

# California Computer Care

News,  
Views,  
Tips and  
Cool Techniques  
for CCC Members

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



*Essential Mac OS X software:*

## Carbon Copy Cloner

© Mike Bombich, 2002

In the beginning, of operating systems\*, there were many. Then came UNIX. UNIX was created by Bell Labs and the University of California to run the world. But, UNIX was too big and complex for desktop computers, so later came the Macintosh operating system (Mac OS) and later still, Microsoft Windows. Today, UNIX still runs the world (if you consider running the telephone system, all major corporations, universities and governments as “running the world”). And, Mac OS evolved into a UNIX operating system with the advent of Mac OS X.

Though UNIX is as reliable and stable as an operating system can be, it has a few annoying usability problems that have not yet been overcome. One of these is that UNIX operating system software cannot be copied from one place to another and still function (as older Mac OSes can). To make a backup copy of UNIX system software requires the use of special tools. The first, and best, of these special tools is *Carbon Copy Cloner*.

*Carbon Copy Cloner* appeared soon after the first version of Mac OS X. With it we can make backup copies of the contents of our hard disk drives. Without *Carbon Copy Cloner* you can back up everything except Mac OS X itself. Being able to backup Mac OS X allows us to make a copy of our entire hard drive that can substitute for the original hard drive in an emergency.

*Carbon Copy Cloner* also makes it possible to copy your software from one Mac to another making, effectively, a clone of your computer.

\* **Operating System:** the most basic of all software. The Operating System is what makes a computer run.

*Carbon Copy Cloner* has three great tricks that enhance its basic function:

**Scheduling:** In *Carbon Copy Cloner's* preferences, it can be instructed to run automatically at specified times. This allows *Carbon Copy Cloner* to make unsupervised backups without relying on users to remember.

**Disk Images:** *Carbon Copy Cloner* can automatically clone to a mounted volume†, but it cannot clone to an unmounted volume such as a writable CDROM. For these special cases, *Carbon Copy Cloner* can clone to a virtual volume in the form of a Disk Image. The Disk Image will comfortably sit on your desktop until you are ready to copy it to the location of your choice. By this method, you can also archive multiple backup copies on a single CDROM or DVD disk.

**Permissions Repair.** Mac OS X relies extensively on file permission settings. These settings maintain security for each and every file. If permissions become mis-set, all heck breaks loose! *Carbon Copy Cloner* can be told to automatically repair faulty file permissions each time a clone is made; keeping your Mac secure and efficient.

Most amazingly, its FREE! *Carbon Copy Cloner* is a gift to the Mac Community from its creator, Mike Bombich, so you can download and pass it around with no cost or restrictions. Though considering its value to us, you may want to donate something to keep Bombich well-heeled enough to continue to create such fine software.

*Carbon Copy Cloner* get it here:

<http://www.bombich.com/software/ccc.html>

\* **Mounted volume:** Drive or disk that can be accessed by your Macintosh. Mounted volumes usually appear on your desktop.

## CCC Price Increase

In the past, our pricing has been adjusted in October. This year, I am holding the line on new prices until January 1, 2005. I was really hoping not to have to do this, but high gas prices (even though my car gets 30–40 mpg) are really taking their toll!

Below is a listing of prices old and new. Member benefits will not change. You still

get the first half hour free on every Service Call, at least 10% off on all regular services, 30 minutes of free phone calls each month and unlimited free email help. Also, as members, you save money by not having to pay full hour minimums, as non-members do. Instead, you are billed for the actual time on site (rounded to the nearest tenth of an hour). Please contact me if you have any questions. Thanks.

## September Tip—

The easiest (but NOT least expensive) way to Back Up.

If you have a Mac with Firewire ports (virtually any Mac less than 6 years old), get a FireWire, external, hard disk drive. La Cie, [www.lacie.com/products/family.htm?id=10007](http://www.lacie.com/products/family.htm?id=10007), is a top maker. Get one at least as large as the hard drive in your Mac so that even if it gets full, everything fits on the external drive.

Next, get a copy of *Déjà Vu*, [www.propagandaprod.com](http://www.propagandaprod.com) (Mac OS X) or *Synchronize!* [www.qdea.com/pages/pages-sync/sync1.html](http://www.qdea.com/pages/pages-sync/sync1.html) (Mac OS 7-9) to automatically run back ups at the time you specify. Now, let the new software and disk drive automatically do the hard work for you.

La Cie, FireWire external hard drives from \$119.00

Déjà Vu \$24.95

Synchronize! \$29.95

## California Computer Care Services and Pricing (per hour)

New Prices Effective January 1, 2005

Service	CCC Member Rates	
	Old Price	New Price
On-site Consulting, Repair, Installation, Upgrades*	\$67.50	\$72.00
Phone and Email support*	\$67.50	\$72.00
• Members receive ½ hour free phone support and unlimited free email support each month.		
BackUp Basic per visit, media extra	\$40.00	\$45.00
Scheduled per visit, media extra	\$35.00	\$40.00
Off-site storage per year	\$25.00	\$25.00
MacCleaning—flat rate non-members \$450.00	\$325.00	\$350.00
On-site Training*	\$60.00	\$65.00
Research and Purchase assistance*	\$45.00	\$50.00
CD-ROM burning (recording) non-members \$15.00	\$12.50	\$10.00
Equipment transport*	FREE	FREE
Travel (outside of Sonoma and Marin Counties) mileage computed from CCC office in Santa Rosa	75¢/mi	80¢/mi

\* New non-Member rate \$80.00 per hour

California Computer Care

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Like an  
auto club  
for your  
computer.