



NEXT MEETING:
Wednesday
November 14, 2007
in Burlington
6:30 pm

Our Speaker will be

Michael Gill

talking about

Managing the Company Network

NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING
November 19, 2007 at
Creative Technology

A Message from the President

Last month we all met at Advantage Signs in Burlington. Jeff Beaton showed off what they can print and we had a look at the \$300,000.00 printer that can print up to 6 feet wide. Advantage Signs does all my signs and banners and is also a customer of mine.

This past month has been wild with the final release of the next Mac operating system, Leopard, OS 10.5. Sales have been great, the only problem is in getting the boxes. I have had a chance to use Leopard and I like the new functionality. The look of it is taking some getting used to though. Apple has added 300 new items to it, some you will see, and some you won't. It is fast though, and I really love the back to my Mac function and Time machine. With the new iLife and leopard you really gain a lot out of it if you have a dotmac account. I have had a dotmac account now for about 4 years and it really takes time to learn how to use it to its full potential. Now Apple has lowered the price to \$109.00 from \$139.00. If you have dotmac and would like to renew your subscription we are offering a \$10.00 discount on the cost. So it would end up at the same price as the US \$99.00.

Some of Apples products are now on par with the US, iLife, iWork, and Leopard, but hardware is still way off. Even the new MacBooks did not

see any price correction. My account assistant at Apple says to be patient, they are working on it. All of the computers and iPods I order come strait from China, and I pay Apple in Canadian dollars. My price has not changed at all. So I would like to know, who is making all the money. If you read Apples quarterly reports you know the answer to

that question. I would hope we get a price correction soon as the Christmas season is fast approaching and I know people are making the trek to Buffalo.

This month we welcome Bruce McGee from Paradigm Electronics. Bruce is also one of my customers, but he is also a neighbor of Alan Adams. So Alan is the one responsible for getting Bruce to come out to the club. Bruce is going to talk about how they manage their company network. You can also have a look at the new Leopard OS 10.5

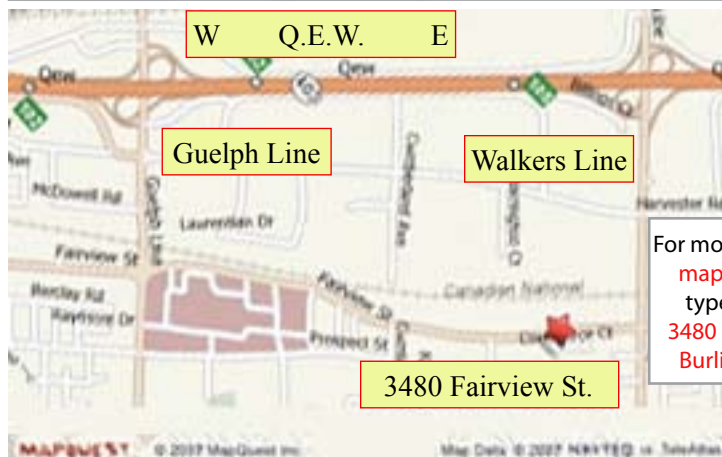
Once again the December meeting will be held at Carolines house. We don't have a date yet but stay tuned and it will be in the next HACKette.

See you all this Wednesday
 Dave



APPLE in the NEWS

In T3's annual Gadget Awards, Apple products grabbed honors for iPhone ("Most Anticipated Gadget of 2007"), MacBook Pro ("Drop Dead Gorgeous Award"), the iTunes Store ("Best Download Service"), and in a Gadget Awards hat trick, iPod scored in the "Top Commuter Gadget," "Best Music Gadget," and the "Best Gadget of All Time" categories. View at <http://competition.futurenet.com/t3awards>



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: **Creative Technology, 3480 Fairview St., Burlington.**

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, art to accounting and often times to formal presentations or more. Our main purpose is to provide a forum for questions, solutions and inspiration for everyday computing.

For more info, go to:
mapquest.com
 type location:
3480 Fairview St.,
Burlington, ON

For more information about the user group, please attend the next Club meeting, contact a member of the executive,

or visit our web site: www.hamiltonmacintosh.com

Last month the HACK meeting took place at Ad-Vantage Signs, 4391 Harvester Rd., Burlington. On the front cover of the HACKette was a map and address to the wrong place. Somehow the error crept in and was not caught until the last minute. Alan Adams quickly sent out multiple e-mails correcting the location address. As I have stressed in the past, be sure to check your e-mail incase of last minute changes. **Do as I say, NOT as I do!!**

I arrived late to find more than a dozen members already in attendance. We listened to Jeff Beaton talk about the many aspects of his work, many of the posters, signs and banners on the wall plus the acquisition of a \$350,000 Vutek 2000 printer.

the web site look for the Vutek QS 2000 and follow the links.

I am not going to complain as much about refilling my ink cartridges after seeing the Vutek that has six 3.25 liter boxes of coloured inks plus the white! Nor am I going to complain about maintenance. The Vutek, when doing numerous jobs in succession, needs to have the print head cleaned every couple of hours, then special care before leaving for the night. Seasonal changes requires special care due to dry air static in winter and summer humidity. The seasonal changes also effects the handling characteristics of the print material so constant vigilance is required. You can easily understand

lots of questions and Jeff came up with the answers and more.

Many thanks to Jeff for his time and effort.

You can forward referrals to Jeff at www.advantage-signs.ca or call him at 905-634-6811 or 1-800-205-7446 (toll free).



Editor: Jim Auty



We moved into the design area of the office where we looked at a large format printer that had about six ink cartridges each about the size of cigarette cartons. There was also an iMac and a tower Mac with a very large monitor (provides the "wow" factor for presentations). The PC was there for those who send in files done in Corel or Office programs. We moved on into the next room to view some samples of signs done on clear plastic and cling film. The Vutek printer can print white ink and the advantage comes when the image is printed on the inside surface then a white layer is applied over that one, and finally the same image is printed on top of the white layer. This happens all at once so the images stay in register. The resulting sign face

why training and experience plays such an important roll in this print process.

Jeff mentioned the largest job was an eight by ninety foot banner for a mall display. The longest job took three days (and nights) straight which did NOT include sleep. Time is of the essence and it is also the most demanding. The production department usually get the least amount and like most industries, jobs always arrive just before the long week end and have to be done yesterday.

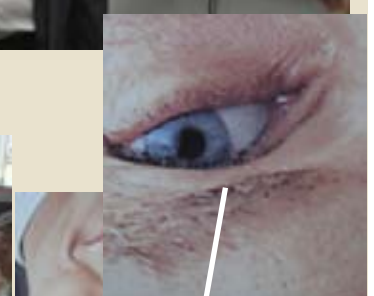
Next, we toured around the shop for a close up look at some of the work that was in process. (None of the printers were running during the tour) We were amazed at the clarity of the prints and the printing resolution. We asked



will now appear the same during daylight hours as it does at night. To show this effect, Jeff moved us all back into the previous room where he turned on the ceiling lights to simulate daylight. We

observed the picture on the wall. He then turned off the lights and turned on the lights behind the picture. The picture appeared very similar to the front lit version. An effect that cannot be duplicated by simply putting a single picture onto the inside surface of plastic (which acts as a protective layer).

Now we moved back into the big room for a closer look at the Vutek 2000. For detailed specifications, go to www.efi-vutek.com. At



SEMINAR REVIEW

Saturday, October 20th, Tyler and I set out once again for a seminar in Toronto. We allowed our standard two hour lead time to ensure getting to the *iPod + iTunes Workshop and Listening Party* seminar held at CPUsed (488 Dupont Street (west of Bathurst), Toronto, ON M6G 1Y7 416-533-2001). This location was not all that far from the Computer Systems Centre (Collage & Avenue Rd.) we were at for the *Make Music With Garageband* seminar back on September 29.

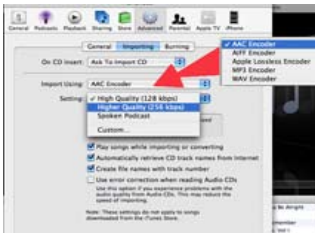
Some how we beat the breakfast crowd into the big city so we headed to the Golden Arches for take-out Egg McMuffins, coffee and juice. We ate them in the CPUsed parking lot and still had time to spare to cruise the aisles of their location. What a temptation that was. There were several computers setup for sampling and a black MacBook Pro with an attached large second monitor that really caught my eye. They would not take my K-car as a trade.

For the seminar, Steve Schaltz took us downstairs to the presentation room where we met the presenter, Jim Parsons. After intros, Jim gave



a description of his impressive background then started into the first phase, *file formats*. This was somewhat dry but essential. The reason you can load so many MP3 files onto a player is because of their higher compression and somewhat lower quality level. When you have your player blasting into your ears while you sort glass bottles in the back of a pick-up truck in heavy traffic, the sound quality will not matter much. When you plug your iPod into your home surround sound system, you will want the larger, high quality file formats that compete with CD quality. That is why high quality sound can gobble up to eight times the space of MP3 files (and are not traded on the Internet like MP3s). This is why file format matters and can have a bearing on which iPod will work for you. Jim covered a lot of information and a printed handout would have been a big help especially if it included some details of the following.

Phase two was about *working with iTunes* itself. Much of the everyday workings was skipped assuming we had at least done that much ourselves. Jim and Steve covered preferences that should be used for higher quality imports of your own CDs. You can easily find these in Preferences under the iTunes title in the menu



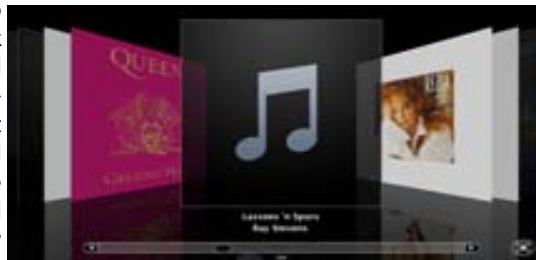
bar. We were more excited about how to get album art after you have imported old CDs or cuts from your cassettes or vinyl. Recordings from cassettes or vinyl will probably need to be manually named and saved. The next step is to have iTunes open and the desired song selected. Press Command-I (File > Get Info) and a dialogue box appears. Choose Artwork from the menu bar. Keep this dialogue box off to one side while you go off to **Amazon.com**. Once there, enter the name of your album in the search area. The result (keep your fingers crossed) will have a small picture of the desired album art. Double click on it to go to a page about it. Directly underneath the album cover picture should be a line that says *See Larger Image*. Go there by selecting and double clicking on that line. Now click on the



picture, hold and drag it from there onto your **Album Art dialogue box (1, 2, 3)**. A green circle with a white plus sign will appear momentarily and that is when you can release the album art into the dialogue box. Some album art is small and will have a white perimeter while most are large and will fill the album art box, top to bottom. Some album pages have multiple choices for album art so be sure to check for the largest and best in appearance. Album art can be deleted from the dialogue box and replaced as required. Now that iTunes looks



great, Jim and Steve had more tips to keep your tunes sorted and safe. Storing your tunes on your hard drive along with everything else can be risky and or space consuming. Keeping your tunes on an external hard drive will help with space. Keep only a few favourites on your computer. To access the external hard drive, ensure it is attached to your laptop (computer), go into **iTunes(7) > Preferences > General > iTunes Music folder Location > Change**. Locate your external Hard drive. iTunes will now look here for your music. When you are creating music or recording songs of your friends, you can add comments to keep track of what is whose. Go **View > Options (Command-**



J) and check the appropriate box(es). In Comments you can write text as if writing code to keep things in a special order if needed. You can use unique names to sort easier. To access the comments box, find and select the appropriate song and **File > Get Info (Command-I)**, choose **Info** on menu, enter the info in the comment area. While in this dialogue box, go to **Options** in the menu, and then down to **My Rating**. You can rate your music from zero to five stars. Do this to sort through a large number of songs to get just the best or worse by sorting by Rating or by Comments. Sorting? Sorting is simply done in iTunes by clicking on a desired column title above your songs.

We were now at the touchy-feelly phase of the presentation. We got to hold and hear the new iPod Nano and iTouch as well as try a pair of high end ear phones. This is when we got to see video on the iPod. You can take your DVD home movies and convert them for viewing on the iPod. There are a couple of free download programs from the Internet that will do this for you. I preferred Handbrake over iSquint and was able to put *The Goonies* into a 1.2GB MP4 format, import it into iTunes and upload onto Tyler's iPod. Other recommended programs are HiJack Pro

and QuickTime Pro. You can view more by Jim Parsons at **beamecho.com/bytes**. Steve, who is also an award winning comedian, can be found at **Stevessmells.com**. CPused has a name change to BeamEcho. They are also moving from 488 DuPont to 26 Cumberland being in mid November. Seminar rating by Jim and Tyler. **Parking and store:** Great—we parked in their lot. In store we had sales people asking if we needed info on the things we were looking at (not common in many stores today). **Seminar space:** Great—in a room separate from store sounds and actions

so presenter could be seen and heard easily, seating for 25 or more, large 42" screen monitor for easy viewing, hands on items related to topic. **Speaker(s):** Very Good — took a while with definitions at start but got us interested with questions about opinions or what we did or wanted from iPod and iTunes, demonstrated items when questioned. **Purchases made because of seminar:** iLife8 and iTalk for the iPod. iLife because it was there and iTalk because now we can record ourselves onto the iPod in preparation for a presentation or just recording notes about an event or topic.

Editor: Jim Auty

NEWS



When attending the 2007 Brant United Way Airshow, I purchased a program, Vibrant, LifeStyle Culture. On page 4 was WrayAnderson who has IC SuperComputers on the Six nations Reserve, Highway 54 in Oshweken. For more info, visit www.icnme.com

LightSpeed2

When purchasing some Ti-Cats game tickets, I asked why she (Cashier) was not using the iMac sitting beside what looked like a much older style computerized cash register.

"Oh, that's only for sales of in store items."

I asked what software was being used and she showed a very brief overview of LightSpeed2.

Later that evening, I checked the Internet and sure enough, there was a web site where I could download a sample version to test drive on my Apple computer! I am not an expert on this type of software and this review is just a general observation. Go to: www.xsilva.com/features.php for more info and download a trial version for yourself evaluation to determine if it would be applicable to your needs.

From the web site:

LightSpeed 2 is a ground-breaking, next-generation Point of Sale system built exclusively for the Mac and designed expressly to accelerate growing small businesses. LightSpeed excels in retail environments, providing your store with a full set of easy-to-use retail tools that make it easy to operate and track all aspects of your business. LightSpeed presents these tools in an easy-to-learn iTunes-like Browser and an innovative 'floating' Point of Sale interface designed for high-

speed, error-free checkout. LightSpeed's tightly-integrated Web Store module (sold separately) can help you take your business online and download orders right back into LightSpeed. All of this functionality is built on a solid, multi-user database that will scale to satisfy the needs of your growing retail business.

If you're opening a retail store or business, or currently operate one, we invite you to download LightSpeed 2, sign up for a free Webinar, view our training videos, and envision a new way of doing business on your Mac!

I found it to be ladden with features that were readily accessible and not all that foreign to me. From what I was able to do, I think that scrolling through a long list of products in stock may get a little tiresome after a lot of sales (*especially if I worked for someone rather than being the store owner*). What happens when your store blossoms and you carry a hundred lines of products with hundreds of different products in each line?

I am sure a bit of work is required to get information into the system for the controls you would want for inventory, sales and customer info. The ability have a product serial number and its picture show up on invoices means that info had to be input. Imagine being the guy in the back room photographing products and aligning them to serial numbers so a clerk could recognize what she is selling. It all has pros and cons but where can you get pictures of purchases on an invoice to show your Insurance guy what those bad guys took during that break-in?

When looking up stuff, you are also shown inventory quantity. If none of your stuff has grown legs, you can be up-to-date with what you have to sell. On the other hand, you can quickly check what should be in stock to your actual counts. This is great for spot checks and keeping "leg-growth" in check. New staff can check the on-screen photo to what is being presented for purchase.

I had over 45 screen captures that I was going to present to you. Going to that extent and being able to write a very comprehensive review should come with an "gratis" version or a position on their sales team. For now, I will list some of the reports available (*get a trial version for lots more info*):

Intelligence: Top Customers by Revenue; Top Products by Profit; Commission by Profit Reports; Accounts Receivable (by Customer with their balance); Customer List (Info); Products (Part Number, Description, Sell \$\$, Inventory); Invoices; Privileges Setup; Transfer Inventory; and on and on and on!!
CT is listed as a point of purchase for this software!!
CHECK IT OUT!!

HACK EXECUTIVE

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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

November 20, 2007 (or sooner!)

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



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Think Different, Think Apple, Think CT

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