

Apple Bytes

The Newsletter of the Lynchburg Apple Core

Volume 2005.11 ----- Lynchburg, VA ----- November 5, 2005

Third Annual Dinner Meeting

Thursday November 17 - 6:30 PM - Oakwood Country Club

3409 Rivermont Avenue, Lynchburg - 434-384-8181

Social Hour - 6:30 PM - Dinner - 7:15 PM - Program - 7:45 PM

The November meeting is at Oakwood Country Club, Thursday, November 17.

This will be a social affair to meet and chat with your fellow club members. Bring your spouse or a friend. It will include a social hour before a buffet. The menu includes Prime Roast beef, Chicken Marsalla, Oakwood's famous Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Chef's Salad with your choice of dressing and assorted Cheesecakes, Black Forest Cake, etc. along with Coffee or Tea.

The program will feature a presentation by David Martin, special investigator for the Virginia State Police High Tech Crime Investigation Unit and new Mac user. David will present a program on "Identity Theft." He will provide an overview of the most common ways that thieves gain access to your personal information, how to protect yourself and what to do if the worst does happen.

A Farewell Bash

As you may know, our longtime mentor, Gordon Mattox is retiring and moving to Roanoke next year with the gavel being passed to Michael Corbin who brings his expertise and knowledge to his new position as president. So, this meeting will also be a farewell bash in Gordon's honor.

There will also be numerous door prizes including copies of Adobe's Photoshop Elements and a lot of Gordon's usual "surprises."

Tickets for the dinner are \$15 per person for members and spouses or dinner partners, and \$25 per person for nonmembers. They will be available from Scott Glass (847-7433) or Tom Johnson (993-2822).

To attend, you must purchase or reserve your tickets no later than November 10th.

The social hour will begin at 6:30 p.m. and dinner will begin at 7:15 followed by the presentation and door prizes.

You can visit the Lynchburg Apple Core web site for more information about the dinner meeting and place your order for tickets at this URL:

<http://www.lynchburgapplecore.org/LACflyer.html>

Or contact Scott Glass (847-7433) or Tom Johnson (993-2822) to reserve your tickets.

How to Tell if an EMail is Spam (by Tom Johnson)
(or: “Don’t open that email, you don’t know where it’s from”)

Spammers are trying all kinds of ways of getting through everyone’s (and every Internet Provider’s) spam barrier. I find it amusing how they give e-mails garbled subjects to do this. Often the words are misspelled or reversed letters are used (like “Pahmaceuticals”). Here are some examples I’ve had sent to me recently:

oakley may bathurst it's knuckle, You can feel the vitality, Re: Edoardo Gosselin Extra chance, ipecac it's endorse may mcdonald, calhoun a calamus ! garbage, Re: I borrow to several capitalism, angel or devotee in pawtucket, Re: For believe the unofficial, picture profiles of singles in your city, Re: My smoke the password, FW: denebola be derbyshire some, RE: angular may arum but.

Most of these are just plain weird, and I have no idea why they expect someone to open an email with such idiotic titles. But people must open them. If no one opened these e-mails ever, they would stop coming. The “one person in 50,000” who opens these e-mails and responds is responsible for us getting this mess.

Some of the fraudulent e-mails I’ve received have had a message that looked legitimate but used a word not quite right. One purported to be from Earthlink (and, boy! does it look correct) says they had found problems in my account information when they performed an “*automatical*” review of accounts. This isn’t all that obvious, but there is no such word as “automatical” in the English language.

Look closely at any email you get. If you do not know the sender and the subject does not make sense or apply to you, don’t open it. Just delete it. Earthlink is my internet provider and I check my email at their web site where I log in to get it. I review the e-mails listed and delete any that don’t come from someone I know or expect to receive an email from, or those that contain a nonsense or blatantly obvious message. Above all, **never go to the URL (universal resource locator, the blue link that takes you to an Internet web site automatically) or any link given to you in an unsolicited email message to enter any private or personal information (like Social Security number, account number, phone number, address, etc.)**. Legitimate businesses will direct you to go to their web site (not with a URL or hot link) to log in and enter such information. Fraudulent e-mails can take you to a web site that is identical to your bank’s (or credit union, internet provider, credit card service, etc.). And do not fall for any scare tactics, like they will shut down your Internet access, close out your account, or the worst I’ve heard of: “...their records show you have charged \$XXX to your credit card for pornographic material. If this is an error please go HERE and correct the error...” Of course, they will ask you for your account number and SS number, etc. to confirm you are the account holder. If it seems funny, strange, not quite right, **DON’T DO IT!!** You can always call the “800” number on your credit card to see if something’s wrong with your account. Never give your personal information to a web site you did not go to on your own.

And last, but not least: no one, that is **NO ONE** is going to send a total stranger an email (or call you) with a super great deal. No matter how great it sounds, if they had such a great deal to offer, they would not have to seek you out, people would be seeking them out. Don't fall for it.

Stop Those Irritating Credit Card Offers (by Gordon Mattox)

We were going through the mail that had stacked up while we were over in Roanoke this week and fortunately I read the whole page of the credit card offer from Lowe's. I noticed a box that nicely highlighted a paragraph which had the words "**Prescreen & Opt-Out Notice**" in bold. Boy did that catch my eye! It said that by calling 1-888-567-8688 I could choose to stop receiving "prescreened" offers of credit from this and other companies for 5 years.

Boy, you never saw me move so fast to call that number!

A very nice, smart, and accommodating computer answered, explained the process, and proceeded to take information, much of it by voice answers of yes and no, and press 1's, to enter my name in the "do not send" list. It then offered to do the same for my spouse, which of course I did. It promises to have this taken care of in 5-7 days. Wow!

It feeds back to the credit reporting services which give our credit standing to the companies that want us to sign up for their credit cards I hope it works!

There may be a complication for some people since the first key in the process was to connect the phone I was calling from to our address, and of course that's not so hard to do with a hard-wired land line. I don't know if it can handle a cell phone, but give it a try if you want to.

It can also be done on line at <https://www.optoutprescreen.com/> to make it good permanently. At the site you can opt-in if you want to start receiving them again.

Hope this is useful for you all.

(Editor's note: I did this a while back and all those credit card offers have stopped. This service goes to the five companies who do credit reporting. To protect yourself from identity theft, I've heard you should destroy any credit card application form you receive in the mail to prevent someone from getting a card in your name sent to an alternate address. Thanks, Gordon, for passing this along to us).

OS X Software Update Tip

The Apple Software Update 'application' included with OS X makes keeping your system up to date a snap. Either automatically on a scheduled frequency you set or with your manual request, the Software Update app will check across the Internet to Apple's site to see if any new updates are available for installing. If there are, you just leave checked the ones you want and click the install button...

...But, what if you have more than one Mac? What if high-speed Internet access isn't available to all the machines needing these updates - or at all? Some of those updates can be pretty big and at dial up speeds they take quite a while to download! What if you just want to download the update and install it later when it won't interfere with your work?

A simple option exists that gives you the flexibility the auto-download/install does not. Normally, to start the download and installation of these updates, you simply click on the install button that is in the lower right hand corner. Here's the other way!

Rather than clicking the install button to start the download of selected updates, you can instead select from the 'Update' pull down menu the option "Download Checked Items to Desktop". After the download is complete, you can then click on the install button to do the installation or double-click on the updater file that is now on the desktop to accomplish the same. So what's the point?

When you just click the Install button without prior doing the download to desktop option: #1 - it will do the update installation as soon as the update(s) are down downloading which then usually results in a restart being required. #2 - After the update is installed, the update file is deleted. There is a record of the update file in </YOUR_HD/Library/Receipts>, but those files are not the update images and are unusable. By downloading them to the desktop and then installing, you now have at will use of these update installers.

Except for FIRMWARE updates that are machine specific (a Firmware update won't run on the wrong machine anyway), all OS X software updates are universal, just like the OS X install itself is. So, rather than downloading the various updates on multiple machines you can just as easily transfer the files between your different machines... Then just run the updates accordingly on those machines. Also, if you save your update files and then at some point end up with reason to install OS X from scratch again, rather than downloading all those updates again, all you need do is use those files you've already got. And if you miss something, Apple's Software Update app is right there to tell you so.
Found somewhere on the Web

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OSXFAQ Mac OS X Tip-of-the-Day

iPod: Extend Your Battery's Charge - Long Live iPod !!

By Scott Sheppard - Editor-in-Chief - OSXFAQ

Brought to you by Inside Mac Radio - <http://www.osxfaq.com/radio/>

How to get the most usage out of your iPod's battery.

1 - Update your iPod to the newest software.

2 - Remember to set the hold switch on your iPod and on its remote control to the hold position whenever you are not using it. Even though its off or asleep you could jar it and wake it up and start playing songs and running down your battery.

3 - Make sure to keep iPod warm. The iPod's battery works best when its at room temperature, somewhere near 70 *F. If you have let your iPod freeze to death let it warm up to room temperature before trying to wake it from its

frozen sleep.

4 - The iPod will fast charge the battery to about 80 percent of capacity in an hour or so. But, it can take up to three hours to fully recharge the battery. So make sure to charge it to its full capacity.

5 - When using backlighting it uses a lot of battery power. If you don't need to use backlighting, turn it off.

6 - Try to avoid changing song tracks by pressing the Previous / Rewind or Next / Fast-Forward buttons. Your iPod uses memory to open a few songs for you to listen to without always accessing the iPod's hard drive. This WILL use lots of battery power.

7 - Your iPod's memory works best with songs of average file sizes around 6 to 8 mb or less. If you use audio files are large or uncompressed you will want to compress them. The smaller the file size the longer your iPod will run without using the hard drive.

8 - Turn off the alarm feature in your iPod. This always keeps sucking power, even when you have it turned off. Turn it off and SAVE POWER

Will I hope this will help you keep your iPod running a LONG time between charges.

Have fun and don't steal music :-)

To discuss this tip (or anything you like) in the OSXFAQ Mac OS X Tip-of-the-Day Forum, click here:
<http://forums.osxfaq.com/viewtopic.php?t=4826>

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December Meeting:

Lynchburg College, Hopwood Hall - Thursday December 15, - 7:00 PM

Topic: To be Announced

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Visit the Lynchburg Apple Core Wet Site for Updates, Information, and Important Links:

<http://www.lynchburgapplecore.org/>

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PLEASE NOTE:

If you have not provided the Club with a viable e-mail address, you will no longer receive the Apple Bytes newsletter of the Lynchburg Apple Core.

Please send your comments and/or your e-mail address to bob_hall@mac.com.