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THE TOOWOOMBA APPLE & MACINTOSH USER GROUP NEWSLETTER

Issue 134  
March 2009

# MacClips

## Apple Quietly Improves Low-End MacBook

by Mark H. Anbinder

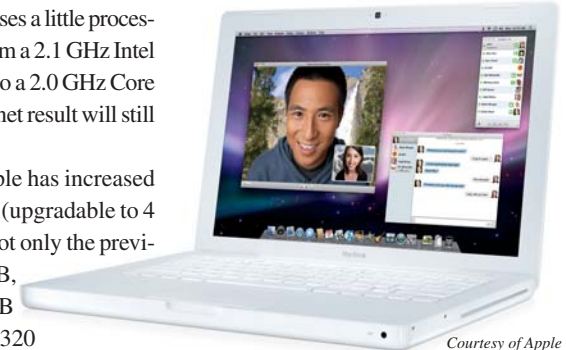
The low-end MacBook, the white 13-inch polycarbonate model that remained in Apple's laptop lineup when the company introduced a new unibody aluminum model, is now an even better deal. Without any fanfare, the company has quietly begun shipping a revised MacBook that features more memory, more-advanced Nvidia graphics, and a faster frontside bus, without giving up the low price or the FireWire 400 port that keeps many users interested in the model.

Likely of most interest to prospective buyers will be the performance boost the low-end MacBook now gets from the combination of the Nvidia GeForce 9400M graphics processor also used in the aluminum MacBooks, and a boost in the logic board's frontside bus speed from 866 MHz to 1066 MHz. Oddly, the upgraded model also loses a little processor speed, dropping from a 2.1 GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor to a 2.0 GHz Core 2 Duo. We suspect the net result will still be a faster machine.

At the same time, Apple has increased base memory to 2 GB (upgradable to 4 GB), and now offers not only the previously available 120 GB, 160 GB, and 250 GB hard drives, but also a 320

GB hard drive. The white MacBook retains its Mini-DVI port, which supports adapters to DVI or VGA, but can't drive Apple's 30-inch Cinema Display. The aluminum MacBook model features the newer Mini DisplayPort, supporting DVI, VGA, and dual-link DVI with appropriate adapters.

The FireWire 400 port remains the biggest technical difference between the white MacBook (which has one) and the unibody aluminum MacBook model (which has none). The absence of a FireWire port from the aluminum MacBook model was the subject of much consternation among users who felt they'd miss FireWire Target Disk Mode and compatibility with FireWire-based digital video camcorders, FireWire external hard drives, and other devices.®  
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Toowoomba Education Centre, Bakers Street

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### *What's New*

Over the next 3 months we will be exploring some of the new features in Apple's applications. Come along to the March meeting on the 4th and start the journey with an iTunes update.

# Mac Clips

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Meeting Date: First Wednesday of each Month.  
Time: 7:30pm

Venue: The Toowoomba Education Centre,  
Baker Street, Toowoomba.

Subscriptions: \$40 per year: Adults & Families  
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bers & Full Time Students.

For details phone Ray Woodrow on 4661 4975

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## Our Mission

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



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## Editorial

As the power and speed of new computers increase software designers regularly upgrade their products to provide new features and take advantage of the increased capacity of the computer.

Apple recently released their '09 editions of iLife and iWork at \$129 each (just \$79 in the US). Why does Apple not have an update path for these packages and, for that matter, their OS X updates? Microsoft offer upgrade packages for Windows Vista and their Office suite but it won't take you long to realise that those upgrades can cost as much or even more than the full price of the equivalent Apple software. The full price of Windows Vista can be from just over \$100 to around \$700 depending which one of the staggering array of versions you choose. Microsoft Office presents a similar price range with the student version at around \$150 and the professional pack closer to \$800.

Adobe's pricing is even more prohibitive with the new Creative Suite, CS4, costing anything from \$2800 to over \$5000. CS4 upgrade prices range from over \$1000 to nearly \$2000. These prices are typical of Adobe software and if, like myself, you started with an early version of Photoshop at around \$1500 in to days terms and have upgraded regularly since that's quite an expenditure. When you consider that design professional are almost obliged to follow the upgrade path budgeting for this would be a major decision particularly for a studio with many installations.

In the light of all of this the Apple approach is more than fair. I wouldn't suggest that apple has any equivalent to the Adobe CS but iLife give users a very reasonable capability and iWork is more than just a cheap Office substitute.

R. Lascelles



Apple's recent release of the iLife '09 package means that there are many new and exciting features to be found in all of the individual programs in the package. Over the next few months we will be looking at some of the important new features in these and other packages. Come along to our March meeting at the Toowoomba Education Centre in Baker Street on the 4th for an update on iTunes.



## Microsoft Plans Shift in Business, Thousands of Layoffs

by Glenn Fleishman

As expected, Microsoft announced layoffs last week, a rare event in the company's history. The actual scale - 5,000 Microsoft employees and as many as 5,000 contractors - seems to have shocked analysts and reporters so much that they ignored a few salient facts. Microsoft shed 1,500 employees at the time of the announcement and plans to lay off 3,500 more over the next 18 months. But, during the same period, CEO Steve Ballmer said in a staff memo the company will add 2,000 to 3,000 new positions for its new initiatives, many of which are focused on cloud computing, applications that run in a distributed fashion over the Internet instead of being housed on individual personal computers or servers.

Even more specifically, insiders are claiming that the majority of the first cuts are in the Xbox, Zune, and Windows Mobile divisions of the company, according to veteran Microsoft reporter Mary-Jo Foley.

We have no word yet as to whether any Macintosh Business Unit staff have been let go. The MacBU develops core business and communications software for Mac OS X, such as the Office suite.

It's well known in the Seattle area that Microsoft has a penchant for hiring and no talent for firing. Very few people are involuntarily separated from MacClips March 2009

the company headquartered in Redmond, WA, even after they've committed egregious blunders or exhibited total and complete incompetence. (Theft is another matter.)

As a result, Microsoft employs a lot of people that don't contribute directly to the company's bottom line. The areas that Ballmer said would be cut were largely support staff: IT, human resources, marketing, and so forth, rather than the muscle and sinew of the company, its core programming efforts.

It's never a good day to lose one's job, and one hopes that the most competent and able folks will be able to shift within the company to the new positions opening up.

And, by the way, Microsoft made \$4.2 billion dollars on \$16.6 billion in revenue in the last quarter, and has \$20 billion in the bank. These moves are expected to save them \$1.5 billion a year in expense and \$700 million in capital spending.®

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### Coming Up

Mark your calendar now for our upcoming events.

March 4 - iTunes Update

April 1 & May 6 - iMovie Update & iPod Update

Continued from page 4

First, find the latitude and longitude coordinates of your destination using a service such as iTouchMap.com. Next, make sure iMovie is not running and open the application's package: Control-click on the iMovie application icon and choose Show Package Contents from the contextual menu. (iMovie, like many applications, is a Mac OS X "package," a folder that appears normally as a single file.)

Go to Contents/Resources/ and open the file WorldLocations.txt using a text editor. Copy an existing entry similar to the one you're about to add; for example, find a city in your state or country. Paste that at the end of the list, and change the city name.

Then, copy the coordinates you looked up on the Web and paste them in place of the coordinates in your custom line.

Save the file, close the folders, and launch iMovie. When you add a map and perform a search, your new location appears in the list.

## The Date/Time Title

When you add this title style to a clip, the clip's actual date and time appear. Only the start time is displayed - it won't keep a running clock on your footage - and you can't edit the text style. But if you need a quick notation of when the clip was

## Apple Releases Beta of Safari 4

by Doug McLean

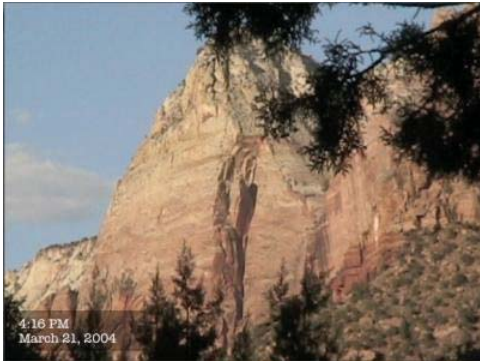
It's been over a year since Apple introduced a major update to the Safari Web browser. Now the company has released a public beta of Safari 4, bringing a host of new features, interface enhancements, and performance boosts.

The major changes include a new Top Sites feature that enables users to view and connect to their most-visited sites; Cover Flow integration for bookmarks and history; the relocation of tabs to the top of the window; an updated WebKit engine that features the new Nitro Engine that handles Javascript with improved speed; and a full set of developer tools.

shot, this title can save you some work.

## View Photos from Same Time Period

If you're like me, you capture not only video during a trip or other occasion, but also a lot of still photos. iMovie '09 makes it easier to find the photos you shot at the same time.



Select an event in the Event Library and then click the Photos button on the toolbar. At the bottom of the Photos pane is a new Show Photos pop-up menu; click its checkbox and then choose a time frame (Within Event Date Range, or Within 1 Day/Week/Month of Event).

## Adjust the Opacity of a Cutaway

With the advanced tools enabled (an option in iMovie's preferences that unlocks a lot of features), you can drag one clip on top of another and create a cutaway - the new clip is superimposed on top of the existing one. When you bring up the Inspector on the cutaway clip, a new Opacity slider lets you adjust how transparent the clip appears.

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# 10 Secrets of iMovie '09

by Jeff Carlson

I'm one of those people who thought iMovie '08 was pretty much okay. It advanced consumer video editing on the Mac in several ways, such as having live transitions and effects that don't require re-rendering clips and putting your entire video library at your fingers without opening old projects.

But iMovie '08, having been written from scratch as a new application, was sparse in many areas, especially compared to its predecessor, iMovie HD 6. The good news is that iMovie '09 restores most of iMovie HD's features.

The better news is that iMovie '09 boasts a lot of other new features and hidden secrets that aren't immediately apparent.

I'm hard at work on my book iMovie '09 and iDVD for Mac OS X: Visual QuickStart Guide and am enjoying discovering many of iMovie's hidden tips and features. Here are 10 things I've discovered that aren't entirely obvious.

## Double-click Clip to View Inspector

iMovie '09 now collects its adjustment controls in a new Inspector heads-up-display, instead of providing separate floating panels for video and audio adjustments. You can select a clip and click the "i" icon in the toolbar, or choose an option from the new Action menu that appears on every clip, but it's easier to double-click the clip to bring up the Inspector. (If you prefer iMovie '08's behavior of double-clicking a clip to play it, you can change the action in iMovie's preferences.)

iMovie's adjustment controls can also be invoked from the keyboard by pressing the following letters (with no modifier key): I for Clip adjustments; V for Video adjustments; A for Audio adjustments; and C for Cropping, Ken Burns and Rotation adjustments.

## View Your Movie on a Secondary Display

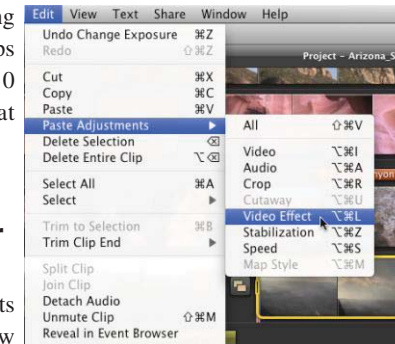
iMovie's monitor occupies the top-right corner of the program's interface, and it can be resized by choosing one of the following

sizes from the Window > Viewer submenu: Small (Command-8), Medium (Command-9), or Large (Command-0). That feature isn't new, although the keystrokes have changed from iMovie '08.

What's cool about iMovie '09 is that if you work with multiple displays, iMovie can use one of them as the monitor to play back your movie. Choose Window > Viewer on Secondary Display. (If you don't see the menu item, make sure Show Advanced Tools is enabled in iMovie's preferences.) This feature not only gives you a larger preview - it scales to fit the screen - but it removes the monitor from the iMovie interface, giving you more horizontal room for editing your project.

## Copy and Paste Adjustments

One of iMovie '09's new features is the return of video effects. With a clip selected, bring up the Inspector and click the Video Effect button to view the effects iMovie offers. Now, let's sup-



pose that you also apply some other edits to the clip: increasing the exposure, muting the audio, applying image stabilization, changing its speed, etc. Quite a lot can happen to one clip, as you can see. If the following clip (or other clips) come from the same scene, you'd have to re-apply all of those adjustments to make them match up.

Instead, Apple expanded on a powerful feature that deserves attention. With the adjusted clip selected, choose Edit > Copy or press Command-C; all of the adjustments are copied. Then, choose one or more clips and choose which

edits to apply from the Edit > Paste Adjustments submenu, either all at once or piecemeal. iMovie '08 could paste only video, audio, or crop adjustments. This version also adds cutaway edits, video effects, stabilization, speed, and map style adjustments.

## Move Projects and Events to Other Drives

In iMovie '08, events (the folders in which raw footage was stored on the hard disk) could be kept on your computer's startup disk or on external disks, but your movie projects had to be located on the startup disk. iMovie '09 lets you choose where projects are stored, too.

You can also move projects from drive to drive, such as you might want to do if your startup disk runs low on space. Relocating event files in iMovie '08 required that you move the applicable projects in the Finder. Now, drag a project or event to another drive's icon in either the Project Library or the Event Library to copy the content. In the case of relocating project files, you're given the option of copying just the project file or the file and its associated event footage, too. (Here's a video example.) To move the files instead of copy them, hold the Command key while you drag.

## Choose Which Clips Appear in Theme Transitions

iMovie '09 offers new themes that add motion graphics to your clips, specifically to your movie's opening and closing scenes and some transitions. Some themes transition between two clips by, for example, focusing on one clip "mounted" to a bulletin board, zooming out, and then zooming in on the next clip. Other transitions have several clips on the bulletin board.



You can choose which clips appear in which frames. Click one of the theme transitions to view a zoomed-out image that displays all of the available drop zones. A set of numbered yellow pins appears on your footage, each representing one of the drop zones. Drag the pins to the areas of your movie you want to appear in the other photos.

## Consistent Map Styles in Themes

Speaking of themes, the Bulletin Board theme includes a map tacked onto the background of the board. If you already have a map in your project, or you add a new map, the map style on the board automatically assumes the same style from the project for consistency.

## Add Locations to Travel Maps

iMovie includes an internal database of 4,000 cities, airports, and other locations for use when adding markers to its interactive maps. That's a good start, but what if you want a location that isn't included? With a little work, you can add it to iMovie's database. (Credit for this tip goes to user markstew on Apple's iMovie discussion forums.)

*Continued on page 10*

# Yet Another Reason Not to Pirate Software

by Adam C. Engst

I've been laid up in bed following a hernia repair operation last Wednesday (feeling better, thanks!), and while that's undoubtedly making me crankier than normal, I'm having trouble mustering any sympathy for the people who downloaded pirated copies of iWork '09 and Photoshop CS4 and had their Macs turned into zombies participating in distributed denial of service attacks. Yeah, it sucks that those people are going to have to go to some effort to wrest back control of their Macs (for safety's sake, I recommend absolution of a clean install of Mac OS X and applications, moving only documents and settings over) but let's face it, anyone downloading this software was trying to get something for nothing. Oh, I know, it seems that copying software illegally is a victimless crime, but it's now painfully clear that doing so also attaches a big "Practices Unsafe Hex!" sign to your back. Perhaps software piracy isn't so victimless after all.

We've been saying for a long time that responsible computing practices include avoiding untrustworthy sites and, especially, not downloading software from such sites. For the most part,

we were thinking about the usual gambling, porn, and get-rich-quick sites that attempt to prey on our baser instincts. But with (unverified) claims that as many as 20,000 people downloaded the pirated version of iWork '09, perhaps we've been remiss in not stating the obvious. The kind of people who post pirated software aren't necessarily the sort of people you want installing software on your Mac. And that's just what you do when you download pirated software - you invite someone who's intent on ripping off Apple or Adobe to do what they want with your machine.

So let's not pretend that this Trojan Horse situation is in any way a normal security exploit or that people who suffered from it didn't know that they were doing something wrong. They may not have known that their Macs would be dragooned into a denial of service attack, but they certainly knew they were doing something wrong. Not to get all preachy, but in this sort of situation, virtue offers not just its own reward, but also the reward of keeping your Mac safe from unsavory elements.☺

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## Apple Releases iWork '08 Update

by Doug McLean

Apple has quietly released minor updates for the three applications in the iWork '08 suite: Keynote, Pages, and Numbers. The support notes for the Pages 3.0.3 update and the Numbers 1.0.3 update, are terse and essentially uninformative: "This update addresses general compatibility issues." The Keynote 4.0.4 update notes give a little more information, stating that it primarily addresses compatibility issues with Microsoft PowerPoint 2007 and 2008. All updates are available via Software Update.

As much as it's disrespectful to professional users to restrict the release notes so completely, these updates send the much-appreciated message that

Apple will continue to support the iWork '08 applications despite the recent release of iWork '09. This practice is similar to Microsoft's continued support of Microsoft Office 2004, which, though supplanted by Office 2008, is still widely used. Although iWork '09 costs only \$129, many users, especially those working in offices or schools with fixed budgets, may not wish to purchase the new version, particularly if iWork '08 already meets their needs. So it's good to see Apple extending the bug fixes and patches that are presumably included with iWork '09 to users of the previous version.☺

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and require you to save it elsewhere. Microsoft Word 2008 presents a clear dialog telling you to move the document out of the Trash or use Save As. Adobe Photoshop CS3 lets you open the file and make changes, but when you try to save, it forces a Save As without any explanation. On my first test with Adobe InDesign CS3, it crashed; subsequent tests merely closed the document without warning or explanation as soon as I opened it.

Testing would be required to determine how any given program will react to this situation, so if you rely on the Dock, Recent Items, or Open Recent as a launcher for in-progress documents, you may wish to check the applications you use. I haven't tested Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger with regard to opening trashed documents, but I'd guess that the problem exists in that version as well.

Exacerbating the problem is the fact that Leopard's Time Machine doesn't back up files once they're in the Trash. It may have a backup of the file before it was moved to the Trash, but that could be significantly out of date, were you to empty the Trash and then look to Time Machine to restore the most recent backup.

## Who's Responsible?

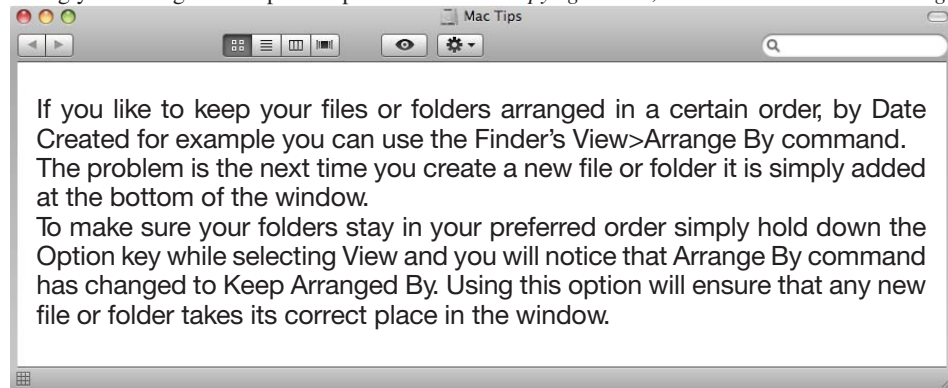
From the varying results in my testing, it's clear that responsibility currently lies with application developers to notice that an open file is located in the Trash and to prompt the user appropriately. Apple's own programs appear to do that, and I strongly encourage developers to perform that

check on either open or save, preferably open. More generally, though, and the reason I think Apple should modify Mac OS X to eliminate this possibility of data loss, is that the Finder and the Dock behave differently in exactly the same situation, and the Finder itself displays inconsistent behavior. Double-click a file in the Trash, and the Finder forces you to move it before opening it. The Finder also warns you appropriately if you put a document in the sidebar or toolbar, trash the file, and then try to open it. But open a trashed file by clicking it in the Dock or from the Recent Items submenu, and... it just works (which is a bad thing, in this case).

For the sake of both consistency and safety, the Dock, the Recent Items submenu, and the Open Recent submenu in applications should refuse to open any file that's stored in the Trash. And, ideally, the Finder should offer to move the offending file to the user's Desktop, rather than just presenting an error dialog. That would just be polite.

Plus, although fixing this bug would address the issue of opening files in the Trash, I believe that Time Machine should back up the contents of the Trash, just like everything else, since it's all too easy to create a file and trash it within the hour-long time frame that Time Machine operates, thus preventing Time Machine from ever seeing that file.

I've reported this problem to Apple, and with luck, it will be addressed in Snow Leopard.®  
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# Google Earth 5.0 Adds Oceans, Mars, and Time Travel

by Doug McLean

Google Earth 5.0, the latest version of the popular 3D earth visualization tool, unleashes several major new features and loads of additional content. New additions announced by Google include the capability to view 3D bathymetric maps of the ocean's floor, thumb through historic maps and satellite imagery, explore the surface of Mars, and record journeys within Google Earth to share with other users.

## The Oceans

While technically Google Earth has always included the oceans, until now that's consisted only of an expanse of blue with low resolution shading to indicate varying depths. In the new Google Earth 5.0, you can dive below the ocean's surface and explore the 3D terrain of the floor, as well as watch videos and gather information from various data points. The data points consist of text, videos, and links,

which cover subjects ranging from animal tracking patterns and surf spots, to shipwrecks and historic expeditions. A great deal of this content is provided by National Geographic and Cousteau Ocean World. I had fun just plunging beneath the waters, crawling around, and randomly popping up to see where I'd travelled. To activate the Oceans layer, check the box next to Oceans under the Layer section of the sidebar.

## Historical Imagery

The next best thing to time travel, the new Historical Imagery feature enables users to view

maps and photos of any given location throughout recent history. While the timeline is limited by the scope of Google's image archive, for some locations this still means looking at imagery 60 or 70 years old. For most locations in the United States though, information appears to date back only as far the late 1980s at best. However, for the launch of version 5.0 the Google team did put together some historic data sets for San Francisco and Las Vegas which are definitely worth checking out. This new feature is loaded with potential, and provides an easy way to explore the development of neighborhoods, cities,



and the changing face of the environment. To activate the historic imagery feature, and its timeline slider, click the clock icon in the top menu bar.

## Mars

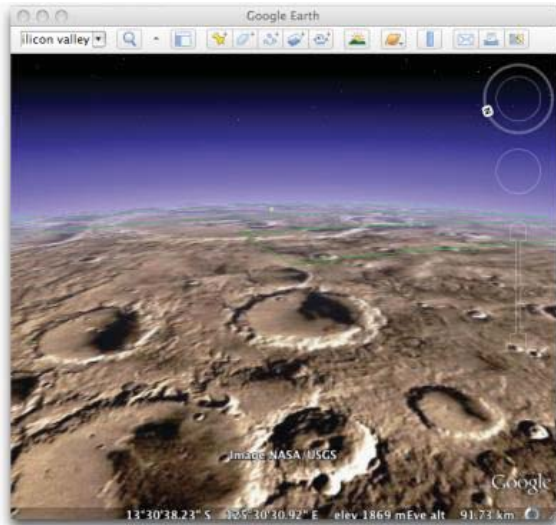
Thanks to a collaboration with NASA researchers, Google Earth 5.0 introduces a new mode wherein

users can explore the Red Planet. As one might expect, the 3D terrain imagery for Mars isn't great, but Google does include other information such as significant landmarks, featured satellite imagery, day/night infrared shots, and excerpts from the book "A Traveler's Guide to Mars." To activate the Mars mode click and hold the um, Saturn icon in the top menu bar and select Mars.

## Touring

Designed to make Google Earth even more of a shared experience, the Touring feature enables

users to record journeys within Google Earth, along with accompanying narration. Likewise, users can download and watch tours that have been created by others. Check out Google's Lat Long Blog to find a handful of great Google Earth tours for download, including a Jimmy Buffett concert tour and a tour exploring the shrinking of the Aral Sea in Central Asia since the 1960s. Unfortunately, the recording controls are fairly limited. For example, there's no pause button, so tours must be recorded



straight through from start to finish. Also, there's currently no built-in way to export the file for viewing in a program other than Google Earth. Hopefully, in subsequent releases this feature will be further fleshed out as it might be nice to share these tours via YouTube or Facebook. To activate the Touring feature, click the movie

camera icon in the top menu bar. Google Earth continues to demonstrate a commitment to fun and interactive education with these excellent new features. Whether you're a newcomer to the program or a veteran user, I highly recommend checking out version 5.0. It's a 35 MB download, and is available from the Google Earth Web page.

One caveat - installing Google Earth 5.0 also requires that you install the omnipresent Google Software Update, which has generated complaints among those who want more control over what's running on their Macs and when updates are downloaded and installed. At the moment, there is no supported method of disabling Google Software Update or running it only at specified times.Ⓜ

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## SEC Reportedly Investigates Apple over CEO Health

by Glenn Fleishman

Before the close of trading on 21-Jan-09, the Wall Street Journal reported (using an anonymous source) that the SEC had opened an investigation into how Apple had disclosed information related to Steve Jobs's health. Jobs, currently on leave from the company except for major strategic decisions until June 2009, has made a number of brief statements about his health over the last



*Courtesy of Telegraph.co.uk*

several months.

Publicly traded companies are required to disclose matters that have a material effect on a company's performance, which could include a CEO who was unable to perform as expected. The SEC typically only discloses their investigations when a settlement is made, fines imposed, or prosecution intended.Ⓜ

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## Finder Inconsistency Could Lead to Data Loss

by Adam C. Engst

Consultant Scott Rose has isolated a potentially dangerous problem in Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard that could cause data loss for people who rely on the Dock or the Apple menu's Recent Items submenu as a launcher for in-progress documents. The steps to reproduce the problem aren't likely to bite careful users, but it's easy enough to see someone accidentally stumbling into the situation, as did one of Scott's clients.

### The Problem

Assume you drag frequently used documents to the Dock for quick access, and once in the Dock, you use those Dock aliases exclusively for opening documents. Or, imagine that you use the Apple menu's Recent Items submenu or applications' Open Recent submenus to access your in-progress documents. Further assume that for some reason, perhaps accidentally, you move one of these important files to the Trash.

Normally, if you double-click a file in the Trash, the Finder refuses to open it, telling you

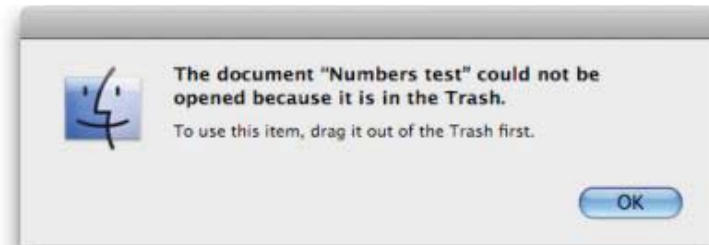
easy to empty the Trash while working and lose your file.

However, if you open a trashed document via the Dock, the Recent Items submenu, or an application's Open Recent submenu, some applications allow you to open the document, make changes, and save your changes, all without the slightest warning. Were you to empty the Trash, your data would be lost, and you'd be left with no recourse short of a therapeutic bout of cursing. (And yes, this would definitely fall into the category of "user error," but if Apple is going to prevent people from double-clicking files in the Trash,



the least they can do is be consistent about other ways of opening files in the Trash.)

In a quick spot check of applications I use, programs that allowed editing of files in the Trash include Microsoft Word 2004 (but not 2008),



Microsoft Excel 2008, and BBEdit 9.1.1. Scott Rose also tells me that he's verified the problem in FileMaker Pro (any version), Quicken 2007, and Final Draft 7.

On the other side of the spectrum, Apple's

to remove it from the Trash first. The warning makes perfect sense, since it would be all too MacClips March 2009

own TextEdit, Preview, Pages '09, and Numbers '09 alert you that the file is stored in the Trash

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