

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



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iPad Available in US on April 3

Pre-Order on March 12

Apple® announced that its magical and revolutionary iPad will be available in the US on Saturday, April 3, for Wi-Fi models and in late April for Wi-Fi + 3G models.

Beginning a week from today, on March 12, US customers can pre-order both Wi-Fi and Wi-Fi + 3G models from Apple's online store (www.apple.com) or reserve a Wi-Fi model to pick up on Saturday, April 3, at an Apple retail store.

"iPad is something completely new," said Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO. "We're excited for customers to get their hands on this magical and revolutionary product and connect with their apps and content in a more intimate, intuitive and fun way than ever before."

Starting at just \$499, iPad lets users browse the web, read and send email, enjoy and share photos, watch videos, listen to music, play games, read ebooks and much more. iPad is just 0.5 inches thick and weighs just 1.5 pounds—thinner and lighter than any laptop or netbook—and delivers battery life of up to 10 hours.*

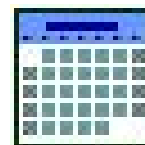
iPad's revolutionary Multi-Touch™ interface makes surfing the web an entirely new experience, dramatically more interactive and intimate than on a computer. You can read and send email on iPad's large screen and almost full-size "soft" keyboard or import photos from a Mac®, PC or digital camera, see them organized as albums, and enjoy and share them using iPad's elegant slideshows. iPad makes it easy to watch movies, TV shows and YouTube, all in HD, or flip through the pages of an ebook you downloaded from Apple's new iBookstore while listening

to your music collection.

The App Store on iPad lets you wirelessly browse, buy and download new apps from the world's largest app store. iPad includes 12 new innovative apps designed especially for iPad and will run almost all of the more than 150,000 apps on the App Store, including apps already purchased for your iPhone® or iPod touch®. Developers are already creating exciting new apps designed for iPad that take advantage of its Multi-Touch interface, large screen and high-quality graphics.

The new iBooks app for iPad includes Apple's new iBookstore, the best way to browse, buy and read books on a mobile product. The iBookstore will feature books from the New York Times Best Seller list from both major and independent publishers, including Hachette Book Group, HarperCollins Publishers, Macmillan Publishers, Penguin Group and Simon & Schuster.

The iTunes® Store gives iPad users access to the world's most popular online music, TV and movie store with a



🍏 BAC March Meeting 🍏

The March meeting of the Birmingham Apple Core will begin at 10:00 am on March 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

iTunes Store Tops 10 Billion Songs Sold

Apple® announced that music fans have purchased and downloaded over 10 billion songs from the iTunes® Store (www.itunes.com), the world's most popular online music, TV and movie store. The 10 billionth song, "Guess Things Happen That Way" by Johnny Cash, was purchased by Louie Sulcer of Woodstock, Georgia. As the winner of the iTunes Countdown to 10 Billion Songs, Louie will receive a \$10,000 iTunes Gift Card. iTunes is the number one music retailer in the world and features the world's largest music catalog with over 12 million songs. 🍏

<http://www.cnn.com/video/#/video/showbiz/2010/02/26/sulcer.billionth.apple.download.cnn>

iPHONE BATTERY SAVING TIPS

- Reduce the brightness of your display to a level you can tolerate. Rarely do you use it in full sunlight and even at it's brightest full sun will obliterate the view.

- Turn off unused wireless like bluetooth, 3G if not in a 3G covered area or wifi if no wifi is available.

-Check for e-mail manually instead of using push.

-Use a backup battery supply for heavy use on business trips.

Despite all you do the end will eventually come for your battery.

For more information than you care to know visit the Battery university online.

<http://batteryuniversity.com/>

Apple Sues HTC for Patent Infringement

Apple® filed a lawsuit against HTC for infringing on 20 Apple patents related to the iPhone's user interface, underlying architecture and hardware. The lawsuit was filed concurrently with the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) and in U.S. District Court in Delaware.

"We can sit by and watch competitors steal our patented inventions, or we can do something about it. We've decided to do something about it," said Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO. "We think competition is healthy, but competitors should create their own original technology, not steal ours." 🍏

Cash-and-Stock Bonus for Babysitting Apple While Steve Jobs Was Sick?

First Apple COO Tim Cook received \$12.3 million in stock for watching the company while Steve Jobs was on sick leave and now he's receiving an additional cash-and-stock bonus worth \$22 million.

It's explained that this bonus is "in recognition of his outstanding performance in assuming the day-to-day operations of the company for the period in fiscal 2009 during which Mr. Jobs was on medical leave of absence" Geez. That's a nice deal for six months of pretending that he wears a turtleneck. 🍏

NATIONAL BROADBAND PLAN

The Recovery Act authorizes the FCC to create a National Broadband Plan, that "shall seek to ensure that all people of the United States have access to broadband capability and shall establish benchmarks for meeting that goal. 🍏

<http://www.broadband.gov/>

iPad *continued from page 1*

catalog of over 12 million songs, over 55,000 TV episodes and over 8,500 films including over 2,500 in stunning high definition. 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.

Pricing & Availability

iPad will be available in Wi-Fi models on April 3 in the US for a suggested retail price of \$499 for 16GB, \$599 for 32GB, \$699 for 64GB. The Wi-Fi + 3G models will be available in late April for a suggested retail price of \$629 for 16GB, \$729 for 32GB and \$829 for 64GB. iPad will be sold in the US through the Apple Store® (www.apple.com), Apple's retail stores and select Apple Authorized Resellers.

iPad will be available in both Wi-Fi and Wi-Fi + 3G models in late April in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain, Switzerland and the UK. International pricing will be announced in April. iPad will ship in additional countries later this year.

The iBooks app for iPad including Apple's iBookstore will be available as a free download from the App Store in the US on April 3, with additional countries added later this year.

*Battery life depends on device settings, usage and other factors. Actual results vary.

PICO PROJECTORS

Several releases of pico projectors which are essentially handheld projectors that can fit into your pocket.

Some use lasers others LED as a light source.

Technical Details - AAXAP2

- 1GB onboard memory + microSD reader- remote control- tripod included. The single LED light source eliminates motion blur and color break up

- MP4/ MP3/ AVI/ JPG/ WMV decoder- RGB/ iPod/ PSP/ PDA/ DVD input

- 33 Lumens LED Light Source Projects up to a 80-inch image** (In low-light conditions)

- Sharp SVGA (800x600) resolution * Environmentally Friendly: The LED Lamp consumes less power.

- 30 Minute Battery Life- AC adapter Included- optional 3 hr battery available

- The LED Lamp is also 100% free of mercury and as the bulb never needs to be replaced there are no discarded bulbs. www.axatech.com/products/p2_pico_projector.htm

Technical Details - 3M MPro 150

- Storage: 1 GB internal memory with 2GB mini SD Card

- Cordless: Download files from your digital sources and go!

- Media: Connects to your favorite digital media sources like PCs, DVD Players, iPods and iPhones, Digital Cameras and Cell Phones

- Sound: 2 x 0.5 watt built-in Speakers

- Long life: 20,000 hours LED life; Rechargeable battery with 90 minutes of battery life (high brightness mode) <http://www.3m.com/mpro/>

Technical Details: Microvision - Show WX

User replaceable battery

Approximately 90-120 minutes of battery life when fully charged 2; Charges via Micro-USB with wall charger

IN THE BOX:

SHOWWX laser pico projector

Rechargeable battery

Wall charger

Cable for iPod

Composite adapter

Storage pouch

Micro-USB cable

Wrist strap

User guide

DISPLAY PERFORMANCE:

Resolution: WVGA (848 x 480)

Brightness: 10 Lumens

Aspect Ratio: 16:9 Widescreen

Refresh Rate: 60 Hz (nominal)

Color Gamut: > 200% NTSC

Contrast Ratio: > 5,000:1

Throw Ratio: 1:1 (projection distance/image diagonal)

Image size: 150 mm to 2500 mm (6 in to 100 in)

Projection Distance: 150 mm to 2500 mm (6 in to 100 in)

Focus: No user focus adjustment needed. Image is always in focus, even on curved surfaces

Regulatory: Class 2 laser product.1

SIZE AND WEIGHT:

Height: 14 mm (.55 in)

Width: 60 mm (2.36 in)

Length: 118 mm (4.64 in)

Weight (with battery): 122 g (4.3 oz)

CONNECTIVITY AND AUDIO:


Easy and simple plug and play

Connects to most iPod devices with a single cable

Composite adapter to other TV-out devices via a dedicated adapter cable

VGA dock to most laptops, netbooks and Macbook via the VGA DOCK (sold separately)

3.5mm stereo jack - audio pass through when supplied

<http://www.microvision.com/showwx/> 



Use fine-grain volume control in 10.5

One of the things that bugs me about OS X is that the volume adjustments made via the keyboard-based volume keys move in steps that are too large. Invariably, I'll move the volume down a notch, and it'll get too quiet. In the past, the only solution to this was to then twist the manual volume control on my external speakers, which sort of defeats the purpose of using the keyboard-based keys. And if I'm using my laptop, I'd have to open the volume slider for finer-grained control over the volume.

As of OS X 10.5, however, this problem has been resolved—as long as you're using an Apple keyboard, or one that doesn't use its own drivers to make its volume keys work. At first glance, it seems the volume keys work as they always have—one press equals one full “box” of volume change. However, if you press and hold Shift and Option, and then press the volume keys, you'll find that it now takes four key presses to move through one “box” of volume change—and the onscreen graphic even reflects this, showing each box filling up in four discreet steps.

Note that if you're using a portable Mac, and you've got it set up (in the Keyboard section of the Keyboard & Mouse System Preferences panel) so that you need to press Fn to activate the function keys' special features, you'll need to add that key to the mix as well—so it's Fn-Shift-Option and then Volume Up or Volume Down.

Between the full-step and quarter-step increments, it's now possible to precisely set your Mac's volume level using just the keyboard-based volume keys.

by Rob Griffiths, Macworld.com

Mac Tip of the Week #262

Excerpted from *The iPhone Book, Third Edition* by Scott Kelby and Terry White

Cut, Copy, and Paste

Double-tap on a word, and you'll get blue grab points to select what you want to copy—this can also include images. If you double-tap where there is no word, or tap-and-hold your finger on the screen for a few seconds, you get a different menu that allows you to Select (using the grab points) or Select All. Once the area you want to copy is selected, tap the Copy button. Go to the app where you want to paste this info, tap to bring up the Paste option, and then just tap the Paste button.

Apple releases Safari 4.0.5 with performance, stability improvements

Apple Thursday evening released a new update to Safari for Mac and Windows, with the latest browser version improving its performance, stability and security.

The update, available directly from Apple, weighs in at 30.52MB for Snow Leopard Users, 38.59MB for Leopard, 26,78MB for Tiger, and 30.18 for Windows Vista, XP and 7.

The update addresses a number of issues related to the browser, WebKit, ColorSync, ImageIO and more. Apple noted the following changes for the browser in Safari 4.0.5:

- Performance improvements for Top Sites

- Stability improvements for 3rd-party plug-ins

- Stability improvements for websites with online forms and Scalable Vector Graphics

- Fixes an issue that prevented Safari from changing settings on some Linksys routers

AppleInsider first reported on Safari 4.0.5 last Friday, noting that the browser update offers improved HTML5 video playback, faster JavaScript performance, better performance loading YouTube, and an overall reduced memory footprint. Additionally, the release was also said to include a much improved plugin manager aimed at reducing the number of crashes caused by plugins, including Adobe Flash.

The last update to Safari, version 4.0.4, came last November, when Apple addressed a vulnerability that could allow an image file to exploit Macs with older software. 🍏

from the blog of former chief executive of Sun Jonathan Schwartz

Good Artists Copy, Great Artists Steal Jump to Comments

I feel for Google – Steve Jobs threatened to sue me, too.

In 2003, after I unveiled a prototype Linux desktop called Project Looking Glass*, Steve called my office to let me know the graphical effects were “stepping all over Apple's IP.” (IP = Intellectual Property = patents, trademarks and copyrights.) If we moved forward to commercialize it, “I'll just sue you.” My response was simple. “Steve, I was just watching your last presentation, and Keynote looks identical to Concurrence – do you own that IP?” Concurrence was a presentation product built by Lighthouse Design, a company I'd help to found and which Sun acquired in

GOOD ARTISTS COPY... *continued from page 4*

1996. Lighthouse built applications for NeXTSTEP, the Unix based operating system whose core would become the foundation for all Mac products after Apple acquired NeXT in 1996. Steve had used Concurrence for years, and as Apple built their own presentation tool, it was obvious where they'd found inspiration. "And last I checked, MacOS is now built on Unix. I think Sun has a few OS patents, too." Steve was silent.

And that was the last I heard on the topic. Although we ended up abandoning Looking Glass, Steve's threat didn't figure into our decision (the last thing enterprises wanted was a new desktop – in hindsight, exactly the wrong audience to poll (we should've been asking developers, not CIO's)).

As in life, bluster and threat are commonplace in business – especially the technology business. So that interaction was good preparation for a later meeting with Bill Gates and Steve Ballmer. They'd flown in over a weekend to meet with Scott McNealy, Sun's then CEO – who asked me and Greg Papadopoulos (Sun's CTO) to accompany him. As we sat down in our Menlo Park conference room, Bill skipped the small talk, and went straight to the point, "Microsoft owns the office productivity market, and our patents read all over OpenOffice." OpenOffice is a free office productivity suite found on tens of millions of desktops worldwide. It's a tremendous brand ambassador for its owner – it also limits the appeal of Microsoft Office to businesses and those forced to pirate it. Bill was delivering a slightly more sophisticated variant of the threat Steve had made, but he had a different solution in mind. "We're happy to get you under license." That was code for "We'll go away if you pay us a royalty for every download" – the digital version of a protection racket.

Royalty bearing free software? Jumbo shrimp. (Oxymoron.)

But fearing this was on the agenda, we were prepared for the meeting. Microsoft is no stranger to imitating successful products, then leveraging their distribution power to eliminate a competitive threat – from tablet computing to search engines, their inspiration is often obvious (I'm trying to like Bing, I really am). So when they created their web application platform, .NET, it was obvious their designers had been staring at Java – which was exactly my retort. "We've looked at .NET, and you're trampling all over a huge number of Java patents. So what will you pay us for every copy of Windows?" Bill explained the software business was all about building variable revenue streams from a fixed engineering cost base, so royalties didn't fit with their model... which is to say, it was a short meeting.

I understand the value of patents – offensively and, more importantly, for defensive purposes. Sun had a treasure trove of some of the internet's most valuable patents – ranging from search to microelectronics – so no one in the technology industry could come after us without fearing an expensive counter assault. And there's no defense like an obvious offense.

But for a technology company, going on offense with software patents seems like an act of desperation, relying on the courts instead of the marketplace. See Nokia's suit against Apple for a parallel example of frivolous litigation – it hasn't slowed iPhone momentum (I'd argue it accelerated it). So I wonder who will be first to claim Apple's iPad is stepping on their IP... perhaps those that own the carcass of the tablet computing pioneer Go Corp.? Except that would be AT&T. Hm. Having watched this movie play out many times, suing a competitor typically makes them more relevant, not less. Developers I know aren't getting less interested in Google's Android platform, they're getting more interested – Apple's actions are enhancing that interest.

Sun was sued numerous times – most big companies are sued almost constantly by entities or actors whose sole focus is suing others. Groups with no business focus other than litigating patent suits are affectionately known as trolls – pure litigation entities. (For good humor, read this, an application to patent the act of trolling. If granted, it would give the patent holder a reciprocal claim against a patent troll.)

The most egregious of such suits was filed against Sun by Kodak (yes, the film photography people).

Egregious, because Kodak had acquired a patent from a defunct computer maker (Wang) for the exclusive purpose of suing Sun over an esoteric technology, Java Remote Method Invocation ("Java RMI" – not exactly the first thing that comes to mind when you hear "Kodak"). Given how immature Kodak's technology business was (they were just starting out in the digital world), we had little we could respond with – I suppose we could've hunted for a Wang-like opportunity to hit at their core, but Kodak was a customer, which certainly complicated things, and the time and expense involved would've been prohibitive.

Their case was eventually heard before a jury in Rochester, New York, famous for being home to... the Eastman Kodak company. Lo and behold, the local jury decided Sun should pay Kodak more than a hundred million dollars. So here's something I could never say as Sun's CEO.

I prefer SmugMug. 🍏



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Monthly Meeting*

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