

BRMUG

Baton Rouge Macintosh User Group

News and Views

July 2004

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

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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 July meeting will be held at the **Bluebonnet Library** on **July 15th**, the 3rd Thursday of the month, at 6:30 P.M. This month's presentation will be on **Networking Macintoshes** by Isaac Traxler. The Macintosh is a great machine. But how do you connect two of them together? How do you share access to the Internet? What about temporary connections? These and many other questions are scheduled to be answered this month. 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>).

Meeting Agenda	
6:30 PM	Welcome, Apple News
6:45 PM	Don's Distraction of the Month
7:00 PM	Feature Presentation
7:45 PM	Questions and Answers

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

June Meeting

The June Meeting was "An Overview of iCal and AddressBook." I originally thought that this topic would not fill an entire meeting. As we discovered, there was plenty to talk about. And we left plenty out. We did not discuss publishing calendars at all! iCal and AddressBook are very powerful products with lots of features. I know I learned a lot preparing for the meeting. I hope you learned a few things and enjoyed the meeting!

AAPL

From the jaws of unprecedented success, Apple returned to normalcy. Since the last newsletter, AAPL peaked at just under \$34! And then the wheels started coming off. In spite of several pieces of bad news, AAPL managed to level out at just over \$30. Things could easily have been much worse. Maybe the news will improve again.

iTunes Music Store Milestone

iTMS has made history several times. A new milestone is on the horizon. iTMS is about to celebrate the one hundred millionth song downloaded. Apple says downloaded in one place and sold

in another -- maybe they are not sure? Regardless, Apple is celebrating. "Apple will begin the countdown to 100 million songs by giving away 50 special 20GB iPods—one to the purchaser of each 100,000th song downloaded between 95 million and 100 million songs. In addition, the person who downloads the 100 millionth song will receive a 17-inch PowerBook, a 40GB iPod, a gift certificate for 10,000 iTunes songs to create the ultimate music library for the iPod and the opportunity to create a Celebrity Playlist to be published on the iTunes Music Store." This sounds like

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one great celebration to me. And it has better odds than the lottery.

iTunes Music Store Europe

Apple also opened iTunes for Europe. A lot was written in the press about how difficult a time Apple would have in the European market competing with the established services. The first week of iTunes sales for Europe exceeded 800,000 tracks. Apple says this is 16 times as many tracks in a week as its closest competitor.

iPod Mini

Apple claims that the iPods Mini shortage is over. iPod Minis should be available at stores and all back-ordered units should be shipped. Apple is planning to release the iPod Mini for the rest of the world on July 24.

iPod Competition from Sony

Sony is selling a 20 GB Walkman that they claim stores twice as many songs as an iPod. Apple points out that this is true if the user encodes the music at an unacceptably high loss rate. The iPod is capable of storing music at a similar density with similar number of songs per MB. But Apple claims Sony is stretching the truth a little too much in their advertisements.

iPod and BMW?

BMW offers an adapter for 2002 and newer BMWs that allow an iPod to be connected to the car stereo and controlled by the car stereo controls. The car stereo thinks the iPod is a CD jukebox. Alpine has already released an announcement of plans to market an iPod adapter for car stereos in the future. Another alternative is the IceLink from Denson. This is an adapter that allows an iPod to connect as a CD changer to most cars. Check <http://www.densonusa.com> for details.

New Displays

Apple released three new LCD displays at WWDC: 20-inch (1680 x 1050 resolution for \$1299), 23-inch (1920 x 1200 resolution for \$1999) and 30-inch (2560 x 1600 resolution for \$3300). The new displays feature a metal enclosure to match the G5 and the PowerBook. The border of the enclosure is very small (compared to previous models) to improve ease of use for multiple-monitor desktops. The new monitors include a 2 port USB 2.0 hub and a 2 port FireWire 400 hub. The 30" requires a special video card (NVIDIA

GeForce 6800 Ultra DDL, available in August for \$599). On all three models Apple is abandoning the Apple Desktop Connector (ADC) and using the DDC DVI connection. All models feature a 400:1 contrast ratio.

Tiger

Apple previewed Tiger (the next major release of Mac OS X 10.4) at the WWDC. Apple claims Tiger adds 200 new features. Tiger brings support for 64-bit applications. Tiger implements ACLs (much finer control over permissions than the basic Unix permissions), formal support for home directories of mobile clients, iChat server, blog server, and more. iChat will now support multi-person video chats. Finder has a more integrated search capability. Dashboard is coming -- widgets and stuff on the desktop. Safari will support RSS (real-time news feeds). Tiger certainly has a lot to offer at first glance. Check out <http://www.apple.com/macosx/tiger/> for more information.

Apple Pro Section

Apple has added another section to their website: <http://www.apple.com/pro> to publicize the use of the Macintosh throughout the professional world. Along with the various stories, they have added a resource section here. Take a look at these. The Printing tutorial is pretty neat. This reminds me a lot of the early Macintosh manuals. It is actually neat and has a lot of very good information (click on Show Detail). If only Help was this useful...

Rendezvous

Being interconnected was a fundamental idea from the beginning for the Macintosh. The ease in which multiple Macintoshes were able to print to a single LaserWriter printer was instrumental to the early success of the Macintosh in Desktop Printing. AppleTalk made discovering and communicating with other Macintoshes easy. Unfortunately, AppleTalk was not real easy for large corporate network groups to manage. More importantly, AppleTalk is not well supported by the major network hardware providers. Apple reacted by updating various features so that they also worked over TCP/IP (the network protocol used over the Internet).

For example, you can access an AppleShare server via AppleTalk or over TCP/IP. With AppleTalk you could sim-

ply browse the network until you found what you wanted. With TCP/IP, you must know the name/address of the server. This goes against the ease of use that Macintosh users are accustomed to.

The modern Macintosh is quite happy in the TCP/IP world and can still function in the AppleTalk world. Apple created Rendezvous to bring back some of the ease the Macintosh users remember. TCP/IP on the Internet and at large facilities works pretty good. In these cases, infrastructures exist to manage the resources that TCP/IP requires.

In particular, TCP/IP needs a way to pick an address and associate a name with that address in a uniform manner. Addressing is handled via DHCP or static addressing (both of which have to be setup, configured and maintained). Names are associated with addresses via Domain Name Servers (DNS) which must also be maintained centrally.

The average home user, small or medium office rarely has the dedicated hardware and personnel to support these functions. Most smaller sites count on pre-configured consumer routers (Airport, Linksys, Belkin, NetGear, ...). These devices work okay right out of the box and can usually be configured with a minimum of hassle -- if you know what all the defaults are and how to configure your equipment to the defaults. Alternately, you can carefully read the instructions and eventually get there. Unfortunately, your machines still do not have real names. Even though the router provides you a DHCP address and makes sure that each one is unique, it does nothing for DNS.



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For more information call the User Group President, Isaac Traxler: (225) 926-1552
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2004 Meeting Calendar			
January 15	Annual Game Review	John Quebedeaux	Bluebonnet Library
February 19	iTunes, iTMS, and Music	Isaac Traxler	Bluebonnet Library
March 18	Adobe Illustrator	Isaac Traxler	Bluebonnet Library
April 15	Places You Should Know About	Don Ballard, Isaac Traxler	Bluebonnet Library
May 20	Introduction to iMovie	Isaac Traxler	Bluebonnet Library
June 17	iCal/AddressBook	Isaac Traxler	Bluebonnet Library
July 15	Networking Macs	Isaac Traxler	Bluebonnet Library
August 19	Mac OS X Hints	TBA	Bluebonnet Library
September 16	Safari Customization	TBA	Bluebonnet Library
October 21	iDVD	TBA	Bluebonnet Library
November 18	Keynote	Don Ballard	Bluebonnet Library
December 16	Holiday Gathering	Everybody	Brewbachers
Tentative Meeting Topics Send ideas to newsletter@brmug.org .			

Rendezvous provides a solution to this problem. One aspect of Rendezvous is the idea of building on existing standards to create a cooperative environment where machines on a local network can learn about each other, get unique addresses, and exchange names without a central repository or server (sounds a lot like how AppleTalk worked).

If these parts of Rendezvous are adopted, setting up small networks will become much easier. Rendezvous makes some compromises to gain these benefits. In particular, Rendezvous is limited to a single subnet (a division of the Internet). This is identical to the early problem where AppleTalk was one big region. AppleTalk grew by creating zones and using routers to interconnect the zones. At this time, Rendezvous does not have a simple solution to interact with other subnets. At home this will not be a problem for most. Most small businesses will be fine also. But as the business grows and the network needs to be divided up to maintain efficiency (networks tend to slow down as more users use them more), Rendezvous becomes fragmented. This

results in one side of the building not be able to see the printer or the server on the other side of the building.

That is the underlying design if Rendezvous. On top of that, Apple layered the technology to allow printers and computers to learn about each other. This layer of Rendezvous works in a small home network or in a professionally maintained network (within the same subnet/zone).

by Isaac Traxler

Networking

How do you network Macintoshes? The simplest network is two Macintoshes connected via cable between the two ethernet ports. On most computers you must use a special "crossover" cable to do this. Modern Macintoshes "magically" adapt -- so either a normal or a crossover cable works fine.

You can also use a hub (network device designed to connect two or more devices). In this case

you need a hub and two cables. A hub has the advantage that you can add additional computers to the hub (so that more than two can communicate). Hubs do this by taking all traffic and putting it on a single shared path. Switches are special types of hubs. Switches send the necessary traffic to all computers but create special temporary connections between pairs of machines as data passes between them. This allows multiple pairs of machines to communicate at full speed without having to wait on all of the other computers.

Ethernet comes in three major flavors: 10, 100, and 1000. Original ethernet was 10 Mb. Improvements allowed it to speed up to 100 Mb. Major changes were made to create gigabit ethernet. Most cables you see today are cat 5 (category 5) and work fine up to 100 Mb. Cat 5e is a little more resistant to noise. Cat 6 is the latest standard and a little better than 5e. You should use cat 5e or cat 6 for gigabit.

Routers are intelligent devices. Most home routers can provide DHCP (issue addresses to computers) and allow your home network to access the Internet via a cable modem or ADSL modem. They also become firewalls protecting the outside world from directly accessing your home systems (so I HIGHLY recommend a home router).

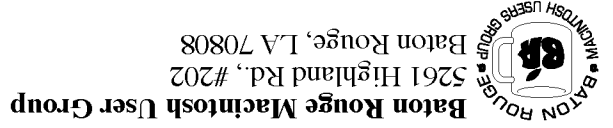
Hubs and switches interconnect similar devices (ethernet to ethernet). Routers typically connect two different things (modem to ethernet). Modern home routers usually contain the router component and a switch (usually 4-8 ports). This allows you to buy a single device to connect between your modem and your home network.

Wireless routers take this a step further. Wireless routers act as a router to the outside world, a switch to your home network and a hub for connecting wireless devices. Wireless comes in three main flavors: A, B, G. B is the common 11 Mb wireless. This is approximately the same theoretical speed as original ethernet. Because of noise and other issues, B typically feels much slower.

Most early (and most current common) wireless devices are type B (AirPort and AirDock). A is about twice the speed of B, but is not as common and typically costs more. A also has better distance range than B. And then along came G (AirPort/AirDock Extreme). G is capable of 54 Mb and requires that all wireless devices connected run at G. If a single B device communicates, all G devices drop back to B speeds for compatibility.

Hopefully this gave you a quick introduction to the hardware side of networking. In the meeting this month we will concentrate on what to do after you get these pieces installed.

by Isaac Traxler



This Month:
 Networking Macintoshes
 by Isaac Traxler

*Hiroshima 45
 Chernobyl 86
 Windows 95*

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS RECEIVED BY ALL
 BRMUG MEMBERS, CONTRIBUTORS, AND
 REPRESENTATIVES.**

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 7/2004

Name: _____

Address: Street, City, State, ZipCode

Home Phone: _____

Office Phone: _____

Things the club should do:

My interest areas:

