



NEWSLETTER OF THE LONG ISLAND MACINTOSH USERS GROUP

February's Meeting

LIMac was established in 1984, when the Mac was introduced. Annual dues for membership is \$36. First meeting is free. For information, contact any of the following:

Membership

Donald Hennessy
(516) 541-3186
aboutlimac@aol.com

Technical Advice

Bradley Dichter
(631) 348-4772
bdichter@optonline.net

Program

Coordinator

Rick Matteson
rgmlimac@optonline.net

Photoshop SIG

Brian Revere
(516) 997-5370
brevere@optonline.net

Photography SIG

Murray Hoffman
hoffmancamera@dav.net

MacBasic SIG

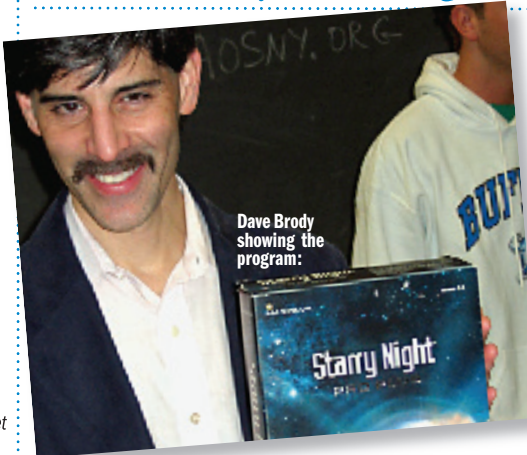
Geoff Broadhurst
gahoo@aol.com

Multimedia SIG

Al Zygier
azygier@nyc.rr.com

Produced using:

Tex-Edit Plus, text-SOAP, TextSpesso, Adobe InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator, and Acrobat.



February's meeting brought the stars to LIMac as Dave Brody, Executive Producer and Director of Media for Imaginova demonstrated the wealth of features in the *Starry Night* family of astronomical software products. The large audience was "asking for more" even as Dave's formal presentation ended around 8:30 p.m., and many questions followed.

Continually improved from the (Mac-only) *Starry Night Deluxe* of about ten years ago, this premiere application is still developed on Macintosh computers, although current software packaging provides for the "other" platform as well.

This full-featured desktop planetarium can display the sky from any location, at any time of day or night, spanning the past, present, and future. With visually compelling graphics, *Starry Night* can render the sky in beautiful colors or in screens suitable for mapping, charts, and use at the telescope. The latest version (5.x) incorporates larger databases, improve the tab-based search and labelling functions, have an even more appealing user interface, and can export still images, create 3-D *QuickTime* movies of your cosmic travels, and more.

Users can select an object from the sky, magnify, get detailed information, or even *travel* to the object itself and view the sky from elsewhere! It's even possible to journey outward beyond the known local database of stars, pass through the databases of known galaxies and view the large-scale soap bubble structure of the entire known universe.

Currently available in four different versions (Complete Space and Astronomy package for beginners, Enthusiast, Pro, and Pro-Plus

March's Meeting



Christopher Vozzo Northeast Region Account Manager for Quark, Inc. will discuss and demonstrate *QuarkXPress 6.5*, highlighting new features and migration paths from legacy technologies. Time permitting, Chris might even give us a sneak peak at the future, showing a bit of *QuarkXPress 7* which is currently in beta. He will also discuss *X-Ray* magazine – the definitive guide for *QuarkXPress* users. Promotional materials for the magazine will also be available to the audience.

for the most advanced users, with prices ranging from about \$60 to \$250) the software can call on Internet databases periodically and update positions of satellites, asteroids, and comets. *Starry Night* can be used to plan an evening's observing, highlight upcoming sky events, and link to related pages on the www.space.com Web site.

The large audience attendance demonstrated a high interest in this type of software, and this author is willing to demonstrate some of the capabilities and possible personalized creations at a future meeting.
—Sam Storch (Sam is one of our long-time members and is a Professor of Astronomy.)

General meeting time schedule:

Meetings are held at The New York Institute of Technology, Building 300 (Anna Rubin Hall), Old Westbury, Long Island.

Meetings start promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Bradley Q&A 7:00-7:30 p.m. Beginner's Q&A 7:00-7:30 p.m.

Featured presentation 7:30-8:20 p.m.

followed by announcements/raffle drawing

SIG (Special Interest Group) meetings 8:30-10:00 p.m.

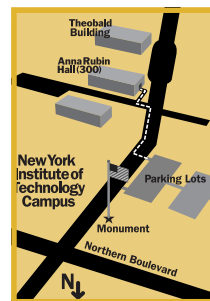
Multimedia SIG: Al Zygier will show how to make a children's video more exciting!

Photoshop SIG: Lead by Brian Revere. How to use Photoshop for animation.

MacBasics SIG: How to deal with e-mail attachments, plus PDFs: what they are and what to do with them.

► In bad weather, call (516) 686-7789.

► The next LIMac board meeting will be at the Plainedge Library, (516) 735-4133, on Wednesday, March 15th, at 8 p.m.



- LIMac Inc.**
P.O. Box 2048
Seafood, NY
11783-0180
- President**
Bill Medlow
archbill@optonline.com
- Vice President**
Donald Hennessy
aboutlimac@aol.com
- Treasurer**
Max Rechtman
maxlimac@optonline.net
- Secretary**
Bernie Flicker
twoflick@optonline.net
- The LIMac Forum:**
Editors/Graphics
Mo Lebowitz
Loretta Lebowitz
moleb@aol.com
- Board of Directors:**
Geoff Broadhurst
George Canellis
Al Choy
Bradley Dichter (Technical Director)
Fred Fertik
Richard Hickerson
Rick Matteson (Program Coordinator)
Scott Randall
Harold Silvers

The Forum is published monthly by LIMac. All contents, except where noted, are copyright ©2006 by LIMac. Opinions expressed are the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of LIMac. Contents may be reprinted for non-commercial use, with due acknowledgment to LIMac. The LIMac Forum is an independent publication and has not been authorized, sponsored or otherwise approved by Apple Computer, Inc.

Path Finder 4 still shows the way:

by Matt Neuburg, matt@tidbits.com



The *Finder* is the application that *Mac OS X* users love to hate. Take a moment to think of something about the *Finder* that makes you absolutely furious. It

shouldn't take long! Here are some examples: Why doesn't the *Finder* say where you are? Why doesn't it report what folder each window or column

represents in the larger hierarchy of things? You probably know about *Command-clicking* on a window's title to see its path; but some people, like my mother, don't - and in any case you still have to do something (the *Finder* doesn't just show you where you are), plus you can easily get lost in column view because columns have no headings. The *Finder* is full of unnecessary shortcomings, big and small. After all, we all have to use the *Finder* constantly, every day, so we must simply live with it - mustn't we?

No! Thanks to *Path Finder 4*, you can bypass the *Finder* in favor of a sensible, rational, gorgeously clean environment for working with files and folders. At every step, in every detail, *Path Finder's* interface and behavior simply do the right thing. Plus, *Path Finder* provides loads of extra information and power that the *Finder* lacks; indeed, *Path Finder* can replace not only the *Finder* but several other utilities you may already be using to compensate for the *Finder's* general weeniness.

To describe *Path Finder's* interface in detail, and to list all that it can do, would make for a huge article. So here are some highlights.

Path Finder lists a folder's contents in the three standard views (icon, list, or column) plus a hierarchical menu, and you can toggle display of invisible files, display of package contents, and "smart" sorting (which groups applications, folders, and files). A folder's contents can also be filtered, so you can view and work with (for example) just JPEGs, or just JPEGs and TIFFs.

2



Bradley Dichter
bdichter@optonline.net



TIPS!

A combo updater success story:

As we've noted on numerous occasions, re-applying the most recent *Mac OS X* combination updater has proven successful for a myriad of issues. MacFixIt reader Thomas' case is the latest. He writes:

"A couple days ago some weird behavior started to appear on my *Mac OS X 10.4.4* system: Menu-items disappearing, SystemPrefs crashing all the time, keyboard shortcuts not working any more, *Mail.app* starting to act weird.

"I didn't have the time to check which utility/extension-update might have caused that. Repair Permissions, Clean Caches, Cron-Jobs - nothing helped.

"Today I was ready to perform a clean 'archive and install' when I remembered the often-repeated last-resort advice from *MacFixIt*: Re-apply Combo! This s this a big relief: Everything works fine

Bradley's Tech Session

► I keep getting e-mail attachments that are supposed to be animated. They open in Preview but they are not animated. How can I fix this?

Preview will show the individual frames of an animated *GIF-format* file. What you can do is save the attachment and drag-and-drop the .gif onto *Safari*. For a long term solution, save the .gif file and *Get Info...* on the file, change the *Open with* to *Safari* and click the *Change All...* button and confirm to change the way the Mac handles .gif files in the future. *Mozilla 1.7.12* (and perhaps other programs) can handle animated .gifs in e-mail bodies.

► For the last couple of weeks, I've been having problems with Internet Explorer. I can't seem to get online.

Internet Explorer was last updated in June of 2003 and was discontinued on January first of this year. Microsoft won't allow you to download it and won't answer questions about it. You should stop using it and switch to something modern, they suggest *Safari*. If you are using *Mac OS 9*, I'd suggest *Mozilla 1.3.1* or *Netscape 7.0.2*. On top of everything else about *Internet Explorer*, it's default home page is www.msn.com. Problem is that the Mac version locks up with this Web site as your start page. The work-around is to disconnect from the Internet, pull your *Ethernet* cable to your cable modem and then start up *Internet Explorer*. It will look for (and won't find) the site and report the problem (but not lock up). You can then change the preferences to some other home page, something useful like google.com, limac.org, or versiontracker.com. Then you can plug in your *Ethernet* cable and connect away.

► My zip code in Safari from the AutoFill gets truncated or generates a javascript syntax error when the form is submitted. Why is that and what can I do to fix that?

You need to edit your card in *Address Book* to trim your zip code back to the old fashioned 5-digit number, which is what a lot of Web forms are expecting. Yes, a zip+4 should allow your stuff to arrive faster, but their software doesn't know what to do with that info. On the rare occasion a Web form asks for or explicitly allows for zip+4, not just because there seems to be enough space for it, then of course you can put in the extra info on the Web form. Don't

President's Message

LIMac is off to a great start in 2006, with a great presentation from Bradley on Macworld: receiving direct input from George Canellis at Macworld and then Dave Brody showing *Starry Night* in February. All of this and then a real opportunity with once again, George Canellis finding someone to support our raffle (Designscapes, a landscape Design firm here on Long Island) by promising to purchase a new iPod each month for the next year. Truly a great opportunity. The iPod each month made for a very healthy raffle. ↗

re-edit your *Address Book* entry. Also be wary about allowing the options in *Safari's* preferences about allowing *AutoFill* to use "User names and passwords" and "Other forms."

► I have a iMac G5 (iSight) and I'm using an old version of Toast to make a copy of a CD, but I'm getting a message that an error occurred because some files are still in use. I only see Dashboard and the Finder and of course, Toast, running.

It may be true, make sure your antivirus software isn't scanning it. *Spotlight* may be indexing it. You can add the CD to *Spotlight's* exclude list in the *Spotlight System Preference*. It's also very likely that your copy of *Toast* is incompatible with *Mac OS 10.4.x* as you said it's fairly old. I'd suggest the latest software for the latest operating system as always best. That would be *Toast Titanium 7.0.2*. According to Roxio, *version 6.1.1* is basically compatible to *Mac OS 10.4*, but I already switched to *Toast 7* by the time *10.4.2* came out. If you have some version of *Toast 6 Titanium*, you can download the updater to *version 6.1.1*. Before you get that, you can use a two step process with Apple's *Disk Utility*. With the original CD inserted, click on the CD's name in the list on the left in *Disk Utility's* window, and then click the *New Image icon* in the toolbar at the top of the window. Save the .dmg file on the *Desktop*. Then after it's done making it, you can eject the original. The .dmg will show up in the list (on the left side) at the bottom. Select it and then click on the *Burn icon* in the *Toolbar* and insert a blank CD-R and follow the on-screen prompts. When that's done, and you now have a copy on CD-R, you can quit *Disk (Q&A continues on Page 3.)*



Bill Medlow
President
ArchBill@optonline.net

again, even most of the updated features were still in place and functioning. I am a happy camper."

-MacFixit

Security Lockdown:

If you're a digital photographer (or anyone who shares images with clients via PDF), then securing your images is important to you. While you want to make sure that the samples you sent to your clients are of high quality, you don't want your customers "borrowing" your photos without paying for them.

So, to protect your images, you can secure your documents to prevent others from printing or viewing the images. With the PDF file open, choose *Document > Security > Show Security Settings for This Document*. Then choose *Password Security* from the *Security Method* pop-up menu. In the *Password Security* settings dialog, you can specify a password required for opening the document and/or you can restrict printing capabilities.

Multiple folders can be shown in a single window using *tabbed browsing* (as in Safari), and files can be dragged from one tab to another. File information includes Spotlight metadata, and lets you change ownership, permissions (properly, not like the *Finder* which omits *Execute* permissions), type/creator, and creation/modification dates; you can even swap the data and resource forks.

A *drop stack* (similar to the NeXT "shelf") lets you drag and drop items from hither and yon

to form sets for later processing. You can search with or without *Spotlight*, through a quick search field or a more elaborate search window. Running processes are listed, and can be sampled or force quit. There's a terminal, a console (for viewing logs), and a hex editor built right in. You can create and manipulate disk images, compress with numerous formats (including *Stuffit*, which is built in), convert images from one format to another, and even do screen captures.

Path Finder isn't quite perfect. Tabs aren't as

easily created as in *Safari* by *Command-double-clicking*. Managing all the possible drawers can become awkward. It crashed twice in the first half hour I used it; *Cocoatech* quickly released a 4.0.1 bug-fix update. And I soon discovered other small bugs, such as a volume's name being incorrectly displayed in a file's Info pane. *Cocoatech* acknowledges that *Path Finder 4*'s documentation is incomplete, and they're right: the help files are simply inadequate.

Nevertheless, I can't recommend *Path Finder*

strongly enough. It puts the *Finder*, and Apple Computer, to shame. Apple would do well to look at *Path Finder*, or even hire Steve Gehrman (its developer). In the meantime, *Path Finder* is the workspace you've always longed for and deserved. So download the 21-day demo and try it, right now. *Path Finder 4* requires *Tiger*, and costs \$35 (\$18 to upgrade from an earlier version), a superb value. www.cocoatech.com/



TIPS!

In *InDesign*, you can use keyboard shortcuts to apply tracking to selected text:

By default, when you use *Option* and *Left Arrow* or *Right Arrow* on selected text, you increase or decrease tracking values in increments of 20/1000 ems.

On the other hand, if you do the same with the insertion point in between two characters, the increments will be applied to kerning. This value is far too high for precision work.

In *Preferences* > *Units & Increments*, change the *Keyboard Increments* value for *Kerning* (and, missing in the interface, *Tracking*) from 20/1000 of an em to 1/1000.

To speed up tracking and kerning, you can use *Option+Command* (or *Ctrl+Alt*) together with the left or right arrows and the increments will be multiplied by 5.

Be Quick about it: Secrets of the Quick Apply command.

There's more to the *Quick Apply* feature than quickly applying styles. These tips will save you time and a thousand mouse-clicks:

More of Bradley's Tech Session

Utility and drag the .dmg file to the trash.

► **My hard drive's window used to open in icon view and now opens in column view.**

The icon/list/multi-column *view options* are set by the view options, which can be set on a window-by-window basis. Just select *Show View Options* from the *View* menu when the window is open and *frontmost*. But the type of view is set by making a choice from that view menu, for either as *Icons*, as *List*, or as *Columns*. So, first I'd just check the menu. If the window has a visible toolbar, you should, by default, have a set of three icons, second group from the left, after the back/front buttons group. The first of these three buttons changes the view for the window to an icon view. You can click on that to effect a change. Now assuming you know all that and have made the selection, but every time you close and re-open the window it comes up in column view, there could be other issues. If you go to the *Finder* menu and select *Preferences...* and click (if necessary) the *General* icon in the *toolbar*, there is a checkbox for the option to *Open new windows in column view*. Make sure that is not checked. That could override the setting. One last possibility is that despite the fact that everything looks set correctly, it still doesn't conform to the settings. These and other settings are stored in an invisible file called *.DS-Store*. You can use the shareware *Cocktail*, under the files category to delete this file at the root directory of your hard drive to reset the presumably damaged file. Then restart and check the situation. Here is an example where the free *OnyX* and *TinkerTool* do not offer this feature.

► **I keep hearing about problems with caches. What is the best program for removing these troublesome files?**

There are several choices. First and most comprehensive would be the \$8.95 share-

ware Northern Softworks' *Tiger Cache Cleaner*. Despite the name, works with *Mac OS 10.1* through *10.4.4*. *Cocktail* can clean some cache files. *OnyX* can clean more types. No cache cleaning with *TinkerTool*. There are plenty of temporary files associated with printing, too. For this, there is *Fixamac Software's Printer Setup Repair* (with versions for and *Panther Tiger*) and *Print Center Repair* for *Mac OS 10.1.x* and *10.2.x* users. Various prices up to \$24.95

► **I've got a new Mac and I just downloaded a file, with the name ending in .sitx but when I try to open it, I get a dialog box saying there is no default application to open it.**

That is a *Stuffit X* format archive file. Until *Tiger*, *Mac OS X* came with a copy of *Stuffit Expander*. *.sit* and later *.sitx* used to be the standard compression format on the Mac. *Expander* is free at www.stuffit.com/mac/expander/download3.html.



Everyone coming to the February LIMac meeting received a *free* ticket for our door prize drawing and the February door prize of a personal CD player was won by Max Rechtman.

Take part in the March door prize drawing!



SORRY, MY HUSBAND AND THE COMPUTER ARE ON "SLEEP."

► **Quick local formatting remover: Seeing plus signs on your style names?**

That means some attributes applied to the text are overriding the paragraph style attributes. To clear local formatting, press *Option* as you apply the style via *Quick Apply*. Add the *Shift* key if you also want to clear the character styles in the selection.

Quick Edit Style:

Need to edit a style? Don't reach for the mouse! Select the style in *Quick Apply*, but press *Command* as you press *Enter-Return*. *InDesign* opens the *Style Options* dialog for that style.

Quick Object Style:

The techniques described above about clearing overrides and editing paragraphs style also work for object styles.

And here's an additional one: To clear attributes not enabled by the object style, press *Option-Shift* as you apply the object style. -Courtesy of Tom McDonald of User Experience Team at Adobe

Top 10 Preventative Measures

By Bradley Dichter

(Continued from last month)

8. The more stuff you have on your desktop, the slower the computer will operate, so keep the clutter on the desktop to a minimum. This extends to the desktop background itself. A basic color takes less resources to redraw than a high resolution picture you dragged into place on the *Appearance System Preference*. A medium

grey is best to avoid influencing your perception of photographs right next to it.

9. It's more often best to keep up to date with your software, as the publishers fix bugs with each little *update*. Like an update from 10.0.0 to 10.0.1 They use the term *upgrade* for larger changes to a whole number version, like version 5.0 to 6.0. They tend to charge for these major enhancements. On the other hand, a minor update might fix a problem the software engi-

neers found that does not affect you and a side effect is the new update breaks some function for you. It's nearly impossible to test for every interaction with other software and on every type of operating system and on every type of Mac. It's wisest to first check the *Feedback* reports on www.versiontracker.com and the *Notes and Tips* from www.MacInTouch.com to read what other people are experiencing.

10. It never looks good to type something spelled

incorrectly. Your word processor and several other programs have a spell check function, but they don't share a common database of custom words. I'd suggest buying *Spell Catcher* from Rainmaker Research Inc. It checks your spelling while you type in every program, including the *Finder*, *Instant Messengers* and Web browsers. It comes up with audible alerts that allow you keep typing if you wish. It even has an optional *Ghostwriter* function that records what you type

4



Helen and Sheldon Gross
she19@bellatlantic.net

Note: *Sore Eyes* site referrals are for your information only. Neither the Grosses nor LIMac endorse any of the sites or their products.

This past month was a celebration for both of us. We were finally able to attend a meeting of LIMac. Since we have been active members for nearly 20 years we definitely miss the meetings but that makes it all more interesting when we finally get to see and visit with friends of long standing, (notice that I didn't say old) and to meet new faces as well. Thanks for the valentine balloon. I was quite pleased to win it.

This month we struggled with rearranging desktops and printing capabilities. The new printer we purchased, worked beautifully until we upgraded to 10.4 and then everything blew up in our faces. We used wireless for Shel's power book and attached my cube to the airport with an *Ethernet* cable. Originally, the printer was attached to the airport and everything worked beautifully. Then Bingo!

The printer stopped printing from either computer. After myriad phone calls and dis-

Sore Eyes

heartening results and suggestions from all around, we created a stopgap solution for the time being. Reading the manual for the HP printer, I discovered that you are able to share Mac printers quite easily. Now everything works!!! I plugged the HP printer into my cube and set up Shel's power book to use the HP as a shared printer when he wants to use that printer. Since he has a Brother printer connection with an *Ethernet* cable, we have peace again. I'm glad to report that the shared printer works wirelessly even at a distance, even though HP says that you can't do this. Hooray for Macintosh!

Our next project involves the iPod. We are traveling out west and planning to use the iPod for podcasts from NPR as well as for music. The details are still sketchy and we'll fill you in with our new learnings as time goes on. Life in the technological age is very interesting although not so simple. ↴



TIP!

Time-Saving Scrolling Tricks

By Rob Griffiths Mac

Here are a couple of simple but potentially time saving (or maybe just index-finger-saving) tips.

First, if you use the scroll arrows at the ends of the scroll bars to page through long documents, you may be surprised to find you can save yourself a mouse click and a delay each time you want to reverse your scroll direction. How? Well, it turns out that the scroll bar arrows in OS X are sensitive to "mouse over" actions if another scroll arrow has already been activated.

Putting that in another (hopefully clearer) way, if you *click-and-hold* on one scroll arrow, you can move your mouse off of it and onto the opposite-direction arrow, and scrolling will immediately reverse.

You can save quite a bit of time, mouse clicking, and scrolling. And yes, you could also avoid

User Group News

We are pleased to inform you that there will be an iPod in every LIMac raffle for the next year. Each iPod is being generously donated by Designsapes, a landscape design company (www.designsapesny.com/). At our February 10th meeting, Dan Danglo won a black 2GB iPod nano. Please be sure to attend our March meeting, enter the raffle and perhaps you will win an iPod. We will have a different model in each month's raffle.

Vendor Offers

All new and still current vendor offers for UG members can be accessed by clicking on the link below. You must be a current UG member to qualify for these savings. New offers generally become available around the middle of each month. <http://homepage.mac.com/ugab/offers/vendorcodes.htm>. Password: *ugvndor*

The LIMac officers for 2006 are as follows: President, Bill Medlow; Vice-President, Donald Hennessy; Treasurer, Max Rechtman; and Secretary, Bernard Flicker.

On the board of directors are: Geoff Broadhurst, George Canellis, Al Choy, Bradley Dichter (technical director), Fred Fertik, Richard Hickerson, Rick Matteson (program coordinator), Scott Randell, Harold Silvers, and Albert Zyger. Several board of direc-

tors positions remain open for any interested members willing to become more involved with LIMac. You can express your interest to any member of the board. The board of directors usually meets on the Wednesday after the general meeting at 8 p.m. in the Plainedge library. These meetings are open to any LIMac member, but only board members may vote.

A copy of LIMac's by-laws will soon be posted on our Web site for the benefit of all members. This copy will be in PDF format and will be downloadable. ↴



Max Rechtman
maxlimac@optonline.net



George Canellis

into a text file. Sounds like spyware you say? No, it does not transmit this to anyone, nor does it save while you're typing in a password in a standard Mac OS X authentication window. The idea is if your program crashes and you have not saved your document, this safety net may catch your prose and save you hours of work. It can automatically delete old saved Ghostwriter files after a set number of days to avoid filling your hard drive. ↗

Top 10 Troubleshooting tips:

1. Make sure you have the latest version of the software available. If you have older software, it may not work with newer versions of the Mac OS X operating system. Never trust anything that comes on a CD, even a new program or printer you haven't even taken the shrinkwrap off of yet may have buggy software, so I always check www.versiontracker.com or the manufacturer's own Web site for a software updater.

2. Preference files can get damaged rather easily. The program usually can rebuild a fresh one at startup. Under Mac OS 9, these were mostly stored in the System Folder > Preferences folder. Under Mac OS X they can be found in ~/Library/Preferences where ~ is your home folder. They are now mostly called .plist files, before they had names of the program plus Prefs, Preferences or Settings.
3. You may have installed some conflicting

software which opens at startup. Under Mac OS 9, you would use the Extensions Manager control panel, or better yet, the now discontinued Conflict Catcher, to find out which was the problem. Under Mac OS X, I'd suggest creating a new administrative user and log out and back in as the new test user and see if the problem is resolved. If it is, the problem is not system-wide, just user specific, so you can look in the Home Folder > Library for the culprit rather than the



TIP!

The Hidden Measurement Pop-up Menu:

You probably already know the trick about entering values in measurement fields in the Options Bar. You can change your unit of measure by typing the appropriate abbreviation after the value (for example, if you want 100 pixels, you'd type in "100 px"). But there's an even easier way (and you don't have to memorize a bunch of abbreviations). Just type your number, Control-click in the field, and a pop-up menu of measurement units will appear. Just choose the one you want and it'll take care of the rest.

-Courtesy of Photoshop CS2 Killer Tips by Scott Kelby.

Other Stuff

Hoooooray!

We have a company that is willing to fund an iPod to be added to our monthly raffle. We will be adding a notice on our Web site and in the FORUM.

Each month we will be sending you a photo of the iPod winner, his name (our cartoonist, Dan Danglo, below) and a notice of appreciation to Designsapes (New iPods at each raffle this year generously donated by Designsapes landscape designers.) ↗



all of this by simply purchasing a scroll-wheel-equipped mouse (which I highly recommend, by the way). However, there may be times you find yourself without a scrolling mouse... so remember this hint at those times, and you'll save yourself some aggravation.

I post hints just like this one three times a week at the Mac OS X Hints Weblog. If you're eager for even more frequent OS X Help, be sure to visit Mac OS X Hints, where you can find daily hints and information.

OpenType Fonts

By Ilene Strizver

OpenType is a kind of superset of Type 1 and TrueType font formats, with added enhancements. It is backward-compatible with applications that support Type 1 and TrueType fonts (including design applications and printer drivers), and you can mix OpenType fonts with other font formats without a problem.

OpenType also offers some remarkable new features that require OpenType-compatible applications. (If you're using the latest version of your operating system and applications, you may already have this capability – check with the manufacturers to be sure.) Three of these new features that are of particular benefit to designers are multi-platform support, expanded character sets and glyph substitution. Let's look at them one by one.

Multi-platform support allows the same OpenType font to run on both Mac and Windows operating systems. This is a real convenience if you use both platforms at work, or if you use one system at the office and another at home. With the consistent character encoding inherent in multi-platform support, many problems associated with transferring documents from Mac to PC (or vice-versa) will go away. If you've ever had apostrophes and f-ligatures turn into question marks and accented caps 'O's when (OpenType Fonts continues on Page 6)



Let 'em know you're a LIMac member!

Our Famous LIMac logo is now available to be embroidered on any wearable item.

High-quality embroidery is done by ACU Plus Custom Embroidery, located at 3700 Hempstead Turnpike, Levittown, NY 11756; (516) 520-1039. www.acuplusembroidery.com/index.html. ↗

Pay your 2006 dues now:

Send your \$36 check to: Long Island Macintosh Users Group, Post Office Box 2048 Seaford, New York 11783-0180 ↗

6



TIP!

Dictionary help in Adobe Acrobat 7 Professional:

If you're ever proof-reading a PDF and realize there may be a better word to use than the current one, you're in luck. You can find word definitions or access a thesaurus by *Control-Clicking* when using the *Hand* tool. Select *Add Note* from the *Contextual Menu* that appears. Type the word into the *Note* window and highlight it. *Control-Click* once again and select *Lookup* "Dictionary.com" will launch in your Web browser, already pointing the definition for the highlighted word. Note: Of course, this won't work if you're not connected to the Internet.

-Layers Magazine

Root folder/Library folder.

4. *Permissions* for various folders and files can get set wrong, sometimes by the installer of the program itself. It's a good idea to run a repair permissions with *Disk Utility* to clear up any problems. As a precautionary procedure, before and after you install an *Apple System* update, say from 10.4.2 to 10.4.3, repair permissions before installing and again after. Also because of

limitations of the smaller delta updates like this, it's recommended strongly not to allow *Software Update* download and install the update, but instead to download yourself the larger combo update and install that. The delta update might miss some things.

5. Restart your Mac to clear a memory leak. That is caused by a poorly written program that does not release memory after it's done using

it. This does not fix the problem permanently, only a program update can do that. Remember that programmers are human, too. But they need feedback, so send them a e-mail alerting them to their errors.

6. Rename bad files with generic icons to give them the proper file name extension. *Mac OS 9* users have not gotten in the habit of using file name extensions. Assign programs to open

specific file types by getting info on a sample file and change the *Open with:* pop-up menu and then clicking the *Change All...* button and confirming.

(Continued next month)

OpenType Fonts

opening a file on a different platform, you'll be singing OpenType's praises – and saying goodbye to the never-ending game of search and replace!

Expanded character sets.

OpenType fonts can accommodate many more characters than the 256 permitted in Type 1 and TrueType fonts. An OpenType font could conceivably include old style figures, true-drawn small caps, extended ligature sets, swash and alternate characters, fractions, ordinals, proportional and tabular figures, dingbats and symbols, as well as extensive foreign language characters – all in one font. As type manufacturers start to take advantage of this feature, designers will find it far easier to access these "extras," which previously required the use of extended, alternate or expert set fonts.

ITC New Winchester

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
 1234567890!@#\$%?&*()

Remember, although the "basic" OpenType font will work perfectly with older applications, the expanded character set feature is only accessible by software that supports OpenType.

If you're a graphic designer and work on a Macintosh system, chances are you typically use PostScript Type 1 fonts. If you primarily do web design, or work on a Windows machine, you probably use your share of TrueType fonts. Both formats have their advantages and disadvantages, but now there's OpenType – offering the best of both worlds, and much more.

1234567890
 1234567890

Many OpenType fonts include lining, and old style numerals, with both tabs & proportional spacing.

Glyph substitution.

Believe it or not, OpenType fonts have a sort of built-in "brain," and know when to insert some of those ligatures, swashes or special

characters they often come jam-packed with. For instance, some swash characters are intended only for the beginning or the end of a word to avoid crashing into adjacent letters. When the glyph substitution feature is turned on in an OpenType-compatible application, the correct swash will be inserted automatically. If the copy is changed, the swash character will change along with it.

When many alternates are available in a font, glyph substitution can get a bit more complicated. Here's where your brain has to take over: make sure that the characters automatically inserted by your application are the ones you want. Some manual tweaking will occasionally be necessary, although this is easy to do once you become more familiar with the process.

Availability.

A growing number of fonts are available in OpenType format. Some are new releases, while others are existing fonts that have been remanufactured. Sometimes these reissues are generously stocked with additional characters, such as alternates, swashes, small caps and old style figures, but sometimes not. If these extra characters are important to you, do your research carefully before buying to find out which additional characters are available with each font.

How do I decide?

OpenType fonts are ideal for users with cross-platform requirements, or designers who want to try out some of OpenType's enhanced type-handling technology. Remember to check your operating system and design applications for OpenType compatibility before trying OpenType's advanced features.

Ilene Strizver, founder of The Type Studio, is a typo graphic consultant, designer, writer and specializing in all aspects of typographic communication, from the aesthetic to the technical. Ilene conducts Gourmet Typography Training internationally. For more information visit www.thetypestudio.com or contact ilene@thetypestudio.com.

Pay your 2006 dues now!

Send your \$36 check to: Long Island Macintosh Users Group, Post Office Box 2048 Seaford, New York 11783-0180

Volunteer wanted to do our LIMac public relations! Contact Donald Hennessy at aboutlimac@aol.com.



LIMac E-mail Address Updates:

Some people have changed servers (so our e-mails bounce back). If you have an e-mail address and have not been getting our reminders, please e-mail aboutlimac@aol.com (Donald Hennessy) and use "LIMac e-mail update" as the subject.

LIMac's Privacy Policy:

General Information

Collection:

LIMac acquires mailing and e-mail addresses from our members and no other outside sources in order to communicate with our membership. We use this information to send out the LIMac FORUM and to send occasional notices.

Disclosure to Third Parties

We do not disclose mailing addresses, e-mail addresses or any other confidential information to third parties.

Questions If you have any questions concerning LIMac's Privacy Policy, please e-mail them to aboutlimac@aol.com.