

Apple Barrel

The Journal of the Houston Area Apple Users Group

March 2014

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Taking Control of iCloud

Joe Kissell, Contributing Editor for *Macworld*
Saturday, March 15th

The March 15 Houston area Apple Users Group meeting will feature Joe Kissell. Joe is a prolific author with several titles in print including *Mac Security Bible*, *Several Take Control* titles including *Take Control of Your Passwords*, *Take Control of iCloud*, and *Take Control of Upgrading to Mavericks*.

He writes for Macworld and for TidBITS and has spoken at Macworld on the MacMania cruise. He has appeared at numerous Apple User groups and has guested on Mac related podcasts. For more information about Joe go to <http://joekissell.com>

Joe's topic will be Taking control of iCloud. Learn how to make better use of Apple's iCloud service.

The SIGs start at 9am and the Main Presentation begins at 11:15.
We'll see you there on the 15th!

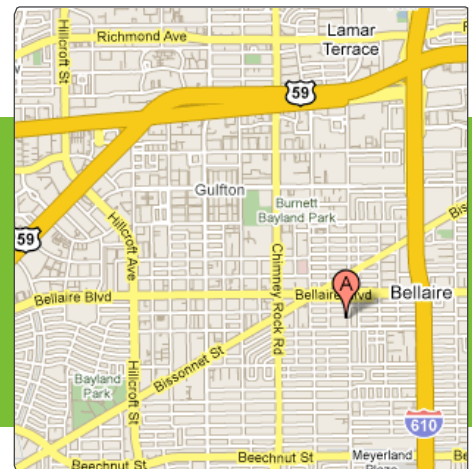


P.O. Box 570957
Houston, Texas 77257-0957

Meeting Location

Bellaire Civic Center
7008 South Rice Avenue
Bellaire, TX 77401

Just outside Loop 610 and
south of Bellaire Blvd.



Boss HAAUG Speaks

Monthly Address from the HAAUG President



It's March, and it is Rodeo time in Houston. So far, there is zip zilch nada news from Apple, even though the Apple annual shareholder's meeting took place the week that I am writing this column. The only news to come out is that there was no news. Maybe that is a good thing, as now all of our technology is at least up to date. The one item of news is that Apple released a security update for both iOS and MacOS 10.9. It is recommended that everyone update your devices.

On Wednesday, February 26, the network techs at UH changed a configuration trying to deal with a Denial of Service attack. This caused an 8 minute outage where no Internet traffic left or entered the university. At the time I was involved with live stream, and suddenly our network connections were gone. Our broadcast was interrupted, and we were never able to restart the broadcast. I looked at a text chat that my boss had with his daughter, who attends UH; after many rounds of "The Internet is not working", followed by "I can't do anything about it now", the last message was "This is annoying." Many of us can relate stories of when either our cable or DSL line is down, and it kept us from doing something. This points to the fact that for many of us, the Internet is as necessary as electricity or running water.

Many thanks to Bob LeVitus for his great presentation at the February Meeting. The links to the items that Bob talked about are in the Apple Barrel. It is always great to have speakers of Bob's quality come to the meeting live. The club is very lucky that we have enough money to support these activities.

In March, we will welcome another author: Joe Kissell, who has written several titles for the *Taking Control* series of books, as well as articles for *Macworld* and *TidBits*. His talk will cover the mystery that is iCloud. I hope that you will join us on Saturday March 15, and explore iCloud.

If there is a topic that you would like to see covered in a future meeting, please contact a member of the board to make the suggestion. The club can only serve you when you lets us know your interests.

Security Beat

Ed Truitt, etee@me.com



Ahhhh, February. We experienced so many things during the shortest month of the year: Black History Month (*have you been to the new [Buffalo Soldiers National Museum](#) in Midtown? If not, you need to pay it a visit!*); a lot of cold, cold weather; that holiday that drives sales of chocolates and flowers to record levels; the annual “State of Apple” presentation from “Dr. Mac”; and not one, but two... **Two... TWO!** major security updates to Apple software.

On Friday, February 21, Apple release security updates to iOS: iOS 7.0.6 and iOS 6.1.6, which provided “a fix for SSL connection verification.” That description belies the seriousness of the vulnerability: SSL (used to secure Web sites, email connections, and the like) was fundamentally broken, and it was a trivial matter for the bad actors to exploit this vulnerability and gain access to information you thought was private and secure. And by “trivial”, I mean “they are on the same shared network as you are”, basically. Apple also released Apple TV Software Update 6.0.2 on this day.

Almost immediately, someone published the fact that OS X 10.9 (Mavericks) suffered from the same problem, and the media started demanding to know when Apple was going to get off its corporate duff and provide a fix for Macs. Well, it didn’t take long: the following Tuesday, Feb 25, Apple released OS X Mavericks Update 10.9.2 addressing the same issue, along with Security Update 2014-001 for Mountain Lion (10.8) and Lion (10.7). Along with the SSL bug fix, fOS X 10.9.2 also included “[FaceTime Audio, new blocking controls for iMessage and FaceTime, call waiting support for FaceTime, Mail fixes for bugs with fetching messages, AutoFill improvements, and several other bug fixes and general improvements.](#)” This might explain the fact that the 10.9.2 update was almost 860 MB in size!

So, what was this horrible, horrible bug, and how long has it been around? It boiled down to a single, errant line of code - a “GoTo” statement which allowed attackers to bypass SSL/TLS verification, leaving iOS and OS X users vulnerable to a Man-In-the-Middle (MItM) attack. It appeared in iOS in 2012, but only affects Macs running OS X Mavericks. Previous versions (Mountain Lion and Lion) are not vulnerable to this bug.

Needless to say, if you are running vulnerable versions of iOS or OS X and have not yet applied the patch, then go and get patched. *Right now.*

Got Questions?

If so, please send them in to abe@haaug.org.

QuickTip

The Secure Notes feature in Keychain Access now allows syncing of notes across multiple Macs using iCloud Keychain.



To add a note to be synchronized across all of your configured Macs, select the iCloud keychain from the list and select File » New Secure Note item.... Make a title for the note, input some content, and save it. This note will now appear across all Macs. This feature is still exclusive to Mac OS; there is no iOS support yet.

Another way to add a note to the iCloud keychain is to drag an existing Secure Note from another keychain onto the iCloud keychain icon in the keychain list. Option+drag to copy, or just move it with drag and drop without a modifier key.

[**crarko adds:** I didn't have a chance to test this yet. I hope Apple does add this to iOS as well. It would be nice to have things go the other way.]

<http://hints.macworld.com/article.php?story=20140303121648944>

Links to Stuff “Dr. Mac” Likes

Bob “Dr. Mac” LeVitus

This is the list of URLs from Dr. Mac’s 2014 Houston Area Apple User Group Presentation

Spotify

<https://www.spotify.com>

Hitcase Pro

<http://www.hitcase.com>

Satechi Universal Smartphone CD Slot Mount

<http://www.satechi.net>

iKlip Studio

<http://www.ikmultimedia.com>

Reflector app

<http://www.airsquirrels.com/reflector/>

PhoneView

<https://www.ecamm.com>

Voyager Docks

<http://www.newertech.com>

Action Movie FX

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/action-movie-fx/id489321253?mt=8>

Monoprice

<http://www.monoprice.com>

1Password

<https://agilebits.com>

Zerochroma cases

<http://www.zerochroma.com>

Lifeproof cases

<http://www.lifeproof.com/en/>

Snapseed

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/snapseed/id439438619?mt=8>

Bartender

<http://www.macbartender.com>

Classifieds

Products and support for the Macintosh community

Got a story, or photo you would like to see in the monthly edition of the Apple Barrel?

The Apple Barrel is always looking for good, meaty material for its monthly publication. If you have a personal story, review of a new product or just a funny or helpful thought, feel free to spread the word via the Barrel.

Submit your story, review or photos, etc. to: abe@haaug.org

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General Rate Policy

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Frequency Rates

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1/2 Page Ad

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1/3 Page Ad

Dimensions: 7.625" x 3.375"

Frequency: 1X \$75, 2X \$70,
3X \$65

1/4 Page Ad

Dimensions: 3.75" x 5"

Frequency: 1X 65, 2X 60, 3X 55

1/6 Page Ad

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3X \$30

Business Card Ad

Dimensions: 3.5" x 2"

Frequency: 1X \$30, 2X \$25,
3X \$15

* Dimensions of advertisements may vary as a result of document layout.

Minutes

HAAUG Board of Directors Meeting – Saturday, January 18, 2014

Location: Bellaire Civic Center, 7008 South Rice Avenue, Bellaire, Texas.

Attendees: Philip Booth, David Jaschke, Clair Jaschke, Mike King, and Mike Epstein

Call to Order: By President Philip Booth at 11:50 AM following the conclusion of the January Swap Meet and General Meeting

General Announcements: Phil reported that he is again getting HAAUG Business E-mail.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Secretary - Jack Adair: Jack was absent this month and Clair took the minutes in his absence. The December meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Clair Jaschke: Clair reported that the members present at the January 2014 general meeting approved the 2014 budget, which was approved at the December 2013 Board of Directors meeting. She presented the financial reports for December 2013. Our checking account balance as of the end of December was \$10,242.22, and we have \$5,012.52 in our certificate of deposit.

Clair reported that our rent was paid through March 2014, and that we would have no more projector fees. We would like to buy a spare projector bulb as a thank-you to the City of Bellaire.

Vice President - Greg Wright: Greg was also absent this month. We have Bob LeVitus confirmed for our February meeting. There was no report on SIGs this month.

Membership - David Jaschke: Dave reported that we ended the month of December 2013 with 160 members, which is three fewer than the end of November 2013, and down from 175 members as of December 31, 2012. We had no new membership activity in December, but we did have 7 renewals in December, with 4 by mail (checks) and 3 by KAGI.

HAAUG Electronic Communications Systems - Ed Truitt: Ed was absent this month. He reports that he is feeling better but is not yet able to attend the monthly meetings. There were no reports on E-mail problems, the Apple Barrel, or website issues.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- There was no report regarding the E-mail system
- Regarding the February meeting, there will be no need for set up and take down of chairs, but we will need to set up and take down tables
- For the March meeting, Joe Kissell, contributing editor for Macworld magazine, will be talking about iCloud. He will be submitting a reimbursement request for his airfare.
- The April meeting presenter is to be determined.

Adjournment: At 12:02 P.M.

TeoreX Announces PhotoScissors

Press Release

A Snip-Snap with PhotoScissors Removes Unwanted Image Background

TeoreX releases a brand new tool for simple picture editing. PhotoScissors is a straightforward tool to remove unnecessary background from photos with literally several mouse gestures. The user identifies areas to keep and areas to cut out with very rough strokes and the program automatically does the rest.

How to easily clean the background of a photograph? One way to do this is to run some Photoshop-like editor, select the Magic Wand tool and outline the silhouette of the object to cut. A professional designer can manage this task in 10 minutes. The downside of the story: not all users possess enough designer skills to achieve the same result in such a short time.

PhotoScissors by TeoreX targets those users who don't want to learn secrets of retouching or master ponderous graphic editors. The program is really easy to use, and the main principle of removing the background from a picture implemented in the tool is absolutely clear. A user marks foreground and background zones on the image and immediately sees the result on the screen. Minor glitches left after automatic processing of the image can be fixed right away with few fine strokes of the mouse.

The program automatically applies anti-aliasing filters for smooth edges of the cutout, and quickly processes even larger images. Combined with simplicity of the tool, removing background for web publishing of images, swapping backgrounds or creating photo collages becomes a simple and fun procedure.

PhotoScissors can be definitely recommended for all users who are not designers or Photoshop

geeks, but still need to extract objects or remove unwanted backgrounds from photos. A simple and cost-effective tool, PhotoScissors does this amazingly good.

Pricing and availability

The price for a single license of PhotoScissors is \$19.99. PhotoScissors is available both for Windows and MacOS users.

About

TeoreX is a small software development company founded in 2011 focusing on building simple yet extremely helpful graphics and multimedia tools. The product line includes Inpaint, iResizer, BatchInpaint, Folderlco and PhotoStitcher.

Links

Product page link: <http://www.photoscissors.com/>

Download link (PC): www.photoscissors.com/PhotoScissorsSetup.zip

Download link (Mac): <http://www.photoscissors.com/PhotoScissors.dmg>

Screenshot: <http://www.photoscissors.com/images/screenshot1.jpg>

Upcoming Events

Houston Area Apple Users Group 2014 Officers and Directors

President
Phil Booth

Vice President
Greg Wright

Secretary
Jack E Adair

Treasurer
Clair Jaschke

Membership Chairman
David Jaschke

Electronic Communications
Ed Truitt

Director-at-Large 1
Michael Epstein

Director-at-Large 2
Michael King

Senior Advisor
OPEN

Saturday, April 26th, 2014

To Be Announced

Watch this space for further info.

Location: Bellaire Civic Center | Map online at www.haaug.org

Saturday, May 15th, 2014

To Be Announced

Watch this space for further info.

Location: Bellaire Civic Center | Map online at www.haaug.org

Saturday, June 21st, 2014

To Be Announced

Watch this space for further info.

Location: Bellaire Civic Center | Map online at www.haaug.org

Locations, Directions + Parking

Bellaire Civic Center

7008 South Rice Ave. • Bellaire, TX 77401

The Bellaire Civic Center has been a great location asset of HAAUG for the past 4 years and includes many amenities such as wireless internet and both open and closed spaces for Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings and other functions.

Find out the latest news on future HAAUG meetings...

www.haaug.org/meetings/

STARTRONICS

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March 2014 Event Schedule

	Main Room	2nd Room	3rd Room
9 a.m.	Mac 101	Mac One-on-One	iOS
10 a.m.			
11 a.m.	Club Business		
11:15 a.m.	Main Presentation: Taking control of iCloud		
1 p.m.	Clean-up	Board of Directors meeting; followed by BBQ SIG	

Main Presentation: Taking Control of iCloud. Joe Kissell will help us learn how to make better use of Apple's iCloud service.

Mac 101 & Fundamentals: Jonathan Magnus - The SIG for basic to advanced Macintosh topics.

iOS: Rick Roberts - iPads, iPhones, and the apps that make our lives better.

Mac One-to-One - Our newest SIG, focusing on personalized help with questions and problems.

Ad hoc: Groups are welcome to use the casual spaces to meet on other topics. Scheduled SIGs take precedence.

Got Junk?

Computer recycling opportunities in the Houston area

Houston area recycling centers:

Environmental Service Center

11500 South Post Oak Road • Dial 311 or 713-837-9130

Westpark Recycling Center

5900 Westpark • Dial 311 or 713-837-9130

Goodwill COMPUTER WORKS

12230 Westheimer
Houston, TX 77077
281-589-1215

Commercial electronics recyclers:

ScrapComputer.com

350 W. 38th St., Houston, TX 77018 • 713-691-9995

***Accepts all computer-related items free; offers free pickup for large amounts.*

Altech Metals, Inc.

10612 Hempstead, Building A • 713-680-9325

***No TVs or monitors*

ARM Trading, Inc.

2476 Bolsover, Suite 557 • 713-665-0213

Compucycle

620 W. 6th St. • 713-866-8021

ONYX Environmental Services

Baytown • 1-800-624-9302

Houston Computer Recycler

6102 Brittmoore, Suite N • 713-937-3334

Recycle America Waste Management Asset Recovery Group

2102 Atascocita Road, Humble • 281-540-8900

Eagle Electronics

10612 Hempstead, Building A • 713-934-8585

QuickTip



As satisfying as the swipe to close feature in mobile Safari is, it becomes a bit of a chore to close more than a few tabs.

To close all tabs at once, tap the new tab icon (two overlapping squares), tap *Private*, and then *Close All*. Repeat the first two steps and tap '+' (or the screen) to get back to an empty Safari in your preferred browsing state.

I only have an iOS 7 device to test this in.

[**crarko adds:** I tested this, and it works as described. I also only have iOS 7.]

<http://hints.macworld.com/article.php?story=2014022513525494>

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Join by Mail:

Please fill out and complete the following form. Send a check or money order payable to HAAUG and mail it to the address shown below. Dues for regular members are \$35 per year. Student memberships are available for full-time students at a high school, community college, or university for the rate of \$10 per year.

Your membership card will be mailed to you. You may pick up your starter kit at the next HAAUG meeting.

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How did you hear about HAAUG?

Do you know someone who would be interested in joining HAAUG? Y | N

Would you be willing to volunteer in HAAUG?

Mail check to:

HAAUG
P.O. Box 570957
Houston, TX 77257-0957
Attn.: Membership Chairman

Membership Benefits

Enjoy the benefits of being a HAAUG member.

Monthly Meetings

This is where the excitement begins. On the third Saturday of each month, members of HAAUG meet for a day filled with activities, including presentations by major software and hardware vendors, special interest group (SIG) meetings, raffles, and much, much more. SwapMeets are held twice each year, in January and July.

Social Media & Internet Presence

The HAAUG web site at <http://www.haaug.org> is the place to go for up-to-date information on what we are doing. In addition, there is [a HAAUG group on Facebook](#), where people can go to interact with fellow HAAUG members on topics of interest related to Apple and its products.

Club Magazine

Club and industry news, meeting information and special member offers are published in our monthly newsletter - The Apple Barrel, which is available to members on the HAAUG web site in Adobe PDF format.

Mentor Program

The HAAUG Mentor Program puts people with hardware, software, system or network problems in contact with volunteers who can provide solutions. Contact with the mentors can be made through the HAAUG Hotline, e-mail, or at the monthly meetings.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

People with common interests, including Macintosh and OS X basics, iOS, internet, games, educational computing, databases, publishing, graphics, desktop video, programming and more gather for in-depth discussion, product demonstrations, tutorials and general knowledge sharing.

HAAUG Hotline

Call the HAAUG Hotline at 832-305-5999 for the latest meeting information and to leave voice mail for officers.

Lots of Fun & Friendships

HAAUG is a not-for-profit volunteer group founded in 1978, three years before there was an IBM PC. Approximately 200 members enjoy the benefits of HAAUG. We range from beginners to experts, but we all know the secret to making our computers more valuable - a HAAUG membership.

Learn more about the benefits of HAAUG membership at www.haaug.org.

Reviewers Wanted!

Ed Truitt, Media & Communications Dir.

Do you like to read technical books? Do you fancy yourself a literary critic? Do you like to share your opinions with others? Why am I asking all these questions?

If your answer to most of the questions above is "Yes", then we have something for you: several publishers (including O'Reilly and Wiley) make copies of their book available, at no charge, for review. We are always looking for member-written content for the Apple Barrel, and your book review, published in the HAAUG newsletter, will satisfy both needs.

If you are interested, please see me at the meeting, or email me at abe@haaug.org.

The Apple Barrel is a monthly publication of the HOUSTON AREA APPLE USERS GROUP (HAAUG) P.O. Box 570957 Houston, Texas 77257-0957.

Apple Barrel's editors have a policy to protect the creative rights of authors. The Editors acknowledge that authors' works are copyrighted and intend to honor those copyrights by: 1) this statement of policy, 2) providing, when considered significant, copies of edited text to the author for review prior to publication, 3) seeking permission to reprint previously published pieces from the author whenever possible, and 4) printing acknowledgment of reprints used.

If you are interested in joining HAAUG, please call the HAAUG Hotline at (832) 305-5999 or sign up via our web site at www.haaug.org.

Annual membership is \$35 for regular members, and \$10 for student members (limited to students enrolled full time at a high school, community college, or university.) 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 to members only. HAAUG is an independent support group of Apple product users and is not affiliated with Apple Computer, Inc. The following are trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc., Apple, Apple II, Apple IIGS, eMac, Macintosh, iMac, iBook, iPod, iPhone, iPad, PowerBook, ImageWriter, LaserWriter and the Apple Logo. All other brand names mentioned are registered trademarks or trademarks of their respective holders, and are hereby acknowledged.

NewTrent Airbender Keyboard Cases

Ed Truitt, etee@icloud.com

OK, I admit it: I am a gadget freak. I am also something of an impulse buyer, as I was reminded last month when I came across a review of the NewTrent Airbender keyboard cases for iPad. I read the review, thought a minute, then headed over to Amazon.com and took advantage of my Prime membership to have a pair of them shipped to me 2nd-day: one each for my iPad Air and iPad mini.

The Airbender keyboard cases have a detachable section which holds the iPad, allowing you to use the iPad “with” or “without” (the keyboard.) The iPad is completely enclosed, including the screen. I have found that the touch screen works OK with my finger, however using a stylus is a bit problematic. Setting up the Airbender is also a bit problematic, as you have to really work to fit the iPad into what is a really snug case. Once in place, however, it tends to stay in place.



(Airbender Mini, front view)

In addition to being able to use the iPad with the keyboard detached, the hinge will allow you to set the iPad flat (pretty much) on top of the keyboard.

But, all this isn't what drew me to the Airbender. The thing that caught my eye was the hinge, and the fact that you can rotate the iPad through 360 degrees. This allows the use of the unit with the iPad in either the horizontal (landscape) or vertical (portrait) orientation.

I have been using both iPads with the Airbenders since they arrived, and I have not felt any need to remove the iPads from their protective shells. The iPads may not be as sleek in these cases, but they are a bit more secure. While not a complete klutz, there are times when my iPad will slip from my fingers, and I am a bit more comfortable knowing they are protected from an unexpected lesson in the Law of Gravity.



(Airbender Pro, showing hinge)