

# Athens Area

AAMUG February 2000  
Newsletter

# Macintosh Users Group

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## What is the best storage device for you?

Back in the days of the Apple II, we had one choice for storing our files and programs - the 5 1/4 inch floppy disk. Then with the Macintosh we began commonly using the 3.5" not-so-floppy disk as well as hard drives. Sixteen years after the first Macintosh computer was introduced with the 3.5" floppy, it is time to reconsider its importance.

In the 21st century, it is easy to have a PowerPoint presentation, MP3 file, Quicktime movie, or images from a digital camera easily balloon beyond the 1.4 MB limit of floppy disks. Floppies are also unreliable, flimsy, and the cost per MB is rather high. This doesn't even take into account how slow floppy drives are to boot up and to copy information.

Although hard drives certainly have the capacity to store these files, what does one do for backing up those files or transporting them to another computer?

As we are all aware, new Macintosh computers do not automatically come with floppy

drives. This is not necessarily a bad thing since floppies, with their limited capabilities and slow speed, do not make a good backup or transfer medium.

So, what are our options? Many prefer the CD-R (CD-writable) drives that allow you to copy approximately 700 MB of information on one CD. The disks that CD-R drives use to write data on are very cheap at around \$1 per disk. The drawback comes when you realize that you can only write on these disks once. When you want to backup that 2MB file, you have to record on a brand new CD and waste 100s of MB of storage space. This could make this process rather expensive for daily backup of your computer files. Even if CD-Rs are cost efficient per MB, they still have



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**Next AAMUG Meeting:**

**7:00pm  
Wednesday  
February 16th**

*in the  
AAC Lab  
101 Alden Library*

**Scheduled Topics:**

**OS9 iTools Demo**

**Star Wars  
Episode I Racer  
Game Demo**

-- Come and Play! --



## Happy Birthday Steve!



Steve Jobs, iCEO of Apple turns 45 years old on February 24th

## Apple Reports First Quarter Profit of \$183 M

Revenues up 37 percent; Units up 46 percent

On January 19, 2000 Apple® announced financial results for its fiscal 2000 first quarter that ended January 1, 2000. For the quarter, the Company posted a net profit of \$183 million, or \$1.03 per diluted share.

These results compare to a net profit of \$152 million, or \$.95 per diluted share, achieved in the year-ago quarter. Revenues for the quarter were \$2.34 billion, up 37 percent from the year-ago quarter, and gross margins were 25.9 percent, down from 28.2 percent in the year-ago quarter.

International sales accounted for 51 percent of the quarter's revenues.

The quarter's results included a \$5 million net favorable impact from

nonrecurring items, including an after-tax gain of \$101 million resulting from the sale of approximately five million shares of ARM Holdings plc., a net restructuring charge of \$6 million, and a onetime charge for a special executive bonus of \$90 million. Without nonrecurring items, the Company's net profit for the quarter would have been \$178 million, up 45 percent from the year-ago-quarter, and earnings per diluted share would have been \$1.00, up 28 percent from the year-ago quarter.

Sales of 1,377,000 systems including over 700,000 iMac™

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See "Apple Profits"*



# SOFTWARE REVIEW BY TIM SMITH

## THIS MONTH: EARTH BROWSER

No productivity tools, nothing terribly serious this month. Instead, I found a really neat toy! It's called EarthBrowser and it comes from a company called Lunar Software.

So what is it, anyway? Well, here's the opening sentence in the 14-page PDF manual: "Earth Browser is a real-time three dimensional model of the Earth with continuously updating night shadows and clouds."

But it's a lot more than just that! By clicking on the symbol for Columbus, for example, you can get a summary weather forecast.

Clicking on the flag in the weather forecast window (or on the weather symbol on the globe itself) will launch your web browser into the information for that country from the CIA World Factbook.

Nor is the "weather" information restricted to purely meteorological data. You can optionally make the spinning globe show volcanoes and recent earthquake—with clickable links that will direct your web browser to pages detailing the current information.

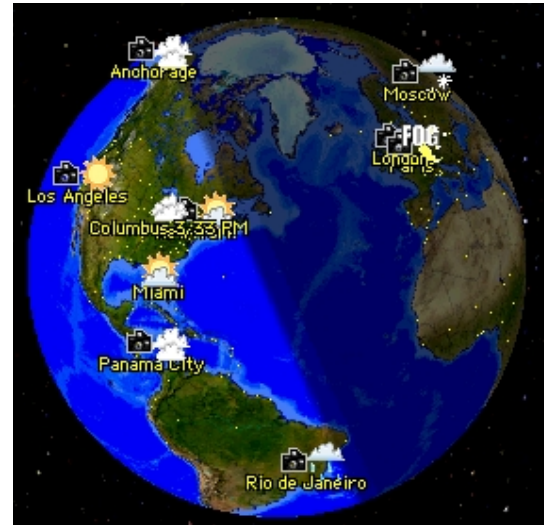
Wait, there's more! How about links to clickable webcams around the world? Here's what the South Pole when it's summer down under:

All of this is available in the Demo Mode. If you pay the \$19.95 shareware fee, you get more frequent weather updates, unlimited webcams, the Demo message goes away, and you get higher resolution graphics (additional download required).

Here's what it takes to run EarthBrowser:

- Macintosh PowerPC
- Mac OS 7.6 or greater
- Quicktime 3.0 or higher
- 13 MB Ram
- 3 MB Disk Space
- Internet Connection

As I said, not a great productivity tool—in fact, it's fascinating enough to keep you away from work for awhile!—but it IS a lot of fun to play with.



**Weather Forecast**

**Columbus, OH United States 3:35 PM**

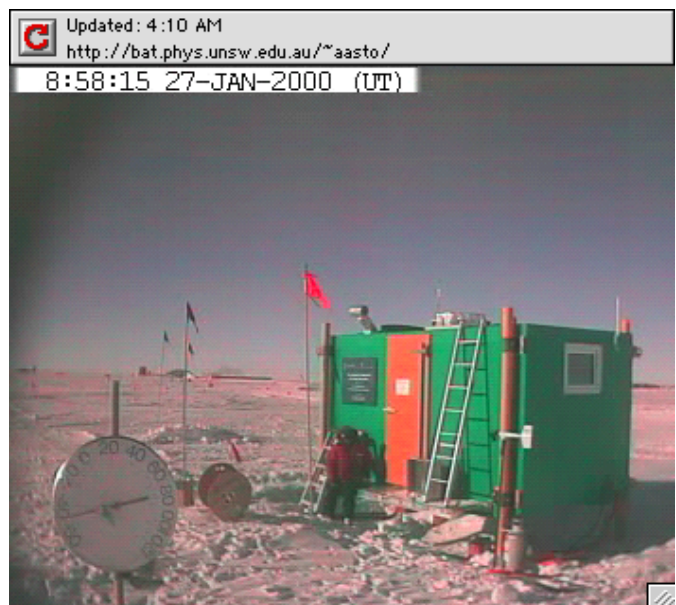
**OVERCAST** **4° F**

**Wind:** NNW 8mph

**Updated:** 9:00 AM **Humidity:** 76%

**Pressure:** 30.42 in Hg

Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
24/7 Flurries	<b>COLD</b> 27/18 Cold	32/22 Clouds	36/26 P/Sunny	34/22 Cloudy





# Storage

the drawback of being terribly slow at recording information. One can't just drag and drop a file and then a few seconds later, eject the CD, shut down your computer, put the CD in your bag and head home. There are re-writable CDs (CD-RW) which allow you to erase a CD and rewrite on it, but they and their recorders are much more expensive. Some of these CD-RW drives offer the option of recording only part of the CD now and part of it later, which is something you can't do on a CD-R drive.

Faster storage options comes from Iomega. Iomega produces both Jaz drives

which hold Gigabytes (GB) of information and Zip drives which offer around 100MB or 250MB (Zip 250 drive only) of storage per disk. The big advantage with these is that you can copy just one file or hundreds. You can copy one file on a disk and another file later the same day or minute on the same disk. This is very similar to our old aging friend the floppy disk, but with much more storage capacity. They are different from floppy disks in that they copy and read files much faster than the geriatric floppy drive.



Jaz drives are great in that they allow the backup of huge amounts of data, perhaps even whole hard drives with good speed and very little hassle. However, they are not very good for sharing files with others since so few people have Jaz drives (probably because most of us rarely need to backup GBs of information... today, anyway).



With so many computers using Zip disks, and many Wintel and Mac computers coming with zip drives pre-installed, they are a great medium for transferring files from one computer to another while still giving you fast copy and read speed as well as re-recordability. If you are wanting to share files, remember that although 100MB Zip disks can be read by both versions of Zip drives, the 250MB disks can only be read by the 250MB Zip drives.

100-250MB of storage would seem to meet most peoples needs for daily backup and sharing of files. The 250MB Zip drive even has enough storage capacity to copy most system folders, which is a big enticement.

One less obvious option is the backup of files on an internet server such

as the free 20MB iDisk that is provided by Apple Computer Inc. for everyone who has OS9, or the 100MB you can use from [www.idrive.com](http://www.idrive.com) regardless of what operating system you are using.

This has the advantage of backing up files in a different location than your main computer. This can be especially important in the event of a burglary or a tragedy such as a fire. This also makes it possible to transfer files with any other computer that is connected to the internet with no need for expensive drive equipment or disks. The drawback with this plan comes when the file is very large and the internet connection is slow or possibly down altogether. Depending on the server you choose, you also run the risk that someone could hack into the system and gain access to your files.

# Apple Profits

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consumer desktops and 235,000 iBook™ consumer portables, drove unit growth of 46 percent year-over-year, outpacing the industry average. IDC is currently forecasting total worldwide industry unit growth at 17 percent for the December quarter compared with the year-ago quarter.

“We are delighted that Apple is delivering strong growth on every front—revenues, profits and units—and in particular that our unit growth last quarter was 2.5 times higher than the industry average, which leads directly to market share growth,” said Steve Jobs, Apple’s CEO. “Apple also continues to deliver the best asset management in the industry, ending the quarter with less than one day of inventory.”

“Strong earnings combined with superb operational efficiency resulted in positive cash flow from operations of \$373 million,” said Fred Anderson, Apple’s CFO. “Apple finished the quarter with over \$3.6 billion in cash and short-term investments, and over \$5 billion if the Company’s investments in ARM and Akamai Technologies, Inc. are included.”

	CD-R CD/RW	Jaz	Zip	Server
<b>Sharing</b>	✓		✓	✓
<b>Size</b>	✓	✓		
<b>Speed</b>		✓	✓	

### Conclusion

If transferability is the main concern, the CD-R and CD-RW would be the best choice since data that you record on a CD can be shared with almost everyone who has a CD player on their computer (note that older CD players cannot read CD-RW disks). If you want fast backup of daily data, then the zip drive is probably your best choice. The internet storage option, such as iDisk, is a free and safe which makes it a great backup source even if you have a zip or other backup medium.








*Do you have other ideas, share your thoughts and experiences on this or any topic by writing a letter to the editor at: [dlbeard@mac.com](mailto:dlbeard@mac.com)*





## This Month's Book Review: **Read Apple/Mac Books for FREE: Our Public Library**

The book review this month is actually a review of the Apple related books available from the Public Library. The list below is just a sampling of books you can read for free! You can search for yourself by going to the following web address: <http://www.athenscounty.lib.oh.us/>

### Software Help Books:

-  Macs for Dummies 2nd ed., c1993/ by David Pogue ; foreword by John Kander.  
Held at: Athens Public Library, Plains Public Library, Call#004.165 Po
-  Macworld Mac OS 8 Bible, c1997/ Lon Poole.  
Held at: Athens Public Library, Plains Public Library, Call#005.4 Po
-  Mac Answers!: Certified Tech Support, c1999/ Bob LeVitus and Shelly Brisbin.  
Held at: Athens Public Library, Nelsonville Public Library, Plains Public Library, Call#005.4 Le
-  Macs for Dummies, 5th ed. c1997/ by David Pogue ; foreword by John Kander.  
Held at: Athens Public Library, Nelsonville Public Library, Call#004.165 Po
-  The Macintosh Bible, 7th ed. c1998/ Sharon Zardetto Aker.  
Held at: Athens Public Library, Call#004.165 Ak
-  The little iMac book, c1999/ Robin Williams.  
Held at: Athens Public Library, Nelsonville Public Library, Plains Public Library, Call#004.165 Wi
-  Using Mac OS 8.5,c1998 / Brad Miser.  
Held at: Athens Public Library, Call#005.369 Mi

### Apple Related Topics Books:

-  Infinite Loop : how the world's most insanely great computer company went insane, c1999/ Michael S. Malone.  
Held at: Athens Public Library, Call#338.7 Ma
-  On the Firing Line : my 500 days at Apple, c1998/ Gil Amelio and William L. Simon.  
Held at: Athens Public Library, Nelsonville Public Library, Plains Public Library, Call#338.7 Am

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To find Apple related books in the Ohio University Library, go to:  
<http://www.library.ohiou.edu/electres/bookfind/bookfind.htm>



# Smart Music Studio 6.0 Review

*Accompaniment software that changes tempo as you do!*

By Matthew James, Assistant Professor of Music

Smart Music Studio 6.0 is a revolutionary accompaniment program for musicians from Coda Music Technology ([www.codamusic.com](http://www.codamusic.com)) that actually interacts with soloists during performance.

This one-of-a-kind program generates a MIDI accompaniment (harpichord, piano, jazz combo, full orchestra, rock band and more) to over 5,000 compositions for woodwind or brass instrumentalists and vocalists.

Its Intelligent Accompaniment feature directly responds to tempo changes initiated by the performer, who uses a microphone. As a result, musicians can enjoy a total ensemble experience in the privacy of their practice rooms, with a computerized accompanist that adjusts to the soloist in an eerily human fashion.

Smart Music is an extremely user-friendly program that can be mastered in one or two practice sessions. It can act as a true collaborator in the practice room for beginning band students working on music fundamentals and simple compositions, or even for professionals practicing major repertoire.

Soloists can program loops of difficult measures to practice repeatedly, and speed them up or slow them down without changing key or intonation. They may also choose to hear Smart Music perform the solo line. If a particular composition is outside one's vocal range, the entire work can be transposed by simply entering a preferred key.

Intonation is aided by a built-in tuner, and a metronome is available that will click through the work with the performer, if need be.

Teachers can check the progress of students who have logged their practice sessions into the

program's database, to find out what was practiced, and for how long. In addition, recording devices can be connected to the computer, for immediate playback and objective critique of performances.



Different compositions come on different disks and must be purchased individually at approximately \$25 each. Each disk includes a historical background about the work and the composer in a pull-down menu, along with definitions of terms and markings unique to the piece.

Smart Music 6.0 is relatively cheap at about \$100, and comes with a microphone, foot pedal and headset. Where you get into some real cost, however, is in the purchase of the mandatory repertoire disks, which often hold only one composition. At \$25 each an instrumentalist hoping to obtain most of the major works for his or her instrument will have to shell out hundreds of dollars.

Still, Smart Music is very much worth the price for band and choral directors, university music professors and individuals who might not have access to an accompanist (or full orchestra, for that matter!) for themselves or their students. By inviting up-to-date technology like this into the practice room, practicing music becomes fun and students become motivated to learn.

*Matthew T. James is an Assistant Professor of Saxophone/Jazz Studies at Ohio University*



# Apple User Groups

Athens Area Macintosh Users Group  
P.O Box 541  
Athens, Ohio 45701

**Come play Pod Racer at the next AAMUG Mtg.**



**February 16th at 7:00pm**

**The Races/Meeting will be held in  
the Academic Advancement Center's Computer Lab  
in 101 Alden Library.**

	Apple User Group	<b>AAMUG Officers</b>
<i>The Athens Area Macintosh Users Group (AAMUG) is an independent user group &amp; has not been authorized, sponsored or otherwise approved by Apple Computer, Inc.</i>	Dick Dean Shareware Co-Librarian deanr@ohiou.edu	
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	Tim Smith Shareware Co-Librarian smitht@ohio.edu	
	D.Lee Beard Newsletter Editor dlbeard@mac.com	
	Dick Piccard Webpage Master piccard@ohio.edu	