



February 2006

MacNews

FEBRUARY 2006 CALENDAR

1

7:00 PM Seattle Final Cut Users Group
with guest Dan Montgomery from
Imagine Products

4

9:05 AM dBug Cafe at RC

6

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

8

6:30 PM Main Meeting – RC Wireless
Security

11

9:05 AM dBug Cafe at the RC

13

6:30 PM Intermediate Mac User's SIG at
RC – Q&A and Troubleshooting

14

7:00 PM WebObjects SIG at RC

15

OSX SIG moved to 2/22/06 this month

16

7:00 PM Office Applications SIG –
Neo Office J (by popular demand)

18

9:05 AM dBug Cafe at the RC

20

7:00 PM FileMaker Pro SIG at RC

22

7:00 PM Mac OS X SIG at RC

25

9:05 AM dBug Cafe at the RC

dBug February Main Meeting:

February 8, 2005 at 7:00 PM

Wireless Computing Security with Cathy Doser

dBug Resource Center

9620 Stone Ave. N., #202

Seattle, WA 98103

206-624-9329

<http://www.dbug.org>



Are you looking to effectively secure your home or office wireless networks? Or are you just wondering how to get your Airport in your iBook or PowerBook to work and not have everyone in your neighborhood able to see what's in your laptop?

Join Cathy Doser on February 8th as she demystifies wireless networks and the security you **need** to use to be safe in these days of wardrivers and spoofers who want to steal your information. Even if you have a desktop Mac, you too can join the wireless revolution.

New Music SIG

with Clark Schroeder will feature the New GarageBand from iLife 06. Don't miss it. Tuesday, February 21st at 6:30 PM at the Resource Center. Learn to make your own Podcast too.

<http://www.macworld.com/news/2006/01/19/firstlookgb3/>



MARCH 2006 CALENDAR

1

7:00 PM Final Cut, DVD Studio Pro, Live Type, Motion, & Photoshop tutorials

4

9:05 AM dBug Cafe at the RC

8

6:30 PM Main Meeting - RC

11

9:05 AM dBug Cafe at the RC

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 the RC

20

7:00 PM FileMaker Pro SIG at RC

21

7:00 PM Music SIG at RC featuring Garageband 3!

22

6:30 PM Digital Imaging SIG at RC

25

9:05 AM dBug Cafe at the RC

The Tip of the Xberg *by Dick Harrell*

Bill Campbell's favorite desktop computer is the Mac. His most recent desktop machine purchase was a Mac Mini for his wife. He likes the elegant GUI, but it's what's beneath the surface that appeals to him most. He's a Unix guy and has been for forty years. He likes the power and capability of Unix. It lets the user do some things easily that aren't easy at all in the Mac OS. He also likes the security of Unix—it was there at the start, not added on, because Unix was created for a multiuser, networked environment.

Bill undertook to introduce eight or so dBuggers to Unix last Saturday (Jan 28th.) Naturally we were only able to scratch the surface. He explained how Unix does it - setting up simple processes that can be aggregated to accomplish what you expect an operating system to do. He showed us two ways to experience Unix on our own Macs—the Terminal application and the X11 environment. Both of these are available under Applications in the Utilities folder.

Bill took us briefly through the directory structure in Unix, including what the path of a file is. He introduced us to some basic file-management commands and techniques, including how to view the contents of directories and display the contents of a file. He showed us basic commands and how to add flags to modify how they work, such as adding the -l flag to the list files command 'ls' to list files in long format.

He showed us a variety of commands, noting their ease of entry. He emphasized the 'man' command, which calls up the imbedded manual page for a given command—basically, built-in help. When some of us could not use the 'man' command, he showed us the useful command 'unset MANPATH' so that we could.

We even had a try at combining commands with the pipe (|) and redirect (>) operations and at editing using the vi built-in editor. Three hours went by in a flash and we realized we'd only scratched the surface. Fortunately, Bill provided an online outline of the class to help us move forward: <http://support.celestial.com/doc/unix>.

If there's a continuation class, I'll probably sign up.

Look for an **Advanced Unix** Class soon.



Mac Maintenance by Wil Nelson and Karen Lindner
Scheduling to be announced.

Basic WebObjects by Mike Grueter and Baiss Magnusson
Scheduling to be announced.

Setting up Cross-Platform Office Productivity Software
by John Livingston

check <<http://www.dbug.org>> for scheduling

January Main Meeting Recap:

Macworld Conference & Expo: January 2006

Macworld Wonders

by Bruce Robertson

About two years ago they shrunk down the event to one hall and even then curtained off lots of area to hide the emptiness. This year it's still one hall but it's wall-to-wall booths and displays and very busy.

I talked to the folks at **Kerio**. They have an Exchange-style multiuser mail application that is roughly



a competitor—well, to Exchange for one thing but also sort of to First Class. They have very good spam control but they also mentioned one detail that perhaps we can achieve in another way. I can't quote the technical detail but the gist of it is that high volume spam counts on a fast reaction time from the targeted mail server. Kerio intentionally adds some delay to the process. What this does is cause the sending spam server to time out on the message and thus the spam never even gets to the target mail server. It doesn't have to be filtered out because it was never delivered. Perhaps there is some way we can achieve a similar result.

<http://www.kerio.com/kms_home.html>

I also talked to the **Zimbra** people, I think we have considered them as a First Class replacement but we had some difficulties. It does sound like another viable option to me.

<<http://www.zimbra.com/>>

I went to a presentation on **Automator** by Ben Waldie. He showed a number of examples of varying complexity like automatically creating thumbnails from large images and attaching them to an email, auto processing PDFs, etc. At the end of the session he had a raffle for a few copies of his books. We were all given raffle tickets and some people were a little puzzled that unlike dBug, everybody gets both tickets. Somebody said wait wait don't you need us to split these pairs and give you one? He said know, once he was at a user group meeting where they tumbled the tickets like we did somebody said, well there must be a way to solve this with applescript. And there is: See Ticket Picker and other automation examples here:

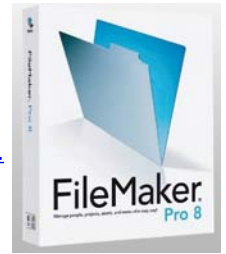
<<http://www.automatedworkflows.com/products/freeware.html>>

Ben made an application you feed it the first and last ticket numbers and it can randomly "draw" tickets. It has several options including building suspense by asking



questions and leading you on until it is finally ready to give you a ticket number. It worked pretty well but, how good can it be, it didn't draw MY ticket number!

FileMaker has not only their primary display and presentation area but also a new Filemaker "pavilion" where several high quality applications are on display. One company was Beezwax, <<http://www.beezwax.net/>> They make a number of very well designed applications and one of their newest is Inspector. This is a complex developer level tool that I had some involvement with during beta testing. I made it known pretty clearly that some of the features weren't quite there yet for me and consequently Vince Mennano saw my point, added the features, and thanked me for—as he put it—giving him the kick in the butt he needed to go the extra distance. He's quite happy with the end result and so am I.



There are just SO many different products on display here and it is great fun to talk to the developers. Another product that I only glanced at at first is Memory Miner. <<http://www.memoryminer.com/>> Scrapbook people pictures map whoopee I thought. But I decided to see what it was all about and hung around while somebody from Imaging Resource was interviewing him for an article posted here: <<http://www.imaging-resource.com/EVENTS/MWSF06/MWSF3.HTM>> (Scroll down on the linked page to the Memory Miner article).

It turns out that the developer was involved with the America 24/7 project. This project was a kind of day-in-the-life project capturing details and stories from all walks of life and locations across America. They took a LOT of pictures and a lot of data associated with the pictures. The Memory Miner product takes advantage of all that he learned and make a very interesting, easy way to put together family histories using pictures, dates, and locations. I doubt that I can do justice explaining it but it is clearly very well thought out and he has been getting a lot of compliments from people who have an interest in doing this kind of work but never had a tool that they enjoyed so much or felt so comfortable using.

Another outfit that impressed me is **Qwizdom**—from Puyallup! They make an interactive classroom response system, which allows user to beam back answers to questions that are displayed during teaching and training sessions. <<http://www.qwizdom.com>> So, for instance the teacher or instructor can ask a multiple choice question and see an immediate bar graph of how many people picked each of the answers.



Here are just a few more links from booths I visited:

Merlin - Project management software

<http://www.projectwizards.net/en/>

WorkstripX A powerful tool for organizing and accessing your files. Great for working with projects where you may have lots of file or URLs that are all related to the project. Softchaos also makes Webstractor, an application for extracting and storing web data. I really liked what I saw with Webstractor last year and it continues to improve.

<http://www.softchaos.com/products/ws3/ove.html>

Northstar - Software as a service

Need to have access to applications you don't want to own? Need to be able to use applications over low bandwidth connections or while on the road? Northstar provides software as a service. Since the application is really running on their server, they do all the maintenance and updates and you get fast applications.

<http://www.northstaraccess.net/>

Marten - a graphical programming environment where most of your coding is done by linking action-objects.

<http://andescotia.com/news/>

Pages 2.0; with many more features including basic spreadsheet style formulas - and now scriptable! I have posted some examples.

Spamphibian Powerful front end spam tool for mail server systems - maybe this could help us deal with our terrible spam problem. <http://www.outspring.com/>

Gizmolab CAD Inexpensive 3D CAD mostly oriented towards cabinetry and building applications.

<http://www.gizmolabs.com>



Matias one handed keyboard

<http://www.matias.ca/halfkeyboard/index.php>



Storyboard Quick and StoryBoard Artist

Animation tools for creating storyboards for movie shoots.

<http://www.storyboardartist.com/>

<http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/storyboard/apple/index.html?s=203>

Evermore Software Office clone being developed in China

<http://www.evermoresw.com>

Viva Publishing

"Intelligent Publishing" - web based publishing and printing www.viva.us

MacBook Pro (Apples new professional laptop)

<http://www.apple.com/macbookpro/>



photos by Dan Neal

