

APRIL 4th

The changing face of communications

Do we simply take for granted the past 125 years of discovery and invention from the *earliest* Alexander Graham Bell experiments through the latest and greatest "just one more thing" that we **must** have?

Do you remember when wearing an audio or video device on your wrist was simply a fantasy played out in a Sunday morning comic strip? While the actual release date for the Apple Watch is set for later in April, let's check out what sort of speculation was being made as crime fighters like Dick Tracy defended the innocents using the latest in technology that we could only dream about.

Come see how we modern folks are using the latest and greatest gadgets and what is just around the corner!

AND ONE **LAST CALL!**

Illustration by David Davis



"It's Time to Pay Your MACNJ Dues"

MACNJ operates and survives on the monthly dues provided by our members. The **2015** membership fees are now due. Please bring your annual dues to the Next meeting or mail a check using the form on the last page of this newsletter. Your promptness in this matter ensures the uninterrupted operation of MACNJ. Thank you.

Audio Hijack 3 Bumps Up the Volume

by Glenn Fleishman

On the Mac, Apple has long made it relatively easy to plug in and immediately use audio inputs, like microphones and headsets. But Mac OS X has almost no built-in support for mixing different audio sources, which provided a perfect opening for Audio Hijack from Rogue Amoeba. It's a workflow tool for audio inputs and outputs that enables you to combine and separate sources, set timers to record audio at specific times or at recurring intervals, and add effects and filters.

The just-released *Audio Hijack 3* [<https://www.rogueamoeba.com/audiohijack/>] extends and improves the software, including a radical overhaul of its interface and methods of pulling together different audio elements. It also adds new options for manipulating settings and listening to audio as it's being captured.

Rogue Amoeba has decided on a single edition release, which is now called simply "Audio Hijack" — it offers no fewer features than its former "Pro" version, but the name

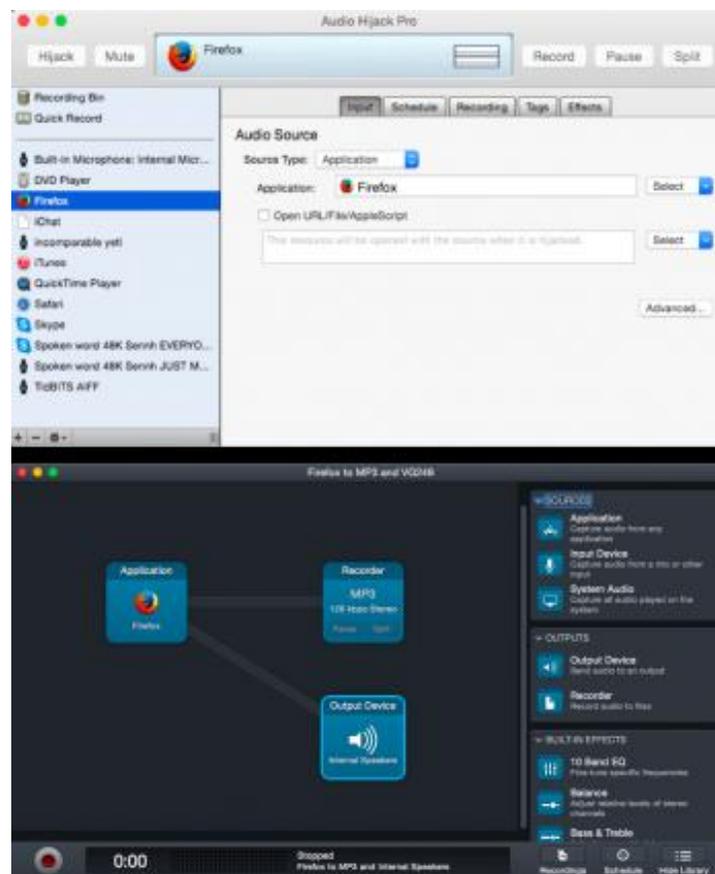
is no longer suffixed with that word. A fully functional version can be downloaded and used for recording up to 10 minutes of audio, after which noise is overlaid. A new copy costs \$49 (but Rogue Amoeba is offering a \$25 upgrade to owners of any previous version. Note that Audio Hijack 3 requires OS X 10.9 Mavericks or later.

You can turn to Audio Hijack any time you need to capture audio. This could be for a recording session, whether live or for a podcast; to grab a broadcast Internet radio session to time-shift; or for recording the outputs of DVDs, webinars, other real-time events, or digital-rights managed media.

Users of previous versions will need to wrap their heads around the new approach because of how distinctly different it is. Veteran hijackers may miss the left-hand navigation bar that compactly listed all of the available input-source workflows; the new display uses spatial and iconographic displays, which may take getting used to.



AUDIO HIJACK 3



(continues on page 3)

The Basics of Hijacking --

Audio Hijack's name comes from its basic function: "hijacking," or taking over, audio streams on a Mac. In previous releases, the input source was the commanding factor. You would set Audio Hijack Pro to grab the sound from a microphone, an app, or a virtual device. Each of these inputs was a separate entry, and could be scheduled, saved to a file, and passed through effects.

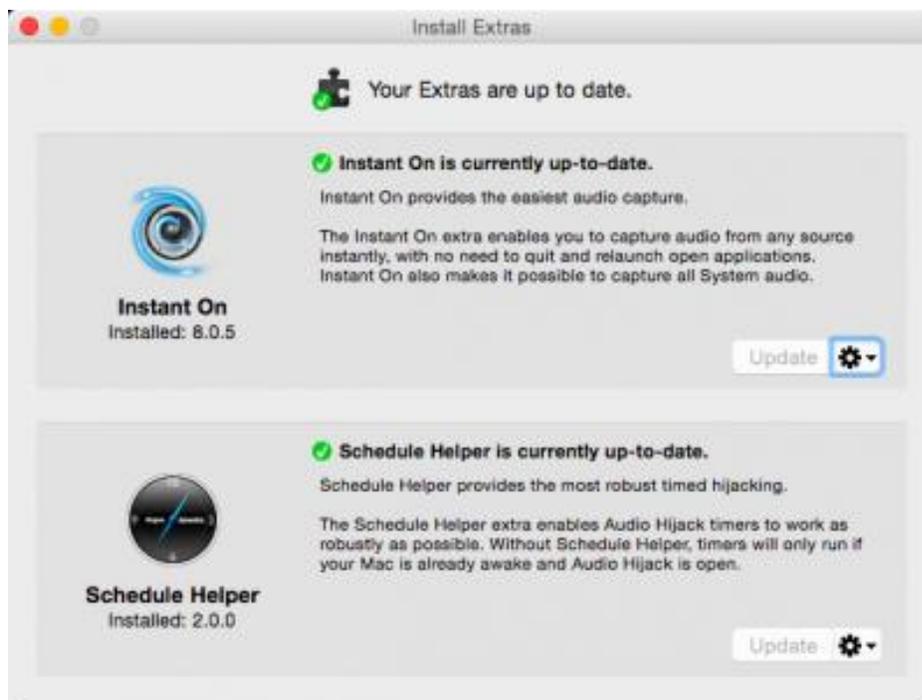
This was useful for simple situations, but at one point I had four different input items configured for recording Skype calls, in which I routed multiple sources to a single virtual input, and from there to a file. It was tweaky to use, requiring that I start four separate "hijacking" sessions but record only one.

In Audio Hijack 3's new conceptual scheme, a session lets you combine multiple inputs, multiple recordings, and multiple outputs in a drag-and-drop layout. Each item has its own controls. This makes typical activities dramatically easier, while also revealing much more of what's going on at a glance.

This revision also builds in live interaction, allowing changes to many parameters of an active session. One significant new feature lets you pause, rewind, and step through live audio without interrupting the recording. Serenity Caldwell wrote a how-to on this feature [<http://www.imore.com/how-turn-your-mac-audio-dvr>] for iMore.



Audio Hijack still divvies up inputs into Application, Input Device, and System Audio. Any USB-connected or other available audio source appears as an option for Input Device. With Instant On installed (choose Audio Hijack > **Install Extras**), applications can have their audio re-routed without being relaunched, which is otherwise required. (Installing the free Soundflower virtual audio device lets you collect and route outputs from multiple sources, too, though it's not as necessary in this new release.)



(continues on page 4)

Audio Hijack 3

Outputs include devices like speakers, Soundflower, headphones, and Recorder — the last of which lets you capture the resulting audio to a file. What's fantastic in Audio Hijack 3 is that you can have multiple recorders in the same session, recording in different ways, while also having multiple sessions operating at once.

There's also the option to insert effects along the way, which can include boosting the volume, equalizing bands of sound frequencies, and cleaning up audio. While recording, animation lights up all active audio paths, letting

you see precisely the flow of audio from and to devices.

That's a dry explanation; the program is best explained through use cases.

Make a Scheduled Recording

Audio Hijack now divides its main window into Sessions, Recordings, and Schedule. Sessions holds the sound workflow layouts discussed above. Recordings are where you find the output of Recording items. And Schedules is where you set timed events.



Any URL that starts playing audio when opened in a Web browser can be scheduled. This used to be a terrific way to record broadcast radio, but in researching this article, I found that many stations and networks have switched to feed URLs that can't simply be copied and pasted. They require opening a window and sometimes clicking a play button that generates a unique URL or requires a JavaScript-based click.

You may have to hunt for these feeds, although you can extract them if they're listed in the Internet Radio section of iTunes. In iTunes 12, click the three dots in the upper left and choose Internet Radio. Select the desired station,

and then press Command-I. Control-click the Location field and choose Copy Path. For public-radio programs, consult *PublicRadioFan* [<http://www.publicradiofan.com/>], which has an extensive listing of feeds and schedules.

After determining that the stream will play automatically in a Web browser, create the full capture sequence in a session, starting with a template, as I describe next. You can watch a screencast [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OJD3k25naT4>] of this sequence, too. (Note that you can capture only one stream per browser, but if you have multiple browsers, you could conceivably capture simultaneous audio programs.)

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Photos

Initial Impressions of Photos for OS X Beta

by Jason Snell

On February 5, 2015, Apple released a beta version of its new *Photos* for OS X app to developers and select members of the press. Announced last year as a replacement for both of Apple's other existing photography apps, *iPhoto* and *Aperture*, *Photos* had originally been promised for early 2015. With this release, we now know that it's coming this spring as a part of the OS X 10.10.3 update.

The prospect of moving photography apps is daunting, but even die-hard users of *iPhoto* and *Aperture* would probably admit that the old versions had become increasingly slow and wonky. Rather than rip them apart, Apple decided to start fresh, which may sound familiar to users of many other Apple apps, including *Final Cut Pro* and both the *iLife* and *iWork* suites.

A Bridge to a New Land

When you launch *Photos* for the first time, the app will automatically upgrade your *iPhoto* library. (If it notices you have more than one library, it'll prompt you to choose which you'd like to upgrade.) After the import process, not only will all your photos and videos be present, but albums, folders, books, cards, calendars, and slideshows will also make the transition.

Imported *iPhoto* and *Aperture* libraries remain intact and usable, but it's a one-way import — the older app's libraries don't sync with the *Photos* app, so if you add a photo in one place it won't show up in the other. The *Photos* import process is friendly when it comes to disk space — it doesn't duplicate the photos it imports from *iPhoto* and *Aperture*, so you don't lose precious storage space.

Some aspects of *iPhoto* and *Aperture* won't make the move to the new app. *Photos* replaces star ratings with favorites (indicated by a heart icon). Star ratings and flags from *iPhoto* and *Aperture* (as well as color labels from *Aperture*) will be mapped into keywords and assigned to each photo, so you can still search for images containing that information.

Photos feels more like the Mac version of the iOS *Photos* app than either *iPhoto* or *Aperture*, at least when browsing your photo library. Zooming out (which you can also do with a pinch on the trackpad) presents you first with a series of short events defined by location. Zoom further out and you'll see larger spans of time and a list of locations. One more zoom and you're left with a giant wash of photos separated by year.

Underneath the *Albums* tab (or, alternatively, in the sidebar if you choose *Show Sidebar* from the *View* menu) you'll find your media organized in a few different ways. All the various media types supported by iOS cameras — panoramas, videos, and slo-mo videos — are segmented into their own smart albums. There's also an automatically generated *Favorites* album, an album containing your most recent set of imported media, and the familiar *Faces* tab that's been more or less brought straight over from *iPhoto*. Gone is the capability to show all photos by location on a map, but you can click any event in the *Photos* list to see a map containing the locations of all the photos from that particular event.

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Photos in the Cloud

The banner feature of Photos is its integration with Apple's iCloud Photo Library service. You can (optionally) set Photos to automatically upload your photos to Apple's iCloud servers, where they're backed up and accessible from iOS devices. (iOS device access will be included in iOS 8.2, an update that will presumably be delivered around the same time that Photos is released.)

When you sync Photos with iCloud, you have two options regarding photo storage: Download Originals to This Mac ensures that a full-quality original version of every file you have in iCloud will also be stored on your Mac; Optimize Mac Storage keeps full-resolution photos and videos in iCloud, though they might also be stored on your Mac "if you have enough space."

It remains to be seen exactly how Photos determines whether you have enough space, and whether it's just caching photos or if it truly makes a judgment about how much free space you have before deciding to hold onto your files. As someone with approximately 700 GB of family photos and a bunch of Macs with small flash-storage drives, I'm excited by the possibility that I can have access to my entire photo library on all of my Macs and iOS devices, even though they don't have enough space to hold the entire library.

Photos also integrates with all the photo-sharing features available on iOS. If you check the iCloud Photo Sharing box in the Photos app's iCloud preferences tab, you'll see the same shared albums that you see on your iPhone or iPad. And you can use the Share command to share media items with Flickr, Facebook, and Twitter.

Editing Options

Photos has a nice suite of photo-editing features. For people who don't want to spend time tweaking photos, there's a one-button enhance, an auto-crop feature that even straightens tilted images, and a set of Instagram-style filters that apply a whole slew of effects at once.

Those who want more control over their images will prefer the Adjustments section, which includes options for lightness, color, levels, white balance, sharpening and definition, noise reduction, vignetting, and black-and-white effects. Finally, there's a Retouch tool that lets you make very basic edits by clicking around and hoping that it does the right thing.

If you want to edit your photo in an external tool such as Photoshop, there appears to be no way to do that, at least in this beta, beyond dragging an image out, editing it, and then dragging it back in. Here's hoping Apple allows an external-editor feature or support for image-editing extensions of some sort in the future.

The Need for Speed

With every successive version of iPhoto Apple claimed that it was faster than ever before. Unfortunately, we all kept taking new photos, and our iPhoto libraries kept swelling, and iPhoto never seemed to keep up.

Never say never, but in my tests with a 5,450-image library, Photos seemed downright fast. Scrolling never lagged. Zooming in and out was speedy. Here's hoping that continues to apply to libraries with tens of thousands of photos.

It's still a beta version meant only for developers — and it shows. I had problems importing one of my large iPhoto libraries, and the app crashed when I tried to import a few thousand photos from a folder. A few times, I opened the app to find the main Photos view completely empty, though all of my photos showed up when I clicked on All Photos. If you have access to the beta, I strongly recommend that you not entrust your primary photo library to it.

Fortunately, Apple has more than four months until its self-imposed deadline to iron out most of the wrinkles. But right now, Photos looks like a promising attempt to stitch together photo libraries across Apple's devices and on the cloud.

You may have noticed this is my first article for TidBITS since 1995, and it's also a good excuse to mention that I'm also diving into my first Take Control book, a Crash Course about Photos. So if you see any particularly cool features or have any significant concerns you'd like me to examine while writing it, let me know in the comments.

[Jason Snell was lead editor at Macworld for more than a decade and has written about Apple and other tech companies for two decades. Now he writes at Six Colors. He's also the guy who runs The Incomparable podcast network, which is all about geeky pop culture, and hosts the Upgrade and Clockwise tech podcasts.]

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Cute Doxie Flip Scanner Has Its Uses

by Michael E. Cohen

I received a review unit of the new Doxie Flip [<http://www.getdoxie.com/product/flip/>] scanner just as MacTech was kicking in, so I put the unopened box aside until this week. I hadn't read about the device and didn't know anything about it at all, which might explain why I was puzzled when I opened the box.

Inside, I found something that looks like a child's toy version of a flatbed scanner, fabricated from white and black plastic with no sharp edges, and no bigger than a hardcover book. The scanner bed itself is only 4 x 6 inches (10.2 x 15.2 cm), less than half the size of a grown-up flatbed scanner. And, like a toy, it even runs on four AA batteries (but you know it's for adults, though, because the batteries were included)

I sent a rather curmudgeonly email message to my TidBITS colleagues: "For the life of me, I can't figure out a single practical use case for it: it's not great for scanning bills and forms (they're too big), or business cards (overkill: the scanner is too big). Anybody have an idea why someone would want such a thing? I'm baffled. I suppose it could scan one's grandmother's collection of recipes on 3-by-5 cards, but beyond that..."

Fortunately, the universe delights in making me feel like an idiot (thanks, universe!). Less than an hour after writing that message, I got a call from a less-than-tech-savvy friend of mine: he needed help organizing the various medications he needed to give his ailing wife and was buried under a bunch of handwritten notes that needed to be transcribed into a word processing document and set into some sort of order. I thought, "What the heck?," packed the Doxie Flip into the optional lightweight carrying case that had been shipped with the review unit, and drove up into the hills where he lived. Within a few minutes I had scanned all his notes: no computer necessary, since the Flip comes with a 4 GB SD card, suitable for capturing over 2,000 scans at 300 DPI resolution.

Back at home, I popped the SD card from the scanner into my iMac, downloaded the Doxie software, and imported the scans. A half hour later, I had transcribed his handwritten notes into a convenient set of tables and sent them back to him via email.



Then, another friend, who was planning her Thanksgivukkah [<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thanksgivukkah>] feast (an occurrence that reportedly won't roll around again for another 77,000 years), wrote me to ask if I could send her a latke recipe from a battered 50-year-old paperback cookbook of mine, Sara Kasdan's "Love and Knishes." Instead of taking a photo, I flipped the Doxie over and laid it on the page in question: you can pop the scanner cover off, lay the scanner bed right on the thing you want to scan, and

adjust the alignment by looking right at it through the clear plastic window on the bottom of the Flip — it even has alignment guides embossed in the window.

The resulting scan was clear and sharp, much better than I could have achieved by holding a brittle paperback open with one hand and snapping an iPhone shot of it with the other.

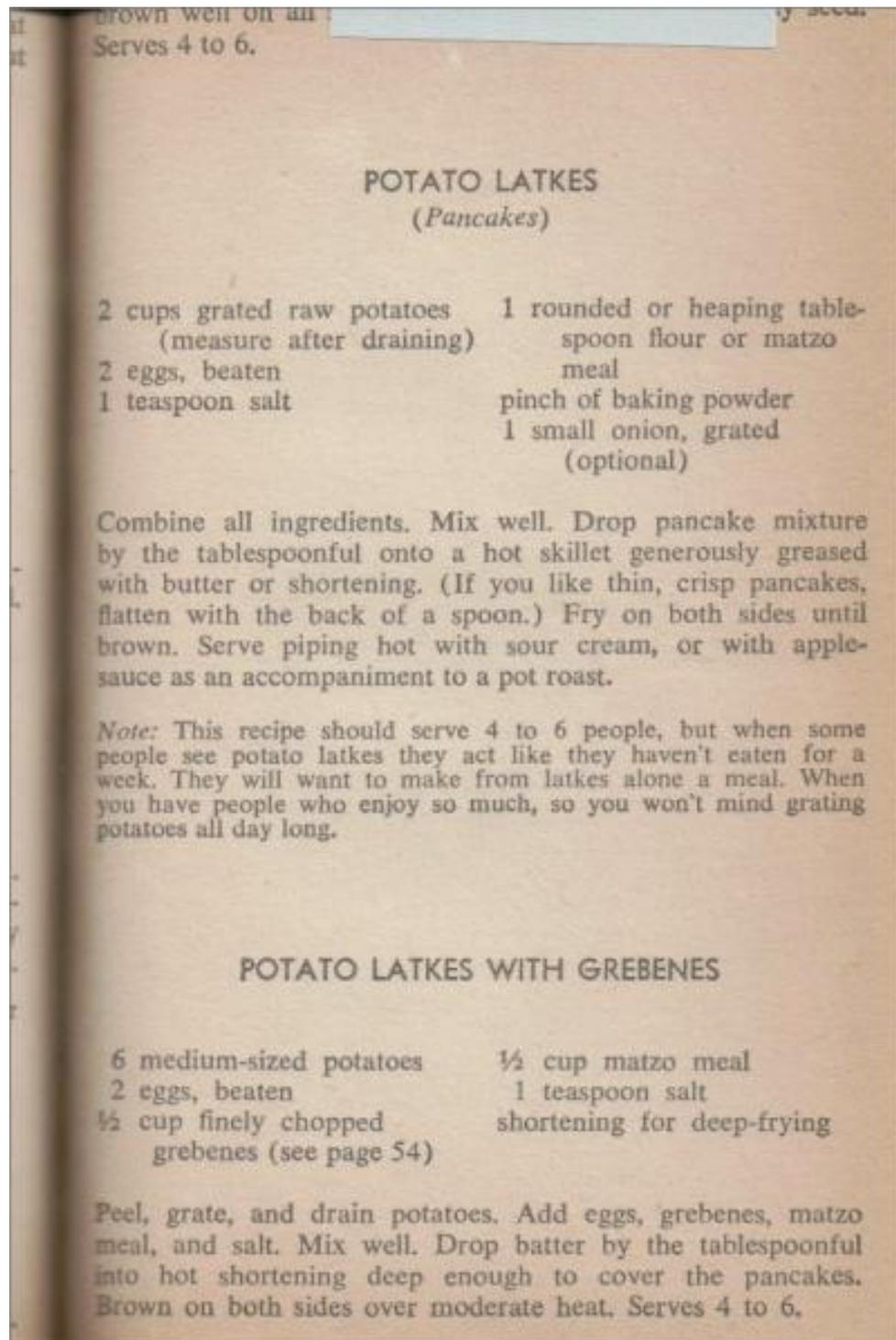
The scanner itself, as you might have surmised from the tale above, is light: without batteries, it weighs only 1.27 pounds (576 grams), less than the first Retina display iPad. Even though it is not as slim as an iPad, it can easily fit into most backpacks and equipment bags if you need to take it with you.

The SD card that comes with the Doxie Flip fits right into the SD card slot of those Macs that have such a slot — but no worries if your Mac doesn't, because the Flip also comes with a tiny USB SD card reader.

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Doxie

continued from page 7



The resulting scan was clear and sharp, much better than I could have achieved by holding a brittle paperback open with one hand and snapping an iPhone shot of it with the other.

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The scanning options, accessible from controls on the top of the scanner and visible in a teensy LCD display, are sparse: you can scan at 300 DPI or 600 DPI. That's it. No other options. At 300 DPI, it can scan a page in about 7 seconds.

The software is easy to use, but not fully featured. One big feature promised by the Doxie Flip manual is AutoStitch, which supposedly can assemble a large image from overlapping scans, but when you click the Stitch button in the current Doxie software you get a message that amounts to "Stay tuned: it's coming next month." Similarly, the software's Export function lists OCR PDFs

as options, but that feature also is not yet implemented for the Flip.

Doxie's \$149 Flip scanner is not for everyone. It's certainly not for anyone looking for a high-duty-cycle sheet-fed scanner for implementing a paperless office. On the other hand, it is handy for those odd little scanning jobs that you might, if you had steady enough hands, try to pull off with an iPhone camera. I can't, in fact, give you a good use case for this device, but you'll know one when you see it. I did. Twice in one day, showing that this toy-like scanner for which I couldn't figure out a use can prove surprisingly useful.



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USE THE MACNJ FORUM!

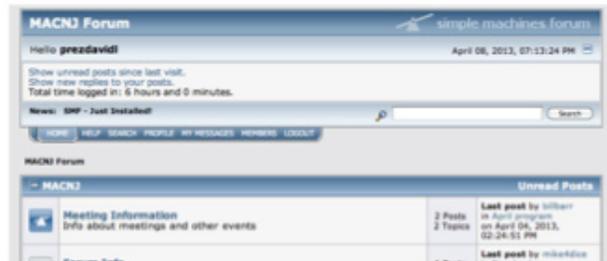
Our forum, using new software to keep out spambots, is only as good as we make it. All members are encouraged to use the forum. It can be of great help in answering questions, providing news, etc., between meetings.

To Register:

There are two links to the forum on the MACNJ home page; or go to macnj.org/forum/ 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 7, 2015

by Hugh Murphy, Jr.

The meeting was opened by Bill Barr with a demonstration of a panoramic view with an iPhone 6 followed by a collection of photos from an Apple photo gallery.

Lee Roth described a problem with backups in his office; he will install a separate backup on his assistant's computer. It was announced that MacWorld is now only available online. There was a discussion of iBooks. Stan Menscher cautioned on the use of CDs for backup; they have a finite life, although so-called archival discs are available.

Bill presented a video about verifying and repairing a Time Machine backup. Lee Roth talked about what happens when Time Machine reaches its capacity.

Bill mentioned a data source available to holders of library cards called **Jersey Clicks**. He uses it to find potential customers. He then proceeded to his main topic - graphs and charts. He showed a video on data visualization which was informative, but the presenter was very boring. He showed a French chart from 1869 which represented Napoleon's march to Moscow and return. The number of soldiers during the journey was depicted by the width of the lines marking the route and was very effective in showing what events occurred during the march. Stan Menscher remembered candlestick charts for stocks which were color coded and represented stock activity. Lee Roth cautioned the use of statistics where the mean and the median may be misinterpreted.

Chod Lang presented a **TED Talk** from Ben Wellington on YouTube - **How We Found the Worst Place to Park in NYC**. Ben obtained data from the NYC Open Data Portal to show the use of data in an entertaining and amusing video which used, among other things, the relationship of fire hydrants and parking tickets. Chod also mentioned Tap Forms which is a data organizer for various Mac devices.

Bob Fasanello will publish on the forum the use of Automator to extract text from PDFs.

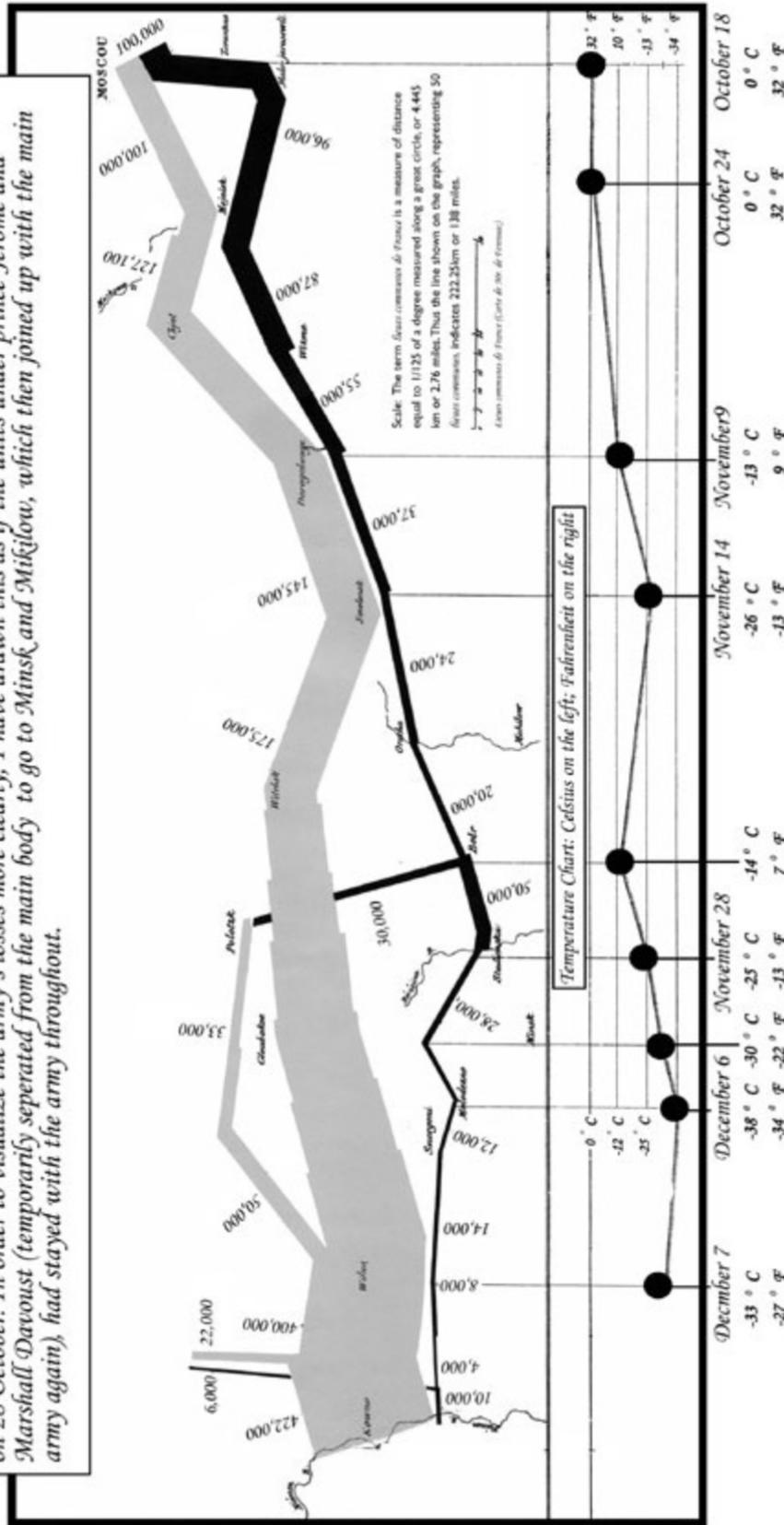
Bill resumed the video on graphs and charts which discussed the perception of the different charts and graphs.

The meeting concluded with videos by Lee Roth of the wild life outside his back window such as birds and deer and **Branding Your Community - The Exercise in Flemington**.

Map representing the losses over time of French army troops during the Russian campaign, 1812-1813. Constructed by Charles Joseph Minard, Inspector General of Public Works retired.

Paris, 20 November 1869

The number of men present at any given time is represented by the width of the grey line; one mm. indicates ten thousand men. Figures are also written besides the lines. Grey designates men moving into Russia; black, for those leaving. Sources for the data are the works of messrs. Thiers, Segur, Fezensac, Chambray and the unpublished diary of Jacob, who became an Army Pharmacist on 28 October. In order to visualize the army's losses more clearly, I have drawn this as if the units under prince Jerome and Marshall Davoust (temporarily separated from the main body to go to Minsk and Mikilow, which then joined up with the main army again), had stayed with the army throughout.



English text by Word L. Kaiser

Editor's note: dates & temperatures are only referenced for the retreat from Moscow © 2001, ODT Inc. All rights reserved.

Figure 58. Minard's map of Napoleon's Russian campaign. This graphic has been translated from French to English and modified to most effectively display the temperature data.

MACNJ Meeting Information

Check the latest meeting information on the MACNJ website at 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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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. Please 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 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
13 Smith Street
Hampton, NJ 08827

Fill out this form and return it with your payment.

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!