



Western Metropolitan Region Macintosh Schools Network

Notes from our last Get-Together!
8/10/03

Thanks to everyone, who came along to our meeting at Computers Now in South Melbourne. Once again, I have jotted down the topics we discussed and tried to include as many of the web sites and resources people shared as possible.

Details for our next meeting on Thursday 20th November are written below.

Thanks,
Deb

Wednesday 8th October

Ian Simpson, Joe Cox and Robert Stojcevski hosted our meeting at Computers Now in South Melbourne and put on the best afternoon tea we've ever laid eyes on!!! They were also extremely generous with their time and expertise!

I sent them a thank-you on our behalf.

Joe took us through an information session looking at PC/Mac connectivity, Macintosh Manager & Workgroup Manager and a peek at Panther; the new upgrade to OS X. Here are the main points (as I understood/heard them!)

1. New Hardware Purchases.

All new computers purchased after October 2003 will only boot in System 10.

The main implications are:

- They may need to be standalone machines on a network, depending on your network set-up.
- It will be a transition phase from ASIP to OS X Server
- Availability of compatible children's software.
- With some machines running OS 9 and others OS X, children will need to adapt to different screens, etc.
- RAM upgrades required – each machine needs 256MB+
- Planning cycles need to consider upgrades to OS X.

For More Information: <http://www.apple.com.au/>

2. Panther

Panther (System10.3) is the fourth major release of OS X in just three years. It was released Late October. Mac OS X Panther retails at \$229.00.

The first thing people will notice is the speed of the New Finder; a client running 10.3 will run 30%-40% faster. More RAM = better performance!

You can also manage the Server from any 10.3 client!

The top new Panther features are:

- New faster **Finder**
- **Exposé** - Quickly tile open windows and reveal files on your desktop.
- **iChat AV** - Talk face-to-face over the Internet with high quality video.
- **FileVault** -Secure your documents with AES-128 encryption.
- **Fast User Switching** - Change users without logging out of your applications.
- **Mail** - Follow the thread of any discussion and block junk mail.
- **IDisk** -Access your iDisk when you're not connected.
- **Preview** -Scroll through and search PDFs faster than before.
- **Font Book** - Find, organize and manage all the fonts on your Mac.
- **Based on UNIX** - Industrial-strength stability, with X11 and FreeBSD 5.
- **Works with Windows** - Access your Exchange email & sync your Address Book.
- **Xcode** - Develop Mac OS X applications with powerful, elegant tools.

For More Information: <http://www.compnow.com.au>

3. Mac/PC Connectivity.

There was some discussion about whether this was an issue or not. Joe made a few points.

- Since Office 97, Macs and PC have used the same file formatting. The difference between OS9 and OSX is that 10 will save the file extension automatically. Eg. .doc or .xls
- OSX is UNIX based which increases compatibility.
- By default, the Mac CD Burner burns in the ISO9220 format which is cross-platform and a good way to move files or back-up!
- USB drives can be formatted for Windows using a Mac.

For more information on connectivity visit: <http://www.macwindows.com>

4. Making Images

Some discussion was had about how to make Disk Images. OS X makes this an even easier process. The following web sites give some instructions on making a disk image.

<http://www.madriver.k12.oh.us/technology/whitepapers/asr/>

<http://homepage.mac.com/young1/asr/>

<http://8help.ohio-state.edu/33607.html>

Carbon Copy Cloner.

CCC was a highly recommended program. It will help you:

- Make a simple, complete, bootable backup of your hard drive.
- Upgrade to a larger hard drive with minimal hassle, without reinstalling your OS and all of your applications.
- Move your entire Mac OS X installation to a new computer.

<http://www.bombich.com/software/ccc.html>

FireWire Target Mode.

On most Macs with built-in FireWire, you can press the “T” key while starting up, and the computer should enter a special FireWire Target (or disk) mode, indicated by a FireWire icon floating around the screen. That computer will then act like an external FireWire hard drive, and if you connect it to another FireWire equipped Macintosh it should mount on the desktop like another drive. You can then copy data back and forth. In some cases you can even run data recovery or repair programs on a drive this way if a computer won’t boot. A little more info on how to use target mode is available here: <http://hacks.oreilly.com/pub/h/248>

5. Server Solutions

Much discussion was had around the best way to upgrade servers. It was strongly suggested that people get expert advice to come up with the solution that will best suit their needs. Consider – budget, future needs, what you want from your network, configuration. Two options are; dedicated servers or computers used as servers.

- Entry Level Dedicated Servers start at just under \$6000 and have the server/client software pre-installed. It was suggested people should buy as much RAM as they can afford! (Example: XServe. \$5795.00)
- If using a computer as a server, you will need to purchase the server/client software separately. One configuration suggestion was: OS X machine with 2 internal hard drives (system on both) with 1GB RAM.

6. Essential Software

Two “must-haves” with MacManager: LabHand and File Blaster.

LabHand is an extension that should help Macintosh network administrators manage their Macintosh Manager networks. LabHand should run on Mac OS 8.1 and later, but most of the features will only work on OS 9 and later. It will not work at all on OS X.

LabHand Features:

- Client File Updating
- Machine-specific preferences
- Preference Deletion

- Control the Control Strip on Login
- Automatic ejection of CDs at logout
- Changing of Monitor Bit Depth (the colours of the monitor) on Login
- Changing Sound Volume
- AppleScript Commands
- Control Strip Module
- Setting Internet Preferences
- Restarting if the Workgroup Documents Volume can't be Unmounted
- Clearing of Users folder

File Blaster is an application that will copy every item in a user-specified folder to a user-specified folder in every folder in another user-specified folder. Simple. It was originally written for copying items to every user's Preferences on a Macintosh Manager 1.3 document server, but feel free to use it however you want.

Both programs are available at: <http://www.reptilesdownunder.net/ug/>

DiskWarrior 3

DiskWarrior is a powerful utility to prevent and eliminate directory damage available for any computer. DiskWarrior uses a different approach to disk directory repair than other programs. DiskWarrior is not a disk repair program in the conventional sense. Instead of patching the original directory, it uses a patent-pending technology to quickly build a new replacement directory using data recovered from the original directory, thereby recovering files and folders that you thought were lost and that no other program could recover.

<http://www.alsoft.com/DiskWarrior/index.html>

7. Great Search Engine!!

Earlier in the year I went to Mark's session at the ICT Festival where he offered us "A fistful of ideas". It was a great session!! He told us of the search engine; Vivisimo. I have used it ever since! Give it a try! Thanks Mark ☺

Vivisimo's breakthrough technology automatically categorizes textual information into meaningful, hierarchically sorted category folders.

<http://vivisimo.com/>

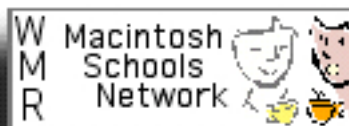
Next Meeting...

Stephan Palmer and Lynn Davie from Essendon North Primary School will host our next meeting on:

Thursday 20 November

4:00pm - ??

Essendon North Primary School



112 Keilor Road
Essendon
PH: 9379-3979

Lynn Davie has kindly offered to present and share with the group Essendon North's journey and how they implement ICT in their classrooms. Steve will be on hand to give us a "guided tour" and hopefully answer our many questions!

We would like to extend an invitation to the TSI's who are working with you in Mac schools who may be interested in getting together with other TSI's and seeing Essendon North's Macintosh network set-up.

As this is our last meeting, we would love to see the year out with a shared meal and a few drinks at one of the local pubs. :)

Please let either Mark or myself know if you will be coming along.
Thanks and Happy Surfing ☺

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