

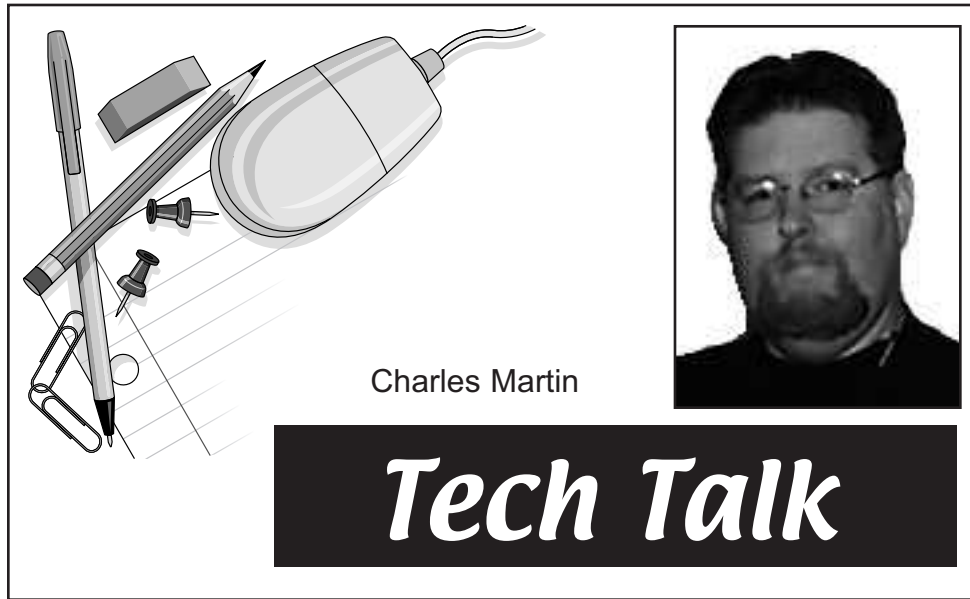


# Your '40 acres' on the Web, part one: Picture galleries

We took a break for last week's Florida Film Festival coverage, but we're back with a vengeance – a three-part series on setting up, creating and maintaining your own little space on the Web.

Just about everyone reading this *should* have a Web page of some kind (if you don't already) – a memorial page for a lost loved one, a personal page with your own thoughts or interests, a blog, a photo gallery or even a small domain of your own for business or personal use.

Since we've been talking lately about digital photography, and since we've already covered blogs in a previous column (which you can access here if you missed it: [www.flmug.org/techtalk.html](http://www.flmug.org/techtalk.html)), let's start with one of the easiest ways to put up a "Web presence," as well as one of the most useful – a photo gallery.



Charles Martin

## Tech Talk

### Pictures At An Exhibition

A Web gallery is one of those things most computer users don't think they really need, but once they have one they start coming up with all kinds of uses for them. I've seen photo pages that chronicle the growth of a child or pet; remember someone who's passed away; show off vacation or family photos in a way that's accessible to everyone (or just those people you want to have access); historical photos for genealogical or academic research; even galleries that were used by businesspeople to monitor construction progress on a project half a world away.

If you've ever had to e-mail photos to people, you know there's often quite a bit of hassle: limitations on how many photos can be sent, and to how many people; constant fiddling with sizes (too big and nobody will get them, too small and nobody will be able to see them); difficulties with attachments and different Internet services (AOL is particularly difficult about this); issues with formats and recipients who don't know how to open them, and so on.

Web galleries solve this problem by turning an "album" of photographs into a Web page. Everyone who can connect to the Internet at all knows how to visit a Web page, and new programs make it incredibly easy to put up a good-looking page without learning HTML.

People can visit it 24 hours a day, seven days a week, indefinitely. They can click on the small "thumbnail" images (put there for ease of downloading for folks on dialup) into large, easy-to-see, full-size pictures on their monitor of just the photos they are interested in, and they can even download and print copies for themselves.

The ingredients of a good photo gallery are simple: a folder of images you have imported or scanned in, an Internet connection (high-speed cable or DSL is recommended if you're going to do this a lot, but dialup will

work for basic galleries just fine), a "place" to put the photos on the web (most ISPs provide free space, or you might opt for a modestly-priced but larger space from a hosting provider depending on your needs) and a basic photo-editing program and/or gallery-making program.

### The Kid Stays in the Picture

For Windows and Linux, the best program I've found that really makes this a pushbutton process is the free **JAlbum** (pronounced "J-Album," [www.jalbum.net](http://www.jalbum.net)), which is also available for the Mac and just about any other platform as well.

This Java program is really well-thought-out and doesn't require the user to do much more than choose a theme for their page, set a few preferences, caption their photos and press "Go." The program is so simple that it even includes a built-in FTP engine (the part that you use to actually copy the photos from your computer to the server) and offers you an option to inexpensively join a Web-hosting service (if you don't already have one). The cost through JAlbum is about \$15/year for a basic amount of space, enough for several Web galleries – more space is available for more money if you need it.

Another option for Windows folks only is **Web Gallery Wizard** ([www.webgallerywizard.com](http://www.webgallerywizard.com)). They offer a free trial download that watermarks your images until you pay (about \$25 for the basic version, \$40 for the "Pro" version that includes FTP). Before you bah-humbug it in favor of JAlbum, I should mention that the "templates" (aka "themes") offered by Web Gallery Wizard are tremendously better: smooth, professional-looking, visually stunning. JAlbum, by comparison, is sparse and basic-looking (but perfectly functional).

If you're a Mac user, you already have everything you need with **iPhoto**, which probably came pre-loaded on

your machine (if it didn't, it's part of the \$79 **iLife** package). With its own built-in templates (available to members of Apple's \$80-99/year "Dot Mac" program), creating a photo Web page is even easier than even JAlbum makes it – you select some photos, write captions and push exactly one button. Boom, you're on the web!

If you don't have the "Dot Mac" service, you can still upload directly from iPhoto to an image gallery on the Web, using either third-party shareware solutions like **BetterHTMLExport**, a \$20 plug-in that enables iPhoto to upload to any Web host you specify, or a service add-on like **Flickr** ([www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)), a community-based free host for Web galleries that allows you to group your album with others

with similar interests, browse other people's albums, communicate with like-minded photographers and so on.

Flickr has even managed the neat trick of being the first service I'm aware of to quickly and easily allow pages to be built from camera-phone uploads.

### Get the Picture?

Simply put, there are as many types of Web galleries as there are types of pictures. It's a great way to remember those you love, share places you've been, show off stuff you got, communicate ideas and visual images to the world, your boss or your secret admirer. It's one of the easiest, most convenient and hassle-free ways to get pictures from you to someone (or everyone) else.

Fire up that camera and give it a whirl – or just spend an hour browsing into other people's lives. Something's bound to "click!"

Here's some example web galleries to show you the kind of results you (yes, you) can simply achieve with a folder full of photos and a few minutes to spend captioning and uploading.

Some sample JAlbum-produced Web galleries can be found at <http://jalbum.net/samples.jsp> (Note that all photo galleries have smaller "thumbnail" pictures in order to load quickly; you can click on any thumbnail to have it expand to full-size.)

Here's a sample gallery produced by Web Gallery Wizard: <http://www.webgallerywizard.com/Product/Yellowstone/1-017/index.htm>

Let's take a look at a gallery made by BetterHTMLExport for the Macintosh: <http://www.tnpi.biz/photography/travel/zoo/Pages/17.html>

Here's a typical iPhoto-produced gallery: <http://homepage.mac.com/fugakusennin/Menu14.html>

Finally, here's a typical Flickr-type Web gallery: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/macintosh/pool/>



*Guess Who*  
Running time: 103 minutes  
MPAA rating: PG-13

In 1967, Katherine Hepburn, Spencer Tracy and Sidney Poitier starred in *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?* The subject of interracial relationships was pretty serious stuff 38 years ago, and the fact that the film was a comedy made it even more controversial.

Four decades later, the movie finds itself remade as a lackluster, by-the-numbers buddy movie starring Bernie Mac and Ashton Kutcher. I guess in some way this is a good thing, because the subject matter is so superficially treated you get the impression that interracial dating and marriage is really not such a big deal anymore.

If this is the case, why make the movie at all? Wouldn't a press release ("Race No Longer an Issue in Dating") have sufficed?

In this remake, the roles are reversed. Instead of a white girl bringing her black boyfriend home to meet her bigoted father, we have Theresa Jones (Zoe Saldana) bringing home her hotshot up-and-coming stockbroker beau, Simon (Kutcher), to meet her bigoted father, Percy (Mac), and long-suffering mother, Marilyn (Judith Scott).

Theresa hasn't told her parents that Mr. Right is Mr. White, and hilarity is supposed to ensue when Mac and Kutcher lock horns.

Percy doesn't like Simon – not so much because he's white but because he thinks Simon is hiding something. The issue of Simon's race is dealt with on the most superficial of levels – mostly by pointing out that Simon is white, as if that's an argument in and of itself.

Well, we all know what's going to happen: The two men eventually grow to love each other as future father- and son-

in-law; the young couple will have a stupid fight, but make up just in the nick of time; subplots introduced in the beginning of the film to advance the plot (like the issue of a \$50,000 stock purchase) will be quickly forgotten.

There are a few good chuckles in the film, and Mac and Kutcher do a pretty good job dealing with such thin comic material. But ultimately, "Guess Who" is a mediocre, extended sitcom episode. Wait for the DVD.

GRADE: C

© 2005 King Features Synd., Inc.



Bernie Mac and Ashton Kucher make strange bedfellows.



- Guess Who (PG-13)**  
*Bernie Mac, Ashton Kutcher*
- Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (PG-13)**  
*Sandra Bullock, Regina King*
- The Ring Two (PG-13)**  
*Naomi Watts, David Dorfman*
- Robots (PG)**  
*Ewan McGregor, Halle Berry*
- The Pacifier (PG)**  
*Vin Diesel, Lauren Graham*
- Hitch (PG-13)**  
*Will Smith, James Lassiter*
- Hostage (R)**  
*Bruce Willis, Kevin Pollak*
- Ice Princess (G)**  
*Michelle Trachtenberg, Joan Cusack*
- Be Cool (PG-13)**  
*John Travolta, Uma Thurman*
- Million Dollar Baby (PG-13)**  
*Hilary Swank, Clint Eastwood*

© 2005 King Features Synd., Inc.