

Apple Bytes

April Meeting

Thursday April 19 – 7:00 PM – Room 209
Centennial Hall at Lynchburg College

Duelling Cloners!

The first step in updating your OS, for example to 10.4.9, released just two days before the LAST Apple Core meeting, is to clone your boot drive. This is a critical step: what if the power goes out, just for a second, in the middle of the update? You can wind up with your hard drive thoroughly hosed. You need a freshly made, bootable clone of your boot drive, just in case, and we all know that the Umbrella Theory states that if you are prepared, you'll encounter no problems.

Under OS X, you can't make that bootable copy via Finder's drag & drop. The tools are built in to Terminal, but unless you are a Unix geek, you need a little help, like how about a simple to use graphical interface. Enter Carbon Copy Cloner and Super Duper! which will be the topic of our April meeting.

Last month we passed out CDs with the OS X 10.4.9 combo updaters for both PPC (163 Mb) and Intel processors (310 Mb), rather than thwarting everyone by all of us trying to download them through the club's wireless router. Herewith the official (ok, MY official) directions for a major update like this one: (1) clone your boot drive, see above. (2) repair permissions. (3) boot from your OS X installer disk and use Disk Utility to perform a full disk repair. (4) If you have them, run DiskWarrior and or TechTool Pro. Each one of these three should be repeated until they report finding no errors. (5) Run the updater. (6) Repair permissions again.

In addition, we'll have the usual question and answer session, along with a chance to meet and greet fellow Mac users. Join us, won't you?

Is your QuickTime up to date?

The 10.4.9 updater does not update QuickTime to the 7.1.5 version necessary to plug an important security hole. That update was released two weeks later. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU UPDATE TO 7.1.5 because prior versions contain a bug that exposes your personal data to theft. MySpace has been packed with QuickTime movies that exploit the hole, and those bad movies can be expected to show up elsewhere. This is not an OS X hole, btw, it afflicts both OS X and Windows versions of QuickTime.

If you have a QuickTime version prior to 7.1.5, meaning you last updated more than two weeks ago, all you have to do is click on the "show" button of the wrong movie to have your stuff stolen.

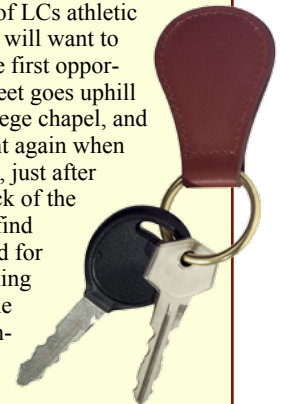
Centennial Hall Directions

Centennial is located between the campus library and the chapel, with parking behind and beside. To drive there most directly, you will probably want to use the LC main gate as a reference. This is located off Lakeside Drive, and however you get there, DON'T turn into the main gate.

There is a traffic light on Lakeside about 50 yards from the LC drive, and if you reach the LC drive first, continue to the traffic light and turn right there instead.

If you are on lakeside and reach the traffic light BEFORE you get to LC's drive, turn left at the light. If you reach the light from Old Forest Road instead of Lakeside Drive, go straight at the light.

All these will run you alongside one of LC's athletic fields, and you will want to turn right at the first opportunity. That street goes uphill behind the college chapel, and if you turn right again when forced to do so, just after passing the back of the chapel, you'll find yourself headed for one of the parking lots between the chapel and Centennial with the latter on your left. You can also park behind the chapel, although there is a little bit of hill to climb, and there is a small parking lot across the street behind Centennial Hall. If worse comes to worst, it is also possible to park on the far side of the library, on down the street behind Centennial Hall. Room 209 is at the very end of Centennial Hall next to the chapel.



OS X Bug Report.

Macintosh reported last week on the identification of a bug in OS X that can wipe out important files during updates to the system, such as the 10.4.9 update mentioned above. If you are using certain files, and particularly if you launch a program at particular spots in the update process, critical system files will not update, but merely zero out. For this reason it is important that you run no other programs, and especially that you launch no other programs during the update.

Membership has its rewards!

About once a month we get a notice from the Apple User Group Store about special deals available only to user group members. We are prohibited from publishing details of those special deals, especially the details of how members take advantage of them, in our newsletter, which I understand, but it still seems a shame we are thus restricted. We do try to mention them at meetings, but don't always remember, another shame. Blame it on having a Senior Moment ^(TM), something that seems to happen more and more often lately. But there are some deals this month that I can't resist mentioning.

Just don't report us to the authorities, ok?

One of those deals is 25% off on Western Digital hard drives. This applies to external, internal, Passport portable, evidently any drive they make. You DO have at least one external hard drive, right? To backup your stuff. Right??? The offer is valid through June 30, 2007.

Also valid through June 30 is a 25% off on memory (aka RAM). And shipping is free on orders over \$75.

Finally, there is a line of easy to use guides to Mac OS X software, including Safari, Mail, and others. These are in the form of ebooks with lots of screenshots, appendices and other features. Usually priced between \$7 & \$8 each, they currently are 20% off.

How do you take advantage of these offers, you might ask? Well, you call Applecore President Michael Corbin at 845-0613 and ask him to email you the details, typically a URL you have to go to and a password or other secret handshake to get the discount.

Speaking of deals . . .

Just yesterday I had occasion to pass through the Big Lots store in Madison Heights, and while looking for something else they didn't have, I noticed they were selling USB mini-mice. Two button, scroll-wheel, optical, with a roll-up cord. Cheap: \$8.99, too. Some off brand I'd never heard of. It happens that I've never liked the \$30 mini-mouse I bought just after buying my Titanium PowerBook. The ball gets dirty, it's clunky, drags with effort, and the cord is a pain in the butt to fold up to put in my computer case. So what the heck, I sprang for the \$9 Big Lots mouse. They even had a silver/chrome one that looks like it GOES with my PowerBook.

Guess what: works like a charm. Best \$9 I've spent in a long time. Join us for the next Apple Core meeting and you'll likely get to see it in action. It even tracks properly across my favorite mouse-pad, one which drives my Apple mouse (the one that came with my G5) nuts!

Visit the Lynchburg Apple Core online at <http://www.lynchburgapplecore.org/>
