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Mike Harris

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<http://mikeharris1.tumblr.com>

Mike Harris's Posts

Average Rating from Mike:



Reviews/Comments

Troubleshooting

sort: smiles | time



Wcitymike commented on 21 Mar 2010

Thank you! Quite excited to see this freeware successor to a certain unnamed once-freeware application.

[Version 0.1.22]



Wcitymike commented on 11 Mar 2010

The near-daily updates to this application really end up spamming the MacUpdate RSS feeds.

[Version 1.0.8.6]



Wcitymike tipped on 09 Mar 2010

In fact, install it, and you'll find a white star menu extra on your menu bar courtesy of PremierOpinion.

Kill the process, and you'll find launchd keeps relaunching it, because part of its install is to plop a LaunchDaemon into /Library/LaunchDaemons called "PremierOpinion.plist" whose job it is to keep /Applications/PremierOpinion/RunPremierOpinion.sh running.

Fortunately, PremierOpinionUninstall in that directory *appears* to have gotten rid of the whole mess. One would hope.

But, without argument, this has been the application with the poorest business practices I've seen.

[Version 1.1]



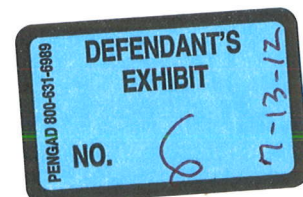
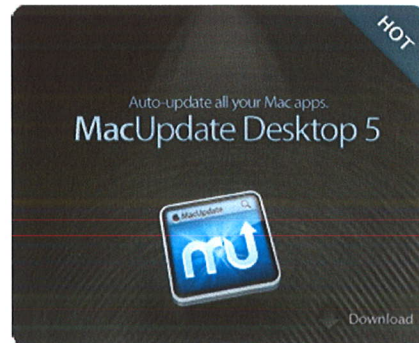
Wcitymike tipped on 03 Dec 2009

Do not use in Snow Leopard.

[Version 1.3.1]



Wcitymike commented on 28 Sep 2009





Quinn is an excellent freeware tetromino game that offers network tournaments, customizable pieces, etc., etc. I'm curious as to the profit model of this application: what makes this worth paying for, in light of the excellent free option already out there and well-established?
[Version 2.7.1]



WCityMike commented on 04 Sep 2009
I can't say I'm a fan of Lighthouse Software. Caffeine's latest icon incarnation is horrible: you are supposed to look at the very small pixel area of a coffee cup and go, "Is that full, or empty?" Its prior incarnation -- a black Zzz that either had an X over it (i.e. no sleep) or did not -- was easily identifiable at a moment's glance, and also fit in with the diagrammatic and black feel of most other menu bar icons. So, I sent a handful of very obsequious support e-mails, spaced evenly quite a long time: might you be willing to send me a copy of the old application? Or, failing that, on a larger scale, might you be willing to offer the older icon to those of us who want it via a preferences choice? I never heard a response. Then, one day, I learned that some URL hacking revealed the earlier version of Caffeine I needed. To clarify: it was on their site all along. All they would have had to do to make my day is to just once respond to the e-mail by mailing me its URL; it wouldn't have required any particular effort to make new things available. They completely ignored a (potential) customer's requests, requests that I then learned would have taken them nearly zero effort to answer. The mark of a truly sucky company, in my opinion.

P.S. For those of you who want the older icon: download <http://files.lighthouse.com/releases/com.lighthouse.Caffeine/Caffeine1.0.zip> and extract active.png, hilightactive.png, hilighted.png and inactive.png from it.
[Version 1.1]



-4

1 Reply



WCityMike replied on 04 Sep 2009
You say "and that's on a 30" monitor." By saying that, are you suggesting that 30" is somehow to be considered a small monitor?
+94



-5



WCityMike commented on 18 Aug 2009
Looks like it's not even a Bare Bones product anymore. I'll be keeping an eye on the product because of its former grandeur, but the product essentially outright died, due to it being pretty much abandoned by BBSW for years and years (without them even having the courtesy of telling their users it was a dead product, maintaining the pretense it was still alive and being worked upon) ... and in the interim, the entire world of e-mail has made huge, giant leaps forward. I'll be downloading it to see what the 2.2 iteration turned out to be like, but I don't expect much from this formerly notable client. The changes would have to be mindbogglingly and unexpectedly revolutionary.
[Version 2.2]



+5



WCityMike commented on 30 Jul 2009
This application no longer functions. It causes the Leopard Finder to crash (EXC_BAD_ACCESS, KERN_PROTECTION_FAILURE). The website shows no signs of having been touched in a very long time: the screenshots on that page look like they're from Cheetah, for Pete's sake.
[Version 1.6.1]



+2



WCityMike commented on 29 May 2009
Um, this is not a free product ...
[Version 5.0.3.4]



+3



WCityMike reviewed on 29 May 2009

Very unimpressive. Crashed each time I tried to move the time cursor to another time, and doesn't offer "float on top." Using Fluid on the Hulu website actually offers more features, aside from the Apple remote control - so that's a fairly sad commentary on this offering.

[Version 0.9.0]



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sort: smiles | time



WCityMike commented on 26 Feb 2009
QUITE nice. Thank you, and thank you for making it freeware.
[Version 0.9.7]



WCityMike commented on 17 Jan 2009
Does what it says it will. Quite nice.
[Version 0.3.7]



WCityMike tipped on 13 Nov 2008
Because Meteorologist makes the source code available, you can download it, rip out the NSLog lines that are spamming the system.log, and recompile it. I did this -- with little technical know-how, although it does require a little study -- and now have a blissfully quiet Meteorologist.
[Version 1.4.8]



WCityMike commented on 28 Oct 2008
Now Shareware. Somehow I'm not surprised -- I don't think Peter Mauer will have a freeware app left in his stable once he's done. Shame.
[Version 2.0.1]



-7

1 Reply



Wcitymike replied on 12 Dec 2009
I know it's a LOOOOONG time since any of this was written, but you guys are completely right. Sorry, Peter.

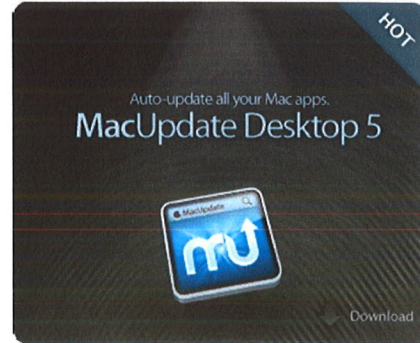


+94

WCityMike commented on 20 Aug 2008



-1





Wish this could be done without APE ... no way I'm letting that awful thing anywhere near my system.
[Version 1.3]

1 Reply



WCityMike replied on 28 Aug 2008
Yes.



-1



WCityMike commented on 18 Aug 2008
Thank you!
[Version 1.2]



WCityMike commented on 16 May 2008
There was a freeware app which did this in the same way, called iTunesRating, but it was never updated for Macintel and was a real memory hog. Great to see this!
[Version 1.0]



WCityMike commented on 24 Apr 2008
Okay, now that we know it's possible, someone needs to figure out what this app does and post it as a hint somewhere.
[Version 10.5.2]



WCityMike commented on 21 Apr 2008
I'm so glad this app exists, but I must admit, iTunesRating had an interface which was ****slightly**** more convenient -- clicking on the menu bar icon gave you a choice of menu items:



- *
- **
- ***
- ****
- *****

This was more convenient because it was a one-click affair. Click the icon, drag down to select the menu item, let go, and you're good.

This app essentially requires two clicks.

Trust me, I'm grateful! Just saying this is one point where it could be touched up a little bit.

[Version 0.4]



WCityMike commented on 26 Jan 2008
The new icon is "horrid" and very non-functional. It was easy to tell at a quick glance whether your Mac was sleeping before. Now, you have to squint and try to figure out if the cup's full or not. Bad, bad, bad, bad, bad!
[Version 1.0.1]



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Life Balance

WCityMike commented on 10 Dec 2007

Just got Life Balance spam in my inbox which contains a claim that blows me away:

"The releases on Windows and Palm are free updates, the Mac release is a paid upgrade. [...] Give yourself a prezzie that will support everything else you need to get done during this busy holiday season.

"Upgrade now to version 4 from version 3.x for Mac for a limited time for just \$52.95."

First, they have the chutzpah to bill a point upgrade as number jump ... and then they're trying to charge \$53 for it?!?!

Llamagraphics is getting more and more and more laughable.

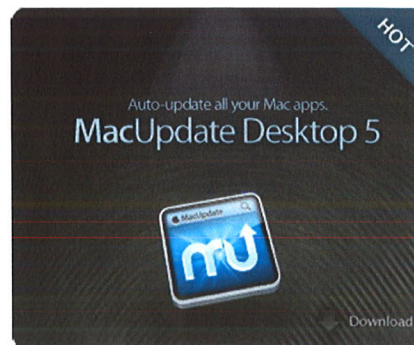
I mean, WOW. I've gotten ticked off at developers before, but I've never seen a company shoot itself in the foot THIS well.

Bye-bye, Llamagraphics!

[Version 4.0.4]



+5



Zarvox

WCityMike commented on 30 Nov 2007

Zarvox already exists -- he's an Apple voice. Plus, I'd not be surprised if Zarvox is trademarked by Apple.

Gotta love the flood of crap apps put up on MacUpdate by this developer. Clue: RealBASIC does not a software developer make.

[Version 1.1]



CandyBar

WCityMike commented on 27 Nov 2007

I don't mind the inherent concept of supporting Panic; they are good Mac developers, and Transmit is still a valued part of my app stable.

However, this pricing was a major mistake I'll not support with my dollars.



The "upgrade" price is a mere \$5 off the cost of it new, and is double the cost of buying CandyBar 2 new. I frankly predict that Panic has just lost a large portion of its CandyBar subscribers.

I really have no use for Pixadex. If its integration is the cause for the skyrocketing price, it was a poor move by Panic.

Mac developers earn our goodwill by good products, but they can just as easily lose our goodwill via stunts like this.

[Version 3.0]



WCityMike commented on 21 Nov 2007

A long time ago, I bought Life Balance. As the commenter below me said, after an incredibly long amount of development time, they have now rolled out a point upgrade and billed it as an integer upgrade -- the "improved" feature set should make this 3.3 or 3.5, not 4.0.



+2

The sad fact is that Llamagraphics appears to be a company that thinks an absolutely glacial, plodding development cycle is sufficient enough to keep them competitive in the virtually EXPLODING world of webapps and apps that manage to-dos.

If you don't even try, you might as well give up and go home.

[Version 4.0.3]



Namelty

WCityMike commented on 04 Nov 2007

I'm pretty sure Leopard now does this natively.

[Version 2.5]



iKey

WCityMike commented on 28 Oct 2007

It appears that v2.2.2 is not compatible with Leopard. I hope the developer will release a compatible version shortly.

[Version 2.2.2]



Hana

WCityMike commented on 27 Oct 2007

Mozilla's Webrunner -- free. Various WebKit-based solo browsers for Gmail, etc. locatable on the Web -- free. But there are fellow Mac users who unfortunately will pay this shyster \$20.

[Version 1.0.4]



+1



Transmission

WCityMike commented on 24 Oct 2007

I'd love to use Transmission -- it seems the most "together" of the clients. However, after using it for a bit, I noticed that most torrent providers blocked the app due to some "impolite" behavior by the program. Has that been rectified? It's the application's only fatal liability ... but it is fatal 'til fixed.

[Version 0.90]



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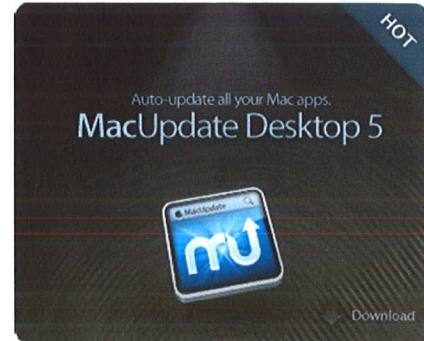
sort: smiles | time



WCityMike commented on 21 Sep 2007
SMARTReporter: free, MacUpdate profile not full of complaints.
SMART Utility: \$20, MacUpdate profile *is* full of complaints.
Wonder which way I'll be going.
[Version 1.0.3]



WCityMike commented on 09 Sep 2007
From <http://www.tivolovers.com/2007/08/10/schedules-direct-announces-pricing/>:
"Schedules Direct has to pay TMS [Tribune Media Services] for the data, so they're not going to provide it free."
"Schedules Direct is incorporated as a non-profit group and they plan to apply for federal 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. This is a community based effort designed to fill the hole left by Z2L and to keep MythTV, GB-PVR, and other systems working."
"As I posted before, this is their board:
Isaac Richards, Chairman (MythTV)
Robert Eden (XMLTV)
Daniel Kristjansson (MythTV)
Kevin Odorczyk (MacProgGuide)
Chris Petersen (Mythtv)"
I think the reason they don't go with the freebie XML stuff is because it doesn't have the data people call upon for these gadgets.
[Version 1.81]



WCityMike commented on 05 Sep 2007
I'm not sure I understand the business model of a \$9 Shareware product exclusive to a discontinued Apple application suite.



+1



[Version 1.4.1]



Fire

WCityMike commented on 25 Feb 2007

Fire is officially dead (I'm not on the team, just reposting it here):



"We are saddened to announce that there will be no future versions of Fire. There are several reasons for this end, but the most notable is the loss of developers. Fire's development had dwindled to few developers who do not wish to continue the project alone. In addition, another major contributing factor is the fact that all but one of Fire's IM libraries is no longer in active development.

"The good news is that two of Fire's developers have joined the Adium team and have written a transition path. Adium 1.0, upon first launch, will import your Fire accounts, away messages, groups, buddies, and logs into Adium. For future updates and IM needs, we suggest that you look at Adium.

[Version 1.5.6]



Chimey

WCityMike commented on 07 Jan 2007

At both 3:45 am and 6:45 am, this program woke my computer out of a sound sleep -- and me out of a sound sleep -- to ring the 45-past-the-hour chime.



-1

Guess what got tossed in my Mac's trashcan this morning? Just guess. Come on. Bet you only need one.

[Version 1.0.1]



Life Balance

WCityMike commented on 09 Nov 2006

Wow! What an amazing upgrade! A restored 30-day expiration dialog and updated documentation! (I'm not kidding. That's the extent of the upgrade.)

[Version 3.2.9]



Universal Checker Pro

WCityMike commented on 23 Sep 2006

Hm. Four dollars for something Apple builds into the system. (System Profiler, click on "Applications" item beneath "System," look at the 'Kind' column.) Greedy a bit, are we?

[Version 1.2c]



BetterZip

WCityMike commented on 18 Jul 2006

Hmm. Stuffit Expander: free. BOMArchiveHelper: built-in. Compress: free. \$20 to Pizza Hut or to buy free functionality. Wonder which way I'm gonna go.



[Version 1.2]



Quinn

WCityMike commented on 09 Jul 2006

The app is temporarily available due to a lawsuit from The Tetris Company. If anyone knows a good lawyer who'd be willing to take the case for the hell of it, e-mail the developer at chris.wells@gmail.com.



[Version 3.3.3]



Life Balance

WCityMike commented on 07 Jul 2006

Life Balance appears to be pretty much in a case of feature- and code-freeze, and there doesn't appear to be any interest in rolling out any substantial overhaul or new features in the application. An especially amazing attitude on the part of its developers given the recent focus in the world of power users over productivity and other such things. Nowadays, pretty much a non-starter -- not even worth your time. And this is from someone who, long ago, registered the dum thing. (Oh, llamas -- PLEASE prove me wrong.)



[Version 3.2.6]

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Mike Harris's Posts

Average Rating from Mike:
★☆☆☆☆ (1)

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sort: smiles | time



WCityMike commented on 01 Jul 2006
As someone elsewhere said, you have to love an application that is designed to improve your concentration on applications that gives you a pop-up reminder every five minutes. :-)
[Version 1.0]



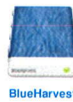
WCityMike commented on 23 May 2006
A great app. But not one worth \$30. Sad to see Peter sold this app, and furthermore sorry to see that SmileOnYourMac decided to try to chop off Mac users' limbs.
[Version 1.3]



WCityMike commented on 06 Apr 2006
Quite nice, very pretty, but not really useful until it understands and imports GED files, a standard class-platform genealogical file format for almost every single genealogy program out there.
[Version 1.2.1]



+3



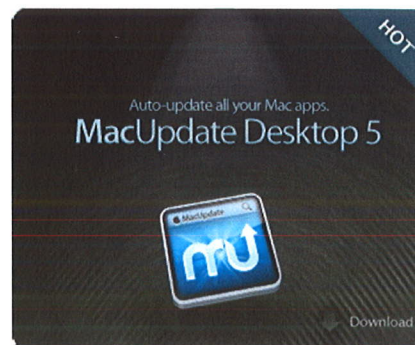
WCityMike commented on 29 Mar 2006
How about an Intel Mac port?
[Version 1.0.2]



WCityMike commented on 19 Mar 2006
I agree with the others who remark that it's difficult to find a reason to pay for the functionality in this program, when it is less than what is offered by TextWrangler free.
[Version 1.1.2]



WCityMike commented on 22 Jan 2006





XBH

I never saw the sense in trying to sell an application designed to format a plain text e-mail that arrives in your inbox free.

This appears to be one of those cases where the designers in question misunderstand the value of releasing free software to the community. If this had been given away free from the beginning, it would have had a substantially beneficial effect on the Mac community's goodwill in its perception of him, most likely boosting his reputation (or "whuffie," as the erstwhile ranter Cory Doctorow might put it).

Trying to charge \$10 for this functionality is just SAD.
(Version 1.0.4)

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