



## MacOS 9 Saint or Sinner?

Having had a few weeks to look at Apple's latest OS I can confidently say it's not worth the upgrade money- or is it? When you first install Mac OS 9 you first feel like saying what was all the fuss about because nothing seems to have really changed. It's not until you look under the bonnet that you begin to see exactly what Apple has given you and that is a whole new Mac but not just one Mac but a Mac for every member of your work force or family. This neat little trick is done with the new control panel called

Multiple Users. By using this panel you can set up your Mac to open individual's preferences in how the Mac should look and behave, for example if you like all of your windows as tabs at the bottom of the screen but the other person likes using the launcher your Mac can open up your way when you log in and will open their way when they log in. Another good feature is the ability to encrypt files from the desktop. To use this feature all you have to do is control click on the file and then scroll down to encrypt. When you encrypt a file you have to give it a password you then give the password to the person you are sending the file to so that he /she can open the file at the other end.

This is very useful if you are sending sensitive information via the internet as attachments to e-mails. But to get back to the point: MacOS 9 is worth the money if you own a Non G3 Power Mac and it is able to have Mac OS 9 installed. If you have such a machine go for it because it is serious upgrade for the non G3 MacOS line, but if you are lucky enough to own a G3 machine, in my opinion it would be better to wait for MacOS X (10) next year as it will include all of MacOS 9 plus new features - such as better speed and protective memory due to there being no 68 machine code in MacOS X. But for those of us who don't have a G3 yet Apple have said they will continue to support the older machines at least for the time being so there will be a Mac OS 9.5 But don't hold me to it.

Paul Mason

## Open Day

What can I say... the Open Day was a big success in most

respects. I was pleased to see a lot of support from our members so I would like to say thank you to everyone that came along and thank you to the ones who kindly let me know that they could not make it due to other engagements. But the day was mired by the inconsiderate decision to hold the England v Scotland football game on the same afternoon. We were doing well until kick off but then things went down hill and by half time all that was left was me, my wife Nicole and the software company reps looking at each other. After thirty minutes of this I decided to call it a day. But I will do better next time even if I have to bribe the F.A

## Mac In the High Street

There is now an alternative in the high street if you wish to buy your iMac off of the shelf and the big surprise is it's not one of the major computer shops it is in fact your local

B.T phone shop. I know this because last Saturday I paid a visit to my local B.T shop in Plymouth and to my surprise there was an iMac in their computer display and the biggest shock was there was nothing wrong with it - no one had tried to trash the extensions folder or taken all the control panels out of the systems folder unlike the ones in P.C World (sorry Tony I know they are all working now that you are doing your Apple rep bit at P.C World but only until you stop). The price is also quite competitive with the mid range iMac at £799 including VAT, so if you don't want to go to P.C World and get looked at strangely you now have an alternative in the high street.

## P.M.U.G Library

As an ongoing commitment to helping our members the club is trying to put together a library of old and new Mac books and public domain

software, to this end we now have a number of books and software available for members to borrow on a short term loan scheme. In the book line we have the iMac in 10 minutes, Photoshop for Dummies and The Internet starter Kit plus in the Software line we some have: MacOS System Software on C.D and Photoshop 4 training C.Ds plus anyone who wants to dabble in the world of 3D we have early versions of Bryce and Poser software and also demo versions of Canvas 6 and M.Y.O.B (a small business admin and accounts package.) Anyone wishing to borrow any of these items can either contact me on 01752 367536 or e-mail paul.mason12@virgin.net or contact Tony Hughes on 01752 848238 to arrange how we can pass them on.

## P.M.U.G Helping Hands

The club now offers the ability for our members to be able to back up their hard

drives or any software they have purchased by copying it to C.D. This service will be done by myself so there will be a charge involved to cover my time and wear and tear on my C.D writer. This service is for all members as the club has purchased a SCSI to USB converter so anyone with an iMac or G3 machine can also take advantage of this service. On the same subject the club is looking for members who are willing to give some of their time up to help other members who are having difficulties with their machines, i.e provide technical support as is being provided mainly by myself and Tony at the moment. We are looking for volunteers to cover the areas of -North Devon (Bideford /Barnstaple) - Exeter - South Cornwall

Anyone interested please contact either Tony Hughes or myself.

# P.M.U.G CONTACTS

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