

Skip glossy screens
if need professional
photos or printing

Hey Mac Guy: Do you know much about monitors? Today, I ordered an iMac with a glossy screen, and now I'm getting nervous about the glossy screen and the possible glare on my eyes. I don't pick up the computer for a week, so I can still change my mind.

I don't do much Photoshop work, mainly just converting photos from RGB to CMYK and using the sharpen filter. The monitor won't face a window in the room my computer will be in, so I think that will be good.



PAUL VAUGHN
THE MAC GUY

Do you have any comments on this controversial subject?

Mmm Shiny

Hey Shiny:

This is a fairly hot topic in the Mac community. Windows-based laptops went glossy a couple of years ago, but until recently this was not available on Macs.

Those glossy screens sure look pretty, and they are fine for general computer use. However, they are not appropriate for professional photographic and printing work, in which seeing color and tones accurately on screen are critical. You only will be able to see colors and tonal values correctly on comput-

ers with matte finish displays.

If you are playing games, watching movies and surfing the Web, go for the glossy display if you want. Personally, I don't like them and never would have one. The glossy screens are highly reflective. They look great in the store, really catching your eye, but I demand a more accurate display, and I don't care for the glare.

Hey Mac Guy: I have an iMac and I am using Pages, but I can't find how to count words in a manuscript. Can you help?

Call Me Confused

Hey Confused: Pages, part of Apple's \$79 iWork suite (www.apple.com/iwork), is a great word processing application, but it takes a little getting used to if you are a longtime user of another such program like Microsoft Word. Pages is full-featured with a lot of tools for both writing and layout, and it definitely can help you out with this task.

There are two ways to show the word count in Pages. The first is to show the Inspector palette (select Show Inspector from the View menu) and click on the Document Inspector icon on the far left. Then click on the resulting Info tab, and you will see a list of attributes for your document, including the number of words, characters, lines, paragraphs, etc. You also can access this panel by going to Pages' Edit menu and selecting Writing Tools > Statistics.

Hey Mac Guy: I have an old blue and white Power Mac G3 running a 450MHz processor with Mac OS 10.4.11. When I shut my computer off for a while and turn it back on, it boots up in OS 10.2.8. I go to system preferences and change the startup disk, which gets me back on track, but the computer doesn't remember the change took place. What gives?

Doing the Time Warp

Hey Warped: It sounds like you have a bad PRAM battery. This battery provides power to a small amount of computer memory called the Parameter RAM (or PRAM), which holds settings such as which disk to start up from, what the current date is, monitor resolutions on older systems, etc. Eventually this battery runs out of juice and your computer will act a little flaky, as you have noticed.

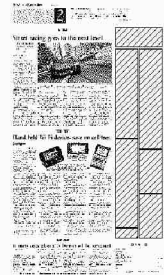
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(www.macsales.com) lists the price of a replacement battery at \$5. I'm sure you can get it locally as well. Try MacTLC (903 E. Nakoma St., (210) 495-5000, www.mactlc.com) or the Apple Store at La Cantera (5900 La Cantera Parkway, (210) 558-0745, www.apple.com/retail/lacantera).

The old blue and white Power Mac G3 is easy to open, so replacing the battery should be fairly simple. Just take the normal precautions. Do the work in a room that does not have carpet to avoid accidental static electricity discharges that can damage your computer's innards. Also, either use a grounding strap or leave the computer plugged in (but turned off) and touch the power supply to ground yourself while performing this operation.

If you don't feel like doing it yourself, the fine folks mentioned above certainly can help.

Hey Mac Guy: I have an



older iMac with Mac OS 9.2. It has slowed down drastically since I went on a DSL line recently. Is it possible to still buy software to clean it up, or do you have any suggestions?

— **Stuck in the Past**

Hey Stuck: I don't think anyone still is making software for Mac OS 9, but you still can find some. Check VersionTracker (versiontracker.com) and click on the Mac Classic tab to search for software that will work with last century's Mac OS.

Alsoft DiskWarrior (www.alsoft.com) or Norton Utilities were standards for troubleshooting and repairing systems a decade ago and still should work fine. Alsoft still offers DiskWarrior 2.1 for OS 9 users. Nor-

ton Utilities 6 was the last version for OS 9, and it was included on the Norton Utilities 7 disc as well. You may be able to find this on Amazon.com or elsewhere on the Net.

One thing that will help speed up your iMac is to back up all your information and then to do a clean install of Mac OS 9. This is laborious, but it may have been many years since it has been done, and it would give your Mac a fresh new feel, getting rid of years of clutter and detritus.

Paul Vaughn is a freelance writer, graphic artist, Web designer and Mac consultant. Write him with any Mac-related questions at paulv@mac.com