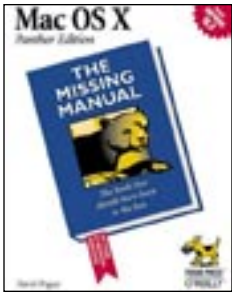


A Tale of Two Books

book reviews by David Davis, MACNJ President

With Apple making the decision to no longer support OS 9, unless you are locked into an older machine that cannot be upgraded, you will most likely be looking OS X in the eye real soon. Here are a couple of books regarding Panther (Mac OS X 10.3) that could be considered essential for all but the most casual Mac user.

Missing Manual



The first is David Pogue's volume, the "Missing Manual: Macintosh OS X Panther Edition." Now in its third revision, this hefty 750 page book has a casual, well organized approach to literally everything you need to know about operating a Mac under Panther. Of course, all the newer features are covered, but that's only to be expected. The bulk

of this well written and, at times witty, book is devoted to the nuts and bolts of everyday use. There are a lot of Mac users who are just now getting into OS X — maybe a new Mac has entered your life — or maybe you have finally upgraded that blue-and-white G3 with plenty of RAM and a larger hard drive. Whatever the case, here is a reference book that is easy to use and relate to.

I realize it may have seemed to make sense to the editors, but I would have put the information in the Appendix starting on page 671, right up front, saying to "skip if not needed," for this is the chapter on installing Panther. If your computer came with Panther installed, you do not need to look at it. However, if you are upgrading, this is the first place to read!

The book is well indexed so that nearly every subject can be quickly located. While there is not as much coverage of the comparisons with OS 9 as in the previous 2 versions, the Classic OS is discussed and means of living in "both worlds" are laid out clearly. I have heard comments that the layout and navigation in OS X is so different than that in OS 9 that one gets easily lost. This book will be an invaluable aid in finding your way. From the Finder Window setups, understanding Libraries (there are three of them), setting permissions, networking, as well as the included applications such as Safari, Mail, iChat, iCal, iMovie, iPhoto, iDVD... well, there is a lot to cover and learn. Having this book at your side will make life a lot easier.

Missing Manual: Macintosh OS X Panther Edition by David Pogue, \$29.95, published by O'Reilly Press.

Killer Tips

Maybe you have been using OS X for a couple of years, and you think you know a lot. Did you know that if you are working in Photoshop and you want to temporarily switch to another application while a command processes, you can do so *and* monitor the progress? In the Dock, right under the Photoshop icon, there will be a bar that will show what is happening, even while you are checking your mail. Or, have you ever been watching a DVD and perhaps you want to get back to the main menu... just press the command and "tilde" (~) key and there you are!



These "Killer Tips" from the book of the same name, are brought to you by Scott Kelby, editor of *Mac Design Magazine* and other publications. Scott revels in collecting all sorts of little known, under-publicized tricks and shortcuts to make using your Mac a more lively, efficient, fun experience.

Actually, both Mr. Kelby and Mr. Pogue owe a great deal to their research and editing staffs. Neither author could be as prodigious in their writing nor as professional without the immense support of these staff members. But, I digress...

This "Killer Tips" book is meant to stimulate, entertain and streamline your computer work. Besides chapters devoted to the dock, icons, and speed tips, there are chapters on specific applications such as iDVD, iPhoto, and Safari.

To be fair, some of these tips have been published elsewhere, but Mr. Kelby does a great job of laying them out there in a well-written, friendly style, complete with full-color screen shots. While this book is not an absolutely essential read, it certainly will be one that will give you much pleasure and a lot of smooth moves.

OS X Killer Tips by Scott Kelby, \$29.95, published by New Riders.

Members Only

Both of these books are available at a 20% User Group Member discount directly from the publisher. Additionally, if you order any O'Reilly, Paraglyph, or No Starch book using the discount (code: DSUG) there is also free shipping on orders of \$29.95 or more to a single address.