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WWDC 2002 Excerpt

By Larry Peng

The keynote began with a coffin rising from the stage. Steve Jobs walked up to the coffin, opened it and pulled out a large version of the Mac OS 9 Retail box. Steve then proceeded to read a eulogy to Mac OS 9.

Mac OS 9... 1998-2002... Rest in Peace

From a development standpoint, Mac OS 9 is officially dead within Apple. Steve asked that developers adopt the same stance. Microsoft was mentioned as one 3rd party vendor which has ceased OS 9 development. Microsoft announced several weeks ago that all further new Macintosh development would be for OS X only.

Steve said there are 1 million active OS X users today, and that number is expected to increase to 5 million by the end of the calendar year. At this time last year, there were about 600 native apps for OS X. Today, there are more than 3000. Steve thanked developers for their committment over the last year.

Steve then went on to introduce the primary topic of WWDC 2002: the next major update to OS X which is codenamed Jaguar. No version number was given. Jaguar is scheduled for a late summer 2002 release. There is likely to be one more dot release for the current 10.1.x builds of OS X.

One of the focus points of Jaguar was not only to improve things for current Mac users, but to make improvements attractive to users who are coming to the Mac for the first time (e.g. Windows users and other "Unix" users).

Features which will appeal to the Unix folks are:

- synching up the FreeBSD layer to FreeBSD 4.4 (versus mostly FreeBSD 3.2 today)
- GCC 3.1 compiler versus GCC 2.95.x today.
- support of IPv6 and IPSec
- support CUPS (Common Unix Printing System)
- LDAP 3 (server and client) via Apple's Open Directory architecture
- built-in Kerberos

For Windows users:

- SMB browsing and sharing
- built in VPN (PPTP) security
- Active Directory client (login)
- improved support for Exchange servers.

For the education market:

- workgroup management
- simple Finder (analogous to that implemented in OS 9)
- Network Install and NetBoot of OS X

- return of Universal Access functionality
- return of Printer sharing functionality

Avie Tevanian mentioned a few things that developers should do to make great OS X apps:

1. ditch CFM and go native Mach-O. CFM (Code Fragment Manager) is for compatibility with OS 9 apps, but to get full advantage and availability of all OS X API's available CFM is not the way to go.
2. stop using legacy API's
 - let go of QuickDraw and go to CoreGraphics
 - let go of OpenTransport, and go to sockets
 - embrace new technologies
 - use the filesystem carefully since OS X is a multi-user system, versus the single user model of OS 9.
 - use the Performance Tools that Apple provides to tune your apps.

Steve Jobs then returned to the stage to highlight 10 new features of Jaguar.

1. **Improved Finder**
2. **Sherlock III**
3. **QuickTime 6**
4. **Universal Access**
5. **Quartz Extreme**
6. **Inkwell**
7. **Rendevous**
8. **Mail**
9. **Address Book**
10. **Metal**

OS X Jaguar Server

Steve then mentioned some things about the server version of Jaguar.

- provides for headless operation
- Network installation and NetBoot of OS X clients
- Built-in LDAP 3
- Java VM optimized for server apps.
- disk, print, and mail quotas implemented.
- additional programming/scripting languages such as Python and Ruby.

In concert with the server announcement, Steve told developers to stay tuned for announcements on May 14th, 2002 in which Apple would introduce a rack-mount server. Details to wait until May 14th.

Finally, much to the delight of the audience, Apple provided developer preview builds of both Jaguar client and servers, and the Jaguar developer tools. It was emphasized that these were preview quality right now, so there are known problems and some Jaguar items which have not been fully implemented yet. Steve reiterated that they were considered confidential.

For the full-length detailed report of the WWDC 2002 by Guild member Larry Peng, go to <http://www.excaliburworld.com/mac/wwdc/wwdc02.html>.

Contributed by Judd Spitzer

The Digital Photo Edge: A Mac Perspective

If you are like me, you have watched other people get digital cameras, and hop on board the exciting world of **filmless** photography. You may have thought to yourself, I'll wait until the quality gets better, or the price comes down. Yet more and more people are getting these cameras, and working with digital imagery, and you are forced to wipe the saliva from your lower lip.

First off, if you are on the fence about purchasing a digital camera I hope that I can push you right off the edge of it and convince you that now is the time. Prices are down, and the technology is there. Recently I bought a Samsung 210SE (2.1 megapixel) for \$179. I saw a 2.0 MP Olympus for \$166. From my personal experience, I think that the person who uses their camera for vacation shots and family outings, these are perfect cameras. They offer quality at a good price. But would these

Apple released a program within the last 6 months called iPhoto. It seemed that there was some hoopla surrounding this particular piece of software. I even saw a Quicktime interview with famed black and white photographer Annie Leibowitz who thought this was a real gem for photographers. Would iPhoto spark the world like iTunes had? This was what every Mac wanted to know.

When iPhoto came out, I did not have a digital camera. Of course I had some scanned images and pictures. I thought I would download the program and see what it was all about. Apple provides this software free to all owners of OS X v 10.1 or later. It was easily installed, and soon I began to explore the features.

My first impression was that this is a smooth program that seemed to have lots of features. Yet I wasn't really sure what big advantages this program had over other shareware and freeware programs. Of course I wasn't using the program with a digital camera.

Now that I have my digital camera, I revisited iPhoto.

When you have a digital camera, you soon find out that you are able to take snapshots of anything, anytime, anyplace and not have to worry about developing costs and the need to continuously purchase more film. Click away, upload your pictures to your computer (using iPhoto I hope), and erase the pictures off the camera or card, and take more pictures. The basic process of digital photography allows you to take photos without having any additional investment beyond the purchase of a camera and decent size memory card.

Memory Cards

First thing I did when I got my camera was attempt to use the software that came with the camera. Sure I could attach the camera to my iBook with a USB cable. Then I would have to use the OS 9 download software to bring it in, then if I wanted to view the pictures, I would have to use Quicktime or a variety of software to view and manipulate the photos. Truly unacceptable. I found out that my camera wasn't even compatible with iPhoto. I was up against a brick wall.

The solution was simple, get a memory card reader. My digital camera uses Compact Flash. Other cameras use a variety of other memory cards, but this format is readily available, and comes in sizes up to 512 Megs. iPhoto see the card reader as a source for downloading photos, and I found the import feature of iPhoto to work flawlessly. One of the best features is that it assigns Roll and Image numbers to all the pictures that it imports as well as time/date coding the entire import. One other advantage of the card reader is that you don't have to use up the batteries in your camera as well as being able to interchange memory cards as necessary.

Image Organization and Manipulation

Digital cameras give you the opportunity to take pictures in many different formats and sizes. You can take pictures in jpeg format, tiff, and many even offer other formats including the ability to create small AVIs or video files. On my particular camera the best JPEG photo is a 1600x1200 image. Once you import the image you can manipulate it further.

iPhoto allows you to create photo albums to store and organize specific pictures. Once there you can crop your images, adjust contrast and brightness, reduce red-eye, rotate or even convert the image to black and white. All of these processes are easy to understand and editing is a snap.

Sharing

This is really where the rubber meets the road with iPhoto. No single program comes close to Apple's iPhoto when it comes to creating a finished product for the end-user. Sure, you may find individual products that do one or two of the features, but nothing like this exists anywhere else.

I came back from a cruise to the Eastern Caribbean this last May, and within 15 minutes of walking in the door, I had my pictures available for public viewing.

- iPhoto allows you to email your pictures (and you get to choose the size of the image files).
- Create a webpage to display your pictures integrated with your iTools account, or if you prefer, you can have it create a webpage for placement elsewhere.
- Create a Quicktime Slideshow, with music.
- Set up your desktop background to a selected image.
- Design a screensaver.
- Select images for Photo processing
- Design and print a Collectable Book. - Really Cool Feature!

Photo Processing

After looking through my 80 pictures, I choose 31 of the best images to be printed. Of course the option exists to print them out on your inkjet printer, but even using high quality glossy photo paper, it still isn't a photo process.

Apple and Kodak offer a photo processing of your digital prints. This means that your images are converted to a negative image and shot onto photo paper where your image is developed. All this is done without film. This process produces images that are sharp, brilliant and use the full spectrum of colors that your camera has captured. I would suspect that most people will have a difficult time being able to tell what photos were taken with a film camera, and those taken from a digital camera.

The cost of a 4x6 print is about 50 cents piece. Compared to reprints of APS which are about 50 cents, it is a reasonable cost. They offer sizes from wallet, 4x6, 5x7, 8x10, 16x20, to 20x30 sizes. Even more importantly, you only print the pictures you want as opposed to general photo processing, where you pay for the cost of the film, the cost to develop it, then all the prints. Then if you want reprints, you pay. In the end digital photography brings the price of your overall picture package down.

If you're like myself, you only care about a few of the many pictures you take. The remainder of the photos are sitting in a box or drawer somewhere never to be seen again. With digital photography, you can simply burn the images to a CD and have your archives for years to come.

Picture taking recommendations

Here's some tips that are useful with any digital camera.

1. Use at least 1200x1600 size resolution/high pixel density on all your shots.

This will ensure that you will get the best picture quality if you want hard copies. After all, once you get them on your computer, you can reduce the size.

2. Purchase a memory card of at least 128 Megs.

A typical image on a 2.0 MP camera is 1Meg if high-quality is used. 128 images is about the equivalent of 5 rolls of film.

3. Don't use your LCD screen except to review your images.

There is a tendency to use these cameras like mini-camcorders. The standard viewfinders on most cameras work well. Using the LCD screen quickly drains your batteries. So save the screen viewing time for reviewing your images rather than taking them.

4. (NIMH) Metal-Hydride Rechargeable Batteries.

Since you will be using a lot of batteries, why not get some basic rechargeable. Both Rayovac and Energizer have some good deals. They cost a little more up front, but will save you big \$\$\$ later on.

5. Experience Lithium.

If you need a long lasting batteries, Energizer makes AA and AAA Lithium batteries. They are great when you are using your flash excessively, and you don't want to have to carry a second set of batteries around.

6. Don't be afraid to take the picture.

The best part of your digital camera is you can keep shooting until you get it right.

iPhoto Pros

- Designed with the photographer in mind.
- Excellent supporting services, ie, iTools, and 1-Click photo ordering.
- Easy to use for both the novice and advanced user.
- Price

iPhoto Cons

- OS X only program
- Limited special effect features.

Recommendations for an iPhoto 2.0 or 1.X

As stated before, iPhoto is an excellent image handling tool, but since I can dream of some features I would like to see, here they are.

- Create double exposures.
- Create reverse/mirror images.
- Combine photos
- Airbrush
- Negative creator
- Use multiple music tracks in the slideshow
- Export slide show to an iMovie compatible format.
- More offline products such as cards
- Burn Photo CD

That's just a few features that will ensure iPhoto to continue to be the reigning king of digital photography.

Summary

Apple really shines in the digital photo world. They make it easy to go from Point and Shoot to quality print in hand. This is reason alone to own a Mac! So put down that MP3 player and get out there and start shooting, our digital world awaits.

iPhoto gets the maximum 5 Mice rating.

For those who refuse to go to OS X, there is another option: **oFoto** by Kodak. Kodak is the company that provides processing services for Apple, and has some software that is OS 8.6-9.X compatible. For the best Mac experience, however, I highly recommend iPhoto (even if it's the only reason to boot up in OS X).

See my photos at: <http://homepage.mac.com/sailorj>

Apple iPhoto: <http://www.apple.com/iphoto>

Kodak oFoto: <http://www.ofoto.com/>

Contributed by Judd Spitzer

The following is a summarized excerpt from an article written by Judd Spitzer for the Mac Guild. To see the article in its entirety, go to <http://www.excaliburworld.com/mac/journalism.html>.

Journal-ism

In case you haven't got the memo, Journals are the hottest app to hit the desktop in well, a long time. So hot that Apple has chosen to recently feature MacJournal as an award winning piece of Journal software.

First let me start off by defining Journal. A journal is nothing more than a place to put your coherent and incoherent thoughts as they come to you through out your day. With all that being said, you may ask, how can anyone beat just using something simple like Microsoft Word for example. Well, that's easy, most of the Journal programs are either Freeware or very inexpensive shareware. They make use of Mac OS X's interfaces, such as built-in text editing, (quite similar to TextEdit), and give a good polished look. Yet at the same time gaining an audience that continues to help the evolution of updates along.

Types of Journals

There are two types of Journal programs: on-line and off-line. Online journals allow the user to post their journal to a website where it can be stored and other people can interact with it, leaving you messages about your postings. The offline journal is designed more for the individual who is keeping mental notes that he or she would like to keep private, and not open to the world.

The Clients

The most efficient way to update and maintain your journal is the use of a client. Just as you would use a client for email, journals work the same way. Currently there are a few different journal clients for the Mac, and in this article I will be reviewing Mac OS X based Journals only, but Classic apps work the same way. The first three are Online journals, and the last one is an Offline journal.

iJournal

<http://www.os10.org/>

Phoenix

<http://homepage.mac.com/thorshammer/>

YaxJournal

<http://www.aegidian.org/yaxjournal/>

MacJournal

<http://homepage.mac.com/dschimpf/>

Summary

Journal software is coming, and you can now replace that clunky old notepad desk accessory with software that is designed to help you collect your thoughts. Whether you choose to belong to a community and share your journals with the world, or just store your recipes to create that great old american pie, this software will do it well. Above all, this software may just inspire you to write, and that, in itself, is a great exercise of the mind.

The full Mac Journal-ism article can be viewed at <http://www.excaliburworld.com/mac/journalism.html>.

ADOBE PHOTOSHOP 7

Reviewed By KC MacGregor

In a world gone digital thanks to the Web and ever more affordable digital cameras, a vast demand has arisen to produce, store, distribute and playback bitmap images. In response to this revolution Photoshop has been undergoing its own transformation, into something quite a bit more complex than just a computer-based image editor. You can see this ongoing evolution in Version 7's two major advancements, a greatly increased capacity to paint with a spectacular array of Brush tools, and visual file management with the new File Browser. I've always found Photoshop to be a very useful tool for creating and manipulating images, but with Version 7 Photoshop has made itself downright indispensable.

On the production side, Photoshop 7 offers a vastly improved customizable Brushes palette, Workspace Option to save favorite tool-palette layouts, Healing Brush, and even a built-in Spell-checker. File management is mightily aided by the new built-in File Browser, with easy-to-view thumbnails that open right into Photoshop. The only pebble in Photoshop's shoe is the visual interface which could use a little fine tuning.

Dynamic Brushes

In the good old days many commercial illustrators used an airbrush to manipulate photos into photo-realistic images for reproduction. Airbrush was also used to touch-up unfortunate skin blemishes on portraits and repair the tears and cracks of old photos. Many 'photographs' in print media were actually photographs of airbrushed renderings visually indistinguishable from images processed straight from film. The airbrush was thus the historical model for Photoshop's rendering functions and to some extent still is that model. But Photoshop 7 has taken its rendering and repair toolbox to a whole new level with specialized healing tools and an array of brushes that perform far beyond the simple airbrush of previous versions.

The new Photoshop 7 Healing Brush works with almost spooky ease on anything unsightly or damaged. The Healing Brush acts like the clone stamp but without its tendency to clump. This is because the Healing Brush clones the lighting, shading and texture of the source point and seamlessly applies them to the area to be corrected.

In practice a certain amount of finesse is required when using this tool, and it pays to do small sections at a time. But the results are remarkably good and very efficient compared to how long it would have taken to get the same results in previous versions of Photoshop.

The Healing Brush is represented in the toolbox by the icon of a Band-Aid. The Photoshop icons are a part of the interface that wants a little attention. When the mouse rolls over the icons they blush color, fussy and rather distracting. It's pretty but it doesn't make the icons any easier to read as graphic images. No matter how many times I 'reached' for the Healing Brush's rosy Band-Aid icon, I hesitated as I visually processed 'sliced hotdog' every time. When you have software that runs as smoothly and powerfully as Photoshop, every little interface irritant unduly disrupts the creative train of thought.

The Patch tool resides in the same context-sensitive 'flyout' tool menu as the Healing Brush, and allows you to lasso a problem-free area of a photo and drag it over a similar portion in need of correction. Results are seen in a matter of minutes versus the hours it took in the past to fix large problem areas, as I proved to myself in the photo below. The unsightly telegraph pole and wires were removed in no time flat.

Photoshop 7 has added a cornucopia of Brushes to its menu and with the array of parameters under the Brush options menu you can change brush size, color, angle, distribution, flow, pattern and more. You can add textures of all sorts, even the look of traditional media like pastels or oils, to achieve just about any

style you can imagine. The real deal here is speed. You could have simulated these effects in earlier versions of Photoshop but it would have taken much, much longer.

Because it is so easy to experiment it's also easy to lose one's way. Photoshop 7 allows you to customize and save your working arrangements with Tool Presets and Workspace options. A favored tool option can be saved by choosing the New Tool Preset button at the bottom of the Tool Presets palette and saving the tool parameters under a new name. Choosing Workspace from the menu bar allows you to save the configuration of palettes used on a particular job. Once the arrangement is named you can return to it in the future without that breadcrumbs-in-the-forest feeling complex jobs can induce. You can easily go back from one Workspace to another, alternating between Project A's Brushes and Project A's Crop Dimensions, for example. When they're no longer needed hit Workspace>Delete Workspace.

The upside is that the sky's the limit on what you can produce with the new brushes and improved paint engine. There is no downside except during the process of trial and error when it's maddeningly easy to lose track of which settings are worth saving to a Workspace or Tool Preset. A temporary holding area, call it a summary view of experiments or scratchpad, would make an invaluable addition to the Workspace option.

Photoshop 7 gives a thumbnail representation of brush shapes which can be resized, essential in order to see the fine differences in brush pattern. If these icons could be dragged and dropped into a holding area they would be much more manageable. Similarly with creating new brushes from the custom shapes menu. One wishes for an interface that would allow dragging and dropping from the custom shapes palette into a custom brush palette, which could be saved or updated according to need.

The new Photoshop 7 Brushes are a terrific enhancement to the toolbox. Montage and collage were always easy to produce in Photoshop with its Layers function. Now with a greater range of Brushes combined with the Healing brush you can easily get a more sophisticated look when compositing images. Even if you're not a professional designer, the brushes used along with layers can easily create photo montages and collages in a much more visually effective portfolio than the traditional high-school-yearbook style layout. For the professional these tools are bound to increase creativity and productivity exponentially.

AutoColor Command

This new control resides on the options menu with AutoLevels and AutoContrast and automatically optimizes a photo's color adjustments. However, it only works in RGB mode. Experiments with AutoLevel and AutoContrast have always proven to be remarkably close to what I produced manually, but to my eyes AutoColor comes out a little too cool and a little too harsh. Color is a pretty subjective matter, in any case, so I'd recommend some trial and error, comparing AutoColor results with what your own eye chooses and see if it's a close enough match to rely on with regularity.

The Browser

The new visual File Browser makes surveying a collection of images hassle-free. There's something about seeing one's images in thumbnail format that is very helpful in the evaluation process. Lack of tonal range becomes more obvious when you look at a reduced picture. If it doesn't read well small it probably won't read well when compressed for the Web. Being able to quickly access a palette of thumbnails in Photoshop is a very helpful addition for those of us who use it as our digital darkroom.

The File Browser is arranged in four panes. One window displays a folder as thumbnails which can be resized small, medium, or large. It's a bit like looking at slides on a light table and just as easy to move about. Individually or in groups, thumbnails can be dragged and dropped into the trash. Images can also be dragged and dropped into the Browser's folder directory which is displayed in a separate window alongside the thumbnails. This makes rearranging folders a snap. A Preview window shows a bigger thumbnail of a selected image.

The Browser's fourth window shows Metadata, the EXIF (Exchangeable Image File) data embedded in digital camera images, file size, creation date, date modified, and so on. The total combination of visual and textual information about one's images makes it easy to separate digital goats from sheep. To further aid creating a hierarchy of images there's a place to enter rank, and an automatic Batch Rename. I did notice that scrolling through large batches in the Browser is a tedious process as the refresh rate becomes overburdened, so organizing files into more folders may be needed for best performance. Also, it would be useful to have a search option within the Browser and to be able to view more than one folder

at a time for comparison purposes. A word to the wise: the metadata remains when the file is saved as a jpeg but is wiped out when it is saved as a PSD or Tiff.

For improved printing capability you can use the Automate > Picture Package to print out more than one picture at a time, with different sizes. This is especially likely to be useful when you are proofing and want to see if printed images read well together.

Liquify Tool and Pattern Maker

Found under Filters, the Liquify Tool has been made more useful with the addition of the turbulence brush, which combines the bloat, pucker, and swirl tools. All these brushes are best used with restraint but provide helpful shortcuts to anyone doing photo illustration. The Pattern Maker is new and allows you to select a picture or part of a picture and generate a pattern automatically. You don't control the resulting image so the results are therefore random and not likely to induce much excitement.

ImageReady

Photoshop recognizes the importance of image preparation for the Web, so much so that it includes a secondary application, ImageReady. You can go back forth between the two applications with ease and save images as transparent gifs in a, ahem, jiffy. The inclusion of ImageReady has not always been received with the appreciation it deserves. Anything that allows you to prepare for the Web while in Photoshop without having to open a completely different application is a real plus in my book. Photoshop 7 makes it easier than ever to ensure that images will survive the transition to html. You can also more efficiently create roll-overs. Unfortunately you can't open the File Browser from ImageReady, which is where you're most likely to want to review images for possible Web page consideration.

Review System

- iMac DV
- MacOS 9.1
- 128 MB RAM

Adobe lists Photoshop 7 as compatible with both Apple Mac OS 9 and OS X as well as Microsoft Windows 98, NT, 2000, ME, and XP. Adobe recommends 192 MB of RAM running on a G3, G4, or dual G4 with Mac OS 9.1, 9.2, or Mac OS X version 10.1.3 and 320 MB of hard disk space. It ran just fine for me on my 500 MHz G3 with 128 MB of RAM under Mac OS 9.1 (I needed to upgrade from Mac OS 9.0.4 first), and the install itself took up only 236 MB of disk space (Photoshop 7.0 itself was 54 MB, and ImageReady 7.0 was 48 MB).

Summary

With all the different functions it seeks to perform, the pebble in Photoshop's shoe is still the interface, but it's a very small pebble indeed. Photoshop's Version 7 will be a delight to all digital photographers as well as professional graphic designers, photo editors, and illustrators, making it easier than ever to create and manage one's digital portfolio for print and online. Already a classic, it has evolved into the must-have software of the digital age. A resounding yes to this upgrade!

Pros:

- New Brushes palette
- Workspace Options and Tool Preset for more efficient production
- File Browser enhances file management
- Runs native on Mac OS X
- Inclusion of ImageReady application

Cons:

- Minor graphical interface issues
- Some icons don't read very well
- Simple drag-n-drop from shapes to brushes would be nice

Overall Rating:

5 out of 5 Mice

Reviewed by Peter MacGregor

Since Eudora's initial conception by programmer Steve Dorner, it has been the e-mail application with the odd name and solid reputation, overshadowed by the market dominance/popularity of the more aggressive Microsoft Outlook and Outlook Express. Eudora deserves a second look as the application that tries harder and seeks to please by presenting the user with a unique variety of capabilities.

Flexibility has always been the hallmark of Eudora's presentation, available as the less capable but free version, Eudora Lite, or the fully-charged version, Eudora Pro. Now Eudora reaffirms its "can-do" identity with a third choice. This Eudora configuration addresses the cost-versus-capability issue with a classic solution: advertising. Eudora now includes a fully-featured free version that displays advertisements within the application. Of course you can still pay for the fully-featured ad-free version or settle for the feature-shy "Light" version.

Eudora's owner for the past decade, Qualcomm, refers to these configuration choices as "operating modes":

- **Paid** mode provides the full-featured Eudora desktop email client.
- **Sponsored** mode provides the full-featured Eudora desktop email client at no charge, supported by sponsors' advertising.
- **Light** mode is an upgrade to the freeware version formerly known as Eudora Light, and includes fewer features than the other modes as well as a sponsor image or logo, but no advertising.

All of these modes are contained within a single download file, which is nifty. In fact, one way of looking at the "Sponsored" mode is as a fully functional demo that never expires. This marketing approach is essentially the same route that's being taken by some other enlightened development teams, like the Opera browser team, but the jury remains out on just how well it will work. The question is whether the ads will irritate you enough to pay for having them removed by moving up to the "Paid" mode, and whether you mind being "profiled" by these same advertisers in the "Sponsored" mode if you don't.

The current version of the fully-featured Eudora 5.1.1 ("Pro") boasts a number of new capabilities as well as significant improvements to features that appeared in the 5.0 version. The first of these is the addition of Secure Sockets Layer, a transport security protocol. SSL can be used to authenticate the server and to encrypt mail transfers so your mail cannot be read while it's being sent to or received from your mail server (assuming that it supports SSL).

Introduced in Eudora 5.0, Qualcomm has substantially improved the usefulness of MoodWatch, a feature for monitoring potentially offensive content and purposefully delaying the transmission of such messages in the hopes that one might "think twice" before committing to send. Calling it an "emotional monitor", Qualcomm provides a concise overview of MoodWatch on their web site, including a link to a white paper by David Kaufer of Carnegie Mellon University, who has studied and categorized the use of offensive, aggressive, insulting, etc., words and phrases. Messages classified as "OK" or "cool" by MoodWatch are represented with an ice cube, while suspect missives are characterized with one to three chili peppers, according to whether they are deemed hot, hotter, or hottest.

Proponents of MoodWatch call it friendly, intelligent, and fun, while critics call it a form of intrusive nag and free-speech-robbing "censorware". The good news for critics is that you can turn it off if you don't like it. Improvements to MoodWatch include an extensive set of settings shown below, and the "flagging" of suspect word(s) and/or phrase(s) in boldface red within the message.

Perhaps anticipating future criticism, Kaufer himself states in *Flaming: A White Paper* (June 2000) that "People should have their language watched only because they want it watched and feel they can benefit from the scrutiny." MoodWatch is purely optional and need never be used.

Qualcomm themselves point out that MoodWatch is not a "replacement for common sense" and, in fact, can be fooled. Naturally, this was a difficult feature to test since I didn't want to send myself (or someone else for that matter) any really nasty messages. Here are some examples of MoodWatch in action:

When the title of a published book, "How to **** in the Woods", is inserted into an outgoing email, it gets lit up and in this case ranks the email a full 3 "chilis" alert (you'll have to use your imagination, as this review is also being censored). Oddly, messages that got rated three chilis when outbound got only two when inbound, suggesting that it's not always better to give than to receive (at least when it comes to nasty-grams).

Eudora's Address Book has been enhanced with vCards (i.e. electronic business cards) and goodies like photos, resulting in some major fun. For example, if you correspond with someone on a frequent basis, you can add their likeness (or pretty much whatever digital graphic you like) to your address book and then drag that person's nickname to the toolbar, where their likeness will now appear as a new button. When you click on that person's button, a new message window pops open with the "To:" field already filled in with their email address.

Photos and graphics having different formats, including JPEG, TIFF, PICT, BMP, GIF, and even Photoshop native (flattened) files all seemed to import with ease. One caution though; the imported graphic may look as if it has been cropped in the address book's Photos window (except for PICT format), but fear not ñ the entire graphic will reappear when you drag that nickname onto the Toolbar.

Other major improvements include the ability to synchronize Eudora's address book with a Palm OS device, to export address book data in Comma Separated Values (CSV) format, and to view and edit signatures from within the messages you are composing.

While not new to Eudora 5.1, a unique and powerful workgroup feature called ESP (for Eudora Sharing Protocol) is worth mentioning. ESP allows file sharing within a group via a so-called common folder. In fact, this common folder is really a set of email-synched folders, stored locally on each group member's machine. The downside is that you never know who might be working on a particular file at any one time, but the upside is that it's an approach to workgroup collaboration and file distribution that is solely dependent on email (and hence inherently cross-platform). Among other things, this means that there is no need to purchase, set-up, administer, and maintain a separate shared server. Having used more sophisticated workgroup apps, I can vouch for the fact that much of their proffered high-end capability is simply overkill and unused in practice.

Also in the category of not-new-but-nice features is Eudora's ability to let you record, send, and listen to voice messages using Qualcomm's PureVoice and SmartRate technologies. Naturally, this capability is of particular interest to vision-impaired users (on the web at <http://www.topica.com/lists/blindeudora/>).

Strictly speaking PureVoice is a separate "plug-in" app, but it is easily invoked from within a new message window and sports a nicely intuitive interface. Most importantly, the voice quality is nothing less than amazing considering the file sizes involved, and playback can be sped up or slowed down on the fly to improve intelligibility.

In terms of look and feel, those of you who remember older versions of Eudora mayfondly recall the rooster with an envelope in its beak and the snake, but in fact Eudora's inventor says he received lots of angry e-mail for his animal selections. In any event, they've been replaced by three pigs and a rabbit.

As would be expected, default mailbox window and column layout is sensible but also highly customizable should you favor something different. A variety of status flags and options exist, but an alternative setting for larger symbology (along the lines of Opera's enlarged "User" versus "Document" mode) would be nice.

Last but not least, Eudora tracks your email statistics and can display them in text and graphics for messages sent, messages received, and general usage in hours as well as the percentage of time you've spent reading versus composing versus other (e.g. housekeeping). These statistics can be displayed and printed on a daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly basis (including projections).

Eudora is not completely free of quirks. For instance, if you create a new signature with an apparent "misspelling" in it - a surname would be a common example - it will seem as if Eudora is applying and saving the font, size and style characteristics you have specified (but not the color for some reason). But saved or not, Eudora will throw away all of those characteristics once you add that surname to the spelling dictionary and so you end up with a plain text version of that signature! In this case the

workaround is simple. If you take care of those supposedly misspelled words first by adding them to the dictionary then everything works fine.

Despite occasional quirks, there is strong support from Qualcomm, including Quick Start Guides and a 354-page User Manual for the Macintosh version of Eudora 5.1. There is also lots of unofficial but loyal support for Eudora on the internet as well. Andrew Starr's [Unofficial Eudora Site](#) is a good example.

Requirements

- iBook
- PowerPC G3 500 MHz
- MacOS 9.1
- 192MB

Summary

Email has become ubiquitous. Most of us deal with at least a trickle of e-mail on a daily basis, and then there are those who have to struggle just to keep their heads above water against a strong current of daily messages. And after a long weekend hiatus or a vacation, that stream can turn into flood which takes us days to sort through and regain dry land! Let's face it, dealing with email has become part of everyone's daily grind. Anything that makes this work more interesting and efficient and less of a chore is what computers are supposed to be all about.

In the past, you had to decide to pony up for the full-featured Pro version or settle for the less-capable freeware version. That dilemma is solved now that Qualcomm is offering a full-featured free version with some simple ads. There is no longer any reason not to take a dip with this Sponsored mode, and you've got nothing to lose by upgrading to the Paid mode except the ads.

Eudora set the standards for reliability and ease-of-use over a decade ago. Eudora 5.1 continues to set the standards by which other email clients will be measured. It's a solid performer, and more fun than ever!

Pros:

- Reliable and Fast (compared to Webmail accounts)
- Good at integrating multiple, separate e-mail accounts
- Fun Features: PureVoice, MoodWatch
- Enhanced Address Book
- Available for MacOS X

Cons:

- Cannot just import address books
- Some quirks

Overall Rating

4 1/2 out of 5 Mice

Reviewed by Carol Catambay

Description

The Microsoft TrackBall Explorer sets a new standard in trackballs by combining an IntelliEye optical sensor and an advanced ball design. The IntelliEye optical sensor tracks the movement of the ball 1,500 times per second to give you unbelievably smooth, precise control. This Trackball also comes with a five-year warranty.

Requirements

15 MB of available hard disk space; CD-ROM Drive; Mac OS 8.5.1 or later (excluding OS X or later); USB port

Review System

- PowerMac 7500 with USB add-on card
- Mac OS 9.1
- 128 MB RAM

In Use

The Trackball Explorer is easier to use than the standard mouse, especially for someone who is troubled with Carpal Tunnel. It takes a while to get used to, but then it is great. Now I would never go back to a standard mouse. It is so easy to roll the cursor to wherever you need it on the monitor. The scroll wheel is easy to use and is a great short-cut. There is less room for errors with the thumb click button. The overall design of the Trackball is more ergonomically suited to the hand and more comfortable to use. The only down-side was that at first I kept accidentally clicking the right-click button, but after using it for awhile, that problem went away. The Trackball Explorer preferences can be adjusted using Microsoft's Intellimouse software, which is super easy to use. I found that the default settings worked just fine for me.

Summary

In the world of mouse users, there seems to be a those who are standard mouse users, and those who are trackball users. I cannot speak for the die-hard mouse users, but for those mouse users who have wondered if they might do better with a trackball, or those already using a trackball, I highly recommend trying the Microsoft Trackball Explorer. Once you try it, you may never go back to using a standard mouse again. For those with Carpal Tunnel problems, this trackball is a must have.

Pros:

- Optical sensor reads through dirt, dust, and fingerprints
- Scroll wheel is a great add-on feature
- Shape and design is ergonomically excellent
- Five year warranty

Cons:

- May not be for die-hard mouse users
- Side buttons take some getting used to

Overall Rating

5 out of 5 Mice

The Mac Guild Newsletter

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