MaUsE DoubleClick
March 2017
The NeXT Issue

2017 MaUsE Executive

President, Michael Shaw
email: michaelshaw@mause.ca
Vice-President, Ian Winton
Treasurer, Ken Janson
Secretary, Clint Fraser
Director, Marcel Dufresne
Director, Brian Elston
Director, Richard Turner
Ex-officio member of executive:
Past President, Bruce Cameron

MaUsE Contact Information:
The MaUsE
c/o Michael Shaw
237 Huntingwood Drive
Oshawa, Ontario, Canada
L1J 7C6

www.mause.ca

Apple Liaison:
Marcel Dufresne
marcel@mause.ca

DoubleClick

Produced and Edited by
Michael Shaw
Photographs by
Irma Shaw

Please remember to pay your MaUsE Membership fee: Still only $45 per year.

From The Editor

What you are looking at is the March 2017 edition of the MaUsE DoubleClick, the online publication of the Macintosh Users East, (MaUsE), a motley collection of mostly harmless cranks who reside in Southern Ontario with their motley collection of old and new Macintosh,Hackentosh & MacClone computers.

The DoubleClick is published using a 2009 2.93 GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon Mac Pro tower and **QuarkXPress 2016**. An antique Kodak DX7590 is STILL being used for all pictures. Everything not specifically attributed to someone else can probably be blamed on the Editor. Back issues can be downloaded from the MaUsE website at : < www.mause.ca >. Submissions from MaUsE Club members are almost always welcome. Maybe that last bit is an exaggeration.

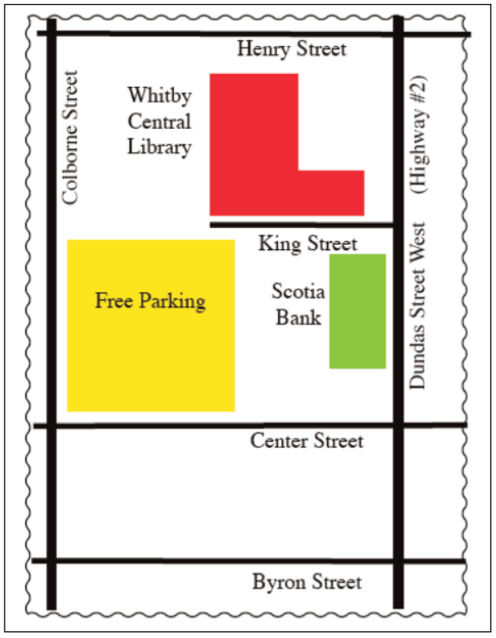
Send your submissions and articles to me at: < ducati860@gmail.com >, especially if there are files or pictures attached. I have never refused a submission yet. Because we care about the environment, the MaUsE DoubleClick is created using only recycled electrons: matter was neither created nor destroyed in the process of creating this issue. There is always room for another piece on any Mac-related topic and I'll make room if there isn't. I would like your submissions. But I won't beg.

Apple, Macintosh, and the Apple logo are trademarks of Apple Inc.®, registered in the U.S. and other countries.
The MaUsE (Macintosh Users East) is an Apple Inc.-authorised Apple User Group.

Michael Shaw, Editor

About MaUsE

Macintosh Users East. also known as MaUsE, is the oldest & most active Apple-authorised AUG (Apple User Group) in Southern Ontario. MaUsE is here for users of all Apple products, including Apple computers, iPods, iPhones, and iPads.



MaUsE Meetings are held in Room 1a at the new Whitby Public Library on the corner of Henry and Dundas West in Whitby, Ontario on the fourth Wednesday of each month except December, July & August, starting at 7:00 PM.

Facebook MaUsE
https://www.facebook.com/Macintosh-Users-East-748334841881285/.

AKVIS Points 3.0
For Instant Pointalism

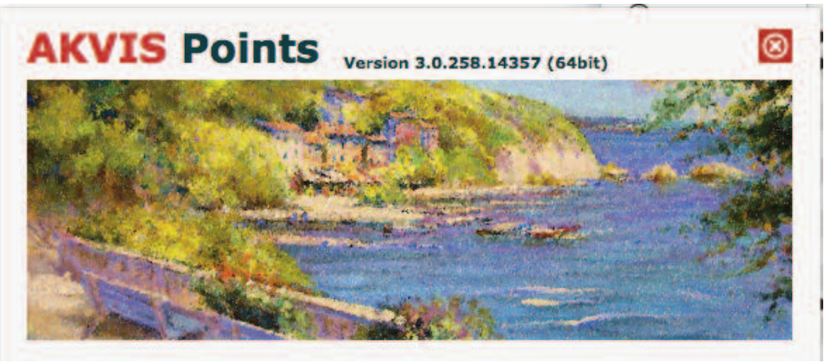
Pointillism is a painting technique characterized by applying of separate brush strokes in the form of dots or spots. This style is an offshoot of Impressionism. A complex hue is decomposed into individual colors, which are displayed on the canvas as dotted strokes, small dabs of paint of pure color. From a distance, the optical mixing of these dots gives us the visual perception of an entire painting.

The images on your television monitor, if examined close up, are actually composed of a bunch of tiny dots in primary colours that vary in appearance depending on which colour of dots are dominant. The further you are from the image the more realistic it looks but up close the image breaks down into its individual picture elements (pixels).

AKVIS Points includes ready-to-use AKVIS presets which help you start working. It's possible to create your own presets by saving your favorite photo-to-painting settings. The program offers the choice between a flat paper and a rough surface that makes the impression even more vivid. It's also possible to add a signature, an inscription, or a copyright watermark to the picture.

The software supports the Batch Processing feature which helps you to automatically convert a series of images with the same effect settings. It is useful when you need to create a number of images all in the same style for illustrating a book or a blog or to convert a video into a cartoon with the pointillism technique.

Like all of the other AKVIS image-editing programs we have looked at, AKVIS Points is available as a stand-alone application and as a plug-in for programs like Adobe's Photoshop and Ps Elements. It shares the same AKVIS interface and appearance that makes the program inviting to experiment with and easy to use. The pointillism is applied in steps, creating a series of illustrations that are kept on display in a bin below the main image. It takes a mouse click to return from the finished product to any of these images and the number of saved steps is set in the program preferences.



Like many of the other AKVIS programs, Points functions in Express and Advanced modes. The Express mode operates with an abbreviated tool set and diminished set of slider controlled attributes. The Advanced mode has a wider selection of tools and more parameters to control. Both modes have the same set of initial presets, over forty of them, to use as the starting point. The Presets are similar in operation but sufficiently different to provide a very wide range of possible instant effects, enough to cover just about any possible artistic intention.

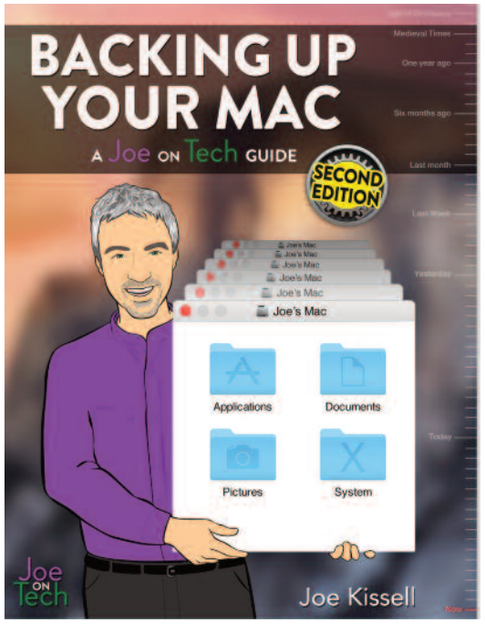
- Type of license:

Home - PlugIn ($ 49)
Home - Standalone ($ US 49)
Home Deluxe - PlugIn+Standalone ($ US 69)
Business - PlugIn+Standalone ($ US 89)

- Home License is a license for non-commercial, personal use only. The license is valid for one of the editions of the software on the user's choice: either for the plugin or for the standalone application. Such version may not include all features, it usually has less functionality than the superior versions (Deluxe/Business), but enough to meet the needs of a home user. Home License allows registering and using the software on 2 computers.
- Home Deluxe it is an advanced version of Home license; it is valid for both plugin and standalone editions. Apart from the flexibility provided by this license type, its owners enjoy more functionality. All features are included! The license is targeted at advanced users who have high requirements to the software. Home Deluxe License allows registering and using the software on 2 computers.
- Business License is a license for commercial institutions and individuals that derive a profit from usage of the Software. Commercial use is allowed.

Michael Shaw

Take Control eBooks
Backing Up Your Mac



DoubleClick features an ebook from Take Control Books every month. These ebooks have been published in PDF format and cover issues related to Mac OS. Because they are in PDF format, these ebooks have a lot of advantages over the traditional paper books. Electronic books are a new experience for many people, but they provide you with a good deal of flexibility that isn't available with printed books. With your purchase of the ebook you get expert advice on various topics but with an Apple perspective. These are the same expert authors of some best-selling print books. The download is immediate and you don't have to leave your house to get it. Because it is paperless it can be purchased for much less than a paper edition. Also, if a new edition of the book comes out, your original purchase of the book allows you to easily update your current copy for free. There are clickable links right in the text so that your book immediately leads to other sources on the same topic. It is readable onscreen which means you can control the size of the print. If you use Preview you can even highlight sections without messing up the book (use a copy of the original if you are worried). You can even print up a paper copy of the book if you feel the need. The catalog is very extensive and can be accessed from http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/catalog. They offer free sample sections of all their ebooks and a money-back guarantee, so try one out anytime. As readers of the DoubleClick, you also now have access to this coupon (CPN90219MUG) which entitles you to a 30% discount on the purchase of a book.

The book featured this month is Take Control of Backing Up Your Mac by Joe Kissel. You'll learn about the three components of a solid backup strategy and figure out the best way to adapt that strategy to your needs. The book covers the hows and whys of backing up your Mac, the benefits and limitations of Time Machine (as well as alternatives to it), and how elements like bootable clones and cloud storage may factor into your overall setup. You'll also discover how to deal with unusual backup needs and restore your data in an emergency.

This 210 page ebook is designed to help you jump to the information you need, so you can get started with your backups without having to read the whole thing. You'll learn how to:

- Design (or update) the ideal backup system: If you're starting from scratch, you'll find all the information necessary to assemble a reliable and easy-to-use backup system. If you're updating an existing system, you'll learn about what's new in hardware, software, and online services that might affect the way you back up your Mac in the future.
- Choose backup software: Apple's Time Machine is both free and easy to use, but it's not the best choice for everyone and even if you do use Time Machine, you'll certainly want to supplement it with other tools. You'll learn about key features to look for in a backup app and find tips on using several popular tools. You'll also discover the pros and cons of cloud backup services, and get help choosing the right one. (An online appendix covers nearly 100 apps and services.)
- Shop for hardware: For most users, hard drives make an excellent backup destination, but the range of options (sizes, interfaces, speeds, and more) can be bewildering. Joe helps you find the best backup hardware, whether it's individual hard drives, RAIDs, Drobo storage devices, Time Capsules, or NAS devices.
- Operate Time Machine: You'll learn how to back up and restore individual files, app-specific data (such as contacts), and even an entire disk. You'll also discover why and how to encrypt Time Machine backups and what to do if Time Machine misbehaves.
- Make and maintain backups: Once you've selected hardware and software, you'll need to know how to make your first backup, set up your backups to run unattended, and test them regularly to make sure they're working as they should. This includes both versioned backups (which contain old file versions and deleted files) and bootable clones. And, you'll learn about strategies for keeping extra backups offsite.
- Deal with unusual backup needs: If you deal with exceptionally large files (such as audio and video files), spend a lot of time on the road away from your usual backup hardware, run Windows on your Mac, or rely on cloud services to store essential data, you'll want to take extra (or different) steps to make sure everything is safely backed up.
- Manage your media: What happens when a backup drive fills up, or becomes so old that you worry about its future reliability? What if you want to archive older files for posterity, but not necessarily maintain them as part of your daily backups? Joe explains how to deal with media management tasks such as these.
- Recover lost data: Backing up data can be easy, but restoring it is often more challenging. When you discover that data is missing — whether due to a disk error, theft, or a simple mistake — you need to know the exact steps needed to recover it and get back to work as soon as possible.

Develop a bulletproof backup strategy!! This ebook costs $15.00 normally but using the coupon will make a difference. Check this ebook out and a lot others at www.takecontrolbooks.com.

Submitted by Marcel Dufresne

Book Review: The Complete Guide To the NeXTStep User Environment

We used to have book reviews as a regular feature in the DoubleClick, and get books shipped in from various publishers on a regular basis. The books ended up in a MaUsE lending library where MaUsE members could select a title and take it out at one meeting with the understanding that they bring it back at the next one, but you know how that type of thing turns out: the books , just like everything else pertaining to computers, got obsolete quickly and became irrelevant, or else they went missing, and eventually they all ended up in the MaUsE raffle.

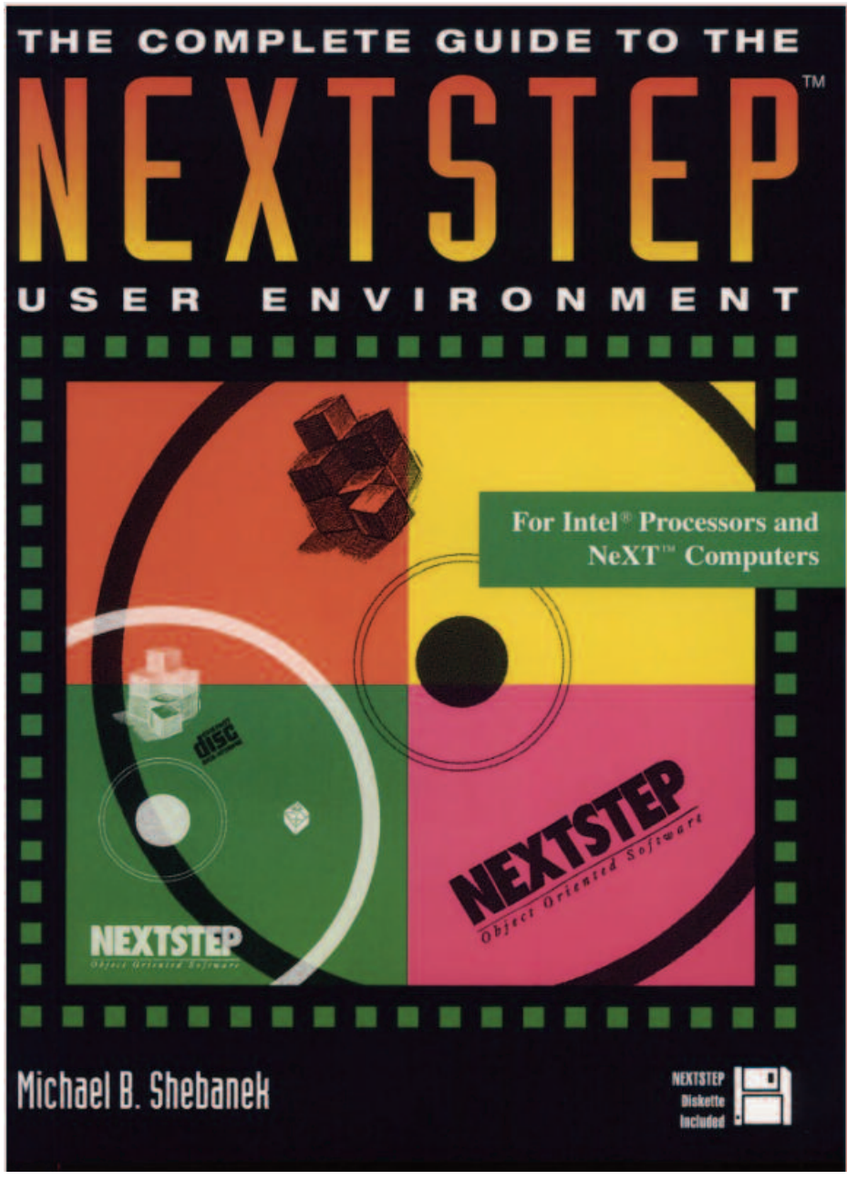
In February I had the great good fortune to have a friend fulfill a promise he made to me several months ago to gift me an old NeXTStation Mono computer that had gathered about a decades worth of dust in his basement. “Mono” as in no colours. Those of you who know me will already know that this meets my three criteria for the best type of computer: older, free and no Windows.

As a long-time Mac user, the history of Steve Jobs and the NeXT computers and the development of the NeXTStep operating system that eventually evolved into Mac OSX has always been fascinating to me but I never thought I would actually see one of these semi mythical devices in the flesh, so to speak.

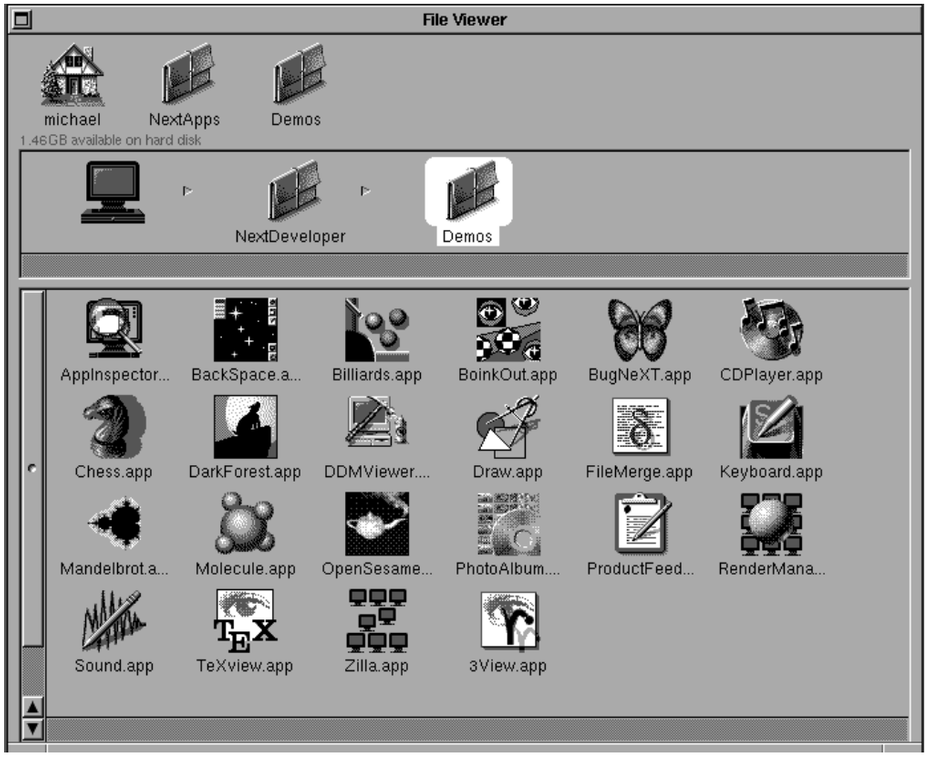
The NeXTStation computer came to me with an ailing hard drive that lasted about a week, just long enough to pique my interest in all things NeXT and long enough for me to find scathingly brilliant resources on the internet, including a still-active forum for other people with various NeXT computers and people running NeXTStep and OpenStep software on other platforms. When my NeXTStation hard drive died and I despaired, I found a knowledgeable and generous Next Computers forum member here in Ontario who took the time to check out, reformat, and partition an old SCSI hard drive for me and install a new NeXTStep 3.3 system to get me up and running again. Our Brian found me some 4-MB 30-pin SIMMs to help with the fix.

Which brings me to this month’s book review of The Complete Guide to the NeXTStep User Environment, published about 25 years ago, in 1993. Of course it is long out of print but I manages to find a used copy in “fair” condition on the internet through Abe Books for US $8.50 with a US $3.50 delivery charge from Illinois. The book arrived quickly, and appears to be unused, with a little plastic floppy disks pouch inside the back cover that had **never been unsealed** and still had a NeXT-formatted 3 1/2" 1.4 MB high-density diskette of applications, fonts, sounds and other resources in it. The full list of the contents of the diskette is in the front of the book, with instructions.

This is a big book, 383 pages with index, that fully describes the NeXTStep User Environment. It hearkens back to a time when having



a book with your computer that explained how to use it was an essential resource. It is intended for those who already own a computer running NeXTStep and want to quickly learn how to properly set it up and find out what it can do, and how to get the most out of it with the least effort. For the novice user it gives lucid explanations of what is on the screen and what it all signifies. It provides numerous tips and tricks, shortcuts and commentary, and is written to make you feel as if you are sitting next to a veteran who can guide you through the NeXTStep user environment and steer you away from common pitfalls. Besides information about the many applications bundled with it such as Draw, Edit, PrintManager, FaxReader, Digital Librarian, the book explains the basic mysterious stuff that new users have to know, like how to move, copy, duplicate, save and back up documents, how to open, close, and quit applications, how to safely shut down and start up the NeXTStep computer and peripherals, and how to create and log into root and user accounts, install applications, delete stuff, and understand the levels of user access and permissions.



Some of the more advanced topics discussed include:

- How to take advantage of networked resources.
- How to use UNIX commands within NeXTStep.
- How to recover from application and system crashes.
- How to customize NeXTStep to meet your needs.
- How to find related NeXTStep information.

Table of contents:

- 1. Basic training - user accounts, starting NeXTStep, shutting down
- 2. The NeXTStep workspace
- 3. Files and folders
- 4. Removable Disks
- 5. Inspectors - controls, attributes, contents, access control , address
- 6. Application management - Starting, monitoring, hiding, unhiding, auto-starting
- 7. Application Features - save, open, text editing
- 8. Printers, Fax modems
- 9. Bundled applications
- 10. Application Installation - where to install applications, The Installer
- 11. Customization - customizing the workspace, customizing the user environment, installing new fonts
- 12. Networking - network , FTP, removable disks, file conversion, emulators, file system
- 13. Unix commands you should know
- 14. NeXTStep First Aid - Frozen applications, System crash recovery
- 15. The World of NeXTStep - information in print, User groups, conferences

The book is a terrific resource, both for people just coming to the NeXTStep operating system and for more advanced users who want or need to know what is going on in the background, behind the scenes. Like with any computer it is easy to be oblivious to some important events and procedures and this book goes a long way towards explaining what is happening and why, and what hidden powers are lurking in the menus. I don't think you are going to rush out a buy a copy, as I did, but if you want to know more about NeXTStep operating system, this fully illustrated guide to the NeXTStep user environment is, in my opinion, a scathingly brilliant place to start.

The Complete Guide to the NEXTSTEP User Environment was published by Springer-Verlag, NY, in 1993 but new copies can still be ordered online from www.Amazon.com. The author, Michael B. Shebanek, was, at the time of writing the book, President of the University of California Riverside Macintosh Users Group and President of a NeXT Users Group. He has since gone on fill the posts at Apple of worldwide product marketing manager for iMacs, iPads, and software at various times and is now a senior director at Yahoo. He is also a hell of a nice guy. I hope he reads this.

Michael Shaw

The 1990 NeXTStation Computer
What Is Inside?

Here, at right, is a picture of my recent acquisition. On the next page there is a picture of what is inside this new vintage NeXTStation computer. The first thing to know about this computer is that the black slab, or CPU, is **not** a plastic box: the case is actually **magnesium**, a metal not unlike aluminum, but stronger and lighter, and most often found in racing cars and in airplanes. Because of the flash, the screen looks washed out but it is actually quite sharp with good contrast.

The items marked out in the picture (next page) are as follows:

- The hard drive: This computer originally shipped with a 105MB Quantum SCSI hard drive. a 340MB SCSI drive was offered as an optional extra. The original drive was not healthy when I got it and has since been replaced with a newer 4.3 GB Quantum Viking SCSI drive partitioned into two 2GB drives.
- The fan: Weird idea. The fan is almost silent and blows out through a hole in the bottom of the case and blows air over a set of fins below the power supply, which is stuck on the finned part of the case with thermal paste of some sort. The entire case is made of magnesium.
- The RAM: This unit originally shipped with a “generous 8MB of RAM” more than enough for all but the most demanding of tasks, but that has, with a contribution from Brian, since been upgraded to 32 MB. The computer has 8 SIMM slots and can uses 1MB, 2MB and 4MB 30-pin SIMMs. 32 MB is the most it can address.
- The power supply: Apparently a revolutionary power supply equipped with Parallel Resonance Switching, whatever that means. Packing a lot of power into a very small space is the result.
- The floppy drive: An industry first, this drive can read and write to 700K floppies, high density 1.44MB floppies, and extra density floppy disks with 2.88MB of storage capacity.
- Motorola processor: This computer is powered by the same Motorola 68040 processor that Apple used in its Quadra computers. This computer of mine is the NeXTStation Mono, meaning that it lacks the ability to show colours. The later colour-capable models, some of them designated as “turbo” used 68040 processors running at 33 MHz.
- SCSI -- Supports up to seven SCSI peripherals.
- Two RS-423 serial ports -- Allows NeXTStations to be tailored to meet your needs with popular serial-based peripherals such as fax and data modems without using expansion slots.
- DSP I/O port -- Supports direct I/O access to the DSP.
- Display port -- Provides connection to built-in video.
- Laser printer port -- Allows direct connection to NeXT’s 400 dpi Laser Printer.
- Two Ethernet (twisted and thin) ports -- Provides easy connection to virtually any Ethernet network without having to purchase additional cards or adapters.

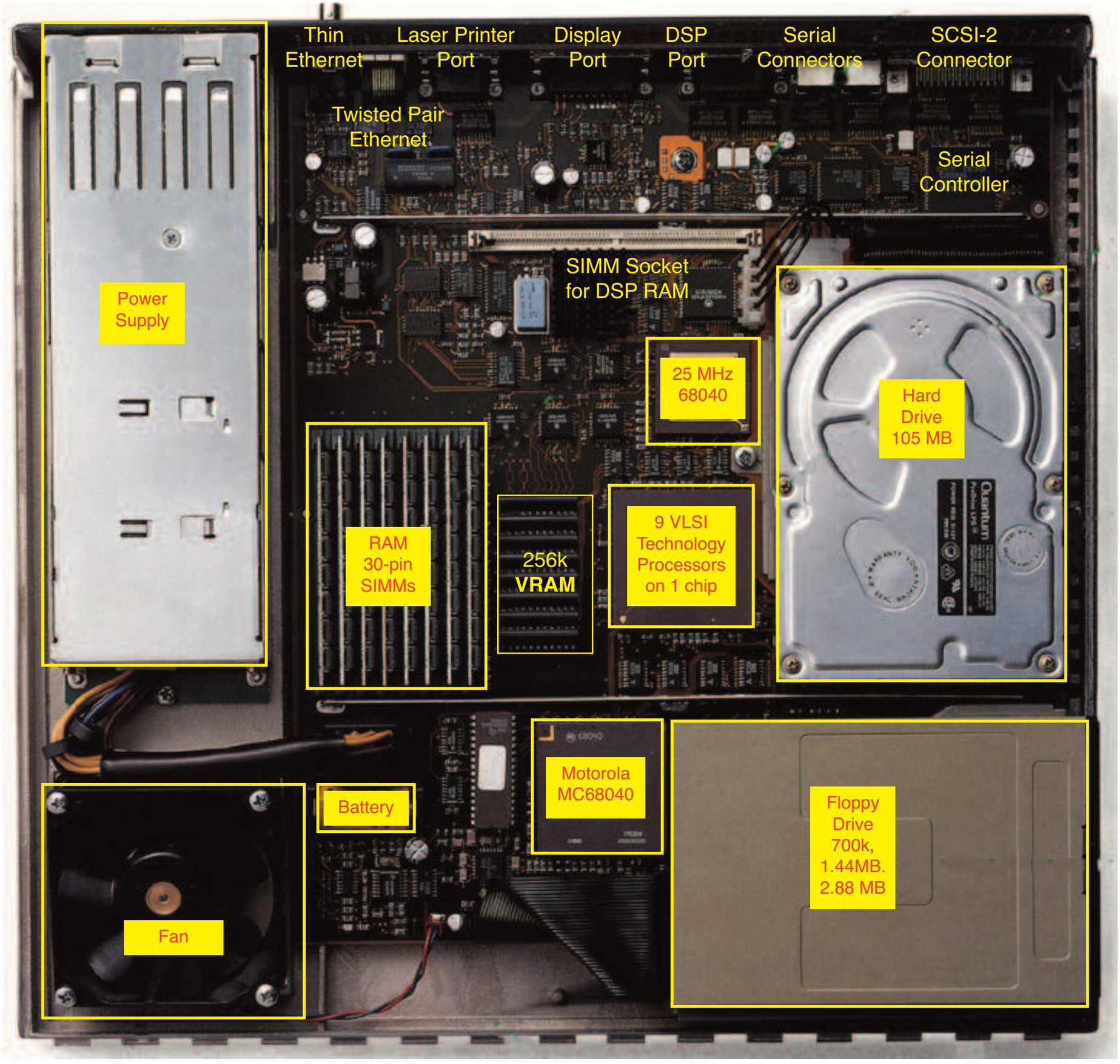
All components must be present in order for the system to work. The mouse plugs into the mouse port on the keyboard. The keyboard plugs into a keyboard port on the monitor. The monitor plugs into the CPU. The buttons to turn the computer on are on the keyboard so unless all of the components are present and connected, the computer cannot be turned on..

Michael Shaw

About This Issue...

Enthusiasm is what separates Mac users from Windows users. We play with our computers and iDevices because we like to.

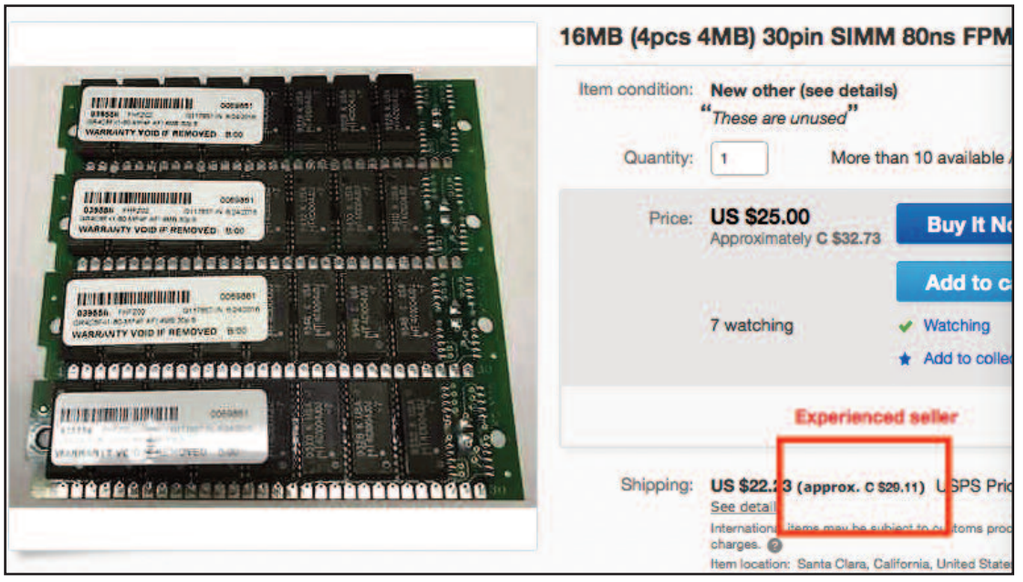
This issue is filled with articles about and inspired by my recent acquisition of a fascinating piece of NeXT hardware and software, a 1990 NeXTStation running NeXTStep 3.3, Steve Jobs’ elegant and powerful UNIX-based operating system that has since evolved into what we now know as Mac OSX. Through this serendipitous 68040 gift from a fellow Mac user I have found a wonderful window into the history of the evolution of the Mac OS and have been helped along by a community of NeXT Users who are keeping NeXT computers alive and kicking by hosting archives and sites where manuals, resources and apps for NeXTStep, OpenStep and Rhapsody software can still be found.


Thin Ethernet
Laser Printer Port
Display Port
DSP Port
Serial Connectors
SCSI-2 Connector
Twisted Pair Ethernet
Serial Controller
Power Supply
SIMM Socket for DSP RAM
25 MHz 68040
Hard Drive 105 MB
RAM 30-pin SIMMs
256k VRAM
9 VLSI Technology Processors on 1 chip
Motorola MC68040
Battery
Fan
Floppy Drive 700k, 1.44MB. 2.88 MB

Confused By Shipping Charges On eBay Canada ?

If you are finding eBay Canada's shipping charges for goods shipped to Canada from the United States confusing, you are not alone. Some Sellers are just being asinine, offering to ship small items like memory chips for free to anywhere in the USA … but wanting anything up to $121.00 to ship the same little item to Canada. Others have turned their shipping over to a global shipping centre and others have abandoned the postal service and are relying on courier services like DHL, UPS or FedEx, each with its own list of possible potential overcharges.

Sometimes its really hard to spot a bargain. And sometimes it is nearly impossible. Check out the pictures on this page, all of them for the **exact** same item from the **exact** same seller selling for the **exact** same price at the same time as presented on the **eBay Canada website**. You might wonder why I shopping for 30-pin SIMMs. They were to possibly beef up the RAM quantity in the old (1991) NeXTStation Computer that features prominently in this issue, an action that turned out to be unnecessary.



I almost hit the **Buy It Now** button on the auction shown in the first window and I glad I didn't. That **Free Shipping** actually was tied to a hidden shipping charge for Canada of about $64.

Selling on eBay, like any other auction house, is not free. eBay has a set of fees for listing items in various categories and then extra fees for any special features that are designed to promote the auction item and make it appear to stand out from auction listings for other similar items. For many Sellers these nickel and dime charges can really add up if they do a volume of sales.

One way to reduce commissions Sellers have to pay is by charging a small "Buy It Now" amount for the item and then really heaping on possibly bogus handling fees. A commission is calculated by eBay and charged to the Seller account at the end of the auction based on the selling price, not based on the total cost of the item, which includes the cost of shipping. Some eBay sellers go over the top but most don't.

Michael Shaw

Wi-Fi Smart Plug (HS100) from TP-Link

The newest phase of technology calls for updating your house and making it into a Smart Home. This could become expensive, depending on how all in you want to go. There is a simple option that you can use in order to test out the automation. You can make most electrical devices smart in a limited way by using a smart plug to control the power supply. A while back I tried out some remote controlled smart plugs. This review is for an iOS controlled smart plug that does not limit being near the plug to make it work. What should you look for in a smart plug? There are quite a few on the market. Since they all give you wireless ON and OFF control, that feature is not in question. Depending on how many plugs you are intending to use, you might want to look at the price. Next, you should be aware of the shape and size of the smart plug as they tend to be bulky.

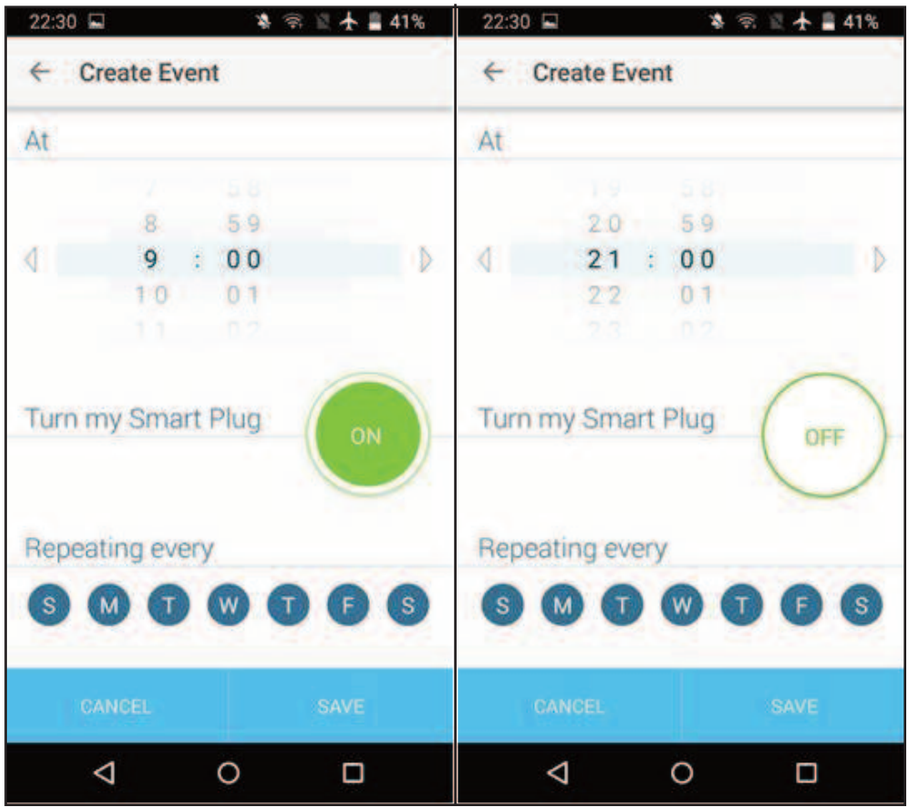
A smart plug is simply an adapter that goes into an electrical outlet. It then enables you to plug in other devices such a lamp or radio. The TP-Link Smart Plug is linked to your home network and is controlled through your iDevice. For the frugal minded, the TP-Link Smart Plug provides a reasonably good selection of controls. The TP-Link smart plug is a Wi-Fi-connected plug. At around $40 CND, it is one of the least-expensive smart plugs out there. The white, egg-shaped design is tall, meaning you'll only be able to fit one smart plug into your wall outlet. The receptacle is positioned on the front of the device for easy access.

The main component of the operation of the smart plug is the free iOS app - Kasa, that you download from the iTunes App Store. This app puts all the controls at your fingertips as long as you have Internet access. There are a number of steps needed to initiate the first set up. Besides giving it a name and creating a cloud account with TP-Link to enable remote access to the plug, you also have to link the plug to your own home network. The app walks you through each one of the steps with dialogue and helpful pictures. It took very little time and was, in reality, very easy to do. Once this is saved, the plug will remember the passwords and such and will link into your network on its own whether the power goes out or you decide to move the plug to another outlet. You are now ready to plug in that radio or lamp or other electrical device such as a fan or heater.

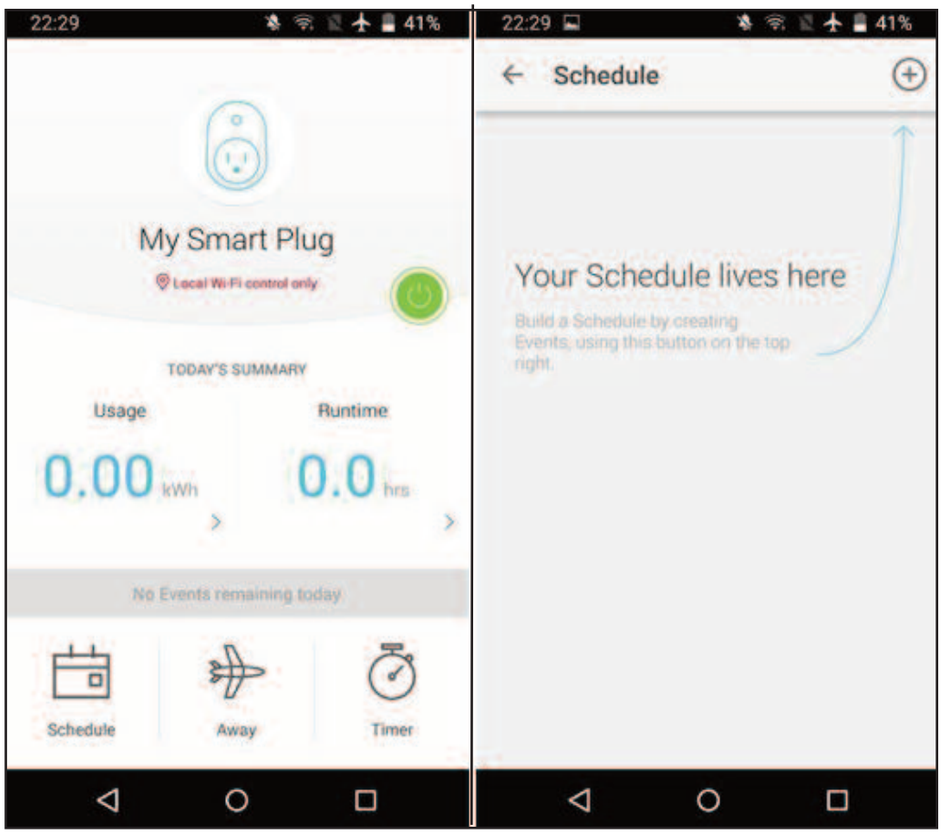
There are four separate functions that are controlled by the app. The first is the on/off power icon. Tapping this button will turn on the electronic device or turn it off. You need not be in the area to do this. With the remote access enabled, you are in total control.

The most versatile function is the Schedule. You can program the Smart Plug to automatically power electronics on and off as needed. The app has the option to program each day differently. You can set it up to come on and off at different times on the same day. It even has a random setting for utilizing sunset and sunrise in your area as the triggering time. As with most time setups in iOS, the time is changed via a scrolling tumbler. Just flick the time columns until you have what you want. You can pick a day for the action to occur or have it happen on a number of days. The event will recur until you either turn off the event or delete it. If you need to edit a day or time, just tap the saved schedule item, make your changes, and resave the event. As with many iOS controls, the steps needed to schedule the plug are very intuitive. I have no idea what the limit is to the number of scheduled events you can save, but I am sure it is more than you will ever need.

Another function provided by the Kasa app is a countdown timer. This is useful when you want the lights or the appliance connected to the device to turn on or off after a certain amount of time. Set the timer duration (up to 24 hours) and the action you want performed (on/off). Tap start and the countdown begins. You can abort the timer by tapping the stop button.



The last and coolest function of the Smart Plug is the Away control. This is configured similarly to the way you did the Schedule function but you need to program in a start and a stop time. Away will turn your device on and off at different times within the time framework. See these functions at tp-link.com/ca/faq-947.html. This random setting gives the added security of imitating someone being home.



There are some other interesting aspects to this Smart Plug and the Kasa app. My favourite is having the next event listed under the name of the Smart Plug on the main page. Next, Kasa allows you to manage more than one TP-Link device (and not only smart plugs) from the same app. If you have more than one device, you can set it up so that one tap will initiate a series of instructions. This is referred to as a Scene. With one tap on your iDevice, you can turn off the lights and other devices in the living room without getting up, or conveniently schedule all lights to go off at a certain time. This Smart Plug allows you to track the daily, weekly and monthly run time of the plug. You can tell how long that lamp was on. The Smart Plug retains the settings if power is disconnected, either from a power failure or by hooking the Smart Plug into another outlet. It will reattach to the network automatically.

There are some other things to take into consideration when using this Smart Plug. Originally, the Kasa app was designed for mobile phones and it works best with these. Thus, in some cases, it may not be perfectly compatible with some tablet/iPads. My six year old iPad 2 was not able to get the Away function to work. I will be getting a new iPad soon, and I am looking forward to being able to use all functions of this Smart Plug. Also, with the Schedule function, the days of the week are partially hidden by the save button. This was a minor inconvenience, as I was still able to tap each day on or off. The plug itself has dimensions of 100.3x66.3x77mm. Its size causes the second electrical outlet's plug to be inaccessible.

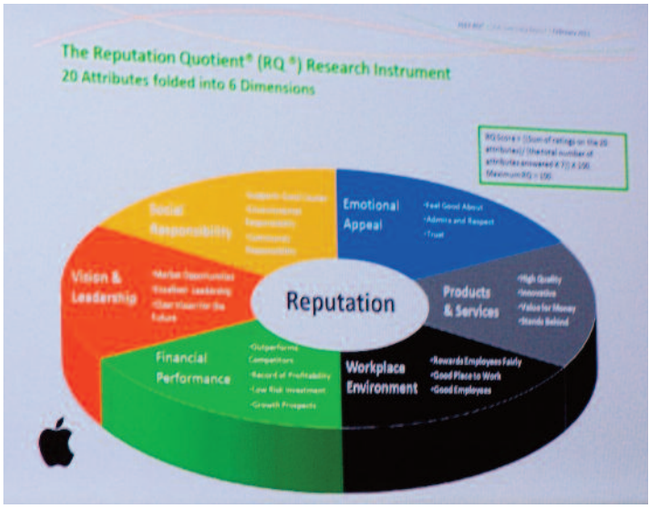
You must not think that this Smart Plug is just a fancy programmable timer. It is way more than that. With the remote access, you have a much greater control of your settings. Sure you can buy a programmable timer that will turn on at random times for a bit less money but you won't be able to alter any times once you are away from home. With the Smart Plug, you can use your iDevice and Wi-Fi to connect to your network, and control the power supply even when far away. It is extremely easy to schedule and edit which I find is not the case with the programmable timers.

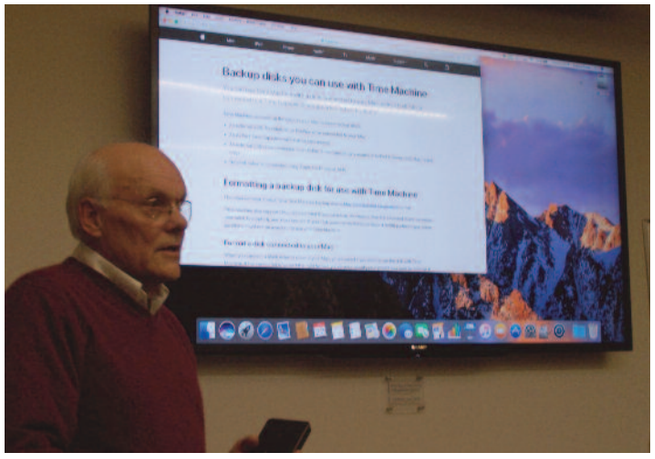
Go to TP-Links's web site (tp-link.com/ca) and read about this plug. Do an Internet search to find the best price for it. I have seen anywhere from $30 to $40. Make this your initial step towards a technologically advanced Smart House.

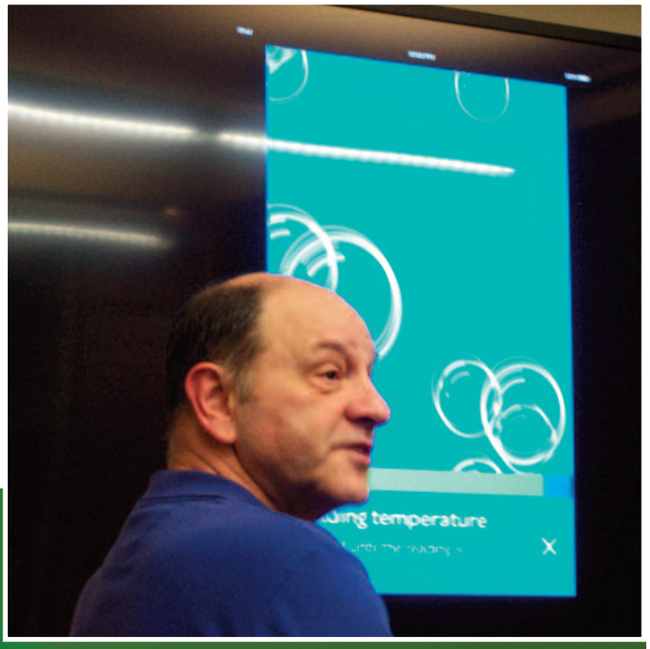
Submitted by Marcel Dufresne

February Meeting

As is usual, we started off the meeting with various reports, featured several scathingly brilliant presentations, and finished off the meeting with a raffle. Ken's Treasurers Report indicated that we are still comfortably solvent and Brian's incisive Apple News reports indicated that Apple is still riding the crest. Despite not updating their hardware the company is making oodles of dollars with their gimmicks and services. Marcel talked about Folding Text and brought in a multipurpose thermometer that works with an iPhone for show and tell. After the mid-meeting break there were several interesting and important security features of Mac OSX presented by Michael and suggestions discussed including disabling automatic login and reasons for creating a limited-access Guest account. Frank, a first time presenter, brought in a fully functional antique Mac Portable computer with accessories and showed us how it worked. The raffle featured fonts packages, software prizes from Prosoft Engineering and AKVIS, several copies of Folding Text, and various bits of hardware brought in by members. A good time was had by all.

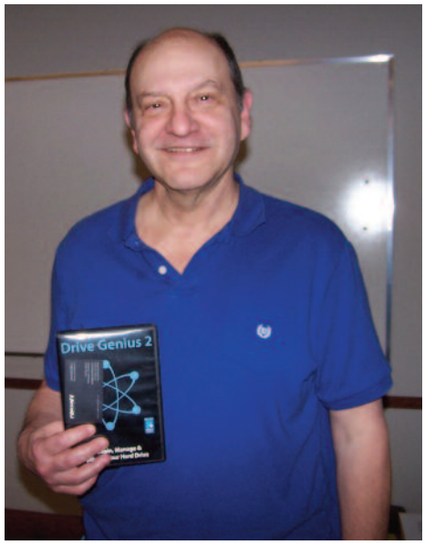




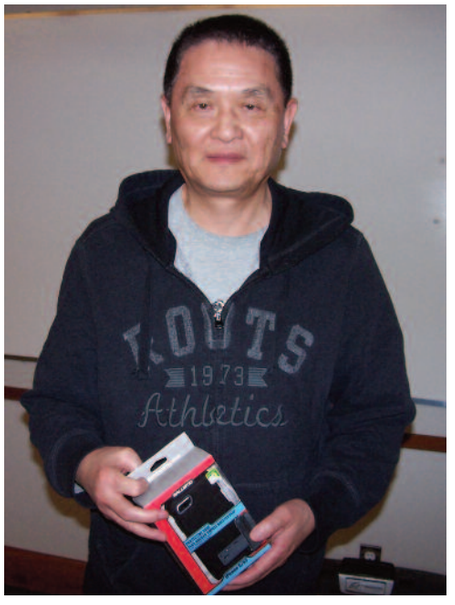


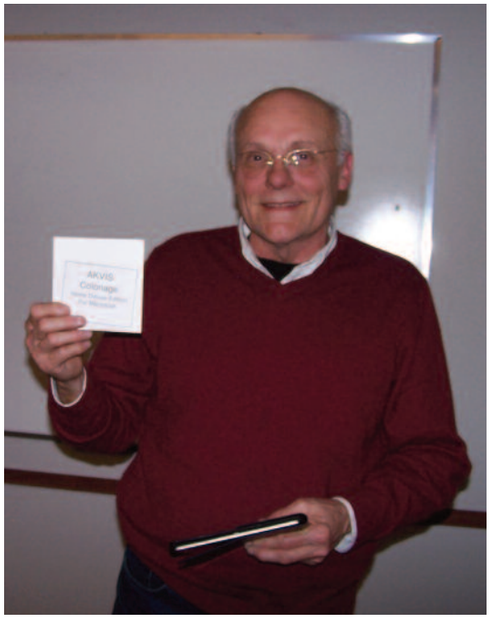
MaUsE
Macintosh Users East

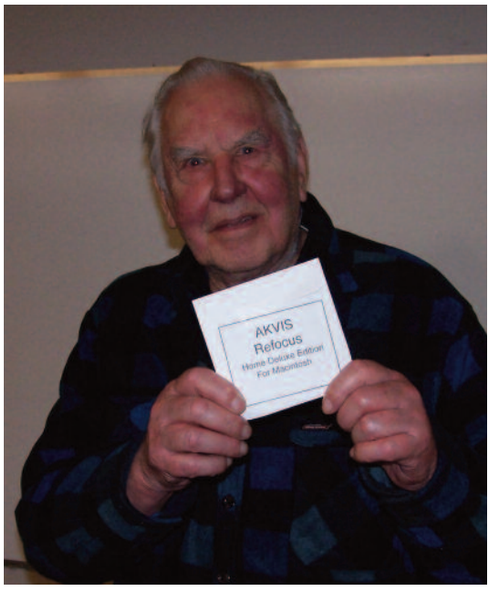
Folding Text
Folding Text

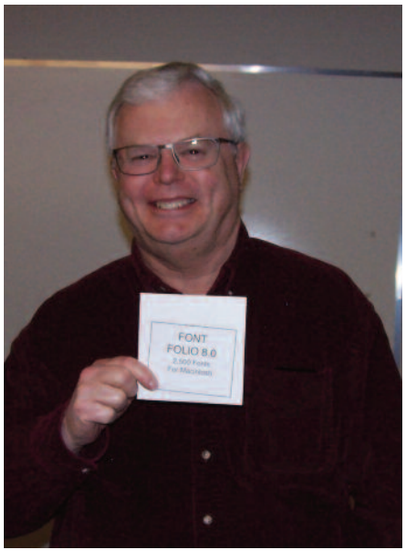

Drive Genius 2

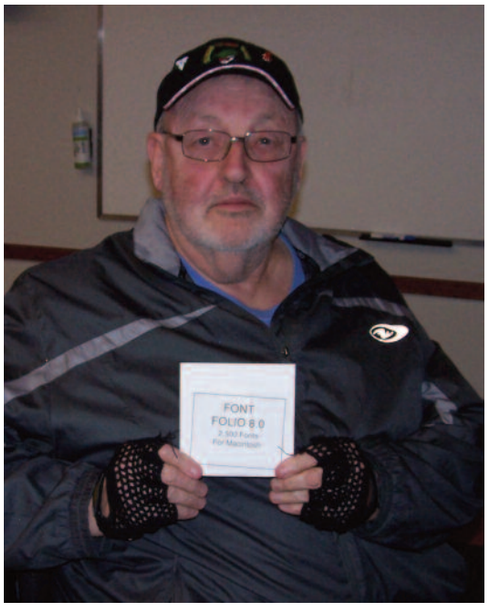
Congratulations !!
Folding Text


1973
Athletics



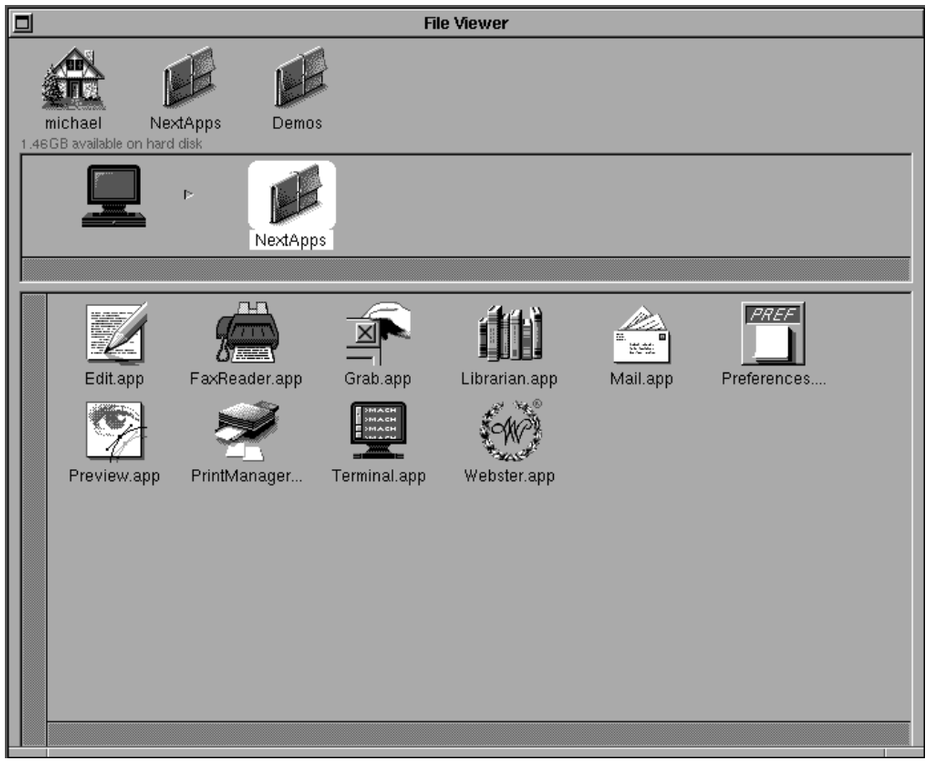






MaUsE
Macintosh Users East

Flash From The Past...
Whats NeXT ?



When Steve Jobs left Apple, he decided to create the best computer possible. The result is the NeXT. This prodigious computer impressed a lot of people when it was presented. Its technical features, its object oriented operating system and its graphical interface, even its black case were very far from the standards (remember how many black-cased computers there were in 1988: not many). And the UNIX-based operating system, NeXTStep, is always considered as a reference. It was sold with a lot of great programs, but unfortunately, this computer was too expensive and had little commercial success. A few years later, it was abandoned but the later successors of this computer are still in use in some places, as servers. The NeXT was used as the world's first web server, and was also the platform for the world's first web browser.

That lovely black thing on the cover of this month's issue is a 25 Mhz NeXTStation mono slab from 1990, a high-end workstation computer developed, manufactured and sold by NeXT from 1990 until 1993. It runs the NeXTStep operating system. Several models were produced, including the NeXTStation (25 MHz), NeXTStation Turbo (33 MHz), NeXTStation Color (25 MHz) and NeXTStation Turbo Color (33 MHz).

The NeXTStation originally shipped with a NeXT MegaPixel 17" monitor (with built-in speakers), proprietary keyboard, and mouse. There is also a microphone built into the monitor and one of the System utilities allows the user to record and play back spoken text. This model is nicknamed "The Slab", since the flat shape contrasts quite sharply with the original NeXT Computer's basic shape (otherwise known as "The Cube").

Next, Inc. (later Next Computer, Inc. and Next Software, Inc. and stylized as NeXT) was an American computer company headquartered in Redwood City, California, that developed and manufactured a series of computer workstations intended for the higher education and business markets. NeXT was founded in 1985 by Apple Computer co-founder Steve Jobs after his resignation from Apple. NeXT introduced the first NeXT Computer in 1988, and the smaller NeXTStation in 1990. Sales of the NeXT computers were relatively limited. Nevertheless, its innovative object-oriented NeXTStep operating system and development environment were highly influential.

NeXT later released much of the NeXTStep system as a programming environment standard called OpenStep. NeXT withdrew from the hardware business in 1993 to concentrate on marketing OPENSTEP, its own OpenStep implementation, for several OEMs. NeXT also developed WebObjects, one of the first enterprise web application frameworks. WebObjects never became very popular because of its initial high price of $50,000 but remains a prominent early example of a web server based on dynamic page generation rather than static content. Apple purchased NeXT on December 20, 1996 for $429 million and 1.5 million shares of Apple stock, and much of the current Mac OS X system is built on the OPENSTEP foundation. WebObjects is now bundled with Mac OS X Server and Xcode.

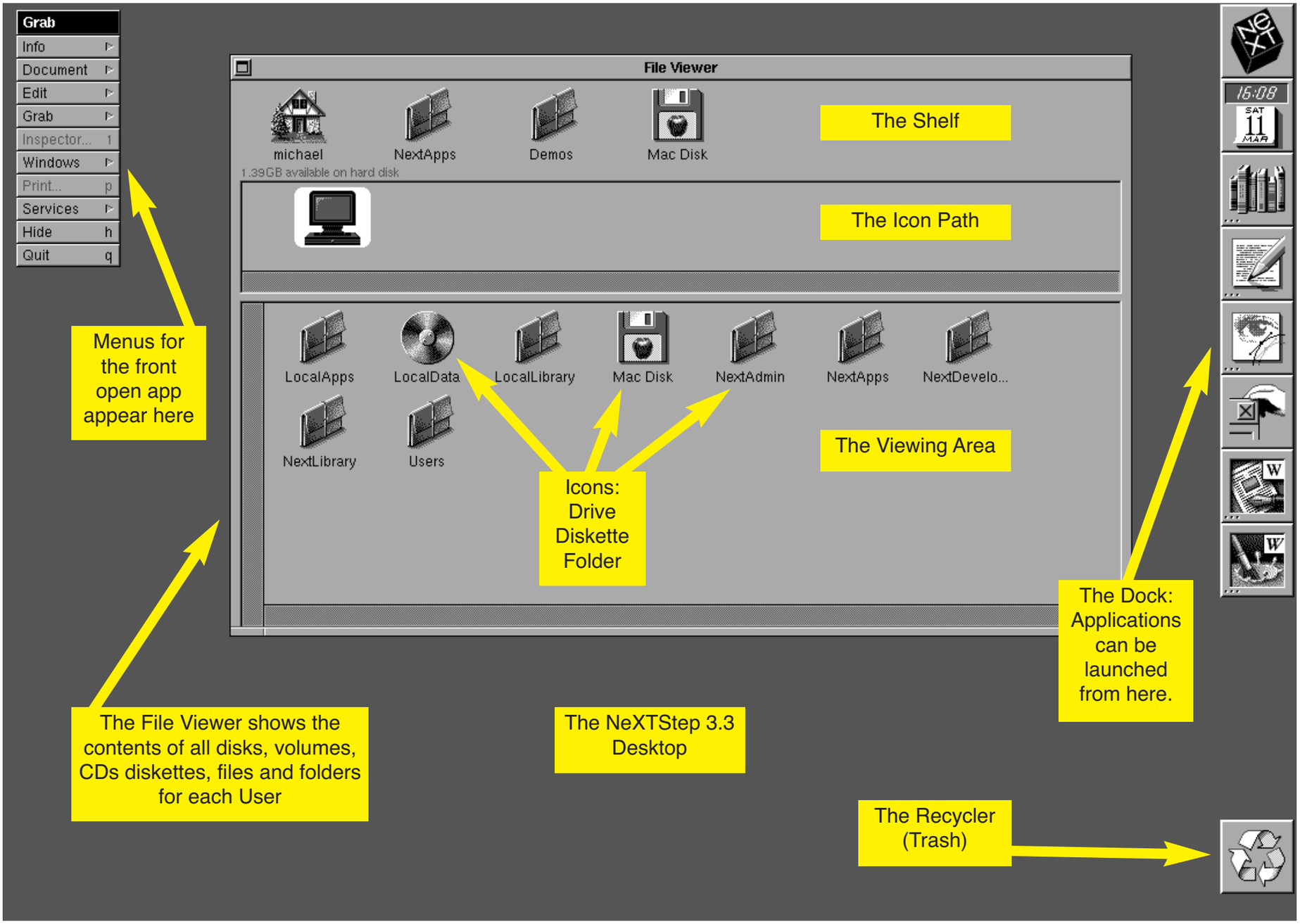
The NeXTStation pictured above was an "affordable" version of Steve Jobs' hardware platform that ran the NeXTStep operating system. This machine has a 25 MHz 68040 processor which was considered fairly high end at the time. These NeXT machines are becoming quite rare because there were only around 50,000 units sold of all the various models and many have since stopped working. This one produces only 4 colors (black, white and two shades of gray) and comes with a proprietary monitor. See the full screen on the next page. It has a high resolution of 1120 X 832 and the sound output is built right into the monitor. **NeXT machines play a significant role in the evolution of the Internet, since these were the machines that first ran web browsers and servers.**

Specifications:

- Central processing unit: Motorola 68040, running at 25 MHz
- Memory: 8 MB, upgradeable to up to 32 MB
- Display resolution: 1120 X 832
- RAM: 8 RAM sockets for 30-pin SIMMs, Parity or Non-Parity FPM, but not mixed
- Colors: 4 (black, white and two shades of gray)
- Digital signal processor: Motorola 56001 @ 25 MHz (16 bits, 44.1 kHz, stereo, 24 kB (24 KiB) RAM upgradable to 576 kB)
- Speaker: built-in the monitor
- Microphone: built-in the monitor
- Size/Weight: 39.8 (W) X 36.5 (D) X 6.4 (H) cm / 6 kg
- Input/Output: SCSI internal connector, SCSI2 external port, DSP, video output, proprietary port for NeXT laser printer, two RS-423 serial ports, 10BASE-T and 10BASE-2 Ethernet
- Media: 3.5 in floppy disk drive (2.88 MB (2880 KiB)), hard disk from 105 MB (105 million bytes) to 4 GB (4 billion bytes).
- Operating System: NeXTStep 3.3.
- Peripherals:

-- Modem,
-- Keyboard: Full-stroke mechanical (85 keys),
-- Mouse: 2 button opto-mechanical

Michael Shaw



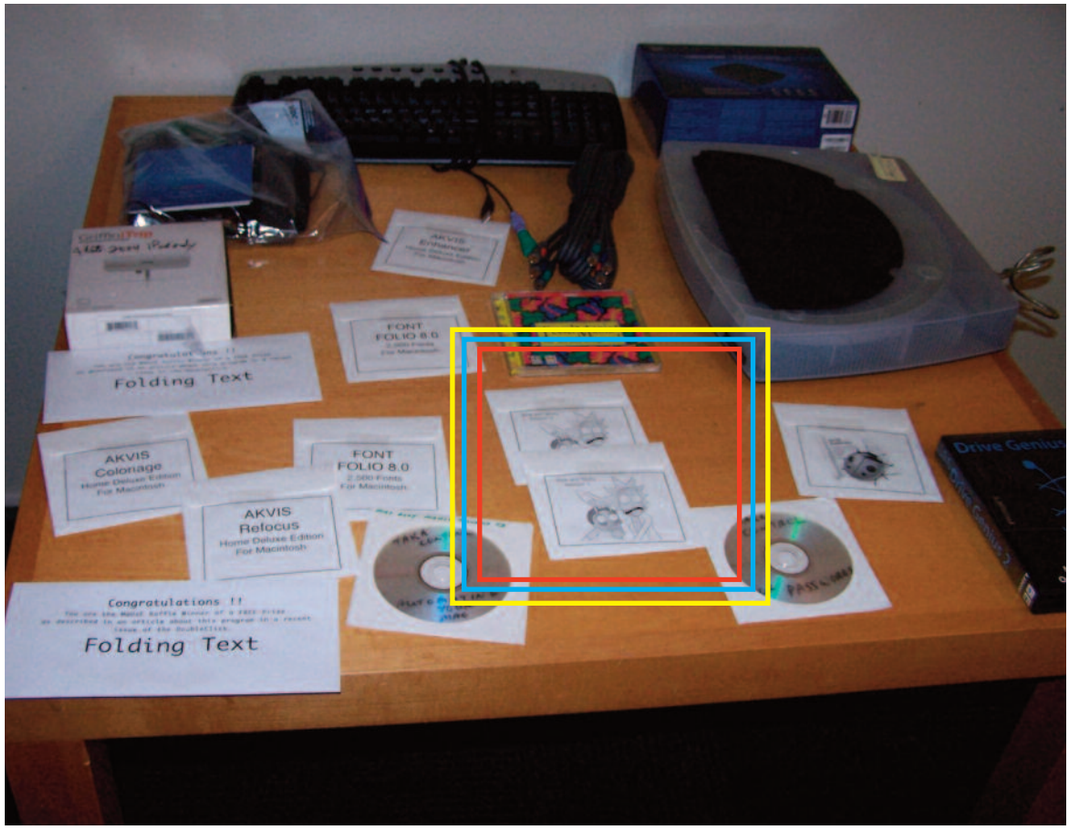
MaUsE Raffle Report

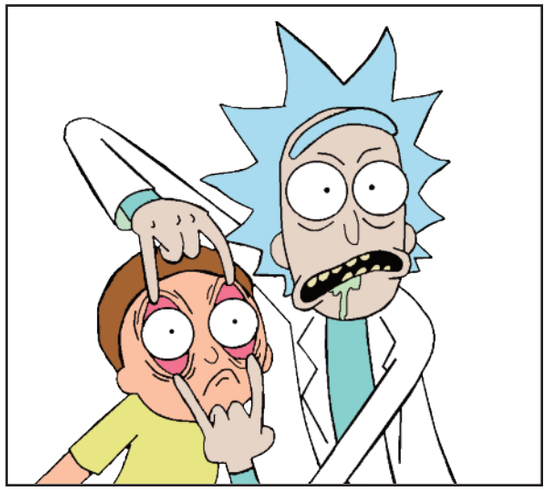
As usual, we had a successful raffle at the end of the February meeting. AKVIS supplied a few copies of recently reviewed programs and there were some hardware and software items donated by MaUsE members.

All of the software and hardware items were awarded except for what was unarguably the best prize of all, Seasons One and Season Two of **Rick and Morty** on DVD, with subtitles. The countdown for Season Three is on at http://rick-and-morty.eu as the whole world awaits Season Three and the return of most important cartoon show since Squidbillies or Ren and Stimpy.

Season Two finished with Rick Sanchez incarcerated for several eternities in a maximum security Galactic Federation prison after having been convicted of various and sundry nefarious crimes against whatever. A huge miscarriage of whatever. He resided there with little chance of bail, parole or escape until it was reported on Twitter that Rick Sanchez had been pardoned* by President Obama in the final days before the Republican Rapture, thus making Season 3 possible.

*Must be true: its on the Internet!





Hangman Pro
From Winograd

Chances are, if you are a long time Mac user as I am, you will have run across a little program called Hangman. A version of it has been available on Apple for over 30 years. And it is still in working order with version 4.0. I can certainly remember playing this a long time ago. I was a little surprised to see that it was still up and running. I thought a review of its most recent iteration was in order. Hangman Pro is a modern take on the classic hangman game, the same one we all played when we were kids, on paper or on the blackboard at school. Hangman Pro is a classic word-guessing game. It is easy to play on the computer, and fun for all ages. It can be used at home or at school. Play by yourself or have contests with others.

Even though Hangman Pro is meant to be an educational game, it is still very enjoyable to play. This version offers a diversity of different methods for choosing the word or short phrase that will be guessed in order to make each game as fun and challenging as possible. If you are by yourself, then I would suggest picking either a specific category, of which there are over 70 to choose from, or the random word choice. This is found under the 'Words' menu bar item of the game. You should also limit the number of guesses allowed before a loss is declared. Under the 'MaxGuesses' in the menu bar, you can decide on 4, 6, 8, 10 or 12. The younger and less experienced the player, the more guesses you should allow in order to keep the player from getting frustrated. But don't make it too easy. My personal choice is 6 guesses unless I am trying to guess a phrase, in which case I use 4 guesses. If you are playing with two or more players or using this game at school, then you have even more possibilities. As well as the previous menu items, it is possible to set up your own list of words from which Hangman Pro will randomly pick. The instructions for this are under the 'CustomWords' menu bar item. I had a couple of specific folders set up in no time at all. The grandkids will now be able to guess family names when they play. I have it set up so the family member's picture appears after all the guessing is done. Or you can type your own word or phrase and have a form of Wheel of Fortune contest.

The last and most unique game choice is using 'Photo Words'. You can create another folder, just like the custom words, and drop in some photos. It is best if these are the .jpeg type. The name of the photo will be inserted into Hangman Pro's guessing window. Once the word or phrase is guessed, the photo will be displayed in the game window.

Each of the over 70 categories of words has their own cartoon picture to add some variety to the game's window. If you choose to make your own list, you can have as many as 100 separate custom categories. Each category of words that you create can also have a picture associated with the whole category. I have a family group picture pop up for the custom 'Family' word list. You can also include as many as 100 lines in each custom text file. This means each custom category that you include can have up to 100 words (or short phrases). That adds up to 1000 extra words or phrases that can be employed in the custom category area. To help players, a hint can be included. As well, some info about the word to be guessed can be included. It would appear after the word is guessed. All of this is inserted into the text file, if you wish. Basically, each line must include, in order, the word, the info, the hint, and the picture. Only the word (or short phrase) is required. All the other parts of the line (info, hint and picture) are optional, and you don't have to include them if you don't want.

I just have a few more points I found useful. When playing, letters can be chosen using the mouse or the keyboard. I found the keyboard to be faster. You can enable sound effects on/off and you can add and edit the spoken comments. I like having the guess letter timer set in order to have the game move along faster. 10 seconds work for me. You can have the words presented in either upper or lower case letters. Lastly, you can change background colours in the various windows. Having been around for such a long time, there is not much that can be added to the game. With all the preference choices, you can remodel the game to whatever is best suited for you.

In conclusion, Hangman Pro is a colourful, educational game. It comes with digitized sound effects, speech, and non-violent graphics. It offers many different methods to choose the word or short phrase that will be guessed. You can enter your own words one at a time, use random words, use photo words, or choose from among dozens of built-in categories of words. Hangman Pro is distributed on a 10-Day Free Trial basis. If you enjoy the game as much as I have, then you can purchase a registration code for $14.95 USD from the people at www.winograd.com. This is a great family game and a whole lot of fun just playing by yourself. Get the free trial and relive your youth.

Submitted by Marcel Dufresne

WANTED

Macintosh IIci

I have a project on the go that
requires the presence of a
Macintosh IIci or
similar computer.
If you have an old
MacII IIvx, IIvi, IIci, IIcx, IIsi,
IIfx
among your MacJunk, please
contact me.
CASH REWARD
Call Mike at 905-576-2097

WANTED

30-Pin SIMMs

If you have upgraded an older
Performa, Quadra or Mac IIci,
or any computer that uses
1-Meg, 2-Meg, 4-Meg or 8-Meg
30-pin SIMMs,
and have any left over,
please call me.
NO REWARD
Call Mike at 905-576-2097

WANTED

SCSI hard drives:

Any old drives that have
been pulled out of desktop
Macs that were upgraded.

Call Mike at
905-576-2097

Notice to All Members

Recent events at our MaUsE meetings have confirmed that various members are quietly doing fascinating things with their computers. Unfortunately, getting them up in front of the audience to tell us a little about their accomplishments, hobbies, interests, achievements, and abilities has not been easy. Please feel free to rat on other members: if you know someone in the Club who does something neat or nifty with this or her Mac, please let me know so I can twist an arm or two. Snitch to: michalshaw@mause.ca

VPN Stands For Virtual Private Network

If you're not already using a VPN on your phone, tablet or Mac, you've likely heard (or read) the term several times.

Identity theft is rampant these days, and it's more important than ever to protect your personal, family or financial information. Imagine – EVERY-THING you send or receive via the Internet on your Mac, iPhone or iPad will be encrypted and completely secure.

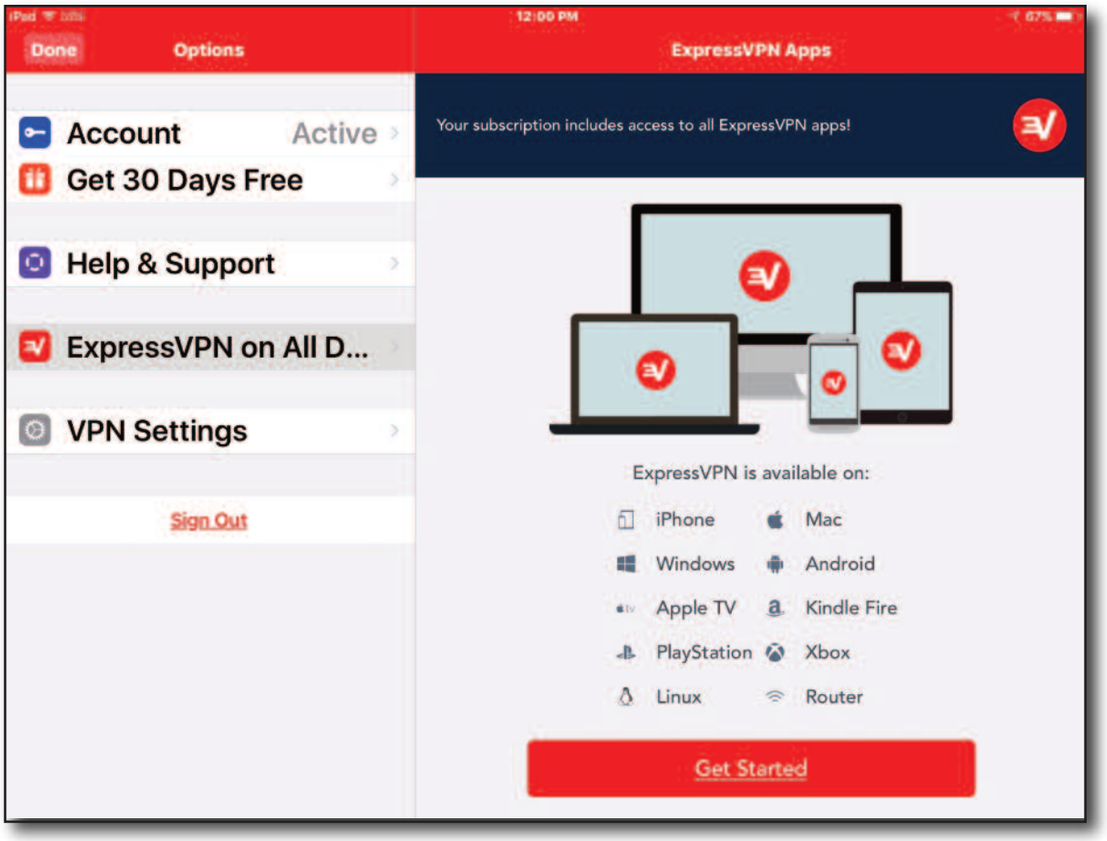
As a stand-alone app on iPhone, iPad or Mac, users choose a VPN to ensure all traffic to – and from – their device is encrypted (secure) to pre-vent unwanted 'sniffing' of personal information. This is a particular problem on public WiFi net-works. Another benefit is providing anonymity to the user and device. And the VPN service doesn't slow down your connection.

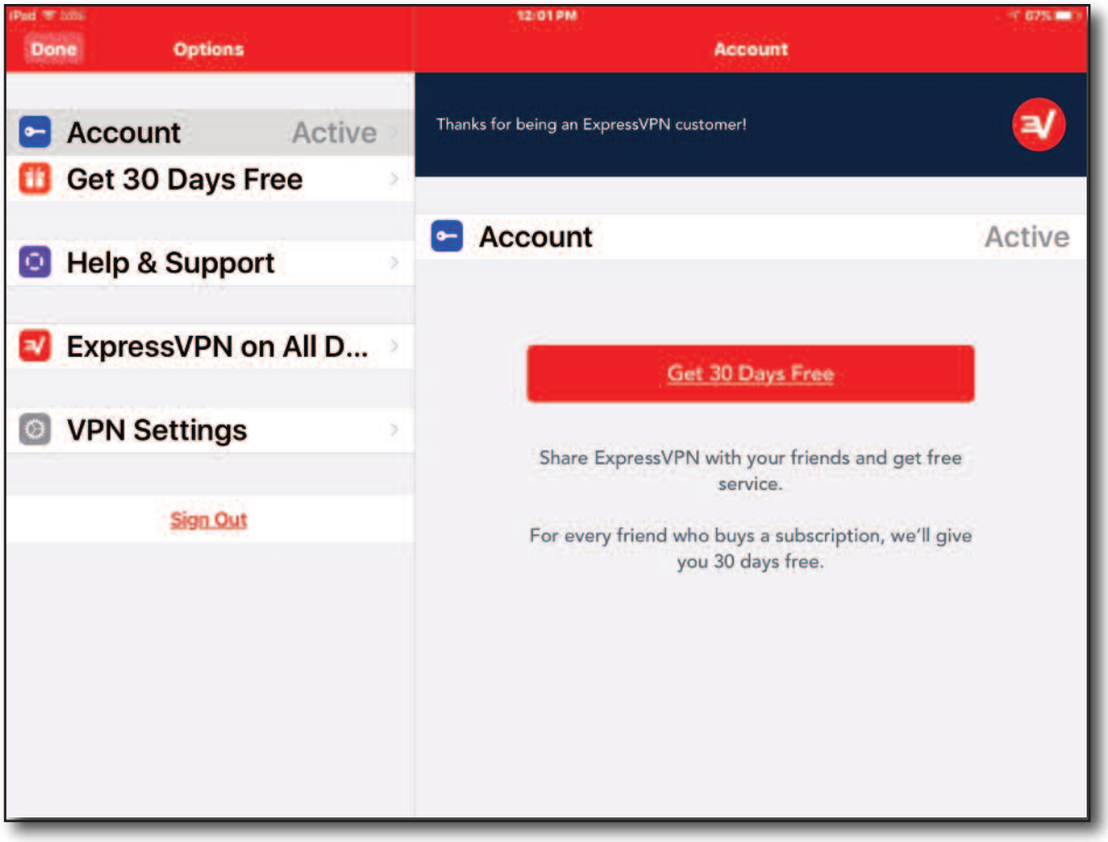
How does it work?
The VPN app opens a software 'tunnel' to another device in the cloud - protecting user identity and device location information from being detected.

Where is the Virtual Private Network?
A VPN is a group of computers or networks. Indi-vidual users such as yourselves can use a VPN to gain access to internet resources (such as for work, school or home) when you aren't physically connected to that particular network by an Ether-net cable.

When connecting to a public WiFi.
Think about all the times you have sent a pass-word, credit card number or other sensitive infor-mation via your mobile device. If you aren't using a VPN, it's easier than you might think for someone to capture said data and use it for nefarious pur-poses… things you don't even want to imagine, at times.

Having a reputable VPN installed (and working!) guarantees that no prying eyes can get their grubby little hands on anything you're sending through whichever wifi network you may be con-nected to. Be careful which VPN app you choose. I am using xpressVPN.





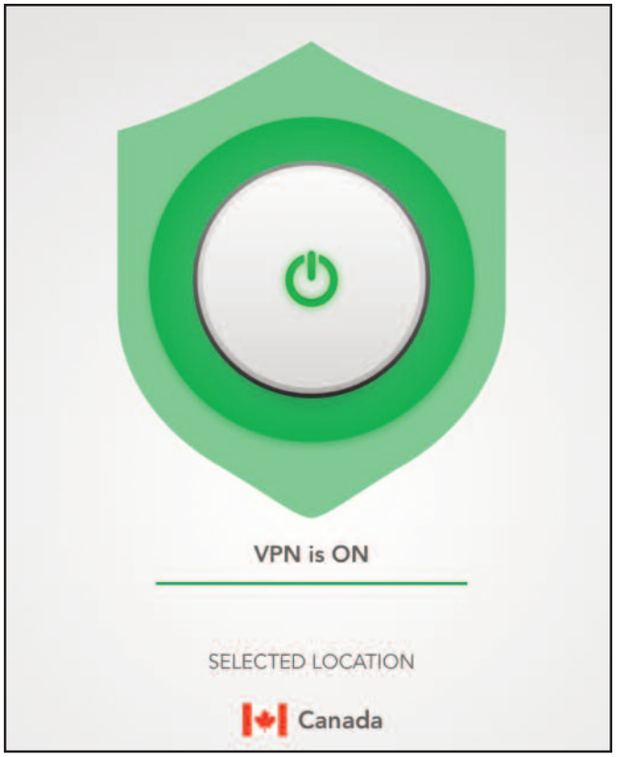
Now that you understand a little better what a VPN can do, you may be trying to figure out if YOU need one. There are several different types of mobile users who definitely should be installing a great VPN. Anyone who is a student or worker may need a VPN provided by their company or school to access resources they cannot get to, as discussed earlier. Additionally, anyone who downloads a lot of things – even legally – should definitely be using a VPN to help protect their device. A VPN is the ONLY true way to keep yourself safe when using a service like BitTorrent.

Most importantly, anyone who is conscious of their personal (or business) security and privacy should be using a VPN. You don't have to be a power user or mobile worker to take advantage of the extra peace of mind this type of service.

Another super advantage is that you can appear to be in other countries via the VPN app. This covers the times you can't see country specific movies, photos, sites or data.

That, my MaUsE friends, is peace of mind that pays for itself more than a million times over. Check out this quality ExpressVPN app. Free for thirty days to try out. And $99/year for security of six device.

By GrandpaChris



SMMUG Silicon Mountain Macintosh User Group

MaUsE Has Friends In Colorado

This month I would like to offer a big MaUsE hello to **SMMUG**, one of our sister Macintosh User Groups located in Colorado. Laurrell Davenport, the editor of their monthly newsletter, the Silicon Summit, has been in touch with me over the past few years and has published some of our articles in their club's publications.

About SMMUG:

SMMUG (http://www.smmug.org)is Located at the foot of majestic Pikes Peak in Colorado Springs, Colorado, SMMUG (Silicon Mountain Macintosh User Group) is a fun computer club and a non-profit Colorado educational corporation - 501(c)(3). SMMUG is dedicated to helping people enjoy and learn about their Apple mobile devices (iPhones, iPads, iPods), and Macintosh computers. We were formed in 1985, making us one of the oldest Mac User Groups (MUGs) in the United States.

Our 70+ members span all ages and computer skill levels. We strive to make sure SMMUG offers benefits to experienced users and new users alike, and everyone in between. We work to provide all our members with valuable learning experiences, helpful resources, and updates on emerging technology. SMMUG members share a passion for the wonderful Apple machines that have brought such a positive influence to their lives.

We welcome everyone, especially new users. Our regular Monday meetings are FREE and open to members and nonmembers alike. Please come to a meeting and see how SMMUG can help you discover even more ways to enjoy your Apple mobile device and Macintosh computer!

BBEdit
From BareBones Software

Having been tasked with keeping our club Web site updated, I have had to learn a bit of HTML (Hypertext Markup Language). Helping me to make the monthly changes to our site has been an old version of BBEdit. This great application has been around for about 25 years. It has made my updating chores easier with its tremendously straight forward format. I was able to obtain the newest version of it, BBEdit 11.0, in order to write this review. If you do any HTML editing, I am sure you are familiar with the program. Read on to gain a small glimpse into this newest version.

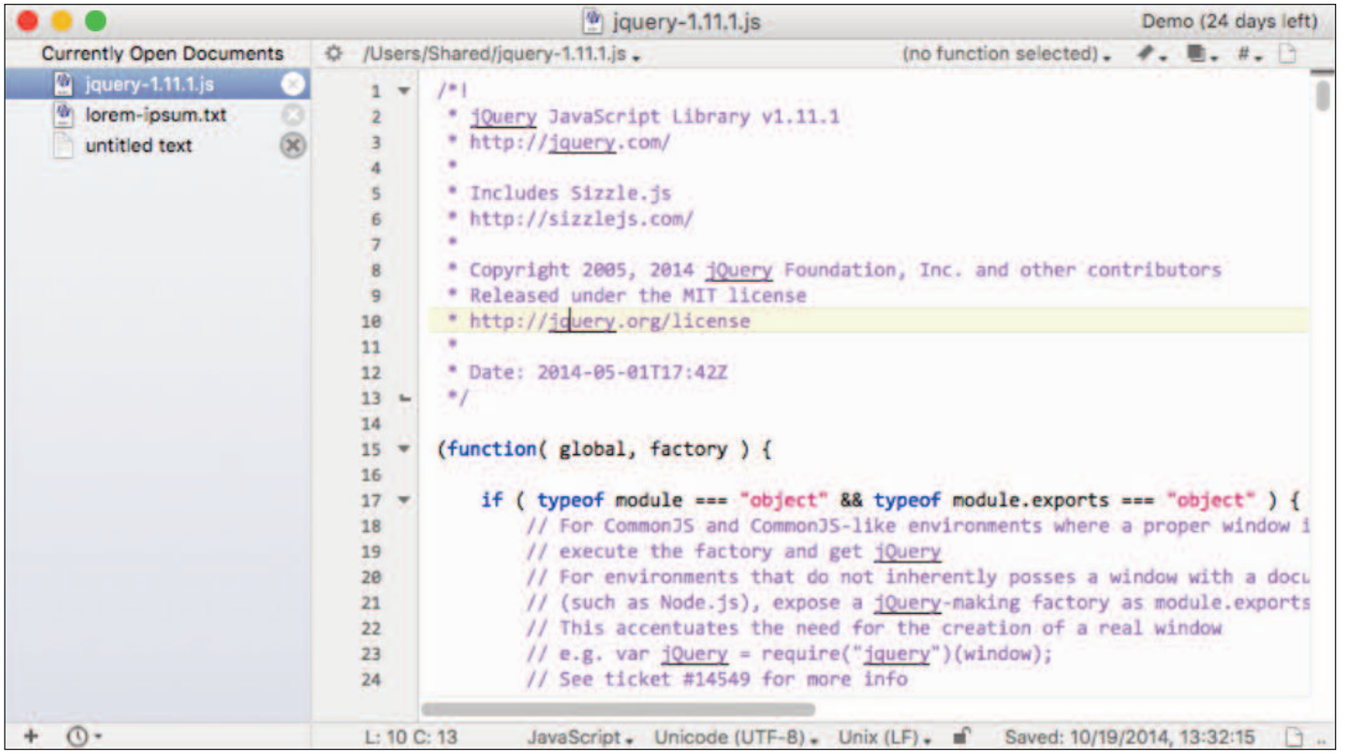
BBEdit is a high-performance HTML and text editor. Unlike a word processor, which is designed for preparing printed pages, a text editor focuses on providing a means of producing and changing content. Thus, BBEdit does not offer fancy formatting capabilities, graphics tools, or similar items. Instead, it concentrates on helping you manipulate text in ways that word processors generally cannot. In order to achieve this, BBEdit offers powerful regular search and replace, multi-file search, sophisticated text transformations, intelligent text colouring, and other features not usually found in word processors. BBEdit also has features that make it easier to edit specific kinds of text, such as source files for programming languages and HTML files. It was tailor made for pros but can also meet the needs of the dabbler, which I am, who uses the app once or twice a month. BBEdit allows a person to be productive immediately, yet still provides depth and comprehensive documentation for advanced users.

When you launch BBEdit, it will open with a blank new document window. It will also open the last window you had been working on if it can find the file. The data will appear as a set of numbered lines ready for you to edit. BBEdit can open a host of various files such as text documents or HTML (web pages). Use it any time you need to create or edit Web pages, source files, or text documents of any kind. Just drop the file into the app's window or on the dock icon and it will instantly appear in the BBEdit window. It is truly amazing how fast it loads even the largest of files.

BBEdit text windows have the same familiar controls you are used to. However, there are some additional elements such as the navigation bar, the sidebar, the split bar, and the status bar. The navigation bar is a panel at the top of a text window which provides controls for selecting the active document and for showing where the current document is actually saved. The sidebar, located down the left-hand side of each editing window, lists all the documents currently open in that window. This makes changing from one file to another very fast. Every text window and every browser text pane has a split bar, a small black bar above the scroll bar, that lets you split it into two active view regions. Splitting a text pane lets you view and edit a document's content in two places at the same time. Each region is independently scrollable. Finally, the status bar, located directly to the left of the horizontal scrollbar, displays the current cursor position and the document's save status, and contains popup menus showing among other things the language, text encoding, the number of characters, words and lines and the magnification.

I use BBEdit most often when I need to work with simple text files or to maintain our Web site. I find it useful when I need to search for a specific line of text or HTML script. It is the ideal tool for preparing and editing HTML documents. In addition to options for preparing text content, such as wrapping, line numbering, case changes, and searching, BBEdit offers a really powerful set of tools to make editing web pages easier. Whether you have to find or change all the occurrences of some text in a set of files, or to modify or reformat large text files of any sort, or tweak a Web page, BBEdit is up to the task.

There are a few interesting additions to the newest version of BBEdit (over 200 changes have been made). A new spring-loaded info panel allows a user to rename a file, "touch" its creation and modification dates, and change permissions for any local file. My favourite upgrade is the Find Difference function. With this, you can compare the contents of not only documents but file folders as well. The new Find Differences workflow provides a more efficient single-window presentation of results for both file and folder comparisons. I sometimes have a document sent back to me with supposed changes made to it. But often, the changes are not obvious to me and I slowly have to go through the whole document, looking for the corrections. With Find Differences, I can quickly locate any changes. For folder comparisons, the latest results interface provides the ability to copy files as needed from one folder to another.



You can use BBEdit to directly open or save files from an FTP server. This is how I used BBEdit to keep our Web site up to date. BBEdit will open a new FTP Browser window, remain open until I close it, and once connected, it will maintain a persistent connection to the server for as long as it remains open. I can refresh the directory listing to ensure the new file has been downloaded properly. I can even drag items from the FTP browser window to other applications. The Info button lets me examine the size, modification date, and if applicable, file system permissions of the selected file. I can edit the file's name and click the Rename button to rename the file on the server. I can directly create a new file (or folder) on the server by clicking the New button, or remove files from the server by selecting them and pressing the Delete button.

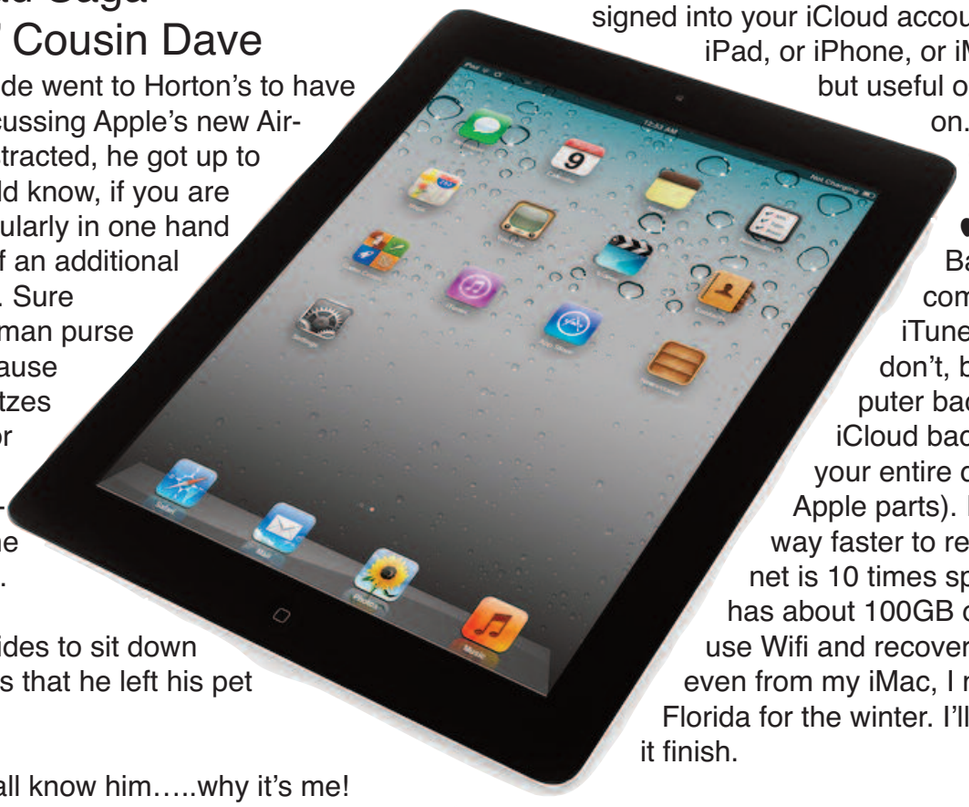
BBEdit supports six separate clipboards. Each time you use the Cut or Copy command, BBEdit automatically switches to the next clipboard. Keyboard controls allow you to move from one clipboard to the next as needed. Lastly, there is no need to unzip a file. BBEdit transparently opens and displays the contents of any Zip-compressed archives both directly and during multi-file search. In addition, you can directly edit the contents of files within such an archive and save changes directly back to those files.

Does BBEdit offer something for you? You can download a fully functional demo of BBEdit. It will operate with full functionality for up to 30 days. There is excellent documentation and good technical support to help all of us better use it. Once the demo period has expired, BBEdit will remain permanently functional with a revised feature set that includes its powerful text editing capabilities but not its web authoring tools or other exclusive features. Unquestionably BBEdit is a professional's tool, but it is useful for so many others. You can download the demo from www.barebones.com/products/bbedit. The application sells for $49.99 USD. Try out the demo for 30 days and see why this powerful application is still going strong after 25 years.

Submitted by Marcel Dufresne

The Lost iPad Saga
By Grandpa Chris' Cousin Dave

Once upon a time, a forgetful old dude went to Horton's to have coffee with a family member. After discussing Apple's new Airpods and VPN and being generally distracted, he got up to go. As anyone of his age or close would know, if you are used to carrying things about town regularly in one hand (like a purse or some such), the lack of an additional item in your other hand is oft forgotten. Sure enough, this dude picks up his purse (man purse as the younger folks refer to them because they are embarrassed he-he), and waltzes innocently out the door leaving his poor unattended $1000 iPad sitting in a chair. It didn't help the old guy with failing vision, that the chair was exactly the same colour as the iPad carrying case.

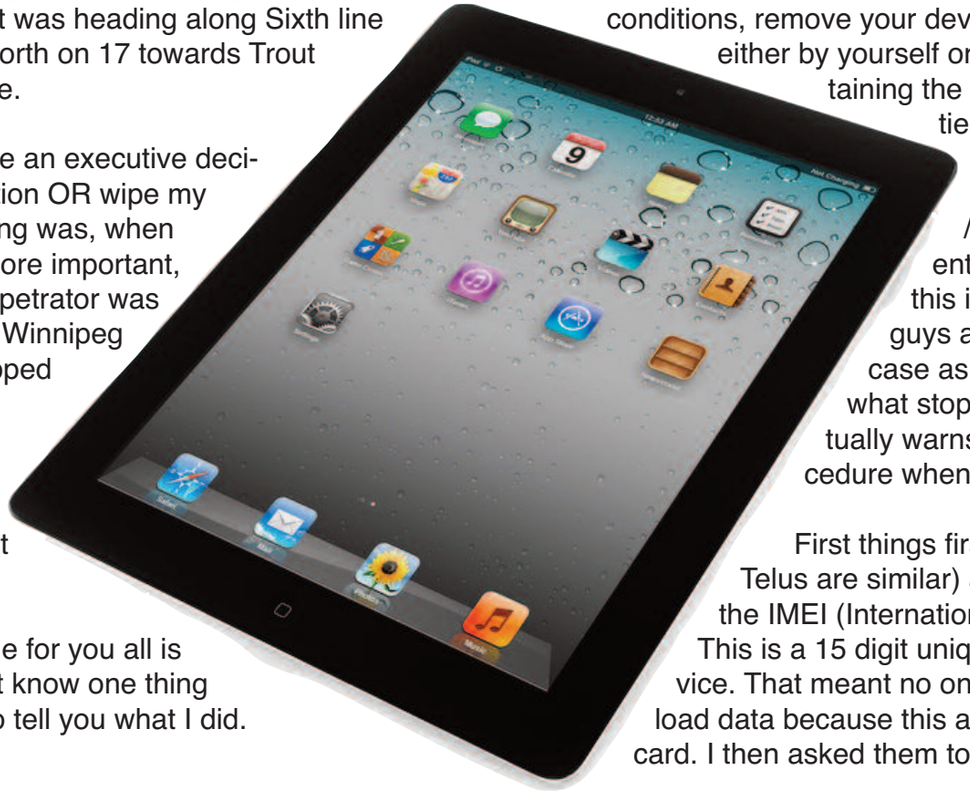


Upon arriving at home, this guy decides to sit down and get his email and in horror, realizes that he left his pet iPad at Hortons.

Question. Who is this geezer? You all know him…..why it's me!

Immediately I open up my iCloud on my Mac to see if my iPad was still at Hortons fully expecting that it would be since I only just left about 10 minutes prior. To my surprise, after choosing Find My iPad, I noticed that my iPad had somehow gotten a major upgrade and had very recently grown some wheels. It was heading along Sixth line westbound for 17N. It then turned north on 17 towards Trout Lake. The air turned blue around me.

At that point in time, I had to make an executive decision…. I could track it to its destination OR wipe my data and lock and brick it. My thinking was, when push comes to shove, which was more important, my data or my iPad. What if the perpetrator was actually heading to Thunder Bay or Winnipeg or Vancouver even? What if he stopped traveling but was in a no-data area where neither I nor the police could track him. In either case, I'd never get it back from out of town, even if ferreted out where the little twit went so I erased it.



The reason I am writing this article for you all is that I know that some of you will not know one thing about this procedure so I'm going to tell you what I did.

- NUMBER ONE RULE… each of you make sure that you have signed into your iCloud account and turned on Find my iPad, or iPhone, or iMac. It works for all of them but useful only to you when it is turned on. No good after the ship has sailed!

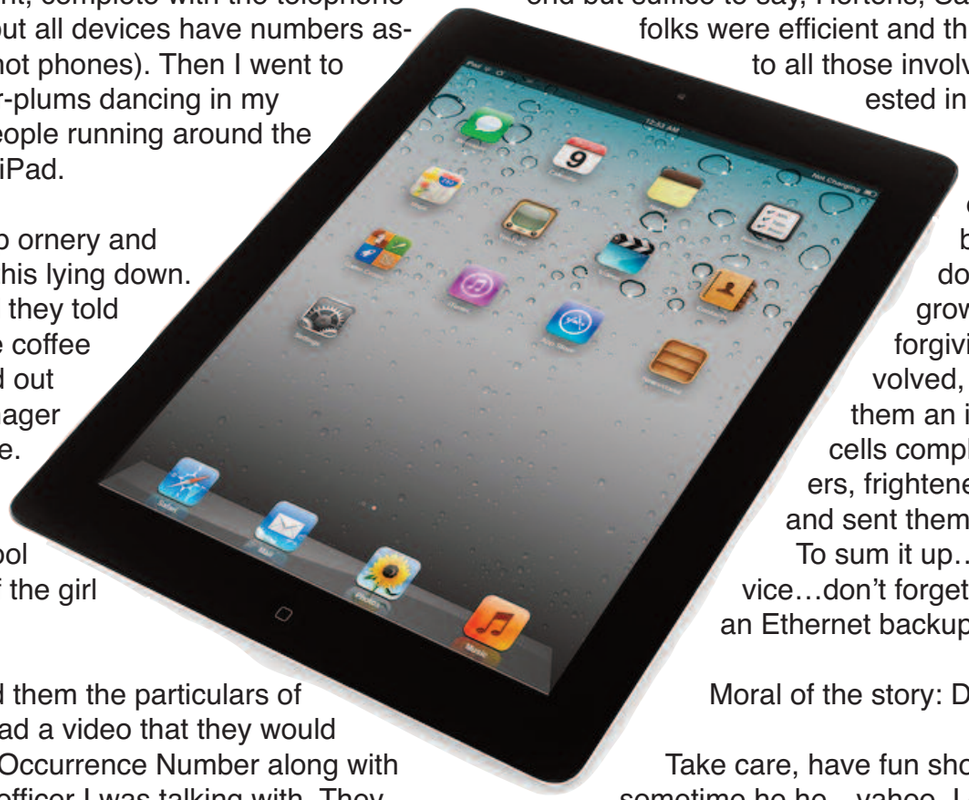
- NUMBER TWO RULE… Backup your device to your computer via Ethernet and iTunes, if you have one. If you don't, back it up to iCloud. A computer backup is far superior to an iCloud backup because it backs up your entire device, not just part of it (the Apple parts). It's also way faster to do and way faster to recover it. Remember, Ethernet is 10 times speedier than Wifi. My iPad has about 100GB of data on it. If I would try to use Wifi and recover all that junk from iCloud or even from my iMac, I may as well head out to Florida for the winter. I'll get back just in time to see it finish.

- NUMBER THREE RULE… MAKE A PLAN…expect to have to make some very quick decisions about how you are going to proceed should this happen.

- NUMBER FOUR… MOST IMPORTANT!!!! Do not under any conditions, remove your device from your iCloud account either by yourself or phoning Apple for help. Maintaining the device connection to iCloud ties up the perp because the message he gets when tries to install a new OS is "this iPad /iPhone is lost or stolen. Please enter the email and password that this iPad was setup with". The bad guys are dead in the water. In my case aside from being caught, this is what stopped them in the end. Apple actually warns you about this during the procedure when you erase your iPad.

First things first: I called Rogers (Bell and Telus are similar) and had them put a block on the IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity). This is a 15 digit unique identifier for any mobile device. That meant no one could use my iPad and download data because this action disables the Rogers SIM card. I then asked them to blacklist the iPad.

There is an INTERNATIONAL Black list which does not allow the use of that particular IMEI anywhere in North America. I then asked them to delete my whole iPad account, complete with the telephone number (some may have forgotten but all devices have numbers associated with them even if they are not phones). Then I went to sleep and instead of visions of sugar-plums dancing in my head, I had visions of really nasty people running around the world, laughing at me and using my iPad.



The next day (Saturday) I woke up ornery and combative and resolved to not take this lying down. I was ticked. I called up Hortons and they told me that they had videos of the entire coffee shop and parking lot. After we ironed out what time it was when I left, the manager said he would have a look at the tape. About 4 hours later, he called back saying he had video of the perps. Two twits, a boy and girl… high school age. Horton's had a dandy picture of the girl and a sideways shot of the boy.

Then I called Sault Police and told them the particulars of the theft, and the fact that Hortons had a video that they would have access to. They issued me an Occurrence Number along with the badge number and name of the officer I was talking with. They said they would send someone over to pickup the video, on Monday.

Monday morning, I woke up crabby and undeterred. I sat down and typed up a report for the 3 'hock' shops in town. No one was going to pawn my iPad. The report had the Occurrence Number, the serial number and the entire specs for my iPad, cover and case cover. I headed downtown to the largest of them and talked with the owner and passed along the info. You may not be aware of this, as I wasn't, but the 3 pawn shops exchange data like this every day so immediately he put it on his fax to send out to the other two.

I also started watching Kijiji, Sootoday and a couple of other sites like Craigslist for new iPads ads. It wasn't likely that the perps would be able to sell it anyway since I had bricked it so well but at least it made me feel like I was doing something useful.

Tuesday morning I was depressed, oh woe is me but lo' and behold Tuesday afternoon, I got a call from the Sault Police saying that they had recovered my iPad. I could come and pick it up. I practically fainted. I must say that I had mental pictures of a mangled iPad because the kids got ticked and whacked it around because they couldn't get into it and thus couldn't use it or sell it. As it turned out, the iPad was none the worse for wear. I was able to unbrick it, remove it from the Black list, get my old Rogers account back and have my ducks all lined up by bedtime.

The kids were identified by school pictures and the families got involved. I'm not at liberty to say what or how this all went down in the end but suffice to say, Hortons, Sault Police and the High School folks were efficient and things were looked after. Kudos to all those involved. I wasn't particularly interested in what punishments were meted out, if any…I was glad that I got my iPad back undamaged. I too was a bit of a bad kid, not this bad but we all do stupid things when we are growing up so I tend to be fairly forgiving. If I would have been involved, I would have likely just given them an in depth tour of the worst police cells complete with the most scary prisoners, frightened the bejeebers out of them and sent them on their way.

To sum it up…turn on your Find My Device…don't forget to do this please AND make an Ethernet backup to your computer!!!!!

Moral of the story: Don't get old or forgetful.

Take care, have fun shoveling…spring is coming… .sometime he he…yahoo, I got my pet back he-he.

Our Chris' Cousin Dave
https://vimeo.com/202527924

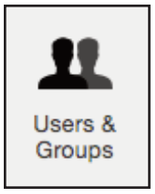
Why I Don't Do Walkabout Facebook.

For those of my generation who do not and cannot comprehend why Facebook exists (no names): I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I walk down our village street and tell passersby what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later, and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog, and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them the "thumbs up" and tell them I like them. And it works just like Facebook. I already have five people following me: two police officers, a private investigator, and a psychiatrist, plus Judy.

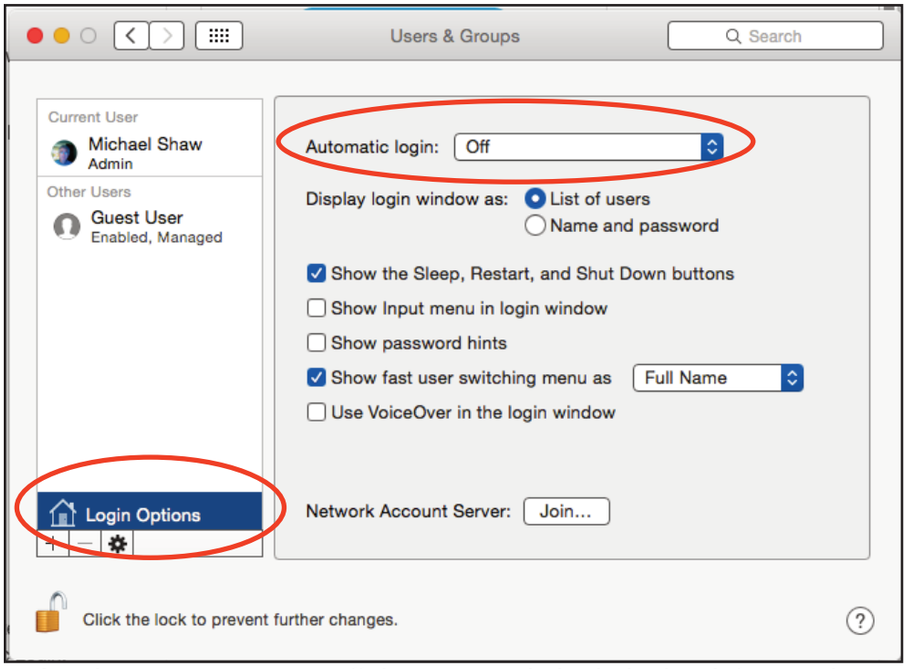
Submitted by Chris Greaves

Mac Security Tip:
Disable Automatic Login

When you first set up a new Mac, or when you do a clean installation of a new version of OS X, you create a user account, and that account is set, by default, to log in **automatically** at startup. This is really not a good idea. This isn't a big problem when you're at home, where you have total control over your computer, but if you use a laptop, and travel, this is a serious risk. This automatic login means that anyone who finds your Mac only needs to start it up to have access to your files. You can easily change this, and tell OS X to display a login screen on boot. There are two ways to do this.

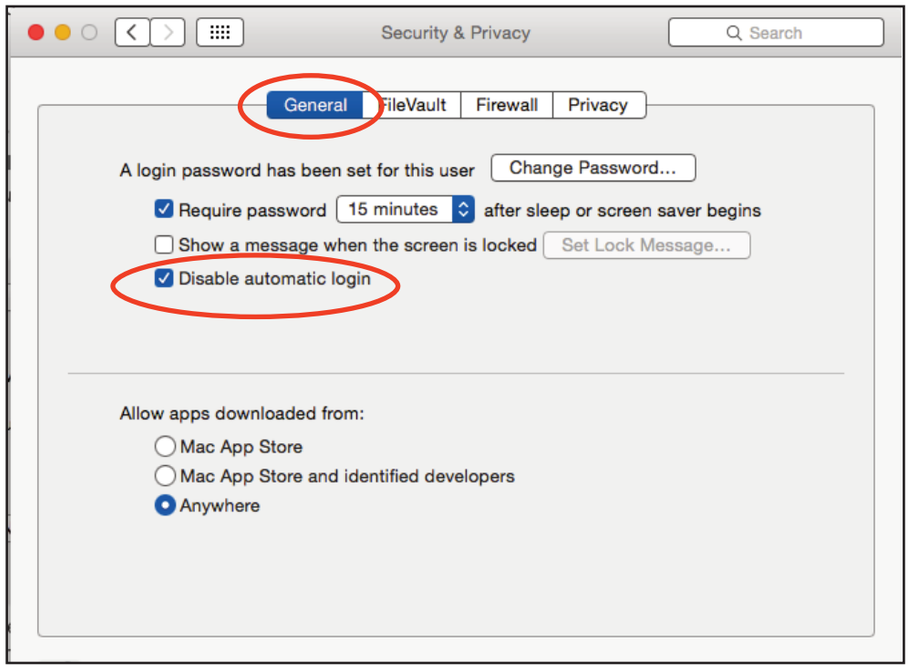


First, if you go to the Users & Groups pane of System Preferences, and click on Login Options, you'll see a menu that lets you choose which user logs in automatically at startup, or you can choose **Off** from this menu to turn off automatic login.



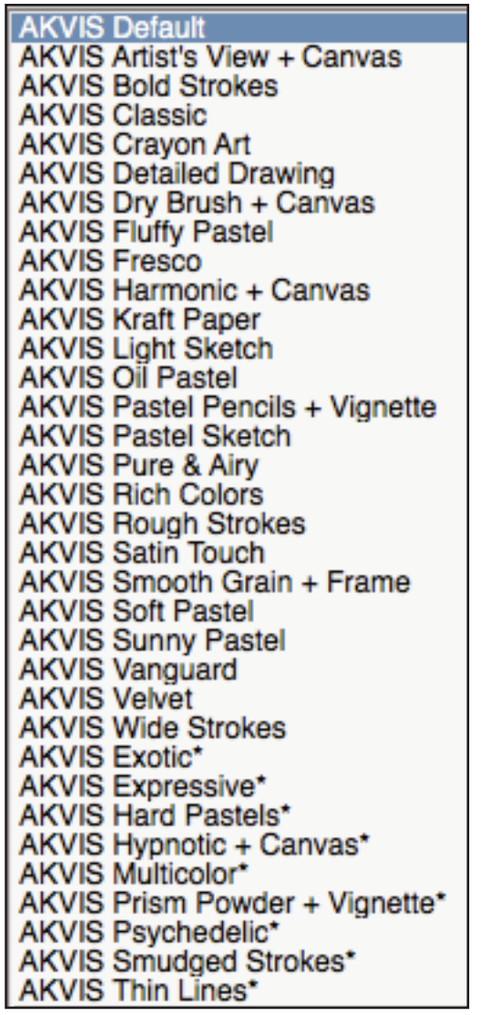
Another reason to turn off the automatic login is that it forces the user to think of his or her computer as something that **needs** to be private and protected. The login information that functions as the access password to the user account is actually one of the most important passwords a user can have. There have been occasions over the years where I have been requested to perform invasive diagnostics on other peoples computers or upgrade their software and more than once I have been met with blank stares when I have had to ask the users for their account name and password in order to install software or make changes to their system. If you are required to insert your account login every time you turn on your computer you will not forget it. If you ever do forget your user account password you may find , depending on what system you are running, that resetting it is a difficult operation.

The second way to change the automatic login is in the Security & Privacy preferences, again in System Preferences under the Apple menu. If you click on the General tab, you'll see an option to Disable Automatic Login. You need to login to make any changes.



Either way, turning off automatic login protects your data, and is only a slight encumbrance when you start up your Mac. You merely have to choose yourself as the user and enter your password to get to work.

Think about making this change to protect your data from easily being grabbed by anyone who finds or steals your Mac. If your computer **automatically** gives you full access to all of your financial information, browser history, pictures, personal documents, emails, and applications then it will **automatically** give access to anyone else who pushes the power button. Disabling automatic login will lock your computer and prevent anyone from casually perusing through your private files to see what might be of interest.



AKVIS Pastel 3.0

Do you remember the soft pastel crayons that were supplied in high school art class, the bright oily ones that were nothing like Crayola wax crayons, nothing like pencil crayons, and more like a greasy stick of bright smelly pigment ? The colours were so much more vivid than wax crayons and seemed to smear all over the paper. A pastel is an art medium in the form of a stick, consisting of pure powdered pigment and a binder. The pigments used in pastels are the same as those used to produce all colored art media, including oil paints; the binder is of a neutral hue and low saturation. **The color effect of pastels is closer to the natural dry pigments than that of any other process.** Pastels have been used by artists since the Renaissance, and gained considerable popularity in the 18th century, when a number of notable artists made pastel their primary medium.

AKVIS Pastel 3.0 is a scathingly brilliant piece of software that makes it possible for anyone to transform digital images into images that appear to have been rendered by hand using oily pastel crayons. There are at least two miracles here: the first being that it does it so quickly and the second being it it does it so well. Beyond that I have to add that a description with a few illustrations will be a poor substitute for downloading a copy and using it to transmute one of your own pictures, maybe a landscape, a favourite portrait, or a picture of a pet, into a convincing piece of artwork that will have the appearance of being an original hand-drawn oil pastel sketch or scene.

Like all of the other AKVIS programs we have looked at, AKVIS Pastel can be downloaded from the AKVIS website as a fully featured demo (http://akvis.com/en/pastel/index.php) and used for 10-days before any commitment to purchase is made. Also, like the other AKVIS titles, Pastel comes with an incredible library of possible Presets (with over 30 different pastel treatments) and two sets of modifying tools to enable the user to further tweak the image with sliders for colour intensity, contrast, saturation, and various other aspects.

If this sort of thing sounds interesting to you, get a copy of Pastel to play with and check out the online tutorials, examples, features and screenshots for Pastel 3.0. (http://akvis.com/en/pastel/index.php). There is also a library of short YouTube tutorial videos that covers many of the AKVIS programs and Pastel is among them.

If this review leaves you with more questions than answers, that is not a bad situation. As AKVIS programs go, Pastel is one of the most entertaining and surprising of the bunch, and that is saying a lot. My intention here is not to tell you everything about the program but rather to make you curious enough to download and enjoy a copy of AKVIS Pastel to try out on your own images for a week and a half.

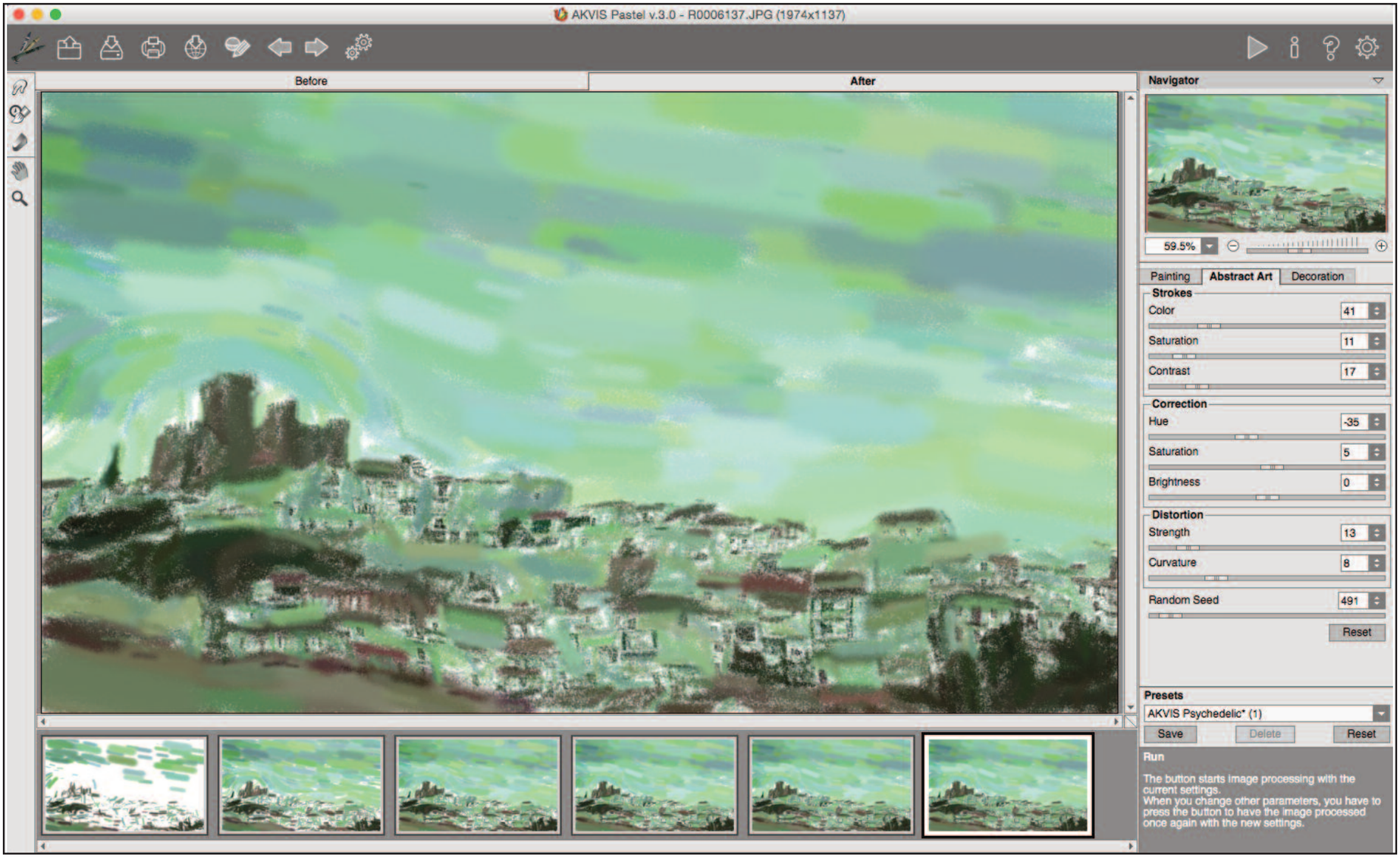
On the next few pages I have placed a few original photos from South America and Spain with screen shots of Irma's first attempts to generate pastel drawings from some of them with AKVIS Pastel. The program comes with all of the Presets shown above but I have only shown pictures of one Preset for each image.

If this sort of thing looks interesting to you, make an attempt to get out to the next MaUsE meeting, where we will be likely to be raffling off a copy of AKVIS Pastel.

The default is as good a place to start as any. What would this sharp digital image of a small church in Argentina look like with various Pastel Effects applied to it? Opening up the AKVIS stand alone program, you immediately see a small preview window with a part of the processed picture as a pastel drawing. If you want to apply this preset to the entire image, you click on the arrow in the top right hand corner and various stages of the process are displayed in the bottom timeline panel, in this case there are 6 small images. You can set how many timeline shots can be displayed in the Preferences dialog box.

After trying various Presets from the dialog box in the lower right hand corner, I found the default Preset shown in the picture to be my preferred choice of this church in Purmamarca, Argentina. You can modify your chosen preset using the slider bars and save your selection. The combination of offered presets and modifications are endless.

White Andalusian village: The Abstract Art tab in the AKVIS pastel program enables you to select from a creative palette of effects and colour options. You can transform your image by manipulating the Strokes group, the Correction group and the Distortion group in the right hand panel. Manually changing each of the sliders in the Strokes group gives you artistic options defined by colour, saturation and contrast. Playing with the Correction and Distortion groups can transform your picture so as to make it appear impressionist in style, particularly if you use the Strength and Curvature sliders in Distortion. In addition, there are the familiar presets in the right hand drop down box when selected will give you a quick view of some combinations which you can then adjust to your taste. Another feature is the Decoration tab which takes you to 3 more tabs for selecting what kind of canvas texture you want, a choice of frames which can be sized by width, style and colour tones and also a tab where you can add text to your image. In this image of one of the white villages of Andalucia, I decided to colour it for fun and used many Stroke colours, but only one of the final images is shown here, using the Psychedelic preset.



A colourful snapshot of a charming marina on the Adriatic Sea can be made into a personalized pastel work of art by using the Akvis plug-in. Open the image in the Pastel plug-in window, select any of the presets available in the drop down window, click the arrow and you have a unique drawing of your photo. Here I chose the Rich Colors preset and also picked a more textured canvas paper background which is found in the Decoration tab. I also added a deep blue background paper colour which you can choose in the Painting Tab- Paper color.

Finally I added a colored texture Strokes frame from the Frame tab as well as the AKVIS logo which is found in the Decoration, Text tab. You can add your own text as well.

Loco 2
Now Available for the iPad

If you ever travel by train in Europe you will be amazed and delighted by the speed, efficiency and integration of the rail service. Except, of course, in Italy, where the rail service has gone to the dogs since the untimely death of Mussolini.

Loco2 is a website that organizes all of the train schedule data and presents it clearly. The website only asks two questions: Where are you and Where do you want to go ?

At www.loco2.com you will find a website that connects to many of the individual national rail booking systems as is possible with the aim to sell the same tickets as the operators themselves, at the same prices with no booking fees, as simply as possible. Loco2 is making trains as easy to book as flights

You can use www.loco2.com wherever you live, as they accept all international credit cards and ticket delivery is usually print-at-home or collect-at-station. Since many rail charges are VASTLY discounted if purchased well ahead of time (up to 50%) Loco2 can radically reduce the cost of travel in Europe - and you'll never have to talk to SNCF again.