

MugShots

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SPECIAL REPORT: A PC REBOUND?

APPLE RECLAIMS THE INNOVATION LEAD

By Alex Salkever, Technology editor for BusinessWeek Online

WITH iMACS, iPods, OS X, and more, Jobs & Co. has grabbed the attention of consumers and—just as important—software developers.

Until a few months ago, Adam Singer had little use for anything Apple. “I always thought highly of Apple products,” says Singer, a New York City Web developer who mainly used Windows machines. “But they didn’t do what I needed them to.”

Singer changed his tune, however, when Apple came out with the iPod for Windows this fall. “It was the first MP3 player that I thought was worth the price,” he says. “To make something that can hold a couple thousand songs in way that you can easily navigate to them on a small screen, that’s pretty amazing.”

Singer’s experience illustrates a perception that PC and electronics industry experts are starting to express more frequently. Simply put, Apple and its CEO, Steve Jobs, are regaining the PC industry’s lead in innovation that they lost five years ago. In a bid to improve the Mac’s lowly 5% market share, Apple’s product developers are the ones pushing the envelope — and the competition, too.

Symbiotic Relationship

These advances aren’t just wrinkles on Apple’s intuitive software and interface design. Ditching the creaky OS 9 operating system, Apple based the guts of its OS X generation—including the recent “Jaguar” —on the Unix operating system common throughout Corporate America. This transformation has yielded significant improvements, the ability to hook Macs to corporate networks and configure them to work better with peripherals such as printers and wireless modems.

Equally important is the way Apple has tweaked the development path of its flagship Jaguar operating system software to create a proprietary product, while at the same time nourishing a symbiotic relationship with the open-source

(nonproprietary) software movement. Taken together, these developments are reestablishing Apple’s role as a leading innovator.

The Macheads have suffered a long drought. Since the late 1990s, they were stuck with only evolutionary changes to an operating system first built a decade ago. That shifted with the introduction of the original iMac in 1998, though cynical observers noted Apple was mainly delivering a pretty box while doing little new on the software side.

Harder to Write For

Worse, a significant percentage of otherwise loyal Apple users hadn’t bothered to upgrade from 1998’s OS 8 to OS 9, first released in October 1999. With its market share shrinking, Apple looked less and less attractive to outside software developers, who generally had to work harder to code products for Macs that sold in much smaller volumes than Windows counterparts.

However, with the introduction of OS X in March, 2001, and the subsequent release of the current Jaguar version of OS X, Apple has returned to its innovative roots and given credence to its claims that Macs aren’t just different but often better.

Take the case of Mark Rolston, a vice-president at frog design, the firm that helped design the Apple IIc back in the 1980s. He appreciates the nifty packaging of the latest iMac, with its small footprint and 17-inch flat-panel monitor that seemingly floats in mid-air. But more important, OS X has changed the way Rolston thinks of his computer.

“I had never bought a digital camera even though I had been in this industry since 1987,” he says. “I think the reason was that it looked like a dead end. You put the picture in the computer, but you had no way to get it back.”

Redefining the PC

Apple’s unveiling in January, 2002 of iPhoto,
Continued on page 8

DECEMBER 2002 CALENDAR						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	Executive Committee Meeting 8 P.M. AHTLounge	12	13	14
15	16	17	GENERAL MEETING 7:30 P.M. GCC AHT RM. 500	19	20	21
22	23	24	MERRY CHRISTMAS!	25	27	28
29	30	HAPPY NEW YEAR!	31			

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From the Editor

Mugsnidge Mutterings

I can't believe it. It must be old age. Maybe I'm just too busy to see the time flying by. And maybe that's a good thing...but then you realize, hey, next week's Thanksgiving. And then I'm doing the December calendar for this issue.

I got really scared! Frightened, even. Holy mackerel, I thought. It's almost Christmas! And I haven't even thought about—wait a minute (I kept thinking, you see), we already picked out



a tree at the tree farm, so that's taken care of; we know who our house guests will be (my son, his wife and my NEW GRAND-DAUGHTER). My granddaughter Caitlyn will be a year old on December 3rd, and I haven't seen her for about 5 months. You know

how fast babies grow and change. So the holidays this year are already planned for. Whew! But then there's the presents...last year I bought an iBook for my wife, who at first said she didn't want it, then became addicted. We have this wireless network and she has an Airport card, so she can go anywhere in the house, from the bedroom to the living room and do her lesson plans or research on the Internet. They're almost inseparable.

But this year it will be harder to decide what to get her. Maybe...well, I gotta think about it some more.

Then there's our HOLIDAY PARTY, December 18th. It's always a great event, with lots of food, activities, socializing, and maybe even some surprise prizes (including the election of new officers for the coming year). So be sure to mark this event on your calendars.

Included in this issue are some editorials of interest to Mac users generally and especially to those who think the PC (that's the IBM-type, in case you didn't know) is still the king of the universe. Apple may be down to three percent of the market share (depending on who is doing the accounting), but technologically it has always been on the cutting edge, setting the standard which the others (you know who they are) imitate.

The OTHER operating system that is being more and more widely accepted is the Linux, which is now found in several different arrays, including one that will run on your vintage Mac (Yellow Dog). I happen to have in my possession a copy of such an OS, which I fully intend to install on one of the Macs that my employer is in the process of disposing. The Linux OS of which I write possess-

es a full array of applications and drivers. Stay tuned for a full report of my exploits (if I ever get around to the installing phase, much less the testing...

Elections are coming up in December with nominations to take place tonight. Remember, you gotta be there to vote or to be elected. From what I understand, the president (yes, our Bob) will not be returning as such, and our secretary is looking for help from an additional position, be it recording or corresponding.

Elsewhere on the Mugsnidge news front, another Pandora's Box is being opened with the reinstatement of Special Interest Groups (SIGs). These will consist of a Beginner's SIG, chaired by Don McGinnis, an Advanced Users SIG, chaired by Bob Buell, and any others that members voice an interest in having. The exact schedule has not been ratified as yet, so make it known to the powers that be about your personal favorite. Perhaps YOU could chair one about your favorite application and contribute immensely to your own sense of satisfaction in the doing to a great deed as well as helping to enlighten others with your knowledge.

Membership is on the rise. the future looks bright. the economy is sloooowly gaining momentum.

Macintosh prices are going down. Check the catalogs—at last notice you could buy a low-end iMac for \$650 with bonuses like extra RAM or a free printer. And if you're in Education, check the Apple Store Education section. You'll find lots of good discounts for teachers, administrators, staff, etc. Or try the Main Line User Group website (<http://www.mlmug.org>). the Main Line Group has a lot of links to other sites that sell Apple stuff.

Yup, the holidays are right around the corner. Once we pass the Thanksgiving weekend, December just disappears right before our eyes.

We're getting some seasonal weather. too. Well we were, until today when the temperature got up to the 60s again. But the meteorologists have promised us some snow in the very near future, so be prepared. Apple stuff makes good gifts for the Apple aficionado and maybe those who need to get acquainted with a Mac.

If you're looking for an older one to get somebody started or give them one to have at college, talk to me. My school district is going all PC. Talk about a traumatic experience...

Members On Line

This column has been removed in deference to members' privacy.

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 Marr's website <www.marrathon.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.britannica.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>

Secretary's Corner

We had a very productive Board meeting on the 13th and I thought you would be interested in what we discussed.

Our President, Bob Buell suggested we take a few minutes out of each meeting, at the end of the program, to demonstrate new products that have come on the market. This will give an opportunity for those members interested to be kept up-to-date. Members not interested can continue with personal Q & A time, socialize or leave. He also would like to institute a Beginners and Advanced SIG program from 7:00 'till 7:30 on meeting nights. Bob also suggested MUGSNJ should invest in a mac.com account that will be available for use by the entire membership.

Our Vice President, Walt Vennell expressed concern that products offered for review are not always followed through by those accepting the commitment to do so. Because of this, vendors are reluctant to offer merchandise as they did willingly in the past. Mentioned was the need for either baseball caps or shirts with an updated MUGSNJ logo. Unfortunately, the powers to be at Apple are not too happy with logos designed by other area MUGs so we will have to apply for approval or not use the Apple logo. Walt will be auctioning off the Disney jacket contributed by Anita Tobin on e-Bay and use the money to offset some of the costs of the caps or shirts. He will also check out the free mac.com account for limited access by the Board.

As for myself, I suggested we start a library for members as set up by other User Groups. We have the finances in our treasury to purchase a rolling, locked storage cabinet that can be stored in the Lab closet. Books and instructional material will be supplied by members from their own resources and we can also purchase material with group funds. We will need someone to volunteer as librarian.

Our Treasurer, Walter Burns will request funds from our college account for the mac.com site and locked cabinet. Walter will also set up a FileMaker Pro Data Base for our library.

Back again to Walt Vennell, our Program Chair. His wife has graciously volunteered (or should I say Walt volunteered her) to take care of the December Holiday Party gifts. We will have something for everyone. As before we will distribute raffle tickets and as each number is picked, members will choose a gift. Since we have amassed a huge array of everything from

full software programs to Tee shirts Santa will be very generous this year. Members will bring "Goodies" so the Spinias can take a well-deserved break. Bob Buell will be January's presenter but with so much new "Stuff" available he hasn't committed to a topic. February's program will be on "Identity Theft" followed by programs on Genealogy, Comcast, Connective, and hopefully, Adobe In Design.

Our newsletter editor, Nate Gable continues to request material for MugShots and is excited about our new member, Stan Horwitz, who has promised reviews and an article on the San Francisco MacWorld Expo he will be attending.

Erica Spina, who along with her husband Michael, serve as our Hospitality Chairs would like someone else to take over the responsibility of refreshments after their term is up in January.

Next we came to "Old Business" the AirPort Station we wanted to install may be a dead issue because the college, rightfully so, is concerned about security breaches. We will investigate the possibility of setting up a temporary AirPort Station to be used only during meetings when the program requires Internet connections.

Last but not least, "New Business". We discussed the urgency of a MUGSNJ brochure. Our Waltz (Walt and Walter) will peruse all the material they were given at the Apple Leader's Luncheon and design something for the Board's approval. The problem is the use of the Apple logo. There are four pages of instructions on how it must be displayed. Nate will supply them with a copy of our old brochure, which won him an award, for reference.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carole Dadino
Secretary, MUGSNJ

New Members

We have several new members this year. Please welcome them and extend that wonderful Mugsnidge hospitality toward them. i.e., make them feel wanted, needed and loved.

Elaine Arbo	Stan Horwitz
Maria Arguelo	Phil Miller
Anita Drusdow	Dorothy Mitchell
Sandra Dunn	Bob Mooney
Gerry Harpole	Barbara Reiber

Dick Wendler

Leaving No Child Behind

Apple at the NSBA

Several thousand educators stampeded Dallas to attend the National School Board Association (NSBA) Technology + Learning (T+L) Conference, where participants learned firsthand how technology can help them meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act.

In the state that boasts that everything within its borders is big, the emphasis at the T+L Conference was to “discover the education technology that will help your students soar.” Apple demonstrated its commitment to helping students excel in a big way by showcasing Mac OS X, the new Curriculum Mobile Labs, and PowerSchool, and highlighting Henrico County Public School’s (Virginia) one-to-one technology initiative.

A Laptop for Every Learner

In the Apple booth theatre Technology Director Michael Smith and Assistant Technology Director Lloyd Brown presented Henrico County Public Schools’ vision, lessons, and results of its technology initiative in which ultimately all middle school and high school teachers and students will have their own wireless iBook laptop computer. With its 64 schools, 43,300 plus students, and 5,390 staff, why did Henrico County embark on such an ambitious initiative?

“We are preparing students for today, providing meaningful instruction, closing the digital divide, and improving academic performance,” Michael Smith explained. “Education today is still on a locomotive. How do we get students from the locomotive to the jet plane that business is on today?” Smith asked.

“What’s happening today in Henrico schools,” Smith said, “is active engagement, real-life tasks, communication, collaboration, problem solving, and critical thinking—not lecture regurgitation.”

Lessons Learned

Smith said, “We’re changing the way we’re teaching our students, but to effect this change successfully you must take the time to train the teachers to integrate technology into the curriculum. You must move from static textbooks to dynamic digital media content.” He added, “Staff development and peer tutoring will help resistant teachers.”

As far as financing the initiative, Smith stated, “You can do it. You can stretch your dollars through lease programs, realignment of allocations (such as textbooks, tables, and paper), part-

nerships, and increase the percentage of the budget for technology—without a tax increase.”

Community Must Embrace the Vision

Smith went on to explain the necessary components for a successful technology initiative. “Everyone in your community has to know the vision of the one-to-one computing initiative... The superintendent, school board members, parents, students, teachers, and the business community have to know what the vision is.”

Lloyd Brown reiterated the importance of communicating with all of the community stakeholders and outlined some other “must haves” for a successful technology initiative: inexpensive Internet access, ongoing teacher training, and quality content. And don’t forget protective bags for the laptop computers.

Results Attract Students and Teachers

Brown outlined the results of the initiative so far, including improved interest in learning, better homework due to readily available materials, and more focused students who can express themselves using iMovie. Ninety-two percent of the Henrico County Public Schools are now accredited and test scores are up across the high schools, Brown reported.

Attendance at the county’s schools has increased, including private school students returning to the public school system, Smith added. “Teacher recruitment has also improved since the one-to-one technology initiative.”

Curriculum Mobile Labs Showcased

Designed with the No Child Left Behind Act in mind, the new Curriculum Mobile Labs promote student achievement in a Texas-sized way. In the Apple booth, teachers and technology coordinators alike commented on the value of the mobile labs that include 8 to 20 wireless iBook computers plus software and other components for math, science, literacy, and language curriculum.

Amy Inselberger, a science teacher at A.E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire (Illinois) said, “The new Science Mobile Lab looks great and the staff development component of all the Apple mobile labs ensures your students get the most learning from the technology.”

Wendy Custable, a graphic arts and technical drawing teacher, also from A.E. Stevenson High School, was understandably more interested in the Mobile Digital Media Studio. “I ask my students

T + L Conference

to design CD and magazine covers and I currently only have one camera for them to use. But with the Mobile Digital Media Studio, I could have teams of two students using the cameras or scanner to produce images for their assignments.”

Technology Coordinator Scott Rumage of Jacksboro (Texas) commented on the benefits of the iBook Wireless Mobile Lab in his school's Learning Center. Rumage said, “Our mobile lab meets two goals for us. It updates our technology and provides technology to the Learning Center students who typically don't have access to computers. We allow them to take the iBooks home so they can continue with their studies after school.”

PowerSchool Pluses

Rumage also addressed the benefits of the PowerSchool Student Information System, which received an outstanding Technology Leadership Award from education technology market research firm QED at the T+L Conference. “Our old student information system was closed in, allowed no customization without \$250-an-hour programmer time, and wasn't cross platform. It wasn't user friendly and it was hard to get data.”

He continued, “Parents love PowerSchool. Since it's web based, you can access PowerSchool anywhere. Parents like the real-time data. They can check whether their student skipped third period or not, or turned in homework.”

Teachers benefit from the school's new student information system as well. Rumage said, “Teachers can enter grades from home which is a great convenience for them.” Another PowerSchool plus: Teachers enjoy increased communication with parents due to the system's simplified email capabilities.

Thanks to PowerSchool, “Superintendents and principals can now — in only 15 seconds — generate enrollment summaries that used to take three hours and four people to do,” said Rumage. “My support duties have been simplified, too, because our new system is cross-platform.”

X for Everyone

In addition to the X for Teachers program in which Apple gives a copy of Mac OS X v10.2 “Jaguar” to every eligible K-12 teacher in the U.S., the company announced the new X for Schools program — a volume license discount offer for eligible U.S. K-12 schools through December 31, 2002.

Mac OS X Applications for Education

There are currently 4,000 Mac OS X applications, over 600 of which are Education applications. When asked why his company developed its applications for Mac OS X, Product Manager Jake Hopkins at Vernier Software and Technology replied, “Because our customers were asking for it. I was receiving so many emails asking when we were going to move to Mac OS X that I created an automated response to those inquiries.”

Another reason for the move to Mac OS X: “Our programmers were able to develop the Mac OS X version more quickly than for other platforms because of the developer tools, resources, and support Apple provides,” Hopkins said. Vernier developed Logger Pro 3, which is a component of the Science Mobile Lab, on Mac OS X first.

It Takes a Nation

The goals of “leaving no child behind” are bigger than even Texas. Participants at the T+L Conference from around the nation — superintendents, school board members, technology coordinators, teachers, parents, and technology providers—focused on the requirements of the NCLBA legislation and are closer to those goals after exploring the role technology can play in reaching them.

eTIP: AppleScripting Your Way to Fame and Fortune

AppleScript is like a tape recorder for your Mac; it can record and play back things that you do, such as opening an application or clicking a button. It is the Mac OS's built-in automation tool, and if you're the type of Mac user who likes to automate as many things as possible, then you'll love AppleScript. For example, you can have an AppleScript lock or unlock a whole slew of files for you by just highlighting the files and running the script. Try to do that in Windows!

In Mac OS X, AppleScript has graduated from a little-used, relatively unknown feature to a full-blown, indispensable part of the OS. To find out more about AppleScript, check out Apple's Web site [<http://www.apple.com/applescript>], where you can download some sample scripts and get a crash course on creating your own scripts. You can also download the Script Menu for easy access to your AppleScripts from the Mac OS X menu bar.

Apple Reclaims Innovation Lead

Continued from front page

with its easy cropping and printing of photos, persuaded Rolston to buy his first digital camera. What's more, his mother decided to buy a Mac so she could send, receive, and manipulate photos of her grandchildren. "She didn't go through a litany of checklists. She looked at the one feature that means everything in the world to her. It redefines your idea of the PC," says Rolston.

And Apple has more where iPhoto came from, including, iTunes, iMovie, and iDVD. While Apple didn't introduce these concepts, Rolston notes, it did distill existing applications into a system that makes them far more usable than before. "They picked concepts that had life but weren't living up to their promise," says Rolston. "There were lots of players, but none of them were igniting anyone's imagination."

Beyond making such functions friendlier, Apple is starting to come up with innovative uses of Unix. The kernel (the most basic part of an operating system's software) of OS X and Jaguar is open-source (nonproprietary, and available for manipulation by programmers everywhere) code that began life as part of the FreeBSD project, one of many Unix variations built during the late 1960s by AT&T Bell Labs programmers. Apple has already started tapping other FreeBSD code to help deliver no-cost innovation.

Here, Take This

For example, behind Apple's newfound ability to easily share files with Windows machines lies some key bits of FreeBSD code that Apple programmers were able to painlessly incorporate into Jaguar. And when Apple had problems with its proprietary printer-control system in OS X version 1.5, it simply grabbed a comparable Unix system called CUPS (common Unix printing system) and dropped it into Jaguar.

"The open-source community has worked on drivers for hundreds and hundreds of different legacy printer models. We would have had to do that all ourselves," says Ken Bereskin, Mac OS X marketing director. "Every line of code you don't have to write means higher quality and faster time to market."

The combination of open-source code and Apple's powerful homegrown OS X development tools has made building new applications for Macs a relative dream for outside developers. "Things that are very difficult to do in a Unix or Windows system, such as add cryptography software for smart cards, almost fall out for free in OS X," says Robert Watson, a key developer on the FreeBSD project, and a senior researcher at computer-secu-

rity software firm Network Associates.

Important Allies

Open-source code "makes things easy to develop for Jaguar and Apple," adds Rick Spillers, product manager for Hewlett-Packard's (HPQ) Macintosh unit, which oversees efforts to make HP's printers and other peripherals Apple-compatible. That's a cultural sea change from the days when Apple was known as a secretive company. "We clearly understood from Day One that standards was the key to fit into increasingly complex networking environment," says Ken Bereskin, Mac OS X marketing director.

At the same time, Jobs & Co. has won allies in the FreeBSD community by contributing to the party. Watson says when features of FreeBSD are incorporated into updates of OS X, voluminous feedback from Apple users provides valuable information about software bugs and how to fix them, which leads to more rigorous and rapid testing of the improvements than the FreeBSD community could previously manage.

Plus, it allows FreeBSD developers to upgrade that software more quickly, as well. The Apple desktop interface has won over many FreeBSD diehards who love the Mac's easy graphical navigation vs. the typed Unix commands needed for earlier FreeBSD systems.

Strides in Standards

At long last, Apple has pulled ahead of Microsoft in its drive to incorporate industrywide technology standards, such as IPv6, a new system of numbering devices on the Internet that's the equivalent of adding extra area codes to the phone network. Apple has already incorporated support for IPv6 into its software, something the Windows crew has generally not done. What's more, Apple is even making strides in setting industry technology standards itself.

Apple's Rendezvous data-networking standard creates true plug-and-play networking of PC and Mac devices, and hardware manufacturers are quickly embracing it as the wave of the future. Apple is also the first PC company to adopt a type of memory-chip technology called DDR333 — something that rarely happened in the past when Apple often fell behind the rest of its competitors in incorporating advanced technologies.

No one claims that all of Apple's innovations are perfect. Annoying bugs persist in Jaguar, often leaving users staring at a spinning rainbow icon while the machine ponders what to do next.

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MacLunch and Apple Store Opening in King of Prussia Mall



Familiar faces schmoozing with the camera at MacLunch before visit to Apple Store.



At MacLunch: up close and personal with Maria Arguello and friends.



Posing—Squeeze in, squeeze in... They really let all these people in the new Apple Store at one time?



Local officers and... what IS that thing over Jim Anderson's head? Do they sell hair dryers there?



Apple Engineer Dave Marra and his attractive wife with Moe Comeau and event organizer Achuff.



Maria and friend play with Apple toys while Walt Vennell engages in heavy conversation (AppleTalk?).

I Made the Switch

Apple's new line of laptops, plus one-step migration software, made a convert out of me.

By Shoshana Berger

I SWITCHED. No, I'm not friends with the creative director at Apple, and I don't plan on being the next "reality model" to mug for an ad. I haven't used a Mac since high school, but my PC laptop just melted down after nearly five years of trusty service, so when Apple announced its new line of more robust PowerBooks and iBooks two weeks ago, I bit.

Two things help curb my anxiety about leaving the Windex transparency of Windows (Gate's branding team landed an apt metaphor—seeing through to the back-end guts of the computer is important to anyone who doesn't have an IT department in the living room). The first is Apple's new OS X "Jaguar," which is UNIX-based—or so all my propeller-head friends tell me—and is more stable and more transparent than any earlier system. The other is Move2Mac, a new switchers' software from Detto Technologies that races like a bullet train, migrating 500 megabytes of PC documents and settings to a Mac in just 15 minutes.

Let's talk hardware first. The new PowerBook G4's blow-your-hair-back feature is a slot-load SuperDrive that burns both CDs and DVDs. And with Disc Burner software integrated into the Jaguar OS, I can burn movie and backup DVDs as large as 4.7 gigabytes right from my desktop. The machine still comes in a slick, sub-zero-style titanium casing with the best screen of any laptop I know. It's still 1 inch thick and 5.4 pounds. But now it packs a 1-gigahertz PowerPC G4 processor that performs graphics-heavy maneuvers faster than the 2-GHz Pentium notebooks I've tried. It also comes loaded with a built-in AirPort card slot, and is Bluetooth-enabled [with an add-on USB device] for those of you on a wire purge. Though I went for the PowerBook, I was tempted by the iBook (Apple's milky white laptop), with its new 14.1-inch screen and less severe sticker shock (the bigger-screen iBook sells for \$1,849; the PowerBook, a wallet-burning \$2,999).

The Move2Mac software made the whole process less painful than popping a pill. Using a USB cable, the program transferred my documents, photos, MP3s, and Web bookmarks to my new Mac. Best of all, it threw all of my Outlook Express contacts in a knapsack and made like a hobo across platforms. Switching ain't the 12-step program it used to be.

Move2Mac: \$60; www.detto.com (also sold at the Apple Store). PowerBook and iBook: Check www.apple.com for pricing on various models.

Berger is editor of ReadyMade (www.readymademag.com), the quarterly magazine for people who like to make stuff. Readers and manufacturers can pester her at shana@readymademag.com.

Innovation Lead

Continued from page 8

Many designers argue that Jaguar's core interface, known as Aqua, is inferior to Windows XP. "If I compare Aqua to Windows XP, ignoring what's under the hood, I tend to think XP is ahead of the Aqua interface in terms of usability," says Marion Buchenau, a senior designer with San Francisco industrial design firm Smart Design.

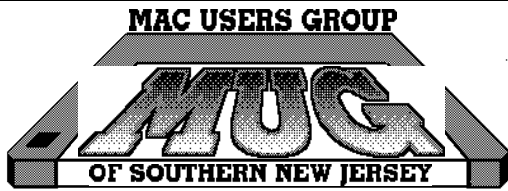
Higher Fruit Needed

Then there's Web browsing, long an Achilles' heel for Apple, since browser software for Macs often has trouble displaying complex pages that look fine on Windows PCs. Apple browsers are "a complete disaster," says frog design's Rolston, who creates specially altered, less complex pages for Macs. Since Apple doesn't create its own browser software, it hardly bears responsibility for the problem.

Yet Rolston also argues that Apple has already picked the low-hanging fruit among consumer applications and its next round of innovations will be harder to pull off. Still, he won't bet against the folks at One Infinite Loop as they pull the stodgy PC business along with them. Now and then, in

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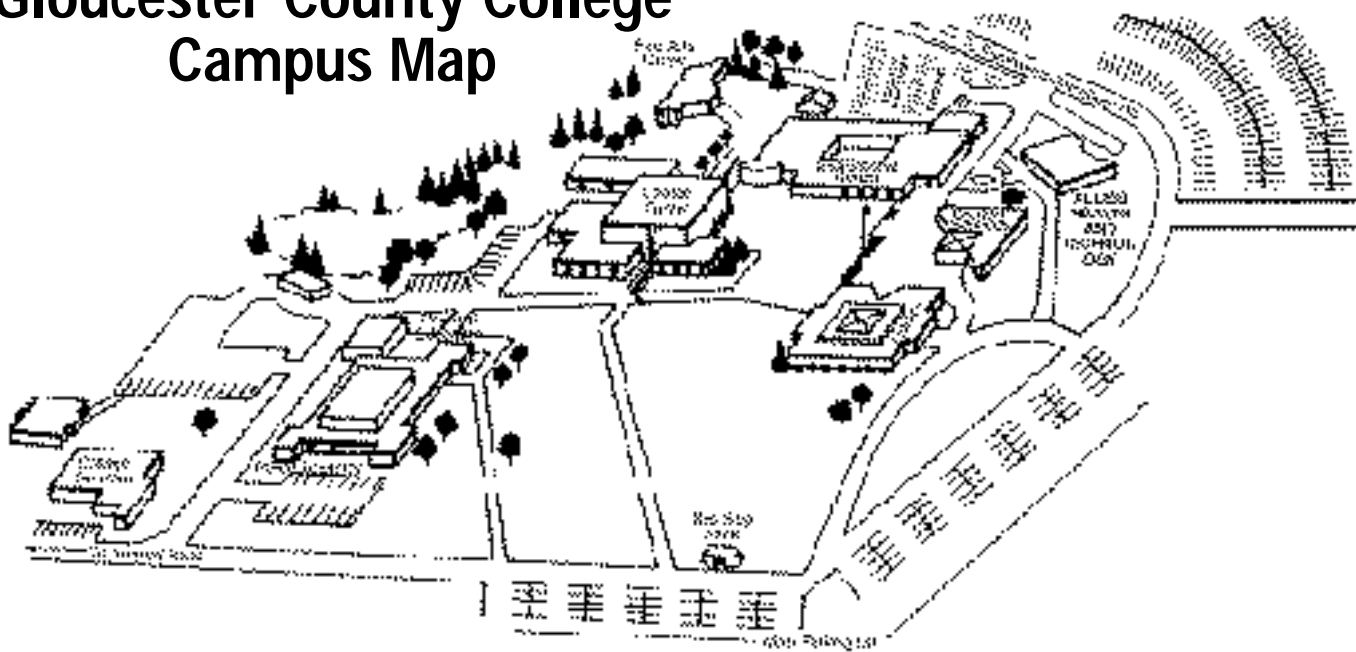
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*NOTE: Corporate/Institutional memberships are granted by approval of the Executive Committee of MUGSNJ, and are based on the number of memberships requested by the corporation/institution as well as its non-profit status.

Gloucester County College Campus Map



MUG General Meetings are held in the Auditorium, Room 500, of the Allied Health and Technology 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.

MugShots

NOVEMBER, 2002

Macintosh Users Group of Southern New Jersey
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Sewell, NJ 08080-9518
Phone: 856-468-5000 ext. 6445

NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

WEDNESDAY,

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HOLIDAY PARTY!

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