

# 35 Must-Have iPhone Apps

# Macworld

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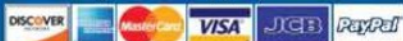
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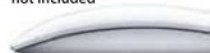


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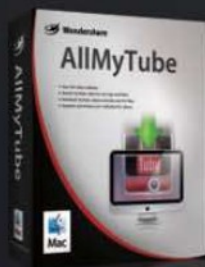
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## CONTENTS

February 2010



**38** The 25th Annual Editors' Choice Awards

**50**  
Macworld's  
2009 App  
Gems Awards



### On the Cover

Photography by Peter Belanger

### COVER STORY

#### **38** The 25th Annual Editors' Choice Awards

We pick the best software and hardware of the past year.

### FEATURE

#### **50** Macworld's 2009 App Gems Awards

We pick 35 must-have apps for your iPhone.

### OPINION

#### **9** From the Editor's Desk

Embracing the pace of technological innovation means celebrating new and innovative products.

#### **14** Feedback

Readers respond.

### MAC USER

#### **20** For Power Users: iMac, not Mac Pro?

The newest iMacs may make the Mac Pro's niche audience a bit smaller.

**21** Apple to Supersize Stores

**22** Why Google's Chrome OS Matters

**23** Clone Maker Settles with Apple

**24** Google Aims to Make Web Faster

#### **26** Mac Gems

Customize the look of your disk images, easily monitor your drives' SMART status, add new gestures to Apple's Multi-Touch trackpads, and more.

### IPHONE CENTRAL

#### **32** What's Next for the iPhone?

Competing smartphones can tell us a lot about the iPhone's future direction.

**33** What's New at the App Store

#### **34** App Guide

Each month, we review the App Store offerings that have caught our eye.



**WORKING MAC**

**62** **Unexpected Uses for the Escape Key**

We present a handful of less obvious—but still handy—things the versatile Escape key can do.

**63** Reviewed: Yojimbo 2.0

**63** Prune Your Contacts

**64** Reduce E-mail Aggravation with IMAP

**PLUS:** Reviews **68**, Business Center **70**

**PLAYLIST**

**72** **Is Apple Working on a TV Subscription Service?**

Network deals could extend the usefulness of the Apple TV and iPhone.

**73** YouTube Adds 1080PHD

**74** Apple Launches iTunes Preview

**PLUS:** Reviews **76**, Hot Stuff **78**

**DIGITAL PHOTO**

**80** **Free Your Images from iPhoto's Clutches**

Storing files outside of iPhoto's database will give you more control over them.

**81** Are Your Photos Being Pilfered?

**82** Paint Photos with Light

**PLUS:** Reviews **84**, Hot Stuff **85**

**CREATE**

**86** **Create a Favicon for Your Website**

We show you how to create a customized icon that appears next to your Web address in the address bar.

**87** Organize Your iMovie Video Library

**PLUS:** Reviews **88**

**HELP DESK**

**90** **Mac OS X Hints**

Find recent items, animate Quick Look folder actions, skip network deletion warnings, and more.

**94** **Mac 911**

Speed up iMovie clips, shift large media libraries, move Finder items more efficiently, and more.

**BACK PAGE**

**108** **Spotlight**

John Moltz leads us all in a heart-to-heart with Apple.



**62**



**76**

**MOST RECOMMENDED STORIES**

Don't take our word for it. Our readers recommended the following stories the most on Macworld.com this past year:



**Five Most Underused Finder Tools**

Looking for some quick timesavers? Chances are you just need to take advantage of the tools Mac OS X already offers ([macworld.com/5626](http://macworld.com/5626)).

The Macalope Weekly: Fight, Fight, Fight! ([macworld.com/5627](http://macworld.com/5627))

V-Cockpit GPS for iPhone ([macworld.com/4982](http://macworld.com/4982))

Great Gear Under \$50 ([macworld.com/5628](http://macworld.com/5628))

Amazing iPhone Photos from Readers ([macworld.com/5630](http://macworld.com/5630))

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# Celebrating the New

Why it's good to embrace the pace of technological innovation

**L**ate in February 2007, for reasons I've long since forgotten, I signed up for yet another social-networking site with a funny name. The only thing different about this particular site was that it succeeded where others failed. And 13,400 messages later, I'm still using Twitter.

I know that many people think Twitter is the biggest waste of time since TV. And that's fine, because no new medium will suit everyone. (There are people who don't even own a TV set. I know this because they send me e-mails explaining why they're better than me.)

Twitter connects me to friends, colleagues, and even strangers in ways that e-mail and instant messaging can't. But I didn't know that when I signed up. I signed up for it even though I didn't understand why anyone would use it or what it was good for. I just thought it deserved a fair trial.

## Try Everything Once

I get paid to use new technology products for a living. This lets me save you the legwork of trying them all out yourself. The moment I blow off trying a new product or technology just because I don't want to be bothered is the moment I become obsolete.

Most people don't share my professional stake in trying out new stuff. But anyone who is enthusiastic about technology should, at some level, be excited about the prospect of change. That's why I am constantly surprised by the comments I see from technology users who wish that technological innovation would slow down.

It's smart to be a pragmatic user of technology. If your computer and software work for you, and the latest tech doesn't offer you any benefit, why should you upgrade? It's up to the hardware and software companies to provide upgrades that actually improve your experience.



**The moment I blow off trying a new product because I don't want to be bothered is when I become obsolete.**

But there's pragmatism, and then there's being stuck in the mud. Someone who reads a monthly magazine devoted to computers (yes, I'm looking at you) has proven to be open to new technology. At some point in your life, you adopted new technology; otherwise you wouldn't be here. So why stop now?

When I was in college, I worked with a family friend who ran a small business. This 70-year-old man had bought himself a Mac and FileMaker, and used them to create a customer database with hundreds of records. He sought out my help as the local Mac expert, but in reality I learned more from him than he did from me.

Bill Maasberg (who died this year at age 92) was more than a Mac user. He was an electrical engineer, a private pilot, and an inventor. But the thing I remember most from my time with him was that he never lost his curiosity. He could easily have shrugged off comput-

ers and continued to do things the way he had always done them. Instead, he took the time to explore what technology could do for him.

The moment any of us stop trying new things just because we're satisfied with what we've got, we cut ourselves off from the possibility of something better.

Yes, people in the technology business tend to rush to praise whatever's new. But there's no industry I'd rather write about, because for all its faults, the world of technology is relentlessly moving forward, striving to invent new products, services, and modes of communication, and (as Steve Jobs once said) to change the world.

## This Year's Innovations

In this issue you'll find our annual celebration of the new. Our "25th Annual Editors' Choice Awards" story (page 38) celebrates the 23 best Mac hardware and software products of the year. You'll also find our inaugural App Gems Awards (page 50), in which we honor the 20 best iPhone apps of the past year.

The iPhone is a good example of the technological change I'm talking about. When we first saw the iPhone, we didn't know how huge it would become, or that one day there would be more than 100,000 third-party iPhone apps. It's hard to believe that it's only been a year and a half since the App Store opened. (And harder to believe we spent that first whole year without any third-party apps!)

What will 2010 bring us in terms of technological innovation? Will there be a product to rival the iPhone, replace Twitter, or make the Web obsolete? I don't know. But I can't wait to find out.

Brave souls can follow **Jason Snell** on Twitter at [twitter.com/jsnell](https://twitter.com/jsnell) or e-mail him at [jason\\_snell@macworld.com](mailto:jason_snell@macworld.com). Or you can become a fan of Macworld on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/Macworld](https://www.facebook.com/Macworld).



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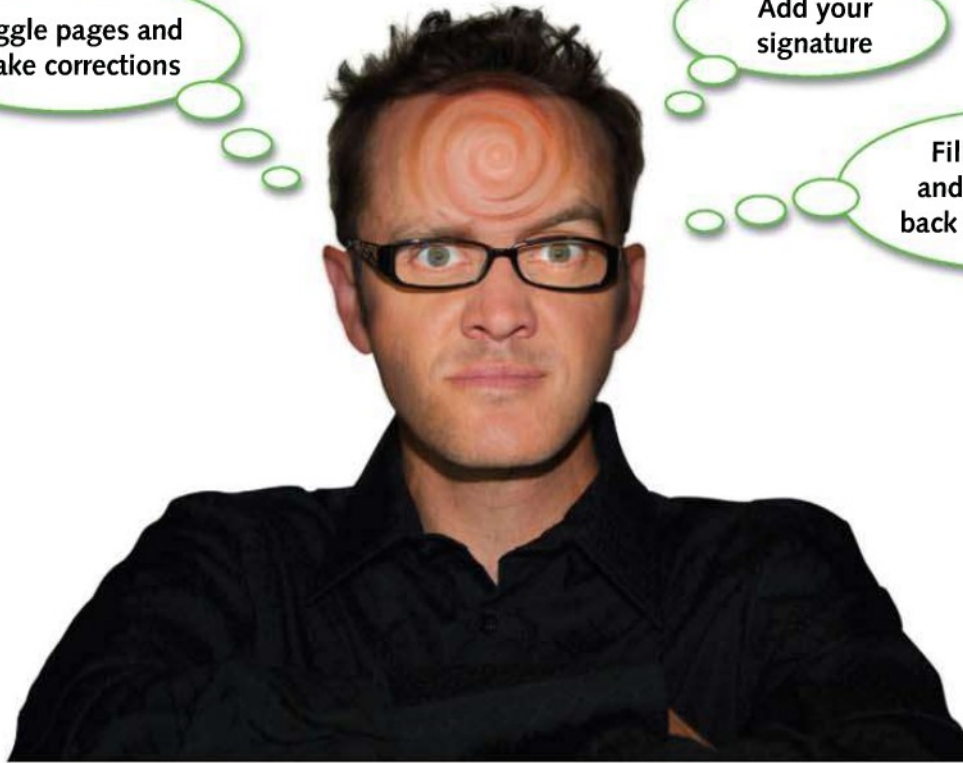
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1984



1992



2000



2009

## Here's to 25 more years of Three Guys on a Cart.

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# Reader Wish Lists

What are the new, old, or glitchy features you want added, brought back, or fixed?

## iTunes 9

Home Sharing is great, but I would still like the option to treat my MacBook Pro simply as a sync client, just like an iPhone ("iTunes Remixed," December 2009). It is zero effort to get everything I need from the MacBook Pro onto the phone, but it is tedious work to move selected items to the laptop. I also still want the ability to split up the iTunes library. Mine is rapidly approaching 2TB. When it gets there, I will either have to go through one big mess to manage my media or invest in a costly RAID.

 dreyfus

## Leopard Loss

Rob Griffiths was spot-on in his criticisms of Snow Leopard's user interface. It's very disappointing that Apple isn't remedying these obvious



deficiencies; especially considering that the company has marketed Snow Leopard as being centered around fixing and improving OS X features that already existed, rather than introducing new ones. Rob's list of gripes is not merely opinion. No keyboard selection for the Finder's sidebar? No meaningful control of results from Apple's much-vaunted Spotlight? Help windows that are usually in the way, blocking your working windows? What is Apple thinking?

 Gary Sprung

## Blu-ray, Someday

The MacBook Air is a unique niche product whose existence says exactly nothing about the future of optical drives in Apple's product line ("State of the Art: Blu-ray on the Mac," *Create*, December 2009). The day when most software titles will be directly downloaded from the Internet is far in the future, as is the day when Mac owners will no longer use CDs and DVDs for a wide variety of activities. Streaming media, which is indeed coming into play these days, is

ultimately aimed primarily at the living room, in my opinion, which means that streaming media has very little to do with whether computers do or do not need optical drives. The whole personal computer industry would come to a grinding halt if optical drives were removed from all personal computers today, and I seriously doubt that the situation will be any different five years from now.

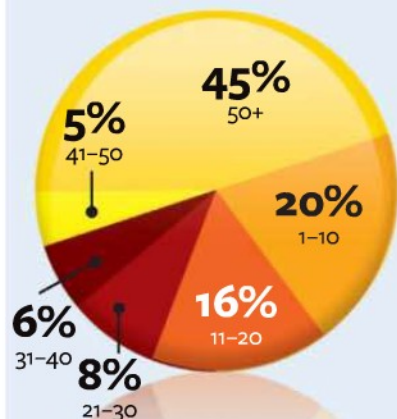
 Alan Sanders

Look at when and why Apple started including any given technology as stock equipment: When Apple added CD drives to all their machines, CDs were firmly entrenched as a distribution medium. When Apple added DVD drives to a significant subset of their machines, DVDs were firmly entrenched as entertainment media and rapidly gaining traction for data transfer. It's conditions like that for Blu-ray that Steve Jobs indicated he wanted to see, and so far that's not happening. Blu-ray is not where the CD was when CD-ROM drives became stock items. Blu-ray is not where the DVD was when DVD drives became stock items. This is about when the device becomes useful enough to include, not about when it ceases being useful enough to include.

 bastion

## READER POLL

How many apps do you have on your iPhone or iPod touch?



Source: Macworld.com online poll, August 2009

## HDMI Solution

I found it curious that folks are demanding HDMI-out ports for the Mac mini (*Feedback*, December 2009). Granted, it might be a minor convenience factor, but the mini, like all other Mac models, comes with S/PDIF output via the combo audio-in/audio-out jack. You can simply use a Mini-Toslink Optical Audio Cable, and any standard DVI-to-HDMI cable for full digital 5.1 sound. The video

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signals for DVI and HDMI are fully compatible. The S/PDIF cable will set you back about \$2, and the DVI-to-HDMI cable can be had for as little as \$2 if you do a bit of hunting on Amazon.com or similar sites.

R Blair

### Gmail Break

Can Mail (or any other dedicated client) match Gmail's ability to find the message you want almost instantly with just a few keywords ("Why Desktop E-mail Still Rules," *Working Mac*, December 2009)? I have 25,000 messages archived. Gmail

can find the one I want with minimal effort. When it comes to finding a specific message in a huge archive, Gmail seems to be almost magical.

glwhart

The ability to access and compose e-mail offline is the main reason I stick with desktop e-mail. Folks who like Web-based e-mail say they like having the ability to access their messages

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elroth

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
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from “anywhere.” But I like to remind them that you can access desktop e-mail even without an Internet connection: Most e-mail providers allow you to use both browser-based and POP/IMAP-based clients. Browser-based can be handy when you need to access e-mail from someone else’s computer, but otherwise, I’ll take desktop over Web-based any day.

☞ Okei Awj

## Correction

In the December 2009 issue, we printed the incorrect mouse rating for Real Soccer 2010. It should be , not .

The image for the Maximo iM-590 headphones (“The Macworld Gear Guide,” December 2009) was actually a photo of Maximo’s iP-HS5 headset, a similar product that includes a microphone and remote.

## HandBrake Hint

I have been using HandBrake for a while now and have found it to be very reliable (“Rip Your DVDs Like an Expert with Handbrake,” *Playlist*, December 2009). There are times when a disc contains more than one movie, so don’t be too hasty when ripping. Study the movie and see if it includes captions. This can save you time if you have to go back and re-rip the movie. Sometimes the m4v file will play in iTunes but will not transfer to the Apple TV. You can, however, open in QuickTime. In this case, you can then export it for the Apple TV. (This export takes a long time but is worth it.) I also advise getting the biggest hard drive you can—a 1TB drive will hold about 500 movies.

☞ Zappageek

## Tip of the Hat

Thank you for publishing Sharon Zardetto’s column of Excel tips (“Four Favorite Excel Tips,” *Working Mac*,

November 2009). I hope that you will make these types of tips and tricks articles a recurring feature. I know many software programs just well enough to be dangerous. These bite-size features are ideal—they help make me even more dangerous.

☞ Bruce Taylor

## Spacebar Scrolling

I have one more spacebar tip for you: Press the spacebar while reading a Web page in Safari to scroll down one full screen (“Explore Unexpected Uses for the Spacebar,” *Working Mac*, December 2009). Pressing Shift-Spacebar scrolls back up. There are a handful of applications I use every day in which the spacebar behaves the same way, including Adobe Acrobat, Mozilla Firefox, Microsoft Entourage, Apple Mail (when I’m reading a message, windowed or not), and Terminal (when I’m reading manual pages).

☞ Link33

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## FOR POWER USERS: iMAC, NOT MAC PRO?

With its recent upgrades, the iMac could be the most powerful Mac of all

By Rob Griffiths

**T**he Mac Pro ([macworld.com/4501](http://macworld.com/4501)) has always been something of a niche product, appealing mainly to people who need vast amounts of internal storage (thanks to its four drive bays), expansion (three PCI Express slots), or memory (32GB on eight-core models).

But it has also historically appealed to another class of buyers, people who don't necessarily need that much storage, expansion, or memory, but who simply want the fastest Mac they can get. They may be video editors, gamers, or other power users. But whatever their reasons, the Mac Pro has long been their Mac of choice, even if they didn't need everything it offered.

But now, with the recent introduction of new iMacs—particularly the Core i7-powered 27-inch model ([macworld.com/5623](http://macworld.com/5623))—the Mac Pro's niche may

have just gotten smaller. That's because these new iMacs are such good performers that many people who once would have bought a Mac Pro to get the best possible performance can now legitimately consider an iMac instead.

### Numbers Don't Lie

In testing the new 27-inch 2.66GHz Core i5 and 27-inch 2.8GHz Core i7 iMac models, we compared them with three other iMacs (the recently released 21.5-inch 3.06GHz Core 2 Duo and 27-inch 3.06GHz Core 2 Duo, as well as the 24-inch 2.66GHz Core 2 Duo released earlier in 2009) and two Mac Pros (the quad-core 2.66GHz and eight-core 2.26GHz models).

The results: The Core i7 iMac was faster (as measured by our Speedmark 6 tests) than both of the Mac Pros. It won in eight of our 16 tests. The Mac Pros

combined won seven; of those, three are processor-intensive tests, where the eight-core Mac Pro has the advantage over the four-core iMac.

The 2.66GHz Core i5 iMac's performance isn't too shabby either: It's now the fastest standard-configuration Mac we've ever tested (the Core i7 is a build-to-order model). It was 27 percent faster overall than the recently released 21.5-inch 3.06GHz Core 2 Duo iMac ([macworld.com/5482](http://macworld.com/5482)).

### The Price Comparison

But the upgraded iMacs become even more interesting when you factor in cost. I went to the online Apple Store and built two machines: a Core i7 iMac and a quad-core Mac Pro. I outfitted both with 8GB of RAM and 2TB of disk space. To make the comparison as equal as possible, I upgraded the Mac Pro's

video card and bumped up its processor speed, to make its specs more even with those of the Core i7 iMac.

I also added a monitor to my Mac Pro order. But that's where the comparison gets a little tricky: No place that I can find sells a stand-alone 2560-by-1440-pixel monitor that's comparable to the iMac's screen. The resolution of Apple's \$900 24-inch LED Cinema Display is 1920 by 1200; on the \$1800 30-inch version, it's 2560 by 1600. Because it seemed unfair to choose a screen that had fewer pixels than the iMac's monitor, I settled on the \$1200 HP LP3065 ([macworld.com/2509](http://macworld.com/2509)), a 30-inch LCD with 2560 by 1600 resolution. That's about 11 percent more pixels, but it was as close as I could get to the iMac screen's resolution.

With both machines comparably configured (see "Core i7 iMac versus Quad-Core Mac Pro," below, for the summary), the iMac's price came to about \$2650, and the Mac Pro's to about \$5050—a price difference of \$2400. That's nearly enough to buy a second identically configured Core i7 iMac. Even if you take the monitor out of the comparison, buying a Mac Pro alone will set you back \$1200 more than the cost of the Core i7 iMac.

Note that we have not yet tested the recently introduced 3.33GHz four-core Mac Pros. These machines should offer some speed improvement, but the faster performance comes at an even higher cost: Upgrading to the 3.33GHz processor

will add \$1200 to the cost of the Mac Pro. That's a whole lot of dough for a machine that may, in the end, outpace the Core i7 iMac by only a small margin.

### Who Needs a Mac Pro?

To me, this comparison between the new iMacs and the Mac Pro indicates two things.

First, the only people who should buy Mac Pros in the near future are those who really do need the extra storage, expandability, and RAM capacity the line supports. For anyone else, even people who typically dread buying a machine with a built-in monitor, the top-of-the-line iMac is—for now—a better buy.

Second, it's clear that the Mac Pro needs a performance boost, and a sizable one. (The new 3.33GHz machine offers just a speed bump, not necessarily a huge step forward in performance.) Its niche features are important for the buyers in that niche. But those same buyers will not be happy dropping \$5000 for a machine that's slower than an iMac that's a bit more than half the price.

Such a boost would seem to be likely in early 2010. Intel has announced that it will be releasing new server-class processors in 2010. (You can download the company's CPU roadmap [[macworld.com/5624](http://macworld.com/5624)] and see for yourself.) So it wouldn't surprise me at all to see new Mac Pros with those processors as soon as they're available.

Because there will always be a segment of users who need the Mac Pro's particular features, I don't think we'll see a significant drop in the computer's pricing. But we should see a large increase in performance, if the machine is to justify its top spot in the Mac product hierarchy.

As for me, well, for the first time in my Mac-using history, I'm contemplating an iMac as my next computer. Other than the glossy screen (which I can work around), the Core i7 looks to be exactly what I want. I don't need expansion slots (they sit empty in my Mac Pro), I don't need 32GB of RAM, and I don't need four drive bays. I do need speed, though, and the Core i7 iMac has plenty of that.

## Core i7 iMac versus Quad-Core Mac Pro

	CORE i7 iMAC	QUAD-CORE MAC PRO
Base price	\$1999	\$2499
CPU upgrade <sup>a</sup>	\$200	\$500
RAM upgrade <sup>b</sup>	\$200	\$250
Hard-drive upgrade <sup>c</sup>	\$250	\$400
Video-card upgrade <sup>d</sup>	n/a	\$200
LCD monitor <sup>e</sup>	n/a	\$1200
Total	<b>\$2649</b>	<b>\$5049</b>

n/a = not applicable. Prices as of 11/21/09. <sup>a</sup> 2.8GHz Core i7 in iMac; 2.93GHz Xeon in Mac Pro. <sup>b</sup> Four 2GB chips in both machines. <sup>c</sup> One 2TB drive in iMac; two 1TB drives in Mac Pro. <sup>d</sup> ATI Radeon 4870 in Mac Pro. <sup>e</sup> HP 2560-by-1600 30-inch LCD.

## Apple to Supersize Stores

By Aulia Masna

Apple opened 26 stores in the 2009 fiscal year. But get ready: The company plans to open 40 to 50 stores by the end of 2010. And many of those new stores will be big—really big.

At the recent opening of a new store on New York City's Upper West Side, Apple senior VP of retail Ron Johnson said, "Our stores are too small. Our biggest challenge at the Genius Bar [is that] we cannot build them big enough."

The new store on the Upper West Side houses a Genius Bar that's 45 feet wide, and it's apparently a sign of things to come. The standard Apple store is currently wide enough to fit two display tables side by side; the new stores will be designed to fit at least three.

The majority of the new stores will be what Apple calls "significant." Johnson said, "Other retailers call them flagship stores. We don't use that word." Cities slated to host "significant" stores include Paris, London, and Shanghai; Apple plans to open those before the second half of 2010. Other countries due to get more stores include Canada, Australia, Italy, Switzerland, and Germany.

At last fall's financial call with analysts, Apple chief operating officer Tim Cook acknowledged that sales are stronger overseas than in the United States, thus the emphasis on international growth. International sales had a year-on-year rise of up to 40 percent in Europe and 42 percent in Asia Pacific. These new stores are a sign of Apple's focus on those regions.





# WHY GOOGLE'S CHROME OS MATTERS

By Dan Moren

**G**oogle's Chrome operating system is still a year away from official release. But it's worth thinking about now. Why? Because the entry of Google into the operating system business will undoubtedly shake things up.

Google's main message in introducing Chrome OS is that the browser is the operating system. Your "applications" are Web apps (Gmail, Google Calendar, Google Docs, YouTube, and even Microsoft's Web version of Office 2010). Your data is stored in the cloud, so it's accessible from anywhere.

As someone who's dealt with a lot of less-than-savvy users, I find that Google's strategy makes sense: If most people fire up their computers to get on the Web, why not build an OS that makes that task as fast and as simple as possible? Users are already accustomed to managing their data through applications like iPhoto and iTunes, without touching or seeing the file system itself. Storing data in the cloud shouldn't be too big a leap.

## Which Came First?

There is one hitch: If Chrome OS is going to take off, hardware vendors will need to sign on.

Google says it's working with netbook makers to set prices and hardware standards. The prices, Google says, should be in the range that consumers have come to expect for netbooks (meaning anywhere from \$400 to \$700). And Google executive Sundar Pichai says that the company is working with hardware vendors to set hardware standards for Chrome OS machines.

While Google hasn't provided much detail about those standards, it has mentioned things like full-size keyboards, comfortable trackpads, and specific display resolutions. Interestingly, those are among the factors that Apple has cited when it has sought to

differentiate its laptops from increasingly popular netbooks.



In fact, Google sounds very Apple-like when it describes Chrome OS. Apple has always been willing to jettison technologies it considers outdated (the floppy drive) and to promote promising new ones (USB and Wi-Fi). Chrome OS is very much in that tradition. For example, it won't work with conventional hard drives; it will work only with solid-state storage. That means faster performance but also pricier components—at least at first.

Chrome OS may be a ways off, but it certainly has the potential to disrupt the



OS market. Netbooks are hugely popular on the Windows side of the market. An OS built specifically for that type of hardware could be a compelling competitor to Windows. And if Chrome OS works the way Google says it will, it could make your computer more of a home-appliance, like your TV or DVD player. You turn it on, and the services you want are just there.

## Macs: Current Lineup

PRODUCT	SPECS	RATING	PRICE	DISPLAY	SPEED-MARK 6 *	FIND CODE
DESKTOP						
<b>iMac</b> 	Intel Core 2 Duo/3.06GHz (nVidia GeForce 9400M)	★★★★	\$1199	21.5 inches	148	5510
	Intel Core 2 Duo/3.06GHz (ATI Radeon HD 4670)	★★★★	\$1499	21.5 inches	164	5509
	Intel Core 2 Duo/3.06GHz	★★★★	\$1699	27 inches	162	5508
	Intel Core i5/3.06GHz	★★★★	\$1999	27 inches	209	5511
<b>Mac Mini</b> 	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.26GHz, with 160GB hard drive (late 2009)	★★★★	\$599	not included	104	5507
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.53GHz, with 320GB hard drive (late 2009)	★★★★	\$799	not included	118	5506
<b>Mac Pro</b> 	Intel Xeon/quad-core 2.66GHz	★★★★	\$2499	not included	348	4488
	Intel Xeon/two quad-core 2.26GHz	★★★★	\$3299	not included	343	4503
PORTABLE						
<b>MacBook</b> 	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.26GHz (white)	★★★★	\$999	13 inches	111	5505
<b>MacBook Air</b> 	Intel Core 2 Duo/1.86GHz	★★★★	\$1499	13 inches	156	4953
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.13GHz	★★★★	\$1799	13 inches	175	4954
<b>MacBook Pro</b> 	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.26GHz	★★★★	\$1199	13 inches	213	4947
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.53GHz	★★★★	\$1499	13 inches	239	4948
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.53GHz	★★★★	\$1699	15 inches	237	4949
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.66GHz	★★★★	\$1999	15 inches	242	4950
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.8GHz	★★★★	\$2299	15 inches	260	4951
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.8GHz	★★★★	\$2499	17 inches	256	4952

\* Speedmark 6 is Macworld Lab's standard test tool for benchmarking systems running Mac OS X 10.6 (Snow Leopard). For more information on Speedmark testing, go to [macworld.com/5503](http://macworld.com/5503).

# CLONE MAKER SETTLES WITH APPLE

By Macworld Staff

**A**pple recently reached a legal settlement with Mac-clone maker Psystar, in which Psystar agreed to pay Apple nearly \$2.7 million and to stop selling machines with OS X preinstalled. At the same time, Psystar said it planned to appeal the ruling of a federal judge that the clone maker had violated Apple copyrights.

Psystar began selling computers running Mac OS X Leopard in April 2008. Apple sued the company in July 2008. The two companies have been swapping claims and counterclaims ever since.

In his ruling, U.S. District Judge William Alsup wrote that "Psystar has violated Apple's exclusive reproduction right, distribution right, and right to create derivative works." Alsup said that the evidence supported five of the 11 claims that Apple leveled against Psystar.

In the settlement, Psystar appeared to concede those five claims for the moment, while Apple withdrew the remaining six (which included trademark-infringement and unfair-business-practice violations). Psystar attorneys said that they planned to take up those five claims again on appeal.

Those appeals are now pending and could take several years to resolve. In the meantime, Psystar lawyers say the company doesn't have to pay Apple the damages. The settlement stipulates that Apple cannot collect until "any and all appeals in this matter are concluded or the time for filing any such appeal has lapsed."

Whatever the eventual outcome, it's clear that Apple's case against Psystar



isn't about neutralizing a serious competitive threat. An Apple-hired economic consultant was able to confirm the sale of just 768 Psystar machines; the clone maker did not dispute those figures. When it was raising money from investors, Psystar had estimated that it would sell 70,000 to 130,000 machines in 2009.

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# GOOGLE AIMS TO MAKE WEB FASTER

By Dan Miller

**N**ot content with developing a brand-new operating system (see “Why Google’s Chrome OS Matters,” page 22), Google is also working on a couple of new ways to make the Web snappier.

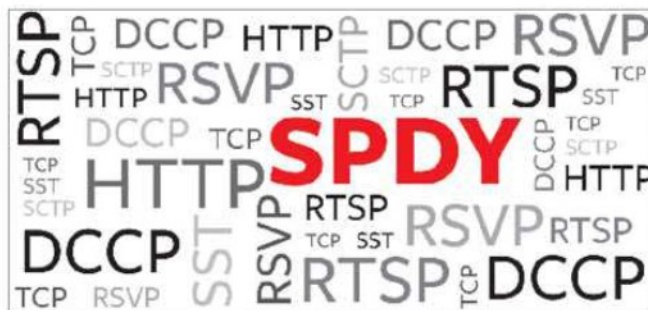
One of those innovations is called SPDY, a new application-layer protocol. Google says that, in lab tests, SPDY improved page-load times by 27 to 60 percent compared with HTTP, and from 39 percent to 55 percent when using SSL (Secure Sockets Layer). Google conducted those tests by downloading 25 of the “top 100” Web sites ten times each, over simulated home network connections, using a prototype Google Chrome browser and a Web server that it has developed.

SPDY uses a number of techniques to speed Web downloads,

including allowing many concurrent HTTP requests across a single TCP session and using file compression to reduce the amount of data sent.

More recently, Google launched a new free public DNS service. DNS is a network service that translates plain-English Web addresses into the numeric addresses that routers and other machines can understand; each time you type a URL into your Web browser’s address box, a DNS server translates it into an address in the form XXX.XXX.XXX.XXX.

Normally, network servers or your ISP will provide those domain-name lookup



services for you. But you can specify any DNS service you want (either in your router’s configuration screen or in OS X’s Network preference pane).

Google claims that its new public DNS servers will speed up your Web browsing, by making domain-name lookups speedier, and make browsing more secure by forestalling attacks that exploit some flaws in the DNS system itself.

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## 3-IN-1 BATTERY CHARGER

USB, AC, and Car Charger for iPhone & iPod



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Specially Designed for iPhone & iPod



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**iPhone  
+ iPod**

**ACCESSORIES**

[www.macally.com](http://www.macally.com)

# What's at risk if bad power damages your home network?



## All of the above.

APC Back-UPS protects your important data, equipment, and memories.

### Reliable power backup for 24/7 availability

Whether DVRing your favorite show, updating your Facebook status, or playing a live networked game, you depend on your home electronics every day, all day. That's why APC by Schneider Electric has designed battery backup solutions that protect the constant availability and connectivity you expect...and depend on.

### Peace-of-mind protection on two levels

When the power goes out, our popular Back-UPS units go to work. They instantly switch your home technologies to emergency power, allowing you to work through brief power outages or safely shut down your systems so you won't lose valuable files—such as digital photos and media libraries. They also feature surge outlets to guard your electronics and data from “dirty” power and damaging power surges—even lightning. So you get two levels of protection in every APC Back-UPS unit!

### Energy-saving insurance for what matters most

Our Back-UPS units protect your home office, digital living and home media applications, notebook computers, DVRs, and gaming application. And since we now offer energy-efficient models that reduce electricity costs through unique power-saving outlets, you can realize true energy savings regardless of the applications you're backing up. Throughout your home, the APC Back-UPS is the cost-saving insurance you need to stay up and running and reliably safeguarded from both unpredictable power and wasteful energy drains.



Keep your electronics up and your energy use down!

#### ES Series

The ever-popular ES models are priced affordably yet provide enough extended runtime to allow you to work through short and medium power outages. Some power-saving models have been designed to actively reduce energy costs.

#### The energy-efficient ES 750G

The ES 750G boasts innovative power-saving outlets, which automatically shut off power to unused devices when your electronics are turned off or asleep, eliminating wasteful electricity drains.

- 10 Outlets • 450 Watts / 750 VA
- 70 Minutes Maximum Runtime
- Telephone/Network Protection



#### The best-value ES 550G

The ES 550 uses an ultra-efficient design that consumes less power during normal operation than any other battery backup in its class, saving you money on your electricity bill.

- 8 Outlets • 330 Watts / 550 VA
- 43 minutes maximum runtime
- Telephone/Network Protection



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**APC**  
by Schneider Electric



# Mac Gems

DISCOVER GREAT, LOW-COST MAC PRODUCTS **BY DAN FRAKES**



## SimplyDisk 2.1.1

**DEVELOPMENT** If you distribute software or other data by disk image or optical disc, you likely know that you can customize what the user sees when mounting that volume. SimplyDisk makes this customization process simple.

When creating a new disk image (or disc), SimplyDisk shows a virtual window that represents how the volume's actual window will appear on the user's screen when the volume is mounted. First you set the window's size and on-screen position. Next, you drag into the virtual window any items—software, documents, or folders—you want included on your disk image; you can also choose the size of their icons. Then

you customize the window's background (with a solid color or a custom graphic), add any text you want to appear in the window, and add a license agreement, if desired, to be displayed when the user opens the disk image.

Click the disk-image button to choose the name and icon of the mounted image, the format and compression to be used, and any optional encryption (which means the user will need to provide a password to open the disk image). Click Build to create the disk image, or click Burn to burn a CD or DVD. You can save your settings and layout and use them again later.

👤👤👤👤; \$19; OakSoft; [macworld.com/5614](http://macworld.com/5614)

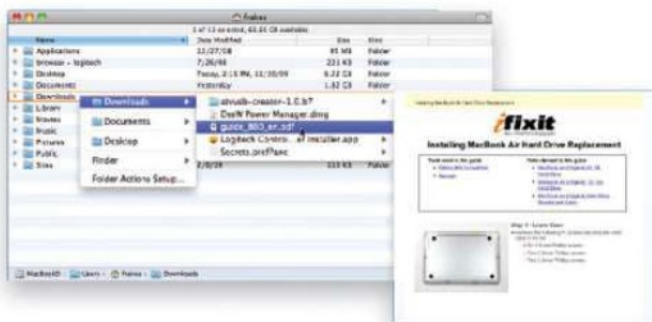
## SMART Utility 2.1

**UTILITIES** SMART (Self-Monitoring Analysis and Reporting Technology) is technology built into modern hard drives that monitors a drive's temperature, error rates, and more to determine if the drive is working properly. However, SMART requires software on the host computer in order to report SMART status to the user. SMART Utility is such a program, and it offers an impressive array of features, separate bad-block monitoring, and more details than similar utilities do.

SMART Utility uses the Unix tool **smartmontools** to monitor internal IDE and SATA drives. Click on a drive in the main window to view information such as the drive's model, serial number, and basic attributes; the More Info or Show All buttons display more details.

If a drive exhibits readings outside the normal ranges, the drive appears in red; the More Info buttons let you see which specific attributes are causing the alert. Such a warning usually means you should immediately back up the data on that drive and replace the drive.

👤👤👤👤; \$25; Volitans Software; [macworld.com/5615](http://macworld.com/5615)



## FolderGlance 2.5.7

**UTILITIES** With FolderGlance installed, right-clicking (or Control-clicking) any folder in the Finder gives you a hierarchical contextual menu of the folder's contents. Choose an item to open it; alternatively, if the item is a file, press Option to preview its contents or press Shift to choose a program with which to open the file. You can designate custom folders that always appear in the Finder's contextual menus; you can even move or copy items into these folders using FolderGlance's menus.

👤👤👤👤; \$20; Yellow Lemon Software; [macworld.com/5616](http://macworld.com/5616)



# P-Flip™ Foldable Power Dock

iPhone 3GS  
New iPod Touch  
2000 mAh

PFlip Clock  
Free download  
Available at App Store



## P-Flip™ Foldable Power Dock

\*The kit includes P-Flip Foldable Power Dock,  
Additional Cradle for New iPod Touch 2G  
Mini 5 pin USB Cable



dexim DCA132

Now at at&t

## P-Flip™ 2 in 1 Bundle Pack Foldable Power Dock

\*The kit includes P-Flip Foldable Power Dock,  
Additional Cradle for New iPod Touch 2G  
Mini 5 pin USB Cable, USB AC Adapter



dexim DCA165

Now at **Brookstone**

## P-Flip™ 2 X Foldable Power Dock

\*The kit includes 2X P-Flip Foldable Power Dock,  
Additional Cradle for New iPod Touch 2G  
2X Mini 5 pin USB Cable



dexim DCA132-SK

Now at SKY Mall

## P-Flip™ 3 in 1 Bundle Pack Foldable Power Dock

\*The kit includes P-Flip Foldable Power Dock,  
Laser-Etched PC Case for iPhone 3GS/3G,  
Crystal Case for New iPod Touch 2G, Mini 5 pin USB Cable,  
Additional Cradle for New iPod Touch 2G  
Free for screen protector



dexim DCA177

Now at SKY Mall

## P-Flip™ 7 in 1 Bundle Pack Foldable Power Dock

\*The kit includes P-Flip Foldable Power Dock,  
USB Car Charger, Anti-slip car PAD, Mini 5 pin USB Cable,  
PC Case for iPhone 3GS/3G, New iPod Touch 2G,  
Additional Cradle for New iPod Touch 2G  
Free for screen protector



dexim DPA041

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Charge & Sync

## Lithium Polymer BATTERY

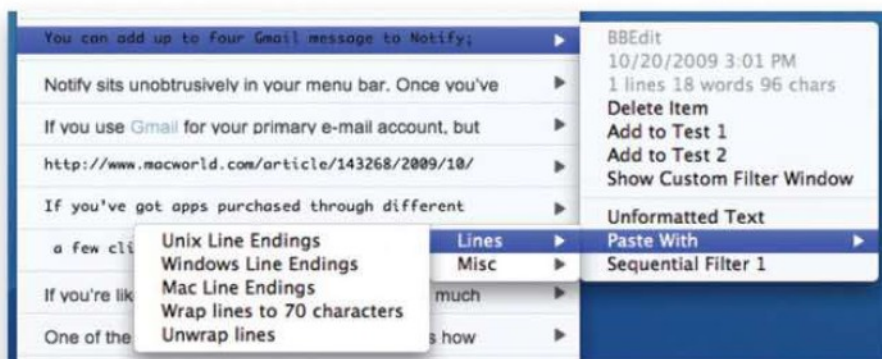
\* Battery life will vary depending on model

**Charge & Sync**  
for iPhone 3GS/3G/  
New iPod Touch 2G



iPod is a trademark of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. iPhone is a trademark of Apple Inc.





## PTHPasteboard Pro 4.5.2

**PRODUCTIVITY** A multiple-Clipboard utility—a program that stores multiple recent bits of content that have been copied or cut—is a must for any writer or editor. It lets you paste any of those past Clipboard items quickly and easily. PTHPasteboard Pro is one of the most powerful and flexible of these programs.

You can view past Clipboard contents via a *pasteboard* window or a systemwide menu; click an entry to immediately paste it into the current document or text field. You can also view a larger preview of an entry; the name of the application in which you copied or cut the content (and the time at which you did it); and a count of lines, words, and characters.

You can format copied content, or apply a custom filter to it, before pasting. These filters can format and clean up text, find and replace text, and much more. An especially appealing feature is the capability to automatically sync the pasteboard's contents between Macs on your local network. You can also create additional pasteboards—not associated with the Clipboard—for storing frequently used bits of text and images.

★★★★; \$25; PTH Consulting; [macworld.com/5617](http://macworld.com/5617)

## Jitouch 1.0

**INPUT** I'm a big fan of the Multi-Touch trackpads on Apple's recent laptops; by letting you use multifinger gestures to perform actions, this technology makes the trackpad much more useful than with only single-finger actions. Jitouch enhances the feature by adding eight new sets of gestures that let you perform the following tasks:

- Switch to the next or previous tab (for Web browsers only)
- Open a link in a new tab (for Web browsers only)
- Minimize a window
- Zoom a window
- Move and resize a window
- Close a window or tab
- Open a recently closed tab (for Firefox only)
- Quit an application

The required gestures take some practice, but the developers' Website provides clear descriptions and demonstrations of each. You can adjust the



force and speed needed to trigger Jitouch's gestures, and you can reverse the gestures if you're a lefty. You can also disable gestures you don't use.

★★★★; \$5; Supasorn Suwajanakorn & Sukolsak Sakshuwong; [macworld.com/5618](http://macworld.com/5618)

### Go to Weblog

Read Mac Gems online ([macworld.com/macgems](http://macworld.com/macgems)) for longer reviews of these and other products.



## The Past Year's Best Gems

In the spirit of this issue's theme, here are my favorite Mac Gems of the past year:

**Back-In-Time** Advanced interface for OS X's Time Machine (★★★★; \$29; Tri-Edre; [macworld.com/5619](http://macworld.com/5619)).

**ClickToFlash** Selectively blocks Flash in Safari; autoloads H.264 on YouTube (★★★★; free; ClickToFlash Team; [macworld.com/4467](http://macworld.com/4467); see "The 25th Annual Editors' Choice Awards," page 38).

**Docks** Lets you quickly switch between multiple Docks (★★★★; \$10; Thoughtful Tree Software; [macworld.com/5269](http://macworld.com/5269)).

**Growl** Systemwide notification service that supports many programs (★★★★; free; Growl Team; [macworld.com/4732](http://macworld.com/4732) and [macworld.com/5620](http://macworld.com/5620)).

**I Love Stars** Menu-bar and keyboard-shortcut utility for easily rating iTunes tracks (★★★★; free; Potion Factory; [macworld.com/5622](http://macworld.com/5622)).

**Layers** Screenshot utility that creates layered Photoshop images—every on-screen item gets its own layer (★★★★; \$20; Wuonm; [macworld.com/4655](http://macworld.com/4655)).

**MondoMouse** System enhancement that improves window resizing and moving (★★★★; \$15; Atomic Bird; [macworld.com/5621](http://macworld.com/5621)).

**RipIt** Easy-to-use program for ripping DVDs to your hard drive; handles nearly any disc (★★★★; \$19; RipItApp; [macworld.com/5597](http://macworld.com/5597); see "The 25th Annual Editors' Choice Awards," page 38).

**ScreenSharingMenulet** Menu-bar utility for easier initiation of Screen Sharing sessions (★★★★; payment requested; Stefan Klieme; [macworld.com/5274](http://macworld.com/5274)).

**Shimo** Replacement VPN client that supports Cisco and other networks and many automated actions (★★★★; \$21; nexUmoja; [macworld.com/4667](http://macworld.com/4667)).

**USB Overdrive** Third-party driver for unsupported keyboards and mice (★★★★; \$20; Alessandro Levi Montalcini; [macworld.com/5421](http://macworld.com/5421)).



“The sound quality is quite remarkable.” - *SOUND & VISION*

“Looks sleek, sounds sweet.” - *NEW YORK MAGAZINE*

“More than just a pretty face.” - *MACLIFE*

“As aesthetically close to the ideal iPod and iPhone audio system as anyone has yet come.” - *iLOUNGE*

“

” - *YOU*

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Apple Store







Macworld

# Hot Stuff

WHAT WE'RE RAVING ABOUT THIS MONTH



## Campfire

Communicating with a widely dispersed workgroup can be tricky. You could use e-mail, but in urgent situations, that often feels like sending a message in a bottle: Who knows when you might hear back? And iChat might work for immediate, one-to-one communications, but it isn't so good if you have multiple participants or if you want to look up what someone said, say, last week. Campfire, from 37signals, offers a powerful solution to the workgroup-communications problem. It has an elegant interface that team members can access easily through their Web browser. (It works particularly well if you build a single-site browser for it using an app such as Propane or Fluid.) With support for uploading and sharing files, multiple chat rooms, and transcripts, Campfire brings chat firmly into the Web 2.0 age. Service plans range from \$12 per month for 12 chatters and 1GB of storage up through \$99 per month for up to 100 chatters and 25GB of storage. A 30-day free trial lets you find out if the service will work for you ([campfirenow.com](http://campfirenow.com)).—**DAN MOREN**

## BT-1

Given that most Macs come with a built-in iSight camera these days, you might wonder why you need another Webcam. If it's Ecamm Network's BT-1, that's an easy question to answer. This \$149 camera measures just 2 inches by 2.5 inches by 0.63 inch, shoots video at 640 by 480 pixels, and records 48kHz stereo sound. Most importantly, it's wireless, communicating with your Mac only via Bluetooth. And it works smoothly with iMovie, iChat, or Photo Booth. So instead of having to bring your subject—an uncooperative kid for example—to your Mac, you can bring the BT-1 to your subject. A compact extendable tripod and USB charging cable are included in the package ([www.bt-1.com](http://www.bt-1.com)).—**DAN MOREN**



## Camino 2

There was a dark age when the browser bundled with OS X was none other than Microsoft's Internet Explorer. Back then folks in the know switched to the free Camino (née Chimera), a native Cocoa implementation of the Gecko rendering engine that now underlies Firefox. Camino recently hit version 2.0. The update sports features like Tab Overview, which lets you see all your open tabs; new phishing and malware protection; better tabbed browsing; support for Growl notifications; enhanced blocking for ads and Flash content; and version 1.9 of Gecko. Camino 2.0 runs on Mac OS X 10.4 or later ([caminobrowser.org](http://caminobrowser.org)).—**DAN MOREN**



## MiniMail 2.0

MiniMail changes the zoom behavior of the main message viewer in Mail. After you install it, clicking on the green button at the top of the Mail window creates a small viewer window that displays new messages—it doubles as a Growl-style notifier and a fully functional Mail window. You can tuck that window wherever you like, as well as set up multiple message windows (which can remember their screen positions) and force them to float above other windows. MiniMail costs \$13 and works with Mac OS X 10.5 or higher ([www.indev.ca](http://www.indev.ca)).—**JEFF PORTEN**



## MACCESSITY NX STAND

Ever wish your laptop could stand up? The \$60 NX Stand from Macessity lets you prop up your closed laptop in a cushioned slot, freeing up space on your actual desktop. The steel enclosure matches the look of the MacBook Pro line and includes a four-port, powered USB hub as well as space for an external hard drive. The NX Stand accommodates the 13-inch MacBook, and all the current MacBook Pros, as well as many older models. It offers full access to all of the notebook's ports, and provides a vent for hot air to escape, so your MacBook doesn't cook itself ([www.macessitywebstore.com](http://www.macessitywebstore.com)).—**RAMU NAGAPPAN**



Everyone has things to do ...



Macworld  
**BEST  
OF SHOW**  
2009

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1  
2



# Things

Mac + iPhone



Apple Design Award  
Mac OS X Leopard Developer Showcase  
2009 Winner

Task management has never been this easy. Things for Mac lets you organize your to-dos in an elegant and intuitive way. Things for iPhone and iPod touch is the App Store's most popular paid task manager and syncs wirelessly with its desktop counterpart.

Get your free trial of Things for Mac:  
[www.culturedcode.com/macworld](http://www.culturedcode.com/macworld)

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## WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE IPHONE?

Competing smartphones can tell us a lot about the iPhone's future direction

By Dan Moren

Since the iPhone's debut two years ago, Apple has regularly updated its software. But much of what made the iPhone such a revolutionary mobile device is more or less the same today as it was two years ago. Meanwhile, the iPhone platform has inspired competitors such as Google's Android operating system and Palm's webOS.

Apple clearly can't afford to rest on its laurels. We tapped our own staff of experts to speculate on the kinds of capabilities that could help the iPhone maintain its pole position.

### Hardware Wars

Each new version of the iPhone's hardware has brought significant improvements, and, if Apple's going to keep up with the Joneses, it should be looking in a few specific directions for its next model.

**New Screen** Most people who have seen the Motorola Droid agree that its 3.7-inch, 480-by-854-pixel screen puts the iPhone's to shame. Of course, there's nothing to stop Apple from incorporating a higher-definition display in the iPhone; and if the costs become competitive enough, we might even see a low-power OLED screen, such as the one in Microsoft's Zune HD ([macworld.com/5579](http://macworld.com/5579)).

**Better Camera** Apple took a big step forward with the iPhone 3GS's camera, not only increasing it to 3 megapixels, but also adding a host of software features, such as autofocus, macro mode, and improved low-light performance. Though not universally acclaimed as being superior to the iPhone, the Droid does sport a



5-megapixel camera and adds a few features the iPhone lacks, such as image stabilization and, most important, an LED flash. We use cellphone cameras because they're what we have with us, not because they're the best camera we own—but paying some more attention to the iPhone's camera could make that built-in feature much less of a compromise.

**Battery Life** The iPhone's battery life is acceptable, until you start using Wi-Fi and GPS, and playing games—all the things people want to do with their phones these days. By all accounts, the average battery life of competitors isn't really any better than the iPhone's, but one thing is clear in the smartphone market: People love using their devices; so the longer you let them actually *use* those devices, the better.

### Software, Etc.

The iPhone's software is its greatest asset. There are a number of areas where it beats the competition, but as impressive as it is, it falls short of the ideal.

**Improved PIM Functionality** As a personal information manager, the iPhone excels, letting you track your contacts, appointments, and e-mail; still, all of those features could use improvements. Both Android 2.0 and the Palm Pre let you integrate contact information from other online services like Facebook. The iPhone's calendar is particularly weak; most notably, it still doesn't allow you to sync To Do items with iCal. Mail isn't much better, lacking full-body search, a unified inbox option, and message flagging, among other features. Exchange support made the iPhone more appealing to corporate users, but giving some attention to their bread-and-butter functionality could win even more converts.

**Wireless Syncing** We've reached the end of the 2000s and—besides not having come up with a good nickname for the decade—it seems ridiculous that we still have to plug a phone as *connected* as the iPhone into our computer with an actual cable. MobileMe subscribers and Microsoft Exchange users can sync contacts and calendar information to their iPhones over the air, but even they still have to carry around a USB cable to transfer movies, music, and podcasts. Apple lets you download that content directly to the phone from the iTunes Store over Wi-Fi—why not let you grab them from your computer over the local network?



**Multitasking and Notifications** Push notifications are Apple's answer to background processes, but this feature seems like a stopgap. The iPhone must eventually allow multiple apps to run at the same time; at the very least, multitasking is important for apps that play audio and certain other classes of applications, such as instant messaging clients. Apple also needs to improve the way the iPhone handles notifications: they currently lack permanence and have to be dealt with one at a time. Android's pull-down status window and webOS's subtle notification bar offer more-elegant ways of dealing with these messages while avoiding the potential for information overload.

### At Your Service

Presumably you bought the iPhone because you wanted a device that could connect to the Internet no matter where you go. Cell service is the iPhone's biggest vulnerability—and its biggest opportunity for improvement.

#### Built-In Turn-by-Turn Directions

Google Maps has served iPhone users well enough over the last couple of years, but once the iPhone 3G folded in GPS capability, it quickly became apparent that turn-by-turn directions are where it's at. A number of vendors now offer apps that fill this need, but with the news that Google is adding its own *free* turn-by-turn

directions application to Android phones ([macworld.com/5578](http://macworld.com/5578)), the bar has been raised. Whether or not third parties continue to offer better features, some sort of built-in turn-by-turn direction capability is a must in order for Apple to keep pace with its rivals.

**Better Service** Poll a bunch of U.S. iPhone users, and you'll likely get more complaints about the quality of cell service than about any other topic. We've all suffered from dropped calls, bad reception, and general lack of 3G coverage at some point or another. Whether improving the service requires a beefier AT&T network or a strategy to open up the iPhone to multiple carriers, better service should be the top priority for Apple's iPhone team. Given the state of the wireless industry, which moves at a pace only slightly faster than your average ice floe, improved service may be the last item on this wish list that comes to pass.

### The Future Soon

Will all, or indeed any, of these improvements make it into an iPhone in the future? It's impossible to know what cards Apple is holding, but one thing is a good bet: Apple will release a brand-new iPhone sometime in the next year. Here's hoping some of these improvements make the cut.

## WHAT'S NEW AT THE APP STORE

### See You in the Funny Papers

For the very first time, one of the "big two" comic book publishers has come to the iPhone.



Several Marvel Comics titles are available via in-app purchase from three comic book apps—Comics ([macworld.com/5584](http://macworld.com/5584)), iVerse Comics ([macworld.com/5585](http://macworld.com/5585)), and Panelfly Comics ([macworld.com/5586](http://macworld.com/5586)).

The first Marvel titles available include Astonishing X-Men, Marvel Zombies, Captain America, Spider-Man, and Iron Man. Each individual issue costs \$1 or \$2.—**JASON SNELL**



### Shazam Gets an Encore

Shazam, maker of the free iPhone app that you can use to identify music you overhear when you're out and about, has unveiled a new \$5 app for the iPhone: Shazam Encore ([macworld.com/5587](http://macworld.com/5587)). It boasts faster tagging of music and a new Car Mode that activates when your iPhone is plugged into a car adapter so that it can ID any songs that come on over the radio. Shazam Encore also offers iTunes Store-like features, such as recommendations of other songs based on your existing tagged tracks and the ability to search through Shazam's database of music. New users of the free Shazam app now will be limited to tagging only five songs a month.

—**NICHOLAS BONSAK**



## iPhones: Current Lineup

PRODUCT	SPECS	RATING	PRICE	DISPLAY	PERFORMANCE	FIND CODE
	iPhone 3G and 3GS					
	8GB (3G)	★★★★	\$99	3.5-inch color	5 hours of 3G Internet; 5 hours of 3G talktime	4184
	16GB (3GS)	★★★★½	\$199	3.5-inch color	9 hours of 3G Internet; 5 hours of 3G talktime	4955
	iPod Touch					
	8GB	★★★★	\$229	3.5-inch color	9 hours of 3G Internet; 5 hours of 3G talktime	4956
	16GB	★★★★½	\$299	3.5-inch color	9 hours of 3G Internet; 5 hours of 3G talktime	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



# App Guide

iPhone and iPod touch software that's caught our eye

## Earthworm Jim 1.0.8

**GAMES** More than just nostalgia makes this a welcome iPhone debut for the lovable nineties video game icon, an earthworm with a nearly indestructible suit, a plasma gun, and a penchant for cow launching. Gameloft has beautifully preserved the art and graphics from the original game—in fact, details and shadows are particularly impressive on the iPhone's screen. The directional pad on the touchscreen is a fine substitute for the Sega controller, and the developers wisely chose to use the accelerometer to control Jim during his asteroid race levels. The game's checkpoint-based save system will frustrate some players. But Earthworm Jim's humor holds up well, ensuring that a new generation of gamers can enjoy this classic title.—CHRIS HOLT

👤👤👤; \$5; Gameloft; [macworld.com/5517](http://macworld.com/5517)



## iBookshelf 1.7

**ORGANIZATION** Simplicity is a virtue with this relatively modest database app for tracking your book collection. Enter an International Standard Book Number, and iBookshelf retrieves title, author, and genre information so you can keep tabs on what you own, what you want to add, and what you've lent to friends. There are some annoyances with the default settings and the network backup feature, but overall iBookshelf is a straightforward, easy-to-use app for managing your library.—BEN BOYCHUK

👤👤👤; \$2; Josh Pressnell; [macworld.com/5518](http://macworld.com/5518)



## Zagat to Go '09 2.2.002

**LIFESTYLE** It used to be that when you wanted to find a good restaurant in an unfamiliar town, you'd reach for the familiar red cover of the Zagat guides for honest reviews of local eateries, hot spots, and hotels. This app takes things mobile, cramming 40,000 reviews of more than three dozen locales into a package that costs slightly less than one of Zagat's single-city paperback guides. Reviews feature the famous Zagat 30-point rating system and a description that includes several short quotes in an easy-to-read style. You can easily search for establishments by location or filter the reviews by your preferred criteria.—BRENDAN WILHIDE

👤👤👤; \$10; Handmark; [macworld.com/5519](http://macworld.com/5519)

## APP GEMS

### Travel Guides

**Walt Disney World Maps Box Set** 👤👤👤👤 Get a bird's-eye view of Disney's Florida theme parks ([macworld.com/5524](http://macworld.com/5524)).

### We also like:

**Walt Disney World Guide Notescast** 👤👤👤  
[macworld.com/5525](http://macworld.com/5525)

**LocalEats** 👤👤👤  
[macworld.com/4203](http://macworld.com/4203)

**Where To?** 👤👤👤  
[macworld.com/5526](http://macworld.com/5526)

Find more great travel guides for your iPhone at [macworld.com/5523](http://macworld.com/5523).

## Words with Friends 3.05

**GAMES** This two-person crossword puzzle challenge—which bears only a passing resemblance to Scrabble—follows in the footsteps of Chess with Friends (👤👤👤; [macworld.com/4336](http://macworld.com/4336)) by exploiting the networking capabilities of your mobile device. You can challenge people in your Contacts list or leave it to the app to seek out a random player. The addition of a live chat feature is a terrific innovation, and a push-notification feature lets you know when it's your turn to make a move. Words with Friends is as challenging as any crossword puzzle. And nobody will ever be the wiser if you choose to consult a dictionary.—BEN BOYCHUK

👤👤👤; \$3; Newtoy; [macworld.com/5520](http://macworld.com/5520)





## Needs NoteBook

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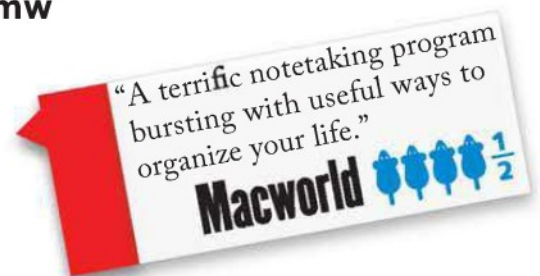
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DEPOT.

Small Dog  
Electronics  
Always By Your Side

TEKSERVE





## Photoshop.com Mobile 1.0.1.3

**PHOTOGRAPHY** Adobe's mobile Photoshop offering is easy, intuitive, and fun, and it does what it says it will do—edit your mobile images and upload them to the Photoshop.com photo-sharing service. The app has a basic feature set (perhaps too basic) that lets you crop, rotate, or flip an image; change the exposure, saturation, or tint; convert a color picture to black and white; turn a photo into a sketch; soften the focus; and add effects. Photoshop.com Mobile makes working with pictures addictive. It's hard to beat the free price, but I'd happily pay a small amount to get the kind of advanced features the Photoshop reputation implies.—**JACKIE DOVE**

★★★★½; free; Adobe Systems; [macworld.com/5521](http://macworld.com/5521)

## SketchBook Mobile 1.2

**GRAPHICS** The core principle behind this painting app from Autodesk is ease of drawing. While the drawing tools are ever-present and easy to access—they appear in a faint, tiny palette on the lower portion of the screen—they never get in the way of your creation. Real artists will find SketchBook Mobile to be an indispensable tool, though this is the rare kind of program that will also appeal to novices who just want to try their hand at painting on their iPhone or iPod touch. That said, if your drawing talent amounts to a few smiley faces and stick figures, SketchBook Mobile won't suddenly turn you into a master artist.—**JOHN BRANDON**

★★★★; \$3; Autodesk; [macworld.com/5516](http://macworld.com/5516)



## ESSENTIAL APPS

### Stay Couch-Bound

With any one of these apps, you'll never need to reach for another remote again ([macworld.com/5522](http://macworld.com/5522)).

**Remote** ★★★★★ Apple's own offering makes you master of the Apple TV.

**Snatch** ★★★★★ Control your computer from your iPhone via a remote keyboard.

**Air Mouse Pro** ★★★★★ As with Snatch, a keyboard and trackpad give you control from afar.

**Boxee Remote** Bend the home-media software to your will.

## AppBox Pro 1.2.2

**UTILITIES** AppBox

Pro takes 21 useful applications—system tools, calculators, converters, and measuring utilities—and rounds them up into a single app. The offerings are laid out in an

iPhone home screen-style grid. Some of the apps are better than others—I'm particularly enamored with Translator—but you get good value for your \$2 while saving space and screen real estate on your iPhone.—**BRIAN BEAM**

★★★★½; \$2; AllAboutApps; [macworld.com/5515](http://macworld.com/5515)



## More Reviews

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

APPLICATION	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	RATING	FIND CODE*
<b>BuzzVoice Talks 2.0</b> Mediaquake	newsreader	\$3	★★★★	5527
<b>CBS Sports: College 1.3</b> CBS Mobile	sports scores and video	\$5	★★★★	5528
<b>Crazy Machines 1.1</b> dtp entertainment	game	\$3	★★★★½	5529
<b>FaceFighter 2.1</b> Appy Entertainment	game	\$2	★★★★½	5530
<b>f/8 DoF Calculator 1.3.1</b> BitWerkz	photo utility	\$4	★★★★½	5531

\*Typing a find code after [macworld.com/](http://macworld.com/) in your browser's address field directs you to a product's review or overview. For example, [macworld.com/5527](http://macworld.com/5527) takes you to our review of BuzzVoice Talks.

### App Guide

Get more reviews, including reader reviews, as well as listings for every iPhone app at [AppGuide.com](http://AppGuide.com).





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# Editors' Choice Awards



WE PICK THE YEAR'S BEST MAC HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE



It's been a good year for the Mac. We had significant upgrades across Apple's entire hardware line. We had some excellent new products from almost every major vendor in the Mac marketplace. As a result, when we first sat down to consider candidates for this year's Editors' Choice Awards—the 25th time *Macworld* editors have done so—we came up with an initial list of more than 110 products.

Over the course of several weeks, we continued to winnow that list down. Was this really one of the best products of the year, we kept asking ourselves? Did it really stand out for utility, innovation, value, or simply overall excellence? If it was an upgrade, did it improve enough on the last version to merit an Eddy? If it was a new product, did it break enough new ground to be acclaimed?

In the end, we settled on 23 products. We divided them into the same six categories into which we now divide the magazine itself: Mac User (general-purpose Mac products); iPhone Central (anything iPhone, except for apps; for the best of those, see page 50); Working Mac (business and productivity); Digital Photo (cameras and software); Playlist (digital entertainment); and Create (anything to do with creative pursuits). The result is a snapshot of the breadth and depth of the Mac market today. For that market, and for Mac users, it was a very good year.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER BELANGER

**MACWORLD'S 25TH ANNUAL  
EDITORS' CHOICE AWARDS**







## FEATURES

# MAC USER

### MAC MINI

The first Mac minis, released back in 2005, were several things: credible low-price computers, supercompact, and an obvious attempt to lure Windows users over to the Mac side. Many of us became instant fans.

But then Apple seemed to give up on the mini. The company released several updates to the computer over the following two years, but the Mac mini line essentially stagnated. That led many of us mini admirers to wonder whether Apple's smallest computer was headed for the dust bin, a cute but failed experiment.

Then in March 2009, a full 19 months since Apple had offered an update to the mini line, the company introduced its biggest Mac mini update ever (★★★★; [macworld.com/5588](http://macworld.com/5588)): faster CPUs, more RAM, a new graphics chip, dual video outputs (including support for Apple's 30-inch Cinema Display), larger hard drives, FireWire 800, more USB ports, 802.11n wireless, Bluetooth 2.1, and an 8X SuperDrive. In other words, nearly every feature of the mini was upgraded significantly, while the prices of the two models were unchanged.

And just seven months after that big update, Apple refreshed the line again (★★★★; [macworld.com/5486](http://macworld.com/5486)), increasing processor speeds, adding still more RAM, and (on the low-end model) switching to a larger hard drive. The mini is the forgotten Mac no longer: You won't find another name-brand computer with these specs in such a small package at this price.

But Apple didn't simply bring the existing Mac mini line up to speed. Last October, the company also released a completely new configuration, the \$999 Mac mini with Snow Leopard Server (★★★★½; [macworld.com/5589](http://macworld.com/5589)). It is essentially the \$799 mini with a second 500GB hard drive (and no optical drive) that comes preloaded with Mac OS X Server (★★★★½; [macworld.com/5590](http://macworld.com/5590)), which normally costs \$499 all by itself. That means it's a full-featured, unlimited-user, Mac-friendly server in a diminutive, energy-conserving package that is ideal for small businesses, some home users, and the education market.

The past year proves that Apple does indeed care about the Mac mini and, in fact, is still using it to push the compact-computer envelope. The mini isn't for everyone; it's the least-powerful Mac—laptop or desktop—that Apple offers. But it's an extremely impressive machine for the size, and a good fit for both switchers and people on a budget. It also makes a great second Mac, and it's an appealing option for a Mac-based media system. This year, we were glad to see that the Mac mini is still very much alive.—DAN FRANKS

**\$599 to \$999; Apple, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)**



### DROPBOX

These days, we all have files all over the place—on work and home computers, desktops and laptops, Macs and PCs, and even iPhones. Keeping track of which files you've stored where and making sure you have the files you need when you need them can be a hassle. Dropbox ([macworld.com/5592](http://macworld.com/5592)) solves this problem by giving you access to files no matter where you are or what device you're using.

Once you install the free Dropbox app on your Macs and PCs, you throw the files you want access to into your Dropbox folder. They're then automatically synced to other machines on which you've installed the app; the files are also stored on Dropbox's remote servers. So even if you're on a friend's computer, you can still log in to the Dropbox Website and get your files that way. The free Dropbox iPhone app ([macworld.com/5593](http://macworld.com/5593)) gives you direct access from your phone.

Dropbox does more than sync files, however. It also keeps track of changed documents, so if you need an older version of a file from the last 30 days, you can get to it. Or, if you want to share a file with others, you can drop it in the Public folder; Control-click (or right click) on the file in the Finder, and you can copy a download URL for pasting in e-mail, Twitter, or Facebook. Dropbox also supports easy photo galleries: Just drop photos into the Photos folder.

In addition to all that, Dropbox is free to try. The free account gives you 2GB of storage. Beyond that, it's \$10 a month for a 50GB account, \$20 a month for 100GB. Dropbox is one of those services that, once you use it, you wonder how you did without it.—JASON SNELL

**free to \$20 per month; Dropbox, [www.dropbox.com](http://www.dropbox.com)**

# iPhone CENTRAL

## ► BRAID

Every few years, a game comes along that pushes the Mac gaming industry in an exciting new direction.

Braid (★★★★½;

[macworld.com/5166](http://macworld.com/5166)) is that game this year.

It's a complex, genre-defying masterpiece, hard to label and even harder to beat. The premise is simple: You guide a character (Tim) through obstacles, collect puzzle pieces, and rescue The Princess from a "monster." But the more you play, the more the questions pile up: Did Tim lose his love or did he forsake her? Does the Princess even exist? Why can Tim manipulate time? Braid does everything good entertainment should: It captivates you, tantalizes you, and keeps you coming back for more.—CHRIS HOLT

\$15; Braid, [www.playgreenhouse.com](http://www.playgreenhouse.com)



## ► CLICKTOFLASH 1.5

Adobe Flash is the Web technology we love to hate. It brings browsers to a crawl, reduces battery life, makes laptops overheat, and is reportedly the *number one* cause of Safari crashes in Mac OS X.

You can't just block Flash outright; it's sometimes useful. That's why we love ClickToFlash ([macworld.com/4467](http://macworld.com/4467)). A Safari add-on, it replaces each bit of Flash content on a Web page with a plain gray box. To view a bit of Flash content, you click on its box. In other words, ClickToFlash lets you choose what Flash content you view.

Best of all, ClickToFlash is not a hack; it's an official Internet plug-in. For many of us, ClickToFlash brings some much-needed sanity back to our Web browsing.—DAN FRAKES  
free; ClickToFlash Team, [rentzsch.github.com/clicktoflash/](http://rentzsch.github.com/clicktoflash/)

## ► iPhone 3GS

We'll admit it: Even in the *Macworld* offices, the name of Apple's latest smartphone was cause for eye-rolling. But once we'd used the iPhone 3GS (★★★★½; [macworld.com/5067](http://macworld.com/5067)), we had to admit: The 'S' does indeed stand for *speed*. There's no question that the 3GS is significantly snappier than its predecessor. Good thing, too, because with more than 100,000 applications now in the App Store, the phone's going to need every bit of horsepower it can get.

After speed, the iPhone 3GS's other big improvement is in its camera. While the cameras on the first two iPhones were good enough for a quick snapshot, the 3GS upgraded its hardware to a respectable 3 megapixels, and added autofocus and the ability to focus on a particular spot by tapping on the screen. A macro mode that lets you take close-up pictures is also a welcome enhancement, both for taking pictures and ancillary uses such as scanning bar codes.

The iPhone 3GS's camera also finally brought video recording to the iPhone. While it may not give you the high-definition quality you can get from some of today's pocket camcorders and digital cameras, the 3GS gave new life to the old adage, "the best [video] camera is the one you have with you." With an iPhone 3GS in your hand, pocket, or shoulder bag, you can shoot a video clip of your kids and upload it to YouTube faster than you can say "iPod nano" ([macworld.com/5596](http://macworld.com/5596)). Other tweaks we liked: a long-awaited and surprisingly good voice-command feature, a much-needed oleophobic screen, and a compass that we suppose *somebody* must have wanted.

The iPhone 3GS still isn't perfect, of course. Sure, it supports the faster 7.2-Mbps HSDPA 3G standard. But given the glacial pace with which AT&T rolled out support for MMS and the fact that tethering is still missing, we'll likely see an iPhone 4G from Verizon before most of us here in the United States can take advantage of the 3GS's full potential on AT&T. Still, there's no question that, for the third year running, Apple has upped its game and once again produced the best iPhone yet.—DAN MOREN

\$199 (with a two-year contract); Apple, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)







## WORKING MAC

**BENTO 3**

When Bento debuted in 2008, it seemed the perfect database for casual users. But FileMaker goofed on the pricing when it upgraded the product to version 2: If you had bought Bento 1, you had to pay the full \$49 price to upgrade to Bento 2.

FileMaker learned from that mistake: With Bento 3 (★★★★; [macworld.com/5612](http://macworld.com/5612)) it offered a \$20 rebate to existing users. But there's more to Bento 3 than a reasonable pricing policy. With iPhoto integration, network sharing, and 128-bit AES encryption, this latest version of the program continues to set the standard for personal database programs.—PHILIP MICHAELS  
\$49; FileMaker, [www.filemaker.com](http://www.filemaker.com)

**BUSYCAL 1.0**

While iCal is enough for a lot of Mac users, for many others it really isn't. But when you outgrow iCal, where do you go? The answer for most would-be switchers has been "nowhere"—until BusyMac released BusyCal 1.0 (★★★★½; [macworld.com/5568](http://macworld.com/5568)).

Billing itself as "iCal Pro," BusyCal's interface does look an awful lot like Apple's own software at first glance. But under the surface, BusyCal offers features iCal can only dream of. For example, out of the box it syncs with Google Calendar, with support for offline editing and the syncing of alarms from Google events. If Google Calendar isn't your cup of tea, you can also share your calendars between multiple copies of BusyCal on a local network, via Bonjour. There's also support for multiperson editing. And because BusyCal uses Mac OS X's Sync Services system, it can also seamlessly transfer your data to MobileMe and the iPhone, letting it effectively slip in and replace iCal without your missing a beat.

There are plenty of other nice touches, including rich-text support, embeddable sticky notes, location URLs for events, a handy list view, and integrated weather forecasts.

The sum of these improvements is a product that many of us have made our default calendar program. BusyCal did more than revive a dormant product category; it established itself as the category leader.—DAN MOREN

\$40; BusyMac, [www.busymac.com](http://www.busymac.com)

**HP PHOTOSMART PREMIUM WEB C309**

Multifunction printers would seem to be a static product category: As they have always done, they print, scan, make copies, and often fax. But with the Photosmart Premium Web C309 ([macworld.com/5611](http://macworld.com/5611)), Hewlett-Packard shows that MFPs can do more.

The Web C309's coolest trick is that it supports HP's Print Apps. The Coupons.com app lets you print coupons before you go shopping; the Fandango app lets you buy and print movie tickets at home. There are 15 apps now, with more on the way.

The Web C309 is also a completely capable MFP, with a 100-sheet input tray, an automatic duplexer, a PictBridge port, and memory card slots. It prints plain text at 8 pages per minute and graphics at 3.7 ppm.

With the Web C309, HP proves that there is still innovation to be found in the printer market.—ROMAN LOYOLA

\$400; Hewlett-Packard, [www.hp.com](http://www.hp.com)



## ◉ MIFI 2200

At this point, Wi-Fi seems to be everywhere—in airports, cafés, hotels, and other public places where computer users collect. But there are still plenty of places where there's nary a hotspot to be found.

A few years ago, we started seeing a solution for such coldspots: 3G

modems and routers,

which let you get online from almost anywhere you

can get a cell phone signal. That technology has been evolving; this year we saw one of the nicest developments yet: the MiFi 2200 (★★★★; [macworld.com/5220](http://macworld.com/5220)).

Developed by Novatel Wireless and sold by several wireless carriers, the MiFi 2200 started popping up all over the place this year. One reason it seemed to catch on was its size: at 3.5 by 2.3 by .4 inches, it's about as tiny as a bite-size chocolate bar, small enough to stash in your pocket.

The MiFi 2200 is also about as easy to use as a tech product can be: Press the power button on the top and it connects to your carrier's cellular network. The SSID and password are on the bottom. You can share its access with up to five users at a time. Despite its size, the MiFi 2200 is a fully configurable Wi-Fi base station. Using its Web interface, you can give it a new SSID and password, limit access, adjust TCP/IP settings, and check on signal strength and battery life.

By making useful technology ultraportable, the MiFi 2200 became one of our favorite products of the year.—DAN MILLER

\$80; Verizon Wireless, [www.verizonwireless.com](http://www.verizonwireless.com)

## ◉ PDFPEN 4.5

When it comes to modifying PDFs, SmileOnMyMac's PDFPen ([macworld.com/5595](http://macworld.com/5595)) fits neatly between OS X's free Preview and Adobe's \$449 Acrobat Pro. At only \$50, it goes well beyond Preview's PDF processing power, yet it offers some of the same features you'll find in the much more costly Acrobat Pro.

It enables you to insert images, text boxes, comments, and links to other pages in the same document. You can also remove the background color from imported images (great for inserting your signature into documents), edit text, and draw almost any shape.

PDFPen 4.5.2 adds an improved OCR engine, better scanner support in Mac OS X 10.6, and multicolored highlighting. PDFPen may not be the most exciting product among this year's Eddys, but it's certainly one of the most useful.—ROB GRIFFITHS

\$50; SmileOnMyMac, [smileonmymac.com](http://smileonmymac.com)



## ◉ THINGS 1.0.4

Everyone has things they need to get done. So the fact that there are scores of to-do-list programs for the Mac should come as no surprise. Some of these programs are simple but limited; others are very powerful but require hours of study just to get started. Of all the task-management programs we've seen, Things 1.0.4 (★★★★½; [macworld.com/5195](http://macworld.com/5195)) strikes the best balance between power and usability.

Things lets you define multiple to-do lists (which it calls projects). These lists can contain one-off, repeating, and scheduled tasks; the Projects view graphically displays your progress on each. There's also a general inbox for uncategorized tasks, along with a unique Today view that includes items you've manually marked for completion today, as well as Project items that are due today. You can attach notes, links, and tags to individual tasks, and then search for that data; you can filter any view by tag, schedule, or both. The nice thing is that if you don't want to use these features, you don't have to. Things also has an excellent iPhone counterpart, the \$10 Things app ([macworld.com/4101](http://macworld.com/4101)), which syncs with the Mac version.

Of course, everyone has specific needs and preferences that will steer them toward a particular to-do-list program or another. But Things' combination of ease of use, great interface, and flexibility make it as close to the ideal Mac to-do app as we've seen.—DAN FRANKS

\$50; Cultured Code, [culturedcode.com](http://culturedcode.com)





## FEATURES

# PLAYLIST

THE 25TH ANNUAL EDITORS' CHOICE AWARDS



### ● IPOD TOUCH

This year's iPod touch (★★★★½; [macworld.com/5380](http://macworld.com/5380)) isn't remarkable for its improved speed or slew of new features. Rather, the iPod touch earns an

Eddy this year simply for its outstanding *rightness*.

Sure, you might take the nano or shuffle to the gym, and the iPod classic holds more media. But I'd bet that even if you were lucky enough to own every iPod model on the market, the touch is the one you'd use the most. It's the iPod you'd turn to when you want it all—music, movies, TV shows, podcasts, audiobooks, e-mail, Web browsing, stocks, weather, maps, contacts, calendars, and, most importantly, apps, apps, and more apps.

While the rest of the world was squashing full-size computer apps into pint-size netbooks, or bolting computer-ish features onto media players, Apple created a powerful pocket computer that also happened to be a hell of a media player and portable gaming device. In other words, Apple got it right.—CHRISTOPHER BREEN

\$199 to \$399; Apple, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)

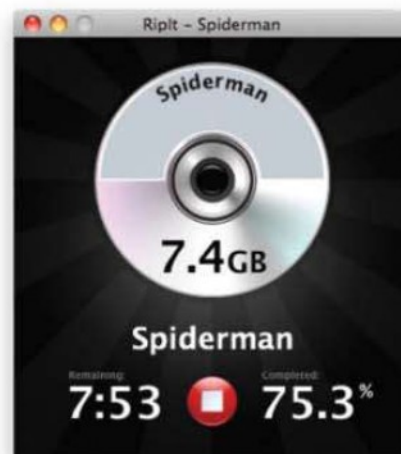
### ● IOMEGA HOME MEDIA NETWORK HARD DRIVE

Many vendors offer networked home media servers. But only one of those products earned an Eddy this year: the Iomega Home Media Network Hard Drive (★★★★; [macworld.com/4936](http://macworld.com/4936)). It did so by taking the best features of its competitors and packing them all into one easy-to-use box.

Like other media servers, the Iomega Home Media drive stores your music, videos, and photos in one place, where they're accessible from any Mac or PC on your network. It also has its own built-in iTunes server, remote-access capabilities, and support for Time Machine and BitTorrent.

Unlike some of its competitors, the Iomega Home Media drive is easy to set up and manage. It's those last two features that makes it one of our favorite products of the year.—CHRIS HOLT

\$150 to \$350; Iomega, [go.iomega.com](http://go.iomega.com)



### ● RIPIT

By now, you probably have a decent collection of DVDs at home. But those discs have their downsides: They're easy to lose and damage, and they take up lots of shelf space; playing them on a laptop eats up precious battery life; and (because of copy protection) you can't easily watch them on an iPhone or Apple TV. Thankfully, The Little App Factory's \$20 RipIt (★★★★; [macworld.com/5597](http://macworld.com/5597)) addresses all of those problems in one easy-to-use app.

Using it is as simple as inserting a DVD into your Mac's optical drive, clicking the Rip button, and then going for a walk. When you get back, you'll have a bit-for-bit copy of the DVD—in the form of a VIDEO\_TS folder—stripped of all copy protection. You can then put that folder on your iMac's hard drive for safe keeping, on your MacBook Pro for on-the-road viewing, or on a DVD as a defense against your kids' jam-covered fingers. You can also send that folder to another application that will convert it into something you can watch on your Apple TV, iPhone, iPod, or other device.

True, if you just want to convert a DVD for viewing on an iPhone or Apple TV, HandBrake can usually handle the decryption, too. But RipIt is updated more frequently, so it often succeeds where HandBrake and MacTheRipper fail. In other words, it just works.—JONATHAN SEFF  
\$20; The Little App Factory, [ripitapp.com](http://ripitapp.com)





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## DIGITAL PHOTO

## ► CANON POWERSHOT SD780 IS

In the crowded point-and-shoot market, it's hard to find a camera that's very good at everything. But the PowerShot SD780 IS (★★★★; [macworld.com/5241](http://macworld.com/5241)) is just that.

The 12-megapixel SD780 IS received some of the highest marks for image quality of any point-and-shoot that we reviewed over the past year. Its color accuracy and sharpness are both excellent, and it keeps the noise down in low-light and high-ISO shots. It also captures video at 720p HD resolution.

At the same time, the SD780 is admirably easy to use, with intuitive, easy-to-navigate menus, and a nice 2.5-inch LCD. The camera's optical viewfinder—a rarity in point-and-shoot cameras these days—makes it easier to frame shots in bright sunlight. And the camera is still small enough to carry with you everywhere.

Because of its features and ease of use, the PowerShot SD780 IS is our favorite point-and-shoot of the year.—ROMAN LOYOLA

\$250; Canon USA, [www.usa.canon.com](http://www.usa.canon.com)



## ► PANASONIC LUMIX GF1

If you want the power and flexibility of an SLR without the size and weight of one, then Panasonic's Lumix GF1 ([macworld.com/5598](http://macworld.com/5598)) can offer you an enticing compromise. It also happens to be a great camera.

The body of the 12-megapixel GF1 is roughly the size of a point-and-shoot. But unlike those compact cameras, the GF1 lets you use interchangeable lenses and includes an SLR-size image sensor—resulting in top-notch photos, even in relatively low light. The GF1 also records 720p high-definition video, shoots in Raw mode, and offers a full set of manual controls.

Like other cameras in this class, the GF1 achieves its small size by omitting a mirror box. That means it also lacks an optical viewfinder. Instead, you'll have to rely on the 3-inch LCD on the back (or shell out extra cash for an add-on accessory). That might turn off some buyers, but some people upgrading from a point-and-shoot might not even notice: Many compact cameras already leave off the viewfinder.

Though it's not the first camera on the market to use the Micro Four Thirds system, the GF1 is the smallest one in the category—and the first that we think delivers the goods.—KELLY TURNER

\$900; Panasonic, [www.panasonic.net](http://www.panasonic.net)

## ► PICASA 3.5

At first glance, Picasa 3.5 (★★★★; [macworld.com/5599](http://macworld.com/5599)) looks like an imitation of iPhoto. But the things that set Picasa apart are the ingenious way it helps you organize your photos and the ease with which it works with other programs.

For one thing, Picasa frees you from the need to maintain an iPhoto-like consolidated library file. Instead, it scans your system and finds image files wherever they're saved, leaving them in their original locations.

Picasa also makes it easy to upload, e-mail, and blog about your photos. Integration with the free Picasa Web Albums is incredibly convenient—you create an album, add pictures and captions, and upload. If you set an album to sync, all changes you make in the desktop app will be reflected online.

Ultimately, Picasa is about giving you power over your digital photos; it helps you manage your photos while letting you work with any other photo app you want. That light-handed approach makes it a refreshing alternative to iPhoto, and a natural Eddy winner.—HEATHER KELLY

free; Picasa, [picasa.google.com](http://picasa.google.com)





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## FEATURES

# CREATE

THE 25TH ANNUAL EDITORS' CHOICE AWARDS

### ACORN 2.1

I might not know graphic layers from layer cakes, but I still have to spend some time every day working with images. And when I do, I usually turn to Acorn 2.1 ([macworld.com/5600](http://macworld.com/5600)).

This lightweight, inexpensive image editor has all kinds of features that you might expect to see in a professional-level product—multilayer editing (including layer groups), vector shapes, and a boatload of snazzy filters. Its smart crop tool and Web export feature are both invaluable in my daily work.

I'm also a huge fan of the layer-based screenshot capability introduced in Acorn 2.0; it snaps a picture of your screen and gives each application its own layer, making it easy to isolate just the elements you want.

Added to the most recent versions is powerful scripting (via JSTalk and AppleScript) and plug-in support. Acorn is no slouch in the performance department, either, with full 64-bit support and the ability to offload intensive tasks to your Mac's graphics processor. (Those features mean the program works only with the latest version of Mac OS X, Snow Leopard.)

Acorn is notable for what it leaves out, too: A refined UI makes the program friendly and easy to use, so you don't have to go hunting for a particular feature. Acorn may not have everything Photoshop does, but for many of us, it has everything we need.—DAN MOREN

**\$50; Flying Meat, [flyingmeat.com](http://flyingmeat.com)**



### FLIP MINOHD

In 2009, it seemed you couldn't turn around without tripping over a new HD pocket camcorder. Kodak, Creative, Sanyo, and others all released some of these miniature moviemakers. But Pure Digital (now a part of Cisco) really defined the category, repeatedly releasing ever more capable models. Our favorite: the \$230 Flip MinoHD ([macworld.com/5601](http://macworld.com/5601)).

While most pocket camcorders are studies in compromise, the MinoHD offers a great blend of features and performance. It is easy to operate and solidly built, includes a bright 2-inch display, shoots up to two hours of 720p high-definition video, and includes an HDMI video port. It shoots well in low light and gets colors and tone right under most shooting conditions. Like the other Flips, the MinoHD includes the FlipShare software, which lets you jack the MinoHD into a powered USB 2.0 port, extract video, perform basic edits, and upload the results to your favorite video-sharing service.

In a crowded field, the Flip MinoHD clearly stands out.—CHRISTOPHER BREEN

**\$200 to \$230; Flip Video, [www.theflip.com](http://www.theflip.com)**

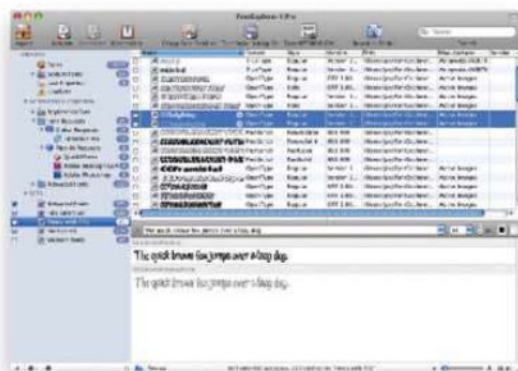
### FONT-EXPLORER X PRO 2.0

If you're a designer, prepress professional, or someone with more than a casual interest in managing your fonts, you need something more than OS X's Font Book. For our money, that something should be Font-Explorer X Pro 2.0 ([macworld.com/5602](http://macworld.com/5602)), an advanced font-management tool that's surprisingly easy to use.

If you're familiar with iTunes, you'll immediately understand FontExplorer X. Font sets are on the left, a font list is on the right, type samples sit at the bottom, and details about your selected font are in the lower left corner. It's superfast at importing and displaying fonts in WYSIWYG mode. It surpasses other font managers in the level of detail it displays, the level of control it allows, and the ease with which it shares and exports font configurations. And almost every feature—from the details displayed in the window to the way it behaves when you add, remove, activate, or deactivate fonts—is customizable.

In other words, it's that rarest of products: Powerful enough for professionals, but simple enough for everyone else.—JACKIE DOVE

**\$79; Linotype, [www.fontexplorerx.com](http://www.fontexplorerx.com)**





## LOGIC EXPRESS 9

Ask the average passer-by to couple the word “starving” with a profession and, typically, “musician” will be the response. Which is why we’d like to honor Apple’s Logic Express 9 (★★★★½; [macworld.com/5603](http://macworld.com/5603)), a workhorse bargain.

What makes Logic Express such a deal isn’t so much its price tag as the value you get for your money. New in this year’s edition, and adding to the program’s already impressive feature set, is the Amp Designer feature, which lets you mix and match 25 speakers and amps (and “record” the results with three different microphones); Flex Time, which allows you to easily shift audio tidbits to change the rhythmic feel of a phrase; Pedalboard effects that provide players with virtual “stomp boxes” that can be triggered in real time with a MIDI or USB controller; Varispeed recording for slowing down a project so you can more easily play a tricky solo; and a Drum Replacer feature that allows you to use recorded drums to trigger better-sounding drum samples.

Welcome cake icing though those new features may be, the application’s existing features alone make it a worthwhile investment for musicians who’ve reached GarageBand’s limits. GarageBand may be extremely capable (and extremely free with every new Mac), but Logic Express 9 provides professional-quality tools with professional-grade flexibility. If you can’t express your deepest musical thoughts with Logic Express, there’s a good chance they’re not worth hearing.—CHRISTOPHER BREEN

**\$199; Apple, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)**

## PAINTER 11

Corel’s Painter is designed to be the ultimate digital art studio. Version 11 (★★★★½; [macworld.com/4459](http://macworld.com/4459)) offers more speed than past editions, but also a slew of new brushes, resizable palettes, PNG support, and more. It’s an Eddy-worthy upgrade.

Painter 11 significantly expands the RealBristle Painting System introduced in version 10, with 40 new Natural-Media brushes. When used with supported graphics tablets, it can recognize brush angle and speed. There are other welcome improvements: Corel has revamped Painter’s selection and transform tools, a new color-management system works more efficiently, and Painter’s workspace is more intuitive.

The result is a fine improvement on an already fine product. Painter 11 is indeed the definitive painting program for the Mac.—JACKIE DOVE

**\$249; Corel, [www.corel.com](http://www.corel.com)**



## BAMBOO FUN

Tablets aren’t for everyone. But whether you’re a digital artist or just a regular user who’d like to use a pen instead of (or in conjunction with) a mouse, you should take a look at Wacom’s Bamboo Fun tablet (★★★★½; [macworld.com/5613](http://macworld.com/5613)).

The Fun can serve as a giant multitouch touchpad: Press one finger to the tablet to move the cursor; press two to perform gestures. Its pen is unbeatable for graphics work. It offers 1024 levels of pressure sensitivity—invaluable for creating subtle effects in apps that support pressure sensitivity.

In sum, the Bamboo Fun is one of the most innovative input devices we’ve come across in a while; it may be the nicest graphics tablet we’ve ever seen.—JACKIE DOVE

**\$199; Wacom, [www.wacom.com](http://www.wacom.com)**





# MACWORLD'S 2009

# APP

OUR 20 FAVORITE  
APPS OF THE YEAR

ILLUSTRATION BY  
SPLASHLIGHT

# GEMS

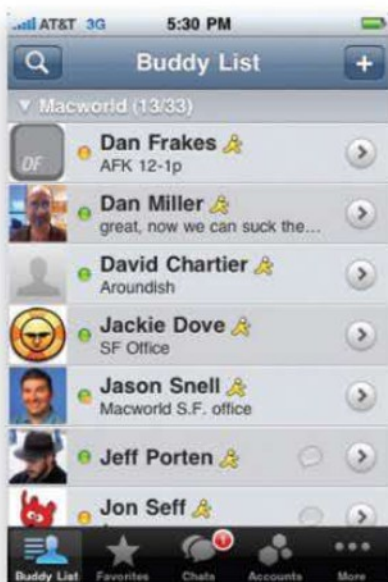
# AWARDS

**L**ooking through Apple's App Store, it's easy to get lost in the numbers. Between December 2008 and November 2009, some 90,000 apps arrived in the online store, bringing the grand total of available applications to more than 100,000. It can be a little bit overwhelming.

We're here to help. We've spent the past year looking at as many iPhone apps as possible to find the very best. We've come up with 20—one for each slot on your iPhone's home screen—that cover a wide array of categories. From games to Twitter clients, from productivity tools to photo editors, these apps caught our eye over the last 12 months. And they deserve to be ranked first in their class.







## Best Messaging App

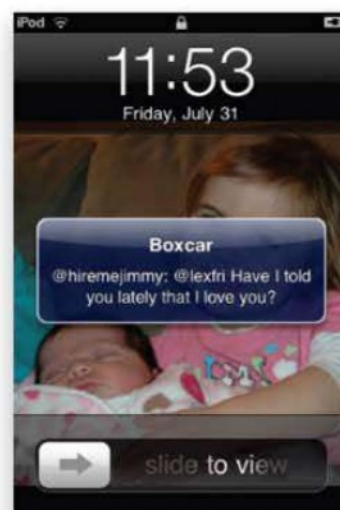
### BeeJiveIM

Apple may not have included native instant-messaging support for the iPhone, but that opened the door for **BeeJiveIM**.

The best-in-class IM app brings most of the conveniences of desktop messaging to the iPhone—including the ability to quickly switch between simultaneous conversations, support for multiple services, and integration with the iPhone's address book. You can even use BeeJiveIM to send and receive images and other files.

As of iPhone 3.0, the app supports push notifications, keeping you connected even when you're using another app.—DAN MOREN

★★★★; \$10; BeeJive; [macworld.com/4438](http://macworld.com/4438)



## Best Notification App

### Boxcar

When iPhone OS 3.0 added push notifications to the iPhone's bag of tricks, Apple's already awesome mobile device became even more so. Of course, if your favorite app didn't support push notifications, it was harder to enjoy the awesomeness—until **Boxcar** came along. The app enables push notifications for three of the most common Internet services: Twitter, Facebook, and e-mail. You tell Boxcar which account(s) to monitor, and it tells you within minutes when you have new Twitter mentions, Facebook comments, or whatever else you want to keep tabs on. Boxcar doesn't replace any apps, but it makes them, and the iPhone itself, more immediate.—LEX FRIEDMAN

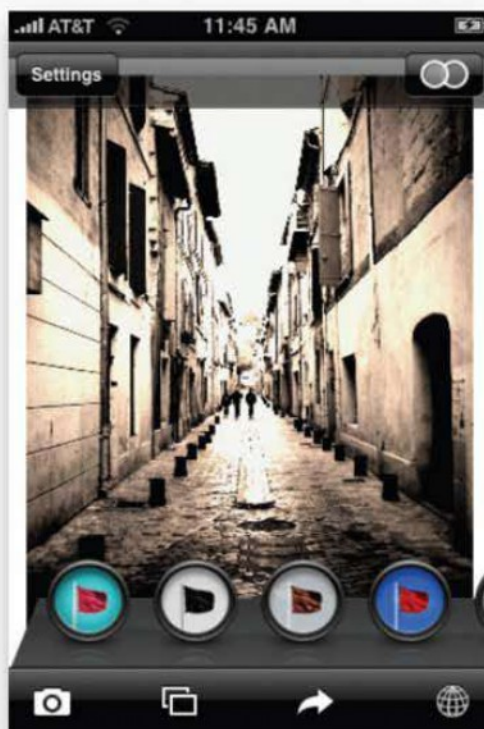
★★★★; free; appremix; [macworld.com/5536](http://macworld.com/5536)

## Best Photo App

### Best Camera

Part image editor, part social media tool, **Best Camera** reminds you that taking photos should be fun. The app includes 14 image effects—including vignetting, warming, and high-contrast black-and-white—which you can layer to create seriously gorgeous images. I've been impressed with how well the filters work on a wide variety of images. You can e-mail the results to yourself, save them to the Camera Roll, or upload them to Facebook, Twitter, or the Best Camera Website. That last option—which connects you to an active online community of shutterbugs—is where Best Camera really stands out. The app lets you view and vote for photos submitted by other iPhone photographers, which should be good for an endless supply of inspiration.—KELLY TURNER

★★★★; \$3; Ubermind; [macworld.com/5535](http://macworld.com/5535)





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270 hours

Talk Time

4.5 hours on 3G  
9 hours on 2G4.5 hours on 3G  
10 hours on 2G

Internet Use

4.5 hours on 3G  
5.4 hours on Wi-Fi4.5 hours on 3G  
8 hours on Wi-Fi

Audio Playback

20 hours

27 hours

Video Playback

6 hours

9 hours



juice pack air for iPhone 3G &amp; 3GS



## Best Painting App

### Brushes

Few would argue the notion that the iPhone packs a lot of power into its 4.8-ounce frame. But to use

**Brushes** is to experience that power firsthand. Brushes puts an advanced color picker, a variety of brushes, and layers at your disposal so you can create works of art right on your iPhone screen. The app is advanced enough to let you create a magazine cover—as artist Jorge Colombo did for the *New Yorker*—yet easy enough to navigate so that anyone can let their fingers do the painting.—**PHILIP MICHAELS**

★★★★½; \$5; Steve Sprang; [macworld.com/5092](http://macworld.com/5092)



## Best News App

### CNN Mobile

CNN was late to the party with its

iPhone app, but the wait was worth it.

**CNN Mobile** is a stellar example of how the iPhone can change the way we receive—and contribute to—the news.

You get the latest CNN stories and videos, formatted for the iPhone. But

you also get local news, weather, and traffic. You can follow specific articles and topic areas, receive alerts for new or updated content, and save stories for offline reading. Most impressively, you can contribute your own videos and photos directly from your phone.—**DAN FRAKES**

★★★★; \$2; CNN Interactive Group; [macworld.com/5534](http://macworld.com/5534)



*Free yourself.... with 4 Great iPhone Apps*



**Job-Interview** wow them, land that new job

**ProjectMgr** plan, manage your projects

parties, weddings, business events **PlanMyEvent**

**CWhat-I-Spent** control personal & business expenses

[www.isoftquik.com](http://www.isoftquik.com)

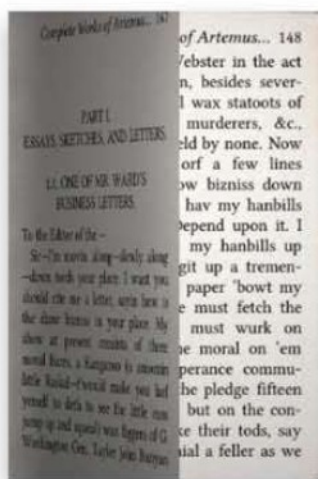
Available on the iPhone  
**App Store**

## Best Book App

### Eucalyptus

**Eucalyptus** earned notoriety in 2009 when Apple temporarily barred the e-reader app from the App Store. (Among Eucalyptus's thousands of titles, you'll find *The Kama Sutra*, which the App Store's gatekeepers deemed too explicit.) What Eucalyptus really deserves, though, is praise. This is, by far, the most elegant e-reader out there for the iPhone and iPod touch. In time, perhaps, you'll be able to import books from other reader formats or e-book retailers. For now, Eucalyptus will gorgeously display any of the tens of thousands of public-domain works from Project Gutenberg. The app is proof of how pleasurable reading a book on a small, handheld device can be.—BEN BOYCHUK

★★★★; \$10; Things Made Out of Other Things; [macworld.com/5532](http://macworld.com/5532)



## Best Social Networking App

### Facebook3

The third major update of the **Facebook** iPhone app offered a massive interface overhaul—and a very successful one. A notifications alert appears at the bottom of the screen, and you can now see and update pages, and upload photos and videos. The main menu now provides quick access to common tasks, and you can swipe to a new area where you can add favorite people and groups, and read their updates. Now Facebook isn't simply usable on the iPhone—in some ways, it actually feels better than the full version of the site.—JASON SNELL

★★★★½; free; Facebook; [macworld.com/5023](http://macworld.com/5023)



make your doodles come to life

**FlipBook**  
[www.flipbook.tv](http://www.flipbook.tv)

**MILEBUG**  
VERSION 1.5

Track your miles, get your deduction

Now with Expense Tracking!

**MATCHTUNES**  
NEW

Match music from your own iTunes library

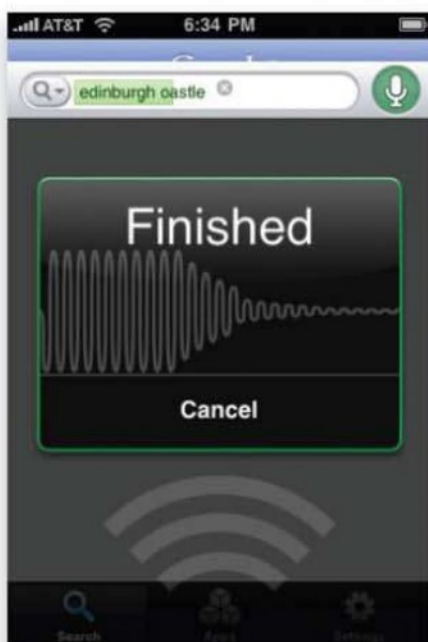
Different levels of play! Match music clip, song, album, or artist!

Available on the iPhone App Store

[www.izatt.com](http://www.izatt.com)

**izatt**





## Best Search Tool

### Google Mobile App

It's difficult to remember a time when Google wasn't waiting at our beck and call to track down whatever information we needed. It may soon be equally difficult to remember how we got by with our iPhones without **Google Mobile App**. Google's one-stop-shop offering for the iPhone and iPod touch lets you search effortlessly—all you have to do is talk to the device. An easy-to-use voice search feature added late in 2008 improved on Google's initial

effort by locating what you're looking for in, usually, seconds flat.—BEN BOYCHUK

★★★★; free; Google; [macworld.com/5533](http://macworld.com/5533)

## Best Reader

### Instapaper Pro 2

Marco Arment introduced Instapaper to wide acclaim in 2008, but he topped himself with **Instapaper Pro 2**. At the heart of Instapaper is the ability to download articles to your mobile device and read them with or without a Wi-Fi connection or cell phone signal. Arment kept his app's earlier strengths—such as a nifty tilt-scroll capability—and built on them by giving users more tools to organize stories, by adding an RSS-like feed capability, and by including intriguing social networking features such as Give Me Something To Read.—BEN BOYCHUK

★★★★; \$5; Marco Arment; [macworld.com/5111](http://macworld.com/5111)

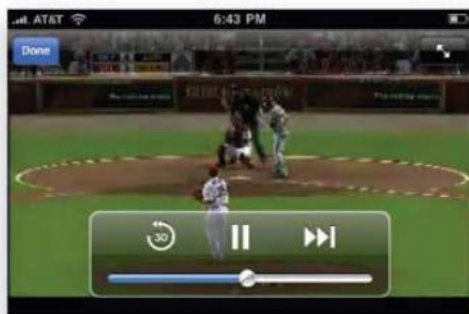


## Best Reference App

### iBird Explorer Plus

**iBird Explorer Plus** exemplifies what's possible in a pocket-size reference app. Detailed, informative, beautifully illustrated, and thoughtfully designed, iBird gives you access to a wealth of birding information. While that information alone would be enough to keep iBird on a par with its book-based contemporaries, the app also provides you with the tools you need—from photos and audio recordings of bird calls to Web resources and search tools—to identify the birds you see, compile lists of favorites, and collect notes on when and where you've seen them. iBird is what every other iPhone field guide should aspire to be.—JEFFERY BATTERSBY

★★★★; \$20; Mitch Waite Group; [macworld.com/4518](http://macworld.com/4518)



## Best Multimedia App

### MLB.com At Bat 2009

No developer has been more aggressive in embracing the iPhone than Major League Baseball. Initially offering just scores and in-game video highlights, MLB At Bat has since added pitch-by-pitch Gameday views, streaming audio of radio broadcasts, and finally, live video streams of games. We can't wait to see what 2010 brings.—JASON SNELL

★★★★; \$10; MLB.com; [macworld.com/4749](http://macworld.com/4749)



# POCKETMONEY 3.0

In these tough economic times, keeping track of your finances has never been so important



"BY FAR THE BEST FINANCIAL APP WE'VE USED" ★★★★★ IPHONE APP DIRECTORY VOLUME 2

PocketMoney is your complete personal finance manager. Trusted by over 300,000 PocketMoney users since 1994.

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- 2 STAY CONNECTED: SYNC TO YOUR PC, MAC OR A PARTNER'S IPHONE
- 3 SUPPORT: VIDEO TUTORIALS AND FIRST CLASS CUSTOMER SUPPORT
- 4 SPEED: TRANSACTIONS CAN BE ADDED QUICKLY ON THE GO
- 5 BUDGETS: VIEW AND CONTROL YOUR SPENDING



## MPG

Post your vehicle transactions directly into PocketMoney removing the need to enter multiple transactions.



## CHECKPLEASE

Split the bill at the restaurant and post the amount directly into PocketMoney saving you precious time.



[WWW.CATAMOUNT.COM/OFFER](http://WWW.CATAMOUNT.COM/OFFER)

LITE versions are available free of charge on the AppStore for CheckPlease & PocketMoney.





## Best Education App

### Pocket Universe

**Pocket Universe** is a marvel. The app puts the entirety of the nighttime sky in your pocket, a remarkable achievement for such a tiny device. Using the GPS feature on the iPhone 3GS or Location Services on earlier iPhones and the iPod touch, Pocket Universe can figure out almost exactly where in the sky you're looking, and identify all the celestial bodies nearby. The app can direct your gaze toward a constellation or planet you wouldn't be able to pick out on your own, and lets you know which heavenly objects you should be able to spot with your naked eye each day. It works beautifully, making astronomy seem a bit less mysterious, but no less wondrous.—**LEX FRIEDMAN**

★★★★☆; \$3; Craic Design; [macworld.com/5324](http://macworld.com/5324)

## Best Shopping Tool

### RedLaser

**RedLaser** turns your iPhone into an indispensable shopping companion, letting you use the built-in camera to scan the barcode of a product you're considering buying. It then checks the price on the Internet. Better deal online? With a few taps, you can jump to a merchant's online site to close the deal or e-mail yourself the details if you prefer to do your online shopping from a desktop.—**PHILIP MICHAELS**

★★★★☆; \$2; Occipital; [macworld.com/5541](http://macworld.com/5541)



## Best Twitter Client

### Tweetie 2

Twitter and the iPhone go together like chocolate and peanut butter. And nobody swirls those two great tastes together in a more attractive package than **Tweetie 2**. Its predecessor (★★★★☆; [macworld.com/5105](http://macworld.com/5105)) was one of the most popular clients in the App Store, but Tweetie 2 incorporates a slick, elegant interface, support for multiple Twitter accounts, and the ability to quickly search your timeline. More important, the software doesn't get in your way when all you want to do is tell the world what you're having for lunch.—**DAN MOREN**

★★★★☆; \$3; atebits; [macworld.com/5459](http://macworld.com/5459)



## Best E-mail App

### Postage

Plenty of apps let you edit photos on your iPhone or iPod touch.

Plenty more give you a way to connect with friends and family.

**Postage** allows you to do both, in about as elegant a package as you'll find on the App Store. With Postage, you create electronic postcards out of the photos on your mobile device, zooming and rotating your images so that they perfectly fit the app's 60-plus templates (representing a variety of categories). Use one of the ten included photo effects, style a message, and share your postcard via e-mail, Facebook, or MMS. It offers a nearly perfect way to share holiday snaps and vacation photos in an app that's designed to feel like a natural extension of the iPhone's capabilities.—**PHILIP MICHAELS**

★★★★☆; \$4; Rogue Sheep; [macworld.com/4981](http://macworld.com/4981)



My Eyes Only™ Photo  
Encrypt and Password  
Protect Your Photos



**softwareops**  
usability. functionality. integrity.

Search jobs  
from **25,000**  
corporate websites  
from your iPhone!



**Get LinkUp's  
free job search engine app**

• always current • often unadvertised • never fake •

"the most addictive iPhone game yet?"  
- gizmodo.com



**doodle jump**  
meet the iPhone  
version of crack!

Featured by Apple in "iTunes: BEST OF 2009"  
#1 Top Paid Game in the US App Store in December!

MacWorld.com:  
**"a perfect micro-game, insanely addictive"**

LimaSky.com/DoodleJump

**Control OS X from your iPhone!**



**RemoteTap**  
www.itunes.com/apps/remotetap

**Macworld**

**Macworld 2010**  
BOOTH #MA10

**Back Together Again.**  
Integrating calendar events and personal tasks into  
one easy to use App. The way it should be.



**Pocket Informant**

**Sync is here** Pocket Informant, the  
iPhone's most versatile calendar/tasks Personal  
Information Manager (PIM) sets itself apart from  
the rest by providing the ability to sync to the  
other systems you hold dear. Now syncing with  
Google, Toodledo, Outlook, and Mac OS X.  
(note: Desktop Sync information available at our website)  
[www.pocketinformant.com](http://www.pocketinformant.com) | 2010 ©

Also available on  
Blackberry  
&  
Windows Mobile



# Game Player

When it comes to the Mac, Apple has always had an ambivalent attitude toward gaming. Not so with the iPhone—the company promotes both the iPhone and the iPod touch as mobile gaming devices. Developers have responded with apps that, in many ways, represent some of the best work being done on the platform. Here are five favorites.

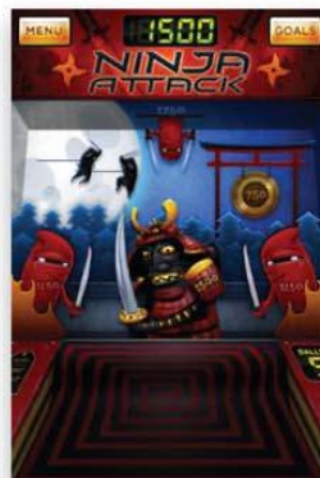


## Best Designed Game

### Ramp Champ

The best ball-rolling game on the iPhone is not the best-selling Skee-Ball, but rather the exquisite **Ramp Champ**. The gameplay is what you'd expect: Flick your finger to roll a ball up a ramp and knock over objects. This simple-sounding game challenges both kids and adults. Each level offers a different theme with beautiful graphics and delightful sound effects. You win virtual carnival tickets, but playing Ramp Champ is its own reward.—**JASON SNELL**

★★★★½; \$2; The Iconfactory;  
[macworld.com/5538](http://macworld.com/5538)



## Best Casual Game

### Flight Control

**Flight Control** wouldn't exist without the iPhone. The delight of dragging (and endlessly redragging) paths for a constant influx of landing planes is inextricably tied to the fact that you use your finger to do it. The game looks great, and each element—the paths you trace, the blinking signal of approaching planes, the red warning of planes on a collision course—feels at home on the iPhone. The multiplayer mode works over Wi-Fi and Bluetooth, and the gameplay is as elegant as it is addictive.—**LEX FRIEDMAN**

★★★★; \$1; Firemint; [macworld.com/5537](http://macworld.com/5537)



## Best Sports Game

### Real Soccer 2010

Some fantastic sports games vie for your attention, but **Real Soccer 2010** is top of our table, thanks to terrific graphics, fun gameplay, and solid multiplayer features. A surplus of teams, accurate rosters, and an abundance of new modes—including ones that let you play an entire season or chart a specific player's development—add staggering depth. FIFA 10 (★★★★; [macworld.com/5540](http://macworld.com/5540)) boasts a great penalty-kick system, but Real Soccer's intuitive controls and superior artificial intelligence earn it top honors.—**CHRIS HOLT**

★★★★½; \$5; Gameloft; [macworld.com/5355](http://macworld.com/5355)



## Best Platform Game

### Rolando 2

Ngmoco's excellent Rolando and its sequel, **Rolando 2**, take advantage of the iPhone's features like no other game. You guide the rolling Rolandos by tilting your device, and you use the iPhone's tap-and-pinch conventions to alter your view. Combining action, puzzles, and brightly colored characters, both games are great. The sequel adds more depth, new characters, and a reduction in the ways you can accidentally kill your Rolandos. Rolando could only exist on the iPhone.—JASON SNELL

★★★★; \$5; Ngmoco; [macworld.com/5539](http://macworld.com/5539)

## Best Strategy Game

### Strategy

There is no game that I play on my iPhone more than **Strategy**. Though the Risk-like game sports an interface based mostly on multi-colored dots, Strategy looks attractive. But the real brilliance of the game is found on its Options screen, where you'll see four difficulty settings, three map sizes, a pass-and-play multiplayer mode for up to five people, and other settings that affect how the game is played. Though simple on the surface, Strategy offers tremendous depth.—LEX FRIEDMAN

★★★★; \$2; Affogato; [macworld.com/4906](http://macworld.com/4906)



# 15 More Great Apps

## Meet some of the finalists for our iPhone app honors

It's mathematical madness to take all the great apps available in the App Store and whittle them down to 20. After all, we have 100,000 apps to choose from, many of which *don't* simulate the sound of passing gas. We had to make more than a few tough decisions when paring down our list of the Top Apps—here are 15 honorable mentions that just missed making the final cut.

**Amazon Mobile** ([macworld.com/5542](http://macworld.com/5542)): Take a picture of a product when you're out shopping, and Amazon's mobile app will look up all the details (often within minutes), including pricing and availability online.

**Birdhouse** ([macworld.com/4989](http://macworld.com/4989)): This Twitter composer app lets users fashion their tweets with care.

**ComicZeal** ([macworld.com/5543](http://macworld.com/5543)): Comic book fans will marvel at the interface on this e-reader app, which features full-page color.

**Convert** ([macworld.com/5408](http://macworld.com/5408)) and **Convertbot** ([macworld.com/5409](http://macworld.com/5409)): Both of these beautiful unit-conversion utilities feature excellent controls that take advantage of the iPhone's touchscreen.

**Doodle Jump** ([macworld.com/5002](http://macworld.com/5002)): Excellent use of the iPhone's built-in accelerometer feature makes this casual game dangerously addictive.



**FitnessBuilder** ([macworld.com/4987](http://macworld.com/4987)): With an extensive database containing thousands of exercises and tools for designing your own customized routines, this is a great tool for people who take their workouts seriously.

**Kindle** ([macworld.com/4516](http://macworld.com/4516)): Amazon's e-reader app brings bestsellers to the iPhone and syncs with Kindles, too.

**LED Football 2** ([macworld.com/5544](http://macworld.com/5544)): This follow-up homage to the Mattel handheld games of yesteryear offers even more button-mashing fun than the original.

**Lose It** ([macworld.com/4890](http://macworld.com/4890)): This well-crafted nutrition tracker can help you meet your weight-loss goals.

**Ninjawords Dictionary** ([macworld.com/5545](http://macworld.com/5545)): This delightful reference app provides a simple, easy-to-use interface for looking up words.

**PhotoForge** ([macworld.com/5101](http://macworld.com/5101)): Not only can you create amazing paintings with this powerful image-editing app, but you get many surprisingly powerful tools and options for perfecting your photos.



**Reiner Knizia's Robot Master** ([macworld.com/5327](http://macworld.com/5327)): Offering the greatest fun you can have in a few short minutes, this puzzle game poses mind-bending challenges.

**Stanza** ([macworld.com/4515](http://macworld.com/4515)): This great e-reader app offers a versatile interface and supports both public-domain and commercial titles.

**TiltShift Generator** ([macworld.com/5546](http://macworld.com/5546)): Want to create a miniature effect to punch up an otherwise plain photo? It's a breeze thanks to this image editor.



## FIVE UNEXPECTED USES FOR THE ESCAPE KEY

Bail out of all sorts of situations with this one versatile key

By Sharon Zardetto

**T**he Escape key (Esc) has long been the “get me outta here” panacea for many things: canceling a dialog box, getting rid of a buttonless splash screen, closing a menu that you clicked open. But those are all obvious. Here’s a handful of less obvious—but still handy—things the Escape key can do.

### 1. Make a Quick Exit from the Application Switcher

You press  $\text{⌘}$ -Tab to switch to another application, pressing Tab repeatedly because the program you want is far away on the Application Switcher’s bar. But then you get halfway across that bar and realize you forgot to copy some text you wanted to paste into the next program. While still holding down the  $\text{⌘}$  key, press Escape. That will take you back to the program you were using before you pressed  $\text{⌘}$ -Tab.

### 2. Get Out of the Spotlight Menu

If you want to erase what you’ve typed in the Spotlight search field, don’t delete it one character at a time. Press Escape instead. That will instantly empty the field. If you’re done with a search, press Escape



**Escape Key Browser Trick** If you change your mind when dragging a tab off the bar to make a Safari window, press Escape before you let go, to send the new window back into its tab.



twice: once to erase the field (or else Spotlight will autofill your last search term the next time you open it), and again to close it.

### 3. Hide Your Browser Cursor

The mouse cursor can be an annoying distraction when it’s in the wrong spot on your screen while you’re viewing a Web page; it’s as though a fly landed on your TV screen. Whether you’re in Safari ([macworld.com/5043](http://macworld.com/5043)) or Firefox ([macworld.com/5165](http://macworld.com/5165)), press Escape and the cursor disappears instantly, cooperatively reappearing as soon as you move the mouse.

### 4. Undo a Safari Tab Drag

When dragging a tab off Safari’s tab bar to create a separate window, it’s all too easy to grab the wrong one and drag it off the tab bar before realizing your mistake. You don’t have to drag that tab back to the bar: Press Escape before you let go of it, and it will snap back. This trick works in Firefox, too. It also works in other programs that provide tear-off tabbed windows, such as Adobe’s Photoshop CS4 ([macworld.com/4180](http://macworld.com/4180)).

and InDesign CS4 ([macworld.com/4183](http://macworld.com/4183)).

### 5. Switch to InDesign’s Selection Tool from within a Text Box

This is currently my favorite Escape-key trick because it triggers a feature I’ve wanted badly for a long time but only recently realized was already available. In InDesign, a press of a single key selects a tool: V for the Selection arrow, T for the Text tool, and so on. This one-key access is great—except when you forget you’re in a text box and, instead of invoking the tool, you actually type a V or T. I want to be able to switch to the Selection tool with a single key, without having to deselect the text first (and not just switch temporarily, as you can by pressing the  $\text{⌘}$  key). It turns out, I can: Escape deactivates the text box you’re in and activates the Selection tool.

**Sharon Zardetto** has been writing Mac books and articles since the 20th century. Visit her MacTipster blog ([mactipster.wordpress.com](http://mactipster.wordpress.com)).



# YOJIMBO 2.0

The brainy junk drawer for your Mac

By Stuart Gripman

## REVIEW

Yojimbo stores and manages digital snippets of data, including text and images. This newest version syncs across multiple computers via MobileMe and integrates with Spotlight so you can search Yojimbo's database from the Finder. It also adds welcome flexibility without losing focus.

Fundamentally, Yojimbo gets information into its database with as little interruption to your work as possible and gets it back out with a minimum of fuss. It can store rich-text notes, images (including PDFs), passwords, serial numbers, Web bookmarks, and Web archives. You get data into Yojimbo primarily by using the Drop Dock and the Quick Input panel, both of which have become more useful.

Summon the Quick Input panel with a systemwide keyboard shortcut (F8 by default). It examines your system's clipboard and guesses what kind of item you're adding to your library. In my testing, Yojimbo did a good job of coming



up with appropriate classifications.

The Quick Input panel now features the ability to add tags and comments as you create an item. The new Tag Explorer lets you filter your library by tags—an easy way to refine your item list and reveal relevant information. Yojimbo's PDF service lets you print from any application, as well as choose Save PDF To Yojimbo from the PDF button in the Print dialog box. From there you can name, tag, label, and flag the PDF before saving it. This is a well-executed update with worthy enhancements.

||||| | PRICE: \$39 | COMPANY: BareBones Software, [www.barebones.com](http://www.barebones.com)

## STM Medium Convoy

Not every laptop bag must be either nylon or leather. For a more rugged look, check out STM's \$100 Medium Convoy ([www.stmbags.com](http://www.stmbags.com)). Made of olive, water-resistant canvas, the rugged Convoy is a bit heavier than a nylon bag but looks more like a retro backpack than a computer pack. It holds up to a 15-inch laptop inside a hidden, padded compartment; you also get a large main compartment, a spacious, zippered organizer pocket in front, and five snap-shut utility pockets (two of which can hold water bottles). The heavily padded back and shoulder straps are comfortable, and you can further secure the Convoy with its waist and sternum straps. A padded carrying handle and a pullover nylon rain guard round out the package.—DAN FRANKS



## Prune Your Contacts

By Joe Kissell

How many times have you looked at your address book, noticed someone's name, and been unable to figure out who the person is or why they're in there? We all have obsolete contacts. You could manually scan your contact list and delete the names you don't recognize. But if you use Apple's Address Book to manage contacts and Apple Mail for e-mail, you can use the two programs together to find and delete your stalest contacts.

For best results, open the two programs side by side. In Mail, choose Window ► Previous Recipients to display a list of everyone to whom you've sent e-mail. (This list facilitates automatic address completion when you send new messages; having addresses you don't use cluttering things up makes addressing e-mail more cumbersome.) Contacts on the list who also appear in Address Book have a small address-card icon next to them. Click on the Last Used column header to sort addressees by how recently you've sent them mail. Starting from the oldest date, select any recipient to whom you don't expect to send mail and click on Remove From List.

Then, for those addressees with Address Book entries (and whose contact information you don't need for any other reason), switch to Address Book and delete the corresponding entry. (Select the contact's name, press Delete, and click on Delete to confirm.) This process won't help you find contacts to whom you've never sent e-mail. But it's a good start.



# REDUCE E-MAIL AGGRAVATION WITH IMAP

By Joe Kissell

**Y**ou may know that your e-mail client uses either the Post Office Protocol (POP) or the Internet Message Access Protocol (IMAP) standard to retrieve your messages. But do you know why you should care?

When you retrieve a message using IMAP, your e-mail client makes a local copy, but a copy also remains on the server (until you delete it). Better yet, IMAP saves a lot of information about your message—for example, whether you've read, filed, or forwarded it. As a result, your inbox looks the same whether you're looking at it on your iPhone or your Mac.

By contrast, when you use POP to retrieve a message, your local copy becomes your only copy. The message is typically deleted from the server



(sometimes after a period of time that you've selected in your e-mail client). Even if you tell your e-mail software to leave a message on the server after downloading it, the server won't know whether you've read or replied to it.

POP uses bandwidth efficiently, which is good for people with slow Internet connections, and it doesn't impose inbox storage quotas. But IMAP offers a host of other advantages. Here are four big reasons I think you should switch to it from POP. (After you're convinced, you can learn how to make the switch by reading "The IMAP Advantage" at [macworld.com/3661](http://macworld.com/3661).)

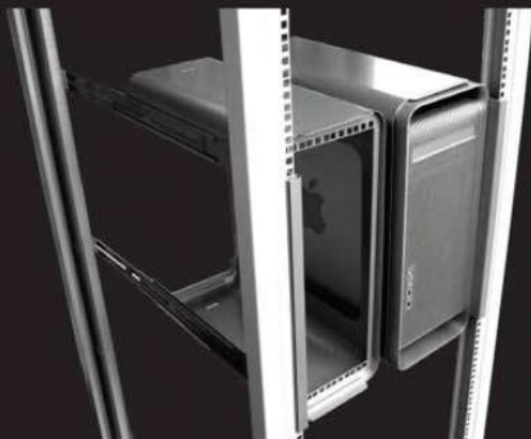
## Avoid Webmail Outages

Not long ago, Gmail suffered an outage that affected only users who accessed their e-mail via the Web. Gmail users who connected to their accounts using IMAP were unaffected and could continue to retrieve their mail as usual.

To be sure, such problems are extremely infrequent. But even so, the moral of the

ILLUSTRATION BY CHRIS WHETZEL

## Rack your Mac



### Cadlock Mac Pro 19" Rackmount Kit \$299.00

The tailored steel frame provides a fully rigid housing, with front and rear supports increasing stability. Once fitted the Mac can simply be pushed into the frame, and if needed secured to the rear tabs using the existing Mac locking mechanism, preventing unauthorized removal.

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story is that having more than one way to access any given e-mail account can be extremely useful. The vast majority of e-mail providers that offer IMAP access also let you access your mail on the Web, and many (though not all) Webmail providers also let you use IMAP.

### Switch Clients or Platforms Painlessly

Suppose you decide one day to switch from Microsoft's Entourage 2008 (🔗; [macworld.com/3346](http://macworld.com/3346)) to Apple's Mail (🔗; [macworld.com/3510](http://macworld.com/3510)), or from Qualcomm's Eudora ([www.eudora.com](http://www.eudora.com)) to Mozilla's Thunderbird (🔗; [macworld.com/3522](http://macworld.com/3522)). If you use POP, switching clients can be hugely annoying. You may have to export messages from your old client, import them into the new client, or both. Either way, you risk losing messages, or the metadata attached to them, because of fundamental differences in the storage systems that various clients use. The difficulties of transferring all your

messages may be enough to discourage you from moving to another program, even if doing so would serve you better.

But with IMAP, that sort of problem magically disappears. Switching e-mail clients is as simple as entering your credentials and a couple of settings in your new program. Then you wait while some or all of your messages download from the server. You needn't export or import your messages, and your new client will show the same mailboxes, flags, and message organization as the old one. You can even switch among different clients at any time. For example, if you generally prefer Mail but occasionally want to use features that only Entourage has, or if you want to try out new e-mail software without committing yourself, IMAP will let you.

### Read Mail on Multiple Devices

If you want to access your e-mail on a Windows or Linux computer, an iPhone, an iPod touch, or some other portable device, simply open an IMAP client on

the other system, enter your settings, and you're off and running. For people who must use a variety of devices or operating systems, IMAP is a tremendous convenience in that it lets you see exactly the same data—including saved, filed, and sent messages—on every device. Rob Griffiths explores this aspect of IMAP in his Macworld Video "Manage E-mail on Multiple Macs" ([macworld.com/5564](http://macworld.com/5564)).

### Keep an Extra Copy of Your Messages

Although I recommend backing up all the data on your Mac (including your e-mail), the fact that IMAP gives you both local and server-based copies of each message can help you avoid data loss. For example, should your hard disk crash or your computer get stolen or damaged, you could lose all your locally stored messages; but with IMAP, the server would safely hold master copies of all of them. Conversely, if your e-mail provider were to suffer data loss on its mail servers, your local copy of each message would serve as a backup.



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# KEEP TRACK OF CHANGES IN PAGES

By Kirk McElhearn

If you want to work with others on a document and keep track of what everyone has done, Microsoft Word's (🔗; \$180; [macworld.com/3345](http://macworld.com/3345)) Track Changes feature ([macworld.com/5565](http://macworld.com/5565)) isn't the only game in town. Apple's Pages (🔗; part of the \$79 iWork suite; [macworld.com/4352](http://macworld.com/4352)) can do some, though not all, of the same things—but in certain cases, that might be enough. Better yet, you can share marked-up Pages documents with Word users and vice versa, so you're always ready to collaborate.

## Get Started

To activate change-tracking in Pages, open a document and choose Edit ▶ Track Changes. Below the main toolbar, a strip containing editing controls will appear.

Start making the changes you want. They'll display as they do in Word: deleted text appears with a strikethrough, and added text appears in a different color. (If you're picky about the way changes appear, select Pages ▶ Preferences and choose from the options under the Deleted Text, Inserted Text, or Author pop-up menus.)

Insert comments by choosing Insert ▶ Comment and typing text. Your insertion point (whether it's a block of text or just the space between two words) becomes highlighted, and a yellow line connects to a bubble in the document's left margin. The coloring distinguishes comments from other changes, which appear in blue.

## Customize Change Display

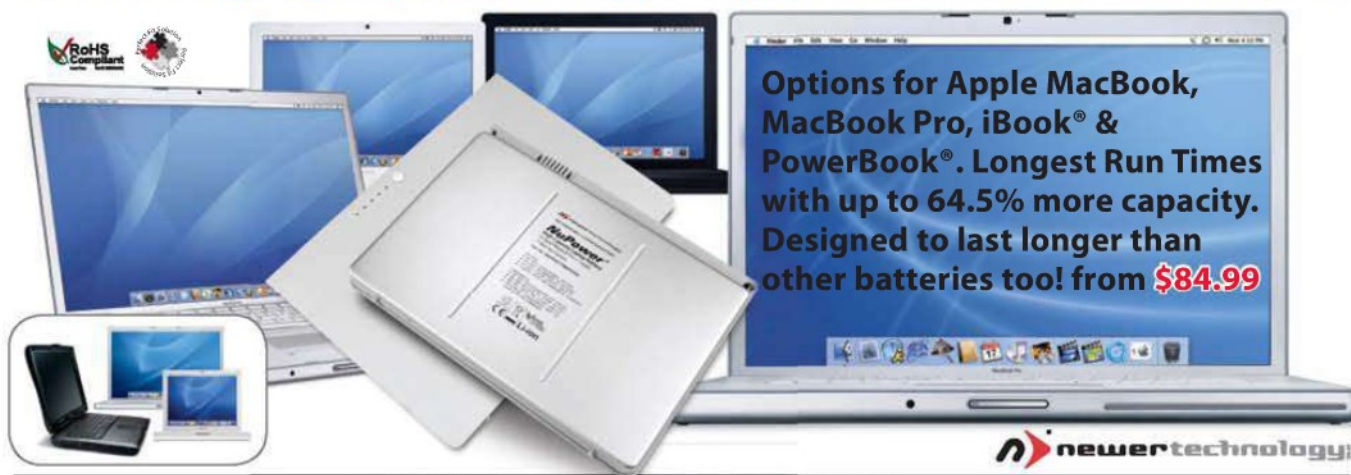
Pages offers one option many Word users

long for: You can choose whether or not to display tracking bubbles. When you're making or editing changes, click on Tracking Bubbles in the change-tracking toolbar. From the menu, you can select from Show All (to display all tracking bubbles), Hide All (to hide them), or Show Only For Selection (to hide bubbles for everything but the selection). This last option makes it easier to follow changes in a complex document.

## Turn Tracking Off and On

To make some unrecorded changes in a document, toggle the Tracking slider in the toolbar to Paused. However, if you want to turn tracking off entirely (Edit ▶ Turn Off Tracking), you must be willing to accept all changes made up to that point.

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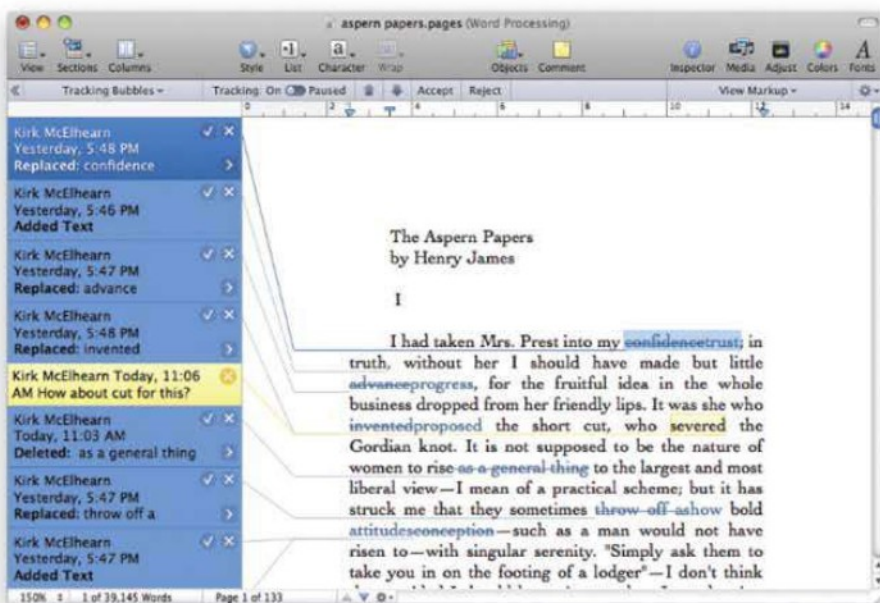
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**Changes Read Easier** Pages' display of tracked changes can be more readable than Word's.

### Accept and Reject Changes

There are many ways to accept or reject changes. You can Control-click a change and choose Accept Change or Reject

Change in the menu that appears. You can click the Next and Previous arrow icons in the tracking toolbar and then click Accept or Reject. You can also click on the checkmark

or X button in the tracking bubbles to accept or reject changes. To accept or reject all changes in one fell swoop, click the gear icon in the tracking toolbar and select from the menu that appears.

### Share Changes with Word Users

Tracking changes in Pages is most useful when you need to distribute a document—as long as everyone is using Word or Pages. Tracked changes made in one program usually appear in the other—if you use Word's .doc file format.

I used Pages to open several .doc files with complex changes tracked in Word. I also saved a number of Word-tracked documents in Pages. In almost all cases, change tracking and comments showed up correctly in both programs.

You may run into sharing problems if your documents have complex layouts. Since the two programs have different layout features, some graphic elements may get lost. But for most text-based documents, change tracking works well.

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# Reviews

WHAT WE'RE REVIEWING  
ONLINE THIS MONTH

## HARDWARE

### Buffalo MiniStation Metro

Now sleek, sturdier than before, and available in multiple colors (red, black, and white), the MiniStation Metro portable hard drive seems to be built for a rough and tumble lifestyle that demands both distinctive design and durability. The drive is a bit bulky, so it can fit into your pants pocket or backpack but not a shirt pocket. The MiniStation Metro's new BumperBody shock protection held up impressively in our testing. We tossed the hard drive around a cubicle, dropped it from heights of over six feet, and eventually threw it against a wall. The unit showed no signs of abuse aside from the occasional scratch. Unfortunately, the USB-only MiniStation Metro pays a price for its rugged protective qualities and new face-lift—the 250GB drive we tested was no speedster. The MiniStation Metro finished our lab speed tests behind competing drives, including Buffalo's older MiniStation TurboUSB ([macworld.com/5566](http://macworld.com/5566)).  
 ⚡⚡⚡; \$90; Buffalo Technology, [www.buffalotech.com](http://www.buffalotech.com)



### Dell M109S

This palm-size LED projector weighs just 12.8 ounces. Even with its cables, AC adapter, and carrying case, the M109S has a total traveling weight of under two pounds. But to achieve this ultralight design, Dell had to sacrifice some features. The projector has a low brightness rating of only 50 lumens, which makes it best suited for very small groups in dark or dimly lit conference rooms. It has a

low native resolution of 858 by 600 pixels, which means that you have to turn down the resolution on your Mac and that you won't get the best image sharpness and clarity when making presentations. The projector also has a small, fixed lens (no optical zoom) with a limited range of focus. It provides only two input options: VGA (you'll need a DVI-to-VGA or Mini DisplayPort-to-VGA adapter) and composite video. The projector has no audio or USB port, and lacks a remote control and a built-in speaker. It also has no adjustable feet or tripod mount to help with positioning. It's difficult to recommend Dell's M109S for mobile presentations when for just a few dollars more you can get a slightly larger LED projector that's twice as bright, provides better image quality, and has more features ([macworld.com/5567](http://macworld.com/5567)).

⚡⚡⚡; \$399; Dell, [www.dell.com](http://www.dell.com)

### Optoma Technology EW330

Optoma's compact, 2.4-pound EW330 packs enough illumination power (a considerable 2200 lumens) for use in a large conference room. The EW330 did very well in our image-quality tests, with crisp text and warm colors. Its native wide aspect ratio (16:10) makes it a perfect delivery system for a presentation from a widescreen laptop. It includes an HDMI port and can project widescreen DVDs and HDTV. The projector also includes video inputs for VGA, composite video, and S-Video. (You'll need to get a DVI-to-VGA or Mini DisplayPort-to-VGA adapter to connect to your laptop.) One of its biggest shortcomings is the lack of a built-in speaker; you'll need to use a separate device for sound ([macworld.com/5604](http://macworld.com/5604)).

⚡⚡⚡⚡; \$899; Optoma Technology, [www.optomausa.com](http://www.optomausa.com)

## SOFTWARE

### BusyMac BusyCal 1.0

If you're frustrated by iCal's limitations or are looking for a calendaring program with more oomph, BusyMac's BusyCal may be what you need. It addresses nearly every common complaint about iCal, adds useful new



features, and yet maintains the same simple interface and ease of use Mac users are accustomed to. The program is overkill for users with simple calendaring needs and who don't find iCal limiting. BusyCal simplifies the process of adding and editing events. It adds user-defined tags, graphics, and styled text to events. BusyCal's core syncing features keeps events synchronized with other Macs, Google Calendar, or both. The program limits you to read-only access to CalDAV and Exchange calendars (iCal lets you write to them), it has minimal AppleScript support, and it doesn't offer calendar groups. But considering how much better BusyCal is in virtually every other area, these are minor complaints. For more on BusyCal, see our "25th Annual Editors' Choice Awards," page 38 ([macworld.com/5568](http://macworld.com/5568)).  
 ⚡⚡⚡⚡; \$40 per computer; BusyMac, [www.busymac.com](http://www.busymac.com)

### MetaLab Ballpark

Ballpark is a simple estimate and billing application that enables you to manage estimates, bills, and payments from the Web. It allows your customers to view, approve, and ask questions about estimates and invoices, and make payments through PayPal. While the program is beautifully designed and easy to use, it's missing key features that would help make it the killer small business

### Find It Online

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





and freelancer accounting application. It offers no reporting features, and there's no way to export transaction information to Apple's Numbers or Microsoft Excel or to import it into other business accounting applications. Though Ballpark makes billing easy, you'll still have to maintain duplicate accounting information in another app ([macworld.com/5569](http://macworld.com/5569)).

★★★★; plans vary, from free to \$99 per month; MetaLab, [www.metalab.com](http://www.metalab.com)



## Pagehand 1.0

Pagehand 1.0.6 has an elegant user interface that word processor rivals can't touch. The program's beauty is closely tied to its ease of use, but is also aristocratic in nature. The application is not meant for such menial tasks as creating indexes and outlines. In addition, you can't track changes or create footnotes, and the search tools are weak. What the program does excel at is handling lines, words, and even individual letters. If you like to have extensive control over kerning, or if you prefer to use ligatures (for example, æ instead of ae), Pagehand is hard to beat. Most of the program's controls are conveniently at hand in the sidebar or toolbar, rather than buried in dialog boxes. Pagehand's native format is PDF, and the program can import most popular word processing formats ([macworld.com/5434](http://macworld.com/5434)).

★★★★; \$50; Cocomot, [www.pagehand.com](http://www.pagehand.com)

# Top Products

YOUR GUIDE TO THE BEST HARDWARE WE'VE TESTED



## HARD DRIVES

Desktop

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE <sup>A</sup>	TYPE	FIND CODE <sup>B</sup>
<b>Professional Quad-Interface</b> (pictured); <a href="http://www.verbatim.com">www.verbatim.com</a>	★★★★	\$171 (1TB)	quad interface	<b>4963</b>
<b>Rocpro 850</b> <a href="http://www.rocstor.com">www.rocstor.com</a>	★★★★	\$155 (500GB)	quad interface	<b>5397</b>
<b>CalDigit VR Mini</b> <a href="http://www.caldigit.com">www.caldigit.com</a>	★★★★	\$664	quad interface	<b>5396</b>



## HARD DRIVES

Portable

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE <sup>A</sup>	TYPE	FIND CODE <sup>B</sup>
<b>Mercury On-the-Go</b> (pictured) <a href="http://www.macsales.com">www.macsales.com</a>	★★★★	\$102 (320GB)	quad interface	<b>4258</b>
<b>Starck Mobile Hard Drive</b> <a href="http://www.lacie.com">www.lacie.com</a>	★★★★	\$92	USB-only	<b>5608</b>
<b>G-RAID mini2 SSD</b> <a href="http://www.g-technology.com">www.g-technology.com</a>	★★★★	\$1,091	quad interface, SSD	<b>4766</b>



## MONITORS

Widescreen

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE <sup>A</sup>	TYPE	FIND CODE <sup>B</sup>
<b>324 LCD</b> (pictured) <a href="http://www.lacie.com">www.lacie.com</a>	★★★★	\$820	24-inch display	<b>3896</b>
<b>LP3065</b> <a href="http://www.hp.com">www.hp.com</a>	★★★★	\$1,276	30-inch display	<b>2509</b>
<b>LN40B650</b> <a href="http://www.samsung.com">www.samsung.com</a>	★★★★	\$1,098	40-inch display	<b>5607</b>



## PRINTERS

Laser

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE <sup>A</sup>	TYPE	FIND CODE <sup>B</sup>
<b>C544DN</b> (pictured) <a href="http://www.lexmark.com">www.lexmark.com</a>	★★★★	\$369	LED, color	<b>4356</b>
<b>C6150dn</b> <a href="http://www.okidata.com">www.okidata.com</a>	★★★★	\$806	LED, color	<b>3899</b>
<b>HL-4070CDW</b> <a href="http://www.brother-usa.com">www.brother-usa.com</a>	★★★★	\$486	PostScript-compatible	<b>3385</b>



## PRINTERS

Multifunction

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE <sup>A</sup>	TYPE	FIND CODE <sup>B</sup>
<b>Color LaserJet CM1312nfi</b> (pictured) <a href="http://www.hp.com">www.hp.com</a>	★★★★	\$359	laser	<b>5183</b>
<b>Artisan 800</b> <a href="http://www.epson.com">www.epson.com</a>	★★★★	\$174	laser	<b>5010</b>
<b>LaserJet M1319f</b> <a href="http://www.hp.com">www.hp.com</a>	★★★★	\$190	inkjet, monochrome	<b>5480</b>

<sup>A</sup>All prices are the best current prices taken from a PriceGrabber survey of retailers at press time. <sup>B</sup>In a browser's address field, typing a find code after [macworld.com](http://macworld.com) takes you to a product's review or overview.



# Business Center

NEWS AND ANALYSIS ABOUT  
MACS IN THE WORKPLACE



## Business Use of Twitter, Facebook Exploding

The use of social networking sites like Twitter ([www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)) and Facebook ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)) to promote businesses has exploded. People using Twitter to get the word out about their company, sales, and promotions jumped more than 250 percent from spring 2009, according to a study done by Palo Alto Networks, a maker of firewall technology. The number of companies using Facebook for such tasks grew by 192 percent. The report said workers are using social networks as promotional vehicles with and without the knowledge of their company's management.

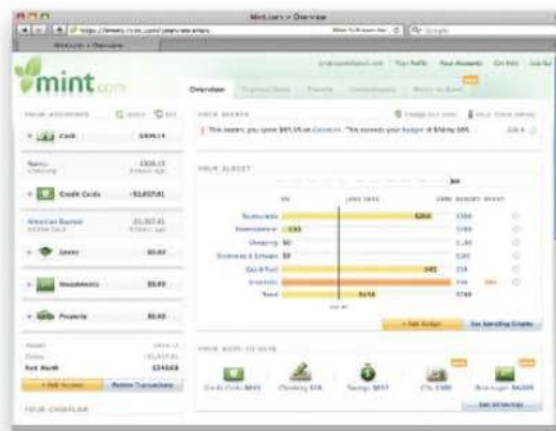
At the same time that social networking sites have seen dramatic upswings in usage, companies have moved to cut off access in the workplace. In October, a study commissioned by Robert Half Technology found that 54 percent of U.S. companies say they've banned workers from using social networking sites on the job. Executives may have good reason to do so. Nucleus Research, an IT research company, reported that companies that allow users to access Facebook lose an average of 1.5 percent in overall employee productivity.—**SHARON GAUDIN**

## Intuit Trades Quicken Online for Mint.com

When financial software maker Intuit acquired Mint.com last September, there was much speculation about what it would do with the online financial service. All too often, when a startup is acquired by a large, established company, the startup is allowed to wither. But now Intuit has announced plans to use Mint.com as a replacement for Quicken Online by late spring or summer 2010.

Quicken Online has 1.5 million registered users, slightly fewer than Mint.com's 1.7 million. But only 100,000 of Quicken's users log on each month, whereas Mint.com gets nearly 700,000.

As part of the acquisition, Intuit put Mint.com CEO Aaron Patzer in charge of its desktop software and online services. Patzer has already announced plans to enable Mint.com users to enter cash transactions and uncleared checks—two features Quicken Online had but Mint.com lacked.—**NICHOLAS BONSAK**



## Backblaze Opens Online Backup to Businesses

Backblaze ([www.backblaze.com](http://www.backblaze.com); [macworld.com/5451](http://macworld.com/5451)) has been providing an online backup service to Mac users since last April. Now the company is expanding that service to include business users, too.

Backblaze's primary selling point has been its ease of use: By default, it backs up all your data wherever it is on your Mac; it doesn't back up the operating system, your applications, or your system files. Backblaze for Business aims to retain that simple approach, while adding a few options specifically for businesses.

All data being backed up is automatically encrypted on the computer, sent over an encrypted connection, and stored in encrypted form. Backblaze servers are housed in secure data centers. Encryption keys are usually provided by Backblaze itself, but if a company wishes to supply its own, it can. Backblaze can provide reports on which computers were backed up, how much data is selected for backup, and when the most recent backup occurred, on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis.

Perhaps the most corporate-friendly feature is the price: Backblaze will back up each Mac in an office for \$50 a year.—**DAN MILLER**





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## IS APPLE WORKING ON A TV SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE?

Network deals could extend the usefulness of the Apple TV, iPhone

By Dan Moren

It would seem Hulu's not the only company that's reevaluating its strategies for making money on television content in the digital age. According to a report at All Things Digital, Apple has been floating a \$30 per month television subscription service to content owners.

According to Peter Kafka, "That's the pitch Apple has been making to TV networks in recent weeks. The company is trying to round up support for a monthly subscription service that would deliver TV programs via its multimedia software."

### Resistance to Change

Of course, content providers are notoriously resistant to change—doing a three-point turn on an African elephant would probably be faster. The entrenched business model has networks making lucrative deals with service providers like Comcast, Time Warner, and AT&T—deals they don't necessarily want to put in danger by making their content more widely available. Not to mention that the fees paid by advertisers, still a big chunk of network income, are based on viewer-ship ratings, which could take a hit if more viewers were to move to an ad-free model.

Television show episodes have been on sale at the iTunes Store since the fall of 2005, when a handful of ABC-owned shows debuted. But something tells me that sales have never been as strong as Apple would have liked. Apple doesn't regularly break out iTunes Store sales by content type, but sales of TV shows

almost certainly pale next to music sales (when was the last time you heard the company brag about how many TV episodes have been downloaded?). Buying television shows on an à la carte basis can be pretty expensive, depending on your consumption habits; and more to the point, *purchase* is not the default model for most television viewers—most people don't buy DVD box sets of every show they watch. Hence, the success of sites such as Hulu and Netflix, which offer streaming using ad-based or subscription models.

A deal with Apple does make some sense for the content vendors. When Apple launched music download sales, music piracy was rampant. Steve Jobs argued that iTunes was a way to compete with piracy, not an attempt to stamp it out. Instead, Apple would provide a superior product that people would be willing to pay money for—and

the strategy panned out, with Apple selling more than five billion songs. Television piracy may not be as common as music piracy was then, but it does exist and it's an extremely well-oiled and, more important, *quiet* machine. Distributing television episodes doesn't seem to incur nearly as much legal attention as music or feature film piracy. Still, there are places where TV piracy is vulnerable to a superior—and legitimate—product, and that's a niche that Apple can exploit.

### Room for Improvement

Despite gains made by sites like Netflix and Hulu, there is room in this market for Apple, as I've been arguing for more than three years. For one thing, it's got a huge base of existing customers—more than 100 million credit card-linked accounts, as All Things Digital points out. For another, it's got a foothold in the



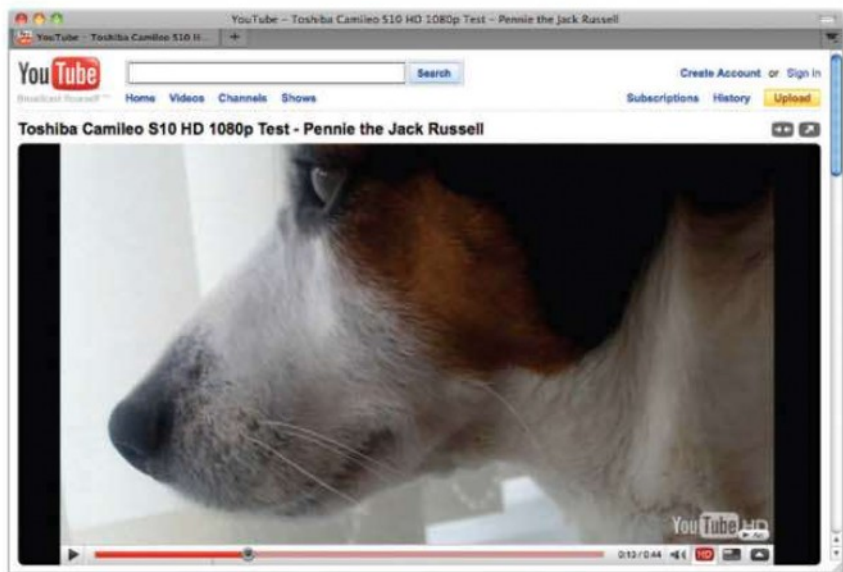
mobile space with the iPhone and iPod touch, a realm in which neither Netflix nor Hulu competes at present. Additionally, subscription television could be the killer app for the Apple TV, allowing some users to actually ditch their cable subscriptions and finally transforming Apple's hobby into a worthwhile commercial offering. Netflix has moved toward bringing its service to the living room by offering streaming via Roku's set-top boxes, some Blu-ray consoles, and game consoles like Microsoft's Xbox 360, but Hulu has taken pains to try and keep its content locked firmly to the Web.

Hurdles still remain, for both the business and for the technological angles. Live events such as sports and news don't really work in the current iTunes model, which would likely prevent lots of people from switching wholesale to an online distribution system. And then there's the question of how the model would work. Would it be an all-you-can-eat service, or would the television companies insist upon metering of some kind? And what about content from premium channels such as HBO and Showtime? If you wanted to purchase shows after watching them, what kinds of prices would you be looking at?

### Not a Done Deal

All Things Digital says that none of the content providers are currently onboard with the subscription plan, which Apple would reportedly like to launch sometime in 2010; but the technology news site also speculates that Disney, with its close ties to Jobs—who sits on the Walt Disney Company board of directors—could be the first to sign on.

As someone who actively follows a lot of television shows—well over a dozen—a \$30 flat fee would be an extremely attractive value proposition. But it's going to depend on the content that's available, the quality of the content, and the advantages Apple offers over services like Netflix and Hulu. So I put it to you, readers: Would you pay \$30 a month for television?



## YOUTUBE ADDS 1080P HD

By Ramu Nagappan

The world's most popular video-sharing site has begun offering content in all of its high-resolution glory. YouTube announced that it will allow users to upload and view video in full, 1080p (that's 1920 by 1080) HD. All of you viewers with fast computers and even faster broadband connections can now indulge in much more HD content.

It's been about a year since the Google-owned broadcaster made 720p video available. In that time, 1080p camcorders have become relatively common and more of YouTube's content has been uploaded as 1080p, though it wasn't viewable as such. The company plans to reencode all of this previously created material so that viewers will be able to take advantage of its original resolution.

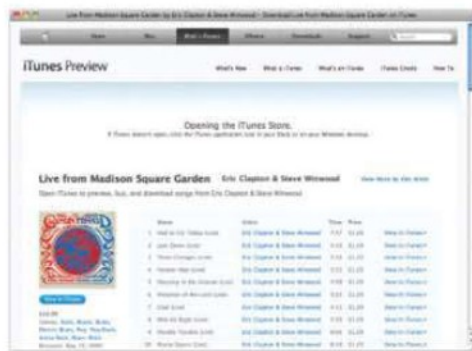
It's hard to believe that YouTube has only been around for a little over four years. It will not be the first video-sharing site to offer 1080p HD, but it will almost certainly be the one to bring it to the masses. Alternately derided and celebrated for homegrown blockbusters like "Charlie Bit My Finger," YouTube has recently become eager to present commercial content

and compete with the likes of Hulu, a joint venture of three major broadcast networks. Last spring, YouTube began to offer some premium content from Hollywood; the term *premium* is intended loosely, however, since the pickings have been slim. In September, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that YouTube was in serious talks with major film studios to stream movies on a rental basis.

The move to 1080p should support those initiatives. It's conceivable that YouTube could provide Blu-ray-quality streams for paid content. For regular folk, full HD will mean the chance to share those bloopers and family videos on a wall-size screen. Would-be auteurs should be aware that, for now, YouTube will still limit user-generated content to 10 minutes in length. It seems plausible, however, that the current 2GB file-size limit will get a lift, considering how monstrously large those 1080p videos will be.

Beware that playing 1080p videos requires a pretty hefty Internet connection (or a long wait for buffering), but you can also choose a 720p version of most videos if you're OK with settling for a little less.





## Apple Launches iTunes Preview

By Nicholas Bonsack

iTunes. You know it. I know it. Whether we love it for the things it does or hate it for how bloated it has become, we all have some sort of a relationship with it.

So what happens when you send a link to a song or album from the iTunes Store to somebody who doesn't have or even *want* iTunes? Well, the person used to be whisked away to a magical page that kindly implored him or her to install this wonderful, free software called (yes) iTunes. That no doubt made your hypothetical iTunes-hating buddy unhappy.

But not anymore. Apple has quietly launched iTunes Preview, a feature that shows the music that's available on iTunes from the convenience of your Web browser. iTunes Preview lets anyone browse through the entire iTunes catalog of music, info, and user reviews for any country.

You can access iTunes Preview in one of two ways: through iTunes Charts on Apple's Website or automatically through any link generated from the iTunes Store's Copy Link feature.

Unfortunately, it's still not possible to listen to previews outside of iTunes. That makes iTunes Preview's name a bit of a misnomer, but it's certainly more marketable than, say, iTunes Tease. Just in case you forget, there's a giant ad on top of the page to remind you that you must install iTunes to sample and purchase music.

For now, the preview feature works only with music, but movies, TV shows, and the App Store could be next in line.

## Picking an HDTV

HDTVs are more attractive than ever, thanks to new lower prices. Now is a great time to upgrade your old TV, and a new HDTV goes great with your Apple TV. You can even connect your Mac laptop to an HDTV with the proper adapter. And you'll definitely need an HDTV if you're planning on buying a new Blu-ray set-top player for your entertainment center.

To help you make the right buying decision, our lab has been hard at work testing HDTVs ranging in size from 40 inches to 52 inches. We compared image quality, usability, audio quality, and features. For the complete results of the 16 HDTVs we tested, go to [macworld.com/5560](http://macworld.com/5560).



PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE	DESCRIPTION
<b>Insignia NS-L42X-10A</b>	★★	\$750	The Insignia NS-L42X-10A 42-inch HDTV has lots of features and a tempting low price, but it also has poor image and audio quality.
<b>Insignia NS-LCD52HD-09</b>	★★★	\$1000	If you're on a tight budget but want a TV that's larger than 50 inches, consider the Insignia NS-LCD52HD-09.
<b>JVC LT-46J300</b>	★★	\$1500	At this price, the LT-46J300 will look very attractive. But there are other HDTVs that produce better image quality at a similar price.
<b>LG Electronics 42LH50</b>	★★★★	\$1100	The LG 42LH50 42-inch HDTV provides great connected features, above-average image quality, and good looks for a moderate price.
<b>LG Electronics 42LH55</b>	★★★★½	\$1100	The LG 42LH55 42-inch HDTV provides great connectivity features, above-average image quality, and good looks for a moderate price.
<b>Panasonic Viera TC-P42X1</b>	★★★	\$750	A 720p plasma HDTV, the low-cost 42-inch Panasonic TC-P42X1 produces problematic images and underpowered sound.
<b>Panasonic Viera TC-P46S1</b>	★★★★½	\$1300	The Panasonic TC-P46S1 would be a bargain 46-inch plasma HDTV if its image quality weren't so disappointing.
<b>Panasonic Viera TH-50PZ850U</b>	★★★★½	\$1700	The Panasonic Viera TH-50PZ850U has fantastic extras, but only average picture quality for a 50-inch plasma HDTV.
<b>Samsung LN40B650</b>	★★★★½	\$1200	Thanks to its very good picture quality, Internet and home-network entertainment features, and general user-friendliness, the Samsung LN40B650 ranks as one of the best HDTVs we've tested this year.
<b>Samsung LN46B750</b>	★★★★	\$2200	Samsung's 46-inch LN46B750 packages very good picture quality, excellent sound, YouTube viewing, Yahoo Widgets, and the ability to play media files from USB storage, all in one HDTV.
<b>Sony Bravia KDL-40W5100</b>	★★★★	\$1100	Sony's Bravia KDL-40W5100 is a very good 40-inch HDTV and an excellent Internet viewing device.
<b>Toshiba 47ZV650U</b>	★★★★½	\$1700	Toshiba's 47ZV650U is a pleasant-looking 47-inch HDTV that delivers a more than acceptable viewing experience, but its rough edges need smoothing, and it's short on extras.
<b>Vizio SV420M</b>	★★★★½	\$1100	The Vizio SV420M 42-inch HDTV offers lots of customization options and average video quality, at a midrange price.
<b>Vizio SV421XVT</b>	★★★	\$1200	Vizio's SV421XVT HDTV has a 42-inch screen, a 240Hz refresh rate, and multimedia playback from USB drives. But poorly rendered detail and color, plus problems with digital artifacts, mar the viewing experience.
<b>Vizio SV471XVT</b>	★★★	\$1500	While an estimated street price of \$1200 sounds good for a 47-inch, 240Hz LCD HDTV, especially one with multimedia capabilities and a terrific remote, the Vizio SV471XVT's major compromise is its image quality.
<b>Vizio VO420E</b>	★★★	\$750	The no-frills Vizio VO420E 42-inch HDTV is attractively priced, but you'll have to settle for subpar image quality and mediocre audio.



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# Reviews

HOME ENTERTAINMENT HARDWARE,  
SOFTWARE, AND ACCESSORIES



## HARDWARE

### Sonos ZonePlayer S5 ▴

For \$399, the ZonePlayer S5 gives you good sound with plenty of volume and easy access to all the music you wish to deliver to it. However, the requirement of a direct network connection (or a Zone-Bridge) may not be convenient for people who don't already have a Sonos system. And not everyone will care for the S5's single-cabinet sound. For current Sonos system owners, it's an obvious and welcome add-on, however. As with other Sonos ZonePlayers, the S5 offers no way to control playback. Rather, you use the free Sonos Desktop Controller application on your Mac, a Sonos hardware remote such as the Sonos Controller 200, or the free Sonos Controller for iPhone app. Via any of these controllers, you can use the ZonePlayer S5 to play music streamed from your music library as well as Internet radio and content from such services as Pandora, Last.fm, Napster, Rhapsody, and Sirius ([macworld.com/5494](http://macworld.com/5494)).

★★★★; \$399; Sonos, [www.sonos.com](http://www.sonos.com)

### Cygnett Groove-Platinum ▴

A stylish and above all affordable alternative to Apple's own iconic earphones, Cygnett's GroovePlatinum earphones are a worthy option, particularly for the budget-minded. Sound reproduction is fair to good, which probably reflects the competitive pricing, and for everyday use the quality is just fine. The GroovePlatinum earphones come with a selection of ear tips



in three sizes that cup the bits that go in your ears. You may not find a perfect fit, but it'll be close. The ear tips also help block out some extraneous noise that might spoil your listening experience ([macworld.com/5561](http://macworld.com/5561)).

★★★★; \$20; Cygnett, [www.cygnett.com](http://www.cygnett.com)

### Cygnett

#### Maestro ▴

Average looks aside, the Maestro produces decent audio reproduction from an iPod speaker that won't offend the ears, or, for that matter, the eyes. Sweet sounding and solid, with a neat and simple remote control, the Maestro works well with a wealth of musical styles, without really ever excelling at any. A good range of additional iPod connectors is included along with an auxiliary input for MP3 players and the like. Like most docks, the unit charges your iPod or iPhone when in use, and the speaker will mute if and when a call comes in. And the ability to operate it off batteries gives you some



room to roam ([macworld.com/5562](http://macworld.com/5562)).

★★★★; \$190; Cygnett, [www.cygnett.com](http://www.cygnett.com)



### Crystal Audio Video SSB-1 Surround-Sound Bar ▴

At first glance, the SSB-1 looks like a fairly ordinary iPod speaker system, but there's a lot more to it. The SSB-1 is actually a sound bar—a speaker system that attempts to create a virtual surround-sound effect without involving a complex surround-sound speaker setup with multiple speakers and yards of ugly cabling strewn across the floor. The SSB-1 produces a clean, powerful sound, and the dock and multiple inputs allow you to use it with an iPod, a TV, and other devices. Unfortunately, the virtual surround-sound option doesn't really live up to its billing ([macworld.com/5563](http://macworld.com/5563)).

★★★★; \$259; Crystal Audio Video, [www.crystalaudiovideo.com](http://www.crystalaudiovideo.com)

## iPods: Current Lineup

PRODUCT	SPECS	RATING	PRICE <sup>a</sup>	DISPLAY	PERFORMANCE	FIND CODE <sup>b</sup>
<b>iPod Classic</b>	160GB	★★★★	\$249	2.5-inch color	36 hours of music playback; 6 hours of video playback	5262
<b>iPod Touch</b>	8GB	★★★★	\$199	3.5-inch color	36 hours of music playback; 6 hours of video playback	3864
	32GB	★★★★	\$299	3.5-inch color	36 hours of music playback; 6 hours of video playback	5257
	64GB	★★★★	\$399	3.5-inch color	36 hours of music playback; 6 hours of video playback	5258
<b>iPod Nano</b>	8GB	★★★★	\$149	2.2-inch color	24 hours of music playback; 5 hours of video playback	3867
	16GB	★★★★	\$179	2.2-inch color	24 hours of music playback; 5 hours of video playback	3868
<b>iPod Shuffle</b>	2GB	★★★★	\$59	none	10 hours of music playback	5267
	4GB	★★★★	\$79	none	10 hours of music playback	5268

<sup>a</sup>All prices are Apple's prices. <sup>b</sup>In a browser's address field, typing a find code after [macworld.com/](http://macworld.com/) takes you to a product's review or overview.





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# Macworld Hot Stuff

WHAT WE'RE RAVING ABOUT THIS MONTH

## B&W MM-1

High-end audio vendor Bowers & Wilkins—maker of the Zeppelin and Zeppelin Mini iPod speaker systems—has now entered the computer-speaker market with the MM-1. The system includes a built-in digital-to-analog converter and connects to your computer via USB for improved performance. (It comes with an analog-audio input as well.) The MM-1 also includes digital signal processing (DSP) to optimize audio output for the system's small speakers—the company says that the MM-1 can provide a full range of sound without a subwoofer. The MM-1's remote, similar to the one included with the Zeppelin, controls the speaker system's volume, as well as playback in iTunes on your computer. The MM-1 also includes a headphone jack that takes advantage of the system's DSP to improve audio quality. Pricing wasn't set at press time, but the MM-1 should be shipping by the time you read this ([www.bowers-wilkins.com](http://www.bowers-wilkins.com)).—DAN FRAKES



## Denon DSP-200USB

Converting old records to digital music files can be a onerous undertaking. If you're one of the many people out there still hoping to bring your vinyl into the digital age, the process just got a little easier thanks to Denon's \$250 DSP-200USB. You just plug a thumb drive into the USB port on the front of the DSP-200USB and play your LP; the turntable automatically records the audio in 192 Kbps MP3 format to the thumb drive. Once you transfer those files to your Mac, you'll still need some software to split them into individual tracks and assign metadata, but that's relatively easy by comparison. The DSP-200USB also provides traditional RCA audio outputs, with switchable RIAA equalization, for connecting the turntable to any home stereo ([www.usa.denon.com](http://www.usa.denon.com)).—DAN FRAKES



## The Beatles Limited Edition USB Stick

Apple Corps (that's the other Apple) and EMI Music have released a limited-edition package that delivers 320 Kbps MP3 and 16.1KHz 24-bit FLAC versions of the Fab Four's remastered 14-album stereo catalog on a USB drive. The \$280 USB version includes the same extras as the CD box, but all on a USB thumb drive in a green apple-shaped holder. The set was released on December 8 on The Beatles' official Website, but the 30,000 sets may be gone by the time you read this. eBay, anyone ([www.thebeatles.com](http://www.thebeatles.com))?—LEX FRIEDMAN

## Dexim MHub Dock Station

Dexim's \$55 MHub Dock Station combines an iPod/iPhone dock, a memory-card reader, and a USB hub into a single, streamlined connection center. The MHub is first and foremost a slim, aluminum-body iPod and iPhone dock that works even if your player is in a protective case. But the left side hosts an SD/HCSD/MMC card reader and a mini-USB port (for connecting the MHub to your Mac), and the right side gives you two standard USB ports. Dexim also includes a USB AC adapter with two ports ([www.dexim.net](http://www.dexim.net)).—DAN FRAKES



## INCIPIO 1337 GAMING CASE FOR IPOD TOUCH

Apple's iPod touch may be a great handheld gaming device, but it doesn't *feel* like a handheld gaming device. Incipio's \$20 1337 LEET case remedies this oversight while providing some good protection for your iPod touch. The case uses a chunky, molded design—similar to a controller for an Xbox or Playstation—for a better grip and to make holding the iPod more comfortable during marathon gaming sessions ([www.myincipio.com](http://www.myincipio.com)).—DAN FRAKES





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## iHome: App-Enhanced Speaker Dock

*iHome+ Sleep*, a FREE app for the iPhone / iPod touch, is designed specially to work with iHome's iA5 speaker dock. This duo offers innovations that include unique integration with Facebook and Twitter, personal sleep stats, weather forecast and the ability to configure the clock, alarms and EQ from a user friendly touchscreen interface.

[www.ihomeaudio.com/apps](http://www.ihomeaudio.com/apps)





## FREE YOUR IMAGES FROM iPHOTO'S CLUTCHES

Store files outside of iPhoto's database to stay in control and share with other programs

By Derrick Story

**T**he approach iPhoto takes to storing images feels a little like the photography version of the Eagles' "Hotel California": Your pictures check in, but they can never leave. That's fine for the most part; but it can be frustrating if you want to take advantage of programs such as Aperture (🔗; [macworld.com/3415](http://macworld.com/3415)) or Photoshop Lightroom (🔗; [macworld.com/3873](http://macworld.com/3873)).

The good news is that you can enjoy the benefits of iPhoto and have some flexibility, too. The secret is to create a *referenced library*. This means that instead of importing all of your master images into iPhoto, you simply "point" iPhoto to where those originals live.

This approach makes it possible to also work with other programs that use a nondestructive workflow, such as Aperture or Lightroom. Since these programs don't actually apply changes to the image file, you don't have to worry about overwriting your original set of pictures—even if the apps are all pointing to the same set of shots. (I don't recommend using this approach with Photoshop or other destructive editors, as you run the risk of altering your original image irrevocably.)

The referenced-library approach is very flexible and perfectly suited for people who shoot in Raw mode and have to manage large files. Here's how you set it up.

### Creating Your Referenced Library

First, decide where your image files are going to live. A good option is an external hard drive, as this allows your collection to grow without clogging up your Mac's internal storage space.



**Work Untethered** You can work with your iPhoto library even when your master library is disconnected. If you try to edit an image, iPhoto will prompt you to reconnect your hard drive.

Although not mandatory, I recommend that you also give yourself a clean slate in iPhoto by creating a new iPhoto Library file. (Your iPhoto library is just a database that tracks all of your photos and the information that accompanies them, including edits, ratings, and keywords.) Mixing external referenced shots with those stored within iPhoto can lead to problems: At some point you'll become confused by what lives where.

To create a new library, hold down the Option key when you launch iPhoto. In the dialog box that appears, click Create New, and then give your new library a name such as 'iPhoto Referenced Library 09.' Next, navigate to where you want it to live and click OK. Your iPhoto library doesn't have to live in the same

location as your photos. For example, I keep all of my iPhoto libraries in the Pictures folder within my user folder, while my photos sit on an external hard drive. This way I can access my iPhoto libraries even when the external drive isn't connected. (Referenced libraries allow you to see your thumbnails and image data even if the drive containing the masters isn't connected.)

You should now have an empty iPhoto library ready to fill with photos. To switch iPhoto to referenced-library mode, choose Preferences from the iPhoto menu, select the Advanced tab, and uncheck the box next to the Copy Items To The iPhoto Library option. This tells iPhoto to reference imported images instead of copying them.



**Reference Items** Turn off the Copy Items To The iPhoto Library option.

### Adding Photos to iPhoto

To use iPhoto with a referenced library, you'll need to learn some new habits—specifically, how you transfer photos from your camera. Typically, iPhoto pops up when you plug in your camera and offers to import photos for you. Don't accept its offer. iPhoto will ignore your stated preference and will instead copy the new images to its database.

To keep your photos free, you'll need to first move the files from your camera to the hard drive where you keep your photos, and *then* import them into iPhoto. The simplest way to do this is to use a card reader, which lets you drag and drop the photos where you want them. If you just want to move a few of the images, or if you want to preview the files before you download them, use Image Capture, which is located in your Applications folder.

To keep things organized, I recommend creating a new folder on the hard drive for each shoot you download. Label the folders so that you can tell at a glance what's in each of them. I use a *mm-yy* format with a short descriptive name, such as '10-09 NY Street Shoot.' As a bonus, when you import these labeled folders of images into iPhoto, it will use the folder names to describe each Event, so iPhoto and the folders on your master hard drive will be in sync.

To import photos from your hard drive into iPhoto, choose File ► Import To Library. The process will appear the same as always, with one important exception: Instead of copying the original files to the iPhoto Library

database, iPhoto will create an alias for each photo. The result is a much slimmer library.

### Working without the Master Drive Connected

Because iPhoto creates thumbnails of every referenced file, you can still view smaller, low-

resolution versions of your pictures in iPhoto even if the hard drive with your master images isn't connected. This is helpful if you're a laptop owner and you want to see the photos in your iPhoto library even when you're away from your external hard drive. In fact, you can add descriptions, assign ratings, and even organize albums—all with the master drive disconnected. What you can't do is edit the pictures. If you try, iPhoto will warn you that the master file can't be located, and ask you if you want to find it. Simply connect your hard drive, and edit to your heart's content.

### Pointing Other Applications to Your Photos

Another benefit of this approach is that you can point Aperture or Lightroom to this same hard drive of photos. In Aperture, just make sure you choose Store Files In Their Current Location from the Import menu. In Lightroom, choose File ► Import Photos From Disk, then choose Add Photos To Catalog Without Moving.

If you want, you can have all three applications open at once and working off the same set of masters. The metadata you create (ratings, keywords, and so on) will be stored within each application. So if you give an image a three-star rating in iPhoto, but give it four stars in Lightroom, it'll retain the different ratings in each program.

Senior Contributor **Derrick Story** teaches iPhoto on Lynda.com and runs a virtual camera club at [thedigitalstory.com](http://thedigitalstory.com).

## Are Your Photos Being Pilfered?

By Dave Johnson

Recently, a friend congratulated me for selling one of my wildlife photos. He then sent me a link to a site that was prominently using a shot I had taken of some wolves. The problem? I had never given the site owners permission to use my photo. If you're worried about this happening to you, you can watermark your photos with your name. But there's also a way to find your photos online to see if they're being used inappropriately.



### Reverse Image Search

One option is to perform a reverse image search by using a tool such as TinEye ([tinEye.com](http://tinEye.com)). This smart search engine searches for images that contain content that's identical to that in the original image, rather than keying on filenames or metadata, which can easily be changed.

To use TinEye, upload a photo from your computer or point the site to a Web page that already hosts the photo. TinEye then returns a list of sites that use the same image.

TinEye is far from perfect. It often identifies photos that are similar to—but not exactly the same as—the source image. And TinEye's database of photos represents only a fraction of what's available on the entire Internet—so if you get zero results, that doesn't necessarily mean your photo isn't being repurposed out there somewhere.

### Stay Vigilant

The moral of the story? While there are a few tricks you can use to deter would-be thieves and track down offenders, there's no perfect solution. Except don't post anything you aren't willing to give away.



# PAINT PHOTOS WITH LIGHT

By Amit Gupta and Kelly Jensen

**N**ormally, when you take a photo, the shutter opens for a fraction of a second, light hits the image sensor, and the moment is frozen as a photograph. Light painting is different. With light painting, you take your photographs in darkness, leaving the shutter open for long periods, and then manipulate points or beams of light in front of the lens. Light paintings can take minutes or even hours. Such a long exposure allows you to use flashlights and other sources of light to “paint” in midair and pick out objects that you want to appear in the photograph.

This technique will open a whole new avenue of artistry in your photography.

## Step 1

Gather up all the lights you can get your grubby little mitts on.

## Step 2

Suit up in stealthy black and find an empty area with very little light. If necessary, set up the camera and tripod against a wall to block background light.

## Step 3

With the camera and tripod in position, zoom out as far as possible and set the ISO to the lowest setting possible and the aperture to the highest setting (usually  $f/22$ ). This will ensure that your camera sensor captures as little light as possible, decreasing interference from background or unwanted light sources.

### The Book

This article is an excerpt from the book, *Photojojo! Insanely Great Photo Projects and DIY Ideas* (2009), reprinted with permission from Potter Craft.



## Step 4

Next you need to figure out an appropriate shutter speed. This will vary depending on the brightness of the lights you'll use, how dark it is outside, and your ISO and aperture settings.

First, turn on your flashlight and stuff it in your pocket—it'll be hard to find the on switch in the dark once the exposure starts. Then set your shutter speed somewhere between two and four seconds and click your shutter. Quickly get about five feet in front of your camera, turn around to face the lens, and use the flashlight to sign your name in midair as if the flashlight were a pen. Repeat, retracing your signature in the same spot, until the shutter closes. Be sure to sign your name backwards (or reverse the image later). Check out the result on your camera's LCD and then repeat at longer and longer shutter speeds until you get the effect you want.

For longer shutter speeds, see if your camera has a bulb setting (some point-and-shoot cameras only offer a night setting). Bulb mode means the shutter will stay open as long as you have the shutter button pressed (or

until you press it again). A remote shutter trigger is useful in this case.

## Step 5

To focus the camera, use the manual setting. Your camera will have a tough time autofocusing in pitch-black. If you're using autofocus, shine a flashlight on the object you want to focus on, half-press your shutter to lock in the focus, and then switch to manual focus so the focus won't change. If it's really dark, tape a tiny light to the top of your camera so that you can always see where it is in relation to where you're standing.

## Step 6

Make a mental note of the edges of your scene so your paintings won't get cut off. Activate the shutter, get in front of the lens, and paint!

Don't be afraid to get close to the camera. You can achieve some interesting effects by waving a light quickly right in front of the lens. If you can get your hands on a powerful spotlight, use it to light up larger and more distant objects (a portion of a building or even a bridge).

Remember, it's all experimentation.



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# Reviews

HARDWARE, SOFTWARE, AND ACCESSORIES  
FOR MAKING AND MANAGING PHOTOGRAPHS



## HARDWARE

### Pentax K2000 △

Priced affordably with a kit that includes two lenses, Pentax's 10.2-megapixel SLR is a good deal. And the K2000's image quality bests that of many competing SLRs in color accuracy and exposure quality. However, the camera's poky, virtually uncontrollable focusing system is a major turnoff, and its performance at high ISO settings (starting as low as ISO 400) was unimpressive—making it difficult to recommend the K2000 wholeheartedly ([macworld.com/5572](http://macworld.com/5572)).—KATHLEEN CULLEN  
★★★½; \$600 with 18–55mm and 50–200mm lens kit; Pentax, [pentaximaging.com](http://pentaximaging.com)

### Toshiba DMF82X

This 8-inch digital frame is chic and offers some useful wireless features—such as the ability to access online content from RSS feeds, Facebook, and photo-sharing sites. And its media card slots combined with 1GB of internal storage mean that you can store plenty of photos and videos. Unfortunately, its ease of operation leaves a lot to be desired, mostly due to the clunky hieroglyphics of the icons on its main menu and the frame's slow response to commands. Most modes have limited options; in the music and slideshow mode, for example, you can't alter the volume



or otherwise control the music ([macworld.com/5573](http://macworld.com/5573)).—KATHLEEN CULLEN  
★★★½; \$180; Toshiba, [tsc.toshiba.com](http://tsc.toshiba.com)

### Transcend PF720 ▷

Although relatively small, Transcend's digital picture frame is versatile: It's also an FM radio, a video player, an alarm clock, and an MP3 player. The frame's 800-by-480-pixel screen looks crisp and serves up photos with natural-looking color, without the blue or green tint seen on so many other digital frames. With 2GB of internal memory—as well as a USB port and a variety of memory card

slots—the frame makes it easy to amass a media collection. It lacks Wi-Fi, but at this price, you probably won't care ([macworld.com/5574](http://macworld.com/5574)).—KATHLEEN CULLEN  
★★★½; \$89; Transcend, [www.transcendusa.com](http://www.transcendusa.com)



## Top Products YOUR GUIDE TO THE BEST HARDWARE WE'VE TESTED



### DIGITAL CAMERAS SLR

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE <sup>A</sup>	TYPE	FIND CODE <sup>B</sup>
<b>D90</b> (pictured) <a href="http://www.nikon.com">www.nikon.com</a>	★★★★	\$1069	12.3-megapixel	<b>4966</b>
<b>EOS Rebel XSi</b> <a href="http://www.canon.com">www.canon.com</a>	★★★★½	\$554	12-megapixel	<b>3898</b>
<b>E-30</b> <a href="http://www.olympusamerica.com">www.olympusamerica.com</a>	★★★★½	\$995	12.3-megapixel	<b>4453</b>



### DIGITAL CAMERAS Point-and-Shoot

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE <sup>A</sup>	TYPE	FIND CODE <sup>B</sup>
<b>Exilim Zoom EX-Z250</b> (pictured) <a href="http://www.casio.com">www.casio.com</a>	★★★★	\$233	9.1-megapixel	<b>4256</b>
<b>Lumix DMC-GF1</b> <a href="http://www.panasonic.com">www.panasonic.com</a>	★★★★	\$897	12.1-megapixel	<b>5598</b>



### PRINTERS Inkjet

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE <sup>A</sup>	TYPE	FIND CODE <sup>B</sup>
<b>PictureMate Dash PM 260</b> (pictured) <a href="http://www.epson.com">www.epson.com</a>	★★★★	\$170	snapshot, photo	<b>5609</b>
<b>Photosmart Premium Touchsmart</b> <a href="http://www.hp.com">www.hp.com</a>	★★★★	\$140	multifunction	<b>5625</b>
<b>Stylus Photo R1900</b> <a href="http://www.epson.com">www.epson.com</a>	★★★★½	\$434	professional photo quality	<b>3649</b>

<sup>A</sup> All prices are the best current prices taken from a PriceGrabber survey of retailers at press time. <sup>B</sup> In a browser's address field, typing a find code after [macworld.com](http://macworld.com) takes you to a product's review or overview.

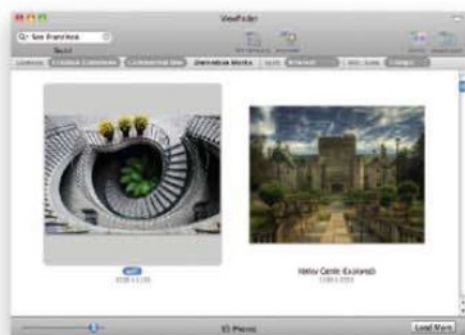


# Macworld Hot Stuff

WHAT WE'RE RAVING ABOUT THIS MONTH

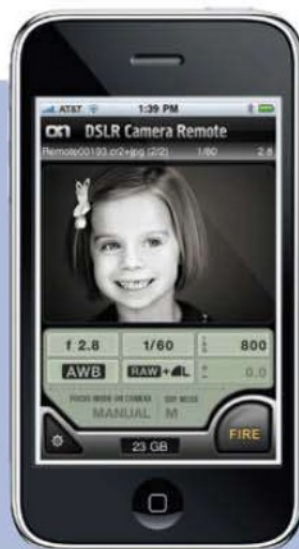
## Viewfinder

Connected Flow's newly released Viewfinder 1.0 aims to make searching Flickr as friendly as—if not friendlier than—searching your own Mac. Just pop a keyword into this £15 program, and you'll get thumbnails of the results. But the program's real power comes from the ability to limit your search—most importantly, by the photo's license. You can specify Creative Commons, photos licensed for commercial use, and those that allow derivative works (or some combination of the three). If you're looking for images of a particular size, Viewfinder lets you do that, too. The combination of those two features makes this a perfect tool for people who are, say, looking for cute cat photos to *legally* insert into their blog posts. When you've found your picture, Viewfinder not only downloads it, but also lets you copy useful information, such as a preformatted attribution string, the Flickr URL (in full or shortened forms), or a link to the full-size image ([connectedflow.com](http://connectedflow.com)).—**DAN MOREN**



## DSLR Camera Remote

Having one eye glued to a viewfinder can stifle your creativity. If you're shooting with a Canon or Nikon SLR, DSLR Camera Remote by onOne Software gives you the additional freedom you need to move around, take self-portraits, or place your camera in unusual positions. The iPhone app comes in two flavors: With the \$2 lite version you can remotely trigger the shutter and see an instant preview of the picture. The \$20 pro version lets you control advanced camera settings, such as shutter speed and aperture, as well as see a live preview of what's on your camera's viewfinder. Check that your camera is supported before purchasing ([www.ononesoftware.com](http://www.ononesoftware.com)).—**HEATHER KELLY**



## iMo Foto Frame

With more and more of us trying to figure out what to do with all of the photos sitting on our computers, digital photo frames are becoming an increasingly popular solution. But why settle for a mere frame when you can have a printer, too? The \$230 iMo Foto Frame not only displays photos on its 8-inch (800-by-600-pixel) screen, it also prints glossy 4-by-6-inch prints at 300 dpi. The iMo Foto Frame Printer doesn't plug into your Mac. Instead, it offers a variety of media card slots (you'll need an adapter for MemoryStick and SDHC cards) and a USB port for connecting your camera ([www.mimomonitors.com](http://www.mimomonitors.com)).—**KELLY TURNER**



## PsykoPaint

To others it may just be a photo, but to you it's a work of art. So treat it like one. PsykoPaint is a free online painting tool that lets you turn any photo into a digital masterpiece. Upload a photo and then select your brush parameters (or choose from a number of presets based on famous painters). As you paint, the colors under your brush will splatter and swirl to match your stroke. I only wish it saved high-resolution files; the resulting files are best suited for sharing online ([www.psykopaint.com](http://www.psykopaint.com)).—**KELLY TURNER**



## SHUTTERCAL

Looking for a New Year's resolution? Why not start a 365 photo project and snap one photo every day of 2010. For an interesting way to track your progress, check out ShutterCal.com. Sign up for a free account, and the site will display your photos in a calendar interface. You can then order printed packs of the photos, which include each photo's date and description. A pack of one month's photos costs \$13 to \$15, depending on how many packs you purchase ([shuttercal.com](http://shuttercal.com)).—**KELLY TURNER**





## CREATE A FAVICON FOR YOUR WEBSITE

Make your Website complete with a custom browser icon

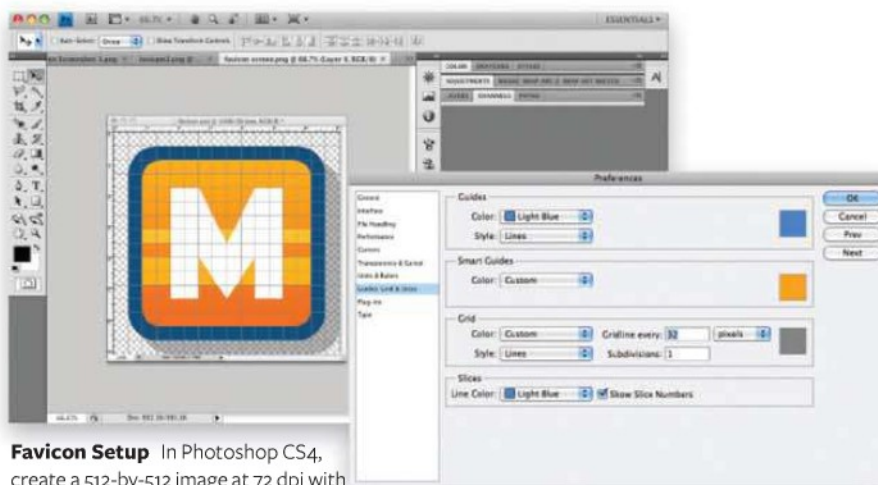
By Chris McVeigh

**G**o to any major Website, and you'll almost certainly see an icon to the left of the site's address in your browser's address bar. This tiny image is called a favicon (Favorites Icon), and with a little effort, you can create one too.

At just 16 by 16 pixels in size, favicons can be a challenge to design. You'll need to use something simple and iconic—like the first letter of your name or a single graphic element. You can create a favicon with just about any image editor, but for this example, we'll use Adobe Photoshop CS4. We'll generate a favicon in the .png format, which allows full-color icons with antialiased edges. Though favicons can be larger than a 16-by-16-pixel square for use in bookmark lists and RSS feeds, here we'll focus on the one that appears in your browser's address field.

**Design the Icon** Start with a large file and then scale it down to 16 by 16 pixels. In Photoshop, choose File ▶ New and then enter a pixel dimension of 512 by 512 at 72 pixels per inch and with a transparent background. Click OK to create the file, and then choose Photoshop ▶ Preferences ▶ Guides, Grid & Slices. Move down to the Grid section and set a grid line to appear every 32 pixels, with one subdivision. Click OK and then choose View ▶ Show ▶ Grid. You'll now see a blank image file overlaid with a 16-by-16-pixel grid.

Keep the design simple and stick to the grid lines. Edges that don't adhere to the grid will end up looking indistinct. After you've completed your design, duplicate the file (as a precaution) and open the copy in Photoshop. Choose Image ▶ Image Size, and then enter a size of 16 by 16 pixels. At the bottom, you'll see a pop-up menu; choose Bilinear and click OK. You should now see your favicon at its proper size.



**Favicon Setup** In Photoshop CS4, create a 512-by-512 image at 72 dpi with a transparent background. Then set grid lines to appear every 32 pixels with one subdivision.

**Export the Icon** Most Mac and Windows browsers support full-color favicons in .png format; but to also accommodate recent versions of Internet Explorer for Windows viewers, you need to save the favicon in the original .ico format. A free Photoshop plug-in ([macworld.com/5555](http://macworld.com/5555)) lets you do so within the program. Download it, drop it into the plug-ins folder, and then relaunch the application. Now open your icon, choose File ▶ Save (or Save As) and then choose ICO (Windows Icon) from the Preset pop-up menu. Enter 'favicon.ico' as the file name and click Save. You'll be asked to choose an icon format; for maximum compatibility, select Standard ICO.

**Upload the Icon** Launch your FTP program and locate your Website's root directory, which is typically where you find your home page (home.html, index.html, or index.shtml). Upload the favicon.ico file to this directory, and then visit your home page with your Web browser. To make absolutely sure that your favicon shows up, you can also add the following

code to the head section of your page:

```
<link rel="icon" href="favicon
.ico" type="image/x-icon">
<link rel="shortcut icon"
href="favicon.ico" type="image/
x-icon">
```

While this sequence is fairly universal, there are various server configurations and browsers that may prevent a favicon from appearing, such as home page redirects or Web server setups that don't let you access the root folder. Contact your ISP for further instructions.

**Online Icon Creation** For people not comfortable using image editors, a number of online resources will create a favicon from your uploaded images: Favicon.ico Generator ([macworld.com/5552](http://macworld.com/5552)), FavIcon from Pics ([macworld.com/5553](http://macworld.com/5553)), Favicon Generator ([macworld.com/5554](http://macworld.com/5554)), and others.

Favicons are valuable bits of eye candy that add a subtle polish to any Website.

**Chris McVeigh** is an author, illustrator, and photographer based in Halifax, Nova Scotia.



## ORGANIZE YOUR iMOVIE VIDEO LIBRARY

By Jeff Carlson

One of my favorite features in iMovie '09 is the ability to see all stored footage in iMovie's Event Library; versions prior to iMovie '08 revealed only video for each project.

The downside is that I see *all* my footage, even clips I know I'll never use. To deal with the glut of accumulated video, iMovie includes features for marking favorite footage, rejecting (and hiding) sections, and applying keywords.

**Mark Video as Favorite or Rejected** Do the following to highlight

the best (or hide the worst) clips. In the Event browser, drag to select a range of video in a clip. Next, click the Mark Selection As Favorite button on the toolbar, or press the F key; a green bar appears at the top of the selected footage. To hide footage, click the Reject Selection button on the toolbar, or press R; that section will then be hidden. The Unmark Selection button removes any marking. You can also mark footage by using iMovie's advanced tools. In the General pane of iMovie's preferences,

enable the Show Advanced Tools option. Now, clicking the Favorite Tool lets you drag over a range of video to mark it as a favorite in one pass, so you can quickly mark multiple clips as favorites.

After marking your footage, use the Show pop-up menu to determine what appears. By default, the Favorites And Unmarked option, which hides rejected clips, is enabled. When assembling your movie, choose Favorites Only to view the good footage. If you rejected a clip you want to use, choose the All Clips option to reveal rejected clips, which are marked with a red bar, or choose Rejected Only to hide all but rejected clips.

**Assign Keywords** To further organize your footage, assign keywords to clips. (This feature is available only when Show Advanced Tools is enabled.) Click the Keyword Tool on the toolbar, or press K, to display the Keywords window.

Enable the keywords you want to apply in the list, then drag over your footage to apply them. You can also create your own keywords in the New Keyword field at the bottom of the window.

To view clips with keywords applied, click the button to the left of the Show pop-up menu to view the Keywords Filtering pane. Then, click the green button to the left of the keywords you want represented; the Event browser will display only clips that match the selected keywords.

## FEATURED FONT Ecofont

There are several ways to save money on pricey printer consumables: You can print on two sides of the page, use draft mode, or generate PDFs. Now there's a way to combat ink consumption at the font level, too: Ecofont is a free typeface that's designed to reduce ink use by up to 20 percent. Available for all operating systems, Ecofont looks like regular old Arial, but with a key difference: holes. Each letter has lots of little holes punched out of it, so it needs less ink to print. Download the free version (there's also a professional version) from the Ecofont site ([macworld.com/5551](http://macworld.com/5551)), and it will show up in your Fonts folder with the name 'spranq\_eco\_sans\_regular.' Ecofont is very readable, even at small point sizes. So you can use it for routine print jobs, switching to a regular font only when necessary. —RICK BROIDA

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# Reviews

HARDWARE, SOFTWARE, AND ACCESSORIES  
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## HARDWARE

### Panasonic HDC-TM300 △

Panasonic's excellent HDC-TM300 delivers some of the best still and video images we've seen from a small standard-size HD camcorder. The HDC-TM300's video exhibits impressive resolution, smooth motion, accurate color, and low noise. The camcorder also boasts 5.1-channel Dolby Digital surround sound. The audio capture was more than adequate for casual shooters. In still-image quality, the HDC-TM300 was among the best we've seen; it produced sharp photos with reasonably accurate color and exposure ([macworld.com/5549](http://macworld.com/5549)).

★★★★½; \$1300; Panasonic, [www.panasonic.com](http://www.panasonic.com)

### Sanyo Xacti VPC-WH1

There are two reasons to buy Sanyo's Xacti VPC-WH1 high-definition camcorder: It's inexpensive, and it's waterproof. For some, those two factors will offset the camera's mediocre image quality. The VPC-WH1's overall video image quality is middling. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of the camera's 1.1-megapixel still images, which suffer from low resolution, inaccurate exposure, and noticeable image distortion. The 2.5-inch LCD panel is also nowhere near as bright or sharp as the screens of better camcorders. The VPC-WH1 (available in blue or yellow) is a good choice for use in a wet environment and for situations where you don't want to risk damaging a more expensive camera ([macworld.com/5547](http://macworld.com/5547)).

★★★★; \$400; Sanyo, [us.sanyo.com](http://us.sanyo.com)



## SOFTWARE

### Studio One Pro 1.0.1 ▷

Intended for amateurs and professionals alike, Studio One Pro 1.0.1 is a powerful recording package. The program avoids palette overload and enables you to find recording options easily: Everything is right there on one main screen. Studio One Pro provides a unique workflow that produces excellent results. Even as a new product, Studio One supports VST3 plug-ins for adding extra sound effects and instruments to the application. It also offers many of the same features as other recording apps, including a large library of instrument samples and loops. Studio One has an arguably more appealing interface than Logic Studio—the one-screen approach is easy to use, yet quite powerful—and the program is a solid and stable performer. And, most important, the musical results are impressive ([macworld.com/5548](http://macworld.com/5548)).

★★★★½; \$399; PreSonus Software, [www.presonussoftware.com](http://www.presonussoftware.com)



### ScreenFlow 2

ScreenFlow 2 is a big step forward for this screen-recording application. The addition of transitions, freeze frames, clip-speed adjustments, audio ducking, and basic color-adjustment tools make ScreenFlow an all-in-one program. Users who need higher-end features, such as true color correction, advanced titling, and greater control over transitions, will still want to do some work in Final Cut or Final Cut Express; for most anyone else, though, ScreenFlow should meet their needs. For now, ScreenFlow's combination of extensive tools and good performance makes it the best all-in-one screen-recording and -editing tool for the Mac ([macworld.com/5550](http://macworld.com/5550)).

★★★★; \$99; Telestream, [www.telestream.net](http://www.telestream.net)

## Top Products YOUR GUIDE TO THE BEST HARDWARE WE'VE TESTED

### DVD BURNERS

#### Desktop and Portable

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE <sup>A</sup>	TYPE	FIND CODE <sup>B</sup>
<b>MediaStation 8X External Blu-ray Writer</b> (pictured) <a href="http://www.buffalotech.com">www.buffalotech.com</a>	★★★★	\$341	Blu-ray	<b>5344</b>
<b>d2 DVD±RW w/LightScribe</b> <a href="http://www.lacie.com">www.lacie.com</a>	★★★★	\$119	desktop	<b>3900</b>

### CAMCORDERS

#### High Definition

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE <sup>A</sup>	TYPE	FIND CODE <sup>B</sup>
<b>Flip MinoHD (120 Minutes)</b> (pictured) <a href="http://www.theflip.com">www.theflip.com</a>	★★★★½	\$230	mini camcorder	<b>5512</b>
<b>Vixia HG21</b> <a href="http://www.canon.com">www.canon.com</a>	★★★★	\$695	120GB HD	<b>5182</b>

<sup>A</sup>All prices are the best current prices taken from a PriceGrabber survey of retailers at press time. <sup>B</sup>In a browser's address field, typing a find code after [macworld.com/](http://macworld.com/) takes you to a product's review or overview.



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## MAC OS X HINTS

The insider tips you won't get from Apple

By Rob Griffiths

### Find Your Recent Items

As the name implies, OS X's Recent Items menu item (Apple menu ► Recent Items) shows you the applications, documents, and servers you've used most recently. In OS X 10.5, that was all it could do. But in Snow Leopard, Recent Items can also help you locate recently used apps and documents in the Finder.

To try it, press the ⌘ key when the Recent Items list is open. The descriptions of applications and documents will change: Instead of showing, say, Safari, the menu will now display Show "Safari" In Finder. If you then select that entry, the folder containing Safari (most likely Applications) will open in the Finder. Ditto for documents. (Nothing happens to entries for recently used servers.)

While this isn't terribly useful for applications, it can be a timesaver when you're trying to locate a recently used document on your hard drive.

### Animate Quick Look Folder Icons

Normally, using Quick Look on a folder is boring: you see a big blue folder icon, the size and number of items in the folder, and the time it was last modified.

But you can make that folder icon livelier by adding animated icons for each file within the folder.

To enable this feature, open Terminal, type the following command, and then press Return:

```
defaults write com.apple.finder QLEnableXRayFolders 1
```

Next, relaunch the Finder. One way to do this is to hold down the Option key and then click and hold on the Finder's Dock icon. When the contextual menu appears, select Relaunch.

Now select a folder in the Finder and press the spacebar, and revel in your moving-icon previews. If you ever tire of this eye candy, open Terminal again, type the following command, and press Return:

```
defaults delete com.apple.finder QLEnableXRayFolders
```

Relaunch the Finder again, and Quick Look will revert to its boring old treatment of folders.

### See One App's Windows in Several Spaces

If you have windows from one app in more than one Spaces workspace (let's say you have Safari windows open in workspaces 1, 3, and 5), you can switch among them in several ways. You can switch to the other workspace (press F8, press Control and one of the arrow keys, or press Control and the number key corresponding to a workspace). Or you can select one of the open windows from the app's contextual menu in the Dock. OS X 10.6 adds two more options.

**Locating Recent Items** If you hold down the ⌘ key when you select the Recent Items menu item, you can locate recently used applications and documents in the Finder.



First, you can click and hold on the application's Dock icon and use Dock Exposé to select the window you want. Or you can click the application's Dock icon and click your way through the windows. If the app whose windows you want to see is already frontmost, every time you click you'll move to the next workspace containing one of that app's windows. If the selected app is in the background, the first click will bring any windows in the current workspace to the foreground, and subsequent clicks will cycle through open windows in other workspaces.

### Skip Network Deletion Warning

This hint is simple, effective—and potentially dangerous. It's a timesaving shortcut that you could regret using. So you must be careful with it.

### Have a Hint to Share?

Tell us about your hints. Go to [MacOSXHints.com](http://MacOSXHints.com) to submit them. This month's column was based on tips from anonymous contributors. The authors of our favorite printed tips receive Help Desk mugs.





**Delete the Deletion Warning** You can skip this warning by pressing ⌘-Option-Delete.

If you use files from networked machines on your Mac, you're probably familiar with the warning that appears whenever you try to delete one of them, the one that says the item will be deleted immediately and that you'll be unable to undo that deletion.

That warning is important, because remotely mounted files aren't tossed in your Mac's Trash, from which you can retrieve them later. Instead, if you click the Delete button in that dialog box, the file(s) will disappear for good.

Still, if you know what you're doing and you work with files on a network a lot, that warning can get old quickly—so much so that you might ignore it anyway and just click Delete out of habit. If that warning has outlived its usefulness, you

can delete a networked file by pressing ⌘-Option-Delete. The selected file(s) will disappear without the warning dialog box.

### Annotate Detected Data

Since their introduction in Mac OS X 10.5, data detectors have made it easier to add contacts to Address Book and events to iCal from within Mail. The technology detects addresses, phone numbers, and dates and times in messages. When you hover your cursor over that detected data, a drop-down menu appears that allows you to quickly convert those addresses, dates, and times into new contacts in Address Book or new events in iCal.

While you probably know about and use data detectors already, you might not know you can include additional text from the e-mail in your new event or contact. Just select the other text first, and then use the data detector menu on the desired address, phone number, or date. When the new event or contact is created, the additional text you selected will automatically be added to the Notes field in iCal and Address Book.



## POWER TIP OF THE MONTH

### Identify Processes Using the Net

Want to know which programs are using your Internet connection? Open Terminal (/Applications/Utilities), and run this command:

```
lsof -P -i -n | cut -f 1 -d " " | uniq
```

When you press Return, you'll see a list of processes that are connecting to the Net. The list should be easy to decipher; if there's anything you can't figure out, a trip to Google should help. Note that the list won't show you all the apps that use your Net connection over time. For that, you'd need something like Little Snitch ([macworld.com/3693](http://macworld.com/3693)).



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## WHAT'S ONLINE

**Add Effects to Photo Booth and iChat** If the built-in effects aren't enough, add 20 more ([macworld.com/5557](http://macworld.com/5557)).



**Two More Exposé Tricks** Sort Exposé windows alphabetically and see only windows in the current space ([macworld.com/5558](http://macworld.com/5558)).

**Download but Don't Install Updates in 10.6** In Terminal, discover the **softwareupdate** program ([macworld.com/5559](http://macworld.com/5559)).

### Pause Zooms in iMovie

By default, when you apply the popular Ken Burns panning-and-zooming effect to an image in iMovie, the effect begins as soon as the image is displayed and then ends (after a specified time interval) when it vanishes. But what if you'd rather have the image appear for a specific period of time before the Ken Burns effect kicks in and then have it linger on screen for a period of time after the effect is done?

In iMovie HD it was actually quite easy to make this pause-move-pause effect happen. In iMovie '09 there is a way to achieve it, too—but it takes a little doing.

To start, add the still image you want to modify to your project. Next, set up the Ken Burns effect as you wish. Then, duplicate that same still image twice (select Edit ► Copy, then Edit ► Paste twice), making a total of three copies.

In the first image in the series (which will be the "before" still), edit the Ken Burns effect so that the End effect's size and position are the same as those in the Start effect. In the last image in the series (the "after" image), click the small two-headed circular arrow to flip the Start and End effects, and then set the End effect's size and location to be equal to those of the Start effect. Finally, if you like, you can change the duration of the before and/or after images to suit your movie's needs.



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# MAC 911

Solutions to your most vexing Mac problems

By Christopher Breen

## Speed Up iMovie Clips

**Q:** While filming *Weeds* last year (where I play Dean Hodes), I borrowed a Flip pocket camcorder to record my makeup transformation. I wanted to edit it and then speed it up, but I have no idea how to do it.

**Andy Milder**

**A:** Plug your Flip camcorder into your Mac. By default iPhoto will launch and the Flip camcorder will be selected. Select the clip you want to import and click the Import Selected button to copy the clip into iPhoto.

Now launch iMovie '09. In the Event Library area, select iPhoto Videos. Your Flip clip should appear in the iPhoto Videos section at the bottom of the window. Select the clip and drag it into the Project pane.

Double-click the clip in the Project pane and, in the Clip tab of the Inspector window that appears, click the Convert Entire Clip button. (You have to do this before you'll be allowed to adjust the speed of a Flip camcorder's clips.) When iMovie finishes converting your clip, the Inspector will show a speed-control slider in the Clip tab (see "Accelerated Video"). You can drag the slider as high as 800 percent.

Although you can make the clip even faster by entering a higher value in the Speed field (to the right of the slider), entering a value other than one of those presets can cause the movie's audio to disappear when you export the movie. Optionally, you can tell iMovie how long



**Accelerated Video** Use the Speed slider to increase the pace of your iMovie clips.

you'd like the clip to play by entering a value in the Duration field below the Speed field—2:00, for example, if you'd like the clip to last two minutes.

## Shift Large Media Libraries

**Q:** My brother's iMac has a 500GB hard drive that's nearly filled to capacity with pictures, movies, and music. I want to find a way for these files to be automatically saved to an external hard drive. Is there a way within OS X 10.6 to accomplish this?

**Via the Internet**

**A:** I might take your scenario a step further and forego splitting files between two drives. If all you're after is a larger startup drive for storing files, just use an external hard drive as your boot drive. Find a fast FireWire drive, clone the contents of the internal drive to it by using a tool such as Bombich Software's Carbon Copy Cloner (payment requested; [www.bombich.com](http://www.bombich.com))—making the external drive bootable in the process—and

designate that external drive as the startup drive.

Or, if you want to store only media files on the external drive, you can easily do that, too. For pictures, copy the iPhoto Library file from your brother's Pictures folder (found inside his user folder) to the external hard drive. Hold down the Option key and launch iPhoto. A dialog box will appear that asks, "What Photo Library Do You Want iPhoto to Use?" Choose the copy of the iPhoto Library file you just copied and click the Choose button. iPhoto will now read and write to this iPhoto Library rather than to the one on the internal drive.

For the music and movies that iTunes uses, dig down into your brother's Music folder (also inside his user folder), open the iTunes folder, and copy the iTunes Music folder to the external drive. Launch iTunes, choose Preferences, click the Advanced tab, and click the Change button in the iTunes Media Folder Location area. Also, enable the Copy Files To iTunes Media Folder



### Have a Problem?

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

When Adding To Library option. iTunes will now use this folder and will also add new media files to it.

Or, you can place your brother's user folder on the external drive. My colleague, Dan Frakes, explains how to do that in a *Mac OS X Hints* tip that you can find at [macworld.com/5556](http://macworld.com/5556).

### Easily Add E-mail Addresses

**Q:** If I receive an e-mail message with lots of recipients, can I add all of them to Address Book at once?

**Frank Wu**

**A:** Not with the tools included in Mail. However, a solution is just a download away. That download is Andreas Amann's Mail Scripts 2.10 (payment requested; [macworld.com/0446](http://macworld.com/0446)). As its name hints, this is a collection of AppleScripts that perform wondrous feats with Apple's Mail and Address Book applications.

The specific script you're looking for is aptly named Add Addresses. Run it and you'll be offered the option to add to Address Book any and all of the addresses found in the From, To, Cc, and Reply-To fields of selected messages.

While we're on the subject, allow me to point out that this tool illustrates why it's a very poor idea to create messages with loads of recipients in the To and Cc fields. Do so, and someone receiving your message could easily use a tool such as this to harvest those addresses and use them for evil purposes. It's far better to add addresses to the Bcc field, where no one but you can see them, and then fill the To field with your own address.

### Cache iPod Touch Driving Directions

**Q:** What is the best way to download driving directions onto an iPod touch? It seems so last century to print out directions. Google Maps remembers the most recent set of directions you searched for via Wi-Fi, but saves them only in list view. And without a Wi-Fi connection, Maps can't accept directions containing multiple stops, reverse the route, or be redirected.

**Stephen Good**

## Bugs & Fixes BY TED LANDAU



### Spelling Ignore Button Is Ignored

The Ignore button in Snow Leopard's Spelling and Grammar dialog box can, itself, be ignored. When a word is flagged as potentially incorrect and you click the Ignore button, the word may continue to pop up as incorrect for the remainder of the document. The cause is the Automatic By Language option (found in the pop-up menu at the bottom of the Spelling and Grammar dialog box). If you switch from Automatic By Language to U.S. English, for example, the Ignore function works as expected. However, when you relaunch an application such as TextEdit, the selection may revert back to the Automatic By Language default. To fix this, go to the Language & Text system preference and, from the Text tab, access the Spelling pop-up menu and select U.S. English. Now the Ignore bug should be gone for good.



### Solve Safari Cookie Problem

You may get a "Bad Request" error when attempting to access Apple's support site in Safari. If so, this is almost certainly due to a corrupt cookie. However, selecting Remove All Cookies (by invoking Reset Safari from the Safari menu) or choosing Remove All (from Preferences ► Security ► Show Cookies) may not fix the problem. (Plus, you don't want to remove all your cookies, just the corrupt one.)

Instead of relying on Safari's tools to eliminate the corrupt cookie, quit Safari and use a utility such as SafariCookieCutter to delete a cookie whose name begins with `ac_history`. Or, to be extra safe, delete all `apple.com` cookies.

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

**A:** I'm afraid you're mistaken about Maps maintaining directions only in list view after it's lost a Wi-Fi connection. You can cache all of Maps' views, but there's a trick to it.

Before venturing out into the world and while still connected to Wi-Fi, perform your Maps search. Now tap the dog-ear icon in the bottom right of the display, and tap Satellite to load that view. Tap the dog-ear icon again, tap Hybrid so that view loads. Tap the dog-ear icon one more time and tap Map to ensure that view is cached as well. Now skedaddle.

When you return to Maps while on the road, it may appear that your directions weren't saved. But they were. If the Map view doesn't appear, tap the Start button in the upper-right corner of the display. This should provide you with the first leg of your journey (see "Saved Route"). Tap the left-pointing arrow at the upper right of this screen, and the Map view should load—this time with a map actually on it. If you tap the dog-ear icon, you should be able to load the Satellite, Hybrid, and list views as well.

You're correct, however, that the reverse-directions feature doesn't work. You're stuck with exactly what was saved when you last used Maps when connected to Wi-Fi. So, what to do? Put the iPod's screen-capture feature to good use.

While connected to Wi-Fi, map out your reverse journey (with stops along the way and alternate routes, if you like) and simultaneously press the Home and Sleep/Wake buttons to take screenshots of any important steps in your journey. When you're ready for your return trip, call up those directions within the Photos app.

### Move Finder Items More Efficiently

**Q:** In the Finder, what is the easiest way to move a file from one location to another? My method is to drag the file to the desktop, navigate to the new location, and then drag the file from the desktop into the new location. This seems unnecessarily laborious and old-fashioned, but I can't find any quicker way.

**Henry Francis**





**Saved Route** Call up all of Maps' views to cache them before your journey.

**A:** Allow me to offer a few options that are built into OS X.

**Spring-Loaded Folders** Click and drag the item you want to move to the volume or folder that contains the eventual destination. Hover the item over this volume or folder and that volume or folder will open. Drag it to the next folder and hover until that folder opens. Repeat until you drill down to the destination folder and then let go of the mouse button. The item will drop into that folder.

**Spring-Loaded Dock and Sidebar Items** Volumes or folders in the Dock work the same way. Place often-used destinations in the Dock and sidebar, drag your item on top of one of these volumes or folders, and, again, burrow down to the destination you desire.

**Aliases** If you routinely move files to the same locations, I recommend that you create aliases for those locations (select them and choose **File ▶ Make Alias**) and then place the aliases on the desktop.

**Copy and Go** Select the item and press **⌘-C** to copy it. Press **⌘-Shift-G** while in the Finder, and a **Go To The Folder** sheet will appear in the frontmost window. Enter the path to the folder you want to open (**~/Music/iTunes**, for example) click **OK**, and the folder will open, ready for you to move the item to it.

**Use Recent Folders** Copy the item, and from that same **Go** menu in the Finder you'll see a **Recent Folders** entry. Select it with the hope that the folder you want to move files to is listed among the ten folders you've used most recently.

### Understand iPhoto Library Sizes

**Q:** Why does my iPhoto application show that its library is 7.2GB, but, in the Finder, my iPhoto library is 20.91GB?

**Will Carter**

**A:** If you Control-click (or right-click) on your iPhoto library file (inside the **Pictures** folder in your user folder) and choose **Show Package Contents**, you'll find

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that it holds a wealth of items that aren't counted within the iPhoto application but that consume quite a bit of space.

For example, my 98GB iPhoto library contains an iPod Photo Cache folder that weighs in at just over 20GB. A Modified folder houses 15.4GB of data. And the Originals folder holds over 59GB of stuff. The least necessary of these is the iPod Photo Cache folder.

When you sync photos to an iPod or iPhone, iTunes creates this iPod Photo Cache folder and places in it the scaled images that are synced with your iPod or iPhone. If you sync a lot of photos, over time this folder is going to get mighty bulky, as it is in my case. If you toss it out, iTunes will recreate it.

That doesn't mean tossing it is a bad idea, however. That 20GB iPod Photo Cache folder of mine had a lot of images in it that I had no desire to ever place on an iPod or iPhone again. To reclaim that 20GB and start fresh, I did as I suggest you do—I gave it the heave-ho.

## MAC 101

### Power and the International Mac

**Q:** I'm an American living in Indonesia, and I'm thinking about buying a Mac mini or a MacBook. Can I use the Mac in both countries with the supplied power cord, or will I need separate cords for each?

**Paul Carpenter**

**A:** Most Macs and their power adapters are built to support 110 to 240 volts (the iMac G5 is an exception). So, out of the box, you can plug your Mac mini or MacBook into just about any outlet you come across without fear of melting the thing. Where the country-of-purchase makes a difference is in the kind of plug that appears at the end of that power adapter. And that's what you need to change.

Apple sells the \$39 Apple World Travel Adapter Kit ([macworld.com/5571](http://macworld.com/5571)). This kit contains six power adapters that slip on to a MagSafe power adapter and older USB iPhone and iPod power adapters. If you don't want to go the Apple route, you can find power adapters that allow you to convert the power plug from Country X to a plug that fits the outlets in Country Y. These aren't converters. They're simply adapters to change Plug A to Plug B because, again, the Mac can handle voltages from around the world.

Note, however, that if you also take peripherals along with you that require power, you'll want to examine them very carefully to see if they're as world savvy as your Mac. If not, purchase a transformer that's appropriate for your destination.

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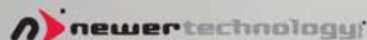
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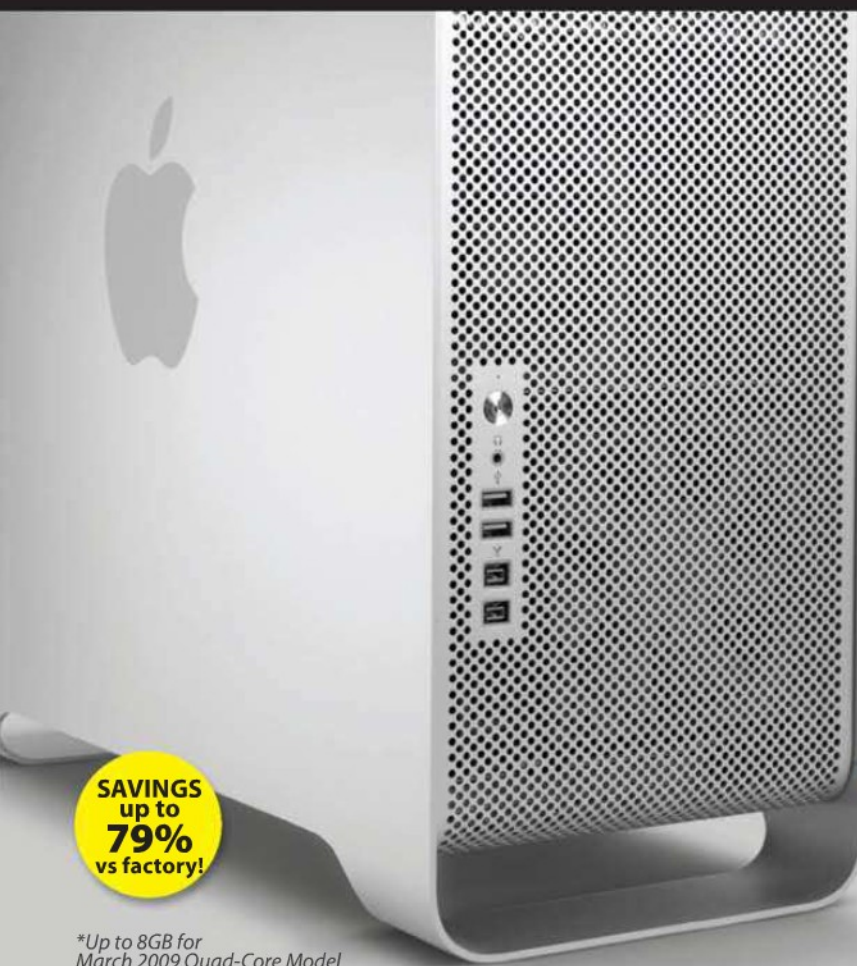


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\* Bus Powers via standard FireWire port/cable (or optional AC adapter) when connected to eSATA interface.

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Actual size: 5.31"(W) x 9.65"(D) x 6.96"(H)

## KEY FEATURES

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- **Re-builds without a computer connection!**
- **RAID 1, 5, 10 enables you to keep working even if one drive fails!**

### NRAID (Span)

Combines capacity of two or more drives of varying size without any RAID data distribution scheme into one logical desktop volume.

### 4 x Hot Swappable Hard Drive Bays

Enables easy configuration of up to 8.0TB of high performance and/or redundant storage capacity.

A front panel removable key lock keeps data secure by preventing unauthorized or accidental drive removal.

### RAID 0 (Stripe)

Data is split into blocks over two or more drives at same time for high speed and large capacity.

### RAID 1 (Mirror)

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Apogee, Inc.	kanexlive.com	67
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Audioengine	audioengineusa.com	104
Beta Macs	betamacs.com	107
Biomorph Interactive	biomorph.com	104
Booq LLC.	booq.com	19
Bose Corporation	bose.com/qc	37
CarMD.com	carmd.com	79
Catamount Software	catamount.com/offer	57
Circus Ponies Software, Inc.	circusponies.com	35
Citrix Systems	gotomeeting.com	8
Crucial	crucial.com/macworld	77
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Doodle Jump	doodlejump.limasky.com	59
DriveSavers Data Recovery Inc.	drivesavers.com	105
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mStation Audio	mstationaudio.com	53
MusicSkins	musicskins.com	79
Navitor	printitcenter.com	18, 105
OtherWorldComputing	macsales.com	C2-1, C3, 66, 98-101
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Rain Design	raindesigninc.com	103
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# The App Store: An Intervention

Apple, we need to have a heart-to-heart talk about your erratic behavior

**H**ey, Apple. Can we talk? You know we love you. We've been together for years. That's why we all decided to get together to tell you something: You have a problem.

No, don't get up.

We don't hear from you for weeks. You're not acting like yourself. We hear lots of excuses. You seem to think you don't have a problem. Well, you do. *And can't you see it's tearing this family apart?*

What are we talking about? You know what we're talking about. The App Store.

## Apps and Circuses

Sure, the average consumer of iPhone apps probably doesn't notice anything wrong with the App Store. Any place where a 99-cent app can be called "too expensive" has to be awesome, doesn't it? It's like forcing all the developers into an arena and making them fight each other for our amusement! The only way it could be better is if the developers also had to fight lions, too! Right?

*Wrong.* Yes, for now it's great if you're the customer (or the lion), but what if you're the developer? They spend months working on an app, and they can't even charge \$1.99 for it because some other dude sells something similar for 99 cents or just gives it away. At least you haven't yet implemented a scheme whereby developers can *pay* customers to use their apps.

Then there's your erratic behavior. Don't act like you don't know what we're talking about. You've reversed course on numerous apps, first denying them admission, only to approve them without changes. Then denying them again. Then approving them. Then denying they ever existed. Then approving them.

Darting back and forth like a crazed weasel hopped up on goofballs is no way to go through life, Apple. Is it goofballs? Because if it is, we can get you into some sort of 12-step goofball detox program.

Whatever it is, you're starting to lose your friends. A number of developers have sworn off the App Store. We don't want to see this minor revolt spiral out of control any more than you do. These are developers, after all. If they start trying to lift trash cans over their heads to throw them through windows, there are going to be a lot of slipped discs.

We hear what you're saying. "This is just a handful of *artiste* developers who think they shouldn't have to rub shoulders with everyone else!" Yes, but you know what the thing about artistes is? They make art. (You should know—you're quite the artiste yourself, Apple.) And you know what we call people who only buy the cheapest apps? Enablers.

Let's face it: You've never had a great relationship with developers. You're like a character out of a John Hughes film. First you were the awkward, unpopular kid who never got any attention. Then, a stunning makeover brought you popu-

**Acting like a crazed weasel hopped up on goofballs is no way to go through life, Apple.**



larity. Which turned you into a jerk who's alienating his long-term friends.

We're still waiting for the big finish where you remember who your real friends are, tell off the preppy guy who drives a BMW his parents gave him, and then slow-dance with Molly Ringwald while everyone applauds and cries. You want to slow-dance with Molly Ringwald, don't you, Apple? Of course you do.

## Take the First Step

We know you've admitted that you might have a problem. And that's a good first step. But now you need to make some changes. Big changes.

Come clean on the approval process. Like any group of children, developers need boundaries. Can you tell them what the criteria for approving an app are? See, you can't. Neither can your own reviewers. You can't expect developers to hit a moving target.

OK, so you'll protect us from a rogue app that might accidentally activate Skynet. That doesn't explain your overreaction to more mundane areas. Do we need to click "Yes" twice when downloading any app that connects to the Internet, so we can confirm that the Internet contains naughty material? You can download "Dear Playboy Advisor" from Amazon's Kindle Store without any warning at all, or so we hear. If Amazon can let go, so can you. We believe in you!

We know you don't like these ideas. That's because you're afraid of losing control. But admitting you have a problem is *taking* control. It's time to...

Oh, fine. Fine! You know, you can walk away from us, Apple, but you can't walk away from the truth! *Or the love!*

Right. Yes. OK. Slam the door.

*Sigh.* Well, that didn't go very well.

**John Moltz** is the once and future proprietor of Crazy Apple Rumors Site ([crazyapplerumors.com](http://crazyapplerumors.com)). See more about him, if you dare, at [www.moltz.net/~john](http://www.moltz.net/~john).



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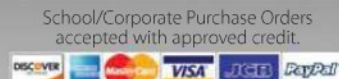


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