



October 2009 meeting

ClubMac held its October 2009 meeting on Wednesday, 7 October, in Merrion Cricket Club.

Training

Eleven Club members attended the second of Aoibheann O'Sullivan's training sessions, which took them through the finer points of iPhoto.

Technical Q&A

This session was chaired by ClubMac member, Peter O'Reilly, and covered:

- a hard drive which spins up but fails to mount on the desktop could result from obsolete built-in firmware where updating was not an option, or a problem with a power supply built in to the motherboard and so unextractable — in the latter case insertion of the drive into a caddy providing a power source, FireWire and USB, could be a solution;
- a hard drive which spins up but fails to mount on the desktop could result from obsolete built-in firmware where updating was not an option, or a problem with a power supply built in to the motherboard and so unextractable — in the latter case insertion of the drive into a caddy providing a power source, FireWire and USB, could be a solution;
- Pages — removal of obsolete and unwanted templates that individually resist deletion might be achieved by transferring to a folder subsequently deleted after exiting Pages; permission repair might also help;
- problems in opening attachments sent from Mac to PC through Outlook Express;
- choice of a DC-AC inverter to enable charging of a laptop when on the move in a campervan — high wattage pure sine wave inverter recommended to avoid voltage spikes that might damage the computer;
- failure to export Pages attachments from a yahoo email account could be due to non-recognition of the file type (extension suffix) — it could help to compress the files and send them in a folder;
- incoming PowerPoint attachments arriving with the extension suffix doubled and thus failing to open — this results from the computer automatically adding the suffix on receipt and could be prevented by fixing preferences to "save without extension";
- failure of Spotlight to find some files could be explained by the fact that certain System files are excluded from it or that computer shut down might have cause an indexing failure — in the latter case do a full re-index, in the former freeware (EasyFind[<http://www.devon-technologies.com/products/freeware/>]) was available to search for excluded files. Another programme, HoudaSpot will be covered in next month's Useful Utilities session;

- failure of the main library in iPhoto 09 to open — a freeware utility was available to deal with this.

Members were reminded that MacInformation.ie was a good source of Apple news and advice in Ireland.

[MacInformation](#)

Review of Snow Leopard

Tom Martin, ClubMac Chairman, gave an overview of the recently released update to the Mac OS. No mega changes from Leopard but many refinements making the Finder nimbler and more responsive, with excess trimmed to give a smaller footprint so freeing up hard disk space; in addition there were technological improvements such as 64-bit capability, greater accessibility for the disabled and built in support for Microsoft Exchange Server. Many pluses, few minuses (some non-Apple applications not yet Snow Leopard compatible).

Overview of Embarcadero and MonoTouch

Andre Brehm, ClubMac member, reviewed Embarcadero, a company providing developer tools and cross-platform solutions for database design, development & management. Such tools included Delphi Prism, which embodies a cross platform, open source .NET development framework called Mono sponsored by Novell.

For more information, see [Embarcadero](#) and [Mono Project](#)

Main presentation — inkjet printers, profiling and calibration

Sheldon Long, of Sheldon Photographic, Malahide, recounted how his company had grown from a start in the mid-1990s as an agency for a sophisticated scanner and moving on to advanced professional cameras upon the emergence of digital photography before reaching its current status as a supplier of digital cameras, scanners and printers from entry level up to high-end equipment capable of attaining the highest standards in digital imaging. It also provided high-end monitors, calibration equipment, storage solutions, inks and papers. The focus was on helping dedicated photographers to make the best of their equipment. He demonstrated the use of a number of calibration tools in helping printers achieve accurate rendering of the colours seen by the camera on a wide variety of papers and paper sizes.

[Sheldon Photographic](#)

Sheldon also made the valuable point that Irish distributors often offered good value for money so it was worthwhile to check out local prices first before using overseas suppliers that initially seemed to be cheaper but after all the delivery charges and other extras often ended up being the more expensive option.