

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



April 2008

Vol. 30, No. 4

Inside this issue

Broadband Worldwide.....	1
BAC April Meeting.....	1
BAC Board of Directors.....	2
Updates.....	2
Disk Warrior.....	2
Photshop Elements 6.....	2
USB Turntables.....	3
Aperture 2.....	3
GadgetTrak.....	3
Hints & Tips.....	4
Hints & Tips cont'd.....	5
Airport Express Faster.....	5
Safari 3.1 Leads the Pack.....	5
Display Ads.....	6

BROADBAND WORLDWIDE

The average broadband download speed in the US is only 1.9 megabits per second, compared to 61 Mbps in Japan, 45 Mbps in South Korea, 18 Mbps in Sweden, 17 Mbps in France, and 7 Mbps in Canada, according to the Communication Workers of America.

CWA President Larry Cohen testified before the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, in support of a discussion draft of the Broadband Census of America Act.

“Good data is the foundation of good policy,” Cohen said. “We desperately need a national Internet policy to reverse the fact that our nation – the country that invented the Internet – has fallen to 16th in the world in broadband adoption.”

“Equally disturbing, Americans pay more for slower connection speeds than people in many other countries,” he added.

According to statistics provided by CWA 80 percent of households in Japan can connect to a fiber network at a speed of 100 megabits per second. This is 30 times the average speed of a US cable modem or DSL connection, at roughly the same cost.

Using the website below, Bellsouth DSL came in around 3 kb/sec and Charter around 5kb/sec.

If you check out the Global Stats you can narrow it down to country, state and

city. Be sure to click the ‘Check’ button to include schools and corporations. Auburn Univ. led the state with 17.1kb/sec and the Univ. of Alabama was second with 15.7 kb/sec.

By the way Apple Corp HQ in Cupertino came in at 27.2 kb/sec.!!!

On the whole the USA is about the middle of the pack.

The US leads in North America and South America but lags behind Japan and most western European countries.

See the chart on page 5 showing the countries with the fastest broadband speeds on average.

More information is available from the website below. 🍏

www.speedtest.net



🍏 BAC April Meeting 🍏

The April 12th meeting of the Birmingham Apple Core at the Homewood Library will be a Question and Answer session. We will bring the answers and and see if they match your questions.

Come enjoy coffee, donuts, cookies etc.

2007 BAC Board of Directors

PRESIDENT/PEEL EDITOR

Bill Henry

henryw@bellsouth.net

VICE PRESIDENT/PROGRAM CHAIR

Jim Hillhouse

jhill@hillhouse.com

SECRETARY

Kurt Fattig

kurt@kurtfattig.com

WEBMASTER

Ragnar Flatland

flatrag@mac.com

MEMBERSHIP

Ted Galloway

tedgallo@charter.net

TREASURER

Open

INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA

LIBRARIAN

Luther Fuller

fullerluther@alltel.net

The Apple PEEL is the official newsletter of the Birmingham Apple Core Macintosh User Group. It is free to members as a benefit of membership. Unless otherwise noted within the articles, all material published herein may be reprinted without permission by any not-for-profit Apple User Group provided proper credit is given to the author(s) and the proper publication.

Instead of placing a trademark symbol on each occurrence of a trademark name, we state that we have used trademark names for editorial purposes only, for the benefit of the trademark owners, with no intent to infringe on those trademarks.

©Copyright 2008

UPDATES

iTunes 7.6.2

Rent and download your favorite movies with iTunes on your computer or directly to your living room on Apple TV. Enjoy rented movies in sizes up to 720p HD with surround sound on your Apple TV and sizes up to DVD-quality on your computer. Transfer your rented movies from iTunes to your iPod or iPhone and enjoy them on the go.

iTunes 7.6.2 provides bug fixes to improve stability and performance.

QuickTime 7.4.5

QuickTime 7.4.5 includes fixes that enhance reliability, improve compatibility with third-party applications, and address security issues. This release is recommended for all QuickTime 7 users.

For detailed information on the security content of this update, please visit this website: <http://www.info.apple.com/kbnum/n61798>.

Front Row 2.1.3

This Front Row update provides for bug fixes and improved iTunes compatibility.

Quick tip:

Can't find a Wi-Fi network at the airport? Sit outside an airline membership lounge. Most offer Wi-Fi for their customers, usually for a fee. Also, be sure to pack a compact power strip in your laptop bag in case you need to share a wall socket at a departure gate. And if you're expecting a long layover, find out if a nearby airport hotel offers Wi-Fi in its lobby or restaurant, or in its guest rooms. 🍏

DISK WARRIOR 4.1

Alsoft has released the 4.1 CD updater for users of Disk Warrior 4, allowing them to update their startup CD to the newest version.

Disk Warrior 4.1 provides complete compatibility with Leopard, plus additional repair capabilities including the ability to repair damaged directory hard links (a new feature of Leopard for Time Machine backups), according to Alsoft.

Alsoft notes that the new CD will startup the same set of Macs as the current DiskWarrior CD.

You can download the CD Updater from the Alsoft Web site. 🍏

ADOBE PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS 6.0

Adobe introduced Photoshop elements 6.0 on March 24th.

Fullversion price is \$90 and the upgrade price is \$70 from any previous version.

The interface is new and the launch is quicker. The new interface is dark gray which makes the photos stand out.

There is a Full mode, Quick Mode and the guided Mode. the FullMode allows access to the do anything. The Quick mode is for quick tweaks and fixes. The new Guided Mode walks you thru step by step according to your rponses to a series of questions.

New editing tools and features are found through out the software.

Once you are finshied editing the Create workspace allows you to present your effort ian easier and better way.

This version finally catches Mac users up with the Windows version.

Photoshop Elements 6 for Mac was named "Best of Show," and given the 2008 Editors' Choice Awards by The Mac Observer and the 2008 Macworld Award by Macsimum News

FREE TO A GOOD HOME

EPSON BLACK INK
CARTRIDGES (2)

MADE FOR EPSON STYLUS
COLOR PRINTERS 880/880i/83
Item No. T019 201
Contact Bill Henry

USB Turntable to Computer Digitize Your Vinyl

Ion iTTUSB Turntable with USB Record

\$129 street price

The Ion iPTUSB (\$149) is a portable turntable with an impressive amount of features, including a direct USB output for archiving your vinyl to your PC. Whether you're a seasoned crate-digger or a vinyl holdout looking to downsize your hi-fi, the Ion iPTUSB strikes a great balance of portability, features, and sound quality.

The Ion iPTUSB is designed for two groups of people: those who don't have the space to permanently set up a full-size turntable, and record-shop junkies looking for a portable way to demo (and possibly record) vinyl on-the-go. If you're looking for the highest-quality means to archive your beloved collection of vinyl, we recommend steering clear of USB turntable solutions altogether, and going the high road of investing in a phono preamp, audio card, and recording software.

Our favorite design feature of the Ion iPTUSB is probably the easiest one to overlook. Through some marvel of engineering, the Ion iPTUSB measures only 12 inches square, allowing it to fit perfectly alongside your dusty record collection.

The Ion iPTUSB's USB recording quality was well above our expectations. Getting started was a snap, since our PC recognized the Ion iPTUSB the moment we connected it over USB. We were frustrated to find the two pieces of included recording software were either too basic (EZ Vinyl Converter), or too complicated (Audacity) for what we wanted to accomplish. Whichever tool you choose (we recommend grabbing Cakewalk's Pyro software) you'll be pleasantly surprised by the Ion iPTUSB's recording quality. We also made several recordings using the Ion iPTUSB's 3.5mm line-input, and achieved good results recording music from an MP3 player to our PC (a cassette deck, CD player, or MiniDisc would also work).

http://reviews.cnet.com/turntables/ion-iptusb-usb-turntable/4505-7860_7-32784961.html

Audio Technica AT-LP2DUSB LP-to-Digital Recording System with USB

\$109 street

<http://www.audio-technica.com/cms/turntables/8b88447e3530f153/index.html> 🍏

Apple Releases Aperture 2.1

Apple® released Aperture™ 2.1, which introduces an open plug-in architecture that makes it easy for photographers to use specialized third party imaging software right from

within Aperture. Available today as a free software update, Aperture 2.1 includes the Apple-developed plug-in, Dodge & Burn, which adds brush-based tools for dodge (lighten),

burn (darken), contrast, saturation, sharpen and blur. Over the coming months, third party software developers will deliver image editing plug-ins for localized editing, filters and effects, noise analysis and reduction, fisheye lens correction and more.

Aperture requires a G5 or Intel processor Mac with OS X 10.4.11 or 10.5.2 and also specific graphic processors so be careful when purchasing to be sure your Mac meets these minimum requirements. Cost of Aperture 2 is \$199.00 or \$99.00 for an upgrade. 🍏

GadgetTrak

When stolen and a network connection is established the user is prompted for a password with a timer. If the password is not entered, GadgetTrak Verey will start recording via a connected video capture device (e.g. iSight) and send emails to the owner's email addresses. The email will contain the necessary network information: IP address, machine serial number, MAC Hardware Address as well as nearby wireless networks and video clips captured by the camera.

GadgetTrak Verey will also limit the usage of the machine by locking up the machine after a certain amount of time. During lock up, the machine screen will show details how to contact the owner and other information set by the owner. <http://www.gadgettrak.com/products/verey/> 🍏

New OS Troubleshooting

A new operating system brings new bugs to be squashed. Here are a couple to watch out for, with Leopard now roaring into its fourth month of release.

Home folder MIA

If you open the Users folder (located at the root level of your hard drive), you should see your "home" folder there—it's the one labeled with your account name. If, after upgrading to Mac OS X 10.5, the folder is missing, don't panic. It's still there—it's just hiding.

To make it visible again, launch Terminal (/Applications/Terminal) and enter the following command:

```
chflags nohidden ~/
```

Update cuts off Wi-Fi access

After installing the Login and Keychain Update 1.0 for Leopard, you may no longer be able to connect to wireless networks. The solution is simple: Restart the Mac in Safe mode (by holding down the shift key at startup) and then restart again normally. 🍏

Hints&Tips

www.mac-hints-tips.com

Clear Off Your Desktop!

The desktop is designed to keep files and folders that we need for quick access. I, like many of us, am guilty of keeping a cluttered desktop of random things I have downloaded, installed, and abandoned.

With OS 10.5 Leopard, several interface improvements were made to make it easier to stay organized. All downloaded files go into a Downloads folder, easily accessed from the dock, and any folder can be placed in the dock for easy access. The Documents folder is on the dock by default. Treat your dock as the quick access tool for your life and put the applications you use daily on it.

There are some downfalls to a cluttered desktop. Despite the belief that it speeds up work and play, an excess of items on the desktop will slow down boot times, create visual distraction, and make it more difficult to find items. Anytime a machine boots, every icon on the desktop has to load. We at Small Dog Service have been watching for the most icons on any desktop and the current record is 502 items. Is this you? Consider consolidating to a single folder to ease boot times.

~ Todd

Small Dog Electronics

Terrific Tagging

Because I import music from a variety of sources, my iTunes library has become cluttered with unsorted MP3 and AAC files that lack album, track, and even artist and song-name information. Fortunately, there's a great tool for labeling MP3 files, so you don't have to do it all by hand: Jay Tuley's free iEatBrainz will look for your music files' "digital fingerprints" on the free MusicBrainz database and give you a list of possible matches. You can quickly select the right ones and import the information you need. In conjunction with Chaotic Software's Media Rage (\$30), it allowed me to label and add artwork to 450 unsorted song files in my iTunes library, in less than two and a half hours. If you're like me and cannot imagine having your Mac on without iTunes being open, this tool is definitely a must.

~ Bill Urbina

Chris Breen's Mac 911

via Fat Bits, Conejo Valley MUG

Information about your Zipcode

Check out your zipcode — you will not believe the information you will find there!

<http://zipskinny.com>

Synch Bookmarks Between Firefox and Safari

Q: I have been using Safari for a number of years and have been very happy with it as a browser. That said, Firefox has the ability to use some web pages that Safari cannot completely render. Is there an easy way to move bookmarks from Safari to Firefox, and similarly, can bookmarks be synced between the two applications? ~ Jonathan M

A: The first time you launch Firefox, you'll be able to import your Safari bookmarks.

After that, you can import bookmarks through Firefox's Bookmarks Manager. Choose Bookmarks > Manage Bookmarks, and then choose File > Import. You'll be able to choose Safari, Microsoft Internet Explorer, Opera and From File. Choose Safari and click Continue, and your bookmarks will be imported.

And if you want to synchronize bookmarks between Safari and Firefox, consider using Everyday Software's Bookit 3.7, \$12. <http://www.everydaysoftware.net/bookit/>

*macHOME HotTips via Mouse Tales,
North Coast MUG, Berea, OH*

Faster Installations

Here is a tip that will speed up application installers, especially under Mac OS X 10.5: unmount all volumes except the startup drive. Otherwise, the installer will search all your drives for previous versions. The volume containing your Time Machine backup slows the process the most.

Design Tools Monthly

Meet Alex

Alex is a new speaking voice in Leopard. You will almost certainly want to use Alex. The voice is the most natural created yet.

Mouse Droppings, Corvallis, OR

Look for Leopard Updates

If you do have Leopard installed, be sure you keep up with the software updates and install them as soon as you are aware of them. Since Leopard is a brand new operating system, Apple will be releasing updates as they find any problems and you will find that your system will run better with each update. 10.5.1 is already out. To check on updates, click on the Apple menu > Software Update.

~ Nancy Gravley

Mouse Tales, North Coast MUG, Berea, OH

Finding Your Lost Address Book

I was innocently working at my Mac when I needed to look up an address. When I opened the Address Book application, I was stunned — there were none of my 750 addresses present. All there was was a blank database. I had a bit of fear I had lost all those addresses from 20+ years of storing them on my Mac when I realized that I had them

cont'd on page 5

Hints & Tips *cont'd from page 4*

on my MacBook, synced to my .Mac account, had a recent backup on my spare drive, had them on my iPod and on my cell phone.

Nevertheless, I was not happy that they were gone when I needed them. I discovered an interesting tip, if you find yourself in a similar situation. If you follow this path ~/Library/Application Support/AddressBook you will find both a file entitled "AddressBook.data" and a file entitled "AddressBook.data.previous".

If you should find yourself with an empty Address Book, simply close the Address Book application and change the name of "AddressBook.data" to something like "lost my way.darn" or anything but AddressBook.data.

Then, change the name of "AddressBook.data.previous" to "AddressBook.data". Open the Address Book application and all your names and addresses should be recovered.

The real lesson here is very clear. If you have ANY critical information on your Mac, make back-ups! I love the signature of my friend, David Lerner, from Tekserve in New York City — "May you have 1000 backups and never need one."

~ Don

Small Dog Electronics

Apple Introduces New AirPort Express with 802.11n

All AirPort Base Stations Now Run Fastest Wireless Standard

Apple® updated its AirPort Express® mobile base station with 802.11n to deliver up to five times the performance and twice the range of the previous model*. Priced at just \$99, AirPort Express is the world's smallest 802.11n-based mobile base station. It can be plugged directly into the wall for wireless Internet connectivity and USB printing at home or easily brought on the road for wireless freedom wherever

there is an Internet connection. AirPort Express features iTunes™, which works seamlessly with iTunes® to give users a simple and inexpensive way to wirelessly stream iTunes music from a PC or Mac® to any room in the house.🍏

Apple Releases Safari 3.1 The World's Fastest Browser Now on Mac and Windows

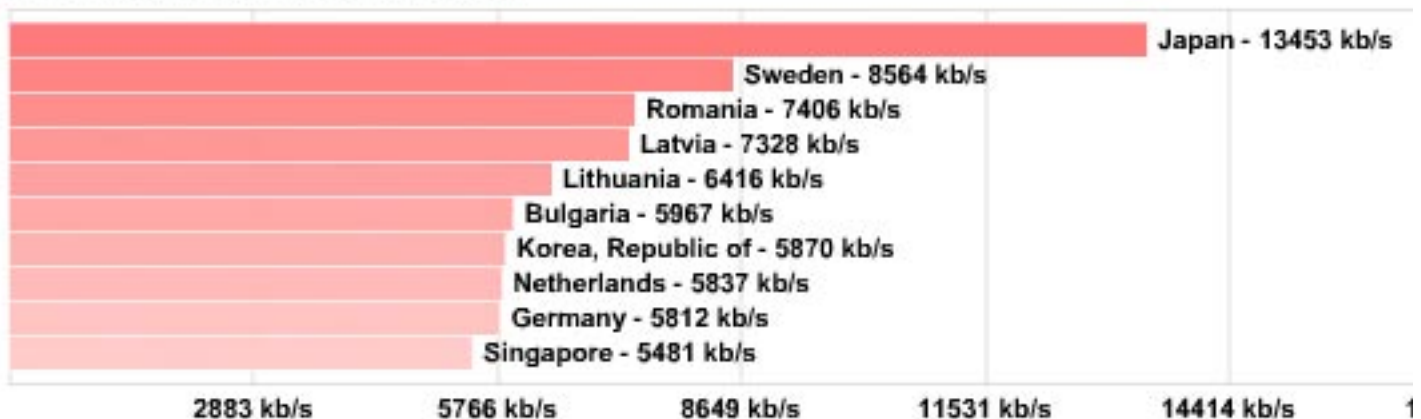
Apple® introduced Safari™ 3.1, the world's fastest web browser for Mac® and Windows PCs. Safari loads web pages 1.9 times faster than IE 7 and 1.7 times faster than Firefox 2. Safari also runs JavaScript up to six times faster than other browsers, and is the first browser to support the latest innovative web standards needed to deliver the next generation of highly interactive Web 2.0 experiences*. Safari 3.1 is available immediately as a free download at www.apple.com/safari for both Mac OS® X and Windows.

"Safari 3.1 for Mac and Windows is blazingly fast, easy to use and features an elegant user interface," said Philip Schiller, Apple's senior vice president of Worldwide Product Marketing. "And best of all, Safari supports the latest audio, video and animation standards for an industry-leading Web 2.0 experience."

The incredible performance of Safari, combined with its elegant user interface, lets users spend more time surfing the web and less time waiting for pages to load. Safari features an intuitive browsing experience with drag-and-drop bookmarks, easy-to-organize tabs, an integrated Find that shows the number of matches in a page and a built-in RSS reader to quickly scan the latest news and information.

Safari 3.1 is the first browser to support the new video and audio tags in HTML 5 and the first to support CSS Animations. Safari also supports CSS Web Fonts, giving designers limitless choices of fonts to create stunning new web sites.🍏

Top Countries By Download Speed



SUPPORT
YOUR
PEEL
ADVERTISERS

PLACE YOUR AD
HERE

CONTACT

Ted Galloway
tedgallo@charter.net



- Consultation
 - Sales
 - Installation
 - Training
 - Digital Imaging Solutions
- Authorized
Value Added Reseller
and Service Provider

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

SUPPORT
YOUR
PEEL
ADVERTISERS



Bill Henry, Editor
2438 Mahaska Drive
Birmingham, AL 35244

Attend the BAC
Monthly Meeting

Be sure to check your mailing label for your BAC renewal month.
To renew, mail \$30 to BAC, 3417 Wisteria Drive, Birmingham, AL