

# California Computer Care

News,  
Views,  
Tips and  
Cool Techniques  
for CCC Members

February 2001  
Vol. IV, No. 2

We  
speak  
Geek,  
so you  
don't  
have to.

## Curt's Five Rules

I use these rules to make running my Macs easier and efficient; perhaps you should, too.

### Rule #1

When you finish using an application, **DO NOT** close the last window, **QUIT!** Nothing could be simpler and more important in keeping you out of trouble.

Rule #1 addresses the most common mistake made. In most applications, closing the last visible window does not quit the application, it just removes the most obvious clue that the application is still running. In time you may have five, six or more applications running without being aware of them. Unless you have a super fast Mac and tons of RAM, this will slow you down and eventually cause "out of memory" messages and crashes. Plus, you will be surprised the next time you open one of these applications and no window appears on screen. "Why didn't that work?", you ask. It *did* work, only you earlier told the application NOT to show you a window, so none is there to greet you. Remember, don't close, choose Quit from the File menu instead.

### Rule #2

*Use the Application Menu.*

Rule #2 is Rule #1's best friend. The Application Menu is the menu that you find in the upper right corner of your screen. The Application Menu shows you the icon and, sometimes, the name of the application currently in use. Clicking on the Application Menu will drop down a list of all running applications. If you have not followed Rule #1, the unseen, running applications will be listed here. Change applications by clicking on their name then, if you are done using them, choose Quit from the File menu. It is wise to check the Application Menu frequently to see if you've left a forgotten application running.

### Rule #3

*Do monthly maintenance.* Every month you should do these things:

- 1) Run the *Disk First Aid* application. *Disk First Aid* can usually be found in your Utilities folder (if not, use *Sherlock* or *Find File* to search for it). *Disk First Aid* is great at fixing all manner of nasty little problems before they become big ones. However, if *Disk First Aid* finds problems that it cannot fix, please call me.
- 2) Rebuild the desktop. After running *Disk First Aid*, restart your Mac. As soon as you hear the start-up tone, hold down the Apple and Option keys on your keyboard. When you see a message asking if you want to rebuild the desktop, release the keys and click the OK button. You won't see a difference, but your Mac will feel the difference and like it; a lot.
- 3) Check your date and time. Most computer clocks run a little fast or slow, but if your clock and calendar become wildly erratic; the PRAM battery is probably dead or dying (call me immediately).

### Rule #4

*Use a high quality surge protector and properly polarized, grounded outlets.* Quality surge protectors cost at least \$30.00. Good brands are Belkin, APC, Kensington and PanaMax. Many surge protectors have tell-tale lights that will show you if the outlet they are plugged into is not properly wired and/or grounded. If your surge protector does not tell you this, get a tester from Radio Shack or a good hardware store. This is essential for your safety and the safety of your expensive equipment.

### Rule #5

*Back Up, Back Up, Back Up, Back Up, Back Up, Back Up, Back Up, Back Up. . .* We've talked about this before. Do it! . . . Now!

# *iVan iBook Needs a New Home*

What a fickle cad I am!

MacWorld San Francisco, January 12, 2001. My eye catches a glint of titanium and it's love at first sight. That slim, seductive form. Those gorgeous proportions. That five hour battery. Yes, the new PowerBook Titanium has stolen my heart.

*iVan's loss is your gain.*

If you've been pondering a more mobile computing style, *iVan* may be just the laptop for you. Here are *iVan's* vital statistics and resumé:

- 300 mHz G3 processor
- 96 MB of RAM
- 3.2 GB hard disk drive
- 24 speed internal CDROM drive
- 56K internal modem
- 12.1" super clear, LCD screen
- Steel reinforced carrying handle
- 4 hour rated battery (actually averages 3+ hours)
- 10/100 BT ethernet networking
- Airport ready for wireless internet and networking
- USB port
- Speaker/headphone port

*iVan's* case is made of bulletproof polycarbonate and rubber with rounded corners

and extra shockproofing for super durability. At 11.6" H x 13.5" W x 1.8" D and 6.7 pounds, *iVan* is easy to carry and store away as needed. *iVan* comes complete with battery charger, backup CDROMs and this major software:

- Mac OS 9.0.4
- AppleWorks 6.0.4
- FAXstf 5.0
- Palm Desktop (great personal organization software, no Palm Pilot needed)
- Games (Nanosaur and Bugdom)
- Worldbook Encyclopedia
- iTunes MP3 player
- iMovie 1.0
- Internet software.

*iVan* is fast, fun, reliable and goes anywhere you go. You've seen *iVan* helping me out whenever I visit; keeping my records and providing internet access and troubleshooting wherever I go.

*iVan* originally cost \$1595.00 (with the extra RAM \$1695.00). Used *iBooks* typically sell for \$1000-\$1100. New, slightly faster *iBooks* are \$1499 and \$1799. I am asking \$900.00 for *iVan* and that includes a carrying case, a 6 month hardware warranty from California Computer Care and *iVan's* promise to be good and follow your orders (mostly). Give me (and *iVan*) a call or email today: 800-540-8989, [curt@calcompcare.com](mailto:curt@calcompcare.com).



## *February Tip*

If you use Adaptec's Toast software to burn (copy files onto) CDROM disks, you may have noticed that the CD gets named after the first file copied; rather annoying! To make sure a CD is named as you want it, do this:

- 1) Create a new, untitled folder and name it the name that you want the CD to have.
- 2) Move all the files and folders that you want to copy to the CDROM into this folder.
- 3) Drag the new folder into the Toast window.
- 4) Burn the CD.

When done your CDROM will be named and arranged just like the new folder; no surprises.

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Like an  
auto club  
for your  
computer.