

Mac OS X, it's not just for breakfast anymore...

Since I hate recreating the wheel, I am offering some links to some very good articles that will, I feel, help you on your way to a happy work life with your Mac. For the areas where I don't feel the wheel has been created very well, I have made my own.

The How To's of OS X: Mac OS X 101

<http://www.macworld.com/2004/10/secrets/workingmac/index.php>

(Some of this may be really basic, skip over it, and get to the content that will help you. The troubleshooting section may be especially helpful when you don't know what to do.)

Here's some great info and reading on Apple's Mac OS X keychain

<http://www.macworld.com/2004/10/secrets/workingmac/index.php>

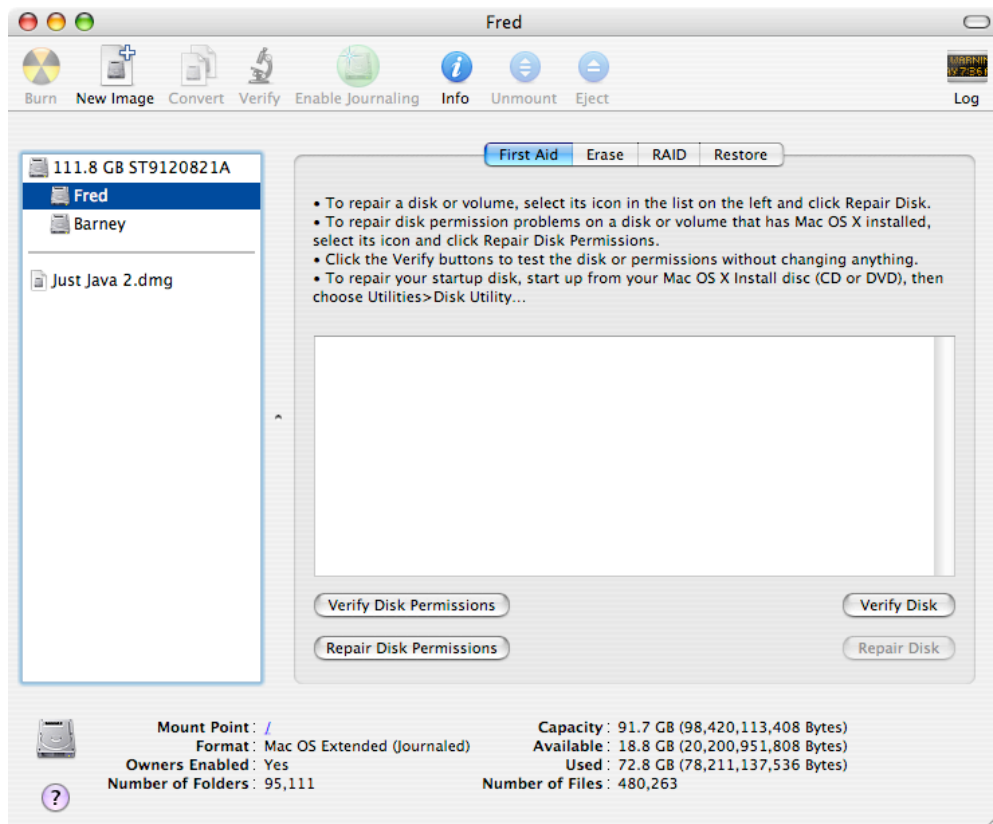
<http://8help.osu.edu/1215.html>

General Maintenance of your Mac

As you may, or may not know, Mac OS X is based upon the Unix operating system. Whether or not that means much to you, it really does not matter, other than you'll want to know what to do to keep your Mac your running smoothly. Outlined below are some simple things you can do to make sure your Mac is healthy from a Unix side of things.

There is a tool built into Mac OS X, called the Disk Utility that allows you to repair *permissions* on your computer. You may ask, "... But what are permissions, anyway?" Well, to keep this light, let's say it's the Unix stuff that I mentioned earlier, and once in a while these permissions can become set incorrectly, by no fault of the user, it's just the way of the world. But you can repair them with Disk Utility, in a very easy fashion, do this about once a month.

- 1) Run the Disk Utility application found on your boot disk → Applications → Utilities.
- 2) Click on the volume (drive name) of the drive to repair permissions on – keep in mind, only a volume with the operating system can have permissions repaired, should you have more than one volume. (See below, the version of the OS you are running may look a little different, but the principals are the same.)



- 3) Ok now, make certain that you are in the “First Aid” section of the utility, and you will see two buttons, “Verify Disk Permissions” and “Repair Disk Permissions”. Since *Verify* does nothing more than *tell* you what may be wrong, just ignore it, and go straight for the meat and bones, the *Repair* button. If it notes there are problems, run it again, and keep running it until no problems exist. But make sure they really are problems, sometimes you’ll see something to the effect, “We are using special permissions for...” This is not an error, just a note to let you know that there is something special for some files or folders; again, these are NOT errors.
- 4) If you need to reboot your computer and run this utility again, I can not emphasize the importance of rebooting when all else fails.
- 5) If you are running Mac OS X 10.4 or later, you will see another button in this utility that reads, “Verify Disk”. It is not a bad idea to run this just to find out if there are any high-level problems with your drive. You may also note that the “Repair Disk” button is dim-lit, this is as it should be, perhaps a future version of OS X will give of this ability on a boot drive. If you find errors here, beware! Call in an expert, or if you are the expert, use professional tools like Disk Warrior (<http://www.alsoft.com/>), and / or Tech Tool Pro (<http://www.micromat.com/>), or others.

Now as I mentioned, this is Unix, so there are utilities that are automatically kicked off on your computer as scheduled between 3:00 and 5:30 am. But you say, “I’m not up at

those hours, and I hate wasting electricity...” So I say, “Don’t!” You can actually run these routines manually with an easy to use utility called MacJanitor (http://personalpages.tds.net/~brian_hill/macjanitor.html). There are three routines, daily, weekly, and monthly. You may want to make sure these routines are ran with MacJanitor at least once a month. And yes, there are other utilities out there to do this, but this one is very easy to use, so easy in fact that I trust you to figure it out yourself.

“But my problems persist, like an application continues to crash, what should I do?”

Have no fear, this is usually extremely easy to fix. If you are experiencing problems with an application, the best thing to do is uninstall it, and reinstall it. Most professional applications have an uninstall process built into the install application. This should remove the application and all associated files for the application. Then when that is done, simply reinstall the application.

And if you’re really feeling like this is kid’s stuff, and still having problems, you may want to look at the following for some more advanced topic maintenance:

<http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=106214>
<http://www.macobserver.com/tips/hotcocoa/2001/20010803.shtml>
<http://www.macdevcenter.com/pub/ct/51>
<http://www.ss64.com/osx/> (check out fsck)

And there is always a solution so...

Don’t Worry, Be Happy!