

Please e-mail your questions or comments to Bill Henry, Editor (henryw@bellsouth.net)



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Apple Unveils Mac mini with Intel Core Duo New Mac mini Delivers Performance Up to Four Times Faster

Apple® unveiled the new Mac® mini with the Intel Core Duo processor, delivering performance up to four times faster than its predecessor and providing even greater expansion in the same innovative and incredibly compact design.* Starting at just \$599, the Mac mini is the most affordable way to enjoy iLife® '06, the next generation of Apple's award-winning suite of digital lifestyle applications, and features the Apple Remote and Front Row so you can play your music, enjoy your photo slideshows, watch your DVDs, iMovies, music videos and television shows from across the room.

Featuring the next generation of Apple's breakthrough Front Row media experience, the new Mac mini gives customers a simple way to enjoy their digital lifestyle content on the Mac mini including music, photos and videos from across the room using the Apple Remote. With the latest version of Front Row, customers can now effortlessly access shared iTunes® playlists, iPhoto® libraries and video throughout their home via Bonjour™, Apple's zero configuration wireless networking built into Mac OS® X.

The new Mac mini offers a completely new system architecture for performance up to four times as fast as the previous Mac mini, including a 667 MHz front-side bus and 667 MHz DDR2 SDRAM memory expandable to 2GB. With the latest high-performance connectivity options, every new Mac mini now ...

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Upgrading RAM: FAQs

The ultimate Mac tune-up
 By Kyle Wiens

When it comes to upgrading your Mac, RAM is the easy choice. It's inexpensive, it's relatively easy to install, and it can make a noticeable difference. But as a quick visit to just about any Mac forum will tell you, RAM upgrades can also be horrifically frustrating. Here's how to do it right.

Why would I need more RAM?

The first step in upgrading your RAM is to decide whether you need to do so at all. Upgrading RAM doesn't necessarily help apps run faster (see "Bang for your RAM buck" below). But it can speed up the processes of opening or switching between apps—something some of us do several times a minute. If those processes feel faster, so will your overall computing experience.

The reason for this is that OS X swaps apps and documents in and out of memory all the time.

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BAC March Meeting

The March meeting will be about RSS (see page 2) and a quick look at Core Data, basic programming, presented by JP Claude to be held on Saturday, March 11th, at 10:00am at the Home-wood Library, Room 116 basement.

Come join us for coffee, doughnuts, cookies...

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henryw@bellsouth.net

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For Sale/Wanted

Do you have computer related items for sale or is there an item that you would like topurchase?

We will list the item in this space free of charge to currentBAC members.

Send information by the 25th of each month to the editor at: henryw@bellsouth.net.

BAC Disk of the Month

The BAC CDOM (Disk of the Month) is available at each BAC meeting. These CDs contain updates, shareware, and freeware.

The cost is \$2 per disk and is available at the BAC meetings from Disk Librarian Jerry Jenkins.

March 2006 CDOM

The March CDOM will not be available due to illness. Stay tuned for April's CDOM.

We wish Jerry a quick recovery.

What is RSS?

Really Simple Syndication (RSS) is a lightweight XML format designed for sharing headlines and other Web content. Think of it as a distributable "What's New" for your site. Originated by UserLand in 1997 and subsequently used by Netscape to fill channels for Netcenter, RSS has evolved into a popular means of sharing content between sites (including the BBC, CNET, CNN, Disney, Forbes, Motley Fool, Wired, Red Herring, Salon, Slashdot, ZDNet, and more). RSS solves myriad problems webmasters commonly face, such as increasing traffic, and gathering and distributing news. RSS can also be the basis for additional content distribution services.

Safari fully supports RSS and OS 10.4 supports RSS screensavers that present the headlines from your favorite sites.

RSS can give you just a headline or a brief summary of the news. If you want to know more about the headlines then you click on it to get more information from it's source. 🍏

March Meeting Killer Tips

The killer tips will feature OS X's "Print to PDF", "Print to Web Receipts" and Safari's "Save as Web Archive" features.

Apple Recent Updates

Security Update 2006 - 001 for 10.3.9 and 10.4.5 on March 1, 2006 (12.5MB)

iTunes 6.0.2 on March 1, 2006 (19.5MB)

iPhoto 6.0.2 on March 1, 2006 (13.7MB)

Front Row 1.2.1 on March 1, 2006 (5.5MB)

iWeb 1.0.1 on February 20, 2006 (18.3MB)

iDVD 6.0.1 on February 15, 2006 (4.6MB)

iTunes Music Store Downloads Top One Billion Songs Scholarship at Juilliard School of Music to be Created

Apple® announced that one billion songs have been legally downloaded from the iTunes® Music Store since it was launched less than three years ago. The billionth song "Speed of Sound" was purchased as part of Coldplay's X&Y album by Alex Ostrovsky from West Bloomfield, Michigan and as the grand prize winner he will receive a 20-inch iMac®, 10 fifth generation iPods and a \$10,000 gift card good for any item on the iTunes Music Store. In addition, Apple will establish a scholarship to the world-renowned Juilliard School of Music in his name to commemorate this milestone. 🍏

March Door Prizes

The following list of door prizes will be awarded at the BAC March meeting: a copy of the monthly CDOM, and a one-month rental of any of the instructional CDs that are in our Library and iLife '04 by Jim Heid with CD. 🍏

Upgrading RAM *cont'd from page 1*

When the programs you're running require more RAM than you've got, OS X moves programs that aren't doing anything at the moment from active memory to temporary swap files on your hard drive, to make RAM available for the apps you're really using.

Let's say you have Photoshop and Mail running at the same time. Photoshop already has some memory allocated to it. If you open a large photo in Photoshop that won't fit in your available RAM, Photoshop will request more memory from OS X. Looking for memory from somewhere, the OS will recognize that you haven't used Mail in a while and will copy (or "page out") Mail's memory contents to your hard drive. That RAM is now free, and OS X can allocate it to Photoshop and load your photo.

Paging out is slick, but there's a catch—copying memory to disk is slow. A fast hard drive can write about 20MB per second. DDR2 RAM has throughput of up to 4GB per second. So as soon as you start using virtual memory instead of RAM, memory access times slow way down.

Let's say you decide to check your e-mail. OS X previously paged Mail out to disk, and you've been using Photoshop. When you click on Mail in the Dock, the OS has to load it back into physical RAM and load that photo into virtual memory on your drive. This process could take a second or two, resulting in that dreadful spinning beach ball.

How do I know if I need more RAM?

The Colors of RAM Activity Monitor is a great way to keep track of what applications are using your RAM (and whether it's overtaxed). But what exactly does that pie-chart mean? Wired (red) Contents that must remain in physical RAM and can't be paged out to disk. Active (yellow) Processes using memory right now. Free (green) Memory available for allocation. Inactive (blue) Memory allocated to an open program but not in use at the moment.

The simplest way to find out whether you're overloading your RAM is with OS X's Activity Monitor. Open it up and click on the System Memory tab (see "The Colors of RAM"). If the pie chart is mostly green and blue (representing free and inactive memory, respectively), then you're in good shape. If the chart is mostly yellow and red (active and wired), then you're running out of RAM and may experience slowdowns.

Watch the Page Ins/Outs numbers. If page outs are increasing continually, you need more RAM.

How much RAM do I need?

As you can probably guess, the amount of memory you need depends heavily on which apps you use daily. Most Tiger users should have at least 512MB; given the number of Macs that Apple has shipped over the years with just 256MB standard, that could be a lot of users. But for some professional applications, even 2GB may not be enough.

cont'd on page 5

What A Mess!

by Luther Fuller

I have two USB hubs, a DSL modem, a printer, an UPS and a RadioShark connected to my Macintosh G4. Wires everywhere. I can hardly make sense of it all. Is that your problem, too? And do you have to look long and hard when you want to find the installer disk for an application you bought years ago because you can't remember when you last saw it? And do you have a thick layer of papers on your desk that just keeps growing thicker because you just don't have time to sort thru them? Well ... do ya! Want to do something about it? Here's what I did ...

First, the wires. I went to Let's Get Organized in Home-wood and bought a 1 x 2 foot wire grid. I screwed this grid to the wall behind my computer table, below my wall shelves, but above the level of the table top. It's important to put the grid where you can both see it and reach it. You will also need to visit a hardware store to purchase wire ties. You will need 14 inch plastic ties for mounting equipment and shorter ties for permanently anchoring wires. A simple wire tie tool is inexpensive and very desirable. You will also need two-sided Velcro ties or tape for wires you may want to change from time to time. (Plastic ties cannot be reused. You have to cut and replace them.)

Modern hubs and modems are small and weigh very little. I mounted my hubs and modem on the grid by simply putting a single 14" tie around each and thru the grid, then pulling it tight with the tie-tool. Cut-off the end with wire cutters. Place each device where you can see its lights, operate its switches and connect its cables. If you need it, you may also want to mount a power strip on the grid. You can insure that a plug-in transformer (also known as a wall-wart) does not fall from its socket by placing a wire-tie around both the transformer and the power strip, then pulling it tight. Excess wire can be rolled and fastened to the bottom of the grid with Velcro ties.

Next, the software. Go to an office supply store and purchase a package of 1.5 or 2 inch expandable file jackets. (No - I didn't say folders. Folders are open at the side so that they can fold open and spill everything out. Jackets have closed sides.) You will also need a plastic file box. Preferably one that is not made for file hangers. (Office supply stores no longer carry these, but I found one at Wal-Mart recently. They can also be used to hold ring binders.)

Whenever you buy software in a box, you will: Label a file jacket with its name; Open the box, remove its contents and discard the box; Place the contents, including CDs, DVDs, instruction books, receipts, coupons, registration forms ... everything, in the file jacket; Put the file jacket in the file box. You will have to find all that software lying around in odd places and make a file jacket for each title.

cont'd on page 5

New Intel Mac Mini *cont'd from page 1*

includes built-in 10/100/1000 BASE-T Gigabit Ethernet for high-speed networking, built-in AirPort® Extreme 802.11g WiFi for fast 54 Mbps wireless networking**, built-in Bluetooth 2.0+EDR (Enhanced Data Rate) and a total of four USB 2.0 ports, twice as many as the previous generation. Mac mini includes a DVI interface and a VGA-out adapter to easily connect to a variety of displays, including many of today's most popular flat panel televisions, and now features both analog and digital audio outputs to easily connect to a home stereo.

Every new Mac mini comes with the latest release of the world's most advanced operating system, Mac OS X version 10.4 "Tiger" including Safari™, Mail, iCal®, iChat AV and Front Row, running natively. Mac OS X Tiger includes an innovative software translation technology called Rosetta™ that lets customers run most Mac OS X PowerPC applications seamlessly.***

The new 1.5 GHz Mac mini, \$599, includes:

- 1.5 GHz Intel Core Solo processor;
- 512MB of 667 MHz DDR2 SDRAM, expandable up to 2GB;
- a slot-load Combo (DVD-ROM/CD-RW) drive;
- 60GB Serial ATA hard drive running at 5400 rpm;
- Intel GMA950 graphics processor;
- built-in AirPort Extreme wireless networking & Bluetooth 2.0+EDR;
- Gigabit Ethernet (10/100/1000 BASE-T);
- four USB 2.0 ports;
- one audio line in and one audio line out port, each supporting both optical digital and analog;
- DVI-out port for external display (VGA-out adapter included, Composite/S-Video out adapter sold separately)
- the infrared Apple Remote.

The new 1.66 GHz Mac mini, \$799, includes:

- 1.66 GHz Intel Core Duo processor;
- 512MB of 667 MHz DDR2 SDRAM expandable up to 2GB;
- a slot-load 8x SuperDrive™ with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW);
- 80GB Serial ATA hard drive running at 5400 rpm;
- Intel GMA950 graphics processor;
- built-in AirPort Extreme wireless networking & Bluetooth 2.0+EDR;
- Gigabit Ethernet (10/100/1000 BASE-T);
- four USB 2.0 ports;
- one audio line in and one audio line out port, each supporting both optical digital and analog;

- DVI-out port for external display (VGA-out adapter included, Composite/S-Video out adapter sold separately)
- the infrared Apple Remote. (Front Row)

Build-to-order options and accessories include up to 2GB DDR2 SDRAM, 80GB, 100GB and 120GB Serial ATA hard drives, iWork '06 (pre-installed), AirPort Express and AirPort Extreme Base Station, Apple Wireless Keyboard, Apple Wireless Mouse, Apple USB Modem and the AppleCare Protection Plan. 🍏

Apple's New iPod Hi-Fi

High-Fidelity Speaker System for iPod Redefines the Home Stereo System

Apple® announces the iPod® Hi-Fi, an all-new high-fidelity speaker system that works seamlessly with the iPod to redefine the home stereo system. iPod Hi-Fi delivers breathtaking acoustic performance and room-filling sound unlike any other speaker system designed for the iPod in an innovative, all-in-one design that can be powered from a wall socket or by six D-cell batteries. iPod Hi-Fi is easily controlled by the Apple Remote for an amazing stereo experience in any room in the house

iPod Hi-Fi has been designed and engineered by Apple to deliver unrivaled sound quality, realistic sound imaging and optimal audio performance. Its clean, all-in-one design features a unique isolated enclosure system that includes two custom designed wide-range speakers and a tuned, ported bass system, minimizing vibration while maximizing sound quality and allowing users to listen to their favorite music as it was intended with amazing sound clarity and rich, deep bass. iPod Hi-Fi features handles to easily transport your stereo anywhere, a removable front grille with precision-mounting clips, touch-sensitive volume control buttons, the Apple Remote for easy song and volume control from anywhere in the room, a universal power supply incorporated into the all-in-one design so there's no bulky power brick to weigh it down, and the ability to power iPod Hi-Fi from six D-cell batteries for true portability.

Featuring seamless integration with all iPods with a dock connector, iPod Hi-Fi automatically recharges your iPod while docked and displays features of iPod that maximize the iPod Hi-Fi experience such as Tone Control, Large Album Art mode and volume mirroring.* iPod Hi-Fi includes a dual-purpose 3.5-mm auxiliary input that accepts either analog or digital signals for easy connection to a wide range of audio sources. iPod Hi-Fi is compact and can be powered by AC or six D-cell batteries, providing more flexibility than any traditional home stereo and is perfect for use not only at home, but just about anywhere you go without compromising sound quality. iPod Hi-Fi includes the Apple Remote, a removable grille, an AC power cord and 10 Universal Dock adapters, and is available for \$349. 🍏

MacHome HotTips

DESIGNATING APPLICATIONS TO LAUNCH AT STARTUP

I often find it very useful to have certain applications like Safari, Entourage and FileMaker launch when I boot up my Mac, saving me the extra steps of launching each one separately. Unfortunately, there is not a Launch at Startup preference pane in System Preferences. You need to dig a little deeper to access this function. In System Preferences click on the Accounts pane, then be sure your Login account is highlighted in the account list at the left of the window. Choose Login Items and you'll see the list of applications that currently open automatically when you log in. Click on the plus icon at the bottom of the list and select the application(s) you'd like to add to the list.

Next time you log in (or startup if your Mac always logs into your account), these applications will open automatically.

STOPPING THE SPOTTING

Q: One frustrating thing about using Spotlight is that after I type in a term I frequently see quite quickly exactly what I'm looking for.

However, since Spotlight is still searching for other hits, the file I'm looking for moves down and then quickly off the list. Then I have to go digging for it! Is there any way to get Spotlight to just stop for a second so I can click on a file? -- Michael A. Britt

A: You can stop a search at anytime if you started it within a Finder window. Type the term in the Spotlight search field in the top right and press return. As soon as the search begins, you'll see a small x icon appear in the bottom right of the window. Just click that to stop the search once you've found that the file. Unfortunately, you cannot stop a search you've initiated through the Spotlight menu.

CHAOS TO ORDER

Q: When I work with iTunes making up a play list, I am frustrated by the fact that iTunes insists on an alphabetic listing of all songs. This precludes any balancing of the list. Is there any way around this that will allow me to burn a disc in the order I prefer? -- Howard Agger

A: At the top of each column, you'll see a header such as Name, Time, Artist, etc. These are actually buttons that control the organization of the items in the play list. Click Time, for example, and the play list will organize itself from longest to shortest song; click it again and it will reverse this order. To have an unstructured play list, click to the leftmost column header. (It is blank and you'll see a series of numbers under it). As soon as you click it, you can drag and drop tracks in any order you want. 🍏

What a Mess *cont'd from page 3*

When you have finished, you will find that the file box will fit nicely on a book shelf near your computer.

And that software you just bought ... You were so busy with the file jackets that you forgot to install it. But now you know exactly where to find it.

The pile of papers on my desk continues to grow and I still don't have time to sort them out. What a mess! 🍏

Upgrading RAM *cont'd from page 3*

To find out how much memory you need, keep an eye on

Activity Monitor for a day or so. If the total of free and inactive RAM reported by Activity Monitor is less than 10 percent of your physical RAM under a typical workload of apps and documents, you need to increase your RAM until those numbers are more in line. For example, if you have 1GB of RAM installed, and Activity Monitor consistently reports that you have less than 100MB of RAM free, you're a good candidate for an upgrade.

Then there's the question of how much RAM your system can take. That, in turn, depends on how much RAM you have installed now, what configuration it's installed in, and how many slots you have available. Let's say, for example, that you have one of the original first-generation iMac G5s, which shipped with 256MB of RAM. They also came with two RAM slots, to which you can add up to 1GB of RAM each. Assuming you don't want to toss that original 256MB, that means you can upgrade to 1.25GB.

For more details, download MacTracker; this useful utility provides detailed tech specs for every Mac model ever produced (see "Track Down Your Mac"). www.mactracker.com

Track Down Your Mac The MacTracker utility can tell you the specs of any Mac (or any other hardware product Apple has ever made, for that matter).

What kind of RAM do I need?

So you've decided that you need more RAM. The next step is figuring out what kind of RAM your system takes.

The simplest way to find out is to open up System Profiler. In OS X 10.3 and later, open the Apple menu, select About This Mac, and click on the More Info button. (In OS X 10.0 through 10.2, go to Applications/Utilities and launch System Profiler.) Under Hardware, select Memory. That should give you all the information you need.

Memory Slot This specifies the form factor of the RAM your system uses. Most desktop Macs use DIMMs (Dual In-line Memory Modules), while Mac laptops and some early iMacs take SODIMMs (Small Outline DIMMs).

Size This is, logically enough, the capacity of the RAM you have installed now. Consult MacTracker's Memory/Graphics tab to find out how much RAM your Mac is able to accept. Until recently, Macs used DDR (double data rate) RAM. The latest Power Macs and iMacs use DDR2 memory. 🍏



McKinney Technologies, Inc.
Simplifying Technology

1923 29th Ave., So.
Homewood, AL 35209
Ph: 205-802-7886 Fax: 205-802-7898
e-mail: info@mckinneytech.com

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Birmingham 942-9622
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Chris Perry

1722-B 28th Ave. So., Homewood, AL 35209
Phone (205) 870-7044 Fax (205)780-1944
e-mail: chris@perrycomputer.com
www.perrycomputer.com



BIRMINGHAM APPLE CORE
MACINTOSH USER GROUP

Bill Henry, Editor
2438 Mahaska Drive
Birmingham, AL 35244

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