

Your questions answered

Stumped by Safari's idiosyncrasies? Clean bowled by networking woes? Mac expert Rob Buckley shows you how to pad up to the trickiest Mac posers



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Flipping over Safari

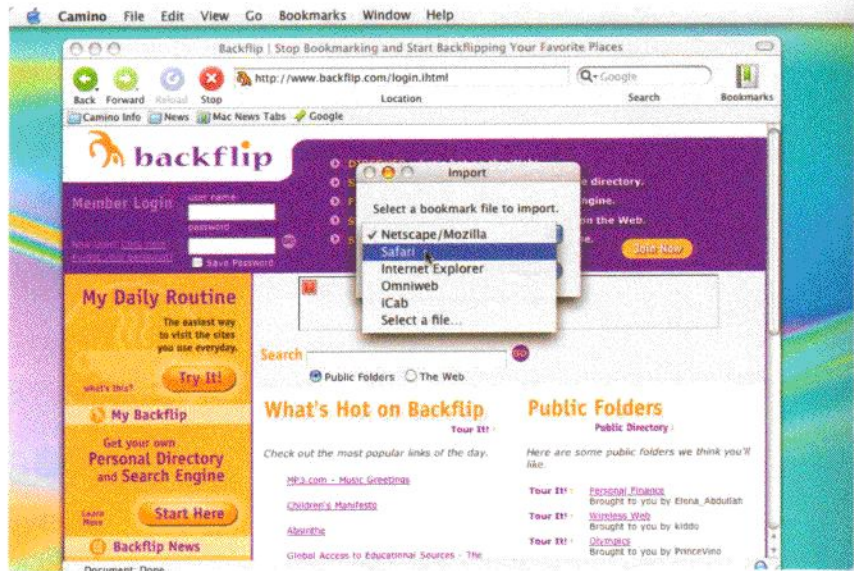
I want to store my numerous bookmarks from Safari online, and have chosen Backflip.com. The problem is that they can't accept bookmarks from this browser, so I need to transfer them to either Internet Explorer or Netscape first. I have followed instructions for the former on their help pages and there is now a link under Favourites entitled 'Bookmarks.plist', with a picture of a sheet of paper beside it. But this does not open or do anything when clicked. Any ideas?

David Barker
Email

A Well, first we'd say the best way of getting your Safari bookmarks online is using Apple's own .Mac service and iSync. Just go into iSync, click the '.Mac' icon and once you've registered your computer with .Mac, you'll be able to synchronise them automatically with both .Mac and any other Macs you register with the service - change a bookmark on any, and they'll change on all your computers automatically. You can even access them from other computers, including PCs, and in any browser by visiting <http://bookmarks.macos.com>.

You've chosen Backflip.com for your .Mac alternative, which is very courageous of you. Getting Safari bookmarks into IE and Netscape should be easy. Using Tinker Tool to enable the Debug menu should provide an Export Bookmarks option right there under Import Bookmarks. But if it's not there, it's not there.

The best way to get your bookmarks into Backflip.com is to use the Mozilla-based browser Camino to import your Safari bookmarks. Download it from www.mozilla.org/projects/camino/homepage.html. Camino can import bookmarks from all sorts of browsers, including Safari, and export them into the Netscape bookmark file format. While the mass-upload feature of Backflip.com doesn't work with Camino, you can still use it or Safari to upload the bookmarks once you've exported them. Both 'Import Bookmarks' and 'Export Bookmarks' are in the 'File' menu of Camino.



Open source Web browser Camino provides a conduit for exporting bookmarks from Safari into other formats

Two for the price of one

X I am running OS X 10.3 on a PowerBook G4. My wife has a Windows machine (poor thing) running XP Home Edition. My problem is that I need to download approximately 85Mb of updates for my Mac, but my wife set up the broadband for her

Windows machine using AOL, which does not support Macs, and as you can't have two broadband connections on the one line, I'm stuck. Would it be possible to download the updates to the PC, burn them to a disc and then install on the Mac?

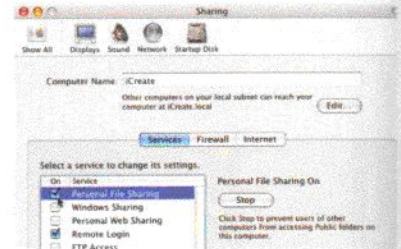
Alan Coey
Email

Wireless sharing

X I have a PowerBook and an external hard drive for all of my music, photos and homemade DVDs. I would like to be able to access the external hard drive on a wireless connection.

Jacqueline Bickel
Email

A OS X has had built-in file sharing from the very beginning but can be quite limited. Fortunately, there's a piece of freeware called SharePoints (www.hornware.com/sharepoints) that lets you share any folder, including ones on an external drive.



Begin sharing

1 Go into 'System Preferences' and pick the 'Sharing' pane. Click on the 'Personal File Sharing' checkbox (and the Windows one if you want) to start sharing your files.

Print it your way



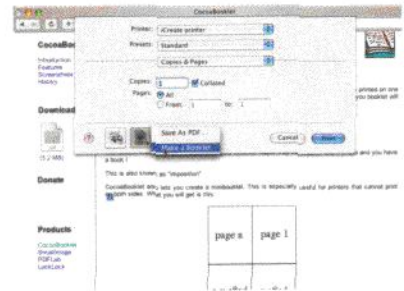
My husband regularly writes and produces a music fanzine, which is written in a standard document using Word. He then has to copy it into Publisher 98 where he reformats it into A5 size and then prints it onto single-sided A4 paper in such a way that it can be taken to a high street printshop and printed double-sided and made up into A5 booklets. The problem is getting it printed into the right format (ie first page printed alongside the last page, second page alongside the second to the last page, etc). Do you know if this can be sorted out while he's working in Word? Alternatively, is there a suitable print program out there that would do the job without our having to resort to high-priced desktop publishing software? Hope you can help with this.

Jan Aldersay
Email

One of the great things about OS X is the ability to convert any document into a PDF: if you can print it, you can PDF it. From there, you can use all sorts of tools to manipulate your document, rather than having to stick with the program in which you created the document.

While you could probably have hours of fun fiddling around in Word to get booklet pagination in your document, it's a lot easier to download something called CocoaBooklet (www.iconus.ch/fabien/cocoabooklet/), a piece of free software from a Swiss family called Iconus. It can take any PDF generated by OS X and convert it to a booklet and has plenty of options to make sure it's exactly the way you want it.

But what's also good is that the program installs a 'PDF Service', which is a facility available to anyone using OS X 10.2.4 or higher. The first time you run CocoaBooklet, it will ask if you want to install the service.



You can convert any document to a PDF file using OS X 10.3's Print dialogs

If you do, the next time you try to print something you'll notice that the 'Save as PDF' button at the bottom of the Print dialog has been replaced with an icon of a PDF. Click on it and a pop-up menu will appear giving you the option to 'Make a Booklet' as well as 'Save as PDF'. If you select it, OS X will pass the PDF you create straight over to CocoaBooklet without you having to do anything.

regular HTML file doesn't). It would be nice if Safari did this too, but fortunately, it looks like Safari 2.0 will have this feature when it comes out with Tiger (OS X 10.4) later this year.

Access rights

I refer to an article in *iCreate* 12: where do I find the option in Disk Utility for turning on the facility to append sessions to a DVD? I would really like to burn a number of short DVDs onto one disc, but have as yet not edited them all.

June
Email

Unfortunately, you can't. That's not because of a problem with your Mac or your DVD writer, but it's a problem with the DVD format itself. You can record CDs in a variety of formats, including CDFS (CD file system) and ISO9660: some of these support multiple sessions or multiple volumes, while others don't. DVDs use something called UDF (universal data/disk format) as their file system and that doesn't support multiple sessions.

If you're set on backing up all of your DVD projects onto DVDs, you'll have to use a regular DVD-R in one go; or if you have a re-writable recorder, onto a DVD+RW/-RW/-RAM. But in terms of price versus gigabytes, it's cheaper to buy an external hard drive

and use that: they're a lot quicker too and almost infinitely re-writable.

Modem panic stations



Wonderful mag! I've been banging on to my girlfriend for ages about Macs being superior to PCs. We got an eMac and she agreed until we started to get a kernel panic almost every time we roused it from sleep and when we try to connect to the Internet through our SpeedTouch USB broadband modem. How can I rid us of this problem and restore her faith in Apple?

Steven Rayner
Email

By pointing out to her that it's not Apple's fault! Unfortunately, you have a viper in your nest and it's called the SpeedTouch USB modem. It looks like a manta ray, but is actually made of pure evil. Maybe that's stretching it a bit, but we've heard nothing but complaints about them.

The problem is that for USB modems to work with any computer, you need to install a piece of software called a driver onto that computer. The driver tells the computer how to communicate with the modem and how to interpret what it says. Now, while most OS X drivers are written by Apple, you have to rely on the people who make the hardware to write the drivers for more obscure bits of hardware (ie hardware used in parts of the



Many USB ADSL modems, like Thomson's SpeedTouch, have really badly written Mac drivers. A router is a much better option

world other than the US). And the SpeedTouch ones are, to put it bluntly, rubbish. And that's why you're having kernel panics (frequent kernel panics are usually a good sign there's some iffy hardware communications or hardware somewhere).

First, check the Thomson Web site (www.speedtouchdsl.com/support.htm) for the latest drivers, just in case yours are old and buggy. But our advice really would be to get another ADSL modem, preferably one that has an Ethernet port instead of a USB connection. Not only will you avoid the kernel panics, but your Mac will probably go faster. One of the ways manufacturers make USB broadband modems so cheap is by using slower chips and getting your computer to do a lot of the work instead. Routers, however,

Get real



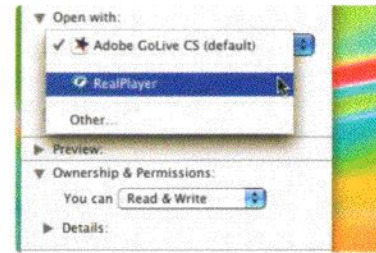
When I try to open a file from the BBC site, I get a message saying there is no default application. When I choose an application, it will not open. What do I do?
Brian Pate
 Email



Get Real

1 Fire up RealPlayer to give it a chance to register itself and configure your system. It will need to shut down your Web browsers to do this.

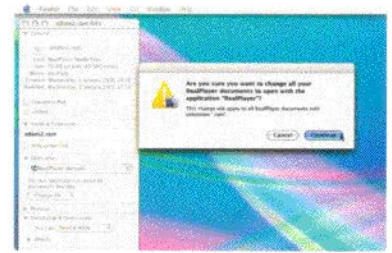
A Every Mac application also comes with a list of files that it can open. If your file doesn't happen to be in the list, the average application won't try to open the file, even if you ask it to nicely. Now you didn't say which files you were trying to open, but since you mention the BBC, we're guessing you're



Pick the application

2 Click on the file you want to open in RealPlayer in the Finder. Select 'File', 'Get Info'. In the 'Open with' section is a list of applications that can open the file.

trying to open RealPlayer files. There's really only one application that can open RealPlayer files and that's RealPlayer so first you'll need to download it from www.real.com. Once that's all out of the way, you can set all RealPlayer files to open with RealPlayer automatically. See below for more...



Change everything

3 Select the one you want from the menu and click on the 'Change All' button to make your change apply to all your files.

do all the hard work themselves and usually a lot more quickly than your Mac ever could. You'll also avoid other problems of badly written drivers: some readers are only getting half the rated speed of their broadband connection because they're lumbered with naff drivers for their USB modems.

Share and share alike



My girlfriend and I have our own accounts on our new iMac G5, but we're a little miffed that we can't simply share photos between our accounts using iPhoto. Is there a way to do this? And is it possible with iTunes, too?

Tim Atkinson
 Email

A The best way to do this is simply to quit iPhoto, and move your iPhoto 'Library' folder (normally found in your 'Pictures' folder) to the 'Shared' folder (in the 'Users' folder). When you start iPhoto again, it will say it can't find your library and ask if you want to create a new library or find the old one. You can then point it in the direction of the original folder, now in your Shared folder. Your girlfriend can then chuck out her old library (after saving any that you don't have in yours) and do the same in her account.

Sharing your iTunes Library is equally easy. Quit iTunes and then look in your 'Music' folder for the iTunes folder. Move that to your 'Shared' folder.

Now, instead of starting iTunes, create an alias of the iTunes folder ('Make Alias' from

the 'File' menu in the Finder) and move it to your 'Music' folder, renaming it to 'iTunes' once it's there. You should be able to start iTunes and have it play the music in the new location. Your girlfriend can delete her iTunes folder (after consolidation, of course) and create an alias in the same way.

The last step in both cases is to give your girlfriend the ability to make changes to your libraries. In the Finder, select the iTunes/iPhoto 'Library' folder, select 'Get Info' from the 'File' menu and change its permissions so that 'Others' can write to as well as read the folder. Finally, you need to click on the button at the bottom of the panel to apply these changes to all the enclosed files as well.

Photos finished?



I don't know if you can help, but I'm getting desperate. I have a PowerBook running OS X 10.2.8 and since buying it two years ago, I have been unable to print photos. I have no problems printing documents or other text-based items. However, I have a Stylus Photo 1290 and a Kodak Printer Dock and have problems getting the proper dialog boxes when I try to use this or other photo printers. I have the latest drivers installed and have re-installed just to be sure. The printer works fine with my antique PC, and I have also made sure I have all of the latest software upgrades.

Brian Smith
 Email

A There might be a couple of things going on here, Brian. First check your 'Print Centre' in the 'Utilities' folder. Do a 'Get Info' on the printer and check to see what model it's listed as. Ensure it's an Epson USB printer not a regular USB and that the driver is the Stylus Photo 1290. Check the driver of the Kodak Printer Dock as well to make sure it's the right type. If the wrong driver has been picked, you won't get the right options for your printer in the dialog boxes.

Now, it seems like most of your problems occur in iPhoto, so it's worth doing a bit of investigating there as well to see if anything is amiss. If you're using iPhoto 2 or earlier, you should upgrade to version 4 since many of iPhoto's printing options only worked with specific printers in earlier versions: version 4 cures that particular problem.

If none of that works, try installing Gimp-Print and ESP Ghostscript from <http://gimp-print.sourceforge.net/MacOSX.php3>. These provide a completely new set of printer drivers for OS X that provide access to many hidden features and settings of your printer. They're harder to understand than regular OS X drivers, but might be useful.

The last option you have is to create a custom paper size from within the 'Page Setup' dialog. The 'Settings' pull-down menu at the top will allow you to create a paper size that matches your photo size and it will appear in any list of paper sizes.

A You're a lucky man, Alan, not just for getting to use a Mac when your wife has to endure Windows, but because there are plenty of solutions to your problems. Option one is the simplest and is, as you suggest, to download the updates to your PC and burn them to a disc for installation on your Mac. All the major updaters formats for OS X can survive passing through a PC first, provided you don't decompress them on the PC: leave them exactly as you got them when you burnt them to a CD.

Option two is to network your Mac and PC together and copy the files across the network. You can do this using an Ethernet cable (easy) or wirelessly (slightly harder), since both XP and OS X support multihoming (being connected to the Internet and a network at the same time). We covered how to share files between a Mac and a PC in iCreate 13, and that will give you some good hints as to configuration details.

Option three is to take advantage of XP's Internet Connection sharing capability. This allows you to share a broadband (or modem) connection between two or more computers and would enable you to use your wife's Internet Connection to download your updates directly to your Mac. You'd need to have the two computers networked for this option to work, too. If you can face the horror of the Microsoft Web site, www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/networking/learnmore/ics.msp will give you more details of how to do this.

Option four would be to get one of AOL's supported routers and use that, instead of your wife's PC, as the Internet Connection provider. You can get more details of that



Files downloaded to a Windows PC will survive the jump to OS X - just don't compress them

from www.aol.co.uk/broadband/networking.html?promo=228937 or by getting your wife to type the AOL Keyword: Home Networking into her AOL client. These routers are also a good method for Family-Friendly™ Mac users to use Family-Friendly™ AOL UK, if they really want to enjoy its Family-Friendly™ content and to surf the Web in a Family-Friendly™ way: as you say, officially AOL UK doesn't support Macs.

Down in the archives



I have a question regarding Safari. When downloading from the Net, in 'Save as...' mode, the window shows only text. There are question marks where the pictures should be. Why? Also, Safari's window does not show a URL. Internet Explorer does. Why? John O'Callaghan
Email

A The 'Save as' feature in Safari saves the HTML of the Web page you've just seen to your hard drive. At no point does Safari re-write the HTML and it doesn't save any of the pictures, movies, etc, that

the HTML references: that one file is all you get. When you double-click on the file, Safari opens it and tries to display it as though it was on the Web server. But since all the graphics are on the Web server and the HTML file isn't, Safari can't find the graphics and so displays question marks instead (technically, the HTML file still uses relative or absolute links, rather than complete URLs, for all the graphics).

Internet Explorer's 'Save As' feature does the same thing, unless you tell it to save a page as a 'Web archive'. This is a nifty little feature of IE that makes it look through the HTML, spot references to images, etc, and then download them as well as the HTML. It then rewrites the HTML to use these files, instead of the ones on the Web server, and bundles the whole lot up into a single compressed file (you can get a decompressor from www.icab.de/download4.html). When you double-click on the archive, IE can then display everything perfectly happily and will show you the original URL in the address bar (the archive records that as well, whereas a



Internet Explorer can save Web pages as Web archives, but sadly Safari cannot. Luckily this feature is supposed to arrive in OS X 10.4

Apple updates

To make sure you have the latest software versions purring away on your Mac, click on the Apple icon at the top left of the screen. Choose 'Software Update' from the pull-down menu. If you're connected to the Web, this utility will check out the status of your Mac and give you a list of the latest updates available. Take a look at www.apple.com for the latest list of updates. If you're a .Mac member, login to www.mac.com and check out the latest goodies that you may not have spotted.

AirPort Express Firmware 6.1.1

Not too exciting (it's only a .01 upgrade, after all), but there are some useful bug fixes for the AirPort Express and restores compatibility with some printers that was lost with 6.1.

AirPort Extreme Firmware 5.5.1

Pretty much the same as the Express upgrade, but if you happen to use PPPoE for your Internet access and upgraded your base station's firmware directly from 5.4 to 5.5, you might have run into problems. This fixes it for you, assuming you can still access the Internet of course.

Mac OS X 10.3.7

A whole list of 'improved features' in this update, although most are fixes for bugs introduced by 10.3.6. Top of the fixes: long filenames are no longer shortened. Otherwise, graphics performance is better; there have been updates to Address Book, Disk Utility, DVD Player and Image Capture, among other applications; iPods can now be used with iSync and iTunes via USB 2.0; and there's additional support for certain USB and FireWire peripherals. BUT WHATEVER YOU DO, unmount and disconnect any FireWire hard drives, including iPods, before you run the updater.

iCal 1.5.5

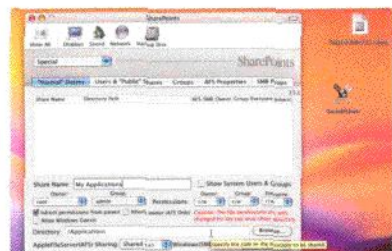
A minor upgrade designed to improve iSync calendar syncing for Jaguar users.

Motion 1.0.1

Absolutely no fixes or improvements, but does include a raft of free effects, including five filters, one generator and tutorials.

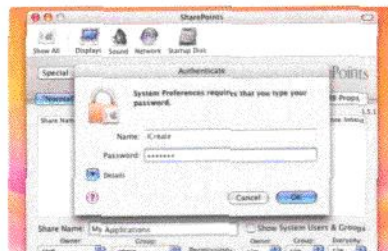
Security Update 2004-12-02 v 1.0

Patches Apache and Safari and some low-level stuff, such as Kerberos. Available for both Jaguar and Panther.



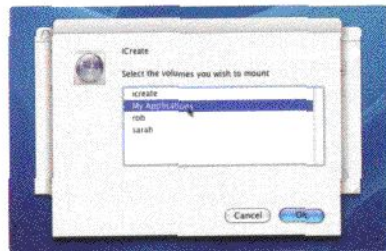
Getting permission

2 Open up SharePoints and click in the 'Normal Shares' tag. Set the permissions on your Virtual PC images so that they're writable by anyone in the 'staff' group.



The real deal

3 Click on the 'Create New Share' button at the bottom to activate the share. Before anything can happen, though, you will need to enter your administration account.



Get in touch

4 Once you've entered the password and everything's finished, you'll find that when you connect to your Mac over a network, you'll get an option for the new share point you've created.