

## Next Meeting

**March 13, 7:00**  
**Shareware/Freeware**

Find out what downloadable programs your fellow Mac users cannot live without.

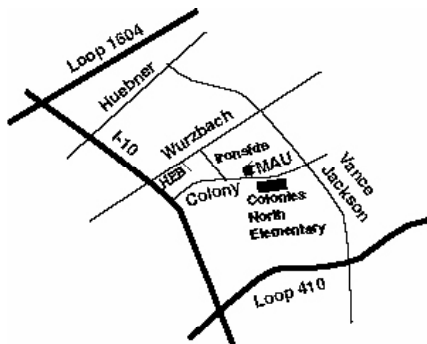
Presenters Nathan Lott and Gordon Alley will showcase some of their favorite shareware/freeware apps including:

- Skype
- GarageSale
- Sogudi
- Flock
- Check-Off
- Overflow
- Caffeine
- Midnight
- GetDilbert
- iStat Pro

Other members are encouraged to share their top picks as well.

## Join Us!

Join us at the MacApple Users' Group meetings at 7:00 P.M. on the second Thursday of each month. We meet at the Colonies House, 3511 Colony Drive (off I-10 at Wurzbach.)

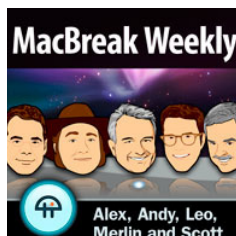


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- Only \$50.00 per family •
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## A Note from the President

When you go to a computer store it has always been that 99% of the software is Windows only. However, the Mac has a very good software development community that offers tons of neat and interesting downloadable shareware and freeware programs. I'm always discovering great new free and shareware software for the Mac.

Every week on the podcast MacBreak Weekly ([twit.tv/mbw](http://twit.tv/mbw)) Leo Laporte and friends give their software picks and a devoted listener to the show collects them and posts them on the website <http://www.mbwpicks.com>.



Other sources I have in my RSS reader include the website "I Use This" at <http://osx.iusethis.com> which has the name of the program, a short description of what it does and whether the program is shareware or freeware. By subscribing to an RSS feed (which can be done in Safari by clicking the blue "RSS" icon in the address bar and then bookmarking it) new programs show up in the list every day. One other good source I have in my RSS collection is the MacApper blog at <http://www.macapper.com>. They do in-depth reviews of shareware programs with full color screenshots which really help in making the decision to download it or not. Of course for searching for a particular program, nothing beats VersionTracker at <http://www.versiontracker.com>.

At the March User Group meeting I'm going to be talking about some of my favorite programs. Gordon Alley will then talk about some of his favorite. I hope you will share some of your own. There are programs for whatever interests you might have from eBay selling to utilities to making your Mac run better to programs that make it easier to surf the internet. I hope to see you at the meeting.

Sincerely,  
*Nathan Lott*

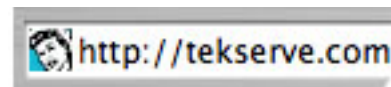
## The X Lex: Whatchamacallits

*Monthly Excerpts for MUGs from Take Control: The Mac OS X Lexicon*

by Sharon Zardetto and Andy Baird

There's a disturbing trend in Apple documentation. Not the fact that there isn't much—that is pretty disturbing, but that's not what I'm talking about. I'm referring to the fact that Apple seems to avoid naming things, using just verbs in its online (and other) help documents: "Click Now." And what is that "Now" object—it's a sort of chopped-edge buttony thing in a row of other similar objects, formerly called a tab but no longer looking like one... and it takes you to a... subset of preference pane options that's called a... ?

Things need names! Especially interface elements! This month's excerpts are about things whose names you might not know.



### favicon

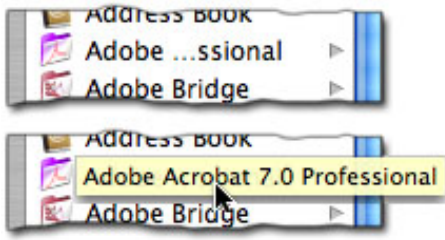
FAYV-ih-con · favorites + icon · The 16x16-pixel icon that usually appears next to a Web page's address in a browser's URL box, and in a bookmark or "favorites" list. (Sharon much prefers the lesser-used, silly-sounding, alternative name for this: urlicon, but only if you pronounce it "earl-a-con.")

### handles

Small squares displayed at the corners of an onscreen object, used for resizing or otherwise manipulating it.

*X Lex, p. 2*

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### help tag

A pop-up box of information, also sometimes called a tip or hint, or even tool tip because its first use was for identifying the functions of buttons on Microsoft tool palettes. For most help tags, all you have to do is hover over something for about 2 seconds. The Finder has handy help tags for icon names whose middles drop out when they're too long. (Is 2 seconds too long to wait? Press Option for instant pop-up help tags!)

### scroller

The scrollbox of yesteryear's Mac interface that transmuted into the blue "lozenge" in Mac OS X's scrollbars also received this new name, although most users didn't get the memo.



### sheet

Occasionally used to refer to a dialog that slides down from under a window's title bar. As Apple tweaks Mac OS X, features come and go, get names briefly, or just go nameless. This name didn't catch on, but it still pops up (well, it doesn't pop up, or slide down, or anything like that—it's just there) in some Apple documentation.

### proxy icon

The tiny icon in front of a Finder window's name. You can drag the icon (by clicking on it and hesitating for a fraction of a second before dragging it) instead of going back to the enclosing folder if you want to manipulate the current window—drag it to the Trash, for instance.



Most document windows have proxy icons, too. You can do nifty things with them, like drag them to a Finder window or onto the Desktop to save a copy of the document there, or into another document—we dragged a lot of Word proxy icons

into Mail message windows when exchanging documents while working on this book. The proxy icon is dimmed if the document has unsaved changes, and it can't be manipulated; this prevents you from mistakenly copying a document with unsaved changes.

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*Take Control: The Mac OS X Lexicon is an ebook available at <http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/mac-lexicon.html>. User-group member discount, 10% on all Take Control titles: coupon code CPN31208MUG.*

*Excerpt files for user group publications: <http://www.33thingsbooks.com/XLex.html>. Queries: [xlex@33thingsbooks.com](mailto:xlex@33thingsbooks.com). Email Sharon ([sharonLex@33thingsbooks.com](mailto:sharonLex@33thingsbooks.com)) or Andy ([Andy@33thingsbooks.com](mailto:Andy@33thingsbooks.com)) about the Lexicon.*

## The Mac Guy

by Paul Vaughn

**Hey Mac Guy:** I recently purchased a "gently used" G4 iBook. It works fine, however when friends email me those little movie clips (wmv) my Mac wants me to select an application. My other computers, both PCs and a nice new desktop Mac, all open the files with no problem. My daughter seems to think it's a simple fix, perhaps with the mail preferences. Can you help?

— Clipped Off

**Hey Clipped:** It used to be that if you wanted to view Windows Media videos (WMVs) on a Mac you would have to download the Windows Media Player for Mac from Microsoft, but Microsoft stopped supporting that application a couple of years ago. The new, and arguably better, solution now is to download the free Windows Media Components for QuickTime by Flip4Mac. This allows you to view Windows Media in QuickTime like you do with most other video files. This solution works so well, that the free version of Flip4Mac is available directly from Microsoft ([www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/player/wmcomponents.mspx](http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/player/wmcomponents.mspx)). Flip4Mac requires Mac OS X 10.3.9 and QuickTime 6.5 or later.

If your iBook has an older version of Mac OS X, you can still download Windows Media Player 9 for Mac. Go to the Microsoft Mactopia site ([www.mactopia.com](http://www.mactopia.com)), click 'Other Products' and then choose 'Windows Media for Mac'.

## The MUG Store

Remember that the MUG store is your very own place to shop for great deals on all the latest Apple gear. With special discounts, free shipping and knowledgeable consultants available on the phone, you can't go wrong!



The Macintosh  
**User Group Store**

In addition, the MUG store offers great deals on discontinued or older accessories and parts.

Remember that everything our members buy earns points for our user group to spend!

Great values at: <http://www.applemugstore.com>

User ID: user Password: group

This login is good from 03/01/08 - 06/30/08

## MacApple Users of San Antonio

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Secretary: Nobody!  
Anybody interested? Let Nathan know.

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### Newsletter Editor

Paul Vaughn... "got any content?"  
([paulv@mac.com](mailto:paulv@mac.com))

Short newsletter this time...  
Mac Guy has the flu!

