THE SEED

A Newsletter From Your...
DENVER APPLE PI
Macintosh User Group

Denver Apple Pi

SIG and Help Meetings are HELD AT THE CONSOLIDATED MUTUAL WATER DISTRICT BUILDING 12700 W 27th Avenue Lakewood – 7 to 9 pm *unless otherwise noted*

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MEETING DATES SET FOR

FEB – JUN 2011

Mac SIG	Feb 15	3rd Tues
Help SIG	Feb 23	4th Wed
Mac SIG	Mar 15	3rd Tues
Help SIG	Mar 23	4th Wed
Mac SIG	Apr 19	3rd Tues
Help SIG	Apr 27	4th Wed
Mac SIG	May 17	3rd Tues
Help SIG	May 25	4th Wed
Mac SIG	Jun 21	3rd Tues
Help SIG	Jun 29	4th Wed

Note change to Mar 23rd

Contents

DAPI Meeting February 15, 2011

Presenter: Tammy Hanson — Backing Up Your Computer

- Not only why you want to backup but how to do it.
  - Step-by-step backing up (and restoring) your Mac using Carbon Copy Cloner, Super Duper, Disk Utility and Time Machine.
  - Time Machine is only available for OS 10.5 and 10.6. Most other utilities are available from 10.1 thru 10.6
- Basic Mac Maintenance will be included as time permits.

MEMBERSHIP

Renewal fees for the following DAPI members are due in February 2011.

- Roland Fredrickson
- D.E. (Putter) Harvey
- Greg Haycraft
- John D. Wells

Membership dues for DAPI are $15 per year and you will receive the monthly newsletter, *The Seed,* via email in PDF format. If you prefer, you can pay $20 and receive a snail mail copy of the newsletter. You can bring your payment to the monthly meetings or you can send your remittance to the club mailing address: Denver Apple Pi, 6501 Welch Ct., Arvada, CO 80004-2223.

MAGIC GLOVES—COMING SOON?
Joyce Etherton

Apple was recently granted a patent for the "New Magic Glove System." This new glove system will allow a person using an electronic touch-screen device in very cold weather to operate it while wearing the magic gloves. Input mechanisms on some electronic devices (touch sensors on laptops, iPhones, iPods, iPads, etc.) require precise manipulation which isn't possible with bulky gloves, so gloves with inner and outer liners with high tactile tips at the ends of the fingers will allow user inputs to be transmitted just as "naked" fingertips would impart.

The website Patently Apple has details about the patent and says the Apple has been working on solutions relating to using an iPhone in colder weather. Although no date was mentioned on when such a glove might be available, hopes are that Magic Gloves might be coming soon.

http://www.patentlyapple.com/patently-apple/2011/01/apple-wins-patent-for-a-high-tactility-magic-glove-system.html

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PRACTICAL ADD-ON FOR POWER CORD ASSEMBLY
Joyce Etherton

Isn't this the most unApple like system you've ever seen? Not sexy. But according to a MacBook user, it performs just like an Apple designed system does—it's user-friendly. The designer realized he was among many MacBook users sitting together at a conference with their MacBook power cords draped across tables leading to power sources and all on the verge of sliding off the tables. He said:

Why rubber-banding my power brick is, like, the smartest thing I've ever done #hacks #macbook

As beautifully designed as the MacBook power cord assembly is, it has two fundamental design flaws. One is that the plug-side cord is HEAVY. Combine this with the brick's slippery shiny surface, and you have a recipe for a plastic block being dragged off a table by a cable that's slung like a catenary between the outlet and the table's edge. [If] you [rubber band it] … the brick doesn't move at all.

Another advantage of this add-on is you can identify your power-brick from all the others. Pick a nice color for the rubber band.

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APPLE SERIAL NUMBER INFORMATION

HTTP://APPLESERIALNUMBERINFO.COM/DESKTOP/INDEX.PHP

Using the serial number of your computer your can learn the model, country where it was built, when it was built as well as the particulars of the processor, graphics, operating system, memory, etc. This information tells you what was on the computer when it was built but, of course, not the add-ons you may have put on since the purchase date. This is really valuable information worth printing and keeping with your computer documentation. A serial number only holds hardware information, not personal information. Note: *Any user can do 2 [free] searches every 24 hours. After that a user is prompted for Premium account details to continue and do more searches.*

Appleserialnumberinfo.com attempts to support all major Apple products dating back to the year 2000, this is done by help from the users. Every day many users submit their hardware info to help our database become bigger, better and more reliable. Without that submitted information the site would not be what it is today.

Additionally on this website are tabs for theft report, useful tips, buyers guide, FAQs. After giving an entire page of information about your Mac, **SellYour-Mac.com** gives a price of your computer. Give it a look—it's mostly free stuff.

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ALWAYS EJECT AN EXTERNAL DRIVE BEFORE YOU UNPLUG IT

Always eject any external drive - hard disk, USB memory stick, etc. - before disconnecting it, unplugging it or switching the mains off. Not doing so runs the risk of Directory corruption.

You may use any of several methods to eject an external drive:

From the Finder>File, select the device and click "eject" or command+e.

From the desktop, select the device and
(1) Right click to select "eject," or
(2) Click command+e, or
(3) Drag it to the trash. [Note: the device will eject but not be "trashed" as will folders

and files when they are dragged to the trash.]

The CD or DVD will be ejected, but the hard drive, of course, will instead be shut down and turned off.

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FIVE THINGS TO DO WITH YOUR OLD LAPTOP
From Gizmodo: Original material is licensed under a Creative Commons License permitting non-commercial sharing with attribution.
http://gizmodo.com/5666465/five-things-to-do-with-your-old-laptop?utm_source=Gizmodo+Newsletter&utm_campaign=7de04dbd76-UA-142218-3&utm_medium=email

We get it, your new laptop is shiny, super-fast and awesome. But don't forget about your old laptop! It doesn't have to sit around and collect dust. Here are [two] super easy things you can do to rejuvenate it.

[See website for all five suggestions.]

1. **Turn It into a Home Server**
    Turning your cast-off portable into a full-fledged home server will squeeze the most use out of your once great machine. By connecting it to your home network and tinkering with the right software, you'll have a quiet and effective server that can be used to backup files, store photos, and heck, even stream all your media files. And because laptops are designed to be portable, your new server will be naturally compact and easy on the electric bill.

- Download the FreeNAS ISO Image and burn it onto a CD.
- Insert the CD in your laptop and then restart and boot your PC from the CD.
- Install FreeNAS.
- Remember the IP address that'll pop up after FreeNAS is installed
- Jump over to another computer on the same network and punch in the IP address on a browser.
- Login with username: admin password: freenas.
- Setup the proper disks for sharing and user computers for accessing.

What you can do:
Backup files to and stream media from the laptop turned home server
What you'll need
A laptop, FreeNAS software, and a home network
Setup time
About an hour

2. **Make It a Wireless Bridge**
    If Wi-Fi is s-sp-spotty in your house, you can improve your signal by turning your laptop into a wireless bridge for your home network. It's especially useful for those little nooks that are surrounded

by brick and concrete and lead and uranium and, oh please God, no bookshelves and DVD racks. It's impossible to get a signal in those places! But with your laptop acting as a wireless extender, that dead spot can be reinvigorated with wifi juice and boosted with networked glory. It's like using your old laptop to improve your new laptop. Teamwork! Mac OS X:

- Run an ethernet cable from your router to the laptop.
- Head to System Preferences > Sharing and check Internet Sharing.
- Choose Ethernet from "Share your connection from:"
- Choose AirPort for "To computers using:"
- Click on AirPort Options and set network name and password
- Surf silly.

What you can do
Extend your home's wireless network
What you'll need
A laptop, an Ethernet cord
Setup Time
About 5 minutes
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http://www.videolan.org/

VLC MEDIA PLAYER

VLC is a free and open source cross-platform multimedia player and framework that plays most multimedia files as well as DVD, Audio CD, VCD, and various streaming protocols.

Go to the VideoLAN website above to download VLC version 1.1.7 for Mac OS X, 40 MB.

For a review and rating of this free software, go to http://www.techsupportalert.com/best-free-windows-media-player-replacement.htm for Gizmo's "The Best Freeware Reviewed and Rated."

Gizmo's review says: VLC is available for multiple OSs, including all versions of Windows (98 through Vista), Mac OS X, and many varieties of Linux. VLC can also be installed and run directly from a flash drive. Most versions will support playback of most video files and DVD discs without the need to download external codec packs, including flv files, which MPC cannot natively play. VLC has another unique feature as well. There are 5 different DVD region codes (see below). DVDs manufactured for one region will not play in players made for a different region. This applies to PC DVD drives as well... until now. VLC plays them all. There is no need for any shady (and possibly illegal DVD region spoofing programs). This is especially nice if you're an international traveler and want to watch a movie on your laptop outside of your country. VLC also has the ability to convert videos to formats it supports and like KM Player, you can specify whether or not to use system codecs. VLC also has the ability to take screenshots of your video, even while during DVD playback, a real attractive feature.

*The geographical regions are as follows:

REGION 1 -- USA, Canada
REGION 2 -- Japan, Europe, South Africa, Middle East, Greenland
REGION 3 -- S. Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Parts of South East Asia
REGION 4 -- Australia, New Zealand, Latin America (including Mexico)
REGION 5 -- Eastern Europe, Russia, India, Africa
REGION 6 -- China
REGION 7 -- Reserved for Unspecified Special Use

REGION 8 -- Reserved for Cruise Ships, Airlines, etc... REGION 0 or REGION ALL -- Discs are uncoded and can be played Worldwide, however, PAL discs must be played in a PAL-compatible unit and NTSC discs must be played in an NTSC-compatible unit. http://hometheater.about.com/cs/dvdlaserdisc/a/aaregioncodesa.htm

The end result is that DVDs en-coded for regions other than Region 1 cannot be played on a region 1 DVD player, also, players marketed for other re-gions cannot play region 1-stamped DVDs.

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DAPI RECYCLES

BRING YOUR EMPTY INKJET AND LASER TONER CARTRIDGES TO THE NEXT MEETING

SOME INTERESTING THINGS FROM THE INTERNET

This feature was noted on an website extolling the virtues of the product:

- Ships in Certified Frustration-Free Packaging

We all know how important appearances are:

Don't be misled. This is a knockoff.

This is the real thing.

Denver Apple Pi Membership Information

Denver Apple Pi (DAPI) is an Apple Computer Users Group, not affiliated with Apple Computer, Inc. The SEED is an independent publication not affiliated or otherwise associated with or sponsored or sanctioned by Apple Computer, Inc. The opinions, statements, positions and views stated herein are those of the author(s) or publisher and are not intended to be the opinions, statements, positions or views of Apple Computer, Inc. Articles, stories, and other items in the SEED may be copied or used by other clubs or groups as long as credit is given to Denver Apple Pi and the author of the article. On reprints, please also include the date or volume number from the SEED.

MEMBER BENEFITS INCLUDE: MONTHLY MEETINGS: information, new product announcements, door prizes when available, share ideas with other members, and copy programs from the Disk Libraries. PROGRAM LIBRARIES: Over 900 public domain programs, GS Library on 3.5" disks or on a 100 MB ZIP disk, Mac disks available in HD, ZIP and CD formats.

MEMBERSHIP DUES are $20.00 per year for a monthly hard copy of the SEED and $15.00 per year for a monthly pdf copy. Fill in the form below or ask for an application to send with your check to the Club mailing address:

DENVER APPLE PI, 6501 Welch Ct, Arvada CO 80004-2223

Elissa McAlear: call 303.421.8714 for information about Apple II, GS and Mac. Email elissamc@comcast.net

Our website is: <www.denverapplepi.com>

Macintosh SIG meets the THIRD Tuesday of the month, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Troubleshooter Group Mac Help meets the FOURTH Wednesday of each month, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
SEED articles should be mailed to jjetherton@comcast.net, subject: "SEED Article"

Membership Form: Date _____

Renewal_____ New _____ Change _____	**Denver Apple Pi Officers, May '08-May '09**
Name _____	President — Larry Fagan
Address _____	Vice President (Help) — Jim Awalt
City _____	Vice President (Mac) — Tom King
Phone _____	Secretary — Elissa McAlear
Email _____	Treasurer — Larry Knowles
Kind of Computer: Apple II ___ GS__ Mac ___ OS _____	Membership Chair — Sheila Warner

For further information, call Elissa 303.421.8714
Appointees: Joyce Etherton (SEED Editor), Diana Forest (Webmaster), John Nelson (Web Assistant)

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FIRST CLASS MAIL – Dated Material

Return Service Requested