

CAMP NEWS

Capital Apple, Mac, Performa User Group

Hi Ho, Hi Ho — It's Web 2.0!

“Web 2.0” is a trendy internet catchphrase you may have heard bandied about. But what exactly does it mean? To find out, come to the **January 14** CAMP meeting, where retired teacher Becky Ranks will give us her take on the subject. We meet in Room 117, Gardiner Area High School at 7:00 p.m.

Tales of Horror, Tales of Woe

Jeff Frankel, Newsletter Editor

I know. Already you're thinking, “What's with the macabre headline? This sounds like a Halloween edition, not a New Year's edition.”

But stop and reconsider. The economy's in the toilet and unemployment is at levels unseen for decades. Mortgage foreclosures are peaking and most people's retirement investments have taken a huge hit. The domestic auto industry is on the ropes, and this writer has seen little apparent benefit from the billions of bailout funds that have been expended so far. Yes, I know that we will turn that magic corner on January 20, but until then I've got a perfect right to be pissy.

My inner pessimist has emerged with a roar, and brings you herewith three tales of horror and woe. But just as my pessimism is overblown, so is this introduction: the following accounts are really just tales of inconvenience and annoyance, not horror and woe. Everything worked out in the end. I hope I can at some point say the same about our current national crisis.

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2009 Officers and Directors

The following members were elected officers and directors for 2009 at the December 10 annual meeting. This is a continuation of the 2008 leadership team:

President Steve Katz
 Vice President Rob Darby
 Secretary Lee Cabana
 Treasurer Joe Dee
 Membership Dir'r ... Mike Knight
 Newsletter Editor Jeff Frankel
 Webmaster Sue Westlake
 Publicity Director ... Sue Westlake
 Director-at-large Del Clough
 Director-at-large Adam Tomash

There was much suspense as we drew the “last chance” raffle. The first two tickets drawn were both for the same absent member. The third, alas, was also that of an absent member. Joe Dee won on the fourth try—congratulations, Joe!

Jeff Frankel won the separate raffle for a free copy of iBank.

Featured this issue:
 Tales of horror and woe for the New Year

Tales of Horror, Tales of Woe

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Windows Horror, Windows Woe

Several months ago, at one of our troubleshooting discussions, I complained about the difficulty I ran into when trying to make a disk image of a CD-ROM on my wife's IBM Notepad PC that would automatically mount at startup. On a Mac, Disk Utility easily (a) creates disk images, and (b) mounts disk images on your desktop so you can access their contents. I was dumbfounded to discover that Windows XP has neither capability. Thankfully, there are freeware utilities that accomplish these tasks.

Recently I ran into another annoying Windows limitation when attempting to configure this same machine to print to the Brother laser printer on my home network. Windows XP may be plug-and-play for printers connected directly to a PC, but this is not the case (at least, not for me) when attempting to add a networked printer. In the Mac's Print & Fax preference pane, Apple's Bonjour technology automatically displays a list of available printers. Not so in Windows. Unless you are lucky enough to

find a printer directory (I wasn't), you must yourself enter the network pathname and the arcane network name of your printer in Windows' Add Printer Wizard. Don't know this information? Then you're out of luck. Fortunately, I was able to obtain these items via the utility software that came with my printer, and succeeded in adding the printer. But plug-and-play it ain't.

Zune Clocks Out

In a bizarre episode reminiscent of the Y2K scare, all 30-megabyte Microsoft Zune music players suddenly froze up on December 31 of last year if they were on at the time or if their owners attempted to start them. It took Microsoft about a day to finally announce that a leap year-related programming bug had temporarily disabled the Zune until January 1, and that once the battery was discharged the player would restart without incident. But until the announcement, confusion ran rampant as the bewildered hordes tried to figure out why their Zunes seemed to be dying in droves.

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Translation: You've run out of time. Or more accurately, you don't have enough disk space to hold it.

Running Out of Time (or the disk space to hold it)

In the February 2008 issue of CAMP News I related how I had recently purchased a 500 gigabyte internal hard drive to serve as a Time Machine backup disk for my 250 gig primary drive. I'd only used 180+ gigs on the primary drive, but by December 18 (see illustration at left), my backup disk was full. I performed my initial Time Machine backup on January 13, 2008. Time Machine is progressively deleting my older backups to make room for new stuff. As of this writing, my oldest remaining backup set is from February 3, 2008. I'm not going to buy a larger disk for Time Machine. Eleven months of TM backups is OK for me; anything older is backed up with Retrospect on DVD-DLs, anyway.

Tales of Horror, Tales of Woe

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Not to make light of others' difficulties, but the posts to Microsoft's Zune support forums had me doubled over in laugh-, I mean, empathy. Here is how some members of the self-styled "Zune Midnight Meltdown Club" lamented their fate:

*re: MAN COME ON MY 2ND ZUNE 30
STOPED WORKING !!!!!*

Yeah count me in too, and thanks Microsoft for ruining new year's eve I've spent a week making a playlist for tonight and now my zune won't even start, and it better not be fixed with a hard reset because I don't want to loose anything!

How can the M\$oft developers be so stupid, I hope the one responsible will get fired and beaten and his car scratched.

What I find more amusing, or creepy whichever you prefer, is that appearantly everyone with a 30G is having the same problem. And, I dont know about everyone else, but my wireless is turned off. So either something malicious was in the programming when I sync'd my device this evening, this is a hardware bug that has been there all along, or God hates 30G Zune's. Take your pick!

I'm cold and I gots no music. I miss my cupcake...

all of the above. I wanna call microsoft but in addition to my zune being screwy, my phone crapped the bed today. Sooooo no luck there. Someone put in a good word for me.

Major Nelson - I encourage ALL Zune 30 users to try this, along with an accompanying YouTube video to capture the moment when your Zune comes back to life. To fix the Zune 30 GB, all you have to

do is boil it in 5 quarts of ketchup for exactly 3 minutes... don't overdo it or your Zune might receive some slight damage, so be careful.

I think somebody at Microsoft didn't account for leapyear when programming the firmware for the Zune. Today is the 366th day of the year...and everyone's Zunes bricked last night at 12:00 AM. They had added a new feature to the Zune with the most recent re-release...they added a clock. Seemingly simple, right? A friggin clock. Haven't we mastered the clock at this point?

Mobile Me Takes Down My User Account

But fear not, my PC-using brethren. Microsoft isn't the only miscreant whose misdeeds are chronicled here.

Annual Mobile Me subscriptions are significantly less expensive when bought from a retailer other than Apple. This entails entry of an activation code into the Mobile Me preference pane. Ordinarily, this is no big deal. This time, however, I had trouble getting the activation code to "take." Directly afterwards, just to see what would happen, I clicked the Sign Out... button. No big deal; I just signed in again. But then I noticed that synchronizing had ceased, I couldn't access my iDisk, and the check boxes and buttons in the Mobile Me preference pane were non-responsive.

I spent somewhere in the neighborhood of 60-90 minutes on text message support with Apple in an unsuccessful attempt to resolve this. The remedy? I used Time Machine to restore my entire user account to the way it was just before catastrophe struck, and all was well on my Mac once again. Hint: in order to restore an entire user account, you must be logged in under a different user account.

Well, so much for all the good news. Maybe by January 2009 I'll be in a better mood! ☀