

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



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iPhone Travel Apps

Birmingham Airport - free web app

The first one is actually a web app you can add to your home screen.

Birmingham Shuttlesworth Airport

Provides arriving and departing flight information including gates, airline phone numbers and web links, parking info and ground transportation.

www.bhamintlairport.com

USATODAY AutoPilot - free app

Enter flight information by saving under a trip title so it can be recalled later (return flight)

Flight tracker, airport delay map, directory of airline, car rental and hotel phone numbers and web links.

Also the directory includes Kayak, Orbitz, SeatGuru, Hotels.com and Expedia phone and link info.

Additionally included is weather, gallery for cities and travel articles under different headings.

Inrix Traffic - free app

Shows current location and traffic status on major roadways. Indicates incidents and information about them as well as events such as concerts and sporting events which could affect traffic.

Future traffic predicts traffic in increments for the next hour.

Hwy. 280 traffic was not shown.

From inside app you can upgrade to \$9.99 or \$24.99


Traffic.com - free

Traffic.com Pro - \$2.99 (no ads)

Features a dashbord inidcating number

of incidents, roadwork zones and major events and link to Accuweather.

Hotspots, map and Jam Factor Hwy. 280 was shown.

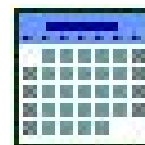
This app gave me road conctruction alerts but did not show event alerts such as the PapaJohns Bowl or concert at BJCC like the Inix Traffic app did. 

AT&T Upgrades 3G Technology at Cell Sites Across Nation...Almost

Software Upgrade Sets Stage for Faster 3G Speeds, Enhanced Mobile Data Performance to Come with Capacity Upgrades Planned for 2010-2011

AT&T* today announced completion of a software upgrade at 3G cell sites nationwide that prepares the nation's fastest 3G network for even faster speeds.

The deployment of High-Speed Packet Access (HSPA) 7.2 technology *cont'd on page 2*



BAC January Meeting

The January meeting of the Birmingham Apple Core will begin at 10:00 am on January 9th. The topic will be "Questions and Answers Open Discussion." **Weather permitting, expected morning temperatures in the single digits.**

Arrive early and enjoy coffee, doughnuts and enlightening discussions.

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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

Mac Tip

Excerpted from Mac OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard: Visual QuickStart Guide by

Maria Langer

What's in a Name? That's Up to You!

You can name an alias anything you like, as long as you follow the regular Mac file-naming guidelines (up to 255 characters, using any character except the colon). The name doesn't need to include the word alias. 🍏

EPSON Mac OS X Snow Leopard Support

Welcome to Mac OS X Snow Leopard v10.6 support for Epson products. Here you can find out how to get drivers and other Epson software for your Epson product that work with Mac OS X Snow Leopard v10.6.

Check your Epson product CD to see if it already contains Macintosh OS X 10.6 drivers. If the CD indicates support for Macintosh OS X 10.6, follow the instructions that came with your Epson product to install your drivers and other software.

If your Epson CD does not indicate support for OS X 10.6, DO NOT INSERT YOUR EPSON PRODUCT SOFTWARE CD IN YOUR SNOW LEOPARD COMPUTER. Follow the step-by-step instructions below to obtain the latest software and utilities for your Epson product as they may be needed for this new operating system. 🍏

http://www.epson.com/cgi-bin/Store/support/SupportSnowLeopard.jsp

AT&T Upgrade cont'd from page 1

across 3G cell sites is the first of multiple initiatives in AT&T's network enhancement strategy designed to provide customers with the best possible mobile broadband experience, both today and well into the future. After full testing of

HSPA 7.2 software, AT&T decided to expedite deployment of this initial upgrade, which will result in a better overall customer experience by generally improving consistency in accessing data sessions. The software upgrade also prepares the network for faster speeds and increases network efficiency.

Faster 3G speeds will come as AT&T combines the new technology with enhanced cell site backhaul connections over the course of 2010 and 2011.

AT&T is in the midst of this second initiative to dramatically increase the number of high-speed backhaul connections to cell sites, primarily with fiber-optic connections, adding capacity from cell sites to the AT&T backbone network. The combination of HSPA 7.2 technology and enhanced backhaul will support theoretical peak maximum speeds of 7.2 megabits per second, though as with any mobile broadband network, actual speeds will be lower than the theoretical maximum and will vary due to a number of factors.

In addition to the HSPA 7.2 software, initial deployment of backhaul is already underway in the six U.S. cities announced in 2009 as initial HSPA 7.2 markets – Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, and Miami, with capabilities being turned up on a site-by-site basis beginning last month. Further backhaul deployment will continue in these markets and begin in additional markets across the nation. We anticipate that the majority of our mobile data traffic will be carried over the expanded fiber-based, HSPA 7.2-capable backhaul by the end of this year, with deployment continuing to expand in 2011. 🍏

Apple Adds Another Startegic Purchase

Mobile advertising company Quattro Wireless confirms today that it has been acquired by Apple. The news follows a report late yesterday that the deal had been reached, with Apple agreeing to pay \$275 million for Quattro.

Happy New Year from Quattro Wireless!

We are thrilled to let you know that Apple has acquired Quattro. We want to share with you our excitement about this news and what it means for our customers.

The announcement on Quattro's site is signed by former Quattro CEO Andy Miller, who reveals that his title is now Vice President of Mobile Advertising at Apple.

Earlier reports had Apple in negotiations with AdMob prior to it's purchase by Google for \$750 million. 🍏



Sweepstakes Entry

Say Something Positive about Windows

To provide a sweepstakes entry to a certain contest the reader had to post something positive about Windows and here is a sampling of the results.

I'm POSITIVE Windows is an inferior OS...that's what you meant right?

I love Windows, every day at work I use Windows and it reminds me why I have Macs at home.

WINDOWS 'r PANES!

In these times of crisis, Windows gives work to a lot of computer engineers.

One positive thing about Windows is it runs better on a Mac.

If I'm bored I'll watch the defrag

Frequent lockups and reboots give me more time to take smoke breaks!

Windows is waaaaay better than a boot in the groin. 🍏

Apple Service Provider Fraud Uncovered

Apple has uncovered fraud being perpetrated by third party service providers using a process known as "stitching" in which vendors utilized the serial numbers of computers under warranty held on file at the repair facility when reporting issues to Apple rather than the actual serial numbers of non-covered equipment brought in for service.

Stitching is the process by which an Apple Service Provider (ASP) technically defrauds Apple. This happens by a customer coming in for an out-of-warranty repair (as an example lets use a macbook top case). The customer's macbook top case is no longer working and they are happy to pay to get it fixed. Instead of the ASP ordering the part from apple as out-of-warranty and making around 15% gross profit margin, the ASP would find a serial number in their database of previous repairs (of an identical model) and order the part as a warranty part from a serial number they have found. This technically allows the ASP to pay nothing for the part, but then make 100% margin.

Apple reportedly discovered the fraud only after several years of experience with its own Genius Bar repair channel, where significantly lower proportions of warranty repairs were seen. Upon conducting audits of its American and then global authorized service centers, the company apparently found a number of cases of significant fraud perpetrated using this method.

According to the report, at least one large service center in the United Kingdom has been entirely closed down in the wake of Apple's fraud investigation, with several others in the "Far East" also possibly meeting the same fate.

In order to address the fraud, Apple has reportedly rolled out enhanced tracking of part numbers in its repair ordering system and deployed software to assist the company in making sure that the proper parts are being installed in the proper computers. 🍏

Apple Software Update

Apple released Bonjour Update 2010-001 via Software Update, addressing issues with Apple TV connections. The update, which weighs in at 959 KB, has not yet appeared on Apple's Support Downloads page for manual download.

This update improves the reliability of connections between iTunes and Apple TV. 🍏



HINTS & TIPS

iPhoto Slow to Load

It suddenly took was taking iPhoto over a minute to load on my machine, with the spinning wheel visible during this whole time. This went on for days. I read various solutions online, and tried turning off program options.

Eventually, I found a solution to the problem. In iPhoto's Preferences, on the Sharing tab, I disabled both sharing options (looking for and sharing). iPhoto then loaded nearly instantly.

Time Zone Map changes based on Season

The following is not a hint, really, but an observation of a cool non-publicized Snow Leopard feature.

While flying home from the west coast this holiday season and changing the time zone on my MacBook, I noticed a new feature on the map that you see in the Time Zone tab of the Date & Time System Preferences panel: The map of the Earth changes based on the time of the year.

For example, if you set the month to August in the Date & Time tab of the panel, the map will display a lush green northern hemisphere. Setting the date to December changes the northern hemisphere to the appropriate snow cover.

FONT ISSUE

Apple Software Restore (ASR) has a font issue when used from the command line (asr), or from Disk Utility (Restore tab) in 10.6.

When booting off the imaged drive, upon first log in to each user account, a message pops up stating that the Lucide Grand font has been changed and restored. There are two ways to fix this issue:

1. Run Disk Utility from the 10.6 install disc: this insures that all caches are in sync.
2. In Terminal, do this: `rm -rf /Volumes/some_drive/private/var/folders/*`: this removes the font caches from the users' accounts.

Hope this helps someone else.

Afga SnapScan 1212u

My Afga SnapScan 1212u is about 10 years old now, but had been working perfectly through every OS X release.

With the Update to Snow Leopard, however, the old app ScanwiseX wouldn't start anymore. The error I received was "ScanWise couldn't find ColorSync-Systemprofile."

To get my scanner working again, first I installed the OpenSource files from TWAIN SANE. First I installed libusb.pkg, then sane-backends.pkg, and finally sane-preference-pane.pkg.

With the freeware Scan Again for the SANE Extension (Scanner Access Now Easy), I could finally use my Afga SnapScan 1212u again. After launching the app, it bounces a long time, but it will eventually work. There are not many preferences, but enough to do all important scans I need. 🍏

Hits and Misses of 2009 & 2010 Wish List

AT&T

AT&T discussed tehering and microcells but did not deliver on either for the iPhone. Also the process of adding 850MHz 3G has been slow but finally arrived in Birmingham on Dec. 22.

AT&T roll out of U-Verse has been slow but steady. U-Verse is a bundled service of a combination of two or more of the following services: phone, TV and internet. Internets download speeds of 3MBps to 24 MBps are available at different price points. Service is provided over fiber to a hub and copper from there to the house. The Birmingham area service is spotty as it is being developed. Any potential customers need to be with in approx. 4,291 feet (1,500m) radius of the fiber node in order to be eligible for this service.

Visit this site for details concerning pricing and availability.

www.att.com/u-verse

Apple

Apple TV

Still trying to figure out it's role, no connection allowed to Netflix, or other streaming services like Boxee or Roku.

A Blu-ray drive player would be a nice touch.

Magic Mouse

A huge hit and big seller for Apple.

Combines touch technology and mouse with no moving parts and nothing to get hung up on except the bluetooth signal. Doubled Apple's market share over night.

iPod Touch

Sales have taken off after a slow start. This can be ex-

plained because it is a wifi only device but as soon as the app and non-wifi games became available in sufficient numbers it became a portable gaming platform as well as e-mail and wifi device.

Tablet

Just wait for a little while into 2010.

The only question is will it be an e-reader, large format touch based iPhone/iPod Touch type device or a laptop.

Since Apple has freed the name MacBook I suspect the 10" version will be touch laptop style with e-reader capabilities.

The smaller 7" device will be more for e-reader and large format iPhone/iPod Touch. 🍏

Add Some Color to Your Technology

ColorWare Inc., established in 2000, is an industry leader in altering the color of existing products. ColorWare began with the concept of transforming the ubiquitous beige computer into a custom-colored work of art. The idea began with an attempt to color a late-model cell phone in 1999. After a year of testing and experimenting, the ColorWare high-gloss, scratch-resistant polymer-based coating was perfected. ColorWare's initial offerings included 22 standard colors available on two mp3 players, three gaming consoles, and four computers, and many new products as well as additional colors have been added in recent years.

Featured as number 108 on the Inc. 500 list of fastest growing privately held companies in the fall of 2007, ColorWare continues to grow at an impressive rate each year by focusing on popular electronics and offering more options on those products. As evidenced by ColorWare's appearance in magazines such as In Style, Vogue, and Entertainment weekly, a ColorWare product is also a statement in fashion and individuality, and as such fills a high-demand niche market.

www.colorware.com



Apple Adds Song Previews to iTunes Preview Pages

Apple has added 30-second song samples to its browser-based iTunes Preview pages that quietly appeared several months ago. The report notes that Apple is serving the previews, which are encoded in 44.1 KHz AAC format at 300+ kbps, via QuickTime.

The addition is a likely benefit of Apple's recent acquisition of Lala Media, a popular web-based streaming media company. Prior to its acquisition by Apple, Lala had reached a deal with Google to provide song samples in Google search results.





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