

“The OS X Panther Book” by Andy Ihnatko

book review by David L. Davis



One of the most user-friendly books I have encountered recently is *The OS X Panther Book* by Andy Ihnatko. If you are a reader of Mac publications, you have most likely run across one or more of Andy's monthly columns that are filled with his irreverent style and distinct point of view. Andy Ihnatko is a Macintosh enthusiast who tells it like it is, and boldly goes where others fear to tread!

This OS X Panther Book is handsomely designed, visually interesting and actually fun to peruse. Andy's comments are honest, straightforward and from the heart.

His approach is friendly and his writing style is a narrative dialogue which engages the reader with his humor. The 22 chapters are really quite thorough, covering the full gamut of Panther usage, from installation and the basics for all the included applications such as Mail, iCal, iChat, Safari, etc., through networking, security, AppleScript basics and troubleshooting.

A self-described “obnoxious arrogant twit,” Andy's humor is at once edgy and profound. Spending your time with this book is a fine investment which will reward you with enlightened information coupled with a continuing smile!

BOOT VOLUME TRIVIA



Many commercial disaster-relief utilities (such as Alsoft's *DiskWarrior*, mentioned later in this chapter) ship on bootable CDs, and thank heaven for that. You probably won't use a magical piece of software that fixes a petulant and recalcitrant volume until that volume stops working. If it's the boot volume, your Mac can't start up and run the utility!

This is also why I have a minimal Panther installation on my iPod. I know that if push came to shove, I can connect it to my PowerBook and boot it back to life. It's like the CPR paddles you see on *ER*. Plus, this functionality was just the practical excuse I needed to allow me to buy the 40GB model instead of the 20.

Some of the Ihnatko's more pointed comments appear in voluminous sidebars such as the “Boot Volume Trivia” shown above.

The Mac OS X Book by Andy Ihnatko is available from Wiley Publishing, Inc. for a suggested retail price of \$29.99.

Special Interest Group News

news from MACNJ's two SIGs

Digital Camera SIG

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 8th from 6:30 to 8:30PM at Voorhees High School in room 245. This is a change from our original date announced at the August meeting.

Attendees should bring in digital photography projects which they worked on over the summer—including both successful and problem images—to share and discuss with the group.

We will also review the latest in digital camera hardware and digital photography-related applications.

Visit the SIG's webpage through the MACNJ website or directly at <http://www.macnj.org/camerasig/>.

Photoshop SIG

As of publication time of this MACNJ newsletter, the date of the next Photoshop SIG meeting has not been confirmed.

Current Photoshop SIG members will be notified when a meeting is set. Additionally, information will be posted on the SIG's webpage, accessible through the MACNJ website or directly at <http://www.macnj.org/pssig/>.