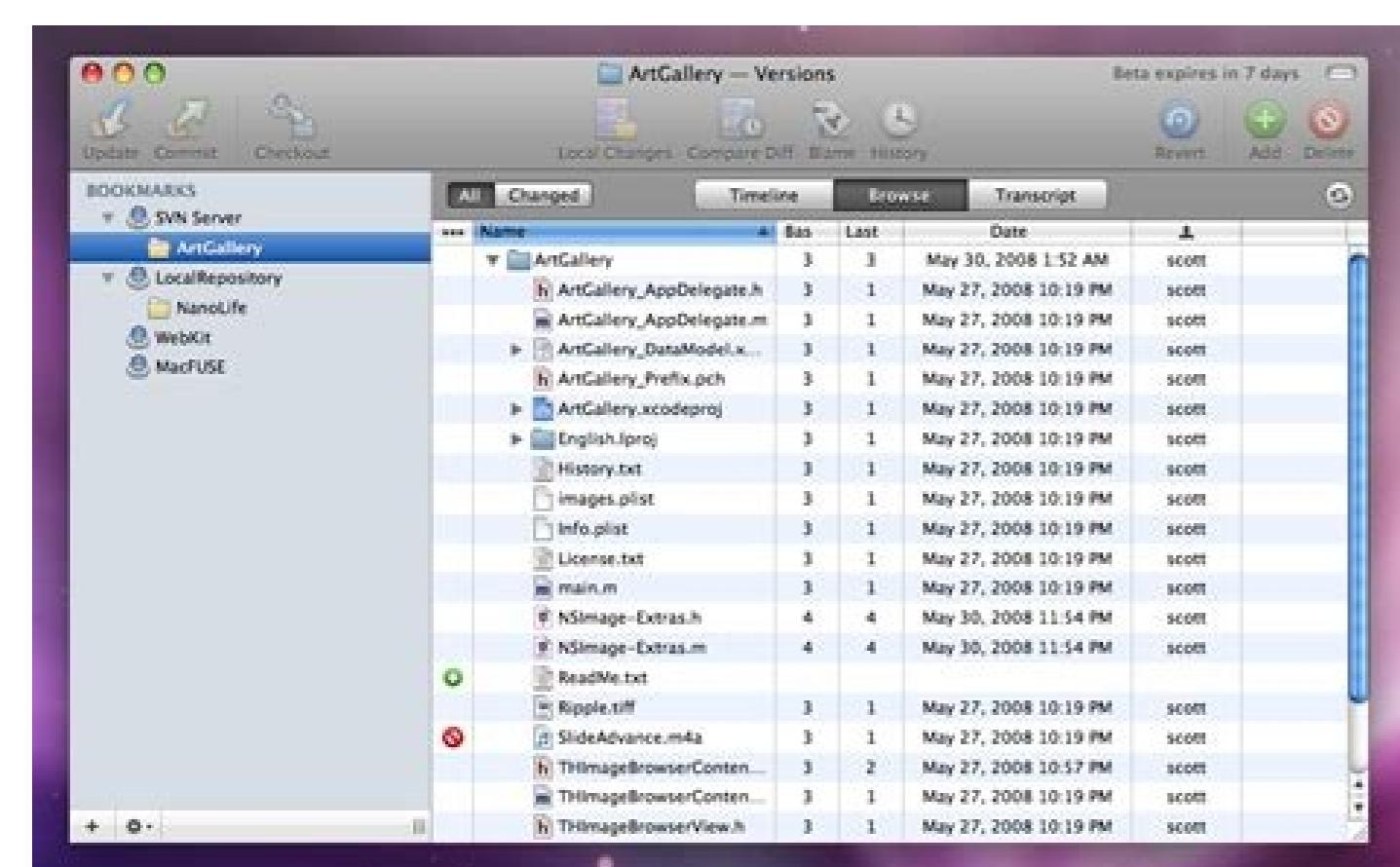


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BYTE Interview

Rosing: The interesting thing is that we were at the stage in the program where the decision to make even what sounds like a simple change takes six months to percolate through because it's not a simple engineering change — it's manufacturing, tooling, documentation.

Daniels: We made one legend change in June or July — the Apple key. When was that?

Tesler: July, and it's just now showing up.

BYTE: A legend change?

Tesler: You saw two keys that said Command on them. The new version has only one, and instead of saying Command it has a picture of an apple on it. The reason is that the key's used as a shortcut to choose a menu command. If you look at a menu, on the right you'll see this little apple symbol

and a letter. If you hold down the Apple key and the letter, you get the command. We couldn't find any way to symbolize the Command key that would fit nicely in a menu and be recognizable to people. We tried and tried. Finally we decided that the apple looked nice and had a nice sound to it—"Apple X," "Apple R"—and it keeps Apple in the mind of the user instead of "control" or something else. It's a symbol that everybody using this machine will recognize instantly, so we decided to put it on the key as well as on the screen. To finish the artwork in time to get the machines to test users in time to get responses, and so on, the charge had to be in by a certain date. The decision was made only hours before the deadline.

BYTE: Are there going to be two Command keys without legends on them?

Tesler: No, only one. We studied IBM and DEC and other keyboards and found that they all have just a single Command or Control key on the left-hand side. We also really wanted to put an Enter key on the main keyboard because we would like to be able to offer a configuration in which an alphabetic keyboard and a numeric keyboard are independent — for, say, a company that does only word processing. Word processors don't need the Clear function, but they do need the Enter function, so we wanted to be able to have the Enter key on the main keyboard; that way, even people without a numeric keypad can hit Enter. Again, on IBM and DEC keyboards the Enter key is standard; on many of those keyboards, that's the standard position for the Enter key. So we decided to be more like other companies. The Enter key also gives us the option of removing the numeric keypad without losing an important function. And then the option keys were put on the side of those, and there we decided we did need two option keys, left and right, because they're used very much like shift keys for typing, and in Europe it would be very important to be able to touch-type for-

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