BRMUG

Baton Rouge Macintosh User Group

News and Views

May 2007

BRMUG Information

Member Meetings

Regular meetings are held the third Thursday evening of each month at BlueBonnet Library at 6:30 P.M.

Planning Meetings

The Thursday after the regular member meeting the planning meeting is held at 6:15 at Calendars on Perkins near Essen.

About BRMUG

For more information call the User Group President, Isaac Traxler, 225-926-1552 or send e-mail to *info@brmug.org* or check our web page at *http://www.brmug.org/*

BRMUG Volunteers

Isaac Traxler *president@brmug.org*
Glenn Matherne *vp@brmug.org*
Don Ballard *treasurer@brmug.org*
Don Ballard *sec@brmug.org*
Richard Johnson *m1@brmug.org*
William Sellers *m2@brmug.org*
Contact anyone above if you have suggestions for BRMUG.

After the Meeting

Join us at Brewbachers on Bluebonnet after the BRMUG meeting: fun, food, open format. Get to know each other.

Newsletter Articles

Please submit newsletter articles to *newsletter@brmug.org*. Articles are printed on a space available basis. Submissions are welcome!

The May meeting will be held at the **Bluebonnet Library** on **May 17th**, the 3rd Thursday of the month, at 6:30 P.M. The meeting will be 6:30 PM at the Bluebonnet Library. This month, Glenn Young will present the *Tale of a Switcher*. Glenn is a very experienced computer user. He spent many years as a Windows user (his current work still requires the execution of a few Windows applications). A while back he gave the Mac a try. Like many experienced Windows users, he had some issues. Fortunately he kept using the Mac. After a few months the inner beauty started to show through. And then he became a Mac person. He now owns a PowerBook as his primary machine (Parallels [I believe] solves his need to run those few Windows Applications). I look forward to seeing the Macintosh through the eyes of a recent convert. Members and guests are welcome. After the meeting, we will have our normal Social Hour at Brewbachers. If you need help getting there (*http://www.brmug.org/about-brmug.html*).

Here is the meeting schedule:

6:30 PM	Welcome and recent news
6:50 PM	Don's Distraction
7:00 PM	Tale of a Switcher
8:00 PM	Questions and answers
8:30 PM	Adjourn to Brewbachers

Meeting is at Bluebonnet Library!
Visit http://www.brmug.org/next-meeting.html for more information.

April Meeting

William Sellers gave us a good overview of the capabilities of Pages. Clearly its template based design is a little different, but it allows Pages to provide a lot of capability without being difficult to use while composing.

Thanks a bunch for helping us see Pages from another view. Clearly it is a capable page layout solution (to a point) along with being a solid word processor. Maybe a new category should be started that is half way between word processor and page layout -- document composer. In that category, Pages will shine.

I would also like to welcome Glenn Matherne back to the editorial staff here. Thanks for the two great articles in this month's newsletter! And congratulations on the new Mac. I think my iMac G3 is getting jealous.

AAPL

Good news is fun to deliver! And Apple's current stock price is about as good as it gets (for now any way). Some of you may remember that last month when Apple was down at about $90 a share I suggested that I believed Apple would rise to about $150 a share by end of summer (might need Apple's shift of summer end to October).

This probably seemed like quite a stretch. They have never been that high and were having trouble staying in the 90s.

So now a month has passed. Apple has not announced any new products. Nothing major has happened yet (some new lawsuits have been filed against Apple).

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And Apple's stock has risen to over $107 a share setting new record highs multiple times. Just amazing isn't it. That is almost $20 more than it was last month and nearly one third of the way from $90 to my projected $150 price (in fairness I actually said the stock would be at $150 or $50 a share at the end of the summer).

So what does all this mean? Apple's market cap is over $94 billion! Lets try something neat. Lets see what Apple's stock price needs to be so that there market cap exceeds that of a few other popular companies.

How about Dell -- sorry, they are back at $58 billion Apple passed them a long time ago. But if AAPL fell to $67.80 and Dell remained stable, the two companies would be equal.

HP is the number one PC manufacturer right now. If Apple reaches $140.02 a share, they will be the same value as HP.

For Apple to overtake Intel they need to reach $149.70 a share. This is kind of humorous to me. This big upswing started because little Apple was shifting to processors made by giant Intel. Apple is in site of being bigger than Intel.

IBM who parted company with Apple to become the darling of the console gaming industry is another step up the ladder. To catch IBM, Apple needs to reach $181.98. This is beyond my end of summer forecast, so Apple we need a really good Christmas season to get here.

WalMart is way out there. Apple needs to reach $227.74 to match them.

Of course, Microsoft is still way up there. Apple stock would have to reach $341.75 to match Microsoft. That may take a little while longer.

Some of these are very feasible. A few seem simply ridiculous -- like Apple eclipsing Dell. But maybe these goals will be a little easier to achieve. Some of these folks could come downward to help shorten the stretch for Apple.

Backup Service
A while back we were discussing backup solutions at a BRMUG meeting. One of the sub-topics were online backup services. While .Mac is a viable service, some feel it is to pricey for its benefits.

I just came across another online backup service that may be worth checking out (I have not had time to check it out yet -- so this advice is based on reading their web site).

Mozy (*https://mozy.com/*) supports Max OS X (beta at this point. They provide 2 GB of backup for free. Unlimited backups per month for $4.95 (that is what they say). The feature list looks interesting. Clearly Mac support is new for them (in beta). But it looks worth playing with for 2 GB free. For under $60 a year, it would be a real bargain if it works correctly.

Top 30 Mistakes
I found this article very interesting. It is an article about the top 30 mistakes a new Macintosh user makes. Since this month's topic is switching, the article seemed to be a perfect fit. I encourage you to read it: *http://danwarne.com/?p=20*

Location Frustration?
I have used laptops a long time. Changing the configs as I go from location to location has always been a pain. The Mac was particularly frustrating. It has the concept of a location manager. Under OS 9 it was much richer but had limitations. Under OS X, it can be real annoying.

MarcoPolo (*http://www.symonds.id.au/marcopolo/*) is a free product that hopes to relieve some of this aggravation. Once again, I just found MarcoPolo and have not had time to test it. I have looked at several other solutions in the past that just did not cut it. This one has potential.

It can detect/trigger on Bluetooth, IP address, USB devices and wireless. This implies to me as I move from one wireless location to another, that it will be able to detect this. It claims to be able to change the following items: set default printer, open a document, set default SMTP server, turn Bluetooth on or off, turn wireless on or off, and run a shell script.

I can see lots of advantages for this. It supports a default location when it can't determine location. It supports Growl for notification.

Based on all I see, I will definitely try this as soon as I have time. Changing between wireless and my Bluetooth phone requires several steps. I have given up "customizing" my location between work and home (I would love to set DNS, SMTP server, and default printer). I would also like to change NTP based on network connection. Hopefully I can provide a review next month. Maybe a meeting about laptop stuff...

by Isaac Traxler

ACER X191W

On the Sunday before April 17th, my wife and I decided to do our taxes using Turbotax on the family PC, a computer we planned to replace with a new Mac, but were stopped dead in our tracks by a dead modem card,

My wife said, If you can't fix it lets just go to Compusa. So, we went to the Mac section and looked at two iMacs, a 17 inch and a 20 in and an iBook.

My wife settled on the 17 inch iMac, when I said lets look at all of our options and we looked at a Mac Mini with a 20 inch Apple display, Logitech wireless RF keyboard and mouse and JBL Creature II speakers.

My wife asked, which one will work with our monitor at home? To make a long story short, we bought the 1.83 Intel Mac Mini with the Logitech wireless keyboard and mouse and got our taxes done in a jiffy. Our tax refund basically covered the Mac Mini and keyboard.

I kept having trouble reading text with the 15 inch CRT display from the 1990's. So, I did some research and narrowed down to a few 19 inch LCD monitors. After looking at a few, I kept coming back to the ACER x line of monitors. They are bright and reasonably sharp and have exceptional color reproduction. Best of all, they come with a DVI cable for best results.

The ACER X191 W monitor I chose was an amazing deal for $204.99 at Circuit City. Even better, it is a light 8.8 pounds and only 14 inches high with tilt and a stable stand that locks into place. Other features include LED

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back lighting for low heat, long lasting bulbs and accurate illumination for only 55 watts of power. It also lowered the RF interference that distorts our family entertainment center.

It was a cinch to set up and use the ACER X191W with our Mac Mini. The monitor locked to the stand with a quick click. I hooked the DVI cable up and turned on the monitor and the Mac. Mac OS 10.4.7 recognized the monitor and set native resolution within seconds. I filed the driver disk in cabinet and never used it.

This is definitely one of the brightest monitors I have ever used. It provides 700:1 contrast at 5ms at 1440 X 900 resolution with no flicker and no blurred text. Some people may prefer the higher contrast 2000:1 and 3000:1, 2ms monitors by Samsung and LG, but I found them to have blurry text and distorted colors. The more expensive HP monitors are a little bit sharper, but I disliked the glare of the glossy finish on them.

The ACER X series comes in standard and widescreen versions from 17 inch to 24 inches in relatively competitive prices. If your looking for an inexpensive choice or a second monitor for a lap top, you could do worse. Most Intel Macs look best with a widescreen.

by Glenn Matherne

Logitech S530 Laser Cordless Deskset

This month, my wife and I purchased an Intel 1.83 Mac Mini to replace our aging and failing PC. My wife was willing to use a Mac, but just didn't like the feel of the Apple Mighty Mouse. She also wanted wireless options and a mouse that contoured to her hand. I wanted an affordable deskset that fit the drawer of our computer desk.

We saw a Logitech wireless RF keyboard and mouse plugged into a Mac Mini at Compusa. It was comfortable and my wife could right click to her hearts content. We don't do that in the Mac World, but that's another issue. Best of all it was probably cheap.

So we looked at a few wireless options. The Apple Bluetooth keyboard and mouse was vetoed immediately. The Kensington system looked good also, but didn't list any PC options if we ran BootCamp or Parallels. The Microsoft Laser system was expensive, but didn't fit our desk tray or budget.

We went with the Logitech S530 Laser Deskset, an integrated RF keyboard and mouse. Yes RF is an older less cool system than Bluetooth, but it works great. All you have to do is plug the RF transmitter to an available USB port.

When we got home, I put batteries in the key board and mouse and plugged the RF transmit-

ter to the USB port on our Mac Mini. After starting the Mac, I got a message that I need to click shift key and the z key to get the keyboard recognized. I had to restart and repeat several times until I removed and reinstalled the batteries in the keyboard. That did the trick and the keyboard is recognized instantly everytime.
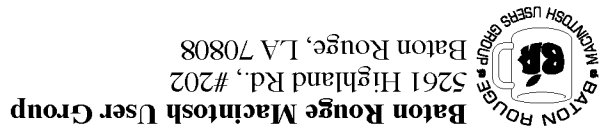
This is much faster than the Apple Bluetooth keyboard. My Mother typically has to wait about 30 seconds for the Apple Bluetooth mouse and Keyboard to be recognized on her G5 iMac.

So, If you are on a budget or adding a Mac to your collection of PCs, you might want to consider a wireless keyboard system to reduce your reliance on cables. The Logitech S530 Laser is great product for only $69.

A word of caution, don't use cordless land line phones near an RF keyboard, they may disrupt the signal to the RF transmitter, Use the cellphone instead.

by Glenn Matherne

Glad you were able to switch back to the Mac! -- Isaac

2006/7 Meeting Calendar

Date	Topic	Presenter	Location
May 17	Tale of a Switcher	Glenn Young	Bluebonnet Library
April 19	Intro to Pages	William Sellers	Bluebonnet Library
March 15	Airport Extreme & Mac Wireless	John Quebedeaux	Bluebonnet Library
February 15	Inkscape and Vector Graphics	Isaac Traxler	Bluebonnet Library
January 18	MacWorld Recap	Don Ballard	Bluebonnet Library
December 21	Holiday Gathering	N/A	Brewbach-ers
November 16	Mac Extras & Gadgets you want!	Everyone	Bluebonnet Library
October 19	iTunes And iTS	William Sellers	Bluebonnet Library
September 21	Software Choices	William Sellers & Isaac Traxler	Bluebonnet Library
August 17	Podcasting 101	William Sellers	Bluebonnet Library
July 20	GarageBand	Glenn Matherne	Bluebonnet Library
June 15	Backup Up Your Mac	Richard Johnson	Bluebonnet Library
May 18	Accessorize Your Mac	Team	Bluebonnet Library
April 20	Mac OS X Maintenance	Don Ballard	Bluebonnet Library
March 16	Automator	Arne Christiansen	Bluebonnet Library
February 16	Overview of iPhoto	Isaac Traxler	Bluebonnet Library
January	Buddy, Where did you put the Start Button?	Don Ballard	Bluebonnet Library

BRMUG's Meetings at a Glance
Send ideas to *newsletter@brmug.org*.

The Baton Rouge Macintosh Users Group is a non-profit organization dedicated to Macintosh Users. Our mission is to help bring these users together in order to keep them informed of Apple Computer, Inc.'s trends, visions, and educate them on how to best use this most cost effective, easiest and friendliest of all platforms: **The Macintosh.**

If you are in the position of selling, supporting, or using the Apple Macintosh computer or any of Apple's products, we would like your participation and support for the benefit of our membership and your customer base.

Everyone is invited to attend the meetings. For a complimentary newsletter, or flyers to give out to others, or any information about the group contact the following BRMUG Ambassador: Isaac Traxler, President, (504) 926-1552, e-mail: *president@brmug.org*. We'll be most happy to talk to you about the Macintosh!

Send this form with $15 ($10 with copy of current school id for students) check payable to BRMUG to: BRMUG Treasurer, 5261 Highland Road, #202, Baton Rouge, LA 70808.

BRMUG Membership Form 5/2007

Name:
_____

Address: Street, City, State, ZipCode
_____
_____

Home Phone:
Office Phone:

Things the club should do:
_____
_____

<u>My interest areas:</u>
_____
_____
_____

Hiroshima 45
Chernobyl 86
Windows 95

This Month:
Tale of a Switcher
by Glenn Young

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