Access

Newsletter of the Louisville Computer Society
Kentuckiana's Macintosh Users Group

November 2002

Migrating to OS X – Should I or Shouldn't I?
by Ward Oldham

So how much friendly advice have you been given? How many articles have you read from your favorite Mac magazine? Guaranteed you haven't read or heard the same thing twice, right! So now you're pretty confused and then you read the title of this column and you're telling yourself "Oh, no . . . not again".

Well, I'm here to try and set the record straight and introduce one real common sense factor that will influence your decision. Guaranteed you haven't heard or read about it anywhere!

Will My Mac Run OS X?

Surprisingly, you don't need a Mac of recent vintage. The official minimum required is one of those old beige G3 computers introduced way back in 1997 combined with a minimum of 128MB RAM. If you fall into this category, start getting excited! However, if you're one of those who purchased one of the first generation Powerbook G3 laptops – calm down, you're out of luck. However, there are software hacks out there that will enable you to install OS X on a Mac that is older than those mentioned. Apple doesn't recommend it, but the option is there should you wish to pursue it.

Are My Peripherals Supported?

You know, those things like printers, scanners, zip, jaz, syquest, 128/256/640MB optical, 1.3GB optical, third-party mice and other weird devices I can't even think of. Well, you won't read a catch-all answer here. It's not possible. In general, many SCSI devices such as flatbed scanners are still supported. SCSI storage devices can be a toss up. Zip and Jaz drives will still work but why would you even try to get that old syquest drive or that 128MB optical drive to work. Yea, I know . . . it's hard to throw that old stuff away because you still remember what you paid for it! But do your best to find the trash can. Printers were initially a well publicized problem but that has almost been totally resolved. You've got an old Epson or HP serial printer? You're probably in luck!

Is My Software Compatible?

Why do you hear about this more than anything? Because it's the most confusing issue to deal with. Confusion created by the OS X "Classic Mode". Here's the deal.

You have applications that run under OS 8.x-OS 9.x that will not run compatibly in OS X. Quark XPress 4 is a good example (it won't even launch unless you're logged in as an administrator). Then you have programs that will run in OS X but they run in what is called "Classic Mode". Then you have "Native" or compatible OS X applications, sometimes called Carbon or Cocoa applications depending on the programming environment they were written in. OK, now what is this "Classic Mode"? The best analogy to give is to look at programs such as Virtual PC or SoftWindows. These are Mac compatible programs that create a non-Mac compatible working environment. That means you launch the program and it turns your Mac into a PC. Whew!

Now, look at the "Classic Mode" as an OS 9 emulator, a program that runs within OS X, creating an OS 9 operating environment for those older programs that are not yet OS X compatible. However, they do have to be slightly updated in some cases to be compatible with the "Classic Mode". Quark XPress 4 is compatible with OS 9 but not compatible running in "Classic Mode" under OS X. However, Quark XPress 5 is compatible

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FireWire RAID Con't from page 4

will not be as good. In order to achieve a separate channel, just plug a FireWire PCI card into an open slot. WiebeTech includes such a PCI card in the standard product, with three FireWire ports. Attach the FireWire RAID using one port from the card (leaving two for other devices) and one from the motherboard (leaving one more for other devices).

Q7. What distinctives does the WiebeTech RAID have over competitive units?
A7. It's smaller, faster, and has independent power supplies. As a result, it best fits the mission of FireWire RAIDS – it's easily transported off site; it's hot pluggable; and it's really fast, faster than everyone else! And it takes advantage of Apple's new built in RAID capability in OSX.

See www.barefeats.com for excellent additional material and comparative tests.

In closing, WiebeTech LLC maintains special pricing on all of its products for MUG members. Pricing was recently updated. Special MUG pricing may be accessed from the following URL:

http://www.wiebetech.com/MUG_Offer.htm

Documentation on all of these products is found on WiebeTech's website, http://www.wiebetech.com/

Contact james@wiebetech.com if you have further questions.

LCS e-mail address book

Andrew Arnold	a0arno01@athena.louisville.edu
Bernard W. Barron	b.barron@insightbb.com
Jim Bennett	bennettsmay29@earthlink.net
Anne Cartwright	cartwrig@aye.net
Chuck Davis	millyd2@mac.com
Marta Edie	Mledie@aol.com
Jeff Gatlin	father.jeff@home.com
Bernard Griffis	latigopc@bellsouth.net
Tom Guenthner	Tom@aye.net
Nelson Helm	helmkyny@clockwinders.net
Glenn Hoehler	glenn@insightbb.com
Harry Jacobson-Beyer	harryjb@bellsouth.net
Bill King	bk0413@insightbb.com
Lee Larson	leelarson@mac.com
Tymna Oberhausen	tymna@bellsouth.net
Brian O'Neal	brimac@mac.com
Henry Simpson	simpsonh@aye.net
Ed Stivers	stivers1@earthlink.net
George Yankey	jeffco13@bellsouth.net
Ron Yates	ryates2000@aol.com

If you wish to be added send message to cartwrig@aye.net

SITEings

http://dealmac.com Sign up for a daily e-mail or just check this site frequently for the cheapest prices for all things Mac.
and thanks to Hedgman dent Smith for the tips.

LCS Web Page, List Serve & Officers

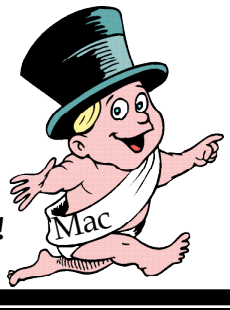
Web Page	www.aye.net/~lcs
List Serve	macgroup@erdos.math.louisville.edu
Tom Guenthner, President	Tom@aye.net
Lee Larson, Vice President	leelarson@mac.com
Harry Jacobson-Beyer, Program Director	harryjb@bellsouth.net
Brian O'Neal, Web Master	brimac@mac.com
Anne Cartwright, Newsletter Editor	cartwrig@aye.net

Upcoming Programs 7 P. M., Pitt Academy, see map on page 2:

November 26 Bill Rising will demonstrate AppleScript

No meeting in December

Have a Happy) New Year!



Louisville Computer Society
Macintosh Users Group
Membership Application

Please send your $26 check for a year's membership, made out to Louisville Computer Society to:

Louisville Computer Society
P.O.Box 9021
Louisville,KY 40209-9021.

Thanks! See you at the next meeting.

Fill out the following ; clip on the dotted line (or copy to another piece of paper) and send in with your check .

❑ New or ❑ Renewal Membership

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FireWire RAID – The Basics

By James Wiebe, CEO, WiebeTech LLC

Q1. What is a RAID?
A1. The traditional answer is always that RAID stands for Redundant Array of Independent Disks. This leaves most users mystified as to what a RAID really is, or what it does for them. A better explanation is: a RAID is a clever way to attach two or more hard drives to a computer so that any of the following can be achieved: a) more storage capacity for your computer; b) faster transfer rates; c) data redundancy for automatic backup purposes. However, you can't achieve these objectives simultaneously. Data redundancy, for instance, is achieved by sacrificing performance and capacity.

Q2. What support does Apple offer for RAID under OSX?
A2. Apple has quietly built in direct operating system support for RAID devices in OSX. They may be created by accessing the Disk Utility contained within Applications under OSX. By clicking on the RAID tab and dragging identical volumes to the window, a name be selected and a RAID created. It really is that easy! The user also has the choice as to whether the RAID type to be used is Striped or Mirrored, often called by the meaningless tags of Type 0 or Type 1.… The drives selected can be internal drives or external FireWire drives. This means that under OSX, users do not need to install any drivers to run a powerful, full-featured RAID.

Q3. OK, what's a Striped RAID?
A3. Striped access allows both drives to be read or written simultaneously, with separate data going to each drive. As a result, the capacity of the RAID ends up being the sum of the individual capacities of each drive. For instance, a striped RAID built out of two 120GB drives will have a capacity of 240GB. Users experience the benefit of the high capacity, and also the benefit of being able to read or write two drives simultaneously. Overall performance nearly doubles.…
A striped RAID allows highest performance and all of the capacity to be used. It is a good choice for musicians and digital video professionals. It is an excellent choice for applications that require high bandwidth and data availability. It does require separate data backup, because no automatic backup is made.

Q4. What's a Mirrored RAID?
A4. The Mirrored RAID takes the approach that all data is written in duplicate to both drives. This provides automatic backup to data. As a result, overall capacity is reduced by 50%. (Both drives each contain a complete copy of the data.) This also reduces performance substantially from the Striped RAID and slightly from a standalone, single drive. If one drive fails, you still have a realtime backed up copy of your data, available for immediate use.

Q5. Why would I want to use an external FireWire RAID instead of internal drives for my RAID?
A5. External FireWire RAIDS offer several advantages over internal RAIDs. A quick rundown on the advantages include: a) high portability; so that data may be physically removed from site. This is at best, impractical with internal drives. b) higher redundancy, because each drive has its independent power supply. c) generally easier installation, because the external RAID is received as a unit, ready to attach. (It will be automatically recognized as a usable storage volume by OSX. No user action required to make it work!). FireWire RAIDS are therefore ideal if you want high capacity, high speed or redundant storage that is removable, hot-pluggable, and easy to set up.

Q6. Are two FireWire ports required to support a two drive FireWire RAID?
A6. Yes. For highest performance, they should be on separate channels. If they are on the same channel, performance

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Halloween Treats at the October LCS Meeting!

The October meeting was loaded with door prizes. Everyone who came got something: Apple tee-shirts, and Apple "grap bags" galore. Also the big cat! Thanks to MacTown which donated a copy of Jaguar Mac OS X 10.2. The lucky winner was Harry Jacobson-Beyer; now he'll have to switch!

Louisville Computer Society thanks MacTown for their support.

MacTown 1041 Bardstown Rd. 485-1243. www.mactown.us

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P. O. Box 9021
Louisville KY 40209-9021

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