

dBUG Mac News

A Publication of Seattle's Macintosh Downtown Business Users Group



PRESIDENTS LETTER:

Arches of Reality

I sometimes wonder how many people read this column. I know I didn't read this column regularly prior to being president. I'm always having an argument with myself regarding whether I should stick to keeping members informed about dBUG happenings or whether I should just write about what I think are interesting Mac related topics. If you have an opinion, send me a note on the Exchange and let me know.

The big news at dBUG this month is that we've acquired a new PowerMac 7500/100 for the

resource center. This will enable our speed dependent SIGs to zip along a little faster. In addition, the 7500 has video and audio digitizing capability. This should let us do some new and different things at SIG meetings. Anyone out there interested in starting a digital video SIG?

The old 7100 will be moved out of the RC and over to where the Exchange is located and will become our new FirstClass server. The old server is a Mac IIfx that has been looking mighty long in the tooth lately. Many operations on

the Exchange will be dramatically faster on the 7100. Members should notice less downtime due to system maintenance and backups. The workgroup server 80 that was donated by Apple last year will become our Internet gateway system. The combination of these two new machines should finally bring the Exchange into the 90's!

We're considering setting up the old Mac IIfx as a POP/SMTP mail server running the Apple Internet Mail Server software. This would
continued on page 3...

EVENTS:

Main Meeting:

May The Information Future
June Raffle & Picnic

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MAIN MEETING:

Our Information Future: The Next Five Years

The Bandwidth You Need and Why You Won't Get It

On Wednesday May 14th, Cary Lu will speak to us about what is coming in the information industries.

All of us want faster, more stable Internet connections. We have heard many predictions and promises about what the Internet will become once this speed and reliability are readily available and ways in which various companies will make all this happen. The personal computer has a grand future role, we are told, perhaps even replacing televisions, radios, and books.

Cary Lu has been researching this subject for his upcoming book from Microsoft Press on bandwidth

and the information age (for Microsoft Press). He will bring us up to date on the technologies that are supposed to deliver an information nirvana. Which grand promises for high speed Internet connections can actually be delivered? Can any of them be delivered at a price that customers are willing to pay?

The hype surrounding the Internet comes from the idea that there is money to be made. But hardly anyone is making money. The Internet today makes no financial sense—not for the Internet Service Providers, not for the Information providers, not for the users who browse the World

Wide Web. Customers are demanding services that they are unwilling to pay for. What is technologically possible differs from what is profitable. In the long run, only those services that are profitable can survive.

In his talk, Cary will explain:

- Why television and computers will never converge;
- Why the Internet won't get any faster for most people in the next five years;
- Alternate Internets that guarantee high bandwidth and performance at a price;
- Quasi-Internets that achieve speed at the expense of interactivity;

- The likelihood of fiber optic cable reaching every home;
- The feasibility of a completely wireless Internet;
- Why an American car radio in the year 2003 may not work in Canada (and vice versa);
- Why you shouldn't buy a DVD (digital video disc) player or a DVD-ROM drive this year—or next year;
- How high definition television will actually arrive in our homes and why it will fall far short of its promise.

This topic is not limited to the Macintosh platform. It will interest anyone who owns a computer, television, radio, or book.

—Linda Frasier

Special Interest Groups

Please call the dBUG Info-line
—624-9329— for last-minute info.

4TH DIMENSION SIG

Activities are primarily show and tell by various SIG members.

2nd Monday, 6:30 p.m.
dBUG Resource Center
Walt Nelson
Home & Work—783-7611

ADVANCED INTERNET TOPICS

The Advanced Internet Topics SIG is intended for Internet professionals.

3rd Thursday, 6:30 p.m.
dBUG Resource Center
Russell Cox

ASSOCIATION FOR SOFTWARE DESIGN

At Association of Software Design (ASD) meetings you'll find a variety of people in and around the software design field.

1st Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
Every other Month
(Not in May, but in June)
dBUG Resource Center

EXCEL SIG

The May SIG will feature a discussion in charting & start the VBA Study Group.

3rd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.
dBUG Resource Center
Evan Kentop



DBUG BBS EXCHANGE SIG

The Exchange Beginnings TeleSIG is designed to teach the basics of telecomputing, with an emphasis on connecting to and navigating the dBUG ExChange. We will demonstrate the vast resources available on-line.

4th Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
dBUG Resource Center
Cherie Nickell

FILEMAKER PRO SIG

3rd Mon 7 p.m.
dBUG Resource Center
Greg Schumacher 364-1696

FORMZ

Interested in 3D graphics? This software package is a powerful 3D surface and solids modeler which is used by an assortment of disciplines including architects, product designers and 3D digital artists.

4th Thursday, 6:30 p.m.
dBUG Resource Center
Sue Plahn
Phone: 789-3582
Internet: splahn@dbug.org

HYPERCARD SIG

3rd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
dBUG Resource Center
Deforest Shotwell
dshotwell@accessone.com

INTERNET INTRO

Have you heard of this amazing phenomenon? Do you need to be 'on-line'? Find out what it is and what you could encounter if you join the 'on-line' community.

3rd Saturday, 10:00 am.
dBUG Resource Center
Bill Levering
internet: idbill@dbug.org

MAC BASICS

Are you new to computers? Have you used other computers but just started using the Macintosh? Are there questions you have about using your Macintosh that just aren't covered in the manuals? Then this SIG is for you!

4th Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.
dBUG Resource Center
Sue Plahn
Phone: 789-3582
Internet: splahn@dbug.org

MONDO GRAPHICS/DTP SIG

For pre-press, production, and graphics professionals as well as novices: supporting Quark XPress, PageMaker, Freehand, Illustrator, Photoshop and related utilities.

2nd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
dBUG Resource Center

NEWTON SIG

4th Monday, 7 p.m.
dBUG Resource Center
Greg Schumacher
Work—364-1696

OPEN FRIDAY

Open Discussions, snacks, etc. Bring something you want to scan. Take a look at the Web. Bring a non-member. Talk about a new dBUG T-shirt or slogan. Start your own Special Interest Group

Every Friday 6 p.m.
dBUG Resource Center
624-9329

SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS SIG

4th Thursday, 7 p.m.
dBUG Resource Center
Kevin Purcell
Internet: xenolith@halcyon.com

NOTE:

The MacNews Calendar, SIG Updates, and the <Month> Events PICT on-line calendar are accurate at the time they are published.

Please call the dBUG InfoLine — 624-9329 — for last-minute changes and additions.

—Dick Carter

SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS WORKSHOP

This is a workshop (hands-on if possible) aimed at beginning Macintosh programmers. The topic will be announced by e-mail and posted to the "Software Developer's SIG" folder on the ExChange about a week before. As always, feel free to bring an application or source code you want to show off, or just come and ask lots of questions.

2nd Saturday, 10:00 am.
dBUG Resource Center
James Jennings
internet: jennings@halcyon.com

WEBASICS

This SIG covers Web issues from a beginner's point of view to an intermediate level.

1st Monday, 6:30 p.m.
dBUG Resource Center
Bill Brayman
391-7775

WORD SIG

The focus of this SIG is to demonstrate how various aspects of Word 6 can make your computing tasks easier. Meetings are geared to include all levels of Word expertise, with emphasis on attendees' experience (or lack thereof). Topics are determined by participants and are announced one month in advance. Since this is an interactive SIG, questions are welcomed and meetings are sometimes subject to change of topic if attendees need other information quickly. Bring a disk of sample files for best resolution of problems or for suggestions on alternative solutions.

2nd Thu 6:30 p.m.
dBUG Resource Ctr.
Jean Thomas
(H) 363-WORD [363-9673]

EXCHANGE.COM

Meetings open to members about the expansion and maintenance of the Exchange.

1st Saturday, 1:00 p.m.
Curtis Snow [Chairman]

Volunteer Opportunities

Be a volunteer! The following opportunities are available for anyone who is willing and able. Meet other dBUG members, learn about new software or just volunteer for the fun of it. These opportunities are not life long commitments, but another way to bring more people together.

Newsletter Committee

Title of Volunteer Position:

Newsletter Contributor

Job Description:

The main goal is acquire and edit articles for the monthly publication. Work with other dBUG members to help them review donated software.

Participate in setting up the newsletter. Learn a little about PageMaker and how it is delivered to the printers.

Who to Report to:

E-mail Bill Levering (Editor)

How Much Time Required:

About 1 hour a month, depending on the level of commitment given. Short (15 min) monthly meetings would be appropriate.

PRESIDENTS LETTER... CONTINUED

enable dBUG to offer POP e-mail accounts to those members subscribing to our PPP Internet service.

dBUG has started a new system for matching up people interested in volunteering with jobs that need to be done. We've created a new conference on the Exchange called "Volunteers Sign Up" that sits directly above the main body of messages in the Watercooler. Various people involved with running dBUG will, from time to time, post volunteer opportunity messages in this conference. These messages will have a consistent format describing what needs to be done, how much time it will take, and who you would be working with. So if you have a little spare time and would like to help keep dBUG running smoothly, check out this new conference.

—President, John Newhoff

Greeters at Main Meeting

Title of Volunteer Position:

Greeter

Job Description:

Welcome members and newcomers at the front door at the Main Meetings. Greeters will give them nametags and be available to newcomers to point out where to sign up for membership, leave the disk-of-the-month, pick up newsletters, library disks, see the dBUG store offerings, etc.

Who to Report to:

E-mail Ken Winkenweder

How Much Time Required:

Approximately 6:15-7:00 on the second Wednesday of the Month wherever the Main Meeting is being held.

SIG NOTICE:

Excel SIG VBA Study Group

The Excel SIG has started a Visual Basic for Applications study group. This group meets on the Excel SIG night Right after the SIG until 9:00 or so. The study group will use Microsoft Excel Visual Basic for Applications Step by Step by Microsoft Press as the study guide (ISBN 1-55615-662-6). The group is designed for Excel users who are interested in learning VBA from the ground up and is open to dBUG members only. If you have questions please call Evan Kentop at 206/542-4656 or e-mail at Evan_Kentop@dbug.org.

The May SIG will feature a discussion of charting.

Evan Kentop

Main Meeting Cashier(s)

Title of Volunteer Position:

Main Meeting Cashier

Job Description:

Assist new members signing up for membership and Internet access, renewals, dBUG Store and Library purchases.

Who to Report to:

E-mail Ken Winkenweder

How Much Time Required :

Approximately 6:15-7:00 on the second Wednesday of the Month wherever the Main Meeting is being held. Next week is at the MOHAI.

SOFTWARE CORNER:

File Fanatic

Download stuff (text files) from Netscape, AOL, Eudora (e-mail), whatever. Then, instead of having to open them in SimpleText (Teach Text) or go to MS WORD and open them one at a time, use this little baby to rename the file type to WORD (MSWD)— do it in batches, as many as you have at once— and open dozens of them with one punch. Simple, easy, amazingly helpful! Actually, I think it does more (other file types, etc.) but I don't know what/how... I find it tremendously useful just for this one-type function.

Tony Ward-Smith

Software Librarian

Title of Volunteer Position:

Librarian

Job Description:

The librarian's main job is to compile the disk of the month (DOM) for the monthly main meetings. This involves evaluating demo and shareware software available from a variety of sources and putting the best items together for the disk of the month. The librarian also prints labels and duplicates the DOM at the Main Meetings.

Currently our previous librarian is continuing to compile the DOM, so the new librarian would mainly need to manage the library at the Main Meetings and do a little bit of organizing and label printing outside of the Main Meetings.

Who to Report to:

John Newhoff, 481-8175

How Much Time Required:

1 to 2 hours monthly at home and 1 to 2 hours at the main meeting.

SPECIAL EVENT:

dBUG Raffle

The dBUG SPECIAL EVENT RAFFLE is coming. Get those dollar bills ready. dBUG is contacting lots of Venders and the goods will be the best you've seen in many a year. So circle the time - July 9, 1997 - which just happens to be the dBUG Picnic. Keep watching this space. Next month dBUG will print a partial list to give you all an idea how good this will be. Details coming to a mailbox near you.

David Krafchick

Vice President

Community Relations and Special Events

The Free-Range Mac Tips and Comments

May 1997

-compiled by Bill Rabel



Be Interface

The Be Interface is available as an extension at the Extreme Mac site, <www.extreme-mac.com>.

It looks great, has no problems. All you lose is the ability to command-click the title bar for hierarchy of folders. The great advantage is that title bars are only tabs, and the shorter the title, the shorter the tab.

I am leaving it running, and so are other experienced CMUG members. It is a 145K download.

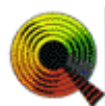
- Phil Russell, *Mouse Droppings*,
Corvallis MUG



NeXT OS

Want to look at the NeXT OS? Go to <www.3.pair.com/mccarthy/nextstep/index.html>.

- Phil Russell, *Mouse Droppings*,
Corvallis MUG



R.I.P. EZ135

Ahhh! All ye defenders of SyQuest EZ135 cartridges. The drive has been discontinued. It could not keep up with lomega Zip drives.

- Phil Russell, *Mouse Droppings*,
Corvallis MUG



Market Watch

Where was the computer press in January when Motorola was running three shifts making Mac clones and could not keep up with the orders? They were busy predicting the demise of the Macintosh.

- Phil Russell, *Mouse Droppings*,
Corvallis MUG

Cables, Anyone?

Sooner or later, most of us will stumble into a situation where we need some sort of specialty cable for our Mac. It could be an ADB Y-cable, or a long SCSI cable. What do you do when you find yourself cable-shy?

You can drive all over town looking in every computer store listed in the yellow pages, but you aren't likely to find the cable you need in stock.

You could try paging through the mail order catalogs, hoping that the description of the cable you are ordering is accurate and you'll really get what you need. Not to mention the quality you might expect. Bill & Ted's Excellent Cables, anyone?

Or you can pick up the phone and order exactly the cable you need from people who actually know Mac cables inside and out. I'm talking about Apple's Cable Distribution Group down in Rancho Cucamonga, CA. Call them at (800) 900-3224, or e-mail them at cableinfo@applecables.com, or visit their web site at <www.applecables.com>.

They have all the hard-to-find Mac cables you've been looking for, and they are high-quality, original equipment cables, too. They ship quickly, so you'll get just what you need plenty fast.

- Tim Taylor, *Mouse Droppings*, Corvallis
MUG



How's Your Ticker

In the last three months, I have seen more computers doing more strange things than I care to count. Almost all of the problems can be attributed to one thing—the battery. Did you know that your computer has a battery in it? Some folks I talked to did not know this. If you bought your computer between 1991 and 1994 and it's acting weird (won't boot from a floppy, or won't read a floppy, or won't recognize a SCSI external drive, or the date changes to 1904 or 1956, or your monitor is black when you turn on your computer), you probably need a new battery. With the exception of the original Macs, most Macs run on a Lithium battery (3.6 volts—size 1/2 AA—number TL2150). These little guys are hard to come by. I called every source in our city [in Ontario] to try to even one for a client. Not one store had any. [local supplier discussion deleted] Make sure if you take your Mac apart to check the battery date, that you unplug everything first. If you have an SE or Mac Plus, the battery is in a compartment in the back of the computer, with a small door which you may remove (It takes a different kind of battery than mentioned above). I personally believe that you should change your battery every three years, whether it needs it or not—kind of like rebuilding your desktop every Friday, whether it needs it or not.

- SMUG, Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Mac OS 7.6 vs. Old Macs

Mac OS 7.6 will not support the following Macintosh models:

Mac Portable
Mac Plus
PowerBook 100
Mac SE
Mac SE/30
Mac II
Mac Ix
Mac Ixcx
Mac LC
Mac Classic



- MacSense

PCI Easter Egg

Want to meet your Mac's makers? This easter egg should work on all PCI Power Macs.

This easter egg is accessed in a similar way as the Iguana Flag egg. Simply open up your Note Pad, and type "secret ROM image". Then grab that text and drag it to the desktop.

In an instant, you'll be rewarded with a circular collage of the 80 or so Apple employees on the PCI Power Mac development team. All the employees are neatly organized around one employee with a large "Cat-in-the-Hat" style hat.

- Apple Bytes, Feb '97

Tech Support Tale

This year, the computer lab at our school changed from regular paper to three-hole punched paper in its laser printers. This move has been met with anger, frustration and confusion by many students, especially those who are doing final papers or trying to print things out for non-school-related things.

A girl sheepishly approached the consultant's desk one day, copy in hand, and held it out.

"It put holes in the paper when it printed. Someone told me that I can turn off the collation because I don't want the holes. Which menu is it under?"

- Compiled by Eric Hausman

Tech Support One Liners

"Why can't I save my database file to the System Folder? Won't it run faster, being closer to the System 'n all?"

"The computer tells me to 'use the mouse and press here.' But when I press the mouse to the screen, nothing happens."

"You people are cheating me. I bought your program three years ago and it came on four disks. This new version I bought today has only three! Are you cutting back on your program's features or what?... High Density diskettes? If they weigh more, what does that have to do with anything?"

"No, I don't have an extensions conflict. I just checked, and everything is plugged in fine."

- Compiled by Eric Hausman

FWB's Hard Disk Tool Kit 2.0

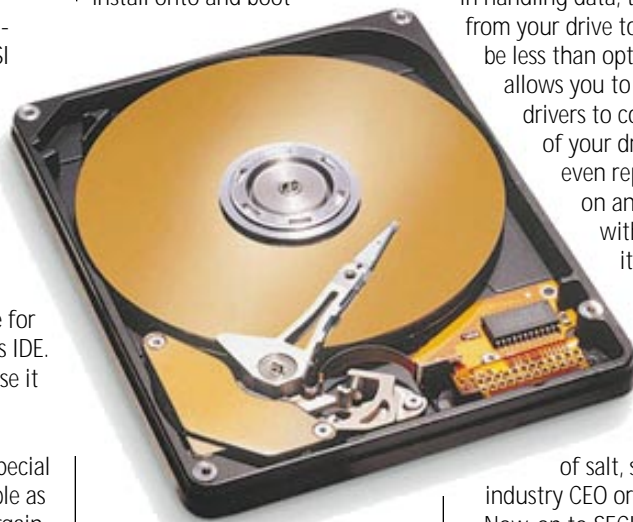
(and a few reasons why you would want to use it.)

When the company FWB created Hard Disk Tool Kit 1.0 in the early 1990's, it was, IMHO, the best hard drive formatting utility around. It was powerful, yet easy to use and offered tons of cool options. Basically, it put amazing power in your hands, yet allowed you to use it for practical purposes without too much effort. (gee, how appropriate that it was written for a Mac!) It came with a super tutorial that explained more than most folks can (or need to) grasp about hard drives, data structures and SCSI. Unfortunately, it worked only for SCSI drives, and when I upgraded to a new PowerBook in early '96, I found it had an IDE drive. For those of you who rarely wander over into the morass of conflicting standards that is the "Windoze" world, allow me to explain. A common type of hard drive for PC's (Wintel type) is known as IDE. It is cheaper than SCSI because it basically plugs right into the motherboard, and therefore requires no adapter card or special electronics. It is not as flexible as SCSI, but in the PC world, bargain prices rule, so IDE is quite popular. In recent years, our beloved APPLE began to ship IDE drives in some Macs! In the case of the Performas, it was to cut costs - In the case of the PowerBooks it was simply that no manufacturer would continue making 2.5 inch hard drives in SCSI format if only APPLE was going to use them (just not enough being sold). Since HDTK 1.0 does not work with IDE drives, when I heard about version 2.0 being out, I purchased it right away. After using it for a few months on several Macs, here is my short review, followed by a section on just why you would want to use HDTK 2.0, anyway.

Overall - Three and a half out of five stars. (for comparison, I gave version 1.0 four and a half stars).

The 2.0 software is just as robust as the original. It deals with SCSI Manager 4.3, and IDE drives with

ease. You can format and partition and update drivers in a snap. The new "Auto-Initialize" feature makes setting up a simple "one volume" disk a breeze. The manual is still chock full of info too. So, why did it lose a star? Because FWB changed how the software is packaged - YOU CAN NO LONGER RUN THE COMPLETE FORMATTER FROM A DISK DRIVE! That's right folks, you now must own TWO hard drives to access the full functions of the program. (One to install onto and boot



from, and then the OTHER drive - the one you want to format.) There is a crippled version that will do simple formats which boots/runs from a floppy, but not the FULL program. Although there is a mention of this in the manual, I feel strongly that this should have been advertised more clearly. (Perhaps something like: "NEW! IMPROVED! NOW REQUIRES TWO HARD DRIVES!!") IMHO, it is unreasonable to expect all users to have a second drive. Even if they did, creating a bootable system on that external drive or ZIP type drive is an unnecessary hassle. In the end, I did create a bootable ZIP cartridge and get the job done that way—but I refuse to believe that the same program that ran beautifully off of a floppy in version 1.0 had to lose that functionality in 2.0 just because it now works for IDE drives. Heck,

they could have made two boot disks, one for SCSI and one for IDE. In summary, it is still a great program, but changing the floppy boot disk was a poor decision.

Now, just why would you want to use HDTK in the first place? Three reasons: EFFICIENCY, SECURITY and SPEED. First, let's talk SPEED. Hard Disks are recognized and controlled by the Mac System software using chunks of code called "drivers". If the driver is old or uses unusual rules in handling data, the flow of data from your drive to your CPU can be less than optimum. HDTK allows you to use special FWB drivers to control any or all of your drives. You can even replace the driver on an existing disk without formatting it. I have not heard of a driver being rated faster or better than FWB's, but take that with a grain of salt, since I am not an industry CEO or anything.

Now, on to SECURITY. If you keep personal data, like financial records, on your Hard drive, think about how damaging it would be to lose control of that data? If you have a Powerbook, this risk is even greater. When someone steals your Mac, they then can misuse ALL of the DATA on the drive. HOWEVER - if you use HDTK security options, you can put a password on the drive, so when it boots up, a password must be entered or the drive is ignored. This protection is so good that even FWB techs cannot get around it. If you forget your password, there is no way back in. Someone could still break the drive open and use sophisticated equipment to read the platters, but that is CIA stuff. If folks like that are stealing your computer, you have other problems! Also, you can opt to ENCRYPT the data on the drive too. This puts all your files in a "code"

that reads as gibberish to anyone who does not have the decryption key and password. While this step adds a very strong layer of protection, it will slow down your work, since files on the drive must be de-encrypted each time you want to use them. I personally use just the boot password protection.

Lastly, let's talk EFFICIENCY. Your hard drive keeps data in little "boxes" on the disk itself (these are known as logical or allocation blocks). There is a practical limit to how many "boxes" the system can keep track of on any given Volume or Disk. ("Disks" and "Volumes" are different, more in a moment.) So, if you have a BIG hard drive, of say, two Gigabytes, there is a rule that the formatter follows that makes each individual box big enough to hold a file of several DOZEN Kilobytes (the bigger the total size of the disk, the bigger the "box" must be). This does not seem like a big deal, until you realize that only ONE file can be put in each box. Big files can be split across many boxes, but the SMALLEST amount of space that a file can use is (for this example) 32K. In this case, be aware that 32K is the equivalent of dozens of pages of text and simple graphics. So, on this example hard drive, a single ALIAS which is less than 1K of actual data will take up a WHOLE BOX (32K). Multiply that by a hundred aliases and you are talking MEGABYTES of wasted space! And it is not just ALIASES - every small file you create, from notes to E-mail will take up 32K no matter how small it actually is!! Think of the Houston Astrodome and all those seats as a big drive platter. If the "data" we want to store is all about the size of a person (big files) then that size is OK, but think of all the wasted space if we were trying to store ping-pong balls, one per seat!!!

To avoid this problem, you can do something called PARTITIONING. When you partition a drive you create separate VOLUMES which each look like a separate

continued on page 6...

dBUG Mentors . . .

Partitioning Tips

Any ideas on an efficient partitioning scheme for a 1 gig drive? ... Or maybe I'm just making this too complicated and it doesn't matter much how I slice up the drive?

TVS

It doesn't matter much, unless you don't slice it at all. Which surprisingly, is what I recommend.

Imagine a very large desk to work on, versus two smaller desks whose sizes add up to the large one. On the large desk, it takes a little longer to find things, since the drawers are bigger, but everything is right there. In the two-desk model, you keep some things in one desk and some things in the other. While you can move your chair easily between desks, and the tools can be used at either desk, it still takes a bit more work to move back and forth. If you need some information at one desk that is at the other desk, you have to run it through the copier on the way. Every time you move something from one desk to the

other. Eventually, you will ask yourself why you should have to wait for this to happen, and will truly long for a single big desk where you can do all your work without moving your chair or using the copier.

Back to analytics.

The minimum file size is 17K for an unpartitioned 1-gig partition/drive. This inefficiency used to appall me for holding the 2000 characters of a letter - gee, I wasted 15k of space! I hate waste! It just piles up, and I lose sleep thinking about it!

Then I thought, well, what if I were like Michael Flynn and wrote 14 letters or e-mail responses a day for a year and had to store them all this inefficient way. Let's see, 15K wasted X 5,000 letters = 75 megs wasted. (Seems like a lot to us who were raised on 20Meg SE's, but then again, there are 1000 megs available.) So if I wrote 5,000 letters, I would be wasting 7.5% of my drive.

The 1-gig partition (2-gig drive)

I use almost exclusively has 928 megs used for 11,536 items. The Applications folder has 496 megs used for 5,467 items, many of which are tiny, that need to be exactly where they are, since the apps need them in their own folder; they are totally impervious to any partitioning scheme of putting big things in one partition and small things in another. I find that I almost never use the other partition at all, except for occasional backups or retrieving stuff I rarely use. It is too much of a bother to put stuff there. At this point, I wonder why I partitioned the 2-gig at all.

It takes a very long time to fill a 1 gig drive up, even with no partitioning. And if you are collecting files of the type to fill up a 1 gig drive, optimizing it via partitioning will only postpone by a week the inevitable upgrade to a 2- or 4-gig drive.

Why should I bother to try to save wasted space? I am not running gout. Still have about 100 megs left, without having to archive or Trash anything. All the files I am creating are small (no movies, soundtracks, etc.), so it is not worth my time to mess around with optimizing/partitioning it at all.

And that is what I recommend to you.

Dave Thompson

As we now know...

The allocation blocks increases proportionally with volume size, thus on a 64MB volume it's 1K, whereas on a 1GB volume it's 16K. Files occupy space on the disk in integer multiples of allocation blocks, therefore if a file occupies 2 blocks it will take 2K on the 64MB drive, but 32K on the 1GB drive.

You can calculate the allocation block size for a given volume with the formula:

$$A = \{\text{INT}[(V+32)+1]\} * 0.5$$

where A is the allocation block size (K), V is the volume size (MB), and INT is the integer part of the fraction.

The minimum allocation block on a Mac volume is 1K (for volumes 64MB or less in size); for an 80MB volume it's 1.5K.

-Mentor's Forum



3D-Bug

PICT image of a "LadyBug" with woodgrain effect.

Rendered in Ray Dream Designer

by Christopher Kohler

FEATURED ARTICLE: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5 . . .

FWB's Hard Disk Tool Kit 2.0 (and a few reasons why you would want to use it.)

drives to your Mac. SO, if I had a drive of 750 Meg, I could create one partition of 300 Meg and install a system on it for my boot volume. Then, I could create a 100 Meg partition with password protection for my personal data. Then I could use the remaining 350 Meg to create two equal partitions of 175 Meg for storing other data. EACH of these volumes would show up on my desktop with a separate icon. If there was data corruption on one, the others would not be affected! For EACH of these volumes, the "box" size is much smaller than for a single volume of 750 Meg, so I save space with each and every file I put on the drive! Also, since I have several smaller volumes, I can do many

things more quickly, such as Virus scan or use a text search utility to find that old letter to my boss, since I am working with fewer megabytes of data.

A partition note for Power-users: the partitions we are speaking of here are "HARD" partitions as defined by Inside Macintosh specs, as opposed to "SOFT" partitions that can be created by some utility software. HARD partitions are standard to the MAC and very reliable. SOFT partitions generally depend on the special Extensions and the utility software that created them to work right. They are really just big files on your existing hard drive, and if they get corrupted at all, your soft partition can be

wrecked. I personally advise against using anything other than APPLE standard "Hard" partitions on your drive.

So, for the sake of SPEED, SECURITY, and EFFICIENCY, you can put a formatting program like HDTK 2.0 to work for you. In fairness, it should be noted that the newest versions of APPLE's Disk Format utility (free with system software) can now preform password protection and split disks into multiple partitions. I have used APPLE's Formatter and have no complaints, it is just a bit less intuitive, FAR less instructional, and does not give you the FWB drivers or some of the "super-techie" options to tinker with (but most folks won't want to mess

with these items anyway).

A FINAL COMMENT - Before you even THINK about using a formatting/partitioning program you ABSOLUTELY MUST HAVE A COMPLETE BACKUP OF YOUR DRIVE (preferably TWO Backups!) and a complete set of System Install disks or System CD. It would be best if you had a good working knowledge of how to restore your backup, also. Happy Formatting!

The author has over 10 years of experience using Macs and runs a part time consulting business helping Mac users with training, troubleshooting, hardware/software selection, and general computer concepts. To reach the author with questions, comments, or for further information try:

EBFretz@AOL.COM or (319)-332-2006

EXCHANGE TIPS:

Personal Address Books

The following are instructions on how to create your own Address Book on your desktop. This will allow you to create a shorthand mailing list to address people or groups of people.

Examples:

James will send a message to John, or 'Pals' will send a message to all of your friends interested in Bolo, or, 'MD' will send a message to all the Doctors you know, or 'FC 911' will post your pleas to the several conferences that offer help.

Instructions:

Create a Folder on your desktop using the "New Folder" menu command. Use Get Info to rename "New Folder" to "Address Book". Save changes. (Name it exactly as

spelled above, both words capped with a space between—but not the quotes). The folder will now have an Address Book icon on it.

Open your Address Book folder and select Compose or New Message (depends on the version of the software you use) from the Message menu. Voilà!! You'll see a personal Address List in which you can then enter the name of a person, people or conferences you want the message to go to. See the examples above. After you create the list, close it, then select it and name it using Get Info. Use that name to address mail to those listed in your address list.

This will only be YOUR list. Don't expect your friends to be able to use the same shortcuts unless they create their own Address Book.

—Exchange FAQ's

dBUG Membership Form

Turn in this form with payment to a dBUG cashier at a general meeting, a SIG leader, or mail it to: Mac dBUG, P.O. Box 3463, Seattle, WA 98114-3463

Please, NO cash by mail, only checks, VISA or MasterCard.

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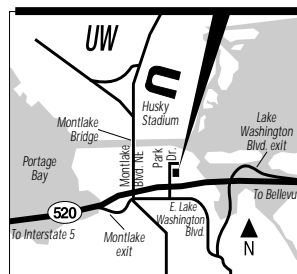
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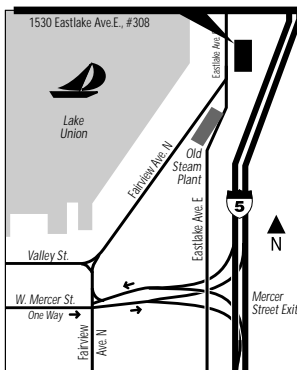


MAPS

Museum of History and Industry



Resource Center (RC)



ADDRESSES

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2700 24th E., Seattle

Resource Center (RC)
1530 Eastlake Ave. E,
#308/#307, Seattle

SOFTWARE CORNER:

Snap-To

It automatically places the arrow on top of the "OK" box or the outlined choice in a dialog box. Saves you having to move the mouse to that spot before you click it.

Patty Lakamp

dBUG MacNews

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What is dBUG?

The Macintosh downtown Business Users Group is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to the exchange of information between business users of the Macintosh computer and related products.

Membership is \$48 per year. (See page 7)

For additional information, write to:

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Submissions:

All articles, ads and suggestions must be submitted to the Editor for use by the second Friday of the month to be included in the newsletter of the following month.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
May Meetings Also see SIG notices on page 2	28	29	30	1	2 Open Friday Resource Center 6:00 pm	3 ExChange.com Resource Center 11:00 am
	5 Webasics SIG Resource Center 6:30 pm	6	7 Board Meeting Resource Center 6:30 pm	8 Word SIG Resource Center 6:30 pm	9 Open Friday Resource Center 6:00 pm	10 Software Developers Workshop Resource Center 10:00 am
	12 4th Dimension SIG Resource Center 6:30 pm	13 Mondo Graphics/ DTP SIG Resource Center 6:30 pm	14 Main Meeting Museum of History and Industry 7:00 pm	15 Advanced Internet Topics Resource Center 7:00 pm	16 Open Friday Resource Center 6:00 pm	17 Internet Basics SIG Resource Center 10:00 am
	19 FileMaker Pro SIG Resource Center 7:00 pm	20 HyperCard SIG Resource Center 6:30 pm	21 Excel SIG Resource Center 6:30 pm	22 FormZ Group Resource Center 6:30 pm	23 Open Friday Resource Center 6:00 pm	24
	26 Newton SIG Resource Center 7:00 pm	27 Exchange SIG Resource Center 6:30 pm	28 Mac Basics Resource Center 6:00 pm	29	30 Open Friday Resource Center 6:00 pm	31
	2 Webasics SIG Resource Center 6:30 pm	3 Association of Software Design Resource Center 6:30 pm	4 Board Meeting Resource Center 6:30 pm	5 Word SIG Resource Center 6:30 pm	6 Open Friday Resource Center 6:00 pm	7 Software Developers Workshop Resource Center 10:00 am

For last minute info on SIG meetings... call 624-9329



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