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THE
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APPLE &
MACINTOSH
USER GROUP
NEWSLETTER

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MacClips

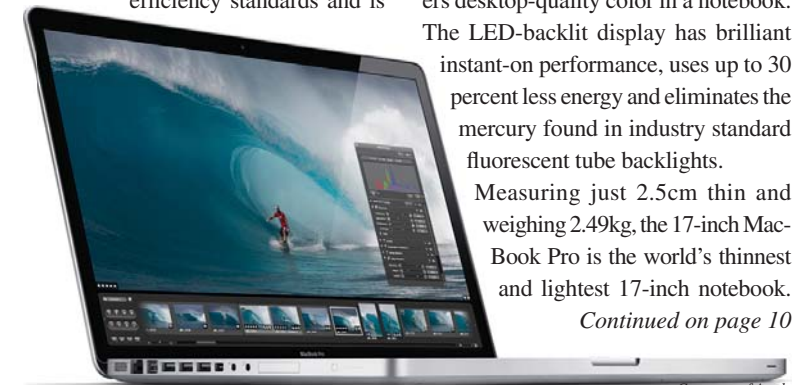
Apple Introduces 17-inch MacBook Pro

Apple has unveiled the new 17-inch MacBook Pro featuring a durable and beautiful precision aluminum unibody enclosure, and a revolutionary new built-in battery that delivers up to eight hours of use and up to 1,000 recharges for more than three times the lifespan of conventional notebook batteries. The new 17-inch MacBook Pro has a high resolution LED-backlit display and the same large glass Multi-Touch trackpad introduced with the new MacBook family in October. In addition, the new 17-inch MacBook Pro includes state of the art NVIDIA graphics and the latest generation Intel Core 2 Duo mobile processors. The new 17-inch MacBook Pro is made of highly recyclable materials, meets stringent energy efficiency standards and is

made without many of the harmful toxins found in other computers. Apple uses advanced chemistry, intelligent monitoring of the system and battery, and Adaptive Charging technology to create a revolutionary new notebook battery that delivers up to eight hours of wireless productivity on a single charge and up to 1,000 recharges without adding thickness, weight or cost to the MacBook Pro's incredible design. The longer battery lifespan equals fewer depleted batteries and less waste, which is better for the environment.

The new 17-inch MacBook Pro includes an ultra-thin, widescreen glossy 1920 x 1200 display with 78 percent more pixels than the 15-inch MacBook Pro and a 60 percent greater color gamut that delivers desktop-quality color in a notebook. The LED-backlit display has brilliant instant-on performance, uses up to 30 percent less energy and eliminates the mercury found in industry standard fluorescent tube backlights. Measuring just 2.5cm thin and weighing 2.49kg, the 17-inch MacBook Pro is the world's thinnest and lightest 17-inch notebook.

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Courtesy of Apple

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Cast your Net

Computer networks once involved installing miles of cables. Wireless technology now makes networking simple. Come along to our February meeting on the 4th and see.

THE TOOWOOMBA APPLE & MACINTOSH USER GROUP Supporting all Apple & Mac Users

Membership offers you:

- The chance to meet other Mac users
- A copy of the monthly newsletter
- Access to all User Group resources

Free

Monthly meetings 1st Wednesday of each month, 7:30PM.
Toowoomba Education Centre, Bakers Street

Phone 4661 4975 for more details

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Our Mission

“The objects for which the Association is established are: To provide assistance to Apple and Macintosh users; To disseminate information; To combine knowledge of computer activities.”



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Editorial

It seems to me that very few PC users identify with their computer the way Macintosh users do. Many PC's are assembled either by the user or a local store and have no real brand identity. For those users who choose to purchase an identifiable brand such as a Dell, HP or Lenovo (IBM) I would suggest that while they know the make they probably do not know the model. In contrast Mac users frequently know exactly what they have. “I have a new 15 inch, Unibody MacBook Pro - the 2.5 gig model. I'm running 10.5.5 because I heard there were some problems with 10.5.6” would not be an unusual response from a Mac user.

This is more than just brand loyalty. Users are identifying with the computer and, to an extent, defining themselves by it. Brand loyalty is important, however. How else would Apple have survived those dark days of the mid 90's? Having seen apple through those years we now obtain great satisfaction from their success, a success we largely attribute to Steve Jobs.

I agree wholeheartedly with those that suggest that any health problems Jobs may be facing is entirely his business. I am a severe critic of the press who turn the private lives of celebrities into a nightmare and give so much space to people who are merely famous for being famous. On the other hand we do need to be assured that Apple is not just Steve Jobs but that there is a team in place that will see that they keep moving forward. The fact that Apple's share price suffered a decline on the news of his medical leave suggests that there is general concern about this. The price did recover following soothing words from both Jobs and the Board.

I am sure everyone wishes Steve Jobs a speedy recovery but we also wish to see a healthy Apple Inc.

R. Lascelles



Setting up a home network used to mean installing special cables throughout your house. While it is still possible to use a simple cable based network, wireless technology is the simplest, most economical solution. To find out how easy it is to set up your network come along to our February meeting at the Toowoomba Education Centre in Baker Street on the 4th.



Apple Reports First Quarter Results

Best Quarterly Revenue and Earnings in Apple History

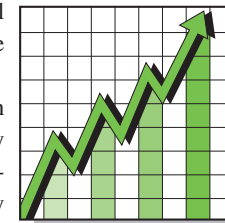
On January 21, 2009 Apple announced financial results for its fiscal 2009 first quarter ended December 27, 2008. The Company posted record revenue of \$10.17 billion and record net quarterly profit of \$1.61 billion. These results compare to revenue of \$9.6 billion and net quarterly profit of \$1.58 billion, in the year-ago quarter. Gross margin was 34.7 percent, equal to the year-ago quarter. International sales accounted for 46 percent of the quarter's revenue.

In accordance with the subscription accounting treatment required by GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles), the Company recognizes revenue and cost of goods sold for iPhone and Apple TV over their economic lives. The corresponding non-GAAP measures* for the quarter are \$11.8 billion of “Adjusted Sales” and \$2.3 billion of “Adjusted Net Income.”

Apple sold 2,524,000 Macintosh computers, 22,727,000 iPods and 4,363,000 iPhones during the quarter, representing 9%, 3% and 88% unit growth respectively over the year-ago quarter. “Even in these economically challenging times, we are incredibly pleased to report our best quarterly revenue and earnings in Apple history - surpassing \$10 billion in quarterly revenue for the MacClips February 2009

first time ever,” said Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO. “Our outstanding results generated over \$3.6 billion in cash during the quarter,” said Peter Oppenheimer, Apple's CFO. “Looking ahead to the second fiscal quarter of 2009, we expect revenue in the range of about \$7.6 billion to \$8 billion.”

*Because the Company may provide unspecified features and additional software products to iPhone and Apple TV customers in the future free of charge, in accordance with GAAP the Company recognizes revenue and cost of goods sold for these products on a straight-line basis over their economic lives, with any loss recognized at the time of sale. Currently, the economic lives of these products are estimated to be 24 months. This accounting treatment, referred to as subscription accounting, results in the deferral of almost all of the revenue and cost of goods during the quarter in which the products are sold to the customer.™



Coming Up

Mark your calendar now for our upcoming events.

February 4 - Home Networking
March 4 - iTunes Update
April 1 - iMovie Update
May 6 - iPhoto Update

Continued from page 1

The 17-inch MacBook Pro is the most powerful Mac notebook yet with the latest Intel Core 2 Duo processors available up to 2.93 GHz, up to 8GB DDR3 main memory and a graphics architecture that allows users to switch between the NVIDIA GeForce 9400M integrated graphics processor for better battery life and the powerful NVIDIA GeForce 9600M GT discrete graphics processor for higher performance. The new 17-inch MacBook Pro includes a 320GB 5400 rpm hard drive standard with a 320GB 7200 rpm hard drive and 128GB and 256GB solid state drives as options. As with the rest of the new MacBook family, the 17-inch MacBook Pro includes a next generation, industry-standard Mini DisplayPort to connect with the new Apple LED Cinema Display featuring a 24-inch LED-backlit widescreen display with a built-in iSight video camera, mic and speakers.

The new 17-inch MacBook Pro joins the aluminum unibody MacBook family in setting new standards for environmentally friendly notebooks

with every model achieving EPEAT Gold status. Each MacBook unibody enclosure is made of highly recyclable aluminum and comes standard with energy efficient LED-backlit displays that are mercury-free and made with arsenic-free glass. The new MacBook family meets stringent Energy Star 4.0 requirements, contains no brominated flame retardants and uses internal cables and components that are PVC-free. The battery in the new 17-inch MacBook Pro provides additional environmental benefit because its extended lifespan means fewer depleted batteries resulting in less waste. Depleted batteries can be replaced for \$179 which includes installation and disposal of your old battery in an environmentally responsible manner.

The new 17-inch MacBook Pro will be shipping at the end of January and will be available through the Apple Store, Apple's retail stores and Apple Authorized Resellers for a suggested retail price of \$4 499.®

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The Ignominy of Paying a DRM-Free Tax

iTunes Plus upgrades for music you previously purchased at any price still cost \$0.50 each while music video upgrades are \$1.00 each. You cannot choose to upgrade specific songs or videos, but must upgrade your entire collection as noted in the iTunes Store's account records.

Some have expressed irritation at this issue: Early buyers will have to pay an additional amount to acquire songs that might be the same price or cheaper and offered without protection. That is, a song purchased with DRM

for \$1.69 might now be offered without it for \$1.20 for new purchasers, and you'll pay \$2.20 to obtain it.

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I'm surprised Apple didn't offer to eat the upgrade fees for all their users, even if it cost a few hundred million dollars to pay the labels or other rights-holders for the privilege, because of the enormous good will it would engender.

iTunes Purchases over 3G

Apple also said it would allow iPhone owners to purchase and download music over a 3G network in addition to the Wi-Fi access that was previously available. Songs will be identically priced when purchased via iTunes or through the iPhone over 3G. This stands in contrast to many cellular carriers that

charge different prices for music depending on the delivery means.®

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MacClips February 2009

iMovie '09 Seems to Fix Everything from iMovie '08

by Jeff Carlson

When Apple introduced iMovie '08, the video editor was nothing like previous versions. Completely rewritten and boasting a new interface, it lacked features that iMovie users had grown accustomed to: audio editing lost capabilities that had been gradually added to iMovie over several versions; themes were removed; iDVD chapter markers disappeared (as well as the capability to send a project directly to iDVD); and more. iMovie

iMovie's engineers have clearly spent some time traveling (or thinking about traveling), because several features are ideal for travel videos. Animated travel maps, available in a few different themes, let you specify locations on a map or globe and create Indiana Jones-style markers that extend from place to place. Themes have also made a reappearance in iMovie, and at first glance they seem more interesting and flexible than those that appeared



'08 had its upsides - support for importing AVCHD footage and making easy color adjustments come to mind - but it was very much a 1.0 application.

Based on what Phil Schiller presented during the Macworld Expo keynote, iMovie '09 looks to be the program we were expecting last year. A new Precision Editor lets you fine-tune edits in an expanded visual way. When you drag and drop a clip from the Event library onto a clip in your movie, a new action pop-up menu appears with options to replace the existing clip, insert the new clip in the middle of the existing one, or just add the audio from the new clip. (Other options include green-screen and picture-in-picture.)

Video stabilization is a welcome new feature that can take the shake out of handheld footage, something that will be especially useful for owners of small Flip camcorders that lack built-in image stabilization features. (iMovie also improves compatibility with the Flip MinoHD.)

MacClips February 2009

in iMovie HD.

Courtesy of Apple

Other welcome improvements include the return of iDVD chapter markers and direct-to-iDVD exporting, iPhoto Event matching, an intriguing new archive feature for making copies of tapeless footage, multi-touch gesture support, the capability to adjust multiple clips at once, and, at last, the return of fast and slow motion. Still missing are support for exporting footage back to tape and the capability to adjust volume levels within a clip. A full list of new features can be found on Apple's Web site.

iMovie '09 is part of iLife '09, which will ship in late January 2009 for \$129 or \$169 for a family pack. New Macs will continue to ship with iLife for free. If you purchase a new machine between 06-Jan-09 and 31-Mar-09 that does not include iLife '09, you can upgrade it for a small fee through Apple's iLife Up-to-Date program.®

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Apple Moves to Unprotected Music, Tiered Prices

by Glenn Fleishman

Apple will strip digital rights management (DRM) from the 10 million songs it offers through the iTunes Store by the end of the first quarter of 2009, with 8 million songs available without protection today. These songs will be encoded at the higher 256 Kbps rate in AAC format that Apple has been using for a subset of their catalog and has called iTunes Plus.

The company is also changing its mostly flat-rate pricing model of \$1.69 per song, and allowing iPhone owners to purchase and download songs over 3G cellular data networks in addition to Wi-Fi.

Strip Down to Bare Music

Apple was the first company to sell large quantities of licensed and legally downloadable digital music - 6 billion songs is the latest count - and wrap their files in proprietary encryption. The history isn't publicly known, but it's believed that music labels required Apple to use DRM and periodically update it to protect against hacks. DRM limits music, games, or videos to play only for specific users on recognized devices. Apple's FairPlay DRM system (which allows music to play back via iTunes under Mac OS X, Windows, and on all iPod models and the iPhone) has never been licensed to other companies. DRM-free music can be played on any device or computer that supports the music format, which is almost always MP3 or AAC.

This also means that sophisticated hardware for playing music throughout a home, like the Sonos ecosystem and the just-announced Linksys Wireless Home Audio system, can handle unprotected iTunes Store purchases just as well as music from other sources.

When Apple's early lead in the digital downloads market eventually neared complete domination, music labels turned to firms like Amazon, Walmart, and Microsoft to offer DRM-free tracks as an alternative to Apple's iTunes/iPod/iPhone lock-in. However, this

approach didn't do much to undercut Apple's hold on the market, since Apple had become the number one music retailer in the United States. It's likely that the music industry's demand for variable pricing was connected to Apple obtaining the right to sell music without protection. Currently, most iTunes songs are priced at \$1.69; the new pricing model - which takes effect in April 2009 - will offer songs at around \$1.20, \$1.69, and \$2.20.

Apple VP Phil Schiller said during the Macworld Expo keynote that more songs would be priced at the lower price rather than the upper, but that's a specious observation, as more popular and recent songs are likely to be priced at the highest tier. Some labels had wanted the ability to charge lower prices for some songs to increase sales as well.

market eventually neared complete domination, music labels turned to firms like Amazon, Walmart, and Microsoft to offer DRM-free tracks as an alternative to Apple's iTunes/iPod/iPhone lock-in. However, this



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little malicious software that targets them. Macs can be affected by malware on occasion; I've been contacted twice in the past year by people who downloaded and manually installed malicious software onto their systems. I also work extensively with security researchers who tell me that Mac OS X's built-in protection technologies can be circumvented by an experienced attacker. But neither I nor the security researchers with whom I work know of any widely deployed exploits for Macs. Unless you are either specifically targeted by a knowledgeable bad guy, or spend a lot of time downloading software from risky sites, the odds are extremely low you'll ever encounter malicious software. Macs aren't inherently more secure than PCs, but they are practically never targeted, dramatically reducing the risk a Mac user will be compromised.

Thus I'd like to reiterate our previous advice:

1. Everyone should use an email service that filters spam, viruses, and other malicious software (such as MobileMe, Hotmail, Yahoo! Mail, or Google Mail).
2. Enterprise users often need to install antivirus software to comply with corporate policies and avoid being a vector to infect their Windows-based coworkers. Any of the major antivirus solutions work well, and you should work with your corporate IT department to

determine what to install.

3. If you visit risky sites (adult, gambling, and file sharing sites are the major ones) and download software from them, you should consider installing antivirus software. Of the two major pieces of malicious software we've seen this year, one disguised itself as a plug-in to view adult videos, the other as a poker program.
4. If you are running Windows on your Mac, via Boot Camp or a virtualization tool like VMware Fusion or Parallels Desktop, you still need to install Windows-based antivirus software to protect your Windows installation.
5. Generally, other Mac users don't need to install antivirus software at this time, but I advise you to stay abreast of security news, just in case the situation does change. Email filtering will likely protect you if there is some sort of sudden outbreak, but it's entirely possible that Macs could become a more common target in the future.

Neither I nor the security researchers with whom I work run antivirus software on our Macs, but I'll be the first to change my position and recommend wide use of Mac antivirus tools should the situation change. Until then, there's simply no reason for non-enterprise users who avoid risky behavior to bog down their Macs with antivirus software.®

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OS X 10.5.6 Update Problems

A number of users encountered problems when attempting to install the OS X 10.5.6 update where the update process stopped responding while "Configuring installation" is visible in the update window. This can occur if Software Update attempts to install an update that was only partially downloaded, which seemed to be a common problem with early versions of the update. Most people have probably overcome the problem by now but just in case here is the work around.

- Quit (or if necessary, Force Quit) Software

Update.

- Click the Finder icon in the Dock.
- From the Go menu choose "Go to Folder".
- Type: /Library/Updates
- Click Go. The /Library/Updates folder opens.
- Select all contents of this folder and move them to the Trash.

Once the above steps are complete, use Software Update again to re-download and install the update.®

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enter the email address of someone to whom you want to give access. That person can then click a link in the resulting email message to view the document in their favorite Mac or Windows Web browser, with what looked like excellent fidelity to the appearance of the original document. The iWork.com site enables users to add comments (which appear as sticky notes) and maintain an ongoing chat-style conversation with each other; the interface looks similar to the iWork applications and can display any Pages, Numbers, or Keynote document. Users can also download files in their original formats, as PDF documents, or as Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, or PowerPoint) files. Although the service is brand new and still in beta, our take is that it's going to have an uphill climb in order to compete with the far more useful Google Docs and other online collaboration services.

That's largely because there's no round-trip support, and it supports only iWork documents. If, for instance, you're working on a project with an editor, your editor needs to download your files, make changes, and give them back to you.

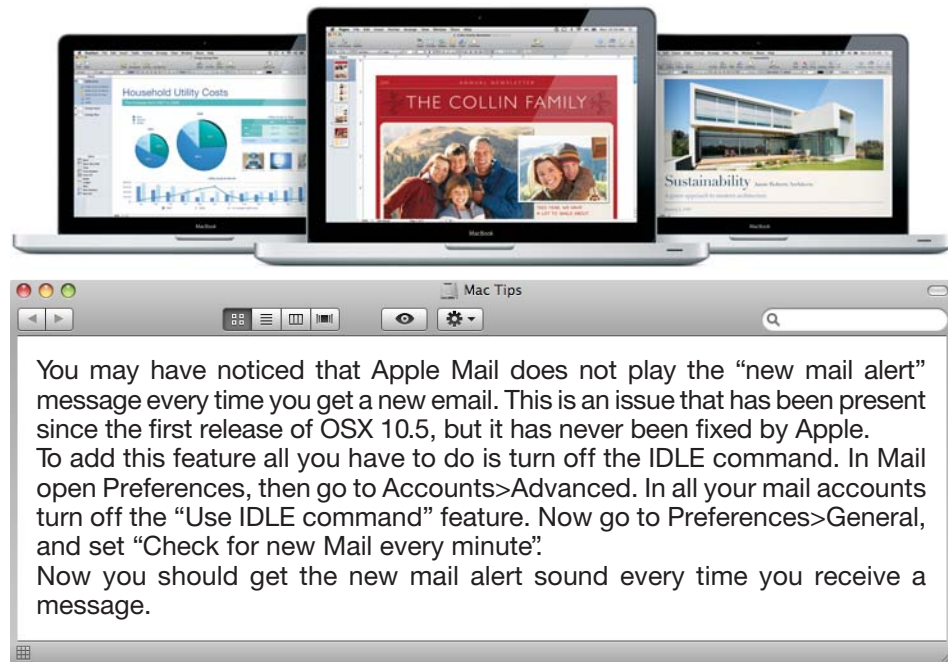
That's not possible, nor is working with any file types - Photoshop, InDesign, etc. - that are commonplace in the real world.

Details

iWork.com is now available to purchasers of iWork '09, with free access during the beta test period. Apple said that the service would require a fee in the future, but did not state how much it would cost or when free access would end. This approach feels haphazard - we'd like to see iWork.com merged with MobileMe, so users won't have to work in multiple sites or pay separate bills.

iWork '09 requires Mac OS X Tiger 10.4.11 or later, and at least a 500 MHz G4 processor. It costs \$49 with the purchase of a new Macintosh, or it can be purchased separately for \$129 or \$169 for a family pack. iWork '09 is available now, and it will be available in late January 2009 in the Mac Box Set, which will cost \$279 and include Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard, the new iLife '09, and iWork '09.☺

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Steve Jobs Takes Medical Leave Until June

by Glenn Fleishman

Steve Jobs is taking a medical leave of absence from Apple until June 2009, while staying involved in "major strategic decisions," according to a letter sent to company employees, posted on Apple's Web site, and distributed as a media advisory. "During the past week," Jobs writes, "I have learned that my health-related issues are more complex than I originally thought." Chief Operating Officer Tim Cook, often cited as a likely successor to Jobs, will handle day-to-day company operations. How did Jobs go from recovering from a cold a few months ago to "complex" medical problems necessitating months off? It has been gradual.

First, despite his significant weight loss, Apple said that Jobs was "hit with a 'common bug.'" I, like many others, dismissed speculation, because - myself a former cancer sufferer - I thought the issue personal unless it affected his performance in the role. If it were to affect

his performance and he wasn't being factual, he and the company's board of directors would face questions and possibly lawsuits about the disclosure of his health-related issues.

Then, just before Macworld Expo 2009, Jobs released a public statement saying that he was suffering from an unknown malady, diagnosed as a hormone imbalance.

No one knew precisely what was wrong, as his description was specific but lacked a condition name, but the board offered their support for his leadership.

Now, the problem is "more complex," still undisclosed, and apparently likely to require months of recovery. Bloggers and mainstream media columnists alike have been speculating

that Jobs has had a recurrence of the pancreatic cancer for which he was operated on in 2004, or that a new and serious health condition would force him to step down.

However, many of us who follow Apple have been responding to this rampant speculation with "Shut up." Neither I nor most of the Mac journalists I know see Jobs as the avatar of all that is right and good at Apple, but instead as an effective leader who has made largely terrific decisions that thousands upon thousands of Apple employees have executed well. Jason Snell excellently countered



Courtesy of Telegraph.co.uk

the broad media trend of turning Jobs into Apple's godhead in an interview with Advertising Age.

Listen: We at TidBITS will all be sad if Jobs has a chronically debilitating or fatal illness. We'll find it a dark day when he takes off the mantle for good as Apple's chief. But the company doesn't rise and

fall by him.

Jobs has recruited and forged a large team of executives, engineers, and marketers who understand how to make products people want. Decisions from Apple don't all originate at the top, despite the way the company is commonly viewed. We hear from past and present Apple employees that many of Apple's best decisions were made lower down and then approved at the top.

The culture that makes Apple work has been distributed throughout the firm. That's probably Jobs's most effective legacy.

We wish Steve Jobs a swift and complete recovery. And we expect Apple to tick along just as usual.☺

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Apple Confirms Antivirus Software Is (Usually) Unnecessary

by Rich Mogull

On 21-Nov-08, a short support article appeared on Apple's Web site, likely placed there by someone with no idea of the chain of events he or she was about to initiate. The article summary was, "Learn about antivirus utilities available for the Mac OS." The bombshell statement in the article? "Apple encourages the widespread use of multiple antivirus utilities so that virus programmers have more than one application to circumvent, thus making the whole virus writing process more difficult." The article went on to list three of the major antivirus programs for the Mac.

At first, no one really noticed. Then, on

01-Dec-08, the note gained the attention of Brian Krebs at the Washington Post, who wondered if this statement signified a notable shift in Apple policy. Apple has never formally recommended third party security software for Mac OS X, so what was responsible for this seemingly major shift in policy?

The rest of the industry press and blogs quickly picked up on the story,

filling the Internet with a storm of conjecture and, based on the number of questions we received here at TidBITS, concern among Mac users wondering if they were suddenly less secure.

Early investigation indicated that the odds were high this was merely an overview article put out by a low-level employee in Apple's support organization, and never signified either any change in Apple's stance or the security of Mac users. The article was actually an update of an earlier note from 2007, changed to include the latest versions of the antivirus programs. Even

the wording was awkward, allowing the interpretation that Apple was recommending users install all three programs. Within hours after the news hit, Apple removed the support article, thus creating a second round of coverage speculating that negative press pressured the company into reversing their new position on antivirus.

Based on the evidence I've been able to gather, I believe this updated technical note was never seen or approved by senior management. It was likely meant to highlight which antivirus programs supported Mac OS X for those users interested in installing the software. Although Apple hasn't detailed the exact chain of events,

Apple spokesman Bill Evans told me:

"We have removed the KnowledgeBase article because it was old and inaccurate. The Mac is designed with built-in technologies that provide protection against malicious software and security threats right out of the box. However, since no system can be 100% immune from every threat, running anti-virus software

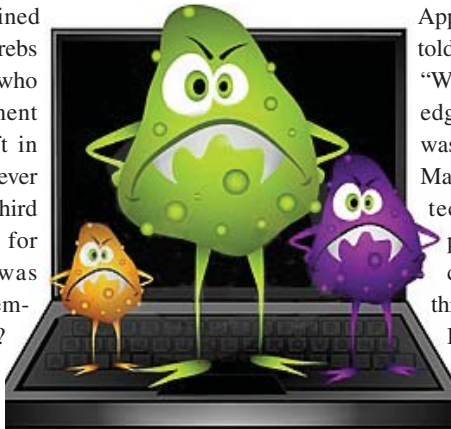
may offer additional protection."

In short, Apple isn't telling users they all need to run out and buy antivirus software (much less multiple programs), but they also admit that antivirus software may offer some additional protection. This is consistent with my article, "Should Mac Users Run Antivirus Software?" (2008-03-18), in which I recommend that the average Mac user avoid antivirus software.

The reality remains that although Macs are far from immune to security issues, there is very

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iWork '09 Adds Catch-up Features

by Tonya Engst

Apple's iWork '09 announcements at Macworld Expo brought some worthwhile improvements to the presentation, word processing, and spreadsheet suite, along with a new Keynote Remote Control app for the iPhone and iPod touch. Oh, and there's also a beta of a new online service, iWork.com. But, particularly with Pages and Numbers, the new features sound awfully reminiscent of things we've been accustomed to having in Microsoft Word and Excel for years.

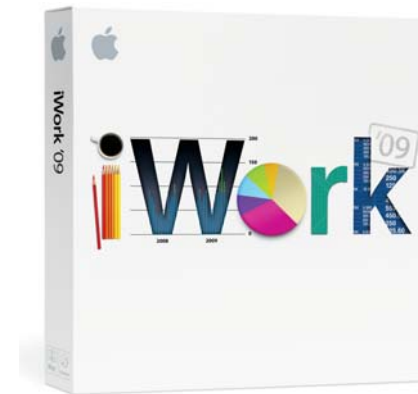
Keynote

Keynote '09 picks up some visual enhancements, fancier transitions, and the capability to perform object-level transitions that animate the graphics or text between slides. There are also new themes and snazzier chart types and animations, but the main addition is actually a \$0.99 Keynote Remote app for the iPhone and iPod touch. It enables you to drive a Keynote presentation, complete with speaker's notes and a preview of the next slide. The functionality isn't new though, since apps like StageHand and Remote Buddy have been offering similar features for some time. We'll be curious to see if Apple tosses these competing programs out of the App Store for treading on Keynote Remote's new turf, or if they'll settle for undercutting them.

Pages

The most important changes in Pages '09 made us think that Apple has finally gotten serious about competing with Microsoft Word, if not producing a word processor for the 21st century. These new features include mail merging with Numbers, an

outliner that enables you to move items around in a hierarchy and have those movements reflected in the styling of your document (much like the Heading styles in Microsoft Word), and support for MathType and EndNote. Also, a new full-screen view takes over the entire monitor, obscuring even the menu bar unless you hover the cursor over it, enabling you to focus on the task at hand instead of all the other stuff happening on your Mac.



Numbers

Changes in Numbers '09 look like solid updates, but are nothing groundbreaking. There's a new feature that improves the re-organizing of tables, added formulas and an enhanced interface for entering them, and new chart types and visuals. Happily, we've heard that Numbers '09 does offer

the capability to freeze a column, locking it in place as you scroll through other columns. Finally!

iWork '09 also now features dynamic linking, which enables you to create charts in Numbers and then link them into Keynote and Pages, such that when the chart changes in Numbers it automatically changes in all locations. If you're thinking this sounds like Microsoft's OLE or Apple's own Publish and Subscribe, from the early 1990s, well, you're right.

iWork.com

Phil Schiller also announced a beta version of a new Web site called iWork.com, which gives users of iWork '09 a way to share files online and perform limited collaboration. To share an iWork document, you click a button in the toolbar and