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Apple Barrel

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OS 10.1: Time to leave OS 9 behind?

BY ADAM C. ENGST
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The real question I'm sure many of you are asking at this point is if Mac OS X 10.1 is good enough to entice those who haven't yet set themselves up to be Apple's guinea pigs. Let me table the answer to that question briefly first and address the guinea pigs.

Run, don't walk, to your local Apple dealer and get a copy of Mac OS X 10.1 via the Instant Up-To-Date program (and if that's not possible, send in your $20 for the full Mac OS Up-To-Date upgrade, especially if you need the updated developer tools). The closest I've found to a reason not to upgrade instantly is that the current beta release of Retrospect Client for Mac OS X from Dantz Development can't do a full system restore in 10.1, although Dantz's testing indicates that restoring user-created documents should work. If you're doing real work on Mac OS X and relying on the Retrospect Client beta, I'd recommend extra caution. Otherwise, 10.1 is better than 10.0 in every way I can see. If it hasn't yet sanded down every rough edge, well, Apple developers are only human too.

Now, for you fence-sitters: I think Apple has done their job in getting Mac OS X ready for prime time with this release, so now the question of whether to make the switch comes down to other variables.

DOES MAC OS X ACTUALLY OFFER YOU ANYTHING USEFUL?

If you're happy with your existing setup and you don't feel the need to start moving toward the future at the moment, there's no shame in sticking with what you're using now. At the same time, Mac OS X 10.1 is good enough that I'm starting to feel excitement—rather than constant irritation—when I play with it on my iBook.

HAVE THE APPLICATIONS YOU NEED BEEN CARBONIZED?

And if they're not carbonized, are the existing versions sufficiently functional under Classic? Here the responsibility falls at least in part to Macintosh developers (there are still problems that only Apple can resolve that may hamper developers). If the applications you need are not ready now, check again at Macworld San Francisco in January of 2002.

WOULD SWITCHING TO MAC OS X MEAN THE LOSS OF PERIPHERALS?

You can always boot back into Mac OS 9, but that shouldn't be necessary for a device you need to use regularly. Driver support for new peripherals

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Apple DVD presentation this month, LeVitus in Dec.

Apple Computer and Microsearch, Inc. will present a two-hour seminar on creating your own DVD projects on Saturday, Nov. 17, at the monthly General Meeting. The presenters will offer information on how you can get the most from Apple hardware and software for your DVD projects. HAAUG will meet as usual in Duncan Hall on the campus of Rice University. Please note the Main Presentation starts at 10:00 AM—an hour earlier than usual.

Bob "Dr. Mac" LeVitus

In December, HAAUG welcomes back **Bob LeVitus** for his annual "state of the Mac" address at our main presentation on Saturday, Dec. 8, at 11:15 AM. As usual, LeVitus will cover "What's Hot and What's Not," the 2001 Apple Report Card, what Mac(s) he's driving these days, the Coolest of Cool Products, and—after nine months of everyday use—his 2001 Mac OS X report. "Dr. Mac's" annual report on Apple hardware and software is always interesting, so be sure mark your calendar now. Austin resident LeVitus is the author of more than 35 books and a weekly column in the Houston Chronicle. Please note the December monthly meeting will be held early in the month on the second Saturday.

And finally, start planning ahead for the January Swap Meet!

Apple Barrel is a monthly publication of the Houston Area Apple Users' Group, P.O. Box 570957, Houston, Texas 77257-0957.

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If you are interested in joining HAAUG, please call the HAAUG Hotline at (713) 522-2179 or sign up via our web site http://www.haaug.org. Annual membership is $45 for new members, $40 for renewing members, $20 for student members and $20 for associate members (out-of-state members who receive the Apple Barrel through e-mail only). The Hotline is also the Mentor line if you need help.

Guests are welcome to attend one or two meetings to get acquainted with HAAUG, but participation in certain presentations and activities may be limited.

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APPLE BARREL PUBLISHING
The Apple Barrel was produced by a committee including Elizabeth English, Manley Mandel and Janet Marks, led by George Sroka on various Macs running PageMaker, among other things. April Enos designed the logo in the masthead.

MAC AND APPLE SIGS WANTED
Volunteers who have ideas for SIGs to run, please contact David Scheuer at (713) 464-1228 or send e-mail to david_scheuer@haaug.org.

ARTICLES NEEDED - ALL FLAVORS
Send to Apple Barrel Drop on HAAUG Heaven or e-mail to apple_barrel_drop@haaug.org.

MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING • OCT. 2, 2001

Members in attendance: Jeff Davis, Mort Butler, Lyda McGhee, Randy Herzstein, Jonathan Magnus, Joe Fournet, Mike Lawshae, C.J. Settles, Rex Covington, George Sroka, Elizabeth English, Howard Fitter, Mike Epstein, Patty Winkler, Amy Denton.

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Davis at 6:30 p.m.

Reports

Secretary – Lyda McGhee: The minutes were approved as amended.

First Vice President: Programs – Rex Covington Apple will be here in November and will present the new machines with the new iDVD. Bob LeVitus has confirmed for December 8th and the swap meet is in January.

Second Vice President: Facilities – Jonathan Magnus: The confusion about room locations at Rice still persists so we will number the rooms to make it simpler for people to find them.

Treasurer – Elizabeth English: There is a net income of $192.52. We need to form an Audit Committee and a Budget Committee.

Membership – Mike Lawshae: Current membership is 382 as opposed to 357 at this time last year. This month we bought the Email Merge program that works with FileMaker and we are using it for early renewals and to solicit update changes.

Apple Barrel – George Sroka: Everything is "rolling into autumn ablaze with autumn color." We had a good response to requests for photos taken at Digital Day and for the experts list. We still need a Photoshop expert.

Apple Barrel Ad Manager – Peter Gingiss: was not present and no report was given.

SIG Coordinator – David Scheuer: was not present and no report was given.

Apple Librarian – Mort Butler: We need to burn 50 CDs for Update #3 and have them ready for the October meeting, hopefully.

Mentor Program – Jim Oliver: was not present and no report was given.

Volunteer Coordinator – David Crook: was not present and no report was given.

Publicity Chairman – Joe Fournet and Mike Lawshae: Press releases are out for Corel and Apple. We need volunteers and a new Volunteer Coordinator. We have heard nothing from David Crook.

Boutique Manager – Amy Denton: New T-shirts are not here yet.

Committee Reports

HAAUG Heaven – Randy reports that HH is running fine and backups are made on a regular basis. Accounts are deleted 30 days after membership lapses. What about a special conference folder for each SIG?

Internet Committee – We are still looking at options regarding HAAUGNet. All must be done by Oct. 15.

Old Business

Strictly Business Expo – A banner has been ordered with the HAAUG logo. Email will be sent soliciting volunteers and a free T-shirt will be given to each volunteer. Postcards have been ordered and the brochures need to be finished.

Voice Mail – HAAUG Hotline – At the present time, we have an answering machine that tells people to go to www.haaug.org and takes no messages. The answering machine also includes the date and topic of the next general meeting. John Reeves will head up HAAUG Hotline. We need the ability to leave a message if a member is having computer trouble.

New Business

As of the December, 2001 general meeting, you must have a membership badge or membership card to participate in raffles, purchase Update CDs, vote at meetings, and purchase auction items. This will be put in the *Apple Barrel* immediately and there will be reminder emails.

A motion was made and approved to relocate HAAUG Heaven to Randy's house if necessary.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Apple Barrel November & December issues combined

Due to time constraints, this is the last issue of the *Apple Barrel* for 2001. Normally, the December *Apple Barrel* would arrive before the December General Meeting. However, HAAUG meets on Dec. 8 this year, making production, printing and mailing of the *Apple Barrel* prior to the meeting nearly impossible .

In lieu of the *Apple Barrel*, a postcard will be mailed to remind you that Bob LeVitus is speaking at the December meeting, which also features the annual election for officers and the board of directors.

AppleSpec Database revised & free to download

Need to know specifications on your computer's memory requirements, ports, motherboard, sound, power requirements and more? Then download the newly-revised version of the AppleSpec Database.

Released on Oct. 17, the free AppleSpec Database 10.01 includes in-depth product details on every Apple and Macintosh computer produced up to that time. The 14-megabyte download is available at http://download.cnet.com/downloads/.

Please note that the AppleSpec database is available only as a series of FileMaker 5 database files. If you don't have FileMaker 5 or greater, you won't be able to access the database.

Former HAAUG president Mike Lee dies

Former HAAUG member and club president Mike Lee died Thursday, Oct. 18, in the V A Hospital, according to e-mail sent to current HAAUG President Jeff Davis.

Lee took over the HAAUG presidency from Bill Frank. Lee launched HAAUG on the path to offering its own internet service.

Further details were unavailable.

Updated iTunes, Netscape, GraphicConverter available

iTunes 2, introduced with Apple's new iPod, is now available as a free download. Currently the showcase of Apple's digital hub strategy, the music player adds a 10-band equalizer with 22 presets, a crossfader for smooth transitions between songs, and automatic synchronization with the iPod. The update also boasts CD burning at twice the speeds of the original version.

http://www.apple.com/itunes/

Netscape Communications has released **Netscape 6.2**, bringing full Mac OS X compatibility and fixing bugs. The new version exists as an application package for Mac OS X, which means installation is merely a matter of dragging the Netscape file to your hard disk. A number of problems have been fixed, such as sluggish performance on dual-processor Power Macs and LDAP functionality. Netscape 6.2 requires a PowerPC 604e running at 266 MHz or faster, with at least 64 MB of RAM and Mac OS 8.5 or later. The Mac OS X version is a 16.9 MB download; the Mac OS 9 version downloads just needed modules, so be prepared for a potentially lengthy installation process. http://home.netscape.com/computing/download/

Lemke Software has updated **GraphicConverter**, its popular shareware image-editing application, adding support for even more image file formats and incorporating bug fixes. GraphicConverter 4.1 adds support for importing JPEG2000 and Nokia .pict images, and improves TIFF importing. The program also supports ColorSync profiles during printing, adds an unsharp mask (image sharpening) feature, and improves functionality under Mac OS X. GraphicConverter 4.1 is a free upgrade for registered users; the shareware price is $35.

http://graphicconverter.net/

Wanna be a big cheese? HAAUG elections in Dec.

HAAUG members interested in running for an office or serving on the board of directors should contact Mort Butler, head of the Nominating Committee. You can reach Mort via e-mail at mort@pdq.net or via cell phone at 281-650-6080.

It's fun (really), you get to help promote the Macintosh computing experience and contribute to the user group. C'mon…take a chance.

Student Memberships cost only $20

Drop by our monthly meeting with your student ID or sign up as an associate member online at www.kagi.com (search for HAAUG). When you present your student ID, you'll be upgraded from associate to full membership.

HAAUG Specialists

Here's the latest version of the HAAUG Specialists List. The list is sorted by software/hardware category with the person or persons who specialize listed below the category followed by their e-mail address. If you'd prefer a phone call, e-mail them a few details on your problem and your phone number. Many thanks to HAAUG Heaven SYSOPS Randy Herzstein for gathering and organizing the information in a FileMaker database. — The Editor

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MacDict provides online dictionary, translations

BY M. TODD LASSICH
BISHOP EASTERN SIERRA MACINTOSH USER GROUP

MacDict is a cool freeware program that lets you use dictionary, thesaurus and other reference servers on the internet. Your reference books will never be out of date again!

Simple to use, and fast, simply select "Any", "All" or 11 different internet dictionary databases, type in a word or phrase and click the "Go!" button. In my test, I selected "All", looked up the word "computer" and received four responses from four servers in less than two seconds. After you receive the responses to your query, a simple drop menu at the right of the window lets you select each of the definitions from the different servers your word or phrase was found on.

Databases include: Elements Database Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary, WordNet, U.S. Gazetteer, Jargon File, Dictionary of Computing, Easton's Bible Dictionary, Hitchcock's Bible Names Dictionary, The Devil's Dictionary, C.I.A. World Factbook, and V.E.R.A. Virtual Entity of Relevant Acronyms.

If that's not enough for you, there's two translation dictionaries as well. Translate words and phrases to and from English, German, Dutch, French, Spanish, Italian, Danish, Swedish, Finnish, Norwegian, Portuguese, Frisian, Afrikaans, Hungarian, Czech, Esperanto and Latin using "Translate."

Or use the "BabelFish" option to translate long phrases or entire paragraphs between any of these languages. (From the Douglas Adams Hitchhiker series, the Babel Fish was "small, yellow, leech-like and probably the oddest thing in the universe." It could instantly translate any form of communication if you put one in your ear).

As a test, I had Babel Fish translate "Fred, the dead, red fish" to French and German. In French, it's "Fred, morts et rouges les poissons", and in Geman, "Fred, die toten, roten Fische." Oh, it appears proper punctuation can be very important to the results of your translation.

MacDict is available for download at http://www.bainsware.com along with several other free and inexpensive programs. It comes with a registration utility, and registration is encouraged but free. The author does note that donations are appreciated. And I think that most users will find MacDict useful enough to voluntarily donate a few dollars toward the development of new, cool software.

Copyright 2001 beSMUG. Originally appeared in "Sage Thoughts," the newsletter of the Bishop Eastern Sierra Macintosh User Group, October 2001.

Welcome new, renewing members

Ben Adair	Sue Hansen	George Laing	Chris Sanders
Joan Alford	Larry Haymes	Michael Lawshae	Scott Sheinfeld
Jerry Black	Randy Herzstein	Daniel LeSage	B Douglas Smith Jr
Philip Booth	James Hogan	W F Lewis	Joseph Sybille
Morton Butler	Diallo Kantambu	Robert Love	Edward Tallichet
Daniel Cousins	Dennis Keller	J W Post	Hubert Tett
Rob Cuthbert	Cathy Kent	John Potter	James Tucker
Amy Denton	Jane Ladner	John Roehm	Robert Yawn

OS 10.1: Time to leave OS 9 behind?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

should continue to improve, although I wouldn't put money on particularly elderly peripherals being supported.

ARE YOU WILLING TO INVEST THE TIME IN LEARNING & CONFIGURING

OS X is a whole new operating system, complete with a whole new set of quirks and foibles. It takes time to read the mailing lists for configuration tips and to hunt down the shareware utilities that eliminate interface irritations. But there's an undeniable satisfaction in getting a system just right, and doing that in classic Mac OS hasn't been particularly challenging for some time.

Whatever you decide, rest assured that Apple is serious about improving Mac OS X and standardizing on it. This new version shows what Apple can do. I have increasingly high hopes that future versions will finish playing catch-up with Mac OS 9 and start forging new ground.

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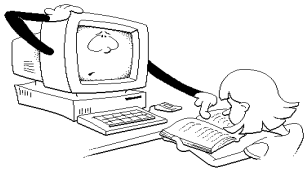

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SIG Schedule

NOV. 17, 2001
updated Nov. 7, 2001

	McMurtry Auditorium	Jensen Conference Room	Jamail Conference Room	Anteroom to Jamail Conference
9:00	**HTML** **Bob Lacey** This will be the last meeting of the HTML, as Bob Lacey will no longer be available. We thank him for the conducting this SIG. The HTML folder on HAAUG Heaven will continue, and he will try to add lessons and respond to questions and problems posted to it. Thanks, Bob.	**SPREADSHEETS** **Joe Muscara** Have a question about how to do something with a spreadsheet? Drop on by and we'll help you figure it out. In the meantime, just don't be surprised if the discussion roams to the latest Macs, what's in the new OS, what's new for the Mac, or anything else remotely Mac related.	**MAC 101** **Ken Martinez** Prerequisite, owning a Mac or Mac clone: This one hour SIG is for everyone with Macintosh hardware questions, beginners on up. Join us with your questions and comments. This SIG is general although hardware oriented, Mac Fundamentals leans more toward system software.	**Available**
10:00 Starts Early! **NOON**	**MAIN PRESENTATION:** **Apple DVD** **Microsearch** Join Apple Computer, and Microsearch, Inc. for a free two-hour special seminar to learn all about how to create your own DVD projects. Tickets for drawings for giveaways, if any, will be given out at the beginning of the main presentation to members with membership badges or cards *only*.	**APPLE/CLARISWORKS** **John Reeves** For Nov/Dec., I plan to update some stock market charts in the post-911 era, show how to display those digital images in AW, and to show some of the updated features of AW 6 while using Mac OS X.1.	**MAC FUNDAMENTALS** **Jonathan Magnus** A beginner's SIG that will answer beginner and intermediate questions. The operating system ins and outs, the built-ins and the add-ons, tuning it and keeping it happy. This general SIG is mainly software oriented.	**Available**
12:15	**BUSINESS MEETING: Club President Jeff Davis** The business meeting will be conducted on time, even if it means interrupting an unfinished main presentation in order to let SIG leaders and other attendees make it to 12:30 SIGs on time. If the main presentation has more to offer it will resume after the business meeting. Drawings, if any, will be held at the end of the business meeting. **FOLLOWED BY THE NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION AT 12:25.**			
12:30 Special SIG	**ADOBE GOLIVE** **Isabelle MacCrimmon** Get inside Adobe's web design and management application, and see it interact with other Adobe applications. An overview of GoLive 5's main features. This may resume in February, but for now consider it a one-time special, and be sure and attend.	**MOBILE COMPUTING** **Joe Kudrna** November Mobile will talk about PowerBook news, and any other "new" news.	**MAC OS X MEETS UNIX** **Jonathan Magnus** This will be a one-time special on the new Mac OS. Why did Apple put it on a UNIX base. Whats the command line? And lots more.	**MAC ONE-ON-ONE** Volunteers as available. We will try to have a few experienced Mac users to meet with people who need assistance either with a Mac or with the club itself. Discussions on a one-on-one basis. Volunteers are more than welcome to join in.
1:45	**DIGITAL WHATEVER** In November we will again, by request, present how to make a movie with IMovie 2 and a digital video camera.	**INTERNET** **Larry McLoughlin** Come make the most of the Internet.	Special SIGs **FREEWAY** **Joe Muscara** Freeway is Web design for creative individuals. Find out how Freeway enables you to create Web pages quickly and intuitively without coding HTML by hand, or even knowing HTML. I'll have a few demo CDs and brochures to give out, and I should have at least one full copy with a printed manual to raffle off to someone who stays for the entire presentation. I also hope to have info about user group pricing. Anyone who buys Freeway will be eligible for the Mac OS X version as a free upgrade. This is a one-time SIG.	**COCOA PROGRAMMING** **David Trevas** Would you like to learn a great way to write programs for Mac OS X? Cocoa is the object-oriented frameworks from Apple that gives you the best access to the advanced features of the new operating system. We'll discuss introductory and advanced topics, so any Mac user can enjoy the session. This month Dave Trevas will present Arrays in Cocoa: Everybody Loves NSArraymond which discusses creating, using, manipulating, saving and retrieving this important Foundation class.

Changes:

OSX will not meet this month to allow time for the two-hour DVD special. Filemaker Pro SIG will not meet this month to provide the space for an Adobe GoLive SIG. A one-time SIG on web-site building software Freeway is planned. The Stock SIG is discontinued, due to lack of interest.

Upcoming Meetings

Apple, Microsearch on DVD creation

Apple/Microsearch will present the latest information on iDVD and the "digital lifestyle" during a special two-hour Main Presentation starting at 10:00 AM Nov. 17.

Bob "Dr. Mac" LeVitus will deliver his annual "Apple Year in Yeview" on Dec. 8—the second Saturday of the month. That's earlier than usual, so be sure to mark your calendars.

And start planning ahead for the January Swap Meet.

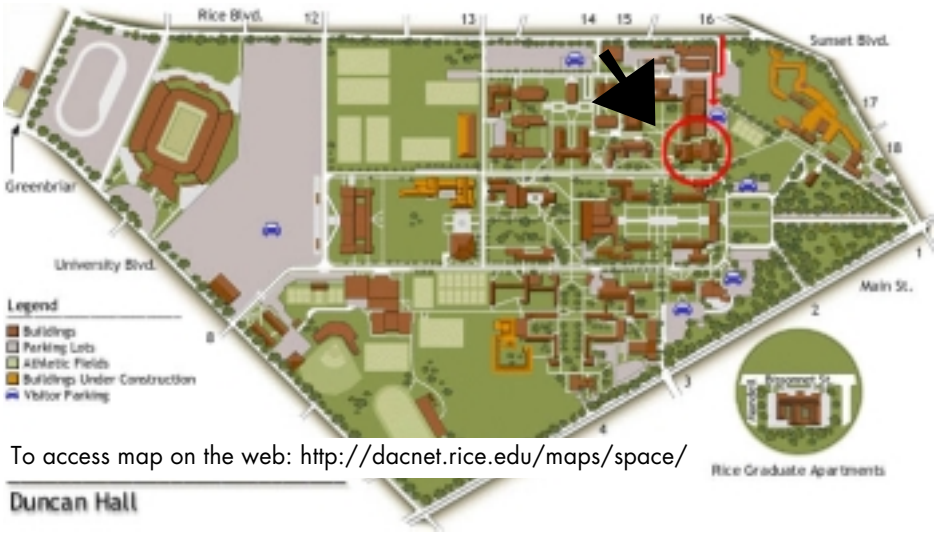
The next meeting of the **Board of Directors** will be Tuesday, Dec. 4, at HAL-PC, 4543 Post Oak Place. Check the HAAUG website (http://www.haaug.org) for any changes in location or schedule.

HAAUG meets at Rice University

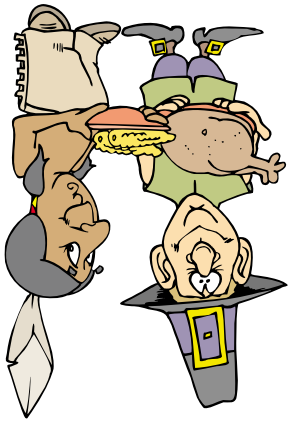
HAAUG's meets on the Rice University Campus in Duncan Hall. The meeting space is being donated by Rice, and we're extremely grateful for their generosity. **DIRECTIONS TO THE MEETING**:

From US 59/the Southwest Freeway: Exit Greenbriar. Turn South toward the Rice University Campus. Turn East (left) on Rice Blvd. at the light. Look for entrance 16 on the right past Rice Stadium.

From Loop 610/the South Loop: Exit Main Street. Turn North toward the Medical Center. Turn West (left) on Sunset Blvd. Sunset Blvd. and Rice Blvd. split in about 1/2 to 1 block. Bear left on Rice Blvd. Entrance 16 is the first parking lot entrance on the left.



To access map on the web: http://dacnet.rice.edu/maps/space/



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY
Apple & Microsearch on DVD creation	*Bob "Dr. Mac" LeVitus Apple Year in Review*	*Swap Meet Buy and Sell*

MAIN PRESENTATIONS

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