



AppleGram

www.themichiganapple.com/applegram/

June 2003

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**New Michigan Apple
Membership Info Hotline
Phone: 248-232-7865**

Build Your Own Cheap Website

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title 'Your Cheap Website'. The address bar contains 'How To Make Your Own Cheap Website...'. The page content includes:

- Building a Cheap Website...**
- Domain Name Registration:**
 - <http://www.onestop.net/>
 - <http://www.dotster.com/>
 - <http://www.domainz4less.com/>
- Tools for building your website:**
 - <http://channels.netscape.com/ns/browsers/download.jsp>
 - [Pagemill for Mac on eBay](#)
- Hosting your website:**
 - <http://www.onestop.net/>
 - <http://totalchoicehosting.com/>

On the right side of the page, there is an image of an Apple iMac G4 computer with a blue screen. Below the image, the text reads: 'You can have your own place on the world wide web for a lot less than you think!'.

Introduction to (Cheap) Web Design

Many or most of us have Internet Access and most Internet Service Providers give you some type of free web space to have your own web page but most people don't take advantage of it. At this month's meeting we take a beginners look at building your own web page or web site.

Just like you could write an award winning novel with Simple Text or Text Edit, Microsoft Word makes the job a lot easier. Making a website follows the same theory. Many low cost (or free tools) are out there, but they do have limits and drawbacks. The purpose of this demo is to introduce you to the principles of web design so you can share a simple site with family, friends, and the world.

Hopefully in future presentations we will offer demos on the latest trends in making your own web site like Web Blogs and more advanced web design applications.



Michigan Apple Help Providers

The following is a list of volunteers that are willing to help Michigan Apple members work through a multitude of programs or applications with which they are not completely familiar.

To be added to this list, it is not necessary to consider oneself to be an expert, but only have a basic working knowledge and be willing to assist fellow members in learning how to use it.

Any members wishing to assist Michigan Apple in this shared learning project should forward their name and program area in which they could provide assistance to Avi Drissman (avi@drissman.com).

Apple Script & ResEdit

Avi Drissman (248-855-2834)

Apple Works/ClarisWorks

Andy Biggs (248-474-3643)

Digital Audio & MIDI

Mark Ginn (248-682-7707)

Final Cut Pro

Richard Hendrick (313-341-6538)

File Maker Pro

Jean Blievernicht (248-356-3527)

Freeware & Shareware

Carl Pendracki (248-647-7052)

Art Payne (313-273-1941)

General Mac Help

Andy Biggs (248-474-3643)

Graphic Design

Bob Santoro (248-548-5776)

Newton

Avi Drissman (248-855-2834)

Photoshop & Illustrator

Eric Blomberg (248-477-4192)

Mac Operating Systems

Eric Blomberg (248-477-4192)

IIGS & IIE Platforms

Joe Earle (313-595-8931)

Volunteer to become a Help Provider Today!
E-mail: avi@drissman.com



Membership Report

June 2003 Membership Report

New Members

None

Renewals

Keith Burby

Avi Drissman

Victor Eicher

Gina Handlen

Ellen Hechler

Alain Lecompte

Memberships Expiring

Dolores Ammar

Walter Dean

Cary Gersh

Art Payne

Jeff Scholtens



Happy Birthday

Members with Birthday in June

Albin Burkacki

Elaine Tokarski

Andrew Biggs

Need Mac Help?

Visit our NEW Interactive Message Board & Forum on the Michigan Apple Website!

- Mac OS X Problems**
- Mac OS 9 Problems**
- Digital Photography**
- Trading Post (For Sale)**
- Wanted to Buy (List Wants)**

www.themichiganapple.com/interact/talk



The List

Member Written by Dave Birdsong

There are things that we all just can't live without, a nice bed to sleep in, and a clean bathroom to. Well you get the point.

For me there are a few things that I don't know if I could live with out. Like my Microsoft Intel mouse, or my iPod.

So, I decided to put together a list (not in any order of priority) and share them with my friends at the Michigan Apple.

1. My Microsoft Mouse. Can someone please tell me why Apple insists on providing us with a very cool looking NO button mouse? That's right the mouse that Apple calls the "Pro Mouse" doesn't have ANY buttons. For years Mac users complained that they wanted Apple to move from a 1-button mouse to a 2-button mouse, so what do they do? They release a NO BUTTON mouse. So here I am a person that isn't really a fan of Bill Gates and I spend \$30 for one of his rodents.
2. My iPod. Now I have to admit I don't listen to it like most, but I sure love it. I have my favorite songs on it, along with a System Folder that will boot most Mac's so that I can run Disk Warrior to fix problems that arise on a computer. I also keep important files for work with me just in case I need them. Talk about a useful toy, my iPod is just that. Another cool add-on that I have for my iPod is an FM modulator from Jensen. This goes under the dash and plugs into the antenna jack and with a flick of a switch mounted in

- my dash, I can plug my iPod in and tune the FM radio to 89.9 and listen to it in my car.
3. Airport Card and Base Station. Wireless networking is the only way to go. I can sit anywhere in my house and be on the Internet, & watch what my kids are doing with their computers (Apple Remote Desktop is a must for parents). While at work, I often check my email from stores that I call on using their 802.11 access point. Heck when I travel I take an Airport Base Station with me so that I can sit anywhere in the hotel room and work on the net.
4. My cell phone, just how did we live before them?
5. My guitar tuner, I can't always tune it by ear, but I can tell when it isn't in tune. My favorite guitar store, Elderly Instruments in Lansing, MI. sells a great t-shirt that reads "Tune it or DIE!" Enough said about out of tune guitars.
6. The Ken Burns effect that is part of iMovie 3 is yet another that I wonder how did I live without it. I just love the way it allows me to make a slideshow that looks like a movie.
7. iPhoto Library Manager is one of the best utilities for the iLife suite, iPhoto just doesn't like big libraries. With this handy utility you can make server libraries and keep them under 1 gig, thus making them much faster to work with. Another cool thing about this program is that the author grew up in Michigan.
8. Last but not least, my Kodak Digital cameras I have always loved photography but as I got older and had kids, I had to cut back on my picture taking, now I can shoot till my hearts desire and it doesn't cost me anything till I print them, and I only print my very best shots.

**Got a Question?
Get some answers!
Visit the Forum...**

www.themichiganapple.com/interact/talk



ACChoo - Convert Your MP3's to ACC

When Apple came out with iTunes 4, they also switched to a new type of music encoding called ACC. This is from the FAQ on a program called ACChoo by Ovolab.

AAC: MPEG-4 Audio.

AAC, which stands for Advanced Audio Coding, part of the MPEG-4 specification, is a powerful, high-quality audio codec designed to compress audio files to smaller sizes than MP3, while delivering a better quality.



Crystal Clear Sound with smaller file sizes.

According to Apple, expert listeners have judged AAC audio files compressed at 128 kbps (stereo) to be virtually indistinguishable from the original uncompressed audio source, whereas MP3 files at the same bitrate (taking up the same amount of space on your disk) contain audible artifacts. In general, AAC-encoded files sound as good as, or better than, MP3 files encoded at the same or even a higher bit rate.

AAC takes full advantage of state-of-the-art signal processing technology from Dolby Laboratories and proves itself worthy of replacing MP3 as the new Internet audio standard.

So now smaller is better as long as you like the way the music sounds. I remember when I first heard about MP3's several years ago, I was thinking to myself that the sound would suck, then like most people, I decided to see what Napster was all about and found that MP3's could sound very good. In fact it didn't take long to start converting my CD's to MP3's so that I didn't have to go find the CD when I wanted to listen to it.

Apple then goes and says, hey guys, we want you to buy your music from us one song at a time, they also changed the format from MP3 to ACC and a lot of people started looking the difference in the sound and found that there wasn't much if any difference to most peoples ears. Now that could be that most of the people that listen to music have blown out



Member Written

By Dave Birdsong

their ears from listening to Rock & Roll to loud in the past but I won't ever admit to that. (That would mean my mother was right, I was hurting my ears listening to that Jethro Tull Thick as a Brick LP 30 years ago. That just isn't going to happen while she is still living.)

Now that MP3's are being replaced by ACC's, some Mac users who wanted to be on the cutting edge started looking into re-encoding their MP3's. We could do it with iTunes, but that wasn't as easy as it should be. Heck I know a couple people that just deleted all the MP3's and grabbed their CD collection and started all over.

In my case that just wasn't going to happen. Too many songs would have to be re-ripped again, let alone all the ones from Napster or Audio Galaxy when they were around.

I liked the ideal of smaller files, but the way iTunes converted from MP3 to ACC meant I would have to delete the old song after converting. No way, too many songs to convert and not enough HD space to do it on.

Then on my daily visit to version tracker I saw a listing for a program called ACChoo by Ovolab (<http://www.ovolab.com>). I downloaded it and tried it out and it seemed to work pretty well. So I contacted them about a free registration code so that I could review it for the AppleGram.

Alberto Ricci from Ovolab sent me the registration code and I really started to play with ACChoo. I also began to swear at it as it crashed several times on me.

Now, I have to say how much I am impressed with Alberto, I sent him an Email about the problems I was having and he responded back that they had discovered that on some computers, Quicktime was not interfacing correctly with ACChoo and that they were working on it would have an update soon. About 2 weeks later I received an

Email from him saying that they had just released the 1.1 version of ACCHoo and that I should give it another try.

With that said, let's talk about how to use ACCHoo. One of the things that caught my interest in it was that it would delete the old MP3 when it was done converting and update your iTunes library to see the new ACC file. So with 10,000 songs to convert I started using ACCHoo.

First you want to set your preferences to keep your music in the same place, delete the old and update your iTunes library when it does convert your music.



Set your Preferences, then you just drag and drop a song or a folder on to the program.



Pretty simple to do, drag and drop. The thing that impressed me the most is the support that I have gotten from Ovotab when I first started using

AACHoo, I would send them an email and within 24 hours they would respond, pretty darn good. They didn't try and make excuses, but instead would offer advice if they had already seen that problem, or would simply says we will look into that and get back with you. And they would do just that.

Now for some hints from me on using it, don't just drag and drop your entire iTunes collection onto ACCHoo and walk away. (unless you only have 100 songs) Do them in small batches. While it is converting you won't be able to use iTunes, so keep that in mind. Just how much space will you save using ACCHoo? They are claiming about 20%. In some cases I did save some space, yet in a few others, the ACC's were a little bigger, like my Sgt. Pepper CD (encoded at 128) went from 34.2mb to 34.6mb. On the other hand, my Carole King Tapestry CD (encoded at 256Kbits,) but I converted it to 128 and it sounds as good to me as it did before and saved 50% disk space. If you don't register it, you can only do 50 songs and only 1 at a time, so pay \$15 shareware fee, you won't be sorry.

System requirements: Ovotab AACchoo requires a Macintosh computer running Mac OS X and QuickTime 6.0 or later.

To be honest, I really thought that I was going to have to write a bad review on ACCHoo at first, but after the upgrade to 1.1 and a little tweaking of the prefs, I am impressed. The program does a good job of converting and really couldn't be any easier to use.

(Note, I asked Alberto if he would provide the Michigan Apple Users Group with a couple more registration codes to give out as a door prize at the June meeting and he responded with a yes, so make sure you come to the meeting, you might win a free copy of ACCHoo.)

ACCHoo is a \$15 Shareware program and can be downloaded at :

<http://www.ovotab.com/aachoo/>



Board Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Avi Drissman, President; Dave Birdsong, Vice-President, Anthony Moore, Secretary; Art Payne, Vendor Relations; Russ Ferbitz, Membership Director; Jean Blievernicht, Treasurer; Chris Thompson, Community Relations; Noel Jackson, Publications Director;

Absent: Andy Biggs, Director-at-Large

Called to Order: 7:40

President's Report: Nothing to Report

Vice Presidents Report: Dave is glad to see more activity on the Michigan Apple website. He proposed a deadline for submitting Applegram articles to be set.

Secretary's Report: Took notes. Added my own comments.

Treasurer's Report: \$1,560.32 Total on hand, Jean reimbursed Art \$222.80 for postage and printing; she received \$280.00 from Russ for Membership dues, she will, also, reimburse Carl \$34.74 for his phone hotline bill. The above total takes all this into account.

Membership Report: 78 Total Members; 0 New Members; 6 Renewed; 5 expiring; 2 to be dropped

Publications Director: Noel was a little late. Art (Pub. Asst.) noted that Canadian postage costs more for the AppleGram but Canadian members pay \$10 more in dues so it's not an issue. Art mentioned that the exchange list with other user groups to be updated and he will handle that update. The Board discussed content for the "Membership" section of the website. We should have a section in there about how to join the group and we should put up a membership application. Art has, also, brought up the idea of having avitar pictures in the forum on the website. Avitar pictures are little pictures of yourself next to

your post. That way people would know who is posting and it would be a voluntary way of getting members pictures on the website.

Vendor Relations Report: Art is having a little trouble getting the goodies. It's the slow time for many of the vendors. Dave says he has some. Art would like to double check how to change our official "Ambassador" to Apple. It was motioned for Art to be this official liaison. All ayes.

Community Relations Report: The Flint User Group is planning a Garage Sale/Swap Meet and invited us to join. The venue has not been set yet. We will discuss participation after more details are presented.

Old Business: This is the last phone bill that will be paid to Carl for the Hotline. Avi has set up a new Hotline using Max E-Mail at a cost of \$8/mo or \$48/yr. We are going to try it out for a couple of months and if all goes well we'll sign up for a year. When a call comes in it will be automatically sent to all Board Members as a sound file. It can, also, receive fax's. The new hotline number is 248-232-7865. The website for the company is www.maxemail.com. We also need to get corrected Michigan Apple info to Karen Lake to update the Cable TV on the community channel. The iCal account for Michigan Apple has been established by Dave. Art is halfway through the surveys. Results to follow.

New Business: Avitar pictures on website? The Secretary and the President will put together and keep a Master list of important info related the Michigan Apple. Update with Hugh about how the ink jet recycling is coming along. We need ideas about how to get new members in the group.

Tentative Agenda: June meeting: Art will discuss how to put together your own website.

Adjourned: 9:03



Board of Directors

President: Avi Drissman

Vice-President: Dave Birdsong

Secretary: Anthony Moore

Membership Director: Russ Ferbitz

Treasurer: Jean Blivernicth

Publications Director: Noel Jackson

Vendor Relations: Art Payne

Community Relations: Chris Thompson

Director-at-Large: Andy Biggs

e-mail the Board:
Theboard@themichiganapple.com



Colophon

Editor: Noel D. Jackson (noel@noeljackson.com)
Assistant Editor: Art Payne (artpayne@mac.com)

The AppleGram is published monthly, except for a combined July/August summer issue, by The Michigan Apple for its members. It is composed on a PowerMac G4 Dual Processor 1.25Ghz Tower using Adobe InDesign 2.0 and an HP Laserjet 1200 Printer. Adobe Myriad Pro is used as the primary typeface. Printing is done by Zip etc.inc. 28635 Southfield Road, Lathrup Village, MI 48076.

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If you are interested in writing for The AppleGram please contact the editor for details. The opinions and views herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of The AppleGram or the Michigan Apple User Group. Damages caused by the use or abuse of information appearing in the AppleGram are the sole responsibility of the user of the information.

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Full Page \$40.00

Half Page \$25.00

Quarter Page \$15.00

Business Card \$10.00

Michigan Apple members may place personal classified ads at no cost when there is room available in the newsletter. Personal ads will be run at the discretion of the editor.

PRINTED BY:



28635 Southfield Road (248) 559-2230
Lathrup Village, MI 48076 Fax: (248) 559-8510



Michigan Apple User Group Membership Application

Clip or Photocopy application and bring to next General Meeting or mail this form with your payment to

MAUG, PO Box 1555, Troy, MI 48099-1555

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number (____) _____ Birthdate: Month/Day _____

eMail Address _____

Computers Owned _____ Renewing Member's ID # _____

*New Member referred by member _____

The above information is confidential and will not be released publicly.

Membership dues: \$35.00 ____ (12 months includes subscription to The AppleGram)

Corporate Membership: \$60.00 ____ (12 months and 2 AppleGram subscriptions)

CASH ____ CHECK # _____ No. of Years ____ Amt. Enclosed \$ _____ Canadian Membership add \$10.00 ____ (US Funds)



Michigan Apple Calendar of Events

June Meeting Topics

Your Own Website: Join us as member Art Payne goes into the basics of getting and/or building your own website "on the cheap" (maybe less than \$20 per year). Geared toward beginners, it will give ver basic information on what you need to get your own place on the world wide web.

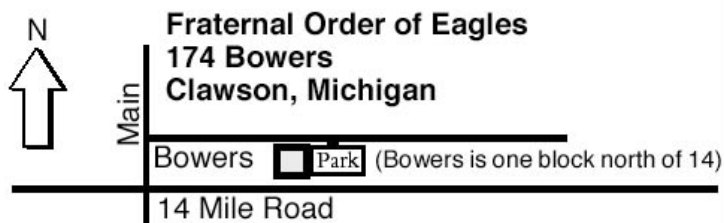
Shareware Highlights: Member Tony Moore shows off a great utility called Copy Paste from www.scriptsoftware.com. Join us next month for reviews of some of their other software like iClock, Project Timer, and iKey (a OS X automation scripting program).



The Michigan Apple
PO Box 1555
Troy, MI 48099-1555

Time & Location

- General Meeting is Thursday, June 12th 7:30PM, at the Eagles Lodge, Clawson, MI
- Board Meeting is on Thursday, June 26th 7:30PM, at the Eagles Lodge, Clawson, MI



For more information on Meeting Location, Times, Directions, and changes, please visit our website: www.themichiganapple.com



First Class Mail