

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



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Inside this issue

Perry Computer	1
Wireless Charging	1
BAC July Meeting.....	1
Rumor Mill.....	2
802.11n Approved.....	3
Combining PDFs.....	3
HP Printing	3
io Safe Hard Drive.....	4
Macs Targeted.....	4
AutoDesk Sketch Mobile & Pro.....	5
Timesavers.....	5
Display Ads.....	6



Perry Computer Relocates to Brookwood Mall

Long time member, friend of the Birmingham Apple Core as well as PEEL advertiser Perry Computer, has completed their relocation the the Brookwood Mall.

The store is located on the Belk's end of the second floor.

The mall location provides customers with covered parking and convenient access to other businesses and restaurants.

The new store provides much more sales space for the Meade telescopes, Leica cameras and of course the line of Apple products available from an Apple reseller.

Perry Computer carries many accessories, printer ink refills and paper and offers training, consulting and repair services. 🍏

Wireless charging lets you cut the cords

It's a pain to keep track of the chargers that go with cell phones, media players and other small electronics. It's even more annoying to stuff multiple power cords and adapters in your bag when you go out of town.

What if you could charge things without plugging them in?

I've started doing just that. I tested two mats that juice up small devices like iPods on contact, with only the mat plugged into an outlet rather than each gadget. *continued on page 2*



🍏 BAC October Meeting 🍏

The October meeting of the Birmingham Apple Core will begin at 10:00 am on October 12th and the topic was unknown at press time.

Will e-mail as soon as available.

Arrive early and enjoy coffee, doughnuts and enlightening discussions.

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PRESIDENT/PEEL EDITOR

Bill Henry

henryw@bellsouth.net

VICE PRESIDENT/PROGRAM CHAIR

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jhill@hillhouse.com

SECRETARY

Kurt Fattig

kurt@kurtfattig.com

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Ragnar Flatland

flatrag@mac.com

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Luther Fuller

lutherfuller@me.com

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For Sale/Wanted

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

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

Send information by the 25th of each month to the editor at:

henryw@bellsouth.net.

Positions of Treasurer and Membership Chair are still desperately needed for BAC Board

The mats are far from perfect, requiring special sleeves and adapters for electronics. The first products are coming from Powermat USA, which started selling two \$100 mats this month.

One of them is an oblong mat designed for home and office use & compatible with lots of popular gadgets. Powermat also sells a rectangular one that folds into thirds for traveling. Best Buy & Target, and are expected to start selling through Amazon.com next week. 🍏

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AT&T Unlocks VOIP for iPhones

“iPhone is an innovative device that dramatically changed the game in wireless when it was introduced just two years ago,” said Ralph de la Vega, president and CEO, AT&T Mobility & Consumer Markets. “Today’s decision was made after evaluating our customers’ expectations and use of the device compared to dozens of others we offer.”

Skype President Josh Silverman praised the decision. Previously, such applications were only allowed to operate via Wi-Fi.

“We applaud today’s announcement by AT&T to open up its 3G network to Internet calling applications such as Skype,” Silverman said. “It is the right step for AT&T, Apple, millions of mobile Skypers and the Internet itself. Nonetheless,

the positive actions of one company are no substitute for a government policy that protects openness and benefits consumers and we look forward to further innovations that will enable even more mobile Skype calling.”

The announcement comes amidst continued pressures from the Federal Communication Commission to open up access to wireless devices and services similar to the rest of the world.

From October 6 AT&T press release.....

AT&T* today announced it has taken the steps necessary so that Apple can enable VoIP applications on iPhone to run on AT&T’s wireless network. Previously, VoIP applications on iPhone were enabled for Wi-Fi connectivity. For some time, AT&T has offered a variety of other wireless devices that enable VoIP applications on 3G, 2G and Wi-Fi networks. AT&T this afternoon informed Apple Inc. and the FCC of its decision. 🍏

The Rumor Mill

As supplies of iMacs and mac Minis wane the rumored updates of these products heat up. Just in time for peak holiday period it is not known for sure just what these updates will bring. Price cuts and slight upgrades to processors may be part of the equation.

These are expected within days or weeks.

A new multi-touch mouse is also rumored but the debut may not be in the near term.

Of course Apple tablet rumors continue with a first quarter 2010 debut being mentioned along with a 10.6” multi-touch screen. It is thought these tablets could be geared towards being e-readers, a market Apple has not penetrated except for limited success with the iPhone, iPod Touch and laptop line. 🍏

802.11n Wireless Standard Approved

The IEEE has finally approved the 802.11n high-throughput wireless LAN standard.

Finalization of the new wireless networking standard--which is capable of delivering throughput speeds up to 300 megabits per second (and even higher)--took exactly seven years from the day it was conceived, or six years from the first draft version. The standard has been through a dozen or so draft versions.

News of the ratification broke via a blog post displaying an e-mail sent by Bruce Kraemer, longtime chairman of the 802.11n Task Group, to task group members. There has been no public announcement yet. Update 5:49 p.m. PDT: A press release has been issued.

(The 802.11n Task Group is part of the 802.11 Working Group, which oversees WLAN (wireless local-area network) standards. Task group members include the majority of Wi-Fi chipmakers, software developers, and equipment OEM vendors. Meru Networks, one of the members, posted the blog that broke the news.)

It's likely, however, that final approval of the standard will be publicly announced by September 15, the date when Meru Networks puts on a public Webcast to provide answers about the ratification.

According to the Wi-Fi Alliance, the group that tests and certifies wireless products to ensure their interoperability, all existing Wi-Fi Certified Draft N wireless products will still work with the final standard.

802.11n offers much higher speeds than the previous, already-ratified 802.11g, which caps at only 54Mbps. Due to the compelling higher speed, most wireless vendors haven't been offering 802.11n-based (also known as Wireless-N) products during the past six years and calling them Draft N products. Now the Draft is no more.

According to the Wi-Fi Alliance, most, if not all, of the existing equipment can be upgraded to the final specification via a firmware update. Finally, all future wireless networking products will be compatible with today's products that have been Wi-Fi-certified. 🍏

Combining PDFs

Since upgrading to Snow Leopard, I can no longer combine PDFs like I could in Leopard with Preview. Any suggestions?

You can still combine PDFs, it just works a bit differently than it once did.

Under Leopard, you drag thumbnails from a PDF document open in Preview into the sidebar of another PDF document. A red line appears beneath the page thumbnail of the file you're dragging to, indicating where the dragged page will be inserted. Save the file and you're done.

Snow Leopard works a bit differently in that if you drag thumbnails from one PDF window to another, place them below the other document's thumbnails, and save, you wind up with a document that contains just the pages you dragged into the sidebar.

The trick is to drag thumbnails on top of a thumbnail in the document you're dragging to. This combines the pages. If you want to rearrange the pages, just drag them where you like—they'll stay within the combined document. Save your document and you're done.

If you've opened two PDF files at the same time and therefore find both documents in the sidebar, the technique is similar. Expand the document you want to move pages from by clicking the left-pointing arrow and drag the pages you want to copy on top of the icon of the other document in the sidebar. Reposition as you like. When you're done, choose Save All from the File menu. 🍏

Printing both sides of paper on HP Printers

Upon updating my system to Snow Leopard and including the latest download of HP print drivers I discovered I could no longer have the advantage of printing both sides of a piece of paper on any documents. I found that if the document was a Safari or Apple Mail document, no problem. If it was a PDF or MS Office document it is back to the old ways of reinserting and printing the backside of the printed-paper. However, I have discovered a "work-around." By accessing the Get Info command I can change the file format of a PDF file to a Preview program file format and thus recognized as an Apple document – then the printer proceeds to automatically print both sides of a piece of paper in recognition of the little "slight of hand" just described. 🍏

Hint provided by Bill Bankson

ioSafe Solo External Hard Drive, Fire-proof Waterproof Rugged USB

The rugged desktop ioSafe Solo external hard drive brings disaster protection to a price range that everyone can afford. With capacities from 500GB to 1.5TB, the ioSafe Solo can safely protect precious family photo albums, music libraries and days of video memories. For business, the ioSafe Solo is a great way to protect customer databases or to secure regulated information including patient records (HIPAA, Sox, etc) or credit card information. Businesses use the Solo hard drive as a backup and storage device, no longer worrying about data loss from moving computer tapes and files offsite. Like other ioSafe products, the ioSafe Solo uses ioSafe patented technology including Flo-Safe air flow cooling, HydroSafe waterproof barriers and the DataCast fireproof insulation. 🍏

- Fire: 1550 F, 1/2 hr per ASTM E119 DataCast Technology
- Flood: Full immersion, 10 ft. 3 days HydroSafe Technology

<http://iosafe.com/solo-rugged-external-hard-drive>



Macs Being Targeted

Macs are being deliberately targeted by a Russian hacking group, says Sophos security researcher Dmitry Samosseiko. The group is a subset of a larger criminal network known as the Partnerka, which normally turns a profit through spam promoting fake online drug vendors, and malware in the form of “scareware” anti-virus protection. The Partnerka have generally concentrated malware efforts on Windows users, who together represent the largest possible target.

Mac efforts have similarly revolved around scareware, most recently in the form of fake video players. A defunct

Partnerka website, Mac-codec.com, is accused of having paid 43 cents for each computer infected by a hacker. The exploitation of Macs by criminal enterprises may reflect a growing security problem, argues another member of Sophos, Graham Cluley. The consultant warns that many Mac users may have no malware protection in place; others say that even Mac OS X Snow Leopard provides minimal protection. 🍏

Autodesk SketchBook Mobile

Autodesk® SketchBook® Mobile is new professional-grade paint and drawing application designed for the Apple® iPhone® and iPod touch®. Created for artists, designers, and anyone who creates artwork for fun or work, SketchBook Mobile offers a full set of sketching and painting tools for a mobile environment. It uses the same engine as Autodesk® SketchBook® Pro painting and drawing software delivering much of the same power and functionality as the desktop application.

Think of it as your handheld digital sketchpad. Use it to capture ideas as digital napkin sketches or produce artwork on-the-go.

In the U.S. SketchBook Mobile costs \$2.99. A free version of the application — called Autodesk SketchBook Mobile Express — is also available on the App Store. In addition, Autodesk SketchBook Mobile will be available on regional App Stores (price may vary by region).

As a world leading provider of 2D and 3D design and engineering software, Autodesk is committed to providing design professionals with a choice of hardware and software platforms and with this new product introduction, we are further extending this leadership to the iPhone and iPod touch.

The decision was based on a combination of customer demand and general acceptance of the iPhone and iPod touch for drawing, image manipulation and image processing. Mobile devices are proving to be capable tools for a range of professional applications, and large communities of users rely on the iPhone and iPod touch. This application brings a lot to the table, and Autodesk’s approach to mobile sketching can apply widely to artists, designers, and anyone who creates artwork for fun or work.

Another related product AutoDesk SketchBook Pro is available for the mac for \$100.00 🍏

<http://usa.autodesk.com/adsk/servlet/pc/item?siteID=123112&id=13872203>

Timesavers for everyday Mac use

1. Save time sending files

If you have a group of files or folders that you need to transfer by email, FTP or over iChat, rather than adding them individually multiple-select them and choose File > Create Archive in 10.4 or Compress in 10.5. The resulting zip file will contain all the items and can be added with a single drag and drop.

2. Find files faster

Select File > New Smart Folder and enter criteria for the kinds of files the folder should keep track of. For example, 'all images opened this month', making it quicker to find what you want.

3. Save time turning your Mac on and off

In System Preferences > Energy Saver > Schedule, set a regular time for your Mac to boot up and shut down. For example, you can tell the schedule to start up your Mac just before you start work.

4. Save time fixing other people's Mac problems

Use the Screen Sharing feature built into OS X 10.5 to remotely control any Mac on a local network. Use Remote Desktop to do the same for any remote Mac for which you have available the IP address and password.

5. Save time when entering your passwords

Whenever you have the option, always tick remember this password when authenticating, so that it is automatically entered for you next time. It's best to avoid this if you're on a public Mac or are concerned about security, though.

6. Quickly share iCal events online

Emailing a group of people when you have news of an event can be quite tiresome — but iCal has the solution. Create a new calendar in the application then choose the Publish option, which will enable you to publish it to either your MobileMe account or a private FTP server. Send the URL of the calendar to friends or colleagues and they can opt to subscribe to it. Choose the publish changes automatically option when you first publish the calendar and new events and any changes you add will be automatically pushed to their calendars, meaning no need to send emails for future events.

7. Speed up repetitive tasks

You can use Automator, found in the Applications folder, to automate multi-step tasks by building applications, scripts or plug-ins. For example, importing, resizing and exporting images from a camera then mailing them to a predetermined group of people.

8. Send regular email notifications automatically

In iCal, select an event and then from the sidebar's repeat menu, choose a frequency such as every week from the repeat menu. Then select Alarm > Send email one day before to your email address. You could use this, for example, to remind yourself to pay a bill the day before it becomes due every month.

9. Open your applications faster and easier

Rather than navigating to the Applications folder, use the Spotlight search bar at the top-right of Finder and type in the first few letters of the program's name. It will then appear almost at once and you can click on its name to launch it.

10. Connect to other computers faster

In the System Preferences > Sharing tab on your Mac, turn on Personal File Sharing. Now, that Mac will automatically appear in the Network tab of Macs running 10.4 and the Shared tab in the sidebar in 10.5. If you enable the Apple Remote Desktop option in the Sharing preferences, you will be able to use the screen-sharing feature, even controlling a 10.4 Mac from a 10.5 machine.

11. Quickly open multiple pages in Safari

With multiple pages stored in a folder within the Bookmarks Bar, if you hold the Command key and click on the folder's name, Safari will open all those pages in separate tabs for you.

12. Reveal the Desktop with one click

Hold down Command/Alt and click anywhere on your Desktop. All active applications will be hidden letting you access items on the Desktop without having to hide each application separately.


13. Quickly open programs you always use

In System Preferences > Accounts > Login Items, drag into the list any items you want to open automatically on login, such as iChat or Mail, saving you time manually loading them.

14. Save time deleting files and folders

Instead of dragging items to the Trash manually, simply select them and hit Command/Backspace to send them to the Trash with one click.

15. Save time when downloading images

Simply right-click on an image in Safari or any other browser and you can then choose to quickly save it onto the Desktop, into iPhoto or set it as your Desktop background. 



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Chris Perry

Brookwood Mall, 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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