

The Hartford User Group Exchange, Inc.

Founded in 1981

presents



The Pulp

June 2004 – Volume 22, Number 6



[HTTP://WWW.HUGE.ORG](http://www.huge.org)



Happy Father's Day

June 20th



GENERAL CHIT-CHAT STARTS AT 6:00 P.M.

General Meeting Juan Collas

WebObjects Developer

"A look behind the magic online at Disney.com"

He has done large scale enterprise web sites using **Apple's WebObjects** for AT&T, Apple, Fidelity, Disney, and Aetna.

7:00 P.M.

HUGE this month!

Coming General Meetings
July – General Discussion
August – General Discussions

- June 8 OS X Beginners SIG** – Topic: The Finder Wethersfield Public Library.....7 p.m.
- June 13 Deadline for ALL Articles.** Please upload articles to editors@huge.org or give them to the Pulp Editor.....**Midnight**
- June 15 Board Meeting** —Denny's Restaurant Wethersfield, CT7 p.m.
- June 21 Chit Chat Meeting** — WYSIWYG 6 P.M.
- June 21 General Meeting** — See above 7 P.M.
- July 12 OS X Beginners SIG** – Topic: The Finder Wethersfield Public Library.....7 p.m.
- July 19 General Meeting** — Planning for the summer picnic 7 P.M.

<i>Contents</i>	<i>Page</i>
Meetings.....	1
President's Message.....	2
User Group Store.....	2
Stu's Quiz.....	3
May Answers.....	3
The InfoManager.....	3
TidBITS.....	5
APCUG Specials.....	6
HUGE Infomation Page.....	7
Calendar.....	8

The **PULP** is published monthly by and for members of the Hartford User Group Exchange, Inc. (**HUGE**). **HUGE** is a nonprofit organization whose aim is to provide an exchange of information between users of personal computers.

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We reserve the right to edit or reject any articles submitted for publication in the **PULP**.

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MEETING LOCATIONS

**East Hartford Public Library
Main & Central Avenue
in the Lion's Community Room
Downstairs**

**Wethersfield Public Library
500 Silas Deane Hwy., Wethersfield, CT**

The President's Message

George Carbonell

June is here and I am ready for a vacation. This year was a very busy one. Unfortunately, the number of people volunteering has not been as many as the Group needs. My vacation time is finally here, and my wife and I plan to enjoy the week together.

I thank the members who arrived at 6 P.M. for the May Chit-Chat SIG. The conversation was about Wi-Fi, using browsers, the pros-and-cons of the using Internet Explorer, Safari and Netscape.

The General Meeting continued with conversations on browsers, Wi-Fi, and antennas that would direct and increase the signal strength. There were questions about getting older computers to operate wireless instead of installing an Ethernet card. Several members are thinking of a setting up a LAN (local area access) in their home, connecting to the Internet, sharing printers and()files.

In June the General Meeting will focus on conversations with a Macintosh Developer who has and is working with Disney and Apple—the pros-and-cons, and the experience gained as a consultant.

- The annual Tag Sale? Does the membership wish to swap their wares at a meeting, or rather do it via the Pulp?
- A HUGE picnic. Hmm, something different to think about, for the month of August or September. Where, when, what time, and what kind of food? Your input is needed. No input, no picnic. Send your thoughts to picnic@huge.org Comments must be in by July 15, 2004, and if enough members

are interested, an announcement by email will be forthcoming. Volunteers will be needed to assist in the event. Interested? Let the Group know.

September will bring nominations of officers. The Group does need new blood guiding it. Many have done this for quite a few years. Please give it some thought.

Reduction of dues! Would you like to see a reduction of dues? Sure, with all the increases that we are seeing, gas, property taxes, (income taxes went down) the cost of living, I am suggesting reducing the dues to \$12.00 per year. Why? Savings seen—an electronic Pulp and the elimination of the BBS have reduced our operating costs. The Group still has the Web site at \$84.00 per year and the Post Office box at about \$136 per year. **HUGE** has great tools for doing excellent meetings. Members have extensive knowledge to share, and that is what a user group is all about, sharing! The essential includes computers that do both Mac and Windows operating

The Apple MUG Store

The Apple MUG Store is giving away printers, MP3 players, extra RAM and more to MUG members with the purchase of select new Apple computers. To take advantage of these deals, or browse the selection of refurbished Macs and blowout specials, go to: <http://www.applemugstore.com>

User ID: iPod

Password: mini

You can also order by calling one of the PowerMax consultants at 800-689-8191.

Don't forget to tell them the name of your User Group (**HUGE**). When you purchase and are a confirmed Apple User Group member, your particular group will receive special awards points which can be redeemed for merchandise and Apple logo materials.



A Little Computer Quiz

Stuart Rabinowitz

*The trivia and minutiae of the computer related world.
The answers will appear next month, or you can submit an
answer sheet at the General Meeting. Good Luck!*

1. The MITS Altair was one of the earliest personal computers, what CPU chip was it based on?
2. What were these chips originally/primarily used for prior to becoming the start of the computer revolution?
3. Shifting focus a little, Have you ever wondered about Spirit and Opportunity (the Mars Rovers)? What CPU (and how much memory) is at core of those little robotic explorers?
4. What operating system is used to control them?
5. What is the current release version (as of May 1, 2004) in use by the rovers?

May Answers ,

1. In April, 1983 a personal computer was released that did not use BASIC as a programming language. What programming language did it use
A. It used Forth
2. What was the name of the personal computer?
A. It was the Jupiter Ace. It used a Z80A processor with 3 KB of RAM (expandable to 51 KB). The company went out of business 6 months later.
3. As you view your personal computer today you notice a separate keyboard, a box containing the CPU, memory, and disk drive. What was the first system sold as a system that had those parts?
A The Micral microcomputer was the first commercially available system most people today would recognize as a complete personal computer.
4. In what year was it sold?
A. 1973
5. What was the name of the computer?
A. The Micral microcomputer was the first commercially available system most people today would recognize as a complete personal computer. Based on the then new Intel 8008 chip, an 8-bit CPU running at the astonishing speed of 200 kiloHerz, or

roughly 1/5000th the speed of a 1 gigaHerz Pentium III, the Micral featured a separate console holding the CPU and memory, while users could add a keyboard, monitor, hard drive and 8-inch floppy disk drive (invented by IBM two years earlier). For \$1,750, it came with 256 bytes of RAM, expandable to 1 kilobyte.

6. What was the name of its creator?
A. Andre Trong Thi Truong, a French inventor. Truong was unable to find financial backers, never really found an audience for his computer, and by 1979 had sold his company.
Released in April 1983 at the price of £89.95, the Jupiter Ace was a rather unique machine. Rather than the usual BASIC programming language used by their competitors, Jupiter Cantab equipped their machine with Forth.

THE INFO MANAGER...

A weekly column from the mouse of Lynn Wegley.

<http://www.User-Groups.net/info/>

Comcast to phase out TechTV. Leo Laporte, the host of TechTV's "The Screen Savers" program has written in his blog that 285 people in the TechTV San Francisco offices have been let go in preparation to move all the administration to Los Angeles. That will leave only a production facility in San Francisco and the station itself will be merged with Comcast's G4 TV. That will create a computer/tech/gamer network. It appears that ScreenSavers at least will survive, but many other TechTV shows will go by the way side. Read the blog with links to news stories at: <http://leo.typepad.com>

Intel to drop Pentium 4. According to The Register, Intel is going to replace the Pentium 4 and Xeon chips by canceling the Tejas and Jayhawk processor programs. Both were supposed to be next generations of the earlier mentioned chips. It isn't clear where they are going from here, but the Pentium M chip seems to be on the horizon. Wonder if the G5 made them reconsider their process? Full story at: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2004/05/07/intel_cancels_tejas/print.html

IBM to clone MS software. IBM has decided that not everyone needs the power of a Pentium 4 on their work desk. They just need to be able to work with Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint files. So they are going to start selling software that will do just that, but work on legacy machines and thin clients. While I would like to see someone step up to the plate against Microsoft, I don't know that IBM would be any better. Full story at: <http://www.techworld.com/opsys/news/index.cfm?newsid=1532>,

InfoManager *continued*

Simple AppleScript called OSX Trojan. According to numerous news sources: on Wednesday morning, a Mac user downloaded a file masquerading as a “public beta” of Word for Office 2004 via peer-to-peer network. While the user thought he was downloading a demo or beta, what he got was nothing more than a 108K AppleScript which, upon launching, deleted his home directory.

As expected, the story spread like wildfire and by Friday we had an ongoing parade of “warnings” arriving in our mail box. The company Intego even picked up on it and issued an ‘official’ security warning, actually naming it the AS.MW2004.Trojan. Of course, the article also carried a big ad for the company’s anti-virus software — the same company who issued a worm alert in April on a similar “proof of concept” file.

The moral of this story is: don’t download software to circumvent legal channels, and above all, don’t install them blindly. Set up a testing account under OS X which does not have admin permissions and contains no data. Use ‘fast-user-switching’ and test the software. If it’s malware it cannot hurt anything other than that account’s data. Your main data will be protected.

Joe Wilcox, senior analyst for Jupiter Research, commented in a MacCentral article that “This so-called Trojan horse demonstrates the dangers of file trading and downloading files from untrusted sources.” Both Microsoft and Apple made comments to that effect later in the week.

These kinds of pranks serve only to test the stupidity of the users, feed the media and provide new products for profiteers. Unfortunately a real threat will appear eventually so it’s important to keep your guard up and remain vigilant in practicing safe computing.

Dan East of MaMUGs passed along this advice: “MaMUGs continues to recommend installing some kind of reliable security software such as Intego’s VirusBarrier, the .Mac version of Virex or other, to protect your Mac.” Dan cited the Firewall Guide (<http://www.firewallguide.com/macintosh.htm>) and the Wall Street Journal’s “Consumer Search” (http://wsj.consumersearch.com/computers/antivirus_software/reviews.html) as two sources of information and access to security products.

If you want to chase the story, Slashdot now carries an ever growing discussion thread at: <http://apple.slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=04/04/08/1922237&tid=172> and the initial news story can be found at MacCentral <http://maccentral.macworld.com/news/2004/05/12/intego/?pf=1>

Apple gets iTunes interface patent. This ought to slow up the clone makers, although, they appear to be moving pretty slow already. However there is a Linux program that looks very similar to iTunes. Read about the patent at: http://zdnet.com.com/2102-1103_2-5210733.html?tag=printthis

Attachment through Corp Firewalls. I know that our IT department has setup to stop .exe and .zipfiles from coming into the company LAN. If it is just documents that need to come in, then it is best to send them as PDF files as even.doc and .xls files are stopped because of the possibility of them being infected with a macro virus. The issues with PDF files can be their size. Try an application called PDF Shrink on your Mac and see if it doesn’t reduce the PDF files that Mac OS X produces by as much as 90%.

Microsoft is to kill its Wi-Fi (802.11x) Products.

Microsoft doesn’t like to be in any business it can’t dominate. So it isn’t surprising that with its sliding market share it would drop the networking hardware. See: <http://www.computerworld.com/printthis/2004/0,4814,93055,00.html> and <http://news.>

Should taxpayers cover RIAA legal fees? The RIAA who already has gotten major help from Congress on their fight for protection against Internet file sharers now is trying to get Congress to foot the bill. I guess there isn’t a lot of money in suing 12 year olds. There is a letter writing campaign at the EFF to make sure that they have to pay their own way. Sign up at: <http://action.eff.org/action/index.asp?step=2&item=2898>

Carry 250,000 MP3s? Sure! MIT’s Technology Review magazine has reported on a new data storage technology called “holographic” media being tested now. This new storage keeps file data in 3D space as opposed to traditional flat storage.

InPhase, a Colorado based company promises their CD-sized media disc storage system will store 200 gigabytes, hopefully by late next year. They’re confident the capacities will eventually hit a full terabyte and write data four-times as fast as those old fashioned DVDs you’ve been using. So, let’s see... that’s a million novels, quarter-million MP3s and several hundred feature-length movies on a single disc. Of course you won’t live long enough to enjoy them all.

Vaccine for your phone? MIT Tech Review also warns of the emerging threats to the cell and wireless industry. They report the big companies are already anticipating and preparing for Trojans and virus which will attach themselves to your cell phone for anything from porno pranks to dialing 900 numbers in the middle of the night.

InfoManager *continued*

Many times we've cited some pretty awesome items from the pages of Technology Review. Each issue is packed with simply amazing stuff — like a Microsoft ball-point pen that writes traditionally while inputting the same text into your computer; or a new high-efficiency solar cell the size of a CD which eliminates the need for a battery in your laptop. It's simply the best \$28 magazine value you can get. Go to: <http://www.technologyReview.com>

iPod Music on computer speakers. Adam Engst tells about how he didn't want to use the iPod ear buds as they hurt his ears, and he wanted to play back the music from the iPod through his PowerBook G4. He found an answer in Chris Breen's book, "Secrets of the iPod." It is a utility called PodMaster 1000. Get PodMaster at: <http://homepage.mac.com/podmaster/> Read Adam's TidBITS newsletter at: <http://www.tidbits.com>

Cinematte for Macintosh Photoshop. Cinematte is an advanced plug-in for PhotoShop that can automatically create masks and clipping paths using blue/green screen technology. If you shoot a lot of commercial digital photography, and need high-tech masking, this could be a breakthrough <http://www.user-groups.net/articles/cinematte.html>

PowerBook Manuals Updated. Mac FixIt has completed the FixIt Guide Series — a set of Free-As-In-Beer step by step PowerBook disassembly instructions. Maybe waiting another 6-18 months for those PowerBook G5's will be easier if you fix your old PowerBook now (or just use the Guides as a starting point for that killer PowerBook case mod).

See the whole FixIt Guide Series at <http://www.pbfixit.com/Guide/>

WorldVillage.com. Our friends at the Tourbus, had a guest editor this week. He is the "mayor" of WorldVillage.com. The site has been going since 1995, which is a long time. IT is a site dedicated to family friendly web surfing. Read about World Village at: <http://www.worldvillage.com/> Read more details and subscribe at <http://www.TourBus.com>

TidBITS

<http://www.tidbits.com>

Apple Offers One-on-One Email Support for .Mac Services — On 03-May-04 Apple started offering direct email support for .Mac service questions, a switch from providing support only via discussion forum responses. Previously, if you experienced any problems with .Mac email, using iSync with .Mac, or other issues, your only method of receiving an answer or advice was to post your question on Apple's .Mac discussion board. Now, Apple offers direct support

for .Mac email, iDisk, HomePage, Backup, and Virex, as well as using various applications like iPhoto or iSync with .Mac. Apple also offers a link for account questions. <http://www.apple.com/support/dotmac/>

The top of each section lists FAQs and links to demonstration movies of using the service. Scroll to the bottom, and you'll find a form that promises a response as soon as within 24 hours. Direct email support finally fulfills one of our ongoing complaints about .Mac: for \$100 a year, Apple should meet the standards of an inexpensive ISP. [GF]

****HistoryHound Fetches the Past**** — Talk about a delayed reaction! I've been moaning for years about how useless most Web browsers are at helping you return to places you've been in the past. Back in 1996, there was a MacUser utility called Web Ninja that captured the URL of every page you visited, making it easy to find and revisit those pages. And until this January, when the Omni Group showed off the pre-release OmniWeb 5, nothing even approached Web Ninja's power. With OmniWeb 5, the Omni Group raised the bar, indexing not only the URL of each page you visit, but also the full text. I've been beta testing OmniWeb 5, and although I don't search my history every day, that feature has proved invaluable on more than one occasion. <http://db.tidbits.com/getbits.acgi?tbart=00892>
<http://db.tidbits.com/getbits.acgi?tbart=07511>
<http://www.omnigroup.com/applications/omniweb/5/>

But what about other browsers, like Safari and Internet Explorer? Jon Gotow of St. Clair Software has come to the rescue with HistoryHound, a \$20 utility that reads the existing history and bookmarks from Safari and Internet Explorer, visits those sites on the Web, indexes their contents, and lets you search the index. To search, you press a keyboard shortcut (no matter what application you're in), type your search terms, and pick a page from a ranked results list; it opens immediately in your default browser. It's a brilliant, elegant interface, and although I haven't used it long on the Macs where I still rely on Safari, I think it will become one of those indispensable tools (and it has a great icon done by Tony Bush of Cartoon Dogs). If you've ever found yourself unable to find that site you visited a few weeks or months ago, ask HistoryHound to find it for you. A 30-day free demo of HistoryHound 1.0.2 is available as a 1.6 MB download and requires Mac OS X 10.3 or later. [ACE]
<http://www.stclairsoft.com/HistoryHound/>
<http://www.cartoon-dogs.com/>

A Real Mac OS X Trojan Horse Appears

by Adam C. Engst <ace@tidbits.com>

A few weeks after the hullabaloo surrounding Intego's press release about a technique that could be used to create a Trojan horse that looked like an MP3 file (see "Mac OS X Trojan Technique: Beware Geeks Bearing Gifts" in TidBITS-726_), a real Mac OS X Trojan horse has been reported to Macworld UK. The Trojan horse, which purports to be a Web installer for Microsoft Word 2004, does not use the technique previously revealed, but it's decidedly malicious. If you are foolish enough to run it, it deletes your entire Home folder. <<http://db.tidbits.com/getbits.acgi?tbart=07636>>

In the somewhat confused article, Macworld UK says that the reader who reported it to them downloaded it "from LimeWire." (LimeWire is actually client software for the Gnutella file sharing network.) This reader, proving that common sense isn't as common as would be ideal, somehow thought that the file must have been a public beta of the next version of Microsoft Word, so he downloaded it, noticed that the icon "looked genuine and trustworthy" and double-clicked it, only to discover that it had instead deleted his Home folder.

Our searches of the Gnutella network using Acquisition (a truly elegant Macintosh program, particularly in contrast to the brutish LimeWire, which we also used to search), came up empty. Since the IP numbers of those sharing files on the Gnutella network are readily available, it's highly likely that whoever initially seeded the Gnutella network removed the Trojan horse to avoid further detection, and since detection is easy, it's relatively unlikely that even bozos would knowingly share such a malicious program. <<http://www.acquisitionx.com/>>

Macworld UK initially chose not to reveal the technique used, but Intego, showing a continued extreme lack of judgment, promptly issued a press release linking to further information that explained almost exactly how to create a similar Trojan horse. Macworld UK then republished Intego's information, and many other sites jumped on it as well. As best I can tell, the argument for publishing the technique is that if people know how it's done, they can better identify and avoid such Trojan horses in the future. That's specious at best, since a Trojan horse merely must deceive a user long enough for that person to double-click; knowing what language it's written in is irrelevant. All that publicizing the technique does is increase the number of people (large though it may have already been in this case) who have the capability to create such a Trojan horse. The cynical are already wondering if Intego's publicity of the previous Trojan technique may have played a role in the creation of this one. If Trojan horse

reports continue to roll in, the fault will lie with Intego and everyone else who published the instructions.

Suffice to say that the technique is extremely simple; this Trojan horse merely preys on gullibility and cupidity to sucker people into launching (arguably, it's a bit of digital Darwinism at work). It's worth noting that this Trojan also doesn't exploit any weaknesses in Mac OS X; it's just a deceptively named program that deletes files, and there's no foolproof way to prevent deceptively named malicious software on any platform. No anti-virus software is necessary to detect this Trojan, and it does not replicate itself. As long as you don't download applications from untrustworthy sources, you have nothing to worry about, particularly if you maintain regular backups.

APCUG Specials

Thanks to Sherry Zorzi for this freebie from Microsoft. She found it on one of the Cajun Clickers' discussion lists. Microsoft is running a special at <http://msdn.microsoft.com/vstudio> for Visual Basic .NET. Click on Visual Basic at the Movies. All you do is view and rate five short vb.net programming movies (5-6 minutes each). Then sign up to receive your redemption code e-mail entitling you to a complimentary Not-for-Resale copy of Visual Basic .NET 2003 Standard Edition. In true studio fashion, MS is releasing two categories each week, so check back often to catch the latest releases. Grab your popcorn and soda, sit back and enjoy! The fine print ... this offer is valid in the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, all U.S. military bases that contain valid APO/FPO addresses, and Canada. Please allow 4-6 weeks for shipment. Offer good only while supplies last, or until September 30th 2004.

PC Annoyances for under \$8.00!!

This one is from Steve Bass, PC World columnist, retired president of the Pasadena IBM User Group and author. Amazon.com has his book, PC Annoyances, for the amazing low price of \$7.98. Here's your chance to buy it for dirt cheap - actually, for less than wholesale. Take advantage of this great price for a gift—or for yourself. In fact, if you want to impress a friend, say you know Steve (well, you do, sort of...) and he'll send you a free signed, self-adhering bookplate label that goes into the book. He'll even add a personal note to you or your buddy. Send Steve an e-mail at stevebass@earthlink.net and let him know how many bookplates you need!

PULP Staff

Editor: Maris Bowers
Graphics: George Carbonell

Membership: Anyone may become a member. Dues are \$24 per year and include a one-year subscription to The Pulp as well as access to the HUGE Public Domain disk libraries and BBS. Meeting topics, times and places can be found on page 1 of this issue.

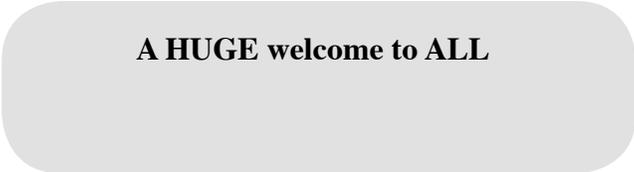
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Total number of HUGE member families is 65!



A HUGE welcome to ALL

Do you know someone interested in joining YOUR group?

Please make copies of this page and give them to your friends, co-workers and others who share your enthusiasm for computers.

NOTE: Every new member you get, you earn a bonus \$\$\$ towards your renewal.

HUGE on the Web at <http://www.huge.org>

Please complete this application form. Bring it with you to the General Meeting, or mail with U.S. \$24.00 to:

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COMPUTER MAKE _____ MODEL _____ MODEM MAKE/SPEED _____

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May we release your name and address to vendors we support? YES _____ No _____



June 2004



General Meeting

<i>Guest Speaker Juan Collas</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Pulp ¹³ Deadline	OS X ¹⁴ SIG	Board ¹⁵ Meeting	16	17	18	19
Happy ²⁰ Father's Day	General ²¹ Meeting	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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