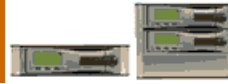


New FireWire 800 Desktop Storage System



MacInTouch Home Page

The original Mac news and information site since 1994

Friday, March 5, 2004 15:00 EST

Our reader reports continue to cover a variety of current topics today:

- [Fraud](#) - W32.Beagle.K, eBay scams, fake virus warning and cancelled-order scam
- [GarageBand](#) - audio for video success, bug importing .aiff files, Sequencer window can manually add notes
- [iDVD](#) - automatic maintenance scripts interfere with burning?
- [Mac OS X "Panther"](#) - detailed calculator crash solution, keyboard failure fix, security and memory tests (see below)
- [QuarkXPress](#) - Pantone colors, performance issues, and loyalty letter redux
- [15:00 EST] [Scanners](#) - installing Omnipage X, plus some less positive experiences
- [USB/FireWire Cards](#) - mixed experiences with different cards, plus sleep issue

[Stealth Serial Port for G4 and iMac: \\$49.95](#)

Amazon prices change quickly, but there are great deals this morning on Final Cut Express 2, iPods, Panther, ".Mac", Canon's Powershot S400, Mac laptops (with a \$100 rebate), and an iMac.

Your Amazon purchases through MacInTouch make it possible for us to provide our services. [Prices checked 08:00 EST]

- [15GB iPod \\$277.24](#) [20GB iPod \\$370.24](#) [40GB iPod \\$463.14](#)
- [Apple iSight webcam: \\$139.94](#)
- [AirPort Extreme Card: \\$95.88](#)
- [AirPort Extreme Base w/ Modem: \\$240.99](#) [WPA, dial-up,

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- [15" iMac G4/1GHz](#): **\$1244.99**
- [12" iBook G4/800](#): **\$994 w/ rebate** [see [review](#)]
- [".Mac"](#): **\$74.99** [includes backup and Virex]
- [Final Cut Express 2](#): **\$254.99**
- [Mac OS X 10.3 "Panther" \[standard\]](#): **\$99.99 w/ rebate**
- [Mac OS X 10.3 "Panther" Family Pack](#): **\$179.99**
- [Mac OS X 10.3 "Panther" 10-Client Server](#): **\$479.99**
- [iLife '04 w/ GarageBand](#): **\$49**
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- [GarageBand Jam Pack](#): **\$89.99**
- [Canon Powershot S400](#): **\$329.88** [tiny, full-featured favorite]
- [Minolta DiMAGE Scan Dual IV](#): **\$284.99** [3200 dpi, film]
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- [Microsoft Office X](#): **\$349.99** [save \$50, get Office 2004 free]
- [Route USA 2004](#): **\$34.99** [note [update](#)]
- [Amazon Mac Page](#) - latest Mac deals and products
- [Amazon Home Page](#) - all other purchases (you can replace the Amazon link in your browser favorites with this one to support MacInTouch)

[Stealth Serial Port for G4 and iMac: \\$49.95](#)

Apple


Apple released Version 3.5 of its [CHUD](#) (Computer Hardware Understanding Development) tools "for measuring and optimizing software performance on Mac OS X as well as for hardware bringup and system benchmarking." Among the changes in the new version are gprof profiling support for Saturn, new charting and callstack visualization, a PowerPC instruction set reference window, and improved code analysis for Shark, and more.

New Products

Wiebetech released a \$499.95 "no-drive" version of its [G5Jam](#),

[G5 noise confirmed](#)
[PortalPlayer profile](#)
[Apple's educational business](#)
[New phishing trick](#)
[iDVD Update 4.0.1](#)
[GarageBand Jam Pack 1.0.1](#)
[MiracleSight](#)
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which increases the internal storage of a Power Mac G5 to four internal drives. It is compatible with the Mac OS X RAID utility and includes a new cooling baffle plate, constructed from mirror aluminum, a Serial ATA host card (one PCI slot required), and appropriate cables.

[PlistEdit Pro](#) 1.0 is an editor for Mac OS X property list (plist) files. It includes a built-in preference file browser, drag-and-drop support, outline and raw text views, property list definitions, find/replace, multi-level undo, and more. PlistEdit Pro is \$24.95 for Mac OS X 10.2 and up.

[Pixellate](#) 1.0 is an iMovie plug-in that creates a "witness protection" effect by obscuring a selected part of a clip with what appear to be enlarged pixels (pixellation). It allows selection of vertical and horizontal pixel size as well as opacity. Pixellate is \$2.50 for Mac OS X 10.1 and up and iMovie 3 and up.

O'Reilly & Associates released [Mac OS X Panther for Unix Geeks](#) [Amazon link] by Brian Jepson and Ernest E. Rothman, a Pantherized version of its previous book for Unix hands. The book has been expanded to cover CUPS, Perl, MySQL, PostgreSQL, and running Mac OS X as a server, and includes an overview of Mac OS X's filesystem and startup processes, plus a manpage-style reference to commands that come with Panther but have no manpages. Mac OS X Panther for Unix Geeks is \$24.95 [\$17.47 Amazon].

Updated Products

CE Software released [QuicKeys X2](#) 2.1, an update of its Mac OS X keyboard macro program. The new version offers improved typing, recording, and sequence tools. QuicKeys X2 is \$99.95 for Mac OS X 10.2.3 and up.

[Art of Illusion](#) 1.7 is a Java-based, open source, 3D modeling and rendering studio that offers subdivision surface-based modelling tools, skeleton-based animation, and a graphical language for designing procedural textures and materials, among other features. The new version adds Texture parameters assigned per-face or per-face-vertex, independent UV mapping for each face, Textured display mode, an Outline filter, and other changes. Art of Illusion is free and is usable on any Java Virtual Machine which is compatible with JDK 1.1 or later, including Mac OS X, Mac OS 9.1 and up, and other platforms.

Creative Manager, Inc. announced [Creative Manager Pro](#) 6.2, an update of its web-based, integrated project management and job tracking package for creative-oriented companies. Scheduled for release on Monday, March 8, the new version adds a new sync and

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[File Naming Tricks](#)

sharing tool that enables iCal and Mac OS X Address Book users to take web-based calendars and contacts on the road. Contact the company for pricing.

Waves in Motion released [Analyzer](#) 3.6, a database analysis tool for FileMaker developers. The new version is "up to twice as fast as Analyzer 3.5 at importing large solution DDRs," and adds dependency records for all references to Relationships, extended support for Sort Fields, a new Search attribute called "depended-on count," and other changes. Analyzer is \$189 for Mac OS X, Mac OS 9, and Windows with FileMaker Developer 5.5 and 6.0.

[Interarchy](#) 7.0.1 is an FTP/SFTP/HTTP file-transfer utility that includes FTP/SSH and Rendezvous support, transfer queues, tabbed browsing, bookmark management, and a suite of network tools (including packet sniffing and port scan). The new version adds support for custom port numbers for SFTP connections, extra keyboard commands, the ability to do traceroute on hosts that begin with www and ftp, and a number of other minor changes and fixes. Interarchy is \$39 for Mac OS X 10.2 and up.

[CrushFTP](#) 3.1 is a Java-based FTP and IRC server that offers multihoming, virtual servers, quotas, bandwidth limiters, remote admin, virtual directories, Rendezvous support, and more. The new version adds auto-zipping on the fly for directories or files, auto-rename for duplicate uploads, and other changes. CrushFTP is available for Mac OS X, Classic Mac OS, Linux, and Windows, with prices starting at \$25 for up to 10 concurrent users.

[Jurtle](#) 1.4 is a simple integrated development tool for learning to program using Java, patterned after Turtle Graphics in Logo. Beyond the basics, it can be used to create full Java applications with their own graphical interfaces. The new version adds the ability to compile and generate javadoc for classes that are not in the default package, navigation to the class list on the left side of the main window, better support for running non-Turtle classes, and other changes. Jurtle is \$15 for Mac OS X 10.2 and up, Linux, and Windows XP/2000/NT with Java 1.3 or higher.

[Sound Byte](#) 2.1 turns your Mac into a "cart machine," like those used by radio stations. It enables you to organize and quickly play recorded sounds, such as jingles, songs, and sound effects. The new version adds the ability to fade the currently playing track and a display showing the elapsed time of currently playing track. Available for Mac OS X and Mac OS 9, Sound Byte Lite (75 recordings) is \$24, Sound Byte (375 recordings) is \$49, and Sound Byte Pro (3,750 recordings) is \$99.

[SimpleChord](#) 1.6, a reference utility for musicians, can display notes in a chord, show their positions on the keyboard, and play the chord aloud. The new version adds arpeggiation, 13th chords, an option to choose how accidentals are displayed, and interface tweaks.

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SimpleChord is free for Mac OS X.

[DockFun](#) 4.2 enables you to have an infinite number of Dock configurations. It features autolaunch, hot keys, hide/show specific Docks, organization of contents by dragging, and more. The new version adds improved Dock menus and has been recompiled with GCC 3.3. DockFun is \$19.95 for Mac OS X 10.2 and up.

Previews and Test Versions

Qualcomm released [Eudora](#) 6.1b3, a beta-test version of its POP/SMTP/IMAP email client. The new beta release makes sure downloaded IMAP messages are only processed once, fixes controls in filter actions, works around the "OS being blissfully ignorant of AppleWorks' perfidious temp folder deletion," and makes other changes. [See [complete list](#) of beta changes.]

[Perform synchronizations and backups like clockwork...](#)

Notes and Tips

[15:00 EST] Michael LaPera reports that Apple's \$999 [Logic Pro 6](#) is now shipping:

I thought that current (and future) music producers would be happy to hear that shipments of Apple/Emagic Logic are currently being shipped. I just received a huge box with Logic Pro 6 today.

There have been some glitches noted in basic Mac OS X copy routines in the past, and a note from Robert Milkovits raises some new questions:

[Regarding data corruption] I have seen the underlying problem of the Finder not verifying while it copies to be a problem in other circumstances.

I have a G4/AGP/450/1GB with OSX 10.3.2. I use a 32MB flash "memory stick" plugged into either the Apple USB keyboard or a powered USB hub. The stick works great on a PC, but is flaky on a Mac. I found that one out of every couple times, the Finder will corrupt the copying of files.

Strangely enough, I can do the copy from a terminal with "rsync" and consistently get a correct copy. Doing a file "diff" between a good copy and a bad copy shows that the Finder copy has a couple KB of the bad files filled

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[Dr. Bott](#)

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is your best source for *reliable* RAM that works right in everything from a PowerBook to a Power Mac G5.

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Stop dragging around your heavy G5/G4 tower. Conveniently access rear connectors and cables by effortlessly sliding your tower. Gboard is stylishly designed for G5/G4 towers.

[Snapz Pro X 2.0](#)

Why take a static screenshot when Snapz Pro X 2 makes creating a movie just as

with the value 0xFF, almost like it either got bad data from the memory stick or didn't complete a data transfer, but still continued to copy the file to the destination.

Yann Ricard pointed out a problem with Sherlock's dictionary lookups (which use dictionary.com), and we confirmed it here:

It appears that Sherlock's dictionary has been nonfunctional for a couple of days. The thesaurus entries still display, but you only get a rule in the dictionary display pane. I've experienced it, and now someone else is reporting it on comp.sys.mac.system

We received some interesting follow-ups to the discussion about PowerBook memory problems:

[Blair Burtan] I recently purchased a 1GB module for my 17" 1.3GHz Powerbook from TransIntl.com. The module was installed on Monday. I am running Panther. Now here's where it gets interesting. I've been running for several days including running a large ElectricImage render that required almost a gig of RAM. No problems. Worked all week with more than a half dozen large apps running at once. No problem.

Now, today, I got my first EVER kernel panic. Oooo.... And this was trying to open a web page in Safari. Reboot. No problem. Try to launch Entourage and Safari. Freeze. Hmmm. In these cases, I was running off battery. When I plugged it in and rebooted, so far no problem. Could the two possibly be related?

[Sam Herschbein] In the old core memory days, memory diagnostics were designed to test the bit matrix and supporting electronics for electro-magnetic interference. The coders knew the number of wires for the sides of the matrix and how they translated to memory addresses. The tests were then designed to cause the maximum amount of interference possible. When running memory diagnostics, you would hear the memory board's noise change during the different phases of the tests. [...]

Today, common memory module tests operate sequentially through memory, thrashing bits with selected patterns at a given address and then stepping to the next sequential address. This will not be likely to find most errors generated by electro-magnetic interference.

Assuming my scenario is valid: A newly modified piece of the OS [e.g. Panther] has the particular bit and memory address read/write pattern(s) that cause electro-magnetic interference errors in a particular module/chip set.

[See our special report on [Bad RAM](#) for more on this

easy?

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Get high performance external storage. DriveDocks make bare drives FireWire drives. New G5Jam gives 4 internal drives to your G5!

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whole problem. -MacInTouch]

Problems with flat-panel displays suggested some more technical tricks:

[Jeff Johnson] To determine if the PowerBook is susceptible to RF interference, place the Powerbook in an oven that is *turned OFF* and observe the screen for the "speckles". The metal oven is a great Faraday shield and will block out any RF.

[Aaron Lyon] Some users report trouble getting a clear digital picture on flat panel monitors. I have a ViewSonic VP201mb, native resolution 1600x1200, and the ATI 9800. I needed my computer to be far away in a closet (for recording audio without the fan noise) so I invested \$120 in a 16.5-foot Monster DVI video cable. I was skeptical until it arrived, but it did the trick, and my picture is 100% digitally perfect.

MacInTouch reader Joe Wagner has taken up the battle against spam, as he explains in an email:

Last year I wrote to MacInTouch with an email listing my concerns of about the proposed new Federal CAN-SPAM Act. As we all know well, and can tell from looking at our In Boxes, the spammers won that round, and it became law.

Yesterday Hypertouch filed the first legal action under the CAN-SPAM act against BobVila.com of Boston and the spammer they hired, BlueStream Media of Sacramento.

Full details, including our press release and a copy of the complaint can be found at [legal.hypertouch.com]. We think the CAN-SPAM Act is an open license to spam with very little protection for the public, but we are attempting to use what few protections are available to punish some unrepentant spammers.

For what it's worth, all of our mail servers are Macs, running Stalker Software's SIMS, and now, with the spam load so heavy at 40% above 2003 levels, CGPro.

[6-in-1 Digital Media Reader easily transfers photos, mp3s, more](#)

Other News

[15:00 EST] [Apple stock](#) price has been soaring in price the past few

days, as Reuters reports:

Shares of Apple Computer Inc. rose Friday, following a 5.2% gain Thursday, and are trading at levels not reached in nearly two years.

While the gains are clear, the reasons aren't. Apple has had a couple headlines this week but nothing that seemingly would push the stock to record highs.

On Monday, Merrill Lynch analyst Steven Milunovich talked up Apple's iPod digital music player. The analyst estimated that the iPod would rake in \$1 billion in revenue this year, adding 15 cents a share to earnings. On Thursday, the New York Times wrote a piece detailing the opening of an Apple retail store in San Francisco.

Amit Singh offers a history of [Macintosh operating systems](#), covering many influences, strategies and projects along the way.

This document discusses operating systems that Apple has created in the past, and many that it tried to create. Through this discussion, we will come across several technologies the confluence of which eventually led to Mac OS X. An important goal of the discussion is to better understand the reasons, and if possible, the rationale behind Mac OS X and its important components. This, in turn, will be helpful in understanding and appreciating the system as it is today.

Roberto Amorim has posted an interesting [128Kbps AAC comparison](#), based on a public listening test:

This test showed some very interesting developments since the last AAC at 128kbps test. The most obvious one is surely Faac, that lost relatively badly before, and now became a very serious contender. Nero also got improved - it clearly lost to QuickTime/iTunes last time. And the newcomers Real (actually CodingTechnologies) and Compaact! show lots of promise. iTunes managed to keep at the top - an amazing result considering it is a CBR codec competing against VBR codecs. It's probably the best choice for Mac and Windows users today, because it's highest quality, fast and completely free.

It's worth mentioning that according to a key developer of the QuickTime/iTunes AAC encoder, this codec nearly didn't get tuned since the last test. Makes one wonder how much it can improve once the engineers start tuning it again and if a VBR mode is eventually implemented.

A Cnet article covers the [Spyblock Act](#), a new bill before Congress that aims to stop surreptitious takeover of our computers by spyware and other malware:

Late last week, Sens. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., Conrad Burns, R-Mont., and Ron Wyden, R-Ore., introduced the "Spyblock Act," aimed at controlling one of surfers' common complaints. Among other things, the bill would require a computer users' consent before software was installed, and ensure that software programs could be easily removed.

"Computer users should have the same amount of privacy online as they do when they close the blinds in the windows of their house," Burns said in a statement. "But...computers across the country are being hijacked every day as users unknowingly download unwanted and deceitful programs that spy into their online world."

The bill comes as public awareness of the problems and technical headaches caused by surreptitious computer software is growing quickly.

Much of the outcry is coming as people increasingly use software that identifies the hidden software that produces advertisements, pop-up boxes, or changes home pages without permission. The digital pests often find their way onto computers bundled along with popular free programs such as file-swapping tools.

Something stinks in Unix-land, where SCO is attacking the open source community in lawsuits, and the financially precarious company received a mysterious, \$50 million private investment. eWeek covers the story, asking [Is Microsoft Behind SCO's \\$50 Million Cash Infusion?](#)

Another open-source player, who asked not to be identified, told eWEEK that the \$50 million investment into SCO was surprising to him as "SCO is not a good growth company and is in fact on life-support. A solid company that's been in business as long as SCO has should be making its money from product/services and not donations and lawsuits.

"I had to look at BayStar to see why they would do this and the only thing that makes sense is the PIPE program. Someone has a vested interest in seeing SCO continue and lo and behold, there is Microsoft listed as a BayStar PIPE customer," he said.

Cnet, meanwhile, reports on the [judge's orders](#) in SCO's lawsuit against IBM:

In a ruling filed in the U.S. District Court in Utah, Magistrate Judge Brooke Wells said SCO hasn't yet provided enough information about its charges that IBM moved proprietary Unix software to Linux. In consequence, she ordered the company to "provide and

identify all specific lines of code that IBM is alleged to have contributed to Linux from either AIX or Dynix," IBM's two versions of Unix.

The judge also directed SCO to "identify with specificity all lines of code in Linux that it claims rights to," repeating an order she issued in December. In addition, she told SCO to identify the lines of code in Unix System V that were used by IBM to create derivative works in AIX and Dynix, which were transferred to Linux.

At the same time, Wells lifted a stay on the information IBM was required to release through the discovery process that preceded the trial. She ordered IBM to produce memos from IBM Chief Executive Sam Palmisano and from Irving Wladawsky-Berger, a top Linux executive.

The move restores momentum to a case many consider central not just to the future of Linux, an increasingly popular open-source operating system, but to lawsuits SCO filed this week against AutoZone and DaimlerChrysler.

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G5Jam gives your G5 four internal Serial ATA drives. Best of Show at Macworld 2004. When properly RAIDed, performance exceeds 200MB/sec. Supports HD editing! Available with Serial ATA board and cables only to install your own drives.

BayDock 800 is a totally flexible FireWire 800/400/USB2 desktop storage system. 1 or 2 removable bays in one enclosure support ATA6 or ATA5 or CD/DVD drives. OXUF922 FireWire bridge for highest speed. InfoTray intelligence.

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When wi-fi is lo-fi: try Corinex Powerline!

We all love the idea of AirPort: the freedom to go anywhere and still be on the network, sans wires. Ahh, sheer bliss.

But. Radio waves are fickle, and some places they just don't want to go. Don't use cordless phones (you OR your neighbor) and still expect to surf. Beware of trees, microwave ovens, BlueTooth, and, oh, anything containing much metal.

We've got a solution and its name is Powerline, a technology using home/office electrical wiring to

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