



JUNE 2005 Calendar

6

6:30 PM Beginning Mac User's SIG at RC
Getting Connected to dBug's Exchange

7

7:00 PM Board Meeting at RC
All members welcome

8

6:30 PM Main Meeting at RC Tiger Overview

9

7:00 PM Xcoders SIG at RC

11

9:05 AM dBug Cafe at RC

13

6:30 PM Intermediate Mac User's SIG at RC
OS X Security Considerations

14

7:00 PM WebObjects SIG at RC

15

7:00 PM Mac OS X SIG at RC

18

9:05 AM dBug Cafe at RC

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7:00 PM FileMaker Pro SIG at RC

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6:30 PM Digital Imaging SIG at RC

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7:00 PM Xcoders SIG at RC

25

9:05 AM dBug Cafe at RC

April Main Meeting Rocked

by Dick Harrell and Mike Grueter

Apple's Rock Star Extraordinaire, Clark Schroeder, brought the house down at our April Main Meeting! **GarageBand 2** is an amazingly powerful (and inexpensive) music creation tool and Clark dug deep into its features to show how we don't even need to be musicians to use it.

The original GarageBand included a "virtual keyboard" with which you could plink out your tunes one note at a time—kind of a pain. What you really needed was a MIDI instrument

that would play more like the real thing. GarageBand 2 includes a "musical keyboard" that turns your query keyboard into a piano, with white and black keys and a variety of controls. So if you have GB2 and haven't sprung for a MIDI keyboard (or aren't revealed below, the winner of the keyboard at the main meeting,) this feature lets you get started creating tunes in a more realistic way.



You build an arrangement with a combination of loops and live tracks, which can include MIDI instruments or real voices. GB2 comes with a ton

of loops including drums, horns, pianos, guitars, and so on. Loops are either synthesized or sampled from real instruments and each of them can be further modified by applying filters. You can get additional loops from Apple. Some are free with your .Mac membership, plus there are four huge JamPacks you can purchase. Loops you get from Apple are royalty-free. Other loops will also work with GB2, but you should check the license if you intend to use your finished masterpieces commercially.

Other new features in GB2 are the "count in," that gives you the rhythm before your loops begin, and real musical notation of your tracks.

GarageBand2 is included in iLife 5, available now. Clark told us that it runs best on this system or better: a G4 at 1mHz and OSX.3 +. Slower processors, particularly, might cause less-than-realtime performance of some feature.

May Main Meeting

Dick Harrell, MacNews editor

Podcasting—Curtis Snow took us on a whirlwind tour of Podcasting for the first half of the meeting. He described the process of Podcasting and gave us many important resources for doing it ourselves as well as finding out more information on the subject. He even did his outline in Keynote.

Get the lingo down

Podcast—audio file made for delivery via RSS (Really Simple Syndication). Note that Safari 1.4 handles RSS. Other RSS applications add features, such as checking for new files. Podcasts are really RadioMe—a way to create and distribute your message, unfiltered.

Pod safe—content that is free of RIAA entanglements. Open source, no licensing requirements. Example: Pod Safe Audio www.podsafeaudio.com

Podcatcher—Generically, a consumer of podcasts. Also one of a number of applications for capturing podcasts.

Mashup—a mix of input from separate sources, for example, vocal tracks from one source combined with rhythm from another

Where did podcasting come from?

It's hard to talk about podcasting without mentioning Adam Curry, aka the Podfather. He was in at the beginning and now has his own Podshow each week on Sirius satellite radio. Check out his blog at <http://dailysourcecode.com/> for more on Adam and his activities. The popularity of the iPod helps drive the growth of podcasting. Any mp3 player can handle podcasts, of course, and there have been grumblings about the name "podcast" being too Apple-centric. But nothing better has come along, and podcasts they are.

Can't get Sirius?

Podcasting is coming to AM radio as well. Infinity Broadcasting, the radio division of Viacom, has converted its San Francisco station at 1550, formerly KYCY, to all-podcast KYOU. Got 'cast? submit it to KYOU for consideration at KYOURadio.com.

Of course you can find podcasts on your own. Curtis mentioned iPodder.org (an Adam Curry site), PodcastAlley.com, and ITConversations.com, geared toward the technical side of things. Google "podcast" for lots more sites.

Getting started

It can be as basic or as complex as you want. You can make mp3s with an iMic and Garageband. You can listen to podcasts in iTunes. But beyond the basics, there's very much more.

RSS clients

iPodderX—Coincidence? Not long after the main meeting, Apple added this app to their software downloads www.apple.com/downloads/macosx/ipod_itunes/ipodderx.html where it's billed as "the premiere Podcast client for the Mac. It receives internet-based Podcasts and automatically downloads those files to your computer, ready to be heard, seen, or read." It's shareware, but this page also links to iPodderX Lite, a freeware version.

iPodder—a cross-platform client with Windows and Linux versions as well as one for Macs <http://ipodder.sourceforge.net/index.php>

Of course, if you find your own podcasts, iTunes or another mp3-capable app will play them for you.

Gimme the mike!

No more blah-blah about listening to podcasts. You want to make your own podcasts, right? So you're going to need an iMic or another USB mike and an audio-capturing app like Garageband. For multiple audio sources, you really need a mixer. And then you need some help with the XML, RSS feeds, and other things. Help like:

Feeder—an application to create the XML file and establish an RSS feed www.reinventedsoftware.com/feeder/index.html

MegaSeq DJ—www.megaseg.com a full-featured DJ and radio automation application—not cheap, but you can download a demo version.

Audio Hijack—www.rogueamoeba.com/audiohijack to record any audio on your Mac and a lot more.

Learn more

There's plenty of how-to information on the web. Curtis suggest these sites:

curry.com—Adam Curry's weblog

Engadget.com—reviews and how-tos

Glenn Fleishman—at [macdevcenter](http://macdevcenter.com) and [MacWorld](http://MacWorld.com) among other locations, including www.macdevcenter.com/pub/a/mac/2005/01/25/podcast.html

Hugo Schotman—log.hugoschotman.com, lots of tips and techniques

MacRadio

Omaha Sternberg of MacRadio talked about the process of running an internet Radio Station focused on Macs. MacRadio has been in operation since 2001 and has local offices, as well as offices in Texas and Arizona. Their shows are all archived in QuickTime format and they hope to provide the archives in Podcast-friendly formats soon. MacRadio started out as an idea to bring Mac entertainment to the infamous 'MacWeb.' For the first

year, MacRadio was radio content in MacTV Network's programming. Naturally many people asked, "Why are there 'Radio' shows on a 'TV' network?" Then it became an entity of its own. When the original owners decided to move on to other things, Omaha and a group of others took over. Omaha is a co-owner since 2004.

MacRadio's goal is to provide Mac entertainment five nights a week. The content is currently on its way to achieving that goal. Right now you can hear live or archived shows from:

- Andy Ihnatko, industry leading columnist of Macworld magazine
- Gene Steinberg with the Tech Night Owl Live
- Macteens (providing Macteens Radio.)
- Sean Smith and Omaha Sternberg with The Gamesome Mac
- Dru Richman with Mac Help Radio
- Louis with MacKaos.

MacRadio encourages your input. There are several ways to give feedback, including: live chat during the show, e-mail, Haxial's NetFone and the telephone for live voice interaction, and soon on-site forums and mailing lists.

MacRadio continues to grow and entertain the Mac community with humor, information, and support. In the future look for audio blogs from conferences like MacWorld, podcasting newsfeeds, and new radio programs. In the works are programs about gaming for women on Macs and Mac IT Radio. And if you have show ideas or want to host a show, MacRadio is interested in hearing from you.

One More Thing

Clark took a page from Steve's presentation playbook and pulled out "One More Thing"—a sneak preview of Mac OS X 10.4 (Tiger)! With over 200 new features, this version is a sure thing upgrade. Just to hit the high spots:

- **Will run on G3s** that have firewire, but since it's a 64-bit OS, it will do much better on G5s.
- **Spotlight**, the new desktop search feature "googlizes" your Mac, searches content as well as titles.
- **Smart Folders**, including Smart Groups in Mail.
- **Mail supports HTML format**, can be searched with Spotlight, includes a slideshow feature.
- Safari supports **RSS feeds** (Really Simple Syndication)
- **QuickTime 7** has zero-configuration streaming and other new features.
- **Automator**—takes on repetitive tasks, scripting without knowing Applescript.
- **VoiceOver**—reengineered text-to-speech and speech recognition,



- The **Graphing Calculator** is back.
- **iChat AV** supports up to 9 audio chat participants and 3 video chats.

Who won the MIDI keyboard in the raffle? **Curtis Snow!**

Preparing for Tiger

by Dan Neal, member at large



No doubt, some of you plan to acquire Tiger and will be installing it soon.

There are a few things you should do before installing any new version of an OS. Why? Because operating systems are very, very complex indeed—which can lead to problems after installing a new version. The things listed below will provide a safety net in the unlikely event that something does go wrong. [Folks, I've been using computers of all kinds for a looong time. Things **do** sometimes go wrong with OS installs. Better safe than sorry.]

- Make sure your backup software is compatible All the major vendors have shipped Tiger compatible updates, so go get them!
- If your backup software isn't compatible, be sure to burn copies of critical files to CD/DVD and/or copy them to an external hard drive (My FireWire external drive will be getting a workout.)
- Make sure you have all the CDs or downloaded installers for your software in case you need to reinstall anything.
- Make sure you have all of the serial numbers and activation codes for your software.
- Make sure you have all of the settings and passwords for your e-mail accounts and any critical password protected sites.
- Put all of your serial number, e-mail settings, passwords, and other user ID information in a file that you copy to an external drive or CD/DVD. Print a

copy of this information too.

- If you have a .Mac account use iSync for your Safari bookmarks and Address Book contacts. Use Backup (you can get the latest version after logging into .Mac) to backup messages and settings for Mail to CD/DVD or an external drive.
- If you are going to install Tiger over the top of your current OS, perform some system maintenance first.
 - 1) Quit all running applications then open your Applications folder then your Utilities folder.
 - 2) Launch Disk Utility
 - 3) Click the First Aid tab
 - 4) Click on the icon for your drive in the list at the left. (**NOTE:** with Panther 10.3.9 steps 3 and 4 are reversed.)
 - 5) Click Repair Disk Permissions (the repair process may take a few minutes to complete).
 - 6) Quit Disk Utility and close the folders.

To redo the OS X prebindings:

WARNING—You must use Unix commands in Terminal to do this unless you have something like Cocktail <http://www.macosxcocktail.com/> or Xupport <http://www.computer-support.ch/Xupport/> installed. Prebinding helps applications run better—it's what's happening when you see the "Optimizing . . ." status when you've installed a software update.

- 1) If you have any open applications save your work and quit the applications because you will have to restart your computer after doing this.
- 2) Open Terminal found in the Utilities folder inside the Applications folder.
- 3) Type `sudo update_prebinding -root / -force`
- 4) Press Return.
- 5) Enter your password.
- 6) Press Return.

The prebinding process may take a few minutes. When it is complete a new command line prompt will appear.

- 7) Once the new command line prompt appears type `Exit` and press Return.



Dashboard, a Tiger perk.

8) When the word logout appears in the Terminal window Quit Terminal

9) Restart your computer.

- Lastly, run the background maintenance scripts listed in this Apple KnowledgeBase article:

<http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=107388>

Now that you've protected yourself, install Tiger—have fun!

MacFixit has a slightly more detailed article on this subject.:

<http://www.macfixit.com/article.php?story=20050429000534549>

Browser Speed Wars

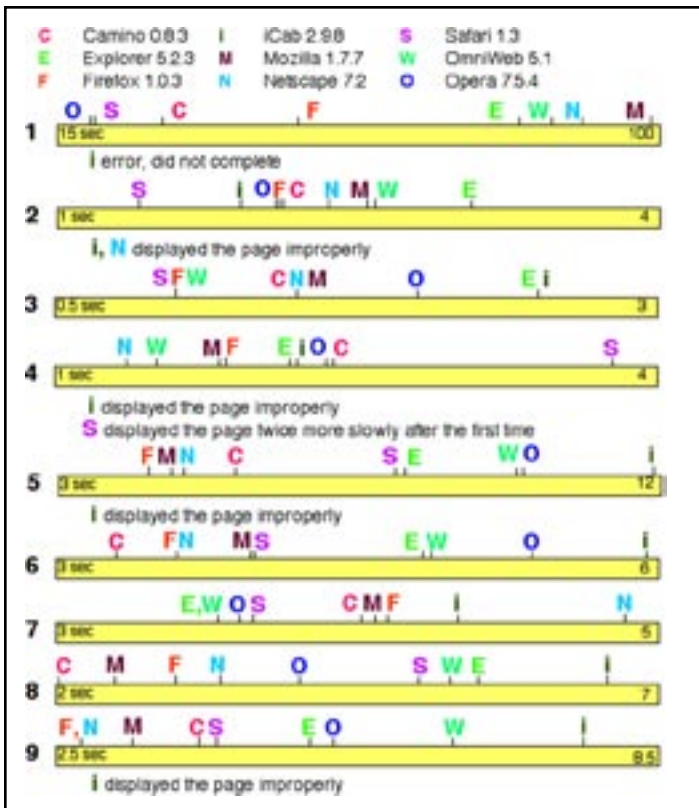
by Mike Grueter, OSX SIG leader

Hidden in the "incremental" 10.3.9 update is a substantial upgrade to the Safari web browser. According to Dave Hyatt, who is one of the lead developers at Apple working on Safari, Safari 1.3 is essentially identical to Safari RSS in terms of speed and the rendering engine. Of course Safari RSS has lots of new features, but Apple did a ton of work on Safari 1.3 to make it more standards compliant and make it render pages more accurately. This is good because Safari RSS will only be included with Tiger, so web developers don't have to worry about their pages rendering differently from Mac OS 10.3 to 10.4.

Dave Hyatt has run comparison tests between versions 1.2 and 1.3 and found 1.3 to be about 35% faster overall. He also mentioned that the JavaScript performance in version 1.3 is much faster, and recommends running a JavaScript benchmark test to see how fast it is.

Comparisons to the older version of Safari are great, and indeed Safari 1.3 has been noticeably faster for me than version 1.2, but I was curious to see how Safari 1.3 stacks up against the other Mac OS X web browsers. Apple claims that "Safari loads pages more quickly than any other Mac web browser" <http://www.apple.com/macosx/features/safari/>, Opera claims their browser is "The Fastest Browser on Earth" <http://www.opera.com/products/desktop/>, and Camino says "renders web pages faster and more accurately than any other rendering engine on the planet" <http://caminobrowser.org/features.html>. Obviously, not all of these claims can be correct, so I ran some tests. See the results at the end of this article.

The gist of it is that Safari and Opera did complete the JavaScript test Dave mentioned, as well as a Cascading Style Sheet (CSS) test that I found, faster than the other browsers, but that doesn't mean they are the fastest for what most people use browsers for in the real world. I



timed the loading of several popular web pages and found that each browser ranked differently for different web pages. No one browser was faster than the others in all of the page loading tests I ran, though the browsers that utilize the Gecko rendering engine were generally among the fastest. Safari was right in the middle of the pack for most tests. One browser did stand out as the slowest in nearly every test, and that browser is iCab. It also had trouble rendering some of the pages correctly, so those developers have their work cut out for them.

Mac OS X 10.4 (Tiger) should bring more speed to at least Safari if not all web browsers, according to Dave Hyatt. The new image decoders and network layer in Tiger are faster and should produce a speed increase, and there may be other optimizations as well. Read Dave on the subject at http://weblogs.mozillazine.org/hyatt/archives/2005_04.html#007962

Speed is of course not the only factor we should care about. Three other key areas are usability/features, how accurately the browser renders existing web pages, and what kind of support each browser has for standard page description technologies like those described by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) <http://www.w3.org/> Usability and features are pretty subjective, but standards support seems like it would be pretty easy to test at first glance. The browser either renders the code according to the specification or it doesn't. Unfortunately, there are many parts of each standard, and some of the specifications

can be a little ambiguous, so really these tests should be created by the W3C in my opinion (here is a start <http://webstandards.org/act/acid2/>). Then browser developers and users can just test their browsers for compliance.

Some notes on the speed tests I ran:

- The latest versions of each browser were used for each test
- All tests were performed on the same hardware (867 MHz PowerBook G4, 1.12 GB RAM, running Mac OS X 10.3.9)
- No modifications were made to any of the browsers (factory settings)
- The Internet connection was the same for all tests (Comcast Broadband Cable via AirPort Extreme base station)
- In tests where multiple browsers ran at the same speed, they are listed in alphabetical order.
- The page loading tests were run 10 times and averaged to weed out network or server problems. I also re-ran the one slowest test for each browser just in case.

Test 1 is the suite of seven Javascript tests available at <http://www.24fun.com/downloadcenter/benchjs/benchjs.html>.

Test 2 is the CSS test available at <http://www.howtcreate.co.uk/csstest.html>

Test 3 tests loading and rendering a complex table

Tests 4 through 9 are page-loading tests of the following pages (in order): <http://www.apple.com/>; <http://www.macworld.com/news/>; <http://www.macfixit.com/>; <http://news.bbc.co.uk/>; <http://nytimes.com/>; and <http://www.versiontracker.com/>

Who is the man in the brown t-shirt—why is he smiling?

Interview with Bruce Robertson by Dick Harrell, MacNews editor

Bruce Robertson is the leader of the Filemaker SIG, our current membership manager, and a past president of dBug. Learn more about him in this virtual interview:

MN—How long have you used Macs?

BR—*Since shortly after they first came out. My first Mac was a 512 and I remember the exciting upgrade to 512E!*

MN—Why do you use Macs?

BR—*I've always enjoyed the whole experience and I don't like being part of the Microsoft herd.*

MN—How many Macs do you own? How many are in current use?

BR—*Four Macs—a retired 6500, an iMac 600, G4 Cube, and G4 iBook. I use the Cube and iBook daily.*

MN—What are your favorite computer activities?

BR—*I really do enjoy working with Filemaker, learning new things, solving problems. I used to dabble in MIDI music and I liked using Band-in-a-Box as an accompaniment while I practiced bass guitar.*

MN—What are your other favorite activities?

BR—*Bicycling, theater, books.*

MN—What's your background with computers in general?

BR—*In 1979 I went back to school to get an engineering degree and of course computers were part of the curriculum.*



Bruce Robertson

Back then it was Fortran and punchcards. I always liked working with computers and in the engineering field got interested in dynamic systems modeling. That led later to a job doing vibration analysis on submarines, using HP computers and data acquisition systems. I was married to a systems analyst so I got another dose of the database world from her.

MN—When did you join dBug?

BR—*I'm member 518 and I joined dBug in 1993.*

MN—What got you started with FileMaker?

BR—*We used it at Boeing in Manufacturing R&D. I liked working with it and starting hanging out in Compuserve and AOL Filemaker forums. It was kind of a crossword puzzle thing. People would ask questions and bring up problems and I'd try to figure out good answers. I have always had a flair for clean concise solutions. Back then Filemaker wasn't relational and I became pretty adept at repeating field techniques and marketed an instructional template as my first product.*

MN—What is the story behind the "I tipped FileMaker Magazine" t-shirt award?

BR—*FileMaker Advisor ran a contest on concatenating text without the usual concatenation character (an ampersand). They called the contest "Can'tCatenate." It was not a big deal, I got a T shirt and a short writeup where they said "Bruce Robertson submitted what we believe to be the most streamlined solution." The name of my company is Concise Design. The name is a perfect fit for the kind of solutions I like to create, and the contest was right up my alley.*

dBug Capital Improvement Drive

by the dBug Board of Directors

Every few years we need to refresh the computers and facilities at dBug's Resource Center, just as you would at your home or business. We've come to one of those times again and dBug needs the help of its Members to make it happen. We can easily achieve this goal with the assistance of our Members and we're calling this goal our Capital Improvement Drive. In the next few days you'll receive a letter asking you to participate.

The last time we refreshed our hardware, we bought a beautiful new flat-screen iMac G4 and part ownership in a projector. Recently, our co-tenant moved out with their furniture and computers, which we had been using. We need to replace that equipment and plan for some new uses for our full-time Resource Center.



Our iMac G4

Since moving into our new Resource Center in 2003, we've been able to hold Main Meetings and other events with large numbers of attendees. We purchased many small folding metal chairs for next to nothing which have served us well, but as you know if you've sat in one of them for a few hours, we could do better. We've also opened up the Resource Center to Members for weekday Cafés and other events now that we no longer have to work around another group's schedule. We have plans to hold classes at the Resource Center in the near future on subjects such as Mac Basics, Basic and Advanced Digital Video, Programming, and Digital Photography, just to name a few. These will be professionally taught classes that dBug will offer to Members at substantially less than what is commonly charged in the marketplace today.

dBug provides its Members the best User Group experience possible by attracting the best guides through the technology jungle using the best equipment and facilities possible. We hope you can help out with this fund drive. Listed below are the items necessary to continue at an even higher level of quality.

Capital Improvements Items

1. Six 6 foot x 2 foot rolling computer tables—\$840
2. 72 padded folding chairs—\$1,368
3. Two Mac minis with keyboards, mice, 17" LCD monitors, and locks—\$1,674
4. One 17" G5 iMac with keyboard and mouse—\$1,499
5. One small fridge—\$150
6. One XGA projector—\$1,000
7. One small PA/speaker system—\$300
8. One high-backed office chair for the comfort of presenters—\$200
9. Extra ethernet hubs and electrical extensions—\$200
10. Extra memory for iMacs and minis—500

Total including tax is approximately \$8,500

In simple terms, if we divided \$8,500 by the number of dBug Members, it would come out to about \$35 each. Some people may not be able to afford this at this time, so we'll be asking Members to try to contribute \$50 or more. It's not a lot for each individual, but very powerful when we come together to achieve our common goal.

You'll be receiving the letter giving you the chance to participate soon. Donors will be acknowledged on our Web site and on the ExChange.

The logo for dBug, featuring the lowercase 'd' and 'Bug' in a stylized, cursive font.

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