

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



February 2010

Vol. 32, No. 2

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Apple Launches iPad Magical & Revolutionary Device at an Unbelievable Price

Apple® introduced iPad, a revolutionary device for browsing the web, reading and sending email, enjoying photos, watching videos, listening to music, playing games, reading e-books and much more. iPad's responsive high-resolution Multi-Touch™ display lets users physically interact with applications and content. iPad is just 0.5 inches thick and weighs just 1.5 pounds— thinner and lighter than any laptop or netbook. iPad includes 12 new innovative apps designed especially for the iPad, and will run almost all of the over 140,000 apps in the App Store. iPad will be available in late March starting at the breakthrough price of just \$499.

iPad is our most advanced technology in a magical and revolutionary device at an unbelievable price," said Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO. "iPad creates and defines an entirely new category of devices that will connect users with their apps and content in a much more intimate, intuitive and fun way than ever before."

iPad features 12 next-generation Multi-Touch applications. Every app works in both portrait and landscape, automatically animating between views as the user rotates iPad in any direction. The precise Multi-Touch interface makes surfing the web on iPad an entirely new experience, dramatically more interactive and intimate than on a computer. Reading and sending email is fun and easy on iPad's large screen and almost full-size "soft" keyboard. Import photos from a Mac®, PC or digital camera, see them organized as albums, and enjoy and share them

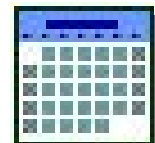
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Apple Reports First Quarter Results All-Time Highest Revenue and Profit New Accounting Standards Adopted

Apple® announced financial results for its fiscal 2010 first quarter ended December 26, 2009. The Company posted revenue of \$15.68 billion and a net quarterly profit of \$3.38 billion, or \$3.67 per diluted share. These results compare to revenue of \$11.88 billion and net quarterly profit of \$2.26 billion, or \$2.50 per diluted share, in the year-ago quarter. Gross margin was 40.9 percent, up from 37.9 percent in the year-ago quarter. International sales accounted for 58 percent of the quarter's revenue.

Apple sold 3.36 million Macintosh® computers during the quarter, representing a 33 percent unit increase over the year-ago quarter. The Company sold 8.7 million iPhones in the quarter, representing 100 percent unit growth over the year-ago quarter.

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🍏 BAC February Meeting 🍏

The February meeting of the Birmingham Apple Core will begin at 10:00 am on February 13th. The topic will be The Apple event video presentation launching the iPad.

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

Apple Earnings cont'd from page 1

Apple sold 21 million iPods during the quarter, representing an eight percent unit decline from the year-ago quarter.

During the quarter Apple elected retrospective adoption of the Financial Accounting Standards Board's amended accounting standards* related to certain revenue recognition. Adoption of the new accounting standards significantly changes how the Company accounts for certain items, particularly sales of iPhone® and Apple TV®.

"If you annualize our quarterly revenue, it's surprising that Apple is now a \$50+ billion company," said Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO. "The new products we are planning to release this year are very strong, starting this week with a major new product that we're really excited about." 🍏

Mac Tip of the Week #257

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

Guest Account or User Account?

Files created or saved to a Guest account user folder are deleted when the guest logs out. If you expect a user to log into your computer regularly, you might find it more convenient to set up a regular account for that user. 🍏

Microsoft Office Update

The Microsoft Office 2004 for Mac 11.5.7 Update improves security for all Office 2004 for Mac applications. It includes fixes for vulnerabilities that an attacker can use to overwrite the contents of a computer's memory by using malicious code.

The Office 2004 for Mac 11.5.7 Update is available from Microsoft AutoUpdate. AutoUpdate is a program that automatically keeps Microsoft software up-to-date.

To use AutoUpdate, start a Microsoft Office program. Then, on the Help menu, click Check for Updates. 🍏

Apple Town Hall Meeting for Employees

Steve Jobs held a town hall meeting with Apple employees late last week following the iPad launch. Wired reports on what was said at the meeting by Steve Jobs. Two of the biggest topics included Google and Adobe.

On Google, Jobs confirms the much-reported competition between the two companies.

On Google: We did not enter the search business, Jobs said. They entered the phone business. Make no mistake they want to kill the iPhone. We won't let them, he says.

As for Adobe, Jobs said they are lazy and Jobs blames Adobe for a buggy implementation of Flash on the Mac as one of the reasons they won't support it.

Apple does not support Flash because it is so buggy, he says. Whenever a Mac crashes more often than not it's because of Flash. No one will be using Flash, he says. The world is moving to HTML5.

Those are the main points covered by Wired's article. We had received a more detailed report of the Apple meeting, but hadn't been able to corroborate it until now. Many of the details of the Wired report line up with our anonymous submission, so we believe it likely to be accurate. Some additional key points that we learned:

- Apple will deliver aggressive updates to iPhone that Android/Google won't be able to keep up with
- iPad is up there with the iPhone and Mac as the most important products Jobs has been a part of
- Regarding the Lala acquisition, Apple was interested in bringing those people into the iTunes team
- Next iPhone coming is an A+ update
- New Macs for 2010 are going to take Apple to the next level
- Blu-Ray software is a mess, and Apple will wait until sales really start to take off before implementing it. 🍏

Apple iPad *cont'd from page 1*

using iPad's elegant slideshows. Watch movies, TV shows and YouTube, all in HD or flip through pages of an e-book you downloaded from Apple's new iBookstore while listening to your music collection.

iPad runs almost all of the over 140,000 apps on the App Store, including apps already purchased for your iPhone® or iPod touch®. The iTunes® Store gives you access to the world's most popular online music, TV and movie store with a catalog of over 11 million songs, over 50,000 TV episodes and over 8,000 films including over 2,000 in stunning high definition video. Apple also announced the new iBooks app for iPad, which includes Apple's new iBookstore, the best way to browse, buy and read books on a mobile device. The iBookstore will feature books from major and independent publishers.

Apple also introduced a new version of iWork® for iPad, the first desktop-class productivity suite designed specifically for Multi-Touch. With Pages®, Keynote® and Numbers® you can create beautifully formatted documents, stunning presentations with animations and transitions, and spreadsheets with charts, functions and formulas. The three apps will be available separately through the App Store for \$9.99 each.

iPad syncs with iTunes just like the iPhone and iPod touch, using the standard Apple 30-pin to USB cable, so you can sync all of your contacts, photos, music, movies, TV shows, applications and more from your Mac or PC. All the apps and content you download on iPad from the App Store, iTunes Store and iBookstore will be automatically synced to your iTunes library the next time you connect with your computer.

iPad's brilliant 9.7-inch, LED-backlit display features IPS technology to deliver crisp, clear images and consistent color with an ultra-wide 178 degree viewing angle. The highly precise, capacitive Multi-Touch display is amazingly accurate and responsive whether scrolling web pages or playing games. The intelligent soft keyboard pioneered on iPhone takes advantage of iPad's larger display to offer an almost full-size soft keyboard. iPad also connects to the new iPad Keyboard Dock with a full-size traditional keyboard.

iPad is powered by A4, Apple's next-generation system-on-a-chip. Designed by Apple, the new A4 chip provides exceptional processor and graphics performance along with long battery life of up to 10 hours.* Apple's advanced chemistry and Adaptive Charging technology deliver up to 1,000 charge cycles without a significant decrease in battery capacity over a typical five year lifespan.**

iPad comes in two versions—one with Wi-Fi and the other with both Wi-Fi and 3G. iPad includes the latest 802.11n Wi-Fi, and the 3G versions support speeds up to 7.2 Mbps on HSDPA networks. Apple and AT&T announced breakthrough 3G pre-paid data plans for iPad with easy, on-device

activation and management.

Continuing Apple's dedication to designing and creating environmentally responsible products, each iPad enclosure is made of highly recyclable aluminum and comes standard with energy-efficient LED-backlit displays that are mercury-free and made with arsenic-free glass. iPad contains no brominated flame retardants and is completely PVC-free.

Pricing & Availability

iPad will be available in late March worldwide for a suggested retail price of \$499 (US) for the 16GB model, \$599 (US) for the 32GB model, \$699 (US) for the 64GB model. The Wi-Fi + 3G models of iPad will be available in April in the US and selected countries for a suggested retail price of \$629 (US) for the 16GB model, \$729 (US) for the 32GB model and \$829 (US) for the 64GB model. iPad will be sold in the US through the Apple Store® (www.apple.com), Apple's retail stores and select Apple Authorized Resellers. International pricing and worldwide availability will be announced at a later date. iBookstore will be available in the US at launch. 🍏



Apple Updates

Apple released **iLife Support 9.0.4** via Software Update, bringing stability improvements and compatibility with Apple's new Aperture 3 release.

Provides system software resources that are shared by iLife and other applications. This update improves overall stability for the Media Browser and iPhoto slideshows. It also provides compatibility between Aperture 3 and the Media Browser.

The update is recommended for all users of iLife '09, iWork '09, and Aperture.

While the update can currently be found in Software Update through users' computers, it has yet to appear on Apple's Support Downloads page.

Apple today released **Digital Camera Raw Compatibility Update 3.0**, bringing compatibility with a number of digital camera models to iPhoto '09 and Apple's new Aperture 3 release.

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Hints&Tips

www.mac-hints-tips.com

Improve images with iPhoto's histogram Manually tweak the tones of your photograph using iPhoto's Adjust palette

by Ben Long, *Macworld.com*

Straightening, cropping, and removing red-eye are all fairly easy fixes to make to a photograph. Getting good tones, on the other hand, can be a more challenging problem. iPhoto's Enhance button tries to offer a one-click solution to this problem-when selected, the feature analyzes your image's tones and makes its best guess at fixing them. But while this feature can often get you started in the right direction, it seldom solves the problem completely. You'll usually get better results by making adjustments yourself. To do that, you'll need to open the Adjust palette.

Because this image was overexposed, its tones are clustered on the right side of the histogram.

The key to correcting an image's tone problems lies in understanding the histogram that appears at the top of the Adjust palette. The histogram is a bar chart that shows the distribution of tones in an image. Black is on the far left edge, white is on the right, and everything else is in between.

By learning to interpret what the histogram is telling you, you can take much of the guesswork out of correcting bad photos and discover ways to make good photos even better. Usually, you want photos with as broad a range of tones as you can get. Think about boxes of crayons: you can create a much more detailed image with 64 different crayons than you can with just eight. Likewise, if the bars in the histogram are crammed together in a narrow space, your image probably doesn't have the resources it needs to depict subtle detail.

With a well-exposed image, the histogram's bars will stretch across the full range of the graph. If your histogram's bars are clumped on either the left or the right side, the image is probably underexposed (lacking good highlights) or overexposed (lacking good shadows), respectively. If the bars don't stretch to either edge, then your image lacks contrast.

Go Manual with the Levels Sliders

iPhoto offers a couple of tools that will adjust your image's tones. However, you'll get the best results from the Levels sliders, located below the histogram. There are three sliders: a black slider on the left, a gray slider in the center, and a white slider on the right. By adjusting these, you

can alter an image's highlights, midtones, and shadows independently. This gives you much more control over the image's tones.

The original image suffers from a lack of contrast, which is why the bars representing the tones fall short of the left side of the histogram (A). A simple black-point adjustment (B) improves the image's contrast without blowing out its highlights. Moving the midtone slider (C) slightly to the left brings out some of the image's details. Most shots taken under normal lighting conditions look best if the black-point and white-point markers sit right at the point where the histogram data begins. For example, say a photo looks washed out. You look at the histogram and notice that while the bars representing the light tones stretch all the way to the right edge of the histogram, the dark tones fall short of the mark on the left side-indicating there's no true black.

To give your washed-out image more zip, simply move the black slider to the point where the histogram drops off. iPhoto will then stretch and scale the image's intermediate tones so that the overall distribution remains the same. But the image's white point will remain untouched. The result is a photo with richer tones and stronger shadows. Likewise, you move the white slider to give an underexposed image better highlights.

If you've corrected a photo's white and black points but the image still looks a little too dark or too light, your next strategy is to adjust the midtones, represented by the gray slider in the center. This lets you adjust the midpoint of your photo's data without affecting the white and black points. By moving the midtone slider to the right, for example, you can lighten up an image's middle tones without damaging the brightest highlights.

Use the Shadows Slider

If you've adjusted your levels but parts of your image still appear too dark-for example, if your subject's face is lost in shadows-you can often improve the situation by dragging the Shadows slider to the right. Likewise, if you adjusted your image, but then washed out the lightest parts of your image, you may be able to bring back some of details by adjusting the Highlights slider. But be careful not to overdo the effect. The Highlights slider in particular has a tendency to emphasize texture such as wrinkles-your loved ones won't thank you for that.

Improve Contrast with the Definition Slider

Sometimes a little boost in contrast can add visual interest, especially if an image's histogram falls short of the mark on both ends of the scale. But rather than reaching for the Contrast slider, try the Definition slider. This new addition to iPhoto adjusts contrast in a more refined manner than the Contrast slider. It can also make a slightly soft image appear sharper. 🍏

To Flash or Not

The Flash player plug-in has been an integral part of the internet experience for many years, but have the times for Flash passed by.

Steve Jobs has made his feeling towards Adobe's Flash Player plug-in known, calling Adobe lazy for not implementing it correctly.

He blames the bulk of Safari crashes and even system crashes on Flash Player.

This prompted me to do some research.

I have read and found that uninstalling flash allows Safari to run noticeably faster, so far so good on stability but will need more time to see if this is indeed true.

Have read that Flash also affects (corrupts) disk permissions, not sure why this would happen.

Since many internet ads are Flash based this slows down Safari and also drains the battery on a laptop.

Unfortunately you get constant warnings about flash player plug-in not installed or shockwave.

Part of the renewed discussion is the approaching HTML5 format which moves away from a plug-in environment and the inherent stability, performance & security problems.

Google and Apple being big drivers behind HTML5 and Microsoft not so much has not moved development as fast as hoped for.

HTML5 is trying to stay neutral when it comes to how video codecs are implemented.

Safari uses H.264 (license fees), Firefox uses open-source Theora while Google's Chrome browser implements both of these codecs.

Flash Uninstaller location

http://kb2.adobe.com/cps/141/tn_14157.html

Adobe apologized just recently for letting a 16-month-old bug in Flash Player languish without a patch, even though it updated the popular plug-in four times since the flaw was reported.

The bug has been fixed, said Adobe, in the beta of Flash Player 10.1, which was released last November. The final version of Flash Player 10.1, however, will not ship until later this year.

Security researcher Matthew Dempsey first reported the Flash vulnerability Sept. 22, 2008, according to Adobe's public bug tracking database. When exploited, the flaw causes any browser equipped with Flash Player 9 and later to crash.

Lastly, Adobe would like you to know that this whole Adobe vs HTML5 thing is silly, since they totally support HTML5, like all web standards. They love them some web standards, they say. But! They would also like you to note that HTML5 standardisation is years away, and Flash works right now. And the reason you notice crappier performance on the Mac is sorta the Mac's fault, they say, because they need more access to APIs and they get half-arsed crash reports. Plus, Adobe claims, apps tend to run faster in Windows than OS X generally, because performance is about 20 per cent worse using OS X's GCC compiler, not to mention performance varies even within an OS, since Flash runs 20 per cent faster in IE8 than Firefox, for instance. Either way, performance will be better on Mac with Flash 10.1, since it's shifting over to using CoreAnimation.

So for those feeling a bit more adventuresome you can download Flash version 10.1 beta 2 from Adobe labs.

<http://labs.adobe.com/downloads/flashplayer10.html>

Ed. Note: My computer acted very slow after the install of this download but with permission repair and restart it is back to normal. Time will tell about stability. 🍏

Apple Updates *cont'd from page 3*

This update extends RAW image compatibility for Aperture 3 and iPhoto 09 for the following cameras and formats:

- Canon PowerShot S90
- Canon sRAW
- Canon mRAW
- Leica D-LUX 4
- Panasonic Lumix DMC-G1
- Panasonic Lumix DMC-GH1
- Panasonic Lumix DMC-LX3

The update weighs in at 6.43 MB and requires Mac OS X 10.5.8 or 10.6.2.

Apple released **iTunes 9.0.3** offering several bug fixes.

iTunes 9.0.3 provides a number of important bug fixes, including:

- iTunes no longer ignores your "Remember password for purchases" setting.
- Addresses problems with syncing some Smart Playlists and Podcasts with iPod.
- Resolves a problem recognizing when iPod is connected.
- Addresses issues that affect stability and performance.

Versions are available for Mac OS X (10.4.11 or later) and Windows (XP, Vista, and 7) are available, with a separate version for 64-bit Windows Vista also available. 🍏

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