

MIG report, by Anton Petre

A small but keen turnout for the Mac Group meeting on July 28. Tips and tricks for Photos, including changing the time and location in photo data, took up quite a bit of time and caused some useful discussion

Other matters covered included automatic name fill in Safari, automatically emptying the trash (which led in turn to a discussion and demo of how Photos handles its deleted pictures and, therefore, its trash).

We looked at the disc utility which is also used for formatting flash drives, and we were reminded that just deleting items from a flash drives does not clear any space on the drive until the computer trash is emptied (with the flash drive still plugged in, of course). This is meant as a safety measure to prevent unintentional deletion of flash drive contents, but it can cause a lot of confusion. Setting automatic emptying of the trash after a set time was also looked at.

How to stop unwanted emails was a question which led to an explanation and demonstration of how to set rules in Mac Mail, so the program will, for instance, automatically delete particular unwanted emails, based either on who they are from, their content, their subject, or a whole list of other parameters. The rules can also be used to direct certain emails to specific pre-arranged mailboxes in the program.

We looked at the two library folders in the Mac system, and what they contain — in particular, the use of “plist” files which hold the preferences for specific programs, and how they can be deleted and will replace themselves if there are any problems. They perform a lot of the duties of the Registry in Windows, but unlike the Registry do not get bloated over time, or hang about when a program is deleted.

For those wanting to brush up on another language, we had a quick look at a typical “Learn (a language) in a month” app, and its teaching methods.