last week of December 2003 only. The model and serial numbers are located on the label on the bottom of the battery, and can be viewed by removing the battery from the computer. The serial number is printed in black lettering beneath a barcode. The battery is approximately 4.75-inches long by 3.25-inches wide by .75-inches high. Or, in metric measurements, the battery is approximately 12 cm long by 8 cm wide by 1.9 cm high. The label located on the bottom of the battery reads in part, 15-inch PowerBook G4 Rechargeable Battery and Model No: A1045.

Note: If your battery serial number does not match the requirements listed above, you do not have to exchange your battery. <https://depot.info.apple.com/batteryexchange/index.html>

*www.smalldog.com
via Charlotte MacWorkshop,
Charlotte NC*



Credits & Special Thanks

These Hints and Tips are compiled from a variety of sources including:

User Group Newsletters:

- *Mouse Droppings*, newsletter of the Corvallis Macintosh User Group in Corvallis, Oregon, one of the oldest and most active user groups in the country. *Mouse Droppings* is the home of Phil Russell, a respected Macintosh writer and the main source of hints and tips published by me over the years, as well as other MUG newsletters throughout the world.
- *Apple Barrel*, newsletter of the Ridgecrest Apple User Group, Ridgecrest, California.
- *ApplePickers*, newsletter of the ApplePickers MUG in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- *AUSOM News*, newsletter of Australia's largest Macintosh User Group, Apple Mac Users' Society of Melbourne, Australia.
- *Charlotte MacWorkshop*, newsletter of the Macintosh Users Group in Charlotte, North Carolina.
- *The Finder*, newsletter of Mid-Columbia Macintosh User Group in Kennewick, Washington.
- *MacFriends Report*, newsletter of the Naples Macintosh Users Group in Naples, Florida.
- *MacValley Voice*, newsletter of the MacValley User Group in the Northridge, California.
- *MouseBytes*, newsletter of the Bay Area Macintosh Users Group in Largo, Florida.
- *Mouse Tales*, newsletter of the North Coast Mac Users Group in Cleveland, Ohio.
- *TMUG Insider*, newsletter of the Tri-Valley Macintosh Users Group in Pleasanton, California.

Friends:

- Victor Goodpasture, Chief "WOW" photographer and owner of ProDigital, in Carlsbad, California. www.prodigital.com.

Websites:

- MacFixIt.com, trouble-shooting solutions for the Mac.
- www.MugCenter.com — The Mac User Group Resource Site.
- *Small Dog Electronics*, an Apple Specialist and resellers of Apple Macintosh computers, peripherals, and software. www.smalldog.com.

Magazines:

- Jay J. Nelson's *Design Tools Monthly* — An executive summary of graphic design news which includes Mac news and rumors, new software and hardware announcements, upcoming seminars and shows, interesting websites, and other valuable information. You may request a free sample copy of this monthly newsletter by going to www.design-tools.com or calling 303.543.8400.
- *Layers Magazine*, formerly known as *Mac Design Magazine* is the top graphic design magazine published today, and it is published for Mac users only. *Mac Design* is edited by Scott Kelby, the President of the National Association of Photoshop Professionals and also editor of *Photoshop User*, the NAPP's excellent newsletter.
- *MacAddict Magazine*. "A better machine. A better magazine." Every issue of *MacAddict* is packed with in-depth how-to articles, fact-filled features, and expert reviews, plus a monthly CD of hot product demos, tutorials, freeware, and video how-to stories and interviews. www.macaddict.com
- The *macHome Journal*, the ultimate magazine for the Macintosh consumer, offering practical advice for everyone. *MacHome Journal* offers excellent how-to articles and advice on purchases, and Hot Tips on line. www.machome.com.
- *Macworld Magazine*. The ultimate resource for Mac users. Each issue is packed with practical how-tos, in-depth features, the latest troubleshooting tips and tricks, industry news, future trends, and is home of Chris Breen's Mac 911 columns. www.macworld.com.
- *Studio Photography & Design Magazine* — Resource for the photo professional, published by the Cygnus Imaging Group, the world's largest publisher of photographic and imaging business publications. www.imaginginfo.com

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Other Sources:

- *Sterling Ledet* — Hands-on Adobe, Macromedia and Quark authorized software training and consulting for web, video, multimedia and print. Offering classroom, online or onsite worldwide training with locations across the US. www.ledet.com

If you are not a member of a Macintosh User Group, I highly recommend that you find one in your area and join. User groups are the greatest source of information and help available to all Mac users — from novices to experts. You can find one in your area by going to apple.com/usergroups/find.