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APPLESBC

MacWorld, San Francisco January 2008

BY MIKE MILLARD

At Macworld S.F. 2008, Steve Jobs announced some new products and changes to existing services.

**MacBook Air:** An addition to the Apple laptop product line. It has the same dimensions and screen size as the MacBook, but is thinner (0.4 to 1.9 cm). To fit everything, it does not have an optical drive, Ethernet or Firewire ports built in. The only ports are one USB, an audio out and for micro-DVI video. Video adapters for DVI and VGA are included, but external devices that plug into the USB port, for optical discs and Ethernet, are optional. The Mac Air's dimensions are identical to the present MacBook, except for thickness.

The standard processor is an Intel Core 2 Duo at 1.6GHz; a 1.8GHz is optional. A conventional hard drive is 80GB, with a 64GB solid-state drive as an option. There is a full keyboard, back-lit. 2GB RAM is "welded" to the motherboard—i.e. not upgradeable. The screen is an LED type.

The MacBook Air will be available around mid-February, for \$1,899 (1.6GHz, 80GB HD) or \$3,248 (1.8GHz and 64GB SSD).

**Time Capsule:** Apple took the current Airport Extreme Base Station, put a "server-grade" hard drive in it and called it the "Time Capsule." Set it up, fire up Time Machine backup on all the Leopard-equipped Macs on its wireless network, tell T.M. on each to use the Time Capsule as its backup and "you're away to the races." Time Machine for each happens "through the air"—which they said "might not work" between T.M. and a hard drive plugged into the USB port on an Airport Extreme.

Time Capsule will be available in February for \$329 (500GB HD) or \$529 (1TB HD)

■ **Movie Rentals, Apple TV:** Steve Jobs announced that most major movie studios have signed on to allow their products to be offered for rent through the iTunes store. After downloading a movie, you will have 30 days in which to start viewing. After that, you can view it as many times as you like on computer iPod/Phone, Apple TV before it "evaporates." (I think this will be available only in the U.S. for the foreseeable future)

*continued on page 4*

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## From the Editor's Desk

Aside from the annual raffle draw which everyone looks forward to, the AGM is coming up at the next March Meeting. Why is it so important to attend? Because the success of a club is usually reflected by the calibre and dedication of its elected officials. It takes time, energy and planning to manage ApplesBC notwithstanding the fact that we are all volunteers. The positions which will be up for renewal or election are more than just titles. A brief description follows:

President - oversees general management and supervision of club business

Vice President - promotes good fellowship, arranges meetings and stands in for President when absent

Treasurer - keeps books in order, disburses funds as needed and renders accounts thereof

Secretary - keeps accurate record of all meetings, handles all correspondence and minutes

Membership Director - handles new and renewal memberships along with membership database

Bulletin Board Administrator - handles all day-to-day operations to ensure that club policy and rules are adhered to

Newsletter Editor - composes, publishes and distributes newsletter with current event calendar

Immediate Past President - assumes duties in absence of President and VP

It is very easy to spot members of the Executive at monthly meetings, walking around, glad-handing and chatting with people. But the amount of advance preparation needed to prioritize activities and produce a smooth monthly meeting is overwhelming. Some members have volunteered for years.

So if you are interested in taking a more active role in ApplesBC, please let us know. And do come out and bring a friend and ask your questions. Someone is always ready to help!

*A politician is a man who thinks of the next election; while the statesman thinks of the next generation.* James Freeman Clarke, preacher & author (1810-1888)



### BRING A FRIEND!

ApplesBC Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month. Please check your email for the reminder sent seven days before each meeting.

Notify [kiyo\\_masuda@applesbc.org](mailto:kiyo_masuda@applesbc.org) for email address changes.

Doors open 6:30pm; Meeting starts 7pm

FEB 19: Stuart DeSpain, MS OFFICE

MAR 18: Annual General Meeting;  
Dudley Booth, A JOURNEY TO THE STARS

APR 15: Tony Barker, WINDOWS ON A MAC;  
Kit Doan, FTP and P2P FILE TRANSFERS

# Millard's Mac Musings

continued from page 1

Apple TV gets a major, no-cost software upgrade that will allow you to buy or rent movies directly through it, without having to involve the use of a computer. Only via the Apple TV can you rent HD versions of movies (720i), at a slight price premium over the regular version. (Apple reduced the U.S. price of the Apple TV somewhat. I don't know if its price has gone down elsewhere—so check locally.)

**iPhone, iPod touch:** For each, firmware update 1.1.3 brought improvements to Google Maps, Home Screen Customization and the ability to create Web Clips that you can use as buttons on your home screen(s). The iPod touch gains these core applications, already in the iPhone: Mail, Maps, Stocks, Notes and Weather. (The wherewithal to run these on the touch comes in the firmware download, but for now, owners of existing iPod touches must pay \$20 US to enable them. They will be incorporated in all new iPod touches from now on.) Apple's Software Developer's Kit (SDK) for the iPhone and iPod touch will be released in February. The iPhone in Canada: When? Once the River Styx freezes over?

**MS Office 2008 Mac:** On sale now in three flavours: Home and Student Edition (\$200), the "standard" edition (\$550) and the Special Media Edition (\$650 CAD)  
For more info, see: <<http://www.microsoft.com/mactopia>>

**Photoshop Elements 6 for Mac:** Adobe announced that PE6 will be available in the second quarter of 2008, "for \$89 USD." Many new features are added since the present Elements 4 came out a couple of years ago.

See Release info: <<http://www.adobe.com/products/photoshopelmac/>>  
(Click on the headings under "Product Info" on the right-hand side for details.)

Go to <[http://creativesuitepodcast.com/index.php?post\\_id=295820](http://creativesuitepodcast.com/index.php?post_id=295820)> for a lengthy "walkthrough" of Elements 6:

## HOW OTHER MAC CLUBS LIVE

Apples BC sends its newsletter to many other Mac user groups all over the world, and we get a copy of their newsletters in return. The South Australian Apple Users Club (SAAUC) must be familiar to some, because Paul Pazdera has been sending a copy of its NL to members every month for a while. For nearly a year now, I having been wiring "The view from BC" in it. Most material is the same as in Millard's Mac Musings, but I usually add something just for them about BC and Canada, if possible. SAAUC's secretary, Judith Watts, sent this description of their club meetings:

*The evening meetings [first Fridays] are our traditional main meetings. Numbers vary between 90 and 150+. We hold special interest groups (SIGs) one meeting. Then the next month is usually one or more presentations. If our plans hold in 2008, I think we are due for SIGs at the evening meeting in June. Library, membership, updates Mac and troubleshooting facilities are available at evening meetings. We have supper, which often proves to be a valuable time for solving issues over a cuppa.*

*The Wednesday [daytime] meetings have been held for four years and this meeting has developed a character of its own. We have between 30 and 40 members who usually attend. For some, this is their only meeting for various reasons. The meeting has an informal format in which we encourage members to discuss issues suggested on the email list or by members in attendance on the day. General Mac issues, Leopard and photographic topics have been ongoing recently. I find it very pleasing to watch members assisting members and not necessarily relying on the usual club 'presenters' for assistance. We also have a good crew of willing volunteers who assist in setting up and preparing afternoon tea. Membership facilities (if I am there), updates Mac are available. Troubleshooting assistance depends on who is attending that particular day meeting. Some of our club experts have day jobs.*

# Review: Mac OS X Leopard: The Missing Manual

BY ELLIS BRAYHAM

Author David Pogue and O'Reilly have produced the definitive book on Apple's new Leopard. A massive 894 pages, it is without doubt the only book you need to master Leopard. After all, many of Leopard's 300 new items are complex, and if you have, or are about to get Leopard, this is the book for you.



It is impossible to review this book and cover everything. There is simply far too much to comprehend, let alone try to figure out. It's more a book to keep at your side as you explore Leopard. Pogue's clear, and sometimes humorous, explanations will go far in helping you understand and make use of these many new features. Now a few of them are glossy window dressing and may not be of great practical use, e.g. Stacks; but Time Machine, the automated backup program, is of great value. You will love numerous other Leopard features such as Quick Look—a fast and easy way of having a quick look about the document, without actually opening the program. It's a time saver. Spaces is also good for someone who typically has a number of apps open at one time; it is super easy to flit from one to the other, such as your web browser and email. Parental controls are also great, enabling you to keep track of what your kids are looking at, and who they are writing to.

Numerous other improvements have been added, from a more expansive iCal to improved mail and a lot of new stuff on iChat—which you will find quite superior to Skype. And it's free, of course, even showing you how to get a .Mac name without paying a bunch, and thus avoiding opening an account with AOL, another alternative. It's hard to see how phone companies can make any money with programs like iChat being readily available.

There are trade-offs—you cannot use OS9 software any more, and if there is something you obviously must keep, let's say Print Artist, then you may opt to keep your old Mac handy. Otherwise buy Leopard, and this book, (which should have been in the carton) and enjoy the finest operating system money can buy.

## TWO EARLY BIRD PRIZES



Feb 19th: iWork 08  
Mar 18th: Leopard OS 10.6



April 15<sup>TH</sup> GRAND PRIZE DRAW  
\$1,500 worth of Apple Products

Buy a Raffle Ticket: \$10 each or 3 for \$25  
open to club members only

OUR BIGGEST ANNUAL RAFFLE

# January Meeting Highlights

By BARBARA FITCH

On January 15th, 56 people gathered at the Scottish Cultural Centre for the first ApplesBC meeting of 2008. ApplesBC President, David Bailie, opened the meeting with a Question and Answer period.

Stephen Cheung from DMAC Discounts in Richmond manned a table at the meeting. Thank you Stephen for your presence at ApplesBC.



Our guest speaker for the evening, Apple Canada's **Brian Hutchison** reminded us that Steve Jobs had been speaking that morning in San Francisco about new Apple products.

He highlighted Time Capsule, iPod touch and the World's Thinnest Notebook, MacBook Air with an ultra thin design, a full-size keyboard and spacious display. An Optical Drive is only available externally. The last Steve Jobs highlight was that movies can be rented from iTunes and viewed on a computer, iPod or iPhone.

Then Brian moved on to the topic of Leopard, Apple's newest program. The ability to create Stacks is a simple way to keep a desktop tidy. Previews are greatly enhanced in Leopard. You can save Searches as stored searches and place customized Searches in the User Library File.

Brian continued with discussions of Time Machine which will automatically back up and Parental Controls where one can specify which applications can be visited. Leopard RSS (real simple syndication) and Spaces features were also touched on.

Of the 300 features on Leopard, Brian's favourite is the GPS Pro. Thank you Brian for your presentation.

Congratulations to **George Paikos** (top right) the first Early Bird Prize winner of a retail copy of the

latest iLife '08.



Wayne Stewart drew the following winners for the regular monthly raffles:

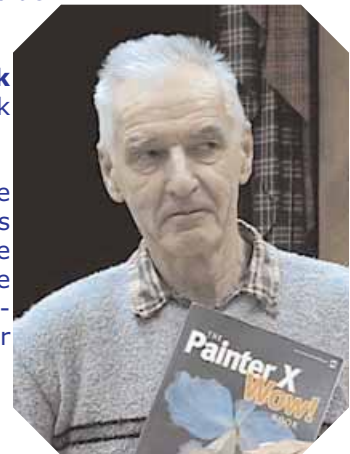
**Denny Svoboda** won the Painter X WOW! Book by Cher Threinen-Pendarvis.

**Sylvia Willis** won the 2002 NetGear Router Port Cable DSL Router Gateway.

**Mark Jaworski** won the Adobe Photoshop Elements 2.0 User Guide Book.

**Gary Pullyblank** took home a black cotton APPLE T-shirt.

Thank you to the donors of the prizes and to Graeme Murdoch and Lynne Henderson for digitally recording our meeting.



# Ask Terry

BY TERRY LAWRENCE, PERIWINKLE CONSULTING  
periwinkle@shaw.ca

## INSTALLING LEOPARD ON AN OLDER MAC

**Question:** *I am preparing to update my G4 Mac from my current Mac OS 10.2 Jaguar to the new Leopard system, but before I do I just want clarification on a couple of things: I am nervous about this not working and losing all my info so here are my questions:*

*How do you save emails to a DVD?*

*Will all my photos, videos, music from iPhoto and iTunes be lost or should I back them up?*

*I have several non-Apple apps (mainly Adobe stuff) installed—will I lose those?*

*OS 9 is installed on the computer—do I need to delete it first? (I never use the apps that need it) Would it be best to do a full archive to an external hard drive? Your help is appreciated.*

**Answer:** First off, updating to a new version of the operating system should not (and usually does not) delete anything, unless you specifically choose Erase Destination Disk from the options available by clicking the Options Button about four windows into the installer. I recommend using the Archive and Restore option to install a clean version of the operating system without carrying any artifacts forward from the previous system, while at the same time preserving all existing data. The previous system is disabled and put into a folder of that name on the hard drive for subsequent manual deletion. Nothing is deleted.

That being said, it is always a good idea to back up any critical files before running a major system update. In fact, you should always make a backup of all critical files anyway, since a hard drive can fail at any time.

Step one: Before doing anything else, check that your computer meets the minimum requirements for installing Leopard. That means it has a G4 867MHz or faster processor, at least 512MB RAM (Memory) installed, and at least 5GB of free space on the hard drive. I would say 10GB is a more realistic minimum, since you will need some free space

to use the computer after installing the new operating system. Next, open the Disk Utility application located in the Utilities folder in the Applications folder on your hard drive. Run the Repair Permissions routine to make sure the computer has assigned the correct ownership and permissions to all files. It's a good idea to do this about once a month as routine maintenance.

Assuming you have a DVD or CD burner, you would use a program such as Toast or Dragon Burn or Liquid CD to open a Drag and Drop burn window and drag and drop the desired files into it. Then click on the Burn button and insert a CD or DVD when prompted. If none of those programs is installed, go to the File Menu and choose New Burn Folder from the drop down menu. Drag the items you want to burn into the new Burn Folder and from the File Menu choose Burn New Burn Folder to initiate burning the CD or DVD.

How you back up your email depends on which email program you are using, since the various programs keep their data files in assorted folders with different names in various locations. Apple Mail keeps the data in a file named Mail in the Library folder in your user folder. Eudora keeps the mail in a folder named Eudora in the Documents folder in your user folder. Microsoft Entourage keeps the mail in a folder named Microsoft User Data in the Documents folder in your user folder. Firefox/Thunderbird, Mozilla, and Netscape keep their mail in a folder named Mozilla in the Application Support folder in the Library folder in your user folder, and so forth.

None of your third party Applications from whatever source should be affected in any way. Photos, music, video, and so forth are not affected by a system update, but sometimes the newer versions of iPhoto can cause problems. This does not delete the photos, but on rare occasions iPhoto will fail to update the photo format correctly and refuse to open them. The actual photos are still OK, and they can be opened with other programs such as Preview or Graphic Converter. They can also be restored into iPhoto, but it takes a bit of time and patience to manually load them back in, if this (very, very rare)

## Ask Terry continued

problem occurs. I have upgraded iPhoto at least 300 times in the past few years for various clients, and have seen this problem about 4 or 5 times.

I have also on a few occasions seen the Apple Mail program corrupt the contents of the Inbox following an update. Only the Inbox is affected, for whatever reason. So if you want to be really sure about saving your mail, if using this particular program, simply create another Mailbox (folder) named whatever, and drop the mail in your Inbox into the new folder before updating. You can drag it back to the Inbox later. To move all the letters in one shot, after creating the new Mailbox (folder), click on ONE letter in the Inbox and from the Edit Menu, choose Select All to highlight all the letters in the Inbox. Drag one letter onto the new save folder, and they will all come along for the ride.

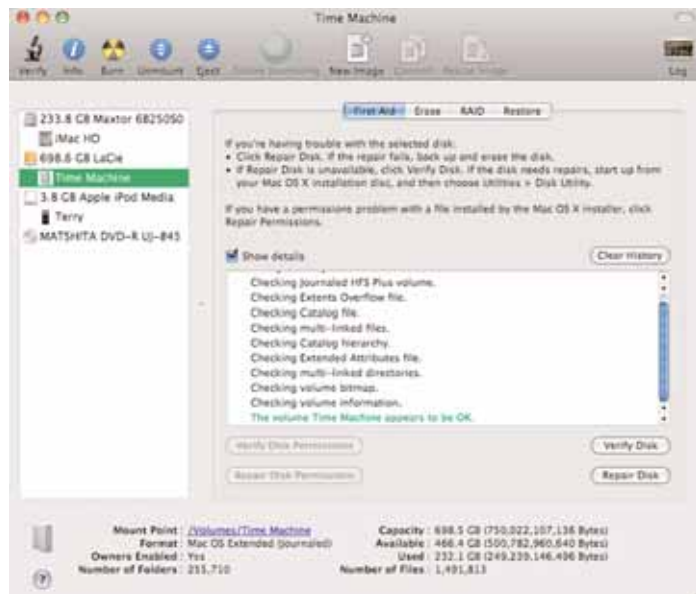
If you have an external hard drive, doing a full archive would preserve everything. I would recommend using SuperDuper or Carbon Copy Cloner for that purpose. Either of them will make an identical bootable clone of your hard drive onto another hard drive. Both programs are available free from <http://www.versiontracker.com>. The destination drive must be large enough to accommodate all the data on the source drive.

If you are no longer using OS 9, you should delete the OS 9 System Folder and Applications (OS 9) folder before installing the new system. You may have difficulty doing this if your present system is 10.2.8 or older, because those files have System ownership, and the computer will tell you that you don't have permission to move or delete them. In that case, just run the Leopard installer first, and then delete the OS 9 folders off later, at the same time you delete the previous System folder. The computer will ask for your password before deleting them. Leopard does not support Classic, so you will not be able to run any OS 9 applications while booted from Leopard. If you have a second hard drive with Jaguar, Panther or Tiger installed on it, you will still be able to boot the computer from that drive and run the OS 9

Classic applications from there if need be.

When you are ready, insert the Leopard DVD and restart the computer, holding down the "C" key on the keyboard to boot from the DVD. After the computer starts from the DVD, open the Disk Utility from the Utilities Menu and click on your hard drive icon in the list on the left to select (highlight) it. Click on the First Aid tab and click on Repair Disk. See screenshot.

That will check for and (hopefully) correct any problems in the drive directory before installing.



Also run the Repair Permissions routine while you have the Disk Utility open. After running those maintenance routines, quit the Disk Utility and return to the Installer window. Click Agree, Agree, Agree a few times until you get to the Choose a Destination Drive window. Click on the desired destination drive, and then click on the Options button. From the Options, choose Archive and Restore. In the next window, click on the Customize Button and deselect (uncheck) all the Fonts, Languages, and Printers that don't apply.

This will save about 3GB of space on your hard drive and considerably speed up the installation process. No point installing software for a bunch of Asian fonts you can't read, languages you don't speak and printers you will never own. Click Next a couple of times, and go get a cup of Tea while the installation proceeds.

Installation takes about 30 minutes, or half an hour if you watch it.

After restarting and deleting off the Previous System folder from the hard drive, (don't forget to empty the Trash), go to the Apple Menu and choose Software Update. Run all available updates. You will need to do this several times, because some updates such as Java code and some Security updates trigger subsequent updates. Eventually it will tell you no more updates are available. That's it. You're as up to date as you can get.

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2008 AGM of ApplesBC Computer Society will be held at 7:00 pm  
on Tuesday March 18th, 2008  
at the Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver, B.C.

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE BOARD OF APPLESBC COMPUTER SOCIETY

Although nominations for election to the Executive will be accepted from the floor at the AGM, members may also submit their own or another member's name by contacting Executive members (see Page 15).



### Which iPod are you?

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#### iPod classic

80GB \$279 | 160GB \$399

#### iPod nano

4GB \$169 | 8GB \$219

#### iPod touch

8GB \$329 | 16GB \$449

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## Getting To Know You . . . Sylvia Willis

*Q What is your favourite Mac software?*

SW What have I tried that is specifically Mac? Can speak more to what I do with my Mac. As a Left Brain/Right Brain fusion person, I have feet in both science (zoology technology/admin work) and ART. So while I use stuff like Word and Excel daily, I especially enjoy using all things Adobe (currently Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign). I would love to get more into video editing and explore GarageBand. For Web browsing, I like Firefox—tabs opened from a single page can be set to open adjacently, or be dragged; you can put key links into a “tool bar” and you can sync bookmarks between home and work, laptop, wherever. iPhone; yum!

To be explored: Bought an iPod nano awhile ago to “jazz up” the pace of my exercising, but it is still virgin as I haven’t had time to lay in some tunes. Recently got a previously-loved MacBook Pro and plan to go wireless; and Leopard’s Time Machine is looking REALLY good. Love the versions, and many MANY Leopard features—ooh, those Stacks, Spaces and Boot Camp. File accessibility as it should be! Also want Adobe CS3 for design and the web; animation software. And Time to explore it all!

*Q What do you like most about ApplesBC?*

SW Wonderful, knowledgeable people always patient and willing to share their wisdom. No one makes a question feel too “beginner.” Everyone jumps in with information; you don’t have to feel shy about asking or about contributing.

*Q Why is “retirement” not an option?*

SW I don’t think in terms of “retiring” so much as changing channels. I never plan to retire from life. My mom years back told me about a guy who on retirement went to bed and never left it for the next 7 years. Inconceivable! Even in times of unemployment, I was occupied essentially “full time,” in volunteer work in spiritual and “civic” communities; attending workshops; networking; and so forth; and would often say “I’m too busy to work.” What keeps our brains/minds from deteriorating with age is living fully and creatively — learning new things (and not just new computer software) and physical activity. I would eventually like to retire from the 9-to-5 office scene and have time to pursue more creative endeavours, including painting in acrylic and watercolour, dance and being more Mac-maniacal and ept. Work is unfortunately strictly PC.

*Q What would you like to know more about?*

SW Mac, Mac and Mac—beyond beginners - ville . Animation . Interactive media. Motion graphics. Year-round veggie gardening. Raw Food as a lifestyle (It’s been known to rid one of cancer, even.) French.

Healing arts such as emotional stress defusion.



*Q What was the turning point in your life?*

SW One of my favourite songs goes: “Turning points point the way.” Another speaks to the challenges in life as “stepping stones.” There are many in any person’s life. Some of mine: marriage, divorce, marriage; parenting; single parenting; owning a health store; switching from “fish culturist” at a salmon hatchery to computer-geek in Multimedia and desktop publishing; returning to employee status (with some travel); and joining ApplesBC. Nothing is by accident; we draw our experiences to us in life. Multimedia brought together all the “avocations” I’d been exploring: art, psychology, interpersonal and written communication, and more; but I could never have had that as a goal in life because it didn’t exist as a “discipline” while I was exploring (while the universe was preparing me). Serendipity!

*Q What is the purpose of life and living?*

SW To know our Selves as Soul, as explorers of the universes of creation and our place in it, using the current body we occupy and experiences we attract. We have been beggars and kings, scholars and warriors, and everything in between, with the express purpose of achieving spiritual freedom, learning to be love. “HU” is an ancient name for God, and our purpose is expressed in what we call ourselves: “HU-man Be-ing.”

*Q Alive or dead, who has inspired you the most?*

SW Spiritual guides outer and inner; “angels” in suits and sweats—Harold Klemp, for one. Gandhi. One dear, departed friend, Sharon, who helped me learn to “Be” outside the box, and one living “kin-

dred spirit," Jo, who helps me keep a broader, higher perspective. Dr. Christiane Northrup for insights into the "third age" of my life—my wisdom years. My daughter, Rose. Late, beloved cats "Tihu" and "Mr. C." All have been agents and teachers of Love and Grace.

*Q Words to live by . . .*

SW A butterfly wing looks smooth, but under an electron microscope is revealed myriad curves, channels and convolutions, and what appears to be a single colour is actually an indescribable variety of unnameable hues. Such is life. If you think you've learned a truth—about anything, contemplate on it. Turn it over, and look at all sides; look deeper; and look at it again, and again. Since our

consciousness grows or diminishes as a result of all we do, it is always growing, changing; and so is our perception.

If you can't do what you love, love what you do. Anything else is Soul-killing, and will lead to burn-out. Happiness is not a goal; it's the journey. As Bobby McFerrin sang back when: "Don't Worry. Be Happy." A happy person, relaxed in Self, is more open to intuitive answers to life's challenges and more creative in meeting them. Live in the moment.

Best said in Ron Elkan's email signature: "The past is history; the future, a mystery. Today is a gift. That's why it's called the Present."

### THE ZEN OF PERSONAL COMPUTER FAILURE

From the Macintosh website:

When one suffers a failure of a personal computer, it is a tragedy of immense proportions, but if it happens to someone else, it is only one failure in 10,000 units.

### NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Send your letters, questions, ideas, requests and notices by email to: [editor@applesbc.org](mailto:editor@applesbc.org) or by mail to the Editor, ApplesBC Computer Society, 258-3495 Cambie Street, Vancouver, BC V5Z 4R3. Newsletter contributions received before the **15th of each month** will be considered for inclusion. Articles may be edited for clarity and space. Placement and timing of submissions is at the editor's discretion.

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## Book Sites Unseen

BY BETH GIBSON

A study mentioned in a documentary called "Buyology" established that when shopping, a man's blood pressure rises and does not return to normal until the end of the day, despite how short the shopping trip may have been.

I wonder if anyone has done that study with Internet shopping. Well, it is really of no mind to me on account of being female, fortified by two strong X chromosomes, I can shop and shop. And shop. In stores, by way of catalogues, on the net. Doesn't matter. Combining one of my most favoured loves, books, and shopping, well, wow. Add to the mix not having to parallel park, Heaven.

So let me expand on my three favourite book sites: AbeBooks, Amazon.com and PowellBooks.

**AbeBooks**—I found out about years ago, from WestWorld magazine, not a religiously pursued piece of reading matter for me. There were these couple of fellows who were computer programmers and worked for the BC Social Services Department. As bored as one might imagine at another interminable bureaucratic meeting, they started doodling internet book-selling plans.



How it works is that used bookstores around the world (literally) are able to list their books for sale on Abebooks' website. Almost right from the beginning, the selection has been phenomenal. To test it out, I put in a totally obscure book from my childhood. In seconds several copies came up, with the condition of the book, cost, cost of shipping, the seller and the seller's email. There was no front end, really, no "Search Visibility" hooks and the like. Simply a flawlessly working worldwide database of books. Just books.

They have expanded greatly now. It is, for exam-

ple, a very good place to sell one's old textbooks or look for rare first editions. Many new books are carried now, and the site has added colour. (Literally. It had been a most simple black and white site.) The database itself appears unchanged. See Graphic 1.

Now moving from this end of the spectrum of simplicity and no hard sell, hardly any sell, actually, we all know **Amazon Books**. Not in Kansas anymore. Amazon has a .ca and a .com site. It probably has many more geographically based sites around the world. Loud, brassy, with fabulous information-mining software. You sign in and wow, they welcome you by name. Their first page is filled with books and other items they think you might be interested in, based on your previous behaviour at their site. Often at the top is a garish icon of a treasure box. Click on it and you are offered a series of (non-book) items that you can purchase for a deep discount within a certain number of hours.

As on eBay, they have agreements with outside vendors to advertise their wares on Amazon. It makes sense. Why not sell kitchen sinks if you've got the person there anyway and it is obvious from their book searches that they are looking to renovate their kitchen? Amazon will try to sell you the books, the linoleum, the kitchen curtain and the sink. Starbucks has done well peddling CDs, so why not?

I have been buying on Amazon.com since our dollar finally regained its proper place in the universe. They ask each time, however, wouldn't I like to shop in the .ca site? Um no. I have better uses for that 20% penalty assessed for being Canadian than you do.

It is the only site that my son, caution embodied, has been scammed on. One of their sellers [he didn't check its reputation first] sold him, for \$80, a book that was represented as hardcover and turned out to be a paperback. I suppose he was lucky to get the book at all. Judge Judy has a case in which a woman bought a cell phone on eBay at a fair price and received a colour picture of it. Period. Couple of hundred dollars. The buyer was utterly unrepentant, BTW.

Now **PowellBooks**, unlike the other two, has physical sites. In fact, to sell books to them, you have to bring the books to one of their stores. <blech> or mail them <not>. The best thing

about this site is that you can sign up for the most useful of plain text emails. For a long time I received their daily (you can choose weekly) emails listing all the books, prices, condition, etc., added that week to their inventory of the interests I had chosen.

Now on any site, whether books or bicycles, I prefer using PayPal to credit cards. I would \*never\* send my credit card number by email. Ever. But even large sites such as Amazon have been brought to their knees, and I am too little a person to want my credit card information to leak out of there. If I have to, I use a particular credit card number reversed only for internet purchases. However, that doesn't protect the rest of my information: name, address, etc. Too much to slide out of every book-seller around the country. Or just that one site. Doesn't matter.

In **MORNINGMACS**, for intermediate users and in **NEW2MACS**, the group for brand new beginners, we spend a fair bit of time discussing and trading hints on how to keep our information safe. If you would like to come, please call me at 604-261-8682.

### IN MEMORY OF DONALD HODGSON

Long time Mac lover Donald Hodgson passed away December 8th, 2007 at the age of 73 after a short illness.

He retired as a teacher at 60 and started the Mac work at 65. His real love was photo-editing and he had completed the monumental task of archiving 15,000 images left to him by his father. He will be missed by all who knew him.

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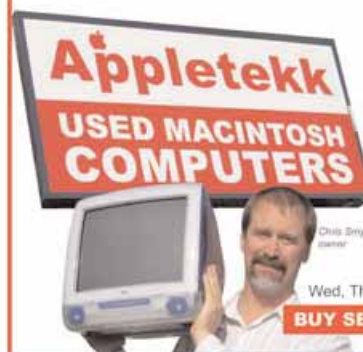
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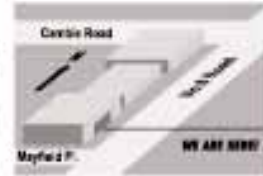
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