



April 2007

Apple Bytes

A publication of San Leandro Macintosh User Group



March was a busy month...

OS X 10.4.9 is on the street. Some things work and others don't. A number of issues are still open and awaiting the mother ship actions. There are several "Oh yes. You should have done this before doing the install." Mostly nuisance items. Lots of chatter on Macintosh and Mac Fixit. More things that say, "OS 9 is no longer welcome here." That includes older but still useful machines that can "run the latest version of OS X."

While running my G3 powerbook under OS X 10.4.8, I could not boot from an external disk that had been updated to 10.4.9. The G3 simply would not see it. By downgrading the external disk to 10.4.8, everything was just fine again. Someone probably left out a few lines of code.

A lot has been happening in the world of Apple and most of it appears to be musically oriented. Are we sweeping the computer under the rug if favor of the iPod?

Apple is pretty quiet about the hacking of the the new Apple TV. Obviously room for improvement...

This month, Deborah Reinerio is thanking the User group for helping provide an HP-8150 printer to supplement an existing HP-8000 printer. Now there is one printer for each row of student computers in the lab. Fewer delays now.

That's it for now...

Club Calendar for April

Apr 07

5... SLMUG General Meeting 7:30 PM
San Leandro High School
Room 507 (Shop 7 Graphics Lab)
2200 Bancroft Ave.
San Leandro (Info: 510 828-9314)
SLMUG Board Meeting. Normally held after the general meeting at a nearby eating establishment.

19... SLMUG Mac SIG
The Mac SIG meets on the third Thursday in Room 507, the Shop 7 Graphics Lab. Items for discussion are brought by you, the attendees. Discussions are specific to your problems and requests.
(Info: 510 828-9314)

May 2007

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The Fine Print

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My Space
Bob Shayler

MySpace and Facebook personalities, video reporting, and homemade music abound in the Internet underground. In physics, string theory indicates there are ten dimensions in the “real world” but no more than four dimensions are apparent in the big picture. The remaining six are “underground.” Despite being underground, those six dimensions may well account for 96% of the total mass of the universe. And so it is with MySpace and Facebook, personal videos and homegrown music in the Internet world. While these Internet “dimensions” are invisible to the casual Internet occupant, they may well account for the majority of the Internet’s energy. If you think otherwise, try to shut them out of the computer use of a 16-25 year old!

During the past year or so, I have become more familiar with these underground Internet dimensions. Maybe it is because I am around that 16-25 year old group a lot in my profession and in my family. Maybe I accidentally clicked a link provided by one of the more obvious occupants like Yahoo or CNN or even Apple.com.

In any event, there they were on my view screen. Millions of new occupants, previously invisible to me. Could I find a folk music group in New Zealand? Two clicks. Could I view a road trip by one of my favorite artists? Three clicks. How about a live view from a cafe in London? Two clicks. Is there a teacher who can help me learn a foreign language? Yep, four clicks and then iChat.

Beyond this daydreaming about the buried occupants of the Internet, what does it look like visiting them? The interfaces are highly variable, many not at all Mac-like and some downright irritating. Privacy is not a coordinate in these dimensions. Strange creatures seem to find you wherever you may be. Unprotected, you will have to exercise real judgment and be sure to keep your operating system updated.

So, why go beyond the basic dimensions? Well, most of the energy and creativity is to be found there. Real people occupy these hidden dimensions and are friendly and gregarious. Information that goes way beyond the quick headlines of the common dimensions is available although often masked by static.

In May, I will do a most unusual thing-go to a concert in San Francisco by Vienna Teng, whom I “found” on MySpace, then at a “real” music store in Berkeley and on iTunes. My iPod now contains all her published music. Tonight I am viewing her road trip as she goes on tour, thanks to videographer Eric Cheng who is blogging the whole thing. Oops, my iChat is ringing; it is the teacher I found to help me with learning a language. Claire is in Israel and publishes Guides for Mac users. On my view screen, I am watching the sunrise in London and wishing I could be there...

April 5th meeting features...

As usual, Ed has produced the up-to-date releases of shareware and freeware on the CDOM. In fact, this month's version required two CD's. Unfortunately, Ed will miss this meeting. We will just have to stumble along without his smiling face and cheerful voice and try to cover them as best we can.



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Main Meeting - Apr 5th