

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



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NEW IPODS ANNOUNCED

iPod Touch

The iPod Touch sports a 3.5-inch wide-screen display, and along its bottom run music, video and photo icons. “Just like the iPhone, this is the best way to share photos on a portable device ever,” said Jobs proudly.

The iPod Touch’s button-driven interface also showed icons for a calculator, contacts, clock, calendar and settings icons. What’s more, the new device has Wi-Fi—the iPod Touch is the first iPod to feature wireless networking capabilities, with support for 802.11 b and g networks

The iPod Touch’s button-driven interface also showed icons for a calculator, contacts, clock, calendar and settings icons. What’s more, the new device has Wi-Fi—the iPod Touch is the first iPod to feature wireless networking capabilities, with support for 802.11 b and g networks. using the built-in Safari browser.


“So you can view all those Web pages, zoom in, log into any wi-fi network pretty much. But beside that, you get an incredible Web browser ... the best Web browser on any mobile platform,” said Jobs. YouTube is also supported. The iPod touch’s battery lasts for 22 hours of audio playback and five hours of video playback per charge, according to Apple.

The iPod touch is a worldwide product launch, said Jobs. It’s the first touch product Apple has shipped outside the United States, and it’s been localized into many languages.

The iPod touch is coming in two configurations—8GB and 16GB, for \$299 and \$399 respectively. *cont'd on page 5*

iPhone Price Break

“The 8GB isn’t going to sell for \$599, it’s going to sell starting now for \$399. We want to put iPhones in a lot of stockings this holiday season,” said Jobs.

The 4GB iPhones existing stock will sold and is longer listed on the Apple Store. 

iTunes Store to Stop Selling NBC Television Shows

Apple® announced that it will not be selling NBC television shows for the upcoming television season on its on-line iTunes® Store (www.itunes.com). The move follows NBC’s decision to not renew its agreement with iTunes after Apple declined to pay more than double the wholesale price for each NBC TV episode, which would have resulted in the retail price to consumers *cont'd on page 2*



BAC September Meeting

The September 8th meeting of the Birmingham Apple Core at the Homewood Library.

We will have a ‘Question & Answer’ session, bring your questions and we will see if someone has an answer.

Come enjoy coffee, donuts, cookies etc.

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Bill Henry

henryw@bellsouth.net

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jhill@hillhouse.com.

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tedgallo@charter.net

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tedgallo@charter.net

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For Sale/Wanted

Macintosh G4 Computer - Tower
512 MB of Ram, 2 Hard drives
Zip Drive built in
SCSI card for older hardware
USB Card for extra USB ports
DVD/CD Player
\$300

20in SONY Computer Monitor
Works above computer
\$200

Call Ted Galloway - 822-3219

Enlarged Photo Special at Perry Computer.

Perry Computers in Homewood is offering a special on 16in x 24in enlargement of any digital camera file for \$29.95. The special is good through the month of October. Perry Computers specializes in photo printing, having the ability to print up to 44in by 96in using their wide Epson photo printers. They also do a large amount of printing of normal sized photos taken on digital cameras. They are now a Leica Digital Camera dealer with cameras now in stock.

The firm is an Apple Authorized Value Added Reseller and Service Provider, including repair of warranty and out-of-warranty Apple computers. They provide in-store and in-the-home service including repair and setting up home networks. Other areas of service includes *Consulting *Installation *Digital Image Solutions and *Training.

Chris Perry invites the members of the Birmingham Apple Core to visit their store at 1722-B 28th Ave. So. Homewood. 🍏

Please be advised that Apple announced new iPods on September 5, 2007. These new iPods are not eligible for the Back to School promotion. Rebate claims submitted in conjunction with these products will not be honored.

Along with the new iPod launch, Apple reduced the price on the prior generation iPods — the ones that are eligible for the promotion. This impacts the promotion rebate amount.

For all iPods purchased and invoiced, as part of the promotion, on or before the September 5, 2007 announcement, qualified purchasers are eligible for a rebate of \$199, the list price of a 4GB iPod nano. For all qualifying iPods purchased and invoiced under reduced pricing, customers are eligible for a reduced rebate amount. The new amount is \$149, the new list price of an iPod nano. Customer rebate claims will be calculated based on verification of invoice date and verification of price paid for a 4GB iPod Nano. Larger capacity iPod nano and iPod units will be eligible for a \$149 rebate. 🍏

OVERHEARD AT BAC MEETINGS

Mac users swear by their computers, Windows users swear at their computers

Don't panic....wait you have Windows? Okay panic.

Ignorance is bliss, no wonder so many people are happy with Windows.

Your mouse has moved.

Windows must be restarted for the change to take effect.

Reboot Now.

Macintosh

We might not get everything right, but at least we knew the century was going to end.

My other computer is also a Mac

Vista ... A groundbreaking new crappy version of Mac OS X from six years ago.

NBC cont'd from page 1

increasing to \$4.99 per episode from the current \$1.99. ABC, CBS, FOX and The CW, along with more than 50 cable networks, are signed up to sell TV shows from their upcoming season on iTunes at \$1.99 per episode.

“We are disappointed to see NBC leave iTunes because we would not agree to their dramatic price increase,” said Eddy Cue, Apple’s vice president of iTunes. “We hope they will change their minds and offer their TV shows to the tens of millions of iTunes customers.” Apple’s agreement with NBC ends in December. Since NBC would withdraw their shows in the middle of the television season, Apple has decided to not offer NBC TV shows for the upcoming television season beginning in September. NBC supplied iTunes with three of its 10 best selling TV shows *cont'd on page 3*

Apple iWork '08 Provides Simple But Solid Spreadsheet App

eWeek

By Tiffany Maleshefski

Apple's iWork '08 boasts improvements to the software suite's word processing and presentation applications, but—more importantly—it fills the suite's spreadsheet hole with Numbers.

eWEEK Labs ran Numbers through its paces, and found it to be a strong addition to the productivity software market and a promising alternative to Microsoft Excel.

- Apple's Numbers the Big Draw in iWork '08, Users Say
- Apple's iWork Gains Desktop Territory
- Google Apps Premier Edition a Mixed Bag
- Office 2007 Will Rock Corporations' Worlds

The inclusion of Numbers certainly positions iWork to compete with the Microsoft Office suite, and replaces the now defunct AppleWorks suite. Emphasizing the spreadsheet program's ease of use, yet promising the ability to create sophisticated document, users can create and edit highly technical business documents as easily as they can create a simple family budget.

At the official launch of iWork '08, on Aug. 7, Apple CEO Steve Jobs emphasized Numbers' ease of use and pointed to features, such as its intelligent tables, that allow for the use of multiple formats on a single page and provide a solution for creating “gorgeous looking spreadsheets very quickly.”

During my tests, I found that Numbers is, for the most part, an intuitive program that shouldn't elicit the heavy sighs and consternation that Excel has been known to do.

However, Numbers isn't the walk in the park that Apple makes it out to be—it required a level of trial and error similar to what I've found with Excel. That said, Numbers is a much more streamlined application than Excel.

Numbers and iWork '08 are being positioned to straddle both consumer product and enterprise markets. This incarnation of the office suite supports Office binary formats, so it will fit into any Office environment. However, there are definitely formatting kinks that need to be worked out, as well as problems exporting Numbers documents to Office's binary document format.

Numbers does have OOXML support, but I found it lacking—a drawback for companies that are standardizing on Office 2007's new formats. For now, this is why Numbers will be slow to grab Google Apps' steadily growing market share. Not only does Google Apps stake a claim to a no-frills, easy-to-use spreadsheet application, the Web-based documents can be shared among users.

iWork '08 is reasonably priced, at \$79 (or free with the

purchase of any new Mac computer). The suite requires Mac OS X version 10.4.10 or later.

Easier to navigate

Anyone who gets a migraine just thinking about creating a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet will be happy to know that Numbers is a notably less difficult application to navigate. Visually, Numbers is a veritable spitting image of Excel, so users accustomed to the Microsoft program will be pleased to see spreadsheets set up in the same way and a tool bar parroting Excel.

I found Numbers spreadsheets easy to interact with, and it was simple to organize information. Within minutes of firing up the program, I was creating spreadsheets and sorting and filtering information.

The feature I like best—and, incidentally, the one Apple is hyping the most—is Numbers' intelligent tables feature, which allows users to work with multiple tables inside a single spreadsheet.

To test out this feature, I created an expense report spreadsheet similar to one used here at eWEEK. The spreadsheet I was trying to replicate can be ranked as moderate in terms of its level of formatting complexity, packed with different-sized columns and rows, various split columns and rows, and text boxes. The expense report spreadsheet also is set up so that different kinds of information occupy different areas of the spreadsheet. Sections are delineated by way of borders, a standard feature of spreadsheet programs.

To replicate this spreadsheet, I began in Numbers with a typical spreadsheet that occupied the bulk of my screen. I then resized this spreadsheet (another great feature of Numbers) so that I could free up more space to include additional blocks of information.

Rather than relying on borders to set off specific pieces of information, as the eWEEK T&E spreadsheet does, I used Numbers' nifty intelligent tables feature. An intelligent table is an embedded image that resembles a miniaturized spreadsheet that can be resized to any dimension. This meant I could separate various pieces of the expense report and thereby sort, filter and change the information.

Headers and footer rows are built into the design of each intelligent table, making it very easy to designate titles and footnotes for specific pieces of the spreadsheet, instead of relying on borders or shading to do the job. *cont'd on page 4*

NBC *cont'd from page 2*

last season, accounting for 30 percent of iTunes TV show sales.

NBC has announced they will be moving these shows to the new Amazon Unbox service. No Apple devices are listed in the compatible devices section.

Apple iWork '08 Provides Simple But Solid Spreadsheet App *cont'd from page 3*

With each intelligent table, I could tweak column sizes, add and delete rows, and do pretty much anything I was able to do within the main spreadsheet. The end result was like having five different spreadsheets on one.

Still, I did have trouble splitting rows, one of the features that should have allowed me to select a row of cells and then divide those in half horizontally. I also had a hard time getting the program's borders feature to work. For example, I tried several times to add a red border to one column's left edge. Though the red border did appear, the effect caused the column to lose its grid lines, something I wasn't able to get back, even after consulting Numbers Help function.

I also had a hard time figuring out how to replicate a few of the de-sign elements from my Excel spreadsheet into Numbers. That said, Numbers' pre-designed templates are very handy and applicable to both enterprise and consumer users. Unlike other templates I've worked with, where I have felt that much of the design was irrelevant or overly complicated, the templates in Numbers strike the right balance of structure and flexibility.

I also really liked the program's Chart function, which allowed me to select an area of information within the spreadsheet—say, from one of the intelligent tables. Then, by simply choosing a chart design, I could organize and sort the information into a pie chart or a bar graph. From there, I was able to further customize the chart's look by selecting certain colors, lighting style and axis position. Numbers' import and export functions didn't fare as well.

When I used Numbers to open an Excel file created in Office 2003, the page dynamics didn't translate from Excel to Numbers. The Excel spreadsheet header converted incorrectly, and information such as date and title was rearranged differently.

I next exported a file I created in Numbers. Users can export files as either a PDF or an Excel file. When I exported the file as a PDF and then opened the file in Acrobat 7.0, the formatting of the original file stayed intact. However, when I attempted to export the Numbers-created file to Excel, a window notified me (and I'm quoting exactly here) that an error had occurred and listed the following issues: Table names were hidden because Excel doesn't support displaying them on canvas; header and footer cells were exported as body cells, but will look the same; couldn't export pop-up menus because they aren't supported in Excel (cell values were exported); and couldn't export shadow on text charts.

When I then opened this exported file in Excel 2003, the tables that appeared on one spreadsheet in Numbers were now distributed over three separate Excel spreadsheets, which made for a confusing file. 🍏

Mac Break Weekly Picks of the Week

<http://www.inquisitorx.com/safari/>

Inquisitor... it's like Spotlight for the web.

Start typing and websites pop up immediately, along with ideas to refine your search.

It'll autocomplete your words (is it reading your mind?) and you can add more search engines to Safari with customized keyboard shortcuts.

Oh, and it's free.

<http://www.pixelmator.com/>

Pixelmator, the beautifully designed, easy-to-use, fast and powerful image editor for Mac OS X has everything you need to create, edit and enhance your images.

<http://mailplaneapp.com/>

You love them both: Your MAC and Gmail, right?

But they are both from different worlds and aren't friends, yet. That's where Mailplane comes in to bring them together: Google Mail's superb SPAM protection, endless storage and global access – and the friendliness of your Mac. 🍏

iTunes Wi-Fi Music Store and Ringtones

iTunes Wi-Fi Music Store.

Opening the iTunes Wi-Fi Music Store displays four buttons: Features, Top Tens, Search and Downloads. You can pick Top 10 songs from all of iTunes or only from specific genres. If you see a song you like, you can preview it, and if you like it, you can tap it to buy it using a Buy Now button. You'll download the song, and the next time you dock your iPod touch to your computer, it will sync back to iTunes.

Jobs demonstrated the new software's capability by buying John Lennon's Imagine. The song was visible in a playlist on the iPod touch called "Downloads."

"Isn't this incredible?" asked Jobs.

The iTunes Wi-Fi Music Store is available internationally in every country where Apple operates an iTunes Store, said Job

Ringtones on iTunes

Using the new built-in ringtone maker in iTunes, you'll soon be able to create custom ringtones by selecting a segment, up to 30-seconds long, from any of the more than one million participating songs. After creating your new ringtone, and setting custom fade-in and fade-out points, you can easily sync it to iPhone. It costs just \$.99 (in addition to the cost of a new song) to create a 30-second segment from iTunes. You can also create ringtones for \$.99 from participating songs you've already purchased and downloaded into your iTunes library. Use your new custom ringtone as your iPhone's default ringtone or assign it to a particular caller in your Address Book. 🍏

Screen Zooming Tips

By Christopher Breen
Mac 911 Tip of the Week

Reader Jim Wales is tired of squinching up his eyes to read his mail.

He writes: “We just purchased one of the slick new iMacs (20-inch, 2.4GHz model) and absolutely love it! However, we use AOL for email and find the image window for “Saved” mail too small. I do not want to go to the System Preference area and change the display resolution, as it then is too fuzzy, but large enough to read.”

Jim, forgive me for sending you to System Preferences just one time, but you’ll be glad I did. When you get there, you’ll find a couple of helpful options.

rd & Mouse preference and at the bottom you’ll spy the Zoom When Using Scroll Ball While Holding Control option (this will read “Scroll Wheel” if you’re using a scroll-wheel mouse rather than

Apple’s Mighty Mouse). Make sure that this option is enabled and you

can quickly zoom in on your text by holding down the Mac’s Control key

and scrolling up with the mouse’s scroll ball.

If you’d like to zoom with the keyboard instead, click the Universal Access preference and in the Seeing tab enable the Zoom option. Now when you press Command-Option- = (the Equals key on the top row of the regular keyboard rather than the keypad), whatever is on your display will be enlarged. Press Command-Option-Minus (-) -- again, not on the keypad -- and the display zooms out. By clicking the Options button you can adjust maximum and minimum zoom levels and decide whether you want the display image to move only when the cursor reaches the edge of the screen, follow the cursor continuously, or keep the cursor centered.

You can turn screen zooming on or off by pressing Command-Option-8.

Note that the text you see may be a little fuzzy, but it will be plenty legible.

Bonus hint: If small fonts are more difficult to discern than they once were, do as I did and get a pair of computer glasses. Mine focus at just around three-feet, making working at the computer far easier on the eyes.

For even more tips and troubleshooting, check out <http://www.macworld.com/2007/08/secrets/sept07mac911/index.php> 🍏

iPODS *cont’d from page 1*

Both models are expected to be available “in just a few weeks,” according to Jobs, who said that Apple will ship them in September.

iPod Nano

New features of the redesigned iPod nano include the ability to watch video on a larger, brighter display. The new iPod nano also features Cover Flow, the ability to scroll through album artwork visually. What’s more, the new nano also has games support, more storage features and a full metal design.

The redesigned iPod nano comes in five colors—red, black, silver, blue and green. “It’s incredibly tiny, it’s incredibly thin,” said Jobs. The iPod nano now features a 2.0-inch display that features the same resolution as the previous-generation full-sized iPod: 320 x 240 pixels. “We’ve achieved this with a screen with the highest pixel density we’ve ever shipped: 204 ppi,” explained Jobs. “And the screen is just gorgeous. We you see it you’re going to really love it.” The redesigned iPod nano comes in two versions—a 4GB version in silver, for \$149, and 8GB version in colors, for \$199.

iPod Classic

We’re going to call it the iPod classic.”

The new iPod still features a click wheel, and it’s now in a full metal design in silver and black. The low-end iPod classic (at 80GB) is now thinner than the 30GB thin model that preceded it. Jobs claims the new iPod gets 30 hours of audio playback and five hours of video playback on a single charge. Like the iPod nano, the new iPod classic features an enhanced user interface.

Apple is also offering a model that features 160GB of storage. “This boggles the mind,” said Jobs for emphasis.

“The first iPod put 1000 songs in your pocket. This new iPod puts 40,000 songs in your pocket. It’s amazing.”

The new 80GB model costs \$249, while the 160GB model costs \$349. 🍏





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CONTACT

Ted Galloway
tedgallo@charter.net

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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



Bill Henry, Editor
2438 Mahaska Drive
Birmingham, AL 35244

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Monthly Meeting

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