



PRACTICE POINTS

Our Product

The Intel version of **ThePractitioner** has been fully ported over and tested. The single user package has been running quite well for some time. While there are a number of minor issues, the main effort is getting a grip on all its new features, so that they may be implemented in a safe way.

Installing a multi-user server installation is quite a different story however, and its premature release, constant “fix” releases on almost a weekly basis, missing features and new behavior of buttons, etc, has taken up most of the last two months of our time.

This is the reason that this newsletter is running rather late, although a three week ski trip to Japan probably had something to do with it as well.

New Features

Unnecessary scroll bars have been removed from entry layouts. A spelling checker is included in the Word Processing module. Internal system messages - updating of these has been automated.

Fixes (For dealing with shortcomings of the Intel release).
User & Groups - no mechanism for saving and loading - this has been re-programmed.

Site Lists save / restore no longer working - re-programmed.

Before we make the next upgrade available, we urge all clients to rename their application folder to **TheP Folder** and also add a new folder within it, named **Exports**.

This is required to implement some of the new features, where the **f** character in **TheP f** causes problematic behavior.

Upgrades

The next version will require a minimum of MacOSX 10.4.7. Changes to the PowerPC version of **ThePractitioner** have now been locked down, and is unlikely to remain supported for too much longer.

Mac OSX

Apple has been bringing out upgrades at a great pace, and tonight they are going to announce **iPhone 3.0**.

All the desktop **iMacs** have been upgraded to incorporate the new graphics cards and the new video interfaces. They have extra USB 2.0 connectors, also via the keyboards, making USB hubs less necessary. More RAM.

The **Mac Minis** have been upgraded - two video connectors, better WiFi, etc.

Snow Leopard releases are coming my way regularly now, so I expect that it will be released by mid year. It will do away with PowerPC support and will fully support multi-process architecture. So, expect a new **iPhone** with 2 processor chips (allowing background tasking).

Back to reality, other upgrades include dual antenna loops for **AppleTV**
Airport Extreme

Oh... and a new **iPod Shuffle** that can talk to you.

And did I mention a MacTablet, Net Book, larger iPod touch?
- Go Apple ! -



TheVault

We have been using a version 1 product quite successfully for a number of months.

Due to client feedback, the next version will run fully in memory, while user data will remain protected on the Hard Disk. Being almost a complete re-write, we have added some useful features, automated as much as possible, and kept its implementation to a minimum.

Until **ThePractitioner** upgrades are settled down, the next version of **TheVault** will have to wait.

New Developments

Generally...

Remember that MAC OSX has a built in dictionary which you can use in any application, by placing the mouse over a word and clicking Command-Control-D.

To get a screen dump key Shift-Option-3, and to capture a specific part of a screen use Shift-Option-4.

In Leopard, you may share your CD or DVD drive wirelessly with another Mac, even for booting.

Icon previews - these may be turned on / off as desired via the >Show View Options <

Leopard has some great screen saver / desktop options. Or, try **Serene Saver Pro**, we love it.

Using **Spaces** in Leopard is also quite handy and seamless. Clicking any application in the Dock is all that is required to switch to another space.

Apple Time Capsule

We have been using a 1 Tb drive during 2009 for regular backups, and so far this has been excellent. While we “clone” our internal drives to external hard disks for backup, the **TimeMachine** automation has been very useful, for drilling back to earlier copies of documents, or development versions, etc. We would like to restate our philosophy on regular and thorough backups.

Until the next issue...

Contacting Us



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