

# Athens Area Macintosh Users Group

AAMUG January 2000 Newsletter



## Review: iMac DV Special Edition

by D.Lee Beard



The new iMacs that came out last fall fixed many of the problems of the original iMacs. Firewire ports and a display out plug were added to the iMac DV versions. Apple also doubled the standard RAM to 64MB and made it much easier to upgrade the RAM without special training or tools.

Over the holidays, I broke down and bought one of these new iMacs. I figured that it would be better to get the top of the line one with the 13GB hard drive and 128MB RAM since one can never

have too much RAM or hard drive space (especially with the iMovie software's demands on memory). I also decided to buy an iomega USB zip drive for backups (I hate the limits and slow speed of floppies!) and a refurbished Epson Color 740 printer.

The iMac was shipped out in seven days and was delivered to my home in two days via FedEx (Apple finally has caught up to demand).

When I opened the box, I was surprised to find that the graphite

look of the iMac DVSE looks even cooler in person than in the pictures had seen. It was super easy to set up and get connected to the internet, as Apple promised.

iMovie was extremely easy to learn how to use. It was so intuitive

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See "iMac DVSE Review"*

<http://www.seorf.ohiou.edu/~aamug/>

**Next AAMUG Meeting:**

7:00pm

**Wednesday  
January 19th**

in the AAC Lab,  
101 Alden Library

**Scheduled Topics:**

- MacInTax Software review
- Virtual PC Demo
- New iMac on display.

## How About iMac Tree Ornaments?

Here's an idea next Christmas: how about Christmas tree ornaments that look like tiny little iMacs. Given how popular the Star Trek and Disney ornaments have become, just think — what big Mac fan would not want one on his or her first Christmas tree of the 21st Century?

The iMac design is perfect for hanging on a tree with the handle on the top. They could

even release them in only lime and strawberry to match the



Christmas colors of green and red. If they lit up, that would be just too cool. They could even

be set up as a string of lights.

Here is another idea: they could even come out with a star that would top your Christmas tree in the familiar iMac colors star pattern that we have all come to know.



Hmmm. Keep your eyes open at Hallmark. ;-)



# Macworld Expo in San Francisco

*Steve Jobs no longer the "Interim" CEO of Apple*

At the MacWorld Expo in San Francisco Apple iCEO Steve Jobs announced that he will no longer be the Interim CEO of Apple Computer. He is going to be dropping the "Interim" and plans to stay at Apple indefinitely. He will keep the "i" before CEO to remind him of the "internet" which he feels is incredibly important.

There were two other major announcements. The first had to do with Apple's web presence. Apple is setting itself up as an internet company. Part of this is accomplished through making a multiyear deal with Earthlink, the second major internet service provider, to be their internet partner. Earthlink will now be Apple's default internet service provider on all new Macs. Apple invested \$200 million in Earthlink as part of this partnership.

With this internet emphasis, Apple is redesigning its web pages. It is adding tabs at the top of the web pages that will take you to some of the familiar sites like the Apple Store and Technical Support, but it is also adding three new tabs: iReview, iTools, and iCards.

**iReview** is a web page that provides reviews and ranking of websites by Apple. So far, they have over 250 reviews. Mac users can even add their own review of a website to the one that Apple has provided.

**iTools** is a set of four internet services offered by Apple exclusively for Mac OS9 users.

First, **Kidsafe** is an Apple module that only lets kids access safe sites that are "approved" by certified teachers and librarians. By having a huge list of approved sites, it will avoid the problem that filtering programs have where they filter out all pages that use the word "sex" for example. Sometimes a kid might want to do a re-

search project on something like "sex differences in animal behavior" which does include the word sex. With Kidsafe, only child appropriate web sites will be given access to a child. This will undoubtedly be a great resource not only for parents but for classroom and library computer labs as well. Because of OS9's multiple users feature, the restricted access can be set to work only for certain users.

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ers and give adults full access.

iTools second feature is e-mail. Apple is now providing e-mail through [mac.com](http://mac.com). This service will be run by Apple and kept private and secure. It will work with popular e-mail applications like Outlook and Eudora. You will get to choose your own username but you had better go to [apple.com](http://apple.com) fast to secure your e-mail address (note: [steve@mac.com](mailto:steve@mac.com) is already taken; one of the luxuries of being Apple iCEO, I suppose).

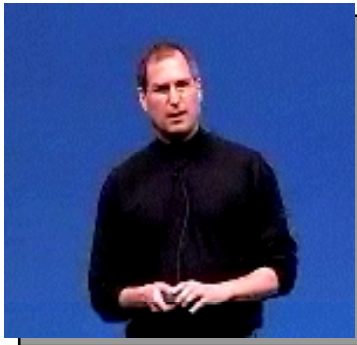
The third feature is an easy to use web page creator called [HomePage](#). [HomePage](#) makes it super easy to create useful web pages. For example, a photo album webpage can be created in three easy steps. It is not a powerful tool, and it will not create complex web pages for you, but it does make creating a web page extraordinarily simple for the non HTML savvy—i.e. the home user.

[iDisk](#) is the fourth amazing feature of iTools. iDisk gives everyone 20MB of storage space on an Apple server. You simply hit a button and it puts a folder icon on your desktop as if it were a disk you had inserted into your local computer. From there you can just drag and drop files to and from the folder just as you would with any other.

You can even have a public folder that enables you to share files with others. This will be great for creating something at home that is larger than a floppy disk, putting it in your iDisk folder and being able to access it from work

or anywhere in the world. You can even use your own personal photos to be used in internet greeting cards which leads me to the fourth feature of iTools, iCards.

We've all seen internet greeting cards. You may have even sent or received an Apple internet greeting card from someone over the holidays. Apple's **iCards** are much cooler and sophisticated looking with excellent graphics (no surprise since it is from Apple), including some nice artwork that you can attach next to your greeting. They look a bit like a postcard and can be viewed as an attachment in normal e-mail -- no need to go to a URL to view



the greeting card.

Although iCards are open to anyone, iTools features have one drawback—they require you to have OS9 with the special free downloadable software from Apple's website installed on the computer that you are using. An exception to this is e-mail which, after you have set it up on an OS9 computer, can be accessed from any machine you configure for [mail.mac.com](mailto:mail.mac.com).

The second major announcement at MacWorld Expo was the

expected preview of the new Macintosh operating system, "OSX" (Operating System Ten). It will have a new user interface that will sport some bright colors and curves, reminiscent of the iMacs, on your windows, buttons and scroll bars. This interface is codenamed "Aqua" because "when you saw it you just wanted to lick it," said Steve Jobs.

The most useful feature of OSX will probably be the lack of freezes or system bombs. With true multitasking, if a program crashes in OSX it will not crash all the other programs that are up and running -- this will be a great preventer of lost files.

In what appears to be a steal from Windows 98, Mac OSX will offer an option to view open windows in a web browser-like view where you can click forward and backward through folders.

Steve Jobs announced some excellent financial news to report.

- iBook was the #1 selling consumer portable computer in the United States for both October and November.

- Apple has sold a record number of computers this past quarter. On average, Apple has sold one computer every six seconds. It has been their best quarter ever!

Steve Jobs also introduced some new USB devices for the Macintosh including the Scalar USB Microscope and a VST 100GB Portable Raid Drive.



## This Month's Book Review: "The Mac Bathroom Reader" by Owen W. Linzmayer

With the turn of the millennium, it seemed appropriate to look back at what had come before. What better and more fun a way to do this than with "The Mac Bathroom Reader".

The Mac Bathroom Reader is over 5 years old, but it is still a fascinating book for anyone interested in the history of Apple or in older Apple computers. For instance, the book gives code names for a variety of Apple products. Did you know that System 7.5 was called "Capone" in hopes that like the famous gangster Copone it would strike fear into the hearts of 'Chicago', Microsoft's code name for Windows 4.0.

Neat little "Easter Eggs" are listed in this book as well. If you have a Mac Classic, try holding down Command-Option-x-o (the Classic's code name was XO) and turn on the computer. It will start up under system 6.0.3 from a ROM chip built into the computer from the days when Apple was considering putting the system software in a read only chip on the computer instead of using a hard drive.

The Mac Bathroom Reader gives much

information regarding the early days of Apple history, including its founding by two guys working out of a garage at 11161 Crist Drive in Los Altos California (up the road from Cupertino and Palo Alto). It gives information on key players in Apple's first 20 years, and on some of its failures like the 'Apple III' and 'Lisa' computers. Did you know that in 1983, the 'Lisa' was the first computer marketed to the public that used a mouse?

This book has gathered together information from many varied sources and presents it in small sound bites that are great

for those of us with short attention spans. One of my favorite quotes that the author uses is of Jean-Louis Gassée (former president of Apple Products) from the book, "Odyssey", "One of the deep mysteries to me is our logo, the symbol of lust and knowledge, bitten into, all crossed

with the colors of the rainbow in the wrong order. You couldn't dream of a more appropriate logo: lust, knowledge, hope, and anarchy."

—Review by D.Lee Beard  
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*"One of the deep mysteries to me is our logo, the symbol of lust and knowledge, bitten into, all crossed with the colors of the rainbow in the wrong order. You couldn't dream of a more appropriate logo: lust, knowledge, hope, and anarchy."*

Wednesday, Jan. 19th, 7:00pm in the AAC Computer Lab, 101 Alden Library

**AaMUG Meeting Open to Everyone and Anyone!**

If you have any interest in Macintosh computers, be sure to come and bring a friend



# iMac DVSE Review

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tive, that I was in a state of shock that this was a 1.0 version. It won't do everything a major program like FinalCut Pro will do, but home users, probably don't need anything more than what iMovie offers. I love how I could put my favorite song as a background soundtrack to my movie. I can see a lot of teenagers wanting to create their own music videos with this! Anyone with children or grandchildren will appreciate iMovie as well.

The DVD player software was less than adequate, however. Even after downloading the latest updates which came out in late December, everytime I'd play a DVD movie, the audio kept going out of synch with the video, giving me the feeling that I was watching a dubbed version of a foreign film. Also, although there are slow motion and frame-by-frame buttons and the Apple documentation that comes on the computer says you can perform these functions, you can't. Instead of a software decoder, Apple should have stuck with the hardware decoder for DVDs like on the G3 Powerbooks.

The Harmon Kardon speakers are excellent, but Apple still needs to put a volume knob on the front of the iMac! It almost makes me want to hook up external speakers just for that feature.

Systemwise, I started having

problems when I loaded Adobe PageMaker 6.5 Plus onto the iMac. There is apparently an extension conflict with something in Mac OS9 and the Adobe Type Manager. I can still run PageMaker with this extension turned off, but I can't save as a pdf file or have smoothed fonts as a result. I downloaded the latest Adobe Acrobat, but that did not help. Strangely, PageMaker works just fine on an older Mac running OS9, so it must be a problem related to the iMac.

Later I encountered a problem with using USB. The 'plug and play' motto of USB really should be revised to 'plug and pray'. I found that my Epson 740 printer would not work unless it was turned on before being plugged into the computer. It also has a conflict with the iomega software so that I can't keep both of them plugged in at the same time.

In trying to work around these issues I made several calls to Apple Technical Support. I am happy to say that the hold time was measured in seconds rather than minutes or hours! Apple is really making strides in improving its customer support.

It is good that their support is improving because I've spent more time dealing with Apple's customer support with this iMac running OS9 than I have with all

my other Macs over the past decade.

However, (unfortunately, there always seems to be a "however") the quality of the help varied considerably. Many support personnel at Apple seem to think the solution to everything is to zap the PRAM (which has worked only once for me over the years). I've wondered if it isn't just a technique to keep the caller busy while they try look up the answer from some technical manual.

I also found out from Apple that, although the hardware is guaranteed for one year, the software is not. If OS9 is the problem, then I just have to live with it. And I mean live with it, because Apple has a horrible return policy. For this reason, I recommend if you are going to buy an iMac, buy it from Sears which has a great return policy.

In summary, my new iMac is not a dream machine, but it does beat the alternative of Windows. I still dream of the day that someone out there will come out with a truly "user friendly" computer. Maybe OS X will make that dream come true, but I can only speculate for now.

Until someone does, I suppose I will feel about Apple the way Winston Churchill felt about democracy: It is a horrible system, but it is better than the alternatives.

## In this issue:

- MacWorld Expo San Francisco Report
- iMac DV Special Edition Review
- iMac Christmas Tree Ornaments?

Come to the AAMUG's First meeting  
of the 21st Century

**January 19th at 7:00pm**

The meeting will be held in  
the Academic Advancement Center's Computer Lab  
in 101 Alden Library.



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