

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



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New Mac Book Pros and Mac Books

Starting at \$1,999, the MacBook Pro uses the latest Intel Core 2 Duo processors available, running up to 2.8 GHz, and a new graphics architecture that allows users to switch between the NVIDIA GeForce 9400M integrated graphics processor for better battery life and the powerful NVIDIA GeForce 9600M GT discrete graphics processor for higher performance.

Features include:

- Unibody enclosure
- Mini DisplayPort for Video out
- Two NVIDIA graphics chipsets: 9400M and 9600M GT
- Instant-on LED-backlit displays
- Glass Multi-Touch trackpad with new Multi-Touch gestures
- User accessible hard drive

The new MacBook Pros will provide the following price points:

- \$1999. 15.4" Glossy Display, 2.4GHz, 2GB RAM, NVIDIA 9400M + 9600M, 250GB HD.
- \$2499. 15.4" Glossy Display, 2.53GHz, 4GB RAM, NVIDIA 9400M + 9600M, 320GB HD

Apple also provided a quiet update to the 17" MacBook Pro:

The updated 17-inch MacBook Pro keeps its original aluminum design, and now comes standard with a high resolution 1920 x 1200 LED-backlit display and a larger 320GB hard drive or an optional 128GB solid state drive.

continued on page 3

New 24" Cinema Display

Apple introduces their first LED-based Cinema Display.

"The new LED Cinema Display is the most advanced display that Apple has ever made," said Philip Schiller, Apple's senior vice president of Worldwide Product Marketing. "It is a perfect fit for our sleek new line of aluminum MacBooks with its 24-inch LED-backlit screen, aluminum and glass enclosure, integrated camera, mic and speakers, MagSafe charger, three USB ports and Mini DisplayPort."

The 24" LED Cinema Display adds a built-in iSight video camera, mic and speakers. Other features include:

continued on page 3

WIRELESS IN BIRMINGHAM Map of wireless locations

<http://www.ipsaonline.org/wifi/>



🍏 BAC November Meeting 🍏

The November 8th meeting of the Birmingham Apple Core will be at the Homewood Library. Program TBA.

As always bring questions to discuss before and after the meeting.

Come enjoy coffee, donuts, cookies etc.

2008 BAC Board of Directors

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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

Peachpit Tip

Excerpted from Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard: Visual QickStart Guide by Maria Langer

Removing Widgets

You cannot use the Widget Manager to delete widgets that are installed with Mac OS X. Instead, consider disabling them. If you really must remove one of the Mac OS X widgets, you can delete its widget file from the Widgets folder in the Library folder of your hard disk. 🍏

Personalize Your Portable

by Luther B. Fuller
21 Oct 2008

If you have a portable Mac with Leopard installed, here's something you can do to personalize it with your name and address so that it will show on screen when you start up.

First, go to System Preferences in the Apple menu and open the Accounts preference pane; Select Login Options; Click the padlock icon; type an admin password; Set Automatic Login to Disabled; Quit System Preferences. This will cause the login screen to display when you startup your Mac.

Second, you will need to choose a Desktop Picture. Open the folder StartupDisk/Library/Desktop Pictures/ and review the picture files you find there using Preview. Some of these pictures, such as Solid Colors, will open as a small square; You cannot use these to personalize your startup screen. If the picture fills the screen when opened, you can use it. (The default picture is Aurora.jpg in the Nature folder.) Once you have selected a picture, copy (Option-Drag) the file to the desktop and rename the copy "DefaultDesktop.jpg".

Third, open the "DefaultDesktop.jpg" on the desktop with an application that will allow you to add a text layer with

your information. Photoshop will probably work as will many other applications. I used Gimp, which is a free application similar to Photoshop. I used "DefaultDesktop.jpg" as the background layer; Added an opaque white layer above it about the size of a business card; Then added a transparent text layer above that containing my name and address. You will have to align and size the new layers to give the appearance of a business card at the far left or right of the picture. Save the layered file so that you can edit it later, if necessary. Then save it as a flattened jpg named "DefaultDesktop.jpg", replacing the original.

Finally, open the folder Startup-Disk/System/Library/CoreServices/ and Drag & Drop the DefaultDesktop.jpg from your desktop into this folder. When asked, click Replace.

Testing. Close all applications and Restart your Mac. You will see the Login window above a desktop picture with your personal information to its left or right. Choose a User and type the password to finish the Restart. If you are not satisfied with the result, open and edit the layered file, repeating step Three. 🍏



New Mac Book & Mac Book Pro

Don't forget our new training CDs for Leopard MAC OS X 10.5.

Also we still have the OS X 10.4 "Tiger" training CDs available as well.

Contact Luther Fuller for more information or go to our website. 🍏

OpenOffice 3.0 for Mac Goes Final

Following extensive beta testing, the developers of OpenOffice have released the completed version of its v3.0 productivity suite. The software covers a variety of tasks, including spreadsheets, word processing and presentation work; editions are also available for a variety of different operating systems. The v3.0 update is said to be particularly important for the Mac, as users can now install a native client that does not require X11.



These changes are also said to aid in performance and stability, and introduce support for Mac OS X's accessibility APIs, which primarily help people with little to no eyesight.


Other features of the software include new collaboration, charting and drawing tools, Office 2007 import filters, and support for OpenDocument

Format (ODF) 1.2. Also present are improved XSLT-based filters, and better XML support. OpenOffice 3.0 is a free download. Visit www.openoffice.org for more information.




Mac Cinema Display *continued from page 1*

- Mini DisplayPort
- MagSafe connector that powers and charges your new MacBook.
- Three self-powered USB ports
- 1920x1200 resolution
- LED screen

The new screen is priced at \$899 and will be available in November and requires a new MacBook, MacBook Pro or MacBook Air with the Mini DisplayPort connector. 

USB EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Don't forget the min USB AC adapter exchange program is going on. These came with you iPhone, iPod Touch or were purchased later with video adapter kit or alone.

If your adapter does not have a green not do not use it, take it to the Apple Store and exchange it for a free one with the green dot. Prongs breaking off in power outlets which caused the recall. 



MacBook Pro *continued from page 1*

And also upgraded some of the features of the MacBook Air:

MacBook Air, measuring only 0.16-inches at its thinnest point, 0.76-inches at its maximum height and weighing just three pounds, now includes new NVIDIA GeForce 9400M integrated graphics and a faster architecture to provide robust support for 3D games and enhanced performance. Starting at \$1,799, MacBook Air is available with a 120GB 4200 rpm hard drive, a 50 percent increase from the previous generation, or a new 128GB solid state drive.


Two new MacBook models which have adopted new all-metal enclosures, improved graphics performance, and glass Multi-Touch trackpads.

"Apple has invented a whole new way of building notebooks from a single block of aluminum. And, just as important, they are the industry's greenest notebooks," said Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO. "The new MacBooks offer incredible features our users will love —like their stunning all-metal design, great 3D graphics and LED backlit displays—at prices up to \$700 less than before."

Features include:

- Unibody enclosure
- Mini DisplayPort for Video out
- NVIDIA graphics
- Instant-on LED-backlit displays
- Glass Multi-Touch trackpad with new Multi-Touch gestures
- Missing is a Firewire port, useful for Target Disk Mode and transferring video and audio files.

The old low-end \$1099 MacBook will remain in Apple's product line, add a SuperDrive, and fall to \$999, while the new MacBooks will provide the following price points:

- \$1299. 13.3" Glossy Display, 2.0GHz, 2GB RAM, NVIDIA GeForce 9400M, 160GB HD.
- \$1599. 13.3" Glossy Display, 2.4GHz, 2GB RAM, NVIDIA GeForce 9400M, 250GB HD. 



Hints&Tips

www.mac-hints-tips.com

Permission Repair Message

After repairing permissions this statement appears.

Warning: SUID file “System/Library/CoreServices/Find-er.app/Contents/Resources/OwnerGroupTool” has been modified and will not be repaired.

You can ignore that one. The Remote Management update (an early update after Leopard was launched) changed a file and didn't tell Disk Utility to expect that change. So Disk Utility is simply telling you it has noted the change and isn't going to try to correct anything with that file since it doesn't know what the correct settings should be for that file any more. Eventually Apple will update Disk Utility's records to eliminate that message as well.

Troubleshoot Hardware with System Profiler

If your Mac is having trouble working with a peripheral device, try launching System Profiler in Applications/Utilities. If the device appears in System Profiler, you likely have a software driver issue.

If the device does not appear, you could have a hardware-related problem. If so, try connecting the device to a different Mac to see if the problem persists.

Design Tools Monthly

Quick Image View

Here is a cool Leopard trick and it is like magic for people who look at images all the time.

Click on a JPEG icon and press the space bar. Up pops your image. This works for PDFs also. It is a fast way to view images that you want to view quickly without opening them up in an application like Photoshop. The trick uses Apple's Quicklook.

Lynn Rybarczyk
Change Colors

To change colors on your Mac from “black letters on white” to “white letters on black,” hold down Control/Option/Command with one hand and press the “8” key. Do it again to get back to normal.

Mouse Droppings, Corvallis, OR

Backup Versus Clone

When you clone a hard drive, you are making an exact duplicate. Since this new duplicate is like the original in every way, you can use it just like the original. All of your files, the operating system, and applications will be exactly where you expect to find them. In most cases, your drive

clone is bootable as well, so you can use it in place of the original if you need to.

Carbon Copy Cloner, from Bombich Software, is one application that can handle drive cloning without any problem. If CCC isn't your style, another nice option is SuperDuper, from shirt-pocket software.

Backup in simple terms

Backing up involves duplicating critical files so that if the originals are lost or damaged, the copies are available to take their place. If you aren't following a regular and reliable backup routine, you will lose important files. It's only a matter of time.

While a cloned hard drive does make a perfectly fine backup, it's usually more efficient to copy only the files that have changed since your last backup. That's where backup applications come in handy: They track your changed files and back them up on a regular basis so you don't have to remember to do it yourself.

Both Carbon Copy Cloner and SuperDuper offer data backup options along with their cloning features. Mac users can also take advantage of Apple's Backup application — it has been serving me well for some time. After installing Leopard, Time Machine is an option, too.

My personal routine includes nightly backups to an external hard drive, weekly backups to my Mac account, and twice-monthly backups to DVD. I don't like to lose data.

Making sure you have extra copies of your important files, either through backing up or cloning, needs to be a regular part of your computing routine. Even though things tend to go smoothly when installing new versions of Mac OS X, it's a really good idea to backup the files you can't afford to lose — you never know when something unexpected will happen and things go horribly wrong.

The moral of this story: Backup your files or lose them.

~ Jeff Garnet

*The Mac Observer via Mouse Tales, NorthCoast MUG,
Berea, OH*

Quick Mac Tip Videos

There are several dozen excellent video tutorials posted throughout Apple.com. The Business section has some of the best. They include topics such as Battery Optimization, Restricting Spotlight, Merge PDFs With Ease, Deleting Securely, and many more.

The videos are short and sweet and get right to the point. It's definitely worth any Mac users time to check them out — you'll almost certainly learn something new.

See them here: <www.apple.com/business/theater/>

~ Ed

Small Dog Electronics

continued on page 5

Hints & Tips *continued from page 4*

Smarten Up!

There's no excuse for skipping past a word you've never seen before, or whose meaning is unclear. Simply place your mouse cursor over the word in question, and press Command/Control/D. A few seconds later, the definition pops down and you're that much smarter!

Small Dog Electronics

iTunes U

Retirees in Long Beach and Weaverville, Calif., halibut fishermen in Alaska, data entry clerks in London, casting agents in New York — all separated from the classroom by age, distance or circumstance — are learning from some of the world's top scholars," Michelle Quinn (Los Angeles Times) tells her readers.

They're learning by downloading podcasts from iTunes U, where "28 colleges and universities, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford and Yale, now post select courses without a charge at iTunes.

Mouse Droppings, Corvallis, OR

Get Free Stuff from iTunes

Everybody likes free stuff! In addition to a free Single of the Week, the iTunes Store usually offers several other free songs and videos for you to try. Look for the "FREE ON iTunes" box on the main iTunes Store screen and click the See All link to view the whole list

Peachpit Press

UPS Delivers

You need dependable power that protects your computers from power surges and brownouts, and keeps the juice flowing long enough for you to save your work and shut down your machines properly. An uninterruptible power supply (UPS) does just that.

In the bad old days, I relied on one UPS to keep multiple Macs and a load of peripherals on the job. Bad idea. The pro brought in two APC Back-UPS 1200VA UPSs (\$200) and did the right thing: he connected the computers and monitors to the power ports (on the back of one UPS) that are supplied with a battery backup, so they'll stay alive when the rest of the office goes dark.

Other peripherals that need to remain alive during blackouts — external hard drives, switches, routers, and the DSL modem — also get a backup battery outlet, on the other UPS.

The laser printer, which sucks enormous amounts of power when starting up and printing, is plugged into one of the power receptacles that provides surge protection but no battery power.

Nonessential peripherals — the ones I can live without during a blackout, such as my iPod and PDA chargers, scanner, and PVR — also get surge protection but no backup.

Although I no longer use a modem, you might. If so, take advantage of the phone-line connector on the back of your UPS. Electrical spikes can travel through phone wires, too.

Take a Test

Even though I was already using a UPS, I had never bothered to find out if it worked properly. Turns out that the one I had was shot from being so overloaded. Had I cut the power to it to see if its backup functions really worked, I would have discovered the problem and divided its load among a couple more UPSs.

Share the Power

I'm lucky enough to have two electrical circuits in my office. The pro took advantage of this and split the UPS units and various power strips I have between those circuits. Previously, I overloaded one circuit while leaving the other twiddling its little electric thumbs. Not smart, as this creates a potential fire hazard.

Chris Breen's Mac 911 via Fat Bits, Conejo Valley MUG

Inconsistent Keys

Q: On a Windows PC, if you place your cursor in the middle of a sentence and press the end key, the cursor jumps to the end of that line. Conversely, if you press the home key, the cursor jumps to the beginning of the line. But when I try either on my iMac G5, the cursor remains where it is. What are the end and home keys supposed to do on the Mac? ~ Steve Sawula

A: On the Mac, the home and end keys don't always do the same things across applications. For example, these keys work as you describe in Microsoft Office applications but not in TextEdit.

In Web browsers, you'll discover that the home and end keys take you to the beginning and end of a page, respectively.

The consistent keyboard shortcuts for placing the cursor at the beginning and end of a line are Command/left arrow and Command/right arrow, respectively. (Again, browsers are the exception here. Use these keys to go to the previous and next pages, respectively.)

If you'd like your cursor to jump to the beginning and end of your document, try Command/home and Command/end.

Chris Breen's Mac 911 via TMUG Insider



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