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[Command Line Wireless utility](#)

[Run QuickTime Full Screen without Pro](#)

[MediaFork - DVD to iPod Conversion tool](#)

Turn your Mac laptop into a seismometer with SeisMac

March 1st, 2007 - [Mac OS X](#), [OS X Apps](#), [Fun](#)



SeisMac hits high on the cool and innovation scale of Mac Apps, by turning your Mac laptop into a seismometer. OK, some of you are surely asking yourself: what the hell is a seismometer? The short answer: an earthquake detector! Actually it detects all seismic activity, not just earthquakes. SeisMac works by tapping into your Mac laptops Sudden Motion Sensor, and graphing any motion on three axes: up/down, side to side, and back & forth, it does this live, instantly producing several graphs. Be sure to check out the screenshots below, and download SeisMac!

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How to quickly make a zip archive from the Finder

March 1st, 2007 - [Mac OS X](#), [Tips & Tricks](#), [How to](#)



An incredibly useful feature that is built right into Mac OS X is the ability to create an archive instantly of anything, be it a single document, a folder, or multiple files. Creating archives is great for many reasons, they save space, and it's a polite and easier way to send a group of files to someone else. Every once in a while we all get emails with a group of files attached that when we save the attachments, suddenly our desktop is littered with a mess of JPG's, Word documents, and whatever else the sender attached. Spare someone else this annoyance by creating an archive first. Here's how:

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MediaFork - Easy DVD Rips for your iPod, Mac, whatever

February 28th, 2007 - [Mac OS X](#), [OS X Apps](#), [Fun](#), [How to](#)



MediaFork is a lot like HandBrake, which is fitting because it is based on it. It allows you to easily rip any DVD or DVD source folder to various movie files that can be played on your Mac, PC, and iPod. MediaFork was created because HandBrake development has stagnated, so it's really taking off where Handbrake left off. Ripping a full DVD can take upwards of several hours, depending on the speed of your Mac's processor, but after it's done you can transfer it to whichever media player you deem fit. It is worth noting that MediaFork is issued under the GPL, meaning free!

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Apple releases helpful Mac Cheat Sheet

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[Deciphering Mac OS X crash logs](#)

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[Instant Handbrake - A quick and easy DVD to iPod conversion utility](#)

[How to Customize your Terminal Prompt](#)

[MediaFork - Easy DVD Rips for your iPod, Mac, whatever](#)

[Create a portable Mac OS X install on a USB flash drive](#)

[Two must know usability tips for Mac Laptop users](#)

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[Command Line](#) (17)

[Customize](#) (2)

[Development](#) (1)

[Fun](#) (24)

[How to](#) (22)

[Mac OS X](#) (103)

[OS X Apps](#) (32)

[Retro](#) (4)

[Rumor](#) (1)

[Security](#) (2)

[System Update](#) (1)

[Tips & Tricks](#) (35)

[Troubleshooting](#) (2)

[Utilities](#) (22)

[Widget](#) (1)

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February 27th, 2007 - [Mac OS X](#), [Troubleshooting](#)

Apple has released a handy printable [cheat sheet](#) for Mac users to fill out with relevant system information, very useful in the event of any trouble. Here's what Apple says about the cheat sheet:

"Whether your Mac asks you for certain information or you're seeking help from Apple or an Apple Authorized Service Provider (AASP), there may come a time when you need to have your various passwords, dial-up numbers, mail server addresses, email addresses, hardware specifications, serial number, and other information handy. And then you discover that you've either forgotten or misplaced this information. If you forget it, don't sweat it—pull up your Mac Cheat Sheet instead."

[Download the Mac Cheat Sheet](#)

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[WriteRoom - Distraction free writing space](#)

February 27th, 2007 - [Mac OS X](#), [OS X Apps](#), [Retro](#)



WriteRoom is founded on a great idea that is hard to find nowadays in the computing world, a distraction free workspace that emphasizes nothing but the task at hand. In this case, the task is writing, which WriteRoom allows you to do easily. There are few frills other than what you absolutely must need to write, so don't expect Microsoft Word. The WriteRoom workspace is attractively presented in a simple retro green on black terminal-like appearance, although you can change the color scheme to whatever you want. Check out the

screenshot below.

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[Deciphering Mac OS X crash logs](#)

February 27th, 2007 - [Mac OS X](#)



Mac OS X is wonderfully stable as an operating system, and although most software is written well, not all code is created equal. Crashing is just a fact of computing life and it frustrates us all, so it's helpful to be able to pinpoint the cause of the problem. While the causes of some crashes are obvious, others are not, and this is when reading the Mac OS X crash logs can be so useful.

First off, you'll want to launch Console, located in /Applications/Utilities/ and navigate the side menu as shown in the screenshot below, expanding ~/Library/Logs and CrashReporter. Once this is open, check out this helpful tutorial from MacFixIt on deciphering the logs:

[MacFixIt: An introduction to reading Mac OS X crash reports](#)

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[How to change from Bash to Tcsh shell](#)

February 27th, 2007 - [Mac OS X](#), [Command Line](#), [How to](#)



Bash is the default shell in Mac OS X and has been since 10.3, it's generally considered to be the de facto shell standard in the unix world. That said, there are some people who prefer to use the tcsh shell, or perhaps you just want to

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- * [Deciphering Mac OS X crash logs](#)
- * [How to change from Bash to Tcsh shell](#)
- * [Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard 9a343 screenshots](#)
- * [Create a portable Mac OS X install on a USB flash drive](#)
- * [New optimized Mac-Firefox builds available](#)

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- [March 2007](#) (2)
- [February 2007](#) (42)
- [January 2007](#) (19)
- [December 2006](#) (24)
- [November 2006](#) (16)

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break away from the norm. Changing the default shell is pretty easy, but you will likely run into problems when running bash shell scripts. If you want to experiment with tcsh and use it as your default shell, here's how to do it from the GUI in three easy steps:

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Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard 9a343 screenshots

February 26th, 2007 - [Mac OS X](#)



We're all anxiously waiting for Apple to release Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard, which is due to be out sometime in the next few months. To whet our appetites even more, the Mac rumor website ThinkSecret has posted a series of 28 pictures of various new features, updates, screensavers, and additions to the latest build of Leopard 9a343. How much of what we see here will appear in the final version? Time will tell. Enjoy the screenshots at ThinkSecret:

[Leopard 9a343 Gallery](#)

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Create a portable Mac OS X install on a USB flash drive

February 26th, 2007 - [Mac OS X](#), [How to](#)



No, we don't mean portable as in a laptop, but portable as in a USB flash drive. Here are two interesting articles on how to have a fully functional portable Mac OS X installation, one that gained a lot of attention several months ago, and one that has recently topped the Digg charts. Both will direct you step by step on how to get Mac OS X booting live from a USB pendrive. Supposedly, using the same procedure, you can even boot Mac OS X from an iPod! For best performance be sure to use the significantly faster USB 2.0.

[Brad's Blog: Boot Mac OS X from a USB Flash drive](#)

[MacGeek: Boot Mac OS X x86 from a USB Pendrive](#)

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New optimized Mac-Firefox builds available

February 26th, 2007 - [Mac OS X](#), [Tips & Tricks](#), [OS X Apps](#), [Security](#)



The folks at the [Beatnik Pad](#) have released new builds of Firefox 2.0.0.2. The Firefox update includes many [security fixes](#) some of which were deemed "critical". For those of you are unfamiliar with Beatnik Pad's Firefox's builds, they are optimized at compile time for the G4, G5 and the x86 Mac OS X architectures. Beatnik Pad also offers a version of Firefox with Mac OS X style widgets, and one with the standard Firefox widgets. The site is also a good resource for a couple of plugins that can make Firefox behave more like Safari. My personal favorite is "Fission" which takes the "page load" status bar and places it in the address bar in a similar fashion to what you'd find in Safari. Read on for a screenshot!

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Five ways to get help in the Mac OS X Command Line

February 24th, 2007 - [Mac OS X](#), [Command Line](#), [How to](#)

Whether you're a unix novice or veteran, if you're using the command line you'll often find yourself looking up exactly how to use a specific command for either its full functionality or proper syntax. Many of us will just google a command if we can't seem to get things to work properly, but before you go that route you should try the available resources that are built right in. There's no shame in needing assistance, so here are five ways to get help in the command line:

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[Mac Retro: Run Mac OS System 7 in Mac OS X](#)**February 24th, 2007 - [Mac OS X](#), [Fun](#), [Retro](#)**

How would you like to run Mac OS System 7 in Mac OS X? Never thought about it? Us neither, until we came across a post at Mac Informant showing us how to do it. OK so this just might be at the top of the useless list, but the fact that it's possible makes it cool. Their tutorial is a little inaccurate but it's nothing you can't sort out on your own with some minor trial and error, so if you're interested in running a 16 year old operating system inside one of the most advanced OS's available, you're in the right place. If you're not up the task,

check out our screenshots below to see what you're missing.

[How to: Install Mac OS System 7 under Mac OS X](#)

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[SJphone - A SIP client for the mac.](#)**February 23rd, 2007 - [Mac OS X](#), [OS X Apps](#), [Utilities](#)**

SJphone is a SIP client (softphone) that allows you to connect to a SIP server and/or another SIP client. One thing I really like about SJphone is its very simplistic interface and the ability to directly dial another computer. If you are like me and are weary of signing up for yet another service online, SJphone is a perfect fit. All you need to start talking to your buddy, is to have two copies of SJphone running (one copy on your computer and one copy on your friend's computer), it couldn't be easier! SJphone is not an application filled with bells

and whistles, but it gets the job done in a very reliable fashion.

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[Customize the Mac OS X Login Screen](#)**February 22nd, 2007 - [Mac OS X](#), [Tips & Tricks](#), [Fun](#), [How to](#), [Customize](#)**

After several hundred times of logging into your Mac you may be tired of looking at the same old login screen. Maybe you'd like to have a customized login screen for your school or employer's workstations. Forget the \$10 programs that automate the process, we'll show you how to customize the login screen entirely on your own, for free. It's not as difficult as you might think, and it's a fun way to personalize your Mac a bit more. Be sure to check out the screenshot below for an example of the results.

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How to move your iTunes library to an external drive

February 22nd, 2007 - [Mac OS X](#), [How to](#)



Many of us have enormous iTunes media libraries that simply become too large to reasonably store on your Mac's main hard disk, so an obvious solution is to move your digital library to an external drive. The popular techblog Lifehacker has an excellent how-to up directing users painlessly through the process of relocating their iTunes media library to an external drive so you can save precious disk space. Remember to backup your data first, in the odd event something goes wrong.

LifeHacker: How to move your iTunes library to an external drive

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