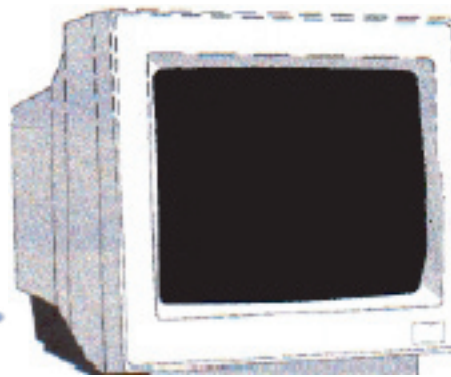


CVAUG Monitor



Cumberland Valley Apple User Group Newsletter WWW.CVAUG.ORG

August 2006

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**“ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, I’VE BEEN GETTING CHARGED FOR A TON OF STUFF I DIDN’T ORDER LATELY. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, I DID WIN THAT ‘WHO’S GOT THE BEST PASSWORD’ CONTEST ON AOL LAST WEEK.”
– SPIKE DONNER.**

This Month:
No Special Topic Yet

FRESHLY SQUEEZED REVIEWS:

They Top Themselves

Again

by Frank Petrie

Product: Audio Hijack Pro v2.7
Company: Rogue Amoeba
<[www.rogueamoeba.com/
audiohijackpro/](http://www.rogueamoeba.com/audiohijackpro/)>
Requirements: Mac OS X
10.3.9 - 10.4.7
Universal Binary: Yes
Price: \$32.00
Review Date: 31 July 2006

If you look through the tool chest of practically any podcaster or vidcaster that they all have one tool that they uniformly consider indispensable - Audio Hijack Pro. With Audio Hijack Pro you can record the audio of any source application’s sounds. Including Skype and iChat conversations. Unfortunately, to record a two-way conversation takes a few steps.

A Word From The President

by Gregg McFarland

A year after Apple announced that they would be switching to Intel processors in their computers and the entire Apple consumer computer lineup has been replaced with new models with the newer faster processors. Everything but the professional desktop computer line. The G5 towers are the last to be phased out and many people believe that the WWDC conference next week in San Francisco will be the perfect venue for that replacement to be unveiled. There is no doubt that the new towers will be feature packed, but what is not certain is what OTHER new products will be released.

There are still many people wishing for the elusive Apple Phone, or possibly a computer built to be used in your family room entertainment center. My money is on an improvement to Apple’s already incredible looking lineup of LCD monitors. The next logical step in their evolution would have to be an iSight camera built into the frame of the monitor. This sounds doable right? The monitors already have USB running through them (and USB is the interface used by all the current Apple computers with built in iSight cameras (iMac, MacBook and MacBook Pro). What do you guess is about to be unleashed on us in the Apple Community? We don’t have much longer to wait to find out.

“Despite its popularity as a Skype and iChat recorder, Audio Hijack Pro was never really designed for the task. Because of this, setting it up to simply “Record iChat” took a dozen or so steps. It worked, but it should be much simpler. And so, for v2.7, we’ve simplified it down to the following:

Step 1. Create a new session for iChat, Skype, or Gizmo Project

Step 2. Click Record”

Now, wipe that smile off of your face and read on.

THE JUICE

For most people, the above is all you really need to know. But there have also been a number of bug fixes and the inclusion of a much requested feature by AHP users who use AHP with RadioShark, to help you fine tune even further. According to Rogue Amoeba’s press release, all this required “the biggest upgrade to the audio hijacker subsystem since the rewrite for Audio Hijack Pro 1.”

The press release puts it as succinctly as possible. “The default mode for Audio Hijack has always been to capture audio output streams, typically the first such stream in an application. Thus, you play something in RealPlayer, Audio Hijack picks the first audio output stream, and records it. Simple and effective.

“But then you try to record a Skype call, there are both input and output audio streams. Your caller’s audio exists as an audio output, but your voice only

exists as audio input (and isn’t played locally). Audio Hijack Pro thus ends up being blind to your voice, and can only hear the caller.

“To fix this, we added a new mode to the hijacker in 2.7, called MegaMix. Simply put, MegaMix will capture and mix every audio input and output stream from an application, all together. Thus if you have a conference call in iChat, it will correctly record your voice as well as all other parties involved.

“MegaMix is automatically enabled for new iChat, Skype, and Gizmo Project sessions, and can be enabled manually for other applications (or existing sessions) through the Advanced Hijacking Options dialog.”

So, you want to do a podcast interviewing Dennis Sellers? Now, you don’t have to spend your pre-production time testing your rig. You can spend it focusing on content for the interview. And you can record in stereo or mono. All with one click.

There is also a new toolbar button, “Open In Editor”, allowing you to quickly open recordings in the audio editor of your choice (set via the Preferences window). All of the above will save you lots of time By cutting down on post-production and allow you to upload your finished podcasts/vidcasts in record time. Cosmetically, you have the ‘MegaMix’ pane, which you access by clicking the

‘Advanced’ button in the Hijack window. And there’s now a sheet that comes down to show you your recording in QuickTime format, allowing you to skip forward and back, anywhere in the entire recording allowing you to review certain sections of your recording.

And, last but not least, they’ve updated the tuning to mimic what the RadioShark software does. The frequency text is now editable, allowing you to super-fine tune the Shark. If the station doesn’t come in well on 89.8 FM or 89.9 FM, you can now try 89.85 FM.

THE RIND

I can’t attest to the upgrade to the RadioShark controls, as I don’t own a Shark, myself. If you have one, post your opinions in the ‘Comments’ section. Rogue Amoeba states that this should prevent the rare, annoying roar that was occasionally heard.

THE PITS

Comcast. The weakest link in the chain.

THE PULP

Podcasting and vidcasting have caught on like wildfire. But most producers don’t have a background in media production. As the shows start reduce in number and content finally becomes king, people with only a rudimentary knowledge of production, will now be able to produce more professional programming without all those years of college (what was I thinking!?!).

If you are serious about taking your podcast to the next level, you must upgrade. And if you don't already own a copy ...

RATING: 9 out of 10

WB to Distribute Content via BitTorrent

by Wayne Younkins

Another week, another Hollywood-IP deal.

This time around, it was the Home Entertainment Group of Warner Bros., which announced a partnership with BitTorrent to use its technology to deliver video content. The company's recent announcement came on the heels of an agreement between BitTorrent and the motion Picture Association of America to check film piracy and promote innovation in online content distribution.

"The technology behind BitTorrent is elegantly designed for the delivery of large files like TV programs and films," said Kevin Tsujihara, president of Warner Bros. Home Entertainment Group.

"BitTorrent has made the leap in creating a legal partnership that respects the value of intellectual property. This has provided us with a next-generation platform for the distribution of our films and TV programs."

The BitStream "file swarming" approach to transferring massive files from Web sites to PCs provides the speed and efficiency of peer-assisted transfers. The new delivery system becomes the first peer-assisted network in the U.S. to combine high quality video, rapid downloads and guaranteed quality of service. It will provide legal content to customers both on a video-on-

demand and "electronic sell through" basis coinciding with DVD release schedules. Startup date for the service is set for this summer, with more than 200 Warner Bros. titles being offered, including television series, new releases and catalog favorites. BitTorrent's origins go back to 2001 and an effort to produce an effective Web publication tool for large files. After the company provided a search engine in 2005, the BitTorrent Web site became a convenient location for publishers to showcase their works and for consumers to download that content. The company continues to work in removing copyright-protected content from its search results and to provide a secure and legal venue for consumers in obtaining studio content.

Apple Cuts the Cord on the Mighty Mouse

by Gregg McFarland

When Apple announced the Mighty Mouse a little over a year ago I remember thinking two things. First was "Well its about time!". If you wanted to have the ability to access Right-Click menus without holding down a modifier key on your keyboard while you clicked you needed to order a mouse from a third party company. If you wanted a scroll wheel on your mouse to fly through on screen content at the twitch of a

finger you were also looking at an additional purchase from a different company. Apple gave their customers an Apple option in that respect and somehow made the new mouse retain the look and feel of the prior optical mouse. The second thought that I had about the Mighty Mouse was, "Why is there a cord?" Apple had released the cordless Apple Bluetooth mouse (and matching keyboard) a year or so before the Mighty Mouse, so it looked like a bit of a step backwards. Apple remedied that situation by releasing the Wireless Mighty Mouse last week.

The new mouse has the same Scroll Ball and Button, as well as the touch sensitive Right and Left main buttons that allow the mouse to keep its seamless look. It adds a few more improvements though. The main one being that it communicates with the computer via Bluetooth wireless technology. The optical sensor has been changed to a Laser Tracking Engine that gives higher sensitivity and accuracy. The new mouse is \$80 and is available now.