

30 Essential iPhone tips & secrets

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Macworld



OS X LEOPARD

In-depth review • Installation guide • Tips & tricks

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By Vietmagz at 1:02 am, Nov 17, 2007

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www.macworld.co.uk/blogs

Apple puts the big cat among the pigeons...

Leopard is spot on

Installing a new operating system is always a bit of a worry. After all, it's the heart of your computer that's being yanked out and replaced.

Thankfully, upgrading to Leopard – for me at least – has been reasonably painless. Sure, there've been a few problems with .Mac syncing, CS3 has thrown some of its toys out of the pram and – despite Leopard being significantly more secure than Tiger – it's not apparently secure enough for the experts (**page 19**).

On the whole though, OS X Leopard has been an unqualified success. According to Apple, 2 million copies were shifted in the first weekend, and we've certainly fielded fewer problems than when Tiger was launched.

And the benefits just keep on coming. Time Machine has already saved my bacon by recovering an image I'd deleted, Spotlight works quickly and can search for file names, and even the Cover Flow view in Finder has grown on me.

But it's Quick Look that's got me hooked. The ability to take a closer look of the contents of any file with a tap of the Spacebar has proved a real boon. I'm even warming to the *Star Trek* vibe running throughout the whole program.

So there's no prizes for guessing what the big story is this month. It's our in-depth OS X Leopard review with installation advice (**page 40**). We've also got some great OS X Leopard tips (**page 116**) in this issue's Help Desk, as well as news on the Leopard launch (**page 18**) and both Simon Jary (**page 29**) and Andy Ihnatko (**page 130**) air their wildly different views on the new OS.

What's that other thing happening this month? Oh yes, almost forgot, just the small matter of the iPhone UK launch (**page 19**). Steve Jobs' holy grail of mobile phones is amongst us, but is it worth the money? It's undergoing rigorous testing in the Macworld labs, and next month we'll give you the definitive verdict.

Until then... hope your Leopard installation is as trouble-free as mine. And if it isn't, there's always the Macworld Help Desk (**page 113**). We're here to help...



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Season's Greetings



zCover iSAGlove for Apple iPhone

On July 27th zCover released their new iSAGlove protection cases for Apple's iPhone. The zCover design is precisely detailed to match every feature of the iPhone, making it the perfect protection case. zCover's focus on intuitive usability translates into their collection of mobile accessories, making zCover products fitting for every lifestyle.

Made from durable, washable, high quality silicone rubber, the iSAGlove protection case is a stylish accessory available in five zCover ice series colors: blue, purple, grey, pink and clear, designed to work seamlessly with iPhone's light sensor and the proximity sensor (that causes the screen to turn off when you bring the phone up to your ear). The iSAGlove protection case incorporates zCover Clip System and co-ordinates with zCover's existing range of products including the Rotary Belt Clip, Armband and Window Clip as well as the purpose designed zAdapter Dockable Kit.

zCover's iSAGlove is available in four functional combinations:

iSAGlove Original: iSAGlove Silicone Protection Case + Removable Belt Clip

iSAGlove Outdoor Kit: iSAGlove Silicone Protection Case + Removable Belt Clip + Rotary Armband

iSAGlove Car Kit: iSAGlove Silicone Protection Case + Removable Belt Clip + Window Clip

iSAGlove Dockable Kit: iSAGlove Silicone Protection Case + Removable Belt Clip + iSAGlove Dockable Kit

zCover iSAGlove Dockable Kit for new Apple iPhone

Are you using your iPhone constantly? The Dockable Kit gives you the iSAGlove protection, mobility with the 360 degree rotating removable Belt Clip, but also provides the zAdapter iPhone Dockable Set, an original zCover design that adapts to iPod cable or iPhone cable into iPhone Dock, allowing you the freedom to dock your iPhone with iSAGlove Silicone Protection Case.

Each iSAGlove Dockable kit includes:
iSAGlove Silicone Protection Case + Removable Belt Clip + zAdapter Dockable Set:



Removable Rotary Belt Clip

Allows you to enjoy hands-free mobility by attaching your iPhone to any belt or loop.

Following installation, the **Rotary Belt Clip** is easily snapped onto the Clip Tab to convert the **zCover** into a mobile device perfect for those on-the-moves. Use the smoothly grooved, one-button-release to convert the **zCover** back into a slim, pocket-fitting design. Attachment and removal is always confirmed with a distinctive "snap", so there's never any doubt.



- > 100% removable
- > One-button release for easy removal
- > 360 degree rotation
- > Comfort piece for protection
- > Comfortable finger grips
- > High-quality PC plastic
- > Unbreakable
- > Audible confirmation of attachment and removal
- > Incorporating spring closing gear for a super tight grip



iSAGlove Silicone Protection Case:

- > Top screen edge design ensures the iPhone is protected without blocking the iPhone's proximity (built in motion) sensor.
- > Reinforced case corner works as a "crash cushion" for just in CASE, and it is a great grip when you hold you iPhone horizontally.
- > Side grooved finish provides grip and comfort fits all-size fingers.
- > Per-mould camera lens opening allows you to take pictures with wider angle
- > zCover's unique flip-cover protects the FireWire port from sand, dust, dirt and liquids, while allowing you to charge or dock your iPhone without removing the case.

Several button features have also been included.

- > The sleep/wake button has been enhanced so it is still protected but remains easy to press
- > Volume button protection prevents you from accidentally turning down your favourite song
- > A die-cut for the ring/silent switch allows you to change modes without difficulty

zAdapter Dockable Set:



Crystal clear podium shows the beauty of Apple iPhone Dock. It is not a decoration, it is a perfect holder and support of the iPhone in Case.

Compatible with

- the iPhone iPod Dock Connector Cable
- the iPod Dock Connector Cable



1. Put your Dock Connector Cable into our zAdapter



3. To securing the cable position at the backside of podium base.



5. Hold Flip Cover of iPhone and put into our Dockable kit.



2. Simply put our zAdapter with your dock connector cable into and Podium base



4. Simply slip the Podium over top.

Our Podium is designed with the same angle of iPhone Dock Connector. It supports iPhone and shares weight from Dock Connector



zCover iSA micro3 Armband Kit for new Apple iPod nano 3rd Gen.



iSA micro3 Silicone Protection Case + Removable Belt Clip
+ Rotary Armband

This package offers maximum mobility for the active iPod nano owner. This combination is ideal for outdoor enthusiasts hiking and biking through the woods, or the fitness fanatic jogging through the streets. Just like the belt clip, the iPod nano is secured to the Armband with zCover's exclusive clip system.

The 360 degree rotation allows you to easily change the iPod nano position to confirm your new running record, or repeat your favorite song. The zCover Armband is fully adjustable from 6 to 18 inches making it suitable for everyone, from small children to beefy body builders. You'll never be "between sizes" again. It's even seasonal, comfortably fitting your bare arm in the summer or a expanding to fit over a heavy coat in the winter. Made from innovative micro-Velcro all surfaces of the Armband are soft and pleasing to touch, making for comfortable contact with the skin. Hand-washable and fully reversible, the stylish black strip is trimmed with silver reflective tape.

zCover iSA touch Original Pack for new Apple iPod touch 8 GB / 16 GB

iSA touch Silicone Protection Case + Removable Belt Clip

Offering you full protection for your iPod touch, and the function of mobility with our innovative 360 degree rotating belt clip, this system is the perfect "All-you-need-for-iPod" combo for any iPod touch owner. You can easily wear it horizontally or vertically with just a simple twist. A comfort piece sits in front of the release button to prevent the Belt Clip from jabbing into the user's side. The clip opens with ease and accommodates thumbs and forefingers of any age or size. Unbreakable, functional and comfortable, the Rotary Belt Clip is sure to keep your iPod touch safely and snugly in place.



zCover iSA classic Car Kit for new Apple iPod classic 80 GB / 160 GB

iSA classic Silicone Protection Case + Removable Belt Clip + Window Clip



The Car Kit adds a whole new element to the experience of owning an iPod Classic. Besides the protection of the iSA classic cover, the mobility of the 360 degree rotating Belt Clip, the additional window clip creates a portable hands-free workstation or entertainment unit almost anywhere, including the office, car, plane, boat and home. It doesn't matter which way you turn it, the iSA classic Car kit is ideal for those on the road.

zCover Universal Belt Clip, Armband, Window Clip are completely interchangeable.

zCover TypeOn APKNC / APKND / APKDB / APKDD for Apple Notebook Keyboard & Apple Keyboard

Material: Silicone Rubber

Compatibility: APKNC for Apple MacBook Pro, Apple iBook & Apple PowerBook
APKND for new Apple MacBook
APKDB for Apple Keyboard and Wireless Keyboard
APKDD for new Apple Aluminum Keyboard



zCOVER®

fashionable protection cases



for Apple New Aluminium
Wireless and Wired Keyboard



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Design

Show Style, Enjoy Functionality.



Meet your new toolbox...



Meet the new TechTool Protegé™, a pocket-sized toolbox for the Macintosh professional. This larger capacity 2GB FireWire flash drive contains a single system that boots both PowerPC and Intel-based Macs. It also includes the full-featured diagnostics and repair utility TechTool Pro, as well as the disk partitioning program DiskStudio™. All that, and there's still room left over for some of your other utilities as well. Unlike a CD, TechTool Protegé is a read/write device. This means it can be updated as new versions of Mac OS and the utility programs are released. In addition, computers will boot faster and programs will run faster from Protegé than from a CD.

As a Macintosh professional, it's your job to bring dead computers back to life. The next time you need to work on a Macintosh, all you need to do is connect TechTool Protegé, quickly boot the computer from it, and get right to work. No fumbling around with CDs, portable drives, installers or the myriad of other items you'd usually need to keep in your toolbox. TechTool Protegé... the ultimate Macintosh toolbox.

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Discover the latest in 3D design with this exclusive trial
- ▶ **OS X Leopard video training – free**
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- ▶ **Animation Workout – full program**
Learn to create cartoon animations with this program from the maker's of Toon Boom Studio 4
- ▶ **Royalty-free photos and video – free**
Give your creations a professional touch with 50 free images and 25 free video clips

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Macworld's US correspondents have had the iPhone for a while now, so we asked them to come up with 30 vital tips for UK buyers



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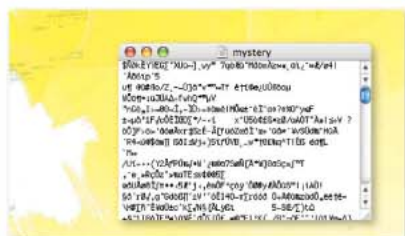
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Epson Stylus DX8400

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HP PhotoSmart C6280

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Free!
FREE Parallel Desktop for Mac when you buy an iMac together with Windows Vista (OEM) worth £39.99



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CPU	RAM	HDD	DVD	Part No	Price
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2.4GHz	1.0GB	320GB	S'Drive	MAC 11775	£949.00
2.4GHz	1.0GB	500GB	S'Drive	MAC 11775A	£1009.00

24" iMac					
CPU	RAM	HDD	DVD	Part No	Price
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2.4GHz	2.0GB	160GB	S'Drive	MAC 12611A	£1699.00
2.6GHz	2.0GB	200GB	S'Drive	MAC 12611D	£1889.00

17" MacBook Pro					
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Cover CD

On this month's cover disc...

TRIAL SOFTWARE

Cinema 4D 10.5



The latest incarnation of Cinema 4D has brought Maxon's experience in 3D software development to its peak. This is the most professional and easy-to-use 3D development package on the market. Its new intuitive interface aims to make it easier than ever for 3D newcomers to get started, while long-term users will appreciate the level of feedback the interface provides.

Cinema 4D also has a modular design, which means it can be extended via 'modules' that Maxon sells individually, or in bundled packages. These help ensure that the program is customised for each professional.

www.maxon.net



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DRUMATIX 6 • PSEVENTER 2.0
RAW PHOTO PROCESSOR
SAVVY CLIPBOARD • JALBUM
DECEMBER 2007

This issue's CD features the latest trial version of Cinema 4D, plus an OS X Leopard training video. There's also the brand-new version of OpenOSX Office 2.0, which beats Microsoft Office hands down. Learn how to make your own cartoons with Toon Boom's Animation Workout. There are also 50 royalty-free images and 25 royalty-free videos for you to use in your own projects.

VIDEO

OS X 10.5 Leopard video training



Discover what the best features in Leopard are, and how to use them, with our guide to getting the most out of OS X 10.5 Leopard. Discover how the new iChat works; get expert Spotlight and Finder tricks, and learn how to get the most out of Preview.

www.macworld.com

FULL PROGRAM - WORTH £12.99

Animation Workout



Discover how to create your own cartoons with this Workout Series from the makers of Toon Boom Animation. This is a dedicated program of exercises designed to enable you to develop techniques and skills in Toon Boom Studio. By working through this exercise you will discover how to create your own 2D cartoon animations.

www.toonboom.com



FULL PROGRAM

OpenOSX Office 2.0



Enjoy the power and functionality of Microsoft Office, without having to pay for it. OpenOSX Office is an open-source suite of word-processing, spreadsheet and graphic applications, hand-built by enthusiasts. It has complete OS X integration and is native to both Intel Macs and PowerPC-based systems (something Microsoft has yet to achieve with Office).

www.openosx.com



INSTALL

Before you start working your way through the software on our CD, go to the System Utilities folder and make sure you install the following:



Adobe Reader 7.07 (Mac OS X)

Install this to be able to read many programs' on-screen manuals



StuffIt Expander

You may need to unzip files with StuffIt Expander 10 from www.stuffit.com



QuickTime 6/7

Some programs require QuickTime 6 or 7. This can be downloaded from www.apple.com/quicktime/download

Other trials and serious software

Splashdown Direct Stock Art

Free

Give your creative projects a boost with this collection of 50 stock photographs and 25 stock video clips.



Splashdown Direct is an online multimedia library that specialises in covering the aquatic world. It is kindly offering our readers this stock art and video collection for use in their own projects.

www.splashdowndirect.com

Drumatix 606

Freeware

Create your own beats with this software drum machine. Drumatix uses Rolate TR 606, 909, 808, LinnDrum and Amen Brother samples to recreate classic sounds used on many a dance track. If you're looking for the perfect beat, you may just find it here.

<http://www.freewebs.com/halcyonsw/docs/site.html>

Savvy Clipboard

Full program

This helpful tool adds multiple clipboard capability to Mac OS X. You can cut several items and then paste them individually across different locations and documents. If you create a lot of repetitive documents that require the same items again and again, you'll find this indispensable.

www.blitzclicksoft.com

Sorenson Squeeze 4.5

30-day trial

Compressing video clips for DVD or the web is easier and more professional than ever with the latest version of Sorenson Squeeze. This program is the choice of the professional video editor because of its seamless integration with Final Cut. It also features a professional workflow that automates the process of recoding video into different formats.

www.sorensonmedia.com



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Full program

Create your own web albums with this full program that turns digital images into online photo libraries. JAlbum is easy to use, but powerful and completely free. The makers claim that over 7 million photo albums have been created with JAlbum, so why not see what all the fuss is about?

www.jalbum.net



ComicBookLover 1.3

ComicBookLover

enables comic fans to easily view, collect, and organise digital comics. You can search for comics by browsing cover artwork, create smart lists, or use the advanced search functions to home in on the issue you are looking for.

www.bitcartel.com/comicbooklover/



Disc Cover 1.5.1

Disc Cover is a slick and intuitive Mac OS X program that enables you to create labels and covers for CDs and DVDs. It comes with a variety of professionally made designs so you can quickly create a cover for your disc. Once done, you can print out the disc using specially printed CD sticker-paper.

www.belightsoft.com

Getting started

The Macworld CD includes a PDF menu interface with detailed information and installation instructions for all the software contained on the disc. To begin, select the 'Click Here To Get Started.pdf' file. Note that the interface uses hyperlinks that only work when using Adobe Reader and not Preview. If you do not have Adobe Reader installed you can find it on the CD itself. If you wish to quickly install files without using the CD menu, you can open the CD and access all the content directly.



CD catalogue

Courtesy of Mark Pirri's superb DiskTracker program, Macworld brings you a searchable catalogue of all our CDs from 1997 to 2007 – over 544,000 files! This catalogue will grow month by month to allow you to find any file you want, without wearing out your CD drive. The latest version of DiskTracker (2.3.3) is included – don't forget to register if you find our library useful.



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- Drag installer files from the CD to your desktop before clicking on them

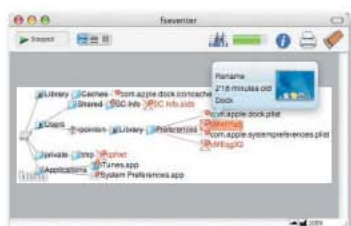
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fseventer

Full program

This full program enables you to observe changes to the file system in a visual window by using the underlying Spotlight technology. While it's fun to see how the OS X operating system is changing, it's also useful to discover what files are being changed when you adjust preferences and install software. This software is only for OS X Tiger, an update for Leopard will be released soon.

www.femlightning.com



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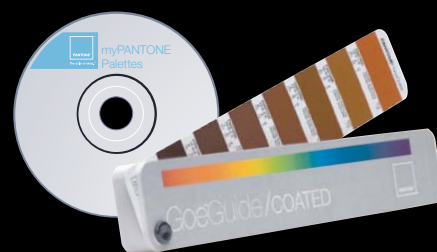
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Apple no-show

I read with some interest Karen Haslam's blog (www.macworld.co.uk/blogs) about the MacLive Expo. I've just come back from the London MacLive Expo. And I would say that I was pretty impressed by the expo and would definitely go again. I thought there was a good balance of exhibitors from serious creative software and hardware to iPod peripherals, and a lot more in between. I didn't think there were too many iPod products, especially considering the hype around the iPhone.

My impression was that the Mac community as a whole was pretty well represented, at least in terms of what I perceive it to be (mostly from visits to Apple's Regent Street store).

I have to agree with Karen's general point (or at least how I understand it) that it would be much better if the prime players in the Apple market (particularly Apple itself) did turn up – not necessarily to show off cool new software or announce surprises but just to be there for the publicity, if nothing else.
Robin Barnard

We're glad you enjoyed the show and in truth it was still a good one for us. We were also glad to see the focus shift back to the Mac. However, we still say "shame on Apple" for not attending. The MacLive Expo is the largest, most important and longest-running event for the UK Mac business and consumer communities, and the people in this country deserved better from Apple. It is the one time when the whole Mac community gets together and Apple has no excuse for not attending this year's show. Especially as it had two big, and important, products to show: Leopard and the iPhone.

Trials and tribulations

Traditionally, one of the advantages of a Mac over a PC is Macs work 'out of the box'. I've had PCs in the past, so I know this to be true.

But new Macs come with a limited time-trial of iWorks

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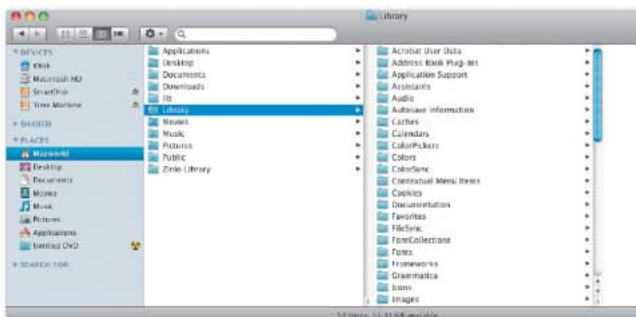


iWork for free Is it about time Apple gave away iWork with every Mac, as it does iLife?

— similar to the trial of Microsoft Works. Now when I try to convince my sceptical friends that Macs are superior to cheaper PCs, I shall have to add that they won't be able to compose a poem or write a letter after the first 30 days unless they spend an extra £55.
David Jones

The iWork trial is certainly a bone of contention; especially when Apple's ads accuse Windows PCs of 'bloatware' (being stuffed with trials and demos). On the one hand, we can see Apple wanting to promote its product; on the other hand it really should be supplied separately.

In the meantime, however, you can always use TextEdit, which comes with a Spelling and Grammar checker,



Column control Apple's Finder improvements in OS X Leopard will make at least one Macworld reader happy

plus complete formatting options and the ability to open Microsoft Word documents.

Hear Leopard roar

With the imminent release of Leopard, there's a new feature which I'm hoping Apple has seen fit to include among the 300 or so improvements. No, it's not Time Machine or Spaces, in fact it's so minor, my guess is Apple will have overlooked it again, but if they have introduced this feature they will have made one user very happy.

The incredibly narrow columns with the ridiculously truncated filenames that are the default every time I start my mac. Yes, I know that double-clicking on the column dividers widens the column and that option-double-clicking widens all the columns at once. But that doesn't stop me having to do it every morning (and several times through the day) and in every open or save dialogue box.

Am I the only user who thinks this matters? Am I the only sane person in a mad Mac world or a paranoid obsessive who needs to get out more?
Nigel Jordan

Rest assured Nigel, you're far from the only person who found this annoying. Thankfully, we've just tested Leopard and it does indeed remember what length the columns in the Finder are, and will stick with that setting when you shut down or restart the machine.

iPhone over-hyped?

Is it just me, or is the iPhone an overpriced item in an already saturated market? It seems so full of bells and whistles that the last thing people discover is that it can make phone calls. It makes me laugh that you can't paste documents with it, no doubt you will on the iPhone MK2. Doubtlessly that's already being planned, but won't be released until everyone has bought the original iPhone.
Andrew S Redding



While the mobile phone market is saturated, there's no denying that the iPhone has marked itself out as being vastly different from everything else on the market (in both good and bad ways). We're not sure why everybody seems so hung up on the lack of cut and paste on the iPhone though, it's hardly designed for word processing. Or maybe that's the problem. The lack of 3G, MMS, and inability to send text messages to multiple recipients seem far more pertinent problems for a mobile phone to us.

A lot of people will no doubt wait for future incarnations of the iPhone, which we're sure will incorporate 3G and other new features. But that's always the way with technology, there's always something better on the horizon.



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The iPhone has landed

But will it be a hit in the UK?

The iPhone finally arrived in UK stores on Friday, 9 November. In the run-up to the launch industry experts placed their bets on whether the phone would be a hit here, with many concluding that the phone would not make as big an impact in the UK as it has in the US.

One reason for negative expectations was a YouGov survey that claimed only 1 per cent of UK residents wanted an iPhone and citing its high price as a major turn-off.

A quarter of the sample group of 1,000 people said they would be highly likely to buy a phone with the features of the iPhone, but this figure fell to 1 per cent when the £269 price and £35 per month subscription were revealed.

Data day

Marek Vaygelt, head of technology at YouGov, said: "This research conducted prior to any marketing spend by Apple and its partners shows that there is demand for a phone of this type but consumers are used to subsidised handsets in the UK, more so than in the US."

"The challenge for Apple, O2, and Carphone Warehouse is to convince customers to make a significantly higher outlay for the iPhone than they have been used to," Vaygelt added.

Industry watchers also pointed to O2's so-called 'unlimited data' package, noting that it would only offer a monthly data allowance of 200MB, 20 per cent of that offered by rival operator T-Mobile. O2 clearly listened to the criticism as it has changed its policy and is now offering truly unlimited data downloads. O2 chief executive Matthew Key said: "We've taken the decision to remove the fair usage cap so that 'unlimited' really does mean 'unlimited' – this is a market first."

O2's iPhone usage agreement still restricts users to 60 hours per month usage of the Cloud WiFi network, however.



Phone at home The iPhone is now on sale in the UK

Another factor slowing uptake could be Apple's decision to limit customers to buying no more than two iPhones. The company says the move is part of its attempt to stop unauthorised iPhone resellers.

Locked up

Those intent on unlocking the iPhone should note that it will ship with a new version of the firmware installed. Reports suggest the 1.1.2 update disables the so-called 'TIFF exploit' used for the installation of additional applications, and also seems set to prevent hackers unlocking the device for use on other networks. The update will also enable the device's free access to The Cloud network of wireless hotspots for internet access over WiFi.

Furthermore, Apple and Carphone Warehouse will have to convince UK mobile phone users used to far more generous call packages to tie themselves into an expensive 18-month contract with O2, as well as pay £269 for the phone.

This is a challenge resellers in France won't face. Apple and Orange will be forced to sell an

"The challenge for Apple, O2, and Carphone Warehouse is to convince customers to make a significantly higher outlay for the iPhone than they have been used to"
Marek Vaygelt, YouGov

unlocked iPhone when it launches there on 29 November, thanks to a French law that forbids the exclusive sale of a mobile that is locked to a particular network. Pricing for an unlocked iPhone hasn't yet been announced, but it is likely to be higher than the €399 locked version.

Carphone Warehouse head of wireless Darren Gardner told Reuters he expected his company's 800 stores across the UK to be able to shift 10,000 iPhones in the first week.

The device will also be made available through Apple's physical and online retail stores and O2's shops and online store.

Leopard for £5.95

Apple is offering customers who bought a new Mac after 1 October 2007 the chance to purchase a copy of Leopard for £5.95. The deal times out on 29 December

to allow for any Tiger-running Macs that may still be in the sales channel.

Virtualisation

Apple has altered the software licence for its Mac OS X Server, allowing its OS to run in a virtual machine for the first time – so long as it's a Mac. Expect to see software to enable the installation of the

Leopard Server within a virtual machine from Parallels and VMWare soon.

Top shop

The iPhone's record of one million sales in just over three months eclipses the rate of sales for the first-generation

iPod (which took two years to achieve 1.4 million sales). Apple told analysts it believes 250,000 iPhones were sold to users who plan to unlock the device.

Dollar bills

Piper Jaffray analyst Gene Munster believes



Apple is taking \$18 per month for each iPhone subscriber under its deal with AT&T.



Seeing stars Apple sold two million copies of Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard in the first weekend

Apple shifts two million Leopards

Mac fans rush to buy Apple's new operating system, the first upgrade in over two years

Apple has confirmed it sold (or delivered in the case of maintenance agreements) more than two million copies of Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard in the first weekend after its release on Friday 26 October. Sales outpaced first-weekend figures for Mac OS X Tiger, previously the most successful OS release in the company's history.

"Early indications are that Leopard will be a huge hit with customers," said Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO. "Leopard's innovative features are getting great reviews and making more people than ever think about switching to the Mac."

The Leopard launch began at 6pm in New Zealand and concluded 20 hours later at 6pm in San Francisco. Apple Stores and resellers around the globe played host to thousands of eager Mac users who queued up for their copy of the new operating system.

Almost 600 Mac users queued outside Apple's Regent Street store for the Leopard launch.

Leopard is the fifth major upgrade Apple has made to its OS, and its first in two-and-a-half years. The software will be installed on all new Apple computers, or cost £85 for an upgrade. Apple has said the vast majority of Macs sold over the past four years will be able to run Leopard, as well as some older machines.

The major advances include Time Machine, which automatically creates snapshots of the OS from an earlier point in time, allowing users to retrieve files and applications that have been deleted, or even earlier versions of documents that have been updated.

There are also some cosmetic upgrades, such as a mirrored base on which the dock icons now sit. Other changes aim to better organise files: downloads now all flow into a single folder, for example.

Apple also released a server version of Leopard on 26 October. Mac OS X Server version 10.5 Leopard costs £319 for a 10-client edition and £629 for an unlimited-client edition.

Security expert targets new OS

Praise for Apple's efforts, amid concerns at incomplete implementation

The security features introduced in Apple's Leopard operating system need work, claim a security boffin.

Leopard introduces a number of security features to the Mac, but many have been implemented incompletely, claimed Thomas Ptacek, a researcher at Matasano Security.

According to Ptacek, two of Apple's key security enhancements – Sandboxing and Library Randomization – are great ideas that are imperfectly applied within Leopard.

Library Randomization is a new feature that is supposed to veto some of the most commonly used computer attacks, such as buffer overflows, where the attacker takes advantage of a software bug to place code somewhere in the computer's memory where he or she knows it will be run. Library Randomization makes it much harder, if not impossible, for the attacker to know where to place this code, reducing the risk of attack.

But Apple had not randomised all the parts of the operating system that it should have, according to Ptacek.

Sandboxing is another feature that could ultimately make Mac OS X more secure. Sandboxing restricts software running on Mac OS so that even if it is hacked, it can't do things that it shouldn't, such as add new software to the computer. The problem is that Apple hasn't sandboxed many of the most commonly attacked applications such as the browser, mail client, or instant messaging software, Ptacek said.

Apple declined to comment in detail on its new security features. Company spokesman Anuj Nayar said: "Apple takes security very seriously and has a great track record of addressing potential vulnerabilities before they can affect users."



- iMac MXM Update 1.0 improves video compatibility with Boot Camp on the 24-inch iMac. Some iMacs may display a black screen when booting from the Windows XP installer CD
- iLife Support 8.1.1 improves stability and addresses some minor issues. iDVD 6.0.4 and GarageBand 3.0.5 are compatibility patches for Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard.
- Apple has abandoned Panther for sync support using .Mac. In a note the company warns .Mac users that Mac OS X 10.4.10 or later is required in order to ensure "uninterrupted" service for sync operations.
- Apple Remote Desktop 3.2 Client and the Apple Remote Desktop 3.2 Admin software address stability, usability and compatibility issues.
- iTunes 7.5 adds support for the UK iPhone as well as bug fixes. Apple has also issued a revised version of QuickTime.
- Apple has introduced new graphics card firmware for its Mac Pro desktop computer, the ATI Radeon X1900 XT Firmware Update.
- MacBook Pro Software Update 1.2 improves graphics stability and is recommended for all 2.2/2.4GHz MacBook Pro models.
- Apple has released iMac Software Update 1.2, a software patch that addresses a flaw in the earlier 1.1 update, which caused the screen to freeze. Reports indicate that the fix is not always successful in solving the problem.
- Backup 3.1.2 (6.3MB) improves reliability and compatibility with Leopard and iWork '08.
- Server Admin Tools 10.5 includes remote administration tools, documentation, and utilities.



By Karen Haslam
www.macworld.co.uk/blogs

Too high a price to play it cool?

By the time you read this the iPhone will have launched here in the UK and no doubt a few of you will be considering signing up for a contract with O2.

I've been sceptical about the iPhone ever since Apple announced it; my boyfriend on the other hand has been considering buying one.

The reason he considered getting an iPhone was because it's the closest you can get to the real internet on a mobile phone. It's not 100 per cent perfect though, he admits, because although it shows real html pages, rather than cut down WAP versions, it lacks the Flash and Java capabilities used by many websites.

Another limitation was the so-called unlimited data cap set by O2. Rather than being unlimited it was actually 200MB a month, that's about how much you will use looking at two YouTube videos. Thankfully, O2 has now seen sense and uncapped the limited downloads. Now iPhone users won't have to worry about ending up with a huge bill for surfing they thought was free.

So if you are looking for almost-true web browsing on your phone, the iPhone is an excellent option. If you want to use your iPhone as a phone however, it's not so great. O2's £35 a month contract offers you 200 minutes of calls a month. A quick poll in the office revealed most deals were about £25 for 300 minutes.

However, the features of the iPhone may still convince you that it's worth the extra outlay. Alternatives such as the Nokia N95 just don't cut the mustard, according to the boyfriend. "For web experience the N95 is only about 40 per cent there," he says, based on his comparisons with the iPod touch's browsing features. He was more impressed by the Picsel browser from Picsel Technologies.

This browser, like Safari on the iPhone, lets users pan and zoom around web pages, enjoying the content in its original online format. And if you just have to have iPhone-like navigation tools, such as bouncy-scrolling through your address book, you can install plug-ins that will let you do that.

For now it seems that the boyfriend intends to modify a handset to run almost like an iPhone. He's getting an HTC XDA Orbit on eBay and installing the Picsel browser. Why the Orbit?

Because it offers GPS: the killer feature missing from the iPhone.

But pimping your mobile to act like an iPhone just isn't as cool as owning one, and at the end of the day, it's the cool factor that only comes with owning an iPhone that will encourage people to buy them.

Just remember, you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.

Into orbit Could HTC's XDA Orbit with GPS be an iPhone killer?



Faster MacBooks

Apple upgrades MacBook with Santa Rosa chipset and faster processor

Apple has upgraded its MacBook laptop line to the same 'Santa Rosa' Intel chip set used in the higher-priced MacBook Pro. The pricing remains the same.

The three notebooks – two white models priced at £699 and £829, and an all-black unit for £949 – now sport the faster 800MHz front side bus of the Santa Rosa architecture. Apple's MacBook Pro line was updated to the faster Santa Rosa processors in June.

The least-expensive MacBook retains its 2GHz Core 2 Duo processor, but the other two now sport 2.2GHz CPUs, which are slightly faster than the 2.16GHz processors offered previously. All three have 1GB of RAM and can be equipped with hard drives of up to 250GB.

Better picture

A change to Intel's GMA X3100 integrated graphics – none of the MacBooks can be configured with graphics chips from NVIDIA or ATI – has also boosted performance; the X3100 can borrow as much as 144MB of system memory for the graphics subsystem, up substantially from previous MacBook models' chips that maxed out at 64MB.

The company has also modified the build-your-own options for the MacBook Pro notebooks to offer an upgrade to a 2.6GHz Core 2 Duo processor on the two most expensive models, the £1,599 15in



Speedway Apple's MacBook range now maxes out at 2.2GHz

and the £1,799 17in systems. The bump to the faster CPU costs £160.

Apple is also said to be preparing to upgrade its professional desktop Mac Pros, with reports suggesting the company will soon be introducing Intel's new 'Penryn' processor. This could make Apple the first to market computers offering Intel's new 45-nanometre processors.

Apple is expected to introduce a top-of-the-range 8-core machine that uses two top-speed Xeon 'Harpertown' (codenamed Penryn) chips, according to an Apple Insider report.

The new Macs will offer speeds up to 3.2GHz, and up to 12MB of L2 cache, alongside a new super-fast 1,600MHz frontside bus.

The new computers are expected to offer up to 45 per cent better performance than Apple's existing Mac Pros, and could ship in November, assuming Intel can provide processors in sufficient quantities.

The Mac Pro was last updated in April, the MacBook in May and the MacBook Pro in June. Gregg Keizer and Karen Haslam

"The three notebooks now sport the faster 800MHz front side bus of the Santa Rosa architecture"

Macworld News in brief

Touch delays

Reports indicate that shortages in touch-screens are delaying iPod touch production.

Leopard PC

The OSx86 Scene forum is offering instructions on how to install Leopard on a Windows PC.

Online software

Adobe CEO Bruce Chizen believes all software applications will be web-based within 10 years.

Cambridge in store

Apple is recruiting for an Apple Store set to open in Cambridge's Grand Arcade shopping centre.



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Porn sites carry Mac Trojan Horse

Malicious code disguised as free video codec violates Macs

Security research company Intego has issued a security alert about a new Trojan Horse called OSX.RSPlug.A that specifically targets Mac users.

The Trojan is a form of DNSChanger that changes the Mac's Domain Name Server (DNS) address. It is not a virus since it cannot propagate itself.

According to Intego, the Trojan has been found on several pornographic websites. When trying to view a movie, the user is told: "Quicktime Player is unable to play movie file. Please click here to download new version of codec." When the user clicks the link a disk image (.dmg) is downloaded to the desktop. When the user installs the software, they are actually installing the Trojan, not a free video codec. The Trojan is installed with full root privileges, which means it has access to all files and commands on the system.

When the malicious DNS server is active, it hijacks web requests, leading users to phishing websites (for sites such as eBay, PayPal and some banks) or web pages displaying ads for other pornographic web sites.

The Trojan also installs a root crontab that checks every minute to ensure that its DNS server is still active, the company said. Since changing a network location could change the DNS server, this ensures that, in such a case, the malicious DNS server remains the active server.

Intego says that using Mac OS X 10.4, there is no way to see the changed DNS server in the operating system's interface. Under Mac OS X 10.5, this can be seen in the Advanced Network preferences; the added DNS servers are dimmed, and cannot be removed manually.

Intego has updated its virus definitions to remove the malicious code and prevent it from being installed.



Attacked Beware what you install on your Mac, software isn't always friendly

Hot on the heels of Intego's declaration of a Trojan Horse exploit affecting Macs, McAfee announced that the malware family called Puper, which has been plaguing Windows users, is now targeting Macs.

The description of the exploit – which is given on the blog of virus researcher Allysia Myers – sounds remarkably similar to that of the Trojan Horse announced by Intego. Like Intego, McAfee warns that the malware is surfacing on pornographic websites that indicate users must install a new codec to view videos.

The Puper malware family has been "plaguing" Windows users since 2005, McAfee warns. It is the same bug that has recently been reported as installing itself from infected MySpace pages.

McAfee has identified dozens of different fake codec sites currently serving this Mac malware.

Jim Dalrymple

Macworld polls



Got your copy of Leopard? What's the best bit?

New Desktop look 24.9%	Spaces 9.0%
New Finder features 7.9%	Safari 3 0.6%
Quick Look 14.3%	Boot Camp 2.1%
Time Machine 19.3%	Another new feature 2.4%
New Mail features 3.9%	It's a bit of a disappointment actually 13.6%
New iChat features 1.9%	

The most popular new feature in Leopard is the new look Desktop with 24.9 per cent of the 1,200 votes. Time Machine and Quick Look got 19.3 per cent and 14.3 per cent. 13.6 per cent said Leopard is a "disappointment".



When will you get a copy of Mac OS X Leopard?

Friday 26 October, 2007 40.2%	By March, 2008 9.5%
Within a month 24.5%	After March, 2008 4.3%
By the end of this year 17.2%	I'll wait until the next version 4.4%

Of 5,063 voters, 40.2 per cent planned to buy Leopard on 26 October. 24.5 per cent plan to get a copy within a month. Only 4.4 per cent will wait for the next version.



My main Mac is a:

Mac Pro 5.9%	Intel iMac 15.6%
Power Mac G5 13.0%	iMac G5 8.6%
Power Mac G4 5.8%	iMac G4 2.7%
MacBook Pro 15.0%	Intel Mac mini 2.7%
PowerBook G4 8.5%	Mac mini G4 2.4%
MacBook 10.5%	Mine's a G3 1.5%
iBook G4 3.7%	I don't have a Mac 4.1%

An Intel iMac is the primary Mac of 15.6 per cent of 3,106 Macworld readers. Another 15 per cent use a MacBook Pro. Intel Macs were more prevalent than IBM-powered Macs in all categories apart from the Power Mac/Mac Pro.

Apple opens iPhone to developers

Jobs promises February SDK for iPhone

Apple CEO Steve Jobs has promised Apple will release a software development kit (SDK) for the iPhone in February.

Jobs made the promise in an open letter on Apple's website. In the letter he says the company wants to nurture a development community around iPhone, but also wants to ensure sufficient protection from malware and viruses.

"It will take until February to release an SDK because we're trying to do two diametrically opposed things at once – provide an advanced and open

platform to developers while at the same time protect iPhone users from viruses, malware, privacy attacks," Jobs says.

Jobs points to Nokia's digital watermarking protection for its devices, a scenario in which applications cannot be installed into such devices unless a digital signature which tracks back to a known developer is in place. "We believe it is a step in the right direction," he adds.



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MacExpo Best of Show

Macworld selects the cream of the crop at London's Mac show

London's MacLive Expo 2007 took place at Olympia from 25 to 27 October. Despite the fact that the show was quieter than in previous years and lacked Apple, Adobe and FileMaker, as well as the popular games section, there were still a few gems to be found.

To this end, the team at Macworld UK searched the show and hand-picked 10 of the most interesting, innovative and exciting products premiering at MacLive Expo 2007 and gave them Best of Show awards. The winners are listed below:



Microsoft Office 2008

www.msoffice2008.com

Microsoft previewed Microsoft Office 2008, due to launch in January next year. Will new features such as Publishing Layout View and My Day help Microsoft's beat off increased competition in the office productivity space?



Elementary Document Parts helps pull together different elements

OnOne PhotoTune 2.2

www.ononesoftware.com

PhotoTune 2.2 is an Adobe Photoshop plug-in for colour correction that includes SkinTune technology, developed after more than two years of in-depth skin colour research.

Intego FileGuard X4

www.intego.com/fileguard

FileGuard X4 creates virtual safes that provide unbreakable protection for sensitive files.

SWSOft Parallels 3

www.parallels.com

Run Windows, Linux, and more side-by-side with Mac OS X on any Intel-powered Mac, without rebooting, using Parallels' virtualisation technology.

Numark iDJ2

www.numark.com/idx2

Numark's tool for digital DJs integrates an iPod dock and lets users mix, beat-match and pitch-shift tracks.



Play on The answer to every wannabe digital DJ's dreams

Elgato EyeTV 2.5

www.elgato.com

This significant upgrade to Elgato's TV for Mac software enables video streaming of your TV recordings from your Mac to your iPhone or iPod touch across your WiFi network.

MYOB Account Edge 2008

www.myob.com

Set to launch in the UK later this year, the latest version of the MYOB accounting software will offer a new interface and new features, thanks to the company's dedicated Mac team.

Shure Music Phone Adaptor for iPhone

www.shure.co.uk

This accessory converts Shure earphones into a stereo mobile headset so that iPhone users can switch between their music and phone.



Painting The Cintiq 12WX is about as close to an artist's easel you can get

Wacom Cintiq 12WX

www.wacom-europe.com

Slim, light and durable, the Cintiq 12WX combines the functionality of a Cintiq tablet in compact form making it the perfect sketchbook for creative types with limited desk space.

Microspot Interiors Professional

www.microspot.com

Microspot Interiors Professional takes the standard Interiors product to a whole new level with superb raytrace rendering and a host of modelling tools.

Software updates

Creative Suite

Some Adobe Creative Suite 3 applications are not yet fully compatible with Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard. Updates are expected by January.

Fusion

VMWare's Fusion 1.1 virtualisation software update takes advantage of new Leopard features, including the Time Machine backup.

FileMaker

FileMaker has released a Leopard update for FileMaker v.9, but no compatibility updates for earlier versions.

Firefox

Firefox 2.0.0.8 introduces support for Leopard and stability and security fixes. Some issues remain when running Firefox on Leopard.

Parallels

SWSOft has introduced a new beta version of Parallels Desktop for Mac that improves compatibility with Leopard.

Remote Desktop

Remote Desktop Connection 2.0 beta 2, is updated software that lets Macs connect to Windows PCs.

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Koln, Germany
German Mac show
www.macliveexpo.de
www.colourcollective.co.uk



9-12 January, 2008

BETT

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Technology in education show
www.bettshow.com

17-20 January

NAMM

California
Exhibition of music products and technologies
www.thenammshow.com/



20 November, 22 November

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Manchester, Sheffield
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www.adobe.co.uk/cs3tour22

4 December, 5 December

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Dublin, Belfast
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www.adobe.co.uk/cs3tour22

14-18 January, 2008

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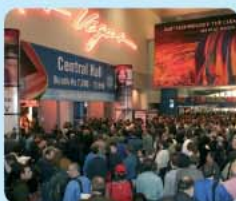
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www.imagina.mc

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www.focus-on-imaging.co.uk

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Apple exceeds estimates

Fourth quarter performance beats expectations

Apple exceeded estimates for its fourth quarter performance, posting revenue of \$6.22bn and net quarterly profit of \$1.01 per diluted share.

Apple's own revenue target for the quarter was \$5.7bn, but analysts expected the company to reach \$6bn or beyond.

Apple shipped 2,164,000 Macs, representing 34 per cent growth over the previous year's final quarter and exceeding the previous quarterly record for Mac shipments by 400,000.

The company also sold 10.2 million iPods during the quarter, representing 17 per cent growth over the year-ago quarter. iPhone sales were 1,119,000, bringing cumulative fiscal 2007 sales to 1,389,000.

Positive outlook

Prior to the announcement, consensus sales estimates from Thomson FirstCall called for 2 million Macs, 10.9 million iPods and 928,000 iPhone sales in the quarter, for revenue of \$6.05bn. Apple's fourth-quarter results compare to revenue of \$4.84bn and net quarterly profit of \$542m, or \$0.62 per diluted share, in the year-ago quarter.

Apple's gross margin was 33.6 per cent, up from 29.2 per cent in the same quarter in 2006. International sales accounted for 40 per cent of the quarter's revenue. The company generated more than \$24bn in revenue and \$3.5bn in net income in fiscal 2007.

"Apple ended the fiscal year with \$15.4bn in cash and no debt," said Peter Oppenheimer, Apple's chief financial officer. "Looking ahead to the first quarter of fiscal 2008, we expect revenue of about \$9.2bn and earnings per diluted share of about \$1.42."

Oppenheimer also warned that gross margins look set to fall to 31 per cent due

to rising component prices.

Explaining his uncustomarily positive outlook, Oppenheimer said: "I give you guidance each quarter that we believe we have a reasonable chance of achieving. Apple has been working incredibly hard for a number of years and now things are just really coming together quite well for us and I couldn't be happier."

Happy days

"Apple is shipping the best products that we have ever made in our history. We just eclipsed the record that we set for Mac sales last quarter by 400,000. iPod sales accelerated after the transition and we're shipping the best iPods we've ever made. And the iPhone is doing really, really well. So we're quite confident in the business and we've exited the September quarter with a lot of momentum."

Apple's Mac shipments climbed 34 per cent year-on-year, double the industry average for PC shipments, which saw 15.5 per cent growth, according to IDC.

Jonny Evans



Mac record Apple shipped 2,164,000 Macs – exceeding the previous quarterly record for Mac shipments by 400,000

Stock Summary

Adobe	▲ 8.25%
Apple	▲ 18.57 %
Dell	▲ 8.25%
HP	▲ 2.67%
IBM	▼ 3.19%
Intel	▲ 1.60%
Microsoft	▲ 24.78%
Sony	▼ 3.13%

"Apple has been working incredibly hard for a number of years and now things are really coming together for us and I couldn't be happier"

Peter Oppenheimer,
Apple

Analysts take aim at Apple's targets

Aggressive targets for the Christmas quarter excite analysts

Analysts are still reeling at the shock of Apple projecting aggressive targets for the coming Christmas quarter.

Apple has historically offered conservative assessments for future performance, but this time Apple chief financial officer Peter Oppenheimer predicted revenue in excess of what analysts had suspected.

Analyst Shaw Wu of American Technology Research – who like many other analysts raised his estimates on Apple stock – said: "Apple's December quarter guidance was the biggest surprise. Most

were anticipating the usual conservativeness and a guide-down."

"However, Apple guided to \$9.2bn and \$1.42, materially above already optimistic consensus estimates of \$8.6bn and \$1.39. The last time Apple guided in-line to higher than consensus estimates was for the December 2005 quarter."

Wu expects Apple to sell 2.3 million Macs, 24 million iPods, and 2 million iPhones in the first quarter of 2008.



Sure sale Analyst Shaw Wu expects Apple to sell 24 million iPods next quarter

Macworld News in brief

Sales estimates

Leopard could bring in \$140m by the end of the year. The estimate is based on sales of Tiger. Apple's Tim Cook explained: "The vast majority of Macs shipped in the last four years are able to run Leopard. Specifically, the number is about 21 million. When we announced Tiger, there were 15 million eligible units and we did \$100m of revenue in the first quarter of launch."

iPods in capacitated

Apple is facing a class action lawsuit alleging it misleads customers when it publishes iPod capacity figures. The lawsuit claims all Apple products offer on average 7.5 per cent less storage than claimed and demanding a full refund or a 7.5 per cent refund on the product price to compensate.

Apple climbs to third

Apple is now the third largest PC supplier in the US, according to IDC. Apple holds a 6.3 per cent market share in the US, behind Dell (28 per cent) and HP (24.3 per cent). Apple leads Toshiba (5.2 per cent) and Gateway (5.2 per cent), IDC figures confirm.

Mac gem

Apple is the most valuable computer maker in the world. The company's market capital remains around \$161.84bn. That's higher than IBM (\$155bn); Intel (\$156bn), and Nokia (\$150bn). It puts Apple into fourth place in the top technology stocks, behind Cisco (\$189bn), Google (\$208bn) and Microsoft (\$290bn).

Trust worthy

Several US states are requesting a five-year extension of the antitrust judgment against Microsoft. Sections of the 2002 judgment are due to expire this month. In related news, Microsoft has finally agreed to comply with the European Commission's 2004 antitrust ruling. Microsoft had previously said it would appeal the ruling.

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Macworld has teamed up with NTI (www.bsnti.ac.uk) and AT Computers (www.atcomputers.co.uk) to offer 10 lucky readers a copy of Apple's OS X 10.5 Leopard operating system. Plus, two lucky readers will win a place on an Apple Authorised OS X Training course of their choice. Courses are available from beginner level, up to helpdesk and support staff level.

NTI and AT Computers are both Apple Authorised Training Centres for the Midlands,

Southwest, Northeast and Wales, and offer a wide range of Apple technology training for media professionals, support staff, educators and home-users. With training suites in Birmingham and Gloucestershire both have become significant training venues for their regions.

AT Computers complement their training with Apple Sales and Support centres in Tewkesbury, Cardiff, and Newcastle.



To be in with a chance of winning. Simply answer the following simple question...

What was the 'big cat' codename of the first version of Mac OS X (version 10.0)?

- A** | Cheetah
- B** | Puma
- C** | Tiger

To be in with a chance of winning, please visit:

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Installing Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard took me on a journey all the way back to 1999

Time Machine ghost ride



Simon Jary

Upgrading to Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard was a no brainer. But I didn't realise that meant I had no brain working when I decided to slip the disc into my Mac's DVD drive and push Install. I should have known that Leopard's arrival less than a week before Halloween was an omen – a cackling laugh should have chimed when I restarted my machine for the installation process to begin. Instead I innocently left my study to watch *Spooks* downstairs. (*Spooks*, for God's sake! Did I need any more subtle hints from the underworld?)

Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger was released nearly two-and-a-half years ago. That's a very long time to sit on a version of OS X. Too long. Tiger users were bored of stripes. We wanted spots. Apple claims that it sold over two million copies of Leopard in just over a weekend. That's a lot of bottled up anticipation for what Apple claims is more than 300 new features. 300! That's less than 30p per feature.

But I should have waited – at least until I'd thought about what I needed to do in the days immediately after October 26. Upgrading an operating system is not like setting a new desktop pattern or downloading a few tracks from iTunes. It's actually quite a big deal, but still I treated the whole thing like I was merely restarting my computer.

It turns out that those 300 new features aren't anywhere near as impressive as Tiger's former 150 goodies (Spotlight, Exposé, Dashboard, etc) anyway. Leopard really has only about four major things going for it. If I'd honestly thought about it I'd have realised that none of them are that important to me.

Back in April 2005 Apple CEO Steve Jobs described Tiger as "our biggest leap forward since the original Macintosh in 1984". Leopard is its biggest leap forward since 10.4.4. Its biggest new feature is clearly Time Machine, an ultra-easy way to backup your Mac – which, by the way, you should do before you upgrade to Leopard; leaving you in a catch-22. First you have to learn how to easily backup your Mac before you can easily backup your Mac. At least moving to OS X 10.6 will be a lot easier.

But is backup really such a wow feature? Very few of us backup as much as we should. We know that we ought to but we carry on regardless. It simply doesn't bother us enough to do it, even though it's for our own good. So Apple's choice of a new backup tool as Leopard's must-have, number-one new feature tells us a lot about the other supposed 299.

There's a semi-transparent menubar, and nicer drop shadow on folders. The new Cover Flow view looks as good as it does in iTunes, but there it should have stayed. There's Quick Look, which ironically I couldn't immediately find. I had a good long look for Quick Look, and came up blank. The icons don't show up on my windows or folders, and there's no Quick Look button in System Preferences.

I'm sure the two other major new features are very useful, but Apple dumped its usual sexy naming process and instead labelled them as if they were index entries in a Ryman catalogue. Does Apple really expect us to get excited by Stacks and Spaces? At least Tiger's Exposé sounded a little risqué.

Like us, Apple knows that backup is as boring as setting up Windows so it sexed it up with a wacky interface. For some reason this interface is set in outer space. If a time machine really did exist, surely it would stay in one place and move only back and forwards in time – not blast off out of the earth's atmosphere, past Mars and Pluto, just to return to earth with a thud at the requested time of arrival.

My Leopard upgrade horror show really did take me on a journey through time, if not space. And that's the point of my warning here. As I mentioned earlier, it's always worth thinking about what you need to do in the near future before you upgrade your system. You wouldn't wash your car before you went off-road driving. You don't put on old ripped jeans if you're heading to a black-tie dinner. And I shouldn't have upgraded my whole OS if I needed to print 50 CD tray and booklet inserts for a friend's wedding two days later.

That's what I mean about being far too casual about things. I know that new operating system versions often muck up third-party application settings and peripheral drivers. But I went ahead and trashed my trusty Tiger all the same.

Of course, my HP photosmart 7350 inkjet wouldn't work. I still wasn't too bothered, and I gamely downloaded the latest drivers for it. I even wasn't that unhappy that it said it worked with all versions of OS X "up to" 10.4. Leopard refused to recognise it despite numerous restarts, downloads and installs. At this stage I started to sweat a little.

But I'm an old hand at such tech adversity. OK, I thought, I've been a bit rash installing Leopard. I'll bite the bullet and install an earlier version of OS X on another hard drive. I quickly found the 10.3 Panther discs that came with my Power Mac G5, and started the whole process over again, even taking the time to upgrade that all the way to 10.3.9.

Trouble was, my version of QuarkXPress wouldn't work with Panther. Now I began to swear. My only option was to start reworking the documents in the older version of XPress that still remained on my Mac – and that meant starting up in Classic... yes, back to the time before the Dock, Mac OS 9.2. That's where I actually hit my printer, sending the hood flying off behind my desk, where I banged my head retrieving it.

Working like a Mac Morlock in OS 9.2 really was a step too far, and I eventually waited till I could get my Tiger discs from work. The printer still refused to work, but 18 hours before the wedding I managed to somehow get things going and the day was saved.

Like a romantic fool I ignored all sage advice and rushed in to be as up to date as I could with Apple's latest and shiniest. It was just too tempting, even though Leopard's supposed 300 new features really aren't that appealing at all. Such rash uncontrolled love I shall not fall for again.

It's worth it if you own an Intel-powered Mac, although wait for the right moment – like when your peripherals are also ready. But if, like me, you're still using an older PowerPC computer I'd seriously wait till you buy a new Mac – and maybe a new printer too... **MW**

"Is backup really such a wow feature? We know that we ought to backup more but we carry on regardless. It simply doesn't bother us enough to do it.

So Apple's choice of a new backup tool as Leopard's must-have, number-one new feature tells us a lot about the other supposed 299"



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www.elgato.com **elgato**

CoolPix for winter

Nikon releases new CoolPix range for the winter season

Nikon's autumn/winter collection includes a new range of its CoolPix cameras. Prices start at £129.99 for the CoolPix L14, a compact 7.1-megapixel camera with 4x digital zoom. Nikon claims that the L14 is one of the most energy-efficient cameras in the world, and is capable of taking up to 1,000 pictures on a single set of AA batteries.

Also new is the S510, which Nikon says is one of the smallest digital cameras available. Priced at £199.99, the S510 offers 8.1 megapixel resolution and 3x optical zoom. It measures 8.8cm wide, 5.1cm high and 2.2cm thick with the lens retracted. For the same price you can also get the more conventional P50 model, which has the same resolution but increases its optical zoom to 4x.

For an extra £30 the S51c has the same specification, but also includes wireless features that allow photos to be transferred via wireless connection to one of Nikon's PictureTown storage devices.

Nikon, 0871 2001964



Snap Shots The CoolPix L14 can take 1,000 photos with a single set of AA batteries, claims Nikon

Kodak Goes HD

New cameras capture widescreen photos and video

Kodak's new EasyShare cameras focus on high-definition photography, taking photos in the widescreen 16:9 format and capturing high-definition (720p) video clips.

The EasyShare V1233 costs £189.99 and has 12-megapixel resolution and 3x optical zoom. The EasyShare Z812 IS is aimed at more advanced hobbyists and offers 8.2-megapixel resolution and a 12x optical zoom for £229.99. Kodak will also be releasing the EasyShare HDTV Dock that allows you to connect the cameras to an HD television set. The UK price for the dock hasn't been set yet, but should be around £79.99.

Kodak, 0800 028 1422



Zoom zoom
The EasyShare Z812 IS boasts a 12X optical zoom

Creative on your desktop

Premium speakers for desktop Macs

Creative's new GigaWorks T40 speakers are designed for your desktop or laptop computer.

Creative says that many people now use their computer as their main music system, so the T40 speakers are designed to match the audio quality of a traditional Hi-Fi. The £99.99 stereo speakers provide controls for treble, bass and volume, as well as a headphone socket. They provide 14W output per speaker and use a system called BasXport that the company says boosts the bass sound without needing a separate sub-woofer.

Creative, www.creative.com



Maxtor gets in touch

New version of popular OneTouch drives

We've always liked Maxtor's OneTouch drives, with their quick and easy backup features, and now Maxtor has updated the OneTouch range with a number of new models. The OneTouch 4 drives are designed for use with desktop Macs and PCs and are available in 250GB, 500GB, and 750GB sizes. The company has also updated the Mini version for laptops as well – the new OneTouch 4 Mini is available in 80GB, 120GB and 160GB.

The UK prices hadn't been confirmed as we went to press, but the OneTouch III Mini cost £87 for the 160GB model, and the new prices should be in the same range.

Maxtor www.maxstore.com



Logitech's big sounds

Speakers 'upmix' conventional stereo audio

If you're looking for an even beefier sound than Creative's GigaWorks speakers you might want to take a look at the new G51 speaker system from Logitech. The G51 is a 5.1 surround sound system that costs £149.99. The speaker system provides 155W total output – 20W for each of the five satellite speakers and 55W for the subwoofer. The G51 can also 'upmix' ordinary stereo sources, such as games or music CDs to create a simulated surround sound effect. Just remember that you'll need a relatively recent Mac that has digital audio output in order to handle six-channel audio.

Logitech, 01753-870900



In Brief

ON THE CD
TRIAL VERSION**Nisus Express**

Nisus Express is a simplified, low-cost version of the popular Nisus Pro word processor. The full version costs \$45 (£21.75) or you can try the demo first. www.nisus.com

Rosetta Stone

If learning a new language is your new year's resolution check out Rosetta Stone 3. The new personalised tuition courses immerse you in the language through real-life simulations. You'll be chatting away in a new language in no time. www.rosettastone.co.uk

ON THE CD
TRIAL VERSION**Support options**

Support is a program that lets you delve into the Unix underpinnings of OS X, and modify features such as the Dashboard and the Finder. It costs \$20 (£9.67). www.applicorn.com

Guitar hero

Native Instruments has released a demo version of its Guitar Rig software, which lets you use your Mac as an amp and guitar effects system. www.native-instruments.com

Sandvox

Karelia Software has released a new version of SandVox, its easy-to-use web-design program. New features include integration with .Mac. It costs \$49 (£23.69). www.karelia.com



It's a Cintiq

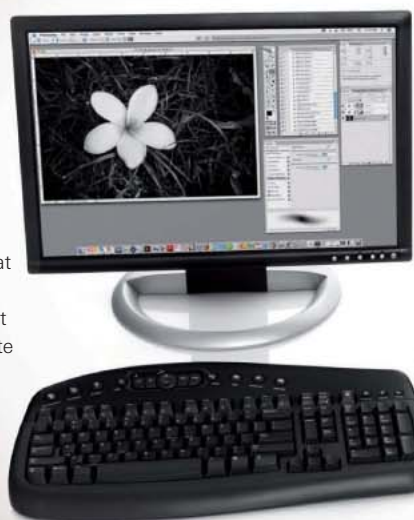
Wacom extends its Cintiq range of graphics tablets

Some designers swear by Wacom's Cintiq 21UX – a 'pen-on-screen' graphics tablet that can be used in a similar way to a traditional sketchpad. But the dimensions mean it requires a lot of desk space; the weight ensures it's not the ultimate in portability, and the price can be a barrier to some smaller agencies.

To fill the gap between its Intuos3 A5 Wide, which offers a smaller tablet without the hand-eye co-ordination offered by the Cintiq, Wacom has introduced the Cintiq 12WX.

The 405 x 280 x 17mm Cintiq 12WX tablet boasts a 12.1in TFT display, a WXGA resolution of 1,280 x 800 pixels, 24-bit colour depth, a viewing angle of 170 degrees, and all the features of the Cintiq 21UX and Intuos3 ranges such as the scroll bar-style Touch Strip and programmable ExpressKeys. The Display Toggle function allows the user to switch between displays in multiple monitor setups.

The Cintiq 12WX works with all the available pressure



Taking the tablets

The Bamboo Cintiq 12WX enables designers to draw straight to screen as if they were using a sketch pad



sensitive pens from Wacom, weighs 2kg and has ergonomic features, according to the company. The Cintiq 12WX also features a stand that is adjustable so that the tablet can be used in three different orientations: 25 degrees, 65 degrees, or flat on the table or even on your lap. The Cintiq 12WX will cost £329.99 when it ships in November. **Computers Unlimited, 020 8358 9451**

Intego's guard is up

Version 4 of FileGuard puts files in virtual safes

Intego has updated FileGuard, its data protection software for Mac OS X. FileGuard X4 costs £34.95 for a one-user licence. FileGuard X4 stores files in 'virtual safes' that can be stored on file servers, external disks, or elsewhere. You can send FileGuard X4-encrypted files to others as long as they have the password – recipients don't need FileGuard X4 software in order to open the files.

You can create FileGuard safes by dragging and dropping files from the Finder, and you can increase their size as more files are added.

Intego has also upgraded its VirusBarrier X4 Dual Protection and Internet Security Barrier Antispam Edition Dual Protection suites with BitDefender's latest 2008 versions of its security software. The software protects against virus on Macs running Windows using various virtualisation software.

Intego, www.intego.com



Iomega comes home

Network drives for home users

Network hard disks are a great idea, enabling you to connect the hard disk to your home or office network and share it with other people on the network. They can be a bit fiddly to set up, though, which is why we like Iomega's easy-to-use StorCentre drives. Iomega has now released a new range of low-cost network drives aimed specifically at home users. The appropriately named Home Network Hard Drives start at a very attractive £99.99 for the 320GB model, and there's also a 500GB version for just £119.99. **Iomega, 020 7216 0003**



HANNspree goes to Boston

New monitor brings retro styling to the desktop

The latest addition to HANNspree's range of computer displays is the 19in Boston. The Boston is a widescreen monitor with 1,440 x 900 resolution suitable for displaying high-definition video. It costs just £135, which is very attractive when compared to £399 for Apple's 20-inch Cinema Display. It also allows you to adjust the height of the stand – an important ergonomic feature that Apple overlooks. However, we're not entirely convinced by the rather odd design. HANNspree told us that it's "a statement of your personal taste", but it reminds us of a 1970s Formica kitchen.

Misco, 0800 038 8880



Budget printing

Epson releases all-in-one printers for everybody

Following on from its new PhotoMate printers released last month, Epson has now updated its range of 'all-in-one' printers that also include built-in scanning and copying features.

There are two ranges available. The DX range are general-purpose four-colour printers designed for the home office. Prices start at £79.99 for the DX7400, which has a print resolution of 5,760 x 1,440dpi, and can print text documents at up to 32 pages per minute, or 10 x 15cm photo prints in just 26 seconds. It also has a 1,200dpi scanner and copier built-in.

For another £20, the DX8400 also includes a 6.3 LCD preview screen so, you can preview and print photos without having to transfer them to your Mac first. Finally, there's the DX9400F, which costs £129.99 and also includes a built-in fax.

For the photo-hobbyist, there are two new models in the Stylus Photo range. The Stylus Photo RX585 and RX685 have similar resolution and print speeds to the DX models, but use six-colour printing. The RX585 costs £129.99, while the RX685 increases print speeds to 40ppm for both black and white and colour, and costs £199.99.

Epson, 08702 416900



Prints charming

The RX585 printer uses six coloured inks for high-quality photo prints

In Brief

iStat turns 21

The latest version of the freeware iStat Menus includes 21 new features, such as graphs for monitoring network activity and 'world clock' options for telling the time in cities around the world. www.islayer.com



Toon Boom

The popular animation program, Toon Boom Studio has been upgraded to Version 4.0, which has a redesigned interface and new tools for importing and animating photos. It costs \$399 (£192.88). www.toonboom.com



Pinnacle backs the Mac

Video specialists extend Mac product range

It's good to see Pinnacle is continuing to expand its range of products for the Mac, after being a PC-only company for so many years. Its latest release is the Pinnacle Video Capture for Mac, a USB adaptor that lets you capture video from any analogue source, such as an old VCR or set-top box. Priced

at £69.99, the Video Capture for Mac has its own video-processing chip built

into it, enabling it to provide better performance and video quality than if your Mac had to handle all the video-capture work by itself. It captures video in the MPEG-4 format used by the iPod and AppleTV, so you can easily transfer your video clips to an iPod if you want.

Pinnacle, 01753 655999



Slim pickings

Kensington introduces versatile new mice

Kensington has introduced a new range of mice called Slimblade, that offer a number of useful features in addition to their basic mouse input options. The Slimblade Media Mouse is a wireless mouse that includes features for controlling music and video playback, priced at £44.99. For £49.99 you can get the Presenter Media Mouse, which has a similar set of features, as well as a laser-pointer device that you can use during presentations. And, as devoted trackball users, we were also intrigued by the Trackball Mouse. This is a Bluetooth widget that costs £59.99 and can act either as an ordinary mouse or as a trackball.

Kensington, 0845 603 1730



Stay on track

The Trackball Mouse can switch between mouse and trackball modes

Mission to Mars

The blogging program MarsEdit has been upgraded to version 2.0, with a new streamlined interface and the ability to link to photos on the Flickr website. It costs \$30 (£14.50). A trial version is also available. www.red-sweater.com

G.H.O.S.T. Hunters

That's the title of a new adventure game in which you investigate the mysterious goings-on at Majesty Manor. The game costs \$20 (£9.66), and a demo is available. www.macgamestore.com

Comic Cuts

ComicBookLover lets you store and read comics on your Mac. The full version costs \$25 (£12). www.comicbooklover.com



Belkin plays the game

New gamepad caters for Mac games fans

The Nostromo gaming pad may look a bit odd, but it's proved popular with many gaming fans, and Belkin has now updated it in the form of the new Nostromo n52te.

This new unit combines elements of a joystick, gamepad and programmable keyboard in a single unit, putting all the key controls for your favourite games in the palm of your hand.

Priced at £49.99, the n52te can be used with shoot 'em up games, strategy games and online role-playing games, and this model adds some built-in memory so that it can remember the settings for a variety of different games. It also glows in the dark, for those late night game sessions.

Belkin, 01933 352002



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Accessorise your iPhone

Mobile phone
Chat to your friends on the iPhone while you're out jogging

Belkin among the first to introduce iPhone accessories



Belkin has launched a collection of iPhone products. First up is the ClearScreen Overlay, a £9.99 plastic overlay you can slap onto the iPhone's screen to protect it from scratches and general wear-and-tear. For more complete protection you can slip your iPhone into the SlimFit Case, a padded leather case priced at £24.99. The SlimFit has a small mesh panel located right by the iPhone's built-in speaker so that you can listen to your music on the iPhone without taking it out of the case.

For sporty types that want to flaunt their iPhone when they're out jogging, there's the Sport Armband, which costs £19.99 and is made out of a porous and machine-washable material.

One of the biggest complaints about the iPhone is the recessed audio connector, which only works with the earphones provided by Apple, making your own earphones or headphones redundant. Thankfully, Belkin has also come up with a little Headphone Adaptor for £7.99, which will allow you to connect any standard set of headphones. There's also an audio cable that will let you connect it to a set of speakers for £12.99.

Belkin, 0800 2235 5460

Stand and deliver

Gear4 case includes stand for watching videos

Gear4 is another entrant in the great iPhone accessory race, with its oddly-named iVak case. The iVak is a toughened case that provides all-round protection for the iPhone, while still leaving the screen free so you can use the touch-sensitive controls. It also includes a belt clasp and a folding stand that you can use to prop the iPhone up when you want to watch a video. The iVak costs £29.99 and can be ordered from the Apple Store or direct from the Gear4 website.

Gear4, www.gear4.com

Make a stand

The iVak case can stand up on a desk or be clipped to your belt when travelling



Leather gear

French company brings some flair to the iPod/iPhone market

Noreve's posh leather iPhone case is called the Tradition case, and is available in a variety of colours for £28. The case includes a cut-out panel so you can use the iPhone camera without removing it from the case. Noreve also makes similar leather cases for the new iPod nano, priced at £25.

www.advancedmp3players.co.uk

French flair

The Tradition case is designed in plush leather, in a variety of colours



Clear as glass

New cases include crystal design

Proporta is another company developing iPhone cases, including the Crystal Holster, a clear, frosted plastic model priced at just £12. For the same price you can also opt for its Classic case in black leather, or the velvety finish of the Alu Leather Sheepskin case for £27.

The Sheepskin case is available in various colours such as black and pink, and is also available in 'flip top' or 'book' versions. The company has also produced the ASP – Advanced Screen Protector – a plastic overlay to protect the iPhone screen. The ASP costs £5.

Proporta, 0845 123 2848

See-through The Crystal Holster's frosted plastic gives it a clean-cut look





Sennheiser style

Audio specialists release new range of in-ear phones

We like Sennheiser earphones and headphones, and the company has now released a new range of high-quality earphones starting at around £50. The entry-level models are the CX 55, which boast strong bass output and include three sizes of ear adaptors and a carrying pouch. Next in line is the CX 400 for £54.99. This has a short cable designed for use with MP3 players and mobile phones, but also includes an additional 1m extension cable. For an extra £5 you can get the CXL 400, which includes a lanyard for carrying your iPod.

Next in the range is the CX 500. Priced at £69.99, this model has a special 'ear seal' designed to cut out background noise and provide a more comfortable fit. The CX 500 also includes some additional accessories, including a cable clip, cord winder, and in-line volume control.

Finally, there's the top-of-the-range model, the CX 95 at £79.99. The CX 95 is constructed out of tough metal and Sennheiser claims it provides the best audio quality of any of its in-ear phones. It also includes three sizes of ear adaptors, 1m extension cable and a toughened travelling case.

Sennheiser, 01494 551 551



Lounge lizards The curvy XPS Lounge speakers are designed to be 'home friendly'

The sensual world

Hercules launches new 'home friendly' speaker systems

The new XPS Lounge range from Hercules are designed with 'sensuous' curves that, says the company, make them look stylish enough to live in your front room, as well as on your computer desk. The XPS Lounge 2.1 includes a set of stereo speakers (7W each) along with an 18W subwoofer for £39.99.

The system also includes a dock unit for

the iPod, with a headphone connector and secondary audio input so that you can connect other devices such as a CD player.

If you're on a tight budget you can also opt for the XPS Lounge 2.0, which includes just the stereo speakers but no subwoofer.

Hercules, 0207 556 7419



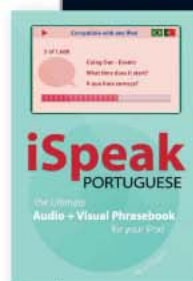
Ear we go The CX 400 earphones are designed specifically for MP3 players and mobile phones

iSpeak iPod

Learn languages on your iPod

Educational publisher McGraw-Hill has released a new range of iSpeak phrasebooks for the iPod. As well as looking up the text

for various phrases on the iPod screen you can also listen to the phrases on your earphones in order to hear the correct pronunciation. The iSpeak packs cost just £7.99 each and there are versions in French, Spanish, Japanese, and many others. McGraw-Hill, 01628 502 500



Parlez vous iPod? The iSpeak language packs lets you listen to foreign phrases on your iPod

Boom not bust

Alarm-clock speaker system bursting with features

There are quite a few iPod alarm clocks around, but few of them include the same range of features as the MiniBoom from TwinMOS. The MiniBoom is an alarm-clock and speaker system that includes a dock for the iPod, a built-in subwoofer that pumps out 15W of bass sound, an FM radio tuner, and even a calendar that can be displayed on the unit's LCD display. The MiniBoom costs £79.99.

TwinMOS, www.urboom.com



Beefy Boomer The MiniBoom's powerful subwoofer will wake you in a hurry



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OS X 10.5 Leopard

Apple's latest OS update is finally amongst us. Is it worth the £85 upgrade, or simply more of the same? Macworld takes a closer look

Operating system

Manufacturer: Apple
www.apple.com/uk

Pros: Easy backup tools, major improvements in included applications, addresses numerous shortcomings from previous OS versions, improved security and networking functions

Cons: Dock features seem poorly thought out, illegible menu items with some Desktop backgrounds, some bugs in Spaces window behaviour,

Min specs: Intel or PowerPC G4 867MHz or higher or G5 processor, 512MB RAM, 7GB of free hard-disk space

Price: £85

Star rating: ★★★★★☆



Box of tricks

Leopard is finally here, with spangly holographic packaging and hundreds of new features

The fifth major update to Mac OS X, Leopard, contains such a mountain of features – more than 300 by Apple's count – that it's difficult to boil this £85 operating system release down to a few easy-to-digest points.

Leopard is, at once, a major alteration to the Mac interface, a sweeping update to numerous included productivity programs, a serious attempt to improve Mac OS security, and a vast collection of tweaks and fixes scattered throughout every nook and cranny of the operating system.

As with every OS X update since version 10.1, there's no single feature in Leopard that will force Mac users to upgrade immediately. Instead, it's the sheer deluge of smaller features that's likely to persuade

most active Mac users to upgrade, especially since this is the longest gap between OS X upgrades – it's been two-and-a-half years since the product was first introduced. Sure, some items on Apple's list of 300 features (www.apple.com/macosx/features/300.html) might seem inconsequential, and many of them you won't even notice, but if even a handful of them make a difference to the way you work and use your Mac, that will be more than enough motivation for you to upgrade.

A new look

Apple trumpets the interface changes in Leopard as "stunning" and "eye-opening", but in reality the changes are a mixed bag.

First, the good stuff. After years of experimenting with different looks for windows, sidebars, and other interface elements, Apple seems to have settled on a fairly consistent interface. The colour scheme is largely monochromatic – shades of grey with slight gradients. Apple has improved the contrast between the frontmost

Time Machine Apple brings backup to the rest of us with Time Machine in Leopard



Apple usually makes no secret of what it considers to be the marquee feature of its major Mac OS X releases – and for Leopard, it's Time Machine's swirly space backdrop that's the inspiration for Leopard's (rather impressive) 3D holographic packaging.

Using a unique 3D interface, Time Machine attempts to turn the confusing world of backup and restore into a simple, visual operation. Backing up is simple: attach

a drive of sufficient capacity. In fact, when you first attach an external hard drive to your Mac – whether USB or FireWire – Time Machine offers to use that as your back-up drive. Enable the drive to use with Time Machine, then wait for the initial backup to complete. Once that's done, Time Machine will work in the background, creating backups of files as you modify your system.

When you need a file back, you launch Time Machine from the dock, and simply move backward through time to find the files or folders you wish to restore. A timeline on the right side of the screen lets you jump to any given day; back and forward arrows in the lower right corner of the screen let you move among the changes made to a file or folder. A Restore button copies the selected files from the backup drive.

Time Machine incorporates other Leopard enhancements. You can use Quick Look to

make sure you've found the right version, and Spotlight works to find folders and files on your backup drive.

Some other Time Machine features that may interest you:

- If Time Machine happens to be in the middle of a backup when you put your Mac to sleep, don't worry – the feature automatically stops and then resumes once you reconnect to your backup drive.
- You're able to browse any Time Machine backup volume, even one of a different Mac, when you plug the drive into your computer – a useful feature for multi-Mac households.
- Holding down the Control key and clicking the Time Machine icon in the Dock creates a new incremental backup, if you just can't wait for the automatic backup to take place.
- Time Machine preserves access privileges associated with files on multi-user Macs.



Information overload The Stacks feature falls apart when there are too many items to choose from

window and the rest of them by increasing the top window's drop shadow and dramatically lightening the colour of inactive windows. The Leopard Finder's new sidebar, clearly modelled after the iTunes Source List, is better organized and more usable than its Tiger counterpart.

Unfortunately, some of the changes are not as successful. The Mac's trademark menu bar, which spans the top of the screen, has been made semi-transparent. When the desktop is set to display an image with both light and dark areas, the see-through menu bar is visually striking. Unfortunately, that aesthetic choice comes at too steep a price: the areas of light and dark behind the menu bar can severely decrease the readability of menu items.

Apple has modified the Dock, OS X's built-in program launcher, so that the Dock's icons appear to sit on a reflective glass tray when the Dock is positioned on the bottom of the screen. Someone must've pointed out to Apple that the metaphor broke down when the Dock is placed on the sides of the screen; in those orientations, the Dock's background is a simple half-transparent grey. A pleasant glowing light appears next to the icons of currently-running programs, although the light is a bit too subtle when the Dock is positioned at the bottom of the screen.

Unfortunately, the Dock's new Stacks feature is a mess, replacing a utilitarian approach to stashing folders in the Dock (click to open the folder, click and hold to see a list of the folder's contents) with a snazzy but

"The most important new feature added in Leopard is undoubtedly Time Machine"

generally less useful pop-up window featuring a stack or grid of icons. A potential feature touted during earlier demonstrations of Leopard – the ability to drag an arbitrary collection of items into the dock to make a temporary stack – apparently didn't make it to the final version.

Time Machine

The most important new feature added in Leopard is undoubtedly Time Machine, Apple's attempt to encourage the vast majority of users who never, ever routinely back up their data to change their ways. Time Machine automatically backs up a Mac's files to a separate hard drive (internal or external, though external is certainly safer and more convenient) or a network volume being shared by another Mac running Leopard. Attaching a drive and assigning it as a Time Machine backup volume is incredibly easy, and once you've set it up, you can essentially forget all about it.

Perhaps the most impressive feature of Time Machine is its support for incremental backups. Rather than creating an identical copy of your drive, it tracks the files you've changed and saves those changes on an hourly basis. And grabbing an old copy of a file isn't some complicated job designed for an IT professional; with one click on the Time Machine icon you're in the gratuitously spacey Time Machine interface, which lets you use the Finder (as well as other supported

Continues page 43 ➔

What you may not know

Time Machine only seems to work with external hard drives attached directly to your Mac, and other Macs running Leopard. You can't use any old remote server, and you can't attach Time Machine to your AirPort Extreme's AirDisk drive either. Schedule some time for Time Machine – the initial backup took six hours on our test machine.

While most demos of Time Machine are focused on the Finder, it's important to note that applications can be made Time Machine-savvy as well. iPhoto, for example, works with Time Machine (although iTunes, we note, does not): when you click on the Time Machine icon while in iPhoto, you'll be presented with a 3D interface into the history of your iPhoto library. You can fly back in time, scroll through the library until you found a mistakenly deleted photo, and then restore it to your present-day iPhoto library.



Time to spare Time Machine makes the laborious process of persistently backing up your hard drive painless and, once set up, is invisible until you need it

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Spaced out A four-workspace, two-display set of Spaces. You can spread your work (and your Facebook, email, iTunes etc) over up to 16 different screen setups

applications such as iPhoto) to fly back in time and pluck out the data you want to retrieve. It really is backup for regular people, and the presence of Time Machine leads to a remarkable change in mindset: we just installed a new version of a program we're beta testing, and realized that if it didn't work, we could quickly roll back to the previous version via Time Machine.

One downside of Time Machine's backups is that they're not bootable on their own. If your main hard drive dies, you need to replace the drive and then rebuild your drive by using the Leopard boot DVD's Restore function or the Migration Assistant utility. But all your files will be there when you're done.

Will Time Machine turn us all into compulsive backup fanatics? No, because making that backup requires actual storage space, which requires the purchase of a large backup drive. But until online storage is infinitely vast and fast, that will always be an issue. The good news is, Time Machine is simple enough that it really eliminates most of the obstacles that cause most people to bypass backing up their data. If you can buy a big hard drive and plug it into your Mac, you can keep your data safe without really having to do anything.

Boot camp

It's been 18 months since Boot Camp, Apple's method of enabling Intel-based Macs to boot into Windows, was released as a public beta. Boot Camp serves a useful purpose in that it provides basic Windows compatibility and the ability to run Windows programs at native speeds. However, most people who want to run Windows software on their Macs will opt for tools such as VMware Fusion and Parallels Desktop, which allow Windows and Mac OS X to operate simultaneously.

Still, the importance of Boot Camp can't be understated. Its mere presence provides a basic level of Windows compatibility that many potential Windows-to-Mac switchers will find comforting.

Spaces

Multiple-workspace utilities, which let you switch between various collections of application windows in order to reduce clutter, have been around for years on numerous platforms, including Mac OS X. Leopard's new Spaces feature is an attempt to bring the concept of multiple workspaces to a much wider audience. While

"it's the sheer deluge of smaller features that's likely to persuade most active Mac users to upgrade"

it's certainly promising, in the initial release of Leopard we found it to be a bit erratic.

Spaces has been integrated smartly into OS X's existing Exposé feature, another tool for organizing a large number of windows. The concept of Spaces is that the Mac's interface is actually a series of workspaces, located adjacent to one another on a grid.

To drag a window out of a cluttered workspace and into a pristine one, you just drag the window to the edge of the screen and, after a momentary pause, the existing space will disappear and the window will appear by itself. Pressing the F8 key invokes an Exposé-style zooming feature, that reveals the contents of all the spaces and their spatial relationship to one another.

We remain unconvinced that multiple workspaces

are ever going to be a mainstream feature, but they can be a huge productivity boost to busy power users. And Apple's implementation is clever, allowing you to assign individual applications to specific spaces or to every space.

However, Spaces does have some quirks. We found that sometimes windows would appear in spaces that we didn't expect, for reasons that we couldn't fathom. Some of our third-party applications became quite confused until we set them to appear in every space. Sometimes we would launch a program in one space and move to another space, only to find that program's windows appearing in our new space.

Still, Apple should be credited for bringing such a geeky feature to a broader group of users. While Spaces might never become a feature that takes the world by storm, it does have the potential to dramatically improve the productivity of many users who would never have downloaded a third-party workspace utility.

Quick Look

Quick Look, which appears throughout Leopard, is a technology that lets users preview the contents of documents without opening the program that was used to create them. Click on a Microsoft Word file in the Finder and press space, and the entire file will appear before you, ready to be read (but not edited). Select a movie and press space, and the movie will expand and begin to play.

That same Quick Look technology lets you optionally set Finder views to display live previews of documents. Spotlight and the Open and Save dialog boxes are also Quick Look savvy. And the Finder's new Cover Flow view really wouldn't be possible without this technology, which transforms dull document icons into live previews of each document's contents.

In practice, turning your Finder icons into live document previews isn't always very useful — text documents end up looking like a wash of grey. But Quick Look itself is an impressive technology, if long-time users can retrain themselves to press space rather than double-clicking on a document to see what's inside.

Righting wrongs and improving features

In addition to the new features introduced in Leopard, this operating system release includes major updates to numerous programs that are included with Mac OS X.

Continues page 44 ➔



Snappy looker Quick Look enables you to look at the contents of virtually any file (even QuickTime videos) without opening any programs

iChat extras

iChat is far from idle in Leopard

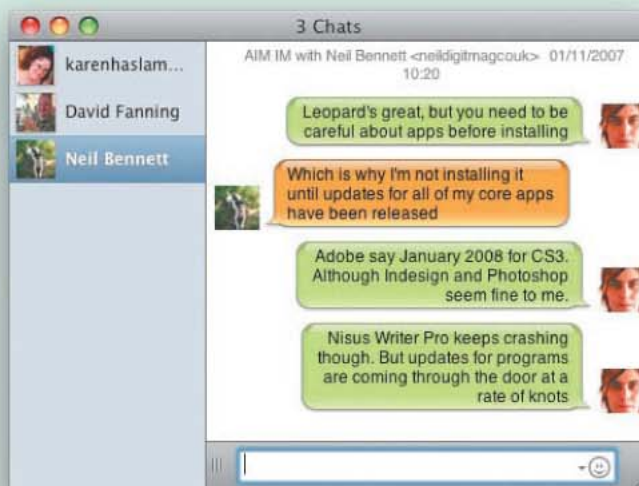
iChat 4.0 adds some useful features, as well as some you might not normally associate with a chat program. Many of them were first unveiled by Apple during the 2006 Worldwide Developers' Conference, with a few more added at this year's conference. As a refresher, those major additions are:

iChat Theater To help you share visual information with others, Mac OS X 10.5 adds iChat Theater, which lets you display any file that works with Leopard's new Quick Look feature as part of your video chat. It's ideal if you want to add media to video chats.

Video effects and backdrops iChat adds effects out of OS X's Photo Booth application. iChat backdrops also act like a green screen to put a fake background behind you so you appear to be floating in the clouds or standing on the moon.

Recording iChat has been able to save logs of your text chats for some time, but the latest version adds the ability to record audio chats as AAC files and video chats at MPEG-4 files. These recording features could be useful for inserting audio or video into podcasts, or just keeping a record of your conversations.

Multiple logins The previous version of iChat let you add several different accounts in the Accounts pane of iChat's preferences, but you had to choose which one was active



Talk of the town iChat's new tabbed interface, with a chat displayed in the new Compact display option

at any given time by selecting the Use This Account option. iChat 4.0 lets you have multiple active accounts at the same time, and each shows up with its own buddy list. You can even drag-and-drop buddies between lists.

Buddy List changes You can now animate buddy pictures. There's also an Invisible status option that keeps you hidden from view but still lets you see your buddies and their status.

Tabbed Chatting The Messages pane of iChat's preferences has two very useful additions. The first is Collect Chats Into A Single Window, which solves the problem of having multiple chat windows scattered

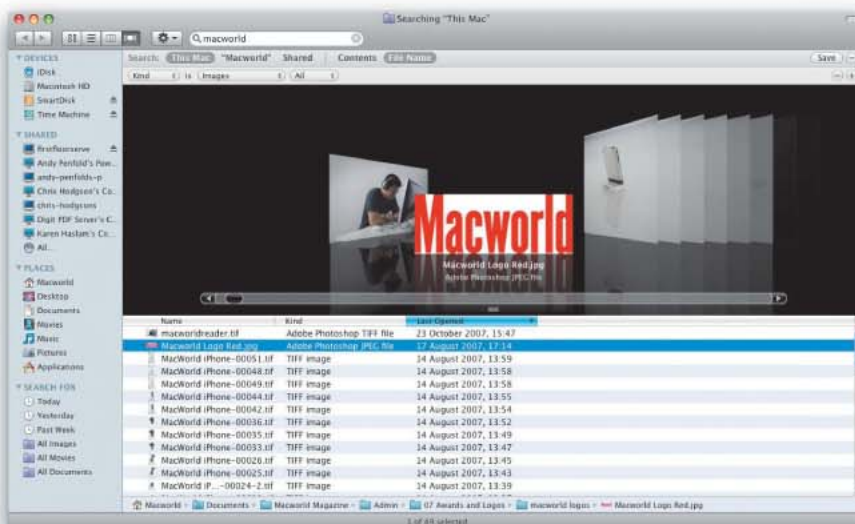
across your desktop when you're chatting with a few people at once. While you're chatting with one person, any new replies from others will show up as speech bubbles next to their icons in the side pane – clicking on that person causes the bubble to vanish and brings you into an active chat with that person.

Screen sharing iChat's Buddy menu gives you the option to share your screen with another user, or request permission to get shared access to his or her screen. Once you have access to a shared screen, you can control mouse movement and open folder and applications.. You can even drag files between computers.

The marquee feature of Leopard's predecessor, Tiger, was Spotlight, a desktop search engine that indexed the contents of all your Mac's documents and made them instantly accessible. It made for a great demo, but in everyday use Spotlight was a real letdown. It was slow, couldn't handle sophisticated queries, and failed to support the simplest query of all (namely, searches for a file with a specific name). With Leopard, Apple seems to have addressed most of Spotlight's failings. It's shockingly faster than it was in Tiger, and Spotlight now supports Boolean operators (and, or, and not). There's also better support for saved searches and for searching files on networked Macs.

Mac OS X's built-in calendar program, iCal, is now five years old, but Leopard's iCal 3.0 is the first version that doesn't feel like a toy. The iCal interface is more straightforward and responsive, and the ability to edit entries by double-clicking on them eliminates the unwieldy Get Info pane of previous versions. iCal 3.0 also supports the CalDAV standard for group calendaring, which threatens to turn iCal into a true business tool. Unfortunately, we weren't able to test these features on a CalDAV server (one ships with the server version of Leopard, and since the server is based on an open-source server framework, the streets will likely be littered with CalDAV server implementations before too long).

Apple's iChat IM client has also received an excellent update, addressing almost all of the program's flaws. Audio chat sound quality, which previously lagged sadly behind Skype's, is noticeably better. It's



Swifter searching Spotlight is immeasurably better in Leopard, with vastly faster search times, a more Finder-like interface and Boolean searches

much easier to manage multiple chats via a tabbed chat interface (previously only available in iChat via an add-on such as Chax). And perhaps most importantly, iChat now allows you to log into multiple AIM accounts at once. All that's missing now is support for competing chat services such as those offered by Yahoo and MSN.

Apple Mail 3.0 has also seen numerous

improvements, although perhaps the biggest one is the improved speed of Spotlight, which makes searching for messages within Mail much less painful. Mail also now has support for to-do lists and 'Notes' in which you leave messages to yourself. Mail seems to be an odd place to stow this information, and the to-do interface in Mail is poorer than the one in iCal. Although Mail's notes look

a lot like the notes on the iPhone, the two don't sync. Another out-of-place Mail feature addition is support for RSS feeds, which are already supported in Safari and numerous third-party feed-reading programs. But Mail's interface is actually quite conducive to RSS reading, and we found reading RSS feeds in Mail to be enjoyable. It'll never be appropriate for heavy RSS consumers, but for casual RSS users it really hits the spot.

OS X's included Preview utility is probably the most unheralded productivity program in OS X. By default, it's the tool that opens images and PDF documents when you double-click on them in the Finder. But it may be harder for Preview to remain a secret now that it's been given a major facelift with Leopard. Preview 4.0 gives Acrobat a run for its money when it comes to basic PDF features, improving support for PDF annotations, improving searches within PDF documents, and providing built-in tools to reorder pages and combine PDFs into a single document. Preview's image manipulation tools have also improved, including the addition of the 'Instant Alpha' background-removal tool that Apple first introduced in iWork '08.

"Apple seems to have addressed most of Spotlight's failings. It's shockingly faster than it was in Tiger, and Spotlight now supports Boolean operators"

Numerous other included tools have received major improvements in Leopard. Safari 3, which has been available in beta form since June, offers a dramatically improved Find command and resizable text fields for web forms. It also includes Web Clip, a tool that allows you to 'clip' part of a Web page and turn it into a Dashboard widget. Despite the addition of this feature and a new movie widget, Dashboard still doesn't seem to be remotely the paradigm shift that Apple suggested it would be when it was introduced with Tiger.

The Dictionary utility has added support for Wikipedia as an additional information source, and it's integrated well into the application's interface. For everyone who hasn't abandoned DVDs for the wonders of the iPod, DVD Player has been completely overhauled, giving users much better control over navigating DVD content, including a TiVo-like jump-back feature. And Front Row, which replaces the Mac interface with a remote-control driven menu system for navigating iTunes content, has been updated to use essentially the same software as the Apple TV hardware device, meaning any Mac with an infrared sensor and Leopard can play back music and videos using the slick Apple TV interface.

The introduction of the Automator utility in Tiger suggested the promise of regular users taking advantage of automation technologies previously limited to people who knew their way around scripting languages such as AppleScript. As it turned out, Automator was pretty cool – but once you wanted to automate more complicated tasks, you'd run into its limitations pretty quickly. In Leopard, Automator has been updated to address its two

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Installation guide

We show you how to make the switch to Leopard without a hitch



First of all, we recommend you clone your hard drive instead of just backing up data piecemeal. You can create a clone with Bombich Software's Carbon Copy Cloner (free, www.bombich.com). If anything should go wrong with the upgrade, you can start up from the clone, and restore it back to your main hard drive.

Before starting the installation process, check vendor web sites to see if the software programs you use the most are compatible with Leopard. Of particular note are Adobe Acrobat 8 and its CS3 video editing applications (Premiere, After Effects, Encore), which are not currently compatible. Adobe says it will fix this in January.

The installation process

The actual installation procedure is straightforward. Just follow along as the Installer walks you through the steps. However, don't miss a couple opportunities to customise the process.

Select a Destination After selecting onto which drive you want to install Leopard, click on Options. This is where you choose your installation method – Upgrade, Archive and Install, or Erase and Install. If you received your copy of Leopard through the Mac OS X Up-To-Date program – for people who purchased a Mac that shipped with Tiger after 1 October, your disc will install only onto a drive that already has Tiger installed.

Custom installations Click on Customize. Here you can opt to not install several items in order to save hard drive space. Select any item in the Package Name list to view information about that item at the bottom of the window. When you're finished, click on Done. Here are some likely things you might skip: Printer Drivers, Additional Fonts, Language Translations, and X11.

Click on Install on the Install Summary screen and the installation will begin. The process can take a while, especially the step when the Installer checks the Installation DVD. When the installation process is finished and your Mac restarts in Leopard, you'll see either the full-length, full-screen Setup Assistant (if you did an Erase And Install) or a shorter registration version.

After you're done If you performed an Archive And Install with the option to preserve user accounts and network settings, you should be up and running mostly where you left off pre-Leopard. If you chose not to preserve user and network settings, or if you used the Erase and Install option, the Setup Assistant will give you the opportunity to transfer over files from the drive on which you stored them.

You'll want to check your favourite programs to see if they're working properly. You may need to re-enter registration or serial numbers for some. Other programs may require re-installation (especially those that install files in the /Library or /System/Library folders). Keep an eye out for misbehaving programs that don't work well with Leopard; you may have to wait for the developer to upgrade the program.

No Files Left Behind If you used the Archive and Install method, navigate to the /Previous Systems/Previous System 1 folder and browse through the subfolders inside to make sure all your files were moved properly. If you've performed multiple Archive and Install installations, you may have Previous System 1, Previous System 2, and so on; you want to browse the newest one. For example, if you used the Archive and Install option to preserve user accounts, the files inside the Shared user folder (/Previous Systems/Previous System 1/Users/Shared) don't get moved. You'll likely want to copy them to the new /Users/Shared folder. (If you use the Setup Assistant to transfer files, the Shared folder's contents do get transferred.)

Also check inside the Library folder in Previous System 1, paying special attention to the contents of Contextual Menu Items and QuickTime. If there are files in the Library folder that are required by programs you use, or third-party system add-ons that you want to continue using, you may want to transfer them manually to the same location in the current /Library folder. However, first make sure that the software is compatible with Leopard. It may be easier to simply re-install this software in order to ensure you have all the necessary support files.

Back to work With any luck, this entire process should take only a few hours, which isn't bad for something you need to do only once every couple years. And with these tips and suggestions, you should be back up and running, enjoying Leopard's new features, with minimal growing pains.

Finder focus

Navigate in a new way in Leopard

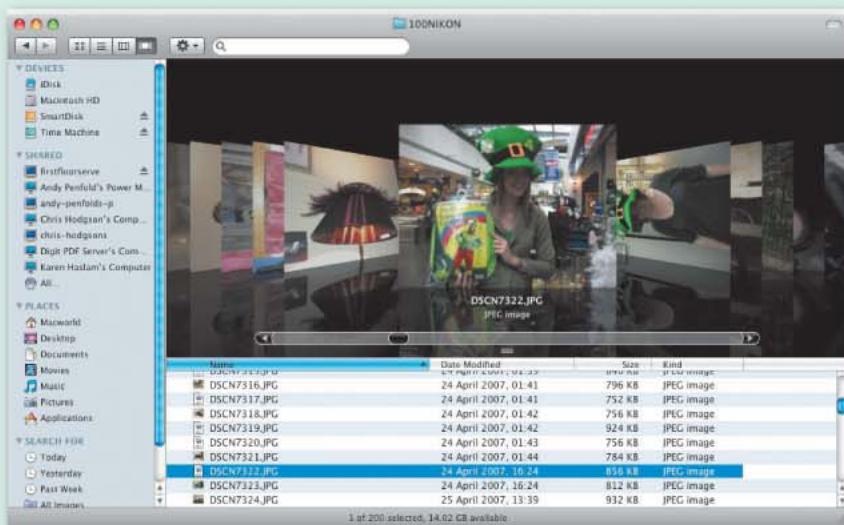
The first thing most OS X 10.5 Leopard users will notice is the new look of the Finder. Gone are the bright, colourful folder icons of OS X 10.4 (and every Mac OS release since the days of System 7). In their place, you'll find a look of uniform blue and grayness, with much more subtle indicators of the folders' contents.

Quick Look Quick Look is a new technology designed to let you see inside your files without going through the trouble of actually opening them. The idea behind Quick Look is that you can quickly see the contents of a given file without having to open that file in its related application. Highlight a file and press the spacebar and the file will expand to display the contents.

You can Quick Look nearly any kind of file you might have on your system. However, if you use a third-party program that uses a proprietary file format (such as Adobe InDesign), you may not be able to use Quick Look on those files, at least not until developers update their applications to provide a Quick Look preview.

Cover Flow Much like Quick Look, Cover Flow view gives you a preview of your files without opening them, and it can page through PDFs and text files, and play movie files (though not audio files).

For folders of images or movies, we found the Cover Flow view a great way to browse for that certain file we wanted. For other sorts of files, however, we didn't find



Finely tuned look The new finder layout bears more than a passing resemblance to iTunes

it particularly useful, and soon reverted back to the finder window.

Stacks Stacks are a new way of looking at folders stored on the end of the Dock. In prior versions of OS X, clicking on folders kept them turned into pop-up menus.

In Leopard, you'll get what's known as a stack – a visual representation of the folder's contents. If the folder contains fewer than 10 items, you'll see the stack presented as a curving column of icons; with 10 or more items, you'll instead see a pop-up window full of icons. If you click on a file's icon in a stack, the chosen file will open in its parent application. Click on a folder, and that folder opens in the Finder.

Dock Pop-up Folders Leopard's Dock inherits a useful feature from the Finder: spring-loaded folders. With this new feature, you can drag an item over a folder in the Dock, and the folder will open momentarily in the Finder, allowing you to drop the item into a sub-folder – or to dig even further down into sub-sub-folders until you find the desired destination.

Searches in the Sidebar There's a new Search For command in the sidebar, too. This comes pre-populated with a number of handy saved searches – to help you quickly find items modified today, yesterday, or in the last week; and show all movies, images, or documents.

greatest limitations: you can now set and read variables during a workflow, and you can set a workflow to loop. Automator also now has a Record feature, which lets you record yourself performing certain tasks and then integrates those tasks into an Automator workflow.

Finally, Leopard shows remarkable improvement when it comes to handling networking issues. It's much easier to dismount remote servers, and attempting to access a server that's disappeared no longer causes an interminable wait. This is an issue that should have been resolved by Apple long ago, but at least with Leopard it's finally been addressed. The Networking preference pane has also been updated with a better-organized interface.

Improved security

Mac OS X and its users haven't yet felt the sting of a major hacker attack, but in the two years since the release of Tiger, Apple and other technology companies have come under increased scrutiny about the relative security of their products. And Leopard includes a large number of new features that specifically address security concerns.

Most regular users won't notice the fact that several Leopard applications are 'sandboxed' with restricted access privileges that make them less likely to be used

“Leopard shows remarkable improvement when it comes to handling networking issues. It's much easier to dismount remote servers, and attempting to access a server that's disappeared no longer causes an interminable wait”

as tools in a hacker attack. Nor will they realize that Leopard now uses a shifting system of assigning memory spaces in order to make it impossible for hackers to bank on the presence of specific code in a specific area of a Mac's memory. What they will notice is that when they first attempt to run a program they've downloaded from the internet, they'll be prompted with information about when they downloaded it and what program was used to download it.

Apple has done a good job of making its security

messages more understandable to regular users, which is good, since most users will simply click through a dialog box that makes no sense.

And hundreds more...

It's impossible to detail the avalanche of new features in Leopard. Screen Savers and international spelling dictionaries aside, Apple's list of “300+ new features” isn't far off (www.apple.com/macosx/features/300.html). If you use Photo Booth, Parental Controls, Image Capture, VPN, Terminal, or just about any other feature you can think of in Mac OS X, you'll find at least some changes.

Macworld's buying advice

So are 300-plus new features worth £85? That answer will vary, because no single user will ever take advantage of all – or maybe even half – of those 300 features. But given the impressive value of Time Machine and improvements to existing programs such as iCal, iChat, Mail, and the Finder, most Mac users will find plenty of reasons to consider upgrading. Despite a few interface missteps, particularly when it comes the menu bar and Dock, Leopard is an upgrade that roars.

Jason Snell, Jonathan Seff, Jim Dalrymple, Kelly Turner, Jackie Dove, Eric Suesz, Rob Griffiths and Mark Hattersley

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Loaded with innovations, Mac OS X Leopard makes the world's most advanced operating system even better. Organize your files in stacks, browse files with Cover Flow, use Quick Look to preview files without even opening them, go back in time to restore old files with Time Machine,¹ send email using personalized stationery, add effects to video chats,² and much more.

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¹Time Machine requires an additional hard drive, sold separately. ²Video chatting requires a broadband Internet connection; fees may apply.. Prices excludes VAT at 17.5% and P&P. E&OE.

Painter Essentials 4

Macworld **Editors' Choice**

Corel's friendly painting package for hobbyists

Creative software

Manufacturer: www.corel.co.uk

Pros: Friendly new interface; informative brush stroke previews; RealBristle brushes emulate the real thing; integrated print services.

Cons: Nothing significant

Min specs: 10.4 Tiger

Price: £35

Star rating: ★★★★★



Painter X launched in early 2007, and this release from Corel introduces a completely redesigned package for painting hobbyists: Painter Essentials 4.

Sure, Corel could have stripped out some features from Painter X, slapped on an 'Essentials' label, and called it a day (and to be honest, in previous versions that's just what happened). However, with Painter Essentials 4, the company went back to the drawing board and designed a completely new interface – it looks nothing like Painter X, though it packs much of its power.

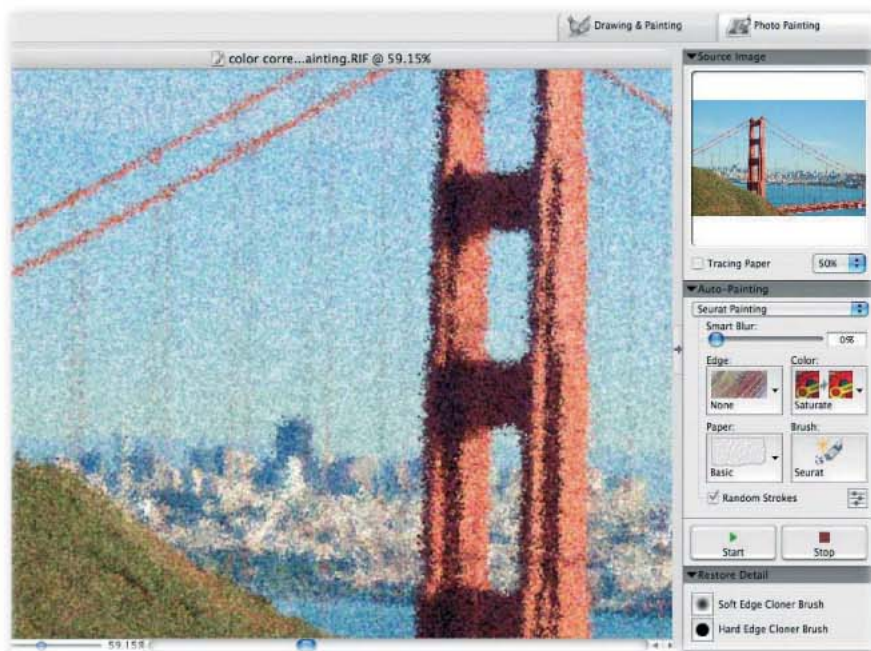
Geared toward arts and crafts enthusiasts, scrapbookers, and digital photography hobbyists, Painter Essentials 4 is a shockingly friendly and affordable home art studio that makes discovering the world of paint and brushes enjoyable. Tool buttons and sliders are bigger than in previous versions, making them easier to select with a pen and tablet.

To simplify the interface, Corel researched how customers were using the software. Thus, the new interface sports two distinct workspaces accessible from tabs within the application: Drawing & Painting and Photo Painting. Depending on which workspace you're in, a different set of palettes appear specific to those tasks. For example, the Drawing & Painting workspace includes a new Colours palette, full of easy-to-grab swatches, and a new Mixer palette, that simulates the traditional experience of mixing colours on an artist's paint palette, for creating custom colours. Alternatively, the Photo Painting workspace includes Source Image, Auto-Painting, and Restore Detail palettes.

Brush with the drawer

A friendly Brush Drawer now graces the toolbox in both workspaces, displaying both the name of each brush and a preview of its stroke. Brushes are categorised by type (thick or thin paint, water, pencils and pens) – which makes it easy to understand for newcomers to digital painting. Brushes appear in a History list so the user can quickly recall recently used brushes, and frequently used brushes can be saved as favourites.

Of the many brushes gracing this version, a number are derived from the RealBristle Painting System introduced in Painter X. Designed to perfectly mimic the behaviour of real brushes, their bristles bend and splay when pressed upon the canvas. They can also be loaded



Auto-painting We loaded an ordinary shot of the Golden Gate Bridge as a source image and used the Auto-Painting palette to transform it into millions of dots, Seurat style

with multiple colours by using the Mixer palette.

When using the new RealBristle brushes, you can see the bristles splay and bend when pressed upon the canvas (note the dabs at the top). These brushes can be loaded with multiple colours by using the new Mixer palette.

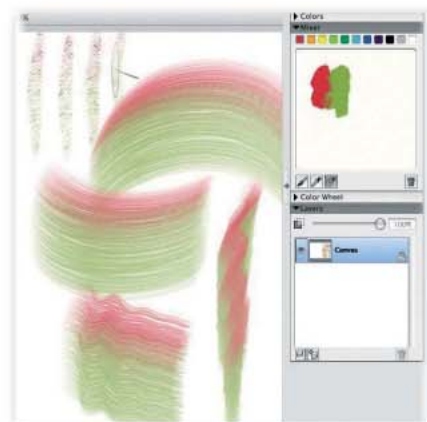
The Photo Painting System didn't just get its own workspace; it got a complete overhaul. By default, brushes in the Photo Painting workspace are cloners, meaning they take their colour from the source image and 'paint' the photo onto the canvas in the style of a particular brush. Just open a photo with the Source Image palette, grab a brush, and give it a go.

Painter Essentials 4 can also paint the photo for you – just pick a style from the Auto-Painting palette and press the Start button. Many styles make use of the new SmartStroke Technology, wherein brush strokes automatically change size, length, pressure, and direction based on the photo. If you're painting pictures of people, you'll probably need to use the new Restore Detail palette and enhance faces with the Soft or Hard Edge Cloner brushes.

Essentials 4 also introduces pens in the Pencils & Pens brush category. New options include a Scratchboard Tool and Smooth Edge Calligraphy. There is also an expanded selection of paper textures that faithfully reproduce the feeling of using traditional art materials like pencil on watercolour.

No matter which route you choose, the source image will be automatically saved with the native Painter Essentials file, enabling you to easily return to a painting project later. And with 32 undo levels it is possible to experiment with all sorts of techniques and effects.

Integrated online print services are also new in Painter Essentials 4. It takes just a few clicks to create professional note cards, bumper stickers, posters, prints,



Real bristle When using the new RealBristle brushes, you can see the bristles splay and bend when pressed upon the canvas

and more. You can choose from a variety of media, customise your art with text, and click the Order button to turn a digital masterpiece into something tangible. Once users have created their masterpiece, they can order prints of their artwork on canvas, watercolour paper or other fine art materials – directly from within Painter Essentials 4.

Macworld's buying advice

If you're the least bit creative, Painter Essentials 4 could be the most fun you've had in front of a computer in years (though you'll want to snap up a graphics tablet too). It's affordable and the new interface makes it an absolute joy to use.

Lesa Snider King



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www.yellowtechnology.co.uk

Roxio Popcorn 3

Video on DVD or iPod from almost any source? You'll want Popcorn

Video converter

Manufacturer: Roxio,
www.roxio.co.uk

Pros: TiVo support, wide range of supported video input and output formats, can merge multiple DVD video folders automatically

Cons: Very basic features, no editing, slightly overpriced, encoding needs a fast processor and runs slowly on pre-Intel hardware

Min specs: G4 or later, OS X 10.4.10 or later, Quicktime 7.1.6

Price: £39.99

Star rating: ★★★★★



solution if you have a mobile phone or camcorder video clip and you want to burn it to a DVD, or upload it to one of the supported devices. The list of input formats is comprehensive and includes all QuickTime, MPEG-1, 2 and 4, AVI and DivX. Output isn't limited to the iPod – supported output formats include MPEG-4, H.264 and DivX, which means in practice that you can create video for Apple TV, the iPhone, Blackberry, Xbox 360 and the Playstation 3.

Conversion is a simple drag and drop process, but it's processor-intensive and longer files can take a while to cook – although in this version you can start and stop the transcoding process if you want to do something else with your Mac. You can also set up a batch conversion to run overnight, and speed up conversions

Drop in Popcorn 3's user interface is so simple almost anyone can use it

using an optional Elgato USB Turbo.264 encoder.

Some of the other useful new extras include a label and insert design tool, the

ability to insert bookmarks and chapters into video projects, and a fast preview that makes sure you're happy with the compression settings. The compression is fierce and while it's unrealistic to expect HD quality from iPod video, the DVD quality is some steps short of the best – especially in the four hour mode which squeezes four hours of video onto a 4.7GB DVD. Finally, EyeTV and TiVo recordings can also be used as source video.

Macworld's buying advice

Popcorn is good value if you want a quick and simple DVD authoring tool or a speedy way to compress your videos for iPod viewing. Ignore the DVD copying – it's best used for your own video creations.

Richard Leon

EyeTV 250 Plus

Macworld Editors' Choice

Elgato introduces its latest media recorder for your Mac, Apple TV, iPod, and iPhone

Digital media recorder

Manufacturer: Elgato,
www.elgato.com

Pros: Record live TV – including Freeview, high-quality hardware encoder to digitise old videos, very powerful and versatile application

Cons: Slightly bigger than software-only encoders, limited editing tools

Min specs: G4, 512MB RAM, USB 2.0, Mac OS X 10.4

Price: £139.67

Star rating: ★★★★★



EyeTV via S-VHS or Composite cables). The reason for its larger size is because it has hardware encoders that help get you the best quality when converting your videos. It also means that you don't have to rely on the latest Mac's fast processors: an older machine with at least a G4 processor will work just as well.

However, even if you have an Intel Core 2 Duo Mac, it manages to improve the image quality, resulting in richer colours and blacker blacks when compared to the same footage captured with the EyeTV Hybrid (which uses your Mac's processor to do the heavy lifting).

But where the 250 Plus really shines is in the software. EyeTV version 2.5 is a very powerful and incredibly easy to use application. It comes with a one-year membership to tvtv.co.uk, which is used to download the TV schedule. You can use it to set which programmes to record or just manually hit the record button. Best of all, if you've been watching a programme and wished you had recorded it to view again later, you can extract that recording from EyeTV's buffer.

If your life is so busy that you don't have time to watch everything you tape, you can export your shows

Media Everywhere Watch and record TV, digitise VHS videos, convert them for AppleTV or iPod, and stream them to your iPod touch



to your iPod. Better yet, if you

own an iPhone or iPod touch, you can enable EyeTV's WiFi Access mode and have that footage streamed to your portable device's web browser via your wireless network.

Macworld's buying advice

The EyeTV 250 Plus is an excellent device if you need to digitise analogue footage. Version 2.5 of the EyeTV application is a fantastic and versatile piece of software that lets you enjoy TV in new ways.

Steve Paris

Even though Macs don't come with TV tuners built-in (Apple would most likely prefer that you purchased your films and TV shows through its iTunes Store), third-party companies have come in strongly to fill the gap. One of the most successful is Elgato with its hardware and software EyeTV lines.

The latest addition, the EyeTV 250 Plus is a rather large box compared to the other members of the family, but it is still perfectly portable, measuring 104 x 64 x 29mm. This device is not only able to record live TV, including all Digital Freeview channels, it is also designed as help you digitise your old VHS collection (or any other device capable of being connected to the

Maya 2008

Maya sees significant character animation and modelling enhancements

3D modelling

Manufacturer: Autodesk
www.autodesk.co.uk

Pros: Improved polygonal modelling, better UV mapping, superb character animation tools, update to mental ray 3.6, unparalleled Nucleus nCloth simulation, improved Maya Hair and Fur

Cons: Limited digital sculpting, limited displacement modelling, no 64-bit support for the Mac Pro, comparatively expensive, possible steep learning curve

Min specs: Power Mac G5 or Intel-based, OS X 10.4.9, 2GB RAM, 2GB free hard drive space, Qualified hardware-accelerated OpenGL graphics card, Three-button mouse with mouse driver software, DVD drive

Price: Maya 2008 Complete: £1,449 (full version); £599 (upgrade). Maya 2008 Ultimate: £4,899 (full version); £849 (upgrade)

Star rating: ★★★★★



Easier rigs To speed up character animation, Maya 2008 introduces non-destructive joint editing, faster weighting, and new Multiple Bind Poses which allows a skeleton to be bound to a character

Since the acquisition of Alias in 2006, Autodesk has surpassed expectations with the released of three significant Maya upgrades. Maya 8 featured performance enhancements and support for multi-processor systems (such as the Mac Pro) and Maya 8.5 introduced Autodesk's revolutionary Nucleus Technology with nCloth. Maya 2008 continues the upward trend with much improved polygonal modelling, updated rendering, nCloth refinements, and new time-saving character animation tools.

Autodesk updates modelling in Maya with a host of new tools and significant performance improvements. Notably, the new Slide Edge and Pick Walk for Edge Loops give edge modelling in Maya a much needed boost, and managing scene objects is easier with new Position Objects along a Curve and Replace Objects. Enhancements include cleaner Booleans, optimised Bevel, improved Bridge tool, the ability to convert instances to objects, and Mesh Smooth has been streamlined so that edits may be carried out directly on the subdivided mesh.

Mud sticks

Maya 2008 is a significant step forward in terms of modelling, but there is still room for improvement. Inexpensive programs such as Silo have lured users away from Maya with superior and faster polygonal modelling. And programs like modo and ZBrush offer extensive digital sculpting and displacement modelling tools, which are not found in Maya. Autodesk's response has been the acquisition of Skymatter's Mudbox, a digital sculpting program. Autodesk plans to integrate Mudbox's technology with Maya and other Autodesk solutions much like was done with MotionBuilder.

Regardless of modelling criticisms, Maya is unrivalled in terms of animation. Maya 2008 features remarkable improvements that promise to dramatically speed up character animation. Editing an existing character bound to a skeleton downstream can pose significant delays – Maya eliminates this problem with

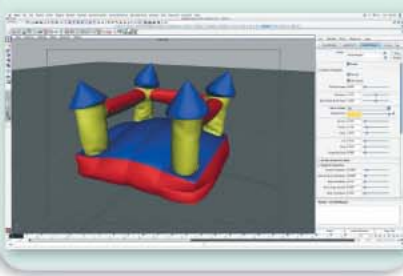
much improved joint management. Joints may now be easily added, deleted, moved, connected or disconnected on bound skeletons. When joints are moved, the position of child objects may be preserved, and newly added joints may be easily weighted. In other words, downstream editing of character rigs is non-destructive.

The new Smooth Skin Weights tool quickly adjusts weighting based on a percentage tolerance. And new Multiple Bind Poses allows a skeleton to be bound to a character mesh in any position, eliminating dependency on the original bind pose for skinning.

Simulated clothing

Animators will be delighted with nCloth enhancements and new character animation tools.

Nucleus nCloth continues to be an unparalleled resource found only in Maya. Though other programs feature cloth simulators, nCloth is unique in that it employs solvers that are aware of each other, thus preventing processing problems with complex simulations. nCloth is capable of ultra-realistic cloth simulations that not only interact and collide with scene objects, but also respond to environmental effects such as wind and gravity. nCloth can also simulate air pressure inside a volume like a beach ball or parachute.



Other animation improvements include the ability to template (lock) animation curves in the Graph editor, preventing unintended changes. You can clamp playback frame rates for more accurate animation previews, and caching has been improved too, which helps enhance draw speed. Following 3ds Max's lead, keys may now slide past each other to easily reorder animation.

Maya Unlimited offers sophisticated dynamics and simulations for cloth, fluids and hair. Introduced in Maya 8.5, Nucleus nCloth is an advanced cloth solver. However, much more than just cloth effects may be animated with nCloth, because it also calculates environmental properties such as air pressure and wind. To speed things up even more Maya 2008 ships with nCloth presets that provide a starting point for simulations.

Each recent Maya release has featured added support for multiple-processor systems. In this release Fluid Effects as well as Turbulence have been multi-threaded, for improved performance.

Autodesk has updated Maya to the current release of mental ray 3.6, which boasts numerous performance enhancements. More important, rendering has been improved with better integration of Maya with mental ray. For instance, Maya now supports native mental ray light linking and Maya particles may now be rendered in mental ray. Further mental ray performance improvements include an option for faster texture baking with mental ray shaders, and much better texture management through swatch size limits.

Macworld's buying advice

To curb the exodus from Maya to advanced modellers, Autodesk has significantly improved polygonal modelling. However, Maya still lacks advanced displacement modelling and sculpting. But animators are in luck, Maya's outstanding, new character animation tools, along with rendering and nCloth improvements make this release indispensable.

Mike de la Flor

Wacom Bamboo Fun

Wacom proves yet again that the pen is mightier than the mouse

Pen tablet input device

Manufacturer: Wacom

www.wacom-europe.com/bamboo

Pros: Precise control over both creative applications and everyday tasks, RSI reducing potential, solid Wacom build, attractive desktop accessory, widescreen compatible, premium end of Bamboo range

Cons: No mouse, white can look a little grubby after heavy use, no clip to store pen securely

Min specs: Mac OS X 10.3.9 (Universal)

Price: £148

Star rating: ★★★★★☆



Matching the iMac The Bamboo Fun comes in eye catching white, adding a contemporary feel



It's been a busy year for Wacom, market leaders in pen tablet technology, with a newly launched range and 25 years of innovation celebrated with the Intuos3 Special Edition.

The new Bamboo brand sold as 'a pen for every PC or Mac' has extended to include the budget Bamboo One and premium Bamboo Fun. Neatly covering just about every potential customer from enthusiast to pro.

The slightly curiously named Bamboo Fun, considering it's the most feature-rich of the range, has plenty of pro potential, especially the medium sized tablet reviewed here. An iPod-like white makeover is

seductive and should look great on any desktop.

A group of four ExpressKeys and Touch Ring, resembling a smiley face illuminated with a low blue glow, sit above the active area. From here you have access to user-defined favourite commands and shortcuts and the ability to zoom in and out and scroll through images and documents.

An ergonomic pen, also in white, comes with buttons for further customising and refining. Above all the pen and tablet benefit from 512 levels of pressure

sensitivity, adding a wonderful precision particularly to your creative applications and artistic endeavours.

The Bamboo Fun also offers the ability to unlock the often hidden or seldom used intelligent handwriting recognition found in OS X. Perfecting Apple's own Ink recognition software requires patience, although the potential for Office 2008 looks promising. The detachable USB cable suitable for storage and travel is a great idea although there's still no method to clip the pen securely to the tablet on the move.

Unfortunately, UK customers have to settle for just the white model when it comes to colour choice. US shoppers can select from black, white, silver and blue; enjoy the addition of both a mouse and more varied bundled software all for a more competitive price based on current exchange rates. Although more colours may follow, it's a shame to see such a discrepancy between the two markets.

Macworld's buying advice

Gripes about choice of colours aside, this is still a Wacom tablet with all the potential for creativity associated with a still vibrant company. Add a new contemporary look, the obvious RSI benefits and the ability to convert handwritten text to type and you've fewer reasons than ever not to get a Wacom.

Nick Spence

Snap Art

Photoshop plug-in makes digital art from photographs

Creative software

Manufacturer: Alien Skin

Software, www.alienskin.com

Pros: Wide range of traditional and unique art effects, simple interface, easy to use

Cons: Long rendering times, some effects look artificial

Min specs: 10.3 (Panther), 10.4 (Tiger)

Price: \$149 (£71.60)

Star rating: ★★★★★☆

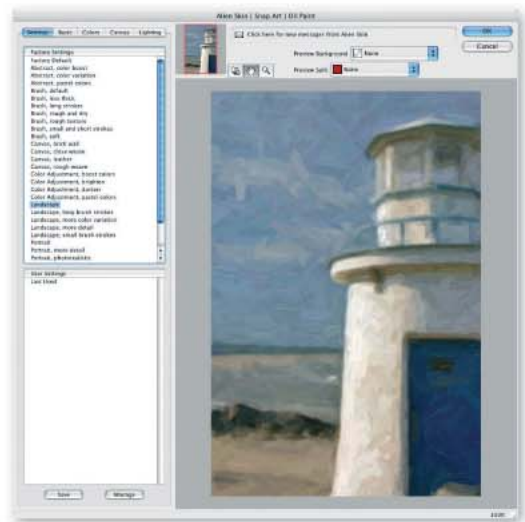


you define. Individual controls are grouped conveniently into tabs. Click on a factory or user setting or adjust an individual control to see the effect in a large image preview. A choice of split-screen views and a toggle button come in handy for comparing a filtered preview to the original photograph.

Admittedly, rendering time can feel slow, depending on the filter settings you choose, the size of the image, the computer you're using, or the Photoshop version you have installed. For example, on our MacBook Pro, the Oil Paint filter at the default setting took six seconds to preview and 35 seconds to finally render on an 18MB photograph in Photoshop CS3. In Photoshop CS2, the same tests took about twice as long (13 seconds to preview and 68 seconds to finally render).

Some of the Snap Art filters (such as the unique Stylize filter, which offers a non-traditional effect) produce more artificial-looking results than others (such as the rich Impasto and Oil Paint filters). However, the wide range of looks that Snap Art offers promise something to suit every taste.

Snap Art is compatible with Photoshop CS3, CS2, and CS, as well as Photoshop Elements 4. It can be installed in more than one application by running the installer multiple times.



Snap happy Snap Art's simple, intuitive interface gives you one-click access to all filters and controls

Macworld's buying advice

Snap Art offers a painless way to create natural-media art from photographs. Its ease of use and variety of customisable effects make it an efficient alternative to Photoshop's native brushes and actions, and to full-featured painting and natural media applications such as Corel Painter.

Jan Kabili

Turning a photograph into digital art is no easy task. Fortunately, Alien Skin's Snap Art plug-in for Adobe Photoshop and other photo editors takes the heavy lifting out of creating sketches, paintings, comics, and stylised illustrations from photographs. Designed for both hobbyists and professional artists, Snap Art consists of 10 natural-media art filters available from Photoshop's Filter menu.

Snap Art filters offer a cornucopia of customisable effects. You can choose from a long list of built-in presets for each filter. And if that's not enough, you can download additional settings files from Snap Art forum posts on the Alien Skin website.

Applying a filter is easy, thanks to Snap Art's simple, well-designed interface. Factory settings are listed with descriptive names, along with any custom user settings

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Noxon 2

Online radio is the web's best kept secret

Internet radio

Manufacturer: Terratec,
www.my-noxon.com

Pros: Connects you to more than 2,500 radio stations without a computer – including BBC stations

Cons: Odd design, confusing remote and menu, awkward built-in menu system

Price: £256

Star rating: ★★★★★



of your PC and downloads a list of 2,500 channels from Noxon's site.

You can search by Genre, Country, New Channels, and Favourites, which can be stored with the click of a button on the remote. It can also connect to the BBC's range of channels, the lack of which was, for a long time, the Achilles' heel of internet radio.

Design-wise, the Noxon2 radio is rather odd. The woofer sits underneath the radio box and the top of the unit now houses an iPod docking station, so you can listen to music straight from your Apple player. The sound quality is excellent, although the quality of radio stations varies massively – drop-outs and dodgy connections are something you'll have to get used to. Sound quality when playing back from an iPod is excellent, however.

The only let-downs about this product are the remote and menu system, both of which are confusing – you have to press the 'right' button rather than the more instinctive 'play' button to select options, for example. It's all the more awkward because the built-in



Radical radio Plug in your iPod or tune into some internet radio

Web radio is one of the best-kept secrets of the modern age. Most people are familiar with DAB, but internet radio is a much bigger deal. These stations broadcast from all around the world – it's possible to listen to reggae from Jamaica, death metal from the Netherlands and Christian rock from the US.

All this is great for working at a computer, but internet radio really comes alive when you purchase a dedicated independent device such as the Noxon. The Noxon 2 connects to your web connection via WiFi (or by connecting it to a network via an Ethernet cable) and accesses radio in much the same way a DAB radio accesses the digital network. It works independently

menu system takes over your iPod control, rather than letting you choose songs with the superior clickwheel and iPod menu.

Macworld's buying advice

Internet radio is a fantastic addition to any household and the Noxon 2 is among the best units on the market. Its iPod control is a let-down, however – it would be better if it acted as a throughput and speaker system rather than providing its own menu.

Mark Hattersley

Epson PictureMate Zoom PM 290

Epson's portable photo printer improves in quality

Compact photo printer

Manufacturer: Epson
www.epson.co.uk

Pros: Speedy; prints excellent photos with accurate colors and great shadow detail; user friendly; built-in CD burner

Cons: No prints larger than 4 x 6in, boxy, industrial design

Price: £199.99

Star rating: ★★★★★



design, it's very convenient. A large handle allows you to easily carry the printer around on trips. To set up the PictureMate Zoom, you plug it in, flip up its 3.6in LCD screen, install its single four-colour ink cartridge, and load some photo paper. Insert your photo card, choose one or more photos to print, and you're away. Using the PictureMate Zoom's straightforward control panel, you can apply edits to your photos, such as cropping, red-eye removal, colour effects, and so on.

The printer costs £199.99. With its built-in CD burner, the PictureMate Zoom packs a great value. A 150 sheet Picturepack, including paper and ink costs £29.49 – so the price per print works out at just under 20p. You also have the option of purchasing a rechargeable battery for £34.99.

The PictureMate Zoom beat its competitors in terms of quality as well as speed. Photos appeared crisp and clear, with accurate colours and excellent shadow detail. As for speed, the PictureMate Zoom printed a single photo in 42 seconds in my testing. By way of comparison, competing photo printers each took at least 1 minute and 20 seconds to do the same. The PictureMate Zoom is also slightly faster than the PictureMate Flash, which took 46 seconds to print a single photo.

The PictureMate Zoom comes close to a perfect rating – the main problem with its predecessor, the PictureMate Flash, was its paper-jamming issues, which



Shape of things The unit is easy to set up

The PictureMate Zoom PM 290 portable photo printer is Epson's upgrade of its PictureMate Flash PM 280, which has been the standout portable photo printer for almost a year. By following in the footsteps of its predecessor and offering excellent print quality, fast print speeds, a great user interface, and a valuable built-in CD burner, the PictureMate Zoom allows Epson to keep the throne. This handy device truly makes the experience of printing photos fun and easy, without compromising on quality.

The PictureMate Zoom lineup has changed a lot over the years in terms of appearance, quality, and speed. While the original PictureMate was shaped like a small, rounded boom box, the Zoom's boxy form resembles a car battery.

Despite the PictureMate Zoom's somewhat bulky

we did not encounter with the PictureMate Zoom. However, the Zoom, like its predecessor, is still limited to one paper size: 4 x 6in. Nonetheless, the Zoom is an impressive device.

Macworld's buying advice

The PictureMate Zoom PM 290's improvements over its predecessor are subtle but significant. Faster, more affordable, and problem-free, the Zoom is the best portable photo printer you can currently buy.

Brian Chen

MindMap Pro 5.1.2

Track your ideas with this brainstorming aid

Brainstorming application

Publisher: Computer Systems
Odessa, www.conceptdraw.com

Pros: Easy to use, excellent graphic design tools, useful brainstorming mode, simultaneous map and outline view, comprehensive export formats

Cons: Tutorials could be more friendly, keyboard shortcut limitations, a little pricey

Min specs: Mac OS X 10.4

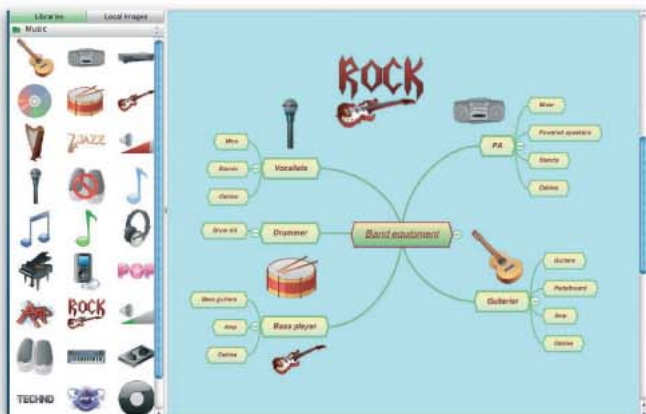
Price: £162.09

Star rating: ★★★★★



Hey good looking

The new user interface delivers mindmaps that can be exported in a number of formats



Since the 1960s, mindmapping has been a popular method of linking words and ideas to a central, key item. ConceptDraw MindMap Pro is one of the main applications to offer this for Mac OS X and, having been around for five years or so, it has matured into a stable, feature-filled program.

MindMap Pro makes no assumptions as to whether you have mindmapped before, offering an eight-stage tutorial that takes you from creating a document right through to quite complex situations. A mindmap starts with a main idea that is added to with topics and sub-topics. At any time, this can be viewed in the main workspace and also in outline mode, something that PowerPoint users will be used to.

Another way to create a mindmap is in Brainstorm mode. This has been improved from the previous version – now, ideas are treated as topics, with a countdown clock available making this far more like a real team brainstorming session.

The new user interface makes creation and editing easy, and all aspects of it can be customised, including toolbar editing and hiding or showing the various panels. Task information can be entered for each topic or subtopic including start/use dates, duration time of the task and the percentage completed so far. Add a relationship tool for connecting together topics by a dashed line and you have a comprehensive mindmapping tool.

High-quality bitmap images, vector graphics and freeform drawing are on offer, adding a professional touch to the final diagram. Once complete, it can be exported in a number of formats including Microsoft Project, PowerPoint, HTML, PDF, PNG and RTF, and directly to an iPod with iPhoto synchronisation – which makes the mindmaps useful not just to yourself.

Macworld's buying advice

ConceptDraw MindMap Pro 5 is useful for taking a team's ideas and problems and sorting them. It's easy to use and produces good-looking results, with excellent graphic design tools. Definitely worth checking out.

Vic Lennard



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Parrot Photo Viewer 7"

Manufacturer: Parrot, www.parrot.com/uk
Tel: 0121 250 3570

Pros: Simple interface, fast image transfer, ambient light adjustment

Cons: No card slot or USB transfer options, inbuilt memory of 512MB.

Price: £130

Star rating: ★★★★★☆

Parrot has a line of Bluetooth devices, so not surprisingly its leather-bound 7in photo viewer includes Bluetooth connectivity – in fact it was the only frame on test to do so. Thanks to Bluetooth it took only 4.28 seconds to transfer 10 images to the device, considerably less than the other frames that relied on USB for transfer – the next fastest frame took 26 seconds to receive the same 10 images. There is no USB or card option with this frame, but for those who don't have Bluetooth the frame ships with a dongle.

Picture quality is good, with a screen resolution of 720 x 480 pixels, slightly fewer than the other 7in frames on test. This is because this frame isn't actually 7in at all. Despite the product being called the 7" Viewer we found it to measure 6.1in.

Navigation is key and in the case of the Parrot it is all about simplicity. There are just three buttons on the back of the screen: left, right and enter, but the interface was well thought out and one of the easiest to use.



Parrot fashion The Photo Viewer offers speedy Bluetooth transfer and a stylish leather frame

AG Neovo V-10

Manufacturer: AG Neovo, www.agneovo.com/uk

Pros: Integrated rechargeable battery, excellent viewing angle

Cons: Unable to display pictures full screen without stretching, complicated navigation

Price: £150

Star rating: ★★★★★☆

The image quality of the V-10 is good, and it offers an excellent viewing angle – close to 180-degree visibility. The V10 is also the only frame on test to incorporate a battery. However, AG Neovo's frame is made of black plastic that scratches rather too easily, and a navigation system that places the buttons on the front does rather spoil the look. True, they are touch sensitive, blending in to the frame and only lighting up when you touch one, but they are noticeable nonetheless.

This might be forgivable if the interface was easy to navigate, but it's complicated and confusing. To make the experience more frustrating, the

frame beeps every time you touch a button.

Transfer of images is via USB connection or memory cards (SD, MMC, MS, CF, and MD). USB transfer of 10 images took 55 seconds. Before you send the images to the frame it's worth setting the dimensions in iPhoto because this is a widescreen display and most likely your photographs will not match the dimensions, giving you a choice of black borders or fat faces as the frame tries to compensate.



Battery power

The V-10 has an integrated rechargeable battery so you don't need to worry about trailing cables

Kodak EasyShare EX811

Manufacturer: Kodak, www.kodak.com/uk

Pros: Plays video and audio files, WiFi ready, remote control

Cons: Wireless functionality is limited to connection via a router

Price: £150

Star rating: ★★★★★★

Kodak's all black EX811 is the only frame in this test to play video and audio files (.MOV, .AVI, MPEG 1 & 2 movie formats and MP3). It's also the largest screen we tested, measuring 8in diagonally.

As well as supporting memory cards (SD, MS, XD, MMC, CF, and MC) and USB image transfer (10 images in 29 seconds) it will also connect to a wireless router so you can add it to your network. It needs to connect to a router.

Like the AG Neovo this is a widescreen display, but unlike the AG Neovo it is possible to set the image to fit the frame without stretching it. While this does

mean cropping slightly, this is definitely preferable to stretching.

The interface is easy to navigate, easier still with the included remote control. Images are clear and bright and the background detail was more apparent with this frame too. The EX811 offers 800 x 480, widescreen resolution. We did look at one 10in frame with a 600 x 480 resolution and picture quality was so poor that we'd advise you to check the resolution is at least 800 x 480 before purchasing any frame, no matter how good the price.



Easy does it The EX811 plays slideshows, video, audio and connects to your network wirelessly

Samsung SPF-72H

Manufacturer: Samsung, www.samsung.co.uk

Pros: Simple interface, least expensive on test, no image stretching

Cons: Difficult to access buttons, least attractive design, lacks Compact Flash support

Price: £106

Star rating: ★★★★★☆

Transfer of images to the 7in Samsung SPF-72H is via USB or media cards (SD/MMC/MS/XD). However, transfer times were the longest on test, 49 seconds for the 10 images, and we had trouble getting the frame to see the images on our XD card. The SPF-72H also displayed some invalid files copied over with the images (as did the AG Neovo).

In what could be a bid to protect the environment, Samsung has left the manual out and provided a CD instead (begging the question of whether CDs are any more environmentally friendly). In practice this

probably means that people are less likely to read the manual and in fact they might not need to as the interface is very easy to navigate, although the buttons are mounted on the back and it's impossible to find them without turning the frame around.

Resolution is also 800 x 480, and like the Kodak there is an option for fitting images to the widescreen frame that doesn't result in stretching.

The frame is probably the least attractive on test, with white and silver stripes and a gigantic, and far too noticeable, Samsung logo.



Round the back The SPF-72H interface is simple, but navigation is complicated as the buttons are behind it



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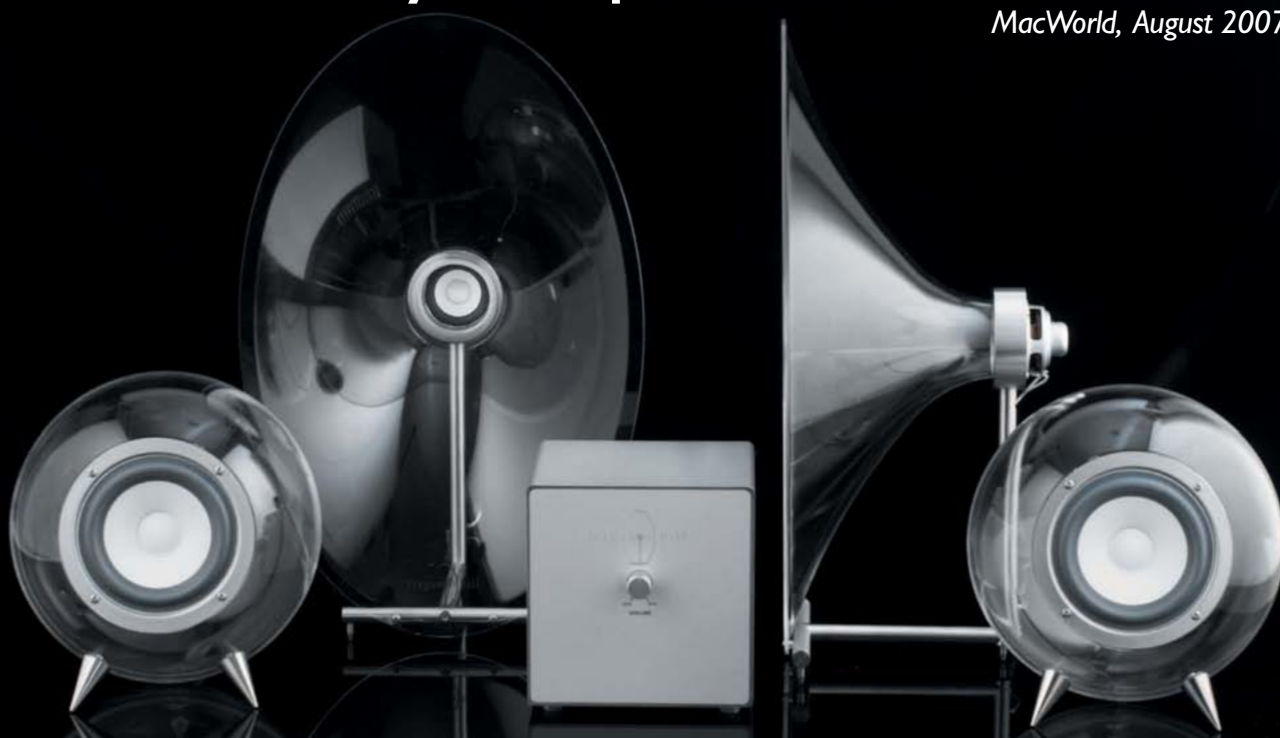


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Mac gems

The best OS X utilities and programs that make life easier



OpenOSX Office 2

OpenOSX Office offers you the pick of open source productivity tools in one package

Pros: Word processing, spreadsheet, vector drawing and cash flow tools

Cons: Slow install and first time start-up, combines tools that are available free, runs under X11 rather than natively \$40 (£20), www.openosx.com

★★★★☆

While Open Office is an integrated package, OpenOSX Office 2 gathers together a handful of existing open source programs in one place. Each of the applications here are available individually and for free. OpenOSX has just bolted them together with a single installer and common libraries, forming an integrated suite. The result is a very powerful set of apps that match the features found in many more expensive commercial bundles.

Office 2 is based on Gnome Office, a loosely integrated collection of GNU licensed tools. Unlike Open Office or the commercial Microsoft Office 2004, the suite is composed of individual applications.

In one or two areas OpenOSX Office 2 exceeds the power of its commercial rivals. Feature-packed vector graphics program Inkscape fills the gap for a layout and drawing package, while the GIMP is an optional extra providing photo processing tools. Aside from these key applications, a collection of smaller tools handle database, file conversion, postscript printing, scripting and other functions.

The whole set is stitched together with a central wrapper that enables drag and drop support for common file types and an application launcher for the main suite of programs.

Why bother paying for a software suite that bundles up open source tools? OpenOSX Office 2 does much more than throw together free code. It's well worth £20 of anyone's money.



Office on a budget Running under X11, the separate OpenOSX Office apps have their own menu system and a unified interface with the same look and feel throughout

Joost

Joost provides advertising supported, video on demand to your desktop. But is it any good?

Pros: Free, full length TV and film content, peer-to-peer networking for fast downloads

Cons: Interface can be a bit confusing, video quality isn't great, lots of poor content to wade through Free, www.joost.com

★★★★☆



Video gaga Joost's animated menu takes some getting used to

Joost is one among a growing throng of applications that stream selected video content direct to your desktop. Dubbed IPTV (Internet Protocol Television), there are two classes of application out in the wild. Affiliated tools like the BBC iPlayer and Channel 4's 4iD distribute commercial content that has previously been broadcast conventionally. Coincidentally, both examples are Windows-only at present, running on custom versions of Windows Media Player. Joost belongs to a group of less partisan apps. Streaming content from a number of sources, the "channels" available are all free and supported by advertising.

Now in public beta, there are 221 channels to choose from, including full length movies and cult TV shows.

Joost looks the same on the Mac as it does on Windows, taking over your desktop with its full-screen interface. There's a lot going on, so navigation can be a bit confusing at first. It can be confusing after you've spent some time with it too. There's more animation than is strictly required, and hidden bits that pop up when you don't really expect them to. But, hey... 'free movies'!

The fact that it's free, while other applications go down the pay-per-view route, makes it easy to recommend Joost to anyone with a Mac. The playback quality isn't superb, but the same can be said of desktop IPTV applications currently on the market. And with that said, we're going to kick off our slippers and watch *Breakfast at Tiffany's*.

Daylite 3.5

Sort out your working life with integrated task, project and contact tools

Pros: Centralises project, task and appointment management with contact features.

Cons: May be too pricey for individual users £99 (single user), www.marketcircle.com/daylite

★★★★☆

Is it possible to be too organised? Marketcircle, makers of Daylite 3.5 don't seem to think so.

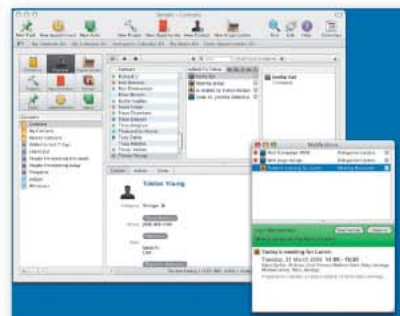
This upgrade to their organisation tool provides business types with so many contact, project, task and appointment management features that we found it a little overwhelming – but in a good way.

Capable of connecting to just about any existing contact database, Daylite is a slickly executed replacement for your address book and calendar apps. That it does this without looking remotely like Microsoft Outlook or Entourage is to its credit. Daylite is Macintosh to the core, its many sections easily navigable and intuitive to use.

The software is primarily a Personal Information Manager, featuring calendar and contact tools up front. A simple calendar displays your tasks and appointments in any given day – and also displays those of your connected colleagues. Contacts appear in a four-panel view, with a full contact card as well as connections, groups and mailing list affiliation.

The core features are intuitive and impressive, but Daylite has even more to offer. Built on OpenBase SQL 10, you can network the database over your company LAN. Back-ups are easy to perform and everyone in your organisation can use the same interface to manage projects and contacts.

Daylite is aimed squarely at business users – with sales organisations having most to benefit. It has a price tag to match as well. Individuals might want to look elsewhere at less powerful solutions. With that in mind, Daylite comes close to being the best in its class; a true Mac original.



Organised control Daylite 3.5 makes connections between contacts and tasks, so you can manage your work flow more easily within teams and organisations

Pixelmator

Image editing tool Pixelmator combines an open source core with a professionally developed front end

Pros: Powerful image editing, budget price, fantastic interface

Cons: Lacks CMYK support so print designers won't be able to use it

\$59 (£29), www.pixelmator.com

★★★★★



Image power Pixelmator brings an open-source alternative to Photoshop a step closer

Fancy Photoshop but can't afford the gargantuan price tag? We pride ourselves in digging out the gems that offer you the maximum for your money. Pixelmator is an exceptional example; a slick, powerful, thoroughly Mac enhanced photo and image processing program costing about £30.

Though wrapped in a state-of-the-art interface Pixelmator's secret is its open-source core. It's built on ImageMagick, a venerable and veteran cross-platform library of image manipulation tools – so although this is the 1.0 release, the feature set is mature and extensive. It can handle over a hundred image formats and has all the usual transform tools, drawing and effects features you'd expect from a high-end imaging package. It looks great too, with a panel based front end that fits seamlessly into Mac OS X. Dare we say it? It's even more handsome than Photoshop, offering the same layer, colour, brush and photo browsing tools as the Adobe powerhouse, but with sleek black palettes.

Unlike Photoshop, Pixelmator's built specifically for the Mac. You'll find integration with your iSight camera and iLife Media Browser is included. Most usefully, there's Core Image support, enabling Pixelmator to take advantage of OS X's built-in library of image filters and tools.

Not every program is perfect. Pixelmator caters more for screen imaging than print, lacking the high-end CMYK support that some designers will require. At the same time, there are no quick optimisation tools for web images. Instead, the makers assume that its users will know their PNGs from their JPEGs.

Extremely small reservations aside, Pixelmator's the ideal image processor for both professional and dabbler. Its nearest true rival, the GIMP, is a much more cluttered and cumbersome affair.

Rogue Amoeba Radioshift

Missing out on your favourite radio programmes? Subscribe to stations and record audio with Radioshift.

Pros: More than 50,000 pre-programmed stations to choose from. AM/FM radio as well as internet stations

Cons: Player downloads required for streaming support, AM/FM recording requires radio peripheral

\$32 (£16), www.rogueamoeba.com/radioshift

★★★★☆

While online TV finds its feet, online radio continues to thrive. You can use iTunes to access a selection of internet radio stations, but Rogue Amoeba Radioshift offers dedicated access to music, talk and sport online.

The software ships with a built-in programming guide, with instant access to more than 50,000 radio stations. Very impressive – and we haven't even mentioned Radioshift's killer feature yet. The program automatically records scheduled, online radio shows for later listening. In other words, it turns your Mac into a PVR for radio. You're not confined to internet radio either; with the right peripheral attached – the software recommends Griffin Radio Shark – you can tune in, listen to and record AM/FM radio, too.

With more and more media to sift through, many of us overlook the rich seam of content that's still distributed by radio. Radioshift makes sure you don't miss the best shows in the schedule. It's easy to use as well.

The programs open into Radioshift's Radio Guide, where you can search for stations by keyword or browse through available content by genre. When you find a station you want to listen to, press the play button – providing it's live. Radioshift supports Quicktime, Windows Media, RealAudio and MP3 streams with the appropriate player installed.

If you want to record radio, simply click the "Subscribe" button on a station in the guide. You're taken to a subscription page where you can set up a recording timer. Once you have *Just a Minute* or the *Chris Moyles Show* backed up to your hard drive, you can edit the audio using a built in tool or send the file to your iTunes library.

The requirement for extra hardware to record AM/FM radio is hidden pretty deeply in the marketing blurb for Radioshift and streaming quality is variable. Still, if you keep missing *The Archers* or prefer radio with a more international flavour, Radioshift offers a broad and noisy selection.



Radio ga ga Radioshift's built in guide lets you search or browse through thousands of stations, then subscribe to and record your favourite shows

Iris 1.0

No frills video capture is easier than ever with Iris, a tool that turns your iSight camera into a security device

Pros: Simple interface, plug and play functionality

Cons: Tested with a limited range of cameras

\$30 (£15), www.mildmannerindustries.com/iris

★★★★☆



iSight power Iris boasts an intuitive interface that offers one click access to capture, good security, and timelapse video features

It's the simplest ideas that impress us most. The 'why didn't we think of that?' ideas. Iris 1.0 is based on such an idea. Using your iSight or other webcam, Iris adds a bundle of features to this much maligned peripheral.

Basically, it captures video – so YouTube-loving teen bloggers will still get a kick out of it. It also features timelapse recording, motion detection and direct publishing to the web though, making it a much more useful proposition.

Need some extra security in the study? Motion detection will not only trigger the recording of digital video the moment someone unauthorised crosses the path of your camera, it will also send you an email alert. You can also monitor motion detection on your Bonjour network, through safari.

Snapshot mode is self explanatory, letting you take quick pictures with your video camera, while movie is ideal for video bloggers.

Timelapse movies can be configured to take a snapshot at intervals you configure, for as many frames or minutes as you like. As with all movie modes, you can choose which CODEC to save and compress video with using the settings dialogue. Finally, the "Web Cam" mode publishes timed shots direct to a web address of your choice – whether it's your local server or a remote site.

The uncluttered interface that appears contextually when you hover your cursor over the preview window is elegant and easy to use. Meanwhile, under the bonnet, the software's optimised to use your Mac's Core Graphics framework for fast video rendering.

In some ways Iris is quite old fashioned. It's a while since we've seen new, simple video capture software like this. It's probably similar to the software that shipped with your webcam – if your webcam's manufacturer bothered to include Mac software, that is. But old-fashioned, in this case is good.

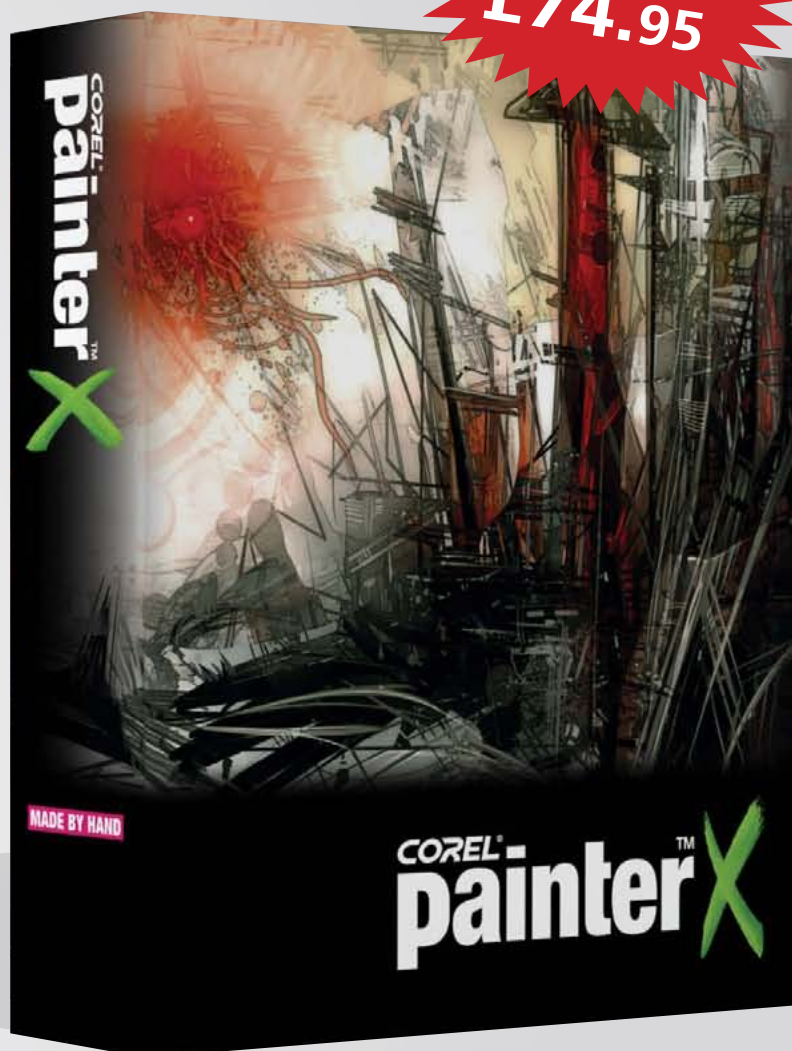
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The latest generation of multifunction devices combine versatility with impressive print quality – even when printing high-quality photos

By Cliff Joseph



GROUP TEST

Multifunction printers

Multifunction – or ‘all-in-one’ – devices are a great idea. Rather than cluttering up your office with separate printer, scanner and copying machines, you can have one compact device that performs all three tasks. This all-in-one approach is especially useful for home users and small businesses that are tight on space – and on money too.

However, in the past, these all-in-one devices were a bit of a compromise. They were typical jacks of all trades, but masters of none, combining printer and scanner in a single unit, but not performing either task particularly well.

That has changed in the past couple of years, and all-in-one printers now offer high-resolution printing and scanning capabilities that are more than adequate to meet the needs of most home and small business users.

And we’re not just talking about printing the occasional Word document or PowerPoint slide. The latest all-in-one models can produce high-quality photo prints, too, suitable either for home users who want to print their holiday snaps or business users – such as estate agents – who need to produce large numbers of good-looking photo-prints.

The models reviewed here cover a wide price range, starting at just £59 for Hewlett Packard’s PhotoSmart C4280, and going up to almost £250 for Canon’s top-of-the-range Pixma MP970.

As far as photo-printing is concerned, the key difference between the various models is the number of colours that they print with. The cheaper models tend to print with just four colours – cyan, magenta, yellow and black

(collectively known as ‘CMYK’). However, the more expensive models use six or even seven coloured inks, which allow them to produce subtler shades of colour on elements such as skin-tones in portrait photography. It’s possible to produce very good photo prints using just four inks – as proven by Epson’s Stylus DX8400 – but the best quality photo prints undoubtedly come from the models that use six or seven coloured inks.

There’s an impressive range of additional features on offer too, ranging from film scanning to double-side printing, and even wireless networking. So, whatever your budget there’s a high-quality multifunction device that’s made for you. The only real question is – why can’t they give you a USB cable with the darn things too?



Great picture The RX585 isn't the fastest printer in this group, but its print quality is excellent

Epson Stylus Photo RX585

The RX585 is the more expensive of the two Epson printers reviewed here, but at £129.99 is still affordable enough for most home users.

The printer uses six coloured inks to produce photo-prints – cyan, magenta, yellow and black, as well as lighter shades of cyan and magenta, which help to produce more subtle shades of colour when printing details such as skin-tones in portrait photography.

We were certainly impressed with the results in our test, with the RX585 producing clear and sharp images with bolder colours than many of its rivals. However, we did have a few problems with the 'driver' software that you use to control the printer.

The problem here is that the printer software isn't as flexible as we would have liked. It tends to either print very quickly at low quality, or very slowly at high quality, and you don't have very much freedom to adjust the settings to strike a balance between the two. A simple choice between, 'normal', 'high' and 'highest' quality settings would be useful.

Scanning performance was also relatively slow – less than half the speed of the Canon Pixma MP970 when scanning an A4 magazine cover. To be fair, though, the RX585 is a lot cheaper than its Canon rival, and its high-quality printing and scanning will still appeal to photo-hobbyists who don't need a high-volume printer.

It's a little disappointing that a printer in this price range doesn't have a networking option that would allow you to share it with other people on your home or office network. However we did like the inclusion of a second USB port, which allows you to connect a digital camera directly to the printer so that you can print photos or contact sheets. We also like the flexibility of the CD-printing features, which allow you to print photos straight onto CDs – and even to offset the photo so that it isn't spoiled by the hole in the centre of the disc.

The inflexible printer driver and relatively low speed are a bit disappointing, but the RX585's impressive quality do make it a good choice for photo-hobbyists.

Manufacturer: Epson, www.epson.co.uk

Pros: Very good photo-printing quality, with bold colours and fine detail, affordable inks will also appeal to home users

Cons: The printer driver software is too inflexible and needs to provide more freedom for adjusting quality and speed settings

Price: £129.99

Star rating: ★★★★★



Multi-talented With features such as double-sided printing, the MP970 is one of the most versatile printers in this group

Canon Pixma MP970

The MP970 is the flagship model in Canon's range of Pixma printers, coming in at almost £250. However, its speed, quality and versatility make it a good choice for home users or small businesses that need to do a lot of photo printing and scanning, as well as producing other types of document as well.

The initial installation takes a little while, as the MP970 actually uses no less than seven different ink cartridges. As well as the four standard CMYK inks (cyan, magenta, yellow and black) it also uses additional 'photo quality' cyan and magenta inks and a special pigmented black ink to produce more solid blacks on photos.

It took us a good half hour to unpack and install the printer. Fortunately, though, the MP970 proved to be worth the effort. Its 9,600 x 2,400dpi resolution is the highest of any printer in this group, and its printing speeds are equally impressive. It pumps out text documents from Microsoft Word at a speed of about 10 seconds per page. A single 4 x 6 photo print took just 32 seconds while a full A4 borderless print took only 13 seconds longer. The print quality for photos was excellent – sharp and clear, with good colour reproduction – as were the results on our scanning tests.

And, to justify that price tag, the MP970 offers a number of additional features too. As well as a standard USB interface, it also has an Ethernet interface so that you can share the printer with other people on your home or office network. It can do double-sided printing too, and also includes an adaptor that lets you scan 35mm film-strips and slides. We even liked the display on the printer's LCD screen, which is similar to Apple's Front Row software in the way that it displays icons representing tasks such as scanning and copying, so that you can quickly select the options you want.

So while the MP970 is more expensive than most of its rivals, its sheer performance, quality and range of features make it a good choice for more demanding home and small business users.

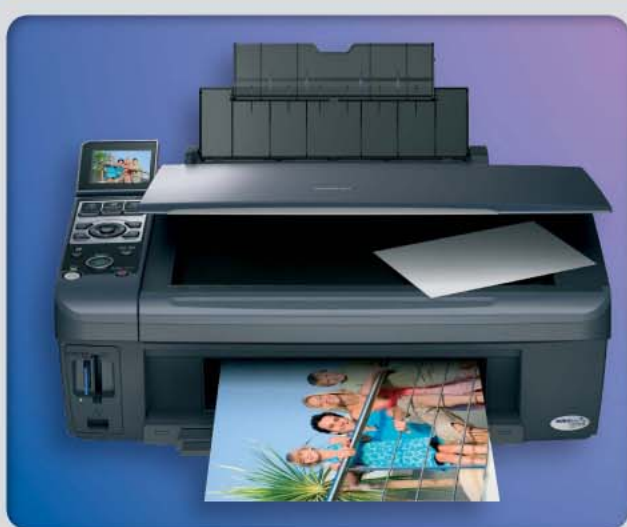
Manufacturer: Canon, www.canon.co.uk

Pros: High speed and high quality printing and scanning, along with network connectivity for sharing the printer with multiple users

Cons: One of the more expensive models in this group, with features that may not be required by all users

Price: £249

Star rating: ★★★★★



Leisurely The DX8400 provides good quality, but is slower than most of its rivals

Epson Stylus DX8400

The Stylus DX8400 is the less expensive of the two Epson printers reviewed here. However, it has all the basic features you need in a multi-function photo-printer.

You can quickly select scanning or copying options using the control panel and LCD display on the left-hand panel. There are memory card slots for transferring photos from a digital camera, as well as a second USB port for connecting a camera straight to the printer.

The key difference between the DX8400 and the more expensive RX585 is that the DX8400 uses just four inks – cyan, magenta, yellow and black – for photo printing. The resulting photo-prints were a bit darker than those produced by the six-colour prints of the RX585, however the overall quality was still very impressive and you'd need to have a pretty good eye to tell the difference between the four-colour output of the DX8400 and the six- or even seven-colour output of its rivals.

Its only real weakness is that it's noticeably slower than some of the other printers. It took more than six minutes to produce an A4 photo-print in our tests, although it did better with 4 x 6 prints, which took just over a minute each. Scanning speeds weren't too bad, although they were still slower than the almost identical scanning unit in the other Epson printer.

We were also a little concerned about the construction quality of the DX8400. It feels lighter and flimsier than most of the other printers – particularly the lid of the scanner unit and the paper feed units. It's also fairly noisy, as you can hear the print mechanism whirring noticeably as it passes back and forth across the paper.

The print quality offered by the Stylus DX8400 really is impressive for a printer that comes in at just under £100, so it's certainly worth considering for home users who are on a tight budget. However, it's relatively slow printing speed means that it's not the best choice for users who like to do a lot of photo-printing.

Manufacturer: Epson, www.epson.co.uk

Pros: Very affordable multi-function printer that provides high-quality photo printing, as well as scanning and copying at an attractive price

Cons: The relatively poor printing speeds and lightweight construction mean that the DX8400 is best suited to relatively light workloads

Price: £99.99

Star rating: ★★☆☆☆



At a snip The PhotoSmart C4280 combines printing, scanning and copying features at a bargain price

HP PhotoSmart C4280

Priced at just £59, the PhotoSmart C4280 is far and away the cheapest multifunction printer reviewed here. In fact, it's quite remarkable that the C4280 can combine printing and scanning features at such a low price, let alone produce decent quality photo output.

It's also quite well constructed – both more solidly built and less noisy than Epson's DX8400, which is the only other printer in the sub-£100 category. Admittedly, it doesn't have some of the added extras found in its bigger brother, the PhotoSmart C6280 – such as the Ethernet interface or the ability to scan photos straight into iPhone – but it has all the basic features required in a multifunction device. There's a set of memory card slots so you can print photos directly from your digital camera, and you can quickly scan or copy documents using the buttons on the main control panel.

The C4280 also performs surprisingly well. It produced respectable results in our printing tests – outperforming the DX8400 in most tests – although it can't quite match the quality of the DX8400.

Like the DX8400, the C4280 uses just four coloured inks for printing photos, and while it works quite well on 4 x 6in prints its quality does suffer a little on larger prints. When printing our A4 photo test file, the C4280 displayed a slight 'banding' effect on large areas of solid background colour (where you can see the transition from one band of colour to another, rather than seeing smoothly graduated colours).

You do have the option of using a special photo-ink cartridge, which allows you to print with six inks, but this adds an extra £8 to the cost of a set of cartridges. We also noticed that the cartridges are quite small, and we suspect that the C4280 might prove to be quite expensive to run if you do a lot of photo printing (unfortunately, HP does not quote precise cost per page figures).

At this price, the C4280 is certainly something of a bargain. However, it's probably best suited for use as a general-purpose office printer rather than specifically as a photo-printer.

Manufacturer: Hewlett-Packard, www.hp.co.uk

Pros: Very low price, good performance and build quality, good print quality for 4 x 6 prints

Cons: Large photo prints suffer from some banding, small ink cartridges will prove costly when printing large volumes of photos

Price: £59

Star rating: ★★☆☆☆



Integrated With features such as a special Dashboard widget, the PhotoSmart C6280 works well with Macs.

HP PhotoSmart C6280

The PhotoSmart C6280 is one of the more expensive printers in this group, but it's a well designed device that provides a good combination of performance, quality and features.

It's not quite as fast as the more expensive Canon MP970, but it takes a respectable second place to Canon when it comes to photo-printing performance. This makes it a good choice for people who need a really reliable workhorse printer, but who may not want to pay the MP970's heftier £249 price tag.

Print quality is also very good, thanks to its 4,800 x 1,200dpi resolution and six-colour printing process. However, the colours on some of our test prints were a little pale compared to prints from the Canon and Epson printers. Fortunately, the printer driver software does provide plenty of control over the colour settings, allowing you to modify settings such as saturation and individual colour balance. Even so, we would have liked the C6280 to provide slightly bolder colours using just its default settings, as home users won't want to correct the colour settings for each and every photo they need to print.

The C6280 is the most solidly built printer in this group, and is also very quiet when running. It can do double-sided printing, and its Ethernet interface lets you share the printer with other people on a home or office network. We also liked the attention to detail that HP has put into its Mac support. When you're scanning documents, the LCD display on the printer displays a menu that includes options such as scanning a photo straight into iPhoto on your Mac or attaching the scanned file to an email in either Apple Mail or Microsoft's Entourage. They even include a little Dashboard widget that you can use to check the ink levels in the printer, and to perform tasks such as cleaning the print-head and printing a test page.

There's a little room for improvement in photo-print quality, but even so, the PhotoSmart's all-round performance, quality and good Mac support make it a good choice for anyone that needs a reliable, high-quality printer for their office.

Manufacturer: Hewlett-Packard, www.hp.co.uk

Pros: Solidly built printer that provides good performance and quality, along with good Mac support

Cons: Colours on photo prints could be bolder, as manually adjusting colour settings soon becomes a chore

Price: £200

Star rating: ★★★★★

Macworld Editors' Choice



Networking The X4850 is the only printer to provide wireless networking capabilities.

Lexmark X4850

Lexmark's X4850 is excellent value for money. It costs just £129.99, but includes features such as wireless networking that aren't found in even its more expensive rivals.

Lexmark's attention to detail is evident from the moment you insert the software CD. Its Setup Assistant runs on your Mac and gives you clear step-by-step instructions on how to set up the printer, including the installation of ink cartridges and the wireless networking features. The only minor oddity here is that you first need to connect the printer to your Mac with a USB cable before you can activate the wireless printing features. Still, at least Lexmark does take the bother to include a USB cable – unlike all the other manufacturers here.

The printer is primarily designed for four-colour printing, although like HP's PhotoSmart C4280 from HP it also lets you use an optional photo-cartridge for six-colour printing. The results using the standard four-colour inks are very good – certainly better than those of the C4280 – although photo prints do have a slightly grainier texture than the more subtle colour tones provided by those printers that use six or seven coloured inks. The printer also added a slightly bluish cast to some prints. These minor flaws weren't so evident on smaller print sizes, such as standard 4in x 6in prints, but were noticeable on our A4 test files where there were larger areas of solid colours.

There was a similar story in terms of print speed too, with the X4850 churning out 4in x 6in prints faster than any other printer in this group, but then slowing down a fair bit for A4 prints. Scanning speeds were impressive as well. This is probably explained by the relatively low scanning resolution, although it was still high enough to complete our scanning tests without any problems. It can turn out Word documents at high speed too, and it's the cheapest printer to also provide double-sided printing, so it'll make an excellent general-purpose office printer.

However, if your emphasis is on photo-printing then you might be prepared to trade in features such as the wireless networking for that little extra print quality that is offered by its six-colour rivals.

Manufacturer: Lexmark, www.lexmark.co.uk

Pros: Good performance and print quality, as well as wireless networking and double-sided printing at a very competitive price

Cons: Four-colour printing lacks the subtle tones of six-colour rivals, relatively low scanning resolution

Price: £129.99

Star rating: ★★★★★

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Macworld's buying advice

In the past, we would certainly have thought twice about recommending a multifunction device over a conventional printer – especially when it came to printing photographs. However, the latest generation of all-in-one multifunction devices manage to provide both impressive print quality and a versatile range of features, often at very competitive prices.

If you're on a tight budget then HP's PhotoSmart C4280 is an absolute bargain. It costs just £59, performs well and is more solidly built than some of its more expensive rivals. Its print quality is very good, and although its standard four-colour photo prints aren't outstanding you do have the option of buying six-colour ink cartridges if you need that extra level of quality.

At the other end of the spectrum is Canon's Pixma MP970, which at £249 costs almost four

times as much as the C4280. Its print quality is excellent, but its real strength is its sheer speed, as it is far and away the top performer in almost all our printing and scanning tests.

It also boasts useful added features such as its double-sided printing, Ethernet interface and film adaptor. It's certainly the best choice for small business users who need a really robust workhorse printer for their office.

However, there are two other models in this group that come close to the Pixma MP970 in terms of features and quality, while also being considerably less expensive.

If the quality of photo-output is your top priority then Epson's Stylus Photo RX585 is hard to beat. Its six-colour printing matches the quality of the Pixma MP970 for a price of just £129.99.

It's not the fastest performer in this group,

but if you're looking for a good quality photo-printer and scanner at a competitive price then this is an excellent choice.

However, multifunctional devices are, by definition, meant to be judged on their all-round versatility, and on that score the outstanding choice is Lexmark's X4850.

The X4850 is the closest rival to the Pixma MP970 in terms of its all-round performance, and while its standard four-colour printing isn't quite as good as that of the MP970 or Epson's RX585, you do also have the option of buying six-colour ink cartridges for those occasions when you need high-quality photo-printing.

And, with features such as wireless networking and double-sided printing – and even a USB cable too – the X4850 is great value for any home or small business user. **MW**

How they shape up

Model	Stylus Photo RX585	Pixma MP970	Stylus DX8400	PhotoSmart C4280	PhotoSmart C6280	X4850
Manufacturer	Epson	Canon	Epson	HP	HP	Macworld Editors' Choice Lexmark
Price (inc.VAT)	£ 129.99	£ 249.00	£ 99.99	£ 59.00	£ 200.00	£ 129.99
URL	www.epson.co.uk	www.canon.co.uk	www.epson.co.uk	www.hp.co.uk	www.hp.co.uk	www.lexmark.co.uk
Maximum Resolution (dpi)	5,760 x 1,440	9,600 x 2,400	5,760 x 1,440	4,800 x 1,200	4,800 x 1,200	4,800 x 1,200
Number of inks	6	7	4	4 (6 colours optional)	6	4 (6 colours optional)
Paper Capacity (A4)	120 sheets	150 sheets	120 sheets	100 sheets	100 sheets	100 sheets
Paper Sizes	4 x 6in - A4	4 x 6in - A4	4 x 6in - A4	4 x 6in - A4	4 x 6in - A4	4 x 6in - A4
Cost per page	Not Quoted	4 x 6 = 21p	Not Quoted	19p	19p	Not Quoted
Cost of cartridges	£6.99 each; 6-ink Multipack - £37.74	Coloured inks - £9.99; Black Pigment Ink - £11.99	£6.99 each; 4-ink Multipack - £25.16	Three-colour cartridge - £13; Black ink - £11; optional Photo-Cartridge - £17	Coloured inks - £7 each; Black ink - £11	
Scanning Resolution (dpi)	1,200 x 2,400	4,800 x 9,600	1,200 x 2,400	1,200 x 2,400	4,800 x 4,800	1,200 x 600
Copy function	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Memory Card Slots	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
LCD Display	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Networking features	N	Ethernet	N	N	Ethernet	Wireless
Other features	N/A	Double-sided printing, film	N/A	N/A	Double-side printing	Double-sided printing
Weight	8.3kg	11.9kg	5.9kg	5.1kg	10.25kg	7.1kg
Dimensions (H x W x D)	205 x 450 x 413mm	214 x 471 x 396mm	179 x 450 x 340mm	162 x 434 x 394mm	189 x 446 x 443mm	178 x 454 x 351mm
Word 1 page (secs)	20	10	20	19	20	16
Word 10 page (secs)	157	96	174	115	170	110
A4 photo print (secs)	250	83	375	235	160	235
1 photo print - 4 x 6 (secs)	59	32	72	65	40	27
10 photo prints - 4 x 6 (secs)	540	230	700	530	340	225
4-page PDF (secs)	90	90	110	165	105	175
A4 magazine scan 600dpi (secs)	80	30	100	150	70	35
4 x 6 photo scan 1,200dpi (secs)	140	10 (600dpi only)	150	180	160	60
Rating	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★★☆	★★★★☆

Christmas is a time for giving. Here's our guide to the Mac-related gifts for your loved ones – as well as yourself, assuming you've been good. **By Rob Buckley**

Christmas gear

Treat yourself to...

Luxury: iMac 24-inch

Apple, 0800 039 1010, www.apple.com/uk/imac
If you're only going to buy yourself one gift – and you want the best present in your box – the top-end iMac is the one to go for. With an Intel Core 2 Extreme chip and a 24-inch screen, it's the ultimate luxury.
£1,459

Budget: Wireless keyboard

Apple, 0800 039 1010, www.apple.com/uk/keyboard/
If your old keyboard is messing up your desk or has seen better days, you can improve your typing and your desk's aesthetics with the Bluetooth-equipped Apple wireless keyboard. Made from aluminium, it will amaze you with its skinniness.
£49

Funky: iPod touch

Apple, 0800 039 1010, www.apple.com/uk/ipodtouch
Available in 8GB and 16GB models, with built-in WiFi and touch-sensitive widescreen display, the iPod touch is simply the coolest iPod so far – and you won't need to sign up for a contract with O2 to get it.
From £199

Handy: turbo.264

Elgato, Computers Unlimited, 0208 358 5858
Getting your videos onto your iPod, PSP, or Apple TV can take a long time and slow up your Mac while you're encoding them. Let the Turbo.264 do the heavy lifting and it'll free up your Mac and encode in real-time or better.
£69.60

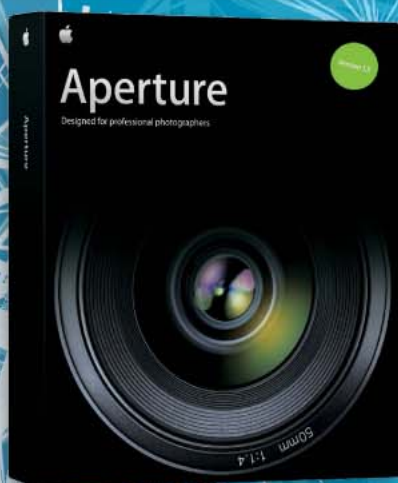
Must have:

A Macworld subscription

IDG, 01858 438861, www.macworld.co.uk/subscribe
If there's one thing you have to make sure you get this Christmas, it's a subscription to Macworld. Thirteen issues of all the best Mac advice and information? Don't rely on others to get it for you.
£44.99



For the photographer



Luxury: Aperture

Apple, 0800 039 1010, www.apple.com/uk/aperture
If the lucky photographer you're buying for has a camera that saves RAW data, buy them Aperture. It offers an advanced RAW workflow, professional project-management capabilities, powerful compare and select tools, nondestructive image processing, and versatile printing and publishing.
£219



Budget: EasyShare Digital Picture Frame

Kodak, 01442 261 122, www.kodak.co.uk
With digital, photo frames needn't just show the same old picture all the time. The Kodak EasyShare range of photo frames can play videos and MP3s and have remote controls so you can swap pictures easily. Some even work via WiFi.
From £56

Funky: FinePix Z10fd

Fujifilm, 01234 217724, www.fujifilm.co.uk
Not just great to look at, the FinePix Z10fd has a 3x optical zoom, 7.2mp resolution, ISO1600 sensitivity, face detection, anti-blur functions, infra-red for transferring pictures to friends and a blog mode for web-ready pictures.
£125



Must Have: OneTouch IV

Maxtor, www.maxtorsolutions.com
Macs can run out of disk space and disaster can happen. So make sure they absolutely, positively have a back-up. The Maxtor OneTouch IV has RAID 0 and 1 capabilities, automatic back-up and synchronisation software and up to 750GB of storage.
From £60



Handy: Perfection 4490 Photo

Epson, 0870 241 6900, www.epson.co.uk
If your photographer hasn't yet gone fully digital, the Epson Perfection 4490 will come in handy. Scans 6 x 4ins at 600dpi in just nine seconds, it comes with a film adaptor.
£149.95



We want...

Photoshop CS3 Extended

Adobe, 0800 028 0148, www.adobe.com/uk
Now available in both regular and extended, Photoshop is the pro's tool for working with photos. Whether it just needs enhancing, something needs removing, or you want to create a whole new image, Photoshop has what it takes.
From £569

If they have a MacBook Pro get them...

Cinema Display

Apple, 0800 039 1010, www.apple.com/uk/displays/
Almost anyone can benefit from a second monitor, but MacBook Pro users will see the benefits quicker than others. You can increase their screen size to 30in, give them a second screen for palettes in Photoshop and add FireWire and USB ports.
From £279



For the music maker

Luxury: TuneStudioBelkin, 01933 352000, www.belkin.com/tunestudio

Belkin's TuneStudio is truly a gift for the DJ or musician on the go. It's the first four-channel audio mixer that lets you create high-quality digital recordings directly on an iPod for instant iPod playback.

£179.99**Funky: UDG Backpack**Ultimate DJ, +31 (0)263510554, www.ultimate-dj-gear.com

The Ultimate DJ backpacks have a dedicated, removable iPod holder, a headphone cable port, and room for your records. It also comes with a free laptop bag.

£83.39**Must Have: Logic Express**Apple, 0800 039 1010, www.apple.com/uk

Logic Express is Apple's feature-packed software for music composition and production. It has professional-quality audio and MIDI tools plus a core collection of software instruments and effects.

£129.25**Handy: Keystation 49e USB midi keyboard**M-Audio, 01923 204010, www.m-audio.com

The M-Audio Keystation 49e is a 49-note keyboard that plugs straight into a Mac. With it, a musician can control software synthesizers, external sound devices, and more with its assignable slider and pitch bend and modulation wheels.

£65**Budget: zCover**zCover, www.zcover.com

If you have a nice new iPod you won't want it to get scratched – and neither will your friend or family member. There are tons of cases available from the likes of Gear4, Griffin, and Contour Design, but these ones from Z-Cover will make a great low-cost stocking filler.

£19.95

If they have a Mac mini get them...

EyeTV Hybrid

Elgato, Computers Unlimited, 0208 358 5857

If they're using a Mac mini as a media centre already, the EyeTV Hybrid is the best way to turn it into a PVR as well. Able to receive both terrestrial and Freeview television, the hybrid also comes with the outstanding EyeTV PVR (personal video recording) software.

£90.77**We want...****Go + Play iPod speakers**

Harman/Kardon, 01707 278100,

www.harmankardon.com

The Go + Play iPod speakers from Harman/Kardon join industrial design with thunderous and distinct bass and crystal-clear highs. There's a RF remote and the unit can even send your photos and video to a TV.

£229.95

Hot new Mac games for Christmas!



ENEMY TERRITORY QUAKE WARS

Enemy Territory: Quake Wars comes to the Mac as a multiplayer master piece that offers awesome fun but tests your skills at every turn! This team-based shooter takes players back in time to the Strogg invasion of Earth, the catalyst for the original Quake series. The forces of Earth face off against the evil Strogg in a violent struggle for survival, giving players the chance to aid either side in the battle for planet dominion. With unmatched graphics, physics and story-driven military missions, Quake Wars transports players to the front lines of the ultimate war for Earth!

£39.99
RRP INC VAT



colin mcræ rally mac

Colin McRae Rally Mac is the new, premiere auto racing game! It places you right in the thick of rally racing. Each rally takes you from gravel and dirt roads onto tarmac and back again, winding across bridges, through tunnels, over jumps, and mountain passes. You'll find yourself testing your skills with 30 different cars, on 20 different classes of rally events with 300 stages of competition. Play against the clock and even take on the world in online multiplayer rallies with up to eight players. With realistic physics and car handling, this game offers loads of fun that never ends!

£34.99
RRP INC VAT



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78 New Oxford St
020 7692 9990

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112 The Strand
0207 212 9090

GBM - Manchester
One Piccadilly Gardens
0161 605 3838

Apple Store - Birmingham
West Bullring Shopping Ctr
0121 260 1900

Apple Store - Kent
Bluewater Shopping Ctr
01322 640100

Apple Store - London
235 Regent St
020 7153 9000

Apple Store - London
Brent Cross Shopping Ctr
0208 359 1050

Apple Store - Manchester
Arndale Ctr
0161 216 4570

Apple Store - Manchester
Trafford Ctr
0161 240 1000

Apple Store - Sheffield
Meadowhall Shopping Ctr
0114 212 1000

All prices include VAT and are correct at time of going to press. E&OE.

For the video buff

Luxury: HDC-SD5

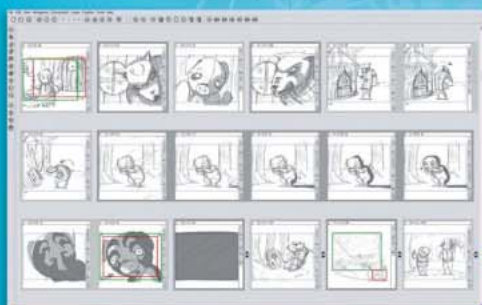
Panasonic, www.panasonic.co.uk, 0844 844 3852
At just 6.5cm wide and high, and 13.5cm long, Panasonic says the HDC-SD5 is the world's smallest HD camcorder. It records up to 180 minutes of HD video at 1,920 x 1,080 resolution on to an 8GB SD card.
£800

**Must Have: Final Cut Express**

Apple, 0800 039 1010, www.apple.com/uk/finalcutexpress/
Almost as powerful as Final Cut Pro but without the cost, Final Cut Express is a great way to learn Final Cut Pro and is a powerful editing tool in its own right.
£199

**Handy: ShuttleXpress**

Contour Design, 020 8731 1410, www.contourdesign.com
To make video editing just fly by, get yourself a Contour Design ShuttleXpress. The ring controls your moves through the timeline, and the buttons are for shortcuts, pre-configured for various apps, and which the ShuttleXpress automatically recognises.
£39.95

**Funky: Storyboard**

Toon Boom, 020 7193 9114, www.toonboom.com
Anyone planning a movie needs to storyboard scenes to know how to shoot them. Toon Boom Storyboard comes with all the tools necessary for the director or storyboard artist to replicate the storyboarding process digitally.
\$249.99 (£119.50)

**Budget: iStopMotion**

Boinx Software, +49 89 84 00 55 00, www.boinx.com
Shooting movies isn't cheap, so for those on a budget, iStopMotion might be just the thing. Using an iSight or supported video camera, iStopMotion lets budding directors create stop-motion movies, just like *King Kong* or *Wallace and Gromit*.
£23.99

Action Cam ATC2000 For when you want to take a movie, but your hands are busy

We want...**Action Cam ATC2000**

Oregon Scientific, www.oregonscientific.com/eng
This water-proof, hands-free digital movie camera will capture your extreme sporting feats. The wireless Action Cam straps onto just about anything, weighs just 200g, is water-resistant to 3m depth and records 640 x 480 VGA at 30fps.
£99.95

**If they have a Mac Pro get them...****1GB FB-DIMM**

Kingston, www.kingston.com/uk, 01932 738888

One thing the Mac Pro can't get enough of is memory. With eight slots, each capable of taking a 1GB fully buffered DIMM, that's a lot of expensive memory, so odds-on, the Mac Pro user in your life won't yet have filled them.

£99.95



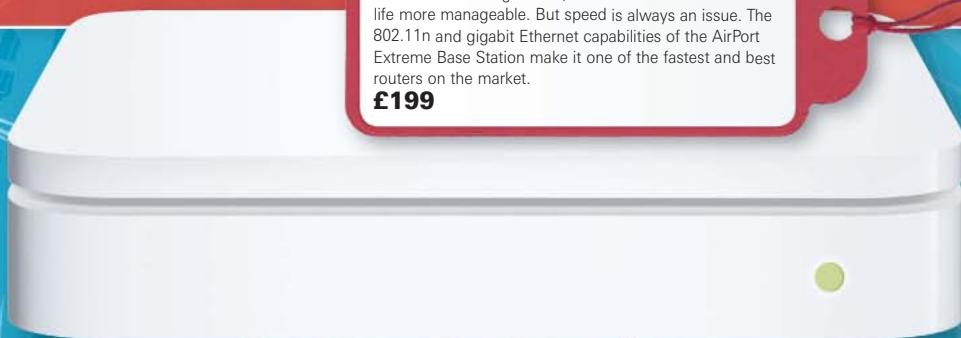
For the office



Budget: iWork

Apple, 0800 039 1010, www.apple.com/uk/iwork/
If the businessperson in your life doesn't need the full capabilities of Microsoft Office and would like to make some better-looking slideshows, iWork makes a great, cheap alternative with Apple's traditional design sense built in.

£55



Luxury: AirPort Extreme Base Station

Apple, 0800 039 1010, www.apple.com/uk/airportextreme/
For the hot-desking worker, a wireless network makes life more manageable. But speed is always an issue. The 802.11n and gigabit Ethernet capabilities of the AirPort Extreme Base Station make it one of the fastest and best routers on the market.

£199

Funky: Bamboo

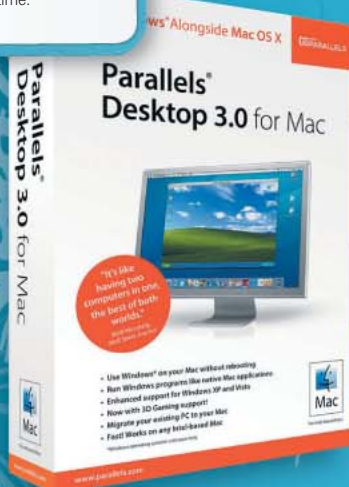
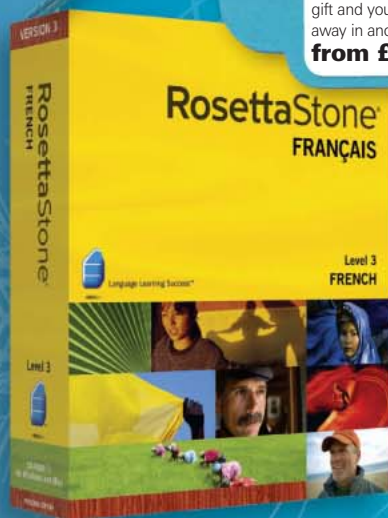
Wacom, 020 7744 0831, www.wacom-europe.com/bamboo/
Mac OS X has had handwriting recognition built-in for years, but few people get to take advantage of it. The A6 Wacom Bamboo tablet is designed for office workers who want to use these functions for emails, writing notes and navigation.

£52.86

Handy: Rosetta Stone 3

Rosetta Stone, www.rosetastone.co.uk
Thanks to the web, every business is international and we can't expect all our customers to speak English. Pick one of 10 languages from the Rosetta Stone 3 personalised language tuition courses as a gift and your career-oriented friend will be chatting away in another language in no time.

from £139



Must Have: Parallels Desktop

Parallels, +1 425 282 6400, www.parallels.com
It's a sad fact of business that many apps only run on Windows. Rather than resort to a PC, you can run Windows on your Mac using either the slightly fiddly Boot Camp or the far simpler, more integrated Parallels Desktop.

£49.98



We want...

iPhone

Apple/02, www.o2.co.uk/iphone
With built-in WiFi and support for web applications and Exchange email accounts, the iPhone is ready for business use. Plus it'll make the user the envy of all their colleagues.

£269 + contract



iPhone It's beautiful, but it also means business

If they have an iMac get them...

World of Warcraft

Blizzard Entertainment, www.worldofwarcraft.com
The iMac is a pretty good games machine and not everyone's going to want hardware this Christmas. Why not let them join in the biggest online game in the world: World of Warcraft? They'll thank you for it, assuming they'll ever leave their iMac's side again.

£17.95 + monthly subscription



BELKIN®



Sports Armband for iPod nano

- Made with unique "stitchless" construction that ensures long-lasting durability
- Hand-washable
- Water-resistant

**Belkin will donate 10 percent of the retail price of each pink-and-bone coloured case to support breast cancer research.*



Sport Armband Plus for iPod Nano, iPod Classic & iPod Touch

- Breathable, water-wicking Cool-max material
- Slim and lightweight to minimize bulk on your arm during workouts
- Included Cable Capsule helps manage and store earphones
- Hand-washable
- Included pocket for key or ear bud storage
- Clear screen and navigation protector
- Adjustable hook-fastening system for universal fit



Silicon case for iPod Nano, iPod Classic & iPod Touch

- Form-fitting design that features a snug extra layer of rugged silicone
- Secures your iPod nano with durable silicone
- Available in 3 colours: black, pink, and blue

www.belkin.com

For the student



Luxury: Sennheiser PXC 300

Sennheiser, www.sennheiser.co.uk
Listening to music may not help you get a degree, but it passes the time. Make sure they aren't disturbed by the neighbours – and they don't get a rep for being noisy – with a pair of noise-isolating headphones.
£83.90



Funky: iHome iH8 Clock-Radio

SDI Inc, www.ihomeintl.com
Oversleeping is always a problem when it comes to getting to lectures on time. The iHome H8 clock-radio should solve that, and doubles as a set of iPod speakers so will also save on the cost of a stereo.
£59.99

Budget: Cyberphone W for Mac

VolPvoice, www.voipvoice.com/skypeCK.html
Phoning home can be expensive for a student on a budget. A Skype internet phone account can save on costs, but a Mac-compatible handset like the Cyberphone W for Mac will make sure the call quality holds up.
£34.99



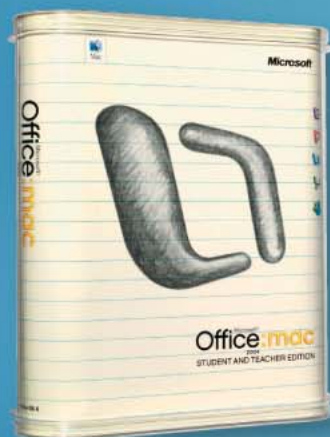
Must Have: iLife '08

Apple, 0800 039 1010, www.apple.com/uk/ilife
It makes staying in touch with the folks at home even easier, with support for .Mac web galleries and new web tools. But if the student in your life is on a film-making course, practically all they need is in the latest iLife.
£55



Handy: iTalk Pro

Griffin, AM Micro, 01392 426 473
The Griffin iTalk Pro lets you convert your iPod into a stereo CD-quality Dictaphone, ready to record lectures. It has its own microphone, but you can also plug in your own, and it syncs automatically with iTunes.
£26.99



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Microsoft, 0870 607 0800, www.microsoft.com/uk
Office 2004 is the best productivity software around. There's Entourage for email and event planning, Word for lecture notes and essays and PowerPoint for presentations. Outstanding. And you'll get Office 2008 for free when it launches in January 2008 as well.
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STM, Computers Unlimited, 020 8358 9451
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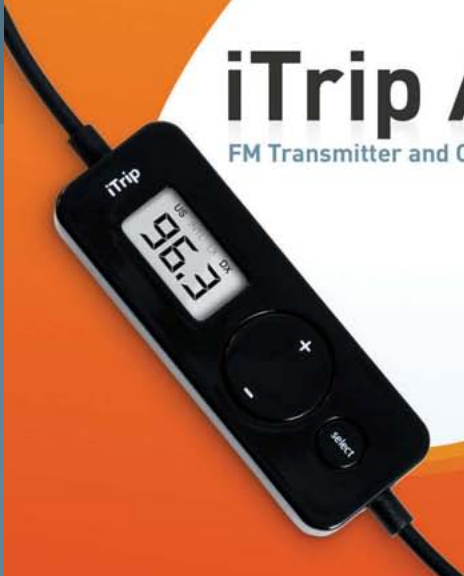
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Better browsing, more efficient email, and other tricks
by Christopher Breen, Dan Frakes, and Jonathan Seff

30 iPhone tips

Learn how to get the most out of your new prized possession



You can do a lot with the iPhone – surf the web, send email, listen to music, and (yes) make phone calls – with just a touch of a virtual button. But dig a little deeper, and you can do even more. Our US correspondents have had some time to live with the iPhone – here are their top tricks to help you get the most out of it.

Web Surfing

1 Get a bigger keyboard As with any other iPhone function requiring data entry, tapping on Safari's address bar summons an on-screen keyboard. If you rotate the iPhone horizontally before tapping on the address bar, the Safari window will switch to horizontal mode; then, when you tap on the address bar,

the keyboard will also appear horizontally. More important, it will also be much larger than the standard, vertical keyboard, making data entry a little easier. Unfortunately, Safari is currently the only iPhone application in which this horizontal keyboard appears. If you want to use the keyboard in its standard vertical orientation, summon it before rotating your iPhone.

2 Create a home page When you're using the regular version of Safari that runs on your Mac (or Windows-based PC), setting a particular site as your home page is as simple as going to the General tab in System Preferences and

Continues page 94 ➔

Horizontal keyboard
Rotate the iPhone and tap on the address bar, and you'll get a wider keyboard

typing in a URL. You can't do that on the iPhone, but you can use the following workaround. Add your would-be home page to your bookmarks list, and then move it to the top of the list. Yes, it requires an extra tap – first on the bookmarks icon and then on the bookmark itself – but it will get you to your favourite web page with a minimum of fuss.

3 Share URLs If you want to send a friend the URL of a web page you're viewing, tap on the address bar, and then tap on Share. A new email message, containing the URL, will open in Mail – just choose one or more recipients, add your comments, and tap on the Send button.

4 Scroll in boxes on a web page If you encounter a scrolling box or list while surfing on your iPhone in Safari – say you're responding to a post at the Macworld.co.uk forums – and you try to scroll with your finger, you'll find that the entire page scrolls, instead of just the box. The trick is to scroll such areas with two fingers.

5 Make a call from Safari If you find a phone number in Safari that you'd like to call – perhaps the phone number of a restaurant where you'd like to book a table – you needn't jump to the phone component. Just tap on the number, and the iPhone will dial it for

“Now that we've had some time to live with the iPhone, we've found a few tricks to help us get the most out of it”

you. This also works with phone numbers and URLs embedded in emails and SMS chats; tapping on either one will place a call or open a web page, respectively.

6 Investigate links In Safari, if you hold your fingertip down on a link instead of tapping, you'll summon an information balloon that displays the underlying URL. The same thing happens in Mail when you hold on a link. Now when spam emails arrive, you can press and hold on the link to find out if you're really going where it says it'll take you.

7 Go straight to the top When viewing a long web page, if you want to get back to the top, or access Safari's address field, you don't have to scroll all the way up; instead, just tap on the grey status bar at the top of the iPhone's screen.

Email made easier

8 Avoid Mail confusion Don't give two email accounts the same name, because Mail

will get confused and copy the settings from one account to the other. And you can't fix the situation by simply renaming one account – you'll need to delete one of the accounts and then re-create it.

9 Mark read messages as Unread

There doesn't appear to be any way to mark read messages as unread on the iPhone – but there is. While viewing a message, tap on Details, which reveals a Mark As Unread option; tap on it, and the next time you view your inbox, the message will display a blue dot, which indicates that the message has not been read.

10 Recover 'lost' emails If you try to send an email but the iPhone can't get network access, you might think your message has disappeared completely. But don't worry: a temporary Outgoing folder is created to hold the message. You can access this folder from the main screen of the sending account; the folder will disappear once network access is available and the message is sent.

11 Create email folders Well, actually, you can't create email folders on the iPhone.

12 Just in case

While the iPhone's exterior is pretty tough, it's still vulnerable to scratches, scuffs, bumps, and drops. Not surprisingly, a growing number of cases are available to help protect your investment. Whichever case you choose, make sure it doesn't block the iPhone's bottom-mounted speaker and microphone, the camera lens on the back, or the light and proximity sensors near the top edge on the front.

Standard Cases These enclose most of your iPhone in leather, plastic, or fabric, while leaving its screen and controls fully accessible.

Examples: Case-Mate Signature Leather Case for iPhone (£17.13; www.case-mate.com), Incase Canvas Fitted Sleeve for iPhone (£35; www.incase.com), Sena Leatherskin Case for iPhone (£21; www.senacases.com).

Flip Cases and Wallets Thanks to a cover that opens up, flip cases offer total protection without restricting access too much. But they're a bit bulkier than most cases, and they don't protect against the elements.

Examples: Case-Mate Leather Flip Case

◀ Sena Leatherskin Case

iSkin Revo ▶

for iPhone (£17.13; www.case-mate.com), and Sena MagnetFlipper Case for iPhone (£25.45; www.senacases.com).

Pouches and Sleeves

These products encase your iPhone; some provide extra padding to guard against bumps. They tend to be relatively inexpensive, but they also often limit access to the iPhone's screen – you'll have to pull out the iPhone to use it.

Examples: Belkin Slim-Fit Case for iPhone (\$30; www.belkin.com), Marware CEO Sleeve for iPhone (\$25; www.marware.com), and Sena iPhone Eléga Pouch (£19.58; www.senacases.com).

Holster Storing your iPhone on your belt in a holster gives you easy access. But as with pouches and sleeves, you need to take the iPhone out of the case to use it.

Examples: DLO HipCase for iPhone (£17.13; www.dlo.com), Griffin Technology Elan Snap-In (£14.99; www.grifintechology.com), Incase Leather Folio (£19.58; www.incase.com), and Speck Products Holster-Pro (£14.68; www.speckproducts.com).

Skins These cases protect your phone by enclosing it in a layer of silicone rubber. Thinner skins prevent scratches without adding much bulk, whereas thicker skins provide added shock protection. The downside is that getting your iPhone in and out of the case can be a challenge.

Examples: iSkin Revo (£20; www.iskin.com), Marware Sport Grip (\$15; www.marware.com), and Speck ToughSkin for iPhone (\$30; www.speckproducts.com).



But what you can do with an IMAP email account is create folders on the IMAP server – for example, if you have a .Mac account, using the .Mac Web-mail interface. Those folders will then appear on the iPhone, and their contents will – eventually – be synced between the iPhone and the server.

13 Save email drafts If you want to save a message you're working on so you can come back to it later, tap on Cancel. Instead of deleting the message immediately, Mail pops up a dialog box with the options Save, Don't Save, or Cancel. Tap on Save and the message will be placed in your Drafts folder. If your account doesn't currently have a Drafts folder, Mail will create one. Don't be alarmed if the message doesn't appear in Drafts immediately, however; it sometimes takes several minutes for the draft message to show up.

iPod control

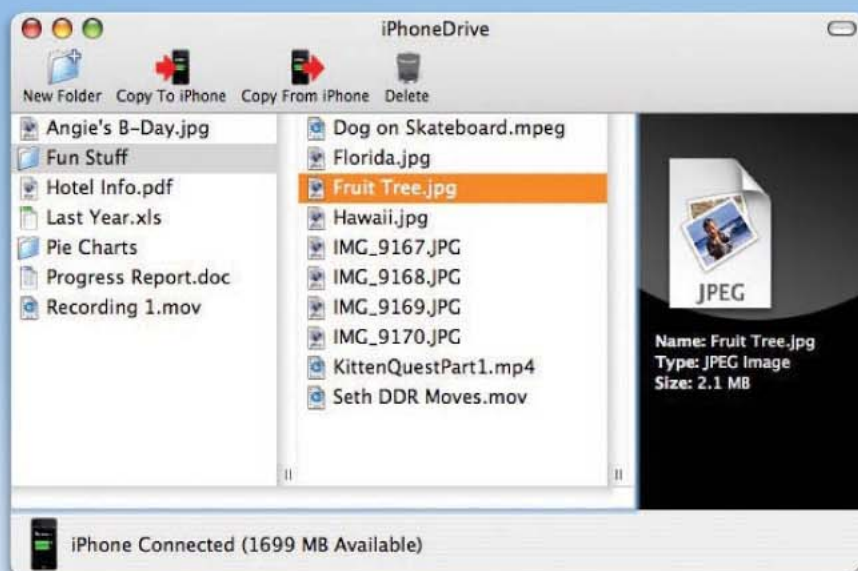
14 Re-create iPod audio controls If you listen to audiobooks on an iPod, you probably know that, since the fourth-generation iPod's release, you've had the option to make the playback speed faster or slower, as you prefer. The iPhone shares that feature. Just tap on the Settings button and then on the iPod option; tap on the Audiobook Speed entry and, in the resulting screen, choose Slower, Normal, or Faster. Other iPod features also appear on the iPhone – you can use the Settings screen to turn on Sound Check (to make volume more consistent from one track to another) and to select any of 22 included equalization presets.

15 Change iPod icons By default, the buttons at the bottom of the iPod screen are Playlists, Artists, Songs, Videos, and More. You can change those first four in the same way as you would the commands that appear on an iPod's main screen. Simply tap on the More icon, and then tap on the Edit button in the upper left corner of the resulting screen. A Configure screen will appear with icons for Albums, Podcasts, Audiobooks, Genres, Composers, Compilations, Playlists, Artists, Songs, and Videos. To substitute one of these icons for one that appears at the bottom of the iPod screen, just tap and hold on the icon you prefer and drag it over the icon you want to replace. Tap on Done when you're finished.

16 Delete already-viewed videos Even 8GB can feel confining when it comes to storing videos – a single full-length movie can take up 1GB of storage. To ease the storage crunch, the iPhone offers to delete videos after you've finished watching them. Just tap on the Delete button, and *Babel* will disappear from your iPhone, freeing up more space.

Other programs

17 Store files One benefit of the iPod is that it can store files as well as play music. An out-of-the-box iPhone can't – unless you have the help of a Mac and a \$10 utility. The program, Ecamm Network's iPhoneDrive (www.ecamm.com), lets you view files on your iPhone in a Finder-like



File Storage With the help of iPhoneDrive, you can use the iPhone to store and transfer files

interface. You can copy files to and from your iPhone via drag and drop, some simple buttons, or the program's File menu.

18 Choose how you listen to voicemail If you have a Bluetooth headset, incoming calls get routed there automatically. But that doesn't happen when you call up Visual Voicemail. However, an Audio button on the Visual Voicemail screen lets you specify how you listen to your message: via a handset, the built-in speaker, or a Bluetooth headset.

19 New way to scroll through contacts Everyone knows that you can scroll through the list of contacts on your iPhone two ways – either flick your finger on the list to scroll up or down, or tap on one of the letters in the alphabet running down the right side of the screen to jump to contacts beginning with that letter. But there is a third way: hold your finger on the alphabetical list, and then slide up and down – you'll be able to scroll through your contacts in a more controlled manner than by flicking your finger.

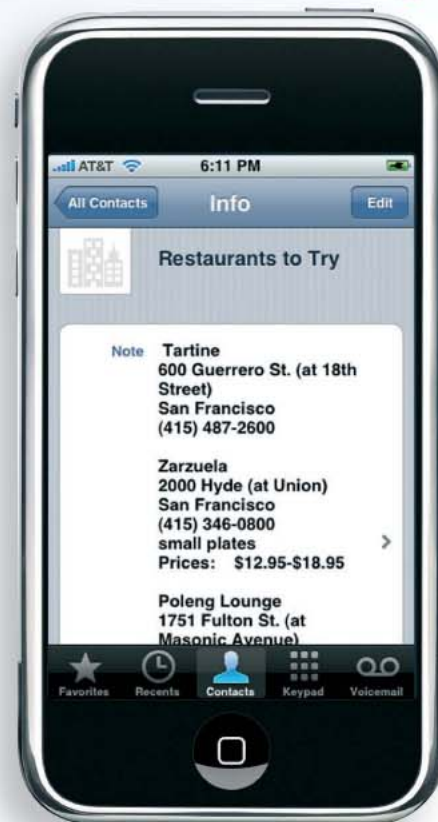
20 Use Favorites and recents for more than calls Favorites and Recents are part of the iPhone's main Phone screen; Favorites is the iPhone's version of frequently called numbers, and Recents is a list of the numbers of people you've called recently and calls you've missed. You can tap on any number in these lists to place a call quickly. But this is not just a phone feature – assuming that a number or name in Favorites or Recents belongs to a mobile phone, you can also send it an SMS message. Just tap on the right angle bracket (>) icon next to the contact name or number, and then tap on the Text Message button at the bottom of the contact listing.

21 Get driving directions fast One of the primary uses for the iPhone's Maps application is to get driving directions. Both the starting and destination fields offer a Bookmarks icon, so you can quickly use

a bookmark, a recent location, or a contact when searching for directions. The first thing you should do in Maps is find your own address and bookmark it – this will make finding directions to and from locations much easier.

22 Sync Notes One of the major limitations of the iPhone's Notes application is that you can't sync it with data from any program on

Continues page 96 ➔



Notes Trick To sync notes with your Mac, create a fake contact in Address Book and embed your notes there

your Mac. There's a workaround, however. Each contact has a notes field. So you can create a fake contact and paste any info you like in the notes field for that contact in Address Book. One sync later, all that information will be at your fingertips.

23 Reboot your phone Pretend for a moment that your iPhone suddenly stops responding. Pushing the Home button does nothing. Pressing the sleep/wake button is equally ineffective. What do you do? Apple's first reset tip is to press and hold the Home button for about six seconds to quit any application that might have locked up your iPhone. But if that doesn't work, try pressing and holding both the Home and sleep/wake buttons; after about 10 seconds the Apple logo will appear. This reboot trick takes a little bit longer than the iPod equivalent – holding down the Select and Menu buttons usually restarts your music player after just four seconds.

Work around crashes and freezes

Most of the time, the iPhone works exactly as it should. But if it starts to give you trouble – crashing, freezing, or acting erratically – these steps should help put it back on its best behaviour.

24 Freezes If your iPhone suddenly stops responding to your touch, and pressing the Home button doesn't appear to do anything, your iPhone is probably frozen. To thaw it out, press and hold down the Home button for about six seconds. This should return you to the Home screen, with (hopefully) everything working again.

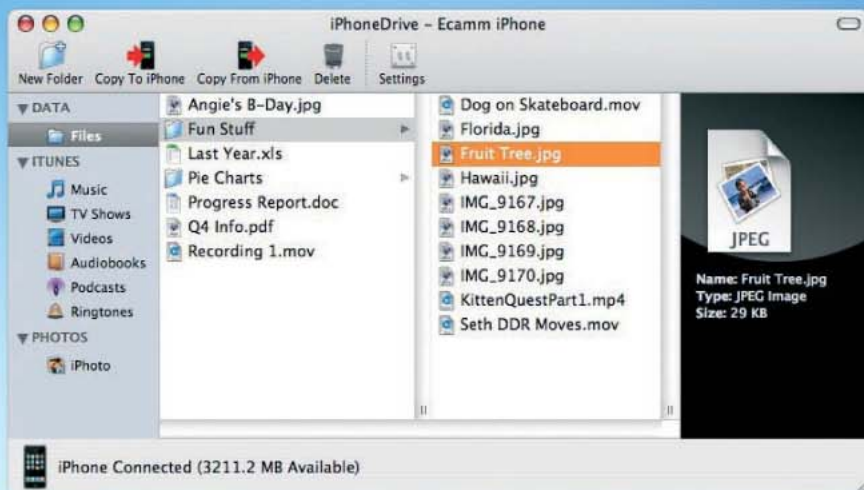
25 Crashes On other occasions, while using an iPhone program, you may suddenly get tossed back to the Home screen with no explanation. This means the program you were using has crashed. If a temporary glitch caused the crash, you may be able to simply switch back to the offending program and resume what you were doing with no further trouble. The next time you connect the iPhone to the computer and launch iTunes, you may see a message indicating that one or more crashes have occurred since your last iTunes visit (see 'That syncing feeling').

The message states: "Your iPhone contains diagnostic information which may help Apple improve its products."

Clicking on the Send To Apple button forwards this information, so Apple can use it to learn how to fix the crash-causing bug. To help prevent freezes and crashes, it's always

That syncing feeling

If your iPhone has crashed, this message may appear in iTunes the next time you connect the iPhone to your computer



Direct to hard drive iPhoneDrive lets you access the iPhone's hard drive to store files

wise to give your iPhone a bit of breathing room. That is, leave at least 100MB of hard-drive space free (for temporary files it may need to create) and avoid doing multiple tasks simultaneously (such as checking email messages while loading web pages).

26 Recurring problems If you experience an occasional problem, the steps above should help. However, if you run into the same problem over and over again, or if your iPhone hits a more serious stumbling block, these measures may help.

27 Clear the cache If you're experiencing frequent crashes or slow performance in Safari, clearing Safari's cache files can often help. Go to Settings, select Safari, and then tap on Clear Cache.

28 Restart You may be able to eliminate a recurring freeze or crash, at least for a while, by simply restarting the iPhone. For example, we've found this an effective solution to repeated Safari crashes. To restart, press and hold down the sleep/wake button (at the top of iPhone) until the Power Off slider appears.

Easy solutions

Apple has put a lot of effort into making the iPhone as easy to use as possible, but nothing is perfect. From mystery attachments to confusing sync options, there are plenty of challenges that can trip you up on your way to iPhone bliss. The good news is that most of these problems have solutions. Whether you're looking for a way to store files on your iPhone or a way to add a spam filter to your incoming emails. Read on to find out how to do things they don't tell you about in the manual.

29 Multiple computers If you have a computer at work, where all your contacts and calendar information is stored, and a computer at home that contains all your music, you might want to find a way to sync the iPhone differently when it connects to each computer.

While it's true that the iPhone is a sync-only device, it's a flexible syncer. Apple seems to have broken iPhone data into discrete blocks, each of which you can sync with a different computer: Info (contacts, calendars, bookmarks, mail accounts), Music and Video (which must be synced together); finally Photos, and Podcasts.

For this to work, you need to open the iPhone's settings pane in iTunes and uncheck any items you don't want to sync on the new computer. For example, to keep music and videos that you've synced with your home computer, uncheck the sync options in the Music and Video tabs on your work computer.

Although you can't plug an iPhone into another computer and have it merge media – music, videos, photos, and podcasts – from that other computer, it can merge data found in the Info tab, including contacts, calendars, email accounts, and bookmarks.

Set it up like this: Deselect the sync options in the Music, Photos, Podcasts, and Video tabs. Then click on the Info tab and select any items you'd like to merge to the iPhone: Contacts and Calendars, for example. When you click on the Apply button to update the iPhone, a dialogue box appears asking if you'd like to replace the information on the iPhone with the information from this computer or merge it. To merge, just click on Merge Info.

30 Missing file storage If you use your current iPod to carry files between home and work, you'll want a way to replicate this functionality on the iPhone.

Many iPhone users have bemoaned the fact that you can't use your iPhone as a storage device. Although there's no solution for Windows users (at least not at press time), Mac users can use Ecamm Network's \$10 iPhoneDrive (www.ecamm.com).

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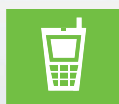
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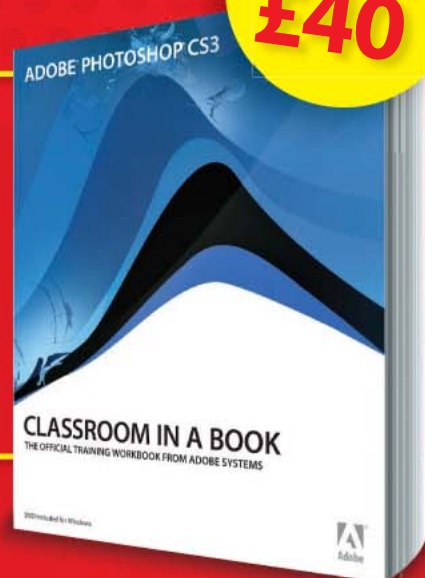


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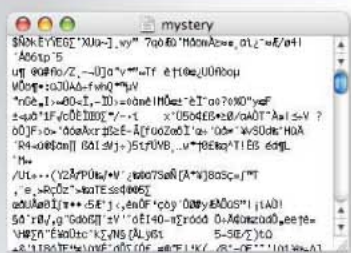


Tame type troubles

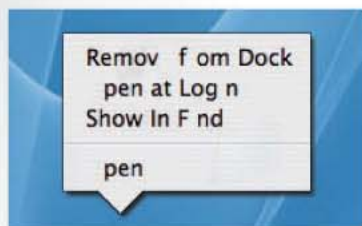
By Sharon Zardetto Aker

Whip your fonts into shape with these strategies

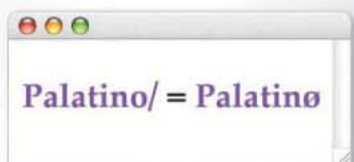
Gallery of font errors



Garbage can result from opening a document in the wrong application.



This is what a Dock item's pop-up menu can look like if Tiger can't find a copy of Helvetica.



Surprised when you type the letter O followed by a slash (/), and the O transforms into an Ø character? You've encountered a special ligature included with some fonts. A number of programs – TextEdit, Pages, and FileMaker among them – access these automatically. If you don't want them, turn the feature off or use another font.

Solving a font-related problem is a simple two-step process: figure out what's causing the problem, and then fix it. OK, maybe it's not that simple: symptoms can have many causes, and causes can have many possible fixes. But with this guide, you can both use symptoms to pinpoint a probable cause and find the cure most likely to work. Even better, you'll learn how to avoid some problems altogether.

Problem: text is totally garbled

You open a document and not just a few characters are wrong – they're all wrong. The basic possibilities are:

- You've disabled or removed a core system font. Activate or replace the font immediately, because your menus and dialog boxes may bite the dust next (see 'These fonts are absolutely necessary' and 'These fonts are important' table on page 101).

- You have Helvetica Fractions installed, which is notorious for messing up font display in several Apple applications. Times Phonetic has also been implicated. Use Apple's Font Book (/Applications) to delete them.

- You've opened a document in an application other than the one that created it. Force-opening 'strange' documents in, say, Apple's TextEdit results in what looks like garbage characters – but garbage is in the eyes of the beholder, and those characters are actually information about the document that the parent application knows how to interpret. This will happen, for instance, if you try to open a PDF file in your word processor, instead of in a PDF reader.

- If there's no obvious explanation for the behaviour, delete the system font caches. Mac OS X 10.4 (Tiger), unlike its OS X predecessors, keeps all its font cache files in a single folder. Just drag the com.apple.ATS folder in /Library/Caches to the Trash and restart your Mac.

Warning: Don't skip the restarting your Mac part. Cache-file information is continually swapped from memory to disk and back to memory. Deleting the cache files doesn't affect what's already in memory; if corrupted information is in memory, it gets written right back to the disk files. On the restart – which you may find takes a little longer than usual – new font cache files are created, so even if this doesn't solve your problem, it won't

hurt anything. It will, however, cause all your disabled fonts in Font Book to become enabled.

Note that all of the files in the com.apple.ATS folder that you just trashed are referred to generally as 'system font caches' to differentiate them from font caches that specific applications create. The folder has subfolders for each user account—the first user's subfolder is 501, the next user's subfolder is 502, and so on—and one folder, named System, for caches that all the accounts share. They are all, however, considered system font caches.

Problem: text is garbled in menus

Helvetica is so important to OS X that your menus and dialog boxes can explode if you don't keep a copy of it around. It doesn't have to be the Helvetica.font that's installed by default in /Library/Fonts; any copy of Helvetica, of any font type, in any Tiger Fonts folder (not a program Fonts folder) will keep things from looking disjointed (see 'Gallery of Font Errors'). Disabling all your Helveticas has the same result as removing them.

Problem: boxes or incorrect characters are substituted

Occasional boxes or substituted characters are due to the differences between the font originally used for the document and the one being used to open it later. To add insult to injury, sometimes the document in question was created on your own pre-OS X Mac. Sometimes the font difference is obvious, and other times it's more subtle:

- You don't have the original font, and your substitute font doesn't have all the characters needed. Get the correct font, or try changing the font to one that has the correct characters.
- You seem to have the correct font—it has the same name – but in fact either yours or the originator's is an older, perhaps non-Unicode-compliant, version. Match the fonts, or reformat the text.
- The document was created in an application that can handle glyphs beyond the Unicode-defined ones, and you're viewing it in a program that can't display those glyphs. The best you can do here is ask the originator for a PDF of the file so you can see it correctly.
- The document was created in Windows with older fonts whose character IDs don't match

your font-character IDs. We inherited this mess from earlier years, when Macs and Windows PCs went their own separate ways with regard to how they handled character references.

If you know which characters are substituted (say, Ö for a curly apostrophe [']), it's possible to perform search-and-replace operations to make the document readable on your end.

Problem: standard option-key combos, like option-v, enter the wrong characters

Option-V gives you a checkmark (✓—OK, it's really a square-root symbol in most fonts), and option-8 provides the beautifully useful bullet (•). When these and other standard option-key combinations stop working, it's due to one of three problems:

- You've chosen a nonstandard keyboard layout from the Input menu (after you turned on the layout in the International preference pane's Input Menu tab).
- You're using the U.S. Extended keyboard layout, which, because it provides so many 'dead-key' option combinations for accents, has to sacrifice the input of many standard option-key characters.
- You're using a font that does not conform to either the old Mac encoding scheme or the new Unicode one. The biggest sinner in this area is the Adobe PostScript Type 1 font Symbol, which clings to its always-been-different key layout.

But a special slap on the wrist goes to Apple for including the mixed-up Handwriting-Dakota font with iLife; try typing curly quotation marks or a bullet character, for instance, and you get accented letters instead.

In the first two cases, just switch to a different keyboard layout to enter the character you need, and then switch right back to the layout you were using. If Adobe's Symbol font or Handwriting-Dakota is the issue and you don't want to change fonts, use Keyboard Viewer to find the characters you need to use. This will help you type the right characters.

Problem: the Letter O Followed by a Slash Turns into an Ø

If you type the letter O followed by a slash

(/), and it turns into the letter Ø, you must be using Palatino, Hoefler, Chicago, or New York in a program like TextEdit, Apple's Pages, or FileMaker.

In cases where smart fonts do stupid things, the helpful technology that substitutes a single-character ligature (fi) for the letters f and i or sticks in swashy-tailed lowercase g's when you type more than one in a row, is "helpfully" substituting a single, different character when you type an O (capital or lowercase) followed by a slash.

And if you think an O isn't often followed by a slash? You forget that Web URLs and Mac OS X path names both use slashes to separate names...

If you're in an application that uses the Font panel, you can turn this off:

1. Open the Font panel (⌘-T).
2. From the Action menu (represented by the gear icon in the lower left of the Font panel), choose Typography.
3. In the Typography panel, expand the Diacritics section (if you don't have a Diacritics section, select a font—such as Palatino—that offers diacritics).
4. Select Don't Compose Diacritics. This turns off the Compose Diacritics option. (A diacritic is a mark, such as an accent, that's placed above, below, or through a roman character.)

In some programs, such as Microsoft Word, this never happens. In others, such as FileMaker, it happens, but there's no Typography panel or equivalent to control it; your only recourse there is to avoid using certain fonts.

Problem: Extra blank lines appear between lines of text

They're not exactly blank lines, because you can't remove them; it's more as though the line spacing changes to quadruple while it's still officially set to single. This is one of the many things that can be fixed when you delete the system font caches.

Problem: Lucida Grande keeps getting applied to your text

If you use an alternative keyboard and try to type characters not included in your current font, Lucida Grande jumps in to save the day, providing those missing characters.

Problem: Text refuses to change to a new font

If the text includes special characters that aren't included in the new font, OS X may overrule the font change, leaving the text in a font that contains the characters you've typed.

Problem: The font changes when text is pasted between applications or imported

The font may not be available in the second application (Adobe applications have a ton more fonts available to them). But don't overlook something else, which isn't a font problem at all: you might have different style definitions in each place. If your Body style is defined as 12-point Verdana in the first document, and the receiving document or application defines Body as 14-point Baskerville, the font is supposed to change.

Problem: Character styles change when text is pasted or imported

This is most often seen with boldface and italic styling, but it's not limited to those two. The changes boil down to which typefaces are available on the originating and receiving ends:

- The font is not available in the receiving application, and the font that's substituted does not have the same variety of typefaces.
- The font versions differ on each end, and one version has more typefaces than the other.
- The same font is used on both ends, and it doesn't have the typeface in question—but one of the applications faked the style. Microsoft applications, for instance, create fake boldface versions of boldface-less fonts by "overprinting" the text horizontally, with each copy offset by a few pixels.
- Special formatting options are available in one application but not the other. For instance, the Font panel shadowing options work in few places besides Apple programs.

Problem: iTunes in Hebrew

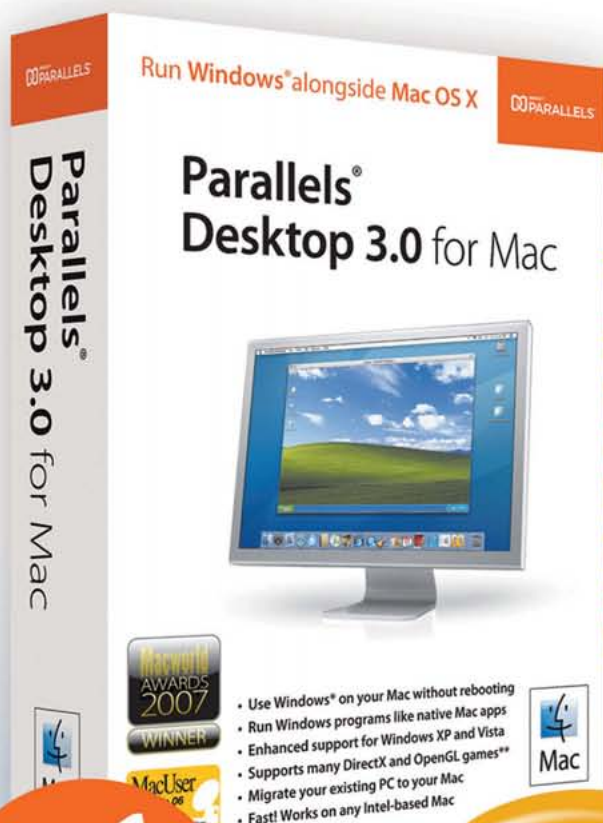
In the Oddest-of-All category, if Hebrew appears in Apple's iTunes, it's almost always because of an extra copy of Lucida Grande in /Library/Fonts or your user folder/Library/Fonts. A single copy belongs in /System/Library/Fonts.

THESE FONTS ARE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY	LOCATION	BECAUSE
AquaKanaBold*, AquaKanaRegular*, Geneva, Helvetica**, Keyboard, LastResort, LucidaGrande, Monaco	/System/Library/Fonts	The operating system needs them
Helvetica LT MM, Times LT MM	/System/Library/Fonts	Preview uses them for font rendering
THESE FONTS ARE IMPORTANT	LOCATION	BECAUSE
Courier, Symbol, Zapf Dingbats	/System/Library/Fonts	They're used on the web and across platforms
Comic Sans, Georgia, Trebuchet, Times New Roman, Verdana	/Library/Fonts	They're used on the web and across platforms
*Anecdotal evidence only. **May be replaced by another version of Helvetica in any Fonts folder the system can access.		

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* Source: ChariTrack 2007

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Linux on the Mac

By Brian Jepson

Parallels Desktop and VMware Fusion do more than just run Windows – try Linux, for example

By now, you know that you can run Windows on an Intel Mac, using either Apple's own Boot Camp or a virtualisation program like Parallels Desktop (www.parallels.com) or VMware Fusion (www.vmware.com). But those virtualisation programs don't just run Windows: they can also run Linux (or any other Intel-compatible operating system) on your Mac. Here's how.

Get the software

Both VMware and Parallels are available as free, time-limited downloads. (If you decide you like Parallels, it costs £38; VMware costs £49.98.

The biggest difference now is that VMware offers clipboard integration, so it's easier to cut and paste items between Mac OS X and Linux; it's only a matter of time before the Mac version of Parallels supports full clipboard integration, too.

Once you've installed your virtualisation software, you need to get Linux. While there are many Linux distributions to choose from, we recommend Ubuntu. Out of the box, it offers a clean, well-tested set of Linux applications, utilities, and functionality.

You can download Ubuntu from www.ubuntu.com. Choose the Desktop Edition of the Standard Personal Computer version (for x86) of Ubuntu 6.06 LTS.

Before you install Ubuntu, make sure your hardware is ready. We recommend 2GB of RAM as a minimum; you're also going to want at least 8GB of free space on your hard drive.

Set up virtualisation

Your next steps depend on the virtualisation program you have chosen.

VMware Fusion Launch VMware Fusion and click on the New button. In the New Virtual Machine Assistant, click on Continue. In the next screen, choose Linux as your operating system, specify Ubuntu, and click on Continue.

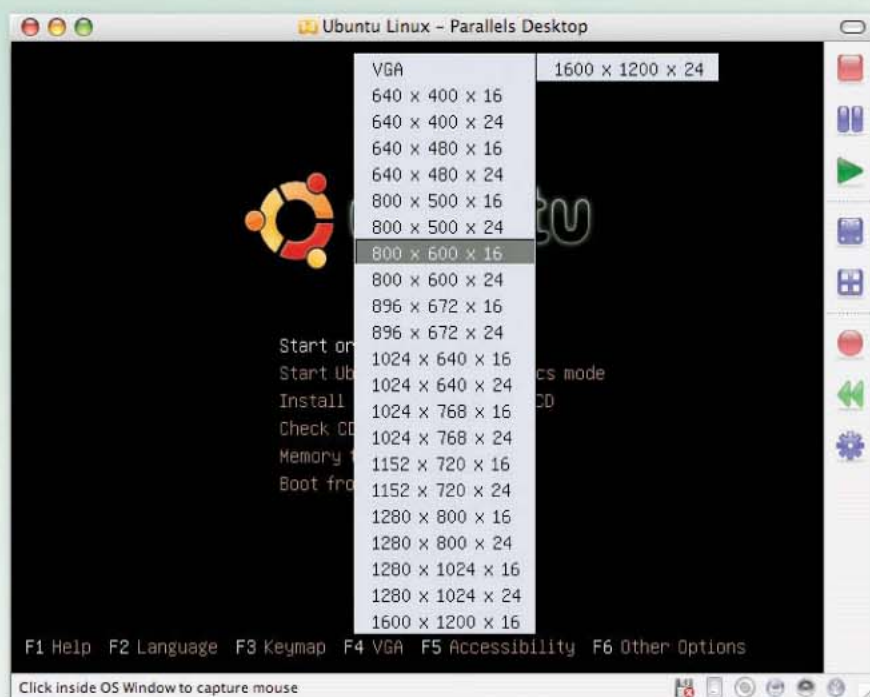
When you're asked to choose a location for the virtual machine, pick a drive with sufficient free space and click on Continue. You'll also be asked to choose the size of your Virtual Hard Disk; 8GB is good.

In the next screen, click on Use Operating System Installation Disk Image File, select None: Other, and choose the Ubuntu ISO that you downloaded. Click on Finish to boot Ubuntu.

Parallels Desktop Launch Parallels and click on New. When the OS Installation Assistant appears, select Typical and Next. Set OS Type to Linux and OS Version to Ubuntu Linux. Then click on Next.

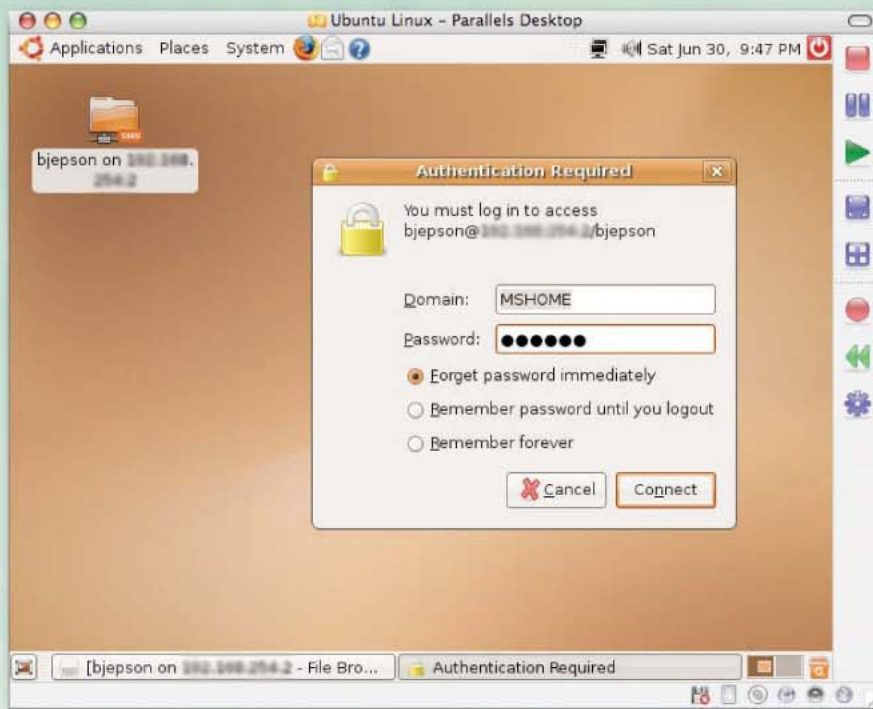
Give the virtual machine a name; if you want to choose a specific location for it, click on More Options and specify the drive. When you're done, click on Next.

Now pick your performance options. If you plan to run other Mac OS X applications while you're running Ubuntu, make Mac OS X faster. If you plan to run Linux all by itself, go ahead and let the virtual machine hog your computer's resources. You'll now be prompted to insert the Ubuntu disc. If you're installing from the ISO



Configuring Graphics To make sure the Ubuntu desktop displays correctly in Parallels, press F4 as the Linux OS is booting up and select a 16-bit graphics mode

Continues page 104 



Sharing Files With Windows file sharing turned on in OS X, you then connect to the shared drive from Ubuntu by entering your OS X user name and password

image, click on More Options and select it. Click on Finish.

Parallels has trouble displaying 32-bit colour in Linux, so click inside the Ubuntu window as soon as it starts booting, and press F4 when you see the message 'Start or install Ubuntu'. From the text-mode menu that appears, use the arrow keys to select one of the 16-bit graphics modes (such as 800 × 600 × 16), and then press enter. Press enter again to boot Ubuntu.

Install Ubuntu

Whichever virtualisation program you're using, after Ubuntu boots up you should see the Ubuntu LiveCD desktop.

As soon as you click inside that window, the virtual machine's cursor should start responding to your mouse. Double-click on the desktop Install icon. Choose your language, time zone, and keyboard layout. You'll then be asked to partition your disk. Don't worry – you aren't partitioning your real hard disk, just the virtual one. Tell the installer to erase the entire disk, and click on Forward.

The installer will then ask you a few questions to set up your user account on the Ubuntu system. After that, review the install settings and, if you're happy with them, click on Install. When installation is finished, you'll be prompted to restart Ubuntu. After it restarts, you can log in.

Tweak your setup

You're not quite done yet: you'll need to tweak your setup so you can use your Mac's optical drive, and cut and paste text and share files between the two OSs.

To start, in Ubuntu go to System → Administration → Synaptic Package Manager, and enter your Ubuntu password. Click on

Search, find the package named build-essential, and mark it for installation. Next, click on Mark All Upgrades, and then on Apply.

VMware Fusion Right-click on the icon for the Ubuntu ISO image on your virtual machine's desktop and choose Eject.

From VMware's menus, select Virtual Machine → CD/DVD → CD/DVD Settings. Select the Specify Physical CD/DVD Drive radio button, and then choose your CD drive from the drop-down list. From Ubuntu's menus, choose System → Quit → Restart.

After Ubuntu restarts, log in and, from VMware's menus, choose Virtual Machine → Install VMware Tools.

After a short delay, a window should open up on your desktop showing two files, one of them a .tar.gz file. Double-click on that, and then click on Extract. Save the file to your home directory and close the windows.

Within Ubuntu, select Application → Accessories → Terminal. There, type `cd vmware-tools-distrib`, press enter, and type `sudo ./vmware-install.pl`. You'll be asked for your Ubuntu password, so type that in now.

The installer will ask you a lot of questions. Accept the default answers by pressing enter until you get to the question about display resolution. Choose the one you want and press enter. You should see the message 'Enjoy, the VMware team'.

Parallels Desktop To enable Parallels to use your Mac's optical drive, choose Devices → CD/DVD-ROM 1 → Default D/DVD-ROM.

Then select Actions → Install Parallels Tools from the Parallels menu. You'll get a brief set of instructions. Within Ubuntu, open a Terminal session (again, by selecting Application → Accessories → Terminal.)

At the prompt, enter: `sudo mount /media/cdrom0` and provide your Ubuntu password when prompted. Next, type the command `cd /media/cdrom0` followed by: `sudo sh parallels-tools.run`. When those commands are done running, reboot your virtual machine by selecting System → Quit → Restart from the Ubuntu menu.

Share files

To share files between Ubuntu and Mac OS X, you first need to turn on Windows file sharing in Mac OS X.

Within OS X, go to the Sharing preference pane. Choose the Services tab, select Windows Sharing, and click on the Start button. Before you leave, note the IP address that OS X says you'll need to use.

That done, go to Ubuntu and click on Places → Connect To Server. From the Service Type drop-down menu, select Windows Share. Enter the IP address of your Mac in the Server field and your Mac user name in both the User Name and Share fields, and then click Connect.

An icon for the connection should appear on the Ubuntu desktop. When you double-click on that icon, you should be prompted for the password you use to log in to OS X. You should now have access to your Mac's home directory from within Ubuntu.

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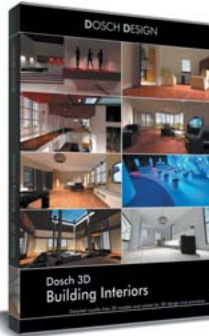
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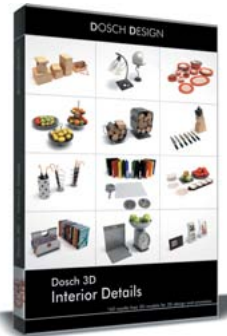
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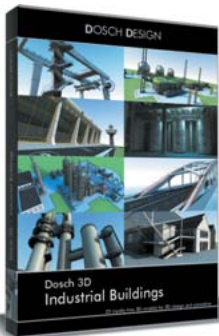
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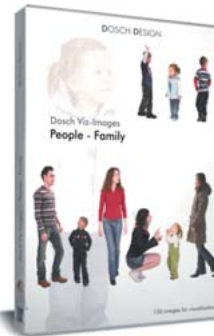
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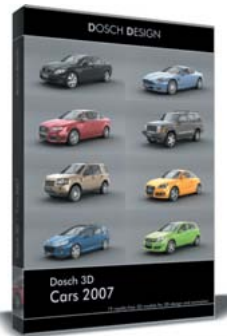
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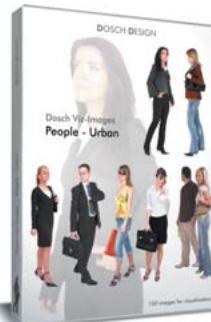
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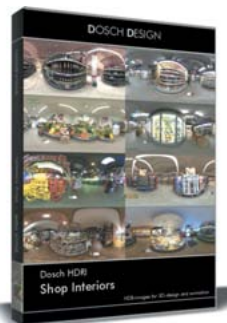
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Great Flickr add-ons

By Derrick Story

Cool tools for fans of the popular photo-sharing site

It's little wonder that Flickr (www.flickr.com) has become the photo-sharing website of choice for so many digital photographers. In a matter of minutes, you can set up a free account, upload photos, and invite friends and family to view your masterpieces. Add tags (descriptive keywords) to those photos, and anyone can find and enjoy your images. Guests can add comments, offer suggestions for improving your shots, and even include you in their contacts list, creating a social network of like-minded users.

But if you think you've seen all Flickr can do, you may be in for a surprise. An abundance of Flickr add-ons and related websites make the photo-sharing experience faster, nimbler, and more fun.

Email photos to your account

Why wait until you get back to your Mac to add photos to your Flickr account? If you have a camera phone with email support, you can upload your latest shots simply by sending an email. This trick is particularly handy for iPhone and Treo users.

To set it up, make sure you're logged in to your Flickr account, and then go to Flickr's Tools page (www.flickr.com/tools). Click on the Upload By Email link, and Flickr will provide you with

an email address specifically for your account. The next time you capture a photo with your mobile device's camera, just attach it to an email addressed to the Flickr account. The subject line of your email message becomes the photo's title. You can add a caption by typing a description in the body of the message. To add tags to your photo, type tags: in either the subject line or the body, followed by the tags you want to apply. iPhone users should note that you must add the caption and tag information below the image that appears in the body; Flickr won't read any information above the image.

By the way, if your phone automatically applies a signature to all outgoing email, you may want to remove it before sending photos – otherwise it will be included in the photo caption.

Speaking of using Flickr on the go, a mobile version of Flickr (m.flickr.com) works great with smart phones. It doesn't load images initially, but instead presents you with relevant links so you can quickly navigate to the area you're interested in – such as photos from your contacts. If you're working off a cellular network instead of WiFi, you might want to try this bandwidth-saving route.

Edit photos online

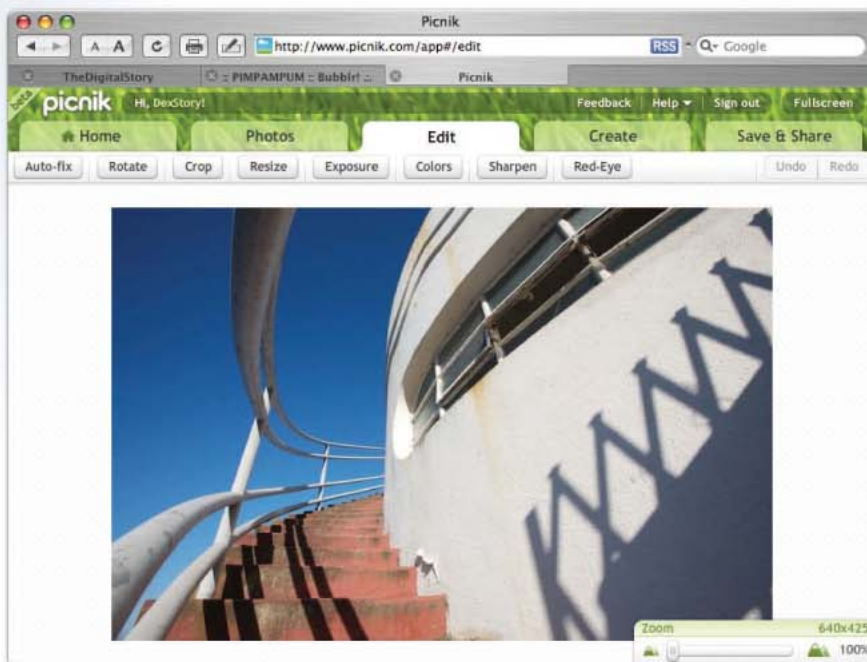
If you decide you want to touch up your photos after uploading them to your Flickr account, turn to Picnik (www.picnik.com). This free online image editor includes essential tools – such as cropping, colour adjustment, red-eye reduction, and sharpening – and connects seamlessly to Flickr.

Once you sign up for a Picnik account, you can access your Flickr photos from Picnik's interface, perform your edits, and then save the corrected version back to your Flickr account. You can either replace the original or upload the altered version as a new image. The whole process works wonderfully. However, you'll need to have both JavaScript and Flash enabled in your browser – so that means you can't edit photos via your iPhone.

Add Flickr images to your site

Wouldn't it be nice to include a slide show or preview of your favourite pictures on your blog or personal website? One solution is Admarket's FlickrSlidr (flickrslidr.com), which lets you embed custom Flickr slide shows on any web

Touch Up Photos Picnik lets you beautify your Flickr photos in the blink of an eye



Continues page 108

Custom Comic Strip
Bubblr lets your pictures
do the talking



page. Just provide flickrSlidr with the URL of the photostream, photo set, or group from which you want to grab photos, or enter tags to create a thematic slide show.

Then specify the height and width of the slide show, and in return you'll receive the HTML code to paste into your web page.

If the slide show format takes up too much room, or if you prefer something simpler, take a look at Flickr badges (www.flickr.com/badge.gne). You can create either a static HTML badge showing just a couple of photos, or a Flash version that's in constant motion. Because Flickr provides the tool, you must be logged in to your account to create your badge. You can select your photos by tag or set, and choose the layout. Flickr will generate the necessary code.

Strip out tags

If you were overzealous in applying tags to your photos – or later discover you misspelled a few tags – you'll find correcting the problem one photo at a time a tedious affair. Thankfully, there's a better way. First, make sure you're logged in to your Flickr account. Then point

your browser to www.flickr.com/photos/me/tags/tagtodelete/delete. Replace tagtodelete in the URL with the tag you want to strip out. Confirm your decision, and the tag will be removed from all your images.

Create a comic strip

Want to say something with your photos? Bubblr (www.pimpampum.net/bubblr) can help. This online tool lets you create comic strips using images from Flickr. The Bubblr site lets you pull in photos from your personal photostream, or search the entire Flickr site via tags.

Simply drag images into your comic strip's frames, and then add dialogue or thought bubbles filled with your own text. When you're done, you can publish your masterpiece on the Bubblr site, where others can enjoy it. To download the strip to your Mac, click on the Print link at the bottom of the page and choose Save As PDF from the Print dialog box.

And plenty more

These Flickr tools represent just a fraction of what's available to adventurous Flickr users. For a list of other plug-ins and tools, check out FlickrBits (www.flickrbits.com). **MW**

Taking the pain out of uploading

If you're still uploading photos to Flickr via the site's web interface, it's time to find a better way. Here are a few options for Mac users:

From the Finder Flickr offers its own Mac-compatible upload software, Uploadr, which you can download for free from www.flickr.com/tools. Once you've installed it, authorise Uploadr to access your Flickr account, and then start dragging pictures into the Photos column. The program lets you add a title, a description, and tags to your photos. If you're in a hurry and don't want to type metadata for each image individually, a Batch function lets you add a group of tags to all the images at once.

From iPhoto For iPhoto users, we recommend Connected Flow's FlickrExport For iPhoto (£12; www.connectedflow.com), which lets you upload photos directly from Apple's popular photo-management program. FlickrExport will automatically turn your iPhoto keywords into Flickr tags, mark photos to include as part of a group pool, and even add geodata stored within the image.

From Aperture Connected Flow also offers two Aperture plug-ins for Flickr. The Lite version, which is free, lets you alter the image's metadata and turn keywords into Flickr tags before uploading the images.

A full version, which costs £14, offers additional features, such as the ability to download photos from Flickr directly into Aperture for editing.

From Photoshop Lightroom Although there is currently no upload tool designed specifically for Adobe Photoshop Lightroom, you can use Flickr Uploadr for the task.

Here's the trick: First, designate Uploadr as Lightroom's additional external editor (in the External Editors preference pane). Select the photos you want to upload, and choose File→Export Photos. In the Post Processing section of the Export window, select Open In Flickr Uploadr from the After Export menu. When you click on Export, Uploadr will appear with your selected Lightroom images.

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The real paperless office

Don't just talk about reducing paper – do something about it

By Joe Kissell

Computers were supposed to make paperless offices possible, but most of us are surrounded by more pages than ever. It is possible to break free from the grip of the printer, however.

Develop a system that allows you to eliminate all but a slim handful of papers from your formerly bulging filing cabinets. Scan your documents and convert them to PDF files that include both high-resolution images of the originals (for reference and later printing) and – using optical character recognition (OCR) software – digitise copies of document text (so you can search, select, or copy it).

As a result, you'll have more free space on your desk and in your filing cabinets, and almost every piece of paper in your erstwhile files – old tax forms, letters from your bank, and more, as well as new stuff that still comes in – is now searchable, easy to back up, and accessible from just about anywhere.

Get the right hardware

The first key is a good scanner. Fujitsu's ScanSnap (scansnap.fujitsu.com) is our tool of choice. It's speedy (it can scan up to 18 pages per minute), it can scan both sides of the page at once, it automatically detects page size

and type (colour or black and white), and it includes a copy of Adobe Acrobat Standard.

While the ScanSnap is our favourite, you can find less expensive sheet-fed scanners. Just be sure the model you choose has an automatic document feeder, bundled OCR software, a USB 2.0 interface, and a high page-per-minute rating.

As for hard-drive space, don't worry: with the settings recommended below, expect scanned PDFs to occupy about 250KB per page (or side) for black-and-white documents, 500KB for colour. In other words, you should be able to store up to 4,000 pages in 1GB of disk space.

Get the right software

You'll also need two pieces of software. First, your scanner should come with some basic software, including OS X drivers and an application that lets you configure resolution, colour bit depth, file type, default folders, and other settings; if you don't have that, check the vendor's website.

You'll also need an application that can perform OCR on your scanned documents and then combine the text with the original image of the page in a PDF file. The best candidates are Acrobat 8 Professional (www.adobe.com) Acrobat Standard (version 7 should work), DevonThink Pro Office (\$150 – £72.26 – www.irislink.com), or ReadIris Pro 11.

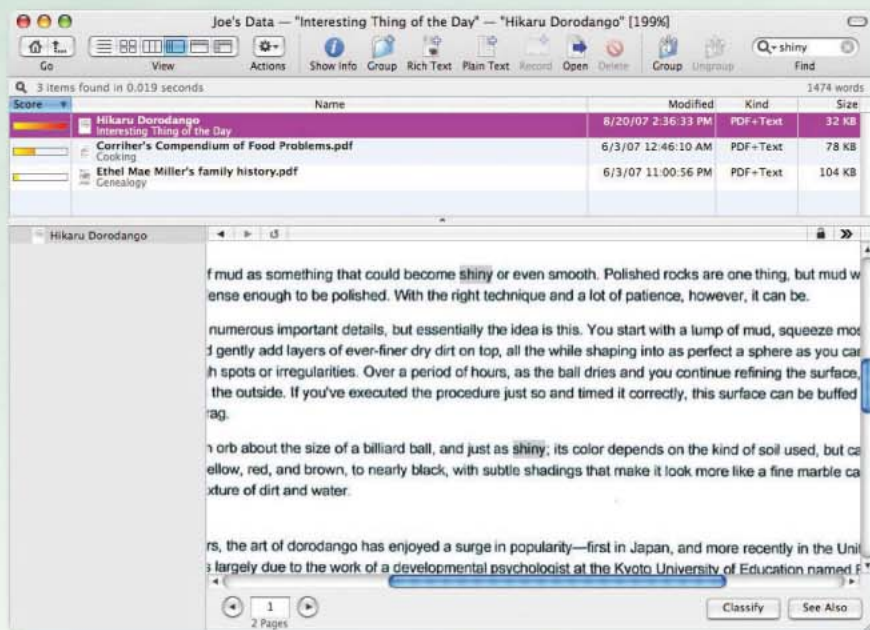
Most of the free or less-expensive versions of these programs won't work. Adobe Reader won't work, and neither will DevonThink or DevonThink Pro (the less-expensive versions of DevonThink Pro Office). Bundled versions of ReadIris should be OK.

Your scanner may have come with all the software you need; the ScanSnap, for example, includes a copy of Acrobat Standard, and many other scanners come with ReadIris Pro.

If your scanner comes with driver software but not a suitable OCR program, we recommend DevonThink Pro Office.

It produces fast, accurate OCR results, imports scanned files automatically with minimal configuration, and provides a convenient interface for storing and searching scanned PDFs. Because Adobe Acrobat is so common, I'll provide specific instructions for it below.

DevonThink Pro Office Using the PDF+Text format, DevonThink Pro Office can search the content of scanned PDFs, and enable you to select and copy text inside them



Configure the software

You then need to tweak the software to get the best results. Again, consult your scanner's documentation to find out how to change these settings.

Resolution 300dpi yields the best trade-off between quality and convenience. In ScanSnap Manager, go to the Scanning tab and choose Better (Faster) from the Image Quality pop-up menu to get 300dpi scans.

File type Since documents ultimately end up as PDFs in this system, it's best to save scans as PDFs from the outset. In ScanSnap Manager, go to the File Option tab and choose PDF (*.pdf) from the File Format pop-up menu. If PDF isn't available in your scanning software, choose TIFF.

File location Most scanning software lets you put scanned images wherever you want. Save them to a subfolder named Scans in your Pictures folder, so you can easily find scanned documents later. In ScanSnap Manager, go to the Save tab, click on the Browse button, locate the folder you want to use, and click on Choose.

Other settings Turn on automatic duplex scanning and colour detection: in ScanSnap Manager, go to the Scanning tab, choose Auto Color Detection from the Color Mode pop-up menu and Duplex Scan (Double-Sided) from the Scanning Side pop-up menu.

If you can, tell the software to remove blank pages from scans, adjust crooked images, and automatically rotate images that are upside down or in landscape mode. In ScanSnap Manager, go to the Scanning tab, click on Option, and select the Allow Automatic Blank Page Removal, Correct Skewed Character Strings Automatically, and Allow Automatic Image Rotation options.

Automate your scans

Next configure your scanning software so it will send scans directly to your OCR program, save the document with the new text layer, and close the file. Here's how to do that in Acrobat; you can follow similar procedures for whichever software you're using.

Start by configuring Acrobat's OCR settings. Open a PDF file and choose Document→Recognize Text Using OCR→Start. In the dialog box that appears, click on Edit, make sure English – UK is selected in the Primary OCR Language pop-up menu, and choose Searchable Image (Exact) from the PDF Output Style pop-up menu.

Next, set up an AppleScript Folder Action to automate the processing of new scans. You can download AppleScripts for Acrobat and ReadIris Pro from macworld.com/3048. DevonThink Pro Office takes care of this process automatically. ScanSnap Manager can automatically open scanned files in any of these programs, but can't automate the rest of the process.

Once you've downloaded the script you need, save it in /Library/Scripts/Folder Action Scripts; we call ours 'OCR This'. Control-click on the folder you've designated to hold new scans and, from the contextual menu, choose Enable Folder Actions.

Control-click again and choose Attach A



ScanSnap Manager The Better (Faster) mode setting in Fujitsu's ScanSnap Manager software lets you specify 300-dpi scans

Folder Action. In the window that appears, navigate to your new AppleScript file, select it, and click on Choose.

Now try scanning a new document. If everything works correctly, Acrobat should open shortly after your scan finishes, recognise the text in the document, and close the document window when it's finished.

Set up a workflow

With the technology in place, you can start scanning. But if you have thousands of pages to digitise, you're looking at a long process. Before you begin, work out a good strategy.

Narrow the field Consider culling documents you don't really need, rather than scanning everything blindly.

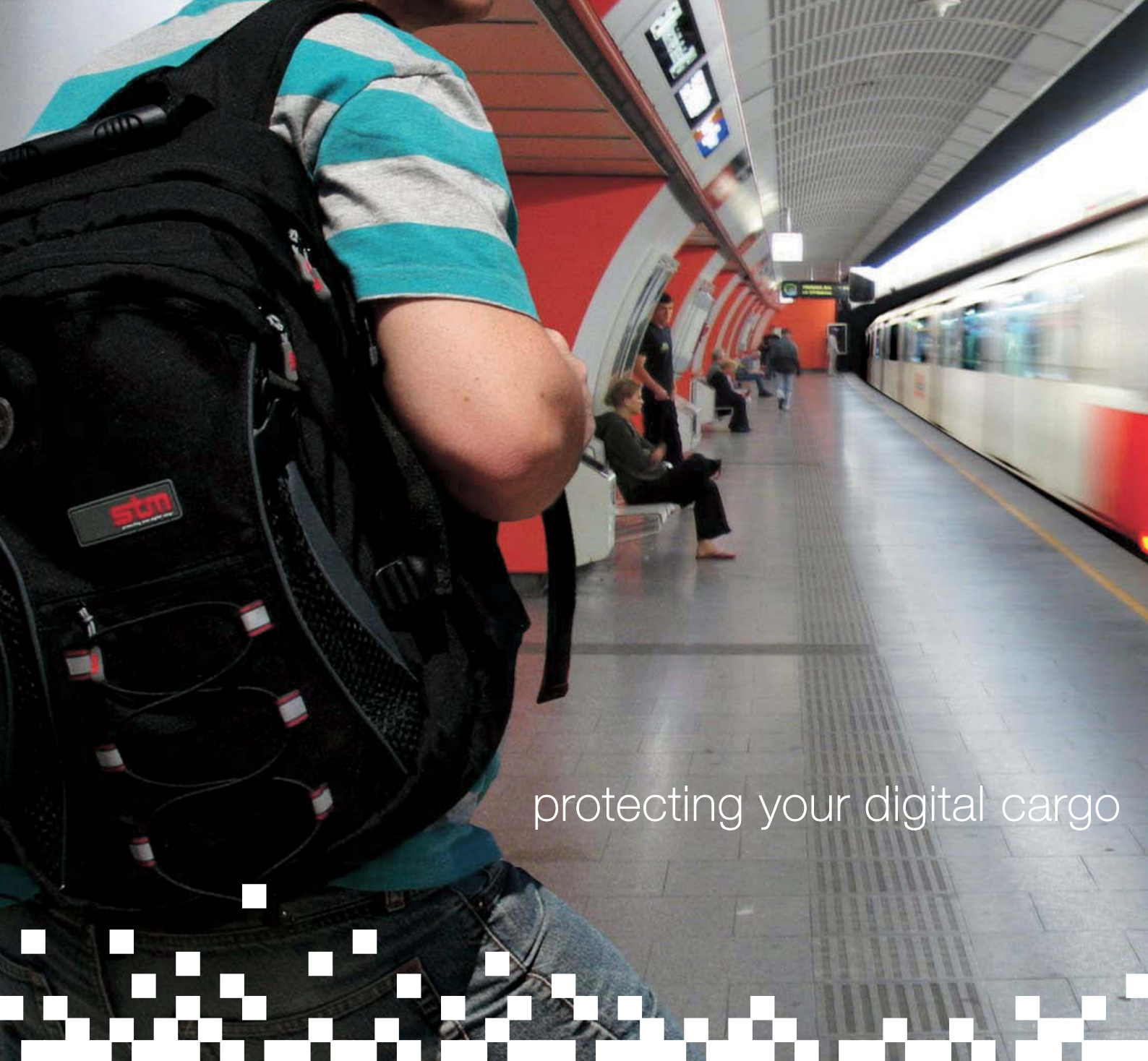
Play the name game Give each document a descriptive label as soon as possible, while the contents are still fresh in your memory.

Devise a filing system Make sure you know where you're going to store each document – and move it there immediately after scanning.

Get rid of the paper After scanning your documents, decide which ones you need to shred, which you can recycle, and which you must keep safe (legal documents such as birth certificates and notarised contracts).

Don't overdo it If you've got millions of papers, don't try to scan them all at once. Set a goal of, say, 50 sheets a day. Once you're caught up, get in the habit of regularly scanning and then disposing of (or filing) new documents. **MW**

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By Christopher Breen and Rob Griffiths

Hiding iWeb pages

Q Every time I make a page in iWeb, a link to it appears in the navigation bar at the top of every page. I'd like to make some pages accessible only through links that I put on particular pages in the site. Is this possible?

Amal Chandaria

A If you know where to look, it's easy to do this in Apple's iWeb '08 (part of the £55 iLife suite) or the original iWeb. Select the page you want to hide in iWeb's Source list, choose View→Show Inspector, click on the Page tab in the resulting Inspector window, and deselect the Include Page In Navigation Menu option (see 'Control iWeb Pages').

The link to that page (or set of pages, if you've added a template such as Blog) will disappear completely from the site's navigation bar.

Safari's regrettable memory

Q Safari does a reasonable job of trying to guess and fill in the web address I am about to type. After a while, though, its memory becomes cluttered. When I type g to go to Google, for example, it guesses that I want to go to a genealogical web page I visited once. How can I erase all the web addresses, or at least the undesired ones, from Safari's brain?

Bill Zagotta

A Apple's Safari 2.0.X doesn't provide one single command for getting rid of these memorised entries. They're concocted from Safari's bookmarks, cache, and history. You can get close by choosing Safari→Reset Safari, but doing this can be problematic. In the first place, it doesn't touch your bookmarks, so some of those entries will still appear. Secondly, it will clear more data than you probably want it to. In addition to deleting the history and emptying the cache, it clears the Downloads window, removes all cookies, and gets rid of any user names and passwords you may have asked it to save. You might prefer to clear out Safari's memory manually instead. Start by choosing Safari→Empty Cache. Then choose History→Clear History. Then go into the Bookmarks area and clear out bookmarks you don't want.

Alternatively, adopt some new habits. The first



Control iWeb pages Make pages disappear from your iWeb site's navigation bar by disabling the Include Page In Navigation Menu option

would be to type more than just that first letter g when you want to hop to google.com. Try "go" and see if that works. Or bypass the whole autofill thing by clicking on the Address field, pressing the spacebar once, and starting to type. Autofill doesn't work if the first character is a space.

You can help prevent the addition of entries by choosing Safari→Private Browsing when you surf. With this option enabled, Safari won't cache the websites you visit or add them to its history; therefore they won't appear as Autofill entries.

Liven up Numbers spreadsheets

tip If you want to make your spreadsheets more appealing, you can easily include images in Numbers '08, part of Apple's £55 iWork '08 suite. Use the Media icon on the toolbar, select the Insert→Choose menu item, or drag an image onto your spreadsheet. But once you get an image in, you might find making it do what you want tricky.

Firstly, Numbers adds images to the top layer of your worksheet by default, which means they'll cover up your data. Select Arrange→Send To Back to move the picture behind the table cells. That's fine if you want your data to have a white background that blots out the image (as it will by default in many templates), but what if you want to see the image behind all the cells?

You might think that you need to change the cells' fill option, but if you select a cell and open the Graphic tab of the Inspector (View→Show Inspector), you'll see that the fill is set to None. The secret is that in Numbers, the grid also has a fill, and by default that fill is white.

To remove it, first click on the grid once to activate it. When you can see the row and column headers, click in the upper left corner. You'll see an empty grey square above the number 1 and to the left of the letter A. The row and column headers will vanish, leaving the grid with a selection box around it. Now open the Inspector, click on

Continues page 114

Bugs & Fixes



iPhone Error 1603 When trying to restore your iPhone in Apple's iTunes, you may see the following error message: "The iPhone could not be restored. An unknown error occurred. Error 1603." To fix this problem, restart your Mac and try again. If that doesn't eliminate the error, connect your iPhone to a different USB port, ideally one that's connected to the Mac itself (rather than to a keyboard or USB hub).



Console log infinite loop Launch Apple's Console utility (/Applications/Utilities) and check your Console log. Do you see the same message repeatedly – for example, 'Looking for devices matching vendor ID=1193 and product ID=8717'? If so, this almost certainly means that a running program is searching for a hardware peripheral that's not connected to your Mac. It's a minor problem that could slow down your Mac's performance.

How does the offending software wind up on your Mac? In our case, it happened when we installed the software for our

Canon scanner. It installed two items in our Login Items list, each necessary to enable the buttons on Canon scanners. However, only one was for our model; the other (named NO67U_ButtonManager) was for a different model. That was the file that was generating the errors. The solution is simple: go to your Accounts preference pane, click on the Login Items tab, and delete the unnecessary item from the list. Log out and log back in, and the errors should stop.



DMG file mounting glitch After you download a disk image (.dmg) file, it should either mount automatically or mount when you double-click on the file. If it doesn't, the Finder might be attempting, and failing, to open the .dmg file in a seemingly random application.

To fix this, select the image file, hold down the option key, and select File→Always Open With. In the menu that appears, select DiskImageMounter. If this application is not in the menu, select Other and navigate to the /System/Library/CoreServices folder. You'll find the DiskImageMounter application there.

the Graphic tab, and set Fill to None.

The cells in the table body will then most likely reveal the background image – unless the template you're using has some cells set to have a white fill. If you don't want those cells to be white either, select the row and use the Graphic Inspector to set Fill to None.

Now customise your spreadsheet. You can vary which cells show what parts of the image and with how much translucency by setting some cells to have a fill and then changing the opacity. After you select Color Fill on the Graphic tab, click on the colour sample square that appears. The Colors palette will open;

tweak the Opacity slider here to reveal more or less of the image behind it (see 'Image-Rich Spreadsheets').

Try Dictionary widget tricks



Mac OS X 10.4's Dictionary widget provides a convenient way to look up the occasional word in the dictionary or thesaurus. Using it is as straightforward as can be – press F12 to bring up Dashboard, open the widget if it's not currently showing, and then type your word into the search box in the widget's upper right corner. But this little program

does have a few hidden nuances.

First, as is the case with text in many OS X applications, you can get the search box to show you possible completions based on the characters you've typed so far. How? Just press and hold control, option, or ⌘, and then press the escape key, and you'll see a drop-down list of completions. Scroll down to the word you'd like to use and press return, and its definition will appear.

Once you have a definition visible, Dictionary has one more trick up its sleeve. Type rain, for instance, and you'll see its definition. Now click on the half-circle with the capital R on it, sticking out on the widget's left edge.

A list of other known words and phrases that start with rain appears. Click on one of those words to jump to its definition, or click on the capital letter again (before clicking on another word), and you'll switch back to the standard definition of rain.

Toggle the widget from Dictionary mode to Thesaurus mode, and the same trick works; here it will show you a list of other words in the thesaurus that are similar in meaning to the chosen word – in this case, rain. Toggle the capital letter again, and you're back to the thesaurus entries for rain.

Easy blind carbon copy option for Mail

Q I like to use the Addresses window in Apple's Mail to address messages. I don't see a button there that will let me put an address in the BCC field instead of the To field. What's the best way to do that? Marty Grauer

A The Addresses window (Window→Address Panel) in Apple's Mail for OS X 10.4 (Tiger) doesn't include a BCC option. Try a



Keychain syncing Synchronizing your keychains with a .Mac account is the best way to get all your passwords onto all your Macs



Image-Rich spreadsheets Make Numbers' cell grids transparent, and you can create interesting effects by placing images behind the grids

different approach: create a new email message (⌘-N), choose View→BCC Address Field (⌘-option-B), open the Address Panel, and then drag the recipient names you want into the BCC field.

View Photo Books on screen

tip Apple's iPhoto can create a variety of products that are ideal as Christmas gifts, such as calendars and printed books. The end results are stunning, but far from cheap. If you're thinking of forgoing print and making an electronic photo book instead (by saving and distributing it as a PDF file), here are some tips for viewing it on screen.

To get the most book-like experience, set your PDF viewer to display the book two pages at a time. In Apple's Preview, open the PDF, choose View→PDF

Display→Facing Pages, and then enter slide-show mode (⌘-shift-F or View→Slideshow).

Click on the Fit To Screen button (second from the right in the controller at the bottom of the screen) to make the pages fill your monitor. If you're using Adobe Reader instead, select View→Page Display→Two Up. Next select Adobe Reader→Preferences, click on Full Screen in the Categories column, and deselect the Fill Screen With One Page At A Time option. Click on OK. Now select View→Full Screen Mode (⌘-L) and enjoy.

See everything in iTunes

tip With the advent of Apple's free iTunes 7, the company split the monolithic library entry into several distinct libraries: Music, Movies, TV Shows, Podcasts, and Radio. While this

makes sense, at times we'd like to browse our entire collection of stuff. Prior to iTunes 7.1, you could do this with a simple three-line AppleScript. That no longer works in newer versions of iTunes. There is, however, another solution: use a smart playlist.

Create a smart playlist (File→New Smart Playlist) with only one rule: Size Is Greater Than 0MB. Make sure Live Updating is selected so that the smart playlist will update as you add new content to iTunes.

Name your smart playlist whatever you like (we called ours Kitchen Sink), but start the name by pressing option-space so the playlist will sort to the top of the Playlists section.

If you prefer, you can even sort your merged library by type of content – just make sure the Kind column is visible in the main iTunes window by control-clicking on the column headers and choosing Kind from the pop-up menu.

When you're viewing your collection in this smart playlist, pressing the delete key will remove an item only from the playlist. Press option-delete to remove it from your computer.

Copying Keychains

Q I have a lot of passwords stored in my PowerBook's keychain. I want to put an exact copy of the keychain on my iBook, just in case my trusty PowerBook gives up the ghost, but Mac Help is vague about how to do this.

Jason M. Krellenstein

A The first step to copying your keychain is finding it. Look inside your user folder/Library/Keychains. Login.keychain is the default user keychain file that OS X creates – the one you unlock with your login password. If you've created a new keychain – Chris's keychain.keychain, for example – you'll find it here as well.

Copying a keychain from one computer to another, however, can be problematic. If that other computer uses a different user name or password, it'll bombard you with password requests.

Even with the same user name and password, you'll run into the occasional request for a password you know is in the keychain.

For example, when we copied a keychain to another computer that used the same user name and password, Internet Connect asked us for our virtual private network (VPN) password – despite the fact that it never did that on the original computer.

If you subscribe to Apple's .Mac service (£69 per year; www.mac.com/uk), you'll be happy to know you already have a way to avoid these problems. The service gives you the option to sync your keychain between your .Mac account and any Macs you sync with it (see "Keychain syncing").

You'll find the option for syncing keychains – as well as bookmarks; calendars; contacts; Mail accounts; and Mail rules, signatures, and smart mailboxes – in the Sync tab of the .Mac preference pane. Select the Synchronize With .Mac option and then choose from the list.

Automatically update podcasts

If you select iTunes→Preferences and click on the Podcasts tab, you can choose to update podcasts hourly, daily, weekly, or manually. But sometimes none of these options fits the bill – say you select Daily, but you shut down iTunes in the evening before the update has a chance to run. When you next connect your iPod, you may find that you don't have any new podcasts.

You can, of course, fix this by clicking on Podcasts in iTunes' Source list and then clicking on the Refresh button, but a one-line AppleScript will save you some work if you find yourself doing this often. First open Script Editor (/Applications/AppleScript/) and type this line (or copy and paste it from macworld.com/3070):

tell application "iTunes" to updateAllPodcasts

Select File→Save As and name your script Update Podcasts. In the Save As dialog box, navigate to your user folder/Library/iTunes/Scripts. If you don't see the Scripts folder, click on New Folder to create it.

Now switch to iTunes and you'll see a new AppleScript icon between the Window and Help menus. Click on it and choose Update Podcasts. The Scripts folder is one of iTunes' hidden gems. Any AppleScripts you store in it will appear in this menu (see macworld.com/3071 for some great recommendations).



Continues page 116

OS X 10.5 Leopard tips & tricks

Handy tips for Leopard from www.macfixit.com



Time control

A reader's handy hack will enable you to change the frequency that Time Machine backs up your drive

Time Machine control



If you think Time Machine backs up too often (or not often enough) for your liking, navigate into `/System/Library/LaunchDaemons`. There you'll find a file named `com.apple.backup-auto.plist`. Open it in your favourite text editor, and look for this section:

```
<key>StartInterval</key>
<integer>3600</integer>
```

Change the 3600 number to some other time interval in seconds, and you'll have changed Time Machine's backup interval.

Submitted by Jacco Rens

Spaces made simpler



This simple tip makes using Spaces even easier: in the Exposé/Spaces prefs panel, assign one of your screen corners to Spaces. This will allow you to see the Spaces screen overview as if you opened the Spaces app or hit the F-key.

Submitted by Derek Kelly

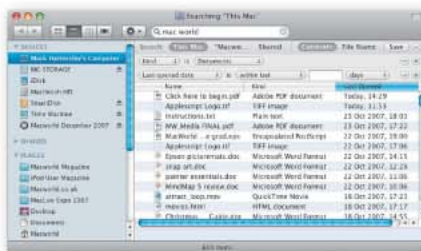
Conditional Spotlight parameters



In a Spotlight search window, you can add exclusionary search parameters by holding down the Option key while clicking the add button. It changes the icon from a plus sign to three dots, and adds a line to the search query with a conditional pull-down menu, where you can select Any, All, or None. Nested below that is a standard search line. These conditional parameters can even be nested into each other. This is basically a GUI alternative to using boolean expressions in the Spotlight text search field.

This is how the Today, Yesterday, and Past Week searches that appear in the Finder's sidebar are built. They search first by time, then use a conditional line to exclude folders, presumably since folders aren't actual content but merely a way of organising content.

Submitted by Flux Harmonic



Boolean bonus Spotlight now enables you to add boolean expressions to search queries using the '+' button

Quick Look navigation



When you've used the new Quick Look feature on any document, you can then use the arrow keys (or the mouse) to navigate, just like normal Finder operation. This means with a little keyboard command wrangling (especially command - to cycle windows), you can keep Quick Look open as you browse folders, connected volumes, and so on.

Submitted by P Curtner

Change the Dock



I know a lot of people are not fans of the 3D dock, but I love it. One thing that was bugging me though was that little curve that was in it.

It seemed so unnecessary. In trying to see if I could remove it, I found out that the whole background is one PNG image.

The image is found here: `/System/Library/CoreServices/Dock`. Control-click on the Dock file and select Show Package Contents from the pop-up menu. Once inside the dock's package contents, you need to go into the Resources folder. There is a bit of an unknown here: the dock's background image is called `scurve.png`, and if you're doing this as you read, you'll see there are several `scurve` files. The one that worked on my system was `scurve-l.png`. You may have to try some other `scurve` files (they range from `sm` to `xl`) to get it to work.

Copy `scurve-l.png` and place it somewhere so you know where it is and can edit it. I made a second copy of this as well, because you will have to replace the one in the package, and I wanted an original just in case. Fire up your favourite image editor that supports layer opacity. The reflection in the dock is actually a layer below the image you are editing, so the amount of opacity you set your image to in the image editor will determine how reflective your dock is.

Submitted by X FanX

Upgrading advice



If you have, in the past, swapped your system hard drive on your Intel Mac, you might want to check its partition scheme before upgrading to Leopard. I swapped my MacBook's internal drive shortly after buying the laptop. I formatted it as an external drive, used Carbon Copy Cloner to clone my internal drive, then did the swap. When I tried to upgrade to Leopard, the installer wouldn't let me, saying I had to repartition my drive.

I had to use CCC to clone my disk again, reformat the drive, and restore it with the clone. Check the partition scheme by going into Disk Utilities, click on the hard drive (*not* the partition under it) and click Get Info.

Submitted by Rawhead

Enable the root user



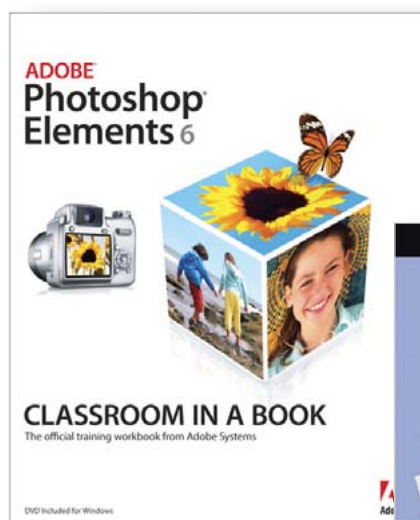
Open Directory Utility located in Application/Utilities. You may have to unlock Directory Utility to make changes. Once it's unlocked, go to Edit→Enable Root User, and then type in a password for your root user.

You can now use the root user, and the 'Other Users' option now shows up on the login window.

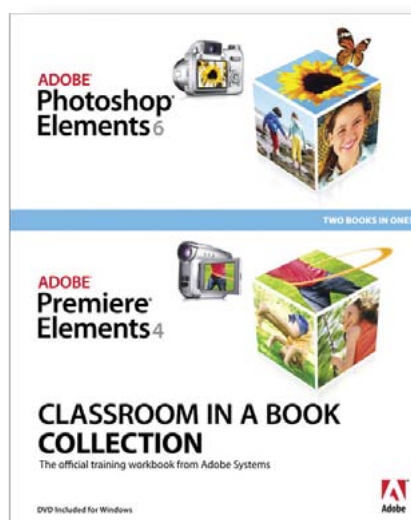
Submitted by Scotepi

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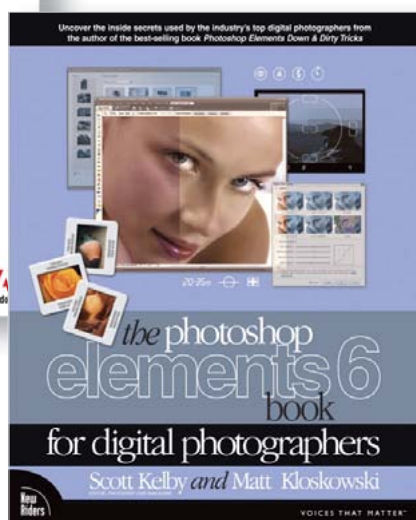
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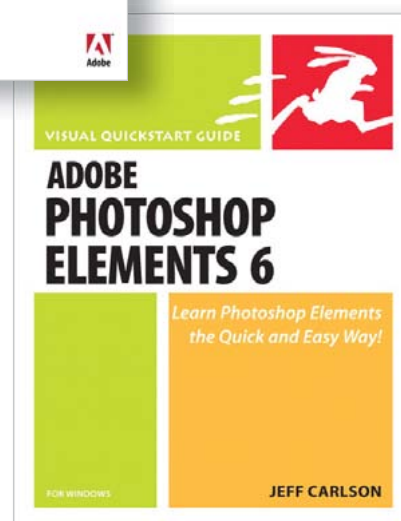
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Macworld Buyers' Guide

Mac mini

UPDATED
7/8/07



The Mac mini's tiny size (16.5cm square by 5cm tall) and bargain pricing sets it apart from Apple's other desktop computers.

It doesn't come supplied with a screen, so you'll need to reuse your old CRT or LCD monitor or purchase a new one. The price also doesn't include a keyboard, mouse or speakers, so if you haven't got them already you'll need to factor these into the overall price. The mini's newest incarnation brought both models up to 1GB of RAM.

The Mac mini comes with Front Row and a remote control, and coupling it with Apple's DVI



to Video Adaptor (£15) is tempting, because you can then connect the Mac mini to a television and use it as a media centre.

The Intel Core 2 Duo processors have been boosted to 1.83GHz on the £399 model and 2GHz on the £499 model, which means the Mac mini is fantastic for regular computing. The integrated graphics processor limits its 3D gaming and graphics capability, though.

Pros: Great price, Intel Core 2 Duo processor, amazing size, DVD-R SuperDrive option, includes iLife '08 and Front Row, as cheap as a low-end PC but much better

Cons: Integrated Intel graphics chip reduces available RAM, upgrading memory isn't easy, graphics aren't good enough for demanding 3D games, top-quality peripherals push the price close to entry-level iMac, bargain hunters without spare screen, keyboard and mouse should consider the iMac

iMac

UPDATED
7/8/07



Apple's new-style iMac solidifies its reputation as the best desktop computer on earth. Now starting at 20-inch and with the hefty 24-inch model coming in at £200 less than before, the redesigned iMac offers an impressive amount of screen for your money.

There's been a processor bump to 2GHz on the entry model (£799) up to a 2.8GHz Intel Core 2 Extreme on the top-of-the-line 24-inch unit (£1,459). The hard drive is also consistently larger across the board and tops out at an impressive 500GB. Even the graphics cards have been souped-up, with ATI Radeon HD 2600 Pro with 256MB of memory on the top three models. However, the £679



model that was ideal for students and newcomers has been axed.

All models now feature FireWire 800 and an 8x double-layer SuperDrive. Bluetooth 2.0, AirPort and the Apple Remote still come as standard.

Pros: Large screen real estate, Core 2 Duo or Extreme processor with 4MB cache, fast graphics card ensures spectacular performance for gaming and graphics-intensive programs, elegant new design, built-in iSight, mini-DVI port with extended desktop supports, ships with iLife '08, Front Row and Apple Remote, comes with FireWire 800

Cons: Glossy screen now standard across the board, lack of budget entry-level model, radical new keyboard design may not be to everybody's liking, remote control no longer has a magnetic dock on the unit

MacBook

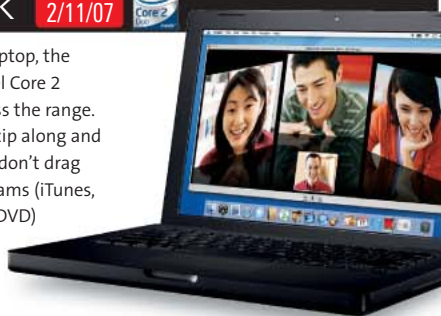
UPDATED
2/11/07



Apple's entry-level laptop, the MacBook, sports Intel Core 2 Duo processors across the range. Universal programs zip along and Rosetta translations don't drag their feet. iLife programs (iTunes, iPhoto, iMovie, and iDVD) and Spotlight fly when compared with the old PowerBooks.

The main difference between the MacBook and the bigger Pro variant is the graphics card. You get an Intel GMA 950 with 64MB of memory on the MacBook, compared to an ATI Mobility Radeon X1600 on the MacBook Pro. Although this stops gamers and 3D designers in their tracks, most users will be happy with the performance.

Whether you prefer the classic



Apple white or the new-look black model is largely a case of personal preference. Although you will save £20 by purchasing the white model with a 120GB hard drive as an optional upgrade.

The most recent bump in performance is due to upgraded processors – the entry level MacBook now offers a 2GHz processor while the range now tops out at 2.2GHz.

Pros: Core 2 Duo processor, bundled applications and Universal programs run incredibly fast, easily upgradable, basic model is good value for money

Cons: Glossy screen will be an issue for some, Intel graphics card is a letdown for gamers, still have to pay a premium for the black case

MacBook Pro

UPDATED
5/6/07



The lightweight case and speedy processor makes the MacBook Pro a genuine alternative to the desktop Mac Pro.

As with the Mac Pro, the MacBook Pro was held back by the lack of software optimised for the Intel processor, but this has changed with the planned release of Creative Suite 3. Aside from Microsoft Office, there are few programs left running through Apple's Rosetta translation software. So there are few objections to purchasing a MacBook Pro.

Aside from a slightly larger screen (available in a matt or glossy format, unlike the MacBook) the main advantage is the integrated 3D graphics card – this enables users to play high-end games and

run demanding 3D design software.

It's a shame the smaller 12-inch model is no longer made, but mobile computers are all about compromise (size against performance and features), and the 17-inch model will appeal to those who can take a little extra weight for the extra screen space. All models support dual-screen display using external monitors.



Pros: Light, slim and stylish, built-in wireless, includes backlit keyboard and super-fast dual-core processors, all models 2GB RAM, double-layer 8x SuperDrive, NVIDIA GeForce 8600M GT graphics card provides 3D speed boost, choice of matte or glossy screen

Cons: Still no replacement for 12-inch model, 17-inch is quite weighty

Mac Pro

UPDATED
4/4/07



The Mac Pro is Apple's replacement for its Power Mac G5 desktop and, as such, is the industry standard workhorse for design and technology markets.

Packing not one, but two Intel Xeon processors, the Mac Pro offers phenomenal speed boosts, with even the entry-level model outpacing Apple's top-of-the range Power Mac Quad.

Most Mac Pros sport two dual-core Intel Xeon 5100 series processors. However, a new model features two quad-core processors. Professionals whose primary applications run natively on Intel Macs – QuarkXPress 7, Final Cut Studio, Shake 4 and the like – will find that even the

2GHz Mac Pro tops the previous Mac speed champ at every turn when running native software.

Now that Adobe Creative Suite 3 is among us, the Mac Pro has taken on a whole new lease of life. In our Photoshop CS3 test, the 3GHz two-dual-core Mac Pro did a batch test in 2:11 (mins:secs), versus 4:04 when using CS3 under Rosetta. So it's twice as fast as before.

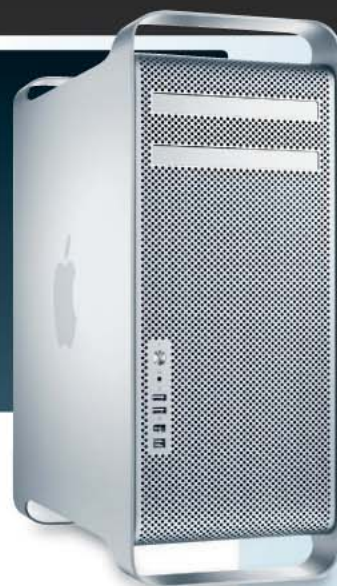
The price of the Mac Pro is interesting too, coming in significantly cheaper than its Windows-based counterparts. As it can run Windows through Boot Camp this could be the best Windows PC as well as a Mac.

Professionals have no reason to put

Pros: Fast processors, good frame-rate performance in games, huge memory capacity, additional ports on front and back, easy to upgrade, good price compared to equivalent PC models on the market

Cons: Expensive and rare RAM format, limited performance gains in software that's not optimised for multi-core systems, non-native software, lack of a cheaper entry-level model, case needs a makeover

off buying a Mac Pro. Even so, potential buyers should judge carefully whether they really need this power – you may be able to get by with the significantly cheaper iMac.



Product	Processor	Display	Memory	Hard drive	Optical drive	Graphics card	Star rating	Price	Speedmark score*
Mac mini	Intel Core 2 Duo 1.8GHz	None	1GB	80GB Serial ATA	24x Combo Drive	Intel GMA950 (64MB)	★★★★☆	£399	195
	Intel Core 2 Duo 2.0GHz	None	1GB	120GB Serial ATA	8x SuperDrive (DL)	Intel GMA950 (64MB)	★★★★☆	£499	210
iMac	Intel Core 2 Duo 2.0GHz	20in	1GB	250GB Serial ATA	8x SuperDrive (DL)	ATI Radeon HD 2400 XT (128MB)	★★★★☆	£799	257
	Intel Core 2 Duo 2.4GHz	20in	1GB	320GB Serial ATA	8x SuperDrive (DL)	ATI Radeon HD 2600 Pro (256MB)	★★★★☆	£949	280
	Intel Core 2 Duo 2.4GHz	24in	1GB	320GB Serial ATA	8x SuperDrive (DL)	ATI Radeon HD 2600 Pro (256MB)	★★★★★	£1,149	279
	Intel Core 2 Extreme 2.8GHz	24in	2GB	500GB Serial ATA	8x SuperDrive (DL)	ATI Radeon HD 2600 Pro (256MB)	Not tested	£1,459	Not tested
Mac Pro	Two Dual-Core Intel Xeon 2GHz	None	1GB	250GB Serial ATA	16x SuperDrive (DL)	nVidia GeForce 7300 GT (256MB)	★★★★☆	£1,499	254
	Two Dual-Core Intel Xeon 2.66GHz	None	1GB	250GB Serial ATA	16x SuperDrive (DL)	nVidia GeForce 7300 GT (256MB)	★★★★☆	£1,699	299
	Two Dual-Core Intel Xeon 3GHz	None	1GB	250GB Serial ATA	16x SuperDrive (DL)	nVidia GeForce 7300 GT (256MB)	★★★★☆	£2,209	313
	Two Quad-Core Intel Xeon 3GHz (8-core)	None	1GB	250GB Serial ATA	16x SuperDrive (DL)	nVidia GeForce 7300 GT (256MB)	★★★★☆	£2,659	325
MacBook	Intel Core 2 Duo 2GHz	13in	1GB	80GB 5400 Serial ATA	24x Combo Drive	Intel GMA950 (64MB)	★★★★☆	£699	192
	Intel Core 2 Duo 2.2GHz	13in	1GB	120GB 5400 Serial ATA	6x SuperDrive (DL)	Intel GMA950 (64MB)	★★★★★	£829	Not tested
	Intel Core 2 Duo 2.2GHz	13in	1GB	160GB 5400 Serial ATA	6x SuperDrive (DL)	Intel GMA950 (64MB)	★★★★☆	£949	Not tested
MacBook Pro	Intel Core 2 Duo 2.2GHz	15.4in	2GB	120GB 5400 Serial ATA	8x SuperDrive (DL)	NVIDIA GeForce 8600M GT (128MB)	★★★★☆	£1,299	217
	Intel Core 2 Duo 2.4GHz	15.4in	2GB	160GB 5400 Serial ATA	8x SuperDrive (DL)	NVIDIA GeForce 8600M GT (256MB)	★★★★★	£1,599	229
	Intel Core 2 Duo 2.4GHz	17in	2GB	160GB 5400 Serial ATA	8x SuperDrive (DL)	NVIDIA GeForce 8600M GT (256MB)	★★★★☆	£1,799	233

*Longer is better

Macworld Buyers' Guide

Macworld score guide

Each product reviewed in Macworld is given a rating out of five stars.

A five-star product is, clearly, a must-buy for anybody interested in that area of software or hardware. We do not hand out five-star awards lightly and it is always the subject of discussion among the Macworld team. To get five stars, a product must excel at what it does, be of practical use to Mac owners and bring something to the table that hasn't been seen before.

Most products that do their job very well are handed four stars; anything that gets a four-star rating is an excellent product that will make its owner proud. You should not hesitate to buy a four-star product.

We want to emphasise that a three-star product is good, but it is average. Three stars is a score that a perfectly OK product should get, but you might be able to find better for your money.

Obviously the same can't be said of a two-star product, which will be decidedly out-gunned by better creations on the market. And as for one-star products? Well the less said about those the better...

★★★★★

An outstanding product that excels at what it does – buy it!

★★★★☆

A great product that you should feel confident to buy

★★★☆☆

A good product that functions adequately. Still recommended

★★☆☆☆

There are flaws here but it may be worth picking up as a bargain

★☆☆☆☆

Avoid this product. It has serious flaws and we suggest you spend your money elsewhere

Macworld Editors' Choice

This is the Macworld award that is handed out to exceptional kit. As the name suggests, it goes to the software and hardware that the editors on Macworld would use themselves. The award is handed out only to the 'best-of-kind' products on the market, and only after discussion among the Macworld team. The award is not linked to the score, and a four-star product can get the award if the team feels the product is the best available, even if it could still do better. Likewise a five-star product can luck out on the award if the team feel that a marginally better product exists.

Audio and music

	iPod classic	Apple	www.apple.com/uk/	£159 (80GB); £229 (160GB)	Not tested
The definitive iPod. If storing huge amounts of digital audio and video interests you, then buying one makes a lot of sense					
Pros: Enormous hard drive, crisp and roomy display, video looks good on display (and on TV), good battery life					
Cons: Lacks the flashy interface of the new iPod touch					
	iPod nano	Apple	www.apple.com/uk/	£99 (4GB); £129 (8GB)	Nov 07 ★★★★★ Macworld Editors' Choice
The iPod nano is a perfect fit for anyone into portable music playback. There isn't a cooler MP3 player on the planet					
Pros: Tiny size, video playback, great value for money, superb screen quality, reliable solid-state flash memory, Cover Flow interface					
Cons: Won't hold that much video, small screen, interface changes won't be to everyone's taste					
	iPod shuffle	Apple	www.apple.com/uk/	£49	Nov 07 ★★★★★
Is sure to elicit "wows" from friends and family and marks an affordable entry into digital music					
Pros: Absolutely tiny, affordable, good battery life, easy to control					
Cons: No display, flashing LED messages are cryptic, limited storage capacity, expensive for what it is					
	iPod touch	Apple	www.apple.com/uk/	£199 (8GB); £269 (16GB)	Expo 07 ★★★★★
Apple's amazing new touch screen iPod takes the iPod to a whole new level					
Pros: Innovative interface design, widescreen for video playback, WiFi enabled internet browsing					
Cons: Limited hard drive size, screen smudges easily, lack of Flash in Safari, no Mail application, hobbled Calendar functions					
	Logic Express 8	Apple	www.apple.com/uk/	£129	Expo 07 ★★★★★
Offers 80 per cent of the functionality of Logic Pro for 50 per cent of the price					
Pros: Almost all the editing and mixing features of Logic Pro, good effects and synthesizers					
Cons: Jo JamPacks or sound effects samples, no soundtrack Pro II and no MainStage, no support for external control surfaces, no surround mixing					
	FH007 mini speaker system	Ferguson Hill	www.fergusonhill.co.uk	£495.95	Sep 07 ★★★★★ Macworld Editors' Choice
See-through speakers that add style to your living room – they cost a fortune, but the sound and design is stonking					
Pros: Beautiful and unobtrusive design, excellent build quality, clear sound					
Cons: No direct iPod docking station, expensive, separate woofer is huge					
	Soundbooth	Adobe	www.adobe.co.uk	£163	WWDC 07 ★★★★★ Macworld Editors' Choice
Good audio tool for non-professional, but serious, audio editors. Perfect for semi-pro podcasting					
Pros: Simple, quick, easy audio treatment and repair, integrates with Premiere; good scores for audio and video clips					
Cons: No multitrack capabilities, no ability to create simple timeline-based events for simple podcast creation					

Digital cameras and camcorders

	S5 Pro	Fujifilm	www.fujifilm.co.uk	£1,249 (Body only)	Nov 07 ★★★★★ Macworld Editors' Choice
Fujifilm's only digital SLR is aimed at those who specialise in portraits and landscapes					
Pros: Bags of detail, built well, reliable metering and even exposure, good battery life, compatible with Nikon lenses					
Cons: Bulk and weight, lenses cost extra, no rapid fire continuous mode					
	D80	Nikon	www.nikon.co.uk	£699 (Body only)	Nov 07 ★★★★★
A great camera which should appeal to high-end amateur photographers and jobbing pros on a budget					
Pros: Great value if you own compatible lenses, chunky, sturdy build, ergonomically sound control layout					
Cons: Some loss of highlight detail, but very little else					
	P5100	Nikon	www.nikon.co.uk	£300	Expo 07 ★★★★★ Macworld Editors' Choice
This fully featured compact camera offers a viable alternative to anyone wanting a good focal range but not a digital SLR					
Pros: 12mp resolution, magnesium alloy body, small size					
Cons: No RAW shooting option, image noise is visibly intrusive at higher ISO settings					
	E-400	Olympus	www.olympus.co.uk	£450	May 07 ★★★★★
A conventionally styled digital SLR boasting 10-megapixel resolution and a recently reduced price					
Pros: Rugged feel to the small and lightweight body, easy to follow menu screens, fast and responsive					
Cons: Occasional image noise visible, strap handles get in the way					
	XH-A1	Canon	www.canon.co.uk	£3,299	Feb 07 ★★★★★ Macworld Editors' Choice
Canon manages to shrink down its XL-H1 pro camcorder without sacrificing too much					
Pros: Excellent image quality even in low light, 3 CCD, can record in 1080i or DV, fantastic manual controls, works with all Apple editing software					
Cons: Unintuitive screen menus and navigation, small LCD, uncomfortable eyepiece, heavy, not for the faint-hearted					
	HDR-HC3E	Sony	www.sony.co.uk	£999	Apr 07 ★★★★★ Macworld Editors' Choice
High-definition camcorder in a consumer-friendly format					
Pros: Very easy to set up and use, well laid out, provides rich and detailed video capture, good battery life indicator, good battery life					
Cons: Rather bulky and weighty, no mic socket, no video light, narrow dynamic range, stub-fingered may find LCD menu operation difficult					
	K100D Super	Pentax	www.pentax.co.uk	£399	Nov 07 ★★★★★
Six megapixels mean that this is an entry-level model, but it's great value with some hi-spec features					
Pros: Good value, responsive, easy to use, dust reduction system, ISO3200, sharp colourful images					
Cons: No rechargeable batteries supplied, weightier than competing models					



Printers and scanners

	C8800n	Oki	www.oki.co.uk	£1,745	Oct 07	★★★★☆
A fast, reliable colour laser printer. Big and heavy, but produces decent results Pros: Very fast – both in colour and B&W, curvy looks, competent colour output quality Cons: Big, expensive, print quality could be better considering the price, needs two people to lift, minimal Mac software						
	Designjet Z2100	HP	www.hp.co.uk	£2,537	Apr 07	★★★★☆
Large-format inkjet produces good results on a variety of media Pros: Built-in spectrophotometer profiling, wide range of media supported, gloss- and matt-black inks, excellent monochrome quality Cons: Eight colour inks don't reproduce as wide a colour gamut as Epson rival, Mac driver doesn't understand portrait-format pages						
	Phaser 6180	Xerox	www.xerox.co.uk	£219	Aug 07	★★★★☆ Macworld Editors' Choice
Not suitable if you need top-quality photo printing, but otherwise an excellent colour laser mix of value and speed Pros: Good value, small footprint, speedy for multiple colour copies, excellent black-and-white performance Cons: Slow time to first page, fairly high running costs, out-of-the-box image quality needs careful setting up for best results						
	PictureMate 280	Epson	www.epson.co.uk	£199	Mar 07	★★★★☆ Macworld Editors' Choice
It may stretch the term 'compact', but the hefty Epson PictureMate 280 offers superb-quality, waterproof prints Pros: True-to life colour reproduction, flattering skin tones, waterproof prints, incorporated CD drive Cons: Big, heavy and quite expensive for a compact printer, blacks are too black, meaning that shadow detail is lost						
	CP9800DW	Mitsubishi	www.mitsubishi-imaging.com	£1,293	Expo 07	★★★★☆
A noisy, heavy, but extremely fast photo printer for pro users Pros: High-speed photo printer, produces good quality prints at relatively low cost Cons: Big, heavy, expensive, loud						
	Stylus Photo R360	Epson	www.epson.co.uk	£99.99	Oct 07	★★★★☆
A solid model capable of excellent print quality Pros: Six colours in separate ink tanks, card reader for printing without turning on the computer Cons: It would have been nice to see duplexing included at this price						
	X500n	Lexmark	www.lexmark.co.uk	£299	Expo 07	★★★★☆
Inexpensive colour laser multifunction printer delivers solid results Pros: Speedy, inexpensive, good scanner software, good text and colour prints, high-quality scanning Cons: Setup instructions are unclear, reds are too strong in colour prints, some details don't carry over when making copies, scanner is slow						



Displays, projectors and colour calibration kit

	LaCie 120	LaCie	www.lacie.co.uk	£549	Aug 06	★★★★☆ Macworld Editors' Choice
Solid monitor with superb colour performance and excellent ergonomics Pros: Good all-rounder, solid and practical design, punchy colour, customisable settings, good for design professionals Cons: Video performance isn't as good as image display, 4:3 aspect ratio, no portrait mode						
	30in Cinema HD	Apple	www.apple.com/uk/	£1,199	Apr 05	★★★★☆ Macworld Editors' Choice
The mother of all monitors. Apple's main display has huge screen real estate Pros: Awe-inspiring size, 2560 x 1600 widescreen display, great quality Cons: Expensive, requires dual-link DVI graphics card, for design professionals						
	UltraSharp 3007WFP-HC Dell		www.dell.co.uk	£1,189	June 07	★★★★☆ Macworld Editors' Choice
Stunning 30in monitor (2560 x 1600 WQXGA resolution) with stylish design and functional features Pros: Stylish design, USB 2.0 hub, crisp image, 9-in-2 media card reader, discreet cable tidy, VESA mount compliant Cons: No FireWire ports						
	BenQ MP721C	BenQ	www.benq.co.uk	£504	WWDC 07	★★★★☆ Macworld Editors' Choice
Surprisingly good picture quality at a reasonable price. Our choice if you're looking for a HD projector Pros: Good picture quality, optional wireless input, low cost, good value, price includes three-year warranty Cons: Shiny plastic finish picks up scratches, lens cap may be fragile, bigger and heavier than most projectors						
	2190UXp	NEC	www.nec-displays.co.uk	£680	Sep 07	★★★★☆ Macworld Editors' Choice
A stylish 21in LCD monitor with an excellent screen, and minimalist design Pros: High-quality build, logical screen menus, the ability to adjust sharpness and individual colour temperatures in a matter of seconds after set up Cons: Expensive, unflashy design						
	Huey	Pantone	www.colourconfidence.co.uk	£69	Aug 06	★★★★☆
Colour calibration for the masses. Easy to use and effective Pros: 'Live' adjustment of monitor settings based on ambient room light. Useful, affordable and easy to use. Cons: Graphic designers may prefer a more comprehensive, powerful tool						
	Studio XR	Colour Confidence	www.colourconfidence.co.uk	£116	Sep 06	★★★★☆
One-box colour management solution for your display and printer Pros: User-friendly automated calibration process, accuracy within .003 chromaticity error, excellent online user forum feedback for the Monaco Optix XR Cons: Niche product for pros and serious enthusiasts, Monaco Optix XR needs to be registered to receive software activation code						

Online resources

Macworld reviews

www.macworld.co.uk

If you want more detailed information on any of the products in this Buyers' Guide then head over to the Macworld UK website (www.macworld.co.uk/reviews/). All the products listed here have a full review with detailed specifications and test information.



Macworld forums

www.macworld.co.uk/forum/

Another great way to find out if a product is any good is to head over to the Macworld forums. Lively debate about all things Mac takes place on a daily basis, and you'll find that plenty of advice is handed out for free.

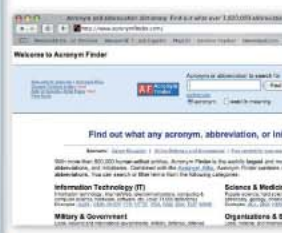


Jargon busting

www.whatis.com

www.acronymfinder.com

We try not to talk gibberish, but the fast-paced world of technology can be confusing at the best of times. If you come across any acronyms you don't know try AcronymFinder (www.acronymfinder.com), or if any terms are baffling then WhatIs? (www.whatis.com) is a good online computer dictionary.



Macworld Buyers' Guide

Three Keyboard & mouse combos

Homegrown...

Apple Keyboard

www.apple.com/uk

£29.99

★★★★☆



The new Apple Keyboard is certainly different from its predecessor, and it's great to look at. It's bouncy and flat like a laptop keyboard, and its slimline design means it's almost flat against your desk – so it should keep RSI at bay, too.

Classic styling...

Logitech Cordless Desktop S530

www.logitech.com

£69.99

★★★★☆



Occupying the middle ground, this is the Based on the body of Nikon's of choice for the dedicated amateur or professional Nikon AF or DX Nikkor lenses, it's even better value. It's more than adequate, rather than exceptional, but it's a good all-round buy.

Better the devil...

Microsoft Wireless Laser Desktop for Mac

www.microsoft.com/mac

£47.50



★★★★★
Microsoft's top end input combo for the Mac is ugly, but there's little better in terms of functionality. Includes buttons for launching applications and controlling iTunes, plus loads that you can program yourself. Microsoft's come up trumps after all.



Input devices

	Wireless Mighty Mouse	Apple	www.apple.com/uk/	£49	WWDC 06	★★★★☆
	Apple's elegant and innovative two-button mouse without the wires Pros: Looks better than any other mouse and matches your iMac, laser tracking works better than an optical sensor Cons: Heavy with both batteries in use, short battery life, expensive, still fiddly to use					
	NuLOOQ	Logitech	www.logitech.co.uk	£79.99	Apr 07	★★★★☆
	Odd – but good – circular control wheel for Adobe users Pros: Extremely inventive and original, speeds up design works, saves you using menus Cons: Configuration takes time, physical learning curve, steep system requirements					
	Bamboo	Wacom	www.wacom.com/bamboo	£69.99	Sep 07	★★★★☆
	Another worthy addition to the Wacom line – the Bamboo takes advantage of handwriting-recognition built into many everyday applications Pros: Adds personal touch to documents, effective easing of RSI, intuitive after practice and tweaking, absolute positioning, sleek design Cons: Bundled software is PC only, no clip or well to store pen, Wacom's bigger models better for creative tasks					
	Apple Keyboard	Apple	www.apple.com/uk	£29.99	Nov 07	★★★★☆
	The star feature of the new iMac now available separately – ultra-thin and ultra-stylish, with new function keys Pros: Vastly improved ergonomics, dedicated OS X function keys, tactile response, should stay cleaner than the old white keyboard Cons: USB power through keyboard only applies to new iMacs, no Exposé All Windows button, some function commands are different					
	Cordless Desktop S530	Logitech	www.logitech.com	£69.99	Expo 07	★★★★☆
	An unobtrusive design with plenty of functionality, the Logitech Cordless Desktop S530 won't let you down Pros: Excellent design and ergonomics, Apple friendly layout Cons: Expensive, unhelpful help files					
	Wireless Laser Desktop for Mac	Microsoft	www.microsoft.com/mac	£47.50	Expo 07	★★★★★
	The design is dull, but the Wireless Laser Desktop for Mac is packed with useful features Pros: Comfortable keyboard, plenty of extra buttons to launch programs, 12 function keys, favourites keys, and iTunes control Cons: Dull, grey design					
	Wireless Dual Mouse	Perifc	www.perifc.com	£79	Apr 07	★★★★★ Macworld Editors' Choice
	The most innovative mouse seen in years. Ergonomic and highly usable Pros: Can be used one or two-handed, batteries are rechargeable, comfortable, innovative Cons: Expensive, radical design may be off-putting to some people					



Storage devices

	Aegis Portable	Apricorn	www.expansys.com	£86 (80GB)	May 07	★★★★☆
	Wallet-size FireWire storage on the go Pros: Small, lightweight, built-in data cable, bus-powered, good price per GB Cons: FireWire 400 port only					
	G-RAID mini	G-Tech	www.g-technology.com	£297	May 07	★★★★☆
	Triple-interface speedy SATA drive Pros: Fast, small, USB and FireWire 400 and 800 ports, bus-powered, sleek styling Cons: Pricey, slight fan noise					
	UltraMax	lomega	www.iomega.co.uk	£270 (640GB)	Nov 06	★★★★★ Macworld Editors' Choice
	Chunky external drive that's ideal for power users Pros: Sturdy construction, huge capacity, relatively small footprint, great price Cons: Brick-like weight, non portable					
	My Book Pro	Western Digital	www.westerndigital.com	£115 (500GB)	Sep 07	★★★★★ Macworld Editors' Choice
	Smartly designed drive with plenty of storage space Pros: High-capacity and high-performance FireWire 800 interface Cons: Slightly more expensive than USB mass storage options					
	SeriTek2/2EN2	FirmTek	www.wtsbroadcast.com	£215 (excluding drives)	Dec 06	★★★★★ Macworld Editors' Choice
	RAID-capable, dual-drive enclosure that offers high-performance storage and security Pros: Excellent build quality, PCI-type host adaptors do not require drivers, no internal wiring, enables choice of drives Cons: Not very portable, older Macs with PCI-X slots have a max transfer rate of 1.5Gbps					
	3Ware Sidecar	AMCC	www.amcc.com	£999 (case only)	May 07	★★★★☆
	SATA II RAID drive for the professional video and audio market Pros: Sturdy, reliable, easy to install and swap drives, hardware RAID array Cons: Expensive price puts it beyond the reach of consumers					
	SeriTek/2eEN4	FirmTek	www.wtsbroadcast.com	£350	Feb 07	★★★★☆
	This four-port enclosure is a heavy-duty piece of kit for heavy-duty data storage Pros: Bullet-proof build quality, host adaptors do not require drivers, lockable bays, reasonable price Cons: Adaptor card not bundled, occupies four ports, not portable					



Digital life

	Apple TV	Apple	www.apple.com/uk	£199 (40GB), £269 (160GB)	Sep 07	★★★★☆
Media player that syncs up your iTunes music and video library to a high-definition television Pros: Good picture and sound, works well on 802.11n, easy to use, beautiful design, YouTube playback on your home television Cons: Won't connect to non high-definition televisions, only plays a small number of video formats, iPhoto functionality is poor, expensive						
	Quickcam Fusion	Logitech	www.logitech.com	£70	Oct 07	★★★★★ Macworld Editors' Choice
Impressive external webcam that attaches to your monitor via its built-in clip Pros: Great image, little lag, instantaneous image response, microphone included Cons: Bulky design, attachment can be a bit precarious						
	Live! Cam Optia	Creative	www.creative.com/uk	£50	Oct 07	★★★★☆
Stylish external webcam that doesn't need drivers Pros: Headphones with integrated microphone included, great design, looks good on a Mac Cons: No Mac software, glare from windows and lights						
	TubeStick	Equinix	www.equinix.com	€39.95	Aug 07	★★★★☆
One of the cheapest TV tuners currently available for the Mac, it's still one of the best solutions Pros: Excellent price, with a good software bundle for Mac use Cons: Requires good digital TV reception						
	Turbo.264	Elgato	www.elgato.com	£69	WWDC 07	★★★★★ Macworld Editors' Choice
USB hardware encoder for H.264 video used by the Apple TV and iPod. Massively speeds up encoding time Pros: Easy-to-use, incredibly effective, speeds up video conversion by 300 per cent (even on older Macs) Cons: No option to convert video to other formats						
	GateDefender Integra 300	Panda Security	www.pandasecurity.com	100 £1070, 300 £1,980	Oct 07	★★★★☆
Enterprise-level internet protection in a box – at an enterprise-level price Pros: Comprehensive and powerful all-in-one enterprise network security and anti-spam solution, accessible interface, 1U rack mount makes installation easy Cons: Expensive, noisy, requires network experience to set up and configure, not quite plug and play						
	NI Wireless Modem Router	Belkin	www.belkin.com/uk	£96	Nov 07	★★★★★ Macworld Editors' Choice
A very clear Quick Start brochure ensures easy installation for those wanting an alternative to Apple's Airport products Pros: Good Mac support and ease of use Cons: None						



Business software

	Microsoft Office 2004 Standard Edition	Microsoft	www.microsoft.com/mac/	£33	Aug 04	★★★★☆
The world's standard suite of word processing, spreadsheet and presentation software Pros: Universally used, PC file compatibility, powerful feature set Cons: Slow performance when running through Rosetta, crashes a lot, expensive, Office 2008 out this year						
	Skype 2.5	Skype	www.skype.com	Free	Apr 07	★★★★★ Macworld Editors' Choice
Talk for free using the web's best VoIP and instant messaging client Pros: Cross-platform, high-quality VoIP and free video calls. SMS to mobiles Cons: Additional SkypeIn and SkypeOut services are not free						
	BBEdit 8.6	Bare Bones	www.barebones.com	Free	Apr 07	★★★★★ Macworld Editors' Choice
The veteran Mac application is back with the best text-processing tools on the block Pros: Clean, uncluttered interface, search features harness the power of UNIX Cons: Need to read the documentation carefully to uncover the most powerful features						
	MYOB Accounting Plus 16	MYOB	www.myob.co.uk	£349	Apr 07	★★★★☆
A great accounting program for small and mid-sized businesses Pros: Universal support, can sync contacts with Apple's Address Book, easier to undo MYOB bank reconciliations, includes several new OfficeLink documents Cons: Problems with contact syncing, Microsoft Office automation features don't work properly if Office isn't open						
	FileMaker Pro 9	FileMaker	www.filemaker.co.uk	£257 (Standard); £386 (Advanced)	Sep 07	★★★★☆
Professional database tool that dominates the Mac business market Pros: More help and tutorials for new users, tidied-up interface, improved SQL connectivity for corporate users Cons: Emphasis on corporate use means that the program may be too expensive and complex for home workers and smaller businesses						
	Billings 2	Billings	www.billings2.com	\$59	Apr 07	★★★★☆
An invoicing and expenses management tool that will pay for itself in time saved Pros: Easy-to-use interface, integrated tools, time-management features Cons: Documentation lacking in places, unsuited to teams or large organisations.						
	iWork '08	Apple	www.apple.com/uk/iwork	£55	Oct 07	★★★★★ Macworld Editors' Choice
Apple's word processing and presentation combo gains a spreadsheet app called Numbers plus plenty of new frills Pros: Good value for money, easy to use, genuinely useful templates, imports and exports to Word/Excel/PowerPoint, integrates nicely with OS X Cons: Pages and Numbers lack some of the high end features of Word and Excel, can't export Open XML documents						

On the editor's Mac



BlueAnt Z9 W
www.blueant.com
£59.99

Bear with me, this one really does make a lot of sense. Bluetooth headsets are usually worn by conscientious drivers or burly security guards looking to keep their hands 'free' for more important things.

So it makes sense to attach a 'hands-free' kit to a mobile phone, but why have one with your Mac?

The answer is iChat. We all use iChat for text

messaging, but aren't so keen on using the audio or video chatting functionality: the speaker system ensures all your chats are far from private, especially in an office setting. So most people stick with text-only.

This, I think, is a shame. iChat is far more than a live version of email. The Mac's built-in mic and iSight (on most models anyway) ensures that you're ready for video-conferencing, out of the box – a headset makes it easy.

As with most bluetooth devices on the Mac, installation is breeze. Go to settings and click on Set Up New Device and choose 'Headset'. The passkey is '0000' and from there you're done. Stick it in your ear and you can chat to your heart's content.

Another bonus is that a bluetooth headset will work with the iPhone, and iChat and the Z9 can connect to multiple devices at the same time. So come the iPhone launch you'll be able to take calls and chats from all angles.

Finally, and this is the reason I like the Z9 in particular, it's small. Most bluetooth headsets make you look ridiculously Borg-like – the Z9 is much more discreet than that.

Mark Hattersley, Editor



Macworld Buyers' Guide

Top 10

The LaCie 500GB d2 Quadra continues to sell like tall, thin hotcakes, while the Mac Pro makes a sudden surge to second spot. Avanquest Parallels Desktop 3.0 for Mac is one of the year's big success stories, as it's a mainstay near the top of the chart. Microsoft Office appears too – you can upgrade to version 2008 for free if you buy it now.



- 1** LaCie 500GB d2 Quadra (7200rpm)
£117.49
- 2** Apple Mac Pro 2.66GHz Dual-Core Intel Xeon
£1690.83
- 3** Avanquest Parallels Desktop 3.0 for Mac
£39
- 4** Apple iMac Intel Core 2 Duo 24-inch 2.16GHz
£1,044.58
- 5** Wacom Bamboo A6 USB Tablet + Pen Mac/Win
£69.33
- 6** Apple iPod nano 8GB – black
£106.69
- 7** Sony HVR Z1E Digital Video HDV Camera
£3,406.32
- 8** Microsoft Office 2004 Standard Edition
£233.82
- 9** Formac Mini 120GB HD Firewire/USB Oxygen (White)
£72.85
- 10** Apple iPod shuffle 1GB – silver
£49

Top 10 products sold at Computer Warehouse (www.computerwarehouse.co.uk) on 24 October 2007

Mac OS X software and utilities

	Parallels Desktop 3.0	Parallels Inc	www.avanquest.co.uk	£49.98	Sep 07	★★★★★ Macworld Editors' Choice
The latest version of Parallels Desktop make it easy for you to run Windows and Mac programs side by side Pros: Technically ingenious and easy to use, allows you to run Windows and OS X simultaneously, and pass files and data back and forth Cons: The ability to run PC games is overhyped, needs lots of memory to run smoothly						
	CleanApp 2.4	Synium	www.synium.de	£4.92	Nov 07	★★★★★ Macworld Editors' Choice
Effectively remove applications from your Mac without the obligatory manual treasure hunt Pros: Drag and drop uninstall, finds executable files, deletes scripts, applications and language packs Cons: Misses some of the more esoterically named files						
	.Mac	Apple	www.mac.com	£69 a year	Oct 07	★★★★☆
Apple's suite of internet tools Pros: Beautiful image sharing features, visitors can upload images to your site, 10GB storage, new website enhancement features Cons: No way of approving uploaded images, viable alternatives are available for free, hosting an iWeb site at your own domain is not simple enough						
	VMWare Fusion	VMWare	www.vmware.com	£50	Oct 07	★★★★★
If you need Windows or Linux as well as OS X this tool makes it happen Pros: Run Windows apps on your Mac desktop, drag and drop between operating systems, 64-bit support Cons: No resize of virtual hard drives, can't access files in virtual machines unless running						
	DasBoot	SubRosaSoft	www.subrosasoft.com	Free	May 07	★★★★★ Macworld Editors' Choice
Turns an external drive or iPod into a boot disk – good for rescuing broken Macs Pros: Free, simple, can be an effective life-saver Cons: Requires possession of a maintenance utility (or you can use Mac OS X), requires about 1GB of space with such a utility						
	Apple Remote Desktop 3	Apple	www.apple.com/uk	£199 (10 clients), £399 (unlimited)	Aug 06	★★★★☆
Desktop management tool that enables you to control and monitor Macs remotely Pros: Powerful, remote Spotlight, drag-and-drop copying, can encrypt communications Cons: Somewhat buggy, meagre application-reporting feature						
	Transmit 3.5.5	Panic	www.panic.com	£15	Feb 07	★★★★★ Macworld Editors' Choice
Powerful FTP program that's as suitable for a beginner as a power user Pros: Easy to use, neat Safari-style tabs, supports Automator actions, Spotlight, AppleScripts and .Mac accounts Cons: None to mention						

Education software

	Berlitz Premier	Nova Development	www.novadevelopment.com	£29.95	Mar 07	★★★★☆
Inexpensive package provides several starting points for learning a language Pros: Comprehensive audio and visual supplements to language-learning modules, convenient iPod and auto-listening options, inexpensive Cons: Immersion-style lessons can be overwhelming and are not always effective, flash cards sometimes focus on obscure words						
	InspireData	Inspiration Software	www.inspiration.com	£94	Feb 07	★★★★☆
Tool to help students visualise and find meaning in numbers Pros: Simple and easy-to-use, excellent animation effects, can quickly create questionnaires Cons: Limited data export options, no slide export options, low-resolution icons, no interactive tutorials, questionnaire feature limited						
	Starry Night Pro 6	Imaginova	www.imaginova.com	£89.95	Nov 06	★★★★★ Macworld Editors' Choice
Mature astronomy product that reproduces over 16 million stars in one million galaxies Pros: Powerful, mature, bursting with features for education, inclusion of printed manual, and just plain fun Cons: Very few, a cheaper 'lite' version would be welcome						
	Rosetta Stone 3	Fairfield Language Technologies	www.rosettastone.com	£139 (Level 1); £159 (Level 2)	Jan 06	★★★★☆
Comprehensive language-learning software available in 29 different languages Pros: Fun, effective and easy to use Cons: A little expensive						
	Google Earth v3	Google	earth.google.com	Free	Feb 06	Beta
Take a trip around the planet, courtesy of Google and satellite technology Pros: Amazing images, good Google Earth Community, layers are included containing more detail and more can be added Cons: Only big cities and areas of interest have high-resolution images						
	Mathematica	Wolfram Research	www.wolfram.com	£2,035	Aug 07	★★★★★ Macworld Editors' Choice
A sprawling tool that helps visualise mathematical problems and proved masses of information Pros: Dynamic interactivity, data integration, load-on-demand data, actual debugging to improve programming support Cons: 32-bit support only on the Mac						
	Internet Security Barrier x4	Intego	www.intego.com	£118.90	WWDC 06	★★★★☆
Comprehensive virus protection plus content control for children Pros: Easy to use, comprehensive set of tools, parental control tools fill gap in the market, easy way to create bootable copy of hard disk Cons: Expensive, some tools have niche appeal; antivirus is basic, unintuitive and irrelevant						



Creative software

	iLife '08	Apple	www.apple.com/uk/itife	£55	Oct 07	★★★★☆
A radical update for the Mac's multimedia software suite including iPhoto, iMovie, and iDVD Pros: Impressive upgrades for iWeb, iPhoto, and GarageBand Cons: iMovie '08 – what were they thinking?						
	Acrobat 8.0 Professional	Adobe	www.adobe.com/uk/	£464	Jan 07	★★★★☆
This update to the premier PDF program has lots of improvements and is much easier to use Pros: Ability to fix problems found in preflight, new PDF Package bundles several files together but keeps them as separate documents Cons: No Mac version for Standard edition, quite expensive if you don't need all the commenting and form-filling abilities						
	Quark Print Collection	Quark	www.quark.com	£199	Jan 07	★★★★☆
The perfect product for printers and production specialists offering imposition and mark-up tools Pros: Comprehensive imposition solutions for XPress and Acrobat, customisable printer marks, Universal binary, good value Cons: No integration with Job Jackets, doesn't work with latest version of Acrobat yet, no support for impositions over eight pages						
	Final Cut Studio 2	Apple	www.apple.com/uk	£849	Aug 07	★★★★☆
As close as you can get to a video production studio in a box – an HD camcorder and a fast Mac will complete your set up Pros: Multi-format editing on a single timeline, improved Soundtrack Pro element, new Color grading tool Cons: DVD Studio Pro 4 lacks support for blue-laser burning, Color is quirky and difficult to pick up, installation is slow and requires up to 60GB of free space						
	QuarkXPress 7	Quark	euro.quark.com	£749 (£249 upgrade)	Aug 06	★★★★☆ Macworld Editors' Choice
Good update to industry-leading DTP package. Adobe InDesign may have overtaken it though Pros: Features such as transparency and drop shadows, can synchronise text and styles, offers PDF/X export, table improvements, Universal support Cons: Major new features are production-oriented and have limited utility for most designers						
	Modo 301	Luxology	www.luxology.com	£517 (£227.95 upgrade)	Nov 07	★★★★☆
Cutting-edge mesh-based and image-based digital sculpting and animation Pros: Extraordinary digital sculpting, extensive 2D/3D painting tools, excellent subdivision surfaces modelling, fast Cons: Unique approach takes some getting used to, target weld missing, symmetrical modelling a challenge, no construction history						
	Acorn 1.0	Flying Meat	www.flyingmeat.com.acorn	£20	Expo 07	★★★★☆ Macworld Editors' Choice
Flying Meat's image-editing package proves big things really do come from small Acorns Pros: Bitmap, text, and vector tools, image-processing filters and advanced features in a simple interface Cons: No curves or point editing						
	TurboSketch Studio	IMIssoft	www.turbosketch.net	£49.95	Jul 06	★★★★☆
Google SketchUp plug-in provides essential lighting effects Pros: Adds lighting effects and surfaces, makes SketchUp models look photorealistic Cons: Slows down SketchUp considerably						
	Quark Interactive Designer	Quark	Euro.quark.com	£69	Expo 06	★★★★☆
Create interactive Flash sites and presentations within QuarkXPress Pros: Cheap introductory price, much easier to use than Flash, great for designers who don't want to learn Flash coding Cons: Requires QuarkXPress 7 (£749), limited compared to Flash						
	Aperture 1.5.2	Apple	www.apple.com/uk/	£219	May 07	★★★★☆
Apple's pro photo application for capturing and editing photographic images Pros: Excellent interface and workflow, fantastic loupe and image adjustment tools, integrates with iPhoto, bug fixes Cons: Not as good as Photoshop for image manipulation, adjusting large Raw-format images requires a fast Mac and a high-end video card						
	Flash CS3	Adobe	www.adobe.co.uk	£574.58	Aug 07	★★★★☆
The industry standard for web animation and design gets its first update courtesy of new owners Adobe Pros: Improved design tools and accessibility for Photoshop and Illustrator users, enhanced integration with Illustrator and Fireworks Cons: Creating Flash animation still requires study, expensive						
	Photoshop Lightroom	Adobe	www.adobe.co.uk	£146	May 07	★★★★☆ Macworld Editors' Choice
Adobe's rich photographic workflow application makes an impressive debut Pros: Excellent photo-management and importing capabilities, strong editing functionality, performs well across wide range of Macs Cons: Interface has a few minor inconsistencies, needs more comprehensive documentation, no secure FTP						
	After Effects CS3	Adobe	www.adobe.co.uk	£1,175	WWDC 07	★★★★☆ Macworld Editors' Choice
Top-class motion-graphics package with a fresh range of new features and multi-core processing capabilities Pros: Boosted integration with Premiere, Illustrator and Photoshop; new time-saving tools, puppet tool Cons: You will really need to upgrade to a multi-core Intel Mac to take full advantage of the program						
	Photoshop CS3 Extended	Adobe	www.adobe.co.uk	£887.12	June 07	★★★★☆ Macworld Editors' Choice
Adobe's image editor goes one step beyond photos and into the realms of scientific 3D design and animation Pros: Video layers, 3D visualisation and texture support, enhanced image editing tools, medical and scientific imaging Cons: Expensive, heavy requirements, installation requires online registration						
	Premiere Pro CS3	Adobe	www.adobe.co.uk	£704	WWDC 07	★★★★☆
Powerful video editing package. Not quite up to the same standard as Final Cut, but integrates well with other Adobe products Pros: Plenty of control over video elements, integration with Adobe range; features work in a slick and well-engineered manner Cons: Lack of backward compatibility with older Premiere versions, nothing 'stand-out' in terms of the video editing experience						

Upgrade your Mac

Macs are surprisingly future-proof compared to their PC brethren, with even the oldest G3 Macs happily running Mac OS X Tiger and most of the latest software. However, to get the most out of modern programs you either need to buy a new Mac or turbo-charge your old one. Here's how...

Memory

Depeche Mode once sang: "I just can't get enough", and neither can your Mac. Tiger really needs 1GB of memory to run happily, but the more the merrier. Prices vary depending on your machine, but expect to pay around £55 for 1GB of memory for older Macs, and £125 for the Mac Pros. Apple charges a premium for memory, so instead try Crucial (www.crucial.com). Its comprehensive site matches memory to your Mac and offers great deals.

Processor

It is possible to upgrade the processor in many older Macs, although you can't switch from PowerPC to Intel. Nevertheless, this is a cost-effective way to get more out of an older machine. Upgrading the processor is best left to the experts though. Take a look at Mac Upgrades (www.macupgrades.co.uk) for further information and pricing.

Hard drive

Upgrading the hard drive in a Power Mac or Mac Pro is easy enough. Just flip open the case and install the drive into a spare drive bay. Upgrading an iMac, Mac mini or PowerBook/MacBook Pro is slightly more complicated. In most cases we'd advise buying an external hard drive (either FireWire or USB 2.0). If you own a MacBook then matters are slightly easier (although not as cost effective as buying a second drive). Go to manuals.info.apple.com/en/MacBook_13inch_HardDrive_Diy.pdf to download instructions from Apple.

Graphics card

Upgrading your graphics card will enhance performance in graphics-intensive programs, games and 3D software. It can only be done in Power Macs and Mac Pros, but is a great way to get more out of your machine. Head over to Mac Upgrades (www.macupgrades.co.uk) to find a list of compatible graphics cards for your machine.



“Rather than just take pleasure in what I have, I’ve become entranced by everything that Leopard seems to promise for the future...”

Leopard limited

The best thing I can say about the first ten months’ worth of pre-release editions of Leopard that I dutifully downloaded is that they consistently sent me back to those carefree days of my youth. I would boot from the external hard drive where I’d installed the latest developer seed and instantly, I’d be transported back to simpler times. You know, before computers could access the internet. Or share files across a network. Use both upper and lower case keys. That sort of thing.

Fortunately, a full 23 days before I had to complete a 500-page book on the OS, the seeds finally started to not suck and I started to appreciate the thing for what it actually is: an extremely wide range of new features and enhancements. I was looking forward to a long, satisfying, and stable relationship.

Of course, I quickly ruined everything by refusing to simply enjoy the here and now. Rather than just take pleasure in what I have, I’ve become entranced by everything that Leopard seems to promise for the future.

Such as true next-gen Mac apps. One of Leopard’s most important features is invisible to the user: Core Animation, a library of resources that allows developers to cause bits of the user-interface to move and act like real-world objects. Mac haters who’ve forever shuttered their hearts against hope and love attack the Mac users for being entranced by pretty colours instead of true power. Don’t they understand that beauty is actually a feature of a modern operating system?

Look at how well the iPhone works. It’s actually a bit surprising to note how mundane its feature set actually is. Most phones that cost half as much as the iPhone can attach a photo to an email. But whereas a mundane phone just slaps ‘IMG020408228.JPG’ somewhere in the message header to confirm to the user that he or she pushed the right buttons, the iPhone rolls the ‘backdrop’ of the photo viewer away, rolls the Mail app in behind the picture, and then zooms the camera back in. There’s no question about what’s happened.

That’s Core Animation; it’s the basis of the iPhone’s edition of Leopard and once the Mac’s developers start rolling out new apps that fully exploit 10.5, old apps written for 10.4 will seem about as mouth-watering as a sandwich from a bus-station vending machine.

I like Time Machine for what it is (a backup system that’s so simple that you can’t not backup your hard drive without making an ill-advised statement of defiance). But I want to see it become as ubiquitous as Undo. Imagine if you could use it everywhere. You’ve been working on a report all day and made a pretty big mess of it. Wouldn’t it be great to just click on the Time Machine icon and ‘rewind’ the document until it’s back the way it was? Better, if you could just copy the three pages that were fine as-is and paste them into the present? Wouldn’t it be great if you could rewind your network settings back to when your Mac could actually find the network?

If these things are merely distracting me from Leopard’s present charms, its network features are rendering me utterly

blind. ‘Back To My Mac’ instantly elevates .Mac from a largely disowned service into a core feature of the Mac experience: it turns the entire worldwide internet into your own personal local network. With .Mac acting as the middleman, any Mac running 10.5 anywhere in the world can locate your home or office machine and silently forge a secure connection.

Your shared folders, volumes, music library, printers, and other network devices are as good as if they were plugged in via USB. If that’s not good enough, Screen Sharing lets you use your home iMac as though you were sitting at it.

This sounds like a shift in philosophy. Your iMac is no longer your actual Mac. Conceptually, it’s now just a box that contains a wide range of services that can be ‘projected’ elsewhere... including the screen it’s attached to.

Your Mac, anywhere

Think about how this fits in with the rest of the Apple line. You’re on the road and suddenly remember that you left the office without emailing someone a file. So you walk into an Apple Store or any other joint with public Macs. You fish your iPhone out of your pocket and tap a ‘My Mac’ widget. Via Bluetooth, it locates the Mac you’re sitting at and after tapping a confirmation... this strange Mac becomes your own. You launch the Mail app that’s sitting on your desk at the office, compose the email, attach the file, and Send, confident that the file and the message will be sent over your office’s secure network connection, and not the store’s open WiFi.

You tap another button on the phone, and your presence instantly disappears from the iMac. Leopard actually has a built-in feature for hosting temporary guest accounts that destroys all traces of the temp user’s presence when they log out. It’s a nice new feature in and of itself, but is it possible that Apple has larger plans in mind?

A year ago, a tablet Mac made no sense for Apple. These machines tend to be just as expensive as a notebook without being nearly as convenient.

Today? I picture a tablet about half the size of a MacBook display. It has an iPhone-like multi-touch user interface and on its own, it works as a super-iPhone or super-iPod, and runs native apps. But when its WiFi (or – dare I dream it – 3G) connection is active, your home Mac can project its resources into it from anywhere in the world. You can even run your iMac’s apps on the tablet via Screen Sharing.

Dream a little lower? Okay... how about a £200 MacBook? No hard drive or optical storage: just 16GB of flash RAM. It needs few resources of its own because it relies on your desktop Mac for all of its features and power.

I know, I know: “Live in the now, Andy.” OK. I am loving the Finder’s new Cover Flow and Quick Look features. I have taken Leopard Mail for long walks in the park so we can enjoy the autumn leaves, etc. But of the 300 Leopard features that Apple lists on its website, they don’t include one of the most valuable: hope and confidence that 2008 is going to be a fantastic year for anybody who uses Macs.

MW

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