

CAMP News

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JEFF FRANKEL, EDITOR

Capital Apple Mac Performa User Group



Augusta, Maine
www.campug.org

October 13 Meeting • 7 PM • Buker Community Center, Senior Room (1st floor) • 22 Armory Street, Augusta

Sue Westlake will demo Filevault, an encryption program built into the Macintosh operating system, and [DropBox](#), an application for backing up your files, accessing them from any computer, syncing files across multiple machines, and collaborating on files with others. *Plus*, she'll do it all on CAMP's brand-new Epson EX71 projector. Be there for Sue's demo and the projector's maiden voyage!

Photoshop Elements 9 Ships

Jeffrey Frankel, Newsletter Editor

Almost a year to the day after the release of Photoshop Elements 8, Adobe Systems last month rolled out version 9 of its image editing software for the rest of us. Unlike Photoshop proper, which is targeted at professionals and has a price tag to match, Photoshop Elements serves the hobbyist market and offers 90% of Photoshop's power for less than 15% of its price.

For me, the big news in PSE9 is the direct availability of layer masks in any layer. In previous versions of Elements, layer

masks couldn't be fully utilized without resort to third-party tools or kludgy workarounds. Adobe also earned kudos for including content-aware fill in PSE9. Content-aware fill, just recently introduced in Photoshop CS5, allows the user to paint over an unwanted object or person in a photo, after which the surrounding area is automatically replicated and blended in to fill the gap. Content-aware fill can spare you a lot of work with the clone tool, but it's not a silver bullet. The quality of the end result is inversely proportional to the complexity of the photograph.

Also new to PSE9 is style match, a function that copies the tonality and contrast of one photo to another; an improved

panorama function that crops out white space in stitched photos; and new guided edits for retouching portraits and turning your photos into pop art illustrations. I haven't yet created a panorama using PSE9, but the panorama function in PSE8 is excellent.

Perhaps the biggest change in PSE9 for Macintosh is the replacement of Bridge, the photo organizer program bundled with the earlier Mac versions of PSE, with Organizer, a cataloguing program that up till now was offered only with the Windows version of PSE. Both programs have their strong points, and a newer version of Bridge continues to be included with Photoshop and other CS5 applications for both

Mac and Windows. I started using Bridge with PSE8, and for several reasons prefer it over Organizer. I'll continue to use Bridge with PSE9.

In PSE8, the marquee feature was the Photomerge Recompose tool, which allows you to easily "close up" photos to remove large swaths of dead space or unwanted persons or objects.

(See the March 2010 issue of CAMP News for examples.) In PSE9, the knockout punch is delivered by the Out of Bounds guided edit, which gives your photos an eye-catching 3-D effect of bursting out of a frame. This is highly customizable and really slick. (See sample photos below.)

PSE8 lists for \$100, less a \$20 rebate through December 31.

(Not all purchases are eligible for the rebate; see Adobe's web site for details.) In a new twist, both the Windows and Mac versions are on one disk, although the license still limits the purchaser to two simultaneous installs. I'm well into my 30-day free trial from Adobe, and plan to purchase before the end of the year. ☀

