PRACTICE POINTS

Our Product

The current version of **ThePractitioner** is version U2, running on 4D SQL version 11.3 (56711).
A newer 4D SQL version 11.4 has been released, but we are waiting for it to come out of "beta" phase, before moving on to it.

We are hard at work, replacing and reprogram all the buttons which now behave differently under the current 4D development environment on Intel - and this is proving to be a non trivial process.

New Features

The following have been added via the Administrator preferences.
Saving User & Groups - a new mechanism implemented.
Saving Site Lists - re-programmed to use 4D files.
Internal system messages - auto updating.

The above requires some internal file modifications, so those mechanisms, plus the new folder **Exports**, containing a new **[SMessages]** file will be provided to clients, for the next update.

Hardware

We have been using **LaCie** external hard disks happily for many years but recently, the **Extreme Q500** drives have exhibited a high failure rate (6 of 11 units), so we are looking at some alternatives. **Time Machine** with **Time Capsule** continues to work very well for incremental backups. We will install a new 1Tb hard disk to also do a "clone" copy of the main computer. Backing up is priority!

The Vault

We are now running the new version 2 memory based product, with all the original functionality of version 1 back in place, and the added features are a nice bonus. All that remains now is to test the registration and data protection coding, which is a bit more involved with the RAM based operations model. Hopefully this will be ready and tested within a month.

Mac OSX

No space last month to note that apple also announced a dual-quad tower computer. That is 8 processor chips, using new Intel Xeon "Nehalem" chips. These are capable of Hyper-Threading, so there are actually 16 virtual processors available.

The new **iLife '09** software suite has a notable improvement in **iPhoto**, which now has face recognition - as a result of Apple's acquiring a small software company - plus place recognition - as a result of modern camera's inclusion of geo-tagging. The upshot is that you can group your photos by person and /or locations.

WWDC '09 has now been announced for June 8-12 in San Francisco. Everyone will be waiting to see if S. Jobs will put in an appearance. Expect Snow Leopard to be released at that time. With its ability to handle multi-core architecture, I see quad-core desktop iiMacs coming our way a couple of months after that.

Lots of expectation, and also the internal iPhone 3.0 SDK, hints at a new **iPhone** and probably a new hardware device - aka Mac Tablet
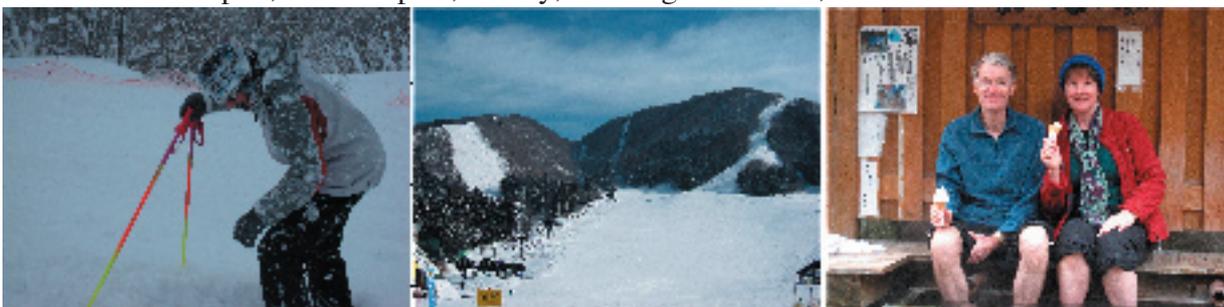
- Go Apple ! -

Other Software   (WUI : means we use it)

AppCleaner   Remove unwanted support files for trashed applications. (WUI)
AppFresh   Notifier of updates for your programs and widgets.
Adium X   An instant messaging program.
Carbon Copy Cloner For backing up / restoring your hard disk. (WUI)
Chocoflop   Image and photo editor.
CoconutWiFi   Scan for wireless networks when mobile.
Cyberduck   Drag-n-Drop FTP web-file transferring, made easy.
Dock Spaces   Store multiple dock configurations.
Hide Folders 2008   Conceals files and folders.
iStat Pro   System monitoring widget. (WUI)
MacLoc   Fast user switching. (We use QuickSilver)
NeoOffice   OpenOffice port, exchanges MsOffice documents.
OnyX   System cleaning and maintenance utility.
OpenOffice   Open source equivalent of Microsoft Office. (WUI)
Parallels 4.0   Run Windows on your iiMac. (WUI)
Pingus   Lemmings game revisited. (WUI)
Serene Saver Pro   A screen saver with "atmospherics". (WUI)
Skim   PDF reader and editor.
SnapNDrag   Screenshot utility, for different formats.
VisualHub   Convert between video formats... good for iPods / iPhones. (WUI)
VLC Media Player   A free video player, for when QuickTime is not OK. (We use QT Pro)
YouControl: iTunes Menu bar control of iTunes playback.. (WUI)

Where were we?

This would be Japan, with temples, history, amazing breakfasts, a massive fire festival at our ski resort...

A slalom course with too much powder, no one on the ski slopes, and free hot baths (Onsens).

Until the next issue...

Contacting Us

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