

# Indispensable OS-X tools AMUG

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# OpenOffice-X as a replacement for MS Office

- **Version 1.0.3 is the latest stable (June 2003)**
  - easy to install
  - requires X11 - beta-3 for Jaguar, 1.0 for Panther
  - OS-X version lags Linux version 1.1.0
  - can compile from source...wait 24 hours
  - large cadre of developers worldwide
- **Native MS Office file formats - the 99% solution**
  - a bit slower than Office applications: X11 vs. Aqua
  - opens and saves pretty complicated Excel, Powerpoint, and Word documents
  - no "file bloat" that was typical of StarOffice
  - missing anything? Not that I can tell.
- **Native OpenOffice formats**
  - not noticeably faster than saving in MS format
  - nothing else reads it, so why?

# shell scripts from the command line

- anything that is repetitive
  - rename filenames (chop off the first 3 characters in a filename)
  - change file attributes (chmod a-x \*.pl)
  - finding words in lots of files, really fast (grep spectra \*.pl)
  - move without overwriting by date
- usually only simple things
  - one nested loop is enough for me
  - gurus can write whole software packages on shell scripts
- complicated things → use Perl

# Perl (Practical extraction and reporting language)

- a wrench for any problem
- more than one way to do things
- C like syntax works
- C++ object oriented paradigm fully supported
- shell scripts work unmodified
- Panther has version 5.8.1, which is as stable as it gets
  - Jaguar uses version 5.6.0, which is fine for everything but multi-threaded applications.
- Modules (expansion software) available for doing almost anything
- I developed an autonomous sensor control system at Aerospace based on Perl – close to 5,000 lines of code
- X11 application modules (script plotting with Xmgrace)
- PDL – for those who know IDL, but want something free. Just as fast or faster on some applications. Create your own computational modules.

# Python

- “prettier” than Perl, but does the same thing (more C++ like)
- more restrictive grammatically – you can’t be sloppy like you can in Perl
- same principles, just a different philosophy
- Numeric module – like IDL, but it’s free.

# Fink/Unix applications

- 3,492 applications ported to OS-X
- Panther and Jaguar supported
- If it works on vanilla unix (FreeBSD, Linux), it will work on OS-X. Just tweak compiler settings
- moderate learning curve – for compatibility, Apple adapted GCC for Apple specific things that make code development challenging. Shared libraries get weird.
- Beware endianness when dealing with raw binary data files. Intel vs. PowerPC.
- demo Xmgrace – an X11 app for plotting.

## Can't live without these gems

- NetNewsWire Lite (for getting a glance at news without downloading lots of articles)
- FileMerge (OS-X standard) – for comparing changes to source code, or directories of code
- FreeRPN – reverse Polish calculator
- CocoaMySQL – for accessing MySQL databases
- Fugu – indispensable FTP tool that handles all FTP “standards”
- Wiretap – timeshift radio programming, or record a favorite song off Internet radio. Convert to MP3 → iPod
- ManOpen – unix man pages in an Aqua window
- X11 aqua - why run another window manager when you've got the best
- hfspax – backup directory structures a lot faster than anything else
- CronniX – edit global cron jobs with a GUI rather than editing a text file
- BBedit – unix integration (nedit is a free equivalent, but requires X11 to run)
- CarbonCopyCloner – for peace of mind backups
- VirtualDesktop – is a 15” screen really big enough for anyone? 30x30” is better