

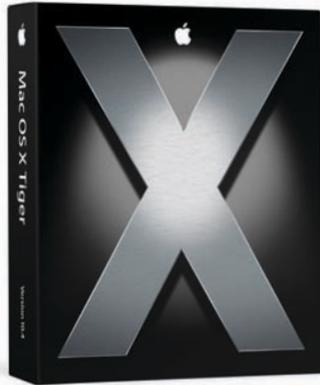
AUGmentations

THE APPLE GROUPS TEAM NEWSLETTER



Tiger Arrives, Shows Stripes

PLUS: Los Angeles Area User Groups Get To Up Their Apples



If you are one of those people who prefers to hold off on upgrading to a new operating system (OS) in the first month or so, you may be pleasantly surprised by the migration success of OS 10.4, a.k.a. "Tiger." Shy of a few simple reinstalls of *Adobe CS Suite*, *Little Snitch*, the *Geethree Slick Effects* and running some updaters from *VersiontrackerPRO*, everything is running well on the half-dozen Macs in our offices.

So far, **iAppleFreeTech**, our free user group tech support mailing list, reports no problems at all. Once your have BACKED UP your Mac, completed your

drive maintenance and repaired permissions, allow yourself a good 30-45 minutes (depending on model) for the install. Be sure to repair permissions again once you reboot under 10.4 for good measure.

TAGteam is pleased to be able to offer the new and improved *iChat AV* presentations and we hope you will let us know your thoughts as more and more people have found the benefits of "Tiger" -- even on older Macs. To see if your Mac can run with the striped one, visit the upgrade page:

<http://www.apple.com/macosx/upgrade/requirements.html>

UG events galore...

Spring has sprung, as they say, and User Group events are popping up all over.

Notable Mac author/columnist, Deb Shadovitz, hosts the **2005 MacGathering** out west (see below) and Bob "Dr. Mac" Levitus brings his fun, funky, fantastic road show to the East Coast.

With the Tiger now upon us, I would encourage everyone to take a minute to visit whatever Mac-specific events (and Windows, too) are in your area. Tell your members, enter them into your iCal, and don't miss an opportunity to see and hear about the latest and greatest technologies out there for yourselves and your MUG members.



-Daniel M. East-

President, The Apple Groups Team.

LOS ANGELES AREA MAC GATHERING OFFERS MINI-EXPO, SESSIONS AND MORE

If you are in the SoCal region, you won't want to miss a very special opportunity to visit the area's only true Apple/Mac conference this month.



Comedian, **Sinbad**, is the keynote speaker (and a longtime Mac user) plus there will be lots of prizes and a unique opportunity to gain insight to your Mac which you may not find elsewhere. <http://www.macgathering.com> for more info.

THE AUGMENTATIONS INTERVIEW: BOB “DR. MAC” LEVITUS

by Daniel M. East

When it comes to knowing your way around a Mac, there are a very few that I could say know more of the angles, issues and understanding of the “big picture” than Bob LeVitus. His monicker is spot-on as there seems to be little that this man has not or could not do...Apple or otherwise. His personal history includes more than Mac and boasts a past surrounded by music, madness and mayhem. Like the great doctors before him (John, Hook, Feelgood & more), his passions are expressed in everything he does. Author, columnist, musician, entrepreneur and businessman, LeVitus is all about what preceded him and his future offerings which may benefit us all.

He’s more than an author, he’s an expert. Bob LeVitus has penned almost fifty books, and sold millions of copies in dozens of languages. His latest venture (adventure) is one which offers his vast expertise for technical training, support and troubleshooting by communicating with his clients via telephone, e-mail and a clever, easy-to-use remote control software item. Enter “Doctor Mac Direct.”

“I wanted to come up with something to really help people address their troubleshooting without all of the guessing games - as if I could just sit at their Mac and just go...” reports LeVitus. “We have this great Internet-based way to have our agents connect to our customers, and we’re really very fair about our time.” Doctor Mac Direct works with their own network of professional Apple consultants and technicians as “agents” for their customers.

“No product is ever ‘done.’”
- Bob “Dr. Mac” LeVitus

User Groups continue to be one of LeVitus’s passions and, as I do in all of my interviews, I asked him about his first presentation ever. “Eighth grade graduation,” he recalls, “is the first time I can remember speaking in front of a large audience. I went to a very small school, so every 8th grader had to get up and give a ‘commencement speech.’ That didn’t bother me a bit, and, in fact, I enjoyed it. But I remember we convinced the principal that year



that The Rolling Stones’s ‘As Tears Go By’ was an appropriate commencement song. Giving the speech didn’t faze me, but singing and playing in front of that same audience had me scared spitless. For what it’s worth, it still does—I get very nervous every time I play or sing in front of anyone but my family.”

Creating a product can be an interesting task after reviewing so many of them. “My philosophy is that no product is ever ‘done.’ There’s always something about it that could be executed better or more elegantly. Conversely, you have to ship it sometime. So you can’t expect to ‘finish’ it before it ships. (Why? Because no product is ever done, of course...)”

continues on page 3

Bob “Dr. Mac” LeVitus:*On My Mac Homepage*<http://homepage.mac.com/boblevitus>

“Making music with **GarageBand**. I mean, I’m one of the few people who can actually say they wrote the book on GarageBand (*GarageBand For Dummies*), but even six months later I still make music as often as I can find the time. If you’re brave, feel free to listen to some of the songs I think came out well — The Ramones’ *Rockaway Beach*; Black Sabbath’s *Black Sabbath*; George Jones’ *Brown to Blue*; Alice Cooper’s *I’m Eighteen*; and James Taylor’s *Fire and Rain*.”

Continuing, “**I love MUGs**. When I was a pup just getting started in the Mac trade, the folks at LAMG in Los Angeles were like family to me. I’m in love with the concept—Mac users helping other Mac users for free because it FEELS SO FREAKIN’ GOOD.”

WHO’S ON YOUR IPOD?:

BOB “DR. MAC” LEVITUS

- *Elvis Costello*
- *The Beatles*
- *David Garza*
- *Jimi Hendrix*
- *Stevie Ray Vaughn*
- *Led Zeppelin*
- *Pearl Jam*
- *Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers*
- *Oasis*
- *U2*
- *Bruce Springsteen*
- *David Bowie*



- *Fountains of Wayne*
- *MeatLoaf*
- *Joe Ely*
- *Todd Rundgren*
- *John Fogerty*
- *Creedence Clearwater Revival*
- *King Crimson*
- *Lyle Lovett*
- *Matthew Sweet*
- *Michael Penn*
- *Roxy Music*
- *Wilco*
- *The Who*
- *The Ramones*

In terms of his view regarding the future of user groups, “Alas, with the advent of the Internet, user group members have no need to attend meetings just to copy floppy disks of shareware. And they don’t have to attend a meeting to hold intelligent conversations with other Mac users. These days we’ve got Web sites to do that, not to mention all those sites with chat boards or BBS. Many of the things we used to have to go to MUG meetings to do in the old days are done faster and more easily on the Web.”

“And so, since those aren’t things you *have* to do in person anymore,” admits LeVitus. “MUGs have been forced to adapt, some more successfully than others. Groups that remain stuck in the past by not offering anything you couldn’t find on the Web in five minutes have either gone out of business or are barely alive today. On the other hand, groups that offer services members can’t easily get elsewhere—such as feature presentations, SIGs, newsletters, swap meets, raffles, and so on — are thriving.”

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE GADGETS?

“That’s a tough one. I suppose it’s my iPod Photo, which may be the coolest device I’ve ever carried around with me that wasn’t a PowerBook. I like my PowerBook pretty well, too.”

WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT PERSONAL-USE COMPUTER?

“I have a Dual 1.8GHz G5 with 2GB RAM, nearly a terabyte of disk space, and a pair of humongous displays—an Apple 23-inch Cinema Display and a old 24-inch NEC MultiSync CRT monitor.”

LeVitus indicated to me that he makes every effort to visit at least twelve user group meetings every year; however, “I’m trying to do more [this year] to promote **Doctor Mac Direct**.” Groups interested in having a visit from “Dr. Mac” can send email to MUGLover@boblevitus.com for more info.

SOME OF THE PLACES YOU CAN FIND HIS WORK:

- *Layers Magazine (formerly Mac Design)*
- *GarageBand for Dummies*
- *Tiger for Dummies*
- *Panther for Dummies*
- *The Houston Chronicle*
- *The MacObserver Online*

More on Doctor Mac Direct: www.doctormacdirect.com



LAYERS
THE HOW-TO MAGAZINE
FOR EVERYTHING ADOBE

CONCLUSION:

With a very common-sense approach, a “matter-of-fact” manner and a lot of fun worked into his modus operandi, LeVitus works hard to convey a sense that Macs are, indeed, for everyone and that everyone can accomplish a lot with them. “Find something you love to do and have fun doing it. Nobody ever said on their deathbed, ‘I wish I had spent more time working.’”

EXTRA CREDIT:

As we continue to publish these interviews, I have asked each person - at their option - to include a few things that they keep with them as their “personal essentials.”

- *At least one iPod*
- *Sony-Ericsson phone with my calendar and address book on it (thanks to iSync)*
- *Pants*
- *At least one PowerBook*
- *Headphones*
- *My wallet*
- *Glasses/sunglasses*
- *Keys*
- *Some type of foot covering*
- *At least one credit card*

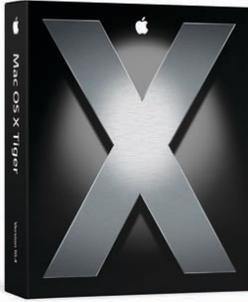


- **Daniel M. East**

NOTE: This interview may be reproduced by permission and with proper attribution only.
To request permission, send all publication info, to: press@applegroups.org

• Next month: Author/Columnist **Deborah Shadovitz**

TIGER TALES CONTINUE

**Big changes, great results, Pt. 2**

Now that Apple has released OS 10.4 (a.k.a. "Tiger") to the world, great reviews are coming in from media and end-users, alike. We are very pleasantly surprised by the number of MUG members and leaders we've heard from who've already made the jump to it.

On the plus side, major speed improvements in startup and application launch times; better security; improvements in Safari, Mail and QuickTime 7 (really impressive).

On the negative side, Mail is slow on some systems; older applications can be sluggish; Adobe CS products require reinstallation on some systems for file types to open in the apps (not just open the apps); some printers and shareware items require reinstallation.

We're also very impressed by the number of users who now remember to backup their systems regularly which insures things a bit when you make a major upgrade.

REMEMBER: *Repair your drive and repair permissions* once you have backed up your Mac prior to any OS update/upgrade; then, repair permissions again after reboot for best results. --*We recommend YASU.*

THE DOCTOR IS "IN"

Bob "Dr. Mac" Levitus tours the East Coast This Month

Yes, The Man, himself, is in the east visiting resellers and User Groups. Be sure to stop by and see him at one of his appearances if you are in the area.

PMUG/Princeton, NJ (Reservations required)

On Wednesday, May 11, 2005, an afternoon session from 1 to 4 p.m., and an evening session from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., at the Marriott Residence at 4225 Route 1 (southbound side) in Princeton. "How to be an OSX Power User." *Reservations will be on a first come/first served basis to PMUG members with a \$5 deposit going as a credit toward your monthly dues.*

MacOutfitters/Computer Forum Doylestown, PA

Thursday, May 12, 2005 he goes to Doylestown to a cookout at MacOutfitters, where owners, Jim and Judy Habel welcome everybody to their store for this event. The store is located on Route 611 & 313, Doylestown, PA, 215-345-4411. www.macoutfitters.com *This event is free and open to the public.*

MLMUG/Main Line area, PA

On Friday, May 13, 2005 MLMUG is holding a workshop with Bob "Dr. Mac" LeVitus at McMobile, 1720 State Road, Upper Darby, PA 19082, 610-734-2222 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Topic is "How to be an OSX Power User." *Member reservations required on a first come first served basis- \$5. Go to www.mlmug.org for more information.*

Special thanks to Maria Arguello

Calendar

June 6 - 10Apple **WWDC**
San Francisco, CA**June 21 - 23****MacDesign** Conference
Tampa, FL**July 11 - 14****Macworld** Expo
Boston, MA**July 22 - 24**Summer **NAMM**
Indianapolis, IN

Contributors

JIM ANDERSON



Our Public Relations office, Editor-In-Chief & President of SJAUG

RANDY DECKER



Our Vice-President and Web Master for Bux-Mont MUG

DANIEL M. EAST



TAGteam founder and president; group member "emeritus" of several MUGs.

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Dave Marra, The UGAB, Apple, MacOutfitters/Computer Forum, Other World Computing, MacsimumNews.com, Photoshop User and Layers magazines.

Affiliate Offerings...

Macsimum News

Your online newspaper about all things Mac



Macsimum News

<http://www.macsimumnews.com>

and

Crucial Technology

<http://www.crucial.com>

are teaming up for the "Why I need RAM" contest.

We know that modern Macs and the latest software can be memory-intensive, so we're helping you get up to speed for Mac OS X 10.4 ("Tiger") and perhaps your new Mac by giving away a 1GB memory upgrade on your site.

To enter send a 100-word essay on why *you* need more RAM to dsellers@macsimumnews.com.

The entries can be funny, creative or sad.

The deadline for the contest is 12:01 a.m. (Central), Wednesday, May 11. The winner will be announced on Friday, May 13, and the winning entry will appear on Macsimum News.

By the way, this newsletter is created in Apple's *Pages* and with Adobe Creative Suite 2.

See you next month when we feature our interview with noted author/columnist,

Deborah Shadovitz.

We like to hear from you! If you have a great product, story idea or comments, drop us a note at:

augmentations@applegroups.org.

GREAT LINKS

The MUG Center

www.mugcenter.com

User Group Advisory Board

homepage.mac.com/ugab/

Macsimum News

www.macsimumnews.com

Apple User Groups

www.apple.com/usergroups/

The contents of this newsletter may not be copied, duplicated, retransmitted, disseminated nor distributed without the written permission of The Apple Groups Team. Reprints may be requested provided that proper attribution is applied to any use of the contents and a copy of the placement is forwarded to the publisher(s) within 21 days of publication. All contents p©2005 The Apple Groups Team. All rights reserved. All trademarks are property of their respective owners. The Apple Groups Team is not affiliated with Apple Computer.

Macsimum
NEWSCAST



NEWS YOU CAN USE AT YOUR MEETINGS

Don't forget to set your iCal for Macsimum Broadcast - **Macsimum Broadcast**, your "online webcast about all things Mac," provides news, features and opinions on the world of Apple products and services. It airs each week on

FRIDAY EVENINGS at 9 p.m. (Eastern). A *downloadable version* of Macsimum Newscast will also be available and each week's episodes will be archived.

Macsimum Newscast will be a joint collaboration between **Macsimum News**, **The MacAuthority** (an Apple dealer based in Nashville, Tennessee) and the **1010tv Internet Broadcasting Network**. Jackie Ballinger is the head anchor on the show.

Visit <http://liveinvite.com/macsimumnews/> to watch the show anytime via **QuickTime**.

You can even save the file and show it at your next MUG meeting, conference or staff meeting.