

January Program

ArtText 2

A more in-depth review of ArtText 2 and highlights of Macworld

Big Auction!
Bid for a License for Art Text 2.



Upcoming Meetings



Main Meetings
January 14th

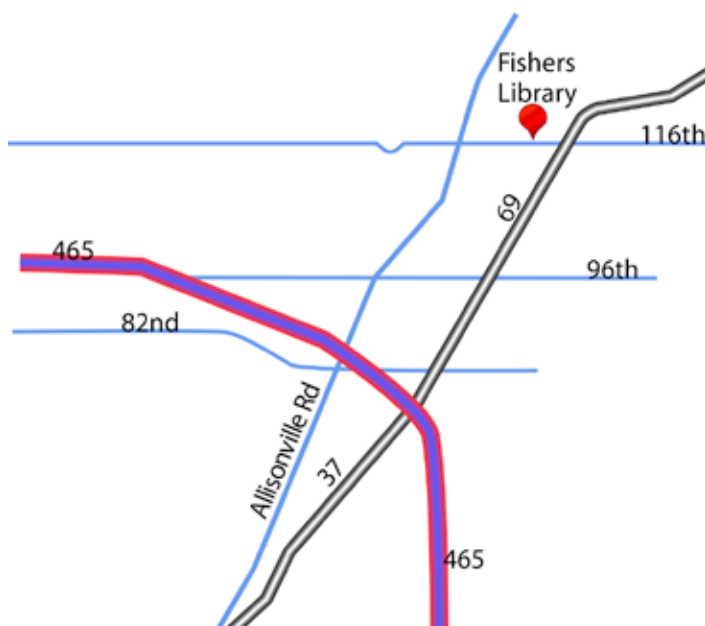
Business Meetings are now Virtual (See Website Forums)

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ApplePickers Main Meeting

We meet the second Wednesday of each month, 6:30-7:00 p.m. social time, main meeting 7:00-8:45 p.m. at the [Fishers Library](#). 5 Municipal Dr. just north of 116th St. in Fishers. Visitors are always welcome to come and join us.



ApplePickers Business Meeting

The business meeting is held via the ApplePickers "Virtual Business Meeting" forum topic. Any member is welcome to post in that topic stating their opinions on what the club should be doing.

Mac ProSIG

The third Monday of each month, Apple Representative Greg Willmore hosts the Mac Programmer's SIG. You should email Greg for specific information. willmore@apple.com Location varies.

Final Cut Pro User Group

The INDYFCPUG meets the fourth Tuesday of each month from 7:00-9:30 p.m. Since the location may vary, please be sure to check their [website](#).

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About the ApplePickers

ApplePickers is a not-for-profit educational organization. We are made up of volunteers who donate their time for the community advancement of computing. We are in the business of giving away information. All are welcome to join and we encourage you to get involved. Contact anyone mentioned above or write to: ApplePickers, P.O.Box 20136, Indianapolis, IN., 46220

Remember that ApplePickers is here to help you. This help comes from our many members who give of their time and talents to the group. Please help us to help you by giving something in return.

Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and may not be construed as the official views of the ApplePickers MUG.

Newsletter Information

We welcome members' contributions to the newsletter. Submission deadline is the 20th of the month. Please send articles to the editor for that month. Bob is the editor next month. ApplePickers accepts a member's classified ad free of charge once every 6 months. Business ads are also accepted.

Email pr@applepickers.org for more information, or visit our website: www.applepickers.org
Advertisement rates are as follows:
Business card size - 3" x 2.5" \$60 per 6 months
Quarter page size - 3.75" x 5" \$100 per 6 months

All advertisement requests must be approved by the board prior to inclusion in the newsletter. Full color or grayscale ads have the same price. We request that your ad be "camera ready" art. 300dpi is preferred. Email ads to either newsletter editor

ApplePickers Message Boards

Come and join us at the ApplePickers' new Message Boards! Ask questions, read other ApplePickers member's postings. See gossip and news and special announcements. The ApplePickers Message Boards are a valuable and useful member benefit! Free subscriptions for ApplePickers members. To join point your browser of choice to www.applepickers.org, and click on the Forum tab on the top of the website. If you need an account or lost your password, please E-mail Bob van Lier at bobv@applepickers.org.

New Information

As a new benefit to members, we offer the ability to have your own @applepickers.org e-mail address. If you are interested in setting up an ApplePickers e-mail address for yourself, please send an e-mail request to Bob van Lier and give us the address you wish to have and whether you just want a forwarding account or a regular e-mail account.



Review: Art Text 2

By Bob Carpenter

Developer: BeLight Software, Ltd. (<http://www.belightsoft.com>)

Price: \$39.95 (Standard version), \$49.95 (Retail version)

15% discount available to Macintosh User Group

members on non-upgrade purchase

Upgrade from Art Text 1.x: \$19.95

[Note: We will be auctioning off a license to Art Text 2, courtesy of BeLight Software, at our January 2009 meeting.]

When we last left BeLight's Art Text, we talked about a program that filled a niche. It allowed you to create stylized text. In allowing you to do that, it gave you tremendous flexibility in how you created that text. It allowed you to change everything from the style of the text to the direction that the light will hit your text.

Now fast forward about 18 months to the introduction of Art Text version 2. It still allows you to do everything you could do in version 1.x. It even keeps any custom styles or materials that you created in Art Text 1.x. However, it now can do a lot more and it's even easier to use than before.



Interface changes

I think Art Text 2 goes the right way in changing to a tabbed interface instead of the boxes that flipped

between fill and stroke and the materials. The other box flipped between shadow and glow and geometry. The new interface has three simple tabs: Effects (which includes your fill, stroke, and shadow/glow), Geometry (which allows you to form your text into different shapes and stretch that text in almost any way you wish), and Styles (which has either pre-designed one-stop looks or where you can save your own work into a style to be used at a later time). I found the new interface easier to get used to. I didn't like how the old interface would change the look of your text simply by flipping the box around. The new interface allows you to choose a new tab and see what's there without affecting your current work.

Hey, it has layers now!

They've also added a "Layer Bar" to Art Text 2. Yes, that's right, Art Text now supports layers. For those of you who've used a program like Photoshop, you'll know exactly what a layer is. However, if you don't know, layers allow you to do two different things. One, you can try new things on a new layer and get rid of the

layer if you don't like what you tried. All of your work underneath that layer is unaffected. Yes, you can undo your work but it can be difficult to determine which steps you wish to keep and which steps you wish to remove. The second advantage of layers is that it allows you to easily move items in front or back.

This is especially useful because Art Text allows you to combine your text and graphics to create your own logo. In playing with the program, I used an included graphic and

made it look like a watermark in back of my text. I did this by selecting the layer with the graphic from

the layers panel and changing the opacity to a lower number which made the graphic more transparent.

Art Text allows you to easily move the layers around. All you have to do is drag one layer to the left or right of the other and it will change what's in the foreground or background. My explanation makes it sound like you can only have two layers. That's not the case. I'm just trying to make it easy to understand if you haven't used layers before. In fact, I stopped at about 10 layers because it just got ridiculous for me after that. However, if you were working on an intricate logo, I could see how you could have many more layers for your work.

Template Gallery

Art Text 2 now includes a Template Gallery. This can be a nice place to start on your own design since there are plenty of high quality headings, buttons, icons, or logos from which to choose. This is another place where Art Text 2 has expanded beyond its initial design. You can now use it to create your own website buttons if you wanted to do so. You have the entire power of Art Text at your disposal to take their standard buttons and make them your own.

Gradients and Color

Art Text 2 also includes Linear and Radial gradients. Simply, that means your text can gradually change from one color to another in either a horizontal (linear) or in a ringed fashion from the center (radial). In keeping with Art Text's customization, you can choose the three colors of the gradient and the angle from which it starts.

I bring up the colors here because it brings up an important point of how Art Text lets you pick your colors. Thankfully, it uses the standard OS X color selector instead of attempting to create a "better" one. The great advantage of this is you can use the "magnifying glass" in the upper left-hand corner of the color selector. You use this icon to select the color you want from any other picture or text. The real power of this is that the color you wish to select may be in a different window of a different program. The magnifying glass doesn't care. This allowed me to open up the ApplePickers logo in Preview and use it to select the exact color of the logo and use it in my Art Text design. Once you know about the magnifying

glass, it makes color selection a whole lot easier.

Customization and Textures

I haven't gone into all of items that Art Text allows you to change. That's simply because I don't feel like writing a five page review! Whenever I started playing with something to see if I could achieve a certain effect, I never found that Art Text was holding me back because it wouldn't let me change something. I did find myself just moving sliders and dials around just to see what might happen.

I will say that I found the geometry tab initially confusing because I would pick a text shape and it didn't look like anything was changing. However, once I started moving the sliders off of 0 (no change), then the desired effect would take place.

Art Text 2 does add a 190 image texture library. No, I didn't count them. I cheated and looked on their website. It's nice to have that available since Art Text 1.x made you pick your own picture to use as a texture. That option is still available to you, but it's nice to have some built-in options. Continued on Page

Documentation

Art Text 2 does have an included help file. It's not that large, but it gives you enough to get started. They also have screencasts on their websites showing you how to create certain items. Honestly, I used the screencasts to get familiar with the interface and just used the help file if I wasn't sure where to find something.

Quirk

When working with version 2.0.2, I ran into only one minor quirk (bug). If you save an Art Text document the first time, the dot inside the red button disappears. That means you don't have any unsaved changes in the document. However, if you make changes later and you save your Art Text document, the dot won't go away until you click somewhere in the window. The same thing happens when you make your first change after your first save. In that case, the red dot won't appear until you click somewhere in the Art Text window. To be fair, I consider it more of a quirk because Art Text won't let you quit the program

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Review: HP LaserJet P1006

By Irv Haas - The Review Guru

With printer prices coming down and ink cartridges staying the same or going up what is the typical Mac user to do? How about trying an inexpensive fast laser printer like the HP LaserJet P1006?

This printer seems to have it all—low price, speed, clear text, and inexpensive to operate. Let's check out all of these specifics to see if this is the printer for you!

Speed

The HP P1006 has a rated speed of 17 ppm (pages-per-minute). In my tests, this proved to be the case. Check out the speed differences between each of these printers. HP makes each of these printers. Keep the cost of printers relative to each of their respective speeds.



	P1006	CP 2025dn	C6180
Type	Black Laser	Color Laser	Inkjet
Rated Speed	17ppm	17.6-17.7ppm	31-32ppm
1-Page Letter	15 sec.	18 sec.	19 sec.
6-Page File	32 sec.	37 sec.	2 mins. 32 sec.
Color Photo	18 sec.	33 sec.	34 sec.
Price	\$179.99	\$499.99	\$299.99
Street Price	\$99.99	\$449.99	\$199.99

As you can see, the rated speeds are close approximations, but you should not go by them as absolute. You will notice that the rated speeds do not necessarily match real print speeds. When purchasing a printer, use the print speeds as guidelines, nothing more! With these tests, the P1006 is certainly no slouch!

Quality of Printouts

Comparing the 3 printers, both of the lasers were very close in printing sharpness. The color inkjet was not as crisp as the lasers, however. The only difference between the lasers was that the CP2025dn produced a darker black. But most people would not notice such a difference.

Toner Cartridges

One of the negative considerations in buying a laser printer is the cost of toner cartridges. The P1006 uses one cartridge that is sufficient to print 1500 pages. Cost of each cartridge is \$65.00

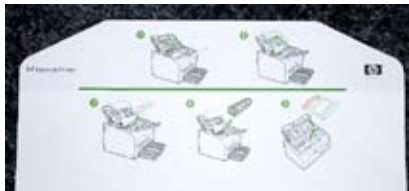
Although \$65 seems reasonable for a toner cartridge, you have to remember that its 1500-page output comes out to 4.3-cents a page. Compare this figure to one of the higher capacity laser printers from HP, the P2055 which features a high capacity toner with a 6500-page capacity for \$154 yielding 2.3-cents a page, half of the P1006's cost.

Setup

This was a very simple process:

- 1) Unpack printer
- 2) Plug in AC power cord
- 3) Download drivers from HP's website.
- 4) Plug in power and USB cable.
- 5) Go to *Print & Fax* in System Preferences and set up.

You needed to be computer savvy to set up the printer since it only came with a small sheet of visuals (see attached) showing you how to install the toner cartridge. Since it was already "installed" you still needed to remove the attached plastic pieces and pull out the clear tape to release the toner.



There is no manual included with this printer, except by HP download.

Dimensions

One of the real advantages of the P1006, besides its printing capability, is its size. With a small footprint, it will take up very little space on your desk or counter.

It is 13.6" in width and 8.8" in depth with a height of only 7.6". The old days of big laser printers are fortunately now relics of the past!



Negatives

Although this printer has many features to attract users, it does have some negatives you have to confront.

The most obvious negative is that this is a *black* laser printer. If you need color prints, this is not the printer for you. With its low cost, you could afford to keep a color inkjet on the side as well.

Since HP was designing an inexpensive printer, the LCD control panel that gave you specific status information had to be replaced with color LED lights. These are used to signal problems with a flashing orange light. The only buttons on the P1006 are a power button and an "X" cancel printing button—that's it!

This printer is designed specifically for home use of 250-1500 monthly copies. Compare this to the higher capacity 2055 that has 750-3000 monthly copies. The P1006 is just not designed for heavy usage.

The other negative addressed above is the cost of toner cartridges. If you want to save money on print costs, perhaps a more expensive printer would be a benefit. Remember, the real cost of the printer is not just the printer's retail cost. You have to also factor in printer supply costs.

Conclusion

If your printing needs require an attractive print look with sharp text edges the HP P1006 is one serious printer.

Although its actual retail price is \$179.99, many vendors (including HP!) offer this printer with an \$80 instant rebate bringing the cost down to \$99.99. Look around before you buy this printer as you could be paying double.

With its small footprint and quality printing and speed, the HP P1006 is up to any printing job you throw at it. If most of your printing needs do not require color, the P1006 may be just the printer for you!

The Ghost in My FileVault

By Rich Mogull

All men have fears.

Many fear those physical threats wired into our souls through millions of years of surviving this harsh world. Fears of heights, confinement, venomous creatures, darkness, or even the ultimate fear of becoming prey can paralyze the strongest and bravest of our civilization.

These are not my fears.

I climb, crawl, jump, battle, and explore this world; secure in my own skills. My fears are not earthly fears. My fears are not those of the natural world. This is a story of confronting my greatest terror, living to tell the tale, and wondering if the threat is really over.

The tale starts, as they always do, on a dark and stormy night.

It was the beginning of August and I had just arrived in Sydney, Australia to begin a two-week tour speaking on security issues throughout Australia and Asia. I was staying in a hotel overlooking Darling Harbor, one of the main tourist spots in the city. My room was on the top floor, with a large wall-sized window filled with an expansive view of the harbor and downtown Sydney. Australia is in the midst of a drought, but that evening the sky was filled with dark clouds glowing with the lights of the metropolis. I remember, in my innocence, thinking the view was beautiful, especially the strange glow where the city met the night. At least, that's what I thought caused the glow; now, I'm not so sure.

I was half-drugged from the combination of jet lag and the pill I took to help me sleep, but I remember noticing some oddness with my mail. Apple Mail was showing a large amount of spam in my Inbox; strange, since SpamSieve normally catches nearly all of it. I didn't think much of it, or much of anything as the drugs and fatigue brought me down, and I drifted off to the restless sleep of the traveler.

The next morning I woke up, washed the sleep from my eyes, and settled in front of my MacBook Pro to

catch up on email before heading off to meetings for the next few hours.

Something was wrong. Very wrong.

My Inbox was flooded with the evil detritus of the seductive false dreams offered by spam. I restarted SpamSieve, which returned an error telling me its corpus was corrupt.

"Reboot" the former Windows sysadmin in me commanded, and I restarted my Mac. I should have resisted that instinct, because with that one reboot I left the world as we know it, and entered a dark dimension of shadows that changed me forever.

The system rebooted normally and I logged in, but that's where sanity ended. I first noticed my Dock; no longer the small, customized list of my favorite applications, but a gargantuan beast taking up inches of my screen with the default applications of a neophyte. On the menu bar only half of my usual icons appeared, and the mighty Quicksilver was no longer among them.

I launched Mail, and was prompted to set up my first account. I launched Safari, and was greeted not by Penny Arcade (my home page of choice), but the default Apple News page. I frantically started clicking, but application after application had reset to the default settings of a newborn Mac. Worst of all, Parallels had reset itself and could no longer see the Windows virtual machine I use to access everything at work.

I was on day two of a two week trip on the other side of the world. This was bad. Really bad.

I rebooted again, and again, and every time my system did something different. Sometimes settings stayed, sometimes they vanished, or some settings would stick while others disappeared. My menu bar rotated applications; I never knew what would work and what wouldn't after logging in. "New" large files seemed corrupt - any utilities I downloaded failed to

open, and file attachments were all corrupt, yet most large files on the system before... the event... were still fine. I first thought "virus," but as a security expert I take rigorous precautions and the chances of an infection were very low. Only one thing could explain such unnatural behavior.

"Ghosts," I thought to myself, "why did it have to be ghosts?"

As a chill settled into my spine I shut the lid of the MacBook Pro and left for my meetings. Walking the streets of Sydney I could feel the evil emanating from my bag, casting a pall wherever I walked.

My meetings finished and I raced back to my hotel room. Lacking the chickens, goats, salt, or newts for a proper exorcism I had nothing to rely upon but my technical skills. I did try chanting while holding a chicken sandwich and plastic knife, but hotel security convinced me that course of action wouldn't bring the results I desired.

I cracked my knuckles, hunched over the keyboard, and began battling the evil head on. After more reboots and some experimentation I realized that there was something wrong with my FileVault. Built into Mac OS X, FileVault - if you enable it - encrypts your home directory as a sparseimage file, protecting your data if someone steals your laptop. I've been a security professional for a long time, and last year decided it was time to follow my own advice and protect my laptop (you can read more about how I use FileVault on my blog).

Whatever this supernatural creature was, it was restricted to that encrypted prison. When I logged into my separate maintenance/backup account (you do have a secondary admin-level account for troubleshooting, don't you?), everything behaved normally. It was only when logged in under my primary account, the encrypted one, that my computer was possessed. Normally when FileVault fails, it fails hard, corrupting the encrypted data and destroying your home directory. My case was something... different... and supported my theories of the supernatural. I could log in fine, and run most of my applications, but settings and data randomly corrupted and behavior varied from login to login. Facing two weeks

with nearly no ability to get my normal work done, I was starting to get desperate. It was time to call in a warrior to fight the demons - the mighty DiskWarrior.

DiskWarrior is a popular Mac utility known for nearly miraculous saves of corrupt hard drives (see "Shootout at the Disk Repair Corral," 2007-09-07). Earlier, walking to my appointments, I saw a Mac store on the street. I packed up and sprinted over, grabbed a copy of DiskWarrior, and rushed back to my hotel. (And yes, I did pay for it first; troubleshooting is way harder when you're rotting in an Australian prison.)

All for naught. I booted off the DiskWarrior CD and scanned my drive, but whatever haunted my system was more powerful than even this epic hero of saved drives.

I tried a few other desperate actions. At this point I realized there was some strange corruption to my FileVault image; not enough to keep me out or ruin my data, but enough to cause all this strange behavior. I tried to disable FileVault, but there wasn't enough space on my hard drive to decrypt all that data. I tried deleting or moving files to an external drive, but FileVault wouldn't recognize or recover the free space. I sacrificed file after file, including default applications, all in vain.

In the end I realized that the only way to defeat this demon would be to travel back in time and warn myself of the impending doom. Or restore from a backup. (You do have a recent and functional backup, don't you?) Since I lacked the proper tools in Australia to build a functioning time machine, I'd just have to wait until I returned home and could restore from the backup I made using SuperDuper before leaving.

For the rest of my trip I'm amazed that airport security never picked up on the danger hiding in my bag (okay, as a security expert it's not all that surprising). I traveled from Sydney to Perth, to Singapore, to Malaysia with nary a suspicious glance from any of the innocents surrounding me. Since none of my settings would save, I logged in using my backup (unencrypted) account and carried on as best I could (thank goodness for webmail).

Two weeks later I returned home and restored from my last backup, banishing the poltergeist from my Mac. Everything was back to normal, and I pulled what few files I changed on the trip from my external drive. Thinking back, I vaguely remember forcing a shutdown on the plane when logging off seemed to hang. I'm now certain that it was this forced shutoff (by holding the Power key for ten seconds) that created a dimensional hole between our world and the next, allowing the malevolent spirit to inhabit my drive. Either that or it corrupted the encryption, but not enough to lock me out. It was only my backups, extra maintenance account, and some basic investigative skills that kept me from being completely crippled.

I also realized that I'd taken an incredible risk. A complete backup of my hard drive is important, and externally bootable (which is convenient), but if that corruption was also in my backup my files may have been banished to the nether-world forever. I thought I was safe, but I was taking far more risk than I realized. Coming home I realized I also need file-level backups of my data within the FileVault, so I rushed to the Take Control site to consult Joe Kissell's "Take Control of Mac OS X Backups" on backup strategies. Soon we'll all have a Time Machine built into our Macs (and

[Art Text continued from Page 4](#)

without bringing up the "Don't Save, Cancel, Save" dialog box if you attempt to quit it with an unsaved document. I've just gotten used to trusting that little dot to tell me if I've saved my document.

Recommendation

If you're in the market for a program that allows you to create eye-popping text, logos, or web graphics, I'd definitely download the Art Text 2 demo and try it out. If you already own Art Text 1, the \$20 upgrade is a no brainer. BeLight Software has added a lot to Art Text that makes it much more useful. At the top of the review, you'll notice I mentioned a retail and standard version. The difference is the retail version comes with 50 Bitstream fonts. I'm sure licensing those fonts is the major reason for the \$10 difference. However, Bitstream is a professional font designer and it shows in the fonts you'll get. You can take a look at the fonts by going to [this page](#). You can also

hopefully it will work well), but until then we'll have to take the extra steps ourselves to protect our data.

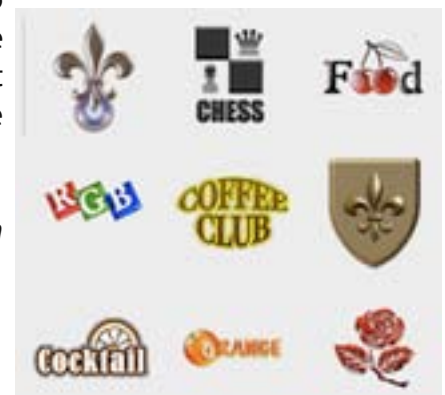
For now, life is normal. I'm back in my home town of Phoenix, Arizona without a cloud in the sky. I'm working again, but I have yet to banish the lingering fear that my beloved laptop is now a portal to a darker world.

[Rich Mogull been working in the security world for 17 or so years, and breaking computers (usually by accident) even longer. After about 10 years in physical security (mostly running large events/concerts), he made the mistake of getting drunk in Silicon Valley and telling someone he "worked in security." Next morning he woke up with a job as an IT security consultant. That's not totally true, but it's far more amusing than his full biography. He currently works as an independent security consultant and writer through Securosis.com and previously spent seven years as an analyst with Gartner. Rich has also worked as a paramedic, done stints as a firefighter and with Rocky Mountain Rescue, and recently retired from ski patrol when he moved to sunny Arizona. He still dabbles in disaster medicine, when nature cooperates.] – Tidbits - 896

download the retail version from BeLight's webpage so you don't need to buy a physical box if you don't want it.

As a smaller company, I've found BeLight to be very responsive to feedback. I readily admit my preference for small, independent developers. Since they don't have the money to pay for large marketing budgets, their prices tend to be more reasonable and their support tends to be more personal.

Logos included with Art Text 2



Fonts & iWorks

Reader Marcin Szablewski seeks help with fonts and iWorks' Pages. It is written: "I have searched Pages to try and locate a setting such as in Microsoft Word, where I can change the default font used for all new pages created. Unfortunately I can't locate this setting in the program. How do I go about doing this?"

Much as I hate to start the week on a negative note, duty demands I do so by telling you that you can't. There is no default font for Pages documents. And there isn't for a good reason.

Microsoft Word, despite its aspiration to be all things to all people, isn't a page layout program. It's a word processor. Pages, on the other hand, falls somewhere between a word processor and a page layout application. As such, it relies on templates to do its work. Each template can have its set of default fonts, but you can't impose a font on all of Pages' templates.

Given that, your solution is to create templates that suit you. For example, if you routinely use the Traditional Letter and Invoice templates, open those templates, make the style changes you want--change the font and font size, for example--and then choose File -> Save as Template. Give the template a name that suits you -- Marcin's Letter Template, for example -- and save it to the My Templates directory. When you next need to type a letter, use the Template Chooser to locate the template you created.

Copying Keychains

Q: I have a lot of passwords stored in my PowerBook's keychain. I want to put an exact copy of the keychain on my iBook, just in case my trusty PowerBook gives up the ghost, but Mac Help is vague about how to do this. -- Jason M. Krellenstein

A: The first step to copying your keychain is finding it. Look inside your user folder /Library/Keychains.

Login.keychain is the default user keychain file that OS X creates--the one you unlock with your login password. (If you've created a new keychain--Chris's keychain.keychain, for example--you'll find it here as well.)

Copying a keychain from one computer to another, however, can be problematic. If that other computer uses a different user name or password, it'll bombard you with password requests. Even with the same user name and password, you'll run into the occasional request for a password you know is in the keychain. For example, when I copied my keychain to another computer that used the same user name and password, Internet Connect asked me for my virtual private network (VPN) password-- despite the fact that it never did that on the original computer.

If you subscribe to Apple's .Mac service (\$99 per year), you'll be happy to know you already have a way to avoid these problems. The service gives you the option to sync your keychain between your .Mac account and any Macs you sync with it (see "Keychain Syncing").

You'll find the option for syncing keychains--as well as bookmarks; calendars; contacts; Mail accounts; and Mail rules, signatures, and smart mailboxes--in the Sync tab of the .Mac preference pane. Select the Synchronize With .Mac option and then choose from the list.

Leaving the past behind

Reader J.T. is having a hard time letting go of the past. He writes:

I have a Microtek ScanMaker X6EL flatbed scanner ,which I want to connect and use with my iMac PowerPC G4, 800 MHz computer. Since this scanner is no longer supported by Microtek, their Tech Support advised that I should try the software program VueScan.

He then goes on to list a pile of adapters he'd use to

allow the scanner's SCSI interface to connect to the iMac's FireWire port. He concludes:

The estimated total cost of this hardware/software bundle is \$200+. Is there a simpler, less costly, way to connect and operate the Microtek ScanMaker X6 EL scanner with the iMac computer under Mac OS X, v. 10.4.11? Will the listed hardware/software above work? Any other suggestions, other than purchase a "new, modern" scanner and start over?

J.T., the danger of asking for help from others is that they'll occasionally offer advice that you don't want to hear. Example: When you ask, "My girlfriend has threatened to poison my chowder the next time I sneeze and I believe she's quite serious about it. Other than dumping her, what can I do?" a person who truly cares about your welfare will suggest that you back up a step and reconsider your commitment to this modern-day Borgia.

This is one of those cases. Although you don't want to hear it, it's time to let go of that old scanner and get a new one. Here's why:

Those connectivity and driver issues are a biggy deal. Once upon a time I tested some FireWire to SCSI adapters and I have to say I found them problematic. (But things may have improved since then—commenters, feel free to offer your experiences). And while VueScan is an impressive piece of engineering, wouldn't it be nicer if your scanner just worked with your Mac—and continued to work with the next major Mac OS update?

Also, your scanner offers 1200 dpi resolution. You can get that same resolution from a scanner today for \$50. For that \$200 you'd spend cobbling together a solution for your current scanner you can have a new scanner that offers 4800 x 9600 resolution. It's likely that this new scanner will also handle slides (though not to the extent of a dedicated slide scanner) and include a modern copy of Photoshop Elements.

To sum up: Honestly, unless your old scanner is the reincarnation of a beloved ancestor, I see no reason to hang onto it.

I understand the pain of discarding a perfectly good scanner. It's not broken, it's simply outdated for your current setup. You can help alleviate some of that pain by donating the scanner to a group that can still use it—a school, Macintosh users group, church, or

senior center. Someone will surely find a use for it. This way you get a scanner that works, someone else gets a scanner that works, and you've kept another hunk of plastic, metal, and glass out of the local landfill.

Reinstalling OS X Applications

In what some might term throwing the infant out with the water in which it was steeping, reader J.S. did something that he now regrets. He writes: "Last year I had significant problems with my iCal application. I was so dissatisfied, I deleted the application entirely and installed Sunbird. I'm wondering if it's possible to download a new, hopefully improved, version of iCal?"

Before we start, I should mention that tossing out applications -- particularly those that are bundled with the Mac OS -- is not a good idea. If you don't like a particular application, simply ignore it and, chances are, it won't bother you. Now, to your particular problem.

iCal is an application bundled with Mac OS X and the only way to obtain a new version is to upgrade your version of the Mac OS -- move from Tiger to Leopard, for example. However, you can reinstall the version of iCal you once had. Why do so when you were unhappy with it in the past? It's possible that something else running on your Mac was causing iCal to misbehave and a subsequent OS update -- a point update such as 10.5.2, for example -- addressed that issue, allowing iCal to run as Jobs intended.

Fortunately, you needn't reinstall the entire operating system to get a single application back. Both the Tiger and Leopard Installer discs include an Optional Installs installer. Launch this installer (found in the Optional Installs folder on the Leopard disc) and at the root level the Tiger Installer disc.

Just launch the installer and click the Continue buttons until you reach the Custom Install screen. Click the triangle next to Applications, tick the box next to iCal, and click the Install button to install iCal. With both the Tiger and Leopard Installer discs the Applications area of the Custom Install screen includes options for installing Address Book, iCal,

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<input type="checkbox"/> via email notice (download via web)
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iChat, iTunes, Mail, Oxford Dictionaries, Safari, and X11. Other options include Additional Fonts, Language Translations, and Printer Drivers.

If you'd like to reinstall applications that aren't offered in the Custom Install screen -- applications in the Utilities folder, for example -- you can use Charles Srstka's \$20 Pacifist. It works this way: Insert your Mac OS X Installer disc. Download Pacifist and launch it. In the window that appears click the Open Apple Install Discs button. A window will appear offering you the single choice to look at the OSInstall package. Click OK.

Pacifist will churn away for a bit and then you'll see a window titled OSInstall.mpkg. In this window you can dig down through the hierarchy of folders to find what you seek or you can enter the name of what you're after in the Find field and press Return. A drawer appears that lists the names of matching files. To install an item click the Install button in the upper-left corner of the window. You'll be prompted for your administrator's password. Enter it, click OK, and the item will be installed into its proper location on your Mac's hard drive.

[Macworld Senior Editor Christopher Breen is the author of Secrets of the iPod and iTunes, fifth edition, and The iPod and iTunes Pocket Guide (both Peachpit Press, 2005).

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