

Welcome to a new year of MUG meetings and spending quality time with geeks and friends who love to use their computers. During our January meeting, we will take a look at the comparison of two software programs which help you keep your all your Mac software up to date. Most of us know that the built in “Software Update” takes care of Mac stuff but all the other applications are left to us constantly checking for individual updates if we want to have the latest versions. CNet has a Beta program called Tech Tracker and we will compare this to the MacUpdate Desktop. Below are some of the advantages of the MacUpdate Desktop.

1) Automatic installs - MacUpdate Desktop will automatically download and install your updates for you - the widgets and cnet page only offer links to open more pages and download manually.

2) Archive before installing - MacUpdate Desktop can automatically create a backup archive of your old app before updating it, allowing you to try new versions of apps without worrying about anything.

3) Watch Lists - MacUpdate Desktop allows you to easily create lists of your favorite apps, and receive email notifications when new versions are released. Watch Lists also sync automatically with your account on [MacUpdate.com](http://MacUpdate.com), which means that you can be surfing the site, see an app you are interested in, and then add it to your Watch Lists with one click. Then later when you have time or return home, you can have MacUpdate Desktop install it for you with one click.

4) Detailed version information - in MacUpdate Desktop you can view the release notes for the current version of an app right there in one window - the widgets and cnet offer no information on what you are downloading or why you would want to update, or bounce you back and forth between a widget and multiple web pages.

5) More updates - MacUpdate Desktop will find more updates for you than any other app or widget - it covers more than 30,000 applications, widgets, screen savers, and preference panes. We have done a lot of work to make sure that you find all of your available updates automatically - in our tests, the other widgets and application only find 30-60% of the available updates.

And finally 6) There is more to come! We have been working on MacUpdate Desktop for a while now, and have been tracking Mac apps for over 12 year. We want to help as many Mac users as possible keep their software updated and secure and are dedicated to making MacUpdate Desktop and [MacUpdate.com](http://MacUpdate.com) the best way to do that. We appreciate your feedback and are looking forward to more great things to come!

**Thanks to Chad Harrison, from MacUpdate.com, we will have a drawing for one lucky member to get a copy of the MacUpdate Desktop.**

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"I never came upon any of my discoveries  
through the process of rational thinking."  
- Albert Einstein

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### 1. iPod Classic Now an eReader

More and more we are hearing about ereaders. Kindle provides software for computers and the iPhone. Now there is support for the iPod classic for reading bookas as well. TimeStream Software has announced the release of the new "Adventures of Tom Sawyer" Notescast for the iPod Classic, iPod nano and iPod Video. Now, using their iPod as an eReader, iPod owners

can immerse themselves in the tale of young Tom Sawyer, a mischievous carefree boy who sets off in search of adventure in the old south and finds more than his fair share.

True love, buried treasure, a haunted house, a mysterious cave and even murder await Tom and his friends in this true American classic.

<http://www.ugnn.com/2009/12/ipod-classic-now-an-ereader/>

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## 2. Final warning for the decade:

in all email, unless you really know the sender, check the source code in the email. Almost ALL email is coming out as html these days, and there are embedded traps.

Even if you "think" you know the sender -- check it anyway.

For instance, the "FaceBook" team send an email asking me to change my password for "security" purposes. Except the embedded link was: <http://www> (dot) facebook.com (dot) pinateoilli.com ... Which would actually have given my password to some cyber criminal in France. (domain in France, IP address in Pakistan)

Always be on your guard.

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## 3. Bounty on Mac Malware

Malware affiliate bounty: Infect a Mac, earn 43 cents - If you think Macs are safe from malware attacks, think again. There's now a bounty for hackers and phishers who get their Trojan on your Mac.

[http://www.ugnn.com/2009/10/bounty\\_on\\_mac\\_malware.html](http://www.ugnn.com/2009/10/bounty_on_mac_malware.html)

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#### 4. Acorn 2.0

Acorn by Flying Meat Software is a "image editor for humans" according to their web site. However, I really couldn't try out their latest version as it is Intel Mac only. It also requires Snow Leopard.

[http://www.ugnn.com/2009/10/acorn\\_20.html](http://www.ugnn.com/2009/10/acorn_20.html)

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#### 5. Scanning from your Digital Camera

Prizmo is an image processing application that enables digital camera owners to scan any document. Based on customer feedback, Mac users can really do without a scanner, even more now. Using a digital camera for scanning documents is an easy way to save room and money.

[http://www.user-groups.net/news/camera\\_scanning.html](http://www.user-groups.net/news/camera_scanning.html)

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6. Link to MUG discounts: <http://web.me.com/ugab/offers.html>

Take Control Books: 30 Percent Discount on All Ebooks

Whether you're looking to upgrade to and get started with Snow Leopard

or you want to set up a rock-solid backup strategy, there's a Take Control ebook for you. There are also books offering expert advice on maintaining your Mac, troubleshooting, AirPort wireless networks, iWeb, GarageBand and more. Take Control ebooks are written by the most-trusted names in the Mac world and published by Adam and Tonya Engst of TidBITS.

An exclusive 30 percent off their already low prices is offered to Apple User Group members on all Take Control ebooks.

Discount Code (enter this code on the eSellerate cart page): CPN90219MUG

Purchase Take Control books:

<http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/>

TidBITS <http://www.tidbits.com>

This worldwide offer is valid through February 28, 2010.

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SmartMotion SwingChair: 20 Percent Off

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SmartMotion Technology produces one of the the best office chairs for computer users. The SwingChair is especially helpful to those who sit for long periods of time, providing continual support. Satisfaction is guaranteed with a 30-day money back guarantee.

The SwingChair is regularly priced \$495 (US), but Apple User Group members can purchase one for \$445 (US), with shipping and handling of \$49 (US) free in the continental United States. If outside this area, SmartMotion will cover the first \$49 (US) in shipping costs. Ask about discounts on accessories.

Discount code: Mac comfort

To order, ask questions or get a free DVD, call: 1-800-409-3350

Get more information.

<http://www.swingchair.com/>

This worldwide offer is valid through March 15, 2010.

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### Strider Software TypeStyler: 25 Percent Discount

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TypeStyler is an extremely sophisticated, yet simple and intuitive, page layout and graphic design tool that allows users to create spectacular graphic designs by applying special effects and distortion to type and graphic images. The new version takes TypeStyler's unequalled control over text shaping, styling, flow and layout even further by exploiting Apple's latest technologies such as Unicode, Core Image, OpenGL, QuickTime and Quartz compositions.

User group members can buy TypeStyler, regularly \$179.95 (US), for \$134.95 (US), and TypeStyler Upgrade for \$74.95 (US); both are 25 percent discounts.

Discount code: macgroup

Download a 60-day tryout and purchase at:

<http://www.typestyler.com>

This worldwide offer is valid through February 28, 2010.

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### That's Easy: Get the Apple User Group Market & Apple User Group Offers From One Site

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Looking for information on a past offer? Tom Piper from the Apple User Group Advisory Board publishes a single page with all current offers,

expiration dates and codes. Watch for intermittent special offers.

Password: special

<http://web.me.com/ugab/offers/vendorcodes>

O'Reilly Special offer for User Group Members: 35 and 45 Percent Discounts

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Along with a 35 percent discount off print books, user group members can now get 45 percent off all eBooks purchased direct from [oreilly.com](http://oreilly.com).

When you buy an O'Reilly eBook you get lifetime access to the book, and whenever possible, the text is available to you in four, DRM-free file formats -- PDF, .epub, Kindle-compatible .mobi, and Android ebook -- that you can use on the devices of your choice. O'Reilly eBook files are fully searchable, and you can cut-and-paste and print them. You will even receive an alert when O'Reilly has updated the files with corrections and additions.

Discount code:

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