The South Bay Mug

MACINT◌SH

MAChinations

A personal view from Bob

It's All Free

I collect freeware and frequently write about it in my articles. LJ and Glen did a great job describing some of their favorites, so I thought I'd add a few of my own, grouping them into categories. These are programs I use and like, skipping the more well-known ones that you may already know. Use VersionTracker or MacUpdate to find them on the web.

Graphics

- Drag-N-Scale - quickly resizes photos.
- SnapNDrag - does a screen captures (regular and timed). Rename and save as PNG, JPEG or TIFF.
- ThumbsUp - creates thumbnail photos from a folder of photos.
- FreeRuler - puts a graphic ruler on the screen for measurements.
- iPhoto Buddy - lets you switch iPhoto libraries.

Web page creation

- SpamSieve - encodes email addresses on a web page.
- RBrowser - an FTP program to upload files to a web site.
- Galerie - creates an HTML slide shows from a folder of photos or from within iPhoto.
- Flickr plug-in - lets you post photos to flickr.com directly from within iPhoto.

Audio and Media

- SoundSource - lets you change your audio input and output from a menu-bar icon.
- Metronomica and Metronome - two metronomes.
- Audacity - an audio recording/playback program.
- MacRecorder - a very simple audio recording program that saves in mp3, mp4a as well as AIFF and WAV formats.

Helpers

- FileWrangler - renames groups of files.
- FinderPop - gives single click access to your favorite files and folders. It was my favorite in OS 9 and now it's come to OS X.
- Butler - helps to navigate the web and your drive.
- Mousepose - puts a bright halo around the cursor.
- WClock - adds a drop-down calendar to your menu-bar clock.

Utilities

- TinkerTool, Onyx and MacJanitor - clean up your disk and make system changes. Especially for techies.
- SilverKeeper - backs up data files.
- Carbon Copy Cloner or the free version of SuperDuper! - clones your entire disk and System.

Applications

- TextWrangler - a text editor for the technically inclined. that has lots of text manipulation capabilities. It's the little brother of BBEdit, without the web authoring features.
- NewsMac - my favorite RSS reader.
- Journier - for creating journals and storing bits of information.
- Remember? - a calendar program I use to keep track of birthdays and anniversaries.
- Vault - secure storage for passwords and other sensitive information.
- Yum - a program for storing recipes. It imports MasterCook and Cooking Light files from OS 9 days.
- SBook - billed as an address book, it can be used as much more. It imports from Apple's Address Book.