



# MAC FACTS

from

## Mac Help Desk

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**a Macintosh Solutions Provider company**

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Volume 15, Number 8

August 2005

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### *A Message from Dru*

Well, it's been a long, hot summer. But it is coming to an end. For most of us with kids in school, school starts on Monday August 15<sup>th</sup>. Now might be an appropriate time to make sure that the Mac is running at full capacity and everything is shipshape. Call today for an appointment...and don't forget about our 10% Back to School Discount. See July's MacFacts for more info.



I can see you...In the Dallas Observer, of course. *iLoad your iPod*, our iPod music loading service, has started running ads in this local Dallas entertainment newspaper. Check it out for yourselves. Better still, call us and let us get all those CDs into your 'Pod.



New to Macs? Or Not – Either way you need to become a member of the Apple Corps of Dallas, the nation's oldest Mac User Group. The next meeting is Saturday August 13<sup>th</sup>. Meetings are held at the Richardson Civic Center (Arapaho & Central) and start at 9am. Admission is FREE, kid-safe, and all are welcome. For more info go to <http://www.acd.org>.



“Survey says!...”Those of you who can remember Richard Dawson on *Family Feud* can remember that line. Well we're taking a survey this month to see which Operating System and which Web Browser you're using. It's short, quick, and easy. Just go here - [Mac Help Desk Survey](#). Thanks, in advance and thanks to client/friend Jeffrey Zarit for the suggestion.



Sometimes it just doesn't work...even for me - Some of you might notice that this month's MacFacts is not in our usual '.pdf' format (Portable Document Format) that is read by either Adobe Acrobat or Preview. This month's issue is in the '.rtf' format (Rich Text Format) that's read by Microsoft Word or by AppleWorks or most other text editors. “Why?”, I hear you ask. Because I couldn't get the hyperlinks (you know, those blue underlined things that when you click on them take to someplace on the internet - like our Survey this month) to work when I moved the MacFacts document from Word into the PDF format. So I said “Dru, forgetaboutit. Just send it as an RTF, they'll understand. And I hope you will. ☺



## Stealing your neighbor's Net

The spread of wireless is opening lots of opportunity to log on for free, but experts urge caution.

*By Steve Hargreaves,*

### **Forty bucks for high-speed Internet access? Not a bad deal. But how does free sound?**

To a growing number of Internet piggy-backers, it's the sweet sound of pirating their neighbor's wireless network.

Most new computers are equipped for wireless Internet access, and more and more people opting for Wi-Fi in their homes. But as the networks become stronger and more prevalent, more of those signals are available outside the home of the subscriber, spilling over into neighbor's apartments, hallways and the street.

Add to this the growing number of cafes and other public "hot spots" that offer Wi-Fi (for wireless fidelity) connections and the ability to buy more powerful antennas that can pick up signals several hundred feet away. The coverage in some places can be pretty near flawless.

One study by Jupiter Research said 14 percent of wireless network owners have accessed their neighbor's connection. Yet anecdotal evidence suggests that more and more people are logging on for free.

"I haven't paid for Internet since I've been in New York City," said one friend of this reporter. "Ditto," chimed in another.

And as the practice of using someone else's connection without paying for it expands, it raises the question: Is there anything wrong with that?

### **Will this land you in jail?**

The legality of stealing your neighbor's connection is murky at best.

"All of this stuff is so new, it's hard to say what the liability issues are," said Robert Hale, a San Francisco-based attorney who recently published an academic paper on the subject.

Hale points out that there is a federal law on the books that ostensibly prohibits using someone's access point with out their permission. But "without permission" is vaguely defined and the law seems more geared towards computer hacking.

It seems pretty clear that if you hack your neighbor's password then it could be reasonably argued you didn't have authorization.

But securing many older wireless systems with a password is difficult and even newer ones can be a challenge if you're running multiple computers or multiple operating systems. And, while it may be a violation of the user agreements with Internet service providers, some community-minded users deliberately leave their connections open for others to borrow.

"It's a gray area," said Paul Stamp, an analyst at the technology consultants Forester Research. "By not restricting access it could be argued that you're implicitly making that available."

"A broad statement concerning the access of unprotected wireless networks as being always legal or illegal simply can't be made," said Jackie Lesch, a spokeswoman for the Department of Justice. "It's just kind of dicey."

On a federal level, according to Lesch, prosecuting decisions are made on a case to case basis, mostly depending on the type of system accessed and what it was accessed for.

On the state level it could be more clear. "It's unlawful access", said John Geraty, an officer with the Internet crimes against children unit of the San Francisco Police Department. According to Geraty, using your neighbor's wireless is specifically prohibited in the California penal code. "It's not yours and you're taking it," he says.

But Geraty said his department doesn't deal with that type of crime specifically and an officer at the department's fraud desk - whose jurisdiction it would fall under - said she couldn't recall anyone ever being arrested for it.

Experts do agree that the likelihood of getting caught and prosecuted for stealing a wireless connection probably depends on how often you do it and how you're using it.

"The damages are really the big issue," said Hale. "Are you just poking around, checking your e-mail, or are you doing it on a regular basis and affecting this person's bandwidth?"

### **Location also seems to play a part.**

"If you're in a Manhattan building with 30 apartments that's one thing," said Julie Ask, research director at the technology consultants Jupiter Research. "But if you're the guy who parks your car in front of a suburban house in the middle of the night and you've got the screen from your laptop glowing, well..." speaking of a man who was arrested earlier this month in Florida for just that.

### **Exposing yourself**

Legal questions aside, reliability is another reason to pay for your own access. If you are a heavy user or need the Internet to work from home, relying on a connection that your neighbor could shut off at any moment is probably not a good idea.

There is also the possibility that someone could have set up the unsecured connection as a trap. Experts say it's possible for the network subscriber to gain at least partial access to your computer, read your e-mails and see the pages you visit if you are using their connection. Any personal information you send online could then be compromised.

So while pirating your neighbor's Wi-Fi it may seem like a good way to siphon a free service, you may end up feeling pretty stupid if you get a summons for sneaking a peak at the latest sports scores or your favorite Web sites are the topic of conversation at the neighborhood Christmas party



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# NEWSLINE

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## Japan iTunes Music Store Sells One Million Songs in First Four Days

Apple® announced that music fans in Japan have purchased and downloaded more than one million songs from the iTunes® Music Store since its launch just four days ago. With over 90 percent of the songs priced at just ¥150 per song, the iTunes Music Store in Japan features a mix of local favorites and popular international artists, with Japanese artists claiming both the number one song (Def Tech) and the number one album (Ulfu).

“iTunes has become Japan’s number one online music store in just four days,” said Steve Jobs, Apple’s CEO. “iTunes has sold twice as many songs in just four days as all the other online music services in Japan sell in one month.”

The iTunes Music Store in Japan gives music fans the same innovative features, breakthrough pricing, seamless integration with iPod® and groundbreaking personal use rights that have made iTunes the number one online music service in the world, with over 500 million songs purchased and downloaded. The iTunes Music Store in Japan features local favorites including iTunes Originals from globe and Ulfu, exclusives from Def Tech, Crazy Ken Band, Chara, Little Creatures, Chie Ayado and The Complete B’z digital box set. Other iTunes exclusives include music from international artists such as U2, Jack Johnson and Björk, and over 10,000 audiobooks, including works by Japanese authors.

With iTunes 4.9, listeners have everything they need to discover, subscribe, manage and listen to Podcasts built right in. The iTunes Music Store in Japan includes a wide variety of Japanese-language Podcasts, such as InterFM, Radio SOTOKOTO and Radio Nikkei.



## Apple & Leading Car Companies Team Up

Apple® announced that Nissan, Mazda and Daihatsu have joined BMW, MINI, smart and Alfa Romeo to deliver iPod® integration with their car stereos for 2006 model lines. Seamless integration of iPods in cars allows music lovers to enjoy high-quality sound through their car’s stereo system, easily access their entire music library and take their music with them everywhere they go.

“We’re delighted to have such a wide variety of car companies offering iPod integration,” said Greg Joswiak, Apple’s vice president of Worldwide iPod Product Marketing. “iPod is the number one digital music player and more music lovers than ever can now enjoy a seamless iPod music experience in their car.”

In addition, an array of after-market solutions are available from Alpine, Clarion, Kenwood and Pioneer for cars that currently do not offer iPod integration.



# Apple Introduces Mighty Mouse

## New Multi-Button Mouse Features Innovative Scroll Ball



Apple® introduced Mighty Mouse, its next generation mouse with several innovative new features that make using a Mac® even more powerful and easy. Mighty Mouse offers power users up to four independently programmable buttons, without compromising simplicity for users who prefer just a single-button mouse.

Mighty Mouse also introduces an ingenious Scroll Ball that lets users scroll in any direction - vertically, horizontally and even diagonally. With the Scroll Ball, users can scroll with natural, fluid movements, making Mighty Mouse perfect for applications from viewing web pages and photographs, to video editing and music creation. Mighty Mouse is priced at just \$49.

“With Mighty Mouse, we’ve simply built a better mouse,” said David Moody, Apple’s vice president of Worldwide Mac Product Marketing. “With its innovative Scroll Ball and unique integration of multiple buttons, Mighty Mouse adds functionality while retaining the elegant, easy-to-use Apple design.”

Mighty Mouse is the first multi-button mouse that retains the simplicity of a single-button mouse, and can be used as a single- or multi-button mouse depending on the user’s preference. Mighty Mouse features a single seamless enclosure with programmable touch sensors that act as primary or secondary buttons. With a simple click on the upper right or left side of the mouse, users can instantly access features such as contextual menus found in Mac OS® X and other applications. Mighty Mouse’s two other buttons are activated by pressing its Scroll Ball and squeezing its sides, and can be easily programmed to give users one-click access to Mac OS X version 10.4.2 “Tiger” features such as Spotlight™, Dashboard and Exposé™, or to launch any application such as Safari™ or iChat.

Mighty Mouse features an easy-to-use design that comfortably fits the left or right hand and an optical tracking engine for responsive and accurate cursor movement on almost any type of surface. With up to four programmable buttons, Mighty Mouse makes it easy to access key features of Tiger with the side buttons and Scroll Ball providing quick, one-click access to Spotlight, Dashboard and Exposé.

**Pricing & Availability** \_Mighty Mouse is available immediately through the Apple Store® ([www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)), at Apple’s retail stores and Apple Authorized Resellers for a suggested retail price of \$49 (US). Mighty Mouse requires Mac OS X, Windows 2000 or Windows XP and easily connects to Mac and Windows systems; Mac OS X version 10.4.2 “Tiger” is required to customize buttons for one-click access to Spotlight, Dashboard and Exposé or to launch applications. Mighty Mouse is compatible with either USB 1.1 or USB 2.0 ports.



Thanks for taking the time to read this month's newsletter. Hope you enjoyed it. If you have any comments or suggestions for stories (or would even like to write a story - hint, hint, hint), please send them to me at [machelpdesk@comcast.net](mailto:machelpdesk@comcast.net). Feel free to share this newsletter with a friend. The newsletter archives are located at <http://www.machelpdesk.com/page6a.html>. Y'all come back now, y'hear.