

MAGIC

Macintosh Appreciation Group of Island County
<http://www.magicmug.org>

G4



May 2004

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➔ Schedule of Meetings

Day: 3rd Wednesday of the month

Place: Fireside Room (new building), Trinity Lutheran Church, SR 525/Woodard, Freeland

Time: 4:30 - 6 p.m.

Program Summaries (a recurring section of each meeting, as needed, will be updates on OS X)

May 19

Where to Buy it (sources for equipment: internet malls, MICRO, etc.)

June 16

Talk, Talk, Talk: Apple Discussion on the 'net.

➡ **Beginner Session**

Beginning with the March meeting, a Mac newbie/beginner session will start at 4PM and go until 4:30 when the regular meeting will start. Here's where you can learn all you wanted to know, but were afraid to ask. Remember that almost all of us are newbies at some aspect or other of the Mac, so don't be hesitant. We will try this for a few meetings and then continue/discontinue based upon usefulness.

➡ **Product Review: The iBook G4**

By James Maguire

NewsFactor Network

February 13, 2004 11:54AM

The iBook used to be a step down in the Apple laptop line, but that is hardly the case now that the machines boast a G4 processor.

Until recently, getting a laptop with Apple's high-end G4 chip required forking over the extra cash to buy a PowerBook. And PowerBook prices have remained stubbornly high, with the 15" model still commanding a wallet-deflating US\$2,000.

Those who wanted to economize bought the iBook at several hundred dollars less, but with much less computing power. Until recently, it sported the G3 processor. Apple's flagship processor in the 90s, the G3 is pretty lackluster next to the G4 or today's Pentium chips.

Now that the blazing G5 tops the Apple line, the company has -- without much fanfare -- installed its G4 in the iBook. Which means that the once lowly iBook, formerly thought of as just a Web surfer 'n e-mail machine, is now a multimedia player. Except for a few quibbles, this is a hot box for a good price.

Cosmetic Value

The iBook G4, alas, still does not offer the bells and whistles of Apple's PowerBook. Instead of the PowerBook's Titanium finish, the iBook continues to sport a high-gloss white plastic finish. It still looks a bit like something the kids might play with. And it does not have the DVD-burner option, though it will play DVDs and read-write CDs.

User Experience

On a user level, the iBook G4 is fast -- the G4 processor means there is little waiting for functions to complete. The ATI Radeon graphics processor creates a clear and crisp screen image.

Full Article:

<http://www.newsfactor.com/perl/story/23172.html>

➡ Product Review: 20-inch iMac

By James Maguire
NewsFactor Network

April 22, 2004 11:58AM

Apple always has been known for its forward-thinking computer design, and the 20-inch iMac may be the most striking example yet of computer as style statement.

The 20-inch iMac is a sci-fi preview of what a computer will be in the decades ahead -- at least on the surface. The actual CPU is another story.

A single, cool-white pod forms its base, and an adjustable chrome arm tilts the monitor in any direction. The design is all simplicity, no appendages and no rectangular box like the computers of yesteryear. The thing looks like it may respond to voice commands, or perhaps mental telepathy.

And then there's the huge screen itself, stretching as far as the peripheral vision can see. It's as if we future humans no longer need anything in our field of vision but a computer screen.

Width Matters

Of course, the 20-inch iMac is all about that screen. That's its new and noteworthy aspect; the 17-inch and 15-inch models are already well established on the market.

The 20-inch screen allows you to work with two applications side-by-side, without needing to toggle back and forth between them -- or open two applications and still have room to click between them to bring up a third application.

No Slouch

Not that the 20-inch is a slouch. The 1.25 GHz is the fastest of the G4 chips and should keep pace for the next few years. It ships with 256 MB of RAM, expandable to 1 GB. The machine's SuperDrive enables you to read and write CDs and DVDs.

Full Article:

http://www.newsfactor.com/story.xhtml?story_id=23794

➡ How Secure Is OS X?

Mon Mar 22, 4:17 PM ET

Technology - NewsFactor to My Yahoo!

James Maguire, www.enterprise-security-today.com

To many Mac users, the recent news report of an Apple OS X security vulnerability seemed like an anomaly. While Windows users are greeted almost weekly with a new virus or worm, OS X users tend to view their systems as impervious to such concerns.

The steady stream of Windows bugs is a phenomenon far removed from their computing experience -- or so it seems. But the late February security report cast Apple in a new light.

Chris Adams, a systems administrator in San Diego, discovered a flaw in the Apple Filing Protocol (AFP), a tool in OS X 10.3, code-named "Panther." AFP enables a secure connection using the secure shell (SSH) protocol. The flaw is in AFP's warning mechanism: Users may request a secure connection, but Panther will not warn users if the connection is in fact not a secure one. So, a user may send sensitive information -- like passwords -- on an insecure connection, not knowing that they are using an easily hacked protocol.

In short, the flaw is similar to a host of Windows flaws, suggesting that the concept of Apple invulnerability may be closer to myth than fact. That said, What is the big picture when it comes to Apple security?

Full article:

http://enterprise-security-today.newsfactor.com/story.xhtml?story_id=23467

➡ **Slow-Down Issue in AppleWorks**

From Tom Johnson

MacFixIt 4/7/04:

A MacFixIt reader reports a long standing slow-down issue in AppleWorks, along with a fix:

"Firstly, a problem with AppleWorks that is caused by an apparent bug that was first reported four years ago in version 6.0.4 - it's still present in the latest version (6.2.9). I became aware of this problem when a client called up to say that he had a problem where typing in AppleWorks was extremely slow - you could rattle away on the keyboard and the text would all eventually appear, but only at the rate of about one character every few seconds.

"I tracked the fix down to a report dated in October 2000 - apparently it's caused by the Recent Items feature (in General preferences - Files). What happens is that the aliases that are used to implement this feature (which are located in ~/Documents/AppleWorks User Data/Starting Points/Recent Items) don't get flushed properly. You may have this feature set to only show the last 10 items (the default), but the aliases older than the last 10 don't get deleted. Presumably due to a bug of some type this causes the program to slow to a crawl.

"The fix is to switch off the feature - you can also delete the contents of the Recent Items folder, but I haven't checked to see what happens when the recent items gets back up to 10 again."

I also recommend turning OFF the Recent Applications option in

addition to Recent Documents mentioned above; OS9 - Found under Apple Menu Options - "Remember recently used items - Set ALL to ZERO". For OS 10 its under System Preferences/General - "Number of Recent Items:NONE". This solution applies even if you are not using Apple Works.

➔ Mozilla Updates Thunderbird E-mail Client

Tue May 4, 8:00 PM ET

Technology - TechWeb

<http://www.linuxpipeline.com/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=19502197>

The Mozilla Foundation on Monday released the newest update to its stand-alone, open-source e-mail client, Thunderbird, moving the software another step closer to final.

The preview edition of Thunderbird, dubbed 0.6, features a new Windows installer, redesigned anti-spam filtering that will block more junk mail, and improved support for IMAP.

This version also sports secure password authentication that relies on a cross-platform NTLM authentication mechanism for the IMAP, POP3, and SMTP mail protocols, said the Foundation.

The release of Thunderbird 0.6 follows February's roll-out of the 0.8 edition of Mozilla's stand-alone browser, labeled Firefox. Thunderbird and Firefox are part of the foundation's new focus on individual applications, rather than its better-known Mozilla browser suite. Mozilla 1.7, which hit Release Candidate 1 status just over a week ago, should ship in final form later this month.

Thunderbird can be downloaded for free from the [foundation's](#) site in versions for Windows, Linux , Mac OS X .

Both Thunderbird and Firefox are on track for a final release this year.

Downloads at <http://www.mozilla.org/>

➔ PDF information- Portable Document Files Helpful Hints

The *Reader Guide* under the Help Menu tells you all about using your Acrobat Reader program for viewing PDF documents.

Here's some bits of info that you'll also find there in the Acrobat Reader Guide.

For following links you have to set the default browser. To do that click on the File menu, then Preferences, then Weblinks. Choose the web browser you wish and you can also choose whether you want a URL displayed for weblinks.

Zoom in with the magnifying glass tool, to zoom out choose the magnifying glass tool and press the option key.

To set your default view, click on *File, Preferences, General*.

I prefer to set the *Default Page Layout* to *Continuous* rather than one page at a time. Then when scrolling down a page the screen doesn't jump to the next page before you're ready.

Meeting News

Mary Farmer is retiring and moving to Panama. At the May 19 meeting, we want to say our good-byes and thanks for all the knowledge she has so generously shared with us over the years. Thanks and best wishes Mary!

MAGIC, The Macintosh Appreciation Group of Island County, serves people who use Macintosh computers, software and peripherals. Our goal is to share information and try to get answers to questions to make us more productive with our use of technology. Our monthly meetings give us a chance to discuss computer problems and share ideas with other Mac users, feature speakers on specific topics, and update us on Apple news.