

Happy Mac



Saturday, February 10 Meeting Show and Tell Drive Genius 2

Meeting in Santa Cruz
Room - Map on Back Page

Visit Our Web Site

http://mysite.verizon.net/mac_appleholics/

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Meeting Schedule

9:00 - 9:30	Business, Q&A
9:30 - 10:00	Show and Tell
10:00 - 10:30	Refreshments
10:30 - 10:55	Drive Genius 2
10:55 - 11:00	Door prizes
11:00	Adjourn

Membership Notices

Thanks to John and Yvonne Loest, Rod Austin, George Koerlin, and Gil Chuck for renewing.

The following members need to renew their membership. Renewal dates are shown below. If you can't make the next meeting, please send dues of \$20 to Tony Pizza, 1553 Royce Court, Camarillo, CA 93010. Make check to Appleholics Anonymous. For membership info, call Tony at 482-3453.

Nov: Susan Justice

Dec: Celia Levine,

Jan: Hemi Andersen

Feb: Lorraine Krane, Tim Gaussiran, Tom Dee

Mar: Terrie and Michael, Sylvia, Sandra, Natalie, and Linda

Recycle Inkjet Cartridges - Please continue to bring acceptable used inkjet cartridges to be recycled. Each cartridge is valued differently - from 50 cents to \$5.00. Be sure not to put any tape, etc on the cartridge. Handle them carefully. Also some laser cartridges are acceptable.

You can see the list of acceptable cartridges, previously published in the Dec. 2006 newsletter, on our web site on the Newsletter page. Yvonne Esler, *Recycle Chair*.

Off the Chair
By Gil Chuck

It's Tony Pizza doing the newsletter this month. He's been more than helpful taking on this task. Anytime that I've asked him, he has been willing to put together the newsletter whenever I'm away or won't return in time to do it. Now and then he even asked to do it when I'm here. My personal thanks to Tony for his efforts, not only on the newsletter, but with all the many other activities of the club. Now, if we only had a few more "Tonys".....

I hope many of you will bring something interesting to share with us at the meeting. Come and see what other members are doing. You may find someone with similar interests and learn from each other. That's what the club is all about...sharing our computer knowledge.

Is there another member that would like to help with the newsletter? Let me know so we can share the load.

I'll be doing a demo of *Drive Genius 2*, read my review on page (6). It is published by Prosoft Engineering, Inc. Beside sending a boxed copy of the program for review, they sent five (5) plastic travel mugs for us to give away. Since Prosoft Engineering also publishes *Data Rescue II*, that's the logo on the mug. After the demo these mugs will be raffled to paid up members.

Program for February
By Tony Pizza

Here's your chance to get in the act! It's Show and Tell day!

Bring anything you want to share. Show us some cool gadget you found. Show us or tell us about a program you like. Or, like me, even show us pictures of your grandkids.

It's easy. Don't be shy.

Gil Chuck will be doing a demo of *Drive Genius 2*. He has used the program, and provided an extensive review of his hands-on experience.

Most months Gil puts the newsletter together, and without a break it gets to be a chore. How about trying it one month? It's a good learning experience, and will give Gil time to work on another demo. Let Gil know if interested. We'll help you.

Mac/Appleholics Meeting of January 10, 2009
By Tony Pizza

The meeting was called to order by Gil Chuck. Membership chair Tony Pizza reported 5 renewals. Treasurer Laretta Bearby reported a positive treasury balance.

During the Q & A session:

- A visitor reported she could read some but not all floppy disks on a USB drive. The solution is described in a separate article.
- Mary Lou said her printer reported plenty of ink, but printing was faint. Cleaning the head did not help; a new cartridge did. Sometimes the software reports incorrectly.
- Ray can't find Apple Mail. All were mystified. Ray also had problems with iPhoto not loading new photos. Has about 2,200 pictures in all. More mystery.
- Sandi said something about a "red light", but I missed it.
- Ray said a good place to buy printer cartridges was a Walgreens, Vineyard and Oxnard Blvd., Oxnard.
- Bill (visitor) said he heard you should turn off ink jet printers so the ink at the nozzles don't get too hot and solidify. Gil said that when you turn it on it will go through a clean cycle and use extra ink. Leave it on or off, your choice. ↓

- A visitor asked about cleaning the monitor screen. One answer was to check the manual. Lucie said she bought an eyeglass cleaning kit at the optical department of Costco which did a good job.

Tim Gaussiran gave a presentation on scanning slides and negatives. He has a five-year-old Epson 3170 that has a backlight and holding adapters for four slides and negatives. He finds that scanning at a 300 dpi resolution gives good results. His scanner manual recommends that the slides be positioned with the shiny side down, the rougher emulsion side up. He uses PhotoShop Elements 4 for touching up the scans.

Ray has an Epson R200 that also can scan slides. Gil has an Epson that can hold 12 slides at a time. A visitor said another way would be to project the slide on a white wall, or a screen, and take a picture with a digital camera. . This method is fairly fast.

We had a break with refreshments provided by Mary Lou.

After the break, Gil demonstrated Viewscan 8.5, which is designed to work with older scanners that have been bypassed by the newer operating systems. A complete review was published in the January newsletter.

Floppy Follies

By Tony Pizza

At the last meeting, we were told of a problem of getting data from floppy disks. They were created on an old Mac, but the new iMac did not have a floppy disk drive. A USB floppy drive was added. However, the drive would read some disks, but not others.

Member Hemi Andersen observed that the unreadable disks were all low density 800K ones; the readable ones were all high density (HD) 1.44K ones.

I found that one characteristic of most Mac USB floppy drives was that they only read/write the HD disks. I resurrected my son's Mac LC, bought in 1992, and fired it up. I was able to read the 800K disks, copy the data to the hard drive, and then on to a HD floppy disk.

The data files, which were Excel files, could then be transferred to the new iMac, and then opened with Numbers.

iLife '09 Update

By Tony Pizza

If you bought a new or Apple certified refurbished Mac on or after January 6 that did not include iLife '09, you can upgrade to iLife '09 for \$9.95 plus tax. See <http://www.apple.com/ilife/uptodate/> . The program ends on March 28.

If your Mac doesn't qualify, you can buy a copy. iLife '09 requires OS X v10.5.6 Leopard or later. Apple has Mac Box Set, good for five household computers, with Leopard, plus iLive '09, and iWork '09 for \$169. iLife alone can be purchased for \$79 or \$99 for the family pack. See <http://store.apple.com/us> .

Free iWork '09 ?
By Tony Pizza

Recently, some people found a place on the Internet to get iWork '09 for free! With a bonus Trojan horse! Similar to a virus, in the context of computing, a Trojan horse, also known as a trojan, is a form of malware that appears to perform a desirable function but in fact performs undisclosed malicious functions that allow unauthorized access to the host machine. As of this writing, at least 20,000 people have already infected themselves this way.

Mac users have been complacent about virus protection, because Mac virus attacks are rare. But Macs are not invulnerable. It's just that virus writers have more targets in the Windows world, and haven't bothered with Macs. Until now.

Mac users should not download iWork '09 installers, or any other software, from sites offering pirated software.

Cyber Crime
By Tony Pizza

I recently attended a presentation by an FBI agent about how they pursue Internet crimes. He described the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), a partnership between the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National White Collar Crime Center, and the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

IC3's mission is to serve as a vehicle to receive, develop, and refer criminal complaints regarding the rapidly expanding arena of cyber crime. The IC3 gives the victims of cyber crime a convenient and easy-to-use reporting mechanism that alerts authorities of suspected criminal or civil violations. For law enforcement and regulatory agencies at the federal, state, local and international level, IC3 provides a central referral mechanism for complaints involving Internet related crimes.

Some of these crimes could be Auction Fraud, Counterfeit Cashier's Check, Credit Card Fraud, Debt Elimination, Parcel Courier Email Scheme, Identity Theft, Investment Fraud, Lotteries, Nigerian Letter or "419", Phishing/Spoofing, or Ponzi/Pyramid Schemes. To learn more about these and other kinds, go to www.ic3.gov/ and choose Internet Crime Prevention Tips or Internet Crime Schemes in the right column. You can also report an incident on the site. IC3 accepts online Internet crime complaints from either the person who believes they were defrauded or from a third party to the complainant. One incident of a particular problem may not be enough to launch an investigation, but if there are multiple occurrences then it might.

CVMUG Moves
By Tony Pizza

CVMUG has moved from their meeting location on Del Norte Boulevard. They will meet at 5200 Valentine Road, Ventura. That's the frontage road on the south side of the 101 Freeway, between Victoria and Telephone, at the Ventura Adult and Continuing Education facility. Their regular meetings are held at 7 PM on the first Thursday of the month.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Apple User Group Advisory Board

<http://homepage.mac.com/ugab/offers.html#newest>

SPECIAL OFFERS - Apple User Group Bulletin - January 20, 2009

iStudio Publisher: Save \$5 (US)

Introducing iStudio Publisher, the exciting new page layout program for home, small business and educational users. Powerful and intuitive, it lets you do everything from producing a flyer to designing a newsletter -- from creating a brochure to publishing a magazine. iStudio Publisher gives you all the tools you need within easy reach to design great looking documents.

This user group special offer price is \$44.99 (US) compared to the discounted launch price of \$49.99 (US) (only available until March 5) and the regular price of \$99.99 (US).

Promotion code: MACWORLD Purchase here: <http://www.istudiopublisher.com/index.php/store/>

This worldwide offer is valid through August 31, 2009.

"Learn the Switch to Mac" & "Learn the iPhone 3G": 20 Percent Off

'It's About Time to Learn the Switch to Mac' reminds you of life on Windows and connects the dots to the Mac. 'It's About Time to Learn the iPhone 3G' teaches you all about the iPhone 3G, including tips and tricks. You'll quickly see that this is a learning tool like no other. It's fun, quick and completely interactive.

Usually the downloadable version is \$24.95 (US); for a limited time you can buy either boxed or download, or both, for 20 percent off.

Discount code: muglearn. To purchase, or for information: <http://ItsAboutTimeProducts.com>

This worldwide offer is valid through April 30, 2009.

The MUG Store: Great Prices, Great Incentives

At the MUG store, you can check out specials, blowouts, new Macs and special value Macs. Each category contains lists of products with prices set exclusively for your users. Plus, our group get points every time one of our members buys.

Shop the MUG Store: <http://www.apple mugstore.com>

Email gilchuck@aol.com - **our user group Ambassador - for Coupon Codes***

Drive Genius 2

Reviewed by Gil Chuck

Wow, that is one of the most animated menus when you launch Drive Genius 2! It's like a moving Dock with icons in an arched row. When you touch an icon with the cursor its name appears and everything grows bigger as you get closer. You can scroll the icons to see the other features. There are two pages of icons - 6 on each screen. If you like the Dock with its animation for starting programs, then you'll like this interface.

UTILITIES

Drive Genius 2 is a program of utilities for hard drive only. It consists of 12 utilities that I will review in the order that I think may be of interest to our members, starting with the least useful. The quotes are taken from the Help file in the program.

Not useable for most members:

"Sector Editor allows expert users the ability to access and modify bits and bytes of a file, volume, or disk." This is way beyond most of us.

Use once only (or maybe twice):

"BenchTest is a tool to test the performance of different drivers, CPU's, operating systems, and data-transfer efficiency of large and small volumes." For us it may be good to see how our system compares with some "standard" system. After that you may not want it again unless you upgrade your system.

"...Information of the volume such as name, total blocks, partition ID and information that expert users will find useful." Most of us are not experts; this utility is not one that will be used often.

Use once in a while:

Integrity Check is a suite of diagnostics designed to test the overall integrity of the disk drive by writing and reading various block sizes to and from the drive. ... (It) measures and reports various aspects of the drive subsystem including the driver, the drive controller, the cabling, the drive's motherboard and the head seek mechanism." This may be useful once in a while when you suspect something other than the hard drive.

"Scan is designed specifically to verify that every sector (block which can contain information) on your volume or drive can be read correctly. ... Drive Genius 2 will not remove or map out bad blocks. If Drive Genius 2 reports any bad block, you may need to reformat the drive with Apple Disk Utility." It's not too useful if it can't block out bad blocks. Regardless of its usefulness it may take a long time depending on size of the drive since it scans every block on the media, that most of us can't wait around for this test.

Useful utilities found elsewhere; use them here or not.

"Initialize feature is the easiest way to prepare a disk for general use." It erases everything on the disk and leaves it as one partition, just as Disk Utility does.

"Shred function is used for securely erasing the contents of a volume or the whole drive." It can also erase the disk's free space, again, just as Disk Utility can.

"Duplicate function copies all the information from the source drive to the destination drive." Also, it can copy volumes and make disk images. This is another backup option to Time Machine and the many other backup programs available.

Useful utilities but use cautiously:

"Repartition enables you to resize and manage partitions (volumes) on your hard drives. ... Drive Genius 2 allows you to expand or shrink partitions without erasing them." There must be free space before you can *resize*, *add*, *delete*, or *shift* a partition. You can *hide*, *reveal*, or *customize* a partition. You can create more free space on your drive by doing a Defrag, but that can take a more time than you have (see the next utility below). However to *shift* a partition also takes a lot of time. When the progress number starts changing in 1/100 of a percent, you know it will take hours. As always you are warned to backup your drive before doing anything.

Defrag: "The more writing and deleting you've done to your drive, the more fragmented the drive will be. The process will gradually have an impact on the drive performance. ... Drive Genius 2 puts all of these broken up pieces into one continuous block with all of the empty space at the end." For any of today's reasonably large hard drives, this procedure is **not recommend** because it takes far too long. It took 8+ hours to defrag a 35 GB



partition. Think how long it would take to defrag a 250 GB drive! Of course if you have no other option, be prepared with something else to do while you wait.

Useful utilities for most of us:

“Repair is a tool for verifying and repairing most kinds of hard drive faults. ...Repair should be run whenever excessive system crashes occur. It also pays to run this periodically as it is not unusual for minor faults to appear on a hard drive.” It can verify, repair, and rebuild volume directories, and repair permissions, and verify preferences. Note that Disk Utility also can verify and repair directories, but can not rebuild, which makes this utility much more useful.

“DriveSlim™ is a tool to help recover drive space by deleting large, duplicate, or unused files.” Unused files include localization files, universal binaries, and cache/temporary items. This utility can find large files greater than a given size (100 MB max) and not accessed in the last so many days (365 days max). Also it can find duplicate files greater than a given size (100 MB max), and an option to replace them with an alias. You can delete any and all or have them archived in a folder to be backed up offline then removed to free up drive space.

WARNINGS

There are warnings everywhere. The message is essentially the same as quoted below. And it should be heeded.

“Prosoft recommends backing-up your data before using many features in Drive Genius 2. Backing up on a regular basis is your best defense against data loss. Also, disable sleep mode before beginning any process in Drive Genius 2.”

I have a warning of my own. If you start a process and it appears to be taking longer than you are willing to wait, you can cancel only if the Cancel button is active. Depending on what the program is doing the Cancel button may not become active for a long time, if at all. And you can't quit the program from the Drive Genius 2 menu. The last resort is to Force Quit the program. This, however, *most likely will corrupt* the drive. This has happened to me when using Defrag. Think twice when using a utility that takes a long time to process. If you change your mind you will likely be presented with a damaged disk that will take more effort to repair.

PROGRAM

The program is easy to use: there's not too many buttons to click for each task. There are instructions on each utility screen, but the font size is small and not easy to read.

The window for each utility is quite pleasing; it's relatively uncluttered. However, I find that there isn't enough distinction between a button's active and dimmed state. It's there but you have to look carefully. Suggestion to Prosoft: could you punch up the active state of a button or really dim the inactive state for my tired eyes?

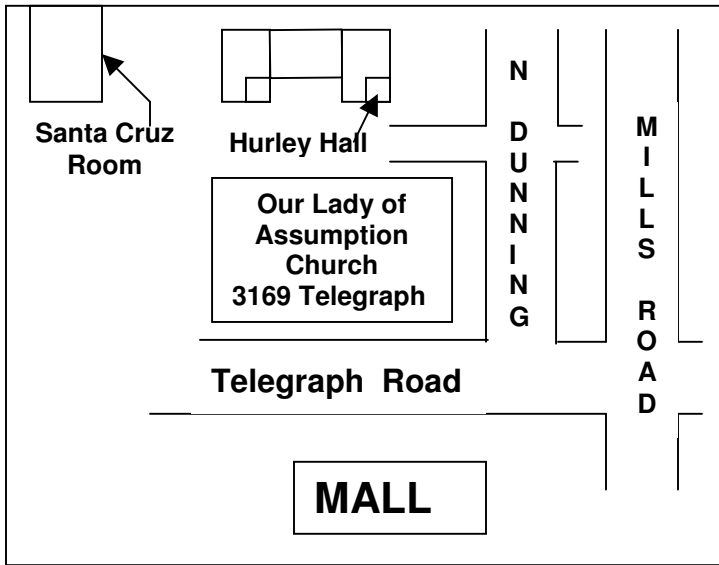
When Drive Genius 2 is doing its thing you are presented with some fancy moving graphics. What is shown is indicative of the process. It's entertaining in the beginning but can get tiresome after a while. Suggestion to Prosoft: could you make the moving graphics optional? Would the processes be faster if the computer did not devote so much cpu time to the graphics?

The documentation is excellent. The 114-page help file within the program is well organized. It gives clear directions on how to use each of the 12 utilities. Also, it's a good primer on these utilities. You can learn a lot about each of them.

By the way, if you ever tire of the flashy opening interface, and you might if you use it continuously as I did for this review, you can click on the *Main Menu* button at the upper right of the window to get a drop-down list of the utilities. It's very functional and easy on the eyes.

Overall Drive Genius 2 can be a useful program to have in your back pocket, or wherever you store your DVDs. Having Drive Genius 2 is like having an insurance policy. When your hard drive starts acting up, it's good to have. Otherwise the DVD will sit somewhere collecting dust.

Drive Genius 2 sells for \$99. It requires Mac OS 10.4.9 or newer, 250 MB RAM minimum, and 1.0 GHz processor minimum. Go to www.prosoftengineering.com for more info such as a demo version and upgrades.



Meeting Schedule
 Second Saturday of the month
 except July and Aug. Meetings
 are from 9 AM to 11AM

2009 Meeting Dates

 February 14
 March 14
 April 11
 May 9
 June 13

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