



WaiMacWire

Newsletter of the Waikato Macintosh Society

Tuesday 26 June – Topic: "Web sites you can not live without"

The topic for the next WaiMac meeting is helpful/informative web sites you visit most. Each member can talk about their favourite sites.

Berkley Normal Middle School 7.30 p.m.

N.B. The next issue of WaiMac wire will include all these favourites, for us all to enjoy.

From your editor

I'm aware from discussions, oral and digital, that the Wire's filesize is getting a bit too large for members with dial-up Internet. So I'm going to do something about it.

Previous issues have been quite rich in terms of photos and illustrations mainly culled from WWW sites. So, in future I will use a small version of the organisation's logo, a brief description of their offering, and the actual URL. The reader may then decide if to follow the link, and the Wire will have a smaller filesize. **BrianB**

At Our Last Meeting

We were very lucky to hear from Jonathan Owens, of Sitech a local supplier of digital and audio-visual technology. His topic was 'Technology in the Classroom', and he introduced us to Interwrite Active Whiteboards. Active Whiteboard technology is 'The Next Big Thing' in ICT, and has been extensively deployed in the U.K., Mexico and the U.S. Interwrite is one of a number of such products. We are implementing them at Berkley, so I was keen to see what Interwrite has to offer.

The technology consists of a coated board with a matrix of sensors. A range of input devices, with a Bluetooth connection, allow users to interact

with the board, while a data projector linked to a computer provides the output from the P.C.

Jonathan demonstrated a range of the input devices: keyboard, stylus for drawing, electronic polling, and very smart handwriting recognition.

Projects can be produced in the form of electronic 'flip charts'. These contain content of all kinds: text, drawing, movies, photos, hyperlinks, and can be as interactive as your imagination can make them. There is a library of materials to include in these projects and some of this is N.Z. and Maori specific.

Research in the U.K. and elsewhere has pointed



to a number of learning gains related to this technology; along with new models for managing and organising students' learning.

Many thanks are due to Jonathan for introducing us all to this emerging learning technology.

<http://www.interwritelearning.com/products/board/detail.html>

From Alistair Furnell - Apple Games - Colin McRae Rally

By Brad Cook

Your Peugeot 206 slides on the gravel as you navigate a tricky right turn. You struggle to keep it from slipping off the side of the road as your co-driver calls out: "Six left 30 into two right care." Knowing you have an easy left turn ahead of you, followed by another difficult right turn, you stomp on the accelerator, pushing the four-wheel drive car hard through the first, reaching 85 miles per hour in the process, and then slowing down dramatically to take the next on.



Software for Schools - Licensing Dilemma

The Ministry of Education has for a number of years purchased software licences for Microsoft products - Windows and Mac versions. Thus, schools have had the use of MS Office etc. for free. Unfortunately, in respect of Macs (for now), this arrangement has ended. Schools using MS Office for Macs on computers used by students are now doing so illegally. Given the number of school sin this situation and the number of files involved, this situation is vexing the minds of many people in Macintosh equipped schools.

The alternatives are not that attractive: iWork is by no means compatible and Open Source offerings have a very mixed press. Sit licences for the present version of MS Office for Mac is \$130 a pop. For 120 machines, quite a sum. At Berkley, this will become a big issue, and I'm on the look for likely alternatives. Any suggestions from Wai Mac members would be welcome.

I did find an alternative spreadsheet that looks promising. [Tables](#), from Daniel Schwill, is shareware, a 4MB download and costs € 39.

From Mark Shroder - Parallels Desktop 3.0 a worthy upgrade.

Posted by Marc Orchant on:

blogs.zdnet.com/Orchant/?p=473

The blog item is a very complimentary review of the latest version of Parallels. We are using Parallels at Berkley and it's rock solid so far.

My only moan is that each update has to be purchased, rather than provided as a free, or subsidised, download for existing customers.



www.parallels.com

From Mark Shroder - Pandora Everywhere ?

Posted by Alan Graham on:

blogs.zdnet.com/web2explorer/?p=355

Not long ago, Sonos asked me if I wanted to participate in a new beta test. I'm always excited to try out something new on my home system but I wasn't sure what else they could add to Sonos that could make my "perfect" music system even better, but I always want to be first on the block to test out what's new. That beta turned out to be Pandora as one of their services.

I never really was a fan of Pandora, the "Internet Radio Station" based on the music genome project. I thought the idea was clever enough, but I had already moved past the idea of music on my computer a couple of years ago when I got my first Sonos system. And even though this now solved that problem, I didn't really think I'd get much value out of it. Between Rhapsody and iTunes, I'm pretty much in music Nirvana right now. Adding another service doesn't thrill me.

Well I was wrong. Pandora is fantastic.

Enjoy WaiMac Wire No.26. BrianB