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iPhone Review

by Roger Wentowski

I told everyone not to buy an iPhone. Wait until the bugs are fixed. Wait for the next generation it will be better, I said. So why was I in line at the AT&T store last Friday? In the end I couldn't follow my own advise so I am now a proud owner of apple's latest toy.

Boy, am I ever glad that I didn't listen to me. The iPhone is the most innovative product that apple has ever produced and I have owned most of them going all the way back to the original Apple with a cassette tape and no floppy drive. You have heard people say (I was one of them) that the iPhone is a very expensive phone. Well let me tell you that the Internet browser on the iPhone is a killer app. I would gladly pay \$600.00 for that feature alone so the phone and ipod were free. If you know how to use the Internet and most of us do, having it in your pocket 24/7 is life changing. If you do not already have an iPhone you should go buy one, today. Yes, there will be a better one out in a year or two but that is about the useful life of a cell phone. How many cell phone power users do you know that have a cell phones that are more than two years old? None I bet.

I was asked to write a review but there is no point in telling you about all the great features, you can go to apple.com and they will tell you all about all the things to like on an iPhone.

Instead I will tell you the top 10 things that I don't like about the iPhone:

I. The AT&T network drops call, often.

II. It's hard to believe but the people that brought us iTunes have made no provisions to download ringtones. I trust this will change in the future.

III. There are a lot of dead spots in the AT&T network.

IV. I can't sync my phone wirelessly using Bluetooth. I have been syncing my calendar and contacts from my MacBook Pro to my Motorola cell phone for years and I can't sync two apple products. Give me a break.

V. AT&T has over subscribed their network and sometimes you can't get a channel out even when they have coverage.

VI. My printers are all on a WiFi network but there are no printer drivers in the iPhone. You can not yet print from the iPhone.

continued on page 2



🍏 BAC July Meeting 🍏

The July 14th meeting of the Birmingham Apple Core at the Homewood Library. The topic of the meeting will be Steve Job's keynote presentation at the Worldwide Developers Conference

Come enjoy coffee, donuts, cookies etc.

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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.

**Treasurer still needed for
Board of Directors**

What the iPhone doesn't do.... yet and battery tips

Can you change the battery yourself? –No.

You'll have to send the phone in to Apple for battery replacement, just as with the iPods.

Does it have GPS? –No.

Does it connect to iChat? –No.

Does it get onto the HSDPA (3G) high-speed Internet network that Cingular has rolled out in a few cities? –No.

But Steve Jobs said a later version of the iPhone will — once there's enough HSDPA coverage in this country to justify it.

Will it sync with Outlook? –No.

iPhone Battery Tips

Maximum Battery Life

iPhone offers up to 8 hours of talk time,(1) 6 hours of Internet use,(2) 7 hours of video playback,(3) or 24 hours of audio playback(4) on a full charge at original capacity. In addition, iPhone features up to 250 hours of standby time.(5)

Charge Cycles

A properly maintained iPhone battery is designed to retain up to 80% of its original capacity after 400 full charge and discharge cycles. You may choose to replace your battery when it no longer holds sufficient charge to meet your needs.

Let It Breathe

Charging your iPhone while in certain carrying cases may generate excess heat, which can affect battery capacity. If you notice that your iPhone gets hot when you charge it, take it out of its case first.

iPhone mania fun

David Pogue of the NY Times iPhone music video link:

http://video.on.nytimes.com/?fr_story=f390265dccb9e1f1da97a69637e921d39b6c99aa



iPhone review

cont'd from page 1

VII. AT&T's EDGE network works reasonably well for a slow data network- when it works

VIII. The iPhone's best feature is its big glass screen. Until you drop it and it breaks. People drop cell phones often.

IX. Did I mention that AT&T lies in their advertising. They drop more calls than any other carrier.

X. My world clock says Chicago because there is no way to type in a city name. You must select a city in your time zone instead of the time zone. Apple, there are only 24 time zones how hard would it be to have us select one and type in a city name?

Well, that all the downside I can find on the iPhone after playing with it for over a week. This is a good product and you should own one. 🍏

What's coming up?

The iPhone hype is dying down and what else may Apple have up it's sleeve.

Of course OS X 10.5 Leopard is due in October but before then we should be seeing a new line of iMacs, rumored to be available in 20" and 24" screens only and sporting newly designed case, the 17" line being dropped.

And what of the Mac Mini, is there still life out there for it, we certainly hope so. 🍏

July Door Prizes

The following door prizes will be awarded at the BAC July meeting; Copies of "Take Control" by Adam Engst. 🍏

Hints&Tips

www.mac-hints-tips.com

Return My Camera, Please

A good tip if ever you lose your digital camera. Maybe you will have a better chance of it being returned to you. Simply make a large-type word document on your computer that includes the following:

IF FOUND, PLEASE RETURN THIS CAMERA TO: (insert name/address/tel/fax/email).

THANK YOU!

Print it out as large as possible on a sheet and then photograph it with your digital camera as the first image on your memory card(s), and do not delete them! This way, if you and your camera ever get separated, hopefully whoever finds it will see the image and be kind enough to return it to you!

You could also hand print the wording on plain paper, blackboard, living room wall, or whatever to accomplish the same thing. An added advantage of the tip is that if someone only loses the memory card (and not the camera), there's a good chance the memory card (if found) will be returned.

~ Fred Fertik

LIMac Forum, Long Island, NY

Delete Widgets

It's not obvious how to permanently remove a Dashboard widget from your Mac. To do that, just delete it from the /Users/[username]/Library/Widgets folder.

Design Tools Monthly

Minimize All Windows at Once

If you like to minimize windows (where they collapse into the Dock), you can minimize all the open windows in an application by holding down the "Option" key when you click the yellow "Minimize" button in any window's title bar.

Design Tools Monthly

Recover Photos from Memory Cards

If you reformat or delete photos from your camera's memory card, and then need to get them back, try DataRescue's PhotoRescue (\$29). It tries up to 12 different data recovery algorithms to find the recovery strategy that's best for each image. You can download the software to see if it recovers your photos, and if it does, then pay for it. It works extremely well, as long as you haven't written over the data on the card. <www.datarescue.com>

Design Tools Monthly

Left-Handed Mouse Setting

Lefties, if you are using a two-button mouse, Tiger lets you change which button is for right-click and which is for primary clicking. Find it in the Keyboard and Mouse preference dialog under the Mouse tab.

Mouse Droppings, Corvallis, OR

Quick Trip to System Preferences

We often go to System Preferences.

You can see them without clicking System Preferences. First, prepare by opening System Preferences.

Use Command/H to hide them. Now when you click and hold on System Preferences in the Dock, you get a selectable list of preferences. Closing System Preferences with Command/H is the trick to this tip.

Mouse Droppings, Corvallis, OR

Duplicate Addresses

You can check for duplicates in Address Book. Go to the Card menu and select "Look for Duplicate Entries."

Mouse Droppings, Corvallis, OR

Apple Mail

Resizing Photos in OS X Mail

I first noticed this tip on the Unofficial Apple Weblog (found at <www.tuaw.com>) but later also noticed it at Apple's Hot News RSS feed.

I didn't realize that you could do this but it has saved me some steps. I showed it to a few people here at Small Dog and most didn't know about it (except for Morgan and Jimmy that seem to know everything).

Normally, when I would include a picture in an email, I would open iPhoto and find the picture I wanted to send and choose the "mail" icon to open a new mail message with that picture in it.

When I did so, I was greeted with a dialog box that would let me choose the size of the photo. Then I would compose my email or drag the picture from that email message opened by iPhoto to the message I was working upon. A lot of steps to send a picture.

You do not have to go through all that! After you attach a photo to your email message (you can just drag-and-drop the image into the new message window from iPhoto), take a look in the bottom-right corner of your email message window, and you'll see a pop-up menu where you can choose the image size you'd like to send.

As soon as you choose a size (other than actual size), the image is immediately scaled down right within the email message window so you can see the exact size of the photo you're sending.

You learn something everyday about OS X!

More to come soon with Leopard!

~ Don

Small Dog Electronics

Hints & Tips *cont'd from page 3*

Ready for a New URL?

Can I save you some time? To start typing a new URL in Safari's URL text bar, type Command/L. Your existing URL will highlight ready for you to type. It is time to stop going to the URL text bar and wipe over the existing address. Practice a few times to lock it in.

Mouse Droppings, Corvallis, OR

Delete Pages in Acrobat

Using Acrobat 6 or higher, it's easy to delete pages in a PDF. Just show the Pages panel on the left edge of the document window, select the pages you want to delete, and press the "Delete" key on your keyboard.

Design Tools Monthly

FontExplorer X

Among those who use (or just own) many fonts, there is always a debate over which font management utility does the best job, or is most reliable, or is easiest to use.

For most of us, the one that comes with Mac OS X (Font Book) does a great job, especially now that the Tiger version is so much more reliable than its predecessors. Most "power users," however, prefer a third party alternative such as FontAgent or Suitcase.

Recently, many of these users have found a new favorite — Linotype

FontExplorer X, published by the famous font foundry Linotype. According to all reports it works extremely well and is free of the problems and bugs that have plagued its competitors. It uses a layout very similar to that of iTunes, making it easy to understand how it works.

Best of all, it's free! When the beta was released some months ago in a free version, everyone assumed that the final release would be commercially priced, but that wasn't the case. Version 1.0.1 is still free from <www.linotype.com/fontexplorerX>.

Linotype evidently expects to make some money from the fact that FontExplorer X incorporates a link to the Linotype store where you can buy more fonts (just as iTunes has a link to the Music Store). Be that as it may, the "store" part of the utility is quite unobtrusive. If you're interested in font management and like a freebie, Linotype FontExplorer X is certainly worth a careful look.

AUSOM News, Melbourne, Australia

Password Ass't *cont'd from p.5* The password assistant can also evaluate the strength of passwords that you create yourself. Select "Manual" from the Type: list and enter your suggestion. The password's strength is rated using a color coded scheme: red is weak, yellow means medium strength, and green represents a strong, secure password. 🍏

Quick Notes on Backup Strategy

Having a backup strategy is essential for every Mac OS X user. When issues arise due to disk corruption, a problematic incremental Mac OS X or Security update, or other unforeseen factors, having access to vital documents and applications is essential. There are essentially two practical strategies for backup: Cloning your Mac OS X startup disk to an external volume, providing a bootable drive that is virtually identical to your current set-up; or simply duplicating your Home user folder to another volume or an on-line repository then relying on other methods for restoring your applications and various settings.

Option #1: Cloning your Mac OS X startup disk

Cloning your current Mac OS X startup volume to an external FireWire drive or another bootable disk is a superb option for backup, because it provides an instantaneous solution for getting things up and running in the case of drive failure or system inoperability. There are a number of freeware and shareware utilities that offer this functionality. Among the best are Carbon Copy Cloner and SuperDuper.

Super Duper offers the useful capability of "checkpointing" your system. Essentially, this means that you can run off your bootable, (almost) cloned backup, while preserving the user documents and other information on your current startup volume. Providing your original startup drive is not completely inaccessible, this will allow you to have access to information that has changed since your last backup.

Before using one of these cloning utilities, make sure that the destination disk is formatted (erased) with Apple's Disk Utility. This helps to ensure that no pre-existing disk conditions affect the new installation.

In fact, you can use Disk Utility itself to perform a disk clone if you are using Mac OS X 10.4.x. (or 3x). Simply select the Restore option, then drag your current Mac OS X startup volume into the appropriate field. This option does not provide some of the advanced features available through Carbon Copy Cloner and SuperDuper, but is free, relatively quick and straightforward.

Apart from Carbon Copy Cloner and SuperDuper, another back-up program ought to be mentioned. That program is SilverKeeper from LaCie. It is completely free-of-charge and works perfectly with Tiger.

Option #2: Backing up your home user folder

Simply backing up your home folder is a much faster process than cloning your entire drive, and may be more desirable in some ways than the former option.

One advantage of using this method is that if your previous Mac OS X installation had significant issues caused by corruption of certain files, they will likely be resolved when you are forced to install a clean copy of Mac OS X on the original drive, or a new one.

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Backup Strategy cont'd from page 4

Duplicating your user folder (/Users/username) will back-up most of your important personalized information, including bookmarks for most browsers, Mail.app e-mails, iTunes music, your Desktop folder, and other system settings.

Using this method will, however, result in the loss of various system add-ons, such as Contextual Menus and additional Preference panes, some user-added fonts and more.

A drawback (and a significant time drain associated with this method) is the re-installation of applications, which will all be lost in the fresh Mac OS X install process. You will have to re-install applications from their original media or online source. It is also essential that you retain any serial numbers or other registration information required for re-authorization after the restoration takes place.

Another point of consideration involves updating of the installed applications. Downloading updates for each installed application can be a time consuming process. In order to avoid this process, you can keep archives of updater packages stored on the same repository where your backed-up home user folder resides. This includes the most recent Mac OS X Combination Updater, available from Apple's Software Download page.

MacFixIt

via LIMac Forum, Long Island, NY

Password Assistant in OS X

Picking good passwords is an important element of keeping your system safe and your information private. Good passwords are impossible to guess and difficult to crack, but they can also be hard to think up. Let OS X Tiger take the pain out of the process.

The Mac OS X password assistant can help you come up with a secure password instantly. It's available whenever you create a new user account or change the password for an existing account in your System Preferences.

When you're prompted to create a password, just click the key icon to the right of the "New Password:" field.

The password assistant gives you ten dynamically-generated passwords to choose from right away, based on your choice of several password types:

- Memorable (a mix of words, punctuation and numbers)
- Letters & Numbers (randomly selected, no punctuation)
- Numbers Only
- Random (letters, numbers, and punctuation)
- FIPS-181 compliant (following the U.S. Department of Commerce Standard for automated password generation)

Using the assistant couldn't be simpler. Select the length of the password you want — from 8 characters all the way up to 31 — then pick the type of password from the Type: list and the password assistant will go from there. If you don't care for the first ten choices, just click "More suggestions" to get ten more.

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Create speakable Safari bookmarks

By Rob Griffiths

Speech recognition is one of those features that has been present in the Mac OS for many years, and yet it's not widely used—for any number of reasons, including practicality in noisy office environments. However, it's actually a fairly powerful technology, as today's tip may help demonstrate. (If you're familiar with how speech recognition works on OS X, you can skip directly down to the hint below.)

Before you can use speech recognition on OS X, you must first enable it. Open System Preferences -> Speech, and click the On button next to Speakable Items on the Speech Recognition tab. A small round window will appear; that's the speech recognition controller. The Esc in the blue box indicates the key you'll press to activate recognition—by default, it's set to Escape, though you can change this in the Speech System Preferences panel. It's also set up to only listen while you have the Escape key held down.

Now that it's enabled, exactly what can you do with it? Quite a bit; click the small arrow at the bottom of the circle and choose Open Speech Commands Window from the drop-down menu. This window contains a list of commands that you can say to your Mac—things like get my mail or open my browser, for instance, can be found in the Speakable Items section of the Commands portion of the window. You can do quite a bit with the commands shown here; have fun!

When you're in certain applications, you'll also see an entry for that application in the Commands section. Launch Safari, for instance, and look at the Commands section of the Speech Commands window, and you'll see a Safari entry. Click the triangle, and you'll see Safari's speech commands library. One of those commands, Make This Page Speakable, is the key to making speakable bookmarks. The process is actually quite simple: load the page you want to turn into a speakable bookmark (note that it does not have to be a page that you've bookmarked in Safari). Then press and hold Escape (or whatever keys you've set to activate speech recognition) and say make this page speakable. If you do it right, you'll hear a "whit" as the system recognizes you've sent it a command, and you'll see the dialog pictured above right.

Enter a short, easily-pronounced name into the text box, then click OK. That's it; you've created a speakable bookmark! I created a short movie demonstrating how you can load sites by speaking the name you've assigned (while pressing Escape to activate speech recognition); it also shows how to create a new speakable bookmark:

As you can see, speakable bookmarks do work—as long as your environment is quiet enough to allow speech recognition. There's much more you can do with this feature, of course; enable it and you may find yourself talking to your computer more often. <http://www.macworld.com/weblogs/macosxhints/2007/06/speakablemarks/index.php>



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