

Sun City Summerlin Computer Club Seminar

iTunes Tour for Macintosh Users

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Agenda

- **Audio File Formats**
- **Apple's Free iTunes Jukebox Program**
- **Building Your Music Collection With iTunes**
- **Organizing Your iTunes Music Library**
- **Burning Music CDs**

Audio File Formats (1)

- **Microsoft WAVE (.WAV)**
 - 44,100 samples/sec, stereo, 16-bit samples each channel.
 - Uncompressed, consumes about 10.6 MB per minute of sound (44,100 * 2 * 2 * 60).
 - CD Quality (same specs).
- **Motion Picture Experts Group Level 3 (.MP3)**
 - Compressed, file size varies based on sample rate.
 - 128K bits/sec (“Near CD” quality), 64 Kbps (“FM” quality).
 - At 128Kbps, uses about 1 MB per minute of sound.
 - Little point in going higher than 192 Kbps for MP3.

Audio File Formats (2)

- **Microsoft Windows Media Audio (.WMA)**
 - Compressed, size varies based on sample rate.
 - Supports Digital Rights Management standards.
 - Seldom used anymore by music stores.
- **Apple Advanced [Audio] Codec (.AAC)**
 - Compressed, file size varies based on sample rate.
 - .AAC not normally copy protected.
- **Motion Picture Experts Group Level 4 (.MP4 / .M4P)**
 - Newer standard, handles audio and video.
 - Compressed.
 - Popular for handheld devices
 - M4P is copy protected

Free iTunes Tour

- **Getting iTunes**
- **Music Library**
- **Video Library**
- **Play Lists**
- **Importing Audio CDs**
- **Setting Preferences**
- **Internet Streaming Radio**
- **Online Music / Video Store**
- **Burning a music CD**

Building Your Music Library

- **Convert *your own* music CD collection to music files.**
 - iTunes can “Import from CDs into .MP3 or .AAC.”
- **Buy “used” CDs (save about 50%) to rip.**
- **Borrow music CDs to rip?**
 - Friends, public library.
- **Buy digital music on-line.**
 - \$.99 per song, \$9.99 per “album”.
 - Most stores now sell unprotected MP3 files (256KB sampling)
- **Convert your own audio tapes and LPs to music files.**
 - Need a “line-in” recording tool (e.g. Spin It Again).
 - After recording, you may want to separate and “clean-up” the recorded sound.

Organizing Your Music Library

- **Physical Placement of your music files.**
 - Folder and file hierarchy is important.
 - Good choice is: Artist > Album > Song name.
- **Set up Descriptive “tags” in your music files.**
 - Artist name, song name, album name, genre, date
 - Tedious work. But, once done, these make it easy to find a favorite song.
 - iTunes does this very well.
- **Adjust physical file names to match what’s in the tags.**

CD Burning Tips

- Use good quality media.
- Use media rated to desired speed (e.g. 40X).
- Burners should have full access to the CPU and HD.
- Enable “Burn Proof” buffer mode if available.
- Best to shut down background programs, especially those that access the Internet. For example:
 - Web browsers.
 - E-mail clients.
 - Stock tickers, indexers, power managers.
 - Screen savers.

Burning an Audio CD With iTunes

- **File > New Play List**
- **Drag and drop songs from the Library to the Play List**
- **Keep track of total playing time (< 70 minutes)**
- **Drag songs in the playlist into preferred order or turn on shuffle.**
- **Edit > Preferences > Advanced**
Set the CD burning parameters for “Audio CD”.
- **Click the “Burn Disc” button at the bottom right.**
- **iTunes will check the collection and then begin the burn.**

Where To Find Music

- <http://www.mp3.com/>
- <http://www.emusic.com/>
- <http://www.half.com/products/music/index.cfm>
- <http://www.jumpmusic.com/>
- <http://music.download.com/>
- <http://www.secondspin.com>
- **On-line Music stores:**
 - Amazon store
 - iTunes store
 - Walmart store