

# MugShots

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## Newer Technology Shuts Down!

Wichita, Kansas-based Newer Technology has ceased operations and laid off most, if not all, of its employees. The beleaguered manufacturer of CPU upgrades and other peripherals informed employees of the decision today via US Mail. They will receive two weeks severance pay and one month of health care.

Newer Technology's offices were closed for the holidays, and a recording on the company's phone line continues to state that they would resume operations January 2. In early February 2000 Newer Technology asked creditors for a one year extension on loans to help keep the company afloat. Its manufacturing partner, TRI-M, then bailed the company out and implemented sweeping product strategy and personnel changes in an effort to turn the company's failing financial status around. Future support for Newer products as well other company-related matters remain unclear at this point.

On January 7 the shareholders voted to approve the Board of Directors' recommendation to file for Chapter 7 bankruptcy. As of January 16, the United States Bankruptcy Court, District of Kansas (Wichita) has filed a notice listing important information and deadlines regarding Newer Technology's Chapter 7 Bankruptcy case. The filing of the bankruptcy case automatically stays certain collection and other actions against the debtor and the debtor's property.

Newer Technology was the first and foremost manufacturer of G3 upgrade cards for older PCI Power Macintosh computers. As late as early December of last year the company announced the development of an upgrade card for the Power Macintosh 7200, heretofore unavailable.

The Newer Technology website <<http://newer-tech.com>> features a "sad Mac" face, stating sim-

ply, "We're sad, too." while announcing it was closing its doors effective December 27, with a note of thanks to its customers.

Newer introduced the First G3 PowerPC 750 CPU upgrade card for original Power Macintosh 6100, 7100 and 8100 systems in January 1998. MAXpower G3 6100/7100/8100 allowed 2.2 million users to boost performance up to 800% at costs starting at \$499, which at that time was far below the cost of a new G3 Power Macintosh computer.

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### Slower Than Its Predecessor: Pentium 4

## STATE OF THE ART

*By David Pogue*

Remember the old song that goes, "I love you, darling, don't you know?/As sure as winter brings the snow,/ As Windows ne'er can be surpassed,/ And each year's chips outpace the last?"

Neither do I. Besides, even if such a song existed, each line would need an overhaul to reflect changing times. For starters, funny things have been happening to both global weather patterns and Microsoft these days.

As for the last line, it's always been true that whatever PC you buy now will be made obsolete by next year's faster models. But now the unthinkable has happened: the Intel Corporation has released a new processor chip, the Pentium 4, that's actually slower than the Pentium III.

The Pentium chip, of course, is the square silicon brain inside most Windows-based computers. So why is the Pentium 4 slower than its predecessor? The simple answer is that its assembly line for processing commands is twice as long. The full explanation requires slogging through a tech-

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FEBRUARY 2001 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	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 7:30 P.M. 21	22	23	24
25	26	27	GENERAL MEETING 7:30 P.M. GCC AHT RM. 500 28			

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From the Editor

# Mugsnidge Mutterings

**T**his is the month for election of officers for our user group. We have been in the throes of difficult times for quite a while now, and the core membership is to be congratulated for hanging together, even though our president was laid up and programming sparse. We all need this user group to keep ourselves abreast of current trends in Macintosh technology, and to help each other with the problems that crop up in our computers from time to time.



Technological advances happen so quickly that it is almost impossible for a lay person, that is, one who doesn't use a computer to make a living, to keep up. And the way things are going now, if you don't even try to keep up, you'll find yourself learning all over again in a few short years...months...maybe even days!

How many years ago was the 100 Megahertz processor at the top of the line? and how few years before that the Quadra was king and the Power Mac a gleam in the Apple's eye?

Now we face OS X, which is supposed to revolutionize the Mac user's experience, providing the most powerful computing tool to date. OS 9.1 is ready to be installed, and will be distributed at this meeting to anybody who brings a Zip disk. BTW, be sure to check the ReadMe before installing the update. It's not for everybody.

Time marches on. But, on the other hand, I received a request yesterday for an Apple II GS, some of which are still in use in my school district. Occasionally one goes down and needs to be replaced, because parts are no longer available. Apple calls these older computers "Vintage products." I believe they surfaced in the early 1980's.

Twenty years—not bad for a computer. Very much obsolete by today's standards, but still going...And when you have a good piece of software that only runs on one of these antiques, you need to keep one in reserve in case of eventual breakdown. Nothing lasts forever. Or find an emulator to run on your current

Mac, but then you have to address the issue of addressing, floppy drive, etc., etc.

When the RAM capacity grew to more than 4 MB, Apple changed the system software and hardware so it could use more RAM and a faster processor. It was called "addressing," and changed from 16-bit to 32-bit. I'm not sure what the current figure is, but since the chip size has increased from 1MB max to 512MB max in the newest PC-100 form, I would think the addressing factor would increase as well. Bill? Got an answer for that one?

Bill Achuff has been writing answers to users' problems for some time now, and in this issue we are privileged to have him share them with us. As the editor's note (page 13) says, the idea was founded in Main Line Users Group, one of the largest groups in the Pennsylvania-New Jersey area.

Bill is one of those gurus that makes it a priority to keep current on all Macintosh issues. He beta-tests new software and hardware, authors articles, writes reviews, makes recommendations and has a million ideas about how to make the Mac a better computer and Apple more prominent in today's computer market. Bill, thanks for your contributions. We're all better able to function in this electronic age because of your concerns.

This is the month (February) for the election of officers. Jacki Moore has stated that she will not seek re-election (see her article on page 5), and Bob Buell has indicated that he would be a candidate for this office. Other offices are up for grabs, although in these trying times (all user groups are having them) the present staff has done an excellent job of holding the group together, continuing the traditions of the meetings with minor changes, and generally maintaining the status quo. Carole Dadino has done an exemplary job with communications and maintaining the database, and Mark Teodoro has been an active Treasurer.

Since you won't see this issue of MugShots until the meeting, it is my fondest hope that the election will produce an enthusiastically active group of officers, and that MUGSNJ will continue its tradition of being "the friendliest user group around."

## Members On Line

## World Wide Web Sites of Interest

*from Frank Petrie, MUGSNJ Member*

### 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)**

### 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>

From the President

## G3, Mac News and Special Offers for MUG Members

### **February Elections & Meeting**

February will be elections for our group. If you want our group to grow and survive, we need you to step up and help. There are several positions open. President, Vice President, Mark Teodoro has done a good job as Treasurer and will run again. Carole Dadino has done a wonderful job as BOTH Recording and Corresponding Secretaries but we need someone to fill in one of these positions.

We also need a few bodies to do Hospitality and we desperately need a Programming Chair. Please think about it and step forward to help. If you are interested in any of these positions please contact anyone on the MUGSNJ board and we will be sure to pass your note on to the rest of the board. I know the next meeting will take place on Ash Wednesday, so it will be the day following Mardi Gras 2001. Hopefully, not many of us will be suffering from partying to heartily!

Our own webmeister, Bob Buell has offered to do the February presentation. Bob works as a Mac Tech for one of the school districts so I'm sure he'll have a lot to show and share with us.

A reminder to all members! If everyone has something that you would like printed in MUGShots, please send it to our editor, Nate at <nagable@home.com>. If there is something that should be on our website or a problem with the site, please contact Bob Buell at: <buell@mac.com>.

I also want to send best wishes to Moe Comeau, MLMUG's new president and warm regards to John Linton, MLMUG's long time former president. MLMUG is the largest MUG in the area. 'Way to go Moe, keep on keepin'!

SJAUG's February 16th program is MYOB (see more about this below). MUGSNJ members are always welcome. SJAUG meets at Lenape High School. For more Information visit their website. <http://www.jersey.net/~sjaug>

Lastly, as outgoing president of MUGSNJ, I'd like to thank everyone

who helped or offered help and support during the past year, especially Carole Dadino, Barb and Bart Frederick, Dan Shockley, Anita Tobin, Jim Anderson, Dan East, Chuck Joiner, Rose Lynn, Diane Cohn, Louise Miller, Bill Morlitz and Bill Achuff to mention a few (if I've over looked anyone, please forgive me).

Apple Customer Support freely gives out my home phone number to anyone who calls from NJ, so we have gotten a few new members from that contact as well as when I do the Apple demo's at Circuit City or CompUSA. I have gotten calls at all times and places, including while driving in a funeral procession for my Aunt! I wish I could have done more to strengthen our group. We have a LOT to change if we expect to accomplish that goal. I have always enjoyed my little niche as what other groups refer to as User Group Liaison (MUGSNJ doesn't actually have a position with that title) and working for the club. One thing I would like to see changed is the way the incoming board is handed the reigns. I was elected in absentia (even though I said I did not want to be president) and once elected and there was no real transition time. That is not fair to the incoming board or to the club. Even if you are involved with a group, you still need to have time to get on your feet. Shouldn't there be a time of "board member-elect"?

Maybe we need to rethink the term length as well or even staggering which position is elected which year so their is consistency on the board. A club like this can't just run itself. If we want the club to remain, we all must participate and help.

I hope you all enjoyed something from the bags and bags of goodies that I brought back from my exciting week at NY MacWorld and have taken advantage of some of the great offers I have passed on to the club. This past year has been a difficult one for me on many levels and I can't express my gratitude enough for all the warmth and kindness you all have shown. Again, I send my sincere thanks to the MUGSNJ membership.

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# ANOTHER LOOK

**C**ookies is the term used for little chunks of data that web servers can store on your hard drive. Cookies record information about your visit to a particular site, and can ONLY be read back later by the site that created them. They are often used to make your web surfing more personal and convenient, but some people fear that cookie abuse could lead to loss of privacy.

## ***Cookies Are Good For You***

More and more sites are using cookies to enhance your web experience and enable some pretty cool features. The ever popular Yahoo site uses cookies to help you customize the site to suit your likings. If you specify that you want baseball scores, political headlines and a handful of quotes from your stock portfolio, Yahoo will record those preferences in a cookie. Then each time you return, the Yahoo server will read that cookie and customize the site accordingly. It's kind of like going to a restaurant where the waiter remembers your name and knows you like blue cheese dressing and extra croutons on your salad.

Some sites require that you create a userid and password to login before you can access certain content, but it can be a nuisance to remember and enter this information each time you return. Another good use for cookies is to remember your default settings at certain search engines. Sites like Google.com and Raging.com allow you to set preferences for language, number of results, output formatting and color schemes. By storing this data as a cookie, you only have to enter it once.

And if you do any online shopping, cookies make it possible to use a shopping cart where you can place your selections before checking out. You can even logoff half way through a shopping expedition and pick up later right where you left off. Some stores will even store your billing address in a cookie so you don't have to re-type when you place another order.

## ***What's in a Cookie?***

All of this reading and writing of cook-

ies normally takes place without the user knowing that it's going on behind the scenes. Let's take the mystery out of cookies by finding out where they live and what's inside of them. Cookies are stored in a variety of places on your hard disk, depending on your browser and operating system.

Netscape for Windows: See the file "cookies.txt" in the C:\Program Files\Netscape\Users\ folder.

Netscape for Macintosh: uses a file called "MagicCookie" found in the Netscape folder inside your System Folder's Preferences folder.

Internet Explorer for Windows: there's a separate file in the C:\Windows\Cookies folder for each site that wants to store cookies data on your computer.

Internet Explorer for Mac: uses a file called "cookies.txt" in the Cache sub-folder of the Explorer folder, which is inside your System Folder's Preferences folder.

Once you locate your cookies file, take a look inside with a text editor such as Notepad (being careful not to modify the file) and you'll probably be surprised at the number of entries squirreled away by sites you've never heard of. That's because many popular sites have banner ads that are served up by other companies such as DoubleClick and LinkExchange. When you visit the Dilbert website, for example, you'll get a cookie from DoubleClick.

A typical cookies file contains the name of the site that wrote the entry, an expiration date, and some additional data pertaining to your visit to a site. Other crumbs of data that may be stored in cookies include your domain name (the part to the RIGHT of the "@" sign in your e-mail address—NOT your username), the date and time of your visit, the type of computer, operating system and browser you have, and a history of the pages you visit at a specific site. Big deal, huh?

## ***Cookies Are Safe***

It's important to remember that a cookie cannot store any personal data such as your name, e-mail address or phone number UNLESS YOU EXPLICITLY PRO-

# AT COOKIES

VIDE THAT INFORMATION on a form at the site creating the cookie. Further, the safety features built into the cookies technology DO NOT ALLOW a website operator to access other files on your hard disk, or to look at cookies that were created by other sites. (Of course this assumes you are using an up-to-date version of your browser. Check the Netscape or Microsoft website if you're not sure.)

Remember these important facts about cookies:

- Cookies are designed to save you time and make surfing easier.
- Cookies cannot access personal data or files from your hard drive.
- Cookies can only be read by the website that created them.

### ***Can Cookies Be Bad For You?***

None of the information stored in a cookies file is really shocking in and of itself, but it's the ability to track the specific sites and pages you visit that worries some people. Since ad agencies like DoubleClick have their hooks in many popular sites, there is the potential that they could surreptitiously gather information on the web surfing habits of individuals. If this information was sold or improperly analyzed, it could cause trouble in the wrong hands. DoubleClick says they only use cookies to keep users from seeing the same ad too many times, and with all the media scrutiny focused on them right now, it seems safe to assume this is true.

Nonetheless, some are envisioning more frightening scenarios involving cookies and privacy. Could you face the prospect of being denied a job because you visited a website advocating the legalization of marijuana? Get hit with an insurance rate hike after visiting an AIDS patient information site? Or find the Feds at your door after browsing through online bomb making information?

Such prospects seem highly unlikely to yours truly, but privacy advocates like Jeff Chester of the Center for Media

Education see danger ahead. "We have to keep online marketers out of the cookie jar," says Chester. "Such Orwellian practices to stealthily track every move made online and share that information with other companies should be prohibited."

Others are quick to point out that online services like America Online and Compuserve have the ability to track the actions of subscribers at a finer level, and know much more about their subscribers than cookies could ever reveal to website operators. Armed with your name, home address, credit card number, and the ability to record every word you write in the the "Cheatin' Hearts" chat room, one would think the potential for abuse is much higher, but there is no anecdotal evidence that it has ever happened, either on AOL or a cookies-enabled website.

Another interesting side note: I've NEVER received a cookie from any government or military website. I'm pretty sure there is an official policy of the US government which forbids or discourages it. I think this is an over-reaction which ultimately makes those sites LESS usable, but it does give the conspiracy theorists one less thing to whine about.

### ***Tossing Your Cookies***

If you're convinced that cookies pose a threat to your privacy, and you're willing to live without the convenience they provide, there are a variety of ways to block, delete and even totally prevent cookies. Both Netscape and Explorer give users the option to control cookies in a variety of ways.

With Netscape Communicator, select Edit/Preferences/Advanced and you'll have the option to accept, refuse or get a cookie warning. A fourth option "Accept only cookies that get sent back to originating server" may be a good compromise because it eliminates cookies from third-party ad serving firms such as Doubleclick. With MS Internet Explorer, you can do much the same thing by selecting Tools/Internet Options/Security/Custom Level. Note that with either browser,

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## Pentium IV, Pentium III

*Continued from page 1*

nical analysis that will put you to sleep faster than a mug of warm Nytol. (An example of chip talk from the Pentium 4 press release: "The Rapid Execution Engine allows frequently used Arithmetic Logic Unit instructions to be executed at double the core clock." Hey, thanks.)

As any exasperated computer-magazine editor can tell you, there's no good, reliable, consistent way to measure the speed of a computer. Every test gives different results, depending on the kind of software being tested and the components of the PC.

So with very little resistance from Intel and computer stores, most consumers wind up comparing computer horsepower by studying a single statistic: clock speed. That's the number you see in computer advertisements expressed in megahertz, which is computerese for miles per hour.

Depending on how important computers are in your life, you're probably either vaguely or obsessively aware of its clock speed. A year ago, 700 or 800 megahertz was considered extremely fast; earlier this year, 1 gigahertz (that is, 1,000 megahertz) chips became available. You can imagine how pleased Intel must be, therefore, to announce that Pentium 4 chips are available in two unheard-of clock speeds: 1.4 and 1.5 gigahertz.

To the millions of people who believe that clock speed is a good comparative gauge of a computer's speed, those Pentium 4 numbers may induce shortness of breath, salivation and in extreme cases, an involuntary movement of the hand toward the wallet.

But beware: You may be a victim of the Megahertz Myth. As it turns out, megahertz ratings are valuable only when making speed comparisons between chips in the same family: comparing a Pentium III with another Pentium III, for example. They're meaningless when comparing different chips. That's why, for example, a 500-megahertz Macintosh chip is much faster than a 500-megahertz Pentium III. Getting excited about a chip just because it runs at 1.5 gigahertz is a little like pouncing on a house just because it's \$50,000; first you'd better find out whether it's a Taj Mahal or a tool shed.

In various studies performed by PC World magazine, IT Week magazine and Web sites for techies like [www.anandtech.com](http://www.anandtech.com) and [www.sharkeyextreme.com](http://www.sharkeyextreme.com), the Pentium 4 makes it around the test track of everyday computing tasks at a speed that's about 10 percent slower than that of the 1-gigahertz Pentium III chips. And if you crave ultimate speed, note that the first-place winner in almost every test isn't a Pentium at all; it's the 1.2-gigahertz Athlon, a chip made by AMD, Intel's rival.

Yet a PC containing the slower Pentium 4 chip costs \$500 to \$700 more than a PC containing a Pentium III or Athlon chip. To make matters worse, the Pentium 4 requires a special kind of memory (Rambus memory, or RDRAM), which costs about \$250 more per 128 megabytes than standard memory. (Intel plans to remedy that drawback with a new Pentium 4 model in late 2001 that won't need special memory.)

Intel has spent five years creating this slower, hotter, much more expensive chip (and eliminating the Roman numeral from its name). What on earth was the company thinking? Surely the Pentium 4 isn't simply a cynical play on consumers' belief that more megahertz is always better.

Intel maintains that it's not trying to mislead the masses. Instead, it says, it's marketing to specific groups of multimedia maniacs, like hard-core game players and people who encode MP3 and video files. "If you're looking for a machine to do what you're doing today, then a Pentium III machine will do a wonderful job at a lower price," said Howard High, an Intel spokesman. "But if you're more involved in graphics, video compression, 3-D games and so on, then the P4 may not be a bad choice." But even here, the Pentium 4 beats Pentium III and Athlon chips in only one speed test: playing Quake III.

Clearly, the Pentium 4 is all about the future. For example, the chip can understand 144 new audiovisual software instructions in fact, it can process several of them in a single gulp.

Unfortunately, that powerful acceleration technique will lie untapped until Windows programs are rewritten to take

*Continued on page 11*

By Chris Breen

# MacWorld Tips

## Microsoft Office Manager

*Intermediate*

Longtime Microsoft Office users who have upgraded to Office 2001 may be mourning the loss of Microsoft Office Manager (MOM)—the control panel that provides easy access to components of Microsoft Office as well as quick launch capabilities for applications you care to add to the MOM menu. These folks may now dry those tears. Microsoft has released a version of MOM that's compatible with both Microsoft Office 2001 and Office 98.

You can find your copy here:

<http://www.microsoft.com/mac/download/default.asp>

## Crashes Happen

*Intermediate*

Any application that requires Apple's CarbonLib extension (AppleWorks and StuffIt Expander 6.0, for example) will crash with a Type 3 or Type 10 error if the Internet Config Extension extension is missing from the System Folder's Extensions folder.

## Eradicator

*Intermediate*

Some Photoshop 6 users have noticed that their hard disk space seems to rapidly disappear—even when there don't appear to be enough files on the drive to justify the dearth of available storage space. This problem has been linked to temporarily files that the Mac OS fails to delete. Thankfully there's a way to clear up this problem—Scott Crick's free Eradicator 1.6.

Eradicator provides you with a list of temporarily files found in the invisible Temporary Items and Cleanup At Startup folders and allows you to delete them. Eradicator not only finds the Photoshop files but temporary files created by other applications such as Microsoft Word.

You can find your copy at:

<http://www.swssoftware.com/products/eradicator.html>

## FireWire Limitations

*Intermediate*

Interested in knowing how many FireWire devices you can plug into your FireWire-equipped PowerBook or iBook?

According to Apple, these portables support up to 63 powered FireWire doodads, though you can only connect 16 devices in one chain.

If you're connecting unpowered FireWire devices -- devices that pull their power from the PowerBook or iBook rather than a power supply -- you're limited to a single device (which, by the way, sucks power out of your battery).

## iTools and Firewalls

*Intermediate*

If you attempt to use iTools from behind a firewall, you'll likely run into problems. iTools operates on TCP port 548, and if your firewall blocks outbound traffic to this port, no iTools for you. If you'd like to use iTools, free this port, as iDisk won't work through an HTTP or SOCKS proxy.

## iTunes Full Screen Mode

*Intermediate*

Apple tells us that if you attempt to play iTunes visuals on a television connected to a PowerBook's S-Video port, you may not be able to view those visuals at full screen. Here's why: iTunes visuals play at 640-by-480. If your PowerBook is set to display at a resolution other than 640-by-480 on the TV, full screen won't work.

As you might have guessed, the way around this is to set the PowerBook's external display to 640-by-480 from the Control Strip and restart the PowerBook.

## Where's ResEdit?

*Intermediate*

For reasons best know to Apple, ResEdit, Apple's famous resource editing tool has disappeared from Apple's Software Updates page. If you'd like to grab a copy before it's spirited away, try this URL:

<http://hotfiles.zdnet.com/cgi-bin/textis/swlib/hotfiles/info.html?fcodes=MC13272&b=mac>

# Tri-State MUGgers Hold MacDinner X

Bux-Mont MUG (Macintosh Users Group of Bucks and Montgomery Counties [Philadelphia/Allentown], PA, The Tri-State MUG Team and The UGA hosted the tenth MacDinner, a.k.a. "MacDinner X." This event was a great success and we're proud of all of the area MUGs who joined us from PA, NJ, DE, DC, NY and CT. This teamwork approach has allowed us to share our knowledge, events and product specials as well as a huge pool for demo's and presentations for our area MUGs. We appreciate all of the help and support that made this event so spectacular!

With our keynote address from AUGAB Chairman, Chuck Joiner; our

OSX presentation from Apple's Dave Marra, lots of raffle items, giveaways, gifts and great food (thanks Williamsons!), a great time was had by all.

The first round of photos from MDX have been posted on the site for your viewing pleasure! There are more to follow.

<http://buxmontmug.org/macdinner/>

Please forward this info to anyone who might appreciate seeing this. Again, this was the largest MacDinner to date and we're all very proud to have hosted this event. Our vendors were a huge support so be sure to check them out as well.

Thanks so much, again, for your time, help and support!

*Buffet-style dinner in full swing at MacDinner X.*



*Dave Marra, Dan East and Chuck Joiner display Apple's latest product achievements.*



*Santa's helpers still in a festive role; part of the MacDinner X festivities.*

## Pentium IV, Pentium III

(Continued from page 7)

advantage of it. When that day comes, the Pentium 4's speed advantage may well become a marvel to behold. Intel says it has already extracted promises from at least 80 software companies to rewrite their programs for that kind of Pentium 4 acceleration.

Intel also points out that the Pentium 4's new design has plenty of room for expansion. A 2-gigahertz model is on the drawing boards for late 2001.

For now, however, the Pentium 4 is a prime example of that rarely heard adage, "More is less." But that hasn't stopped major PC makers from offering the chip in new computers. For example, the Dell Dimension 8100 and the Gateway Performance 1500 start at about \$1,800 for stripped-down models (if a 60-gigabyte hard drive, 128 megabytes of memory and a Pentium 4 chip can be said to be stripped down). With a monitor, fancy speaker system, DVD player and other goodies, the dream-system prices can exceed \$3,000.

Dell and Gateway lent me machines in the highest price brackets for review. These machines were truly droolworthy, born to run the kinds of programs that require raw, dripping horsepower. Both PC's met my speed challenges morphing photos in Adobe Photoshop, transcribing real-time speech with L&H VoiceXpress without even breathing hard. Both machines also come with the companies' superbly redesigned keyboards, which offer specialized Internet buttons and the best key touch ever.

The only thing wrong with these Pentium 4 machines is the Pentium 4 inside; by ordering a 1-gigahertz Pentium III chip in its place, you save several hundred dollars and gain some speed.

In a year, the Pentium 4 may well be the chip to beat. (Intel expects the Pentium III chip to be phased out completely sometime in 2002.) But for the moment, you'd be foolish to pay for it. Remember the final verse of that old song: "In time, my love, all things shall fade: /The kings, and all that they surveyed, /The cities, reaching to the sky, /But marketing shall never die."

## Randy sez and Bill concurs: How Do I Get Rid of a System Font?

By **Randy Zeitman and Bill Achuff**

**Michael wrote**

My son for some reason made a duplicate of the Geneva font and left it in the fonts folder, under the name bb. Then he made a copy of bb. When he tries to get rid of them, he is told that he cannot, since they are in use. Even if we try to move them as the first thing after a restart, it will not work. Are we doomed to carry them in the fonts folder for ever, or is there a way to get rid of them?

**Randy replied:**

Move the Fonts folder to the Desktop (anywhere outside the System Folder) and throw them away. Then move it back. You may have to restart with Extensions off but it might work without it.

**Bill adds**

Randy's recommendation will work.

Folks face a similar dilemma when they try to delete the System or Finder before trying to replace either. In those instances, and in the immediate instance, if you boot from something OTHER than your boot drive, e.g., System CD, TechTool Pro, Norton Utilities/SystemWorks CD, etc., you can remove just about anything from your boot drive.

Quiz: Name the core System fonts? Can the System operate properly if one is missing? [The second is a trick question.]

## MacAddict CD-ROM (January 2001) Infected with nVir

Your January 2001 MacAddict CD-ROM contains an extra goodie that you probably don't want to install—a virus.

According to MacAddict, the company's latest CD-ROM is infected with a virus.

The January 2001 MacAddict CD is infected with a strain of the 13-year-old nVir virus, the magazine warns. The virus shows up in a public beta of the DarkRage game on the disc.

The magazine reports that the virus "seems to only 'work' on pre-MacOS 9 machines" and that the installer doesn't work on pre-Mac OS 8 machines.

**Bill Achuff sez:**

# MORE ABOUT

One of you asked how the Vir (A) virus managed to get onto what most folks would assume is a safe delivery source (known software from a known source on locked media).

<snip from MacFixIt 12/21>

Yesterday, we mentioned that anti-virus utilities were not detecting the VIR virus found in the January 2001 MacAddict disc. Several readers gave us the explanation for this. The explanation points out a weakness in the ability of anti-virus utilities to detect viruses in compressed or installer-related files:

The utilities do not spot the virus because it is contained “within an installer within an installer. The top-most installer does not have the virus; you must run it to get the installer that has the virus.”

Ted Thibodeau similarly noted: “The virus infects a file which is installed by the game installer referenced in the MacAddict warning, but not the game installer itself. If you read the MacAddict warning, you will see this is why they failed to catch the infection in the first place — the DarkRage Public Beta installer is technically uninfected; what it installs is multiple other installers, one of which is the infected file. Those installers are then run, apparently automatically.”

<end snip>

I do not have the January 2001 MacAddict CD so I cannot verify this information, but it does make sense, to a point.

If I had the CD would I feel safe running the installer KNOWING FULL WELL it was infected? Yes, and I’d try it a home, too <G>. When my brother draws blood from an HIV infected patient, he knows the risk and takes proper precautions.

If you are unaware, this is not the first time a virus has been distributed by a “reputable” source, so how do you protect yourself especially if you’re ignorant of any danger?

Most virus protection programs can detect viruses in compressed files, but you’ll probably have to SELECT this

option; it is usually DEselected by default. Many users do NOT select this option, especially those who have many compressed files [archives] because those files must be uncompressed on the fly, checked, and recompressed, which can significantly increase time needed to do a virus scan. The smarter course of action is to do a complete, indepth exam of your hard drive ONE TIME with all features enabled, and then leave the preference to check compressed files ACTIVE. In this way all your newly acquired compressed files, generally those files which you download from developer sites, shareware sites, and copy [perhaps, from CDs distributed with magazines], will be scanned.

This is the FIRST level of protection but as it’s been pointed out, a virus can be buried deep within a file which reports itself clean.

Because I could not run the infected program to test my hypothesis, I will posit folks learned about the virus when they ran the installer inside the installer, and their virus protection warnings kicked in. It’s unlikely they would know there was a virus this soon were that NOT been the case, SO, the protection programs DO WORK.

Knowing now what you know, and what I conjecture happened, how should you reduce your risk exposure?

First, have a virus protection program if you routinely load files downloaded or obtained from various sources. Some folks habitually resist updating anything until bugs or viruses have been detected by the scouts [those with the arrows in their bodies].

Second, run a complete, indepth check of your hard drive using a reliable, full-spectrum, uninfected virus protection program. You MIGHT think this means running from the virus protection program’s CD but not necessarily. If you purchased Virex 6 when it was first released, it has since had an upgrade, and many months of virus definition updates have been released—the January 2001 definitions have just been posted. I sug-

# VIRUS PROTECTION

gest that you copy your virus protection program to a removable cartridge, upgrade it if necessary, and load the latest definitions. [For the uninitiated, you only have to load the LATEST definitions, you need not load all that have been released earlier, and don't be misled by the word, "definitions"; think of definitions as updates.] NOW, run a complete check of your hard drive. Then install your virus protection program, upgrade [if needed] and definitions, or if it is already installed, and the report is clean, simply set your protection at a high level [via preferences].

Clarification: While I recommend that you set your protection at a HIGH level I do not suggest that you elect the HIGHEST level of protection, i.e., checking for viruses during idle times, virus protection running in the background, etc. These options, IMO, significantly diminish system performance while providing very limited ADDITIONAL protection.

Unfortunately, although I can have Virex automatically check my downloaded files without difficulty I could not get Norton AntiVirus' Auto Detect to work reliably, and it has caused conflicts on many of my client's computers; I have, and I have had my clients, disabled it. This means a level of protection has been obliterated and although it concerns me somewhat, I am not alarmed because there is a workaround. If your virus protection program does not reliably auto check downloaded files [if you have operational conflicts] simply have your browser download files [by preference setting] to a quarantine folder and then check that folder for viruses before you unstuff the files. You can [by preference setting] permit decoding but halt unstuffing/decompressing. You can drag and drop the quarantine folder onto the virus protection program's icon or launch the program and select the folder.

Repeating what we have recently learned, at this point you are STILL uncertain your files are free from any viruses, but you're as certain as you can be, IMO.

Third, keep your virus protection definitions current. Virex and Norton AntiVirus issue definitions monthly, generally during the last week or the first week of each month. If you visit VersionTracker, or MacUpdate, or MacFixIt daily you'll be notified of updates, otherwise, check the first week of each month at the publisher's Website. VirusBarrier and the virus protection component of TechTool Pro are not updated each month, but both publishers claim their protection algorithm provides protection. If a particularly virulent strain of virus is released into the Mac environment between their regularly published updates, both Virex and Norton AntiVirus are quickly updated. SOMEONE will probably make you aware of the danger if one exists, they'll often warn you of dangers when none exist, i.e., virus hoaxes.

## **Addendum**

I use Norton AntiVirus, Virex, VirusBarrier, and a several single purpose programs, e.g., Agax. I'm not paranoid about viruses, and I do not recommend users buy more than two virus protection programs [although one is probably enough]. But, I can say I find features I like better in one program over another but there are features in each program I dislike as well, or don't use. As mentioned, I disable Norton AntiVirus Auto Detect because it conflicts with something I need, but because I want auto protection I get it from Virex but I disable Virex's Scheduler.

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*Editor's Note: Bill Achuff is a well-known personality to all Mac User Group members. He has been a frequent presenter on many varied topics, is the founder of the User Group Alliance, and this article is the result of a Q-and-A series he started with Main Line Users Group. His advice is always current and worth putting into practice by ALL Mac users. He makes it a point to stay current on Macintosh happenings, so my advice is to take his advice seriously.*

*Thanks, Bill.*

## From the President

*Continued from page 5*

### ***Keeping in touch***

As many of you may or may not have known, Jim Nesbitt <misr93@bellatlantic.net>, who had taken the job as MUGSNJ Program Chair last year, died just before the holidays. We have no idea if Jim had been ill or if it was sudden. We hadn't heard from him since the June meeting although we did send e-mail to him. If anyone wants to know where to send cards for Jim, please contact his friend and former MUGSNJ member, Pat Lods Petretti at <plods@hotmail.com> Another MUGSNJ member, Jane Crocker (of GCC) has been helping her husband recover from a heart attack and a triple bypass that he had on Jan. 8, 2001. You can e-mail Jane at <jcrocker@gccnj.edu>. If you yourself, or if you know that any of our members are ill, please let us know so we might send you or them a greeting. I know my husband and I both sincerely appreciated all the warm wishes that were bestowed upon us from my fellow MUGgers.

### ***April Meeting with Dave Marra, Apple Computer***

Dave Marra has penciled us in on his calendar for a presentation on April 25th. This will be a month after the scheduled release of Apple's newest and much hyped operating system, OS X. It should be a great time for a visit from Dave! SJAUG members are welcomed! We'd like to have a huge turnout, so please invite any and all Apple users you know!

### ***OS 9.1 upgrade available at our meeting***

Courtesy of SJAUG, we'll have the latest OS 9 update available at our meeting. It's a large file, so please bring a blank ZIP disk with you. Be sure to check out the recommendations at the Apple website before you do the upgrade. <<http://www.info.apple.com/support/pa ges.taf?product=macos9>>

**Hardware Required:** Any PowerPC-based Apple computer with at least 32 MB of physical RAM, with virtual memory set to at least 64 MB. Please note that third party PowerPC upgrade cards are not supported.

**Important Note:** The 6100, 7100, and 8100 class Apple computers require a Mac OS 9.1 full install CD to upgrade to

Mac OS 9.1. For more information about these computers please see Other Related Information.

**OS Required:** North American English Mac OS 9 (9.0 through 9.0.4)

**Please note: Mac OS 9.1 and Mac OS X Public Beta The Mac OS X Public Beta and Mac OS 9.1 are not compatible.** If you install Mac OS 9.1, the Classic environment in the Mac OS X Public Beta will no longer function.

**Installation Instructions:** This software consists of a self-mounting Disk Copy compressed image of 70 MB. Download this software to your hard drive and then double-click it to use it. You do not need Disk Copy to access .smi files.

## Cookies

*Continued from page 7*

checking the "Warn before accepting cookies" box does give you the option to accept cookies only from sites you trust, but gets really annoying after a while.

Another idea is to make your cookies file read-only. This will prevent any new cookies from being written to your hard disk, while allowing cookies to function normally during a single browser session. So you could still use online shopping sites, but you'd miss out on the ability to use customization features at sites like Yahoo. Deleting your cookies file(s) after closing your browser would have pretty much the same effect.

If you're really serious about online privacy, visit the Anonymizer website ([www.anonymizer.com](http://www.anonymizer.com)) and find out how to make all your web viewing totally anonymous and frustrate the cookie senders. You can also download a variety of free or inexpensive shareware programs such as Cookie Monster, Cookie Cutter and Cookie Crusher that give you total control over cookies.

If you want to learn more about the technical details behind cookies, visit these sites on the web:

Netscape's Cookie Specs—[http://home.netscape.com/newsref/std/cookie\\_spec.html](http://home.netscape.com/newsref/std/cookie_spec.html)

Cookie Central—<http://www.cookiecentral.com>

Electronic Privacy Information Center—<http://www.epic.org>



# Membership Application

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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:  Desktop Pub./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.