



November 2009 meeting

ClubMac held its November meeting on November 4th in Merrion Cricket Club.

Training

Apologies were offered for the last minute withdrawal of iDVD training owing to unforeseen circumstances. It was hoped to reschedule this training at a future meeting.

Technical Q&A

Under the guidance of ClubMac member Peter O'Reilly this covered:

- failure of a presentation put together on Keynote 09 to play back on a desktop system with two monitors, despite doing so on an unconnected laptop, might be due to differing resolutions on the two screens — adjust the preferences (separate for each screen) to align resolutions;
- photographs at one time stored on a hard drive could no longer be accessed by iPhoto 09 even though the relevant icons were still present. The reason might be that these were aliases or thumbnails for files subsequently moved (for example to an external hard disk) with loss of the pathway — a search on the actual name of the image might help to find it. A useful way of keeping control of iPhoto storage was to use iPhotoManager.

Useful Utilities

Tom Martin, ClubMac Chairman, sang the praises of Houdaspot, an invaluable shareware product from Luxembourg, that made exceedingly short work of locating a desired item when faced with a search of innumerable files, reports, articles or emails. Houdaspot operates as a front end to Spotlight using the latter's meta data, providing an user-friendly screen for a search by title or context using word, phrase or prefix. Cost: €17 for single user with a 15 day free trial.

Houdaspot: <http://www.houdah.com>

What's New

Brian Greene, Committee member, reviewed new products that had come on stream since the September meeting:

- the new 21.5" and 27" iMacs: higher end processors, greater speed and power, increased memory, enhanced graphics and video processing, LED backlit screens, bigger hard drives, wireless keyboard and mouse as standard, unibody recyclable aluminium casing;
- the new 13" entry level MacBook: polycarbonate unibody casing, built-in 7 hour battery, LED backlit display, multitouch trackpad;

- three new MacMinis — faster, more power, more memory: 160 GB, 320 GB and 500 GB + Snow Leopard server;
- the new Magic mouse: scrolls, swipes, zooms in, customisable, laser tracking;
- over two billion plus downloads recorded from the Apps Store, which now has over 85,000 apps on offer;
- Parallels 5 out with support for Windows 7, works with Snow Leopard, multitouch trackpad;
- bad news for hackintosh notebooks — from OS 10.6.2 no more support for Intel Action Support;
- happy eighth birthday to the iPod!

Guest presentations

1) **Neill Austin of PO Control** presented his company's product, which provided clients with an online service for the management of purchase orders — creation, approval, delivery tracking and invoice reconciliation. The service was operated and backed up at the PO control base. Originally developed to run on a Windows platform the service was now available to Mac users and was compatible with Safari, Firefox and other browsers. It was secure, easy to operate and had been shown shown by experience to cut client costs and streamline their operations.

<http://www.pocontrol.com>

(2) **Simon Spence of Macinformation**, with a start in life as an academic teaching classics, had moved from being an enthusiastic Mac user into assisting colleagues in solving their computer problems and from there into full-time Mac, video and web site consultancy. Rather than technological issues of supply and repair his company focused on the one-to-one teaching of private individuals and staff of small businesses how to make the best use of their Macs, with clients in areas such as the arts, teaching, graphics, journalism and marketing that were fairly evenly divided between long-term Mac users and switchers. It was interesting the latter often tended to be more adventurous and innovative than the former in their approach to what to them was a new platform, often being drawn to Mac from experience with the iPhone. The bulk of his clients were currently Leopard users, a third had moved to Snow Leopard, while a mere 10 per cent remained with Tiger. Applications he recommended as simple to use and got clients going were RapidWeaver, VueScan and MacSpeechDictate 1.5 (immensely improved from 1.3, the previous version).

<http://www.macinformation.ie>