

# The Window

MACNJ

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April 2013

## Productivity Apps featured on April 13th

by Bill Barr, Program Chair

Our meeting schedule got bumped around a bit in February because of old man winter. Well, Chod is ready to treat us all to his plethora of Apps that we missed earlier. To refresh your memory, here's what Chod has planned.

Chod, as most of us, uses a few apps a lot and many apps a little bit each. Being self-employed, he has to be a bit of a one man band. Productivity is key! What works? What do you need to do? And, by the way, his business is NOT computing. Computing helps him promote his business, manage and build his business. So just how does a very skilled custom furniture designer, manufacturer and repair service provider make



use of his Macs? This sounds pretty interesting!

Now I can't into all the apps he uses in this short intro. Let's just say his talents are very wide spread encompassing web-site design, desktop publishing, photography, quick ways to manage notes, banking and collections plus reminders - don't we all need reminders! His use of these apps involves both desktop and mobile devices. Some may be familiar to you - Google Calendar, Taking Care of Business, Square, SoHoNotes and more. Again, too many to list here.

This is a worthwhile investment of your time, I assure you. Our agenda includes time for Q&A - most anything you want to ask. And we have a (members only) 50/50 with always interesting items available - Apple related of course.

So put Saturday morning, April 13th, 9 - noon on YOUR calendar. We meet at Voorhees High School just north of High Bridge, NJ and provide the finest beverages, donuts and bagels we can find. Friends and the public are welcome. See you then.

## It's Not Email That's Broken, It's You

by Joe Kissell



I know this is going to foment controversy, but screw it. I'm tired of reading about how email is fundamentally flawed and about all the clever new ways to "fix" or "reinvent" it. Email isn't broken! Email is great. I love email; it's my favorite way to communicate. Some email apps, servers, and protocols are better than others, but honestly, it would be OK with me if email stayed as is forever. If your relationship with email is unsatisfactory, email isn't the problem. It's you.

Now, I assume that by this point, many people have already stopped reading and started commenting about how wrong I am. That's great; those of us who are sticking around for the rest of the article can safely ignore all those comments

and have a polite and friendly (if one-sided) conversation. I've been thinking about the whole alleged email problem in recent weeks largely due to the hype surrounding the new Mailbox, which purports to finally "put email in its place." In the midst of the Mailbox frenzy, Maria Popova, of the highly regarded Brain Pickings [<http://www.brainpickings.org/>] blog, stated on Twitter that she was declaring email bankruptcy — summarily deleting 7,487 unread email messages from her inbox because she knew she could never get to them all. All this, in turn, reminded me of an influential blog post by my friend Tantek Çelik, who declared in 2008 that Email is Efail [<http://tantek.com/log/2008/02.html#d19t2359>].

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# Freshly Squeezed Reviews: Hear Ye!

## Product: AudioGlove

Manufacturer: AudioGlove.Net <audioglove.net>

Requirements: iPhone (various)

Price: 3G, 3GS \$10.00; 4, 4S \$35.00; 5 \$40.00

Test Rig: iPhone 4S

Hello. My name is Frank. And I am a podcast hoarder.

I probably collect about 40 hours of podcasts a week, both video and audio. I capture my video podcasts on my iPad with iCatcher. And I use Apple's podcast app to corral all of my audio podcasts on my iPhone.

Now, if I'm in a coffee shop or somewhere else in public I tend to use my EarPods to listen to a podcast. But when I'm at home, I like to just hear them in the open air. Problem: the speakers face away from you. So, you loose volume and lots of it.

So I found someone who created a little shell to attach to your iPad, that cups the speaker and redirects the sound towards you. Needless to say, the sound is about twice as loud.

But what about my iPhone? There's no such device. Until now.

"The AudioGlove is a polycarbonate protective case that also features an acoustically engineered retractable wave-guide chamber that "naturally" amplifies the sound coming to and from the iPhone. This patented Natural Sound Amplification™ technology requires no batteries, headphones, cords or docks."

## THE JUICE

AudioGlove is extremely simple. It's a two piece case. You insert your iPhone into the top half of the case, making sure that the camera lens/power button/sound/mute buttons are correctly lined up. Once done with that, you slide on the bottom half of the case until it snaps into place.

Once on and opened, you will notice a decidedly louder

iPhone. Not only does it purportedly increase the phone's volume by a reported 12db (it sounds like more, actually), but it also helps reduce your microphone's **background noise when making phone calls (or converse with Siri, if thats your thing).**

## THE PULP



I found the AudioGlove quite snug when trying to place it on my iPhone 4S. I'm not the most nimble person, but this was difficult to the point that I thought that I was going to break the case.

I did find that the more that I opened and closed the case, the easier it moved, however. Perhaps, it'll grow easier with time. Placing some Vaseline on the case would undoubtedly make it glide smoothly but I'm not putting Vaseline near my iPhone!

It is easy to recharge your iPhone with the case in the open position. There's more than enough room to put in your 30-pin charger. The designer wisely put an opening in the bottom of the case for the chargers cord to go through, as well.

And when you close the shell to carry your iPhone about, there are openings in the case directly above the speakers, so you can still hear alerts and ringtones when your AudioGlove is closed.

## THE RIND

It doesn't come with a stand. If I'm lying in bed and listening to a podcast before I go to sleep, that's no problem. But if I'm sitting at my desk typing and I want to listen to a podcast, the problem is that if I have to lay my iPhone on it's back, redirecting the sound up towards the ceiling. It's definitely still louder, but it defeats the very problem that the device is designed to solve.

Yes, I could go out and find a stand for my iPhone. But now I'm looking at a second purchase to make the initial

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purchase work as designed. And I've already paid \$35.00USD. And at that price, I feel that a stand should be included, without a doubt.

## SUMMARY

AudioGlove does exactly what it promises to do and does it impressively well. It's a very simple design and it is very well thought out. Pragmatic design always makes me smile; it means that someone is actually thinking.

But at this price, not having a stand is to me a possible deal breaker.

So, if the lack of a stand is not a deal breaker for you, go for it. But if it is, it's back to the EarPods.

RATING: 3 out of 5

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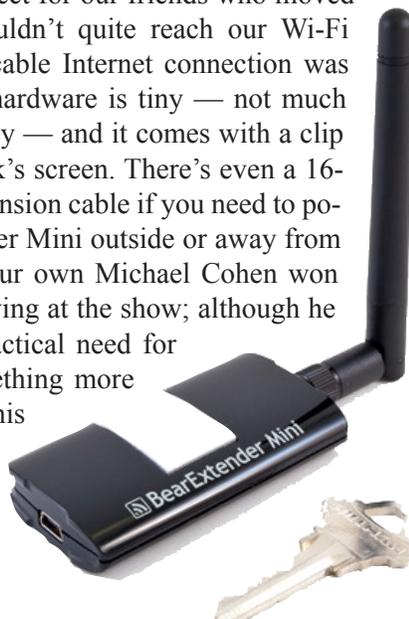
# Cool Products from Macworld/iWorld 2013:

By the TidBits Staff

## Part 2

**Extend Wi-Fi Range with BearExtender** -- Wi-Fi hacking no longer makes the news, but there are still times when you need more than what Apple's built-in hardware can do for you. In particular, if you're just out of range of a Wi-Fi network, the \$49.97 BearExtender Mini [<http://store.bearextender.com/products/bearextender-mini>] may be just the ticket. It's a USB-connected, 1000 milliwatt Wi-Fi transceiver with an omnidirectional 2 dbi external antenna (an optional 5 dbi antenna provides even more range). BearExtender claims two to four times the range of the standard AirPort card, which would have been perfect for our friends who moved in next door and couldn't quite reach our Wi-Fi network while their cable Internet connection was being installed. The hardware is tiny — not much larger than a house key — and it comes with a clip to attach to a MacBook's screen. There's even a 16-foot (4.9 m) USB extension cable if you need to position the BearExtender Mini outside or away from interference. (Note: our own Michael Cohen won one of these in a drawing at the show; although he personally has no practical need for it, he may have something more to say about it once his unit arrives.)

### Bear Extender



CamRanger



CameraMator

-- The most interesting photography-related development at this year's Macworld/iWorld was the capability to control a DSLR camera remotely from an iOS device via Wi-Fi. In fact, two vendors were showing off devices. Both the **CamRanger** [<http://www.camranger.com>] and the **CameraMator** [<http://www.cameramator.com>] plug into a camera's USB port and create their own ad-hoc Wi-Fi networks (CameraMator can also use an existing Wi-Fi network). After you connect an iPad, iPhone, or iPod touch to the network, you can get a live view of what the camera is seeing and control nearly all of the camera's settings, such as shutter speed, aperture, ISO, and the like. Other software and devices enable this interaction (like OnOne Software's DSLR Remote Camera HD) but require the computer to be physically tethered to the camera. Compatibility with certain features varies by camera. CamRanger lists models and supported features; so far the CameraMator site doesn't include this information. Both devices cost \$299.99, and use free iOS apps to control the camera.

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## Street Photography for iOS Users

Sometimes you want to take a picture with your iPhone or iPad without being painfully obvious by holding your device vertically to use the camera. With the MirrorCase [<http://www.mirrorcase.com>] for the iPhone 4/4S, iPhone 5, and iPad, you can hold the iPhone horizontally, as though you were innocently reading something, and still snap pictures and take videos of scenes in front of you. Or, if you're using your iPad to take notes in a lecture, it can remain flat on the desk while still having a clear camera view of the lecturer's slide presentation. It's all done via smoke and mirrors, without the smoke, and the free MirrorCase app handles the necessary pixel-flipping so everything is right-side up (a \$0.99 MirrorCase Plus version adds sharing and in-app access to the Camera Roll). The MirrorCase for the iPhone 4/4S is available now for \$49.95, the iPhone 5 version is available for pre-order for \$59.95, and the iPad version is also coming soon for \$79.95.



## Kanex ATV Pro --

For my "The iPad for Photographers" session, I geeked out by delivering my entire presentation from my iPad, wirelessly, using an AirPort Express and an Apple TV. But the day before I was to appear onstage, I ran into an unexpected snag: the projectors used at the show offered only old VGA connections. The third- and fourth-generation Apple TV use HDMI connections as the only way to output video and audio, so I figured I'd have to fall back to an iPad VGA adapter, tying me to the lectern for my talk. Talk about an occasion when it was great to have a bunch of vendors on the show floor nearby! I headed to the Kanex booth, knowing that they've offered video adapters of all sorts for years, and sure enough, they had exactly what I needed: the \$59.95 Kanex ATV Pro [<http://www.kanexlive.com/atvpro>]. It plugs into the Apple TV's HDMI port, and includes a port for attaching



a VGA cable. There's also a 3.5mm audio-out jack to output sound. In talking with one of the company's representatives in the booth, I learned that the ATV Pro is one of their best-selling products, especially to education customers who aren't able to upgrade older projectors but want to take advantage of the AirPlay media and screen-sharing capabilities of Apple's latest devices.

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## Cooking with iPad and Chef



For as long as I can remember, the computer has been poised to become a digital kitchen companion — and yet most of us still reach for paper cookbooks when standing at the kitchen counter. Part of the problem is that cooking is messy, and while nature may abhor a vacuum, iPads abhor soup. The folks at Chef Sleeve [<http://chefsleeve.com/>] sell disposable iPad sleeves (25 for \$19.99, available directly and at Target) that protect the tablet from ingredients that never completely make it into mixing bowls. The booth representatives said the fitted plastic bags are reusable, but I'm not crazy about having to toss excess plastic, even if it is recyclable. However, what intrigued me more was the company's \$34.99 iPad Dishwasher Safe iPad Stand and \$69.99 Cutting Board with iPad Stand. Both products are made from recycled wood fibers and a food-safe resin, and — as advertised — can be cleaned in the dishwasher. The stand can hold the iPad in two angles (45 or 20 degrees) depending on which slot you use; I like that the wider slot accommodates an iPad with a Smart Cover wrapped around the back. The cutting board features a slot for the iPad, so you can keep your recipes right in front of your work. Maybe this arrangement will finally convince me to digitize my old index card recipes.

## Simplest iPhone Holders

Lastly, we wanted to call out Insanely Great Products, [<http://store.igproducts.us>] a small California company that was selling oodles of simple, inexpensive iPhone holders and elegant iPad stands. Their shtick? In an industry where many products are made badly in China by low-paid workers, Insanely Great Products is at the forefront of the Made in America re-shoring trend, doing all their manufacturing in Silicon Valley. Though known mostly for software, Silicon Valley has also always had a rich tradition and ecosystem for hardware manufacturing, and everyone at Insanely Great Products participates in building the company's products,

starting with sheets of acrylic, steel, and aluminum and then designing, cutting, bending, etching and assembling each item by hand. The company got its start in the maker-focused TechShop in the San Francisco Bay Area, though they had to purchase some of their own equipment to be able to produce sufficient quantities. If you're looking for an iPhone gadget that can prop your iPhone up on your desk, hold it to a window, or dangle it from your car's vents, their ingenious suction-cup and binder-clip holders really do work. And if aluminum, acrylic, and steel are too industrial for you, their natural bamboo iPhone 5 stand, which also can hold an iPad mini at a nice reading angle, is also an attractive accessory.



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## Email

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I could give lots more examples, but it's clear that a great many people are completely overwhelmed by email. That's a problem, for sure, and it needs to be solved. What bothers me is when people blame the medium. The world's obesity problem isn't the fault of food, and the world's debt problem isn't the fault of money. Your email problems aren't the fault of email as a communications system, and they're probably not even the fault of the tools you're using. It's easy to pick on email because it won't fight back. But the real problem for most people who feel email is out of control is that they haven't taken responsibility for figuring out why the problem exists for them and how to change their habits to address it.

Email is not unique in this regard; the same could be said of Twitter overload or Facebook overload, for example. But at least in the case of social networking services, you get to decide who you receive messages from, and there's no technological barrier (even if there is a psychological one) to unfollowing someone on Twitter or unfriending someone on Facebook. With email, the solutions are less obvious while the stakes are higher.

Don't misunderstand; I wouldn't presume to say, "Why don't you just grow up and deal with your problem?" as though you're merely being too lazy to implement some obvious and foolproof fix. Changing email habits is hard, like changing eating habits. How many people do you know who have tried one diet after another — with the very best intentions and perhaps even encouraging results — only to find that after months or years, they slip back into their old ways? Email overload is not a trivial thing to deal with. But people have successfully and definitively dealt with it, and you can too. Before you can do that, however, you have to accept that you alone have the responsibility to make email work for you. If you're waiting for the right app or service to come along and magically fix it for you, you're going to have a long wait.

Let's go back to the Mailbox app I mentioned earlier. I tried it, and I hated it. It is, for me, utterly unusable. I could write many paragraphs about how awful I think its overall approach is and how ineffective its particular implementations are. But — and again, I'm assuming we just lost a bunch more people who have already headed for the comments — none of that matters. If you like Mailbox and it makes your email experience better, more power to you. What works for one person may not work for everyone. We all have to find our own paths to email sanity.

The system I've used for years works perfectly — for me. My inbox rarely has more than a handful of messages in it, and it's usually empty when I go to bed. I don't feel anxious or overwhelmed by my email, even though I receive a vast number of messages every day. Several years ago, I sat down and thought about the kinds of messages I receive and what I need to do in order to dispose of them quickly and efficiently. Based on that, I came up with a method I'm comfortable with. (You can read about a somewhat generic version of my system in my Macworld series *Empty Your Inbox* [ <http://www.macworld.com/article/1139510/>].)

Adam Engst developed his own way of interacting with email, which he documented in the four-part series "Zen and the Art of Gmail" [ <http://tidbits.com/series/1284/>]. His approach (see the second article in the series for details) is as different from mine as can be — I'm certain that neither one of us could follow the other's system for a day without driving ourselves utterly batty. As tempted as I may be to say his way is "wrong" and mine is "right," they're actually both right, because they suit our respective personalities. We've each identified what causes us stress, what we're willing to pay attention to, and what we tend to ignore — and we've adopted systems that work with, rather than against, our proclivities. There are other approaches, too, including Merlin Mann's legendary *Inbox Zero* [ <http://inboxzero.com/>] and innumerable variations thereof, such as Keith Rarick's Gmail version [ <http://xph.us/2013/01/22/inbox-zero-for-life.html>], which Maria Popova is now trying to follow.

So, even though I'm extremely fond of my own system, and even though I have strong feelings about some common habits (I truly can't bear the idea of using one's inbox as a to do list), I'm not trying to prescribe a particular approach to email. What I am trying to say is you probably don't receive more email than Adam Engst, Merlin Mann, or I do, and if we can get to the point where we feel email is under control, you can too. If you find that one of our systems works "out of the box," that's fantastic; go for it! If you need to adapt a system to your own needs or invent something entirely new, that's also fine. But it's work. You have to take a few hours of your life to analyze the ways you use email and determine what parts of your approach aren't working, and then adjust some of your behaviors.

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## Email

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You may find it helpful to think about the metaphors we use when talking about email as if they were literal. Would you ever consider declaring postal mail bankruptcy — tossing out all the thousands of envelopes that appeared in your physical mailbox over a period of months without even a glance? Would you allow envelopes to accumulate in a physical inbox on your desk until the pile reached the ceiling? I'm guessing no to both; somehow, nearly everyone finds some way to cope with mail when it arrives in physical form, even though there may be a lot of it, because some of it is important and there could be dire consequences to ignoring it. But “coping” might include taking your name off of mailing lists, hiring an assistant, or taking other more drastic measures. Do the ways you've dealt with paper mail suggest ideas for dealing with email?

Learning to cope with email may involve things that feel painful, such as:

- Unsubscribing from mailing lists you enjoy, particularly those that distract you into reading more (but hopefully not TidBITS!)
- Switching to a different email provider that filters spam more effectively
- Telling your family that you'd prefer not to receive pictures of adorable kittens and endlessly forwarded jokes
- Forcing yourself to respond to difficult messages immediately
- Deleting or filing certain messages without taking action on them

Perhaps you'll have to do all these things, or none of them. That's not for me to say. You even get to decide what your actual goal is. Maybe having an empty inbox is irrelevant to you and it's not a good measure of whether you're in control of your email. But in any case, if your current approach isn't working for you, the one thing you mustn't do is shift the blame to email as a medium or to an imperfect email app. If email is the problem, you alone are the solution.

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# How to read Kindle books on your Mac, iPad or iPhone

Excerpted from Practical Mac Tips #524

The Kindle from Amazon is a hardware device for reading ebooks. And ebooks are becoming increasingly popular. They're usually very cheap and delivery takes only a moment. But you don't have to own a Kindle device to read Kindle books. Instead free software for your Mac, iPad, iPhone, iPod touch (or other devices) is all you need.

This Tip explains how to find and install the free software and use it for reading Kindle ebooks.

## Quick Start

1. Go to the iOS or Mac App Store on the device you're using.
2. Find and install the free Kindle app.
3. Follow the instructions on screen to 'connect' your device to the Kindle Store.
4. Go to Amazon.com and find a book in the Kindle format.
5. Either send a sample to your Mac or iOS device or buy a whole book and send it to the device
6. Open, read and enjoy.

## Sign in to Amazon

When you first open the Kindle reader app it asks for your Amazon account email address and password. Enter these. When you enter your Amazon account info the text Register this Kindle appears on screen. Tap that text to continue. After registering you may see various notices on screen, such as one informing you how to read other documents on your Kindle. Tap the Close button once you've read the information.

Now you should see a Home screen which will list any books or book samples you've downloaded.

There are very many Kindle books that are free of charge. There are also many others for which you have to pay.

Bonus: If you have a valid Library card, ebooks are available for download borrowing!



# FlippedBITS: Four Password Myths

by Joe Kissell

For this installment of FlippedBITS, I want to focus on four extremely common misconceptions about passwords, all of which can lead to dangerous behavior.

**1: Nine Is Enough** -- I want to begin with a myth I propagated myself in my now-obsolete 2006 book "Take Control of Passwords in Mac OS X." Although what I said in that book was reasonable based on the available data at the time, I grossly underestimated the rate of technological progress. So, I hereby retract and apologize for a particular piece of advice I gave back then: I said that if you chose a random 9-character password consisting of upper- and lowercase letters, digits, and punctuation, you'd be effectively safe from any attack, because it would take centuries, on average, for even a supercomputer to crack such a password by brute force.

Well, it turns out that I was off by a few orders of magnitude. Today, with off-the-shelf hardware and freely available cracking software, a nine-character password can be broken in a maximum of five and a half hours (that's maximum, not minimum!). If your password contains nine or fewer characters, regardless of how random it may be, it's about as unsafe as a Wi-Fi connection protected with WEP (which is to say, safe against only the most casual snooping).

If nine characters are too few these days, how long should a password be? I wish I could give you a straight answer, but the truth is "it depends." For example, I could claim, with some justification, that a random 14-character password is effectively safe from brute-force attacks given today's technology. But I'd have to qualify that in a few different ways.

First, I have no idea what tomorrow's technology will look like. Maybe a few years from now, someone will develop a quantum computer that can crack any 14-character password in the blink of an eye. I don't expect that to happen so soon, but I'd be foolish to bet against it.

Second, not all encryption techniques are equally secure. A password that's protected with a weak encryption algorithm might be crackable in seconds, whereas the same password, encrypted with a better method, could thwart a brute-force

attack for years. Related to this is that some password security systems put additional barriers in place to slow down the rate at which passwords can be guessed. Although these aren't foolproof (as I discuss in a moment), they can, in certain situations, give a simple password much higher effective strength.

Third, length isn't the only factor that affects a password's strength. As illustrated brilliantly in the xkcd comic Password Strength [<http://xkcd.com/936/>], even a password consisting entirely of lowercase English words (such as correct horse battery staple) can be just as strong as a shorter but more random password with a mixed character set. That's because a password's entropy (a mathematical approximation of how hard the password is to guess) can come from length, character set complexity, randomness, or any combination of these. Higher-entropy passwords are more resistant to automated attacks, but there's more than one path to entropy. (If you'd like to test a given password's entropy, there are many online tools that let you do so. I quite like the zxcvbn [<http://dl.dropbox.com/u/209/zxcvbn/test/index.html>] tool for this purpose.)

We can take some comfort in the fact that each additional character in a password increases its strength exponentially. So, if we were to restrict ourselves to just 26 lowercase letters, a 10-character password wouldn't merely be 10 percent better than a 9-character password — it would be 26 times better! There are over 5 trillion possible passwords consisting of nine lowercase letters ( $26^9$ ), but make it ten letters ( $26^{10}$ ), and there are more than 141 trillion possibilities. That means a system that can crack a 9-character random password in 5.5 hours could take over 500 hours to crack a 10-character random password — a huge difference.

Even so, 500 hours is too little for my comfort. You could make that more than 500 years by choosing a 12-character password, which certainly seems safe enough for all practical purposes. But then, that's what I thought about 9-character passwords seven years ago. So, when I suggest 14 as a safer number, I'm building in enough of a buffer to account for a few years of technological development, not in any way saying that such a password will in fact be uncrackable for the over 4,000 millennia it would take at today's rate.

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## Password Myths

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**2: Old Tricks from Old Dogs** -- I've encountered quite a few people — including some major names in the Mac world you'd recognize — who have developed mnemonic techniques for creating and remembering passwords that they imagine to be quite strong. Although specifics vary, there tends to be a consistent element or easily constructed pattern in each password, along with some site-specific portion. For example, maybe I use zombieGooCats for Google and zombieAppCats for Apple. (In reality, most people I know who do this sort of thing have far more sophisticated techniques, but you get the general idea.)

I myself once (cough) advocated such an approach, but I've since seen the light. The problem with all such tricks — and that also goes for “leet” or “1337” (replacing letters with similar-looking numbers), using patterns of keys on a keyboard, and so on — is that no matter how clever you think you are, hackers and their advanced cracking algorithms are smarter. These tools can test a vast number of subtle patterns that few humans would notice, which means even a fairly long, fairly random-looking password might in fact be quite easily guessable. Because remember, we're not worried so much about humans guessing your password but about machines guessing it, and machines are likely to test lower-entropy passwords — especially those based on common mnemonic techniques — long before higher-entropy passwords. (And, if you use the same technique to construct all your passwords from patterns, an attacker who learns one or more of your passwords has an even bigger leg up in guessing the rest.)

More to the point, any technique that relies on your brain for creating and remembering all your passwords is, in my opinion, a waste of mental effort that could be put toward more useful pursuits, such as thinking up bad puns. We have computers and iPads and iPhones and other devices to do this sort of tedious work for us, and they're much better at it than we are. Let a password manager such as 1Password [<http://1password.com/>] or LastPass [<http://lastpass.com/>] generate, remember, and enter passwords for you, and then you can make them as long and random as you like — it's no more effort for an app to make a 32-character password than a 10-character one. Sure, you'll still need to remember a few passwords, but if you're doing it right, it's only a few. (I have only 5 passwords memorized, out of more than 600.)

LastPass \*\*\*\*

### 3: One Password to Rule Them All

-- Speaking of password managers, these tools make it easy to create a unique random password for every single site and service that uses passwords, and I recommend doing so. I can't emphasize strongly enough what a bad idea it is to use the same password in more than one place — even if it's a great password. The fact that reusing passwords is entirely unnecessary if you rely on an automated tool makes it that much more egregious an offense.



Why is it so bad to reuse passwords? Well, it seems like every week or so, there's another news report about some big company experiencing a security breach of some sort in which thousands or even millions of passwords are lost, stolen, leaked, or hacked. This happened recently to Evernote; before that, a long list of other companies had passwords compromised — Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and more. You can bet this trend will continue.

Now, if someone hacks Amazon.com's servers and gets your password, that's bad news, no question about it. But if all your passwords are unique, at least the damage will be limited to that one account. On the other hand, if you use the same password for iCloud, PayPal, Twitter, Gmail, and so forth, you run the very real risk that the attacker may try your password at all those other sites, too, doing considerably more damage.

I'm saying: using unique passwords — even strong unique passwords — doesn't guarantee security. But it does enable you to contain the damage if your password for any one site is compromised. The people most likely to be harmed by password breaches are those who are oblivious to the problem of password reuse. Don't be one of them!

**4: Online vs. Offline Attacks** -- Earlier, I mentioned that some sites and services put barriers in place to slow down or derail automated attacks. For example, if you mistype your password once, you might get one or several additional chances to enter it — but with increasing time delays between guesses. And if you enter it incorrectly several times in a row, you might be locked out entirely for a period of

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## Password Myths

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time, or until you take some independent action to confirm your identity. The whole point of these barriers is to prevent an automated system from trying many passwords per second until it breaks into your account.

While it's an excellent idea for developers to employ such barriers, they aren't as strong as they might appear. That's because most successful attacks don't go through the front door, as it were. The real danger comes when, due to a leak or security breach of some kind, someone gets hold of an encrypted file or database that holds all the passwords for a site. With the file in hand, they can perform what's known as an "offline" attack — they hammer on the raw file with automated tools that check billions of possible passwords per second. Because they've entirely circumvented the security measures that slow down guessing, they can potentially decrypt massive numbers of passwords in a short period of time. (I'm simplifying the story here. Smart developers can also use a combination of techniques — the key terms to look for are "salting" and "hashing" — to frustrate offline attacks, but all too often, a programming error or infelicitous security choice leaves gaping holes that hackers can exploit.)

So, don't assume you can use a short, simple password because you can't see any way an attacker could try billions of passwords a second. You'd be surprised what someone can do, particularly given physical access to the computer where the password is stored. Your best defense is to use high-entropy passwords (which take longer to guess) and make sure each one is unique.

**Don't Worry, Be Happy.** If I've increased your anxiety about passwords by telling you what's wrong with techniques you depend on, I'm sorry. Well, only a little bit sorry, because I want you to have just enough discomfort that you take action to improve your password security and reduce the chance that bad things could happen to your digital life. For extensive details on passwords, including further threats and risks you might face — and my stress-free, three-point strategy for password security — please pick up a copy of "Take Control of Your Passwords [<http://www.takecontrol-books.com/passwords?pt=TB1166>]."

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## USE THE MACNJ FORUM!

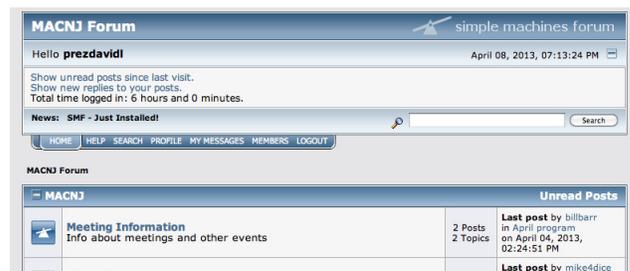
Our forum, using new software to keep out spambots, is only as good as we make it. All members are encouraged to use the forum. It can be of great help in answering questions, providing news, etc., between meetings.

### To Register:

There are two links to the forum on the MACNJ home page; or go to [macnj.org/forum/](http://macnj.org/forum/) and you are there.

**Click on "register"** (top right). You'll have to agree to conditions.

**Enter a user name** which can be used to identify you as member of MACNJ—not strange encrypted names such as xyz123— or you won't be approved. Check the member list to see what names have been accepted.



**Enter a valid email address.**

**Enter and confirm your password.** Then remember it! **You can also stay logged-in**, if desired. Look under Profile Information and **enter your location** (City, State). This is mandatory. Enter any other profile information which you choose to use. Click "submit" button, bottom of page. You will be notified by email that you are registered as a MACNJ Forum member. Most questions about the forum are answered in the FAQ Section.

# Meeting Notes March 9, 2013

by Hugh Murphy Jr.

The meeting was opened at 0925 by President Davis. He recommended use of The Forum. Members were asked why they weren't using it. If The Forum is not used, Mike Fordice may discontinue it. Bob Fasanello may include links on The Forum to interesting articles. Lee Roth recommended a teaser message to be answered on The Forum.

Dave announced that PeachPit Press, which often supplies prizes for our raffles, would like members to review their books. Members can visit [PeachPit.com](http://PeachPit.com) to see what titles are available.

Bill Barr brought up the subject of an iPad purchase. Bill and Dave are not in favor of an iPad purchase because the present Club laptop does not have the Mountain Lion operating system which would allow the two to be linked. Dave and Bill will continue to look into the problem and report at the next meeting.

A member inquired about the sleeve on Dave Marra's iPad and was told that it was available from the supplier Timbuk2. Lee Roth discussed the upgrading of computers and other systems such as Adobe.

At 1008, Dave Marra began his whirlwind presentation. A computer must have the Snow Leopard operating system in order to be upgraded to the Lion or Mountain Lion operating systems. The Mountain Lion OS is available from the Apps Store for \$19.99 + \$1.40 sales tax. The latest operating system has more than 200 new features. iCloud stores content and allows information to be shared with all devices such as iPhones and iPads. Mountain Lion was introduced in July, 2012. Some of the new features are Mission Control, Launch Pad, and Air Drop. It is described as the world's best operating system gets better. Among the other features are Games Center, Notifications, Reminders, Messages, etc. After the meeting I installed Mountain Lion on my MacBook Pro and am still exploring the OS. I encourage other members to do the same.

Dave Marra displayed photos taken with his iPhone and transferred to his iPad. He uses Snapseed, an application designed for the iPad and iPhone, for editing and organizing in iPhoto. He demonstrated some other features such as Dictation which operates in 13 languages and converts voice to written text. As in his other presentations, it is difficult to catalog and describe everything he presented, but it prompted me to try the new OS, and I am very pleased with what I have learned so far.

# MACNJ Member Directory



## Officers and Committee Chairs

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 Robert H. Peabody, Emeritus This & That... (908) 995-9110  
 Bill Barr, Program Chair.....(908) 730-8418  
 Michael W. Fordice, PhD, Webmaster.....(973) 361-3715  
 Bob Fasanello, Co-Newsletter Editor.....(908) 537-2803  
 David L. Davis, Acting Co-Newsletter Editor  
 David L. Davis, Acting Treasurer  
 Hugh Murphy, Jr., Secretary.....(609) 660-1052

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## About the Member List

Every effort is made to keep the member directory current. If your name has disappeared from the list, you may be delinquent in your dues. Send all address updates, changes and corrections to President David Davis.

## Member Benefits

MACNJ User Group members in good standing are encouraged to take advantage of the following savings and benefits

### Peachpit Press

Peachpit Press provides our group members with a 30% discount off the list price of any of their books. At check-out, right before you put your credit card number in, you must enter the user group coupon code UE-23AA-PEUF (case-sensitive). This coupon code is an exclusive offer that may not be used in conjunction with any other coupon codes.

### O'Reilly & Associates

Don't forget, you can receive 35% off any O'Reilly, No Starch, Paraglyph, Pragmatic Bookshelf, SitePoint, or Syngress book you purchase directly from O'Reilly. Just use code DSUG when ordering online or by phone 800-998-9938. ordering at <<http://www.oreilly.com>>.

### Vendor Offers For MUGs

The MUG Center, the Resource Site Macintosh for User Groups, offers a number of software, shareware, and hardware specials for User Group members. Visit<<http://www.mugcenter.com/vendornews/vendornews.html>>.

# MACNJ Meeting Information

Check the latest meeting information on the MACNJ website at [www.macnj.org](http://www.macnj.org)



MACNJ's general monthly meetings are usually held on the second Saturday of each month at Voorhees High School, in High Bridge, New Jersey, from 9 AM to noon. Visitors are welcome.

## From the Morristown area

Go west on State Route 24 to County Route 513. Go southwest on 513 for 4.9 miles through Califon. Continue on 513.

Voorhees High School will be on the left at 256 Route 513, across from Voorhees State Park.

## From the Somerville area

Go north on US Route 202 until it intersects with interstate 287. Take I-287 northwest for 4.2 miles to I-78 west. Follow I-78 west for 13 miles to Route 31 north (this is the Clinton/Washington exit.) Follow Route 31 north 2.1 miles to a traffic light where there will be a sign for High Bridge. Turn right onto County Route 513. Follow 513 north for two miles into the town of High Bridge. Voorhees High School is two miles further north at 256 Route 513, on the right, across from Voorhees State Park.

## From points west

Go east on I-78 to exit 15 (Clinton/Washington exit for Route 31 north) Follow 31 north 2.1 miles to a traffic light with a sign for High Bridge. Turn right onto County Route 513 North. Follow 513 for two miles into the town of High Bridge. Voorhees High School is two miles further at 256 Route 513, on the right, across from Voorhees State Park.

## From the Flemington area

Take Route 31 north past Clinton to a traffic light with a sign for High Bridge. Turn right onto County Route 513 north. Follow 513 for two miles into the town of High Bridge. Voorhees High School is two miles further at 256 Route 513, on the right, across from Voorhees State Park.

## Parking and Entrances

Parking is plentiful and free. Park in the main parking lot of the school, enter the main entrance by the flag pole, and follow the signs for the MACNJ meeting room in the choir room on the first floor.



Photo by Bill Barr



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# MACNJ Membership

Annual dues are \$24, due each January. Members joining during the year pay \$2 per month for the months remaining in the current year. Families may join for \$35. Please make all checks payable to "MACNJ". Checks can be given to President David L. Davis at the monthly meetings, or mailed to:

MACNJ Membership  
David L. Davis  
242 Cherryville Road  
Flemington, NJ 08822

Fill out this form and return it with your payment.

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## MACNJ Membership Form

Check one: Membership Renewal  New Member

Month membership begins

amount enclosed (\$2 per month, \$24 for the entire year/\$35 per family)

Name ( if a family membership, please list all member names)

Street address ( if this is a renewal, please indicate if any of your address information has changed.

city

state

zip code

Home telephone number

mobile phone number

e-mail address

What I do with my Macintosh ( favorite Apps, creative work, etc ) Be as descriptive as possible!