

# MugShots

Volume X • Issue #12 • DECEMBER, 2002

## PC KILLER ON THE LOOSE

By Tom Yager

THERE ARE TREND-CONSCIOUS people at every company who demand the sharpest-looking cell phone or PDA, something that screams "I'm so hip." Whether or not it actually works is irrelevant. With IT budgets squeezed almost to zero, management is understandably touchy about frivolous purchase requests.

Therefore, when you hand in your requisition for an Apple PowerBook G4, attach this review. Few who look at the PowerBook G4 can believe it's not the latest fashionable toy. After spending quality time with the PowerBook running Mac OS X 10.2.2, we don't care if we ever touch another \$3,500-plus top-end PC notebook. Yes, it is that good, and its value has nothing to do with its sleek looks.

Apple packaged the PowerBook G4s so exquisitely that at first we were afraid to get our fingerprints on them. Our reverie lasted about 15 minutes. Then we dragged two systems — an earlier 867MHz model and the newest 1GHz unit — through hell for several weeks, both in the lab and on the road. We beat them twice as hard because they're so pretty and because, well, we're not Mac people. When it was over, the PowerBooks owned us utterly. Trust us; that never happens.

### *Nice specs*

The object of this review is the newly updated PowerBook G4, the model that includes a 1GHz PowerPC processor and a SuperDrive DVD/CD burner. It features a 15.2-inch display set in a 3:2 ratio (other notebooks are 4:3), 512MB of RAM, and a 60GB hard drive.

The landscape screen, which has a default resolution of 1280 by 854 pixels, has the widest horizontal viewable range we've seen on a notebook. You can drive an analog or digital external monitor at resolutions as high as 2048 by 1536. The external display either mirrors what's on the LCD or stretches your desktop across both screens. Apple includes all the video connectors you'll need for presentations: VGA, S-Video, and composite.

Apple's sales literature claims the PowerBook G4 outperforms a 2.2GHz Pentium 4, but don't count on that claim. Running at full speed, a P4-

M notebook will feel faster than a PowerBook G4, especially when running applications optimized for the Pentium 4 architecture. But when the P4-M throttles back to conserve the battery or keep from burning your lap, the more efficient PowerPC takes the lead.

The ATI Radeon 9000 display controller with 64MB of RAM makes a big difference in perceived speed. Apple uses hardware-accelerated OpenGL (comparable to Microsoft's DirectX gaming graphics technology) for the entire OS X GUI. Where ClearType font smoothing slows Windows way down, Apple's smoothed text draws fast and scrolls quickly. The combination of the ATI graphics chip and the 1GHz PowerPC processor keeps the interface responsive, even in low-power mode. It's amazing that a 5.4-pound machine can pull five hours out of a battery without slowing to a crawl.

### *Getting online*

The PowerBook G4 has exceptional network and peripheral connectivity. The built-in Ethernet

*Continued on page 8*

## Apple Pulls Back on OS X-only Plan

Apple has pulled back from a plan that would have made Mac OS X the primary operating system on all new Macs starting in January, according to c|net: "Apple will continue to sell schools some Macs capable of booting up into Mac OS 9, and will continue to sell a Power Mac G4 geared toward professionals such as graphic designers until June 2003," Apple said in a statement to select media outlets. The company said that educational customers are ordering 50% of the its Macs with Mac OS X as the default OS and that it "expects this percentage to climb to over 75 percent by the start of the next education buying season this April." (In September, Steve Jobs said that all new Macs would only boot Mac OS X beginning in January 2003.)

JANUARY 2003 CALENDAR						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			HAPPY NEW YEAR! 1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	Executive Committee Meeting 8 P.M. AHTLounge 22	23	24	25
25	27	28	GENERAL MEETING 7:30 P.M. GCC AHT RM. 500 29	30	31	

## In This Issue:

**On the Cover:**  
**PC Killer on the Loose (Editorial)**  
**Apple Pulls Back on OS X-Only Plan**

Monthly Calendar ..... 2  
 Mugsnidge Mutterings. .... 3  
 Members On-Line ..... 4  
 WWW Sites of Interest. .... 4  
 Set up a G4 Airport Base Station ..... 5  
 Shouls I Switch to Jaguar, etc. .... 6  
 Rate a Song in iTunes 3 ..... 7  
 Apple On-Line Store Rings Millionth ..... 8  
 Plugging in Overseas (Tip)  
 FileMaker Honored as Finalist ..... 9  
 Adobe Photoshop Elements (A Review). .... 9  
 Mac Gift ideas (Tip) ..... 9  
 Refresher on E-Mail Etiquette ..... 10  
 Letter to the Editor. .... 10  
 For All You Type-Aholics ..... 10  
 Mac Download of the Week. .... 10  
 MUGSNJ Membership Application ..... 11

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From the Editor

## Mugsnidge Mutterings

Christmas, Christmas time is here, time for joy and time for cheer—and tears, and hurry, and bothersome details, and TIME



THAT IS RUNNING OUT....

I like the first lyrics, anyway. It brings the Chipmunks to mind, with that cute little Christmas ditty that I remember them singing. That's all I remember about it, except that Alvin wanted a hula hoop.

Hula hoops are as gone as the 80-meg hard drive and the 30-pin SIMMS. Technology keeps advancing, changing, with speedier processors and generally less expensive hardware. Apple Computer is right there at the cutting edge, which makes all the other platforms and manufacturers mere imitators.

But Apple only has three percent (?) of the computer market..

While on the surface it may seem to be losing, behind the scenes the cutting edge is continually being sharpened. The "Switchers" ads have been very popular. Both the iMac and eMac are big hits both in design and speed.

What's next? MacWorld San Francisco is right around the corner. Does "The Master" have any more tricks up his sleeve? We'll soon find out.

At any rate, I'm abandoning this column for the time being due to time constraints. The season is taking its toll in minutes, hours and days. With a simple six-hour increment, I'm sure I'd be able to catch up, but no, thank you, I'll just deal with it as it comes.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Happy Holidays to all.

Nate

## Members On Line

*This column has been deleted due to privacy concerns of our members*

## 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>**
- **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>

# SET UP A G4 BASE STATION IN OS X (10.2.2 JAGUAR)

*By Don McGinnis*

## **THE INTRO:**

For those of you who want to save money (by not buying Apple's AirPort Base Station), you can once again set up an AirPort computer base station in OS X (Jaguar...10.2.x). I have had a G4 base station for some time now in OS 9.2.x and ever since I installed 10.2.x, I also wanted to create a G4 base station. (The first phase of OS X would not allow you to do this, but Jaguar put it back in). However, the AirPort Setup Assistant in 10.2 would not let me set it up the way I did in 9.2.x.

So, I posted a question to 1Apple Free Tech, a website for the Mac community to submit questions and hope to get answers. The only person to reply to my question was Jim Anderson (that's right, the SJAUG Prez himself). Below is the reply I posted to the 1Apple Free Tech site, after his suggestion to buy the December issue of *MacAddict*.

## **THE INFO:**

Many thanks to the sharp-eyed Jim Anderson, who spotted a rather small paragraph in the December issue of *MacAddict*.

A question about a software base station in X was printed in the "How To/Ask Us" section of the magazine. The secret is knowing where to start and the steps you need to take after that.

I opened the AirPort Set-up Assistant in OS X and all I found was the ability to:

- 1) join an existing airport network, or,
- 2) set up an airport base station.

#2 was referring to a "real" Airport base station, not a computer base station). So the Setup Assistant was no help to me at all.

Here's the lowdown for anyone trying to turn their G4 into a base station in OS 10.2.x (Jaguar):

- 1. Open "System Preferences" and look for the Sharing Folder.**
- 2. Open that folder and you'll see three tabs. Click on the "Internet" tab.**
- 3. Make sure the "Share your internet connection with air-port-equipped computers..." check box IS CHECKED.**
- 4. Just above the check box is a "Start/Stop" button. Make sure you click "Start," to allow other computers to share your internet connection.**
- 5. Quit "Sys Prefs" and your new settings are saved.**

Five easy steps, once you know where to look. The G4 is now acting as an AirPort Base Station.

Now, for the other two Macs I want to get on line. On the G4 iMac (also running 10.2.2), I

opened the Network icon in System Preferences. There I found four tabs. Under the TCP/IP tab, I choose "Using DHCP" for the "Configure" setting. I then clicked the AirPort tab and near the bottom...I UNCHECKED "Allow this computer to create networks" and clicked on the radio button at the top that says, "Join network with best signal" I can click "Apply Now," or just quit the System Preferences and the new settings are saved.

The G4 iMac was on line in seconds. The other iMac is a slot loading G3/600 running OS 9.2.2. On this iMac I opened the Airport control panel under the Apple Menu and made sure "Airport" (in the middle pane), was turned on. In the "Airport Network" (the bottom pane), I had to open the drop down list "Choose network" and sure enough...the name of the G4's network was there. So, it was just a matter of choosing it and *presto!* I immediately got a signal level in the top "Status" pane, indicating that this iMac was now on the AirPort network.

As you can see, it is not difficult to set up a computer base station in Jaguar. You just have to know where to start and look. Apple does things differently in OS X (arrrggghhh!!!).

*Don "Mac"*

**Tip:** A software base station is attractive because you don't have to buy a separate piece of hardware, but it has several downsides. For one, a software base station is more complicated to set up. Also, the Mac on which the software is running must be left on so that other wireless Macs can connect to the network. The software also uses some valuable memory and processing power on the Mac, reducing the Mac's performance. And lastly, you probably won't be able to reposition the host Mac to optimize the wireless network signal as easily as you can the freestanding base station.

## **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	Phil Miller
Maria Arguelo	Dorothy Mitchell
Anita Drusdow	Bob Mooney
Sandra Dunn	Barbara Reiber
Gerry Harpole	Frank Santoro
Stan Horwitz	Dick Wendler

**Achuff's Articulations**

# Should I Switch to Jaguar?

## (And Should I Ask Santa for a Palm Pilot?)

In a message dated 12/9/02 3:47:55 PM, John Luling writes [edited]:

1) I am presently using OS 9.2.2. I was given OS 10.2 JAGUAR..

Should I make the switch? Will I be able to use most of my older apps which I am using with OS 9.2.2?

2) It is Christmas and my wife keeps asking me what I might want for Noel. The thought of a Palm Pilot (sp) keep coming up. I would want to keep a bunch of statistical history on it. Is this possible? Which one would you recommend? I have a G3 blue and white using either USB or FireWire.

Any help will be much appreciate. Thank you.

### **Bill Achuff replies**

Aside from differences of opinion about Apple's leadership there has never been a time when I can recall the Apple users have been so deeply divided as they now are—those who embrace OS X and those who do not. I do NOT embrace OS X and I have resisted moving any of my clients to OS X. OS X gives me nothing I need and because I have to support my clients I don't need the headaches that OS X causes—OS 9 and 8 give me ENOUGH headaches. [So you see I do not pretend that 9 was/is without flaws.]

If I attempt to describe all those reasons I have not moved to OS X I am not sure I would be doing right by your question so I will step back and look at the bigger picture using mostly those factors which impact your usage.

OS X (et al.)

**Pros:** You HAVE a copy of OS X (Jaguar). That, alone, has saved you the need to consider spending \$80 (give or take).

In OS X Classic mode you can use almost all of your OS 9.x applications.

You can partition your hard drive and have OS X running in one partition and OS 9 running in another. Have the best of both worlds (OSs) I suppose. [FWB recently released a utility, Partition ToolKit, which will allow you to partition your hard drive without reformatting.]

You have a G3 (so you CAN run OS X).

If you add a USB 2.0 card you can use USB 2.0 peripherals with OS X.

You will have protected memory and preemptive multitasking (see summary).

**Cons:** If you don't have a relatively fast G3 OS X will be sluggish.

Expect to add more RAM (although it is inexpensive).

You'll have more difficulty performing backups, IMO, and you'll need new apps. [One of the best, Carbon Copy Cloner is freeware.]

Until you make a full conversion you'll be running two operating systems, maybe three—OS X (native), OS X Classic, and OS 9.2.2.

You'll probably need to buy a few books, like, *OS X: The Missing Manual*.

OS X and OS 9 are both similar and dissimilar. You will have to forget some of what you know and give up some of what you have become accustomed to and learn something new (which you may not like).

To get the full benefit of OS X you might need to upgrade your applications or you will be running in two modes—OS X native for applications like Internet Explorer 5.2 but in Classic for Office 2001.

### **Between and Between**

OS X has the ability to self-repair (thank goodness). But you have to activate the routine repair process unless you leave your computer on, and running OS X, when repairs are normally done. Frankly, I find the dearth of OS X drive/System maintenance utilities of concern...NUM breaks with each update, Drive 10 is NOT on a par with TechTool Pro, DiskWarrior 3 is STILL not available (although you can run version 2.1 to repair OS X directories). Advocates say UNIX is rock solid...few repairs are needed. I won't argue with the first part of the statement but I sure don't agree with the second part.

### **Summary:**

If you don't NEED to—if there is no compelling REASON to upgrade right now—I recommend that you do NOT IGNORE Apple's hype. There is very little you can do in OS X that you cannot do in OS 9. Some of the ballyhooed benefits of OS X I have yet to see as REAL benefits. For example, protected memory—true, if I have a major software hang in 9 I may have to force quit or do a warm reboot but I VERY seldom have to and I REALLY stress my equipment and the OS with all the software and hardware testing I do. OS X DOES CRASH more often than the advocates will admit and I have found it necessary to force quit apps in OS X down to the Finder and finally had to reboot. Tell me, how is protected memory helping me? If you visit the tech help sites

# Jaguar and the Palm

like MacFixIt you'll find there are FAR more problems being addressed with OS X than with OS 9 (which by now is a mature OS). For example, if your scanner and printer work with OS 9, they might not with OS X, and because Symantec developed Norton Utilities [SystemWorks] as they did, each update to OS X breaks NUM 7/SW 2.

I can't run iPhoto in OS 9 but I wouldn't run it in OS X either; I'll match up iView Media Pro against iPhoto in a heartbeat. Meanwhile I habitually label my folders so I can search and sort them—OS X has YET to deliver that simple feature. iCal is nice...REAL nice, for those who happen to be using it. InkWell? Wow. Cool! Who's using it? The OS X e-mail filtering, OTOH is VERY good. And Sherlock 3 and especially Watson...I wish I had those on 9 (but they're NOT compelling...and that's MY rule of measure).

Am I saying FORGET ABOUT IT? No. If your Mac is not used for mission critical business work give it a whirl. I am far LESS negative about OS X 10.2 (Jaguar and its updates) than I was about the piece of crap Apple first foisted off on us as OS X (after public beta).

## Palm (et al.)

Your spelling was correct but since Pilot Pen company sued Palm over the use of "Pilot" in naming their products folks should be saying, Palm.

Palms (and the category of PDA devices) are interesting tools. They are much less expensive than Macs (but some cost more than PCs), and because they are inexpensive it gives rise to people's being willing to shop more selectively for features and appearance.

Yes, depending on how much statistical data you expect to handle and in which formats a Palm should provide the utility you need given the right applications and sufficient memory storage. DBs are storage intensive. Unless your statistical data can be maintained with bundled apps you'll need to spend roughly \$50-\$60 for FileMaker Mobile or Documents To Go (or something similar).

You'll find that the Palm OS is pretty much a standard; it runs on other company's units, like Handspring. Beyond that, you have to decide if a unit costing only \$100 will work or if you want all the features that come with a unit costing five times as much. How much does your wife love ya?

## Recommendations

I'm hard pressed to make one unless I can do side-by-side comparisons. Palm was (and may still

be in financial difficulty) but it's been said unless you want features found only in another PDA, stick with Palm. [WHO said that you might ask, as I asked one member a couple months ago? The answer: magazine reviewers (who should be independent) and sales people, (even those in stores which sell other brands).] I have a Palm VIIx (which I got with a collapsible keyboard and extra memory for a steal/deal) and I am very satisfied with it although, frankly, I think that tells you NOTHING very meaningful. The Palm Zire costs \$99 but if you're hung up on color you need to spend twice as much. The i705 Tungsten is very nice but costs nearly \$500. OTOH, Handspring, which our friend Steve Windstrom from BusinessWeek seems to like has the Treo 90 with color screen and built in keyboard for \$300.

What you MIGHT want to look for, although it's relatively new right now, is Bluetooth compatibility. One day you might have your PDA, your cell phone, and your computer's contact manager all exchanging information as soon as one comes in range of the other. The i705 (a.k.a. Tungsten) IS Bluetooth ready, has voice recording, and a big screen.

PDAs have sync software which you can use in the meantime via USB connections to your B&W (with OS 9 or X).

*Ed. Note: Bill Achuff is the listmom for MLMUG's listserve and frequently shares his Q&As with me. His straightforward answers are honest, always informative, and pull no punches.*

## Rate a Song in iTunes 3—Easily!

What's the easiest way to rate a song you have in your iTunes 3 library?

Hold down the Control key, click on the name of the song you'd like to rate, and when the contextual menu appears, select the rating you'd like to assign the song from the My Rating drop-down menu.

Of course, for the song's rating to appear, iTunes needs to know that you'd like the My Rating column to appear in your Library and/or playlist. That, too, can be accomplished via a contextual menu: hold down the Control key, click the column heading, and select My Rating from the contextual menu that appears. As an alternative, read the Knowledge Base article, "iTunes 3: How to Rate Songs."

<http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=34888>

## PC-Killer

*Continued from front page*

supports copper gigabit, and the 1GHz model includes an AirPort 802.11 wireless adapter. The back panel, protected by a hinged metal cover, also has two USB (not USB 2.0) ports and a full-sized FireWire socket.

We tested the AirPort card with both a 3Com access point and Apple's AirPort Base Station. 3Com's access point puts out a much stronger signal, but the PowerBook's airport card and software had no trouble making encrypted connections to both. The AirPort installs easily under the keyboard, leaving the Cardbus slot open.

The PowerBook adapts quickly and automatically to existing networks and handles changes quite well. It reconnects almost instantly when waking from sleep mode. In fact, the whole machine is ready to go before you get the cover open. We tried to confuse OS X by reconfiguring our lab's wireless and copper networks while it was connected. We never managed to give it more than a few seconds' pause. Unless it needs new security credentials, OS X makes a home on whatever network it finds without asking you anything. We mounted Windows file shares and authenticated against the lab's Active Directory server without difficulty. Being based on BSD 4.4, OS X had no trouble securely sharing files with our Linux, Solaris, and FreeBSD hosts.

### ***Better than a desktop***

The PowerBook G4 probably will spoil you for your desktop PC. The slot-loading SuperDrive (how did Apple squeeze a DVD burner into a 1-inch tall case?) records CD-R, CD-RW, and DVD-R media. Now that a blank DVD-R is going for under \$5 a disc, it's practical for general storage as well as making movie discs for your home DVD player. The Pioneer drive also works with DVD-RW media. The SuperDrive is slow, burning CD-R at only 8X and DVD-R at 2X, but remember: This is a notebook. Your desktop can't burn 4.7GB onto an optical disc at any speed.

The titanium chassis, the DVD burner, the wide-screen display, the super-fast graphics chip, the Gigabit Ethernet, the FireWire, and the standard wireless connectivity only paint part of the PowerBook picture. More than half of the story is Apple's incredible OS X and the massive collection of bundled and freely downloadable software it runs. If you don't find the software you need, pull it off the Net and compile it using the included graphical development tools. GNU did just that for some 2,500 Unix/Linux projects, and develop-

ers add dozens of titles to that list every day. Commercial developers are also ramping up fast.

The PowerBook G4 isn't a product to watch; it's the only notebook on the market worth spending \$2,500 on, and at that price, it's a steal.

Way to go, Apple.

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## Apple Online Store Rings Up Millionth Customer

Apple's award-winning online store had its millionth unique customer. The Apple Store ([www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)) makes it incredibly easy to customize and purchase a Mac and related software and accessories 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Featuring extensive build-to-order capabilities and easy 1-Click shopping, the Apple Store currently operates in 20 countries and eight languages, and offers Apple's entire product line of hardware and software plus third-party software and solutions.

"Reaching our one millionth customer is a major milestone, and is proof positive that our online shopping experience is second to none," said Tim Cook, Apple's executive vice president of Worldwide Sales and Operations. "The Apple Store is a popular way for a growing number of consumers and businesses to buy Apple products, and with extensive build-to-order capabilities, easy 1-Click shopping and free shipping on orders, it's never been easier to buy a Mac online."

For the holidays, the Apple Store also features a hot holiday gift guide at [www.apple.com/gift-guide](http://www.apple.com/gift-guide). Here, users can find that perfect gift for the Mac user, including the iPod digital music player for Mac and Windows, iMac, digital cameras, digital camcorders and software for the Mac.

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### Tip: Plugging In Overseas

It turns out that your PowerBook or iBook is a lot smarter than you may think. When you travel overseas, it can automatically convert foreign countries' electrical current into the correct voltage for the laptop, whether it's 110v or 220v.

Before you go abroad, however, you still need to buy a plug adapter for the country you're visiting. It doesn't affect the electrical current — it's a simple prong adapter that enables you to plug the laptop into a differently shaped outlet.

You'll discover that it's much easier to find the appropriate adapter before you travel — at a Radio Shack store, for example — than to find one in the country your traveling to.

## FileMaker Database Software Honored as Finalist for 2 Codie Awards

The Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) has honored FileMaker database software products as finalists for two prestigious Codie Awards for 2003. FileMaker Pro 6 is a finalist for Best Business Productivity Product or Service, and FileMaker Pro 6 Unlimited is a Best Numeric/Database Application finalist.

The new FileMaker Pro 6 — powerful new database software with easier- than-ever templates and tools, and a virtually limitless ability to gather, manage and share information — is widely used by workgroups ranging from entire small businesses to departments within the enterprise.

FileMaker Pro 6 has also been named by PC Magazine (January, 2003 issue), as Editor's Choice for Best Personal Database over Microsoft Access 2002 and five other products.

FileMaker Pro 6 Unlimited enables powerful Internet and intranet Web database publishing, bringing expanded productivity to workgroups.

The SIIA Codie Awards showcase the software and information industry's finest products and services, and honor excellence for corporate achievement and philanthropic efforts. Awards will be presented May 6, 2003 at the SIIA annual conference, to be held in San Francisco, CA.

### ***About FileMaker, Inc***

FileMaker is a leader in workgroup databases. FileMaker software lets departments and teams create and share databases to manage and track projects, assets and people. Its award-winning FileMaker line of database software provides relational power, instant and custom Web publishing and legendary ease-of-use. FileMaker, Inc. is the database software subsidiary of Apple Computer, Inc.

## ADOBE PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS 2.0

***A review by Carole Dadino***

At October's meeting it was mentioned that Photoshop Elements 2 retailing at \$99.00 (check the catalogs for better pricing) is an inexpensive alternative to PhotoShop 7.0 (\$588.00). I received a copy of Photoshop Elements with my SmartScan and found it more than meets all my requirements.

Photoshop Elements was introduced to meet the basic needs of Digital camera owners who really do not need all the power of Photoshop.

I find the instructional material found in "How To" and online easy to follow. For instance, the step-by-step tutorial "Harness the power of layers" guides you through the process of editing separate pieces of artwork and combining them in layers for a completed image.

There are many new features not found in my outdated version of Photoshop including "Attach To E-mail". One click shrinks my images, turns them into JPEGs, my Entourage is automatically opened and my images are attached to a blank message window.

The "Quick Fix" feature opens a dialog box that allows you to improve your images in numerous ways and the number of "Brush" tools available are more than adequate for my needs.

I haven't had the opportunity to use of all the capabilities of Photoshop Elements, but I'm sure that, as I familiarize myself with its additional features, I will find the experience rewarding.

I give Photoshop Elements 2 five out of five thumbs up.

## TIP: Mac Gift Ideas

Here comes Santa Claus, here comes Santa Claus...Yes, 'tis the gift-giving season, and we have some knockout ideas for the Mac lover on your Christmas list:

- Apple's iPod [ <http://www.apple.com/ipod/> ]: If you don't know what the iPod is, then you've been spending the last two years under a rock. It's only the hottest portable MP3 player around. The newest model sports a 20GB hard drive — that's up to 4,000 songs, folks.
- Games: Mac gamers will love the two new Star Wars games from Aspyr [ <http://www.aspyr.com/> ] — Star Wars Galactic Battlegrounds (a strategy game) and Star Wars Jedi Knight II: Jedi Outcast (a first-person shoot 'em upper).

- AirPort [ <http://www.apple.com/airport/> ]: AirPort is Apple's wireless networking technology that enables you to connect to the Internet and network all your Macs with out all those wires. You need an AirPort base station and AirPort cards for all of your Macs.
- Mac Dummies books: You knew we couldn't leave our Mac books off the list. Just go to Dummies.com [ <http://www.dummies.com> ] to check out titles like The Flat-Screen iMac For Dummies, Mac OS X For Dummies, Microsoft Office v. X for Macs For Dummies, Final Cut Pro 3 For Dummies, and many more.

***For a whole slew of products that your Mac friends will enjoy, check out Apple's website.***

## A Refresher on E-mail Etiquette

Your iMac makes it even easier to get online. But you don't want to look like an idiot when you start chatting with and e-mailing your buddies. So here's some handy advice for the online newbie.

Like any foreign country, the Net has its own weird culture, including rules of e-mail etiquette that, if broken, will make nasty comments and snideness rain down upon the offender. If you want to be loved online, read up:

- Don't type in ALL CAPITALS. It looks like you're shouting, and no one likes to be shouted at.
- Don't ask what LOL means. It stands for "laughing out loud." And while you're at it: IMHO is "in my humble opinion," ROTFL is "rolling on the floor laughing," and RTFM is "read the freakin' manual."
- Letter to the EditorQuote what you're responding to. If someone e-mails you with a question, don't just write back, "No, I don't think so." The question-asker may have long since forgotten his or her own query. Instead, begin your reply with the question itself, then follow it with your actual answer.

### X-Tip: Grabbing Some Screen

The Mac OS has long made it extremely easy to take snapshots of your screen. In Mac OS 9 and earlier, all you have to do is press Command+Shift+3 to take a full shot of the screen. The screenshot appears on your hard drive in PICT format.

In Mac OS X, you take screenshots in a much different way. You use the utility Grab to take your screenshots. Grab also has a couple of new features, including timed screen captures, so that you can set a time for the screenshot and set up your Desktop the way you want it before Grab shouts, "Say cheese!"

One of the most frequent uses for screen capture under Mac OS 9 was to use the Command+Shift+4 key sequence to select only a portion of the screen, instead of the full screenshot you get when pressing Command+Shift+3. You can select, say, a program's icon and then paste the resulting image into an e-mail or a text document. In Mac OS X, you don't have to Grab a shot of that icon; instead, just drag the icon into a TextEdit document and watch the icon become part of your text.

For more information on the Grab utility, check out Mac OS X Bible [ <http://catalog.dummies.com/product.asp?isbn=076453467X> ], by Lon Poole and Dennis R. Cohen.

## Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

When visiting my daughter on Thanksgiving my son-in-law mentioned he entered my name in his Internet Find Window and found me listed on several web sites. As soon as I came home I checked it out for myself and, sure enough, there I was. The only problem was, it also brought up every web site where the name Carole was listed. Remembering a hint from my MacAcademy Internet CD I typed in "Carole+Dadino" and as they indicated, only the sites that referred to me were listed. If you are looking for a specific site, try it. Their example was something like;

USA+Virgin+Islands+Holiday+Inn

You can see how this would save a lot of surfing if you want to narrow the field of information you are searching for.

Carole Dadino

### Mac Download of the Week

Are you the type of Mac user who needs to know what his or her computer is doing every moment (you know, one of those people)? Then iPulse [ [http://www.iconfactory.com/ip\\_home.asp](http://www.iconfactory.com/ip_home.asp) ] is the ultimate geek solution for you. It provides info on CPU usage, system load, network activity, disk use, and memory — all in one easy-on-the-eyes interface. iPulse is shareware and cost about 10 bucks.

### For All You Type-aholics

Check out: <<http://fontinfo.net/>>

There are great links from the left column although some are now dead.

## Take a Trip to the Big Apple!

**Ask Joan Balster about her  
Humanities Club bus trips  
to shows and other events in  
New York City, Washington,  
D.C., and elsewhere!**