

dBUG MacNews



A Publication of Seattle's Macintosh downtown Business Users Group
Also Published Electronically on the dBUG ExChange*

Main Meeting, May 12, 1999

Microsoft Hosts dBUG

dBUG's May main meeting moves to the Microsoft campus, Bldg 41, 15571 NE 31st St. in Redmond (see the directions on below), where Microsoft will show off its

Web browser, Internet Explorer, and its email program, Outlook Express. The meeting will be on May 12, 1999, starting at 6:30 p.m. Arrive 6:10 or after. Light

refreshments will be provided. ☞



Main Meeting Directions

Directions from Seatac Airport:
 ■ Take I-405 North to SR 520 East.

Directions from Downtown Seattle:
 ■ Take I-5 to SR 520 East.

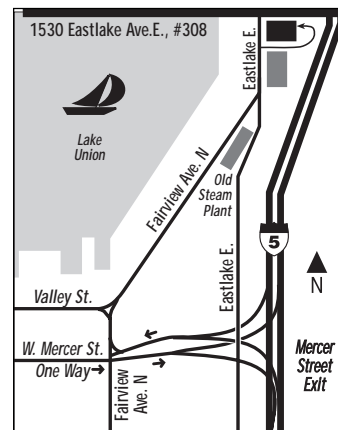
Directions from Downtown Bellevue:
 ■ Take I-405 North to SR 520 East.

- Then:
- From 520 take the NE 51st St. Exit and take a right.
 - Go to 156th Ave NE and take a right.
 - Turn right onto NE 31st St.
 - Take the first left. Building 41 is the first building.

The meeting is in the cafeteria. ☞

Resource Center (RC)

1530 Eastlake Ave. East, Seattle.
South of Garfield St. and Eastlake Veterinary.



Have a Day at the Fair

dBUG has a chance to show off cool Mac tech at the 1999 Fremont Street Fair, to be held Father's Day weekend, June 19 and 20, 1999. To man our booth, we need 24 to 30 Mac enthusiasts to work one or two three-hour shifts. The fair will be held at the center of the universe (downtown Fremont, just north of the Fremont Bridge in Seattle), and features the exotic solstice parade, music, art, food, crafts, and discovery. To sign up, email Jon Pfaff on the dBUG ExChange the dates and times you could work. ☞

All dBUG activities are made possible by the efforts of volunteers. The Resource Center is not staffed full time. It is open during scheduled SIG and Open House meetings or by appointment only.

HEELLPP!

Bion Pohl has had to step down as Membership Manager, which means dBUG sorely needs a new volunteer with Mac database skills to do this crucial job. It's the Membership Manager who opens the door to the dBUG adventure. The Membership Manager adds new members, sends renewal reminders, and keeps member information current—so you and I can receive MacNews and be approved to logon to the ExChange. As a member of dBUG's Board of Directors, the Membership Manager is a prime contributor to the success of dBUG. It's your big chance to help your fellow members and throw a lifeline to new Mac users in Seattle. For more information, please email Ken Winkenweder at <winkie@dbug.org>.

If you have questions about your membership, you can now email "Membership Manager" on the ExChange for answers. Please continue to send credit card information to dBUG by emailing "Cashier" on the ExChange. ☞

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Be the first to read MacNews! See current & recent issues in Acrobat Reader format at <www.dbug.org> and in the *Newstand* and *dBUG Mentors* folders on the dBUG ExChange.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Schedule changes are *bolded*.

4th Dimension SIG

4th Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.
Westwind Computing
Walt Nelson

dBUG BBS ExChange SIG

The ExChange Beginnings TeleSIG teaches the basics of telecomputing, with a focus on using the dBUG ExChange.
4th Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
dBUG Resource Center
Cherie Nickell

ExChange.com Planning SIG

Meetings open to members about the expansion and maintenance of the ExChange.
1st Saturday, 11:00 a.m.
Curtis Snow

FileMaker Pro SIG

3rd Monday, 7:00 p.m.
dBUG Resource Center
Bruce Robertson
Cool FileMaker tools from ISO

HyperCard/AppleScript SIG

3rd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
dBUG Resource Center
Iridio On Demand
(formerly On Demand)
421 Fairview Ave. N, Seattle
dnshotwell@accessone.com
How HyperCard works with FileMaker and AppleScript for Web interaction

iMac SIG – **New Day/Time**

1st Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.
dBUG Resource Center
Tim Hannon
Backup options for your iMac
First-time Mac owners:
Get a discount when you buy a dBUG membership at the iMac SIG!

Internet Intro

4th Monday, 6:30 p.m.
dBUG Resource Center
Nancy Ibsen
panic@jetcity.com

iRobot SIG – **New!**

3rd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.
dBUG Resource Center
John Newhoff
How to hook up the ADB I/O interface and read temperature

Mondo Graphics/DTP

2nd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
dBUG Resource Center
Jack Connick

Open Friday

Bring something to scan. Surf the Web. Bring a non-member.
Every Friday evening, 6:00 p.m.*
First Friday is new member orientation.
dBUG Resource Center

Open Thursday

Open discussion for dBUG members and their guests.
Every Thursday*, 6:00 p.m.
dBUG Resource Center
Dick Carter

Software Developers Workshop

A workshop (hands-on, if possible) for beginning Mac programmers. The topic is announced by email and posted to the *Software Developers SIG* folder on the ExChange about a week before. Feel free to bring an application or source code you want to show off, or just come and ask questions. **Please check the ExChange prior to the scheduled SIG date to confirm that the SIG will meet and, if so, what the topic will be.**
2nd Saturday, 10:00 a.m.
dBUG Resource Center
James Jennings
jennings@halcyon.com

Virtual SIGs

dBUG also has active SIG conferences on the dBUG ExChange:

Excel SIG
Genealogy SIG
PageMaker SIG
Photoshop SIG
QuarkXPress SIG
WEB SIG
Word SIG

Finding these SIGs is easy:

- Double-click the *dBUG ExChange* button on the ExChange desktop.
- Double-click the *dBUG Clubhouse* icon.
- Double-click the *SIGs* icon.
- To find the PageMaker, Photoshop, and QuarkXpress SIGs, double-click the *Mondo Graphics/DTP SIG* icon.

Notes:

Westwind Computing is at 510 NE 65th, two blocks west of I-5, on the northwest corner of NE 65th and NE Ravenna Blvd.

The MacNews calendar, SIG updates, and the current month's

events PICT online calendar are accurate at the time they are published.

***Please call the dBUG InfoLine—206-624-9329—for last-minute changes and additions.**

– Dick Carter

Stickies

Event Schedule Manager Needed

dBUG needs a volunteer to update its event calendar as needed (at least twice a month), post the updated calendar on the dBUG ExChange, notify the P-I each week of upcoming dBUG events, and update the dBUG InfoLine as needed. If you're interested or want more information, please email Dick Carter on the ExChange. 📧

Check This Out

The last word on that Easter candy: <<http://www.pcola.gulf.net/~irving/bunnies/index.html/>>

The final frontier, as seen by the Hubble telescope. (Zat you, Gene?): <<http://heritage.stsci.edu/>>

FAQ on the Melissa virus: <http://www.cert.org/tech_tips/Melissa_FAQ.html/>. Don't forget to update your virus software.

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Jan Berry,
LAN Administrator
Cole & Weber

MacTECHS

Macintosh System Specialists

Immediate on-site response in Seattle and Bellevue for all Macintosh systems and related peripherals, including:

- Printers and monitors of all makes (Radius, NEC, etc.)
- Network installation and support
- Software support
- Data recovery
- Upgrades

Call Bryce Curtis at 441-7443



Palm III Keeps Business Well in Hand

Several months ago, I decided to purchase a PalmPilot to keep track of address book and calendar information when I'm on the road (which is most of the time). I've used a PowerBook for this purpose for several years, and I still haul one around with me. However, I find the bulk of the laptop, and the slowness with which it wakes up from sleep mode, to be a major hindrance to the simple tasks of Rolodex and calendar.

I used an Apple Newton MessagePad 2100 for this purpose as well, and it worked fine, but I felt the Newton was overkill for just doing address book and calendar operations, so I sold the Newton and bought the PalmPilot III.

One of the key factors in making this decision was the fact that 3Com (the company that makes the PalmPilot line) had purchased Claris Organizer from Apple and was renewing its commitment to the Macintosh market. The PalmPilot pavilion at this past

January's Macworld Expo had one of the largest crowds.

The Pilot itself is a very functional handheld device. Data entry is accomplished via a stylus and requires the user to learn a modified version of the alphabet that the Pilot can recognize. I found this to be quite simple, though I still forget how to write the letter 'k' now and then. Finding and entering contact and calendar information is straightforward and flexible. Contacts can have multiple phone numbers, an email address, and miscellaneous notes. Calendar entries can repeat and entries can be viewed in a daily, weekly, or monthly manner.

For anyone familiar with Claris Organizer, the Macintosh component of the PalmPilot package will be very familiar. I'm a long-time Now Contact/Now Up-To-Date user and have found the new Palm Organizer to be a reasonable substitute, though I have two minor complaints. First off, I miss the flexibility of Now's keyword

capability. Organizer's categorization feature is a rough equivalent, but just not as flexible. Second, Organizer lacks Now Contact's flexible layout editor for customizing the way your printed output will appear.

My hands-down favorite feature of the PalmPilot/Palm Organizer duo is how easily and seamlessly the two synchronize my contact and calendar data. I just pop the Pilot into the cradle that's attached to my PowerBook, push the button on the cradle, and **Voila!** I'm synchronized. The Now Synchronize software that I used with my Newton never worked this well. It's also remarkably fast,

synchronizing my data in about a minute. Even completely overwriting the data in the Pilot with data from my PowerBook only takes a few minutes.

Overall, I've been quite happy with my PalmPilot. With any luck, Eudora Planner (the successor to Now Contact/Up-To-Date) will be released one of these days, with a conduit for synchronizing to my Pilot. Then I will truly have reached computing nirvana. (Well, that is, if Eudora Planner fixes the things I didn't like about Contact/Up-To-Date, but that's another story...)

— John Newhoff

We Do Y2K—Don't We?

This article is excerpted from "Parsing Like It's 1999," by Geoff Duncan, which appeared in the April 5, 1999 issue of the TidBITS online newsletter. TidBITS is the creation of dBUG members Adam and Tonya Engst. For information on TidBITS and how to subscribe (it's free!), visit <<http://www.tidbits.com/>>.

...The Macintosh truly has been ready for the end of the century since it first rolled off production lines in 1984, something mouse-thumping Macintosh advocates espouse as an indication of the Mac's superiority. However, the integrity of the Macintosh's hardware and software design doesn't necessarily mean Macintosh users can blindly assume their computers will be unaffected by Y2K issues.

Defining Y2K

Fundamentally, Y2K problems concern a system's inability to process century information in dates correctly. This definition is different from the widely held belief that Y2K problems involve a computer interpreting a two-digit year as if it were in the 1900s.... In my mind a program is "Y2K compliant" so long as it correctly handles dates with century information. In other words, if I

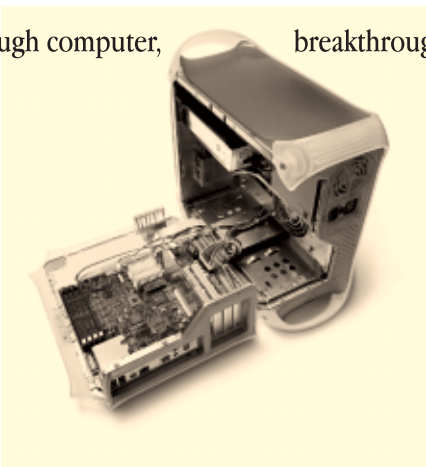
enter "01-Jan-00" into an application and it interprets the year as 1900, I might be unhappy or seriously inconvenienced, but in fact, a two-digit year can easily be interpreted as any year divisible by 100, including 1200, 1600, or 2300. I wouldn't consider this behavior a "Y2K problem" unless the program rejected or otherwise misinterpreted "01-Jan-2000." The former case stems from a conflict between the program's assumptions and my expectations, while the latter stems from a genuine problem with the program's treatment of dates.

Humans often interpret century information by context. If you have an airline ticket dated 05-Apr-99, common sense tells you the ticket doesn't refer to 1899....

Computers don't pick up on contextual clues: they simply do whatever programmers tell them to do. In many cases, programmers effectively tell computers "all dates are in the 20th century," or "if you see a date without century information, always assume it's in the 20th century" which is a problem if the program doesn't store any century information. The implications are widespread—some systems may crash or do the wrong thing based on unanticipated

Continued on page 6

Breakthrough computer, breakthrough offer.



Three great offers on one great computer when you purchase a Power Macintosh G3 from April 2 through June 27, 1999.

1. Buy a Power Macintosh G3 with 17" Apple Studio Display and receive:
 - A \$100 mail-in rebate plus a mail-in coupon for either:
 - An internal Iomega Zip drive or
 - An internal 56K modem

2. Or buy a Power Macintosh G3 and get a mail-in coupon for your choice of:
 - An internal Iomega Zip drive or
 - An internal 56K modem

3. In addition, Westwind computing will also give you:
 - 64 Mb RAM and
 - AppleWorks 5(all in one productivity application)
Offer is good only while supplies last.

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Apple only since 1989

The Free-Range Mac Tips and Comments

May 1999 - Compiled by Bill Rabel

ClarisWorks Golden Oldie

If you want a particular format to automatically apply when you open a new ClarisWorks word processing document, this is the procedure: Create a new document, set the font, page width, etc. just the way you like them. Save the document as "Stationary," and name it ClarisWorks WP Options. Save it in the Claris Folder inside your System Folder.

- Bill Rabel, dBUG

LaserWriter Doublor

If you use a LaserWriter printer, you may wish to use the "Two up" printing option. This will print two pages side by side on a single sheet of paper. This can be a great way to save some paper.

- Macintosh, San Diego MUG magazine

Random Acts

Microsoft Excel mavens know that they can generate a random number greater than zero but less than one by typing =rand() into a cell. But do these same mavens know that this command can be used with Microsoft Word 98 as well?

Go ahead, give it a try. Open a new Word 98 document and type =rand() and press Return. Not only will you learn a thing or two about the relationship between fleet foxes and indolent canines, but you'll find this a nifty way to create paragraphs of filler text.

- Macintosh, San Diego MUG magazine

Startup Memory Test

The Memory Control Panel in Mac OS 8.5 contains a new Startup Memory Test option that's normally hidden from view. To activate it, press the Command and Option keys when you open the Memory Control Panel.

By default, when you cold-start your Mac (in other words, when you press the power button after the Mac has shut down, as opposed to restarting), you hear the startup sound, then wait through a slight delay as the Mac

automatically performs various memory and hardware tests.

The more memory you have, the longer you must wait until the startup procedure can continue.

Apple recommends you leave the Startup Memory Tests on, but it seems to me that if your memory works one day, it's likely to continue working indefinitely, except maybe after you install new hardware in your Mac. So, I recommend you turn off these tests to speed up the startup process a few seconds.

- MacAddict Magazine

Converting PC Fonts to Mac Fonts

Yesterday, a new client came to me with PageMaker documents created on a PC that she needed converted to Mac files and changes made. The documents were created with several non-standard TrueType PC fonts that I needed to convert over for the Mac. I put out an SOS to members and came up with the following:

From our illustrious editor, Jim Alguire: "The best way that I know of is to use a program called 'Fontographer' which I believe is under the auspices of Macromedia. It is able to convert PC fonts to Mac fonts, among other things. I believe that it will work with TrueType and Type 1."

And from Ken Oyer at the FontSite (<<http://www.fontsite.com>>), one of the recent presenters at an SDMUG General Meeting: "I've used TTConverter and it seems to work fine. You can find it on most shareware download pages. I found it at <<http://www.versiontracker.com>>. Go to the search area and type in TTConverter."

- Paul Taylor, San Diego MUG

MS Word Sentence Selection

Here's a handy shortcut for selecting complete sentences in Microsoft Word 98. Place your cursor anywhere in the sentence

you want to select, press and hold the Command key, and click and hold the mouse. In short order the sentence will be selected. To select previous or subsequent sentences, continue to hold down the mouse button and drag up or down.

- Macintosh, San Diego MUG magazine

ClarisWorks Sentence Selection

To select a complete sentence in ClarisWorks' (now AppleWorks) word processor, simply move the cursor to anywhere in the sentence and triple-click. To select the whole paragraph, just quad-click.

- Bill Rabel, dBUG

SCSI Addressing

Planning to add a new internal SCSI device to your Mac? Make sure that you have a unique SCSI ID for each device. On internal devices, such as hard drives and CD-ROM players, you set SCSI ID via jumpers—small, hoop-like doodads that straddle two pins.

These pins are usually found at the back end of the drive and most manufacturers include jumpers with the drive. Here are the jumper assignments for the seven SCSI ID's:

- ID 0 = no jumpers
- ID 1 = jumper the first set of pins
- ID 2 = jumper the second pair
- ID 3 = jumper the first and second pair
- ID 4 = jumper the third pair
- ID 5 = jumper the first and third pair
- ID 6 = jumper the second and third pair

- Macintosh, San Diego MUG magazine

Lode Runner 2 Cheats

MacSoft has another new game out, Lode Runner 2, a sequel to the wildly popular arcade diversion of the '80s. Not only does this give Mac users a challenging game to play, but also another opportunity to compromise their integrity by cheating their way through the game. To do so:

During a single-player game, press the Escape key and type "glazed donut" (with the space, without the quotes, and yes, spell doughnut as 'donut'). You'll hear a satisfying "Ha Ha!" when you've done this properly.

Return to the game and enter these codes when you feel the

need to be a big, fat cheater:
F3 = Go back one level
F4 = Go forward one level
Command-F12 = Gain five lives
Command-8 = Ten bombs added to each category
Command-K = Beach ball power up
Command-I = Invisible power up
Command-T = Morph power up
Command-B Cloak power up

- Macintosh, San Diego MUG magazine

Quake Assistance

Not everyone has hours and hours to devote to such pleasures as blowing away Quake's devilish forces and perhaps — unlike Elvis Costello's — your aim isn't completely true. Fear not, there's an easy aid built right into Quake:

- With the game in progress, press the Tilde (~) key to reveal Quake's Command Console.
- When the console appears, type "Crosshair 1" (without the quotes, if you please), press Return, and then press the Tilde key again.

A small crosshair will appear on your screen, indicating just exactly where your bullets, nails, rockets, and thunderbolts will strike.

- Macintosh, San Diego MUG

Halloween Documents

These are leaked Microsoft memos and email, which paint a distasteful picture of Microsoft's strategies. See them at <<http://www.opensource.org/halloween.html>>.

- Phil Russell, Corvallis MUG

Graphics Classes

The School of Visual Concepts (SVC) offers classes on Photoshop 5.0, Web authoring, QuarkXPress 4.0, and more. All classes are taught on the Mac by working professionals. Classes are deliberately kept small, and most consist of five three-hour evening sessions. The cost is \$395 per class. SVC's summer session starts June 21. For details, check out SVC's Web site, <<http://www.svcseattle.com/>>. SVC will post its summer class schedule on its Web site by June 1, 1999. 🍎

Incredible Shareware, Itty-bitty Price Tag

Shareware developers continue to offer cheap and clever ways to save time, enhance the Mac's capabilities, and entertain you. MacNews briefly examines just a handful of shareware gems. You can share your favorites with our readers by emailing <tish_bailey@dbug.org> their names, what they do, why you love them, and where they can be found.

Utilities

ACTION Files 1.2

<<http://www.actionutilities.com/>>, \$30

ACTION Files replaces the old SuperBoomerang and improves on it. ACTION Files enhances your Open and Save dialog boxes, allowing you to resize them, position them anywhere on the screen, and gives you pull down menus within the dialog that let you designate default folders for each application, "favorite" folders and files, and saves the last several folders and files you have visited so you can quickly return. I used to be an avid user of Default Folder. It is handy, but ACTION Files is far better. It combines the utility of both Default Folder and DialogView in a single Control Panel, and it sports a nicer interface than either of those two.

— Brady Johnson

KeyQuencer 2.5.5

<<http://www.binarysoft.com/>>, \$30 for "lite" version, \$50 for "pro"

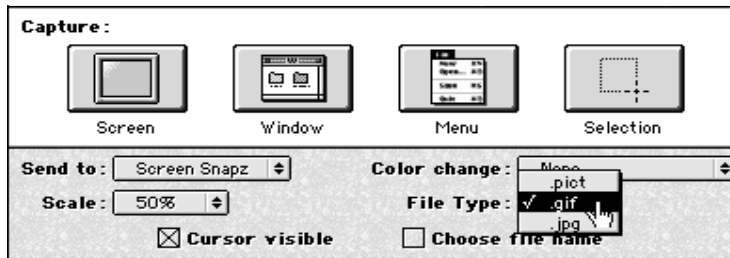
KeyQuencer is a full-featured macro utility that lets you automate series of keystrokes easily. It has a convenient point-and-click interface and does not require learning a macro language like AppleScript or OneClick. KeyQuencer Lite will provide all the power most people will need, but if you want to boost it even further, you can easily upgrade to the "pro" version.

— Brady Johnson

TitlePop 3.04

<<http://www.datavasara.fi/titlepop/>>, \$15

TitlePop is a very handy extension that lets you turn any Finder window title bar into a pull-down menu showing all open



The SnapzPro palette, c/o Ambrosia Software

applications and windows. For those like myself who routinely have several projects going at once and lots of windows and apps open, it provides a convenient way to see what's open and to navigate between various things. I find TitlePop to very stable, and I use it so often that I tend to take it for granted.

— Brady Johnson

SnapzPro 1.1.1

<<http://www.ambrosiasw.com/Products/SnapzPro.html/>>, \$20

SnapzPro takes a picture of a screen, a window, a menu, or a selected area of your screen. Version 1.1.1 lets you choose between PICT, GIF and JPEG image formats, and between black and white, grayscale, the Mac system palette, thousands of colors, or the Windows system palette. SnapzPro's images can be scaled down to 10 percent or up to 400 percent of the original image size. You can also choose to exclude the cursor. If you ever wanted to take a picture of a toolbar, a help screen, a dialog box, or make a quick copy of a portion of a document, SnapzPro is for you.

PowerSwitch 1.0.2

<<http://www.binarysoft.com/psmac/psmac.html/>>, \$19.95

PowerSwitch lets you switch between open applications with a keystroke combination. Users who've yearned for the alt-tab switching feature of Windows can now have that perk on the Mac. You get a launch list that you can also use to quit open applications. What's more, PowerSwitch one-ups Mac OS 8.5 by enabling you to switch between open documents inside an application. This toggle is indispensable for reading email or working on the dBUG Exchange. Unfortunately, the document-

switch feature doesn't work in Microsoft Word.

GraphicConverter 2.7.1

Search dBUG Exchange's Software Exchange, \$35

GraphicConverter is a quick way to convert a picture, a set of pictures, or even a complete folder, from one graphic format to another. GraphicConverter supports dozens of formats, including many Windows formats. You can also open and make changes to images using GraphicConverter's tool set.

CatFinder 2.1.2

Search in <<http://www.macdownload.com/>> for CatFinder, \$25

No, this won't locate your errant feline. What it will do is scan any disk and display a list of its contents that can be sorted in the same way as the Mac OS Find File.

CatFinder can even scan and display contents of StuffIt and Compact Pro archives. You can print and export reports and even print disk labels. Version 2.1 can scan for duplicate files.

Games

Solitaire Till Dawn

3.4.1

<<http://www2.semicolon.com/Rick/STD.html/>>, \$20

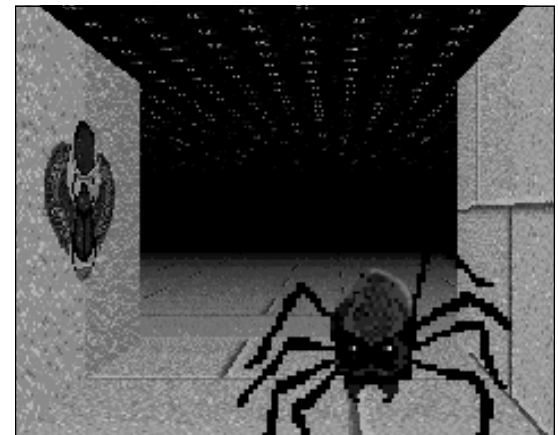
If you have a few minutes to kill, or you are a solitaire addict, you must have Solitaire Till Dawn. You get over 30 games, including

rules and strategies, unlimited undos, and the ability to save a game in progress. My one gripe is that the screen displays the number of games you've played and the percentage you've won. These are facts I, for one, do not want someone looking over my shoulder to read. And another thing—that dealer cheats! That's why I never win, honest...

Giza 2.1.4

<<http://people.ne.mediaone.net/bobmanc/index.html/>>, \$15

Explore a pyramid maze by knocking out walls with a laser beam powered by jewels you find as you go. Only thing is, some of those walls mow you down before you can move. They also trigger explosions, and set loose rapacious bats, large, hairy spiders, and poisonous snakes. If you can dodge and destroy these perils, you'll find gold, magical healing, first aid kits, and even anti-venom. Play the first three levels free;



A National Geographic moment: SnapzPro snapz an attacking Giza spider.

however, you must register and pay the \$15 fee to play the other 22 levels. Each level gives you a clue that will help save the pyramids, but I was disappointed that there is nothing to do with these clues at the game's end.

— Tish Bailey

Please pay your shareware fees. It's the only way to encourage these developers to continue their good work. 🐞

An iMac Easter Egg

An Easter Egg, in computer terms, is a hidden surprise, something really neat that you find without knowing it is there. I found one on the iMac.

Got it home, and plugged it directly into the wall. Cute, compact. A little low, so I stacked up six reams of paper below it, three high by two wide, so I could see the screen. Couldn't find any reams of paper that matched the Bondi Blue, though.

After I turned it on and personalized it, it occurred to me that there was no way to get data from the Performa 575 to it. So I ordered a Superdrive (\$160). When the Superdrive came, it color-coded with the iMac! Cool. Plugged it into the outlet and could now read floppies, just like a regular computer.

Suddenly realized that a lot of stuff doesn't fit on floppies, but does fit on a Zip disk. Ordered a USB Zip drive (\$150), because none of the six SCSI Zip drives we already have will work on the iMac. When it came, it was pretty slick — translucent so I could see its guts, but in a dark blue that clashed with the iMac color. Since it also had an external power supply and the wall outlet was filled, I had to get a power strip (\$10). Cool, now a green light from the front of the Zip drive, a yellow light from the side of the Zip drive, and a red light from the power strip.

Oops. There is nowhere to plug the Zip data cable into. Need to buy a USB hub (\$80). It came, and plugged into the powerstrip, but it needed the other end position. But it has, listen to this, 4 green lights and a red light!

Looking pretty good. I discover that I can load software from CD-ROMs and floppy disks and also large data files from Zip disks, but there is a little problem: I can't print. Ah, the Epson Stylus Color 740 (\$260). It has a USB interface, but no cable (\$10). It also has a power connector that plugs into the power strip, which is getting a little full, and a nice green light in front.

Wait a minute. How about the two Hewlett-Packard 6MP printers on LocalTalk? I don't want to use the Epson for mail merges. So I buy an AsanteTalk Ethernet-AppleTalk converter (\$95), and when it arrives, I have to order another power strip because it requires a third end position. But the converter has two more green lights!

The new hi-tech power strip/surge protector (\$30) arrives, so I can plug everything in, except the third thing that needs an end position, so I have to have two power strips. Even better, it matches the iMac color, is

pated results from date-based math, some may refuse to start up, some may corrupt data, and others may assess a century's worth of interest penalties.

Why did programmers make these seemingly brain-dead errors? In some cases, they weren't errors. Sometimes programmers omitted redundant century information to save memory and storage space: after all, in 1970 a megabyte of memory could cost more than \$3 million and may have been larger than a breadbox. In other cases, programmers had little thought for the future because it was inconceivable to them that their software would be in use fifteen, twenty, or thirty years in the future. And sometimes programmers, being human, simply screwed up.

Y2K & Your Mac

...There's no fundamental "Y2K time bomb" ticking away inside your Macintosh. You can check out Apple's Y2K readiness disclosure, as well as a list of products Apple has tested for Y2K problems.

[See] <<http://www.apple.com/about/year2000/>>

...Obviously, Apple can't guarantee other company's products, but so long as those products use the date routines

translucent so I can see it working properly (on a slow night), and comes with red, green, and tangerine (probably styled for the newer iMacs) lights to show it is working!

Now I have a system I can be proud of, except that I can only run one program at a time, because the iMac came with 32 MB of RAM and the Mac OS takes 18 MB of it, leaving a whopping 14 MB for Claris, PageMill, Word 98, Excel 98, PageMaker 6.5, Fontographer, Netscape 4.51, and FirstClass. Photoshop almost laughed at me. Hmm, maybe I can use SimpleText for everything. Nope, better order another 64 MB of memory (\$150).

In the morning, I discovered that the photosensitive night-light

was off because the combined lights from the iMac area (three red, nine green, one yellow, and one tangerine) were enough to fool the night-light into thinking it was daytime.

So here is my Easter Egg: all I have to do next December is to tie a string around the mass of cables to the side of the iMac and attach the string to the ceiling to get a good semblance of a vine-covered, fully-lighted Christmas tree!

And it didn't cost me anything extra, over the \$898, \$160, \$10, \$150, \$80, \$260, \$95, \$30, \$150, (\$1833) plus tax (\$150) and shipping (\$100), and six reams of paper. And I got to talk to lots of very nice catalog salespeople.

These iMacs are really fun. And it *is* faster than a Pentium.

— Dave Thompson

We Do Y2K—Don't We? continued from page 3...

built into the Macintosh system software—and the vast majority of Mac programs do—they'll be fine. Software on the original Macintoshes can handle dates from January 1, 1904 to February 6, 2040; most Macintosh software released in the last decade uses a more expansive date system that can handle dates from about 30,081 B.C.E. (Before Common Era) to 29,940 C.E. (Common Era)....

The two most common cases where a Macintosh application would not use the date routines provided by the Mac OS are when it needs to use dates in a wider range, or when it needs to use date data or procedures originally developed for another operating system. Examples could include programs that model processes that take place over very long periods of time (like geology or stellar evolution), or Macintosh ports of programs for genealogy, statistics, or specialized vertical markets that must read and write date information used by other platforms....

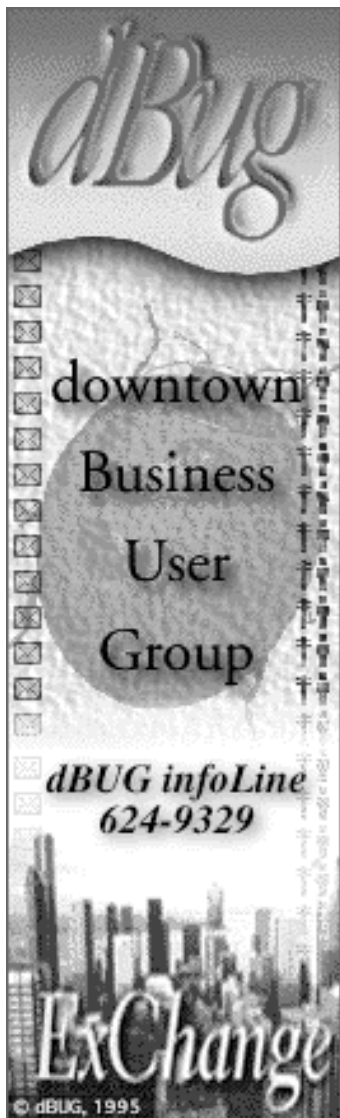
...Once the calendar ticks over to the year 2000, you may find some Macintosh programs interpret two-digit years as if they were in the 1900s. ...Some programs have "date windows"

which define how they interpret two-digit years. For instance, in order to be compatible with System 6, Apple's Date & Time Control Panel still limits user input to years between 1920 and 2019. Current versions of Microsoft Excel handle four-digit years but assume any two-digit year less than or equal to 29 is in the 2000s, while two-digit years 30 and over are in the 1900s. Similarly, current versions of FileMaker Pro handle four-digit years, but use a convoluted window for two-digit years, revolving around the first and last decades of the current and preceding century. (Although there are still cases where FileMaker interprets two-digit years provided by formulas or scripting as being the 1900s.)

...Rich Barron is maintaining a list [of Y2K Mac Issues] at his Macnologist site; it's a little apocryphal in places, but serves as a reasonable starting point. The best place to look for information about a specific application is with the program's developer (assuming they're still in business).

[See] <<http://www.macnologist.com/y2k/>>

Next month: *The Y2K problem potential of macros and noncommercial applications, and how to test for Y2K problems.*



Member Benefits

dBUG ExChange

dBUG's electronic bulletin board gives you email, conferences on a variety of subjects, chat, and an archive of shareware and freeware. It's a great place to get help with computer problems.

Internet

For \$13 per month, you can add World Wide Web access and Usenet newsgroup access to the email access already provided as part of regular membership. Send an email message to "Inet Cashier" or call the dBUG InfoLine at 206-624-9329.

Disk of the Month

Bring a 1.4 MB floppy disk to the monthly main meeting, and dBUG will fill it with useful freeware and shareware. Please note: dBUG cannot handle disk sizes other than 1.4 MB.

Equipment Access:

■ Scanner

Scan an image with a Microtek Scanmaker X6EL color flatbed scanner during SIG or Open House meetings at the Resource Center.

■ Compact disc recordable drive (CD-R)

Burn a CD from your hard drive or Zip cartridges during SIG or Open House meetings

at the Resource Center. dBUG requests a \$10 donation per session. (You may burn more than one disk in a session.) Blank CDs are available for \$6 if you don't bring your own. Allow one hour per disk.

■ Digital camera

Take snaps with a Kodak DC50 at main meetings or Resource Center meetings. Rent the camera for \$25 per week.

For more information, call the dBUG InfoLine: 206-624-9329
Visit our Web site: <<http://www.dbug.org>>



dBUG Membership Form

Turn in this form with payment to a dBUG cashier at a main meeting, or mail it to:

dBUG, P.O. Box 3463, Seattle, WA 98114-3463

Please, NO cash by mail; only checks, VISA, or MasterCard.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Special Interest: _____

Are you an iMac owner? _____

Where did you hear of us? _____

Enclosed is my payment of annual membership dues to The Macintosh downtown Business Users Group starting the month of _____ 1999.

Regular Membership:	\$48.00	\$ _____
Family Membership:	Add'l \$24.00	\$ _____
Senior Membership (over 65):	\$36.00	\$ _____
Student Membership:	\$36.00	\$ _____

Check here if you want information about our Internet connection at \$13/month.

Check here if you **do not** want to be on our free announcement email list (3-4 posts/month).

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Check VISA MasterCard

Credit Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Please make checks payable to dBUG

For dBUG Use Only	Check Deposited <input type="checkbox"/>	Check # _____
	Charge Deposited <input type="checkbox"/>	Check Date _____
		Check/Charge Amount _____

dBUG MacNews

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What is dBUG?

The Macintosh downtown Business Users Group is a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to the exchange of information between business users of the Macintosh computer and related products.

See page 7 for membership information and application.

For additional information, write to:
 dBUG Membership Info
 P.O. Box 3463, Seattle, WA 98114-3463.
 dBUG InfoLine 206-624-9329

The Exchange {dBUG BBS}

Main Line: 206-624-8783
 East Side: 425-746-2183
 N. Snohomish County: 425-353-7197
 S. Snohomish County: 425-670-2312

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Inet Cashier Brian Rush

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 SIG Calendar Dick Carter
 Proofreaders Sandro Menzel, Karen Anderson

Submissions:

MacNews welcomes your submissions! All articles must be submitted by the seventh of the month to be included in MacNews for the following month. Send submissions to <tish_bailey@dbug.org>.

	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
May Meetings	26	27	28	29 Open Thursday Resource Center 6 p.m.	30 Open Friday Resource Center 6 p.m.	1 Exchange.com Resource Center 11 a.m.
	3	4 iMac SIG Resource Center 6 p.m. New Day & Time!	5 Board Meeting Resource Center 6:30 p.m.	6 Open Thursday Resource Center 6 p.m.	7 Open Friday Resource Center 6 p.m. New Member Orientation	8 Software Developers Workshop Resource Center 10 a.m.
	10	11 Mondo Graphics/DTP SIG Resource Center 6:30 p.m.	12 Main Meeting at Microsoft (directions on p. 1) 6:30 p.m.	13 Open Thursday Resource Center 6 p.m.	14 Open Friday Resource Center 6 p.m.	15
	17 FileMaker Pro SIG Resource Center 7 p.m.	18 HyperCard/AppleScript SIG Iridio On Demand* 6:30 p.m.	19 iRobot SIG Resource Center 6:30 p.m.	20 Open Thursday Resource Center 6 p.m.	21 Open Friday Resource Center Noon to 4 p.m. 6 p.m.	22
	24 Internet Intro SIG Resource Center 6:30 p.m.	25 Exchange SIG Resource Center 6:30 p.m.	26 4th Dimension SIG Westwind Computing** 6 p.m.	27 Open Thursday Resource Center 6 p.m.	28 Open Friday Resource Center 6 p.m.	29
	31	1	2 Board Meeting Resource Center 6:30 p.m.	3 Open Thursday Resource Center 6 p.m.	4 Open Friday Resource Center 6 p.m. New Member Orientation	5 Software Developers Workshop Resource Center 10 a.m.

Also see SIG notices page 2

*Take the Mercer Street Exit off I-5 At the "Toe Truck" take a left on Fairview. Go 1-1/4 blocks. **OnDemand** will be on your right.
 **Westwind Computing
 510 NE 65th St. Seattle, 2 blocks west of I-5, on the northwest corner of NE 65th and NE Ravenna Blvd.

For last minute info on SIG meetings... call 206-624-9329.

Learn To Fix Your Mac

On June 22 and 23, Apple Computer will bring to Seattle its two-day workshop on Mac troubleshooting. The cost is \$225 for one day or \$395 for both, paid before the seminar date.

Day 1 covers hardware basics, SCSI, expansion slots, RAM, disk management, printing problems, basic network issues, and hardware troubleshooting.

Day 2 focuses on the operating system,

including management of extensions and Control Panels, system errors and bombs, crashes, lock-ups, unexpected quits. Mac OS versions 7.1 through 8.1 are covered. Apple will present "the five steps to a problem-free Mac."

Mail payment to: Complete Mac Seminars, P.O. Box 4245, Louisville, KY 40204. You can also register by calling 1-800-685-8484.

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