



# Déjà Vu

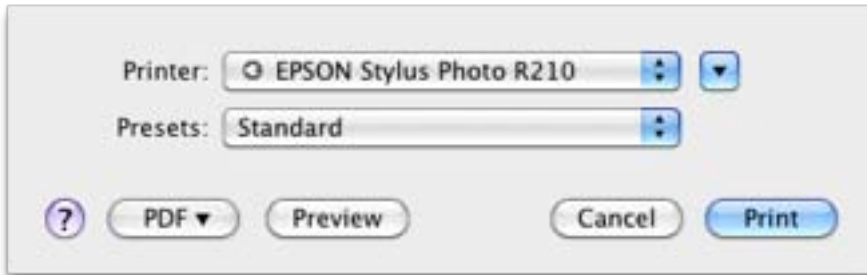
a quarterly publication for CVMU members

## Seeing out the year

### October Meeting... Printing - a comprehensive round-up

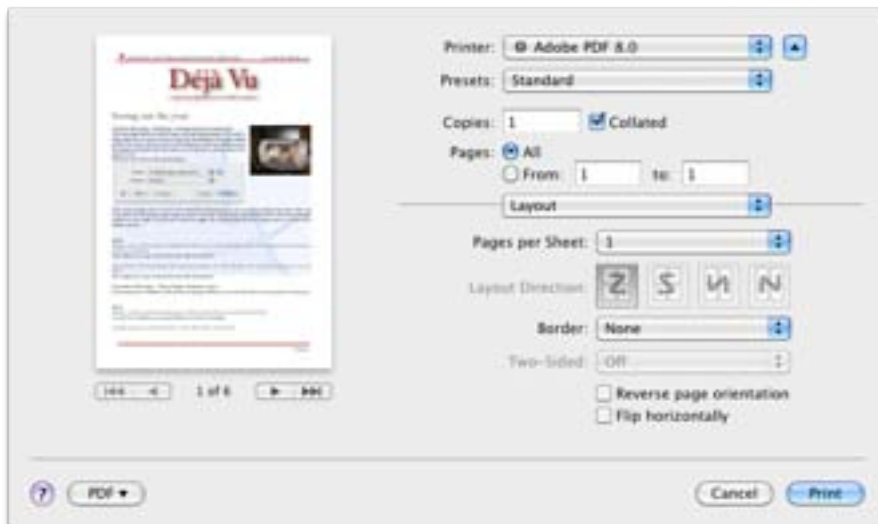
This meeting looked at all the issues surrounding printing. It is really a large topic but we tried to keep it basic by showing how the print dialog works. Of course, what you see in that dialog box will vary depending on the brand of printer, but the basic set of options is pretty much the same for all.

There are two views to the print dialog...



This is the simpler, more 'closed' view, and while allowing you to get on with a simple print job it does not even allow for choosing a page range to print. Note the small square blue button with a

disclosure triangle within it to the right of the printer selection toggle? By clicking that the print dialog opens to reveal all its hidden options...



Note the various toggles that give access to everything from layout to choosing for the kind of paper you are using in your printer. That is very important to be sure of when printing out photos.

Whenever you print on your Mac the print job is converted into a PDF for the printer to deal with as part of the process. Hence the ready availability of the 'PDF' conversion button on the bottom-left of either print dialog view. So when you use the 'Preview' button (in the smaller print dialog view) you see the actual PDF created and shown

using the Preview program. It's a great way to be absolutely sure you will be printing what you desire.



## Q&A

### Quicktime Player

When Apple moved to using the newest version of its QuickTime Player it dropped many features it had previously enjoyed. And for those who had registered and paid the \$20US for the Pro version of it, the lack of an updated Pro version is a bit galling.

But you can run both versions happily. It is possible to download the QuickTime Player 7 from Apple and use its feature set, and still have the newer version as well.

The newer version has been totally rewritten using new code and hence it is not (as yet!) as developed as the previous version. I do hope Apple will update its features soon!

Be aware using the older QuickTime player 7 can sometimes lead to performance issues, though by and large it still just works fine.

Get QuickTime player 7 here...

<http://support.apple.com/kb/DL923>



### Fax Software

This query raised its head and I must say it seems like asking why the Mac can't send telegrams! Faxing is convenient for many businesses but is really old technology now. Although in the past people have used their Macs to fax, the software is often problematic and it requires connection to a phone line. There is no inbuilt modem in a Mac, so no phone connection. You would need the dial-up modem USB connector Apple sells to even attempt to get this up and running. My advice: buy a cheap fax machine and be done with it! It'll save some grey hairs in the end if you really must have that faxing capability.



### November Meeting... Pizza Night, Numbers, Quiz

Our annual Pizza Night was a great fun evening for everyone. It's become a fixture on the CVMU calendar now and it's a nice way to end the year of meetings in a less formal way. The free pizza went down well; funny how we never seem to have any left over?!

A short Quiz was run on the night also with the emphasis of fun - and a selection of obscure Mac questions! At least everyone got some sort of a prize to take home...well, except the Committee members - must change that rule....!



## Q&A

Mainly centred around updating apps on iPads and problems associated with Folders

There are a few issues cropping up at meetings now concerning use of iPads. The quite different take on the Mac OS creates interesting issues: For instance, where do 'saved' documents get stored? The iPad is unlike the Mac OS in that it stores its apps/documents/files within the apps themselves. This makes them invisible 'outside' the app itself. There is no going to the 'Finder' and looking for them like on a Mac computer. I believe this move away from the application > document paradigm will continue and in the next Mac OS (10.7 or 'Lion' coming out soon) it will begin. It's already sort of there in the way photos are stored within iPhoto and not really available at the Finder level any longer. The same goes for iTunes, and it's a trend Apple is keen to exploit. It may lead to much tidier Macs in the long run but as an old-school purist I do hope we can still get direct access to any written files for some time yet.



On the iPad the 'folder' implementation works (as for the iPhone/iPod Touch) by dragging an app icon onto another to then group them within a container. That gets named according to the kinds of apps within. It is a little clunky, but is better than not being able to containerize apps, and reduces the need for many screens of app icons. There is a limit to the number of apps within a 'folder' which is much lower than for a regular Mac folder. for iOS 4 (the OS on iPads, iPhones, iPods at the moment) the limits are: 16 folders per page, 12 apps per folder, 11 pages - that gives you 2112 possible apps per device. Not bad really but not in the league of a Mac computer is it?



Printing - where only a HP printer will work

On mobile devices like iPads printing is now possible but only for a limited set of printers produced by HP that use the new printing protocol. I am sure other manufacturers will allow this soon, but be aware if you have an iPad that it may not 'just print' to any old printer. Of course, you can always resort to the old way of getting stuff printed out of an iPad: just email it to yourself as an attachment and then print it off from your regular Mac / printer setup. Again, a bit of a clunky solution, but it works.

**TIPS & TRICKS**

Searching for stuff on the Internet

I guess most Mac users think that Google is great for searching out stuff. And they'd be right most times. But sometimes it is nice to be able to try alternatives.

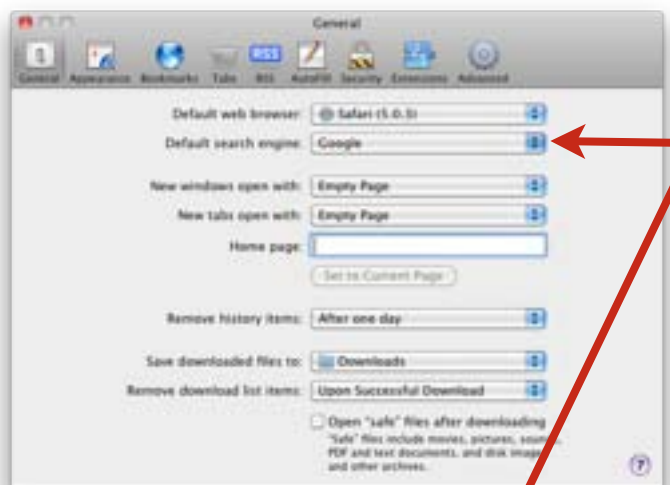
In Safari (version 5 on) you can pick the search engine you use even though Google is set as the default one to use.

To change this when in Safari go to the Safari menu and choose the 'Preferences...' menu item.

Once the Preferences are open be sure you are on the 'General' tab and note the second item down: it is a toggle that can switch between Google, Yahoo or Bing. They are all good search engines and mostly well known. Bing is relatively new and run by MicroSoft.

I find they all present search finds slightly differently and some have definite advantages over others.

Give Google a rest and you may find Yahoo or Bing work better for you. Once you have made any change you will see in the top section of the Safari window where the search box is (top-right) that when empty it will display the name of the chosen search engine.





Apple's first logo and first trade show

The new Lion operating system should prove even more popular with novice users....

\*Mac OS X 10.7 (code-named 'Lion') debuts early in 2011





## TIPS & TRICKS

Searching for stuff on the Internet #2

Ever go to a webpage and have some other page open up as well? The most annoying are the ones that open behind the current window. They are mostly advertising or so-called competitions pages but often trying to dismiss them with the window close button only succeeds in opening another window!

In Safari you can stop 'pop-up windows' by choosing the 'Block Pop-Up Windows' menu item in the 'Safari' menu. This seems to work well but be aware that leaving it checked (✓) may interfere with navigating some sites - especially secure / banking websites. It's best to uncheck it when using those to avoid odd behaviours - like a login page hanging.



iPhoto email

iPhoto is changing. Its just the first of many applications that will alter the fundamental way we 'save' on our Mac once Mac OS X 10.7 is here.

The latest version of iLife - iLife 11 - contains iPhoto 9.1.1 (yeah - weird right?) and it now can prepare and email directly from within iPhoto. Previously when in iPhoto clicking the email button prepared any selected pictures for email and then opened a fresh new message window in Mail. You may find that still convenient, so if you want that older functionality simply select your pictures as usual and then drag them onto the Mail icon in the Dock. Why do this? Well, convenient as the new emailing from within iPhoto is it makes it harder to attach other things to any composed email and cuts off access to the Mail's stationery options. So, its good to know you have a choice.



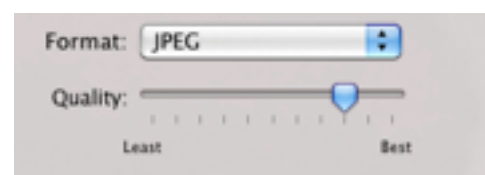
JPGs and quality

Many people know that a popular digital picture format is called JPG or JPEG. You see it as a suffix on most pictures, e.g. picture.jpg

If you are preparing pictures for use on a webpage it's important to make sure that suffix is in place and also in lowercase to display correctly. If your iPhoto pictures or pictures your digital camera produces adds 'JPG' in uppercase, that's OK but if you are doing any webpage work, you should change the case.

A JPG picture is in 'lossy' format. That means much of the original data that the camera's digital sensor processed has been discarded. This is done to reduce the picture's file size. That is, not it's display size necessarily, but it file size: how much space it takes up being stored on a computer / disk / memory stick. If the JPG is re-saved for any reason it may well keep reducing its quality and after many saves begin to look quite pixellated. So, if you are into editing your pictures, always keep an original somewhere, in case you need a more pristine example. If you resize your picture downwards there is no going back to a better quality or size if the original is no longer available. Many newer digital cameras have the capability to save their pictures not as JPGs but in the RAW format. That is by far the best way to create your original as it contains all the sensor information.

JPEG is a standard for picture compression decided upon by the Joint Photographic Experts Group (hence J.P.E.G.) or JPG for short. When working with a JPG image in a program that can re-save the image, when you get to the 'Save As' dialog box setting for quality. It is usually set at 90% of the possible quality level. Hence, as said above, if that setting is used, and repeated saves done, the JPG picture will be degraded at every save: in that case to just 90% of 90% of... etc. So, to avoid that happening move the slider to 100% quality on saving.





A nice truism, that also applies to computer users. Nothing is learned instantly, so be patient with yourself and simply make time for practising those things you have learned...

...but please try to leave it at home when you need a break...



YOUR CENTRAL VIC MAC USERS COMMITTEE



Contact any of our Committee when you need help. Many have specific skills and will always try to help you.

Our current Committee:

- Max Beyer, Martin Breheny, Stephen Breheny, Bruce Carruthers, Mick Evans, Danny Silver, Mike Smith, Ashley Tracey, and Chris Watts

Click any name above for their email link

Meetings Calendar

27 January, 2011

Genealogy tips and tricks

24 February, 2011

Social Networking tips and tricks

24 March, 2011

The Mac interface tips and tricks

Visit our website for up-to-date information about up-coming meetings and other useful links.

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