

OK Mug - Mac Meetup - Oct. 27/09

Topic: Snow Leopard & Computer Maintenance

Guests: Kim McKnight - Simply Computing

Boaz Rotaro - Maintenance

Organizer: Randy DeSerrano - Welcome

New Product Announcements from Apple -

After watching a video on the new iMac, <http://www.apple.com/ca/imac/>

Kim McKnight spend some time talking about it and the other new products just released.

New iMac- display bigger- 21.5" - 27 ", increased pixels, 78% more giving greater detail in photos, and razor sharp pictures. LED backlight, design.

In the theme of simplicity, the iMac now comes standard with wireless keyboard and mouse. The new multi-touch sensor mouse with chip inside can also be purchased separately. Environmental conscious design - energy efficiency, faster processor, graphics, larger memory, incredible new invention, . One drawback, there is no number pad on the wireless keyboard.

First time ever, the 27" iMac can be used as an external monitor so you can plug in your laptop and use the larger display. The connection presently not available - awaiting the adaptor to be released.

The new MacBook has a white unibody- glass track pad, built in battery, larger hard drive (250g) and processor, and a backlit screen. For those who prefer the Matt finish, it can still be ordered.

Macbook Pro - price drop - \$200.00.

Some upgrades have been made in the Mac Mini. The most notable being that you can purchase a model with dual 500g hard drives that can be used as a server- ideal for small businesses or schools - not really suggested for home use.

Movies rentals - iTunes rental store - purchase DVD or high definition DVD movies. If you rent or purchase, and accidentally delete it - iTunes keeps a code of your purchase so you can get it to reload the movie.

Randy mentioned that Blackberry has some new software for mac. Not sure if he meant the Desktop software. http://na.blackberry.com/eng/services/desktop/desktop_mac.jsp We can edit this later if it was something else.

He also mentioned that stocks are healthy for Apple, so we don't have to be concerned about Apple, and can expect the company to be around for a long time.

Snow Leopard

Randy presented a Snow Leopard Keynote slideshow provided by Davin Carter.

Some of the highlights:

New design to the Finder - faster, coverflow, Time Machine, can resize icons on Finder at the bottom - right slider button, can play videos as icons, fast click - gives quick preview instead of launching full video,

Finder - preview - select image or icon on your desktop, press the spacebar and the icon enlarges, press the spacebar again and it gets smaller again

Time Machine - introduced in Leopard and enhanced in Snow Leopard

Cost to upgrade from Leopard to Snow Leopard - \$34.99

Cost to upgrade from Tiger - includes iWork and iLife \$199.

Snow Leopard includes refinements, technologies, exchange servers, 1000 projects with mac operating system,

90% of applications are refined in Snow Leopard, enhanced icon, faster icon, faster empty, new services.

Dock improvements - multiple opened pdf and files can be seen with Exposé. In Leopard you would have to go to System Preferences to program a corner. Now Exposé is programmed into the dock - click and hold an application icon and all open files show.

“Option - close” red ball and all open documents will close at the same time.

Installation is faster - 45 min. - Snow Leopard is 64 bit - all going that way instead of 32 bit - can free up 7 GB more space,

*Remember to always **back up** before you upgrade.

Preview performance on jpeg or pdf faster - old Preview to select part of text to copy to something else, in Leopard it will highlight all of page, in Snow Leopard you can highlight a portion of column now of a pdf file.

Language enhancements - new keypads - can write on keypad - ie. Chinese characters

Mail enhancements - moving, searching, launching - 200% faster, threads busy/idle - same in Leopard but in Snow Leopard it will idle down if busy so you can work on applications without delays.

Graphics cards - OS use CPU or GPU in assistance so they are working together -
Open GL (graphics) and Open CL - built into the operating system with Snow Leopard

Safari 4 included - free download- *don't forget to export your bookmarks if moving from a different browser. This browser scores best on the acid 3 test.

Acid 3 test for web browsers. A quote from Wikipedia: "*Acid3* is a test page from the Web Standards Project that checks how well a web browser follows certain selected elements from web standards"

We quickly did the test by putting www.acid3.acidtests.org into the address bar of two popular browsers - Firefox scored 93/100, and Safari 100/100.

Snow Leopard uses 64 bit JavaScript performance system - more RAM memory faster - up to 16 GB RAM (MacPro) - vs old 4 GB. The company has removed power PC codes so Snow Leopard is only Intel, RAM gives you more "speed," newer macbooks have more slots for RAM - expensive - going from 4GB -8 GB is about \$1200.

QuickTime improved - now Quicktime 10 - borders are gone- more of a player and colors, application faster, can trim videos, drag and select, cut - mostly available in Pro series, QuickTime 7 might be needed, still available, some of the old formats may not be played in QuickTime 10, there may be a plug in for it, check on version tracker for software: www.versiontracker.com/
If you subscribe you can see updates too.

Chatter Break - next half of OK mug meeting

Compatibility issues - with Snow Leopard - Goggle Snow Leopard compatibility list and you might have to upgrade software to use your peripherals - make sure those products are compatible - make sure you back up your computer*

using delete key - forward and backward use - press fn key on bottom left and hold it down and use delete moves the cursor the other way

OKMug - can use to post questions, check calendar, see meeting dates,

Boaz Rotaro -Mac Technician - Certified Specialist - to discuss "Maintenance" Can check on his website for links. <http://www.rotarotech.com/>

OS X is Unix based - doesn't need a lot of maintenance - leave it on and in the middle of the night scripts will run maintenance - if you shut your computer off, they do not work, however, if your just put computer to sleep, they may run sometime after it "wakes

up". Boaz recommends doing the maintenance yourself so it is not missed. He demonstrated various choices of maintenance applications.

1) Disk Utility - Go - Utilities - Disk Utility - Launch this program - run it once every 2 weeks, launch Macintosh HD - click on it and click on "repair disk permissions". Then - Quit Disk Utilities. All the permissions will show up and don't worry about them.

What are permissions? it's a file the applications will create and they want to go bad - machine will run with them or not so the utilities will repair it.

Want **step by step** instructions with pictures? See: Hughsmac.com, or click this direct link. <http://hughsmac.com/misc/rep.html>

2) **Onyx** -<http://www.titanium.free.fr/pgs2/english/download.html> the latest version is Beta software - software still in development- click on hard drive - continue, continue and login password, options to all types of maintenance, Scripts and execute.

Cleaning - cache files - helps to run computer quicker -want to clean

User, Internet, Fonts. Logs - clean all these - then click execute. Can uncheck "cookies" on internet so it keeps your passwords on the internet. Do clean out the Fonts cache as it can cause a lot of problems.

Trash - delete or secure delete it.

Parameters - don't play with it - since it can change your operating system

Maintenance, go to Scripts, go to weekly, click execute.

This has nothing to do with Time Machine, if cleaning cache it will clean what's on Time Machine.

More robust than Mac's disk utility.

3) MainMenu - download to test or buy software for maintenance - Batch Tasks - can configure to clean your selections and then execute batch tasks - then runs all cleaning that was chosen - prompted to clean computer. - \$25.00

4) Tectool Pro 5- good program- computer check - lots of tests and checks - let it run in the night, if corrupted programs - tools can repair most problems in the hard drive, Can retrieve lost items from the trash to recover it as long as they are not overwritten.

The last part of the meeting was taken up discussing the USA \$49.99 software bundle advertised by getting cards in the mail. They are available by download from - <http://macpromo.com/> - Boaz recommends the offer saying that most of the apps are worth having and using.

We already talked about Techtool Pro 5 which is part of this offer. Also included:

Computrace LoJack- computer security for laptops - if your computer is stolen, the next time it is launched on the internet, the IP address is forwarded to the company, in other words it can trace "stolen" computers.

NetBarrier X5 - like a firewall

ContentBarrier X5 - restricts kids from viewing unsafe websites.

Runs on Leopard and Snow Leopard, Tiger should be ok, but probably not on Panther

Virus protection - minimal presently and may become more in the next 5 yrs.

For more on Mac OS X maintenance scripts, also check this link. <http://www.thexlab.com/faqs/maintscripts.html>

Send suggestions for topics to Randy for future meetings.

www.OKMug.com or www.OKMug.ca