

MugShots

Volume XVII • Issue #6 • September, 2009

September Topic: Face Recognition in iPhoto

Maria O. Arguello, Apple Regional Liaison for NE U.S., will share how to use iPhoto '09's new face recognition method: **The Faces tool.**



She will cover how to identify people in an iPhoto library, use Faces to organize collections, and secret tips and tricks to make your experience more enjoyable.

BONUS! Maria will also reveal a special User Group discount code for 35% off on her number one book for getting up to speed with all the versions of the

Macintosh iLife: Jim Heid's book from Peachpit Press, "The Macintosh iLife '09."

Members On Line

World Wide Web Sites of Interest

If you find any of these to be inactive, please advise the editor:

Macintosh News

- Macintosh News Network <www.macnn.com>
- MacSurfer Headline News <www.macsurfer.com>
- MacInTouch <www.macintouch.com>
- AAPL Investors <www.appleinvestors.com>
- As The Apple Turns <www.infoXczar.com/atat>
- MacOSRumors <www.macosrumors.com>
- **Dave Marra's website <www.marathon.com>**
- **MUGSNJ (that's us) <www.mugsnj.org>**

Help

- MacCentral/Forums <www.maccentral.com>
- MacNN/Forums <www.macnn.com>
- AppleInsider/Chat <ww.appleinsider.com>
- **MacSolutions <www.macsolutions.com>**
- MacTips <www.themacintoshguy.com>
- MacFixIt <www.macfixit.com>
- PC Talk <rblevin.net/TOC.htm>

Macintosh Books

- Macbookshop.com <www.macbookshop.com>
- Peachpit Books <www.peachpit.com>
- Barnes and Noble <www.barnesandnoble.com>
- Amazon <www.amazon.com>

Buy & Sell

- Mac4Sale.com <www.mac4sale.com>
- DealMac <www.deal-mac.com>
- MacTreasures <www.mactreasures.com>
- Ebay <www.ebay.com>

USB

- MacInTouch USB Guide <www.macintouch.com/imacusb.html>
- USBStuff <www.usbstuff.com>

Escrow service

- TradeSafe <tradesafe.com>

Software

- VersionTracker <www.versiontracker.com>
- Download.Com <www.download.com>
- Mac Downloads <ww.zdnet.com/mac>
- Antique Mac Software <www.macintouch.com/earlymac.html>

Appearance

- Font Diner <www.fontdiner.com>
- ClixSounds <www.clixsounds.com>
- The Icon Factory <www.iconfactory.com>
- DeskStop <members.aol.com/deskstop>
- Steve's Free Desktop Pictures <www.steveweb.com/FreeDTP>

Resources

- Encyclopedia Britannica <www.brittanica.com>
- Language Translations
<babelfish.altavista.digital.com/cgi-bin/translate?>

Just for the Fun of It

- The Apple Museum
<www.applemuseum.seastar.net/sections/home.html>
- Driveways of the Rich and Famous
<www.driveways.com/>
- EarthCam <www.earthcam.com>
- The Magic 8 Ball <www.themagic8ball.com>
- Doonesbury <www.doonesbury.com/dailydose>
- Northern Sun <www.northernsun.com>
- Mr. Showbiz <mrshowbiz.go.com>

OCTOBER 2009 CALENDAR						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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Software Review

Xslimmer: Put Your Hard Drive on a Diet Before the Snow

By Frank Petrie

Product: Xslimmer 1.7
Author: LateNiteSoft
 <www.xslimmer.com>
Requirements: OS X
 10.3.9 minimum
Price: \$14.95



Test Rig: 13" MacBook Pro; 5GB RAM;
 Mac OS X 10.6

Ah. Fall is here and Snow Leopard is in the air. But before you install/upgrade, you should really do a few things first. Naturally, perform a back up — RIGHT!? But then root around your virtual attic. Are there pieces of bric-a-brac just floating around in there? No longer used applications? Stray .plist's? Toss 'em.

Then your ready to use Xslimmer to finish up the job and get everything ready for Snowy.

"Xslimmer not only frees space wasted by unused code, it can even increase your Mac's performance. Some of our users have reported applications loading in almost half the time, because OS X does not need to analyze Xslimmer applications in search for the most suitable version of the code."

Doesn't Snowy deserve a nice clean bed?

THE JUICE

Xslimmer is great for separating Intel from PowerPC apps, giving you a heads-up as to which applications will work with your new system. Also, it gives you a chance to see if any of your favorite PowerPC apps have been updated to Intel apps. You could do this manually through "About This Mac," but it would take much longer and besides, isn't your computer supposed to work for you?

Xslimmer also uses a downloadable blacklist, which tracks apps that do not allow themselves to be modified — to prevent piracy, usually. "Blacklisted apps will be ignored, and the list will be automatically updated as new troublesome apps are discovered."

And you could use Xslimmer like a stealth version of Time Machine. "Xslimmer save[s] a copy of your originals for you, and let[s] it delete old back-

ups periodically so that you don't have to remember about them. Restore your app quickly if you suspect it does not work correctly after being slimmed down."

And that's just a few of the bonus features.

THE PULP

Xslimmer has a very clean GUI. Read the Help file to familiarize yourself with the Toolbar Buttons and you'll be at it in no time. I cleaned out the flotsam on my machine in about half an hour. And my machine is littered with apps and extra code from the software reviews that I do.

Next step, will to eventually go through my apps and weed out the 32-bit from the 64-bit. (64-bit FCE? Hint, hint.)

THE RIND

Nada.

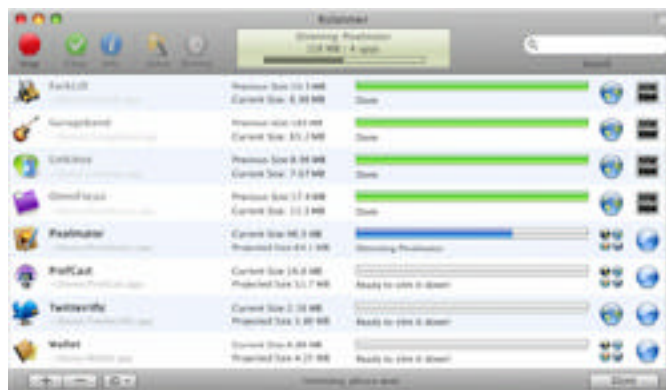
SUMMARY

This is an absolute toolbox necessity that should be used once a month if you're always adding apps. Even using it otherwise, couldn't hurt. I know that I'll run it when I do my monthly run of Disk Warrior. And don't forget that you can also use it for backing up your files.

For \$14.95, you'd have to be one dumb cat to pass this up.

RATING : 10 of 10

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Application Review

Learn Adobe Photoshop on Your iPhone

Product Name: iPhone App: Adobe Photoshop CS4 Learn By Video

Companies: Peachpit Press, Adobe Press, and Video2 Brain

URL: App Store

Price : \$1.99

System Requirements: iPhone 3G, 3GS, or iPod touch

Reviewer: Maria O. Arguello

Rating: 4.5 out of 5 apples

The Adobe Learn by Video Series are brought to you by Peachpit Press, Adobe Press, and Video2 Brain. The iPhone app is like having a teacher in your pocket. I downloaded it from the App Store and watched all three lessons for Adobe Photoshop CS4: "Covering the Basics," "Image Editing," and "Creative Photoshop." I was very skeptical that I would be able to get much from a tutorial on such a small screen. How was I going to see the cursor? But the resolution of the video and zooming into the area being explained led to a clear visual of the narrative.

The tips for taking charge of Photoshop's Interface were helpful and big time- savers. The three lessons are well developed and useful and the developers have done a great job on this video. I look forward to more iPhone apps like this one.

The app lets you send comments and you can also take quizzes. You can search a topic and it will give you several videos from which to choose.

Note I contacted Peachpit regarding the complete tutorials and they responded that right now there are three DVD products available in the Learn By Video Series, which retail for \$59.99 each.

1. Learn Adobe Photoshop CS4 by Video: Core Training in Visual Communication (19 hours of video)
<http://www.peachpit.com/title/0321634934>
2. Learn Adobe Flash CS4 Professional by Video: Core Training in Rich Media Communication (15 hours of video)
<http://www.peachpit.com/title/0321635000>
3. Learn Adobe Dreamweaver CS4 by Video: Core Training in Web Communication (14 hours of video)
<http://www.peachpit.com/title/0321635019>
No word yet on the InDesign one.

Maria O. Arguello is a reviewer for the Macintosh user group community. To see more reviews go to <http://www.mlmug.org>. Maria is also a member of MLMUG, NCMUG, PMUG, MUGSNJ, PPUG, and SJAUG. She is the Apple User Group Regional Liaison for the Northeast United States (CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, RI, VT).

Freshly Squeezed Reviews:

Pro But...

Product: Gooool!

Author: Skyworks Interactive, Inc.

<www.skyworks.com/>

Requirements: iPhone, iPod Touch

Price: \$0.99 (limited time only sale)

Test Rig: iPhone 3G/16GB

Once again I'm writing a review of a Skyworks game. But this time it's not an arcade game. It's a soccer shoot out.

"In Goaaal!, you'll use all your flicking kicking skills to score as many shots as you can. In Progressive Mode, every bonus target you hit will earn you a free kick - do well enough and earn badges. In Arcade Mode, shoot five goals in a row and you'll be 'on fire' and every goal will reward you with another kick. Beware: the goalie gets progressively better as you improve!"

I'm addicted to their arcade games. But will I be as drawn in by Goaaal!™?

THE JUICE: As in all of Skyworks' games, you can put spin on the ball. If you're good enough (which I am not) I imagine that you can mix up enough shots to keep the goalie on his virtual toes (a band that I played in during the 70's). There's nothing to do to set up other than entering your name, decide whether or not you want to submit your scores to the global pool and practice.

THE PULP: Yes, the goalie does learn your moves, but very slowly. But there's other ways to score points (bulls-eyes in the back of the net, balls 'on fire', etc.) to make up for the goalies slow learning curve.

As always, you can customize the music by selecting from three different tracks.

THE RIND: Nada.

SUMMARY: Skyworks has set the benchmark for arcade games. I'm addicted to them. But for whatever reason, even though this game is every bit as well built and full featured as the other games that I've played, I didn't develop the same addiction.

But then again, that's just me. Give it a go.

RATING : 8 of 10

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Freshly Squeezed Reviews:

Up up, Up up on the iPhone and iPod Touch

Product: Skyscrapers

Author: Skyworks Interactive, Inc.

www.skyworks.com/

Requirements: iPhone, iPod Touch

Price: \$1.99

Test Rig: iPhone 3Gs/16GB

Again, I'm writing a review of a Skyworks game. But this time it's not an arcade game. It's not a sports game, either.

"Build Skyscrapers from the bottom up by aligning the building's floors as they slide in. The higher up you go, the faster the new floors come in. Bonuses are awarded for accuracy and speed. Buildings may start small but quickly become soaring majestic Skyscrapers. Completed buildings get added to your 'Cityscape View' as you try to complete the dramatic Skyline."

This is one of those games that taxes your reflexes. But is it worth it?

THE JUICE

When you launch the game, you are presented with three choices - "Career," "Quickplay" and "View My Cityscape." As you go further into the completion of your skyscraper, the pieces arrive faster and faster, with no pause for a breather. Once you've completed your buildings, they're added to your cityscape and it's onto the next building.

With "Career" and "Quickplay" you also have the option of either keeping your scores on your device or submitting them to the Global Scoreboard and seeing how you stack up against other players on the web.

THE PULP

When I first looked at this game I was sure that I was going to lose interest within half a dozen plays and remove it from my iPhone's game desktop. But once again, Skyworks sank their claws deep into me. I wanted to say, "Just one more game," but then twenty minutes would fleet by.

The graphics are very clean, one of Skywork's hallmarks. Plus the game performs without a hiccup, another of their hallmarks.

And as usual, Skyworks has the uncanny knack of creating games that are hypnotic. I don't mean

games that you become obsessed with overpowering. I'm speaking of games that possess you, games that you just can't put down. Why? I don't really know. But I think that it's because that you're never trying to beat the game, but best yourself.

THE RIND

As usual, nada.

SUMMARY

Skyworks has a formula. What it is I'm not sure but they know exactly what buttons to push (no pun intended) to mesmerize you. I never was a gamer but I have found that Skyworks and my iPhone have converted me.

Waiting for a tire or oil change is now a welcome break in my day.

RATING : 10 of 10

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Membership Application

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular (\$20) | <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Collegiate (\$10) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$25) | <input type="checkbox"/> GCC Student (Free) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (\$15) | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal (\$___) |

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____ Fax _____

Employer _____ Position _____

Employer Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____ Fax _____

Send mailings to: Home Address Employer Address

How did you learn about MUGSNJ? _____

At which user level would you classify yourself? Beginner Intermediate Advanced

Computers owned _____ Computers used _____

Current OS _____ Other software experience _____

Special interests: Photography/Graphics Video Communications Beginner Mtgs.

Other _____

I'll help with these positions: Membership Newsletter Program Hospitality

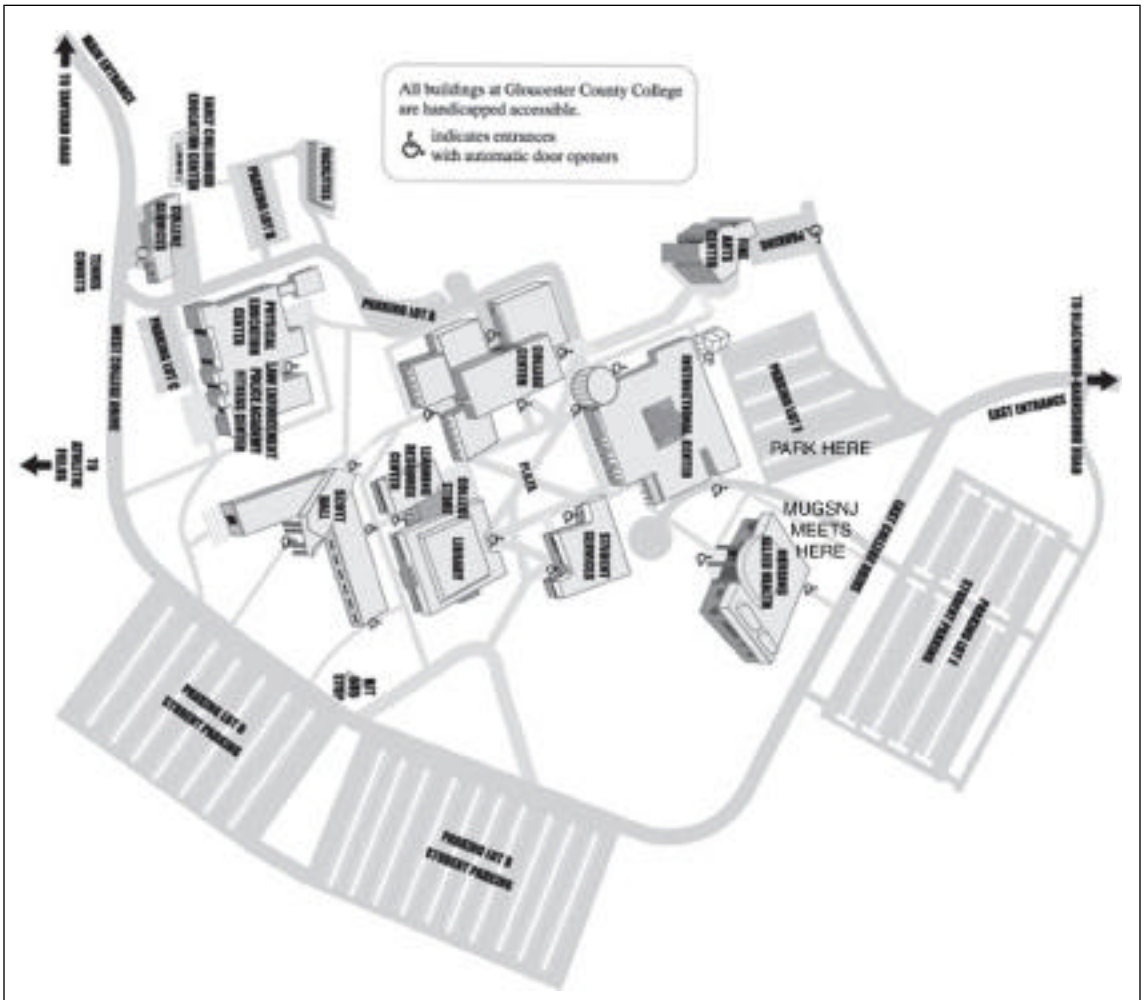
MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Hardware and software assistance
- Info on the latest software and upgrades
- "MUGSHOTS" newsletter available at meetings
- Notices of Macintosh events
- Special interest groups (SIGs)
- Meet great people!

***NOTE:** Corporate/Institutional memberships are granted by approval of the Executive Committee of MUGSNJ, and are based on the number of memberships requested by the corporation/institution as well as its non-profit status.

Gloucester County College Campus Map

MUG General Meetings
are held in the
Auditorium, Room 500,
of the **Health Sciences**
Building at 7:30 pm on
the **last Wednesday of**
each month. In the
event the last
Wednesday precedes a
holiday, the meeting is
held a week earlier.
Executive Committee
Meetings are held on
the **first Wednesday at**
7:30 pm in the
Lounge adjacent to
Room 502.



Mug Shots

SEPTEMBER, 2009

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1400 Tanyard Road
Sewell, NJ 08080-9518
Phone: 856-468-5000 ext. 6445

NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

**WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 28**

**INSTRUCTIONAL CENTER,
RM. 436**

BE THERE OR MISS OUT!