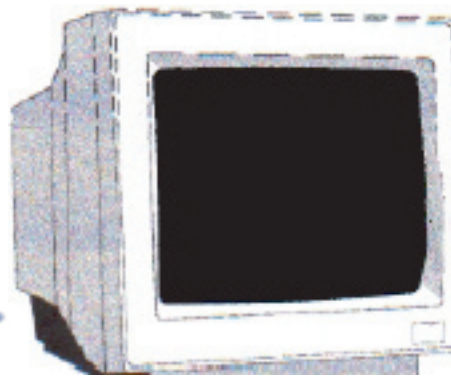


CVAUG Monitor



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What Are You Doing This Friday Night?

by Gregg McFarland

If you live in or near the city of Hagerstown then you may want to check your schedule for the first Friday night of each month through the summer and fall. The square in downtown Hagerstown comes alive with a little social gathering. Here is what the city website says about it:

1st Friday's Open Market Shopping Festival: come experience the Downtown Renaissance! Take off work early, gather the family and come on down for a full day of fun, shopping and music. 1st Friday's happens every 1st Friday of the month, June 3rd through December from Noon to 8:00 pm in Downtown Hagerstown's Public Square. Destination Hagerstown, a local business/community group

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A Word From the President

It has been an interesting Month for the world of Apple. We have experienced everything from stampedes for four year old iBooks; pulled trial offers for Mac Minis and Apple's stock price went above the price the stock split to for the first time since that split.

Unfortunately it has been a slow month for submitted articles. Here is what we picked out for you.

CoreMusings: Web Browser Roundup

By Dan Pourhadi

Show of hands: How many of you Macites use Safari, Apple's Web browser, to surf the vast network of cookie recipes and rebate deals known as the Internet? I'd say a good 90% of you are quite comfortable with its slick brushed-metal interface and its speedy rendering of picture-full pages, as well as its tabbed-browsing and darned-good pop-up blocking. (The other 10% is probably stuck in OS 9, using Netscape or Internet Explorer -- my heart goes out to you fine, unfortunate folks.) After polling some of my friends and random strangers by the bus-

This month's meeting: Adobe Creative Suite 2 Demonstration

stop, I was alarmed to see that so many people use Safari, but have so little experience with other, more mature browsers (sans IE). Cue the collaborative gasp: "What? There are other browsers? Nahhh." On contraire, friends, there are several other browsers -- several other good browsers -- that deserve a pat on the back and a free lunch at Portillo's. Let's take a look at 'em, shall we?

Firefox

Firefox is the open-source Web browser that's gettin' a whole lotta press these days as being the #1 alternative to Internet Explorer -- at least on Windows. See, them Windows folks are having problems with Bad People doing Bad Things to their computers, all because of Microsoft's policy allowing (encouraging, demanding) its programmers to drink on the job. (Disclaimer to Microsoft lawyers: Joke! Ha! Ha...) Because IE is so susceptible to viruses and hackers -- (I once wrote that using IE is kinda like leaving your door unlocked and opened widely with a sign that says, "Steal Things") -- everyone

with half a brain and a desire to help -- or at least a reluctance to harm -- others is adamantly promoting the use of Firefox instead.

Firefox on the Mac may not be the bastion of secure browsing as it on Windows, but only because the Mac is just as secure as-is. What Firefox does offer, however, is expandability that, when the two browsers are placed side-by-side, causes doctors to mistake Safari as a tuberculosized lung. Firefox enables users to install a wide array of plug-ins that can make the browser dance on its head while effortlessly juggling motor saws and flaming breadsticks. For example, a plug-in called miniT enables you to reorder the position of your browser tabs; AdBlock removes those flashy punch-the-monkey ads right from web pages; ForecastFox provides access to a one-click weather forecast right in the browser toolbar. The list goes on...

Firefox also supports various "themes," so if you're a closet artist and you're looking for a way to express your buried anguish and suppressed teen angst, you can customize your browser's appearance to best represent that emotional distress. Or if you just, you know, get bored with Firefox's default theme, and you're easily impressed by shiny colors and glowy buttons. Whatever floats your boat.

You can download Firefox for free from www.getfirefox.com.

Camino

I hesitated to add this one. There was a time when Camino was the bee's knees, the cat's pajamas, the

eel's ankle, and the skunk's stripe -- but since Safari made its debut and Firefox stole the spotlight, Camino has been slowly losing its already-isolated importance in the Mac world. However, I came to realize that if I didn't mention it, I'd be e-mailed bombed by every Mac Fanatic who has been a Camino fan for so long but doesn't have the will -- or the power -- to let go; so I figured I'd save us all a little headache and put it in...for old time's sake.

Camino is the proficient (but sadly under-loved) son of the Mozilla Foundation; the B-student brother of the straight-A, Heisman-winning Firefox. Camino has basically one strength that Firefox and Mozilla lack: it's made by a Mac developer solely for the Mac community. There is no Windows or Linux port, and that gives the developer the rare opportunity of tinkering with Mac OS X-specific features, allowing him to optimize it in ways that Firefox can only dream of. (The supposed effect of that, of course, is better performance.)

Unfortunately, that's all Camino really has going for it. Those who stick with it seem to do so because of an unexplainable loyalty to the platform: it was around before Safari, and it touted superior features that Safari later adopted. But the gap has closed, and Safari has caught up -- and passed -- Camino in terms of features and, from my experience, speed and performance.

Camino is free from www.caminobrowser.org.

OmniWeb

I beat my brain for hours trying

to think of a suitable analogy for OmniWeb, but the best I could come up with was along the lines of, "OmniWeb is as great as the thing that's so great. You know...the thing."

While that may not be thoroughly descriptive, it certainly makes the point. OmniWeb is the Toyota Prius of Web browsers; it has so many features, it makes the newspaper seem lackluster. The Omni Group took the basic, boring-ol' concept of a Web browser and refined it to a point of unprecedented superiority, adding functionality up the ying-yang. OmniWeb has a suite of features that take Internet surfing to the next level of Awesomeness, expanding the concept of browsing beyond "Type address, hit enter, click link."

Take, for example, their dazzling implementation of the famed tabbed-browsing. In other browsers like Firefox and Safari, "tabs" are just that: tabs under the address bar above the page contents. In OmniWeb, however, tabs are actually thumbnail images of the page itself, conveniently placed in a drawer on the side of the browser window. As if that isn't enough to convince you of the divinely-blessed nature of OmniWeb, consider what you can do with the tabs: If you have multiple windows open, you can actually drag tabs between the various windows. You can also take one window and place it in the tab drawer of another, or take a tab and separate it into its own window -- features that Safari users resort to dubbing as "witchcraft" so as to stifle off embarrassment.

Want more? Well how about a nifty aspect of OmniWeb called "Workspaces," which "enables you to save browsing instances -- what pages are open, what tabs are open, and even the browser window's position and size -- so they can be loaded later with a single click." Not useful, you say? Well...you're wrong. Workspaces are great for people who visit a wide array of related Web sites at once, eliminating the need for them to manually open the pages (in the way they prefer) each and every time they're interested in viewing them. A bonus to this is a feature called "Auto-save while browsing," which remembers the

characteristics of your browser as you surf the ' and immediately loads it after you quit and reopen OmniWeb -- so, for example, if your browser somehow crashes, relaunching it will return you to the state you were in right before the crash, saving you the headache of having to find the pages all over again.

OmniWeb has a boatload of other ingenious features: Web site-specific preferences, Web form-enhancers, an advanced and customizable search box, the ability to highlight a link by typing its first few letters, sophisticated bookmark and history management, a cure for cancer,

cheap gasoline, and a waffle iron that IHOP would be jealous of. OmniWeb, unlike most other Mac browsers, isn't free -- but it's one of the few in the world worth paying for. You can purchase it for \$30 from www.omnigroup.com.

Dan Pourhadi is a freelance technology writer from the Chicago suburbs. Aside from writing for Passages, he has contributed to MacAddict Magazine and writes a weekly column for Macteens.com. He maintains a fitfully-updated, though semi-interesting blog at www.pourhadi.com.

Book Review - Mac OS X Tiger Killer Tips

By Scott Kelby

ISBN: 0321290542

New Riders, 367 Pages, \$29.99

I got this book hot off the presses, and I'm glad I did! It covers all of the ins and outs of little things you want to do, like getting photos someone sent you in an e-mail into iPhoto (page 211), or turning the several photos someone sends into an instant slideshow (page 210). Perhaps you want to get your Mac to quit asking you for your password for everything (page 187), or add words to the end of file names (page 42), or stop Classic from launching without permission (page 184 - yes, Classic is still there in Tiger.) He shows

you how to use the same Widget more than once (page 128, handy if you want to see what the weather is in several locations), copy something from your Yellow pages widget to your address book with one click (page 129), and make your address book display senior sized phone numbers (page 244). Scott organizes the info into chapters with not-very-useful names, such as "Fly Like an Eagle," "Cool and The Gang," and "Cheap Trick." Luckily, he has given each chapter a subtitle that helps you know what it is about. Chapter 8 is called "She Drives Me Crazy," with the sub-title "How to Stop Annoying Things." Beginning on page 177, it gives you really good tips on how to customize your OS X to stop automatically doing things that you don't like.

I had no idea you could get Stickies to spell for you (page 289), create your own Web Cam using Image Capture (page 141), uncover where web links are going before you click on them (page 222), get definitions without launching Dictionary, or have iCal send invitations to a scheduled event (page 255).

Kelby, doesn't limit his tips to OS X. He gives you lots of tips on iPhoto, iMovie HD, iDVD 5, iCal, iChat, GarageBand 2, Mail, Address Book, Preview, Stickies and TextEdit. The book is easy to read and understand -- no technical mumbojumbo. I can recommend it heartily.

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FRIDAY NIGHT - Continued from page 1

is sponsoring an Open Market Shopping Festival featuring: Art, Clothing, Furniture, Live

Entertainment, Uptown Shops and Various Cuisines. ---
My family wen last month and we had a fine time. You might even be

able to get wireless internet access from the nearby coffee shop, so maybe bring your laptop.