

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.

Time Machine



Mac OS X 10.5 (Leopard) has been out for over a year. If you have bought a new Mac since October, 2007, you are running Leopard as your operating system.

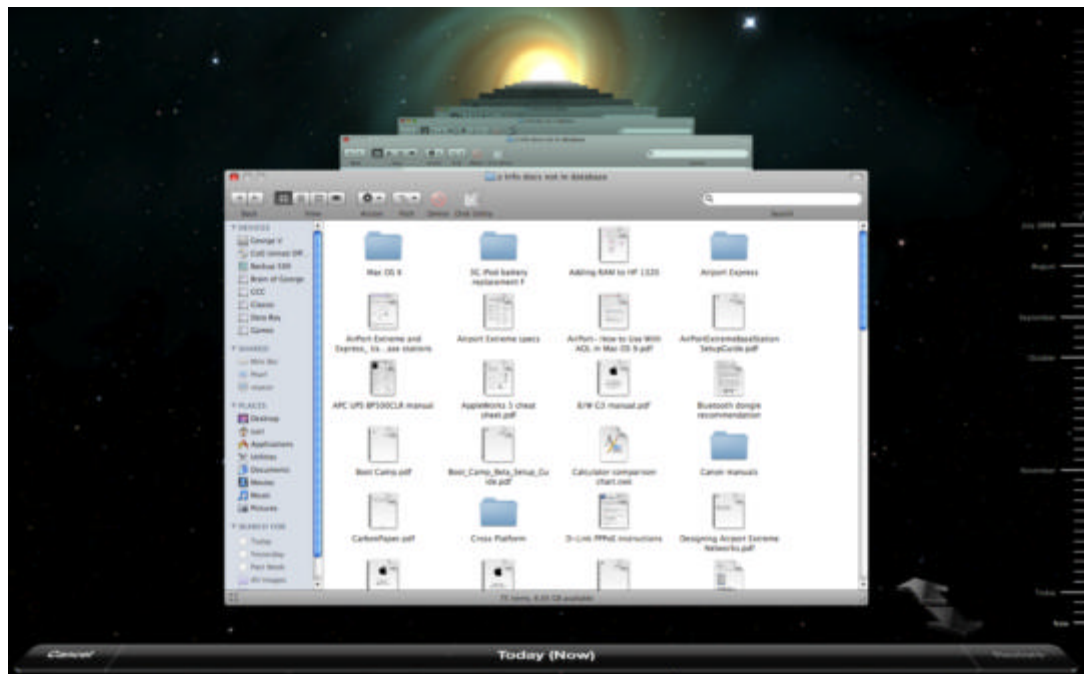
If you haven't bought a new Mac, perhaps you've wondered if Leopard would be a good upgrade for your Mac. Well, maybe.

Leopard has undergone five updates and most of the bugs and kinks have been worked out. Leopard is stable and safe, but that is not enough. Is it useful? Is it necessary?

If your Mac is running Mac OS X 10.4 (Tiger), Leopard is not worth the time and expense of an upgrade. There is one exception. That exception is Time Machine.

The rest is automatic. Mac will ask if you want to use the new hard drive for Time Machine back ups, say yes and the first back up immediately begins.

From here Time Machine will copy everything in your Mac to the external hard disk drive. This will take several hours the first time (you can continue to work or play during all Time Machine back ups). Then, every hour, Time Machine will back up any changed or new files. These "incremental" back ups usually only take a minute or two. Time Machine will keep all back ups made until the external hard drive is full (so, the bigger the external hard drive, the farther back in time you can go to search for lost



Making back ups is a pain! So much so that less than 20% of computer users make back ups. Boo! Hiss! Bad user! *Make that back up!*

Time Machine makes backing up as painless as possible. With Time Machine, there are only two sources of pain. First, you must buy an external hard disk drive (Ouch! *Spend money?*). Secondly, you have to connect the new hard drive to your Mac (Double ouch! *Where do I plug it in?*).

files). When the external hard drive becomes full, Time Machine will automatically trash the oldest back up copies to make room for the newest. This way you can have copies that go back months or even years, if the external drive has enough room.

Saved by Time Machine! Of course, Time Machine can restore your Mac if a major catastrophe strikes (hard drive breaks down, Mac gets stolen, adventurous kid trashes all

files), but most likely, Time Machine will come to the rescue when you accidentally throw away a file or ruin it with too many changes and edits.

A scenario: You are using iPhoto and you're trying to fix up a picture that isn't as good as you'd like. You adjust brightness, contrast, re-crop and fix some red eyes, but, *oops!* you cropped half of cousin Joey's face out of the picture. Aunt Martha (Joey's mom) isn't going to like that, but the changes have been saved and there's no going back to the past.

With Time Machine, you can go back. With the iPhoto (version 7 or newer) window open, click the Time Machine icon in your Dock. The Time Machine environment opens and shows the iPhoto window as it is right *now*. Click the back-in-time arrow and Time Machine flies the iPhoto window backward in time until something changes. If the messed up picture now appears restored, you've arrived, if not, click the back-in-time arrow again. When you find the version of the picture that suits you, click the Restore button and the picture is "magically" brought forward in time to the present and restored to the current iPhoto window. As easy as that. Aunt Martha never needs to know.

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Like an
auto club
for your
computer.

The same basic technique will work to recover emails, address book entries, calendar appointments or any other file that has gone missing or been damaged beyond repair. Best of all, you never have to think about your back ups, they get made and are ready to save you whenever you need them.

As well as Time Machine handles back ups, there is one back up function that Time Machine just cannot do. Time Machine cannot get a back up out of your office or home and into a secure place like a safe deposit box. Sadly, disasters do still happen and in flood, fire, theft and earthquake, the chance that your Mac and your back up hard drive will be destroyed together is unfortunately high. You want your most important files off site and secure.

You can do this. Copy your most important files to a CD, DVD or USB flash drive. Store the work files at home and the home files at work. Or, use an online back up service. These services are too slow for full back ups, but may be fast enough for the few really vital files. I like the free iDrive service: <https://www.idrive.com> or give California Computer Care a call and I can set up a back up routine that will have you safe and secure with no extra effort on your part. Call (800) 540-8989.

November Tip

Use the BCC Field

Have you ever received an email that was addressed to five, ten, 50 or more people with everybody's email address in plain view? Not only is this obnoxious, it is also a security danger.

Emails are freely forwarded and can circle the earth in just a few hours. Some of these will end up in the hands of spammers and other internet bad guys. When these jerks receive big batches of email addresses, they see it as manna from heaven. And then, we wonder how criminals get our personal information.

You can stop this. When you send an email to two or more recipients, put their addresses into the BCC field instead of the To field. When this is done, the recipients' addresses are invisible to anyone reading the email.

Turn on the BCC field in Apple Mail by opening a new email form and selecting *Bcc Address Field* from the *View* menu.