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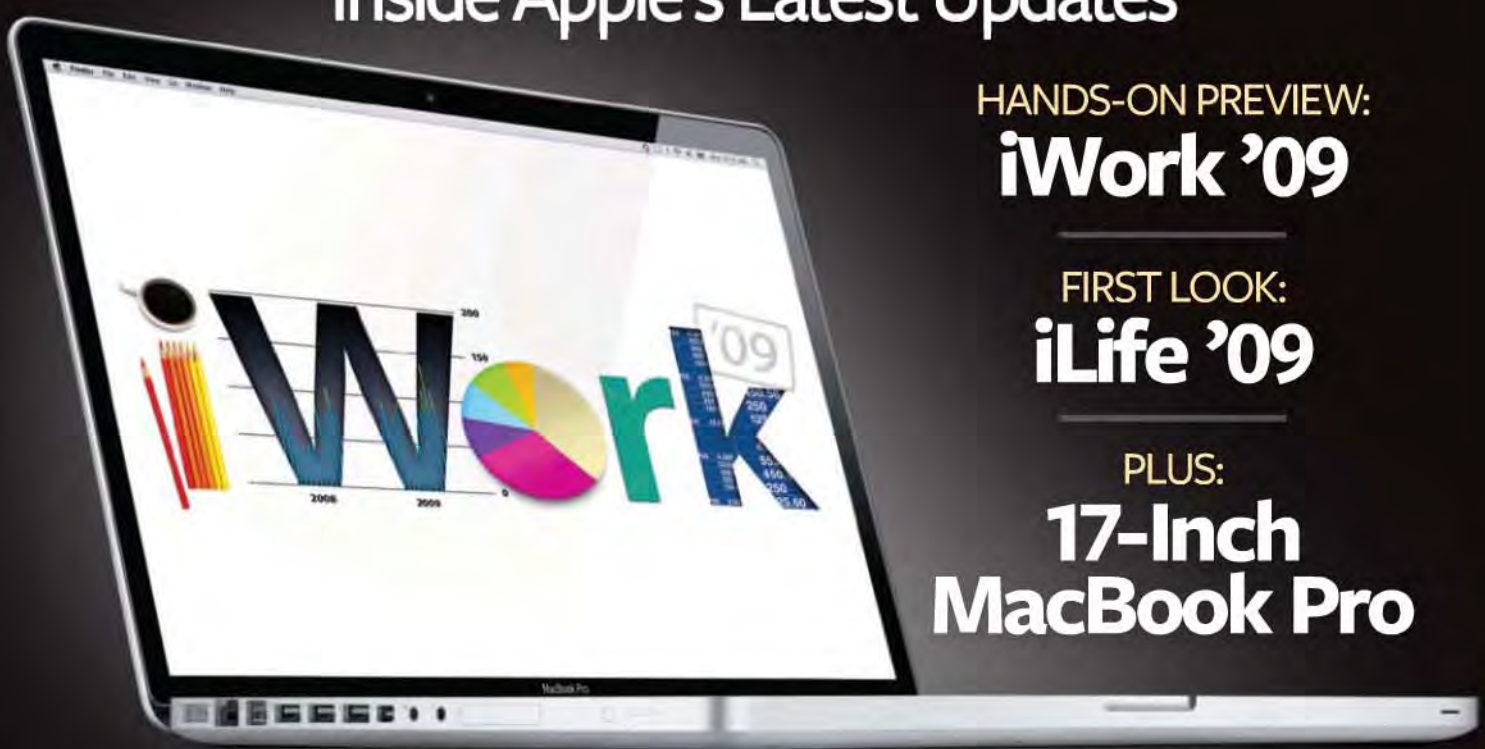

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MACWORLD.COM'S TOP 5

The top 5 stories on Macworld.com are:

1 **A Deeper Look at Mac OS X 10.5.6**
Rob Griffiths dives into the OS X 10.5.6 update to see how well it works (macworld.com/4274).

2 **Don't Wait for Snow Leopard**
Computerworld's Ryan Faas offers ten ways to make your Leopard Mac run faster right now (macworld.com/4275).

3 **Review: Apple LED Cinema Display**
The display's limited compatibility is disappointing, but it's still a good fit for its target audience (macworld.com/4260).

4 **Apple at Expo: What Went Wrong?**
Jason Snell has plenty of theories on why Apple bailed out of Macworld Expo (macworld.com/4276).

5 **The 24th Annual Editors' Choice Awards**
Macworld's editors pick their 20 favorite products of the past year (macworld.com/4277).

(Ranking valid as of December 22, 2008.)

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Expo without Apple

Can the Mac's biggest show survive without Steve Jobs and company?

The double-whammy news that Steve Jobs wouldn't be appearing at this year's Macworld Expo and that Apple would stop exhibiting at the show altogether (macworld.com/4303) was stunning in its swiftness, but it wasn't surprising. Apple has been leading up to those decisions for a long time now.

Someone Else's Schedule

At the start of this decade, there were two Macworld Expos—one in January in San Francisco, and a summer show on the East Coast (first Boston, then New York). Apple pulled out of the New York show in 2002, just as the show's producer (IDG World Expo, a corporate cousin of this magazine) announced that it was moving the show back to Boston.

The final few Apple keynotes at Macworld Expo New York were disappointing—in fact, the most disappointing events in the company's second Steve Jobs era, with little in the way of new products. Even then, it was clear that Apple was tired of announcing products on someone else's schedule.

At the same time that Apple was cutting out of the East Coast Expo, the company was expanding its announcements in other venues. The keynote address at Apple's once-sleepy Worldwide Developers Conference became a hot ticket. And the company began making more and more major announcements at its own media events—at its Cupertino campus and at other venues around the Bay Area. The most important thing was timing: Apple could announce products when it damn well pleased.

There were other signs that Apple was disenchanted with Macworld Expo as a showcase. For years now, in its Expo keynotes, quarterly financial calls, and even press material, Apple has used Macworld Expo as a metric for measuring customer traffic at its retail stores. For example, at this year's keynote, Senior Vice President Phil Schiller pointed out that 3.4 million customers visited Apple Stores weekly. "That's 100 Macworlds each and every week." His clear point: when so many people are in our stores, why do we need a trade show?

PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER BELANGER

I understand Apple's motivations for cancelling its Expo appearances. But the Mac community deserved better.

The 800-Pound Apple

The funny thing is, Macworld Expo could be better off without Apple.

Macworld Expo is the premier showcase for companies that develop products for the Apple market. Yet every year, those same companies schlep to San Francisco to announce their next big products—only to find those announcements *completely* washed away by whatever Apple unveils on Tuesday morning. Whenever I meet with a company in advance of Expo, I implore it to announce its products before Jobs gets on stage. Because after the Apple keynote, everything else gets lost.

Apple's booth at Expo is great, but you won't see anything there you can't see at an Apple Store. The other booths at the show contain products you might otherwise never see. But those other vendors don't get the attention they deserve, because so many visitors are drawn to Apple's bright, shiny showplace.

The Macworld Expo conference program is great, too; you will never find a better assortment of Mac luminaries than on that conference program. Nor will you find a comparable concentration of Mac users in one place at the same time. Paul Kent and his team could take those three elements—the vendors, the experts, and the users—and meld them into a new, compelling Expo.

The Cold Reality

Unfortunately, I'm not confident that will happen. Though IDG World Expo has an opportunity to reinvent the show, doing so will be tough.

It's far likelier that Apple's departure will do for the San Francisco show what it did for the East Coast version: lead to a mass exodus of vendors, turning Expo into a conference with a withered, vestigial trade-show limb. I hope that doesn't happen, because I think the Mac, iPod, and iPhone markets are strong and vibrant enough to shine without close proximity to Apple itself. But even in the best economic times—and these ain't those—promoting a Macworld Expo without Apple is going to be hard.

And that's a crying shame. I can understand Apple's business motivations for cancelling its Expo appearances. But I can't help feeling that Macworld Expo and the Mac community of users and vendors deserved better.

What do you think? Would you attend a Macworld Expo if Apple wasn't there? What would you like Expo to become? Send your ideas to me at jasonsnell@macworld.com.

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FEEDBACK

Is Apple Choosing Quantity over Quality?

Readers long for fewer releases and higher-quality products

Slow Apple Movement

Jason Snell's column was dead-on (*From the Editor's Desk*, November 2008). As a self-proclaimed Apple fanboy, I find it unreasonable that people expect a brand-new laptop, iPod, or iPhone line every time there's a keynote speech. Personally, I'd like to see Apple take twice as long to come out with new hardware and put that time into quality software updates for their current hardware. Apple needs to focus on getting its products right, not just getting them out the door.

Mitchell Netzer

Apple products are increasingly designed to be disposable. Many iPods, laptops, and Apple TVs will not last longer than 18 months. When they fail, the retail staff's only advice is to buy a new one or buy AppleCare. "Buy, buy," Apple says. Planned obsolescence is something out of a Detroit automaker's playbook. I just hope that Apple does not suffer the same fate that Ford, GM, and Chrysler are suffering now.

Jody Brooks

Glossing It Over

Optometrists like myself are appalled about the demise of the matte screen on the MacBook and MacBook Pro ("Apple Updates MacBooks," *MacUser*, December 2008). The glare of the glossy screen creates great unnecessary visual stress when used in areas where light can't be controlled. A hood draped over the head and top of the screen is required to reduce the annoying glare. Apple's disinterest in the visual stress and discomfort that the glossy screen causes shows disdain for its customer base. It puts a deep chill on our decision to continue to purchase Apple computers.

Albert Nemiroff

I was waiting for the new MacBooks to come out so I could buy one, but I just read your reviews and, to my dismay, learned that the MacBooks have no FireWire connection. I have quite a number of FireWire peripherals and video cameras, so it seems a MacBook is not in my future. Looks like I'll be buying my first Dell laptop soon.

Joe Scanlon

New Product Appraisals

I own a 2G nano and find the 4G nano's sharp edges uncomfortable ("Real Genius," December 2008). The Click Wheel's select button is not as deeply inset, so finding it or adjusting volume while the nano is in your pocket is much more difficult than it was with a 2G.

Mtrockman

I have the new iPod touch, and I love it. It has everything I need, and it is fun to use. When I compared it to the old iPod touch, I did notice a yellow tint, but before I heard about it on the Internet, I didn't notice it one bit. The new touch has a better glow to its screen, with better movie graphics.

gecco123

iTunes 8's Genius feature is nice, but it recommends songs I already own. And it doesn't seem to make any cross-genre lists, which limits its usefulness. Also, while it's neat to see recommen-

PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER BELANGER

OVERHEARD ON THE FORUMS

"When purchasing via iTunes is easier than stealing, more people will purchase. When stealing is easier than purchasing, more people will steal."

folklore
macworld.com/4271

"In 1999, Steve Jobs stated that he envisioned an interface so attractive that 'you just want to lick it.' Now it's so dull I just want to kick it."

Paulseifer
macworld.com/4270

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dations, they're really just disguised advertisements.

tripiex

Multimedia Done Wrong

It's time we sent Apple a message about how lousy the multimedia messaging is with the iPhone. Apple needs to catch up with the prehistoric phones that allow users to view multimedia without entering a nine-digit number and password.

Cort Copeland

A Better Mouse

I was surprised that you didn't mention the Microsoft Explorer Mini Mouse with BlueTrack in your roundup of mice (*Reviews*, December 2008). I just purchased one and it truly is a mobile mouse. It comes with a case for the mouse, has a slot for the USB connector, and, because of the BlueTrack technology, really does work on any surface.

Drew Salad

MobileMe Flaws

I appreciated .Mac's seamless integration with iChat, iPhoto, and iDisk. I also enjoyed the elegance and variety of iCards. Unfortunately, MobileMe's focus is on iPhone synchronization. I have dumped MobileMe and now have a free AIM account that allows me to do video chats and desktop sharing. I have my iPhoto pictures posted on my free Gmail page and my file backups on a Maxtor USB drive. I'll find a replacement for iCards (I'm playing with Ohanaware's Fun Card Maker) and do something else with the $100 annual subscriber fee.

JF Schweitzer

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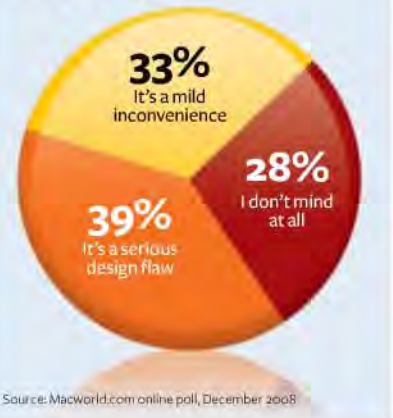
READER POLL

Are you OK with the new MacBook's lack of FireWire?



Source: Macworld.com online poll, December 2008

Air Fair

I purchased a MacBook Air about a month ago and have been very happy with it. The thing that your writers and others need to remember is that not everyone is doing high-level computing. Some of us are just using it for Internet and e-mail, and we don't need the largest hard drive or the fastest processor. I am an airline pilot, and the extra money that I spent on a MacBook Air was worth it. Instead of lugging around a DVD drive that I don't need, or a 160GB hard drive that I can't fill, I have exactly the computer I need.

Matt Velure

Sour Note

I was disappointed by Cyrus Farivar's sarcastic condemnation of the rock band AC/DC ("AC/DC Hates iTunes in the Name of Artistic Integrity," *MacUser*, December 2008). AC/DC made music in a time when bands sold whole albums and put some thought into how it was sequenced and flowed from song to song. If the band chooses not to sell its music through the iTunes Store because it doesn't think the setup represents the group musically, that's its prerogative.

Matt Batista

The bulk-free scanner to de-bulk your life.

Meet the world's smallest color duplex scanner designed just for the Mac.

With a footprint that's half the size of a sheet of paper, the Fujitsu ScanSnap S300M will cut your workload—and your desktop clutter—down to size. The ScanSnap S300M has an automatic document feeder that holds up to 10 pages and scans both sides of everything from business cards to legal-size documents at a rate of up to 8 pages per minute. Now you can convert stacks of paperwork from receipts, recipes, even a budding artist's masterpiece, into PDFs with the touch of a button. And the ScanSnap S300M is Leopard compatible, with a choice of AC adapter or portable USB power so you can stay organized no matter where life takes you. **Tell us how you'll ScanSnap. You just might win a $100 American Express gift check. Visit us at http://us.fujitsu.com/scanners/macworld or call 1-888-425-8228.**

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MacUser

MUSIC

iTunes' DRM-Free Music: What You Need to Know

Wondering what Apple's dropping of DRM means for you? We can help.

During his keynote address at the January Macworld Expo, Phil Schiller, Apple's vice president of worldwide product marketing, announced that the iTunes Store would soon completely stop selling music encumbered by digital rights management (DRM) restrictions. What does that mean for you? Read on to find out.

I thought Apple already sold DRM-free tracks called iTunes Plus on the iTunes Store. How is this different?

Format-wise, not at all. The difference is that originally only one of the big record labels, EMI (plus many smaller independent labels), offered its music as DRM-free on the iTunes Store. But Apple says it will now offer DRM-free music from the other three major labels as well: Sony BMG, Warner Music, and Universal.

iTunes Plus tracks cost 99 cents now—will that change?

Yes. As part of the switch to a DRM-free format, Apple is adopting a three-tiered pricing structure for iTunes music (we suspect it's a form of quid pro quo with the record labels—"you can have DRM-free music if we can finally have variable pricing"). Starting on April 1, tracks will cost 69 cents, 99 cents, or $1.29. At this point, we don't know how prices will be determined for individual tracks—will new tracks cost more, for instance?—but Schiller did say that more songs are going to be offered at 69 cents than at $1.29.

How many tracks are available DRM-free?

Apple says that 8 million of the 10 million tracks in its catalog are now

available in iTunes Plus—that's an improvement over the roughly 3 million tracks available before the announcement. By the end of the quarter (March), the rest of the tracks in the iTunes Store should be available DRM-free as well.

Can I upgrade my current tracks?
Yes, but it'll cost you, and it's an all-or-nothing proposition. In other words, you can't pick and choose which tracks to upgrade. iTunes charges 30 cents per song, 30 percent of the current album price for complete albums, and 60 cents for music videos. (Go to the iTunes Store home page and click on Upgrade To iTunes Plus under the Quick Links heading to see how much it'll add up to.)

Can I get around the requirement to upgrade all my tracks by deselecting them in iTunes or removing them from my library?
Unfortunately not. iTunes looks at your purchase history, not what's in your iTunes library.

As part of the switch to DRM-free music, Apple is adopting a three-tiered pricing structure.

If I choose to upgrade, what happens to my old tracks?
When you upgrade your library, you should be given the option to delete the protected tracks or move them to your desktop for archival purposes.

What's so special about DRM-free tracks anyway? Why should I care?
Two big things: iTunes Plus tracks are encoded at 256 Kpbs, twice the bit rate of standard iTunes tracks; and without DRM, you can play your files on as many Macs or PCs as you want.

Isn't AAC an Apple-specific format that isn't portable to other devices?
The only Apple-specific part of old iTunes files is that they're wrapped in DRM (these music files end in the file extension .m4p—the *p* stands for "protected"—as opposed to .m4a). Apple's DRM is compatible only with Apple products, but AAC files play on a wide variety of players.

What kinds of AAC-compatible players are you talking about?
Most other portable MP3 players around—yes, even Microsoft's Zune—will play AAC files. Other products that let you play music from your network through your home stereo, such as Logitech's Squeezebox products and the Sonos music system, can also play AAC files.

But what if I need MP3 files instead? Can I convert my iTunes tracks?
Yes. Since they're no longer protected, you can use iTunes (or other software) to convert them to MP3 or another format.

So I can give copies of the songs I buy to my friends now, right?
No, copyright law is still in effect—passing songs around is music piracy. However, the lack of DRM gives you a flexibility that DRM couldn't. For example, imagine parents and kids commingling their music libraries. And if you opt to share your iTunes library on your local network, other people can stream the songs you've purchased from the iTunes Store. But putting a song up on a file-sharing service and letting 20 of your friends download it? That's not exactly ethical. And remember that iTunes embeds your iTunes ID in every iTunes Plus file you download, so it's easy to see who bought the file originally.

What about movies and TV shows from the iTunes Store?
No changes there—this applies to music tracks and music videos only.

Senior Editor **Dan Frakes**, Senior News Editor **Jonathan Seff**, and Editorial Director **Jason Snell** contributed to this story.

BUSINESS

Apple Announces Its Last Year at Macworld Expo

At the same time that Apple announced CEO Steve Jobs would not deliver his traditional keynote at Macworld Conference & Expo 2009 (but before Jobs stepped down for a medical leave of absence until June 2009), the company also dropped the bombshell that this would be its last year participating in Expo.

In a press release announcing its decision to pull out of Expo after the 2009 event, Apple explained that it has developed new avenues for interacting with its customers.

"Apple is reaching more people in more ways than ever before, so like many companies, trade shows have become a very minor part of how Apple reaches its customers," the company said in a statement posted on its Web site. "The increasing popularity of Apple's Retail Stores...and the Apple.com website enable Apple to directly reach more than a hundred million customers around the world in innovative new ways."

Besides promoting itself through its stores, Apple also holds its own events, at which the company has introduced new iPods and computers in the past few years. "Unlike other companies, Apple is able to draw press and analysts to an event anytime it wants," said Michael Gartenberg, vice president of the market research firm JupiterMedia.

In 2002, when IDG World Expo announced plans to relocate the East Coast Macworld Expo from New York to Boston, Apple said it would stop participating in the summer trade show. After two Macworld Expos in Boston, IDG World Expo pulled the plug on that event.—**JIM DALRYMPLE**

MACWORLD EXPO

Best of Show 2009 Awards

Every January, *Macworld*'s editors seek out the hottest products making their debut at Expo. This year, we chose nine products to receive a Macworld Best of Show award.

Apple iPhoto '09

Building on its predecessor, which introduced the Events feature, iPhoto '09 (above) adds Faces. The software uses face-detection and facial-recognition technology to automatically detect the faces of people in the pictures you take and determine which of your other photos include the same faces.

Similarly, Places gives iPhoto users a new way to organize photos based on location. The feature uses geotagging to determine a photo's location, but you can add locations manually using iPhoto's database of place names for common vacation and travel spots.

iPhoto '09 also integrates with Facebook and Flickr, two popular social networking Web sites; plus it includes new slide-show themes and the ability to export slide shows as videos for iTunes, iPods, or iPhones (part of iLife '09, $79; free on new Macs; www.apple.com).

Cisco WebEx Meeting Center

With Cisco's WebEx Meeting Center app, iPhone 3G users can start or join a scheduled WebEx meeting. You can also see who's participating in a meeting, pass the torch to another presenter, and start a text chat with an individual or the entire group. It works only with a 3G or Wi-Fi connection, but the free WebEx app gives the iPhone some serious business cred (free; www.webex.com).

Cultured Code Things for Mac

A new task-management program from Cultured Code, Things for Mac is designed to sync with the company's Things for iPhone app.

Things lets you focus on your tasks in any way you want, and a handy Inbox lets you just add items without having to figure out what to do with them immediately. You can classify your tasks for work or home, as high or low priority, or even simply as easy or hard. And you can sync everything with iCal or, using the free Things for iPhone, with an iPhone ($50; five-user family pack, $75; www.culturedcode.com).

Ecamm Network BT-1 Bluetooth Web Cam

Unlike other Web cams, Ecamm's BT-1 isn't tethered to your computer—its Bluetooth wireless technology lets you place it up to 30 feet away from your Mac. Thanks to its flexible mini tripod, you have the freedom to adjust the position, pan, and tilt. It's also mountable on any standard camera tripod. It works with iChat, Skype, and other programs, and has an internal rechargeable battery (available in late Q1 2009 for $150; www.bt-1.com).

FileMaker Pro 10

When technology has been around for as long as the Mac has, it's hard to keep things fresh. But FileMaker looks as if it has succeeded with the latest version of its flagship database application. FileMaker Pro 10 offers an eye-catching interface overhaul, a Saved Finds feature, dynamic reporting, and script triggers that enhance workflow. And with an improved QuickStart screen and a new resource center containing video tutorials, it's easier than ever to get started using FileMaker (starting at $299; Server starting at $999; www.filemaker.com).

MACBOOK PRO PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF APPLE

PRODUCT WATCH

HARDWARE

ExpressCard SSD, from Verbatim (www.verbatim.com): Solid-state drives connect to ExpressCard/34 slots (16GB, $100; 32GB, $150; 64GB, $300).

Tune Blocker, from Matias (www.matias.ca): USB-to-dock connector cable can act as a charge-only cable (three-foot cable, $25; six-foot cable, $30).

Navigate, from Griffin Technology (www.griffintechnology.com): Remote and FM tuner combo for iPods and iPhones features an OLED screen so you can see what you're listening to ($60).

Hard Disk Max, Design by Neil Poulton, from LaCie (www.lacie.com): Two-drive, 2TB USB 2.0 hard drive can be set in a RAID 0 or RAID 1 configuration with the flick of a switch ($270).

HP MediaSmart Server

HP's MediaSmart Server gives you one place to store all of your family's photos, music, and video, and acts as a backup drive for every computer in the house.

It looks like a minitower, with four SATA drive bays. The MediaSmart Server isn't new, but the latest version has improved Mac compatibility—it now works as an iTunes server and (unlike other network-attachable drives) is compatible with Time Machine.

The HP MediaSmart Server is designed for a mix of Macs and Windows PCs. It requires a PC for the initial installation, but after that, the MediaSmart is fully accessible from your Mac (750GB MediaSmart Server EX485, $600; 1.5TB EX487, $750; www.hp.com).

Livescribe Pulse Smartpen

The Pulse Smartpen from Livescribe lets you record sound and synchronize the audio with your written notes, giving context to your handwriting. Wonder why you wrote something down (or what you wrote)? Click on the text, and the recorded audio will jump back to the moment in the recording when you wrote that word.

To take advantage of the text and audio features, you must use the Smartpen with Livescribe's dot paper; the pen uses the tiny dots on the paper as points of reference for the audio. The dot paper notepad that comes with the pen has preprinted controls on the bottom of each page that allow you to fast-forward, rewind, jump, pause, speed up, or slow down the audio (1GB model, $149; 2GB model, $199; final Livescribe Desktop Mac software available on February 17; www.livescribe.com).

Marketcircle Daylite Touch

We haven't seen many iPhone apps that are as deep as Marketcircle's forthcoming Daylite touch. A companion app for the company's desktop program, Daylite touch essentially lets you do all of the things you can do with the desktop version—book meetings, delegate tasks, track appointments, manage a calendar, and keep tabs on all your projects. The iPhone app syncs data with the desktop version, but you can use it even when you're not connected to a network (available in Q1 2009; pricing not announced; www.marketcircle.com).

Sling Media SlingPlayer for iPhone

You may have heard of the Slingbox, a device that lets you watch your TV or DVR content on your Mac over the Internet. Sling Media will soon be releasing its SlingPlayer Mobile for iPhone, which lets Slingbox owners control their DVRs and watch streaming TV content from their iPhones.

At the same time, Sling is adding the ability for Mac users to enjoy high-definition streaming media from the Slingbox Pro-HD, and is making its sling.com Web-based player available to Mac users—capabilities previously limited to Windows users. Here's to platform equality (SlingPlayer Mobile for iPhone available in Q1; pricing not announced; www.slingmedia.com).

SOFTWARE

Microsoft to Enhance Entourage Exchange

During Macworld Expo, Microsoft's Macintosh Business Unit announced future updates to Microsoft Office that will enhance collaboration and sharing.

Entourage will get an under-the-hood makeover. Microsoft will stop using the WebDAV protocol in favor of Exchange Web Services—a change the company said would bring better compatibility, performance, and reliability (requiring one instruction instead of six when communicating with the server).

The MacBU plans to release the Entourage update in late January as a public beta. The final release will come later this year and will be free for all Office 2008 users.

The second update to Office will give Mac users the ability to work with the SharePoint Products and Technologies suite of services and Office Live Workspace. With the help of a new application called the Document Collaboration Companion, Mac users can download and upload documents; they can also use document check-out and check-in, offline document caching, and SharePoint Workspace, Document Library, and Office Live Workspace.

Document Collaboration Companion—Microsoft's first full Cocoa application—will debut as a private beta in February, with a final release slated for later this year.—**JIM DALRYMPLE**

PRODUCT WATCH

HARDWARE

Modbook Pro, from Axiotron (www.axiotron.com): Tablet computer built around a 15-inch MacBook Pro includes a pen- and touch-sensitive screen ($4,998).

SlimBlade Trackball, from Kensington (www.kensington.com): Input device allows for navigation, media adjustments, and document and photo browsing by rotating the trackball ($130).

EyeTV Hybrid, from Elgato Systems (elgato.com): Updated version of USB TV tuner adds an FM radio tuner, better TV reception, and EyeTV 3.1 software with Macrovision TV listings ($150).

MFC-990CW, from Brother (www.brother-usa.com): Color ink-jet multifunction device has a 4.2-inch touch-screen LCD and features 802.11b/g Wi-Fi, Ethernet, USB 2.0, and Bluetooth connectivity ($230).

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MACBOOK PRO PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF APPLE

LAPTOPS

17-Inch MacBook Pro Gets Unibody Makeover

Apple made only one hardware announcement at Macworld Expo in January, but it was one that rounded out Apple's laptop line. Phil Schiller introduced a new 17-inch MacBook Pro, which joins the MacBook and the 15-inch MacBook Pro as part of the redesigned unibody-enclosure series of Apple laptops.

Apple bills the updated 17-inch MacBook Pro, which continues to sell for $2,799, as lighter, thinner, faster, and more environmentally friendly than its predecessor; it's equipped with a unique, long-lasting battery.

The new 17-inch MacBook Pro is less than an inch thick, making it the world's thinnest 17-inch notebook, according to Apple. The company says the 6.6-pound weight also makes it the lightest 17-inch laptop.

In addition to getting the same enclosure that was unveiled for the MacBook and the 15-inch MacBook Pro in October, the new 17-inch model sports a slightly faster Core 2 Duo processor—2.66GHz versus 2.5GHz—with 6MB of cache. The new system also features 4GB of 1,066MHz RAM (with a ceiling of 8GB, a first for an Apple laptop), both Nvidia GeForce 9400M integrated graphics and GeForce 9600MT discrete graphics with 512MB of memory, a 320GB hard drive, and a DVD-burning SuperDrive. There's also one FireWire 800 port, three USB 2.0 ports, an ExpressCard 34 slot, a battery-life indicator, a Gigabit Ethernet port, and a Mini DisplayPort connector.

The laptop features a 1,920-by-1,200 LED-backlit display, which Apple says has a 60 percent greater color gamut than the company's previous notebook display. The model comes with a glossy screen, but users can opt for a $50 antiglare option.

Apple also touted the environmental attributes of its latest laptop. One key feature is a newly designed battery that uses custom-shaped cells, which provide greater battery stamina (up to seven hours with discrete graphics or up to eight hours with integrated graphics, according to Apple) and a longer lifespan (up to 1,000 charges, or almost five years) than previously, in the same space. The downside is that the battery can't be easily removed, unlike those in other MacBook models.—**CHRIS HOLT**

PRODUCT WATCH

SOFTWARE

PulpMotion 2, from Aquafadas (www.aquafadas.com): Updated slide-show animation software features a revamped interface, better text handling, and the ability to create multi-song soundtracks ($49; upgrade, $15).

iToner 2, from Ambrosia Software (www.ambrosiasw.com): New version of iPhone ringtone-making utility includes new editing tools, a normalizing ClearTone feature, and more than 40 ringtones ($15; upgrade, free).

SOFTWARE

Roxio Releases Toast 10 Titanium

The newest version of Roxio's Mac CD- and DVD-burning software, Toast 10 Titanium (www.roxio.com), adds the ability to extract and convert clips from DVD-Video discs. You can also save video from the Web, archive AVCHD footage to DVD or Blu-ray discs, capture and tag Internet audio streams, convert audiobook CDs to single bookmarkable files, and transfer video from your Mac to a TiVo DVR. Toast now comes in two flavors: the standard $100 Titanium, and a $150 Titanium Pro version that bundles Roxio's HD/BD Plug-in, SoundSoap SE noise reduction software, Sonicfire Pro soundtrack creation software, FotoMagico slide-show software, and LightZone photo editing and effects software.—**PETER COHEN**

SOFTWARE

IntelliScanner Offerings Get Small, Go to Work

IntelliScanner (www.intelliscanner.com) has added a pair of products to its line of scanner-based organizational tools—one that shrinks down the scanner and another that targets businesses.

The IntelliScanner mini (starting at $179) is an ultraportable scanner—about the size of a Zippo lighter—that reads the bar codes of the items you own and uploads them to Mac software for organizing, searching, and sharing your collections. The software can automatically track home assets and valuables, with special features for instantly identifying books, wine, comics, DVDs, groceries, and more.

The $299 IntelliScanner SOHO performs a similar function for small-business users, allowing them to automatically create and manage a stock inventory.—**DALE ROE**

SOFTWARE

iPhone Can Now Download Music Using 3G connection

In addition to announcing DRM-free music and variable pricing on the iTunes Store during his Expo keynote address (see "iTunes' DRM-Free Music: What You Need to Know," page 18), Phil Schiller announced that Apple has added support for downloading music and podcasts on the iPhone using a 3G data connection (previously support was limited to Wi-Fi). What Schiller didn't mention is that you can now download using the slower EDGE data connection as well—it took 15 minutes and 12 seconds to download a 9.3MB track—so long as each file is less than 10MB in size (this limit applies for 3G as well).—**JONATHAN SEFF**

PRODUCT WATCH

SOFTWARE

ChronoSync 4, from Econ Technologies (www.econtechnologies.com): Updated backup and synchronization tool now gives you full access to copy files, uses less memory, and scans files faster ($40; upgrade, free).

EazyDraw 3, from Dekorra Optics (www.eazydraw.com): OS X–only vector-drawing application improves its user interface and adds efficiency-boosting features ($95; nine-month license, $20).

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DESKTOPS

The Amazing Vanishing Mac Desktop Machine

After the introduction of the iPhone at the January 2007 Macworld Expo, I was dismayed at the lack of Mac hardware updates—the show is, after all, called Macworld Expo. I vowed not to expect much in the future. Fast-forward to 2009 and the Phil Schiller–delivered keynote address. In the course of one slide ("Mac") and a couple of sentences ("What I'm going to talk to you about is all about the Mac; I think it's appropriate at Macworld that we talk about the Mac"), I allowed myself to be sucked into the reality distortion field once again. My low expectations went right out the window: A new Mac mini? New Mac Pros? New iMacs? A new 17-inch MacBook Pro?

Reality came crashing back into the picture when Schiller started in on iLife '09 and then iWork '09. The remaining item on his list was the new unibody 17-inch MacBook Pro—a fine machine, to be sure, but beyond the battery technology, there's nothing really new to see here. When I look back at the keynote in total, the lack of new Mac hardware—desktops, specifically—is disconcerting. It's been a long time since the last Mac mini or Mac Pro update. Obviously, updates must be coming soon—I was just hoping that a little more "Mac" would come out of Macworld Expo.—**ROB GRIFFITHS**

MACWORLD EXPO

Town Hall Gives Clues to Future of Macworld Expo

With Apple in the process of finalizing its divorce from Macworld Expo, what does the future hold for the annual trade show? Future Expos could embrace film or music festivals. Or they could return to East Coast destinations like Boston or New York. Or they could move from city to city.

Those were some of the ideas floated at a town hall meeting at Expo, during which show organizers tossed around ideas with attendees and exhibitors about the future of the show.

Paul Kent, the vice president and general manager of Macworld Conference & Expo, began the standing-room-only event with a few ideas of his own, saying he envisioned future Expos as embracing film festivals, music festivals, and digital photography as a way to engage the attendees.

"We come to Macworld to be inspired," said Kent. "This show is going to evolve, and you need to know that we are embracing this evolution."

In his talk, Kent spoke about the conference sessions and the trainers the event brings to San Francisco. According to Kent, 85 to 90 percent of those trainers have already committed to returning to the show in 2010.

When Kent opened up the floor, the idea of having a traveling road show came up, as did bringing another Macworld Expo to New York. Variable pricing of conference sessions was another popular theme.

Send any ideas of your own to: suggestionbox @macworld2010.com.

—**JIM DALRYMPLE**

MAC MINI AND MAC PRO PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF APPLE

Hot Stuff

What we're raving about this month

DownloadShopper.com

The proliferation of sites selling music compatible with the iPod means that you're not restricted to iTunes for all your listening needs. But how to find the best deals? Matt Brucker's site, DownloadShopper.com, lets you search for an album, an artist, or a song, and then gives you a handy chart telling you how much it will cost to buy the music from iTunes, Amazon.com, or Walmart.com. Convenient links to the respective sites make purchasing easy, and the music-finding site even denotes whether the tracks are available via iTunes' DRM-free iTunes Plus initiative. There's also a Hot Deals page, which lets you know about special offers from these retailers. Never get fleeced on exorbitant 99-cent digital download prices again (downloadshopper.com)!—**DAN MOREN**

Pico PK-101 Pocket Projector

Do you enjoy watching movies on your iPhone or iPod touch, but wish it had a bigger screen? For $400, the Pico PK-101 Pocket Projector, from Optoma, allows you to project movies, podcasts, and YouTube videos from your iPhone or iPod touch to a wall or screen up to 66 diagonal inches. You can even mount it on a tripod. The tiny, 4-ounce Pico is a micro-portable DLP projector with a small speaker. Its rechargeable battery gives you around an hour and a half of play time, and you can charge the device via USB or with the included AC adapter (www.optomausa.com).—**JAMES GALBRAITH**

Poladroid

People today have no patience—it's all about instant gratification. When I was a kid, the fastest option was a Polaroid camera: you'd snap the shot, shake the camera…and wait for the image to develop. If you miss those days, check out the free Poladroid software. It re-creates all the fun of Polaroids, using digital photos. Just drag and drop your images onto the camera icon, and the program converts them, Polaroid-style. You can even "shake" the pictures to speed it up. Silly but fun (www.poladroid.net).—**DAN MOREN**

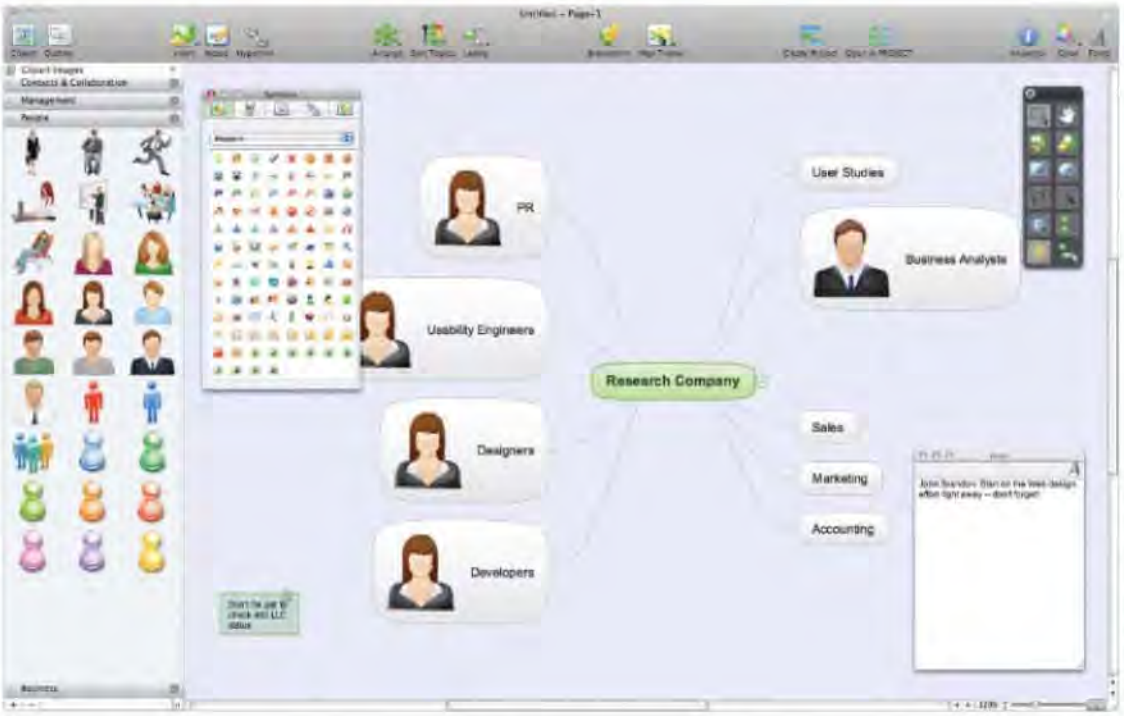
Secrets

As much as we all love our Macs, we know that there are treasures hidden beneath the surface, tucked away in preference files, that only arcane Terminal commands can reveal. Blacktree's free Secrets preference pane helps bring those concealed preferences to the surface. Secrets shows you the hidden settings for all your applications, including Mac OS X itself, and it allows you to turn them on and off via handy check boxes. There's even a list of the Top Secrets, for the most commonly accessed options. Of course, with great power comes great responsibility: it's good to make sure you know exactly what those preferences do before you go switching them on or off willy-nilly (secrets.blacktree.com).—**DAN MOREN**

iPhone Coasters

The iPhone's icons are so colorful and attractive, it's a shame they're confined to your phone's Home screen. But now, thanks to Meninos' $60 iPhone Coasters, you can place those icons front and center in your "real" life. This 16-item set features reproductions of the iPhone's original Home-screen app icons—from SMS to Settings. The vinyl-like material on top and the spongy foam bottom will keep your drinks from damaging your favorite table (meninos.us).—**DAN FRAKES**

Reviews



Freeform App MindMap Pro's blank-page approach encourages brainstorming while minimizing screen clutter.

Visual Brainstorm

Mind-mapping programs help you put your thoughts in order **BY STUART GRIPMAN**

Life doesn't fit into rows and columns. So it's a bit surprising that the most common Mac tools we use for organizing information are so confining. Spreadsheets, databases, and even outlines and lists tend to impose rigidity on our information. Shouldn't there be a better way?

Consider the mind map. The term *mind map* was first put forward in the 1960s to describe a note-taking technique that breaks the top-to-bottom, left-to-right, text-only bonds of traditional notation. The classic mind map starts with a primary concept at the center, with subordinate ideas, or *branches*, radiating from it. Its design encourages the use of color and imagery. Branches often contain icon-size images along with the text to create context at a glance. The idea is to make the note-taking process more natural, more like the way the human brain operates.

Mind-mapping software is used for decision-making, scheduling, agendas, presentations, planning, and countless other tasks. As its uses proliferate, so do available products.

The Contenders

In this roundup, we examine nine mind-mapping tools. CS Odessa's

Documentation Demo FreeMind cleverly provides its documentation as a mind map, enabling the user to quickly grasp its capabilities and see potential uses for its features.

HOW WE RATE SUPERIOR: ●●●●● VERY GOOD: ●●●● GOOD: ●●● FAIR: ●● POOR: ●

ConceptDraw MindMap Pro 5.5 is a cross-platform program that integrates with other products in the ConceptDraw family. FreeMind 0.8.1 is an open-source effort written in Java. One of the longest-established candidates in this roundup is Mindjet's MindManager 7 (and it is due for an upgrade shortly), though a Mac version has been offered only since version 6. Markus Müller's MindNode Pro 1.0.3 is among the few Mac-only mind-mapping applications, and its basic version is free.

NovaMind Platinum 4.6.1 goes beyond mind mapping with project-management and scheduling features. The Omni Group's OmniGraffle Pro 5.0.2 is not specifically a mind mapper, but it's a capable tool for the job. TheBrain Technologies' PersonalBrain Pro 4.5 (now at version 5) deviates from classic mind-mapping designs, with a 3-D perspective. OpenMind 2.0 (which was renamed MindView after we reviewed it), from MatchWare, complements its mind maps with powerful outlining capabilities. Finally, there's XMind 2008 Pro, a cross-platform mind mapper that can create fishbone charts (often used for cause-and-effect diagrams).

Each product has its own terminology for common mind-map components. A *node* in one may be a *topic* in another and a *branch* in a third. In this article, I'll refer to items that radiate out from the central topic as *branches*, subordinate branches as *child* or *grandchild* branches, and superior branches as *parents*. Two children of the same parent branch are *siblings*. I'll call the icon-size graphics that appear in-line with branch text *symbols*; all other graphics are clip art.

Visual Hierarchy Lines of different colors and thicknesses represent the relationships between MindNode Pro's mind-map nodes, with the lines getting thinner as they progress down the hierarchy from the root node.

Brain Download

The heart and soul of mind mapping is the ability to get thoughts quickly and easily out of your head and into the map. If the software gets in the way even a little, it can break the flow of ideas and defeat its own purpose. One product that seems to throw up speed bumps is PersonalBrain, perhaps because it's more ambitious than most of its peers. While the classic mind map is a two-dimensional affair, PersonalBrain's maps—or *brains*—are more like actual

Mind-Mapping Software Compared

Product	RATING	PRICE	SUPPORTS GIF	SUPPORTS JPEG	SUPPORTS OPML	SUPPORTS PDF	SUPPORTS PNG	SUPPORTS TEXT	SUPPORTS WEB
ConceptDraw MindMap Pro 5.5 OUR PICK CS Odessa	●●●●½	$199	●	●	●	●	●	●[1]	●[2,3]
FreeMind 0.8.1 FreeMind	●●●½	free	○	●	○	●	●	○	●[4]
MindManager 7 Mindjet	●●●●½	$129	○	●	●	●	●	●[1,5]	●[2]
MindNode Pro 1.0.3 Markus Müller	●●●½	€12	○	○	●	●	○	○	●
NovaMind Platinum 4.6.1 NovaMind Development	●●●●	$249	●	●	●	●	●	●	○
OmniGraffle Pro 5.0.2 The Omni Group	●●●●½	$200	●	●	○	●[6]	●	○	●[3]
OpenMind 2.0[7] MatchWare	●●●●	$279	○	●	○	●	●	●	●
PersonalBrain Pro 4.5 TheBrain Technologies	●●●●½	$250	○	○	○	○	○	○	●[8]
XMind 2008 Pro XMind	●●●½	$300	●	●	○	●	●	●	●

● = yes, ○ = no. *GIF*, *JPEG*, and *PNG* are graphics formats; *OPML* is an XML-based outlining language; *RTF* is text with formatting; *Text* means plain, unformatted text; *Web* refers to static Web pages except as noted. [1] Also supports text outlines. [2] HTML outline. [3] HTML image map. [4] Also supports XHTML. [5] Also supports RTFD (Rich Text Format Directory) with images. [6] Scalable-vector PDFs. [7] OpenMind was renamed MindView just before this story went to press. [8] Also supports custom dynamic Web interface.

brains: three-dimensional clusters of thoughts. Any two thoughts can be linked, and topics change position, flying around the brain, as you navigate among the thoughts. It's all very cool and powerful, but the interface is complex.

MindNode Pro falls at the other end of the spectrum. A straightforward program, it makes getting from blank slate to mind map a cinch. Some of that can be attributed to its clean interface, but much is due to its narrow feature set. MindNode makes basic mind maps capably, but it doesn't aspire beyond that.

The remaining contenders fall somewhere between PersonalBrain and MindNode. All of them facilitate simple brainstorming. You need to memorize a couple of key combinations to really get moving, but that's about it. ConceptDraw MindMap deserves special mention for its Brainstorm mode, in which it creates floating topics as fast as you can type. At the end of the session, you can apply structure to your ideas.

Attractive Maps OmniGraffle is rich with thoughtful flourishes, such as guides that pop up to help you place an object in just the right position.

User Experience

The user experience varies greatly among these programs. ConceptDraw MindMap receives high marks for its adherence to Mac standards. It makes appropriate use of components such as inspectors and drawers. NovaMind has a similarly well-conceived interface and, despite its broad feature set, deftly maintains its ease of use. OpenMind ranks with those two products in its Mac execution. All three programs are cross-platform, but none feel like a hasty port.

MindNode takes a more minimalist approach. With only five buttons on the toolbar and a single small inspector, there isn't much to keep track of. What is there looks good and works well. OmniGraffle's interface is anything but minimalist. I easily maxed out my screen real estate with one document and the available palettes. OmniGraffle's many features make it more challenging than the other programs, but that doesn't diminish its intuitive interface.

My experience with MindManager was somewhat puzzling. While it has no fundamental flaws, its many little interface oddities make it feel less polished than most of the other programs. For example, selecting a branch draws a small box with resizing buttons around the branch text, but the resizing didn't seem to work that well. XMind elicited similar feelings. The interface uses a Windows-style mission-control approach, packing everything into

ConceptDraw MindMap Pro 5.5

4½

PROS: Simple, elegant interface.

CONS: Minor Arrange button glitch; expensive.

OS COMPATIBILITY: 10.4 (Tiger), 10.5 (Leopard)

PROCESSOR COMPATIBILITY: Universal

PRICE: $199

COMPANY: CS Odessa, www.conceptdraw.com

FULL REVIEW: macworld.com/4242

FreeMind 0.8.1

4½

PROS: Good features; free; flexible import and export; supports images.

CONS: Unappealing interface; hangs on launch; counterintuitive shortcuts.

OS COMPATIBILITY: 10.3 (Panther), 10.4 (Tiger), 10.5 (Leopard)

PROCESSOR COMPATIBILITY: Universal

PRICE: free

COMPANY: FreeMind, freemind.sourceforge.net

FULL REVIEW: macworld.com/4240

MindManager 7

4½

PROS: Flexible outline view; many export formats; easy to move data between outline and project-management apps.

CONS: No Microsoft Office integration; small interface oddities.

OS COMPATIBILITY: 10.4 (Tiger)

PROCESSOR COMPATIBILITY: Universal

PRICE: $129; upgrade $69

COMPANY: Mindjet, www.mindjet.com

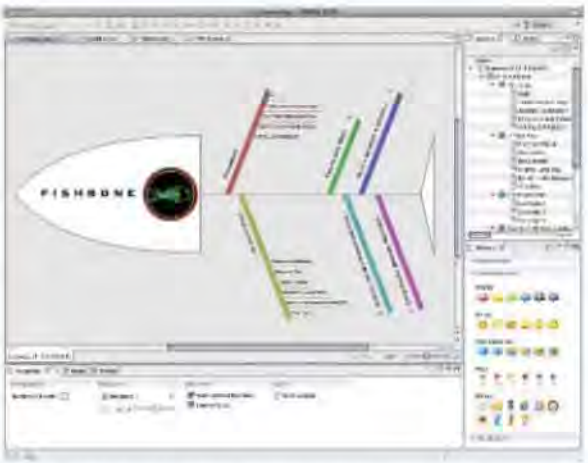
FULL REVIEW: macworld.com/2998

one window that's sliced into sections; most sections have an array of tabs. The net effect is a busy interface that might work on a large monitor, but won't cut it on a MacBook. PersonalBrain also disregards many Mac interface standards. To be fair, PersonalBrain takes a unique approach to mind mapping and probably has to break some rules to get the desired 3-D effect. Still, its difficult learning curve may dampen its appeal for some.

FreeMind's interface is haphazard and poorly conceived. The toolbars along the top and left sides of the window are a hodgepodge of Microsoft Windows buttons and pixelated icons. Simple tasks like changing the color or font of a branch can require hunting through two or three layers of contextual menus. FreeMind works OK, but the negligible degree of layout control and the frustrating interface make it an also-ran.

Customizability

The classic mind-map design is instantly recognizable. All these apps will turn out a document featuring a central idea with child and grandchild branches radiating from it, but the extent to which you can apply your own design choices varies dramatically. OmniGraffle is the clear standout of the bunch in this regard, providing detailed controls such as pixel-level positioning, Bézier curves, and object rotation to the tenth of a degree. Credit this control to OmniGraffle's status as a general graphing and charting tool. If you need this level of precision, you'll want to short-list OmniGraffle.



Template Aid XMind goes beyond mind maps, with templates for organization charts, flow charts, and the aptly named fishbone chart.

Handy Reference PersonalBrain's mind maps can include documents you are working on alongside contact records, Web pages, and other information, as well as links to Web sites. And you can reorient mind maps with a single click.

For many users, a plethora of options can pose a bigger problem than a shortage of options. Of all the contenders, NovaMind strikes the best balance when it comes to customizing your mind map; it lets you choose just how much help you want. By default, NovaMind operates in Assisted Layout mode, a setting that offers some control over branch placement but doesn't let you make a total mess of things. Controlled Layout mode takes branch placement out of your hands entirely, whereas Free Layout mode gives you enough rope to—well, you get the idea.

ConceptDraw MindMap and MindNode are the most flexible of the remaining choices. Each program lets

MindNode Pro 1.0.3

3½

PROS: Extremely easy; graphically appealing; inexpensive; can export various file formats.

CONS: Limited features.

OS COMPATIBILITY: 10.5 (Leopard)

PROCESSOR COMPATIBILITY: Universal

PRICE: €12

COMPANY: Markus Müller, www.mindnode.com

FULL REVIEW: macworld.com/4245

NovaMind Platinum 4.6.1

4

PROS: Excellent interface; highly customizable; good documentation.

CONS: Slowdowns in complex documents; silent font substitution on NovaMind Connect.

OS COMPATIBILITY: 10.5 (Leopard)

PROCESSOR COMPATIBILITY: Universal

PRICE: $249; Pro edition, $149

COMPANY: NovaMind Development, www.novamind.com

FULL REVIEW: macworld.com/4243

OmniGraffle Pro 5.0.2

4½

PROS: Easy to create attractive diagrams and charts; flexible export.

CONS: Can't import common file formats.

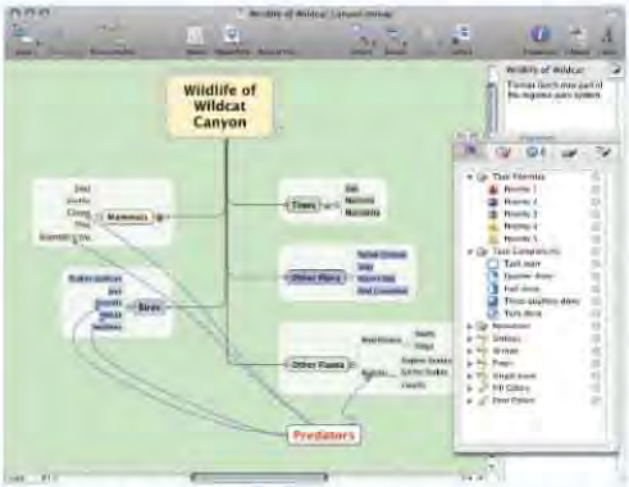
OS COMPATIBILITY: 10.5 (Leopard)

PROCESSOR COMPATIBILITY: Universal

PRICE: Pro version, $200; Pro upgrade, $75; standard version, $100; standard upgrade, $40

COMPANY: The Omni Group, www.omnigroup.com

FULL REVIEW: macworld.com/4241



Neat Charts MindManager isn't the most customizable mind-mapping application available, but it does turn out neatly formatted charts.

you drag branches just about anywhere on the canvas, but each also includes some kind of automatic arrangement feature you can invoke as you desire.

FreeMind, MindManager, OpenMind, and XMind give you much less layout customizability. FreeMind is particularly constraining, not even allowing you to reorder branches. MindManager, OpenMind, and XMind permit reordering, but the placement is entirely out of your hands. If you like the standard layout, this may not be a problem—as long as your tastes don't change.

A Beautiful Mind Map

Customizing your maps isn't just about where you place the branches. Mind maps should embrace color and images, too. All the products we looked at provide some degree of color customization. OmniGraffle is again the most flexible. But its broad focus leaves out the automatic coloring and theme options present in some other packages. OmniGraffle also lacks a symbol palette, which most mind-mapping applications offer.

ConceptDraw MindMap has an excellent array of color and image options. Its line and fill choices are ample but not overwhelming. Simple fill patterns and gradients, as well as line weights and styles, are all packaged neatly in an iLife-style inspector. ConceptDraw MindMap includes hundreds of symbols and an impressive selection of clip art.

OpenMind serves up a unique array of clip art organized by discipline—history, life sciences, arts, and technology, for example—making it a compelling choice for scholars. Size and transparency are easy to manipulate with sliders.

Adding some flair to your NovaMind document isn't as simple, but the program has some advantages. You can make documents look more polished by using glass fills, shadows, and rounded corners. NovaMind offers the largest symbol and clip-art libraries. A media window consolidates these collections, along with your iPhoto library and, for adding links, your Safari bookmarks, into a single interface.

The rest of the programs provide limited color and design control. All offer some degree of customization, but none provide the level of control of OmniGraffle, ConceptDraw MindMap, and NovaMind.

Suggestion Box NovaMind's Suggesterator helps you brainstorm by offering a list of terms loosely related to the current branch.

OpenMind 2.0

★★★★

PROS: Attractive exports to Word and PowerPoint.

CONS: Can't exchange OPML files; no Gantt charts in Mac version.

OS COMPATIBILITY: 10.4 (Tiger), 10.5 (Leopard)

PROCESSOR COMPATIBILITY: Universal

PRICE: $279

COMPANY: MatchWare, www.matchware.com

FULL REVIEW: macworld.com/4244

PersonalBrain Pro 4.5

★★★★½

PROS: Intuitive 3-D mind maps; nonlinear.

CONS: Tough learning curve; no OPML outline import; expensive.

OS COMPATIBILITY: 10.3 (Panther), 10.4 (Tiger), 10.5 (Leopard)

PROCESSOR COMPATIBILITY: Universal

PRICE: $250; Core edition, $150; free version

COMPANY: TheBrain Technologies, www.thebrain.com

FULL REVIEW: macworld.com/3872

XMind 2008 Pro

★★★½

PROS: Easy; variety of chart types; many export options; great performance.

CONS: Resembles a Windows database program; few import methods; complex.

OS COMPATIBILITY: 10.4 (Tiger), 10.5 (Leopard)

PROCESSOR COMPATIBILITY: Universal

PRICE: $300

COMPANY: XMind, www.xmind.org

FULL REVIEW: macworld.com/4239

I used to be good looking...

...then I was run over by a bus.

Yeah, that really hurt, but I'm still alive!

So I'm on my way to an ad agency in NYC, loaded with files for a stellar campaign, when it happened... I fell off the FedEx truck onto 49th Street and under the wheels of a passing bus. "Ouch!" I was severely mangled, but thanks to my rugged design and all-aluminum enclosure, I survived.* While my owner was amazed his campaign was intact, I was amazed I could still feel my hard drive.

G-DRIVE mini hard drives from G-Tech are the industry's best portable storage solutions for today's road warriors and are built to last. G-Tech offers a full line of products that are engineered using the highest quality components to offer unmatched performance, style and reliability. And just for the record, we don't recommend you throw them under a bus...

G-DRIVE mini
Up to 500GB
Starting at $129
(MacBook Pro sold separately)

*Based on a true story. Read more at www.g-technology.com/userstories/mangled

Learn about our special offers for Macworld readers at:
www.g-technology.com/macworld

G-Technology, Inc.
Performance. Style. Reliability.

Mind Mappers Branch Out

Mind mapping may be the common theme among these products, but some of them try to sweeten the pot with other cool features. Here are a few of my favorites.

On the Tip of My Tongue

NovaMind's Suggesterator is a free add-on designed to help you uncover just the right concept. As you create or navigate the branches of a mind map, the Suggesterator examines the text in the current branch and offers up a list of related words and phrases. A button on the palette adds the selected Suggesterator term, as well as its definition (if you want), to your mind map.

Scheduling Skills

ConceptDraw Project fans will appreciate ConceptDraw MindMap's integration with Project. When you open a MindMap document in Project, it converts into a project and is displayed as a Gantt chart. Each branch off the main topic becomes a task. Because MindMap lets you associate task settings, such as start and end dates, with a branch, those properties get incorporated into the project. Conversely, MindMap can open and convert Project documents.

Scripting

MindManager tempts the geeky mind mapper with extensive AppleScript support. Want to plan your schedule in MindManager and send it over to iCal when you're done? AppleScript can do it. Want to open all the hyperlinks in your mind map at once? Use AppleScript. MindManager's AppleScript tools also permit you to format branches.

Good Behaviors

Most of these applications can attach a URL to a branch on the map and open the site when you click on that branch. OmniGraffle Pro takes this idea much further. Any object on your map can execute an action when you click on it. Calling up a Web page is nice, but you can set OmniGraffle actions to open any document on your Mac. Actions can also jump from one object to another, center the window on a particular point, and toggle layer visibility.

MindNode does not support images at all. Formatting in FreeMind requires that you control-click on each object and navigate through layers of contextual menus.

Export Capabilities

Playing well with others is particularly important in the mind-mapping sphere. When you're sharing a spreadsheet or word-processing document, it's generally not difficult to find common ground with other users and programs. None of these mind-mapping applications is a household name, so consider your export options carefully if you ever plan to share your mind map. By my count, the contenders are capable of exporting to about three dozen formats altogether—yet, there is no one format they all support.

The top contender is ConceptDraw MindMap, with more than a dozen export formats. A row of icons displays the available formats. Clicking on an icon reveals the options specific to the selected format. In this program, your export options are clean and easy to understand. Some of the formats unique to ConceptDraw MindMap are Microsoft Project XML, iCal, and iPod. The iPod export can create a slide show of your map so you can deliver presentations without your Mac.

A close second in the export derby, NovaMind supports many export types. It's the only one in the bunch that can export to Keynote and one of two that can create PowerPoint documents. NovaMind is also the lone product that exports to the screenwriting programs Final Draft and Write Brothers' Movie Magic Screenwriter. And OmniGraffle is the only one in this roundup that supports Photoshop and, for corporate (Windows) types, Microsoft Visio.

Macworld's Buying Advice

No single mind-mapping program will suit everyone. If you cherish simplicity, MindNode Pro 1.0.3 is a good choice. It offers a bare-bones experience but works very smoothly. Detail-obsessed types will gravitate to OmniGraffle Pro 5.0.2. NovaMind is strong overall and a natural choice for screenwriters. Students should seriously consider OpenMind for its organized and well-stocked clip-art collection, but the $279 price tag sure would buy a lot of ramen noodles. PersonalBrain Pro 4.5 is difficult to learn and full of quirks. MindManager 7 and XMind 2008 Pro are worth a look, and they're tempting choices if you need to share mind maps with other users of the same program. Even though it's free, I find it hard to recommend FreeMind 0.8.1.

Ultimately, I found that ConceptDraw MindMap Pro 5.5 has the best combination of features, ease of use, and results. It will suit the needs of almost every thinker, with style and ease.

Stuart Gripman is a columnist for *Advisor Basics of FileMaker Pro* magazine and the founder of Crooked Arm Consulting (www.crookedarm.com).

Portable Brainstorm OpenMind's extensive feature set lets you create, edit, and update your mind maps, and it makes moving your brainstorming sessions to Microsoft Word and Excel easy.

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- Heather Clancy, ZDNet.com

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Laptop Companion

Apple's LED Cinema Display is a MacBook owner's delight

BY JAMES GALBRAITH

Apple's new LED Cinema Display is the company's first display designed specifically for use with its laptop line.

Among the display's features is one that is causing some controversy: the Mini DisplayPort connector, which is based on DisplayPort technology. As of Macworld Expo in January 2009, the only Macs you can use with the display are the just-announced 17-inch MacBook Pro (www.apple.com/macbookpro), the unibody MacBooks (★★★★; macworld.com/4061) and 15-inch MacBook Pros (★★★★; macworld.com/4062), and the current MacBook Air (★★★½; macworld.com/4206). Apple has said future Mac products will support the Mini DisplayPort, and converter cables and boxes may be in the offing for older models.

Other features include a mercury-free LED backlight. And a single three-headed cable that's permanently attached to the display provides power to your laptop via a universal MagSafe power plug, gives you a video signal through the Mini DisplayPort, and connects your laptop to a three-port USB 2.0 hub on the back of the display.

The display also has a built-in iSight camera and microphone, as well as what Apple says is a 2.1 stereo speaker system that includes two speakers on the bottom of the display and a third, rear-facing speaker on the back that bounces the sound off the stand and back toward the user. The sound quality of the display's integrated speakers is much better than that of the MacBook's speakers, but, compared with the iMac's built-in speakers, it sounds tinny and lacks bass.

Glossy and Green Apple's new display is mercury-free and friendlier to the environment than the company's older displays, but it's available only with a glossy glass front.

The screen specifications are fairly standard for a 24-inch display, with 320 nits of brightness, a 1,000:1 contrast ratio, a 178-degree viewing angle, and an average response time of 14ms. The screen's glossy surface can add depth to images on screen, but some people may find it distracting. This display is extremely glossy, turning into something of a black mirror when powered off.

I looked at numerous test files on the LED Cinema Display and found that it has an excellent viewing angle, with little or no color shift at almost all vantage points. Gradients appear smooth, and text is sharp and legible, even at very small point sizes. Except at the extreme edges and corners, color uniformity is excellent.

When viewing a full black screen, I noticed some minor light leakage from the bottom that keeps the display from looking as dark as LaCie's 324 (★★★★½; macworld.com/3896). The display is a little too bright and cool, with a subtle bluish hue in whites. The LED Cinema Display benefited from our calibration with Eye-One Display 2, which measures the display's default color temperature at 6700 Kelvin.

I've seen displays with faster response times than the LED Cinema Display's 14ms. But I didn't notice problems while watching movies or playing games on it.

I do have two problems with the LED Cinema Display. First, the stand only allows you to tilt the display. I can live without the ability to rotate and swivel, but not without the ability to adjust the display's height. Who wants to shove books, reams of paper, or inelegant risers underneath an $899 display?

Then there is the lack of on-screen controls. The display has no buttons on it, but a brightness slider is available on your Mac's keyboard. Changing anything else requires that you squint your way through the calibration process in the Displays preference pane.

Macworld's Buying Advice

The LED Cinema Display is a good fit for its limited target audience. The monitor is bright, environmentally conscious, and looks great next to a new MacBook.

James Galbraith is *Macworld*'s lab director.

PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER BELANGER

LED Cinema Display

★★★★

PROS: Excellent viewing angle; single three-headed cable provides power, USB 2.0 connectivity, and a signal.

CONS: Works only with Apple's latest laptops; no swivel, pivot, or height adjustment; settings are difficult to customize.

PRICE: $899

COMPANY: Apple, www.apple.com

FULL REVIEW: macworld.com/4260

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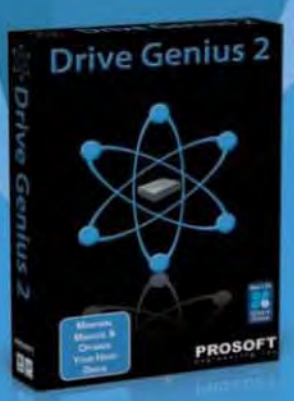

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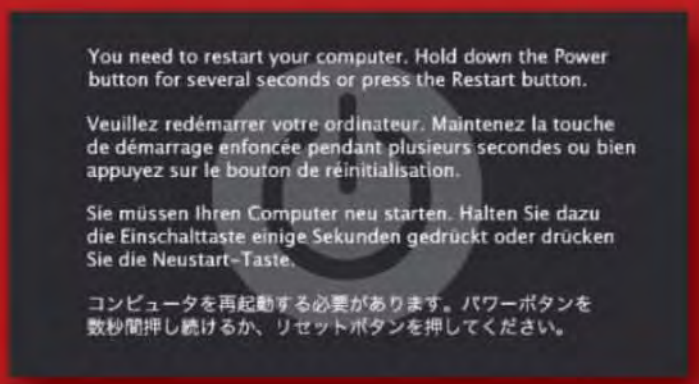

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-Paul Bullock

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What we're reviewing online this month

SOFTWARE

Billings 3.0 △

RATING: ★★★★ **PRICE:** $59 **COMPANY:** Marketcircle **URL:** www.billingsapp.com

Billings has long established itself as a suitable program for lawyers, consultants, artists, and anyone else who needs to track time as a part of their business process. The latest version, 3.0.3, features a completely redesigned interface that sports a more useful and Leopard-like look; the new interface will be familiar to anyone who's ever used iTunes or iPhoto. The program ships with 30 professionally designed templates, any of which are suitable for most businesses. Minor quibbles with the program include too few fields in the templates to identify your business, and a tedious data-export process that's required if you want to use your data in an accounting program (macworld.com/4279).

OpenOffice.org 3

RATING: ★★★½ **PRICE:** free **COMPANY:** OpenOffice.org **URL:** www.openoffice.org

OpenOffice.org 3 is a powerful productivity suite that includes Writer, a powerful word processor; Calc for spreadsheets; Impress for slide shows; Draw for basic drawing and graphics; and Base, which serves as a database. New features include support for the OpenDocument 2.1 format, a change-tracking feature in Writer, enhanced chart functionality in Calc, multiple-monitor support in Impress, and more. If you don't need the advanced features found in Microsoft Office 2008, OpenOffice includes most of the tools you'll need for productivity, minus an e-mail client (macworld.com/4132).

Find It Online

For expanded reviews, type the blue URL at the end of each summary into your browser's address bar.

ToCA Race Driver 3 △

RATING: ★★★★ **PRICE:** $50 **COMPANY:** Feral Interactive **URL:** www.feralinteractive.com

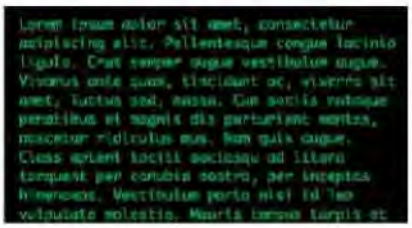
ToCA Race Driver 3 lets you race in a simulation of virtually every professional racing circuit in the history of the sport with unrivaled vehicular and course accuracy. You can personalize your car's downforce, transmission, antiroll, ride height, brake bias, tires, suspension, and toe and camber. The graphics were probably top of the line in 2004, but now the courses look positively retro. However, if you're a racing fan and want a broad selection of customizable and unique cars from throughout the sport's history, you could well be very happy with TOCA Race Driver 3 (macworld.com/4284).

World of Goo

RATING: ★★★★½ **PRICE:** $20 **COMPANY:** 2D Boy **URL:** www.worldofgoo.com

World of Goo is a trippy puzzle game that pushes your knowledge of physics to its gooey limits in a postmodernist setting. The Goo functions as building blocks for

harrowing physics puzzles, and each color of Goo has its own special ability, from explosive red balls to redeployable green ones. You construct a structure that will eventually ferry your Goo ball toward the goal; the more Goo balls that remain unused, the better. Fun, quirky, and highly addictive, World of Goo is one of the most entertaining puzzle games to come to the Mac in years (macworld.com/4285).



WriteRoom 2.3 △

RATING: ★★★★½ **PRICE:** $25 **COMPANY:** Hog Bay Software **URL:** www.hogbaysoftware.com

When it comes to helping you write without distractions, no program does the job better than WriteRoom. When you launch the program, your windows and desktop disappear, replaced with just a single blinking green cursor on a full screen of black. Start typing, and you'll see the screen begin to fill with bright green text. WriteRoom 2.3.7 lets you change the font, magnify the text, expand or contract the column width, and much more. If you can't bear to be completely separated from your beloved desktop, WriteRoom even lets you adjust the opacity of the background to let your windows peek through (macworld.com/4286).

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HARDWARE

Arc Mouse

RATING: ♦♦♦♦ **PRICE:** $60 **COMPANY:** Microsoft **URL:** www.microsoft.com

This lightweight mouse from Microsoft has an arc-shaped design and comes encased in a matte plastic shell that's smooth but not slippery. You can move the device around almost effortlessly. The Arc Mouse features a classic layout for the left and right buttons, along with a ratchet scroll wheel that also functions as a button. You can press an additional button on the left side of the device with your thumb or, if you're a left-handed mouser, your third or fourth finger. The buttons and wheel have a nice, reassuringly tactile feel and provide audible feedback, making the Arc Mouse a breeze to operate (macworld/com/4278).

eGo Helium Portable Hard Drive USB

RATING: ♦♦♦½ **PRICE:** $150 **COMPANY:** Iomega **URL:** www.iomega.com

Iomega's Mac-formatted storage device is available with a capacity of 320GB and has a case that resembles the iconic silver exterior of the MacBook Air. In our Macworld Lab testing, the drive posted times similar to those of other USB portable drives we've tested in the past.

The eGo Helium finished our 1GB copy test in 53 seconds; averaged 1 minute and 19 seconds in our duplicate 1GB file test; and finished our low-memory Photoshop test in 1 minute and 48 seconds (macworld.com/4280).

The Minimalist

RATING: ♦♦♦♦ **PRICE:** $285 **COMPANY:** Zegari **URL:** www.zegari.com

The Minimalist is a briefcase-style laptop bag impeccably crafted of leather and a mysterious "innovative material" that looks vaguely like metallic leather. The bag is 14.5 inches wide, 12 inches tall, and 3.8 inches thick, and incorporates only the most essential features and details. The walls are rigid and the interior is heavily padded on all sides. Although the bag fits the 15-inch MacBook Pro like a glove, a 13-inch MacBook or MacBook Air will also stay snugly in place, thanks to smart use of stretchy panels on the sides of the laptop compartment (macworld.com/4282).

Moondance Glow △

RATING: ♦♦♦½ **PRICE:** $180 **COMPANY:** Altec Lansing **URL:** www.alteclansing.com

This iPod alarm clock incorporates high-

Legal Notice

If you purchased an uncoated Apple First Generation iPod nano, you could get benefits from a class action settlement.

A proposed settlement of a consolidated class action lawsuit affects you if you purchased in the United States a new uncoated Apple First Generation iPod nano (referred to here as the "iPod nano"). These iPod nanos were first sold beginning in September 2005, and have a black or white plastic front and a stainless steel back. Some but not all of the First Generation iPod nanos were uncoated. The settlement will provide cash payments to qualified purchasers. To qualify for settlement benefits, you must have purchased in the United States a new uncoated First Generation iPod nano and experienced scratching of your iPod nano that impaired your use or enjoyment of your iPod nano. The Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles authorized this Notice. The Court will have a hearing to consider whether to approve the settlement.

Who's Affected?

You're a "Class Member" if you purchased in the United States a new uncoated First Generation Apple iPod nano for your own use and not for resale.

What's This About?

The lawsuit claimed that the First Generation iPod nano contained a defect that resulted in excessive scratching. Apple denies all allegations and has asserted many defenses. The Parties are entering into this settlement to avoid burdensome and costly litigation. The settlement is not an admission of wrongdoing or an indication that any law was violated.

What Can You Get From the Settlement?

Apple has agreed to provide a cash settlement fund of $22.5 million (the "Fund"). The Fund shall include all payments or other consideration to the Settlement Class; Class Counsel's attorneys' fees and expenses; any incentive fees to named plaintiffs; and all administration costs and costs of notice. To be eligible for a payment from the Fund, you must have experienced scratching of your iPod nano that impaired your use or enjoyment of it. If you did not receive a slip case from Apple when you purchased your iPod nano, you may be entitled to a cash payment of $25. If you received a slip case, you may be entitled to a cash payment of $15. The cash payments to claimants may be increased or decreased depending on the number of claims submitted. There is a limit of one cash payment per iPod nano. Any monies that remain in the Fund after payment of fees and expenses, and after payment of awards to claimants, will be distributed to a charity or charities approved by the Court.

How Do You Get a Payment?

You must submit a completed Claim Form by June 10, 2009. A detailed Notice, Claim Form, and instructions are available by calling 1-888-232-3395 or going to www.iPodnanoSettlement.com.

Important Deadlines

You must mail the completed Claim Form postmarked on or before June 10, 2009.

What Are Your Options?

(1) If you want to participate in the settlement, submit a completed Claim Form by June 10, 2009. You can get a copy of the Claim Form and instructions by calling 1-888-232-3395 or going to www.iPodnanoSettlement.com. (2) You may exclude yourself from the settlement by sending a request postmarked no later than March 27, 2009. (3) If you stay in the Class, you may object to the settlement. Objections must be received by March 27, 2009. The detailed Notice describes how to exclude yourself or object.

The Court will hold a hearing in this case (*In re iPod nano Cases*, Case No. BC 342057, JCCP No. 4469) on April 28, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. to consider whether to approve the settlement. Plaintiffs' Counsel will request from the Court, and Apple has agreed not to oppose, an award of attorneys' fees of $4,500,000 and litigation expenses of up to $200,000 from the Fund. The Court may award more or less than the amount agreed to by the Parties. The Court will determine the amount of fees and expenses that will be paid to Plaintiffs' Counsel. You may appear at the hearing, but you don't have to. *For more details, go to www.iPodnanoSettlement.com.*

quality audio performance into a unit that features sleek lines, touch-sensitive controls, and more. The controls are cool, but the novelty quickly wears off: because the controls are touch-sensitive, if you run your fingers over them to find the right button, you're likely to end up triggering the functions of the other buttons. To use the system from your bed, you have to either prop yourself up high enough so that you can look at them or tilt the whole thing toward you. The unit produces good sound, though, with solid bass reproduction, a clear midrange, and no distortion, even at higher volumes (macworld.com/4283).

Media Composer 3.0

RATING: ★★★½ **PRICE:** $2,495 **COMPANY:** Avid Technology **URL:** www.avid.com

Avid has completely rebuilt its flagship video-editing software from the ground up for Apple's OS X 10.5 (Leopard) operating system. Media Composer 3.0.5 offers native access to the majority of camera formats, including the SxS-format cards used in Sony's EX series of cameras, expanded support for Panasonic's P2 AVC-Intra codecs, and new support for JVC's 720p24 and 720p25 HDV formats. Users will also welcome a number of adjustments, such as enhanced controls for content dragged or dropped into a timeline; enhanced keyframing controls in the effects editor; and the ability to copy, paste, and even remove redundant keyframes from content already in your timeline. Avid also includes an Automator script that does an admirable job of preparing your Media Composer project for disc creation in Apple's DVD Studio Pro. Media Composer is the first software-editing tool Avid has shipped that doesn't require proprietary hardware (macworld.com/4287).

My Passport Studio 500GB

RATING: ★★★½ **PRICE:** $250 **COMPANY:** Western Digital **URL:** www.westerndigital.com

The My Passport Studio 500GB external drive has several nice features: it's compact; it has USB 2.0, FireWire 400, and FireWire 800 connectivity; it provides a healthy amount of storage space; and it comes with a five-year warranty. The drive also features Turbo drivers, which are supposed to boost data transfer speeds. In our timed trials, we found that the Turbo drivers did boost the speed of the connection a little bit; but even with the boost, the My Passport Studio was only an average performer. The Turbo drivers improved the USB connection by just 6 percent on average. With FireWire 400 and 800, the drivers improved the connection speed by only 2 to 3 seconds (macworld.com/4135).

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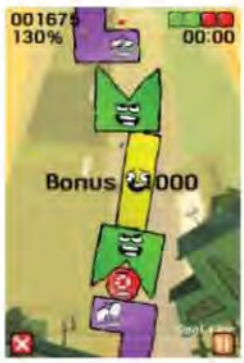


GAMES

Topple 1.8.2

RATING: ★★★★½ **PRICE:** free **COMPANY:** Ngmoco

URL: macworld.com/4264

A puzzle game from Ngmoco that combines elements of Tetris and Jenga, Topple requires that you stack the highest tower possible using a collection of random shapes. But developer Ngmoco puts its unique spin on things by giving the blocks facial expressions that change if their position in the tower is safe (a contented smile) or precarious (a look of outright panic). Clever details and snarky graphics along with imaginative, detailed backgrounds round out the visual elements (macworld.com/4263).—**CHRIS BARYLICK**

SOCIAL NETWORKING

Loopt 1.2

RATING: ★★★½ **PRICE:** free **COMPANY:** Loopt

URL: macworld.com/4208

Using the GPS chip in the iPhone 3G or the cell-tower location data in the original iPhone, Loopt can place you on a map and show you where your friends are and what they're up to. Despite an annoying SMS-only method of inviting friends to join this location-aware social network, Loopt can be useful for finding friends on a Friday night or colleagues at an out-of-town event (macworld.com/4207).—**MATHEW HONAN**

CREATIVE

iBlogger 1.0.7

RATING: ★★★★½

PRICE: $10

COMPANY: illumineX

URL: macworld.com/4209

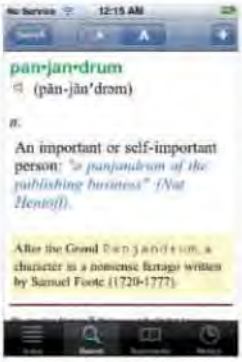
The mobile blogging tool iBlogger supports a number of blogging engines, including WordPress, Movable Type, and TypePad. It boasts a time-saving Link feature that saves you from having to insert HTML code (macworld.com/4212).—**SCOTT MCNULTY**

REFERENCE

American Heritage Dictionary—Fourth Edition 1.0

RATING: ★★★★ **PRICE:** $30 **COMPANY:** Enfour

URL: macworld.com/4266



Among dictionary options at the App Store, this 309MB version of the *American Heritage Dictionary*, from Enfour, stands out for its graphical appeal and functionality (macworld.com/4265).—**BEN BOYCHUK**

REFERENCE

Google Mobile App 0.3.144

RATING: ★★★★

PRICE: free

COMPANY: Google

URL: macworld.com/3822

Not that Google's search supremacy would be in doubt, but the addition of voice-activated searches puts the updated Google Mobile App a quantum leap beyond what Google released last summer. Still, like that earlier version (★★★★; macworld.com/3823), this update falters outside the realm of search when it offers access to Google's peripheral services (macworld.com/4213).—**BEN BOYCHUK**

More Reviews

See more iPhone and iPod touch apps we've tested at iPhone Central (macworld.com/4164).

APPLICATION	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	RATING	FIND CODE*
Concert Vault 1.1 Wolfgang's Vault	Music collection	free	★★★★½	4267
Fieldrunners 1.1.1. Subatomic Studios	Game	$5	★★★★½	4268
LocalEats 1.5 WhereTheLocalsEat.com	Restaurant finder	$1	★★★★	4203
Ocarina 1.2 Smule	Music maker	$1	★★★★½	4269
Recorder 7 Retronyms	Voice recorder	$1	★★★★	4198

*Typing in find codes after *macworld.com/* directs you to a product's review or overview. For example, macworld.com/4267 takes you to our review of Concert Vault 1.1.

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1 of 6 Hot Macworld Business Apps
CNNMoney.com, Jan 7, 2009

"Get ready for the Web-based, high-def conference call."
Jonathan Blum, CNNMoney.com

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Top Products

Your guide to the best hardware we've tested. See more at macworld.com/reviews.

CAMCORDERS
High Definition

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE	TYPE	FIND CODE
Vixia HV30 (pictured) www.canon.com	★★★★	$570	MiniDV	3708
HDR-SR11 Handycam www.sony.com	★★★★	$724	hard drive, Memory Stick	3731
Zi6 www.kodak.com	★★★★	$169	mini camcorder	4074

MONITORS
Wide-Screen

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE	TYPE	FIND CODE
324 LCD (pictured) www.lacie.com	★★★½	$942	24-inch display	3896
LP3065 www.hp.com	★★★★	$1,012	30-inch display	2509
MultiSync 3090WQXi www.necdisplay.com	★★★★½	$2,283	30-inch display	3770

SCANNERS
Document and Flatbed

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE	TYPE	FIND CODE
ScanSnap S510M (pictured) www.fujitsu.com	★★★★½	$366	document	3321
Perfection V300 Photo www.epson.com	★★★★	$100	flatbed	4071

DIGITAL CAMERAS
Point-and-Shoot

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE	TYPE	FIND CODE
Casio EX-z250 (pictured) www.casio.com	★★★★	$209	9.1-megapixel	4256
PowerShot SD880 IS www.canon.com	★★★★	$246	10-megapixel	4257

DVD BURNERS
Portable and Desktop

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE	TYPE	FIND CODE
Portable DVD±RW w/ LightScribe (pictured) www.lacie.com	★★★★	$131	portable	3878
d2 DVD±RW w/ LightScribe www.lacie.com	★★★★	$83	desktop	3900

External Drive: MERCURY ON-THE-GO

RATING: ★★★★½ **PRICE:** $130 **COMPANY:** OWC **URL:** www.macsales.com **FIND CODE:** 4258

Why We Like It:

OWC's Mercury On-The-Go is a Mac-ready, fast, bus-powered portable hard drive that eschews style for substance. Equipped with USB, FireWire 800, and FireWire 400 connections, the Mercury On-The-Go is versatile and performs at some of the fastest speeds we've seen in a portable drive.

External Drive Shopping Guide

- USB is universal but slower compared with the speeds of FireWire 400 and 800 connections. Faster still is eSATA, but it's the least compatible, because it requires an add-on. Drives that have all four connection types are more versatile but are more expensive.
- Portable drives are more convenient but often have higher gigabyte-to-dollar ratios and slower speeds.
- Desktop drives usually have larger capacities than portable drives; some reach as high as 1TB or 2TB. Most portable drives max out at 500GB.

ALSO CONSIDER: **My Book Studio Edition**; ★★★★½; $159; macworld.com/3295 | **FreeAgent Desk**; ★★★★; $119; macworld.com/4167

TOP PRODUCTS are those we've recently reviewed in a comparison of like products. As new products become available, we'll update this list. For longer reviews of these products and for other product recommendations, go to macworld.com/reviews. All prices are the best current prices taken from a PriceGrabber survey of retailers as of January 11, 2009. **FIND CODES:** In a browser's address field, typing in find codes after *macworld.com/* quickly takes you to a product's review or overview. For example, you can find our review of the Mercury On-The-Go at macworld.com/4258.

PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER BELANGER

PRINTERS
Multifunction

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE	TYPE	FIND CODE
Pixma MX850 (pictured) www.canon.com	★★★★½	$200	ink-jet	3593
Photosmart C7280 MFP www.hp.com	★★★★	$185	ink-jet	3581
Stylus Photo RX680 www.epson.com	★★★★½	$107	ink-jet	3458

PRINTERS
Lasers

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE	TYPE	FIND CODE
Oki C6150dn (pictured) www.okidata.com	★★★★½	$599	LED; color	3899
HL-4070CDW www.brother-usa.com	★★★★½	$460	PostScript compatible	3385
Phaser 6180/DN www.xerox.com	★★★★	$391	PostScript compatible	3057

DIGITAL CAMERAS
SLRs

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE	TYPE	FIND CODE
EOS Rebel XSi (pictured) www.canon.com	★★★★½	$516	12-megapixel	3898
D40 DSLR www.nikonusa.com	★★★★	$429	6.1-megapixel	2498
D300 DSLR www.nikonusa.com	★★★★½	$1,354	12.3-megapixel	3434

PRINTERS
Ink-Jet

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE	TYPE	FIND CODE
PictureMate Zoom PM 290 (pictured) www.epson.com	★★★★½	$161	compact; photo	3102
Pixma MP480 www.canon.com	★★★★	$92	multifunction; photo	4165
Stylus Photo 1400 www.epson.com	★★★★	$155	large-size photo	2924

APPLE Macs

PRODUCT	SPECS	RATING	PRICE	DISPLAY	SPEEDMARK 5*	FIND CODE
DESKTOP						
iMac	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.4GHz	★★★★	$1,180	20 inches	230	3597
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.66GHz	★★★★	$1,494	20 inches	254	3598
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.8GHz	★★★★½	$1,794	24 inches	268	3599
Mac mini	Intel Core 2 Duo/1.83GHz	★★★★	$589	not included	159	3030
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2GHz	★★★★	$789	not included	172	3031
Mac Pro	Intel Xeon/two quad-core 2.8GHz	★★★★½	$2,639	not included	314	3363
PORTABLE						
MacBook	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.1GHz	★★★★	$950	13 inches	180	3464
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2GHz	★★★★	$1,230	13 inches	195	4186
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.4GHz	★★★★	$1,597	13 inches	212	4187
MacBook Air	Intel Core 2 Duo/1.6GHz	not yet rated	$1,270	13 inches	N/A	4191
	Intel Core 2 Duo/1.86GHz	★★★½	$2,399	13 inches	174	4192
MacBook Pro	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.4GHz	★★★★	$1,810	15 inches	215	4188
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.53GHz	★★★★	$2,205	15 inches	231	4189
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.5GHz	★★★★	$2,270	17 inches	252	4259

N/A = not applicable. * Speedmark 5 is Macworld Lab's standard test tool for benchmarking systems running Mac OS X 10.5 (Leopard). For information on Speedmark testing, go to www.macworld.com/speedmark.

APPLE iPods

PRODUCT	SPECS	RATING	PRICE*	DISPLAY	PERFORMANCE	FIND CODE
iPODS						
iPod classic	120GB	★★★★	$219	2.5-inch color	36 hours of music playback; 6 hours of video playback	3863
iPod touch	8GB	★★★★	$215	3.5-inch color	36 hours of music playback; 6 hours of video playback	3864
	16GB	★★★★	$255	3.5-inch color	36 hours of music playback; 6 hours of video playback	3865
	32GB	★★★★	$359	3.5-inch color	36 hours of music playback; 6 hours of video playback	3866
iPod nano	8GB	★★★★½	$129	2-inch color	24 hours of music playback; 4 hours of video playback	3867
	16GB	★★★★½	$175	2-inch color	24 hours of music playback; 4 hours of video playback	3868
iPod shuffle	1GB	★★★★	$47	none	12 hours of music playback	2238
	2GB	★★★★	$67	none	12 hours of music playback	3470
iPHONE						
iPhone 3G	8GB	★★★★	$160	3.5-inch color	5 hours of 3G Internet; 5 hours of 3G talk time	4184
	16GB	★★★★	$269	3.5-inch color	5 hours of 3G Internet; 5 hours of 3G talk time	4185

* iPod shuffle prices are from a PriceGrabber survey of retailers as of January 11, 2009. All other iPod prices are based on direct purchase from the Apple Store.

Mac Gems

Get more and expanded reviews at macworld.com/macgems **BY DAN FRAKES**

Login Items You can use LoginControl to choose which items will open the next time you log in.

UTILITY

LoginControl 2.0

RATING: ♦♦♦ **PRICE:** $10 **COMPANY:** Thoughtful Tree Software **URL:** www.thoughtfultree.com

Leopard's Login Items, which open when you log in to your account and are listed in the Accounts preference pane, are a problem for some users. Generally, the complaints are twofold: you can't choose the order in which items open, and you can't create different sets of items and choose to load a different one at login. LoginControl offers both features in an easy-to-use, though limited, package. When you first launch LoginControl, its Live List displays the current list of login items—the same list found in the Accounts preference pane. You can customize the sequence in which items launch or open by dragging items up and down. (OS X doesn't add any delay between items, so if you have two items that must launch in sequence, you should place them at opposite ends of the list.) The list in the Accounts preference pane automatically reflects changes you make to LoginControl's Live List, and vice versa.

But the more useful feature is the ability to switch between lists. To create a new list, click on the plus (+) button under Saved Lists; give the new list a name, and it appears in the Saved Lists section. You manage Saved Lists just as you do the Live List, but the Accounts preference pane doesn't reflect changes to Saved Lists.

To switch to a different list, select it and click on the Make Live List button that appears. The selected list replaces the Live List; more important, its contents replace the Login Items list in the Accounts preference pane. The next time you log in, your Mac will use the new list of login items.

A minor limitation of LoginControl is that it doesn't let you rename a list; you must use the File: Duplicate List command, name the new list with a preferred name, and then delete the original. And if you've made changes to the Live List in LoginControl, or to the official Login Items list in the Accounts preference pane, you'll want to save that list before switching to another list, to avoid losing changes.

Finally, you can't choose your list of login items at login; you have to make the choice for your next login before logging out of your current session.

UTILITY

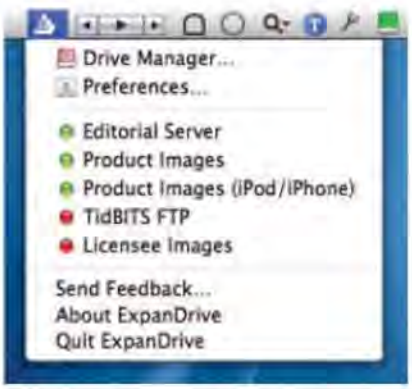
ExpanDrive 1.3.1

RATING: ♦♦♦♦ **PRICE:** $40 **COMPANY:** Magnetk **URL:** www.expandrive.com

Using the Connect To Server dialog box (Go: Connect To Server), Mac OS X lets you work with an FTP server in the Finder as if it were any other file server. The only problem is that this feature doesn't really work. Connections are unreliable, and even when you manage to connect, the Finder's FTP functionality is read-only—not to mention that the Finder doesn't support SFTP (a secure alternative to FTP). Because of this, Mac users who frequently access FTP and SFTP servers turn to dedicated FTP clients. An appealing alternative is ExpanDrive, which gives the Finder the FTP and SFTP capabilities that Mac users have long wanted.

ExpanDrive's main interface is a small menu-bar menu and a dialog box for configuring each FTP and SFTP server you want to access. Once configured, servers appear in ExpanDrive's menu; you connect to a server by choosing it from that menu.

Assuming that you have a valid connection to the server or share, it mounts in the Finder and appears in Finder sidebars, just



Finder FTP ExpanDrive lets you quickly connect to FTP and SFTP servers. Its main interface is a small menu-bar menu.

The Buffalo Bunch

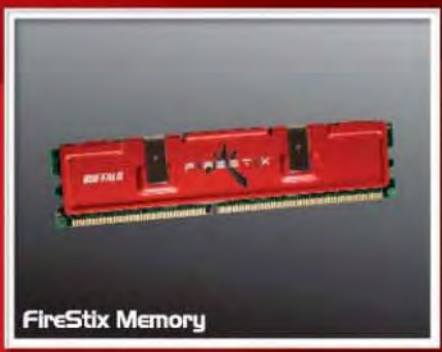
Nfiniti Wireless-N
Router & Access Point

Nfiniti Wireless-N
Dual Band Ethernet Converter

DriveStation

DriveStation FlexNet

MiniStation DataVault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like any other removable volume. You can copy files to and from it, and edit its contents (within the limitations of your login account). You can also perform other Finder actions, such as using Quick Look on remote files and compressing remote files and folders, and you can access ExpanDrive-mounted shares in standard Open and Save dialog boxes.

ExpanDrive handles dropped connections gracefully: instead of the dreaded spinning beach ball generated by a Finder freeze, you see a simple "not presently reachable" message when you try to access an affected server or share. Even better, ExpanDrive actually monitors your connection and automatically remounts the affected servers as soon as it can reach them. This is very useful for laptop users, who tend to put their computers to sleep and change networks often; ExpanDrive will remount your FTP and SFTP servers whenever it detects a network connection.

Given that the FTP and SFTP protocols don't support Mac resource forks or Mac metadata, you'll want to compress files that contain such data before copying them to an FTP or SFTP server. Also, Spotlight doesn't index FTP and SFTP volumes, so you can't search ExpanDrive-mounted servers. Finally, because FTP isn't implemented the same way everywhere, not every FTP server will work perfectly with ExpanDrive.

Google iCal Calaboration makes it easy to access Google calendars in iCal.

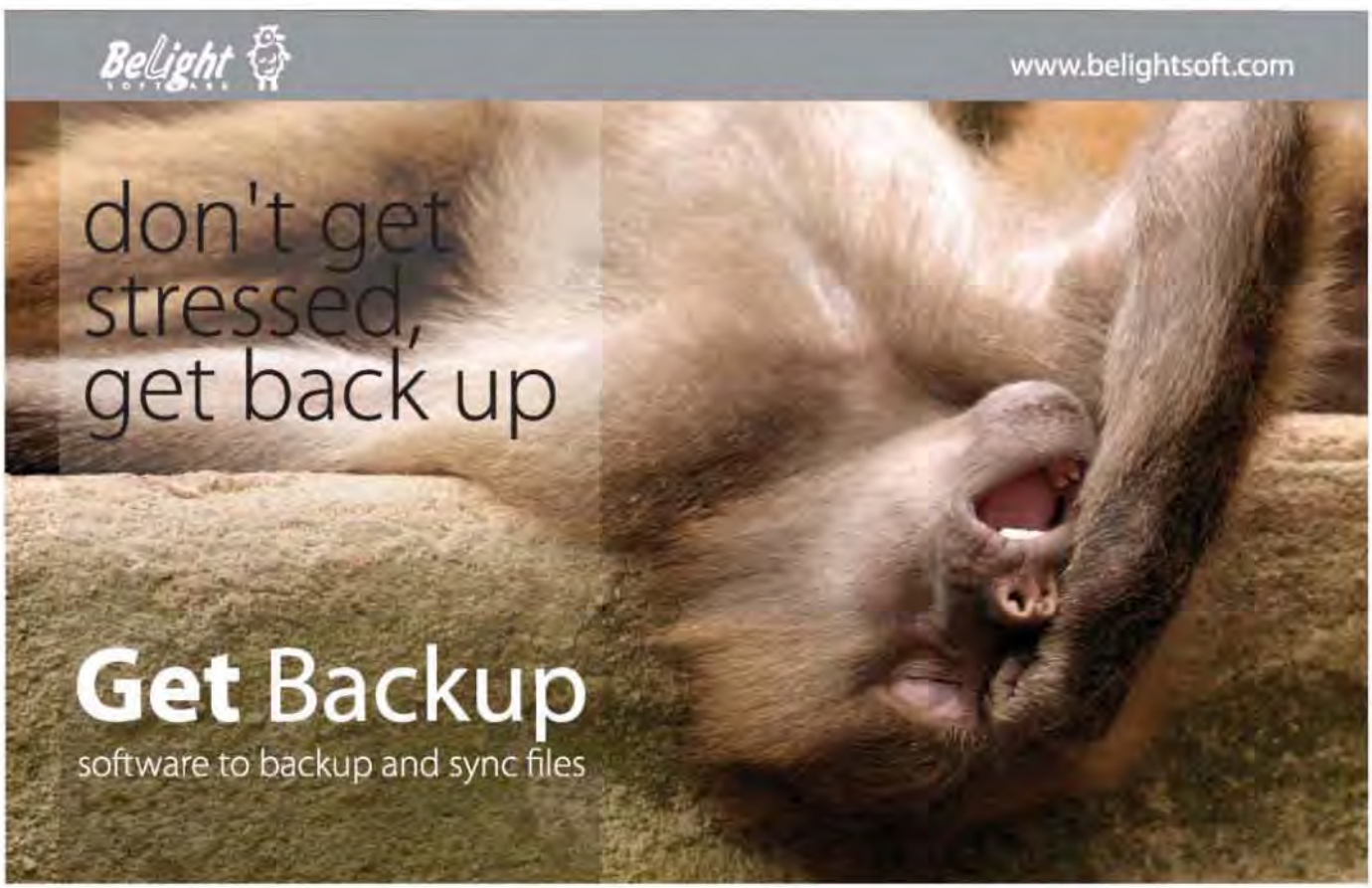
PRODUCTIVITY

Calaboration 1.0.1

RATING: ♦♦♦½ **PRICE:** free **COMPANY:** Google
URL: code.google.com/p/calaboration

Google's Calendar feature recently became even more appealing to Mac users, thanks to the addition of CalDAV support, which lets you work with Google-hosted calendars in iCal—including editing and syncing events and even responding to invitations.

To make this interaction easier, Google has released a nifty utility called Calaboration for adding Google calendars to iCal. After you launch Calaboration and enter



Promising Prospect: Hyperspaces

One of the most anticipated features in Leopard was Spaces. But thanks to quirks and missing features, Spaces, which lets you set up different workspaces of programs, windows, and documents and then switch between those workspaces, has been a disappointment for some users.

Addressing some of those missing features is the goal of Tony Arnold's Hyperspaces (hyperspacesapp.com), currently in beta. Using Hyperspaces, you can choose a different desktop for each workspace, making it easier to determine which workspace you're using or want to switch to. You can also name each space and see that name on the desktop and in the menu bar. And you can assign keyboard shortcuts for directly switching to a space and configuring workspaces on-the-fly.

Filled-In Spaces Hyperspaces adds more functionality to Mac OS X's Spaces.

the e-mail address and password for your Google account, the program shows all your Google calendars. Just select those you want to work with in iCal and click on the Add To iCal button. (Because iCal doesn't properly handle read-only CalDAV calendars, such calendars are grayed out in Calaboration unless you enable them in its preferences.)

Unfortunately, Google Calendar's iCal integration isn't yet perfect, but I can't blame that on Calaboration, which does what it's supposed to do and is easy to use. The only real issue I've seen is that for one of my *Macworld* colleagues, Calaboration showed a particular Google calendar as read-only, even though he has write access; nevertheless, when he forced Calaboration to add the calendar to iCal anyway, he was indeed able to edit events.

Senior Editor **Dan Frakes** is always looking for great, low-cost products. Send comments and suggestions to macgems@macworld.com.

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iLife & iWork

Our first looks at Apple's upgraded multimedia and productivity suites

EVOLVE

At this year's Macworld Expo, Apple unveiled updates to its two major software suites: iLife '09, the latest version of the popular home media suite (which includes iPhoto, iMovie, GarageBand, iWeb, and iDVD); and iWork '09, its office suite (which combines Pages for word processing, Numbers for spreadsheets, and Keynote for presentations). We were able to get a hands-on preview of both upgrades long enough to find out what's changed and what new features Mac users can look forward to. In the pages that follow, you'll see what we found. Look for our comprehensive reviews and ratings of the two suites in an upcoming issue.

iLife '09

In the latest version of the iLife suite, Apple has made significant additions to iPhoto (including new ways to organize your snaps), iMovie (some clever new editing tools), and GarageBand (built-in music lessons!).

iPhoto Face Detection The new iPhoto can recognize which parts of an image are a face, making it easier to identify the people in your photos.

iPHOTO '09

BY JACKIE DOVE

Faces and Places give you more ways to organize your photos

Apple's iPhoto has always been a feature-rich photo editor (★★★★; macworld.com/4312). iPhoto '09 includes some cool new technologies that make the program even richer. The two most notable are Faces and Places, which make it easy to organize your photos by who's in them and by where the pictures were shot.

Faces

Using *face-detection* technology, iPhoto can now identify the parts of your photos that contain faces. When you click on the Name button at the bottom of the iPhoto window, the program draws a square around each face it detects in the shot; click on a square, and you can enter the name of the person.

As you match multiple photos to a name, you can easily view all the photos of that person in your collection by using the new Faces entry in the Library section of the iPhoto sidebar. Selecting that view reveals an interface that looks like an old-fashioned corkboard, with snapshots of all the people you've named. Double-clicking on any snapshot reveals pictures that you've confirmed contain that person.

Below those, iPhoto displays images that (using new *face-recognition* technology) it thinks contain that same person. For each of those shots, you can click on a Confirm Name button to verify that iPhoto correctly identified the person, batch-select photos to confirm names in all of them, or reject iPhoto's guesses.

You can name as many people in your album as you want. And you can create smart albums of each person, which will dynamically update whenever you add new shots containing the people you've named.

Places

The other marquee feature in iPhoto '09 is called Places. Just as Faces helps you organize your photos by the faces in them, Places lets you organize them by the locations where they were shot.

If you have a GPS-enabled camera or are snapping shots with your iPhone 3G, Places works without any input from you. Your hardware will add a tag to each shot identifying where it's from. Click on the Info button on each photo, and it flips over to reveal both the location and a map (based on Google Maps) with a pin marking the spot. You can view the map in terrain, satellite, or hybrid view.

If you have images in your library that are not geo-tagged, you can still use Places. All you need to do is click on the Info button on a photo or event and start typing the location information—the name of a place or an address will do. As you type, iPhoto will tap into the Google Maps database of named locations to automatically suggest places; you can also manually add places to the list.

Once you've assigned locations, clicking on the new Places entry in iPhoto's sidebar will summon a large, interactive map. You can view photos taken in a specific spot by clicking on the map or typing its location in the search box. A column browser view lets you narrow down your search by country, state, or landmark. If you like to make photo books from your iPhoto albums, the program's new geo-savvy lets you include automatically gener-

ated maps of the places those photos were taken.

Sharing and Editing

Although iPhoto '08 did a nice job with slide shows, iPhoto '09 does even more. It comes with slide-show themes; there are numerous ways to customize titles, music, speed, and other visual elements; and you can also now export shows as movies, send them to iTunes, and sync them to your iPod, iPhone, or Apple TV.

Convenient new Facebook and Flickr buttons give you a one-click way to share photos or slide shows on those social networks. Photos containing people you named with the Faces feature will automatically be tagged on Facebook. You can specify that Facebook friends be notified whenever their tagged images are posted in your Facebook albums; and in Facebook, your friends can tag any people you've left unidentified, and those new ID tags will be synced back to iPhoto.

iPhoto Places iPhoto '09 includes Places, which enables you to automatically organize your photos geographically.

iPhoto '09 also introduces several nice improvements to its editing tools, including Smart Saturation (which enhances colors without distorting skin tones), auto red-eye removal (which uses the new face-detection feature to automatically remove red-eye), and a new definition slider (to enhance clarity and detail). A new Detect Edges feature in the Retouch brush will leave you with cleaner details in your touched-up images.

Jackie Dove is a senior editor at *Macworld*.

Precision Editor The Precision Editor in iMovie '09 gives you much finer control over transitions between clips when you're editing.

iMOVIE '09

BY DAN FRAKES

Video editor has added depth, power

Many people hated iMovie '08 (★★★½; macworld.com/4313). While that version was supposed to make Apple's video editor more accessible, it was widely (and justifiably) criticized for lacking many features its predecessor, iMovie HD, had.

Apple has apparently been listening to those criticisms. The update adds many features that '08 lacked, and even betters iMovie HD in a number of ways.

Image Stabilization

The killer feature in iMovie '09 is image stabilization, which reduces the ill effects of a shaky camera and makes it seem as though you used a Steadicam while shooting your video. It does so by comparing each frame with the frames around it, to see how much the camera moved from one moment to the next. The program then reduces those differences to produce a more stable image.

The downside is that image stabilization takes time—up to eight times the length of the clip itself. (It could take up to 8 minutes to stabilize a 1-minute clip.) Fortunately, you can apply stabilization automatically (when video is imported) or manually (on raw video in an event or on clips in a project).

For each clip, you can turn stabilization on or off, or specify the amount of stabilization. Because the process

iMovie Maps
Tell iMovie '09 where your movie took place, and it can insert an animated map showing viewers where you were.

involves some zooming and cropping of clips, though, you may find that stabilization cuts off some portions of clips you want to retain.

Project Library

The Project Library interface in iMovie '09 has been tweaked. Instead of just a textual list of projects, you get a "filmstrip" preview of each project. And a full-screen browser lets you scan projects or clips in a Cover Flow–like interface.

The project editor offers new options via a pop-up menu that appears when you drag a new clip into a project. Several of those options let you precisely replace parts of existing clips with new ones; an Insert command splits the existing clip and places the new clip in the middle; and Audio Only and Cutaway insert just the audio or video portion of a clip, respectively.

The new Precision Editor lets you fine-tune transitions between clips. It gives you a zoomed-in view of each transition, so you can tweak the transition point between clips and the positions of the clips at the point of transition. You can even choose different transition points for the audio and video tracks of two clips.

Depending on the type of transition you're creating, you can adjust its length at either end (an onerous task in iMovie '08); you can also edit audio transitions.

Special Effects

The new iMovie also comes with an array of useful new effects. Perhaps the most impressive is the ability to speed up or slow down clips (using a slider or a manually entered percentage of speed); the effect is applied immediately with no rendering delay.

You also get a number of aesthetic effects, including vignette, cartoon, and aged film. The video-effects panel and main playback area display live previews; you can skim either one to get a quick look at each effect. Unfortunately, you're still limited to the effects, titles, and transitions that come with the program. As with iMovie '08, '09 doesn't support plug-ins or other add-ons.

iMovie '09 also includes project themes such as Bulletin Board, Comic Book, and Filmstrip. When you apply a theme to a project, iMovie automatically creates an opening title screen, an ending credits screen, and transitions between clips, all based on the theme's visuals. Like iPhoto '09, iMovie now has some geographical savvy: you can insert animated maps into your movies.

Chapters and Comments

One of the things missing in iMovie '08 was the ability to send a movie project to iDVD for burning to disc; iMovie '09 restores and improves this feature. You can drag chapter-marker icons into your project; these chapters will then be preserved in iDVD. You can also use chapters for navigating your project.

A similar feature lets you add comments to your project; you drop a comment icon at a location in your project and type your comment. You can also label clips and clip segments with keywords and ratings that you can use to filter your clips.

Dan Frakes is a senior editor at *Macworld*.

iMovie Themes
The new iMovie includes project themes, including Comic Book, which can add visual panache (including opening and closing credits) to your movies.

GARAGEBAND '09

BY CHRISTOPHER BREEN

Learn to play piano and guitar from the stars

GarageBand Lessons The new GarageBand includes music lessons from famous musicians, such as Sting, Norah Jones, and John Fogerty (pictured here).

The biggest new feature in GarageBand '09 is its ability to teach you how to play music on real-world instruments, a welcome improvement to the previous version of the program (★★★★½; macworld.com/4314).

iLife's music program now comes with built-in guitar and keyboard lessons. These lessons are offered in two components: Basic Lessons and Artist Lessons. As the name implies, the first type of lesson teaches you the basics of a particular instrument—notes, chords, and rhythms. In Artist Lessons, prominent recording artists teach you how to play simple and advanced versions of their songs. (For example, Sting teaches "Roxanne," and John Fogerty teaches "Proud Mary.")

In a guitar lesson, you can view the instructor, fretboard, chords, tabs, and lyrics. If you're learning keyboards, you can view the clefs alone or together. You can customize views in the videos—zooming in on the teacher's left hand, for example—and you can isolate audio, muting the instructor's voice or the backup band.

Guitar Effects

Lessons aren't all that's new to GarageBand '09. The interface has been reworked so it's less cluttered. For example, you can expose or hide the Loop Browser, the effects area is graphically richer, and the overall interface scheme is more consistent with other Apple apps.

GarageBand '09 also enhances the program's ability to model guitar amplifiers and effects. While you could select different amplifier models in previous versions of GarageBand, doing so is much more intuitive in GarageBand '09. You can choose from among five amp models, which sound similar to those made by Fender, Marshall, and Vox. You can then adjust volume, tone, on-board effects (such as spring reverb), and other parameters through controls that mimic the knobs found on the original amp.

Finally, GarageBand '09 includes an enhanced version of Magic GarageBand, the feature that lets you play along with a virtual band. In this version of GarageBand, not only can you jam with the band, but you can also now record your performance. In addition, you can mix the levels of the various instruments that appear in the band.

Christopher Breen is a *Macworld* senior editor and a musician.

Guitar Effects GarageBand now includes a much broader collection of guitar effects—both amps and stomp boxes.

iWork '09

Apple has made all three apps in its iWork suite—Pages, Numbers, and Keynote—more robust. But will they be enough to make you put aside Microsoft Office?

Template Browser Pages' new Template Chooser lets you quickly access recently opened documents and preview all the pages available in any template.

PAGES '09

BY JEFFERY BATTERSBY

Apple's word processor learns some business-friendly tricks

Pages sees some significant changes in '09. Those changes make Pages '09 a much more viable option than Pages '08 (★★★½; macworld.com/4315) for business-related text processing and page layout.

Templates

For starters, Pages '09 sports the same redesigned Template Chooser found in all three iWork '09 applications. While at first the features may seem like little more than window dressing, you'll find that it makes wading through Pages' collection of templates much easier. (Forty new templates have been added to the 140 that came with Pages '08).

Moving your mouse over a template now gives you a preview of all the template's available page types. This preview provides a nice way for you to select a template without first having to open the whole thing and view all of its pages. Another welcome addition to the Template Chooser is an Open Recent button at the bottom left of its window; the button lets you open recently used documents with just two clicks.

Full-Screen Mode

I'm a fan of distraction-free writing—meaning that I want to see nothing on the screen but my text. (That's why I use Hogbay Software's WriteRoom [page 38; ★★★★½; macworld.com/4286].) So I find Pages' new full-screen mode to be a welcome addition to the program.

In full-screen mode, Pages hides everything but the essentials: all the inspectors disappear, as do the formatting and menu bars at the top of the screen. The only thing you see is your document set on a black background. At the bottom of the screen, you see a live word count and your current page number. Moving your mouse to the top of the screen reveals the formatting bar, so you can adjust fonts, paragraph styles, or alignment.

If you need additional formatting options while you're in full-screen mode, you can select Show More from the line spacing and list menus; doing

Mail Merge Pages now lets you merge a list of addresses from a Numbers spreadsheet into a Pages document.

so will open those inspector palettes. Of course, Apple wouldn't want you to go entirely distraction-free: even in full-screen mode, the iTunes' miniplayer floats nicely in the black area of the screen, allowing you to adjust volume and skip tracks without leaving whatever it is you're writing.

Placeholders In Numbers '09, the placeholders in formulas are much easier to work with; a single click on one of them lets you start editing it.

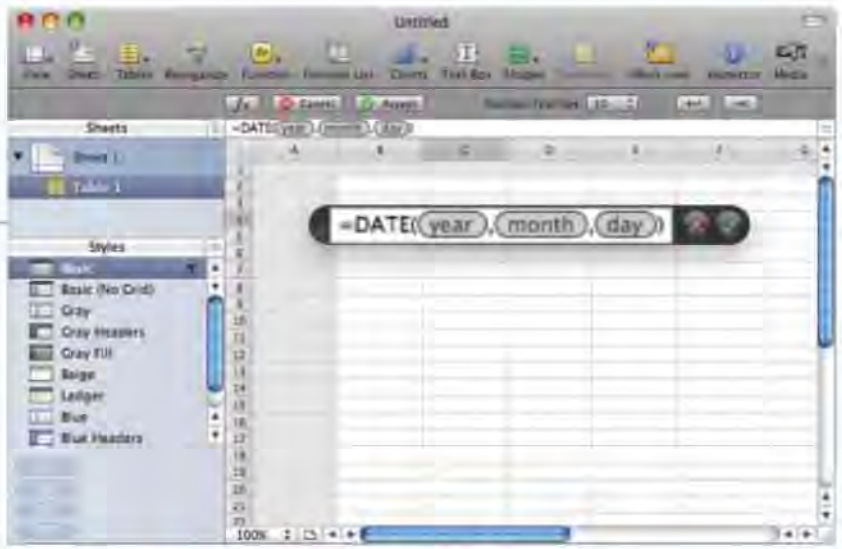
Mail Merge

Chief among my complaints about Pages '08 was its limited mail-merge capabilities, specifically the fact that it allows you to merge addresses only from Apple's own Address Book app. That made Pages useless in business environments that might require that you merge data from other, more robust programs. Pages '09 can now merge data stored in Numbers spreadsheets. In initial testing, I took data stored in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, opened it in Numbers, formatted it the way Pages requires, and merged it into Pages; it worked great. I had to do some minor reformatting, but overall the process was seamless.

Pages' other intriguing new features include an outlining mode, in which you can quickly create an outline and then convert it to a regular Pages document. Bouncing between the two formats is a simple as clicking on a button; and specifying the amount of text that appears in the outline view is a snap.

The live (meaning updated in real time) word count you see in full-screen mode is available in the default view, too. Also, Pages '09 integrates with MathType 6 and EndNote X2, for adding mathematical expressions, endnotes, and bibliographies to your documents. And the application's AppleScript capabilities have been seriously upgraded.

Jeffery Battersby is a regular contributor to Macworld, and writes about Macs and more at jeffbattersby.com.



NUMBERS '09

BY ROB GRIFFITHS

Spreadsheet handles formulas and charts better

In 2007, the programs that had previously made up Apple's iWork productivity suite gained a new stablemate: Numbers, a new take on the traditional spreadsheet. Numbers '08 (★★★½; macworld.com/4316) was easy to use and had an elegant interface, but it suffered from limited graphing options, was slow, and lacked AppleScript support. Numbers '09 addresses many of those problems.

Formulas

I'm an old spreadsheet hand, but I found creating formulas difficult in Numbers '08. For example, when you added a formula using the Formula tool in Numbers '08, variables in the formula would be inserted as word placeholders, as in =DATE(year, month, day). You would then have to erase those placeholders one by one before entering the values or pointers you wanted.

In the new version of Numbers, the variables in the formula appear in colored circles. To replace a variable with a value or cell reference, you click once on the variable to make it active, and then you either type a value or click in a cell on the table to insert a cell reference. This makes formula entry much simpler.

That's a particularly good thing, because Numbers now has over 250 functions to choose from. Fortunately, there's a convenient Formula List button on the toolbar that will display every function in your tables. For each function, you can see its location, results, and formula. You can even search this list, and perform find-and-replace operations on the formulas.

Charts

Charting is also greatly improved in Numbers '09. There's a new mixed-chart format that allows you to overlay one data set on another in the same graph (for example, a line graph on a bar chart), as well as a two-axis chart for graphing data with differing units and/or scales on one graph. You could, for instance, plot both rainfall amounts and wind speed over time on one graph, with differing axes for each data set.

Scientists and financial types will welcome the ability to add trend lines (using one of six different fitting equations) and error bars (positive,

negative, or both, using four predefined types or custom settings) to their graphs.

Tables

Numbers still doesn't support pivot tables, a common method of working with tabular data available in most other mainstream spreadsheet applications, but Numbers '09 adds a similar feature that Apple calls Table Categories.

Table Categories provides much of the power of pivot tables but bypasses most of the complexity of setting them up. You can create categories and subcategories for columnar data (for example, grouping by state, then by product type), and easily reorder the tables (grouping by, say, product type first, then state) with a couple of mouse clicks.

Another welcome change in Numbers '09 is the ability to link to live Numbers charts from within Pages and Keynote documents. You can update a linked chart with a simple button click. Unfortunately, you can't embed raw tabular data, just charts. Finally, Apple has added AppleScript support, so you can now do things like take the selection from a Numbers table and turn it into a Keynote bullet slide, all via AppleScript.

A number of more-subtle improvements appear throughout the program. For example, there are two interesting new number formats for worksheet cells: Duration (which you can assign to time-spanning values) and Numeral System (which lets you switch from the usual decimal system to binary, octal, or any other base). Cells can now have custom display formats, in addition to the formats provided by Numbers. You can create a password for a spreadsheet that users will be required to enter before opening the sheet. In addition, you can now freeze rows and columns, and fill up and to the left in addition to down and to the right.

Rob Griffiths is a senior editor at *Macworld*.

Presenter Display In Keynote's new Presenter Display, the four dots under the first slide denote builds; as each build plays, the dots change color.

KEYNOTE '09

BY FRANKLIN N. TESSLER

Presentation software gets updated interface, new effects

As someone who's relied heavily on Keynote since its debut, I scrutinize each release for fresh ways to jazz up my presentations and get my work done faster. Keynote '09 has several exciting new features—as well as a few old shortcomings.

Improved Interface

Although Keynote '09's main window and toolbars are almost untouched from those of the '08 version (4½; macworld.com/4317), Apple has added several welcome enhancements behind the scenes. For example, the redesigned Theme Chooser sports a drop-down menu that lists recently opened files, and it adds a slider that lets you magnify the theme thumbnails. As you mouse over them, Keynote displays some of a theme's masters along with a sample table, a pie chart, and a bar graph. That makes it easier to decide whether the theme is right for your presentation before you open the theme.

Relative-spacing and -sizing guides—new options in Keynote's Rulers Preferences—make it easier to distribute objects evenly or give two or more objects the same height or width. If you option-click on the red diamond at the bottom right of any slide element containing a motion path, the object and the ghosted versions of its alternate positions stay visible when you click anywhere else on the slide. That makes it much simpler to choreograph multiple objects.

Keynote's workflow improvements extend to the new Presenter Display. A small toolbar that appears when you move the cursor to the top of the screen lets you see miniatures of all your slides and jump to any one of them, or customize the Presenter Display on-the-fly. The digital timers at the bottom of the screen are easier to read, too.

New Transitions

Keynote '09 comes with several novel effects and nine new transitions. Magic Move, the most innovative of the bunch, is my favorite so far. Let's say you want to start a presentation with your company's logo centered and then have it move to the bottom right for the rest of the slides. To do that, you create a frame with the logo centered, duplicate the slide, drag the logo to the corner of the duplicate, and finally apply the Magic Move transition to the first slide. When

you play the show, Keynote generates a smooth motion path between the logo's two positions.

Magic Move works even if you change the size of an object: Keynote makes that object bigger or smaller automatically. Though it's not documented in the user guide, I found that Magic Move applies to other object attributes such as fill, stroke, shadow, reflection, and opacity. A similar transition transforms one text string into another with an anagram, shimmering, sparkling, or swinging effect.

Anyone who presents scientific and other technical information will appreciate Keynote's new charting and table options. For the first time, Keynote lets you display error bars on graphs as a fixed value, percentage, standard error, or standard deviation. You can display trend lines for some charts, and you can show the equations and values that were used to calculate them.

Keynote's table features have improved, as well. In addition to the seven existing cell formats, Keynote '09 supports Duration, which formats numbers as units of time, and Numeral System, which shows cell values in any base from 2 to 36. There's even a feature that lets you define custom cell display formats.

Magic Move Keynote's new Magic Move transition effect lets you move and resize text from one slide to the next; it also works on fills, strokes, and more.

What's Missing

Regrettably, Apple hasn't remedied one of my long-standing complaints: Keynote still doesn't let you play audio files that span only a selection of slides. Plus, I was disappointed to find out that Keynote doesn't mark hyperlinked text that's already been clicked on.

I wasn't shocked to learn that Apple has dropped support for Flash export, which never worked well anyway, but I was a bit surprised to find that the company has also dropped Web View, an old feature that let you display Web pages on slides. And my wish list for Keynote still includes a robust, timeline-based approach to managing animations; it's not in Keynote '09.

Franklin N. Tessler is a university professor in Birmingham, Alabama.

FIRST LOOK | iWork.com

Apple's new iWork.com (www.iwork.com)—in its current prerelease form—is not a collaborative online productivity tool like Google Docs (www.google.com/docs) or Zoho (www.zoho.com). You can use iWork.com to share documents, spreadsheets, and presentations from iWork '09, but the people you share them with will only be able to view, download, and comment on them; they won't be able to edit them.

How It Works

Each iWork '09 app now has an iWork.com button on its toolbar (as well as a Share Via iWork.com menu item). Press on that button from any active document, and you'll be asked to enter the e-mail addresses of the people you want to share it with. You can add a message and specify whether the people you're sharing with can comment on the document, download it, or both. If you click on the Advanced button, you can specify which file formats iWork will upload: in Numbers, for example, you can specify Numbers '09, Numbers '08, PDF, and Excel.

The recipients on your "To" list will get an e-mail informing them of the shared file. Following the link from that message, they can read your document in their browsers. They can also highlight text and click on an Add Comment button to comment on the selected text. In addition, they can download a copy of the file; a drop-down menu lets them choose which file format they want.

How It Compares

The one thing collaborators won't be able to do is edit the document you've shared with them; there are no Edit buttons or any other tools that would let them change text in Pages, a Numbers spreadsheet, or a Keynote presentation. In its current form, iWork.com is just for viewing and sharing. And for the time being at least, any comments that are made to online copies of your documents won't sync back to the copies on your machine; if you want to have the commented versions, you will have to download them.

iWork.com Sharing When you click on the iWork.com button from any iWork '09 app, you'll be able to invite others to view an online copy of a document.

That said, iWork.com does have one advantage over the online suites: those online tools don't have the page-layout tools that iWork does. And, for the most part, iWork.com will let online viewers see your iWork documents with their layouts, formatting, and embedded graphics intact. But colleagues won't see absolutely everything; for example, movies and animations embedded in Keynote presentations won't play.—DAN MILLER

Build a Better BROWSER

THE BEST ADD-ONS FOR SAFARI AND FIREFOX

If you're like me, you spend more time in your browser than you do in any other program. And it's not just because of the vast amount of information available on the Web today. With the emergence of the social Web, our browsers are also what we turn to for playing games, chatting with friends, looking at photos, and watching TV.

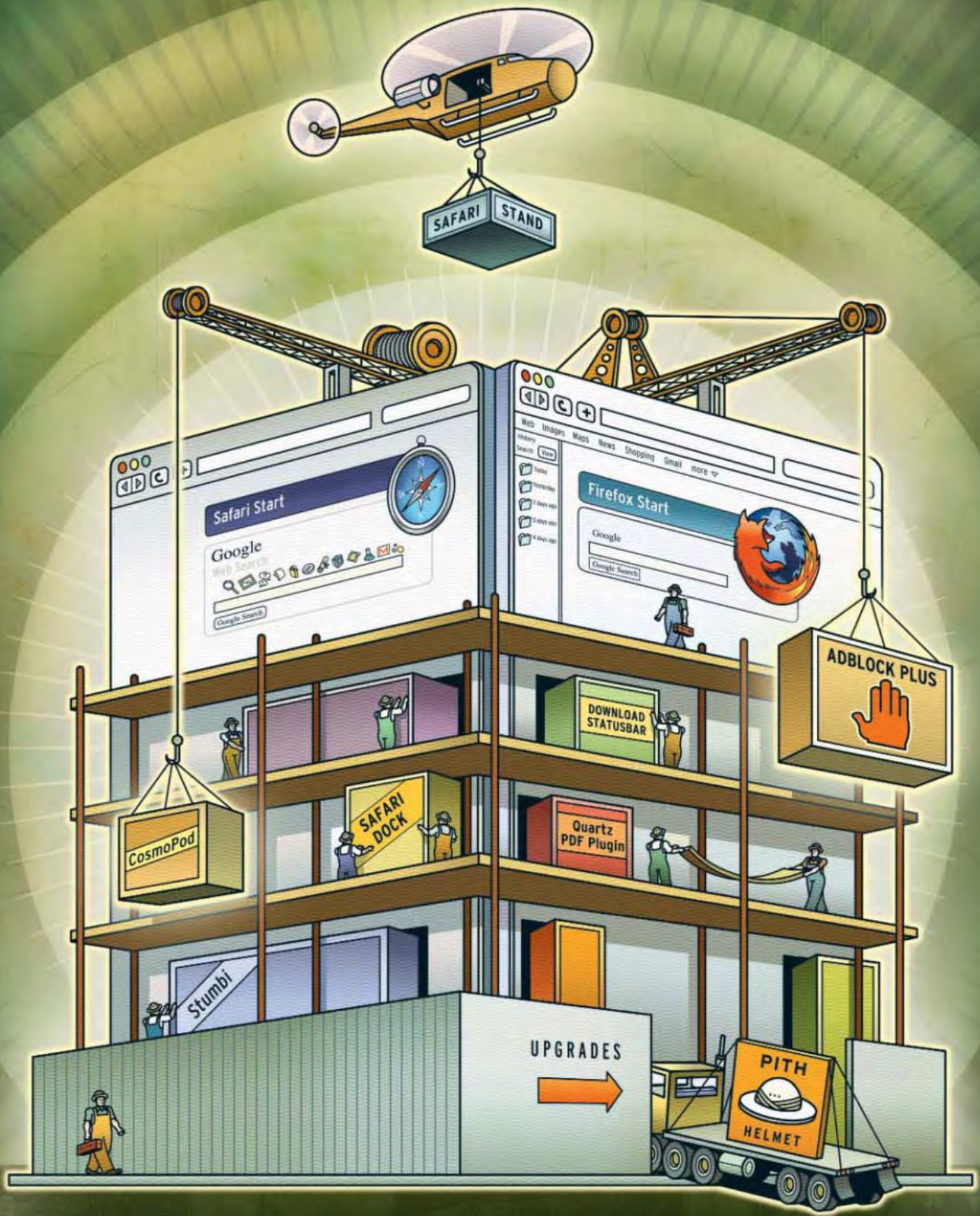
Chances are, as a Mac user you use Firefox or Safari (or both) as your browser. The default installations of both programs work well enough. But it isn't hard to make both of them work even better. And given the amount of time you spend with your browser, that little effort can pay big dividends.

Firefox's biggest advantage over Safari is its support for a huge library of easy-to-install third-party add-ons. Just select Tools: Add-ons to get started. Then, to add a specific extension, click on the Get Add-ons tab and search for it. Or just click on Browse All Add-ons to see what's out there.

Safari, on the other hand, doesn't officially support third-party add-ons. But that hasn't stopped programmers from developing them. The installation process for Safari add-ons isn't as easy as it is with Firefox. Certain add-ons have their own installer utilities; others require that you manually copy files yourself. Some users have found that Safari add-ons make their browsers (or their systems) unstable; as always, an up-to-date backup is your best protection if something does go wrong. Also, updates to Safari or OS X can break these unsupported extensions, rendering them worthless until their developers figure out workarounds.

Here are 21 of my favorite add-ons for Firefox and Safari—and in case those aren't enough for you, I've also compiled a few of my favorite setting adjustments for both browsers (see "Browser Preferences: Safari" and "Browser Preferences: Firefox").

BY ROB GRIFFITHS | ILLUSTRATIONS BY PETER AND MARIA HOEY


SAFARI STAND
Safari Start
Google
Firefox Start
Google
ADBLOCK PLUS
DOWNLOAD STATUSBAR
CosmoPod
SAFARI DOCK
Quartz PDF Plugin
Stumbi
UPGRADES
PITH HELMET

Save Login Info 1Password makes it easy to securely save and synchronize Web site login info.

1PASSWORD

$40 | AGILE WEB SOLUTIONS | AGILEWEBSOLUTIONS.COM

Logging in to Web sites is something we do all day. While Safari and Firefox both have password-management tools, the classic 1Password goes far beyond what they can offer. At the simplest level, 1Password securely stores (using OS X's Keychain) user names and passwords, and fills them in for the Web sites you visit. But it does much more: it can store multiple credentials (user names and passwords) for a single site, automatically generate (and remember) strong passwords, fill in personal information on registration forms, and let you share saved login information across Macs and with different browsers. 1Password works not only with Firefox and Safari, but also with Flock, Camino, OmniWeb, Fluid, and even NetNewsWire.

Adblock Plus

FREE | ADBLOCK PLUS | ADBLOCKPLUS.ORG

Advertising is what keeps (most of) the Web free—somebody has to pay for all that content, and that someone is almost always an advertiser. That said, some ad-supported sites go overboard, piling on so many advertisements and pop-ups that you can't even read the content you came for. Adblock Plus is the solution for sites like that. It gives you full control over the items you'd like to block on a page. It also lets you quickly view blocked content, specify the elements you don't want blocked in the future, and disable the program for sites where the ads aren't so obnoxious. Just remember that if you block all ads everywhere, you may someday find yourself saying, "I remember when the Internet was free...."

Cooliris

FREE | COOLIRIS | COOLIRIS.COM

If you spend a lot of time browsing Google Images or YouTube, or if you find it easier to shop when you can easily see a product, you should definitely check out Cooliris. This plug-in turns your browser into a full-screen image viewer. It's configured to work with a number of image-centric sites. For instance, it lets you search for images on Flickr and then view them in a beautiful full-screen interface not unlike OS X's Cover Flow. You can browse Amazon.com, iTunes, and other online retailers. You can browse topics such as news, sports, music, TV, and movies, all from Cooliris's visual interface. You can also jump into that interface by clicking on thumbnails in Google Images search results. Just keep in mind that Cooliris is a full-screen interface: it takes over your whole screen and keyboard; to regain control, you have to press the escape key. But for browsing image-centric information, Cooliris is, well, cool.

The 3-D Image Wall Cooliris turns your browser into a full-screen image viewer. You can browse travel destinations, shop at numerous online merchants, watch YouTube videos, and much more.

CosmoPod

€6.90 | COCOAMUG SOFTWARE | WWW.COCOAMUG.COM

There may be other ways to transfer videos from the Web to your iPod, but CosmoPod is the simplest I've found. After you install it, a CosmoPod button in Safari's toolbar will activate whenever there's a convertible video on the page you're viewing. Click on that button, and CosmoPod will download the video, convert it to iPod format, and transfer it to iTunes. You'll then be switched over to iTunes, and the video's Info dialog box will already be open so you can add details about the video you've just downloaded. From Flash to Windows Media, if Safari can play it, CosmoPod can convert it and put it on your iPod.

CustomizeGoogle

FREE | CUSTOMIZEGOOGLE | WWW.CUSTOMIZEGOOGLE.COM

Maybe you think it produces the best results. Or maybe you just never bothered to change the default in Firefox. Whatever the reason, chances are you use Google as your search

engine. In either case, you can get more out of Google searches with Customize-Google. This Firefox extension lets you change the way Google's various search engines—Web, Images, News, Products, and so on—display their results. You can, for example, filter specific sites from search results or make your search preferences persistent.

Download Statusbar

FREE | DEVON JENSEN | MACWORLD.COM/4291

Most browsers, including Firefox, use a separate window to track downloads from the Net. If you have a lot of windows open, however, finding that Downloads window can be a pain. That's why I rely on Download Statusbar. It displays the status of downloads in a download bar at the bottom of your browser window. Mouse over a download in progress, and a pop-up box shows you the file's source, its local destination, its percentage of completion, its download rate, and the estimated time to completion. Control-click on the download, and a contextual menu lets you pause, resume, or cancel the download; copy the source URL; or visit the source Web site. The contextual menu also lets you rename downloaded files, move an entry from the bar, delete a downloaded file from your system, open a download's parent folder, or open an item. With Download Statusbar installed, I never need to look for the Downloads window.

Foxmarks Bookmark Synchronizer

FREE | FOXMARKS | WWW.FOXMARKS.COM

If your household is all Mac and you use Safari and MobileMe, you can easily sync your bookmarks between all your machines. But what if you prefer Firefox, or your home isn't all Mac? If that's the case, you'll want to get Foxmarks. This add-on will sync your bookmarks (using the free Foxmarks.com service) across any number of Mac, Windows, or Linux machines running Firefox. If you want, you can even set it up to sync passwords or create profiles, so different machines sync different bookmarks. I've been using Foxmarks for quite a while now, and it keeps the bookmarks on my family's four Macs in perfect sync.

GooglePreview

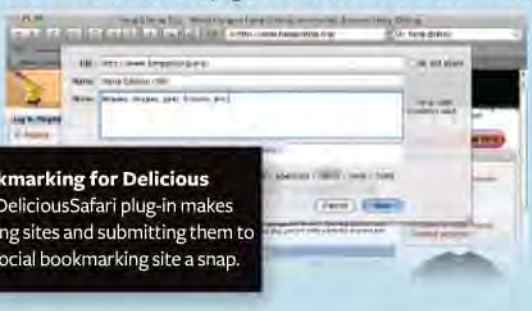
PAYMENT REQUESTED | EDWARD ACKROYD | ACKROYD.DE/GOOGLEPREVIEW

The simple add-on GooglePreview adds two very useful features to Google and Yahoo search-results pages: it displays a preview image and the popularity ranking of each listed site. With those two pieces of information, you can easily identify which pages are likely to

DELICIOUSSAFARI

$10 | DELICIOUSSAFARI | DELICIOUSSAFARI.COM

DeliciousSafari makes using the social bookmarking site Delicious much easier. It adds a Save To Delicious button to Safari's toolbar; one click on that button bookmarks the current page in Delicious. DeliciousSafari also adds a Delicious menu item that provides quick access to your tags and recently bookmarked sites. You can even create and arrange your favorite tags, which appear directly in the Delicious menu. You can also use that menu to jump to the Delicious Web site.



Bookmarking for Delicious The DeliciousSafari plug-in makes tagging sites and submitting them to the social bookmarking site a snap.

BROWSER PREFERENCES:

SAFARI

While add-ons are great for bringing new features to a browser, modifying your browser's preferences can also improve your browsing experience. Here are a few of my favorite Safari tweaks.

If you use tabs for browsing, go to the General tab in Safari's preferences and choose In A New Tab In The Current Window as the Open Links From Applications option. This will force links from Mail, iChat, and other programs to open in a new tab in the current window.

Next, on the Security tab, choose Only From Sites You Navigate To as your Accept Cookies option. This will prevent most advertisers from creating cookies on your machine.

Finally, close the preferences and make sure that you've selected Show Status Bar in Safari's View menu. (If you have, you should see Hide Status Bar there.)

Outside Safari, make sure you've selected Bookmarks in the Sync tab of the MobileMe preferences. Then you won't have to remember which bookmarks are on what machine.

Block Cookies in Safari To prevent advertisers from tracking your Web whereabouts, tell Safari to accept cookies only from sites you navigate to.

Speed Dialer for Browsing Fast Dial lets you create icon shortcuts to frequently visited sites.

FAST DIAL

FREE | TELEGA | MACWORLD.COM/4296

Fast Dial is a speed-dialer for your browser. Just as most phones can assign easy-to-press keypad combos to frequently dialed numbers, Fast Dial turns a blank browser window into a collection of one-touch shortcut icons for your favorite sites. Fast Dial lets you specify how many icons you'd like to see on the screen, giving you fine-grained control over size, color, and font options. While viewing any page, you can add it to Fast Dial via the contextual menu. Once you've created your shortcuts, you can rearrange them in the window via drag and drop, and you can set custom icons for each. You can also assign keyboard shortcuts to your Fast Dial shortcuts—press the A key to load Apple's site, for instance. (Firefox already lets you do that, but Fast Dial makes it easier.)

contain the information you're after. GooglePreview doesn't offer much in the way of preferences—you can enable or disable the image preview and popularity indicator, specify a maximum number of images per page, and enable a small logo in the Firefox status bar (this logo lets you quickly toggle GooglePreview on and off).

Inquisitor

FREE | YAHOO | WWW.INQUISITORX.COM

Inquisitor (acquired last year by Yahoo) speeds your Web searches by displaying likely matches (for Google and Yahoo) before you even run your search. As you type in your browser's search bar, Inquisitor displays a drop-down menu that first shows likely matches for the words you're typing, and then displays teasers from the first few search results. Click on one of the automatic completions, and Inquisitor will run your search with the selected word; click on a teaser, and it'll take you to the chosen page. With Inquisitor installed, I often don't even need to go to the search results page: the teasers alone show me what I'm looking for. By default, you'll see three Web sites listed in the drop-down menu, but you can increase that to a maximum of six.

PithHelmet

$10 | MIKE SOLOMON | MACWORLD.COM/4293

Like Adblock Plus for Firefox, PithHelmet helps you control sites that have run amok with their advertising. With its default settings, it blocks a good amount of advertising, and you can customize it to block things that get through the default configuration. You can also create Allow and Block rules for even more control—allowing ads on sites where you'd like to see them, for instance. As noted with Adblock Plus, keep in mind that advertising is what keeps much of the free Web free. Blocking every ad on every site you visit isn't a good way to ensure that it stays that way.

See Previews of Google Search Results GooglePreview shows you a small thumbnail and the popularity ranking of each page in your results list.

Quartz PDF Plugin

FREE | GOOGLE | MACWORLD.COM/3807

One of Safari's big advantages over Firefox is its ability to display PDFs in the browser—using either Safari's built-in support or the more full-featured Adobe Reader plug-in. Firefox, on the other hand, has no native PDF support, so PDFs must be shuffled off to another program for viewing. While Preview is more than up to this task, sometimes it's nice to be able to view a PDF directly in the browser. In those cases, the free Firefox-Mac-PDF (which, after you install it in Firefox, will appear as Quartz PDF Plugin) does the job. It opens PDFs directly in Firefox, using Apple's PDFKit. Then you can save the PDF or use a contextual menu to change zoom level and page-display and scrolling options. While not as feature-rich as the Adobe plug-in for Safari, it's more than sufficient for browsing the occasional PDF.

Read It Later

FREE | THE IDEA SHOWER | WWW.IDEASHOWER.COM

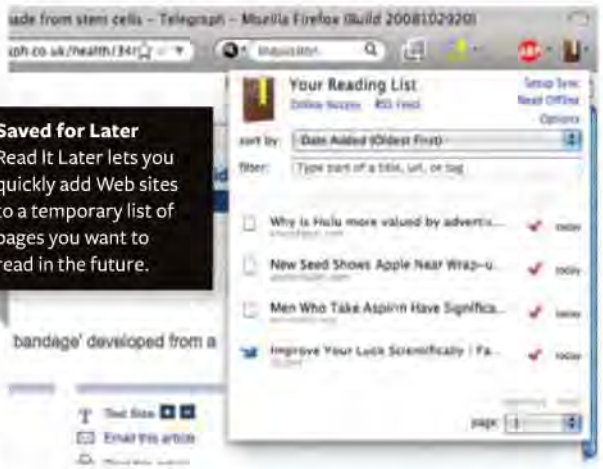
Ever come across interesting Web links that you can't visit right away but want to call upon later? I used to handle that with a To Be Read bookmarks folder. The problem was

that I didn't check that folder often enough, and when I did, it was so full that I usually just deleted everything in it. Read It Later is the solution to this problem. When you find a site of interest, you flag it by clicking on a check-mark icon in the URL bar. You can then see flagged sites by clicking on the Read It Later icon in Firefox's toolbar. That opens a drop-down menu showing sites you've saved and how long they've been in there. Select an entry to read it, and that site will vanish from the list. You can then decide whether to make it a permanent bookmark. Another useful feature is Click To Save mode: when it's enabled, every link you click on is added to your Read It Later queue—it's a great way to browse news or social-networking sites like Digg.

SafariDockStatus

FREE | SPOTTHEHALL | SPOTTHEHALL.COM

If you use Safari to read news (RSS) feeds, you might wish for a way to tell how many unread articles you have waiting for you. Using SafariDockStatus, you can do just that. It puts a little red number badge (much like Mail's unread-message Dock icon) on the Safari Dock icon. There aren't many options here at all—just a slider that lets you control the badge's size. SafariDockStatus is a one-trick pony, but it's a good trick that works well.



Saved for Later
Read It Later lets you quickly add Web sites to a temporary list of pages you want to read in the future.

SafariStand

PAYMENT REQUESTED | HETIMA | HETIMA.COM

SafariStand is a do-nearly-everything add-on for Safari. It lets you use graphical thumbnails for tabs (à la OmniWeb), type abbreviations in the URL bar to run quick searches (for example, typing `g cars` will run a Google search for *cars*), search as you type (as in Firefox), change tabs via single-key shortcuts, apply syntax coloring to a page's source code (great for programmers), and create workspaces (a set of bookmarks saved as a unit). SafariStand's only downside is that large pieces of the English version of the documentation are missing or unclear (the developer is Japanese). Still, it adds a lot of power to Safari, so working your way through the interface is worth the effort.

Stumbi

$4 | SOYA SOFTWARE | WWW.SOYASOFTWARE.COM

If you use the StumbleUpon social-networking Web site to discover sites you might be interested in, you're probably aware that the site doesn't offer a Safari-specific plug-in; in fact, StumbleUpon supports and recommends Firefox. There are workarounds involving JavaScript-based bookmarks, but they're far from ideal. Instead, try out Stumbi, which creates a new menu in Safari. After you enter your

BROWSER PREFERENCES: FIREFOX

You can tweak Firefox's internal settings to make it a better browser. Here are the adjustments I most recommend.

In the Privacy tab in Firefox: Preferences, make sure Accept Third-Party Cookies is *not* selected; this will prevent third parties from creating cookies on your machine.

Unlike Safari, Firefox doesn't use OS X's Keychain; your user-name and password details are stored in the Firefox application bundle. If you use a laptop, you should set a master password to protect this data in case your laptop is lost or stolen. Click on the Security tab, select Use A Master Password, and enter a password when prompted.

In the General tab of Firefox's Advanced preferences, select the Search For Text When I Start Typing option. Then you can quickly find what you want on a page without having to first press ⌘-F.

If you jump between Firefox and Safari (or other browsers) regularly, you might want to force Firefox to act more like Safari. In Safari, for example, clicking once on an address in the URL bar will merely place the cursor where you click; in Firefox, that single click will select the entire URL. To make Firefox behave like Safari, type `about:config` in the URL bar and press return. In the screen that appears, type `browser.urlbar.clickSelectsAll` in the Filter box. Double-click anywhere on the result of that search, and the Value column will change to False. Close the window; a click will now position the cursor in the URL bar. (If you prefer it the other way, just repeat this process but leave Value set to True.)

Here's another Firefox behavior Safari users find disconcerting: Pressing your keyboard's delete key is the equivalent of clicking on the browser's Back button (unless the cursor is in a text field). To disable this, type `about:config` in the URL bar. Then, in the Filter box, type `browser.backspace_action`. Double-click on the search result and enter **2** in the dialog box that appears; then click on OK. (Follow these instructions again but change **2** to **0** to reverse the procedure.)

StumbleUpon login information, you can easily stumble to a site (that is, choose a site at random), give a page a thumbs-up or a thumbs-down, e-mail its URL to someone, or see all the StumbleUpon reviews associated with a site. While not nearly as full-featured as the Firefox StumbleUpon toolbar, it works quite well for basic stumbling.

StumbleUpon

FREE | STUMBLEUPON | WWW.STUMBLEUPON.COM

The official StumbleUpon plug-in for Firefox is much more feature-rich than its unofficial Safari counterpart. Once it's installed, a new toolbar appears in Firefox. From there, you can stumble to random sites, stumble by channel, find new friends, send pages to contacts, and much more. There's also a configuration panel that lets you choose which channels and controls appear on the toolbar; choose whether to highlight recommended search results on Google, Yahoo, and so on; control the way StumbleUpon pages open; and even create keyboard shortcuts for various StumbleUpon tasks. If you're serious about StumbleUpon, you'll definitely want to install and use this add-on.

Surf Canyon

FREE | SURF CANYON | WWW.SURFCANYON.COM

If search results from Google, Yahoo, MSN, and Craigslist don't give you the detail you want, Surf Canyon may be the add-on you've been looking for. When you do a search with Surf Canyon installed, you'll see a bull's-eye next to each result. Click on the bull's-eye next to the result that looks like what you want, and Surf Canyon will recommend three other pages that should also be close to what you want. (You can adjust that number up to a maximum of six.) You can continue to drill down in this fashion, clicking on bull's-eyes until you find just what you want. Surf Canyon can also show you inline images for items on sale on Craigslist; without it, you have to click into the item's ad page to see the attached pictures. Finally, as you click into results and back to your search results, Surf Canyon will actually modify those results in real time, based on the pages you're viewing.

Targeted Searching The Surf Canyon extension for Firefox beefs up your search results in Google, Yahoo, MSN, and Craigslist, letting you identify search results you like and showing you more like them.

Web Snapper

$15 | TASTY APPS | TASTYAPPS.COM

Have you ever tried to print a Web page to PDF? The result isn't always the most readable thing—page breaks can happen in the middle of graphics or blocks of text, and the margins may not be quite what you expected. Web Snapper (formerly known as Red Snapper [macworld.com/3285]) addresses this problem by creating PDFs that exactly replicate what you see on your screen. Web Snapper integrates with Safari via a toolbar button—you click on it to take a picture of the current site—but it will work with any browser as a stand-alone application that accepts drag-and-drop URLs. Regardless of how you invoke it, Web Snapper converts the URL it was given into a continuous PDF with everything on the page looking pretty much as you originally saw it in the browser.

Tab Management With Tab Mix Plus for Firefox, you have complete control over all aspects of tab display.

TAB MIX PLUS

FREE | GARY REYES | MACWORLD.COM/1587

One of my favorite features in any Web browser is support for tabs—given the number of pages I open and close all day long, being able to manage them all in just one window is a huge time-saver. For a tab addict like me, Tab Mix Plus makes tabs even more useful. This Firefox add-on gives you seemingly infinite control over tab behavior. I find the customizable contextual tab menu particularly useful: control-click on a tab, and you can then duplicate the tab, copy its URL, close it, close all other tabs, protect it (protected tabs can't be closed), and much more. You can also add tab-centric entries to the main contextual menu, as well as the menu bar's Tools menu. Beyond that, you can set behaviors for both cursor gestures and clicks, so you can completely control the way tabs and your mouse interact. It's an invaluable companion if you use tabs at all.

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Smart Finder Strategies

Save time by getting the right perspective on your files **BY KIRK MCELHEARN**

One program every Mac owner uses is the Finder. It's your Mac's filing system, organizational structure, and overseer. We all know how to open, move, and copy files, but most of us go about our business without ever considering the most efficient way to get these tasks done. As a prime example, you can use the Finder's View menu options to view files and folders in four different ways, but most people don't know why they'd bother. They stick to one view for all their windows when, in fact, there are valid reasons to use each. Here's how to use the right view at the right time, and save time and trouble in the process. (Also see "The 5 Most Underused Finder Tools.")

Flexible Icon View

OS X uses Icon view by default. Select it by choosing View: As Icons, pressing ⌘-1, or clicking on the Icon view button in a Finder window's toolbar (see "Icon View"). This view shows your files as familiar icons. Some people like Icon view because they can arrange file icons as if they were objects on a desk—for example, one group of related items on the left side of a Finder window, and another on the right. Others *don't* like Icon view for the same reason—icons can get messy and confusing. (They're easy to straighten up, though. Choose View: Clean Up, and the icons snap to a grid.)

Icon Options Not only can you place icons wherever you please, but you can also change how this view looks. From the View Options inspector (View: Show View Options or ⌘-J), you can, for example, adjust grid spacing (how closely together icons appear) and choose a color or picture as a folder background. The latter option (rarely used) lets you set, say, a green background for folders containing important files, and a blue background for folders containing documents you need to edit. Just press ⌘-J, click on Color (in the Background section near the bottom of the View Options window), and then click on the color wheel. When the color picker appears, choose your color and click on OK. The different backgrounds help you tell multiple windows apart at a glance.

The options you set in the View Options inspector apply only to the selected folder, unless you select the Use As Defaults option—this will apply the change to all folders that use the current view and that haven't already been customized in some way. (The Use As Defaults option will also apply the appearance to new Finder windows you open using File: New Finder Window or ⌘-N.) This can come in handy when a certain option proves useful for specific types of files. For instance, choose the Show Icon Preview option to make the Finder display a thumbnail of files' contents (for file types it's familiar with). Since this is most useful for photos and

Brush Up on the Basics

Whether you're new to the Mac or you just want a refresher, check out the *Mac Basics Superguide*, Leopard Edition. To order the downloadable PDF, the CD, or the full-color printed book, go to macworld.com/superguide.

ILLUSTRATION BY CHRIS GASH

Icon View Click on the Icon view button (circled) for a view that lets you work with your files and folders much as if they were on an *actual* desktop. If things get messy, as they have here, choose View: Clean Up, and the icons will snap to a grid.

videos—you can see their contents at a glance—you can turn previews on only for folders that contain those file types.

Likewise, you might use the Arrange By option in different ways depending on a folder's contents. Open your Downloads folder (*yourusername*/Downloads), activate View Options, and then select Date Modified from the Arrange By menu to see the most recent files at the top left corner of the folder. In a folder containing videos you want to burn to a DVD, you might choose Arrange By Size to see the largest files first, so you can choose which ones you can fit on the disc.

Compact List View

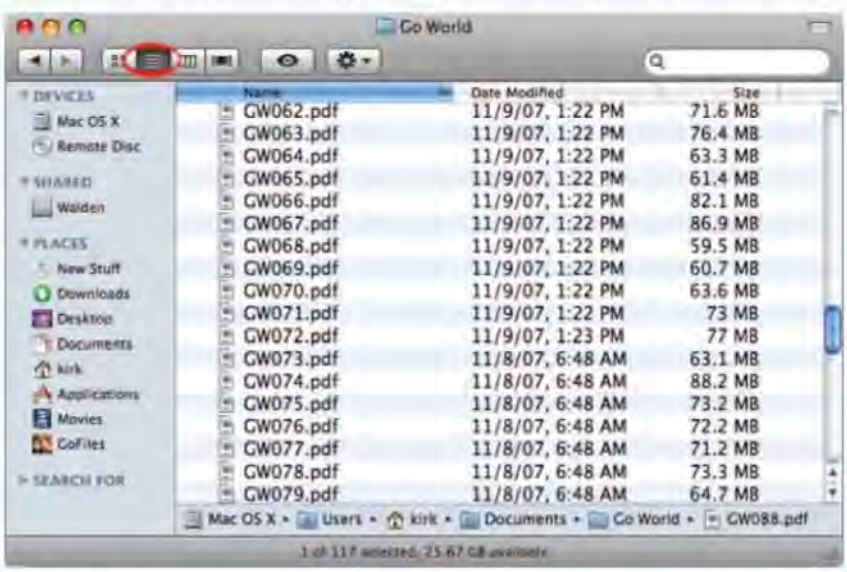
If Icon view were the only choice for organizing files, many Mac users would be lost. Lots of people prefer the more compact List view (View: As List, ⌘-2, or click on the List view button in the Finder toolbar). In this view, you see file names, dates (when the files were either created or modified), sizes, and more (see "List View"). The View Options inspector lets you choose which columns to display. Since List view is made up of columns, it's easy to change the order your files appear in; just click on a column header to choose an attribute to sort by. For example, click on Date Modified to see the most recently changed files at the top of the list, and click on that header again to change the sort order and show the oldest files at the top.

You'll probably find List view most practical for folders that contain lots of files you want to be able to sort by name, date, size, or kind. You have the option of displaying a preview icon as part of the list: List view has two icon sizes—small ones are tiny, and large ones are 24 pixels wide. Although they can provide an at-a-glance way to see what types of files you're dealing with, these icons aren't really big enough to be very helpful. If you use List view a lot, a better way to see file previews is to open a special Info window (⌘-option-I). Unlike the Info window that displays when you press ⌘-I, this window stays visible, changing its display whenever you click on a new file. You can see good-size previews of your images here, as well as play music and movie files. You can also open any file, folder, or application by double-clicking on this preview.

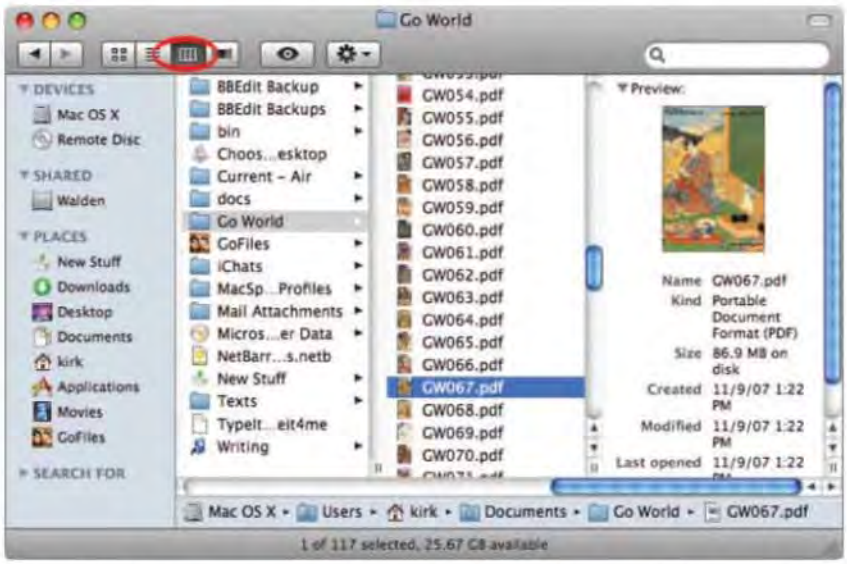
One of List view's biggest advantages is that you can open folders and browse their contents in the same window. Click on the disclosure triangle next to a folder's name, and the folder's contents appear below. You can open and close as many folders as you want, and go to as many sublevels as you want. To close a folder, click on the disclosure triangle again and the list of contents disappears.

Powerful Column View

I know many people who swear by Column view (View: As Columns, ⌘-3, or click on the Column view button in the Finder toolbar). It shows your files within their hierarchy—you see the folders and files above and below the current folder;



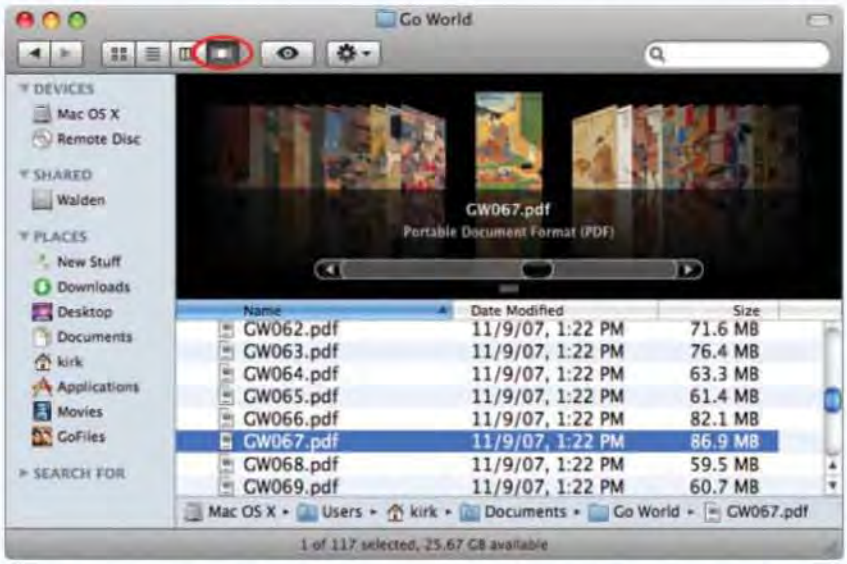
List View List view may not be very exciting to look at, but its columns can give you a lot of information about a file or folder at a glance.



Column View Column view (see circled icon) lets you see at a glance where your files are in your Finder hierarchy. Though you can't view many details about *groups* of files, the preview column gives you a lot of information about individual files.

each level is a separate column. This makes it easy to move files without having to open multiple Finder windows. Just drag a file from one spot to another in the hierarchy (see "Column View"). So Column view is helpful, for example, when you need to zip up and down your Mac's hierarchy to find specific files and move or copy them to other locations. However, this view can get confusing, especially because when you click on a folder, the Finder may shift all of the window's columns to display its contents. You may have to scroll back and forth horizontally to keep track of things.

You can arrange files according to name, date, size, and so on in Column view by choosing these options from the View Options window, but only the items' names are displayed. So Column view is not useful when you need more information than just names. However,



Cover Flow Cover Flow isn't practical for managing files and folders, but it can be useful when you need a quick way to look through a bunch of files that OS X can preview.

you can choose to see a useful preview column, which shows a large thumbnail of the selected item. Here you can preview photos and videos along with all the file information List view provides, such as size, creation and modification dates, and more.

Taming Column View Column view can be tricky. For example, it can be hard to figure out how to make new folders appear where you want. This is just a question of being in the right column. Make sure you click on an item (*not* a folder) in a column before pressing ⌘-shift-N to make a new folder in that column. If you click on a folder, the new folder will appear *inside* that folder.

If you have trouble with file names getting cut off in columns, there are a few quick ways to make them legible. Resize a single column by dragging the very bottom of one of the column dividers until you can see the longest file name. Alternatively, double-click on the divider to make it that size automatically. You can option–double-click to make *all* columns as wide as the widest column in the Finder window, but this can make the window unmanageably huge. It's usually better to resize all the columns at the same time by pressing and holding the option key while you drag.

When you use Column view in an Open or Save dialog box, you have one more way to resize. Control-click on the column divider icon, and you'll see a contextual menu. Choose from Right Size This Column, Right Size All Columns Individually, or Right Size All Columns Equally (go to macworld.com/4236 for more about Column view tricks in Open or Save dialog boxes).

Quick and Pretty Cover Flow View

Apple introduced Cover Flow view in OS X 10.5 (Leopard). Choose View: As Cover Flow, press ⌘-4, or click on the Cover Flow button in the Finder toolbar to view your files and folders as glossy graphics, with reflections, in the top section of a window; the same files are shown in a list in the window's bottom section. (There's no way to change that bottom section's appearance.) Cover Flow is a great way to

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The 5 Most Underused Finder Tools

1 Spring-Loaded Folders If you drag a file over a folder and pause, the folder will pop open and show its contents after a short delay. Drag the file over another folder in that window, and that folder will also open. Use this "spring-loaded folder" feature to move files deep into your folder hierarchy without having to open individual windows. And there are two shortcuts: press the spacebar while holding a file over a folder to open that folder immediately, and press the escape key to cancel a move before you release a file. This feature is on by default. If you'd like to change the delay, go to Finder: Preferences and adjust the Spring-Loaded Folders And Windows Delay slider.

2 The Toolbar Have certain files, folders, or even programs that you want to access quickly from any Finder window? Drag their icons onto the Finder's toolbar at the top of the window. Drag an icon to a space in the toolbar—say, to the right of the buttons—and wait a second; the cursor will show a plus-sign (+) icon, and then the item will be added to that space. To remove an icon from the toolbar, ⌘-drag it. Control-click on the toolbar and select Customize Toolbar from the contextual menu for even more options.

3 The Path Bar Choose View: Show Path Bar to reveal this bar at the bottom of your Finder windows. It shows you exactly where the selected file is in your computer's folder hierarchy, no matter which view you're in. You can drag files or folders into other folders shown in the path bar, so this is a good way to move files up to a higher level in your hierarchy. You can also go to any folder by double-clicking on it in the path bar.

4 Proxy Icons That tiny folder icon you see in the title bar of every Finder window next to the folder's name is more than just eye candy. Control-click on it to reveal a pop-up menu showing the current folder hierarchy. Select a folder to jump there. If you hold down the ⌘ key while selecting a folder, it opens in a new Finder window.

5 Arrow Keys There's no need to click your way around the Finder. Press ⌘-up arrow to move up in your folder hierarchy, and ⌘-down arrow to enter a folder or open a file or program. Press a single arrow key to move around in a window. Press the up- and down-arrow keys to move around in List view, Column view, and Cover Flow view. Press the right- and left-arrow keys to move around in Icon view.

view your iTunes library, but it's not very useful for everyday file management because it limits the number of files you can see at one time.

That said, Cover Flow view is a wonderful tool when you need to sift through a folder of photos, videos, or even text files, as long as OS X can display the contents of those files (see "Cover Flow").

If you increase the size of your window, Cover Flow view can display *huge* previews that are easy to examine. This is helpful, for example, when you need to find a Word document or a Numbers spreadsheet with specific content at the beginning. (No matter how big the preview is, Cover Flow displays only the document's first page.)

See More

All four Finder views can display some kind of preview, but nothing compares with Leopard's Quick Look. Use it in any view by selecting a file and pressing the spacebar. If the Finder can read the file type, a Quick Look window pops open and displays the file's contents. You don't have to wait for a program to load or the file to open, which means that you save a lot of time in many circumstances (for instance, with files created in the slow-loading Adobe Photoshop).

Quick Look can be more or less interactive for different types of files. For Apple Numbers and Microsoft Excel workbooks, you can click on worksheets to see their contents. You can scroll through Microsoft Word documents and Apple Keynote presentations, and you can click on links in HTML pages. Have a folder full of files you want to examine closely but quickly? Select the files and then press the spacebar.

You'll see a number of tools displayed at the bottom of the Quick Look window. Click on the Previous and Next arrows to move through your files. Click on the Play button to display them as a slide show. Click on the Index Sheet button to see all the files' previews at once, or click on Full Screen to make the preview fill your screen. If you decide that you want to preview a different file, don't close the Quick Look window; rather, just click on a different file. The Quick Look window will update to show the selected item.

If your Quick Look previews look bad, there might be a workaround. For example, to get a good Quick Look view of an Apple Pages file, you need to do a little work beforehand. Select Pages: Preferences, click on General, and select the Include Preview In Document By Default option. (You can also select the Include Preview In Document option when you save a file.) There are many third-party plug-ins (www.quicklookplugins.com) that can increase the number of file types—say, Flash media or installer packages—Quick Look can display. We recently reviewed a few of our favorite Quick Look plug-ins (macworld.com/4238).

One disadvantage of Quick Look is that its floating window appears only when you're in the Finder. If you switch to another program, it disappears. It doesn't close, though; just switch back to the Finder to see it again. Press the spacebar to dismiss it.

Increase Your Finder Smarts

You spend a lot of time in the Finder, so learning about its many possibilities can save you time and give you more power over your files and folders. Mastering Finder views is one of the first steps to becoming a real Mac power user.

Senior Contributor **Kirk McElhearn** writes about more than just Macs on his blog, Kirkville (www.mcelhearn.com).

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The Buddha

Buddhism always comes back to its stories—of the Buddha himself, and of the ways others have lived their lives in the attempt to follow his example.

About Your Professor

Dr. Malcolm David Eckel is Associate Professor of Religion at Boston University. He earned his Masters in Theology at Oxford and Ph.D. in the study of comparative religion at Harvard. In 1998, Professor Eckel received the Metcalf Award for Teaching Excellence, his university's highest award for teaching.

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8. Buddhist Art and Architecture
9. Theravada Buddhism in Southeast Asia
10. Mahayana Buddhism and the *Bodhisattva* Ideal
11. Celestial Buddhas and *Bodhisattvas*
12. Emptiness
13. Buddhist Philosophy
14. Buddhist Tantra
15. The Theory and Practice of the *Mandala*
16. The "First Diffusion of the *Dharma*" in Tibet
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Ripping and Playing Audiobooks

Get your book CD into iTunes

BY KIRK MCELHEARN

As digital music players such as the iPod have become commonplace, audiobooks have grown increasingly popular. While it's great to listen to music as you're commuting or exercising, you can use some of that time to listen to your favorite author or the latest nonfiction best seller, too. You can download digital audiobooks from the iTunes Store or Audible, but you can also buy audiobooks on CD and add them to your iTunes library. Here's how to best deal with those CDs.

Join CD Tracks In iTunes, you can choose to rip CDs with some or all tracks combined into one.

Ripping Audiobook CDs

If you buy CDs, ripping audiobooks is a snap. However, you won't want to use the same import settings as you do for music, because the spoken word doesn't need the same audio quality.

So before you rip the first CD, go to iTunes: Preferences, click on the General icon, then click on Import Settings. If you're planning to listen to the audiobook only on an iPod or in iTunes, choose AAC Encoder from the Import Using menu. (If you want to use the files with other players or software, choose MP3 for better compatibility.) From the Setting menu, choose Custom; you'll see settings for Stereo Bit Rate, Sample Rate, and Channels. For bit rate, choose 64 Kbps; as I mentioned, voice needs only a small amount of data to sound good. Leave the sample rate at Auto, and, from the Channels menu, choose either Stereo or Mono. For most books, Mono is fine; I use Stereo only for "full-cast productions," such as plays, where several performers are spread across the soundscape. To get the most out of your encoding, select Optimize For Voice. Click on OK, and then click on OK again twice to save your changes. (Make sure to note the settings before you change them, so you can change them back to what they were for music when you're finished ripping your audiobook.)

Most audiobooks range from about five to a dozen discs, and each disc is generally split up into many files. You can import your audiobooks in one of two ways, depending on whether you want one file per disc or a lot of files. The former makes it a bit easier to keep track of the files, but the latter can make it easier to spot chapter and section breaks. If you want to join all the files on a disc, select all the files, then choose Advanced: Join CD Tracks.

Whether or not you join tracks, the next step is to do some simple file-tagging. Select all the tracks on the CD, then press ⌘-I; this brings up the Info window for multiple items. The easiest way to tag audiobooks is to put the author's name in the Artist tag and the book's title in the Album tag. Set the genre to Audiobook, and, if the disc number is not entered, number it; otherwise your files will be out of order after you've ripped all your discs. One important thing to do: click on the Options tab, and then, from the Remember Position menu, choose Yes. Click on OK to save this information—this will let iTunes or your iPod keep your place when you're listening to a long file.

Next, click on the Import CD button at the bottom right of the iTunes window. Do this for each disc. When you're done, look for the "album" in your library; it will contain all the files you just imported, in the right order. (Some audiobooks are sold on single "MP3 CDs." If you have a disc like that, create a new playlist and drag all the files from the disc in the Finder into that playlist. You can then tag the files.)

Listening to Your Audiobooks

There are two easy ways to play back audiobooks: if you've joined the tracks,

you might as well put the files into your Audiobooks library. Select all the files, press ⌘-I, then click on the Options tab. From the Media Kind drop-down menu, choose Audiobook, then click on OK. You'll find the files in the Audiobooks library in iTunes, and under the Audiobooks menu on your iPod.

But you can also use a smart playlist to listen to an audiobook; this is the best way to listen if you have lots of files and haven't joined each disc's tracks, but it works just fine with joined tracks, too. Instead of choosing the book from the Audiobooks library, you'll find it in the Playlists section of iTunes and the iPod.

Create a smart playlist, and enter the author's name in the field after Artist Contains. Then click on the plus-sign (+) icon to the right of the Artist line. Choose Album from the first pop-up menu in the new line that displays, then choose Contain, and enter the name of the book in the next field. Click on the plus-sign icon again, and choose Play Count Is 0. Make sure Live Updating is checked, then click on OK. (After you listen to a file, its play count will increase to 1, and it'll be removed from the smart playlist the next time you sync. This process will continue until you get to the end of the book.) You will probably want to name the playlist with the book's title.

Because you'll have tagged all the files with the author's name and the book's title, and numbered the discs, the files will appear in this smart playlist in order. To listen to the book, sync your iPod, then choose the book's playlist. Each time you start listening, you'll begin with the next file to be played (the next you haven't yet listened to) in correct order. In addition, because you've set the files to remember their playback position, anytime you stop listening, the iPod will remember where you left off, even if you were in the middle of a file. You can still see where you are in the book by the numbers or names of the files, something that's harder to see when you create single files for each disc. When you rip the CD, iTunes will in many cases find names for the files, and in some cases chapter names or titles, and you'll be able to see this information as you listen by simply looking at your iPod.

With these techniques you can make listening to audiobooks on your iPod as easy as listening to music. You no longer have an excuse for missing the latest best seller, and your commutes will be a lot more entertaining.

Smart Playlist Once you've ripped your audiobook CDs, you can use smart playlists to keep track of them for listening.

Senior Contributor **Kirk McElhearn** writes about more than just Macs at his blog, Kirkville (www.mcelhearn.com).

One-Touch Sound Effects

Looking for an interface to play a few sound effects or audio clips on demand by pressing a button? Look no further than GarageBand. Here's how:

1. Create a new podcast episode.
2. Add a new software-instrument track by clicking on the plus-sign (+) button below the track list and choosing Software Instrument Track from the sheet that appears.
3. Click on the Info button to expose the Track Info pane.
4. Select Sound Effects in the left column, and choose any sound-effect set you like in the right column.
5. Choose Window: Musical Typing.
6. Open the Loop Browser and drag the sound effects you want to use to keys on the Musical Typing keyboard. (You can also drag AIFF files from the Finder to this keyboard to add them.)
7. Click on the Details triangle in the Track Info window, and click on the Save Instrument button.
8. Name and save your custom sound-effects instrument.

You now have a system for triggering up to 18 sounds with the Mac's keyboard. To call them up in the future, just create a Sound Effects track and choose the sound-effects instrument you created. Should you forget which sound is mapped to each key, click on the Details triangle on the Musical Typing keyboard.

—CHRISTOPHER BREEN

Musical Typing GarageBand lets you trigger sounds with keyboard keys for quick sound effects.

Five CS4 Goodies for Photographers

Use these tools to organize, refine, and enjoy your photos **BY DERRICK STORY**

As you might expect, Adobe's $699 Adobe Photoshop CS4 (★★★★; macworld.com/4180) contains a treasure trove of goodies for pixel-pushing photographers. But you'll also find some unexpected helpers tucked inside CS4's bundled applications, Adobe Bridge CS4 and Adobe Camera Raw 5. Here are five favorites all photographers should check out.

1 Bridge's Review Mode

Say you have a folder full of images that you want to winnow down to a collection of favorites. Bridge's Review Mode is perfect for sorting your images into keepers and tossers. Open Bridge, click on the folder you want to sort, and then press ⌘-B. In this mode, your photos appear as if they're on a carousel.

Think of this as musical chairs for your photographs. Use the right- and left-arrow keys to navigate from shot to shot. Remove images from the carousel by pressing the down-arrow key. (The photo isn't deleted from its location in the folder, only removed from the carousel.) Cycle through the shots as many times as necessary until you're pleased with the survivors (see "Review Mode"). Once you're satisfied, click on the Make Collection icon in the lower right corner of Review Mode. Name the collection, and you're set.

Review Mode Bridge CS4's Review Mode gives you a quick way to sort through your images.

2 Bridge's Collections

Another of my favorite Bridge CS4 features is the ability to make *collections*. These ad-hoc folders are almost identical to that same great feature in Adobe Photoshop Lightroom and to *albums* in Apple's Aperture. Collections let you gather together images in virtual folders without moving the files in the Finder.

This gives you the flexibility to play with your photographs without compromising the organizational structure you use to keep track of them. For example, if you need a folder of cat portraits for a project, create a collection by clicking on the New Collection button at the bottom of the Collections panel, and then drag in virtual copies of the images from the Content panel or the Finder. When you're done with the project, you can trash the collection (click on its name and then click on the trash icon), leaving the original shots untouched.

Smart collections automatically assemble photos for you based on a variety of criteria. Want a folder of your best shots? Click on the New Smart Collection button at the bottom of the Collections panel, specify your criteria—say, images you've given a rating of 4 stars or higher—and then click on Save.

You'll find the Collections panel on the left side of the Bridge interface. Manually created collections are represented by brown folders; smart collections are blue. (If you don't see them, click on the Collections tab to reveal them, or select Window: Collections Panel.) Icons for editing collections, creating new ones, or trashing existing ones are located at the bottom of the Collections panel (see "Bridge Collections").

Bridge Collections Bridge's collections (shown in the Collections panel) let you pull together virtual gatherings of images without changing the organization of your folders.

Tip Click on the image once and then press the spacebar to make the photo fill your screen. Hit the spacebar again to return it to thumbnail size.

3 Camera Raw's Graduated Filter

Now that you've collected all your best shots, it's time to learn about one of the most useful new tools in Adobe Camera Raw 5—the Graduated Filter. This feature solves the age-old problem of balancing bright skies and dark foregrounds in your landscape scenes.

Select an image in Bridge and press ⌘-R to open it in Camera Raw. The edits you make here are nondestructive, which means you can play with photos all you want and then return to the original by choosing Camera Raw Defaults in Bridge (select Edit: Develop Settings: Camera Raw Defaults). The Graduated Filter tool is in the top toolbar, fifth from the right. Click on it (or just press G), and then

Before and After Gradient Filter Adobe Camera Raw's Graduated Filter tool lets you darken skies without changing the foreground. So instead of the original's less-than-vibrant sky and washed-out water, you'll have a more color-balanced image.

drag the cursor from top to bottom in your image (or any other direction you want). Adobe Camera Raw builds a filter that goes gradually from dark to light, making it perfect for darkening a bright sky without affecting the foreground (see "Before and After Gradient Filter").

The Graduated Filter tool isn't just for exposure adjustments. Once you've made your selection, play with sliders for Brightness, Contrast, Saturation, Clarity, Sharpness, and Color. Camera Raw also provides you with presets for these filters, represented by minus (–) and plus signs (+) at the edges of each slider. In the Graduated Filter's Color presets, the plus-sign slider applies warm colors (yellow/orange), while the minus-sign slider applies cool colors (blue). You can apply multiple Graduated Filters to one image, edit them, and revisit the image later on if you've changed your mind.

4 The Targeted Adjustment Tool

Photoshop's Targeted Adjustment Tool lets you adjust a specific tone or color by clicking and dragging on your image. You'll find it in both the Curves and the Hue/Saturation panels within Photoshop CS4's new Adjustments panel (Window: Adjustments).

For example, in the Curves Adjustments panel, click on the hand icon to activate the Targeted Adjustment tool. Then click on the area of the image you want to adjust, and drag up or down to lighten or darken the selected tones. The more you drag, the more intense the adjustment. I usually adjust a light area of the image first and then create a second adjustment in a darker area (see "Curves Adjustments Panel").

You have a similar capability in the Hue/Saturation Adjustments panel. To increase Saturation, click on the hand icon and then click and drag on your image to the right. Decrease saturation by dragging to the left. Hold down the ⌘ key while dragging to adjust the Hue. Click on the eyeball icon in the Layers panel to hide or display the change. Photoshop CS4 automatically creates an adjustment layer when you select a tool in the Adjustments panel. Save your file as a layered document to go back at any time and make changes.

Tip Select File: Save As to save the Photoshop version of your photo, and then place it in the same folder as the original. That way you can view them side-by-side in Bridge.

5 Photoshop's Easy Navigation

When you're working on a large image, it's easy to get lost in the pixels while making adjustments. Fortunately, Photoshop CS4 has improved its built-in navigation system so you never have to ask for directions. Now when you're viewing your image up close and need to move to another part of it, select the zoom tool and then press the H key while holding down the mouse button. Your photo zooms down to Fit In View mode, and Photoshop converts the cursor to a rectangle that you can move to any part of the picture (see "Bird's-Eye View"). When you let go of the mouse button, Photoshop takes you to the new location but returns you to your magnified view.

Curves Adjustments Panel Photoshop's new Targeted Adjustment tool makes it easier than ever to work with curves.

Put Them All Together

String these new CS4 tools together to create an efficient mini-workflow. They make it that much easier for photographers to select, sort, correct, and view images.

Senior Contributor **Derrick Story** is the author of *The Photoshop CS4 Companion for Photographers* (O'Reilly Media, 2008). Tune in to his weekly podcast, The Digital Story (www.thedigitalstory.com).

Bird's-Eye View Move around your photo effortlessly with the Fit In View mode, new in Photoshop CS4.

MobileMe Alternatives

Sync, share, and publish with third-party tools **BY JOE KISSELL**

Apple's MobileMe service isn't right for everyone. Sure, it enables you to read your e-mail online, synchronize data between multiple Macs and iPhones (or iPod touches), and publish photos and Web sites, all in one convenient package.

But maybe you prefer not to use iCal, Mail, or Address Book (all of which support MobileMe). Maybe you like other platforms for publishing photos and Web sites. Or maybe you simply balk at the $99-per-year subscription fee.

Whatever the reason, you can do many of the things that MobileMe enables without actually using MobileMe. If you're willing to give up MobileMe's one-stop convenience, you can replicate its functionality by mixing and matching third-party services that offer more flexibility and lower cost.

Address Book Sync Without requiring any extra software, Address Book can sync with Exchange, Yahoo, or Google's Gmail Contacts.

Sync Contacts, Calendars

To synchronize or access contacts or calendars online, you have a number of options to choose from.

Address Book Sync Apple's Address Book application can sync your contacts with Exchange, Yahoo, or Gmail, without MobileMe. To set this up, open Address Book, choose Address Book: Preferences, and click on General. Select the Synchronize With Exchange, Synchronize With Yahoo, or Synchronize With Google option, depending on which you'd like to sync with (you can select more than one). Then, for each one you've selected, click on the corresponding button (for example, the Google button for Gmail Contacts); enter your user name, password, and any other requested information; and click on OK.

Then, to sync, choose Sync Now from the Sync menu in your menu bar. (If the menu isn't already there, open iSync in your Applications folder, choose iSync: Preferences, select Show Status In Menu Bar, and close the window.) Unfortunately, unless you also have MobileMe sync enabled (and set to occur on a schedule), Address Book doesn't sync with these other services automatically; you must initiate each sync manually.

Google Calendar Thanks to Google Calendar's support for the CalDAV standard, iCal can sync automatically with a Google-hosted calendar. If your calendar needs are basic, this is a good solution, because it's free and requires no additional software. It does have some limitations: It doesn't sync directly with an iPhone or an iPod touch, and you can't sync an existing iCal calendar with Google Calendar; instead, you must either start with a calendar that's already on Google Calendar, or export an iCal calendar and import it into Google Calendar before you can sync them.

To sync with Google Calendar, go to the search giant's Calendar Help (macworld.com/4272) page and download the CalDAV setup tool (Calaboration). Launch it, enter the e-mail address and password you use for Google Calendar, and click on Sign In. Then select one or more of your Google calendars and click on Add To iCal. From then on, iCal displays your Google calendars and syncs changes with them every 5 minutes (a setting you can change in the Accounts pane of iCal's preferences, under Account Information).

Sync Software BusySync (♦♦♦♦; macworld.com/3930) and Spanning Sync (♦♦♦; macworld.com/4273) let you synchronize existing iCal calendars with the free Google Calendar, enabling you to

Macworld's Mobile Mac Superguide

This essential guide to using a Mac on the road explains everything from buying and trouble-shooting a laptop to getting online, accessing files remotely, and keeping your data safe. For more information, see macworld.com/superguide/.

access your schedule items from any Web browser. In addition, BusySync offers direct syncing of calendars between Macs (including to-do items), while Spanning Sync can also sync your Address Book with Gmail Contacts. (Unlike the syncing feature built into Address Book, Spanning Sync updates your contacts almost immediately, without manual intervention.)

Another service, currently in beta testing, is Soocial (www.soocial.com). Its OS X–compatible software will sync your Address Book with a Web-based contact manager, as well as (optionally) Gmail Contacts and several other services.

Plaxo Plaxo (www.plaxo.com) is a social-networking Web site that, among other things, offers a Web-based contact manager and calendar; you can sync the two with Address Book and iCal using the company's free Plaxo for Mac software (available only to members). Plaxo has another handy trick up its sleeve: it can update your Address Book automatically when contacts who are also Plaxo members change their contact details.

Sync Files

MobileMe's iDisk gives you an online file-storage area—by default, 20GB for e-mail and files combined—accessible from the Finder or via the Web; if you turn on iDisk Sync, you get automatically synchronized local copies of all your iDisk files, too.

That said, several other services offer comparable features and, potentially, much more storage space. Examples include Evenflow's Dropbox (2GB, free; 50GB for $99 per year or $10 per month; www.getdropbox.com); SpiderOak (2GB, free; 100GB for $10 per month; each additional 100GB, $10 per month; spideroak.com); and Sharpcast's SugarSync (prices range from $2.49 per month for 10GB to $25 per month for 250GB; www.sugarsync.com).

All three services include software that you can install on your Mac or on a Windows PC (SpiderOak and Dropbox also offer Linux versions, while SugarSync is also available for the iPhone and the iPod touch). With this software installed, you can easily sync files between your computers and an online storage area.

Dropbox sets up a single folder (the eponymous Dropbox) whose contents are automatically mirrored between your Mac and the Dropbox servers. SpiderOak and SugarSync let you designate one or more existing folders to behave in the same way. In all three cases, new or modified files are uploaded automatically as soon as the service detects a change in the folder(s). All three offer file sharing and syncing; SugarSync and Dropbox also let you upload or delete files from a Web browser.

Sync iPhone to Mac

You can sync data from your iPhone with your Mac using iTunes—but that requires a physical connection. If you don't have one, you can still sync contacts and calendars without MobileMe, but it's trickier.

Use an Exchange Server Exchange accounts provide push e-mail, contact, and calendar updates. The iPhone fully supports Exchange. On a Mac, you can access Exchange accounts with Entourage; you can also access Exchange e-mail with Apple's Mail. If your employer or school doesn't already have an Exchange server, you can sign up for an individual account with several providers, including 4iPhone (4iphone.net), interWays (www.interways.de/lang-en), mail2web (services.mail2web.com), and SherWeb (www.sherweb.com).

Third-party servers that use Microsoft's ActiveSync technology—such as Kerio MailServer, Zimbra Collaboration Suite, and Communigate Pro—also offer push synchronization of e-mail, contacts, and calendars with your iPhone. If your organization uses, or is willing to set up, one of these packages, you can avoid signing up for a separate Exchange hosting package.

SpiderOak In SpiderOak's configuration window, select one or more folders to sync online.

Use NuevaSync NuevaSync (www.nuevasync.com) is a free online service that offers over-the-air push syncing of contacts and calendars between your iPhone or iPod touch and Google (Gmail Contacts and Google Calendar), Plaxo (contacts only), or both. After signing up for an account, follow the online instructions to set up your mobile device, and you're all set.

Although NuevaSync can give you over-the-air push synchronization of contacts and calendars, it doesn't sync directly with iCal or Address Book. To fill in that part of the puzzle, use BusySync, Spanning Sync, or Plaxo to sync data from your online account to your Mac. Although your data may take longer to sync, it can still happen automatically.

Easy iWeb Publisher After publishing an iWeb site to a folder, you can drag that folder to this window in Easy iWeb Publisher to upload it.

Post Photos

MobileMe's Gallery lets you create stunning online albums of photos and movies—either directly from iPhoto or iMovie or by uploading files over the Web. Many photo-sharing sites offer comparable capabilities, though none have Gallery's panache.

A free Flickr (www.flickr.com) account, for example, lets you upload 100MB of media per month (with unlimited total storage); a $25-per-year Pro account gives you unlimited photo and video uploads, among other features. SmugMug (www.smugmug.com) is more stylish than Flickr; unlimited accounts start at $40 per year.

Flickr Uploader You can use this utility to tag and organize photos as you upload them to Flickr.

Both Flickr and SmugMug have Web interfaces for uploading photos, and optional Mac software to make the job easier. For Flickr, the free Flickr Uploadr (www.flickr.com/tools) lets you upload individual photos or entire folders, but you must do so outside iPhoto. To make things easier, you can use Connected Flow's FlickrExport (connectedflow.com/flickrexport); it comes in versions for iPhoto (about $17) and Aperture (about $19; Lite version, free). After installing FlickrExport, select the photo(s) or album in iPhoto you want share, choose File: Export, and click on the FlickrExport tab. Select the options you want, and click on Export. For SmugMug, download the free MacDaddy (www.smugmug.com/help/macs) application and configure it with your account information. In the program's iPhoto tab, select one or more albums, and click on Upload.

Publish Web Sites

Apple's iWeb lets you easily create template-based Web sites and publish them to your MobileMe account with just a couple of clicks. You can host an iWeb-created site on nearly any Web server—but doing so requires several extra steps.

First, you need an account with a Web hosting provider. You've got literally thousands of choices; if you don't already have a provider, stick with one of the better-known low-cost alternatives, such as DreamHost (www.dreamhost.com) or GoDaddy (www.godaddy.com). Both offer basic hosting plans with prices starting at about $5 to $6 per month. After signing up for an account, you'll get login details—a server address, a user name, and a password—for an FTP server.

In iWeb, after creating or modifying a site, choose File: Publish To A Folder. Enter your site's URL, and select or create a folder to hold the files. Ordinarily, you must then upload the files using an FTP program such as Panic's $30 Transmit (www.panic.com/transmit) or Nolobe's $59 Interarchy (nolobe.com/interarchy).

You can save a few steps with Plyxim's free Easy iWeb Publisher (★★★★; macworld.com/4302). After installing it, you set up a configuration that includes all of the login information for your Web host's FTP server. Then drag the published folder from iWeb onto the Easy iWeb Publisher icon and click on Publish To Web; the program will automatically upload the files to the location you've designated on your Web server.

Senior Contributor **Joe Kissell** is the senior editor of TidBits (db.tidbits.com) and the author of numerous e-books about OS X (www.takecontrolbooks.com).

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Fixing Startup Problems

What to do when your Mac takes too long to boot **BY KIRK MCELHEARN**

Your Mac was running fine. It started up quickly, and was zippy when you worked and snappy when you played. But suddenly something's wrong: when you start it up, it takes longer—maybe a couple of minutes, maybe more—than it once did. What's slowing things down?

There can be a lot of reasons your Mac is slow to start up. Here are the trouble-shooting steps you should take, in proper order, to find out what's wrong and fix it.

Login Items List Choose an account in the left column to see all of its login items. Hover the cursor over an item, and a tooltip will appear, showing its path.

Hardware Peripherals

The first thing to check is any hardware connected to your Mac. Sure, it might have been working just fine before the slowdowns started; unfortunately, electronic devices can go bad.

Disconnect every external hardware device but your mouse and keyboard: that includes hard drives, printers, scanners, extra input devices, hubs, network cables, and even cables that connect to your iPod. Restart your Mac.

Startup still slow? If you have a spare mouse and keyboard, disconnect your current input devices, connect the spares, and restart. If the problem persists, and if you use wireless AirPort networking, select your Internet connection in the Network preference pane and make sure the correct DNS servers are listed in the DNS Server box; they should be the ones specified by your ISP.

Let's say you're lucky—one of these steps resolves the slow startup. You can then figure out which device is the problem by reconnecting your peripherals one at a time and restarting after each addition. If and when your startup chokes up, the last peripheral you added is the problem.

New Software

If peripherals aren't the problem, your next suspect is new software.

Did you add any programs recently? Did you update Mac OS X or any of its components such as QuickTime, Safari, or any other system update that required you to restart your Mac? Did you update any drivers (software that runs a device such as a printer or scanner)?

Should the answer to any of these questions be yes, the first thing to do is uninstall the suspect software. For a recently added application, you can try to remove it using either the uninstaller that came with the program or a utility such as the $13 AppZapper (www.appzapper.com).

Removing updates to the operating system or its built-in apps (Safari and others) is trickier. If you have a recent backup of your system, such as a Time Machine backup, you could try restoring the entire system to the state it was in before you installed the suspect software. Don't just restore individual folders (such as System or Library); you need to restore the whole thing.

Again, go step-by-step: uninstall all your new software, then reboot your system. If startup goes faster, add the new software back one piece at a time, rebooting between each reinstall, until you identify the culprit. If removing all that software doesn't help, move on to the next step.

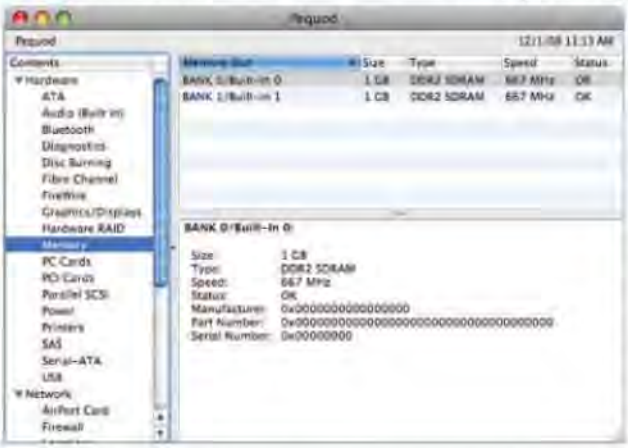
What's Loading?

When neither hardware nor new software is causing the problem, your next suspect is software that loads (or should load) at startup.

To begin, reboot your system, then press and hold the shift key just after you enter your user name and password at the login screen; this temporarily disables login items. (If your Mac is set to log in automatically, hold down the shift key when the blue screen appears.)

If this accelerates your startup, click on the Login Items tab. Scan the list. If you're sure you don't need an item, select it and click on the minus-sign (–) button to delete it. Then reboot.

Should the problem persist, next check items that load at system startup (as opposed to your own individual login). Most such items are in the /Library/StartupItems folder. Restart your Mac, and hold down the shift key as soon as you hear the startup chime; this tells OS X to do a Safe Boot, meaning it'll load only essential kernel extensions. If your Mac starts up quickly in Safe Mode, move the contents of the StartupItems folder to the desktop, then try restarting to see if that resolves the problem. If startup goes quickly, you know something in that folder is causing the problem; add back the items in it one at a time until you replicate the slowdown. Caution: Do *not* move anything from the /System/Library/StartupItems folder.



Check the Hardware Look in System Profiler to make sure that your Mac's hardware is shipshape.

Disk Problems

The next potential problem is a hard drive that isn't mounting correctly.

Open Disk Utility (in the /Applications/Utilities folder) and use it to check all of your hard drives: select a disk in the left column, click on the First Aid tab, and then click on either Repair Disk (for a nonstartup disk) or Verify Disk (for a startup disk). If Disk Utility says that the startup disk needs repairs, you will have to boot off your Mac OS X installation disk. From there, run Disc Utility from the Utilities menu.

Check the Startup Disk Use Disk Utility to check your startup disk for problems. If it finds any, reboot using your OS X install disk and run Disk Utility from there.

If Disk Utility finds errors on other disks, it may be able to repair them, but in some cases it won't be able to. In that instance, you should use a program like DiskWarrior (●●●●●; macworld.com/2503), which can repair many disk problems that Disk Utility can't handle.

System Profiler

If a hard drive isn't causing the problem, other built-in hardware could be.

To make sure your Mac's innards are healthy, go to the Apple menu and choose About This Mac, then select More Info to open System Profiler. Click on Hardware in the Contents column and check the information shown there.

If the amount of RAM isn't what it should be, some memory modules may be unseated. In that case, you'll need to open your Mac (if you can) and make sure your RAM chips are firmly ensconced in their slots. Alternatively, you could take it to a nearby Apple Store or other reputable repair shop. If System Profiler reports the wrong number of processors, you'll need to have your Mac checked out professionally.

Checking Logs

If you've gone this far without resolving the problem, it's time to start checking your Mac's logs. You can view them in the Console app, located in /Applications/Utilities. (For more on tracking down trouble with Console, see macworld.com/3302.)

In particular, look at all the log entries that occurred just after startup. Click on All Messages in the left column, and scroll up until you find messages from localhost kernel at the time you restarted your Mac. Scan the log from this point on for any error messages suggesting that software did not load correctly because it couldn't be found. (Those messages shouldn't be too hard to spot; they'll say something like "could not load.")

If none of these suggestions solves your startup woes, search Apple's support site (support.apple.com) for "troubleshoot startup."

Senior Contributor **Kirk McElhearn** writes about more than just Macs on his blog Kirkville (www.mcelhearn.com)

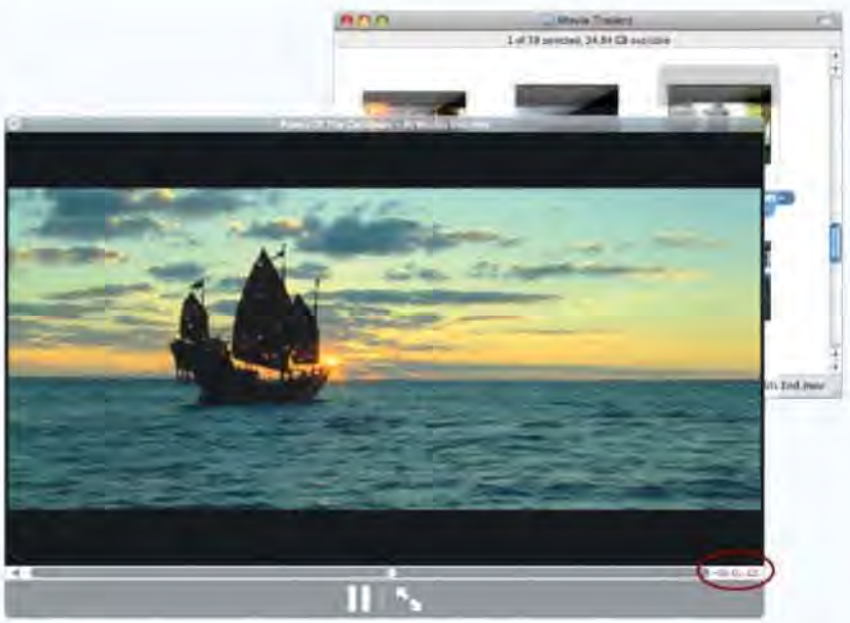
Mac OS X Hints

The insider tips you won't get from Apple **BY ROB GRIFFITHS**

Get a Quick Look at a Video Clip's Remaining Time

OS X 10.5's Quick Look has become one of the most-used features of Leopard—at least around my house. It's so nice to be able to get a quick glimpse at a file instead of taking the time to open it in its source application. Quick Look is pretty basic, so I was surprised to find that it can do something simple that Apple's QuickTime Player (despite its ten-plus–year head start) still can't do: display the time remaining in a video clip.

Select a video clip in the Finder and press the spacebar to open it in Quick Look. You'll notice that the clip's elapsed time appears in the lower right corner of the Quick Look window. To see the time remaining instead, click on the elapsed time; click it again to toggle it back (see "Check Clip Length").



Check Clip Length Wondering how much time is left in a video you're previewing? Click on the time display in the lower right corner of the Quick Look window (circled).

Tune In with iTunes Radio

One of the most overlooked features in Apple's iTunes is the Radio entry in the Library section of the sidebar. Here you'll find streaming radio from around the world, covering everything from music (alternative, classical, hard rock, and so on) to comedy, sports, and talk. I use this iTunes feature to listen to my favorite local station while I work, because even though my office is full of high-tech gear, there's not a TV or radio to be found.

Listening to a radio stream is as easy as double-clicking on it. Once you find a station you like, you can bookmark it by dragging it into an existing playlist or create a new playlist by dragging to a blank area of the Playlist section of the sidebar. I recommend creating a Streaming Stations playlist (File: New Playlist) and dragging any streams you'd like to save into that playlist. This makes it easy to keep all your streams in one location.

You can also drag a stream into the Library section of the sidebar, and iTunes will then add that stream to your library. Unfortunately, when you do this, it's hard to find your streams within the mass of files that is your iTunes library. Also, streams may pop up at inconvenient times—for instance, if you shuffle your library, iTunes might grab a stream, too. If you've already added a lot of streams directly to your library and want an easy way to move them into a standard playlist, check out Downstream 1.2 (macworld.com/4288), a free AppleScript

Have a Hint to Share?
Go to MacOSXHints.com to submit it. This column was based on tips from Brian Mason and anonymous contributors. Each month, the author of our favorite tip receives the *Help Desk* mug.

MUG PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER BELANGER; ICON BY PAUL HOWALT

Ease Overly Smoothed Text When you use OS X's screen zooming, text may sometimes become blurred (top). Disable the smoothing feature for more-legible text (bottom).

from Doug's AppleScripts for iTunes. It does just that.

Otherwise, it's easy to round up your streams with a simple smart playlist. Create a new one (File: New Smart Playlist). In the sheet that appears, use the pop-up menus to create this one rule: Kind Contains `stream`. Click on OK, and you're done. This smart playlist will gather every stream in your library. You can then easily drag streams out to a standard playlist, if you wish, or just keep the smart playlist in place, because it will update as you add additional streams.

Set iCal's Default Alarms Well in Advance

Because I almost always want to be reminded of upcoming events in iCal, I really appreciate the option to turn on alarms for all new events in the Leopard version of iCal. To enable this option, go to iCal: Preferences, click on the General tab, and then select the Add A Default Alarm To All New Events And Invitations 15 Minutes Before The Start Time option. By default, this alarm is set to 15 minutes, but you can change it simply by replacing the value **15** with a new number.

However, what if you always like to be reminded a day or two in advance of your events? It turns out that you can enter *large* numbers of minutes in the input box, even though there's not room to display them all. So if you'd like to be reminded one day before events, type **1440**. Two days would be **2880**, three would be **4320**, and so on.

Although the value may look ugly in iCal's Preferences, it works fine in practice. If you set the value to **1440**, for instance, then create a new event, you'll see that the default alarm is set to "1 days before" (don't blame me for the combination of a single day and the plural form of the noun—that's how Apple words it). Enter **2880** minutes, and you'll see the more grammatically correct "2 days before" when creating a new event.

WHAT'S ONLINE

Avoid Icon Dragging Delays If you're a Leopard user who likes big icons, save yourself some time with this fix (macworld.com/4289).

Export Your RSS Feed List from Mail Keep track of your feeds with this tip (macworld.com/4290).

Control Screen Zooming

OS X's screen-zooming feature is a big help for those times when you want to take a closer look at something on your screen. Access it by going to the Universal Access preference pane, clicking on the Seeing tab, and turning the Zoom option on. Zoom in to your screen by pressing ⌘-option-equal sign (=). Zoom out by pressing ⌘-option-minus sign (–). Alternatively, you can zoom in and out by pressing control and turning your mouse's scroll wheel.

OS X attempts to "smooth" the zoomed-in image by applying various color shades to fill in areas of sharp color change. Depending on what you're looking at and how much you're zooming in, the end result can be either very nice or very ugly (see "Ease Overly Smoothed Text"). I find that text at mid-zoom levels looks fine when smoothed, but when I really zoom in, the result can be terrible. Thankfully, there's a way to disable smoothing at any time while you're zooming. Press ⌘-option-backslash (\) to toggle the feature off and on.

Senior Editor **Rob Griffiths** runs the MacOSXHints.com Web site.

POWER TIP OF THE MONTH

Disable Mail's Data Detectors

OS X 10.5's data detector feature in Mail makes it easy to move information between your Apple programs. Just hover your cursor over an address, date, or time in an e-mail message, and a pull-down menu appears that lets you add the address to Address Book or create an iCal event with a date and time.

While I find the data detectors very useful, some people don't. After all, they're not that helpful if you don't use iCal to manage your schedule or Address Book to manage your contacts. You might also find the highlighting and the pull-down menu distracting. If that's the case, you can disable Mail's data detectors. Quit Mail and open Terminal (/Applications/Utilities), and then run this command:

```
defaults write com.apple.mail DisableDataDetectors YES
```

The next time you launch Mail, you'll find that iCal- and Address Book-worthy information is no longer detected. If you ever want to reenable this feature, quit Mail and repeat the above Terminal command, but change **YES** to **NO** and then start Mail again.

Mac 911

Solutions to your most vexing Mac problems **BY CHRISTOPHER BREEN**

Change Movie Dates in iMovie '08

Q: I have home movies recorded from 1996 to 2005 that I've recently imported into Apple's iMovie '08. Unfortunately, they appear in the order in which I digitized the original tapes. Is there any way I can rearrange these calendar folders and their contents so they reflect the time when the clips were originally shot?

Simon Tanner

A: iMovie sorts movies by creation date, which, as far as the program is concerned, is the day you imported each one into your Mac. For the movies to appear according to the date you originally shot them, you need to change the creation dates.

To do so by hand, rename the clips. In iMovie, control-click (or right-click) on the movie file you want to work with and choose Reveal In Finder from the contextual menu. In the Finder, a folder will open that contains your movie clip along with iMovie Cache and iMovie Thumbnails folders. Rename the clip to reflect the original creation date—for example, something like *clip-2004-01-01 09;00;00.dv* if you want the creation date to be 9 a.m. on January 1, 2004.

Quit and relaunch iMovie '08, and you'll find that it has created a new heading for the year you chose and filed your movie under that heading. When you change the creation dates of additional movies, they should appear under the year-appropriate headings and in the chronological order you designated (see "Turning Back Time").

If you have a lot of clips, this process can be arduous. If you'd prefer to pay $15 to avoid it, allow me to suggest Frank Reiff's A Better Finder Attributes (macworld.com/4261) as a solid alternative. It can change the creation date of any batch of files you throw at it. (And yes, this is also helpful for photographers who'd like to catalog images that don't include the correct creation date in their EXIF data—as would be the case with scanned slides.)

Quit iMovie, launch A Better Finder Attributes, select all the items in the folder that contains your movie, and then drag them into ABFA's queue panel. From the Action pop-up menu, choose Change Creation Date, and in the area below, use the calendar and clock to change the creation date to one that more accurately reflects when the movie was shot. Click on Change. The creation date for all those items will now change to reflect your choice.

Turning Back Time With a little work, it's possible to make iMovie organize your movie clips by the date they were shot rather than by the date they were imported.

Have a Problem?
Go to the Mac 911 forum (macworld.com/2467) for help with your misbehaving Mac or applications.

Smarten Up OS X's Smart Folders

Q: I have hundreds of images with many variations of each image scattered among five large hard drives. I would like to use OS X 10.5's smart folders to find the images on only a *couple* of these drives, not *all* of them, but I can't figure out how to do that. Is there a workaround or program that brings this capability to Leopard?

John Wawrzonek

A: Smart folders (File: New Smart Folder) are useful for gathering together files that meet a set of predefined conditions—for example, all PDF files over 50MB in size. But I agree that Leopard's smart folders are not nearly as smart as they ought to be.

In a situation where you want to designate multiple search sources—say, drives 1, 3, and 5 but not 2 and 4—a smart folder is useless because it can search only a single source for everything. For what you want, you'll need to turn to Houdah Software's $25 HoudahSpot (★★★★; macworld.com/3516), a remarkably flexible search application.

You can tell HoudahSpot exactly which areas of your Mac and its attached volumes to search, and then save your searches as templates or saved search documents that you can easily use again. And just as with smart folders, HoudahSpot searches update dynamically. So, for example, should you add a half-dozen of these images, they'll appear in HoudahSpot's results within a second or two.

Note, too, that HoudahSpot installs a menu-bar item (a dark magnifying-glass icon) at the top of your screen. Using this, you can access any search templates you've created, as well as templates bundled with the application. This means that locating your files is just a click away.

ICONS BY PAUL HOWALT

Label the Login Window Want to show the world who owns your Mac? OnyX makes it a breeze to add a customized message to the login window.

Bugs & Fixes BY TED LANDAU

Microsoft Office Update Failure When you try to download updates for your Office software, the Installer may stop, complaining, "No version of the software found on volume." The most likely cause is that you removed language files from Office to save disk space, and now the Microsoft Installer no longer recognizes the software as updatable. If so, the straightforward, albeit time-consuming, solution is to reinstall Office and then reupdate it without deleting the language files. The error may also be triggered if you have an external drive connected to your Mac or if you're running Parallels Desktop for Mac (www.parallels.com). If that's the case, disconnect your external drive or quit Parallels, and then try the update again.

iPhone Error oxE8000035 Most of the time, syncing an iPhone proceeds smoothly, but the process may occasionally get derailed by an error message stating that "iTunes could not connect to iPhone…because an unknown error occurred. (oxE8000035)." The most likely cause is simple to fix. If you connected your iPhone to a USB hub, a keyboard, a monitor, or any other USB peripheral, unplug the device and plug your phone directly in to one of your Mac's USB ports. If that fails, try the suggestions in this Apple support article (macworld.com/4262). As a last resort, use iTunes to restore your iPhone.

iPhone Audiobook Crashes A new Apple article reveals that the iPod app on an iPhone (and the Music app on an iPod touch) may crash when you try to play an audiobook if you have synced 20 or more audiobooks to your mobile device. One workaround is obvious: sync fewer than 20 books. Another solution is to create a playlist for all your audiobooks in iTunes (File: New Playlist) and sync this playlist to your device, rather than using iTunes' built-in Audiobooks playlist. Expect Apple to fix this bug in a future update.

Senior Contributor **Ted Landau** is the founder of MacFixIt (www.macfixit.com). Share your problems at bugs@macworld.com or on Macworld.com's Mac 911 forum.

Customize the Login Window

Q: I'd like to customize my Mac's login window with the kind of information that lets people know it's mine. I'm running Leopard. Is there a way to do this?

Paul Mauro

A: Although you could use Apple's Terminal (Applications/Utilities) and a big hunk of code to do the job, why bother when you can simply download Titanium Software's free OnyX (macworld.com/1165)?

OnyX performs any number of tricks, including checking the viability of your hard drive, sweeping out old log files and caches, and customizing the Mac's interface in ways not possible without some stern Terminal twiddling. One of these customization options allows you to place a personal message in the Mac's login window.

Just launch OnyX and let it run through its startup routine—checking the SMART status of your hard drive and verifying that drive. Enter your administrator password when you're prompted to do so, and then click on the Parameters icon. Click on the Login tab within the window that appears and enable the Show Message In The Login Window option.

Now type a custom message in the field below—for example, "If found, contact Joseph Blow at jblow@example.com" (see "Label the Login Window"). Quit OnyX and log out of your account. The next time the login window appears, you'll find your very own custom message near the top.

Senior Editor **Christopher Breen** is the author of *The iPod and iTunes Pocket Guide*, fourth edition, and *The iPhone Pocket Guide*, third edition (Peachpit Press, 2008).

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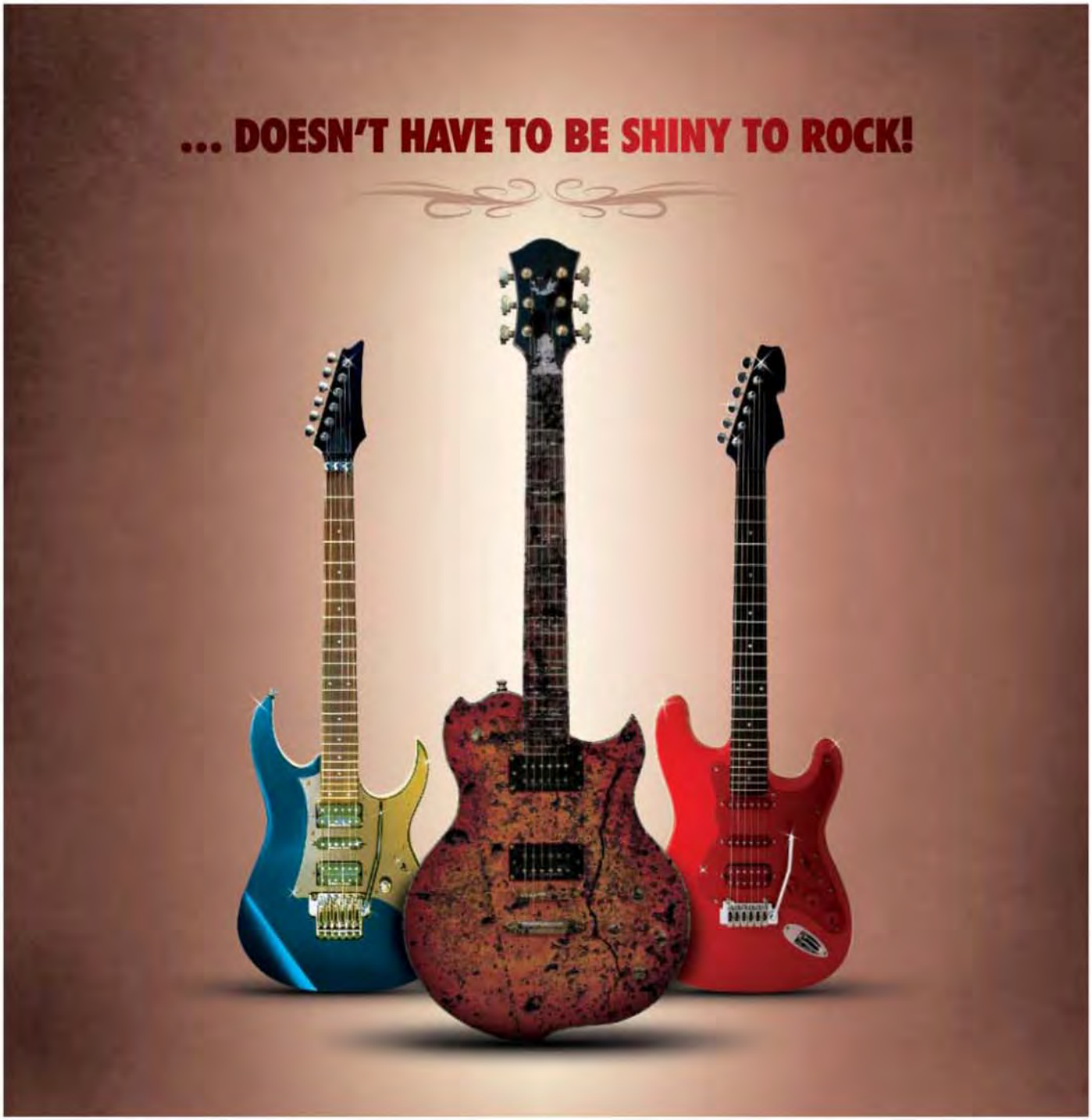

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The Last Keynote

Couldn't make the 2009 Expo? Don't worry: neither could I.

(Editor's Note: Due to the tight deadlines required for publication, Moltz's column on the Macworld Expo keynote was due two weeks before the actual keynote. Never one to turn down a paycheck, Moltz agreed to take on the assignment anyway, insisting he was "up to the task.")

Macworld Expo 2009 began under a pall of uncertainty. Entering the keynote, Mac fans had many questions. How well was Apple adapting to worsening economic conditions? What did Senior VP Phil Schiller's presence onstage indicate about the future of the company? Would Macworld Expo be able to survive without Apple's continued commitment? If something happened to Macworld Expo, where would we all hang out together? Certainly not at Denny's, not after the "Moons over My Hammy" incident of 2007. And what was that smell? Was someone microwaving fish or something? Who does that right before a big keynote?

All these questions would be answered, all our concerns allayed, and all parking stubs validated in the course of Schiller's keynote tour de force. (*Convention Keynotes Quarterly* later raved, "Phil Schiller was riveting! This was the must-see keynote of January 6, 2009! If you were to have seen only one keynote on January 6, 2009, this was the one to see! Too bad we couldn't get to see these things beforehand, when this information would actually have been useful! Are you still reading? *Nobody ever* reads this far into our keynote reviews! Don't you have something better to do?")

Schiller's tone throughout was upbeat. That said, I did think it a little odd that he delivered the entire keynote from inside a cardboard iChat window carried around by two stagehands. An Apple spokesperson I spoke to later explained that, after years of playing Steve Jobs's straight man in all those iChat demos, Schiller just felt more comfortable that way.

Of course, Schiller didn't do the whole keynote by himself. As Jobs had done for years, Schiller let other people do much of the heavy lifting. For example, the Blue Man Group performed the opening discussion of Apple's recent financial results and current market position, leaving the audience bemused, enchanted, awed at the absurdity of the human condition, and, ultimately, downright confused.

A series of appearances by executives, from Apple and elsewhere, followed. The no-holds-barred cage match between Scott Forstall, Apple's senior VP of iPhone software, and Adobe chairman John Warnock to determine the fate of Flash on the iPhone was particularly elucidating. But it was Bertrand Serlet, Apple's VP of software engineering, who really won over the crowd with his preview of Snow Leopard—done entirely through interpretive dance.

The Snow Leopard preview—done entirely through interpretive dance—really won over the crowd.

When Schiller retook the stage, he looked determined to kill. After announcing that everyone in the audience would be receiving gold-plated iPods preloaded with the collected, remastered works of the Beatles, he introduced a completely revamped Mac mini, a new Apple TV, three new iterations each for the iMac, the MacBook, and the new Mac Pros. He then unveiled an iPhone nano, a touch-based Mac tablet, a $500 netbook, and some kind of orb designed to bend the fabric of the space-time continuum, allowing time travel and teleportation.

Eventually other Apple employees had to wrestle Phil from the stage, as he had just announced every product in the pipeline for the next five years, leaving the company's future in tatters. He was interrupted several times by standing ovations, however.

Chief Operating Officer Tim Cook then took over and did hand shadows for 15 minutes before showing the audience a YouTube video of a monkey smoking a cigarette and riding a unicycle. Finally, Cook introduced the musical performer who had the honor of bringing the last-ever Apple keynote to a close: a group of cowl-clad monks whose excellent funeral dirge had audience members chanting monotonously along as they filed out of the Moscone Center.

While Apple's involvement with Macworld Expo has come to an end, that doesn't mean ours has. It's still a great place to learn, meet people, and show off third-party products for the Mac and the iPhone. I know I'll be there next year!

And not just because some of this year's attendees owe me money. Although that *is* a big part of it.

John Moltz is the editor of ApocaTips (www.apocatips.com).

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