

# BRMUG

Baton Rouge Macintosh User Group

News and Views

## October 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](mailto: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](mailto:newsletter@brmug.org). Articles are printed on a space available basis. Submissions are welcome!

The October meeting will be held at the **Bluebonnet Library** on **October 21<sup>st</sup>**, the 3rd Thursday of the month, at 6:30 P.M. This month's presentation will be an **Introduction to iDVD** by Isaac Traxler. Now that SuperDrives are more common, people need software to take advantage of them. iDVD is Apple's answer. It is a very powerful and simple to use program. This month we will take a first look at iDVD. 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.

#### September Meeting

Hurricane Ivan created a lot of traffic for Baton Rouge. Because of the people evacuating and the possibility of Ivan coming to the state capital, the libraries closed down. With the library closed, the meeting had to be cancelled. I cannot remember if we have ever cancelled a meeting before -- certainly not in the last few years. So the planned iDVD demo has been rescheduled for this month. Hope everybody can make it.

#### AAPL

What a month! Last month AAPL was fighting to maintain \$35 a share. At over \$45 a share AAPL can almost see \$50! To look at this in perspective, it has been 4 years since Apple stock was worth as much as it is now. Apple's Market Cap is over \$18 billion (just a few months back they were fighting to attain \$12 billion).

This is phenomenal news! So what drove the price up this high? First you start with the positive reception that the delayed iMac G5 received. This helped to gently ease the stock value up. The continued success of the iPod and the

iTMS also helped the elevator go up. The last big push was Apple's announcement of this quarter's earnings. Apple's net profit last quarter was \$106 million (2.5 times as much as the same quarter in 2003). Total revenue was \$2.35 billion (also an increase).

Apple shipped 836,000 Macintoshes last quarter (6% increase over same quarter last year). They shipped a staggering 2,016,000 iPods last quarter (up 500%)! Who would have believed that Apple would ship over 2 million iPods in one quarter? Rumor has that the iPods are due so improvements (higher

#### OCTOBER Contents

- September Meeting ..... •1
- AAPL..... •1
- New iMac..... •2
- Cherry OS ..... •2
- USB 2.0 vs. FireWire..... •2
- Mac OS X Security Update ..... •2
- iTMS..... •2
- Apple Stores..... •2
- 30" LCD..... •2
- Dual Monitors..... •2
- .Mac Service..... •2
- GMail ..... •3

density storage). This should help keep sales up against the competition (SONY has started airing commercials for their competing product). Apple is looking good right now. The PowerMac and the iBook are selling at the highest rates ever. The iMac is looking like a winner. The PowerMac is clearly a workhorse that commands a part of the market. The X-Serves are continuing to sell. Not a bad apple in the bunch.

### ***New iMac***

Most reports about the new iMacs have been popular. The price/performance ratio is very nice. Many users are reporting good experiences with the iMac when things are less than perfect. The new approach by Apple to make it easy for customers to diagnose problems with the G5 iMac seems to be a winner. Many users are reporting good luck when working with Apple for repairs (possibly due to the more accurate diagnostics).

### ***Cherry OS***

Yet another time someone claims to have an emulator available to run Mac OS X on X86 systems with minimal performance loss. Cherry OS hit the Internet with a big splash. It now appears that Cherry OS (like all the others before it) is not a real product and will not be one anytime soon.

### ***USB 2.0 vs. FireWire***

Now that the new iMac comes with USB 2.0, many people are starting to compare USB 2.0 and FireWire. When things go right, USB 2.0 and FireWire 400 can perform at about the same speeds. FireWire is steady and generally seems to work. USB 2.0 speeds will plummet if you connect a USB 1/1.1 device to the hub. If you are planning on using USB 2.0 devices (some memory keys, card readers, ...) you should really consider getting a powered USB 2.0 hub for the USB 2.0 devices and a separate, powered USB hub for the older devices (keyboard, mouse, ...). Powered hubs are important for many devices that take power from the USB connection. Also (as mentioned in a previous newsletter), be aware that USB 2.0 compliant does not necessarily mean high speed. The USB 2.0 standard allows for high speed and low speed. When devices of various speeds are mixed, all devices drop to low speed. When a device is labeled USB 2.0, that merely means that it should work correctly when interconnected with other

USB 2.0 devices. Devices that are labeled USB 1 or 1.1 are not certified to work with USB 2.0 devices (but almost all do). Just make sure you use powered hubs.

### ***Mac OS X Security Update***

Apple released a security update for Mac OS X (10.2, 10.3, and server). As with other security updates, you should install this one as soon as possible. Seems like we had the same announcement last month?

### ***iTMS***

iTMS has sold its 150 millionth song. Customers are downloading approximately 4 million songs a week. At this pace, iTMS will sell 200 million songs this year. iTMS may not be a huge profit center for Apple but it is definitely the dominant online music store. iTunes for the PC has consistently been called the best music solution for the Windows world. All of these add up to more sales of iPods.

### ***Apple Stores***

When Apple entered the retail store business it looked a little crazy. The upscale stores with their high rent seemed to destroy any hope of them succeeding. Apparently this logic was faulty. One of the other contributing factors to Apple's good last quarter was the profitability of the Apple Stores. This month Apple unveiled the next step in the Apple Store adventure -- mini-stores. The new stores are smaller, carry all portables, the iMac, iPods and select 3rd party items. The PowerMac line is not present. The training theatre is absent. The mini-stores do include a Genius Bar though. At least six stores have already been opened.

### ***30" LCD***

Apple announced their 30" LCD and custom Nvidia video card with a lot of fanfare a few months back. Everyone was in awe of the quality and the price. Unfortunately, Apple had not been shipping any of them. Normally the bottleneck on new displays is getting sufficient LCDs of acceptable quality. It appears that Apple foresaw this problem and avoided it. Unfortunately, Nvidia let Apple down. Nvidia could not make working versions of the new video cards. The card is very similar to a model announced for the PC world. Nvidia has not been able to ship very many of the PC video cards either. It appears that they are starting to push the limits of their design technology. The good news is that people are starting to

report receiving their monitors and video cards. One customer wished for an alternate set of cursors that are larger so that it would be easier to find the cursor on the massive screen --- I would love to have that problem!

### ***Dual Monitors***

What do you do when you cannot afford a 30" LCD? You get multiple smaller monitors. Macintosh users have enjoyed this possibility since the Macintosh II originally shipped. The Windows world is starting to embrace the dual monitor approach. Slashdot (<http://slashdot.org>) included a link to a PC user who described his dual monitor experience. He said the first 2 days were a dramatic improvement in productivity. On the third day he figured out he could play a DVD on the second screen while trying to work on the first. I guess after the newness wears off he can get back to enhanced productivity.

### ***.Mac Service***

When Apple unveiled the .Mac service, it seemed a little pricey for e-mail and some online disk space. Apple has done a good job of adding benefits and features to .Mac (software, backup, calendar publishing, ...). .Mac started looking attractive when many of the free services disappeared. When Google Mail hit and other vendors upgraded their free offerings, Apple's .Mac began looking dated. Apple has now doubled the default capacity to 250 MB for combined e-mail and storage. You can now divide the space between the two however you would like.



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 President, Isaac Traxler: (225) 926-1552  
 e-mail: [info@brmug.org](mailto:info@brmug.org)  
 web: <http://www.brmug.org/>

### GMail

Google appears to be growing. One of their new expansion areas is GMail. GMail provides a free e-mail service with a GB of storage. Google hopes to change the way you process your mail. They are trying to see if their search engine technology can make it easy enough to find specific mail messages that you do not have to invest large amounts of time filing your e-mail. It might just work. The 1 GB of free storage has attracted a lot of attention. So I bet you want to know how to get an account of your own? Currently, you can only get an account by invitation from someone who has one and has been granted the ability to issue accounts (most who get permission to invite others have a limited number of invites). A very interesting approach. My account is [traxler@gmail.com](mailto:traxler@gmail.com). And I do not have any invites yet.

### Graphic Utility of the Month

With the holiday season rapidly approaching, everyone is getting out their camcorders and practicing to shoot another season of shaky home movies for the family to watch together. In the past, this consisted of grainy and soundless 8mm films and poor quality VHS tapes. Recently, this all changed with the advent of dvd creation software like iMovie and iDVD for Mac users. People started buying the latest firewire camcorders to start making high quality versions of the home movie. But there was one catch, you can't make copies of your dvd, only masters.

This was the case for all Mac users due to limitations in iDVD that Apple imposed to avoid lawsuits and royalty/trademark problems from people pirating purchased or rented dvd movies. PC users had many tools including DeCrypter, but Mac users were left in the cold until now.

Today, there are many cool tools available for dvd copying, recording and transcribing video formats. The best dvd copying program is Mac The Ripper, a program that copies all of the essence of the dvd and allows you to make an ISO disc image which can be burned by Toast or iDVD into a dvd. Sizzle is a dvd authoring program that works sort of like a simple version of iDVD. It takes mpeg2 video and allows you to create all of the chapters and menus like a dvd should have and then exports it as an ISO disc image. Mpeg Streamer is a program that transcribes mpeg video into different forms such as DV for use in iMovie or Quicktime. It works fast but requires the Apple Mpeg 2 codec/player to be purchased from Apple. VLC is a video/audio player that plays just about any av format available. Check for

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	Intro to AppleScript	Don Ballard	Bluebonnet Library
September 16	Cancelled (hurricane)	N/A	Bluebonnet Library
October 21	Introduction to iDVD	Isaac Traxler	Bluebonnet Library
November 18	Keynote	Don Ballard	Bluebonnet Library
December 16	Holiday Gathering	Everybody	Brewbachers
BRMUG's Meetings at a Glance Send ideas to <a href="mailto:newsletter@brmug.org">newsletter@brmug.org</a> .			

updates as some versions are a little quirky. My favorite tool is Audacity an audio recorder/mastering program that rivals Apple Logic 6 in its functionality and processing ability. It is the best tool for editing sound on any computer OS.

The neat thing about all of these tools is that they are freeware recreations of Linux utilities. This means they not only harness the power of Mac OS X, they are always going to be free. Of course, they all require a little more work by the user, but the rewards of being able to have complete control are priceless. On the other hand, if you don't like them, it costs nothing.

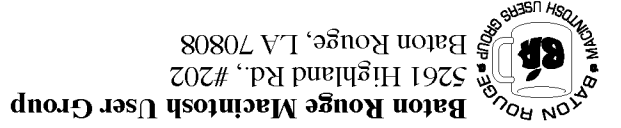
As a new homeowner with several hundred relatives, I'm on a tight budget this year. So, I'm looking for anything free to use this holiday season. It looks like the relatives are getting dvds in the Xmas stocking this year. Anyone hear about a great deal on a case of blank dvd disks?

by Glenn Matherne

### DVD Disks?

Glenn -- you need to ask where to get DVD media? If you are in a hurry, you can always visit your Authorized Apple Retailer at CompUSA. They have a good selection of media at various prices (as good as anywhere in town if you catch the sales). Best Buy and Office Depot are other good choices for local places to get media quickly for a decent price. Walmart has media and is open 24 hours.

Now of course we all want to save as much money as possible. So where do you go looking if you have time and want the best price? As always, I suggest you visit <http://dealmac.com>. They have the best pricing information around (updated multiple times a day Monday through Friday). I can also recommend <http://www.dealsontheweb.com/headlines.php>. They are similar to DealMac but sometimes find things that DealMac misses (goes both ways). Enjoy your Christmas shopping!



This Month:  
**Introduction to iDVD**  
 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](mailto: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 10/2004**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: Street, City, State, ZipCode

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\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Things the club should do:

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My interest areas:

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