

KeyMac Journal

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President's Message

Odds and Ends of Information

Isn't that what many of us use our computers for? To keep track of odds and ends...Stickies to remind us, iPhoto here, iTunes there...addresses and phone numbers...a how-to on creating mailing labels for holiday cards...lots of things we are going to get to one day.

I do all those things too. And, I play games. Sometimes I spend way too much time playing games on my computer...like when I could be productive writing a really good President's Message.

So what do I play? Mostly puzzle or strategy games. I spend most of my game time on Snoodoku <http://www.womgames.com/games/index.php?game=mac-snoodoku>, Sudoku with symbols rather than numbers. I play it at the Hard level and my best time is 7:29.

I also play Holiday Express, a free game that .Mac gave away several years ago. It is kind of like its sister game Puzzle Express. <http://www.redmarblegames.com/puzzleexpress.html>

And, when I have lots of time, I play Warcraft III: The Frozen Throne <http://www.blizzard.com/war3x/>. It's a good thing I know the secret cheats, 'cause often I go down in ashes at the hands of the Computer. I have never played it online against real people, though many do. In fact, Blizzard (the game publisher) came out several years ago with World of Warcraft <http://www.worldofwarcraft.com/index.xml>, a much more advanced Internet role-playing game. There is a hot rumor that a KeyMac member is a highly rated player in this one.

So talk to us about what games you play. I would be curious to hear from you.

Gene



"THIS COMPUTER IS EQUIPPED WITH AN AIRBAG IN CASE YOU FALL ASLEEP!"

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

May 15: "The Insider's Guide to Making a Web Site." Wayne Walker will show how web sites work, how they have evolved and an overview of how to make a web site.

June 19: "Power Googling: How to maximize your search efforts in Google."

July: Vacation, no meeting

August 21: TBD

OS X DISCUSSION GROUP

Informal gatherings where members help members

June 5: 10 a.m. to noon

July: Vacation Time

August 7: 10 a.m to noon

MASTHEAD

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**BEFORE YOU STORE:
WHAT TO LOOK FOR
IN A HARD DRIVE**

In the March and April 2007 issues of the *KeyMac Journal*, Wayne Walker presented an excellent two-part article entitled "Putting Your Hard Drive on a Diet." This article explains techniques for "slimming down a bloated hard drive," looking at two programs that assist in improving this situation: Monolingual and Xslimmer.

However, in the event that after you have taken every measure possible to increase the capacity of your hard drive and still find yourself needing a new one, the article below may be helpful to you.

(Excerpted from *Macworld*, May 2007)

Most seasoned computer users understand the importance of performing regular backups of their computer's hard drive. They've probably either saved themselves much frustration by keeping a current backup or learned the value of their data the tough way—through a hard-drive failure.

If you're one of the data daredevils who computes without the safety net of a backup strategy, you should know this: it's not a question of *if*, but *when*, your hard drive will fail. A second physical hard drive, either installed inside your computer or attached externally, can make easy work of backing up your photos, music, email messages, and tax records.

Of course, backing up isn't the only reason to purchase an additional hard drive. Just about everything we do with our computers these days requires more megabytes than it used to. Photos are increasingly in the larger, Raw format; video is more often in high definition format; and music can now be ripped with lossless compression algorithms. All of these take up much more disk space than snapshots from a 3-megapixel camera, standard definition video, and standard MP3 files ever did. And although Apple now ships larger internal drives than in years past, Mac mini and laptop users can quickly find themselves running on empty—storage-wise.

Even if you do manage to squeeze all your data onto your Mac's hard drive, you should know that OS X regularly uses available disk space as virtual memory. The MacBook Pro's virtual memory often gobbles up to 10GB of empty disk space. If your hard drive is bursting at the seams, be aware that it might be causing your operating system to take a performance hit.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance April 9, 2007	\$1417.42
Deposits: dues paid	125.00
raffle 4/17/07	31.00
Interest:	.63
Balance May 10, 2007	\$1574.05

COPY AND DELETE AT THE SAME TIME

An Apple Tip

If you're archiving a file to disk (let's say to an external FireWire drive, for example), you can drag the icon of the file you want to archive directly to that drive and the Mac will write a copy to that drive. However, your original file still lives on your current hard drive. If you want to have that file deleted from your drive as soon as it's copied to another drive, just hold the Command key as you drag your icon, and the Mac will do two tasks for you—copy the file to the new drive and delete the original from your drive. □



Pick a Drive

Now that we have established a few reasons you would want to get your hands on some extra storage, the next question is: What to buy? There are three main decisions you will need to make: internal versus external, portable versus desktop, and the type of connections.

1. Internal versus External

For many of you, your storage expansion options were limited the moment you chose which Mac to buy. Adding a second drive internally to any iMac, Mac mini, or portable Mac is simply not an option. Unless you are the owner of a tower Mac, your only storage expansion option will be to purchase an external drive.

For those of you who have the option of adding a second internal drive, you will find the biggest benefit to be less cable clutter hanging off your Mac. Drives installed inside your Mac are also, naturally, less inviting to thieves. To install a drive, however, you will need to know how to use a screwdriver, and you will have to open the computer—which some people might find daunting.

2. Portable versus Desktop

Portable drives are usually bus-powered; they do not require a power cable in order to operate—handy for laptop users who want to use the device in places where electrical outlets are scarce. Portable drives are also relatively compact, fitting easily into carry-on bags and even some large clothes pockets. When it comes to speed, portable drives use the same 2.5-inch mechanisms found in laptop computers. These 2.5-inch drives usually spin at 4,200 or 4,400 rpm, which is considerably slower than the 7,200-rpm speed at which most 3.5-inch desktop drives spin. Portable drives also have a lower capacity than desktop drives (usually topping out at around 120GB), and they generally have a higher cost per gigabyte; you will pay around \$2 per gigabyte, as opposed to around 90 cents or less per gigabyte for a desktop drive.

3. Connection Type

If you are in the market for an external drive, your next consideration should be the type of connection you would like to use between the drive and your Mac. USB 2.0 drives are generally cheaper than those with FireWire connections, and USB ports are more commonplace than FireWire ports. On the other hand, you cannot boot PowerPC-based Macs with a USB drive, and its performance will be considerably slower than that of a FireWire drive.

FireWire 800 is even faster than the original FireWire—now known as FireWire 400—but FireWire 800 ports are included only with the MacBook Pro, the Mac Pro, and the 24-inch iMac. FireWire 800 is backward-compatible with FireWire 400, but these two port types are not the same size, so you will need a special adapter cable. Another factor to consider is that USB connections do not supply as much bus power as FireWire connections, and some USB drives require either an external power cable for portable drives or a second USB cable plugged into your computer for additional power.

Drive vendors are now touting one new step in hard drive technology: a more flexible type of hard drive known as the quad-interface (or four-port) configuration. Quad-interface drives—with USB 2.0, FireWire 400, FireWire 800, and eSATA ports—are smart choices because they satisfy your backup needs now but will also be relevant in the future.

One big reason to consider a quad-interface drive is that a new type of connector, external SATA (eSATA), has recently come onto the scene. With eSATA, you can get the impressive speed benefit of a SATA connection with an external drive. SATA's theoretical maximum transfer rate is three times as fast as FireWire 800—that is quite speedy, indeed. However, no hard drive can currently reach that maximum speed. Another potential hurdle for you to consider is that no Mac ships with an eSATA port. If you want to take advantage of eSATA speeds (or even add an internal SATA drive), you will need an adapter card. Owners of Mac towers can install a PCI card, and MacBook Pro users can use an ExpressCard/34 adapter. MacBook, iMac, and Mac mini users unfortunately will have to make do with FireWire and USB speeds. As always, check the card's specs carefully before you buy. Fortunately, many vendors make it easy by selling eSATA drives with a card they have tested and can recommend.

If you are having trouble deciding which connector you need, consider going with one of the six quad-interface desktop drives reviewed in another section of this month's *Macworld*.^{*} With a quad-interface drive, you will get the ultimate in compatibility and flexibility: a USB connection, fast and bootable FireWire 400 and 800 connections, and the new forward-looking eSATA technology.

** Your editor will bring her copy of the May 2007 Macworld to the next KeyMac Club meeting and invites other members who subscribe to the magazine to do the same for the purpose of sharing the reviews with members who do not subscribe to Macworld.* □

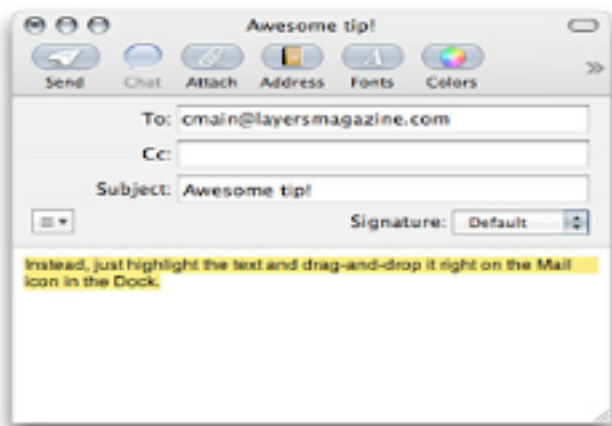
Everything is now neatly stored and filed, and you won't find your applications folder being cluttered up with non-applications. Another advantage of this method as opposed to say bundling the program and docs into a folder within the Applications folder itself, is that when installing an upgrade, the program will find the file structure that it expects to find when you copy it directly to the Applications folder. Otherwise you would have to remember or search prior to updating to remind yourself how each program is stored. Forgetting to do so frequently leads to having more than one copy of the program on your hard drive. I tried this latter method at first on the Mac and quickly grew weary of the extra work involved.

Using this newer system of filing software documentation keeps everything on my Macintosh in an orderly and logical place. Now if I could only do the same thing for my real world desk top.

DROPPING TEXT ON THE DOCK FOR FAST RESULTS

An Apple Tip

Let's say you're reading an article online, and you read a sentence that you want to email to a friend. Don't do the copy-and-paste thing. Instead, just highlight the text and drag-and-drop it right on the Mail icon in the Dock. It will open Mail and put that sentence into a new mail message. This tip also works in other Cocoa applications like TextEdit, Stickies and Safari. For example, if you're reading a story and want to do a Google search on something you've read, just highlight the text and drag-and-drop it on the Safari icon in the Dock. It will launch Safari and display the Google Search Results.



Cleaning Poem

I asked the Lord to tell me
Why my house is such a mess.
He asked if I'd been 'computering',
And I had to answer "yes."

He told me to get off my fanny
And tidy up the house.
And so I started cleaning up...
The smudges off my mouse.

I wiped and shined the topside.
That really did the trick...
I was just admiring my work...
I didn't mean to 'click.'

But click, I did, and oops I found
A real absorbing site
That I got SO way into...
I was into it all night.<<Sigh>>

Nothing's changed except my mouse
It's very, very shiny.
I guess my house will stay a mess...
While I sit on my hiney.

