



SEPTEMBER 2007

MacNews

SEATTLE'S MAC USER GROUP

SEPTEMBER 2007 Calendar

- 1**
9:05 AM dBug Cafe at the RC 9:05 AM
- 3**
6:30 PM Beginning Mac User's SIG at RC
- Cancelled due to holiday
- 4**
7:00 PM Board Meeting at RC
- 5**
7:00 PM Final Cut, DVD Studio Pro,
Motion, LiveType, Compressor, Photoshop
- 6**
7:00 PM Genealogy SIG Next Month
- 8**
9:05 AM dBug Cafe at the RC 9:05 AM
- 10**
7:00 PM Internet Development SIG at RC
- 12**
6:30 PM Main Meeting at RC: FileMaker 9
- 13**
7:00 PM Xcoders SIG at RC
- 15**
9:05 AM dBug Cafe at the RC 9:05 AM
- 17**
7:00 PM FileMaker Pro SIG at RC - DevCon
News!
- 19**
7:00 PM Mac OS X SIG at RC
- 20**
7:00 PM Numbers vs Excel vs OpenOffice
- 22**
9:05 AM dBug Cafe at the RC 9:05 AM
- 24**
6:30 PM Internet SIG at RC - Browsers,
Email, News, the Web
- 25**
6:30 PM Intermediate Mac User's SIG at
RC - Topic Suggestions Requested

continued

Fast and Furious with FileMaker 9

When: 6:30pm on Wednesday, September 12, 2007

Where: dBug Resource Center
9620 Stone Ave. N., Suite 202, Seattle, WA 98109

Join dBug as we explore the new features of **FileMaker 9** and **FileMaker Server 9**.

FileMaker continues to expand the range of features in their product line while maintaining legendary ease of use. It is still easy to do simple tasks like mailing lists, spreadsheet import, photo cataloging, and label printing. We will review the powerful features of recent versions of FileMaker and then discuss the newest features like connecting to SQL data sources, conditional formatting, live HTML reporting, improved script features, easier FileMaker Server administration, faster and easier web integration including direct support for PHP driven dynamic web sites. For more information about FileMaker: http://filemaker.com/products/fmp/why_filemaker.html

For information about FileMaker Server 9, check here:

<http://filemaker.com/products/fms/features.html>

You can help us understand what you would like to learn at our meeting by filling out a questionnaire here:

<http://www.dbug.org:591/fmi/iwp/cgi?-db=survey&-loadframes>

New Filemaker 9 Feature: External SQL Sources

By Bruce Robertson, FileMaker Pro SIG Leader

One of the new features of FileMaker 9 is the ability to connect directly to external SQL data sources. If you go to the FileMaker web site or google "FileMaker ESS" you'll find lots more information about this—but I'll provide you a brief overview here.

First of all—what is an external SQL data source? And why would you care?

It is hard to believe—but there are other databases besides FileMaker! Well, you probably knew that. Some of the most common ones include MySQL, Microsoft SQL Server, and Oracle. These databases may be used in enterprise database solutions or as the foundation for dynamic web sites such as an online store. Unlike FileMaker, these databases are ONLY databases; you have to use some other tool to view or modify the data.

FileMaker can now make a direct connection to MySQL, SQL Server, and Oracle databases, allowing the user to view, edit, or report on data from these sources. All the interface and scripting features of FileMaker can be used for this purpose.

A very common FileMaker scenario is to have an office database system that is used to track customers, orders, inventory, e-mail history, invoices,
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6:30 PM Digital Imaging SIG at RC

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10:05 AM dBug Cafe at the RC from 10AM to Noon

7:00 PM Xcoders SIG at RC

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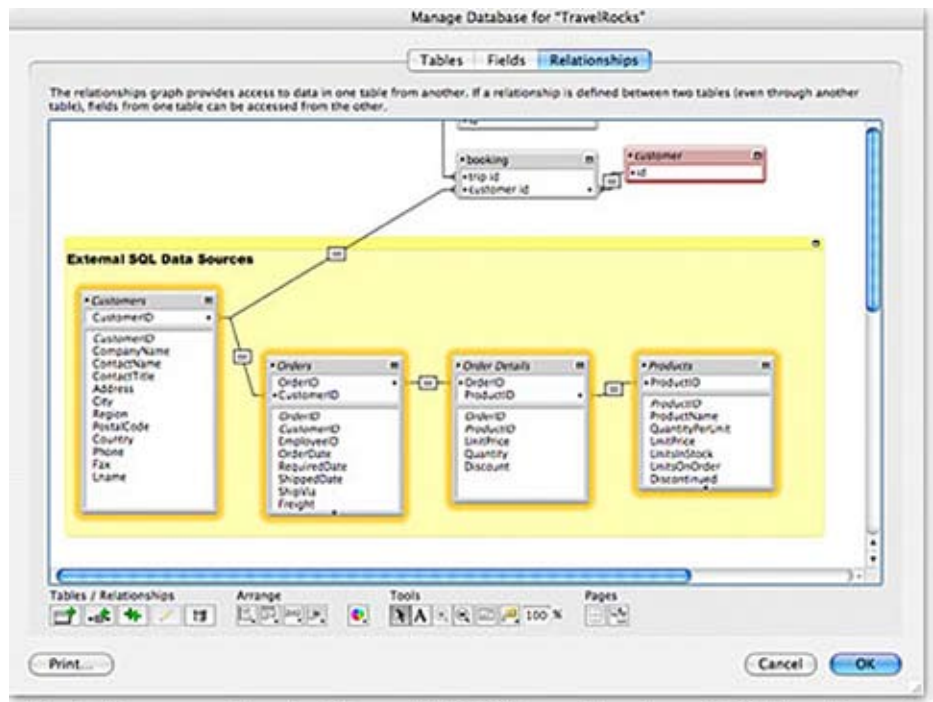
9:05 AM dBug Cafe at the RC 9:05 AM

1:00 PM Mac Maintenance, Saturday, September 29, 1-4PM

Save a Tree! Save \$ for dBug!

If you enjoy your dBug newsletter on paper, in your mailbox, that's fine. But if you prefer to receive it online and don't want a paper copy, let us know! We can save paper, copying and postage. Remember to check the email newsletter box on your renewal form or go to the website at:

www.dBug.org/about/contact



Create live connections to Microsoft® SQL Server, Oracle and MySQL with ease!

etc. It is also common for such businesses to have a web storefront, where product information, pricing, and order data is tracked in a MySQL database that is run on the web site host.

The business needs to retrieve online order information, and update the product descriptions and prices. In the past this was done by importing order data from the external source or exporting product data to the web site, where some kind of update action would take place.

Now with ESS the FileMaker user can connect live to the external source and see all the data from within FileMaker. You can learn more about this here:

<http://www.filemaker.com/products/fmp/sql.html> and here

<http://filemakeraddict.blogspot.com>.

Mac Maintenance Basics Class

Presented by Wil Nelson

Saturday, September 29, 1-4pm

Receive expert instruction and guidance in Macintosh maintenance from dBug guru Wil Nelson. Wil has been helping fellow dBug members for years at the dBug Cafe, and he has turned that experience and knowledge into an incredibly informative course designed to help you keep your Mac purring for years and years to come.

http://www.dbug.org/announcements/classes/mac_basics_class.shtml



Mysterious "Untitled Folder" on the Desktop

It's a very common sight, a number of folders sitting on a desktop, named "untitled folder," "untitled folder 2," "untitled folder 3," and so on. Almost without exception their owners don't know how they got there, but are afraid to trash them "just in case."

Perhaps the most likely explanation of their origin is that the owner has inadvertently chosen "New Folder" from the Finder's File menu, which will certainly produce such a folder. The problem with this explanation is that

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dBug Board of Directors:

<http://www.dbug.org/about/bod.shtml>

Tom Auciello • Cathy Doser, President •
Mike Grueter • John Livingston • Dona
McAdam • Richard Knights, Treasurer

dBug Resource Center directions:

<http://www.dbug.org/about/directions.shtml>

Information on joining dBug:

<http://www.dbug.org/about/join.shtml>

While you are surfing, check

out the current event calendar:

<http://www.dbug.org/calendar/>

The dBug Brochure has been updated.

See it online at <http://www.dbug.org/publications/brochure/>



selecting the second item in a menu is not something you do so easily by mistake. In days gone by Command/N was the command for creating such a folder, but now it's Shift/Command/N — again not an easy thing to do by mistake.

So the mystery of origin remains largely just that — a mystery. Still, all you really need to know as a user is that yes, after making sure they're really empty, you can certainly trash these homeless folders.

Intel-based Mac Power On Self Test RAM error codes

Intel-based Macs such as the iMac and Mac mini computers introduced in 2006, MacBook, MacBook Pro, and Mac Pro rely on a combination of tones and blinking LEDs to display Power On Self Test (POST) error codes.

If the computer detects no SDRAM (Synchronous Dynamic Random Access Memory, also referred to as RAM) or the RAM installed does not meet the appropriate specifications, the screen will remain black but the power LED on the front of the computer will blink once per second to signal the error. This error condition may be due to physically damaged RAM, installing the incorrect type of RAM, or not having RAM installed.

Some RAM may appear to pass the Power-On-Self-Test (POST) but still cannot be used by the operating system. In this case, the computer will display a gray screen, sound three tones and blink the power LED on the front of the computer three times, pause, and repeat the blinking until the computer is turned off.

The solution to both of these situations is to first re-seat the memory and test the computer again. If the memory fails do the POST test again, try memory that has been verified to work correctly on another system (i.e., "known-good") or order new memory from the Apple Store or known reliable vendors such as <http://www.macsolutions.com> and <http://www.macsales.com>, these last two vendors fully guarantee their ram.