

The South Bay Mug

MACINTOSH

A Monthly Cupful For South Bay Apple Mac User Group Members, May 2006

MACHinations

A personal view from Bob

Now Up-to-Date & Contact 5.1

Also known as NUDC, this is a tightly integrated pair of programs to manage your appointments and contacts. Purchase it from NowSoftware.com for \$120 (download) or \$130 (boxed). Both install menu-bar icons — QuickDay and QuickContact — to view today's events and access your contact list without opening the programs. Both print calendars and contact information in many formats. There are Mac and Windows versions and both can publish to a server so a cross-platform workgroup can access shared calendars and schedule meetings.

Now-Up-to-Date: I first bought it 14 years ago — no kidding — and it's the best calendar program I've used. It's easy to add and edit events and to-dos and displays in month, week, multi-day and day modes. You can set reminders. It imports iCal events, but that involves a little trial-and-error as the iCal files have cryptic names. NUD is ideal for a workgroup where people have both private calendars and a public calendar that is shared on the network.

Calendar files become bloated over time but I'm reluctant to lose my record of old events. NUD lets you archive and delete events older than a specified period, so they no longer clutter your calendar but are still available when you write your memoirs.

Now Contact is a contact manager, or address book. It has some tough competition, including Apple's Address Book (free with OS X) and Microsoft's Entourage (part of Office). Now Contact will synchronize with Address Book but it seems a little quirky. Now Contact has only two fields for email addresses and which goes in which field is a puzzle. Now Contact has changed little over the years and needs an over-

haul. An valuable feature is the large number of formats that you can use to print your addresses, including many "day planners".

There were reports that the previous version, NUDC 4.5, was incompatible with Tiger, but it turned out that only QuickDay and QuickContact were incompatible. I deleted the startup files and continued to use it. Version 5.1 is Tiger-compatible and adds new features and a facelift. The calendar and contact file formats are unchanged so I can open them with either version of the program. That's convenient, as I prefer some of the calendar printing formats in Version 4.5.

iWork '06 - Initial impressions

iWork '06 (\$79) comprises Pages 2.0, a word processing and page layout program, and Keynote 3.0, a presentation program. Both seem more sluggish, create somewhat larger files than before and now require a G4 or better processor. There goes my G3 iBook that I use for presentations. The file formats have changed, but you can't tell by looking until you try to try to open a file. Older versions can't open the new files, although you can save in the old format. iWork '06 adds new, editable shapes and allow masking of images by a shape. Table cells can include formulas and formatting, although it's very limited compared to a spreadsheet. Charts are improved and are more flexible.

In summary: Keynote is my favorite presentation program, but for word processing I use AppleWorks or Word. Although AppleWorks is dated, it's fast and includes good spreadsheet and database modules. If you have an old version of iWorks, stick with it and save your money. There's no upgrade price.

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