



# Kicking the Tires

by Frank Petrie

## *Review*

Product: iBlog v1.3.4

Company: Lifli Software <<http://www.lifli.com>>

Requirements: OS X.2 or greater

Price: 920 Indian rupees, (US)\$19.95

Test Rig: iBook G4/933/640 MB RAM

Review Date: 11 February 2004

Did you ever wonder what your Aunt Sophie's been up to lately? Or are you interested in reading the latest headlines on dieting, health or heliarc welding? Then blogging is the phenomenon for you, my friend.

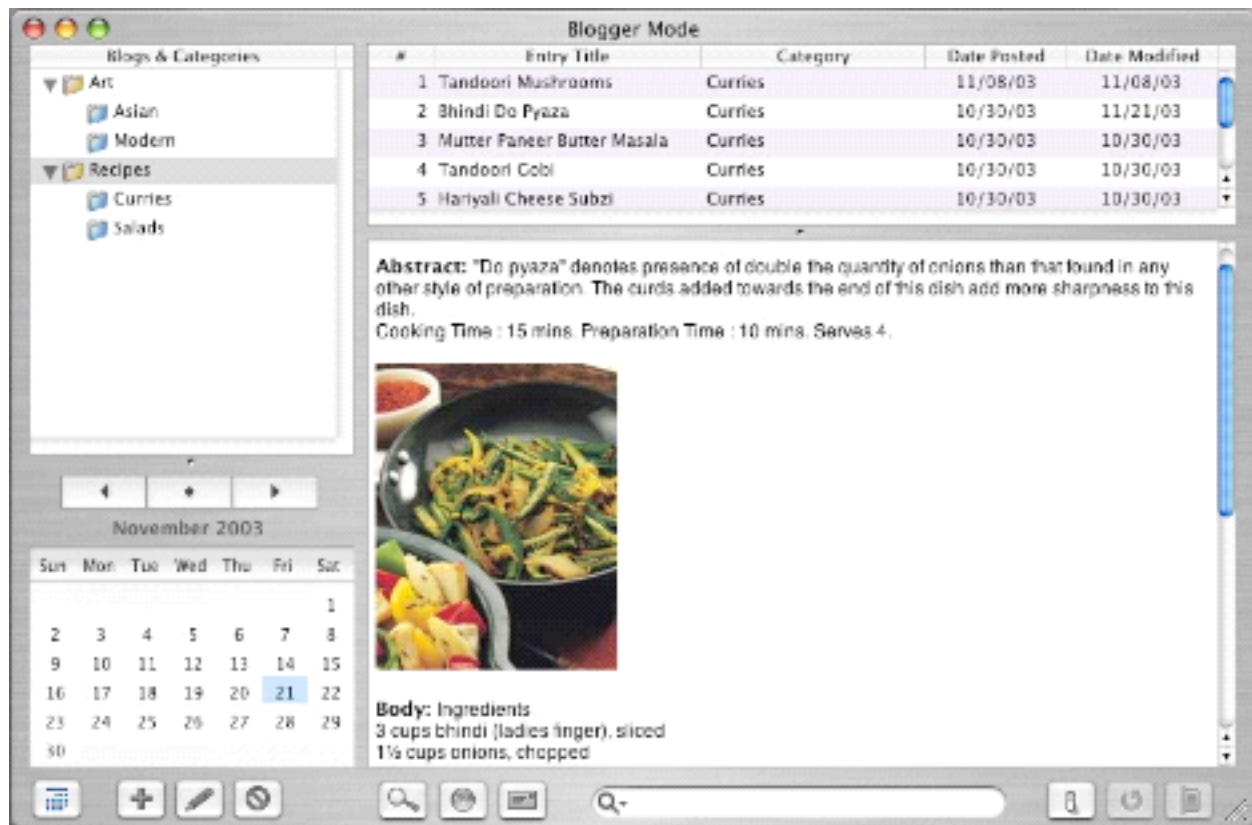
"iBlog is an elegant desktop weblogging application that makes authoring and publishing your personal weblogs (a.k.a blogs) a breeze. Unlike other weblogging systems, You don't have to be an expert database administrator or a perl programmer to setup and use iBlog. You can preview and publish weblogs to your iDisk with a single click of a button."

iBlog is to help you journal your thoughts and activities for anyone you wish to see them. Or maybe I should say anyone who cares to see them. Buckle up.

## THE GOOD

"Drag the icon to your Applications Folder." The UI is laid out logically and follows all of Apple's guidelines, so you should feel right at home.

There are two modes: Blogger Mode and Reader Mode. Blogger Mode allows you to post and keep current as many blogs as you wish (blog, BTW, is shot for 'weblog'). (And do, I beg of you, keep them current. There are almost as many unattended blogs as candidates for the Presidency.) Reader Mode allows you to subscribe to other blogs. As you click on their names in the 'Blogs & Categories' pane, a list of their articles/postings will appear in the pane to its right.



There are tools to help you build your blog, from the way it looks to the names of the categories. These should be helpful to the novice blogger.

## THE BAD

The manual, while thorough, is like the Help Files for Apple's apps – when you're done reading, somehow you didn't find the answer to your question. Most of your help you'll get from other users at the forums at iBloggers.Net <[www.ibloggers.net](http://www.ibloggers.net)>. Some are geniuses and others can feel your pain.

## THE UGLY

The resulting code is some of the worst that I have ever seen. When I ran my main Index.html page through BBEdit's Syntax Checker, it found 151 errors! ZOUNDS!! Missing 'alts', unclosed tags, etc. Now, that doesn't mean that your blog won't display correctly on today's browsers (although I'm most certain that there will be exceptions), but when the XHTML/XML switchover is complete, this is going to cause major headaches for iBlog users.

In fact, the best examples of iBlog blogs that I found were hand coded. That says something right there.

## THE CLOSE

I have spoken on occasion with the authors. They are very dedicated people who are striving to create quality products. These aren't used car salesmen (I'm sorry – that wasn't at all fair to software authors.) And if you want to throw together a quick and simple blog, it's fine.

But if you want to do some customizing and have less than intermediate coding skills, you're going to want to wait on this one. When the execution matches the promise of this program, then it will truly be a delight to use.

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Thank you.