CAMP News

SEPTEMBER 2008

Welcome Back!

The first CAMP meeting of the school year will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 10, in Room 117 at Gardiner Area High School. This is the same Mac lab where we have met for the last several years. The highlight of the evening will be a demonstration of video chat by CAMP Secretary Lee Cabana.

Audiobook Builder

Do you have a need to convert books on CD to audiobooks that are playable on your iPod? If so, check out Audiobook Builder by Splasm Software. Audiobook Builder is very easy to use. After setting up your project, you import the individual CDs into Audiobook Builder's project window. Books on CD typically break up the text into separate tracks of 3 or 4 minutes duration. Audiobook Builder gives you the choice of preserving the discrete tracks when importing, or alternatively, importing each disk as one unbroken file. The difference relates to the bookmark feature of newer iPods, whereby tapping the rewind or fast forward button jumps to the previous or next bookmark, respectively. Importing discrete tracks means that you can navigate your book in very small hops, whereas importing each disk as one track means that there will be one bookmark for every 70 minutes or so of text. On my 2.0 dual processor Powermac G5, Audiobook Builder takes about 10 minutes to rip each disk. The final step of combining all disks into the finished file takes considerably longer. Audiobook Builder is a $10 download; a free demo that processes only the first 20 minutes of content is available.

WILLPower

My son is soon shipping out to Ghana with the Peace Corps, and I wanted to prepare a durable financial power of attorney and advanced health care directive for him before he leaves. WILLPower is an estate planning software product that is part of H&R Block's TaxCut line. Unlike TaxCut, which is available in Mac and Windows versions, WILLPower is Windows-only, but runs fine on the aforementioned Powermac G5 under Virtual PC 7 and Windows 2000. The forms I created did comply with specific requirements of Maine law, although I was concerned about the notary jurat generated for the POA. You can export your finished documents in RTF format for editing in MS Word and Apple Pages. WILLPower costs $20 downloaded or boxed. ☼