

Apple Introduces iPhone 3G S, 3.0 Software

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MACWORLD.COM'S TOP 5

The top 5 stories on Macworld.com are:

- 1 Digging into Apple's OS X 10.5.7 Update**
Rob Griffiths looks under the hood to find a surprising number of changes (macworld.com/4916).
- 2 Climbing Mount Everest with a MacBook Pro and an iPod**
Jim Dalrymple finds out what some people do for entertainment on the world's highest peak (macworld.com/4917).
- 3 Review: Bento for iPhone**
Mobile FileMaker app lets you manage libraries of information on the go (macworld.com/4879).
- 4 7 Surprising Uses for the iPhone's Camera**
Kelly Turner shows you how to use your phone's built-in camera for more than just snapshots (macworld.com/4918).
- 5 Maximizing Your Mac Mini**
Dan Frakes puts his Mac mini under the putty knife to install some performance upgrades (macworld.com/4919).

(Ranking valid as of May 26, 2009.)

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'S' Is for Speed

Why Apple treats the iPhone like a black box

When it comes to describing the iPhone (and its phone-less counterpart, the iPod touch), Apple doesn't want to use the geeky tech language that we use to describe computers. Instead, Apple presents the iPhone as a black box that's powered by a special brand of technological voodoo. Or maybe elves. Or magic beans.

What's Inside?

When I recently sat down with Bob Borchers (Apple's senior director of worldwide iPhone product marketing) to talk about the new iPhone 3G S, he made it clear that Apple doesn't like to use "the usual speeds and feeds" in talking about the iPhone. He prefers to say simply, "Overall, it's a quicker, snappier experience." Or as Phil Schiller (Apple's senior vice president of worldwide product marketing) was widely quoted saying, "the S simply stands for *speed*."

But how does Apple get all that speed inside the phone? Let's not go there.

Even so, we'll eventually know all about the 3G S's technical specs. I'm guessing that sometime on the evening of June 19, right after the phone is released, iFixit.com will post the results of its teardown of the new hardware. Developers will see how much free memory is available on the new device. We'll know how much RAM the thing has, how fast its processor is, whether or not there's a Tooth Fairy in there—the whole story.

(Quick: can you name the device in the iPhone OS product line with the most powerful processor? Among those of us who care about such things, it's common knowledge that the second-generation iPod touch actually has a faster processor than the iPhone 3G—532MHz versus 412MHz.)

But people who *aren't* into this stuff won't care. And you know what? That's OK. Because those of us who scrutinize



How does Apple get all that speed inside the phone? Let's not go there.

tech specs are a tiny subset of the broad market for the iPhone, iPod touch, and all sorts of other consumer tech products. In many ways, Apple's reluctance to go into technical detail on most of its products is an extension of the company's entire product-design philosophy.

Gnomes and Tiny Pulleys

Apple excels at creating products the public likes because the company is driven by design, not by engineering. Most tech products—heck, most products in general—aren't as good as they could be because they're put together by the people with the technical knowledge required to build them. The engineering drives the design.

Bad Web sites are built by people who know how to code HTML and JavaScript but don't understand how regular people use the Web. Bad software is written by people who know how computers work and how to write code, but who have no idea how regular people interact with software. Bad hardware is designed by people who choose the shape of devices and the placement of buttons based on

the layout of the internal circuit board, not by people who think about the most convenient ways for the human body to physically use that hardware.

Apple, by contrast, makes design decisions based on how regular people use tech products, then challenges its engineers to find ways to realize those designs. If iMovie edits HD video in a snap, most people don't need to know that the video has been transcoded to the Apple Intermediate Codec. They probably don't care that Snow Leopard will use Grand Central Dispatch to send threads to separate processor cores, they just care that their Macs feel faster. They don't need to know that their iPhones have 412MHz processors and 128MB of RAM; they just want to tap on an app and have it load quickly. And they probably don't care whether that speed is driven by a microprocessor or by a team of gnomes hauling on tiny pulleys.

We geekier types want to know those details. But Apple doesn't want to muddy the waters for everyone else. I'm sure that if Apple could put the genie back in the bottle and stop releasing hardware tech specs for new Mac models, it would. But Apple can and will keep specs for the iPod and iPhone to a minimum.

You and I both know that iPhones are really little computers. In fact, the iPhone and iPod touch have about as much processing power as a turn-of-the-millennium Mac laptop. But ask people at Apple about such specs, and they'll change the subject. Because the message Apple wants to send about its new iPhone isn't that it's loaded with this processor or that much RAM. It's that "the S simply stands for *speed*." And absolutely nothing more. ☒

What do you think? Do you care what's inside the iPhone? Write me at jason_snell@macworld.com or join the discussion at forums.macworld.com.

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Do Recent Speed Bumps Measure Up?

The new beefed-up Macs are examined, and an overlooked hard drive is praised

New Desktops Discussed

The most impressive part of the new mini and MacBook is their lower power consumption for the same, if not improved, performance compared to previous models ("Desktop Invasion," May 2009). Reviews focus primarily on speed performance for the money. It would be a nice shift to have new product reviews focus more on the environmental impacts of their use, with a power consumption comparison for each of the key performance tasks in the benchmarks.

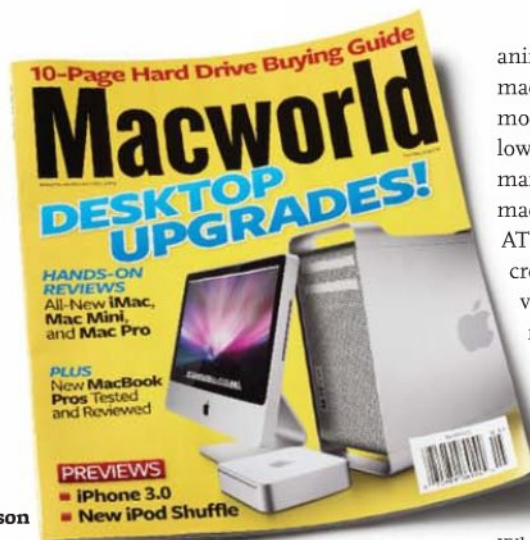
richmason

Apple could have produced a slightly thicker 24-inch iMac (using less-expensive, 9000S series 65w cores) that would have set up the line better for Snow Leopard, and put it in a more desirable position against upcoming competition. They could have created a "big brother" to the mini based on small-form-factor desktop parts—a modern-day cube if you will. What they chose to do was follow design

philosophy and put the desires of the designers ahead of the users. That put folks who aren't quite into minimalism into very bad positions.

benroethig

Apple's core market includes graphic design, filmmaking, photography, and Web design, and should also include



animation. Current iMacs are great machines for all these areas *except* 3-D modeling and animation, because the low-end machines have poorer performance in 3-D applications than previous machines. A 1999 eMac with a 32MB ATI Rage card will display models created in Maya 7 correctly in the viewport. A current low-end iMac will not. Is it too much to ask that new Macs support an application such as Maya as well as a ten-year-old machine does?

Mister_T

Hard-Drive Roundup

What I would really like to see in an in-depth review is reliability data ("Buy a Better Drive," May 2009). After suffering four Western Digital drive failures in two years, I'm not impressed by the specs for enclosures, ports, or capacity if I can't trust my drive not to suddenly disappear from my desktop. Reliability has become a very serious issue in this industry. Believe it or not, I am still operating a number of Mac Quadras, and their original drives have been running since 1992. They've failed once in 15 years. I understand that the higher capacities today mean tinier parts that are more fragile and prone to wear, but the industry may have put too much emphasis on capacity and not enough on reliability.

pstys

OVERHEARD ON THE FORUMS

Anyone who fails to keep local copies of all files stored in the cloud deserves no sympathy whatsoever if their online files are nuked unexpectedly.

alansky
macworld.com/4897

There are some features in Windows that I would love in OS X, and I'm sure it's vice versa. Personally, I do not care if one OS borrows an idea from the other, as long as it benefits me, the user.

MuffinDCC
macworld.com/4898



Setting up a four-drive, hot-swappable, mirrored external RAID system isn't easy for most users, even if they can find their way to Disk Utility. The Drobo makes this incredibly simple and relatively cheap, and uses space much more efficiently than a standard RAID 0 setup. Anyone can pop 3.5-inch drives

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THE POSSIBILITIES ARE INFINITE

Malestrom 28-06-2009

in and out of this little guy with ease, without even knowing what a RAID is. You can replace a bad drive, upgrade to larger drives, and so forth, without even powering down your system, all with active data transfers or streaming content. Can a proficient user cobble together an external RAID system that performs faster than the Drobo? No doubt. Are stand-alone FireWire 800 drives cheaper and faster? Absolutely. That doesn't negate the charm and appeal of the Drobo, which does what it does better than anything on the market in this price range.

☞ **KBeat**



Why does *Macworld* always ignore the OWC (Other World Computing) drives, which are in every way superior to the LaCie drives? As many people have noted before, OWC has fantastic service, and LaCie's service is, in my experience, extremely poor to nonexistent. Plus its drives easily conk out.

☞ **astromino**

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I have purchased 25-plus hard drives for work over the past few years. I have tried models from Western Digital (which have a problem with booting on Macs), LaCie, Maxtor, and a few off-brands. I've had no problems with any of the OWC drives, and all have worked great for cloning and booting. The couple of times I had to call customer service, the company sent out the appropriate-size drive, and I received it the next day. Now I won't buy anything but OWC.

☞ **sdtuttonusa**

Forum Faux Pas

Christopher Breen wrote an excellent piece on e-mail manners ("E-mail Etiquette," *Working Mac*, April 2009). I am a member of an online forum that relies on messages sent and responded to by members. Sadly, a number of our members don't understand the need to edit text prior to responding to messages. A message can contain quotes from 30 people, all reflecting what the 29 prior respondents said. A digest of these messages can total 50 pages. Talk about the message getting lost in the medium.

✉ **Michael D. Roberts**

Product Predictions

Would I pay \$500 for a supersize iPhone-like netbook ("Netbook or Bust," *From the Editor's Desk*, April 2009)? In a heartbeat! I own a MacBook and an iPhone, but there is nothing in between. I've contemplated an 8.9-inch netbook or a Kindle, but both have obvious deficiencies. And for me, Web browsing on an iPhone is like stargazing through a keyhole—it can be done, but why?

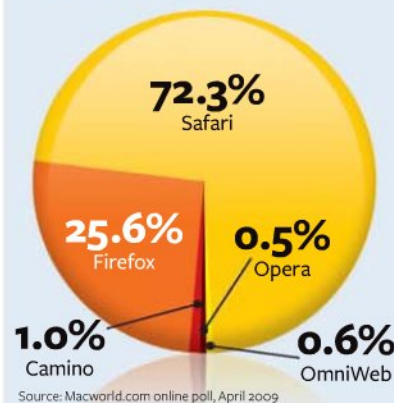
✉ **Patrick McSweeney**

Are you kidding? Apple took the "iPhone-like device" you're describing (with uncanny accuracy, I might add) off the market 12 years ago. It was called the Newton 2100, and I paid \$900 for mine (two months before Apple discontinued it). It was worth every penny, and if Apple introduced a Newton 2200 tomorrow, I'd stand in line to get one.

✉ **Kris Cole**

READER POLL

What is your preferred Web browser?



.Mac Retirement

Apple is retiring the .Mac Homepage application. The company's solution for MobileMe subscribers is the hodgepodge of iWeb and iPhoto Web galleries. Apple isn't deleting existing content, but we are losing the ability to add or edit online content created in Homepage. The service has been pared down over the years—Apple once offered Apple iCards, antivirus software, and add-ons to both Apple and third-party software. The service was even free for a time. Maybe the "cloud" holds more for us in the future, but it's hard to see through Apple's less-is-more strategy right now.

✉ **Andy Holleron**

FireWired Up

The abandonment of FireWire 400 will force the music production business to make some big changes ("Don't Worry: FireWire Is FireWire," *MacUser*, May 2009). GarageBand users won't necessarily be affected, but professional product developers will have to do some serious rethinking. Even Apogee, which touts its Mac-centric designs, uses only FireWire 400 ports. DigiDesign also uses only FireWire 400. It's hard to get good outboard drives with FireWire 400 unless you go with a custom fabricator such as Pacific Pro Audio.

✉ **Rick Strachan**

Give your iPhone or BlackBerry® more than double the juice.



For iPhone/iPod

Direct plug-in/no cable.
Includes 2G/3G support brace.
RS001 **\$69.95**



For iPhone/iPod with Cable

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Perfect for iPod touch.
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For All BlackBerry®

Cable or direct plug-in.
Works with all USB-port phones.
RS007 **\$69.95**

Built-in super bright
LED flashlight.



Built-in laser pointer.

The quick pocket solution to top up your iPhone or BlackBerry! And now get a free iPhone case too!

by Richard Thalheimer

Just plug RichardSolo 1800 into your iPhone/BlackBerry once or twice a day for fifteen minutes, and keep your device charged up. At your desk or at dinner, plug in RichardSolo to instantly transfer charge. No more battery worries! 1800 mAh lithium-ion battery is largest in its class and holds its charge for months. RichardSolo 1800 will charge iPhone to full 1.5 times, and lithium-ion is good for 3-5 years of recharges.

Retractable USB cable, 110-240v AC wall charger, and dual-port USB car charger included — like getting two extra chargers for free! Even charge the RichardSolo 1800 and phone together at the same time. Take only one charger when traveling and wake up in the morning with the RichardSolo and your phone charged. Put the RichardSolo in your pocket, plug it into your phone now and then to top it up. Use your phone while charging it.

Enjoy a built-in laser pointer and ultra-bright LED flashlight, too! These two lights use very little power, so you get handy extra features. RS001 is the only snap-on battery available with a latching mechanism for iPhone, to keep battery firmly attached. RS001 fits all iPhone/iPod cases except the very thickest armor. Optional 2G/3G support brace included.

RS001 works with iPhone and all iPod models except shuffle.

RS008 works with iPhone and all iPod models except shuffle — perfect for iPod touch.

RS007 works with all BlackBerry models and any phone with a mini/micro USB charging port. Plug in directly or use with cable.

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— **D.C.**

Reviewers give it top marks.

"Now RichardSolo has released a much improved version of the Backup Battery that not only provides more power for your iPhone or iPod, but some excellent new features that trash the competition."

— **TUAW.com**

"The quintessential accessory for all iPhone/ iPod owners. If you don't already own one, you need to order yours today."

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Included Free:

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- Dual-port USB Car Charger
- Retractable USB Cable
- Support brace for iPhone
- Cable shown with model

Plus

Order now, and we will include our **\$24.95** hard case for iPhone 3G as a **free bonus with RS001/RS008!**

Good protection, textured finish, works perfectly with our support brace.



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OPERATING SYSTEM

Apple Releases Snow Leopard Details

Focus on performance over features in next Mac OS X

At its 2008 Worldwide Developers Conference, Apple announced that the next generation of Mac OS X—known officially as Mac OS X 10.6, less formally as Snow Leopard—would emphasize improved performance over new features. At this year's WWDC, in its announcement that Snow Leopard would ship this September, Apple provided some details about what that will mean.

Focus on Performance

For starters, Apple says that nearly every system application in Snow Leopard—

including the Finder, Mail, Safari, iCal, and iChat—has been rebuilt with 64-bit code. Very roughly speaking, that means the software will work more efficiently with the 64-bit CPUs built into today's Macs; it also means software can utilize greater amounts of RAM. According to Apple senior vice president of software engineering Bertrand Serlet, some system processes run twice as fast in 64-bit mode versus 32-bit.

Snow Leopard will also feature Grand Central Dispatch (a way for software to take advantage of multicore processors) and OpenCL (an open standard that lets

developers tap into the graphics processing unit for more than just games and 3-D modeling).

The new Finder, for example, has been rewritten to take advantage of both Grand Central and 64-bit support. Apple says that as a result, a PDF icon will refresh 1.7 times faster than in Leopard; a JPEG icon, 1.4 times faster.

You should see similar improvements throughout the OS. Apple says that Snow Leopard will install up to 45 percent faster than Leopard did, while taking up 6GB less drive space (depending on your configuration). Time

Machine should be up to 50 percent faster. Your Mac should be quicker to wake from sleep, to shut down, and to join wireless networks. And third-party apps that take advantage of those under-the-hood improvements should see comparable gains.

More Than Speed

That's not to say there won't be any new features in Snow Leopard.

For example, the versions of Mail, Address Book, and iCal that ship with Snow Leopard will all support Microsoft Exchange Server 2007, making it easier

Your Mac should be quicker to wake from sleep, to shut down, and to join wireless networks.

for Macs to integrate into corporate environments that use Exchange. Snow Leopard will also ship with Safari 4, which, in addition to getting a 64-bit speedup, should also be more resistant to crashes caused by browser plug-ins: only the part of a Web page containing a glitchy plug-in will crash; the browser itself should remain open.

There will also be some smaller but welcome tweaks in the new OS. For example, the Dock will inherit an Exposé-like trick: when you click and hold on an application icon in the Dock, you'll see all the open windows for that particular program.

A revamped QuickTime—version X—will superimpose playback controls over the video you're watching; those controls will fade away when you move the cursor. You'll also be able to trim clips and share them with YouTube, MobileMe, or iTunes (for exporting onto an iPhone) from within the QuickTime player.

Snow Leopard also improves the Services menu. In previous versions of OS X, that menu has been a long, unwieldy list of every service available on your machine. In 10.6, you'll get more control over which services appear on the list. You'll also be able to access those services from a contextual menu. The services themselves are now

contextual, too: you'll see only those that are compatible with whatever selection you've made.

Snow Leopard adds a nice tweak to Preview. If you've ever tried to select text in a multicolumn document, you know it's no fun. Typically, you wind up selecting text across columns, instead of just in the column you want. Snow Leopard will apply some artificial intelligence as you make your selection, helping Preview select the desired text.

Longtime users will particularly welcome one new feature: Snow Leopard will have a Put Back command that

moves a file from the Trash back to its originating folder—very useful when you change your mind about deleting a file. Old-timers will remember this command from OS 9 as Put Away; it's still ☞-Y in our muscle memory.

What It Will Cost

When it ships in September, Snow Leopard will cost \$29 for Leopard users, with a family pack available for \$49. That's a far cry from Apple's usual price on OS X updates; Leopard, for example, cost \$129.

Why the low price? "Snow Leopard is a better Leopard," says Serlet. Translation: Given the comparative dearth of new features that end users could readily spot, the company couldn't justify charging its usual upgrade fee.

One bummer note for some potential buyers: OS X 10.6 will work on Intel-based Macs only; owners of aging PowerPC-based hardware won't be able to upgrade. That signals, at long last, the end of the PowerPC era. Apple announced it was moving to Intel-supplied processors at WWDC in 2005, and while Macs released since 2006 have featured Intel chips, Mac OS X continued to support both hardware platforms. With Snow Leopard, that support will come to an end. ☒

LAPTOPS

New MacBook Pros Announced

At its WWDC keynote, Apple also announced a revamp of almost its entire laptop line.

A new unibody 13-inch MacBook Pro and the three 15-inch models get lithium-polymer batteries, improved displays (Apple claims a 60 percent better color gamut), and new SD memory card slots; the 13-inch model sports a FireWire 800 port.

The 13-inch MacBook Pro comes in two models: 2.26GHz (with 2GB of RAM, Nvidia GeForce 9400M graphics, and a 160GB hard drive) for \$1,199; and 2.53GHz (with 4GB of RAM, a 250GB hard drive, and the same 9400M graphics) for \$1,499. The 15-inch model sports processors from 2.53GHz to 3.06GHz (a build-to-order option), with base prices starting at \$1,699 to \$2,299, depending on configuration. All MacBook Pros can accept up to 8GB of RAM, and can be outfitted with a 500GB hard disk drive or a 256GB solid-state drive (SSD).

The 17-inch MacBook Pro model gets a 2.8GHz processor (upgradable to 3.06GHz) and a 500GB hard drive (with an option for the 256GB SSD), for a base price of \$2,499.

In the refreshed MacBook Air line, the \$1,499 model comes equipped with a 1.86GHz processor, 2GB of RAM, and a 120GB hard drive. For \$1,799, you can get a 2.13GHz model with a 128GB SSD; those prices are much more competitive than before. The Air now includes a USB-to-Ethernet adapter, previously available only separately, right in the box.

—PETER COHEN



IPHONE

Apple Debuts iPhone 3G S, iPhone 3.0

Surprising no one, Apple officially announced a new iPhone operating system—iPhone 3.0—and new iPhone hardware—the iPhone 3G S—at its Worldwide Developers Conference. Both items were slated to ship in June.

iPhone 3.0

Many of the 100 new features in iPhone 3.0—including cut, copy, and paste; landscape keyboard mode in many key applications; ubiquitous search support; peer-to-peer Bluetooth-based networking; push notifications; and in-app store support—were previewed last March. But at WWDC 2009, Apple delved more deeply into some of those previously announced features—and at the same time took a few digs at its carrier partner, AT&T.

For example, Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS) has been high on many iPhone wish lists; iPhone 3.0 finally has it. But MMS requires carrier support. Apple showed the list of carriers—29 in 76 countries—who will support MMS when iPhone 3.0 launches, and AT&T wasn't on it. When Apple's Scott Forstall said that U.S. MMS support would come "later this summer," many members of the audience booed.

Tethering (sharing your iPhone's Net connection with a Mac or PC) also makes its debut in iPhone 3.0. But it, too, requires carrier support; when Apple listed dozens of carriers that will support it at launch, AT&T was, again, notably absent from the list.

Another standout new feature that will be available at launch time—Find My Phone, which helps you locate your misplaced phone—will require a MobileMe account. And third-party developers have demonstrated some cool new tools, such as turn-by-turn, GPS-based directions.

iPhone 3.0—which should be available by the time you read this—will be a free download for owners of both the original iPhone and the iPhone 3G; owners of first- or second-generation iPod touches will be able to download it for \$10.

iPhone 3G S

In addition to introducing the new OS, Apple also unveiled new iPhone hardware. Dubbed the iPhone 3G S, the latest version of Apple's popular smart phone promises to launch applications and run software faster than the previous model, as well as take advantage of faster cellular networks. The S, says Apple, stands for *speed*.

"Overall, it's a quicker, snappier experience," says Bob Borchers, senior director of worldwide iPhone product marketing. While Apple is loath to discuss the specifics of the iPhone's innards, the 3G S has a faster processor and more onboard memory.

From the outside, the iPhone 3G S is almost identical to the previous 3G model. One nice exterior change: the screen has an oil-resistant coating to prevent smudges from fingers.

The new phone also sports a 3-megapixel camera; you can control its focus by tapping on the screen or with autofocus. It can also capture video (in standard definition). And the phone has a new Voice Control fea-

ture, which enables you to speak commands to the phone to dial a contact or play a specific song.

Apple says that the 3G S will have better battery life than its predecessor: nine hours of Internet access using Wi-Fi, 10 hours of video playback, 30 hours of audio playback, or 12 hours of 2G talk time on one charge. The five hours of 3G talk time on the new model is consistent with the estimated talk time of the previous iPhone 3G.

For new and qualifying AT&T customers, the iPhone 3G S will sell for \$199 for the 16GB version and \$299 for a 32GB model. Apple is also cutting the price on the current 8GB iPhone 3G to \$99. Current iPhone 3G owners may or may not qualify for that pricing, depending largely on the status of their contract. AT&T spokesperson Mark Siegel says that customers can check their eligibility via Apple's online store or AT&T's Web site.—MACWORLD

STAFF



HARDWARE

Aegis Desktop, from Apricorn (www.apricorn.com): External hard drive has SATA and USB 2.0 ports and capacities of 500GB, 1TB, and 1.5TB (\$109 to \$219).

Alpha A230, from Sony (www.sonystyle.com): 10.2-megapixel digital camera features a new software interface designed for inexperienced SLR users (\$550 with lens).

Core4 and Core7, from LaCie (www.lacie.com): New USB 2.0 hubs offer four and seven ports, respectively (Core4, \$10; Core7, \$20).

eGo hard drives, from Iomega (go.iomega.com): Portable hard drives feature anodized aluminum exteriors and come in capacities ranging from 160GB to 500GB (\$70 to \$150).

PRODUCT
WATCH

iPod + iTunes News

Everything you need to know about digital music



CES Expands Size of iPod and iPhone Showcase at 2010 Event

The Consumer Electronics Association, which organizes the massive Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas every January, plans to more than quintuple the size of its iPhone and iPod exhibit space at the 2010 event. The show's iLounge Pavilion will now occupy 25,000 square feet at the 2010 International CES, which starts January 7, 2010, with app makers joining iPhone and iPod accessory makers in the exhibit space.

The expanded pavilion at CES comes as Macworld Expo regroups following Apple's decision to no longer participate in the Expo show. However, Expo's move to February in 2010 means it won't have to compete with CES for attention and exhibitors. So the presence of Apple-related items at CES doesn't mean there will be fewer goodies in San Francisco next February.

—PHILIP MICHAELS

Orange Hits 1 Million iPhone Sales in France

This just in: Apple has sold 1 million iPhones—*en France*. Although France was one of the first countries outside the United States to get Apple's handset, wireless provider Orange took 18 months to hit the same milestone that Apple achieved in the United States in just 74 days.

Orange released the iPhone in France in November 2007, though sales were lackluster compared to those in the United States, with Orange selling only 70,000 units in 2007. However, the sales in France seems to be more or less keeping pace with those of other overseas markets: Apple's partner in the United Kingdom, O2, started selling the iPhone slightly earlier than Orange, and it hit 1 million units this past February. Still, it's cause for celebration in France.—DAN MOREN



iPOD EARBUD REVELATION IS SHOCKING

You probably have enough to worry about already, but what you don't know about your iPod headphones might shock you. Literally.

Apple Knowledge Base article TS2729 (support.apple.com/kb/TS2729) warns users about the ever-so-dangerous interaction between your earbuds and static electricity.

As Apple describes, the effect is similar to dragging your feet across a carpet and receiving a static shock when you touch a doorknob—but instead of the static charge building up on your body, the charge builds up on the device to which the earbuds are connected (in other words, your iPod).

Don't fret, though. Apple has a number of suggestions for how you can deal with this problem, such as using a humidifier and hand lotion to minimize static electricity.—DAN MOREN



WEB

The Browser Front Heats Up

If you thrill to every new development in the world of browsers, the past few months have probably felt like a golden age.

Google has released a developer-only Mac version of its Chrome browser. And while Chrome promises to turn into a fast, stable browser someday, that promise is as yet unfulfilled; Google admits that many of its most basic features don't work properly yet. But you can download a close relative of Chrome, in the form of Chromium (macworld.com/4943).

Much as Apple's Safari browser is based on the open-source WebKit project, Chrome is based on the open-source Chromium. Like Chrome, Chromium isn't entirely ready for prime time, though it gets updated more frequently than Chrome and hence may acquire new features and bug fixes first. At the moment, you'll have to compile its source code yourself, using Xcode.

Meanwhile, Opera has released a beta of Opera 10 (macworld.com/4944), which features a reworked interface from noted designer Jon Hicks, as well as other improvements. Even at this early stage, the result is impressive and well worth checking out.—ROB GRIFFITHS



PRODUCT WATCH

HARDWARE

Epson Stylus NX115, from Epson (www.epson.com): All-in-one inkjet prints up to 30 black-and-white pages per minute (\$70).

WD20EVDs hard drive, from Western Digital (www.westerndigital.com): 2TB internal drive claims to reduce power consumption by up to 40 percent (\$299).

SOFTWARE

DiscLabel 6, from SmileOnMyMac (www.smileonmy.com): Label-design tool for CDs and DVDs adds 60 templates with new themes (\$36; upgrade, \$15).

iBiz 4, from IGG Software (www.iggsoftware.com): Time-tracking and billing software adds a Statements feature for sending an overview of all past billing activity (\$40; upgrade, \$20).



SECURITY

Undercover Software Helps Recover Stolen MacBook

Are you paranoid about the possibility that your MacBook will fall into nefarious hands? Then listen to the tale of Norwegian MacBook owner Petter Røisland, who used the \$49 Undercover 3 software (macworld.com/4942) to get his laptop back after it was taken during a break-in. The program snaps pictures and transmits data to a central location in the event of a computer theft.

As Røisland recounted it in the blog of Undercover developer Orbicule, he contacted the Undercover recovery center after the theft to report the incident. "I got an e-mail from Orbicule," he wrote. "I confirmed the theft, and about 10 minutes later, the machine was marked as stolen and Undercover was activated."

About two months later, Røisland discovered that—based on Undercover's snaps from the MacBook's camera—his laptop was in the possession of a leading drug dealer. Soon after, Røisland was sitting pretty, back in front of his MacBook, with all the data intact.—CYRUS FARIVAR

SOFTWARE

MacSpeech Dictate 1.5, from MacSpeech (www.macspeech.com): Updated speech-recognition software adds a vocabulary editor (\$199; upgrade, \$55).

MonitorMyMac, from Arten Science (www.monitormymac.co.uk): Security program takes timed screenshots or (using your computer's Web cam) pictures to keep track of your Mac (£25).

Sibelius 6 Professional, from Avid (www.sibelius.com): Music notation software adds a Magnetic Layout feature and a Versions tool for tracking student progress (\$599; upgrade, \$169).

Slife 3.0, from Slife Labs (www.slifelabs.com): Redesigned time- and productivity-management software is now available as a subscription-based Web service (\$5 per month).



LAPTOPS

Climbing Mount Everest with a MacBook Pro and an iPod

If you're planning an expedition to conquer Mount Everest, you need to make sure you have all the necessary supplies. These days, a MacBook Pro and a few iPods sometimes make the list.

On the First Ascent Web site (blog.firstascent.com), Gerry Moffatt, head of production for the team, filmed daily dispatches and used his MacBook Pro to transfer and edit the data. All of the footage was shot on a solid-state card on the mountain. "It's then put into the trusty MacBook Pro," Moffatt said in a video on the Web site. "These have been functioning superbly all the way up—we're at about 21,000 feet."

Once he had backed up the footage, the card went back to base camp. A video editor then made another backup before editing the footage for public viewing. After an edit in Final Cut Pro, the finished product was uploaded via satellite connection to an FTP server in the United States and then posted online.—JIM DALRYMPLE

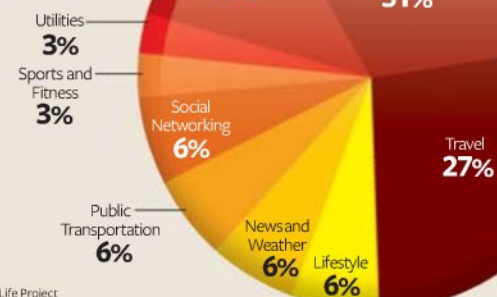
Tech Trends

Know Where You Are

According to a study by Skyhook Wireless, 2,300 of the 35,000 iPhone apps available in the App Store are location-aware. Not surprisingly, navigation and travel apps account for more than half of these applications.—MARY-ANN JONES THOMPSON

Source: Pew Internet and American Life Project

Percent of iPhone Location-Aware Applications by Category





GAMES

Game Cancellation Misses the Mark

Konami has canceled plans to publish the third-person shooter and combat simulator *Six Days in Fallujah*. Based on the battle of Fallujah during the Iraq War, the game draws on the experiences of real-life Marines and depicts real events. Developer Atomic Games interviewed not only 47 U.S. Marines, but also civilians and enemy insurgents.

The game's cancellation shows what's wrong with the game business. "Every form of media has grown by producing content about current events, content that's powerful because it's relevant," says Atomic Games' Peter Tamte. "Video game creators can help people understand things that can't even be communicated through pictures."

Konami apparently doesn't agree. While it's dropping *Six Days in Fallujah*, it will publish *Saw: The Game*. That's like punishing the kid in class who's asking adult questions while ignoring the kid who's poking the class hamster with a stick. Any suggestion that Konami is being high-minded with its Fallujah decision is immediately undercut by its release of a torture porn game based on a series of movies that represent the very worst instincts of American entertainment.—CHRIS HOLT



IPHONE

Survey: One in Four Mobile Users Admits Driving while Texting

Despite laws against driving while texting—and support from cellular carriers for stricter laws to curb the practice—about one in four mobile phone users still texts when driving, according to a recent survey of nearly 5,000 U.S. consumers by research firm Toluna. The survey found that 26 percent of mobile phone users text when behind the wheel.

Drivers in Tennessee topped the list, with 42 percent admitting to texting and driving simultaneously. The other states in the top five offenders were New Jersey, Alabama, Idaho, and Oklahoma. The states with the best records were Arizona, Vermont, Rhode Island, Ohio, and Michigan.

The practice seems to be age-related as well. While 60 percent of respondents between the ages of 16 and 19 admitted to texting while driving, only 13 percent of those in their 50s admitted to doing so. About half of those between 20 and 29 fessed up to the habit.—MATT HAMBLÉN

By the Numbers

1.6TB

Amount Australian researchers managed to fit on a DVD-like optical disc.

90.4%

Amount of e-mail that's spam, according to Symantec's May 2009 report.

Revenue split for blogs sold on the Kindle, with Amazon taking the lion's share.

70-30

PRODUCT WATCH

HARDWARE

TransDock micro, from DLO (www.dlo.com): FM transmitter and charger for the iPhone uses IntelliTune technology to scan for open FM frequencies (\$70).

Turbo.264 HD, from Elgato Systems (www.elgato.com): USB 2.0 device accelerates video conversion and works with AVCHD camcorders (\$150).

SOFTWARE

Chronos Utility Suite, from Chronos (www.chronosnet.com): Software collection combines Fio Launch Studio and iClipboard utilities (\$50).

Flickery, from Eternal Storms Software (www.flickeryapp.com): Desktop software for the Flickr photo-sharing service lets you upload and manage your Flickr photos (€15).

Hot Stuff

What we're raving about this month



Clipstart

Compact camcorders like the Flip Mino and the Kodak Zi6 are becoming ever more popular and powerful—they even shoot high-definition video now. But what do you do with all that footage? Riverfold Software's Clipstart keeps track of those little snippets of video, just as iPhoto and iTunes help you organize your photos and music, respectively. You can tag your videos, browse them by date, upload them to popular sharing sites Flickr and Vimeo, and even do very simple editing, such as trimming clips for upload. Clipstart requires Mac OS X 10.5 or later and runs on Intel or PowerPC processors. A single copy is \$29, and a family pack for up to five household members costs \$59 (riverfold.com).—**DAN MOREN**

Times Reader

In our increasingly digital world, printed newspapers are sometimes thought of as relics. Times Reader is an application from the *New York Times* designed to present you with stories and features available both on the Web and in print, but in a format that's easier to read on a screen.

The app downloads and stores news locally, so you can use it even when you don't have an Internet connection (on a plane, for example). Version 2.0 adds new features such as the ability to play the crossword puzzle within the app and a Browse option that gives a skimmable overview of all the sections. Times Reader is included in the price of a home delivery subscription, but you can get a Times Reader-only subscription for \$3.45 a week. The app requires Adobe AIR to run (timesreader.nytimes.com).—**SCOTT MCNULTY**



Right Zoom

Windows switchers often expect that little green button to maximize a Mac window; instead, it resizes the window in various—and sometimes unpredictable—ways, depending on the application. The free Right Zoom from



BlazingTools Software makes clicking on the green zoom button maximize the window in most applications. You can even set it up to work only in certain programs (macworld.com/4923).—**DAN MOREN**



Readability

The Web is a very different place these days than it was a decade ago, and in most ways that is good. But two things I've noticed are that type sizes seem to be getting ever smaller and site layouts are getting ever more cluttered. This makes too many sites difficult to read. Sadly, though on many Web pages zooming in can enlarge the font to a readable size, it also often breaks the page's layout. Arc90's Readability is a clever work-around. On the Readability site, you choose your preferred layout style, type size, and margins, and then drag the Readability bookmark to your browser's bookmark bar. The next time you're on a site you find difficult to read, just click on the Readability bookmark to transform the site's content instantly into neat, readable text (lab.arc90.com).—**DAN FRAKES**

iLynx

Moshi is fast becoming one of my favorite Mac accessory vendors, thanks to the company's clever designs. Moshi's latest creation, the \$60 iLynx, is a stylish silver hub that sits nicely on the base of an iMac or a Cinema Display and provides four USB 2.0 ports and two FireWire 400 ports. What makes the iLynx unique is that it connects to one USB and one FireWire port on your Mac and then uses the combined power of those ports to provide enough juice for high-power devices such as USB hard drives and optical drives without requiring the use of an external AC adapter. Moshi even includes a USB cable, a FireWire 400 cable, and a FireWire 800-to-400 cable in the box (www.moshimonde.com).—**DAN FRANKS**



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add **control** to your
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introducing the:
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control play, pause, adjust volume,
skip tracks, navigate playlists and
activate the VoiceOver feature on
your iPod shuffle (Gen 3)



for use with most standard
headphones or earbuds



includes 3 ft. audio cable for
connecting to most stereos



high impact polycarbonate
material protects against knocks
and nicks



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Malestrom 28-06-2009

Reviews

Lexmark
C544dn



Laser Sharp

Single-minded color laser printers **BY JAMES GALBRAITH**

All-in-one printers—be they inkjet or toner-based—may be all the rage, but sometimes you just need a product that does one thing and does it well. When it comes to sharp text, fast prints, and low price per print, a laser printer is hard to beat. *Macworld* tested five of these low-cost color lasers: the Hewlett-Packard Color LaserJet CP2025dn, the Konica Minolta magi-color 1650EN, the Lexmark C544dn, the Oki Data C6150dn, and the Xerox Phaser 6280/DN. And though there were no poor performers in this group (two of them—the Lexmark and the Oki Data—are listed as Top Products on page 38), we found the Lexmark and Oki Data printers to be the best of the bunch, with the Lexmark getting the edge for the top slot.

Setup

All five of these color laser printers can connect directly to a Mac via USB 2.0 or over a network with built-in 10/100BaseT Ethernet, and each automatically appears as a Bonjour printer, supporting Apple's zero-configuration networking protocol. All of the printers support PostScript printing, the standard for defining page images, though only the Xerox uses true PostScript—the others use emulated PostScript, which is less expensive, but mostly works just as well. In the past, I've run into trouble with PostScript-emulation technology substituting fonts and causing print errors, but none of these printers exhibited those problems.

Each printer in this group has its own processor and RAM—this lets your computer offload the work of

processing documents for printing to the printer itself. Many less expensive laser printers follow the lead of inkjets by requiring that your computer do the processing.

The printers are various sizes: from small enough for most desktops (the Konica Minolta is just under 11 inches high and weighs 33 pounds) to bulky (the Xerox is almost 19 inches tall and weighs 64.5 pounds), with the rest falling somewhere in between.

Under the Hood

All of these printers employ a process called electrophotography. It uses light to draw images onto a static-charged drum that attracts negatively charged toner, which is then fused to the paper with heat. Most of these laser printers use a

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER BELANGER

HOW WE RATE

SUPERIOR: 

VERY GOOD: 

GOOD: 

FAIR: 

POOR: 

laser to draw the image on the drum, except for the Oki Data, which uses LEDs. They then employ a series of mirrors and lenses to direct the beam across the drum. LED printers are solid state and use a light bar that pulses flashes across the page width to draw images on the print drum. Oki Data says that LED printing technology is superior because it involves fewer moving parts, so the printer is less likely to misalign over time.

To appeal to budget-conscious buyers who want a lower purchase price, vendors often limit printer features and boost toner costs.

Another difference in these printers is in the way they handle the replacement of consumables. Several items inside a laser printer must be replaced over time. Toner is just one of those; the imaging unit also needs replacing. Imaging units can generally last 20,000 pages or more, while toner can last from 1,500 to 4,000 pages. Some printers, like the HP, the Konica Minolta, and the Xerox reviewed here, use an all-in-one cartridge design

to reduce the number of items that require servicing. Others, like the Lexmark and the Oki Data, keep them separate, so owners of these printers will go through several toner cartridges before they have to swap out the imaging unit. Neither way is necessarily better, but the integrated cartridges can be more expensive.

If you don't print a high volume of pages, you may never need to replace

your laser printer's imaging unit, so a separate toner and imaging unit may be desirable. If you do purchase a printer with separate toner and imaging units, be sure to take the additional expense of replacing the imaging unit into account when calculating the price per print. Lexmark offers a rewards program that allows owners to earn free imaging units, provided they use genuine Lexmark cartridges for the life of the printer.



Hewlett-Packard Color
LaserJet CP2025dn

How Green Is Your Printer?

Consumer concern for the planet is at an all-time high, and the good folks manufacturing your laser printer know it. Here are some ways the companies are trying to reduce their products' environmental footprint.

Energy Star Qualification All of the printers reviewed here have earned the Energy Star qualification of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy. The Energy Star standard for printers went into effect on April 1, 2007, and states that Energy Star printers must consume an average of 25 percent less energy than conventional printers, and they must offer duplex printing. The companies must follow specific guidelines to test their products and provide information on the amount of energy the units use in operation, in standby mode, and in sleep mode. The requirements depend on the number of pages per minute, the size of the prints the product is capable of, and additional features it may have. Even though the Konica Minolta doesn't come with an automatic duplexer as standard equipment, a printer qualifies as long as a duplexing unit is available as an installable option. The other four printers come standard with automatic duplexing units.

Recycling Lexmark, Konica Minolta, HP, and Xerox all offer free, postage-paid recycling of used toner cartridges. Oki Data has temporarily suspended its program but hopes to start it up again soon. Lexmark's incentive rewards program allows C544dn owners to earn points toward free consumables in exchange for participation in its recycling program. HP and Lexmark also have free recycling programs for printers that have reached the end of their life cycle.



Options

Because many of these printers are marketed to budget-conscious consumers and small businesses, the manufacturers tend to keep the purchase price down by limiting features and bumping up toner costs. Many of the missing features can be purchased as available options. For example, all of the printers offer extra paper trays, which can reduce the amount of time you spend loading and switching between paper types. You can load plain paper in both trays, or you could use one tray for plain paper and the other for glossy paper or heavier presentation stock. HP sells an optional 250-sheet paper tray for \$150. Lexmark sells a 550-sheet tray for \$199. Xerox also sells a 550-sheet tray, but for a steep \$399. Konica sells a 500-sheet tray for \$99, and Oki sells a 530-sheet tray for \$184.

These printers have their own processors and memory, and some accept additional RAM; the more RAM a printer has, the less likely it is to encounter bottlenecks when processing larger files. The HP and the Lexmark ship with 128MB of RAM in their standard configurations. The HP can be upgraded to use 384MB of memory,

while the Lexmark will allow you to install up to 640MB of RAM. The Xerox, Konica, and Oki Data printers all ship with 256MB of RAM. The Konica's memory can't be upgraded, but the Oki Data can handle up to 768MB of RAM and the Xerox can handle a whopping 1.28GB of memory.



**Konica Minolta
Magicolor 1650EN**

Four of the five printers come standard with an automatic duplexing unit installed. The lone exception is the Konica, which offers a duplexing option for \$139; the unit was easy enough to install, but the additional cost brings it into the same price ballpark as the HP and the Lexmark, which, as you'll soon see, were much better performers.

Performance

In terms of speed, the results were mixed, with the fastest results of our four timed tests split between three different printers. The Oki Data had the fastest "first page out" test, printing our single-page Word document in just 12 seconds. The Konica Minolta took 26 seconds to print the same one-page document, and the remaining three all took 17 seconds to complete the test. The Xerox took top honors in our 10-page Word document test, taking just 33 seconds. The Lexmark took 40 seconds and the Oki Data took 35 seconds to print the file, while the HP finished in 44 seconds. The Konica came in last with a time of 52 seconds.

Our graphics speed tests showed an even wider range of results, with times for our Photoshop image test ranging from just 37 seconds for the HP, to 3



**Oki Data
C6150dn**

minutes and 50 seconds for, you guessed it, the Konica Minolta. Our four-page PDF test results ranged from the Oki Data's quick 31 seconds to the Konica's 2 minutes and 31 seconds. To see which printer was fastest overall, we added up the individual times and found the Oki Data to be the speediest, printing all the documents in 2 minutes and 6 seconds, though the HP was hot on its heels with a total time of 2 minutes and 16 seconds. The Konica, not surprisingly, was last, taking 7 minutes and 39 seconds to print all four test files.

Print Quality

To evaluate print quality, a panel of experts looked at a variety of documents produced by each printer and rated them as Superior, Very Good, Good, Fair, or Poor. Printing clean, precise text is a laser printer's raison d'être, and so it's no surprise that none of our printers had any problem earning a Superior text score from our jury.

In our fine lines and gradients test, we looked for smooth gradients and color blends as well as clean fine lines.

The test image includes a curved line 1/600 of an inch thick, which can sometimes show up either broken or too thick if a printer can't print that level of detail. All the printers were able to print that thin line without problems.

The Konica had a problem printing one element on our graphics page from Acrobat Reader and OS X's Preview. However, the Konica did print that element when we printed from Photoshop. We've used this PDF file for years, and this is the first time I've encountered this issue. I called Konica

Color Laser Printers Compared

	Hewlett-Packard Color LaserJet CP2025dn	Konica Minolta Magicolor 1650EN	OUR PICK Lexmark C544dn	Oki Data C6150dn	Xerox Phaser 6280/DN
RATING	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★
PRICE	\$499	\$329	\$499	\$840	\$649
PERFORMANCE ^A					
10-PAGE WORD TEST	0:44	0:52	0:40	0:35	0:33
1-PAGE WORD TEST	0:17	0:26	0:17	0:12	0:17
22MB PHOTOSHOP IMAGE	0:37	3:50	1:15	0:48	0:58
4-PAGE PDF	0:38	2:31	1:19	0:31	1:29
PRINT TIME TOTALS	2:16	7:39	3:31	2:06	3:17
JURY TESTS ^A					
GRAPHICS, FINE LINES, AND GRADIENTS	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Good	Very Good
22MB PHOTOSHOP IMAGE QUALITY	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Good
TEXT	Superior	Superior	Superior	Superior	Superior
SPECIFICATIONS					
PRINT RESOLUTION	600 dpi	600 dpi	1,200 dpi	1,200×600 dpi	600 dpi
CONNECTION	10/100BaseT Ethernet, USB 2.0	10/100BaseT Ethernet, USB 2.0	10/100BaseT Ethernet, USB 2.0	10/100BaseT Ethernet, USB 2.0	10/100BaseT Ethernet, USB 2.0
PAPER SIZES (IN INCHES)	up to 8.5×14	up to 8.5×14	up to 8.5×14	up to 8.5×14	up to 8.5×14
POSTSCRIPT VERSION	PostScript 3 emulation	PostScript 3 emulation	PostScript 3 emulation	PostScript 3 emulation	PostScript 3
INSTALLED RAM/ MAXIMUM RAM	128MB/384MB	256MB/256MB	128MB/640MB	256MB/768MB	256MB/1.28GB
COST TO REPLACE TONER CARTRIDGES	\$538 (\$175 for 2 3,500-page black cartridges; \$121 each for 2,800-page cyan, magenta, and yellow cartridges)	\$399 (\$72 for 2,500-page black cartridge; \$109 each for 2,500-page cyan, magenta, and yellow cartridges) ^B	\$559 (\$142 for 6,000-page black cartridge; \$139 each for 4,000-page cyan, magenta, and yellow cartridges) ^C	\$678 (\$123 for 8,000-page black cartridge; \$185 each for 6,000-page cyan, magenta, and yellow cartridges) ^D	\$850 (\$190 for 7,000-page black cartridge; \$220 each for 5,900-page cyan, magenta, and yellow cartridges)
TONER COST PER MONOCHROME/COLOR PAGE	3.0 cents/15.9 cents	3.0 cents/15.0 cents	2.4 cents/11.4 cents	2.0 cents/11.0 cents	2.7 cents/13.8 cents
WEIGHT (IN POUNDS)	52.7	33.0	46.2	64.6	64.5
DIMENSIONS (HEIGHT X DEPTH X WIDTH, IN INCHES)	12.7×19.1×15.9	10.9×15.0×15.6	11.5×15.7×16.7	13.4×22.1×17.1	18.6×19.3×15.7
PAPER CAPACITY	250 sheets	200 sheets	250 sheets	400 sheets	400 sheets
DUTY CYCLE (PAGES PER MONTH)	40,000	35,000	55,000	60,000	70,000
SPECIAL FEATURES	duplex printing	duplex printing optional	duplex printing	duplex printing	duplex printing

^A How We Tested: We ran all tests with the color laser printers connected via 10/100BaseT Ethernet to a 2.66GHz Mac Pro with Mac OS X 10.5.4 installed and 1GB of RAM. We recorded the time it took to print a 1-page Word document and a 10-page Word document, as well as the time it took to print a 22MB Photoshop image and a four-page PDF. Best timed results are in **bold**. A panel of experts examined sample output of each printer to evaluate its quality as Superior, Very Good, Good, Fair, or Poor in comparison to the output of past color laser printers we've tested.—Macworld Lab Testing by James Galbraith and Chris Holt. ^B Ships with 500-page color and 1,000-page black starter cartridges. ^C Separate photoconductor and photodeveloper units add 0.8 cents per page. ^D Separate image drums add 0.2 cents per page.



**Xerox Phaser
6280/DN**

Minolta, and the company gave me an unreleased firmware update that fixed the error. Company representatives say that the firmware update should be available from the support Web site by the time you read this, and that the fix is now built in to all new models.

In the meantime, owners of the 1650EN who call Konica Minolta's tech support with this problem will be offered the prerelease update. Otherwise, the horizontal color blends were fairly smooth; the gray-scale photo was sharp,

with good detail; and the curved lines reproduced well.

The Lexmark's output was very high quality, with fine curved lines and smooth gradients. Both the HP's and the Oki Data's colors were well saturated, though a touch dark. The HP's color ramp (a gradient-like image that should look smooth from beginning to end) had a couple of areas that could have shown smoother transitions, but overall all the printers did well on this test. The Xerox looked very

good as well, though it took a little tweaking: we had to make sure to set the printer to the highest quality and the Screen menu to the Finer setting.

The prints of our standard picnic-scene photo showed the Oki Data to have the best color matching. The Lexmark looked very good, too, with pleasing color and plenty of detail. The HP print was also good, though, again, it was a bit dark, losing some of the details in the shadows. The Xerox print was overly red, and I couldn't get the driver's color menus to correct this. The colors in the Konica's print were a tad undersaturated but not bad, and the print had plenty of detail.

Macworld's Buying Advice

When I wrote my first roundup of color laser printers back in 2000, the average price of the machines I reviewed was around \$3,500. They were slower than today's printers at printing color, and none of them had automatic duplexers. This roundup, nine years later, includes a printer for less than one-tenth and two for one-seventh of that price, and all of them can print double-sided documents and are faster all around.

Our final judgment: the Oki Data C6150dn was the most expensive, but also the fastest of the group, with relatively low toner costs and impressive print quality. For the more budget-minded, the Lexmark C544dn, though

HP Color LaserJet CP2025dn



PROS: Speedy; 10/100BaseT Ethernet; duplex printing; great text quality.

CONS: Low-capacity toner cartridges; high cost per page.

OS COMPATIBILITY: 10.4 (Tiger), 10.5 (Leopard)

PRICE: \$499

COMPANY: Hewlett-Packard, www.hp.com

FULL REVIEW: macworld.com/4823



Konica Minolta Magicolor 1650EN



PROS: Great print quality.

CONS: Slow color print speeds; costly consumables; duplexing option costs extra.

OS COMPATIBILITY: 10.4 (Tiger), 10.5 (Leopard)

PRICE: \$329

COMPANY: Konica Minolta, www.konicaminolta.com

FULL REVIEW: macworld.com/4827



Lexmark C544dn



PROS: Great image quality; duplex printing; 10/100BaseT Ethernet; rewards program for toner recycling.

CONS: Slow to start up; lengthy duplex printing time.

OS COMPATIBILITY: 10.4 (Tiger), 10.5 (Leopard)

PRICE: \$499

COMPANY: Lexmark, www.lexmark.com

FULL REVIEW: macworld.com/4356



What Should I Buy?

Here are some major things to keep in mind when shopping for a laser printer.

True Cost Just as with inkjet printers, most laser printer manufacturers subsidize printer cost because they know they'll make their profit from the consumables you'll be purchasing over the printer's lifetime. Consider the cost per page to get an idea of how much you'll spend on ink. If you don't print in volume, that figure won't matter as much as the purchase price.

Toner Capacity If you do print large volumes of documents, look for a printer that offers high-capacity toner cartridges. They generally offer a better price per page and require less frequent replacement. On the other hand, for low-volume users, many printer manufacturers sell smaller-capacity cartridges for less money, but with a higher cost per page.

Cartridge Type Some laser printers integrate photoconductors into their toner cartridges, while others keep them separate. Photoconductors have a lifespan and will need replacing, but generally with much less frequency than toner cartridges. Integration of these consumables makes maintenance less of a hassle, but it can increase the cost of the cartridges.

Duplex Printing Printing on both sides of the page saves trees and money. Most

printers have duplexers either built in or available as an installable option.

Networking If you share your printer in an office, look for a printer with built-in Ethernet. You can also share your USB printer by plugging it into a wireless router or by connecting it directly to your Mac and sharing it with others on your network. Some printers do offer integrated wireless connectivity.

PostScript PostScript is a print-description language that enables laser printers to handle high-quality graphics. This is no longer a necessity, since many printers now use host-based processing instead of PostScript. However, PostScript printing takes the load off your computer's CPU and allows the use of certain types of fonts and graphics.

Paper Handling Many inexpensive printers come with just one paper tray. For lasers, a 250-sheet tray is about average. Most manufacturers offer options to add multiple trays. Having more trays not only reduces the number of pesky "out of paper" messages, but also makes it more convenient to print different kinds of

documents. You could keep office letterhead in one tray and plain white paper in another.

Size Laser printers range in size. For a shared printer in a large department or business, you'll want a larger model for its speed, paper handling, and toner capacity.

Black versus Color Eye-popping color is great for brochures and marketing materials, but is it really necessary for printing maps and e-mails?

Purchasing a color laser printer gives you choices.

You can print a page for around the same price as on a monochrome printer, but brilliant color awaits when you need it.

Multifunction Many consumers and business owners these days are looking for a single device that can handle many different tasks. Multifunction printers are very popular for their user-friendly, integrated designs and the space savings gained by not having to purchase, set up, and maintain several single-function devices. A printer with an integrated scanner offers copying capabilities. And that scanner can be used for digitizing documents and faxing.



a little slower to print, was less expensive, received a better rating for its printing of graphics and fine lines, and has relatively low toner costs. The HP

Color LaserJet CP2025dn was a contender, but its low-capacity toner cartridges and relatively high price per color page landed it squarely in

third place. The Xerox Phaser 6280/DN was the fastest at printing a 10-page Word document, but its photographic images tended to be heavy on the magenta and its purchase price was higher than that of either the Lexmark or the HP. The Konica Minolta magi-color 1650EN has pleasing print quality, a low purchase price, and a space-saving compact design, but its slow print speeds, lack of a standard duplexing unit, and relatively high cost per color page make it harder to recommend to any but the extremely budget-cautious who have time on their hands and low print volumes.

The Lexmark C544dn offers the best combination of speed, print quality, and economical operation. ☒

James Galbraith is Macworld's lab director.

Okidata C6150dn



PROS: Fast; high-quality black text; duplex printing; easy setup.

CONS: Security features are PC specific.

OS COMPATIBILITY: 10.4 (Tiger), 10.5 (Leopard)

PROCESSOR COMPATIBILITY: Universal

PRICE: \$840

COMPANY: Okidata, www.okidata.com

FULL REVIEW: macworld.com/3899



Xerox Phaser 6280/DN



PROS: High-capacity toner cartridges; superior text quality; speedy document printing.

CONS: Photographs have red color cast; confusing driver menus.

OS COMPATIBILITY: 10.4 (Tiger), 10.5 (Leopard)

PRICE: \$649

COMPANY: Xerox, www.xerox.com

FULL REVIEW: macworld.com/4826



macworld.com/reviews

What we're reviewing online this month



SOFTWARE

Commander: Napoleon at War ▲

RATING: **PRICE:** \$50 **COMPANY:** Freeverse
URL: www.freeverse.com

Turn back the clock to the early 19th century. In this game, Napoleon Bonaparte is leading his armies all over Europe against a changing coalition of countries, including, at times, Russia, England, Prussia, Austria, and Portugal. You play as the leader of either the French or the Allied Coalition in a turn-based quest for victory. The game really shines when you play the Grand Campaign from 1805 to 1814; seeing the entirety of Europe in play and fighting a war on multiple fronts is a truly epic experience. Commander: Napoleon at War is for dedicated strategy fans who have a passion for history and a desire for engrossing (and long) engagements, and who don't mind seeing the exposed seams in the game's fabric. The exceedingly stupid enemy artificial intelligence and strange tactical limitations handicap an otherwise strong combination of historical

Find It Online

For expanded reviews, type the blue URL at the end of each summary into your browser's address bar.



accuracy and fun, easy-to-learn strategy (macworld.com/4957).



iAntiVirus 1.0 ▲

RATING: **PRICE:** Free **COMPANY:** PC Tools
URL: www.iantivirus.com

PC Tools' iAntiVirus 1.0 has a deliberately narrow focus: it sets its sights solely on the small amount of Mac malware that's out there. If you're more concerned about those types of Mac-specific threats on your personal Mac than about passing along Windows viruses to your friends, iAntiVirus is worth installing. It's free (for personal use), it scans many files quickly, and it's not resource-intensive. However, businesses that have a mixed Mac and Windows environment would be better off forgoing a commercial license for iAntiVirus in favor of a feature-rich, though slightly costlier, antivirus program for the Mac (macworld.com/4958).

Qu-s 1.2 ▽

RATING: **PRICE:** \$17 **COMPANY:** Urban Design
URL: www.qu-s.eu

Staying organized is no easy task, but one new option helps bring order to chaos: Qu-s (pronounced like the word *cues*, which aptly

describes how it provides cues, or hints, to structure your day). This sticky-note utility runs on the desktop, so it's always viewable. Use it to note a phone number, jot down a grocery list, or assemble a list of your favorite Web sites. Yet Qu-s is more than a mere note-taker; hidden beneath the sticky notes you'll find a useful project manager. Qu-s is refreshingly different from other desktop organizers. Notes persist on the desktop, and you can set varying degrees of opacity for each note, even when you switch to another application. This allows you to organize notes in a corner of the screen and even group them for easy viewing. However, we look forward to a resolution to some of the stability problems, browser-compatibility issues, and bugs that often plague early software releases (macworld.com/4959).



TechTool Pro 5.0 ▲

RATING: **PRICE:** \$98 **COMPANY:** Micromat
URL: www.micromat.com

Micromat's TechTool Pro 5.0.4 is the latest version of the company's venerable troubleshooting and data-recovery toolkit. TechTool Pro packs a ton of tests and tools into one easy-to-use package. This release features a pleasant new interface, a number of new tests, and an automatic monitoring system. On the testing side, TechTool Pro can check your machine's memory, scan disks for bad blocks, run SMART tests on your disks, check disks for directory corruption, check the integrity and structure of many file



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types, and even test the RAM on your video card. You may not need TechTool Pro's full feature set every day, but when you do, you'll be glad the tools are there (macworld.com/4606).



Tiffen Dfx 2 ▴

RATING: **PRICE:** \$100 **COMPANY:** Tiffen

URL: www.tiffen.com

Tiffen, one of the leading manufacturers of camera lens filters, has released a package of software plug-in filters that simulate the effects of their real-world lens counterparts, and it's exciting that Tiffen has done such a good job with its collection. This program ships either as a stand-alone application, or

as a suite of plug-ins for Photoshop (as well as for applications that support Photoshop-compatible plug-ins, such as Apple Aperture) or for video applications such as Apple Final Cut Pro, Avid Xpress, and Adobe After Effects. It's an excellent, very useful collection of effects that perform well, wrapped up in a smart interface that provides a tremendous amount of customization (macworld.com/4960).



Vectorworks 2009 ▴

RATING: **PRICE:** \$1,295 to \$2,895

COMPANY: Nemetschek North America

URL: www.nemetschek.net

For a couple of decades, the Vector-

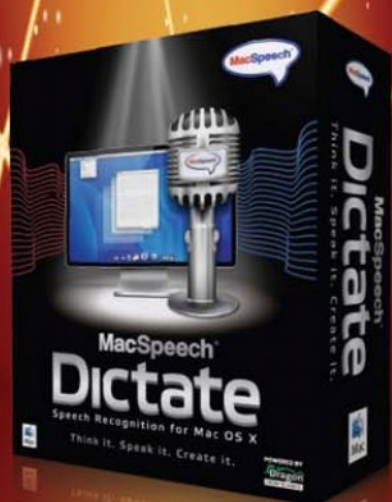
works software has been one of the most powerful and popular CAD (computer-aided design) programs available for the Mac. Vectorworks 2009's integrated 2-D-drafting and 3-D-modeling capabilities serve multiple CAD specialties with six versions of the software. Vectorworks has evolved from an inexpensive, lean and mean drafting application with an easy learning curve to a very powerful high-end CAD program, packed with features that can compete with those of the top CAD programs on any platform. The big news for Vectorworks 2009 is a new 3-D-modeling engine that controls the way your model is created, calculated, altered, and displayed. Nemetschek has replaced the program's previous kernel with Siemens PLM's Parasolid 3-D-modeling kernel, which many professionals consider to be the leading CAD, CAM, and CAE engine. This industrial-strength modeler significantly boosts

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Vectorworks' power and performance, and allows it to handle larger and more complex modeling projects (macworld.com/4961).



HARDWARE

TuneBoard Speaker Keyboard △

RATING: **PRICE:** \$70 **COMPANY:** Verbatim
URL: www.verbatim.com

If you're shopping for both a keyboard and speakers—especially if you have limited space or don't like a lot of clutter—Verbatim's TuneBoard Speaker Keyboard may be an appealing option. The TuneBoard combines a full-size keyboard with a pair of compact speakers, although it's not without compromises on the audio front.

Because the keyboard's USB connection powers the speakers, and the drivers themselves are so small, the TuneBoard can't produce extremely loud volumes, nor can it reproduce true bass frequencies—bass starts to roll off above 100Hz, and tones below 100Hz are nearly inaudible. Overall, the TuneBoard's audio performance is listenable but somewhat tinny—similar to that of the MacBook's built-in speakers (macworld.com/4962).

1TB Professional Quad-Interface Desktop Hard Drive

RATING: **PRICE:** \$250 **COMPANY:** Verbatim
URL: www.verbatim.com

Verbatim's 1TB Professional Quad-Interface Desktop Hard Drive is a speedy, chic, high-end desktop drive with an affordable price tag. This versatile device offers eSATA 2, FireWire 800, FireWire 400, and USB 2.0 connections to give users flexibility, and the 1TB storage capacity is perfect

for consumers with demanding storage needs. The unusually shaped drive rests comfortably in its own stand and has a taller, thinner profile than comparable drives. Its weight (over 3 pounds) and unconventional shape ensure that you'll be relegating it to your desk rather than carrying it around in a bag. This drive is ideal for professionals who need to quickly back up large amounts of data such as music, video, and photo files (macworld.com/4963).



HP Officejet 6000 Wireless

RATING: **PRICE:** \$119 **COMPANY:** Hewlett-Packard
URL: www.hp.com

Hewlett-Packard's Officejet 6000 Wireless is an inexpensive four-color ink-jet printer that, as its name implies, has wireless 802.11b/g con-

TECHTOOL PRO 5

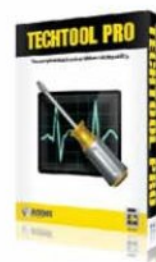


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nectivity. It also has an inexpensive price per print—as long as you buy HP's high-capacity ink tanks. Though office ink-jets are certainly nothing new, HP positions the Officejet 6000 as a greener and lower-cost alternative to workplace color laser printers. The printer's design is stylish, with nicely rounded corners and a mix of light- and dark-gray plastic. If you're in the market for a lower-priced, more environmentally friendly printer for your small business, an ink-jet such as this one may be a better fit than a laser printer. It's smaller than a laser printer, it uses less energy, it has an attractive price per print, and it generates great-looking text. The Officejet 6000 Wireless can also produce better-looking photos on glossy stock than laser printers typically can (macworld.com/4964).



Microsoft Wireless Media Desktop 1000

RATING: **PRICE:** \$50 **COMPANY:** Microsoft **URL:** microsoft.com

Microsoft's Wireless Media Desktop 1000 wireless keyboard and mouse combo has a utilitarian design in basic black. It's made with the Windows operating system in mind, but it can be easily converted for Macs (despite the annoying Windows logo on what operates as the Option key when this keyboard is used with a Mac). The Media Desktop 1000 uses the relatively short-distance 27MHz frequency with a USB receiver, not Bluetooth, giving it a wireless range of about six feet. The keyboard and mouse each use two AA batteries. Overall, it's a midlevel,

reasonably priced set that will please most people wanting a comfy keyboard, but the companion mouse, with its incremental ratchet-style scroll wheel, and the set's overlarge receiver leave much to be desired (macworld.com/4965).

Nikon D90

RATING: **PRICE:** \$1,000 **COMPANY:** Nikon **URL:** www.nikonusa.com

If you shoot pictures with a digital single-lens reflex (SLR) camera but also carry around a point-and-shoot for its video capability, then Nikon's D90 might be the camera for you. The successor to Nikon's excellent D80, the D90 allows you to shoot high definition 720p video in addition to still

photos. The real significance of video on an SLR is not the ability to shoot simple YouTube-style clips (though the D90 is quite suitable for that purpose), but rather the flexibility it gives you to use high-quality lenses to get cinematic effects you can't achieve with a camcorder. In this regard, the D90 is a boon to digital filmmakers, though you'll have to jump through some hoops to take advantage of the camera's video features (macworld.com/4966).



Economical Notebook

2.13GHz 13-inch MacBook

RATING: **PRICE:** \$999 **COMPANY:** Apple **URL:** www.apple.com

If price plays a greater role in a shopper's buying decisions during tough economic times, Apple's recent update to its entry-level laptop, the \$999 white MacBook, should help nudge some cost-conscious consumers off the laptop-buying fence. As the least expensive laptop now available from Apple, the white MacBook is popular in the education market and with consumers looking for a lower-cost Mac experience.

While keeping the same sub-\$1,000 price tag and the same white polycarbonate shell, Apple bumped the speed of the laptop's Core 2 Duo processors from 2GHz to 2.13GHz and increased the hard-drive capacity from 120GB to 160GB. The white MacBook now includes faster 800MHz DDR2 memory; in the last iteration, there was only 667MHz of DDR2 RAM. These updates amount to a better-performing entry-level Mac notebook.

Using *Macworld's* overall system-performance benchmark, Speedmark 5, we found the new 2.13GHz white MacBook to be approximately 6.5 percent faster than the 2GHz white MacBook it replaces. The new model had faster test times across the board, including about an 8 percent speedup in Photoshop times and iTunes MP3 encoding scores. Cinema 4D was about 5 percent faster on the new white MacBook. In terms of battery life, we found that the white MacBook could play a QuickTime movie at full brightness for 3 hours and 22 minutes.

If you're in the market for an affordable Mac laptop, the white MacBook is a better bargain than ever. Its many virtues include impressive performance, good battery life, and a more-common mini-DVI connector (macworld.com/4967).

MACBOOK PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF APPLE



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App Guide

iPhone and iPod touch software that's caught our eye

GAMES

Underworlds 1.1

RATING:  **PRICE:** \$5 **COMPANY:** Pixel Mine

URL: macworld.com/4891

The dungeon crawl adventure game is alive and well in Underworlds, a true hack-and-slash role-playing game with a lot to offer. You create a custom character and set off on an adventure, picking up experience, skills, and loot. The game is a little short, but it's hard to put down (macworld.com/4892).—**PETER COHEN**



PRODUCTIVITY

Bento

RATING:  **PRICE:** \$5 **COMPANY:** FileMaker

URL: macworld.com/4878

This mobile personal database is a solid companion to the desktop version of Bento (; macworld.com/4065); data syncs between

the two programs over a Wi-Fi network. But Bento for the iPhone also shines as a stand-alone app, packing many of the capabilities you'd expect from a desktop database program into a mobile package (macworld.com/4879).—**JEFFERY BATTERSBY**

ENTERTAINMENT

PimpMyNews

RATING:  **PRICE:** \$4 **COMPANY:** MediaQuake

URL: macworld.com/4882

Here's an innovative news reader that actually does the reading for you. The highly customizable—though unfortunately named—PimpMyNews lets you create “playlists” of blog items or news stories from more than 1,200 sources. The app then reads them aloud on-the-fly in an almost lifelike voice. The personalized daily podcast featuring a 10-minute roundup of your 10 favorite feeds is particularly appealing (macworld.com/4883).—**BEN BOYCHUK**

LIFESTYLE

Lose It 1.1

RATING:  **PRICE:** free **COMPANY:** FitNow

URL: macworld.com/4889

This nutrition tracker may not be able to bolster your willpower when you're staring down a chocolate cake, but it can help you stay organized, motivated, and healthy. After you enter your target weight, the app determines a logical food regimen and tracks the progress you've made toward reaching your goals as you enter calorie intake and exercise data (macworld.com/4890).—**DANIEL P. SAMA**



NETWORKING

WifiTrak 2.5

RATING:  **PRICE:** \$1 **COMPANY:** Bitrino

URL: macworld.com/4893

Not everyone will need this wireless network finder. But if you use an iPod touch or if you frequent areas with good Wi-Fi coverage, WifiTrak's presentation will impress you. Color-coded icons tell you at a glance whether a network is open or locked (macworld.com/4894).—**LEX FRIEDMAN**



More Reviews

See more iPhone and iPod touch apps we've tested at iPhone Central (macworld.com/4164).

APPLICATION	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	RATING	FIND CODE *
Backdrops 1.0.1 L-bow Grease	wallpaper finder	\$2		4899
iShred: Guitar + Effects 1.51 Frontier Design Group	guitar app	\$5		4900
Listomni Lists 2.2.1 Ontomni	list manager	\$7		4901
Wattpad 1.1 Wattpad	e-book reader	free		4902
Yahoo Messenger 1.1 Yahoo	chat app	free		4903

* In a browser's address field, typing in find codes after macworld.com/ directs you to a product's review or overview. For example, macworld.com/4899 takes you to our review of Backdrops.

App Guide

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QUAD CAMERA

Multi Shot Camera Application

Roe Mobile Development



Smart Recorder - Perfect for recording meetings or short audio memos. Travel Diary - Record the story of your vacation. Take pictures with time and location stamps, add notes, create HTML pages, export to Facebook.

Find it now! www.macworld.com/4806

PHOTOGRAPHY

PhotoCalc 1.2.1

RATING: PRICE: \$3 COMPANY: Adair

Systems URL: macworld.com/4884

Essentially a photographer's toolbox, PhotoCalc provides four widgets—a depth-of-field calculator, a lighting indicator, an exposure-reciprocation tool, and a flash exposure utility—that do the



primary calculations for you. This stunningly accurate tool will be a nice addition to your camera bag (macworld.com/4885).

—ROB DE LA CRETAZ

WEB

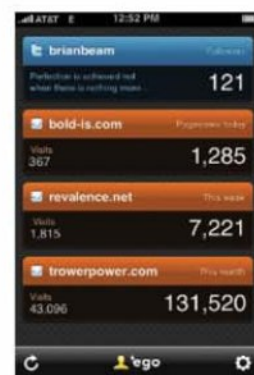
Ego 1.3.3

RATING: PRICE:

\$2 COMPANY: Garrett

Murray URL: macworld.com/4880

Web site managers and bloggers who want a centralized way to keep tabs on basic Web stats should turn to this statistics aggregator, which supports Twitter and Google Analytics, hosting services Feedburner and Squarespace, and the self-hosted statistics package Mint. Rather than clutter your screen with complex stats, Ego displays the numbers you need, color-coded by category (macworld.com/4881).—BRIAN BEAM



GAMES

Let's Golf 1.0.7

RATING: PRICE: \$5 COMPANY: Gameloft

URL: macworld.com/4887

This 3-D golf game mixes rich graphics, solid controls, and flexible game-play options. The result is a surprisingly deep mobile golf simulator (macworld.com/4888).—LEX FRIEDMAN



GAMES

Wild West Pinball 1.1

RATING: PRICE: \$2 COMPANY: OOO

Gameprom URL: macworld.com/4895

This amazing-looking re-creation of a pinball game takes advantage of the iPhone's interface. You work the flippers virtually by touching anywhere on the sides of the screen, and you can simulate tilting the table by moving the phone from side to side (macworld.com/4896).—JEFF PHILLIPS



TOP APPS

Photography

CameraBag This photo app offers fun filters to make your images stand out (macworld.com/4144).

We also like:

Juxtaposer macworld.com/4907

Pano macworld.com/4908

PicVault macworld.com/4909

Find more great photography apps for your iPhone at macworld.com/4910.

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ESSENTIAL APPS

Summer Vacation Collection

No more classes, no more books, no more teachers' dirty looks—here are some apps geared toward the student who's been temporarily freed from the clutches of our educational system.



Now Playing

Find that cheap matinee—and beat the heat—at the air-conditioned multiplex (macworld.com/4904).



Facebook

Stay in touch with your classmates over the summer, no matter how far-flung they are (macworld.com/4141).



MLB.com At Bat 2009

Follow the national pastime, with scores, highlights, and live audio (macworld.com/4622).



Classics

Impress your teachers this fall by doing some highbrow summer reading (macworld.com/4905).



Loopt

It's like a Marauder's Map with all of your friends on it (macworld.com/4207).



Strategy

Conquer the world with this fun, inexpensive Risk-like strategy game (macworld.com/4906).

UTILITIES

Rowmote 1.8

RATING: **PRICE:** \$1 **COMPANY:** Evan

Schoenberg **URL:** macworld.com/4886

If you'd like to have the capabilities of the Apple Remote Control but be able to operate a broader variety of applications—and save yourself the \$19 cost of that accessory in the bargain—Rowmote has you covered. It mimics the Apple Remote's interface while extending support to far more applications. It's the ideal app if you use your Mac as a media center or need to control presentations from your iPhone or iPod touch (macworld.com/4873).—CHRISTOPHER BREEN

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Top Products

Your guide to the best hardware we've tested. See more at macworld.com/reviews.


 PRINTERS Multifunction				
PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE	TYPE	FIND CODE
Pixma MX850 (pictured) www.canon.com	★★★★	\$190	ink-jet	3593
Photosmart C7280 www.hp.com	★★★★	\$191	ink-jet	3581

 SCANNERS Document and Flatbed				
PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE	TYPE	FIND CODE
ScanSnap S510M (pictured) www.fujitsu.com	★★★★	\$386	document	3321
Perfection V300 Photo www.epson.com	★★★★	\$99	flatbed	4071

 HARD DRIVES Desktop and Portable				
PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE	TYPE	FIND CODE
Mercury On-the-Go (pictured) www.macsales.com	★★★★	\$165	portable	4258
My Book Studio Edition www.westerndigital.com	★★★★	\$110	desktop	3295

 DIGITAL CAMERAS Point-and-Shoot				
PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE	TYPE	FIND CODE
EX-z250 (pictured) www.casio.com	★★★★	\$165	9.1-megapixel	4256
PowerShot SD880 IS www.canon.com	★★★★	\$249	10-megapixel	4257

 CAMCORDERS High Definition				
PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE	TYPE	FIND CODE
Zi6 (pictured) www.kodak.com	★★★★	\$823	mini camcorder	4074
Vixia Hv30 www.canon.com	★★★★	\$799	MiniDV	3708

 DVD BURNERS Desktop and Portable				
PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE	TYPE	FIND CODE
Portable DVD±RW w/ LightScribe (pictured) www.lacie.com	★★★★	\$100	portable	3878
d2 DVD±RW w/ LightScribe www.lacie.com	★★★★	\$120	desktop	3900

Desktop: 2.66GHz MAC PRO

RATING: ★★★★★ **PRICE:** \$2,499 **COMPANY:** Apple **URL:** www.apple.com **FIND CODE:** 4488



Why We Like It:


The latest Mac Pros are more appealing than ever to consumers with demanding processing needs. Gamers and audio/visual professionals will enjoy the versatile Mac Pro line for its graphical flexibility, upgradability, and potent processing power. The new 2.66GHz quad-core actually has a better overall Speedmark score than the eight-core Mac Pro, making it our featured product this month.

Mac Pro Shopping Guide


- **Power** Mac Pros are faster and have an ability to handle more tasks, thanks to the superior Intel Nehalem microprocessors.
- **Versatility** Mac Pros are famous for their build-to-order options. Whether you add a better graphics card, additional RAM, or a bigger hard drive, it's easy to customize your tower.
- **Graphics** The Nvidia GeForce GT 120 graphics cards are powerful, but if you're looking for top speed, the Nvidia GeForce GT 130 chip in the 3.06GHz iMac actually outperforms the GT 120.

ALSO CONSIDER: 2.26GHz Mac Pro; ★★★★★; \$3,299; macworld.com/4503 | 3.06GHz iMac; ★★★★★; \$2,099; macworld.com/4485

TOP PRODUCTS are those we've recently reviewed in a comparison of like products. As new products become available, we'll update this list. For longer reviews of these products and for other product recommendations, go to macworld.com/reviews. All prices are the best current prices taken from a PriceGrabber survey of retailers as of June 8th, 2009. **FIND CODES:** In a browser's address field, typing in find codes after macworld.com/ quickly takes you to a product's review or overview. For example, you can find our review of the 2.66GHz Mac Pro at macworld.com/4488.

 MONITORS Widescreen				
PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE	TYPE	FIND CODE
324 LCD (pictured) www.lacie.com	★★★★	\$880	24-inch display	3896
LP3065 www.hp.com	★★★★	\$950	30-inch display	2509
MultiSync 3090WQXI www.necdisplay.com	★★★★	\$2,067	30-inch display	3770

 DIGITAL CAMERAS SLR				
PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE	TYPE	FIND CODE
EOS Rebel XSi (pictured) www.canon.com	★★★★	\$557	12-megapixel	3898
D40 DSLR www.nikonusa.com	★★★★	\$1099	6.1-megapixel	2498
D300 DSLR www.nikonusa.com	★★★★	\$1,799	12.3-megapixel	3434

 PRINTERS Laser				
PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE	TYPE	FIND CODE
C544dn (pictured) www.lexmark.com	★★★★	\$291	LED; color	4356
HL-4070CDW www.brother-usa.com	★★★★	\$339	PostScript compatible	3385
C6150dn www.okidata.com	★★★★	\$737	LED; color	3899

 PRINTERS Ink-Jet				
PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE	TYPE	FIND CODE
PictureMate Zoom PM 290 (pictured) www.epson.com	★★★★	\$250	compact; photo	3102
Deskjet D2545 www.hp.com	★★★★	\$58	inexpensive; general purpose	4067
Stylus Photo R1900 www.epson.com	★★★★	\$595	professional photo quality	3649

APPLE Macs						
PRODUCT	SPECS	RATING	PRICE	DISPLAY	SPEED-MARKS ^a	FIND CODE
DESKTOP						
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.66GHz	★★★★	\$1,193	20 inches	256	4482
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.66GHz	★★★★	\$1,438	24 inches	270	4483
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.93GHz	★★★★	\$1,729	24 inches	297	4484
	Intel Core 2 Duo/3.06GHz	★★★★	\$2,099	24 inches	308	4485
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2GHz (120GB hard drive)	★★★★	\$548	not included	189	4486
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2GHz (320GB hard drive)	★★★★	\$689	not included	202	4487
	Intel Xeon/quad-core 2.66GHz	★★★★	\$2,499	not included	348	4488
	Intel Xeon/two quad-core 2.26GHz	★★★★	\$3,299	not included	343	4503
PORTABLE						
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.13GHz (white)	★★★★	\$999	13 inches	198	4946
	Intel Core 2 Duo/1.86GHz	NR ^b	\$1,499	13 inches	NR ^b	4953
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.13GHz	NR ^b	\$1,799	13 inches	NR ^b	4954
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.26GHz	NR ^b	\$1,199	13 inches	NR ^b	4947
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.53GHz	NR ^b	\$1,499	13 inches	NR ^b	4948
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.53GHz	NR ^b	\$1,699	15 inches	NR ^b	4949
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.66GHz	NR ^b	\$1,999	15 inches	NR ^b	4950
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.8GHz	NR ^b	\$2,299	15 inches	NR ^b	4951
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.8GHz	NR ^b	\$2,499	17 inches	NR ^b	4952

^a Speedmark 5 is Macworld Lab's standard test tool for benchmarking systems running Mac OS X 10.5 (Leopard). For more information on Speedmark testing, go to www.macworld.com/speedmark. ^b NR = not rated. Check Macworld.com and our September 2009 issue for ratings of these newly released Mac products.

APPLE iPods and iPhones						
PRODUCT	SPECS	RATING	PRICE	DISPLAY	PERFORMANCE	FIND CODE
iPODS						
	120GB	★★★★	\$249	2.5-inch color	36 hours of music playback; 6 hours of video playback	3863
	8GB	★★★★	\$229	3.5-inch color	36 hours of music playback; 6 hours of video playback	3864
	16GB	★★★★	\$299	3.5-inch color	36 hours of music playback; 6 hours of video playback	3865
	32GB	★★★★	\$399	3.5-inch color	36 hours of music playback; 6 hours of video playback	3866
	8GB	★★★★	\$149	2-inch color	24 hours of music playback; 4 hours of video playback	3867
	16GB	★★★★	\$199	2-inch color	24 hours of music playback; 4 hours of video playback	3868
	4GB	★★★★	\$79	none	10 hours of music playback	4491
IPHONES						
	8GB (3G)	★★★★	\$99	3.5-inch color	5 hours of 3G Internet; 5 hours of 3G talk time	4184
	16GB (3G S)	NR ^a	\$199	3.5-inch color	9 hours of 3G Internet; 5 hours of 3G talk time	4955
	32GB (3G S)	NR ^a	\$299	3.5-inch color	9 hours of 3G Internet; 5 hours of 3G talk time	4956

^a NR = not rated. Check Macworld.com and our September 2009 issue for ratings of these newly released Mac products.



56 Sweet So



Stock up on powerful Mac apps that won't strain your wallet

Illustration by Alex Eben Meyer

There's so much to do on your Mac and so little time. That's why it's important to have the best software tools. The Internet can be like a superstore of software, with virtual tons of free and low-cost Mac programs—the trick is finding the right application for your needs. That's what we're here for. We researched and tested free and low-cost programs to help you get at some of the most useful and affordable software available. We've also included a few of our all-time favorites from our monthly *Mac Gems* column and our Mac Gems blog (macworld.com/macgems). You'll find a lot of great bargains in the next few pages.

Software Deals

Enhance the INTERFACE

UTILITY

Application Wizard 2.3.3

If you find yourself wishing that the Finder had a little more power for working with applications, Application Wizard (★★★★½; macworld.com/4874) may be just what you need. At its basic level, it displays a small panel for working with your applications. But it lets you choose how each program launches, and it has an application switcher that's more robust than the one in OS X. It also has a single-application mode that automatically hides other programs (\$19; MaBaSoft, www.mabasoft.net).—ROB GRIFFITHS

UTILITY

DeskCover 2.0

DeskCover (★★★★½; macworld.com/4837) adds a customizable background behind the icons on your desktop. You specify the color to fill behind the desktop icons, whether to use a gradient fade, the color and thickness of the borderline at the edge of the filled-in area, and the edge of the screen to which to anchor the fill color. DeskCover isn't just a static background; if you create or delete an icon row, the size of the background automatically adjusts accordingly—and it does so with a subtle but nice animation (payment requested; Danicsoft, www.danicsoft.com).—ROB GRIFFITHS

UTILITY

MultiXFinder 0.3.3

Like the ASM application-switching utility (see "ASM 2.2.9"), multiXFinder (★★★★½; macworld.com/4842) restores a pre-OS X appearance to your application menu—in fact, it's based on the same code as ASM. In multiXFinder, there is no Dock submenu, as there is in ASM, but multiXFinder can disable the Spotlight icon on a per-user basis. It can also display background processes if you press and hold Shift and Control while activating the menu. Finally, multiXFinder can assign shortcuts to the first nine entries in the menu, letting you switch to one of those apps using the keyboard (free; Chain Reaction Software, macworld.com/4915).—ROB GRIFFITHS

UTILITY

Relaunch 1.3.9

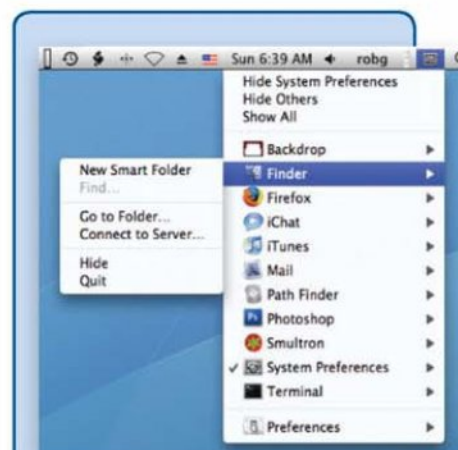
With Relaunch (★★★★; macworld.com/4813), you can create sets of applications and documents that open when you click on a single file—helpful if you use a particular set of programs and documents for a project. To create a set, you simply open all the desired apps and docs, and then choose Save Snapshot in Relaunch. Choosing any snapshot opens the associated programs so they're ready for you. To have Relaunch close all

programs as it opens a set, choose the option that sets it to ask if you'd like to quit open applications (\$8; Wired Up And Fired Up, wiredupandfiredup.co.uk).—DEBORAH SHADOVITZ

UTILITY

RooSwitch 1.5

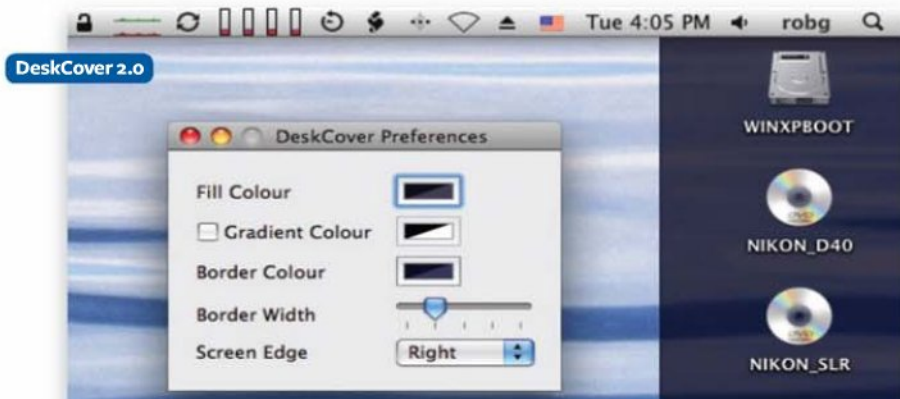
Think of rooSwitch (★★★★; macworld.com/4785) as a utility that lets you perform user switching at the application level. Instead of logging in and out of different user accounts on your Mac, you can use rooSwitch to switch users for only one app at a time. It works with nearly all programs, supports Automator and AppleScript, and lets you view multiple rooSwitch application controls simultaneously (\$19; roobasoft, roobasoft.com).—DEBORAH SHADOVITZ



UTILITY

ASM 2.2.9

For longtime Mac users who miss the pre-OS X application menu, try ASM (★★★★; macworld.com/4834). It installs as a pane in System Preferences and adds an application-switching menu just to the left of the Spotlight icon in the menu bar. Click on the ASM icon, and you'll see a list of running applications as well as a few additional entries; choose any program in the list to switch to it. When used with Leopard, ASM has the useful ability to display each program's Dock menu as a submenu in the ASM menu (\$16; Frank Vercruesse, www.vercruesse.de).—ROB GRIFFITHS



Be an OS X HANDYMAN



AirRadar 1.1.7

NETWORKING

AirRadar 1.1.7

The airwaves around us are a jumble of competing wireless signals. AirRadar (★★★★; macworld.com/4774) not only cuts through the clutter, but also provides useful information about your wireless signal of choice. It scans for available networks, displaying detailed information about Mac addresses, broadcast channels, signal strengths, and more. AirRadar can also automatically find and join the nearest open network that's above a specified signal strength. Network administrators can use the program to probe for weak or slow routers in a network (\$10; Koingo Software, www.koingsw.com).—NATHAN ALDERMAN

UTILITY

Click Archive 1.0.1

Disk images are a very useful way to store files for archival purposes. If you find Disk Utility a bit tricky to use, Click Archive (★★★★; macworld.com/4836) offers a simpler way to work with disk images. To create a disk image, just drag and drop a folder onto the Click Archive window. You can specify the save location, encryption level, and password, and indicate whether you'd like to add some custom notes to the disk image. Disk Utility may have many more options, but Click Archive is straightforward and easy to use (\$10; Aelgo, aelgo.com).—ROB GRIFFITHS

UTILITY

Digital Sentry 1.0.4

Digital Sentry (★★★★; macworld.com/4838) monitors your computer for any

of a number of events. When it detects one, it takes whatever action (or series of actions) you've defined for that event. With the ability to execute shell scripts and run applications,

Digital Sentry can monitor pretty much anything. The software's interface is nicely laid out, making it easy to set up. The only thing that's a bit odd is that you have to name the monitor before you specify what it is you want to watch. Digital Sentry has one feature—a keystroke recorder—that's likely to be controversial, as it could allow users to see what other people are typing on a Mac (\$20; Koingo Software, www.koingsw.com).—ROB GRIFFITHS

UTILITY

fseventer 2.6.6

Have you ever wondered what a non-Apple software installer actually installs, or what files a particular program is actually creating or modifying when it's churning away? A clever tool named fseventer (★★★★; macworld.com/4808) can help you solve these mysteries. It uses a

tool called fslogger to monitor changes to your file system. It then displays a graphical real-time representation of those changes. It also offers a chronological list view of file system activity. You can insert flags in the list to mark specific points in time—for example, when you performed a particular action in another program (payment requested; fernLightning, fernlighning.com).—DAN FRAKES

UTILITY

Zipeg 2.4

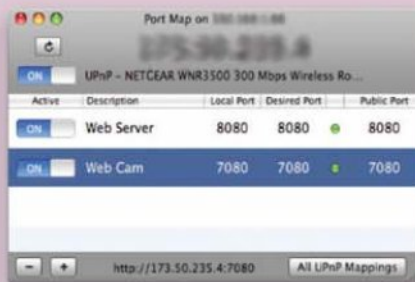
Zipeg (★★★★; macworld.com/4822) is an archiving utility that's useful to keep around as a complement to OS X's built-in archiving features. Zipeg's most helpful feature is the ability to let you preview the contents of an archive and extract only those files you want or need—something you can't do with just OS X. Zipeg includes multilingual support, and you can configure it to be the default program for any or all supported archive formats; this allows you to double-click on any archive and have it open in Zipeg (free; Zipeg, www.zipeg.com).—DAN FRAKES



NETWORKING

Port Map 1.3.1

Port Map (★★★★; macworld.com/4843) is a simple front end to your Universal Plug and Play router's port-mapping feature. (AirPort base stations do not support UPnP.) When you need to open a port to the outside world, instead of first visiting your router's setup page, navigating to its port mapping feature, and then using its often byzantine interface to map the port, you can run Port Map instead. Click on the plus-sign (+) icon to create a new mapping, enter the port number you'd like to open, provide a meaningful name (Web Camera), and click on Add Mapping. Port Map then creates this map in your router, and you're good to go (free; The Coding Monkeys, www.codingmonkeys.de).—ROB GRIFFITHS



Improve Your Experience ONLINE

WEB

Cooliris 1.10

Cooliris (; macworld.com/4776) is a handy browser plug-in that lets you see images and video content in a full-screen interactive 3-D "wall" view. When visiting a supported Web site, Cooliris takes over your screen, displaying the page's image and video content (free; Cooliris, www.cooliris.com).—KRIS FONG

WEB

Glimmer Blocker 1.3.4

GlimmerBlocker (; macworld.com/4778) is an ad blocker that uses a proxy

server to intercept your browser's calls for some ads. GlimmerBlocker blocks known ad servers, which means that it also blocks ads you may want to see. If a site serves its own ads, you'll see them. You can set it to allow the ads on a particular site, and you can also enter a specific ad exception for a site (free; Peter Speck, glimmerblocker.org).—DEBORAH SHADOVITZ

E-MAIL

Letter Opener 2.1.0

Letter Opener (; macworld.com/4839) in Apple Mail converts winmail.dat files on-the-fly, so you can actually see and use what the sender intended you to have. Once you've installed Letter Opener, you can forget about it (\$30; Christopher Atlan, www.restoroot.com).—DEBORAH SHADOVITZ





What Apps do your friends have?

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WEB

Tweetube

Tweetube (★★★★; macworld.com/4817) is a complementary app for the Web service by the same name that allows you to record, upload, and tweet a link to a 25-second or shorter video clip recorded via your Mac's iSight (free; Tweetube, www.tweetube.com).—SCOTT MCNULTY



INTERNET

Monitor 2.4

Monitor (★★★★½; macworld.com/4782) is a small program that puts your e-mail, Twitter, RSS feeds, blog, Web site stats, e-commerce account, notes, and to-dos in one tabbed interface. To check one of your accounts or take notes, just click on the appropriate tab. Each of the tabs refreshes at customizable intervals (free; MoApp Software Manufactory, myownapp.com).—AAYUSH ARYA

INTERNET

Precipitate 1.0.5

Precipitate (★★★★½; macworld.com/4812) is a pane in System Preferences that lets Spotlight search your Google Docs, Google Bookmarks, and Picasa online photo albums. If you do most of your work in the Google "cloud," Precipitate is a very helpful tool (free; Google, code.google.com).—DAN FRANKS



WEB

Web2 Delight 1.7

Web2 Delight (★★★★½; macworld.com/4820) lets you directly download videos from sites such as YouTube, Dailymotion, or blip.tv. Web2 Delight also allows you to save searches and smart collections, and for good measure it throws in some rudimentary capabilities for filtering adult content (\$20; Global Delight, www.globaldelight.com).—AAYUSH ARYA

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ORGANIZATION

BdContacts 1.190


Do you find the standard OS X Address Book too limiting? If so, BdContacts (; macworld.com/4835) might be just the solution for you. It presents alternate views of your Address Book entries: an easily sorted multicolumn table view, an outline view, and even a shelf where you can drag frequently used contacts (and other items) for quick reference. You can add notes, to-do items, alarms, e-mail messages, documents, and photos to any contact; these additional data items reside solely within BdContacts (\$20; Bad Dog

Applications, www.bad-dogapps.com).—ROB

GRIFFITHS

ORGANIZATION

FileBrowse 1.2

FileBrowse (; macworld.com/4777) is a beautiful, well-made media browser program. It can't beat the Finder for everyday use, but it's ideal for users with extensive photo or video collections. FileBrowse presents your data in rows of icons, generating live previews of folders' contents as tiny photos and documents atop their icons. FileBrowse's most

impressive feature is its sorting ability. Some counterintuitive design choices hinder its usability, but if you want something like Leopard's Quick Look without upgrading from Tiger, FileBrowse will serve you in style (\$25; R Green Blue, www.rgreenblue.com).—NATHAN ALDERMAN



Money. Management.




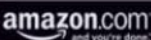
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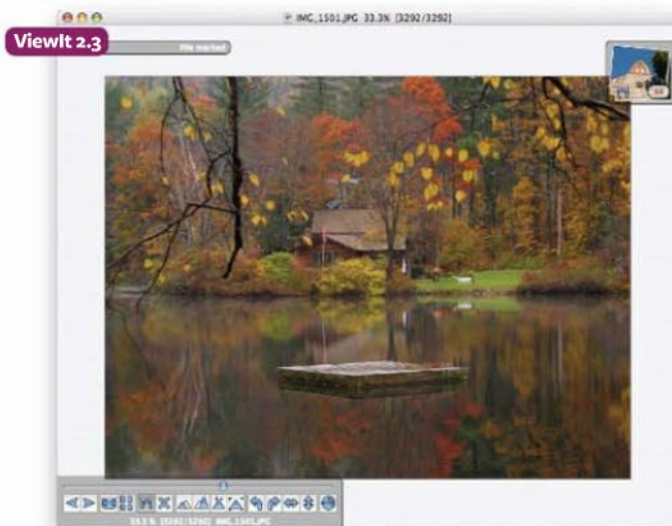
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ORGANIZATION

Photo Wrangler 1.7.2

Photo Wrangler (🍎🍎🍎; macworld.com/4810) makes it easy to scan quickly through a folder of photos and sort

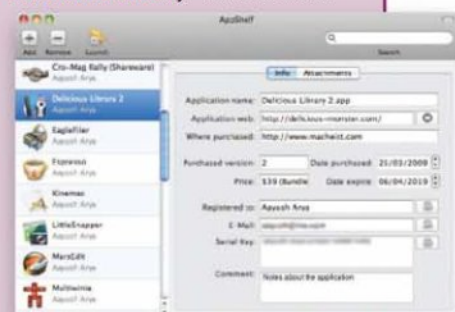
them into separate folders. To use Photo Wrangler, you first choose your source folder, then add destination folders, and finally choose whether you want to move photos from the source folder to the destination folders or copy the photos, leaving the originals in place. When necessary, Photo Wrangler

can automatically rename images if the destination folder already contains an image with the same name. Photo Wrangler can also search for duplicate image files and display basic slide

ORGANIZATION

AppShelf 1.5.2

If you need to track licenses and registration information for a large number of applications, AppShelf (🍎🍎🍎; macworld.com/4775) is a great way to do it. The interface is simple, and you can store information such as the application name; the purchased version, date, and more (\$7; Kedisoft, www.kedisoft.com).—AAYUSH ARYA

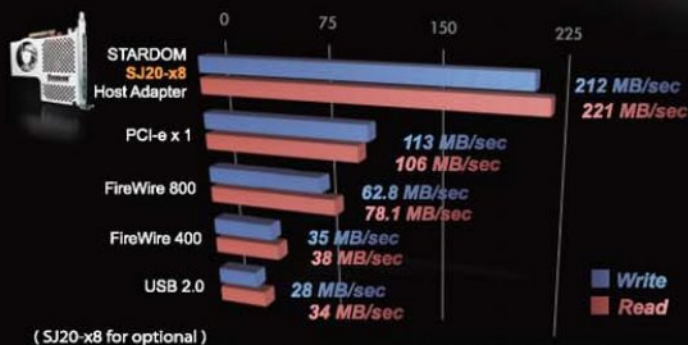


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shows. Using PhotoBrowser's easy process, you can browse and sort a folder of images with minimal effort. While you're viewing a photo, buttons and keyboard shortcuts let you rotate or zoom the image, or even rename it (\$15; Black Magik Software, blackmagik.com).

—DAN FRAKES

DATABASE

SousChef 1.2

As a recipe organizer, SousChef (🍴🍴🍴; macworld.com/4914) is simple, friendly, and easy on the eyes, and it offers some appealing and practical capabilities. If you're familiar with Apple apps such as iTunes and Address Book, you'll



immediately respond to SousChef's visual cues. Using the program's search engine, you can type in a term like *tofu* or *sweet potatoes* and, from the SousChef Web site, all the recipes with those ingredients will come flowing into the interface for you to view (\$30; Acacia Tree Software, acaciatreesoftware.com). —JACKIE DOVE

ORGANIZATION

ViewIt 2.3

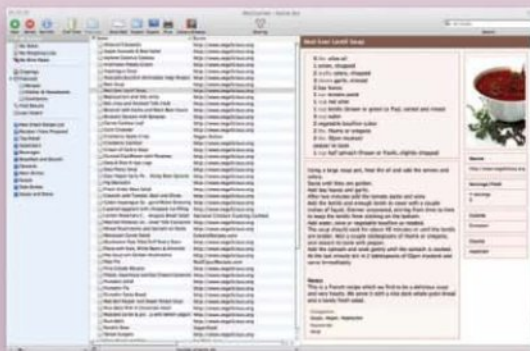
You've no doubt experienced the dread of sorting through tons of photos on your camera, deciding which to keep or trash.

But with ViewIt (🍴🍴🍴; macworld.com/4844), you can simply drop your photos onto the ViewIt window, view and mark what's good with a single key press, and copy only those images to your Mac. You can also sort images, copy or move photos, e-mail pictures, batch-convert images to a particular size or file format, print contact sheets, create Web photo galleries, and more. ViewIt provides a simple one-window interface and button controls for viewing. You can control most functions with a keystroke, which makes viewing and tagging even easier (\$22; HexCat, www.hexcat.com). —KRIS FONG

DATABASE

MacGourmet 2.4

Recipe geeks who need a place to store, organize, and categorize current and potential meals, look no further than MacGourmet (🍴🍴🍴; macworld.com/4840). From the program's recipe-box metaphor to its interface themes, plug-in architecture, automatic import functions, and smart searching, this is one of the most versatile and extensible programs available for any cook. You can choose from a fair number of nicely designed on-screen formats, styles, colors, and themes, and MacGourmet gives you several ways to incorporate recipes. MacGourmet has extensive search capabilities both within the program and via OS X's Spotlight feature (\$25; Advenio, www.advenio.com). —JACKIE DOVE



DATABASE

Warranty Hero 1.2.5

Stop sifting through mounds of paperwork to find that warranty and receipt. Warranty Hero (🍴🍴🍴; macworld.com/4819) provides an easy way to keep a record of purchases and warranty data. The program can set a reminder when a warranty is about to expire, and can also store product photos, copies of online receipts, and scans of paper receipts. You can export the database in comma-separated-value (CSV) format or as a PDF. You can also track expiration dates on prescription and over-the-counter medications and use the reminder feature to tell you when a refill is due. And the program can make a database of household belongings for insurance purposes (\$10; Nodhead Software, www.nodheadsoftware.com). —DAN FRAKES



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- Heather Clancy,
ZDNet.com

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Malestrom 28-06-2009

Unleash Your CREATIVITY



CREATIVE

PhotoPresenter 3.4

Rife as Mac OS X already is with slide-show capabilities, PhotoPresenter (★★★★; macworld.com/4783) builds on them. With its simple iPhoto-like user interface, you can choose to play entire albums or events, combine photos from different events, and drag in photos from the Finder. The cornucopia of slide-show styles is stunning (\$20; Boinx Software, www.boinx.com).—**AAYUSH ARYA**

AUDIO AND VIDEO

PulpMotion 2.1

PulpMotion (★★★★½; macworld.com/4784) produces professional multimedia presentations that are anything but ordinary. It comes with 20 themes, and the interface is easy to use and taps directly into iLife for browsing and adding photos, music, and video. You can control the usual duration settings, as well as tweak the various elements within a theme, switch out graphics, add text to individual photos or specific themes, and more (\$49; Aquafadas, www.aquafadas.com).—**KRIS FONG**

CREATIVE

Shape Collage 2.1

Shape Collage (★★★★; macworld.com/4786) turns a collection of photos into a collage of practically any shape, whether you're going for a traditional design or something totally out there. Select one of the preset shapes and type some text, or use a custom shape, which you draw within the application itself or import from your Mac, to create something unique (free; Vincent Cheung, www.shapecollage.com).—**KRIS FONG**

CREATIVE

Sumo Paint 1.1

Sumo Paint (★★★★; macworld.com/4787) is a free Web-based, Photoshop-inspired image creator and editor. If you've used Photoshop before, you should feel right at home in Sumo Paint, because many of its tools and palettes work



iTunes

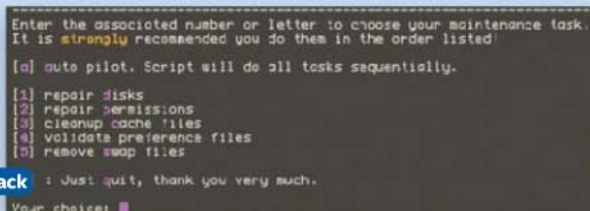
Tangerine 1.3.6

Tangerine (★★★★; macworld.com/4815) helps you create tempo-based iTunes playlists by determining the beats per minute (bpm) and beat intensity of all the songs in your iTunes library. It does this well, making it an incredibly helpful tool for DJs and music mash-up remixers. Simply launch Tangerine to view your iTunes library, and the app will analyze your songs. Once that's done, you'll be able to see which songs have tempos within similar ranges and which feature more driving beats, so you can easily create cohesive playlists (\$25; Potion Factory, www.potionfactory.com).—**KRIS FONG**

similarly to Photoshop's own, though some of Sumo Paint's aren't as in-depth. The program offers layer support, image-adjustment tools, blending options, layer effects, filters, a magic wand, and tools to transform and rotate layers, lasso selections, clone sections, draw, paint, add text, and more. Sumo Paint is also a very capable graphics and painting app with interesting tools (free; Snap Group, www.sumopaint.com).—**KRIS FONG**

All-Time FAVORITES

We've reviewed hundreds of affordable applications over the years, from tools with just a few key features to complex software that can compete with more-expensive programs. Some of the Gems we've found are applications we can't live without. Here are some of our all-time favorites.



AppleJack

AppleJack

AppleJack (★★★★; macworld.com/4249) lets you perform a number of troubleshooting procedures at startup, without requiring an OS X or third-party DVD (free; The Apotek, applejack.sourceforge.net).—DAN FRAKES

Default Folder X

Default Folder X (★★★★; macworld.com/1678) adds much-needed improvements to OS X's Open and Save dialog boxes. It lets you assign a default folder for each application (\$35; St. Clair Software, www.stclairsoft.com).—DAN FRAKES

Document Palette

With Document Palette (★★★★; macworld.com/1208), you can create a new document from within a folder via a keyboard shortcut (payment requested; Cold Pizza Software, coldpizzasoftware.com).—DAN FRAKES

Growl

The Growl notification tool (★★★★; macworld.com/4732) can alert you of finished downloads, the arrival of e-mail, incoming chats, and a lot more (free; Growl Team, growl.info).—ROB GRIFFITHS

LaunchBar

LaunchBar (★★★★; macworld.com/3545) is a launcher utility that makes you more productive by letting you control your Mac via the keyboard (€24 [about \$34]; Objective Development, obdev.at).—JASON SNELL

MondoMouse

Give your cursor capabilities it never had before with MondoMouse (★★★★; macworld.com/4043). This program lets you move, resize, or identify windows without having to first switch to them (\$15; Atomic Bird, atomicbird.com).—DAN FRAKES

TinkerTool and TinkerTool System

TinkerTool and TinkerTool System (★★★★; macworld.com/3572) take much of the risk out of using tweak-

ing utilities by separating safe actions from potentially risky ones (€7 [about \$10]; Marcel Bresink, bresink.com).—DAN FRAKES

Witch

If an application doesn't respond when you press `⌘-`` (backtick mark), it's time for Witch (★★★★; macworld.com/2956), which restores proper window-switching behavior (€10 [about \$14]; Many Tricks, www.manytricks.com).—DAN FRAKES

TextExpander

TextExpander (★★★★; macworld.com/1672) assigns abbreviations that expand to full text snippets when you type them (\$30; SmileOnMyMac, smileonmymac.com).—DAN FRAKES

SuperDuper

SuperDuper (★★★★; macworld.com/3574) helps you create a fully bootable

backup of your system (\$28; Shirt Pocket, www.shirtpocket.com).—DAN FRAKES

1Password

1Password (★★★★; macworld.com/3801) is an excellent way to store and manage Internet passwords (\$40; Agile Web Solutions, 1password.com).—DAN FRAKES

NetNewsWire

NetNewsWire (★★★★; macworld.com/2799) is one of the best RSS readers. It has an extensive feature set and allows you to sync your feeds across multiple devices (free; NewsGator Technologies, www.newsgator.com).—DAN FRAKES



TextExpander

HandBrake

HandBrake (★★★★; macworld.com/3104) easily rips DVDs to your Mac (free; Eric Petit, www.handbrake.fr).—DAN FRAKES



HandBrake

Become a Master of MEDIA



ORGANIZATION

iLovePhotos 1.0

iLovePhotos (★★★★½; macworld.com/4779) uses face recognition to organize your photos. It works a lot like the iPhoto '09 Faces feature, though it takes more effort. The app has good face-detecting success, as long as people aren't facing sideways or slightly obscured by an object (free; Blue Lava Technologies, www.ilovephotos.com).—KRIS FONG

VIDEO

iMovieLocationEditor 1.0.3

iMovie '09's Map feature taps a database of 4,000 cities, airports, and other locations. It lets you enter your own

latitude and longitude coordinates, but it doesn't let you save them. If you want to use the same custom location several times, turn to iMovieLocationEditor (★★★★; macworld.com/4780). It works with Google Earth to add

new locations in iMovie '09. iMovieLocationEditor also lets you make a backup of iMovie's Location file. iMovieLocationEditor is a simple utility that works exactly the way you'd expect it to (payment requested; Craig Stanton, craig.stanton.net.nz).—JEFF CARLSON

VIDEO

ManyCam 1.0

While using your Mac's iSight camera with one program, you can't use it with another. But ManyCam (★★★★½; macworld.com/4841) frees iSight from this restriction by acting as the video source for your chat or video-recording programs. For example, you can launch Skype, SightSpeed, and Yahoo Messenger and video-chat with someone on each service

at the same time. Unfortunately, ManyCam doesn't work with Apple programs such as iChat, iMovie, or Photo Booth (free; ManyCam, www.manycam.com).

—DEBORAH SHADOVITZ

ENTERTAINMENT

Plex Media Center 0.8.0

It's difficult to find a video-cataloguing and -playback application that rivals the formidable pairing of iTunes and Front Row. But now there's Plex (★★★★½; macworld.com/4811), a media center for Mac OS X that's capable of cataloguing and playing back every major video format. Unlike iTunes, Plex doesn't make a copy of your media files and pull them into its own organized hierarchy; instead, it lets you control the folder structure of your media. Plex has a built-in library of free third-party plug-ins that allow it to download content from sites such as Apple Trailers, Hulu, Joost, and YouTube (free; Plex, www.plexapp.com).—AAYUSH ARYA

VIDEO

VideoDrive 1.9

Several utilities are available to rip a DVD to a file on your hard disk, but iTunes is picky about the settings required to play on the many devices it syncs with. VideoDrive (★★★★; macworld.com/4788) aims to make those conversions easy. It encodes videos through QuickTime, pulls metadata from the Internet Movie Database (imdb.com), and then hands the formatted files to iTunes. If you have a lot of videos to process, you can drag them to a hot folder in the Finder to automatically add them to VideoDrive's import queue (€15 [about \$21]; Aroona, www.aroonanet.net).

—JEFF CARLSON

PHOTOGRAPHY

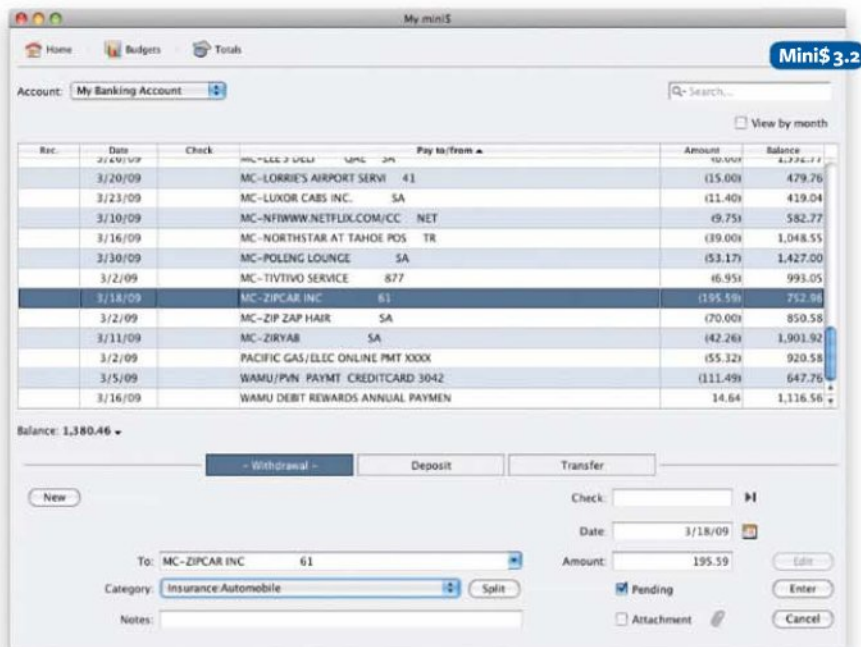
Klix 1.0.2

Whether you've deleted photos, reformatted your media card, or had a card go bad, Klix (★★★★½; macworld.com/4781) can recover those photos and movie files. Just insert the media card into your camera or reader and connect it to your Mac, fire up Klix, and click on Start. Klix begins scouring the card for lost photos and displays its findings in the Image Recovery Window (\$30; JoeSoft, www.joesoft.com).

—KRIS FONG



Manage Life with Everyday TOOLS



BUSINESS

Mini\$ 3.2

For people with simple accounting needs, the minimalist mini\$ (★★★★; macworld.com/4809) is an easy way to keep track of finances. This small program has a ledger for managing checking, savings, and credit card accounts. All of the basic features needed in an accounting app are found in mini\$, including the ability to itemize purchases, create custom categories, reconcile accounts, and add notes and attachments to individual items. The program has a helpful budgeting feature for planning and tracking expenses; these expenses can then be viewed as pie charts

Slife 2.1



or exported as detailed reports (free; Roth Earl, macworld.com/4941).—HEATHER KELLY

PRODUCTIVITY

Slife 2.1

Need to track the time you spend using the programs on your Mac, designing a Web site, editing a document, or working on a project for a client? Then try Slife (★★★★; macworld.com/4814). It collects data on what you do and puts it into easy-to-read reports, graphs, and calendars. Slife has both Day and Month views to track your time, as well as an Applications and a Web & Documents view, and you can create groups of linked applications, documents, and Web sites. You can also set goals for the maximum or minimum time you want to spend each day on an activity (free; Slife Labs, www.slifelabs.com).—DAN FRAKES

LIFESTYLE

Wx 5.33

Wx (★★★★; macworld.com/4821) is a meteorological program that's ideal for

anyone who's serious about the weather. You can track up to 20 locations by entering a zip code, a city and state combination, or a latitude and longitude, or by clicking on a point on a Google map (a neat way to get a specific location when you don't know the latitude and longitude). Best of all, you can set WxAlerts per location; these alerts trigger certain actions in the event of a weather alert at a particular location. For example, if a hurricane watch is declared in the area of your kid's school, you can set Wx to alert you with a text message or an e-mail, or to run an AppleScript (\$17; Hunter Research and Technology, hunter.pairsite.com).—SCOTT MCNULTY

Jason Snell is Macworld's editorial director. Christopher Breen, Jackie Dove, Dan Frakes, Rob Griffiths, and Jonathan Seff are Macworld senior editors. Heather Kelly and Dan Moren are Macworld associate editors. Nathan Alderman, Aayush Arya, Jeff Carlson, Kris Fong, Scott McNulty, and Deborah Shadovitz are freelance contributors to Macworld.

PRODUCTIVITY

TimeTable 1.7.2

If you tend to put all your events, appointments, and client meetings in iCal, TimeTable (★★★★; macworld.com/4816) can help you figure out exactly how much time you've spent on each task, making it a great tool for consultants or people who need to break down how they spend their time. TimeTable shows the start date, the total time of the event, and the event name. TimeTable also offers an option to calculate billable hours, as well as several export options (\$15; Steven Riggs, www.stevenriggs.com).—DAN FRAKES



YOUR MAC, YOUR WAY

How smart Mac users
manage files, launch apps, and
customize their workspaces



o two Mac users use a Mac in exactly the same way. We mold our machines to our own particular needs, wants, and predilections. Some people keep their files and folders neatly organized; others let files fall where they may—and rely on Spotlight to sort out the mess. Some stick with vanilla desktop designs and icons, while others thoroughly personalize every aspect of the Mac's workspace.

Whatever kind of Mac user you are, your desktop environment could probably use a little sprucing up. So we asked some of the smartest Mac users we know—*Macworld's* editors, writers, and readers—how they've customized OS X so it works better for them.

The idea here is not to tell you to do this or that. The idea is to give you some ideas and let you know what's possible—to spark your creativity so you can make your Mac environment truly your own.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY BEN SHANNON





ARRANGING YOUR WORKSPACE

Q uick quiz: Do you still have your Dock at the bottom of your desktop? Do you still use only the icons that came with the operating system? Most of us use OS X's stock interface elements, arranged as they were out of the box. But you don't have to use someone else's workspace. Here's how some Mac users have customized the Mac's visual environment.

MOVE THE DOCK

It has always puzzled me that OS X puts the Dock at the bottom of the screen by default. I like my Dock to be visible all the time, but I also want as much vertical screen space as possible for Web pages and other windows. So I chose Apple ► Dock ► Position On Right. But then I also used Terminal to enter the commands `defaults write com.apple.dock pinning end` and (after pressing Return) `killall Dock`. That anchored the Dock to the lower right corner of the screen, with the Trash on the bottom, where I think it belongs. —**JOE KISSELL**

MAX THE DOCK

I use the Dock methodically: only programs I use *very* regularly get permanent spots there. Among other things, this helps me build muscle memory: I know where each app is, so it's easier to click on or drag items to. On the right side of the Dock, I keep several

folders that I access frequently, including an alias of /Volumes (for browsing drives via hierarchical Dock menus) and a folder containing aliases of my most frequently accessed files. I've customized those folders with FolderBrander (🔗; macworld.com/4718), so it's obvious which one is which. Just to the right of those folders, I place folders for in-progress projects; I can just look down at the Dock to see what's due. Finally, I use Quay (🔗; macworld.com/4716) to enhance the Dock's hierarchical pop-up menus. —**DAN FRANKS**

DAGTHING

Christopher Breen used DragThing to create an Important Files folder with 12 subfolders to hold all the files that would normally clutter his desktop.

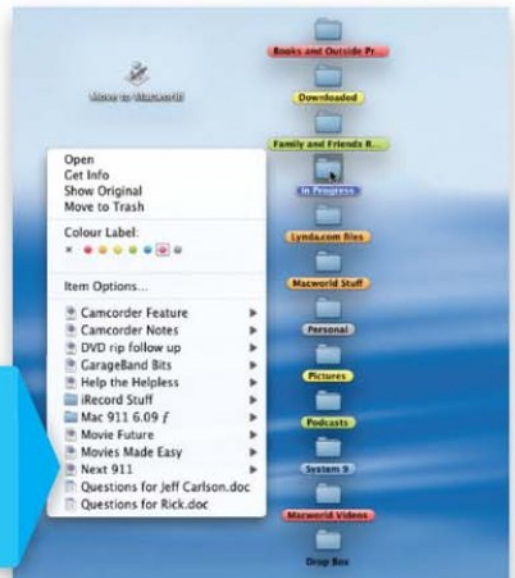
SHRINK THE DOCK

I don't use the Dock much at all. I usually keep it hidden so it doesn't get in the way of whatever I'm working on. I do keep a handful of programs there that I use regularly: iChat, Mail, Firefox, NetNewsWire, Smultron, iTunes, and Terminal. I don't use the Dock to switch programs; instead, I use the key combination `⌘-Tab` or I click on a visible window. I do occasionally mouse down to the Dock just to see what I have running. Otherwise, I shun it. —**ROB GRIFFITHS**

REPLACE THE DOCK

I've used James Thomson's \$29 DragThing (www.dragthing.com) instead of the Dock for years. I can place my DragThing palettes anywhere I like, and those palettes can have multiple tabs. I can assign keyboard shortcuts to actions such as launching applications and opening folders, remote drives, and frequently used files. I can also quickly switch applications—and hide everything except the new application's windows—with a single click.

DragThing also helps me keep my desktop organized: I created an Important Files folder in my Documents folder; in it, I put 12 subfolders that can accommodate just about any kind of file I'd normally leave on the desktop—work files and folders,



in-progress projects, podcasts, pictures, audio files, and download archives I want to hang on to. I then created a DragThing palette that contains all these folders, and I configured the utility so those folders would open with a single click. At the end of each day, I file all the items I've dropped on the desktop into their respective folders. When I need something from a folder, one click opens that folder.

Because many of the files I create each day are *Macworld* related, I took the additional step of creating an Automator workflow that moves selected files into my Macworld Stuff folder. I saved that workflow as an application and placed it in my DragThing palette for frequently used folders. To quickly file my *Macworld* work at the end of the day, I select the files I want to put away, and click on the Automator application; then DragThing files the

selected items away. Oh, and DragThing lets me put the Trash on the desktop, where it belongs.

—CHRISTOPHER BREEN

DRESS UP STACKS

It can be confusing when all the stacks in your Dock look exactly the same. Customized drawer icons, like these from Yasushi Chida, can cure your confusion.

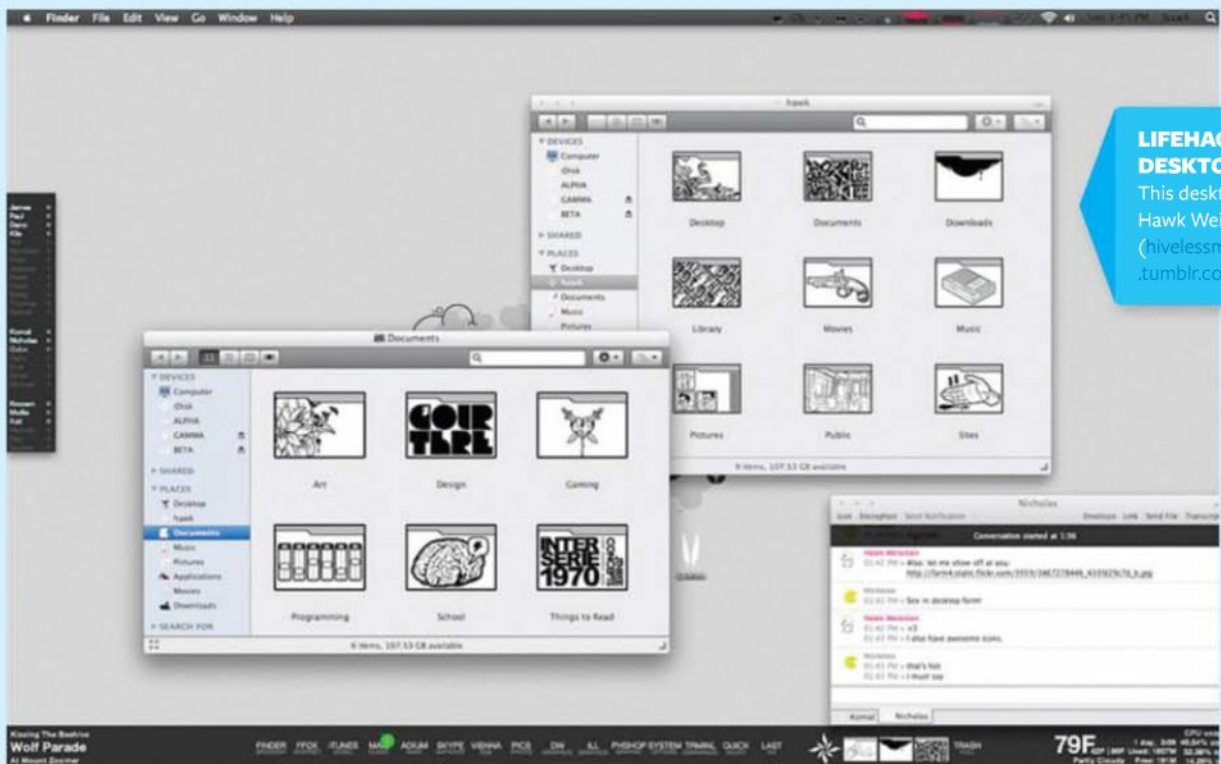


AUGMENT THE DOCK

I use Overflow (★★★★; macworld.com/4715) in conjunction with the Dock to manage and launch my applications: I put links to almost all of them in Overflow; only my everyday programs go in the Dock. Within Overflow, I separate applications into ten categories: Office, Writing, Audio, Visual, Web, Movies, Games, Money, Utilities, and Dev & UI. This way, I can get to pretty much any program I need in a couple of clicks.—DARREN R. CHANDLER

DRESS UP STACKS

I know that some Mac users haven't taken to Stacks, but I really like it because it lets me have fly-out file menus on the Dock. But one big problem I have with it is that it can be impossible to tell which stack is which. That's why I like Japanese designer



LIFEHACKER DESKTOP

This desktop is by Hawk Weisman (hivelessmind.tumblr.com).

THE COOLEST OS X DESKTOPS

Want some inspiration for customizing your desktop? Check out Lifehacker's Flickr photostream (macworld.com/4933) of reader-submitted, thoroughly tricked-out OS X desktops. Each screenshot comes with an explanation of how the desktop was made.



FLEXIBLE SPACES

In the Spaces preference pane, you can specify which applications open in which spaces, but you can also choose to have some apps open everywhere.

Mac at the same time, telling them apart isn't easy—unless they have representative icons. If you want your external drive, for example, to

show up as something other than a generic white disk, select it in the Finder and press ⌘-I to summon its Info pane. Then switch to your browser and find an online image—perhaps an Amazon.com product shot of your drive, or a drive icon from a site such as puntepartida.com (macworld.com/4831)—and copy it to your Clipboard. Select the drive's icon in the Info pane and press ⌘-V to assign your chosen graphic to the drive. Now the drive will appear on your desktop, on the

Yasushi Chida's drawer-overlay images (www.geocities.jp/chyo65). Download and unzip the drawer-icon archive, and drop the appropriate icon into a folder. Drag and drop that folder onto your Dock to create the stack, and the unique drawer graphic will appear on top.—GINA TRAPANI

CUSTOMIZE DRIVE ICONS

When a memory card, thumb drive, and FireWire drive are all mounted on your

Dock, and in your Finder with its new icon.—GINA TRAPANI

MAXIMIZE SPACES

Before Leopard, I relied heavily on Exposé to switch between my open apps. But although Exposé makes jumping between apps convenient, things can get pretty cluttered pretty fast when a lot of apps are open at once. So when Leopard arrived, I decided to give Spaces a try. I grouped applications into six workspaces:

- 1. Internet** Safari, Firefox, iWeb, and Transmit (FTP client).
- 2. Contacts/Calendar/E-mail** Address Book, iCal, and Mail.
- 3. Productivity** Pages, Keynote, and Numbers. (I'd put Microsoft Office applications here, too, if they integrated better with Spaces.)
- 4. Audio** WaveBurner, Logic Pro, Compressor, iTunes, Garage Band, MainStage, and Soundtrack Pro.
- 5. Photos** iPhoto and Adobe Photoshop.
- 6. Video** iMovie, iDVD, and HandBrake.

The Finder and iChat appear in every space, so they're always accessible. I still use Exposé to navigate between apps within a space. To switch between spaces, I set it up so that I can press Option-number or Option-arrow key to navigate.—EVAN STUMPGES

CUSTOM ICONS

Want to dress up your workspace? One of the best—and easiest—ways to do so is by replacing OS X's icons with custom icon sets. You can find customized icons all over the Web, but here are a few of our favorite sources:

AppStorm, macworld.com/4934

deviantArt, macworld.com/4935

The Iconfactory, iconfactory.com/freeware

InterfaceLift, interfacelift.com/icons-mac

Pixelgirl, www.pixelgirlpresents.com/icons.php



APPSTORM



DEVIANART



MANAGING FILES

Although OS X's basic tools for finding and managing files—Spotlight and the Finder—are fine, savvy users find ways to make them better. For some, that means making the Finder work better, with smart folders and meticulous filing systems. For others, that means turning to third-party utilities that let them manage files *their* way.

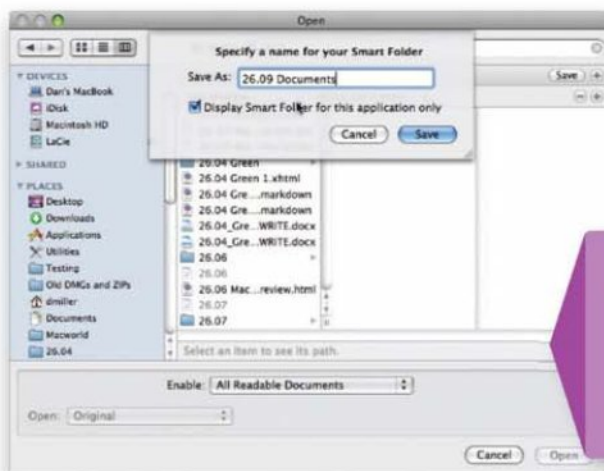
SMARTER SMART FOLDERS

In the Finder, I've set up a bunch of smart folders that keep track of related files. Some of my handiest smart folders collect Microsoft Word files with *Mac 911* in the title (File Name Contains **Mac 911**, Kind Is Other **Microsoft Word**); BBEdit files containing *blog* as a keyword (Kind Is Other **BBEdit**, Keywords Contains **blog**); and files larger than 1GB, which I periodically review to see whether any can be archived or thrown away to free up disk space (Size Is Greater Than **1 GB**). I keep these and other smart folders in the Finder sidebar; I also plant key ones in my DragThing Frequently Used palette. (The original smart folders can be found at the Library/Smart Searches folder in my user folder.)

—CHRISTOPHER BREEN

APPLICATION-SPECIFIC SAVED SEARCHES

I keep most of my Photoshop files in just a couple of folders. The same holds true for my InDesign files and for Web pages I've saved as PDFs. So I was happy to discover that you can create customized



APP-SPECIFIC SAVED SEARCHES

You can create saved searches that will appear only in the Open and Save dialog boxes of specific applications.

saved searches that will show up only in specific applications.

To do so, open the Open or Save dialog box in the application you want to customize. Enter a term in the search field; if you want to refine the search, click on the plus-sign (+) button to add criteria. Click on the Save button to save your search, name the new smart folder, and then choose the Display Smart Folder For This Application Only option. From now on, the search you've just saved will appear in the Open and Save dialog boxes of that application—and that application only; it won't appear in other applications' sidebars or in the Finder.

If you later decide you want to remove one of these saved searches, just open the Open or Save dialog box again and drag the unwanted saved search out of the sidebar.—ANONYMOUS

SUPER FILING

Some people dump all their files into one folder and then use Spotlight to find the files they need. But for me, Spotlight is too slow and unreliable to use for regular file finding; it's also of little help when I want to find a document on another networked Mac. I still find it most useful to keep my documents organized meticulously into folders.

I have several general ones (Finances, Macworld, and so on) in my user folder's Documents folder. Inside each of those folders are folders for each year. Inside each of *those* folders are folders for specific products and articles—200905 iPhone Tricks, for example, and 20090310 Mac mini Review. I also



SUPER FILING

Dan Frakes keeps his folders meticulously organized, naming them by date and project.

include dates in my document names. Compulsive? Perhaps. But with the help of that file hierarchy, I can find most documents by myself faster than Spotlight can.—**DAN FRAKES**

FILE THE WAY YOU THINK

Like many users, I try to organize my Finder to reflect the way I think and work. From top to bottom in the Finder sidebar are my desktop shortcut (which also functions as a holding pen); a folder called

Brain, which is a catchall for everything from tips to wills (and where I file things away as

I do in my memory—it currently contains about 70 folders); a folder containing my current research project; another that's a shortcut to a frequently accessed research-project subfolder; folders for my personal life, including ones for budgeting, health care, taxes, and parking tickets; a Career folder that contains my files for paid work and job prospecting; and further folders for correspondence, photos, and sound files. I've also created a My Documents folder (in my user folder) to hold documents that I've created; that leaves the default Documents folder for files and subfolders that OS X and applications create.—**MARK ELLIOT**

FIND FILES WITH QUICKSILVER

I use Quicksilver (🔍🔍🔍🔍; macworld.com/1247) to quickly access commonly used files and folders. Quicksilver's Shelf is like a permanent Clipboard; it can store links to files and folders, as well as reusable text snippets.

To enable the Shelf, launch Quicksilver, press ⌘-semicolon (;) to open the Catalog, select Modules, and then select Shelf And Clipboard. That done, you can add a file link to the Shelf by finding the file in Quicksilver (just type the first few characters of its name) and then tabbing to the Action pane and selecting Put On Shelf. (If that doesn't work, make sure Put On Shelf is activated: press ⌘-comma [,] to pull up the Preferences pane, select Actions, type **shelf** in the search field, and make sure Put On Shelf is selected.) To access a shelved file later, type **shelf** in Quicksilver and then

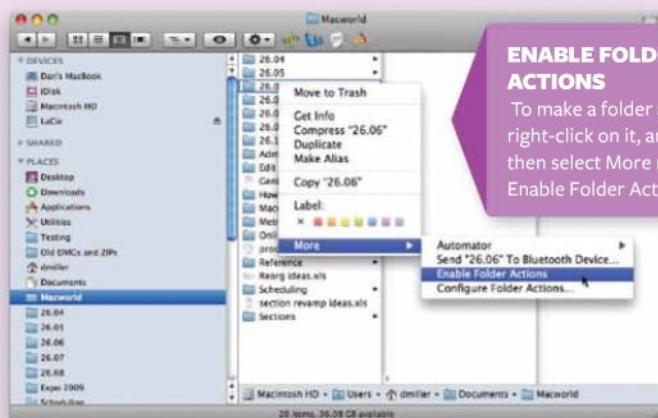
FOLDER ACTIONS 101

Anthony Reimer's tip for automatically moving downloaded disk images to an Installers folder highlights a powerful but neglected tool in OS X: Folder Actions. (Longtime Mac users will recall that OS 9 had a similar technology, but it disappeared from the first couple of OS X versions.)

The basic process is simple: You right-click on a folder, select More ► Enable Folder Actions, and then select More ► Attach A Folder Action. After that, you'll be able to select a script that will automatically run when certain events—adding any kind of file, adding a specific type of file, and so forth—occur.

You can manage all your folder actions by selecting a folder, right-clicking, and selecting More ► Configure Folder Actions. That launches the Folder Actions Setup utility. (It should also be available in the /AppleScript folder.) This application displays all folders that have actions associated with them. On the left are the folders; on the right, the scripts associated with them. You can attach or remove actions by selecting a folder on the left and then clicking on the plus-sign (+) or minus-sign (-) buttons below the right pane. You can use the check boxes to turn actions on or off.

If you click on the plus-sign button, a dialog box will display all the scripts in your Folder Actions Scripts folder. Apple included 13. I particularly like one called "add-new-item.alert.scpt." After you attach it to a folder, a dialog box will pop up to let you know when a new item is placed in the folder. I like to use it with my public drop box so I always know when someone adds a file over the network.



ENABLE FOLDER ACTIONS

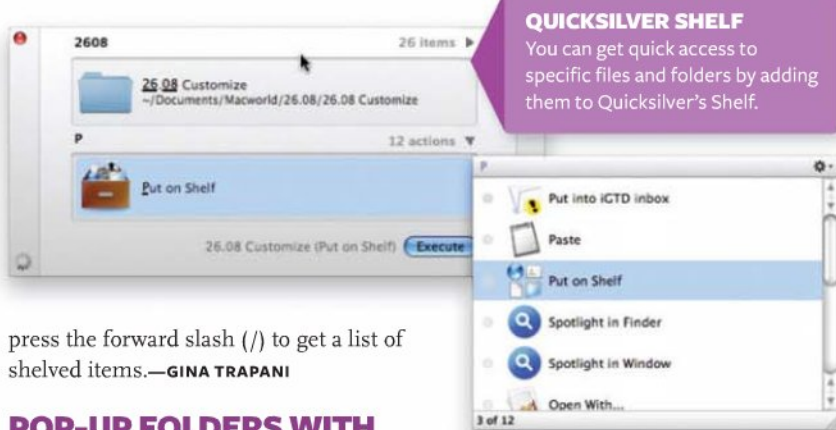
To make a folder active, right-click on it, and then select More ► Enable Folder Actions.

CONFIGURE FOLDER ACTIONS

You can add, delete, and edit the actions assigned to a folder with the Folder Actions Setup app.



Folder actions are limited only by your creativity. And they don't necessarily require great scripting skills. I routinely base my scripts on the ones Apple included with OS X, tweaking them until they do what I want. For example, I have one that, when I add a file to a folder, uploads it to my server via FTP and then deletes it from my Mac.—**CORY BOHON**



press the forward slash (/) to get a list of shelved items.—GINA TRAPANI

POP-UP FOLDERS WITH BUTLER

Butler (🔗; macworld.com/1246) lets me turn any folder into a navigable pop-up menu—like a folder on the right side of the Dock, except that it appears wherever my cursor is. For example, let's say I want quick access to my Macworld Documents folder. First, I open Butler's configuration screen and drag that folder from the Finder into it. That creates two items in the configuration screen: a container and a folder. After selecting the *container* named Macworld Documents, I use the Triggers tab's Hot Key field to assign a trigger—let's say Option-M. Then I select Opens A Menu Near The Mouse from the drop-down menu below the Hot Key field.

If I wanted, I could stop here and press Option-M to pop up the folder. But as a last step, I assign that same action to one of the buttons on my third-party mouse, using its provided software. Now I can get a navigable pop-up Macworld Documents folder with the click of a button or the press of a few keys.—ROB GRIFFITHS

NEW DOCUMENTS WHEREVER YOU ARE

The standard way of creating a new document in a specific folder is clumsy: you open the app, create a new document, select Save, and then navigate to the folder where you want to store the doc. But when I want to create a new document, the folder I want to store it in is usually already open in the Finder. So I can use Document Palette (🔗; macworld.com/1208) instead.

With Document Palette running, I can just press a keyboard shortcut, and a list of document types appears on the screen; I choose one, and a new document of that type is created in the current Finder folder. You can customize the list of document types that appears, and you can include document templates. (For people who prefer a more Windows-like approach, NuFile (🔗; macworld.com/1474) lets you create new documents by right-clicking inside a Finder window.)—DAN FRANKS

SELF-CLEANING FOLDERS

Although I could use OS X's built-in Folder Actions to automate file-management chores, I've installed Noodlesoft's \$22 Hazel ([www.noodlesoft.com/hazel](http://www.noodlesoft.com/hazel.php)) instead, because it lets me do more.

Hazel works the same way Mail's rules do: I define the criteria (any file in my Downloads folder that's older than one month, for example) and the action to run on the files that match it (move them to the Trash). Hazel then takes care of the job in the background. Other actions I've set up empty my Trash if it hits a certain size, add all MP3 files in my Downloads folder to iTunes, and

prompt me to delete related files when I trash an application.—GINA TRAPANI

CREATE NEW DOCUMENTS FOLDERS

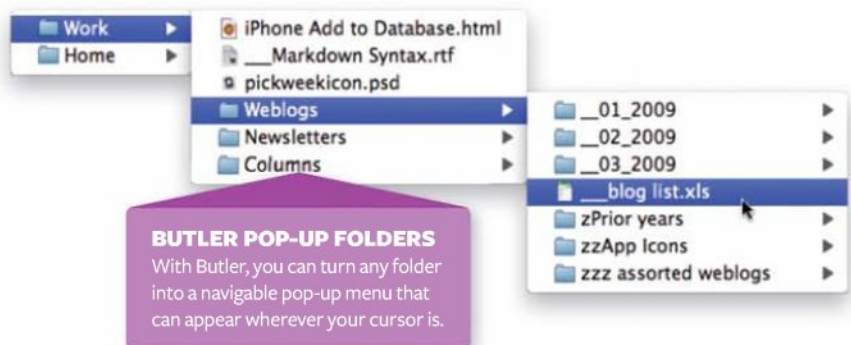
Over time, my Documents folder has become cluttered with stuff. I see folders I didn't create, including Microsoft User Data, Scanner Output (the software for my all-in-one HP printer put that there), My Smilebox Creations, and a WebEx demo file. I don't like having to wade through it all to find my actual files. So I created two new folders: "- Docs" and "- Files." I then dragged those two folders to the Finder sidebar for easy access; the leading dashes keep them both at the top of my Documents folder list.

I also went to Finder ► Preferences ► General and selected "- Docs" from the New Finder Windows Open drop-down menu; now, whenever I open the Finder, the contents of "- Docs" are displayed. Whenever possible, I also specify those folders as the default location for documents in specific applications; in Word, for example, that means going to Word ► Preferences ► File Locations and selecting "- Docs" as the default location for documents.—MIKE GLISH

USE PATH FINDER INSTEAD

I've been using the Mac since System 6, and I have always thought the Finder was poorly implemented. I have also used Windows a fair bit, XP in particular, and I prefer its file-navigation tool (Explorer) to the Mac's. For example, I like right-clicking on files to cut (and move) them, and I like being able to manage files in Save and Open dialog boxes.

That's why I've replaced OS X's Finder with Path Finder (🔗; <http://www.coriolis.net>).



macworld.com/4725). One of my favorite Path Finder tricks is to split the Finder window, which is much better than creating a new window (as the Finder forces you to do). Path Finder also has more options for placing shortcuts on the toolbar, and I love being able to customize the right-click contextual menu. My only complaint is that Path Finder doesn't really integrate with OS X; you have to use it in parallel with the Finder, which can get confusing.

—HALVDAN WETTRE

MOVE DOWNLOADED DMGS AUTOMATICALLY

I've tweaked my Downloads folder so that applications and updaters—which typically download as disk images—are automatically moved to another folder (Installers). To do that, I attached a script to my Downloads folder as a folder action. First, I typed the following script into Script Editor (substitute your short user name for *username* in the fifth line) and saved it as **move dmgs.scp**t to /Library/Scripts/Folder Action Scripts (to copy and paste the script, go to macworld.com/4968):

```
on adding folder items to
theFolder after receiving
theJunk
    tell application "Finder"
        repeat with aFile in theJunk
            if the name of aFile ends
            with ".dmg" then
                move aFile to folder
                "Installers" of folder
                "_username_" of folder "Users"
            of startup disk
            end if
        end repeat
    end tell
end adding folder items to
```

I then created an Installers folder in my Home directory. After that, I right-clicked on my Downloads folder and selected More ► Enable Folder Actions. Right-clicking again, I selected More ► Attach A Folder Action, and chose my saved script in the Choose A File dialog box. Now I don't have to wade through my overcrowded Downloads folder to find the installer .dmg I want.—ANTHONY REIMER

ADVANCED SMART FOLDERS

I have just one smart folder in the Search For section of my Finder sidebar. It's named Recent Files, and it shows me the document files that are in my Documents folder and that I've updated in the past week. To create it, I ran a Spotlight search in the Finder (⌘-F), selected Kind Is Documents, clicked on the plus sign (+) below Save, selected Other Is Raw Query from the leftmost drop-down menu, and entered the following in the query field:

```
(kMDItemFSContentChangeDate >=
$time.today(-7))&&(kMDItemKind
!= *Alias*)
```

I saved this query as usual, and now I use it all the time.—KIRK MCELHEARN

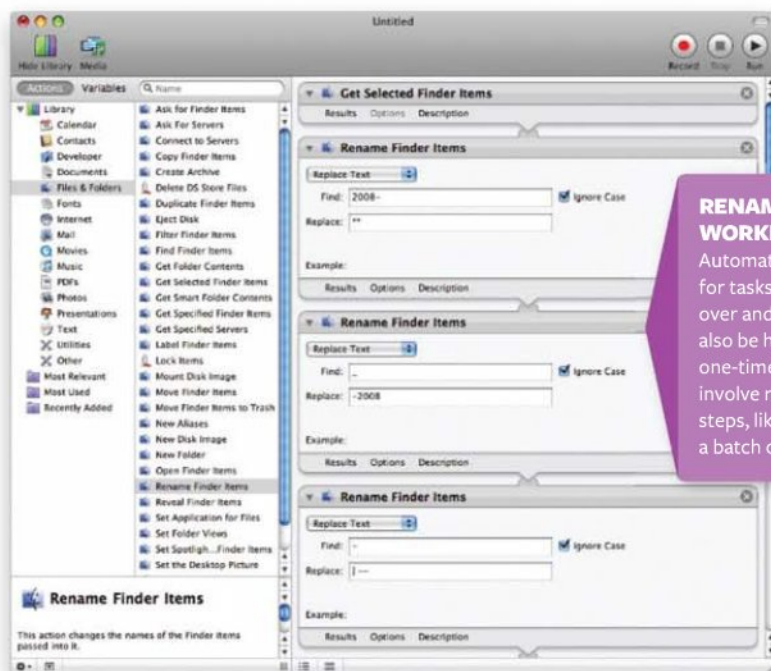
USE AUTOMATOR TO BATCH-PROCESS FILES

While most folks think Automator is good only for automating tasks they do over and over, I use it more for one-off projects. For example, I recently reorganized my old *Macworld* files; as part of that reorg, I had to rename thousands of files. My files had been named like this: "2008-Mar-20_Thu-Online Review.txt." In my new file-naming scheme, I wanted the month

first, not the year; I also wanted to make the day of the week a bit more visible. So the aforementioned file would become "03-20-2008 [Thu] — Online Review .txt." Automator's built-in file-renaming actions made this batch processing easy; my workflow consisted of two actions from the Files & Folders collection:

```
Get Selected Finder Items
Rename Finder Items: Replace
Text, Find 2008-, Replace **
Rename Finder Items: Replace
Text, Find _, Replace -2008 [
Rename Finder Items: Replace
Text, Find -, Replace ] -
Rename Finder Items: Replace
Text, Find **Mar, Replace 03.
```

I specified that first action (Get Selected Finder Items) so my workflow would rename only files I'd selected in the Finder; that minimized unintended renaming. I then modified the year and/or month in the workflow as I moved from folder to folder. What could have required hours of tedious work took not much more than half an hour. (When you add Rename actions to a workflow, Automator will offer to add a Copy To Desktop action before each Rename, in order to create a backup in case the renaming goes awry; you don't have to, but you can.)—ROB GRIFFITHS





LAUNCHING APPLICATIONS

Sure, you could use the Dock and the Applications folder to launch applications. But there are plenty of ways to tweak OS X to make that everyday chore easier, from launchers like LaunchBar to customized hot-key shortcuts.

LAUNCH ONLY APPLICATIONS

While some people like to use application launchers such as Butler and Quicksilver to manage files and apps (as described in the “Managing Files” section), I prefer to use my favorite launcher—Objective Development’s LaunchBar (🔗; macworld.com/1010)—exclusively to launch apps and AppleScripts and to perform calculations; I like Spotlight just fine for finding files. So I configured LaunchBar to show me only what I want to see: I pressed ⌘-Y to open the Configuration dialog box and then deselected everything except Applications, Preference Panes, and a customized list that contains a handful of AppleScripts as well as the Java application that I use to play Go (it doesn’t display as a regular application).

I can then press ⌘-Space, type a couple of characters, and launch just the applications I want, without having to wade through a lot of documents and other stuff that I don’t.—**KIRK MCELHEARN**

APPS IN THE FINDER TOOLBAR

I placed Preview and Bare Bones Software’s TextWrangler in the Finder toolbar. That way, I can drag just about any kind of file up there to open it. This is particularly handy when double-clicking on a file doesn’t open it in the correct

program. Also, putting the program icons in the Finder toolbar gives me some flexibility: say I want to quickly preview a graphics file that QuickLook can’t open but that Preview can manage. I can drag the image file up to the toolbar and drop it on the Preview icon to preview it.—**MATTHEW CUNNINGHAM**

MORE APPS IN THE FINDER TOOLBAR

I use the Finder toolbar to hold icons for utility programs I use all the time: Fetch, my VPN client, Automator, Activity Monitor, Keychain Access, and others. I put them there because I was opening them a lot when working with files (to FTP them, for example) or when taking care of basic housekeeping chores. Moreover, when I need to perform system maintenance—such as sorting out an erroneous password in Keychain—it’s helpful to turn to the Finder, because I think of it as my system’s main interface; I associate it with tasks that don’t require dedicated apps (Web browsing, productivity, and so on). I could put the shortcuts to these utilities in the Dock, but I prefer to reserve that for applications and files.—**MARK ELLIOT**

BETTER SERVICES

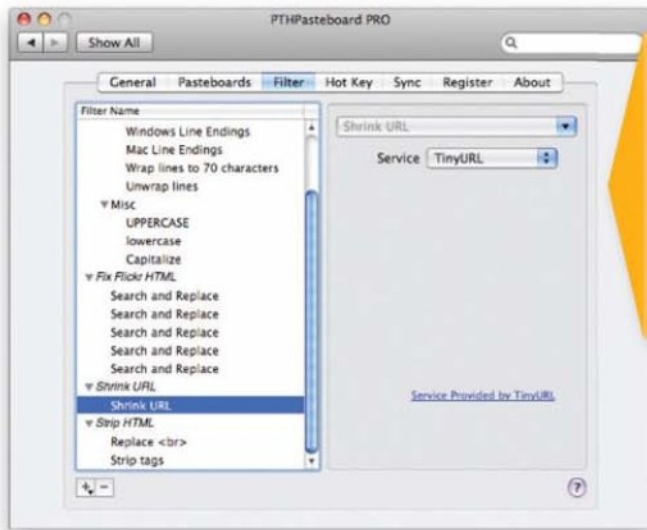
I’ve seldom found a use for OS X’s Services menu, because I can accomplish most of the things it lets me do more easily in other ways. But there’s one

exception: DevonTechnologies’ free WordService (macworld.com/1431). You install WordService by dragging a file to `yourusername/`



LAUNCH ONLY APPS

You can make application launchers like LaunchBar less overwhelming by limiting what applications and files they show you.



PTHPASTEBOARD PRO

With PTHPasteboard Pro, you can search through weeks of your Clipboard history and transform text as you're pasting.

TYPE LESS

You probably know you can use TextExpander (🔗🔗🔗🔗; macworld.com).

Library/Services. That one file adds 34 commands to your Services menu, and they enable you to manipulate text in many useful ways with a single click. Of these commands, the one I use most frequently is Format ▶ Reformat (⌘-Shift-7), which removes the line breaks from a selection, turning multiple lines into a paragraph—useful when pasting text from e-mail messages, PDFs, or Web pages. Other commands change the capitalization of selected text, sort lines, and turn quotation marks curly or straight (as you wish), for example.—**JOE KISSELL**

A BETTER CLIPBOARD

OS X's built-in Clipboard is fine, but I prefer PTH Consulting's \$25 PTHPasteboard Pro (macworld.com/4932). Like other OS X Clipboard managers, PTHPasteboard Pro saves a history of everything I copy or cut onto the Clipboard, so I can go back and paste something again without having to find its source. In fact, I can even search my Clipboard history for something I copied days or weeks ago (a serial number, say, or a paragraph from a document I was writing).

In addition, PTHPasteboard Pro can alter the text on a Clipboard, removing styles, removing certain characters, even performing complex pattern-matching transformations while pasting. If you copy a URL, for example, the program can use a service such as TinyURL.com to paste a shorter version with just an extra click.—**JOE KISSELL**

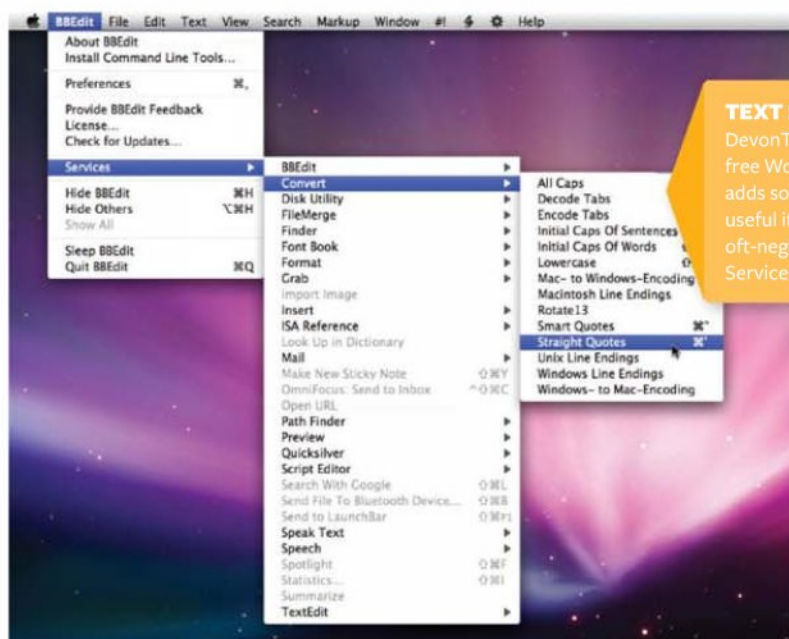
com/4471) to insert blocks of frequently used text by typing far shorter "snippets"; when I type **addy**, for example, TextExpander inserts my full mailing address. But I also use TextExpander to run shell commands and AppleScripts whenever I type a few characters of text. For example, I've got a shell script that uses PlainClip (🔗🔗🔗🔗; macworld.com/4663) to convert the contents of my Clipboard to plain text and then to paste that text into the current document or program. I set up TextExpander to run that script whenever I type **ptp** (for "plain text paste").—**DAN FRANKS**

REPLICATING LAUNCHER

I still miss OS 9's Launcher. I tried using the Dock, but I really hate the way it combines launching and switching apps. I tried DragThing, but I found it annoying. So instead I created a folder called Launcher, in which I nested subfolders such as Internet, Apps, and Utilities. Then I put aliases of my applications in those folders. Finally, I put a copy of this Launcher folder in the Dock, right-clicked on it, and set it to List view. Now I get a nested pop-up menu that gives me access to all my programs, and I can use the Dock purely as an application switcher.—**MATTHEW CUNNINGHAM**

CONFIGURE HOT KEYS WITH HOTAPP

Although OS X provides some support for universal keyboard shortcuts, I use HotApp (www.trufsoft.com/HotApp.html) instead. With its preference pane, I can assign keyboard shortcuts to launch applications; open folders, files, or preference panes; paste text; mount disks; trigger AppleScripts; open URLs; trigger system events (such as starting my screen saver or hiding all apps but the Finder); and way more.—**SEAN SIMPSON**



TEXT SERVICES

DevonTechnologies' free WordService 2.7 adds some genuinely useful items to the oft-neglected Services menu.

Macworld | Fall Gear for Back to School

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The No-Worry Backup Plan

Get the right amount of protection for peace of mind **BY ROB GRIFFITHS**

As our lives grow increasingly digitized, more and more valuable and irreplaceable things reside on our computers. For instance, I have 15,000 digital photos, nearly 4,000 songs, a dozen or so movies, all of my family's financial data, and countless personal and professional documents on my Mac. Losing any of it would be an unpleasant experience, to say the least. With that in mind, backing up my files is vitally important to me.

But backing up data isn't a one-size-fits-all proposition—what works for you will depend on the types of data you want to protect and, more important, how worried you are about keeping that data safe. I've based these recommendations on what I think will bring most people peace of mind, but you know yourself—and your data—best. Use the guidelines to figure out your own plan as you consider how much time and money you're willing to spend, as well as how worried you are about losing files.

Worry Level 1: Normal

Say you have a collection of files—photos, songs, letters, Quicken files, and so on—that you'd like to back up and be able to recover relatively easily. That said, if your hard drive dies, you won't need to get up and running *immediately*. In this case, your best bet is to use the backup program built into OS X 10.5 (Leopard): Time Machine (macworld.com/4911). (If you are not running 10.5, see "Easy Mac Backups" for some different ideas [macworld.com/2596].)



Time Machine is free if you already have Leopard, and it's fairly easy to use. You do need an additional hard drive that's *at least* one and a half times bigger than the amount of data you want to protect—either an external drive (macworld.com/4912) or Apple's wireless Time Capsule (ⓂⓂⓂⓂⓂ; macworld.com/4494) will do the trick.

Once you hook up the drive and enable Time Machine, you can usually just let it do its thing. Time Machine keeps multiple copies of your files, making it easy to revert to an older version. It also protects against the most common way that files get lost: accidental deletion (however, this method doesn't work if you delete the file within an hour of creating it).

There are a few downsides to using Time Machine, but the most relevant one for the typical home user is that Time Machine backups aren't bootable.

In other words, if your Mac's hard drive bites the dust, you won't be able to start up your system from the Time Machine copy. Instead, you'll have to restore the files while you're installing OS X on your new, trouble-free hard drive. (For more Time Machine pros and cons, see "Is Time Machine All You Need?" [macworld.com/3429].)

Pick What to Protect If you don't do anything, Time Machine will back up just about every file on your hard drive. While this option works well, it means you'll use a lot of drive space to back up system files and applications, which you (most likely) already have copies of on your original discs. You can tell Time Machine to skip these files. Freeing up this space will leave more room for copies of your data and media files, although it means that you'll spend more time setting your machine up again if your drive crashes (see "Save Space by Excluding").

ILLUSTRATION BY PETER RYAN

The choice is yours; you may want to start with a complete backup, and then omit files only if you find your Time Machine drive filling up more quickly than you'd like. (For more setup tips, see "Time Machine Tips and Troubleshooting" [macworld.com/3557].)

Get Up and Running after a Disaster If your hard drive dies and you've got a Time Machine backup, restoring your files is pretty simple. After plugging in your new hard drive, you'll use the OS X installation

for work, you probably can't afford to waste a day or two recovering from a computer meltdown. You may also be concerned about protecting your data against theft or natural disaster. In this case, I recommend using Time Machine and adding a couple of extra safety measures.

Create a Clone To get back to work quickly in the event of a hard drive crash, I recommend creating a clone (or copy) of your boot disk. If you do so

If you use your Mac for work, you probably can't afford to waste a day or two recovering from a computer meltdown.

disc to install the system. While you're doing that, you'll be offered the option to restore from a Time Machine backup. This may be all you need to do to get up and running. However, if you've excluded system files and applications, you'll need to break out your program discs and download OS X updates after the basic system installation is done.

Worry Level 2: Concerned

What if you want a reasonable degree of data protection, but you also need to get back in the saddle quickly after a hard-drive crash? If you use your Mac

on a set schedule, you'll ensure that you have a regularly updated copy of the system; I update mine once a week.

Two programs can help: Bombich Software's Carbon Copy Cloner (★★★★½; payment requested; macworld.com/3156) or Shirt Pocket's \$28 SuperDuper (★★★★; see page 40). Both of these programs create an exact clone of your system that you can use as a startup disk. You'll need an external (or, if you have a Mac Pro, an internal) hard drive specifically for your clone—because it will be *big*.

If your primary hard drive fails, plug in your clone, press and hold the Option key

Is It Already Backed Up?

TIP When you're tight on space, it pays to remember that some of your key files may already be backed up off-site, at least after a fashion. If you use an online photo-sharing service like Flickr (www.flickr.com), many of your images will be stored there (though perhaps not at their original resolution). Similarly, e-mail messages can be left on the mail server, at least until you choose to file them locally.

when you start up your Mac, choose the clone from the drive-selection screen, and start working immediately. Once you've replaced the dead hard drive, use your cloning software to copy your backup (which you've been using as the primary drive) onto the new drive. Reboot from the new drive, and you're almost back to where you began; however, you'll need to use Time Machine to restore the latest versions of any files you updated after your last clone was made.

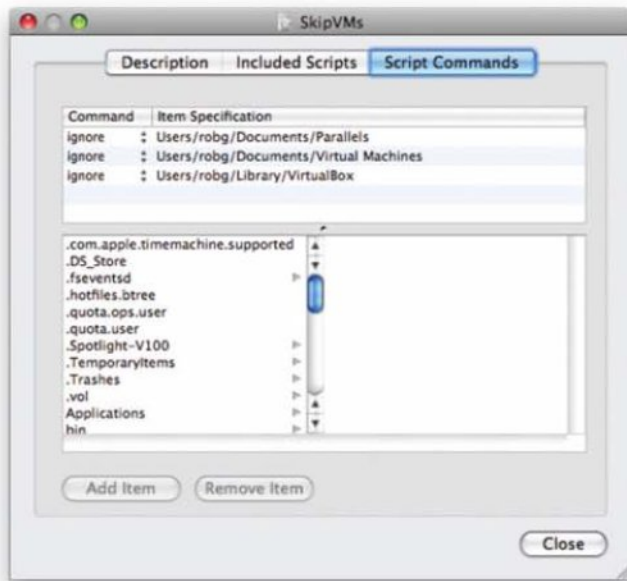
You can speed up the process of creating your clone by excluding files that you've got backed up elsewhere or that you won't need while you're temporarily working from the clone (see "Customize the Clone"). I exclude the virtual machines for Parallels' \$80 Desktop for Mac (★★★★½; macworld.com/4299), VMware's \$80 VMware Fusion (★★★★½; macworld.com/4254), and Sun's free VirtualBox (★★★★; macworld.com/4298). I have these backed up elsewhere, and they're huge files.

Opt for Off-Site Backups Combining Time Machine with a bootable copy of your data gives you a lot of protection against hard-drive failure, but it won't help if someone steals your setup or if your home is destroyed by a fire or some other natural disaster. If you want to protect against that kind of event, you need to keep a backup of your files in a different location.

The easiest way to create an off-site backup of *all* your important data is to



Save Space by Excluding Exclude easily replaced files from your Time Machine backups and you'll have more room on your backup drive for critical files that change often.



Customize the Clone You can speed up the creation of your emergency clone by skipping files you won't need while booted from it. Here I'm excluding my virtual machines (such as Parallels) in SuperDuper.

invest in another external hard drive, bringing your total to three (Time Machine, the clone, and the off-site backup). Use a backup program such as EMC Insignia's \$129 Retrospect Desktop 8 (www.retrospect.com), Prosoft Engineering's \$59 Data Backup

backup was run). If these limitations set you on edge, you should consider moving up to Worry Level 3.

Worry Level 3: Obsessive

Does it make you nervous to think about losing even a week's worth of data or

This solution does have two flaws. The first is that your off-site drive is in your home one night a week. If that happens to be the night of the great flood, you're in trouble! The second problem is that you can lose a week's worth of data if a natural disaster occurs on the day your drive is scheduled to come home (because you'll lose anything you've worked on since the last off-site

off-site drives. If you use a Mac Pro, the clone and Time Machine can be internal drives, but you'll need external drives for the other two.

Set the second off-site backup drive to copy the same files as the first drive, but on a different day. So if you currently have an off-site drive that comes back on Monday night, add another that comes back on Thursday night.

With two off-site drives, you'll always have at least one that's protected in the event of a disaster—especially if they're stored in different locations. (If you're backing up a work computer, for instance, take one drive home, and send the other to your spouse's office or a neighbor's home.) By doing this, you reduce the amount of data you'd potentially lose to (in this example) three or four days' worth.

Add an Online Backup If that scenario isn't good enough, you can add one more step to the process: a regularly scheduled online backup of your *really* important files. This works best for small files that you modify often and don't want to lose any changes to—work files or Quicken files, for example.

Many companies, such as Apple (through its MobileMe service [apple.com/mobileme]; macworld.com/3774), Dropbox (www.getdropbox.com), and Decho's Mozy (www.mozy.com), will store your backup data on their servers. Typically, services allow you to use a certain amount of space (typically 1GB or 2GB) for free, and then they charge for additional space.

Given how rarely hard drives actually fail, even a simple Time Machine-only backup plan will protect your data reasonably well.

3 (macworld.com/1224), or Tri-Edre's \$69 Tri-Backup 5 (macworld.com/4913). Set up a once-a-week task to copy your key preferences, application support files, documents, and media files to the external drive.

You then need to find somewhere to store this copy off-site. If you're backing up your home Mac, you can just take the hard drive to work. Alternatively, you might ask a neighbor to store it for you. But to safeguard your backup against natural disasters, the farther the drive is from your house, the better protected it is. Once a week, you can bring home the off-site drive and run your backup. The next morning, simply return the backup to its off-site location.

having your off-site data at home for even a single night a week? This final level offers the highest degree of protection—within budget and complexity constraints—against hard-drive failures and natural disasters.

The objective here is to make sure you'll lose as little work as possible if disaster strikes. I assume you're already using Time Machine. I also assume you have a clone of your drive and a basic off-site backup plan.

Add Another Off-Site Drive To greatly reduce the odds of a natural disaster taking out your data, add a second off-site drive to your backup rotation. That will bring your total to four backup drives: Time Machine, the clone, and two

Focus on the Unique

TIP Backing up your documents and media files should be one of your top priorities. Think about it: anything you've made yourself is irreplaceable. And although you could go out and buy your music all over again, most of us would rather not drop \$5,000 or more to replace our entire music collection.

Keep in mind that with an online storage provider, your files may be at risk of theft (either by a nefarious employee or by an external hacker), and if the provider's business fails, there's no guarantee you'll have a chance to get your files back. (For more about choosing a service, see "Easy Online Backups" [macworld.com/3300].)

When you're choosing an online storage provider, do some research on its reputation and how long it has been in business. You may also want to encrypt your most sensitive data, such as financial files, before backing them up online. (See "Encrypt Files for Safety" [macworld.com/2425] to learn how to make encrypted disk images.)

If you want to protect media files—all your photos or a collection of videos, for example—you'll find that most online backup services don't offer enough storage space, and that uploading your 10GB of data would take many hours. You'll probably want to settle for the backup copies you keep on your off-site external drive(s).

The frequency with which you should back up your data to an online service depends on how much work you're willing to lose. I use the MobileMe service and its included Backup application for

TRY THIS

Create Custom Keyboard Shortcuts

You've heard the advice again and again: Save time by learning keyboard shortcuts for the commands you use the most. But what do you do when there *isn't* a keyboard shortcut? Say you prefer tabs to the separate browser windows that can litter your computer screen. Apple's Safari can bring windows together as tabs (Window ► Merge All Windows), but you have to use the mouse to access this command each time.

So it's a good thing that recent versions of Mac OS let you create custom keyboard shortcuts for many applications. To do so, launch System Preferences, select the Keyboard & Mouse system preference, and then click on the Keyboard Shortcuts tab in the resulting window. At the bottom of the window, click on the plus-sign (+) button.

To make a shortcut for our Safari example, choose Safari from the Application pop-up menu and, in the Menu Title field, type **Merge All Windows**. (The name you type needs to look *exactly* like what you see in the menu.) Click on the Keyboard Shortcut field and enter a shortcut—⌘-Option-M, for example. Click on Add and then close System Preferences. When you return to Safari, go to the Windows menu, and you will discover the keyboard shortcut assigned to the Merge All Windows command listed there.—CHRISTOPHER BREEN



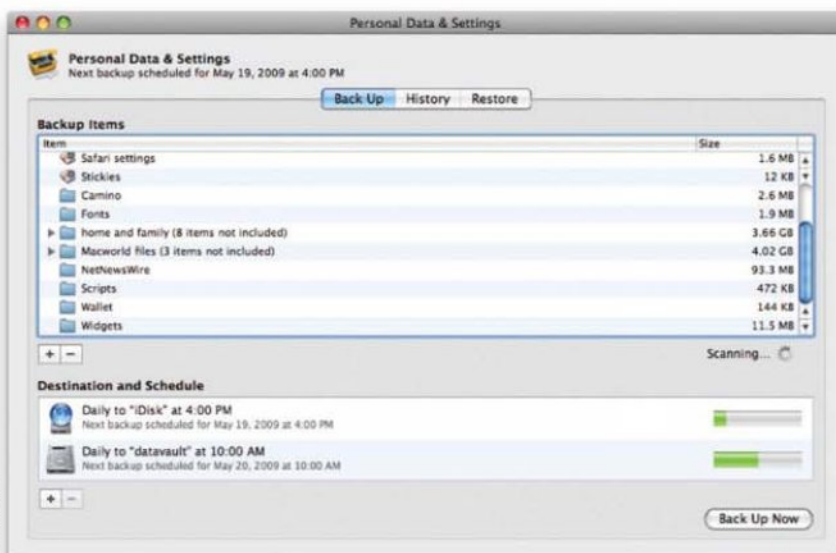
my online backups. I back up my family's financial files, my *Macworld* work files, and various household files. I run this backup twice a day—once to my MobileMe account and once to another hard drive in my Mac Pro.

Between these two backups, I've got about a six-hour exposure window (assuming I don't work an all-nighter!) if both my boot drive and my Time Machine backups die, and I have a one-day exposure window if someone steals my entire setup. (And yes, I also use every other backup measure I've outlined in this story. You can indeed call me obsessive.)

Back Up for Stress-Free Computing

After deciding how much you value your files, you can choose the strategy (or combination of strategies) that works best for you. Given how rarely hard drives actually fail, even a simple Time Machine-only backup plan will protect your data reasonably well. While getting going with a backup plan may take some time and expense, the peace of mind that comes with knowing your irreplaceable digital files are well protected makes the effort worth your while. ☒

Senior Editor **Rob Griffiths** runs the Mac OS X Hints Web site (www.macosxhints.com) when he's not busy backing up his files.



Online Backup Setup Backing up key files to an online service ensures that you'll always have at least one version of those files at hand.

Standardize the Volume of Music Tracks

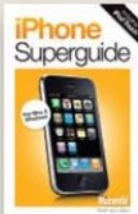
How to take advantage of Sound Check in iTunes **BY KIRK MCELHEARN**

When you shuffle your music—either on your iPod (Songs ► Shuffle) or by using one of iTunes’ features, such as the iTunes DJ (formerly Party Shuffle)—you’ve probably noticed that songs off different albums play at different volumes. For instance, pop music often blasts, while a lot of jazz and classical music plays much more softly. Record producers also seem to be increasing the volume in recent years: you’ll find that older music may be quieter than newer recordings. The problem with this is that you may have to adjust the volume of your playback device, and do so often.

Activate Sound Check You can prevent this hassle by employing the Sound Check feature, which automatically evens out the variation between your songs’ volumes. But to use Sound Check, you must first activate it in iTunes. Choose iTunes ► Preferences ► Playback and select the Sound Check option. If you want to use the feature on your iPod, you need to turn it on there too. Choose Settings ► Sound Check on the iPod. (The shuffle doesn’t support Sound Check.)

iPhone Superguide

Apple’s ground-breaking mobile device is an iPod, a phone, a Web browser, a PDA, and a game console all in one. Our **updated and** straightforward guide to the iPhone offers detailed instructions for mastering your device’s most important features (macworld.com/4877).



Keep an Eye on the Adjustments Usually, iTunes’ Sound Check feature saves you the hassle of adjusting your volume when you listen to songs recorded more or less loudly. However, Sound Check and classical music don’t mix well—it will increase the volume of this track by more than 15 dB.

When you select the Sound Check option in iTunes and click on OK, you’ll see at the top of iTunes’ window that the program is “Determining Song Volume” for your music. Depending on how much music you have, this can take some time; iTunes checks not only your music, but also your podcasts and audiobooks (but not your movies and videos).

Embrace the Average iTunes calculates an average volume level for each track, compares it to a preset norm, and then adds information to the track regarding how much the decibel level should increase or decrease. See the result of this in the Summary tab of the Info window for any track: there is a Volume entry with

a number of dB (decibels), and either a plus (+) or a minus (–) sign.

When you listen to music—in iTunes or on an iPod—with Sound Check turned on, you’ll find you will no longer be surprised by certain songs that are a lot louder or softer than others. But segues may sound strange, because iTunes calculates the average volume of a track. If a song starts with a quiet section and then gets very loud, the average will be somewhere in the middle, and the soft section may seem too soft. (One example is Led Zeppelin’s “Stairway to Heaven,” which begins with an acoustic guitar and voice, and ends with a raucous electric guitar. iTunes gives it –1.5 dB, but the ending is quite loud.)

Make Manual Adjustments In some cases, you may want to permanently alter the volume of one or more tracks, so you can play them with other software or on other devices—perhaps as ringtones or through an audio streamer such as the Sonos Multi-Room Music System 2.7 (★★★★; macworld.com/4228).

Do so with a program such as Rogue Amoeba's \$32 Fission 1.6.2 (www.rogueamoeba.com). This program lets you edit audio files nondestructively—that is, without decompressing and recompressing them. With Fission, you can alter the volume of a track, increase or decrease the gain (volume) of tracks (or even sections of tracks), and normalize the volume of tracks (which means making the volume as loud as possible without causing distortion). If you make changes to your music, be sure to keep backups.

Fission is also useful if you want to remove extraneous sounds or silence, such as applause following a live song, introductions to live tracks, between-song banter on live recordings, or silence either before or after a song.

Avoid It with Some Music If you listen to classical music, I would strongly recommend turning off Sound Check. In

the example shown here (see “Keep an Eye on the Adjustments”), iTunes wants to play a quiet section of a long string quartet at +15 dB, but other sections at -1 dB. This would ruin the dynamics that the performers strove to establish. Dynamics are very important in classical music, and just because one movement of a work is louder than another doesn't mean its volume should be lowered.

The same may be the case with live music: it's likely, if you're listening to an entire concert, that Sound Check's volume changes will be disturbing. It's most useful with songs played at random, not with albums or other music designed to be listened to in order.

Gain More-Exact Control If you find you'd like more control over your tracks' volume, take a look at Manfred Schwind's \$30 iVolume 3.1.4 (www.mani.de). It supports MP3, AAC, AIFF, and Apple Lossless files; it can adjust the volume of albums as a whole (useful for gapless live albums); and it offers a high degree of customization. ❌

Senior Contributor **Kirk McElhearn** writes about more than just Macs on his blog, Kirkville (www.mcelhearn.com).

CHECK IT OUT

Mophie Juice Pack Air

Mophie's \$80 Juice Pack Air is more than just a case. It's also a form-fitting battery pack that doubles your iPhone's use time. Unlike similar products, the Juice Pack Air provides full protection for your iPhone's back and sides; only the screen is exposed. And since your iPhone uses the Air's lithium-polymer battery, once the Air's 1200mAh battery is dead, you can remove your iPhone to find a full charge remaining (www.mophie.com).—DAN FRANKS



iTunes' Autofill for All

iTunes' Autofill feature automatically picks an assortment of songs, from either your iTunes Library as a whole or a playlist of your choosing, to fill up an iPod. Depending on your setting, the tracks are chosen randomly or with preference given to those with higher ratings. You can even set iTunes to pick a completely new set of tracks each time you use the Autofill feature. It's a great feature, but one that until now has been available only for the shuffle, despite the fact that Apple has long sold various other iPod models—and a couple of phones you may have heard of—with capacities too small to hold an entire music collection.

As of iTunes 8.1, Apple finally made Autofill available to all iPod and iPhone users. Unfortunately, the company hasn't made the feature easy to find if you're not using a shuffle. Here are the steps you need to take to reveal it (if you already manually manage your iPod's contents, skip to step 5):

- 1 With your iPod (or iPhone) connected to your computer, select the player in the iTunes sidebar on the left.
- 2 In the main area of the window, to the right, click on the Summary tab.
- 3 Select the box next to Manually Manage Music And Videos (or simply Manually Manage Music on non-video-capable iPods).



- 4 Back in the sidebar, click on the disclosure triangle to the left of your device to reveal its contents, then select the Music item.
 - 5 At the bottom of the main sync area, you'll now see the Autofill pop-up menu, which lets you designate the source from which Autofill should choose its music. Click on the Settings button to choose the other options: whether to replace all items each time you autofill, to choose items randomly, and to choose higher-rated items more often. You can also set aside a particular amount of space on your iPod for disk use.
 - 6 Click on Autofill to fill up your player.
- Autofill is by no means the easiest feature to find, but at least Apple finally made it available to everyone.—DAN FRANKS

Creative Networking

Design-focused networks offer inspiration and connections **BY PARIAH S. BURKE**

If you're like most creative professionals, you rely on advice and inspiration from peers to stay on the top of your game. Mainstream social networking sites such as Facebook include thriving design communities, but finding the relevant information means wading through random quizzes and personal drama. For more-focused interaction and education, a better option is using the many social networking services built specifically for creative pros.

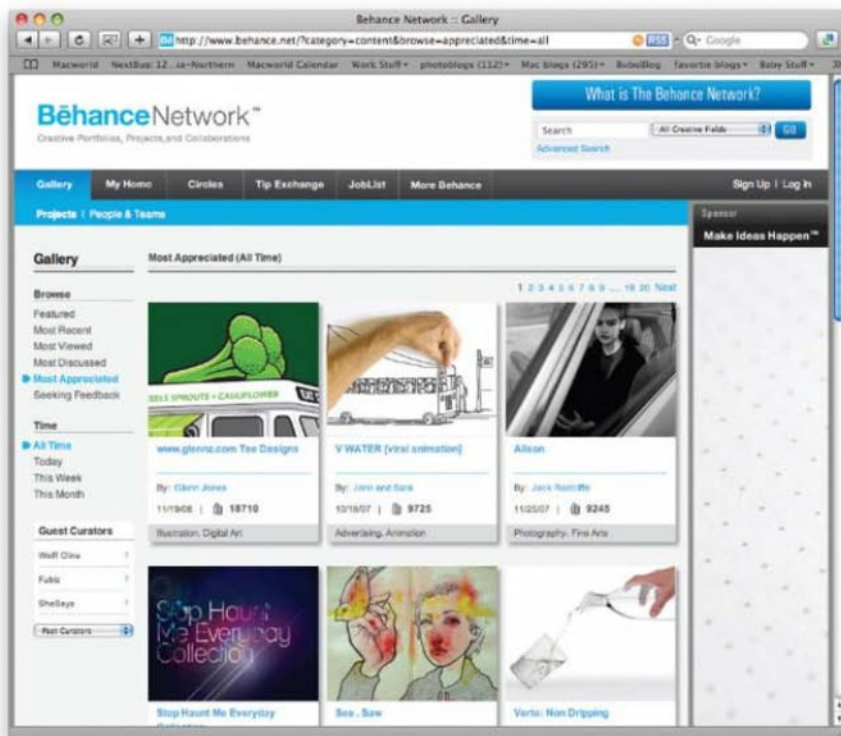
The dynamic of social media is changing the way creatives produce, share, and digest content, as well as how we brand ourselves, build our businesses, and get work. If you're not following along, you're missing out on a lot.

Share Your Work

One of the most-effective uses of Web 2.0 by the creative community is a forum where you can post design work. Services such as the Behance Network (www.behance.net), Coroflot (www.coroflot.com), and the QuarkXPress-centric I Love Design.com offer members a place to share completed and in-progress work for peer review, as well as post entire portfolios for review by prospective employers.

Behance Network is the largest and most feature-packed of the social portfolio sites. You can not only upload your own designs, but also rate and critique others' work, build watch lists of your favorite designs from other artists, and collaborate on projects.

For more social interaction, you can form and join discussion groups called "circles." The site boasts nearly 250 active circles composed of thousands of members. Topics address a broad range of creative interests and endeavors, from graphic design to woodworking, fashion to Web design, cinematography to video-game



Behance In addition to showcasing your own work and contact information, your Behance profile displays the work of other creatives that you've collected as inspiration, shows the circles in which you participate, and lists recent job postings matching your areas of expertise.

design. For example, the "Behance: How Do You Use It?" circle helps new members get the most out of the Behance Network, while type aficionados congregate and passionately debate the virtues and sins of Helvetica in the "We Love Helvetica" circle.

In addition to feedback from other designers, the potential to find work is a huge draw for portfolio sites such as Behance—even more so than socializing. One reason for this is that prospective clients benefit from the site's approach as much as designers do. On job-listing sites like Monster.com and bidding sites like Elance, employers and clients must post an ad and then sift

through the resulting flood of applications or bids; Behance works the opposite way. Its search-powered sieve lets clients examine profiles and portfolios for the right skill-set and style. Then the client initiates contact—privately and only to available, prequalified freelancers or job candidates.

Stay Current

Want to see what other designers and artists are currently digging? Struggling to keep up with the latest design trends and free resources? Mainstream link-sharing sites like StumbleUpon and Digg have been around for years, but they cover such a broad range

of topics that finding design-specific content can take far too much time and energy. Instead, look to link-sharing sites built exclusively for creative professionals. Design-Bump (designbump.com) and Votetime (vot.eti.me) offer general discussion on creative topics, with an emphasis on graphic design, Web design, and illustration. DevMarks (devmarks.com), on the other hand, focuses just on Web design, and Designer Pages (www.designerpages.com) caters to industrial designers, interior decorators, and architects.

These link-sharing services act as a recommended reading list compiled by and for creatives. If one designer finds a Web site or blog post compelling, he or she can share a link and excerpt with the community through browser bookmarklets. Links are then categorized and tagged, making it easy for anyone to find specific content.

Other community members can show their interest in (or dislike of) the clipped story by voting on it, leaving comments, or rebroadcasting it to their own network.

The result is a peer-built, democratically ranked index to relevant, vetted

content. Links to the best content are voted up and passed around, while the lower quality or less informative material is voted down and discarded. If you want quality information on branding, jQuery, client contracts, text-tile trends, or another creative subject, you can often get to it faster by bypassing Google and starting with creative link-sharing indexes.

Stay Connected

Whatever your creative craft, the Web has a growing community of your peers. Plunge into that network by using these services to get noticed, informed, connected, and empowered. ✕



Votetime The Upcoming News tab displays summaries and thumbnail images of the latest links other designers found interesting enough to share with the community.

Pariah S. Burke (iampariah.com) is a designer, author, and consultant, and is the publisher of Designorati (designorati.com).

3 Reasons to Use Twitter

Although you can benefit greatly from social networks geared for creatives, you shouldn't ignore mainstream services such as Twitter (www.twitter.com). Its broader reach can give you access to people and resources you might otherwise miss. If you've been avoiding Twitter because you think it's frivolous, you might want to reconsider. Here's why. (Get more Twitter tips in this month's *Geek Factor*, page 76.)

1 Find Free Resources

Twitter can be a treasure trove of creative inspiration, including raw materials you can download and use in your projects. A huge roster of Twitter users post nothing but links to free Photoshop brushes, stock photos, and the like. For example, Twitter user VecTips (twitter.com/Vectips) offers great Adobe Illustrator tips and links to free vector art. A good way to uncover relevant resources is to see whom other designers are following.

2 Get Your Work Noticed

If you're looking to share your own work or offer tips, make sure others can find your updates by making your content searchable. Place the pound symbol (#) before keywords for which others would likely search. For example, your tweet might look something like this: “#Apple released a new iMac for education last week.” People searching for the #Apple hash tag will find your tweet among others related to the computer company. What they will not find are tweets like “I eat an apple every day.” Visit HashTags.org for a list of popular tags and recent tag trends.



Twitter Leads Get connected to useful content by seeing whom like-minded designers are following.

3 Get Help

Twitter can be like having your own creative tutor. I frequently see users ask questions such as “How do you do XYZ in Photoshop?” and then get answers in a matter of minutes. The great thing is, everyone benefits from the answers. This is also a great way to get feedback on your work. I don't recommend barraging the network with requests, but people are generally happy to offer their opinion on occasion. Just be sure to return the favor the next time you're asked.—JAMES DEMPSEY, TWITTER.COM/THEGRAPHICMAC

Make the Most of Your Location

Change system settings depending on where you are **BY GLENN FLEISHMAN**

Every time you take your laptop somewhere new—from the office to home, from home to the neighborhood coffee shop—you have to change its network settings. Ethernet or AirPort? VPN or not?

You could change those settings manually. Or you could (and should) use OS X's Locations—saved profiles that ensure your laptop is using the right network adapters and VPN settings for your current whereabouts.

Creating a New Location

When you open the Network preference pane, the Location drop-down menu is at the top, showing the selected location. Below that on the left, you should see a list of currently available network adapters; on the right, you'll see those adapters' settings.

When you first install Leopard, there's only one location in that list: Automatic, which represents your current network setting. You can set up a new location using the Network Setup Assistant (click on Assist Me and then on Assistant). The Assistant will create a location based on your current network settings; it will prompt you to name it, select an Internet connection method, and then supply some parameters for that connection.

Unfortunately, the Assistant won't pick up *all* of your network settings, such as AirPort network passwords. There are other ways to create locations that will.

My preferred method is to go back to the Network preference pane and select Edit Locations from the Location drop-down menu. In the subsequent dialog box, click on the plus sign (+) to add a new location. Or you can select an existing location in the Edit Locations



NetworkLocation Using the Skyhook Wi-Fi triangulation system, NetworkLocation can tell where you are physically and adjust system settings accordingly.

dialog box and then select Duplicate Location from the action menu below (the one with the gear icon). In either case, you can then name your new location and click on Done.

Adjusting Your Settings

Whether you're adjusting a new or an existing location, the technique for changing settings is the same.

With the location you want to edit selected in the Network preference pane's drop-down menu, you can add a new adapter by clicking on the plus sign (+) at the bottom of the adapter list. Click on the minus sign (–) to remove adapters you don't need (which can be useful in troubleshooting networking problems).

If you use some Ethernet connections only occasionally in a given location, you

can select the ones you use least and select Make Service Inactive from the drop-down action menu; they'll stay on the list but won't be active. Making a given adapter inactive will also preserve network settings, which would be lost if you deleted the adapter altogether.

Once you've pruned the adapter list, open the action menu again and choose Set Service Order. Arrange the adapters (by dragging them up and down the list) in order from most to least desired. For instance, if you prefer to use Ethernet when tethered but want AirPort to kick in as soon as you unplug, drag Ethernet to the top and put AirPort below that.

To configure specific settings for an adapter, click on it in the adapter list and then make your changes in the pane on the right.

The settings available for change will vary by the kind of adapter. For Ethernet adapters, for example, you can choose to configure the connection using DHCP or manually (useful when you have a static network address). Clicking on the Advanced button provides access to more granular settings; these, again, vary by location and adapter. For instance, if you have Gigabit Ethernet available at your office and you regularly transfer large files, you might want to click on Advanced for the Ethernet adapter in your Office location, choose the Ethernet tab, select Manually from the pop-up menu, and choose Custom from the MTU menu, then enter 9,000. That same setting wouldn't work on a slower network.

When you're done making changes, click on Apply to save them into the currently displayed location.

To switch among locations, choose Location from the Apple menu and then choose the location name, or choose the name from the Location pop-up menu in the Network preference pane.

Other Location Managers

OS X's built-in location-management tools are fine for changing network settings. But what if you want to change other system settings depending on where you are? Or what if you'd rather not have to tell your Mac where you are, but rather have it identify and change locations for you? Then you should check out a couple of third-party programs.

David Symonds's MarcoPolo (🔍🔍🔍; payment requested; macworld.com/4875) lets you define Evidence Sources (items to monitor for change), Rules (changes to look for), and Actions (what to do when those changes occur). In plain English, that means you can tell MarcoPolo to reconfigure your system when you plug in an Ethernet cable, say, or attach a USB keyboard.

MarcoPolo can make all kinds of configuration changes when those events occur. These include network details (changing the network location, engaging a VPN, switching Wi-Fi or Bluetooth on or off, and so on) but also systemwide settings (launching apps,

muting audio, changing the desktop pattern, and more). You can set actions to occur when you arrive or depart, too, although departure rules require that the laptop stay on when the context changes.

OS X's built-in location-management tools are fine for changing network settings. But what if you want to change other settings?

Centrix.ca's \$29 NetworkLocation (🔍🔍🔍; macworld.com/4876) adds an interesting twist to location management. Like MarcoPolo, it monitors your system for changes in your network connections. You can also choose to trigger a location change based on a network name, its unique adapter address, the status of Ethernet, and any connected devices.

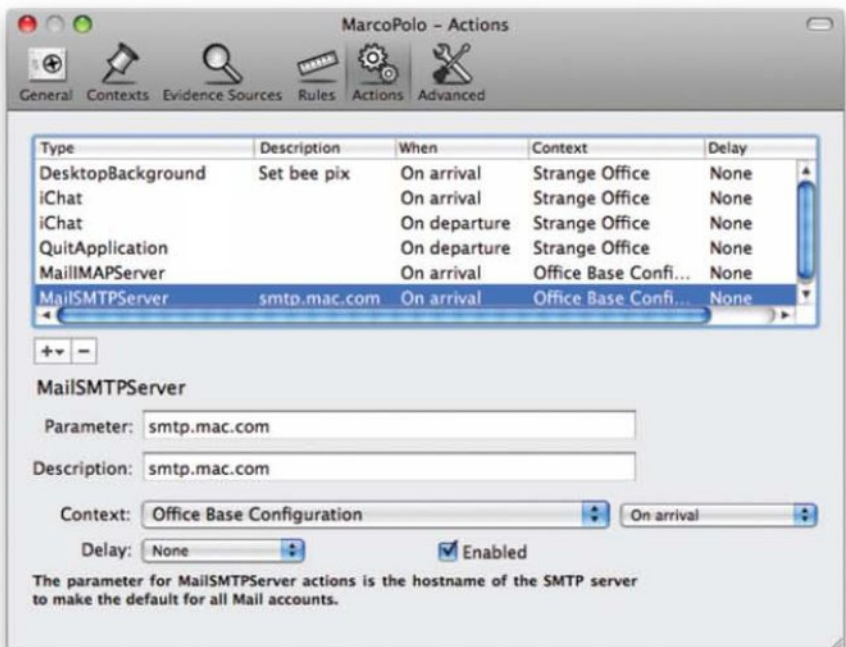
The twist is that the program can also make changes based on where you are physically. It does so by tapping into the Skyhook positioning system, which triangulates your location based on the direction and strength of nearby Wi-Fi access points; the company says that system is accurate to within a few dozen feet. (First-generation iPhones and all

iPod touch models use Skyhook to determine their location; it's a supplement to GPS on the iPhone 3G.) An AutoLocate tab in NetworkLocation lets you set triggers to change settings based on Skyhook's location-finding.

The program's Locations tab lets you define locations and associated actions, which can include application tasks (opening a URL, turning Apple Mail's check interval to a different value, or running a script in Terminal), as well as system tasks (changing the brightness or the time zone).

However you do it, managing network settings should be an integral part of any mobile Mac user's repertoire. It'll save you time and ensure that you stay connected wherever you are. ✕

Glenn Fleishman is the author of several *Take Control* books on networking (takecontrolbooks.com) and is a frequent contributor to *Macworld*.



MarcoPolo With MarcoPolo, you can change all sorts of system settings—not just network specs—based on location.

Twitter Power Tools

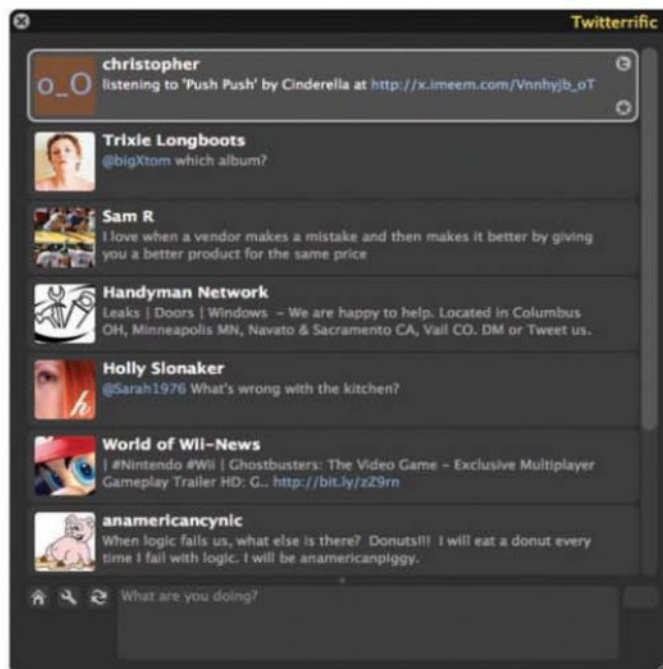
Use hidden features and AppleScript to rev up Twitterrific **BY JASON SNELL**

I am most definitely a devotee of the social-networking message service Twitter (twitter.com). And while I've tried most of the Twitter apps for the Mac, I keep coming back to The Iconfactory's Twitterrific (free with ads, \$15 without; macworld.com/4924). For people who don't use Twitter, I'd need to write another story to explain its appeal. For people who do, and who use Twitterrific to keep track of it, I'd like to point out some interesting hidden features of this Twitter app.

Filtering Tweets

During the run-up to last year's presidential election, I got tired of all the political arguing in my Twitter feed. Twitter's 140-character limit can kill nuance; to me, any political conversation worth listening to requires nuance. I decided I'd rather not see tweets that mentioned the candidates.

Fortunately, I didn't have to resign from Twitter to get away from the politics. Instead, I used Twitterrific's little-known text-filter feature, which is accessible only via the command line (or through a handy preference utility such as Blacktree's Secrets [secrets.blacktree.com]).



Scripting Twitterrific

With a little AppleScripting, you can filter Twitterrific feeds by keyword or user, send out automated tweets, or have your Mac speak incoming messages.

Twitterrific's text filtering uses the grep pattern-matching syntax. (To find out more about grep, see macworld.com/0578 or, better yet, get Jeffrey E.F. Friedl's excellent book *Mastering Regular Expressions* [O'Reilly Media, 2006; macworld.com/4925].) To filter

out mention of the candidates, I used the following Terminal command:

```
defaults write
com.iconfactory.Twitterrific
tweetTextFilter
-string "McCain|Obama"
```

The first part of the command sets Twitterrific's `tweetTextFilter` preference. The last part, in quotation marks, sets the filter. In grep, you use the pipe character (`|`) to mean the word *or*. So this command will eliminate tweets containing the words *McCain* or *Obama*.

Similarly, if you'd rather not see someone's messages but don't want to block that person, you can use the `tweetScreenNameFilter` setting following the same format:

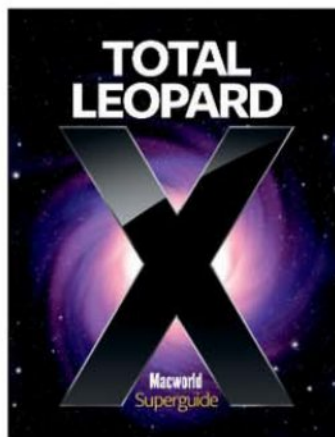
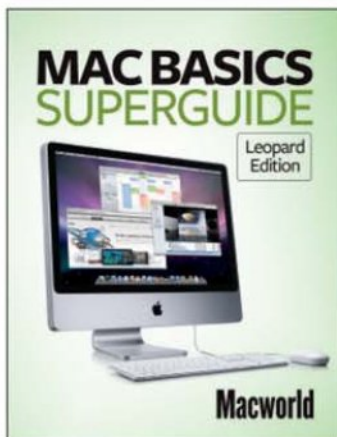
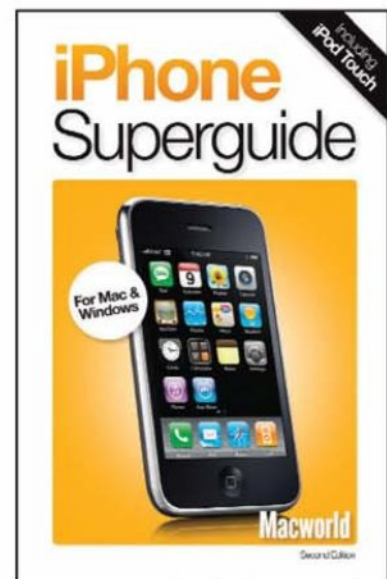
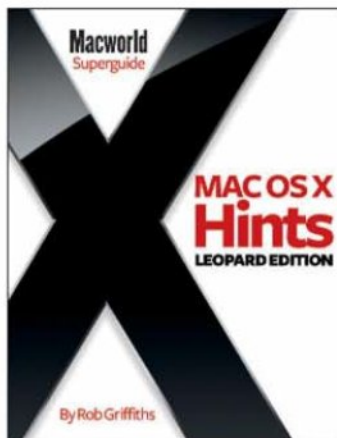
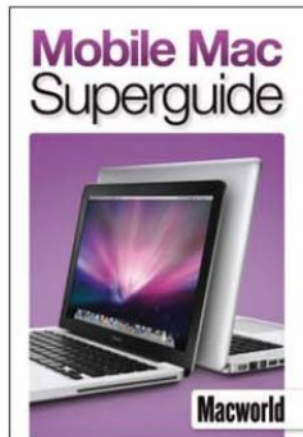
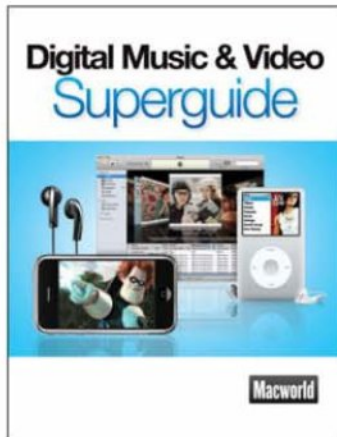
```
defaults write
com.iconfactory.Twitterrific
```

CODE BOX talkingmoose.scpt

```
on process_tweet(tweetId, tweetDate, tweetScreenName,
tweetUserName, tweetUserUrl, tweetUserImageUrl, tweetText,
tweetType)
    if tweetScreenName is "TalkingMoose" then
        tell application "Finder"
            say tweetText using "Fred"
        end tell
    end if
end process_tweet
```


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Automate Twitter

You can use Mac OS X's Automator to script Twitter. For example, you can create a shell command to send quick Twitter updates.

Start by launching Automator and creating a new blank workflow. Drag Run Shell Script from the Utilities category of the Actions list to your workflow and enter this script in the action's text area:

```
curl -u yourusername:yourpassword -d
status="Tweeting from Automator's 'Run Shell
Script' action!"
'http://twitter.com/statuses/update.xml'
```

Be sure to replace *yourusername* and *yourpassword* in the script with your actual Twitter user name and password, and to customize the status message. (And don't forget to limit the latter to 140 characters or less.) When you've finished, run the workflow to post the message.



You can also pass messages to the Run Shell Script action as input. To do so, set the Run Shell Script action's Pass Input pop-up menu to As Arguments. Then adjust the script in the text area to read as follows (again, use your own user name and password):

```
for f in "$@"
do
curl -u yourusername:yourpassword
-d status="$f" 'http://twitter.com/
statuses/update.xml'
done
```

You'd insert an action that results in text before this Run Shell Script action; the script will then take messages received as input and post them to Twitter as separate status updates. For a complete list of supported script commands, including usage examples, visit the Twitter API documentation wiki (macworld.com/4930).—BEN WALDIE, TWITTER.COM/APPLESCRIPTGURU

twitter

`tweetScreenNameFilter`
`-string "dude109|guy19"`

Twitterrific has lots of other hidden preferences, all of which are

documented in the Read Me file that accompanies the program. (You just haven't lived until you've turned on `sonicTwooshTechnology`.)

Scripting Your Tweets

Want to annoy people by sending out Tweets automatically? You can do it with an AppleScript! Here's the basic version of the script:

MacMania™ 10

www.InSightCruises.com/Mac-10

Roundtrip NYC to Bermuda
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Overnights in St. George's and Hamilton.
Four onboard parties! Over 30 hours of classes!



Insight Cruises
THE JOURNEY WITHIN

CO-PRODUCED BY:

Macworld

CST# 2065380-40


```

tell application
"Twitterrific"
  post update "I am a stupid,
scripted tweet."
end tell

```

Seriously, that's it. Of course, you'll want to tweak that basic script to do something more interesting.

For example, I wrote a script that allowed me to boast to people in other parts of the country about the wonderful weather we have here in the San Francisco Bay Area. That script queries my home weather station (macworld.com/4926) for the current temperature, converts the temperature from Fahrenheit to Celsius, rounds both temperatures to the nearest degree, and then sticks the entire thing into one ridiculous weather boast (macworld.com/4927).

I stored that as a script that I can double-click on to run whenever I feel the need to lord it over people who could afford houses much larger than mine by living in places where it snows. It's

amazing that I still have any Twitter followers at all.

Scripting Received Tweets

You can also write an AppleScript script that will react to *incoming* Tweets. For example, recently Bob LeVitus (twitter.com/LeVitus) pointed out that he was following TalkingMoose (twitter.com/TalkingMoose) on Twitter. For those of you who aren't old and decrepit like Bob and me, Talking Moose (macworld.com/4928) was a Mac program that would randomly pop up and say something funny or crazy—yes, a talking moose on your Mac screen.

Now someone has ported Talking Moose to Twitter—which made me wonder: what if I could get the TalkingMoose Twitter stream to speak out loud *in the style of the old Talking Moose program*? How useless would that be? So of course I wrote a script to do just that (see “[talkingmoose.sct](#)”).

After saving that script in my home

folder, I went back to Terminal and entered the following command:

```

defaults write
com.iconfactory.Twitterrific
processTweetScriptPath
-string ~/talkingmoose.sct

```

That's it. After I quit and relaunched Twitterrific, my script executed every time a new tweet arrived. If the tweet was from TalkingMoose, my Mac read it out loud in MacinTalk's Fred voice.

Please note that if you're using an earlier version of Twitterrific, a bug will cause every tweet to be spoken every time a new tweet loads. So be sure to download version 3.2 of Twitterrific (macworld.com/4929) before running a script like this.

Also, be sure to read the program's Read Me file all the way to the bottom. You'll be amazed at what you find. ☒

Editorial Director **Jason Snell's** weather is probably nicer than yours. If you can stand it, follow him on Twitter as [jsnell](http://twitter.com/jsnell) (twitter.com/jsnell).

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Help Desk

Mac OS X Hints

The insider tips you won't get from Apple **BY ROB GRIFFITHS**

Quickly Create Contact Sheets

A contact sheet—a page of image thumbnails—provides a fast and efficient way to proof a set of photos before printing them. Many graphics applications can generate contact sheets, but that involves launching another program. With OS X 10.5 (Leopard), you can create a contact sheet with a few keystrokes.

The trick involves Leopard's handy Quick Look, which lets you preview files without opening them. I use it to display images, peek at files I think I want to open, and watch video clips before dropping them into a project. To bring up a Quick Look preview, highlight the file and press the spacebar.

In the Finder, navigate to the folder containing images for your contact sheet. If you want every image, press ⌘-A to grab them all. If you want only certain images, press Shift and drag across a group or press ⌘ and click to select noncontiguous ones. Once you've picked the right ones, press



Easy Contact Sheets Need an easy way to examine a bunch of photos at one time? In Leopard you can make a simple contact sheet by opening images in Quick Look's slide-show mode and clicking on the Index Sheet button. Then you can examine or print what you see here.

⌘-Option-Y, the keyboard shortcut for File ▶ Slideshow XX Items, where XX is the number of files selected. (This command appears under the File menu only if you hold down the Option key first.) This will open a full-screen slide show.

Once you're in slide-show mode, click on the Index Sheet button in the floating command bar at the bottom of your screen. Quick Look will exit slide-show mode and display thumbnails of all the selected images (see "Easy Contact Sheets").

The final step is to capture a screenshot of your thumbnails by pressing ⌘-Shift-3. A file named Picture 1 will appear on your desktop. It contains your image thumbnails against a black background, without

the menu bar or Dock. You can print or e-mail this file. This method has limitations—for example, you can't control the thumbnail size or background color—but it's a quick, easy way to generate a simple contact sheet.

Add Keyboard Shortcuts to Services

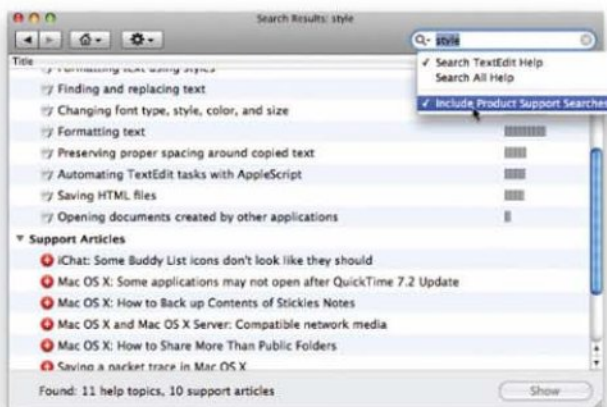
Services are mini-programs that let you do useful things to selections. (For more, see "Save Time with OS X Services" [macworld.com/4825].) For instance, you can use a service to make Apple's Mail create a new message with an attachment. Click on the file you want to send and then go to Finder ▶ Services ▶ Mail ▶ Send File. Although Services are useful, this example also demonstrates the problem with

Have a Hint to Share?

Go to MacOSXHints.com to submit it. This column was based on tips from Bill Bauldry, Brad Lappin, and anonymous

contributors. Each month, the author of our favorite tip receives the *Help Desk* mug.





Disable Support Searches If you're tired of waiting for OS X's Help system to try—and fail—to search online when you don't have an Internet connection, make it stop by deselecting the final entry in the search box's menu.

them—they're buried a few menu levels down. Wouldn't it be great if you could just press a keyboard shortcut instead?

Open System Preferences and click on Keyboard & Mouse. Select the Keyboard Shortcuts tab, and click on the plus sign (+) to add a new shortcut. For this example, set the Application pop-up menu to Finder (for other services related to a text selection, such as Look Up In Dictionary, you'd set this menu to All Applications). In the Menu Title field, type the name of the item exactly as it appears in the menu (capitalization and all): for example, **Send File**. In the Keyboard Shortcut field, enter the shortcut you'd like to apply—I chose Control-Option-F (*F for file*)—and then click on Add. Remember to pick unique key combinations so they don't conflict with existing shortcuts.

That's it. Switch back to the Finder, select a file, and press Control-Option-F (or whatever shortcut you assigned). Mail will automatically come to the foreground (or launch, if it's not already running). You'll see a new message window with the selected file attached.

Disable Support-Site Help Searches

By default, Leopard's Help system searches both local help and Apple's Support site for topics that match your query. But there might be times when you'd prefer not to have search terms sent to Apple—for example, if you have a slow or not-always-on Internet connec-

tion. In previous versions of Mac OS X, it was easy to disable these searches via the Help system's preferences. But in Leopard, Help is no longer a stand-alone program, which means it doesn't have any preferences to set. You can still disable searching of Apple's Support site, though. Under the Help menu in any Apple program, select that application's Help option (in

TextEdit, for instance, you'd go to Help ► TextEdit Help). In the window that appears, click on the search box's small magnifying glass to bring up a menu. To halt Support site searches, deselect the last option—Include Product Support Searches (see "Disable Support Searches"). The setting is global, so you need to do this only once.

See File-Name Paths in Pages '09

One of the helpful new features in Apple's Pages '09 (📄; \$79 as part of the iWork '09 suite; macworld.com/4352) is the ability to insert the current file's name into your

WHAT'S ONLINE

Play Old-School Chess

Want to play chess on an ASCII chess board and enter moves in algebraic notation? Fire up Terminal (macworld.com/4921).

View Text in QuickTime Use QuickTime Player to view plain-text files on a frame-by-frame basis (macworld.com/4922).

document. This is useful if, say, you print a lot of documents and you want to quickly identify the name of the file on the printout. To add a file name, move your cursor to where you want to place the name and then select Insert ► Filename.

What's even more useful is the not-so-obvious ability to include the path to the file so you can easily locate it. After inserting a file name, double-click on it. A tiny dialog box appears. Select the Show Directory Path option, and your file name will appear with the full path to the file included. ☒

Senior Editor **Rob Griffiths** runs the MacOSXHints.com Web site.



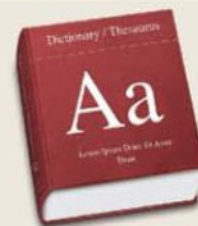
POWER TIP OF THE MONTH

Disable Spotlight Extras

Leopard's Spotlight isn't just a search tool; it's also a calculator and dictionary. Activate Spotlight (⌘-space) and type a word, and you'll see a Definition entry in the list of results. Type an equation instead, such as $(3+(5*15)/60)$, and you'll see a Calculator entry containing the answer (it's 4.25). In some cases this can be annoying. For instance, if you're looking for a series of folders named by date, such as 5-1, 6-1, and so on, you may get tired of seeing mathematical results.

To disable these features, open Terminal (in /Applications/Utilities), and type these commands (press Return after each). Or copy and paste them from macworld.com/4920:
`defaults write com.apple.spotlight DictionaryLookupEnabled NO`

After executing one or both commands, you must restart the Spotlight process for the changes to take effect. The safest way to do this is by logging out and back in. Or if you're impatient, type `killall Spotlight` in Terminal. To restore these features, repeat the commands but replace **NO** with **YES**, and then restart Spotlight.



Mac 911

Solutions to your most vexing Mac problems **BY CHRISTOPHER BREEN**

Prevent Regrettable E-mail Messages

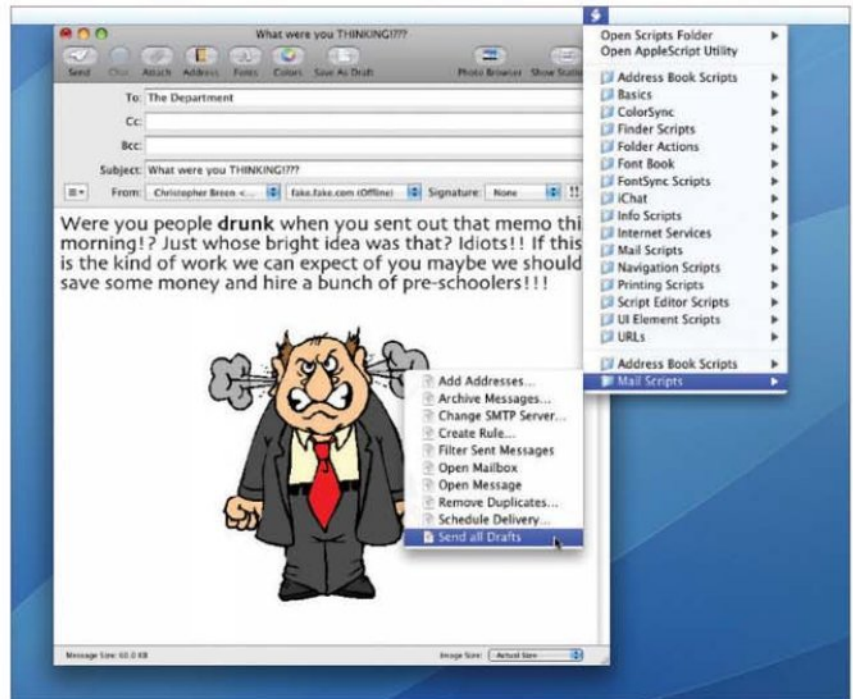
Q: Is there a way to retrieve an e-mail message after you've sent it?

Robert Hubbard

A: If it has truly been sent—that is, it has made its way out of your computer and onto the Internet—then the answer is no. Rather than wallow in regret, however, you can turn this tragedy into an opportunity by configuring your Mac (and yourself) to avoid situations like this in the future.

Obviously, the first step is to carefully consider what you've written *before* clicking on Send. After an ill-advised spoken conversation, you can swear that you said “dollop,” not “trollop,” and attribute the unfortunate misunderstanding to excessive cerumen. Sadly, in e-mail messages everything is spelled out in black and white. Should someone decide to check the record, it's easy to do. Even then, it's possible to compose a perfectly legitimate message yet mistakenly send it to the wrong person. More often than not, you realize your mistake just seconds after you click on Send.

One way to deal with this and other regrettable messages is to insert a measure of time between when you finish composing a message and when you send it. That way you have the choice of reconsidering what you've done. If you



Time to Cool Off Avoid embarrassment and misdirected messages by saving all your e-mail messages as drafts. After reflection, you can send all your drafts at once using an AppleScript.

use Microsoft Entourage, use the Send Message Later command (Message ► Send Message Later)—which places the message in the outbox and sends it when Entourage next checks your e-mail—to buy yourself some time. Apple's Mail doesn't include such a command, but you can rig up something similar.

Your first step is to click on Save As Draft instead of on Send. This places your message in Mail's Drafts folder, where it sits until you send it. Normally, you'd have to venture into that Drafts folder, open a message, and then click on Send to push it along. However, if you've downloaded and installed Andreas Amman's Mail Scripts (payment

requested; macworld.com/0446), you can send all messages in the folder in one go. This collection of helpful AppleScripts includes Send All Drafts and Schedule Delivery. If you've placed composed messages in the Drafts folder, you can send them all by invoking the Send All Drafts script (see “Time to Cool Off”). If you'd like to send the messages in the Drafts folder at a specific time, use the Schedule Delivery script instead.

If you're a Gmail (www.gmail.com) user and you compose and send messages online, you'll want to take a gander at Gmail Labs' Undo Send option (macworld.com/4789). Go to Settings, click on the Labs link, and enable Undo Send. It can't



Have a problem?

Go to the Mac 911 forum (macworld.com/2467) for help with your misbehaving Mac or applications.

do the impossible—retrieve messages that have been sent—but it does put in place a five-second delay before a message is sent. If you regret clicking on Send, just click on the Undo link within five seconds and the message remains your property.

Locate a Lost Cursor

Q: I sometimes find it hard to locate the cursor, so I feverishly move my mouse around in the hope that I'll spot it. Is there a hot key that will cause the cursor to blink or glow or zoom—anything to help me find it?

Via the Internet

A: There are a couple of things you could try. The first is to simply make the cursor larger. You do this by opening the Universal Access system preference, clicking on the Mouse tab, and using the Cursor Size slider to increase the size of the cursor.

Of course, this isn't a great solution if you don't want a larger cursor all the time. The other option is 2point5fish's free Mouse Locator (www.2point5fish.com). Once you install this preference pane, you can cause a large green target to appear around the cursor by simply pressing the F6 key (see "Lost Cursor Found"). If you prefer, you can assign a different F-key.

Auto-Enable Private Browsing

Q: I'm using Apple's Safari 4 Beta on an Intel iMac under OS X 10.5.6 (Leopard). I use Safari's Private Browsing feature much of the time, but I have to turn this feature on every time I launch my browser. Is there a way to make this feature the default?

Leo Campo

A: When you enable Private Browsing (Safari ► Private Browsing), Safari goes into stealth mode: it doesn't add Web pages you visit to its history, it removes items from the Downloads window, it doesn't remember searches in the Google search field, and it doesn't add items to the AutoFill database. Private Browsing

helps ensure that others using your Mac can't follow your tracks—that can be useful in a work environment. But Private Browsing isn't a feature you can leave on. When you quit Safari and launch it again, you'll find that Private Browsing is turned off. And editing the `com.apple.safari.plist` file does you no good either. Safari just resets the option within the preferences file when you next launch Safari. However, if you're running Leopard, you can automate the process of enabling the Private Browsing option with AppleScript. First, launch the Universal Access system preference and select the Enable Access For Assistive Devices option. Now, launch Script Editor (in Applications/AppleScript) and enter the follow-

Bugs & Fixes BY TED LANDAU



Safari 4 Beta Crashes Mail

Apple's Safari 4 Beta (macworld.com/4793) can cause Apple's Mail to crash. To prevent this, remove any GrowlMail plug-ins you find in `youruserfolder/Library/Mail/Bundles`. You'll have to wait (most likely for a GrowlMail update) to use these again.



iPhone Screen Repairs

Have any small white spots on your iPhone screen that you can't remove by cleaning the glass? I thought my spot was the result of dead pixels. However, stuck-pixel remedies such as "massaging" the pixel (macworld.com/4795) or using EBASpace's Stuck Pixel Fix (payment requested; macworld.com/4796) all failed. My local Apple Store Genius diagnosed the problem as dust under the glass and fixed it in about five minutes. If you suspect a hardware defect with your Apple product—especially if it's still under warranty—take it to an Apple Store. You just might get a free fix.



Insufficient Access to Home Folder

If you suddenly find yourself unable to move, rename, or create files in your Home

directory due to "insufficient access privileges," a risky permissions command may be to blame. The problem can occur after you apply the Apply To Enclosed Items command to a folder, especially your user (Home) folder. This can happen when you select a folder, choose File ► Get Info (⌘-I), click on the padlock icon under Sharing & Permissions, enter your password, and choose Apply To Enclosed Items from the Action menu, which looks like a gear. The Apply To Enclosed Items menu item lets you change the settings for *all* files and folders within a folder to match the settings you give to that folder. This is helpful when it saves you from having to modify the permissions individually. However, certain permissions, such as the owner name, may not change for enclosed items. Worse, when used on your Home folder, the command may alter files that should be left alone. If this happens to you, check out Apple's detailed instructions for fixing the problem (macworld.com/4796).

Senior Contributor **Ted Landau** is the founder of MacFixIt (www.macfixit.com). Share your problems at bugs@macworld.com or on Macworld.com's Mac 911 forum.



Lost Cursor Found Press a single key and 2point5fish's Mouse Locator will locate your lost cursor.


```
ing script (or copy and paste from
Macworld.com (macworld.com/4790):
tell application "Safari"
activate
end tell
tell application "System
Events"
tell process "Safari"
tell menu bar 1
tell menu bar item "Safari"
tell menu "Safari"
click menu item "Private
Browsing"
end tell
end tell
end tell
end tell
end tell
```

Select File ► Save, name the script, and then choose Application from the File Format pop-up menu. Click on Save. Put this application in a place where you can easily access it—on the desktop or in the Dock, for example. Now click on this application to launch Safari whenever you need to surf privately. When you do, Safari will launch with Private Browsing enabled.

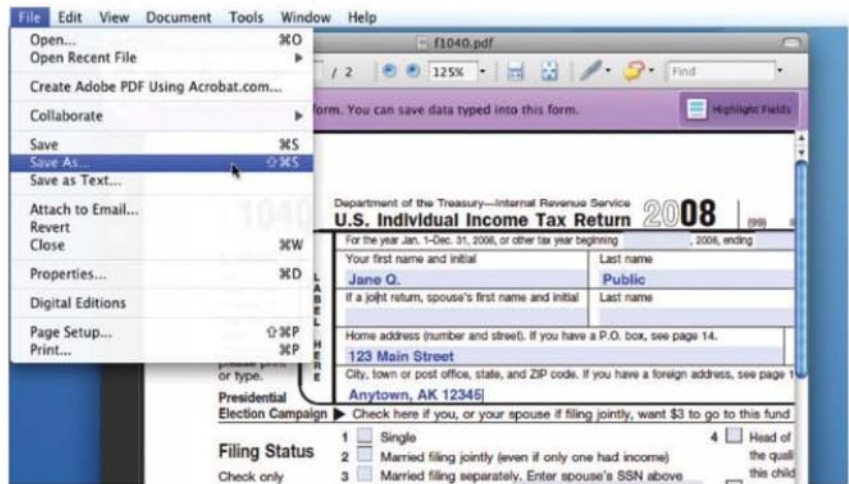
Fill In PDF Forms

Q: Can I use Apple's Pages to recognize an imported PDF file so that I can complete the form as I would with a typewriter?

Don Rock

A: I'm afraid you're barking up the wrong tree by looking to Pages for an answer. Although you can import PDF files into Pages documents, they're not editable. If, for example, you create a new Pages document, select Insert ► Choose, and then navigate to the PDF, you'll find that the PDF file appears within your document, but as a graphic rather than as editable text.

The good news is that you have a couple of free options for filling in PDF forms that were created with editable fields (not all PDF forms are). The first is Leopard's Preview (in /Applications). Just open a PDF form, click on a field, and a cursor appears, awaiting your



Fast PDF Forms Wondering whether you can fill in that PDF form on your computer instead of printing it out and doing the deed by hand? Adobe's free Reader highlights editable fields in blue.

input. After you've filled out the form, choose File ► Save As and save your filled-out form.

The other option is the free Adobe Reader (macworld.com/4791). Like Preview, Adobe Reader lets you enter what you want in open fields. Conveniently, it also highlights editable fields in blue (see "Fast PDF Forms").

If you need more-extensive PDF editing capabilities—for example, adding text, images, and signatures; or merging, deleting, and reordering pages—take a gander at SmileOnMyMac's \$50 PDFpen (macworld.com/4792).

Schedule Software Update

Q: Where I live, there is no DSL or cable available, so I have to get my Internet via satellite. The downside is that the provider limits downloads in any 24-hour period to 500MB, although I get unlimited downloads between 2 a.m. and 5 a.m. Is there a way to force Apple's Software Update program to run during that window?

Via the Internet

A: Software Update doesn't provide an obvious way to schedule a time for the updates to occur. However, there is a simple way to do this: you can manually check for updates at the exact time you want future automatic updates to take place.

When you open the Software Update system preference and click on the Check Now button, you set the time for the next automatic check. So, for example, if you click on this button at 11:45 a.m. and you've configured Software Update to check for updates weekly, it will check again a week later at 11:45 a.m.

I could suggest that you spend some quality time with *The Late-Late-Late Show*, stay up until 2:01 a.m., and click on the Check Now button, but you can deal with this in the daytime. Do so by opening the Date & Time system preference, deselecting the Set Date & Time Automatically option, entering 2 a.m. in the time field, launching the Software Update system preference, and clicking on Check Now. You don't have to accept any of the updates. Then quit System Preferences and relaunch it. Return to the Date & Time system preference and enable the Set Date & Time Automatically option to get the correct time. Software Update will continue to believe that it should check for the next update at 2:01 a.m. ☹

Senior Editor **Christopher Breen** (@BodyofBreen on Twitter) is the author of *The iPhone Pocket Guide*, third edition, and *The iPod and iTunes Pocket Guide*, fourth edition (both Peachpit Press, 2008).

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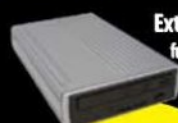
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A Few of My Favorite Gems

It's the little things that make the Mac special

When people ask me why I prefer Macs to Windows or Linux PCs, my standard reply is usually something about finding OS X more powerful, more user-friendly, and more visually appealing than those other two operating systems.

But while writing my contributions to this issue's cover story, "56 Sweet Software Deals" (page 40), I realized there's more to it than that. When I really think about it, it's the combination of the Mac operating system, the hardware it runs on, and the applications that run on it—but especially the applications.

It's the Gems, Stupid

The programs that really demonstrate what the Mac is all about aren't just any apps. They're the low-cost, high-quality apps *Macworld* calls Mac Gems. My colleague Dan Frakes and others regularly review them on the Mac Gems blog (www.macworld.com/macgems), we highlight a few of the best each month in the *Mac Gems* column, and once a year we do a blow-out roundup like this month's cover story.

Sure, my Macs are loaded with their share of complex programs from big Mac developers—Adobe Photoshop CS3, the iWork and iLife suites from Apple, FileMaker Pro, and two versions of Microsoft Office (2004 and 2008). They're tremendous programs, and I use all of them regularly.

But it's not the mega-apps that get me excited about using OS X; it's the Mac Gems. These inexpensive programs do an amazing variety of things. Often, I'll discover a Mac Gem that does something I didn't even know I needed to do—and it then becomes an invaluable addition to my Mac toolbox.

Take MaBaSoft's Application Wizard (www.mabasoft.net), or Peter Maurer's Witch, for example (www.petermaurer.de/witch). While OS X's built-in %&-Tab

keyboard shortcut is useful for switching between open applications, it often leaves me with more work to do: after switching to an app, I then need to find the window within the app that I want to use. Application Wizard and Witch both let me switch between all my open *windows* (even minimized ones), instead of just my open apps. No more toggling between five open browser windows after switching to Firefox; these two Gems let me switch directly to just the window I want.

Mac Gems are also great ways to add functionality that Apple can't (or won't) provide itself. For example, Path Finder (www.cocoatech.com) is a Finder replacement with features—including tabbed windows, a built-in tool for browsing folders by file size, split-view windows, and multiple information panels—that put the Finder to shame.

Mac Gems are programs that'll change the way you use your Mac—even though you may never have heard of them.



Or take HoudahSpot (www.houdah.com): In OS X 10.5, you can't change the columns that the Finder's Spotlight search results window displays. So while I can easily search for files that are, say, greater than 10MB in size, I can't look at a file-size column to see exactly how large each found file is, or to sort them by size. HoudahSpot, a query tool based on Spotlight, lets me easily build powerful searches and—more important—customize the columns I see in the search results. Apple could fix this flaw in OS X, but until it does, HoudahSpot will stay in my toolbox.

Finally, I wouldn't know what to do without TypeIt4Me (www.typeit4me.com), my text-expansion utility of choice. Like TextExpander and others, TypeIt4Me automatically expands short snippets of text in whatever program you're using. For instance, instead of typing **Mac OS X 10.5** whenever I need that phrase, I can just type **l1eop** (don't ask); TypeIt4Me intercepts the snippet and replaces it with the full name of the OS. I use TypeIt4Me for all kinds of routine typing chores, from inserting HTML code to sending canned replies to users of the OS X Hints site (www.macosxhints.com). TypeIt4Me even lets me see how much more efficient the app is making me: I've been using my current version of TypeIt4Me for about four months. In that time, it has expanded 9,689 abbreviations for me, saving me over 740,000 keystrokes and a lot of finger exertion.

These are just a few of the Gems I use every day. Along with the others in this issue, they're excellent examples of programs that'll change the way you use your Mac—even though you may never have heard of them. ☒

Rob Griffiths is a senior editor for *Macworld*.

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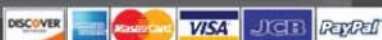
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