

Macaholics UNANIMOUS

The Official Newsletter of the Upper Keys Macintosh Users Group

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My Top 10 Notes About Top X Notes

by Sue Beal

In November we welcomed James Lee, President of Tropical Software, who came all the way down from Neptune Beach (near Jacksonville) to meet with us. Jim is known as the #1 Mac user group presenter in the country. I looked at the less than impressive group we had assembled (we were up against two other community events that night), and wondered what was in it for him—even if everyone in the room bought a copy of Top X Notes, it would not cover his gas! Jim said two things motivate him: getting feedback and ideas, and getting exposure for the product.

That's a hint, folks! Talk up the package, and when you start using it, email Jim with your feedback and ideas. See the sidebar for a special User Group discount.

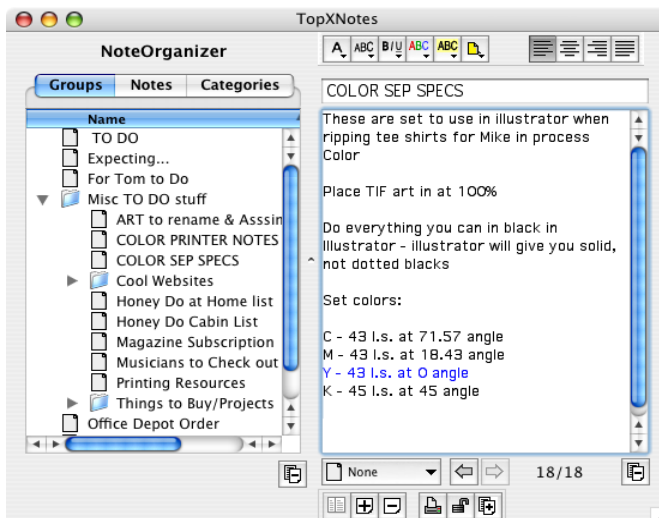
Top X Surprises

Jim announced that Top X Notes will be available in select Apple stores after Thanksgiving! We got to preview the new package and make comments on it. The Apple version will be a new release, more info below.

He also surprised us by presenting Top X Notes against the Leopard operating system, a first look for everyone who attended. Needless to say, that was cool!

Top X Notes - what is it?

Very simple in concept, the package is a notes organizer. It is a place to keep track of all sorts of things that you currently have stashed in different places all over your computer, including the stuff on post-it notes in your desk drawer! Jim explained a lot about how to do things with the package but to me, the important thing is that this is something you will use every day. Several times a day! I purchased it two years ago when Jim came to



speak, and I couldn't live without it!

Here are the types of things I use it for:

- Magazine subscriptions - I keep a list of when I last renewed and for how long.
- Things I am expecting - when you shop eBay, sometimes the things you order don't show up, this helps.
- My Honey-Do list - I have several, including one for Tom Mulhall!
- Printing resources - professional references I have not checked out yet.
- My Office Depot shopping list
- Several different To-Do lists

And I got a few new ideas from Jim's presentation... here's what he said...

Basic Notes

You can customize the look of your notes, and add emphasis where needed, using all the Apple fonts, and an array of colors - color for the text and/or color behind it, and even "emphasis color" which is like using a highlighter. You can use bold, italic, condensed, expanded and shadowed type, and you can align the text right, left or center.

All of the Top X Notes data is stored in one data file, which can be encrypted, and you can set up regular, automatic backups, so your data is safe and secure.

Annual Non-Deniminational Holiday Party Scheduled Dec. 13

Be there! Bring something to eat and share, even if you didn't make it yourself... we have a great assortment of gift giveaways for you this year, thanks to Macintosh Systems Solutions, and I'm working on a fun format for the meeting - and of course, we'll have CDs of fun little movies, our new tradition!

Come at 7 p.m.
on Dec. 13th,
ready to party!



Notes Organizer

The notes organizer is an overview of your notes, allowing you to group them (sort of like folders in the Finder's list view.) You can drag and drop them to reorganize your thoughts. You can categorize them, and assign colors and icons to help you better recognize the ones you use more often.

There are tabs in the Organizer, so you can access them by Groups, Notes, or Category.

Multiview

You can click a button and create a Multiview window. You see the organizer on the left and one or more notes to the right of it. When you click in the body of a note, all the controls in the window jump under/over that note and apply to it; it is the active one.

continued on page two



"I am not disorganized! I know *exactly* where everything is!
The newer stuff is on the top and the older stuff is on the bottom."

**JAN. 10th MEETING: LEOPARD TIPS
& TRICKS WITH TOM MULHALL!!**

At this point, Jim used the example of shopping on the web. This is the use I will be adding to my personal repertoire, it will be so much better than what I have been doing.

Jim had two lists, which he showed side by side in Multiview. One had websites with the username and password for each, and the other had credit card numbers and other info. He could pick the website, go to it (live linked URLs!), copy and paste the password, then when checking out, also copy and paste in the credit card number! I have never stored my credit card numbers on my computer because I was too paranoid about security. But since they would be safely encrypted and password protected, I can do this and save so much time! Great tip, Jim!

Quicknotes

You can hide the Top X Notes screen by minimizing to the dock, like you do with everything. Or you can use a the Quicknotes window. With the Quicknotes feature you can shrink the window down to a tiny icon that is always on top of whatever you are doing, usually in a corner (you choose where). It gives you a menu of your favorite notes, jumps you into the program easily.

Quicknotes is a category - when you assign that category, the note shows up in the icon's list.

New Features, New Versions

The newest release of Top X Notes is 1.3.0. The new features include:

- Drag & Drop Notes: can drag them out of Top X Notes to the desktop and they will show up there as an RTF (Rich Text Format) .
- Export Notes: Save it where you want it, in RTF or Simple Text format.
- Export a Group: They export in Top X Notes format, which is handy for exchanging notes with friends who also have the package.
- Drag & Drop Between Notes:

The Apple Store release is 1.3.1, and it includes all of the above features plus 10 sample notepads to get users started.

Security

Originally, the package came with one encryption password. The password was used as a key to scramble the data (which, without encryption, was stored as a simple, insecure RTF file).

Now you have a choice of protecting all of your data with one password, or only

SPECIAL DISCOUNT FOR UKMUG!

James Lee of Tropical software wrote:

I am pleased to be able to extend the discount I offered at the meeting to any of your members. I know some members were unable to attend, and some wanted to download and try the application before making a purchase decision. It is my pleasure to extend the offer to the end of the year. Anyone who wants to take advantage of the discount (\$5 off) can go to the website and order in the usual way from our store:

<https://secure.tropic4.com/WebStore/index.php?>


They should use the code "MacGroup" and that will cause the discount to be applied on checkout. This discount applies to the download or a CD can also be ordered. (Prices range from \$30-\$40 before the discount.)

Please forward this to your members and please encourage any to forward to their Mac pals!

protecting the notes you consider sensitive. You can set a different password for every note if you wish, but this is not recommended, because if you forget the password... well, you know!


Top X Notes for iPod

For an additional \$5 you can get the iPod version of the package, which includes the ability to download select notes into your video iPod. For those of us who don't have a GPS in the car, you could have directions stored in the iPod for navigating... How cool is that??

Thanks, Jim, for an informative evening and a great product! 

Powerbook Seismograph!

Submitted by Karl Swartz

The later PowerBooks and MacBooks have something called the Sudden Motion Sensor, which is a tiny three-axis accelerometer. The software at the link below is a seismograph that runs on your portable! <http://www.versiontracker.com/dyn/moreinfo/macosx/30302> 

What's Coming?

submitted by Shelley Miklas

New products are coming at the January MacWorld conference... Shelley alerted us to a sneak peek article, at:

www.appleinsider.com (Nov 16th) 

Top X Features

This package has a lot of nice things built in... here is a list of the Top Ten:

1. Backup file settings - save as many copies as you want, pulled at an interval you set.
2. Not only can it recognize URLs when you type or paste them in, but it can set them up as friendly links. What this means is, instead of "<https://secure.tropic4.com/WebStore/index.php?>" you can have the blue underlines link say "[Jim's Website](#)" and click on that, hiding the messy URL.
3. Global Find and Replace editing capability with case matching.
4. Free updates on the website.
5. Help is built in, there is no printed manual to store.
6. Quicknotes' tiny pop-up window is optional, you can turn it off in preferences.
7. Widen the Organizer window and you see more info about your notes - date created/modified, for example. You can sort by these, which can sometimes help you spot things when you can't remember what you named them (yes, it happens to all of us, not just you!).
8. Predefined and customizable notes templates get you started easily.
9. Functions can be accessed through the menus or by using toolbar buttons.
10. You can print your notes easily if the need arises.

More Support

Submitted by Karen Beal

Apple support by FIX YA:

www.fixya.com/support/apple

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is the official newsletter of the

Upper Keys Macintosh Users Group

A nonprofit organization devoted to the use (and sometimes abuse) of the Macintosh computer. Subscriptions are \$25.00 for one year. Contents © 1994 - 2007 by the Upper Keys Macintosh Users Group except where noted. All other rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part by any means without express written permission prohibited.

Sue Beal, Editor

Diane Marshall
Distribution/Mailing List

Update Instructions : OS 10.5 Leopard

We highly recommend the following procedure for updating your Mac to OSX 10.5 Leopard. The software updater has been tested extensively prior to release and the vast majority of users will encounter no problems when upgrading their system. However, whenever you make changes to your operating system the potential exists for damage to your files. This is the procedure we use. You should too.

Before you buy Leopard: Check the system requirements to ensure Leopard will run on your computer:

you need an Intel, PowerPC G5, or PowerPC G4 (867MHz or faster) processor, 512MB of memory, DVD drive for installation, 9GB of available disk space. You cannot return your Leopard installer if the package has been opened. Verify you meet the system requirements before opening the package.

Full specifications can be found at www.apple.com/macosx/techspecs/

1. Prior to upgrading, you should check all your applications (except for Apple applications, of course) for compatibility with Leopard. If necessary, update any of your software as appropriate. (Go to the manufacturer's web site to check for compatibility).
2. It is recommended that you perform a full backup of your important data prior to any update of your system software; this is especially true when doing any major update such as with Leopard.
3. Before starting the upgrade, you should always check your current hard drive

for damage. The easiest method is to restart from your original installation/recovery disk that came with your computer. Rather than running the installer, go to the menu bar and select Disk Utility; then select the startup volume and click the First Aid tab; and then run "Repair Disk".


4. Prior to running the upgrade, remove ALL external devices from your computer — printers, scanners, hard drives — everything except your keyboard and mouse.
5. At this time (Oct. 26th), there are NO third party disk utilities that are noted to be compatible with Leopard. Using existing tools (including the TechTool disk that comes with AppleCare) may damage your hard drive contents. Do not run any third-party disk utilities until the application developers issue notice that their applications have been updated or are safe to use with Leopard. Apple's Disk Utility provided in Leopard will run fine and is safe to use.
6. In most case, running the "Upgrade"

option in the installer will work just fine. If you have added third party software that modifies your operating system, remove it prior to running any OS upgrade. If you want a safer upgrade, use the "Archive and Install" option, which will perform a 'clean' install of the operating system while preserving your custom applications and User settings — be sure to check the "Preserve Users and Network Settings" option when doing this.

7. Please note: **OS9 Classic is not supported in Leopard;** if you rely on applications that run in Classic mode, you will no longer be able to access those files once you have upgraded to Leopard. You will have to restart into OS 9 in order to use these applications.

For more information, stop by the store or call us at 293-1888.

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
Hayes joins Apple Team

by Tom Mulhall



Sean Hayes has joined the team at Macintosh Systems Solutions. Sean will be based at the new retail store located in Key West.

"His extensive knowledge of the both the Mac and of OSX, coupled with his "Keys" easy going manner, bring a great asset to our team", says Tom Mulhall, owner.

Sean will join Joe Kukella, manager, in providing the very best Apple experience for all the visitors to our store. Please welcome Sean to your own "Apple Store in the Keys". 

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ADDRESS CHANGE?: Please notify Diane Marshall at (305) 852-8722, fax 852-1940, or email dianemarshall@bellsouth.net.

SEE YELLOW? If your address label is highlighted yellow, your dues are due! Send \$25.00 to UKMUG, 219 Second St., Key Largo, FL 33037

Upcoming Meeting:

December 13 • Thursday, 7:00 PM
Key Largo Library Comm. Room

Holiday Party!

*Plenty of fun and holiday treats with
your Mac friends! Come and help us
celebrate the season...*

FREE OS X CLASSES

The Apple Store at the Falls has free OS X classes every Saturday from 9-10 am! Call for more info:

Apple Store at The Falls

305-234-4565
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<http://www.apple.com/retail/thefalls>



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something to give away or sell!*

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Powerbook Available - David Cohn has a 3-4 year old Powerbook he is willing to sell. Contact him for the details! dadoctuh@aol.com.

Powerbook For Sale - G4 with 256MB/40GB. MS Office and iTunes, OS10.2.8, @006 Battery replacement and wireless card; comes with charger and case. \$900. O.B.O. Call Adrian Clark 407-463-2839 ssetgurl@hotmail.com. (Unit is in KL).

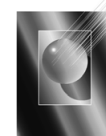
UMAX Astra 6700 Scanner, like new, comes with SilverFast SE software package & all cords. \$25 OBO. Contact Sue Beal 451-4601, sale benefits UKMUG.

**UKMUG MEETINGS ON THE
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at 7PM, KL Library Comm. Room**

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