Monthly Meeting Notes
June 2012

DATE: 6 June, 2012

LOCATION: FutureSphere, Level 1 Building L; Christ Church Grammar School, Queenslea Drive, Claremont.

DURATION: 7.00 – 9.00pm

Meeting Programme:-

Demo of Filemaker Pro 12
Bento presentation
Bento hands-on experience.

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Unfortunately, the crowd was rather smaller than usual but I think they got their money's worth for the evening.

The meeting got off to the usual start with some questions and answers, and then Peter H gave us a quick demo of Filemaker Pro 12 and what was new in the recent release. Filemaker Pro is the big brother of Bento which made the demo interesting as the rest of the evening was to do with Bento.

Peter H explained that most of the work, but not all, was behind-the-scenes work in how the actual software ran. It is a leaner, cleaner, operating machine. Actually Peter H didn't say that exactly but I'm sure it fits. He also showed us a few of the new bits and pieces.

After the demo, yours truly then gave a presentation on Bento. The presentation was on what I use Bento for and why. Well at least some of it.

Unlike other presenters who casually just connect their Macbooks to the projector, I backed up the truck and wheeled in my iMac. At least I had a mouse though.

I showed three types of databases, or libraries. The first was my book library. Although a large library with over 1200 entries, it was a simple library database with basically no related libraries. It was actually Bento that influenced my getting an iPhone as this library is always with me and I refer to it whenever I'm buying a new book. It has well and truly paid back the cost of Bento and apps in savings by stopping duplicate purchases.

I then went on to show a slightly more complicated library of my Phantom comic collection where I have related a number of libraries to each other so that data from one appears in another, etc.

The third library was my vehicle libraries where I have linked related libraries to a 'master' library and then used calculations in it to get averages, total costs, etc across both vehicles from the related databases or libraries.

These quick showings were followed by a demonstration of building two libraries starting from scratch. The first, from a blank page, involved making and naming fields and adding them to the form and inserting some data. The second library was made by importing data direct from a numbers file. I then made a couple of related data fields and linked the two libraries together. I then showed how related data entered into one library appeared by

magic in the other. This demo was the same as the hands on experience to come except I used different scenarios.

Then we all had a cuppa and afterwards, everyone got involved in building a Bento library on the FutureSphere computers. Christ Church had kindly downloaded the trial version of Bento onto their computers and with the help of a small folder on the desktop containing the relative information needed, everyone was off and running.

From my perspective, everyone seemed to enjoy it. Everyone had a worksheet that gave them a quick step-by-step guide on what to do plus an in-depth click-by-click guide if they got stuck. It was good to watch people helping each other out and actually doing it rather than listening and watching. The hands-on part of the evening went very quickly and before we knew it was 9.05 and time to pack up before the alarms let rip.

June was the first meeting where we were actually able to fully utilise the available computers at FutureSphere and many thanks to the people there who set them up for us with the trial Bento.

Hopefully, we will be able to do many more sessions like this.

TooRoo for now. See you at the next meeting.

Smithy