



HACKette

NEWSLETTER OF APPLE/MACINTOSH USERS' GROUP OF HAMILTON

VOL. 25 NO. 6 FEBRUARY 2007

The next meeting is on:

Wednesday

**February 14, 2007
in Dundas**

6:30 P.M.

Our guest will be

Darren

Kew

demonstrating

File Maker 8.5



NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING...

February 19, 2007

at Creative Technology

This newsletter was
produced using
InDesign CS

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last month we had one of our newest members, Doug MacBean demonstrating how he uses Photoshop. Doug started out showing us his paintings and how he layers the paint on the canvas. Initially I had a hard time trying to figure out where the Mac comes in to play, but in the end it was clear how he uses the Mac to work out his final composition in oil. You can view his work at www.dougmacbean.com

This month Caroline has made arrangements for Darren Kew from File Maker to show us what is new in File Maker 8.5. While I was working for Keith Green I became aware of the many varied uses of File Maker. This program can be very simple catalogue database of names, or your video collection right up to a full-blown database that can run your entire corporation as in the case of how Keith utilizes Q File.

Also last month one of our members brought some of his work utilizing iLife. He thought it might be a good idea to allow other members to debut some of their work as well. The executive has decided to try this for a while and see how it goes. If you have put together a slide show or movie that is not longer than 10 minutes we will see if we have time at the end of the meetings for a "show and tell" of members' creations. Bring your CD or DVD and we will go through them if there is time. Remember, we have to have the house cleared by 9:30 sharp or the club may incur some charges for a late closing.

Rumour has it we should be seeing the latest operating system "Leopard" out at the end of March, along with iLife 07 and iWork 07.

Think about buying a new cell phone? Hold on to your money as the iPhone will make its debut in Canada some time later this year. But don't think that you can just walk into any Apple dealer and get one. It will only be available at the Apple store or at Rogers. The phone is great but I think I will pass until version 2.0; besides my contract with Bell has another year and a half to go.

The new 802.11n Airport Extreme Base Stations will be shipping at the end of this month, but you will need an Intel Core 2 Duo. The Airport cards in all other machines are not compatible with the new draft "n" technology. There is no way to upgrade the card as the new one takes 3 antennas and the old ones only had one.



*See you all this Wednesday
Dave*

BACKUP BASICS

I thought it might be time for another article on how – what – where to backup your files. It has often been said that the only backup you really need is the one you didn't make. I can vouch for that. If you do nothing else, backup your home directory. This is where all of your setting and passwords are stored. This is where all of those nice iTunes Store purchases are stored. This is where all of those precious digital photos are stored. Get the picture?

I am a big advocate of external backup drives. When my last iMac had to go in for repairs, I was able to run my iBook from the mirror backup of the iMac. All of my current documents, email, etc., were there. All of my financial information, something that I never carry on my laptop, was there. It was as if my iMac, my work system, was still there. (Except for screen size and processor speed, of course.) The point is, I didn't lose any productivity time. When the iMac came back from the shop, I cloned the backup drive back to the iMac and picked up where I left off.

If you have a tower Mac, it's easy and clean to just install an extra drive within the case, but if your computer needs repairs, you don't have your backup drive. It went to the shop, too. If your computer is stolen, you don't have your backup. Some people like to take a big drive, partition it, and have an automatic backup on the second partition. If the drive goes bad (and believe me, they do) you have no backup.

In my own setup, I have several external drives. Whenever I've upgraded an internal drive with a bigger HD, the old drive goes into an external case where it can serve as a backup for at least the home directory. I keep one drive, equivalent in size to my internal drive, that has a full, bootable mirror of my main drive. I try to update it every couple of weeks with a great piece of shareware called Super-Duper. When not in use, it is off and hopefully safe from surge/malfunction gremlins that can mangle data. Hey, it's worked so far.

I also have another external drive that I partitioned. The first partition holds a mirror of my home directory. I use a nifty little preference pane called Déjà Vu that comes with Roxio's

continued on Page 4

EXECUTIVE

Visit our Web Site at
www.hamiltonmacintosh.com

President

David Walton 905-627-7355
dave@thewaltons.ca

Past President

Jim Auty 905-528-0969
jauty1@cogeco.ca

Vice President

Lorimer Ruddy 905-631-5894
lruddy@sympatico.ca

Secretary

Graham Worthington
905-648-5461
wag@cogeco.ca

Treasurer

Alan Adams 905-388-9276
wfc@mountaincable.net

Membership

Programming

CCUG Representative

Alan Adams 905-388-9276
wfc@mountaincable.net

Publicity

Caroline Fehr 905-547-2421 carof@sympatico.ca

Newsletter Editor

Ralf Gmell 905-627-1425
rsgmell@cogeco.ca

Web Master

Don Nicklin 905-776-1476
don@creativetechnology.ca

Members-at-Large

Michael Scanlan
harbourclub@sympatico.ca
905 465-2896

Tony Baguley
tbaguley@mac.com

Membership

Individual \$20
Family \$25

Advertising

Business Card-size \$10/insertion
for standard 2" x 3.5" business card
size, black & white only. Custom or
display work will be quoted.

Presenters are allowed 1 free business
card size insertion

Submissions for Next Issue

March 25, 2007

The Apple Macintosh User Group of Hamilton is a non-profit organization that meets informally at 6:30 PM, the second Wednesday of each month at the Marlatt Family Center, 195 King St. W., Dundas.

This group is made up of users of the Apple Macintosh family of personal computers, whose interests range from word processing to publishing, music, and games to formal presentations, art to accounting and often times . . . more. Our main purpose is to provide a forum for questions, solutions and inspiration for everyday computing.

For more information about the user group, please attend the next Club meeting, contact a member of the executive, or visit our web site.

APPLE TV

Back in September, in an unusual move for Apple, the company tipped its hand by demonstrating many of the features, as well as the availability and pricing, of what was then known as "iTV." But the show left us with as many questions as answers, and we wondered whether the little box would live up to the expectations of Apple fans and pundits who have long been clamoring for a "home iPod." With the official unveiling at Macworld today, we now have some of these answers--though we won't know for sure how the device, now dubbed Apple TV, stacks up to current network media devices until we've had a chance to test it.

Apple TV is a network media box that streams movies, music, TV shows, podcasts, and photos from the iTunes library on your PC or Mac to your HDTV. The box, which looks like a squashed Mac Mini and measures 7.7 by 7.7 by 1.1 inches (including an integrated power supply), connects to your TV via either HDMI or component video and audio, and wirelessly syncs content from your iTunes library so that you can enjoy it in the living room using the included remote. As promised, Apple TV will be available in February for \$299; you can order it online now.

The first bit of good news is that Apple TV uses 802.11n; it can connect either to an 802.11 AirPort Extreme Base Station--also announced at Macworld--or directly to a newer Mac with integrated AirPort Extreme. If you do not have 802.11n, you can also connect it via wired Ethernet. The faster 802.11n protocol means Apple TV should deliver smoother video streaming, even at HD resolutions, and make the product more futureproof. (Whether you can stream from existing 802.11g devices--or do so at acceptable speeds--is unclear.)

Once Apple TV is up and running on your network, iTunes automatically recognizes it, and you can set it to automatically sync unwatched or new purchases or manually choose the content you want to stream to Apple TV. The device can sync with as many as six computers. We were surprised to see that Apple TV has its own storage,

specifically a 40GB hard drive that Apple claims is sufficient to store up to 50 hours of movies and TV (in H.264 1.5Mbps video at a resolution of 640x480 with 128Kbps audio). Alternatively, the drive is sufficient to store 9,000 songs in iTunes standard 128Kbps AAC format or 25,000 photos. The advantage of local storage is that, since it doesn't actually stream in real time, it is likely to work even if your computer is not turned on. Theoretically, it is also possible to bypass your computer altogether and download content straight from iTunes to your Apple TV, but so far, it sounds as if this functionality may be limited to movie trailers and similar short-form content from



Apple.com rather than the iTunes Store itself. Further, it sounds to us as if you first need to stream an entire movie or show to the Apple TV's hard drive before you can begin watching it. (We'll need to get our hands on the product to verify all

of this.)

Another big question mark was the file formats that Apple TV would support, and here we have some clear answers. It goes without saying that Apple TV will work with any standard iTunes format. Audio formats include AAC, protected AAC (from iTunes Store), MP3 and variable bit rate MP3, Apple Lossless, AIFF, and WAV. But the bigger news is it supports wide-screen, high-definition video, more specifically 1,280x720 at 24 frames per second, aka 720p. That means you will be able to view movies and TV shows at better-than-

continued on Page 4

Creative Technology
Burlington's newest Apple dealer invites
all HACK members to our convenient location.
SPECIAL HAMILTON MAC USER'S GROUP DISCOUNTS



CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY

Think Different, Think Apple, Think CT

3480 Fairview St. Unit 10, Burlington, ON
Tel (905) 681-6353 Fax (905) 381-5358
www.cttechnology.ca

