



MAC FACTS

from

Mac Help Desk

SUPPORT, SALES, TRAINING & SERVICE

(972) 783-9787 • (214) 249-9543 - *Pager*

e-mail address - machelpdesk@comcast.net

Web site - <http://www.machelpdesk.com>

a Macintosh Solutions Provider company

Volume 14, Number 7

July 2004

A Message from Dru

For those who haven't realized it as yet, we have a new mailing address. Please update your records to: Mac Help Desk, Inc, 418 Frances Way, Richardson, Tx 75081. Same phone, e-mail.



Apple Corps of Dallas meets this Saturday (7/17) at the Richardson Civic Center. Go here for more info - <http://www.acd.org>. By the way - If you've never seen ACD's award winning monthly magazine, the AppleGram, you definitely need to. I was incredibly impressed with what editor Michael Briney has produced. I think you will be too!

<http://www.acd.org/AppleGrams/200407July/index.html>.



August 19th marks the first day of school for Richardson I.S.D. and other surrounding school districts. Now would be a great time to get that Mac tuned-up, cleaned-up, upgraded, and all-around made 'school-ready' prior to the beginning of the next school year. Just a suggestion.



TIP OF THE MONTH - *Copy text from protected PDFs to other apps*

For those of you who come across PDF documents in which the document's creator has restricted the ability to copy text to the clipboard, here's a simple workaround: Highlight the text, then from the application menu (i.e. Preview or Acrobat) choose Services -> TextEdit -> New Window Containing Selection. Now you can copy and paste from the new "Untitled" TextEdit window. Sometimes it is just that simple.



Thanks to the Zarit's, the Bell's, and a host of others who stopped by to enjoy some great music from my band, LoveSong (<http://www.machelpdesk.com/lovesong>) on July 3rd. Next public engagement is Saturday, August 7th at the Coffee Haus in Plano (www.planocoffee.com). 8pm - 10pm, no cover, no kidding! Come see why *Dallas Music Weekly* calls us "one of Dallas' finest small bands." Mark your calendars (use iCal!) and hope to see you there.



Didyaknow? This is our 175th issue!!! When I started MacFacts fourteen years ago, I thought it was going to be a quarterly newsletter. Yeah, right! Me, not talk!?!? Thanks for listening, commenting, contributing, and supporting my efforts for all these years!



Put a Tiger in Your Tank... in 2005

by Adam Engst

At the keynote of Apple's Worldwide Developer Conference (WWDC) in San Francisco, Steve Jobs dished out the promised preview of Mac OS X 10.4 (codenamed Tiger) and its bundled applications. In the keynote, Jobs noted that over 50 percent of the installed base of Macs are now using Mac OS X, which amounts to 12 million users. That's up from the claim of 7 million users a year ago at WWDC, and although I'm not quite sure what to make of that 12 million number, it's not far from the 13.75 million Macs Apple sold from 2000 through 2003 (judging from the company's SEC 10-K filings). Nonetheless, Tiger will be Mac OS X's fifth major release since the operating system's introduction in 2000, and there's no question that Apple has made significant changes over that time.

You won't see Tiger this year though, since Apple is committing only to the first half of 2005 as a ship date. That could mean as early as January 2005 (expect to see a big preview at Macworld Expo in San Francisco) or as late as June 2005. My money is on sometime in between, partly because it's the safest bet and partly because I believe Apple would want to use WWDC next year to preview what's coming rather than recap what just shipped. But software schedules are notoriously difficult to predict, particularly that far out, and particularly for an operating system, so there's no telling. The cost will once again be \$130.

As with Panther, Apple is again touting 150 new features, although a few are more significant than others. Like everyone else, I'm seeing this stuff for the first time, so rather than attempt to repeat all the details here, I'll restrict myself to a short description of (and commentary about) each major new feature, along with a pointer to Apple's Web site, which you should read for details.

Spotlight - With Spotlight, Apple aims to make it significantly easier to find data already on your hard disk. Spotlight won't just search filenames and content, as Mac OS X can do now; it will also be able to gather and search through metadata, much as iTunes and iPhoto can do with Smart Playlists and Smart Albums. Spotlight will power additional smarts: Smart Folders in the Finder (which could let you overlay different organizational structures on top of the basic hierarchical file system we have now), Smart Mailboxes in Mail (letting you group the same set of messages in different ways), and Smart Groups in Address Book.

<http://www.apple.com/macosx/tiger/spotlight.html>

iChat AV for Tiger - Immediately after iChat AV showed off audio and video chats, users started asking if they could include multiple people in an audio or video chat. Right now the answer is no, but that will change once Tiger ships. Multi-party audio chats will be limited to 10 participants; multi-party video chats to 3. As you would expect, the interface for iChat AV for Tiger is elegant, with a multi-party video chat showing each person an almost three-dimensional display, complete with subtle reflections on the "floor" in front of each person's picture. Multi-party audio chats lack the whizzy graphics, but add helpful sound-level meters, making it easy to see who is talking, even if you don't recognize voices. That's a feature I'd love to have on normal conference calls.

<http://www.apple.com/macosx/tiger/ichat.html>

Dashboard - The Dashboard is a semi-transparent layer that zooms across your Desktop with a single button click, similar to the way Exposé works. Use the Dashboard to get fast access to

information and application controls you use most frequently.

One Dashboard, Many Widgets

The Dashboard is home to a new kind of application called Widgets. Widgets are mini-applications that are designed for fun as well as function. They keep you up to date with timely information from the Internet such as stock quotes or the latest view from your favorite Web cam. They can also provide quick, simple access to frequently-used applications such as a calculator, a playback controller for iTunes and a contact look-up for Address Book.

<http://www.apple.com/macosx/tiger/dashboard.html>

VoiceOver -- For many people, using a Macintosh is visually difficult or impossible, and Apple is attempting to address that with VoiceOver, a new technology built into Tiger. VoiceOver enhances Mac OS X with a spoken interface that reads email and document files aloud, audibly describes the workspace, and provides a set of keyboard commands for navigating the entire operating system. It's difficult to extrapolate from Apple's description exactly how VoiceOver will work, but we can hope that it will make the Mac more accessible to those with disabilities.

<http://www.apple.com/macosx/tiger/voiceover.html>

Mac Sync - Apple seems to be making a big deal of how Tiger's new sync engine will work with Mac accounts to let you synchronize contacts and calendar, although it's unclear how that's different from what iSync provides now. Nevertheless, I hope Tiger's sync engine will enable much more than iSync has so far. <http://www.apple.com/isync/>

Tweaky/Geeky Improvements - Last, but by no means least, we come to the improvements that will primarily interest developers. Tiger will offer 64-bit memory addressing for memory- and CPU-intensive applications while retaining compatibility with existing 32-bit applications. 64-bit addressing will also improve code portability with other 64-bit Unix systems. Speaking of Unix, Tiger will upgrade to the FreeBSD 5.x kernel, provide command-line access to Spotlight, and offer access control lists for controlling access down to the file level. Xcode 2.0 will enhance Apple's development tools with visual modeling and design features, an integrated Apple Reference Library, improved Java support, and graphical debugging from remote machines. A pair of new architectures called Core Image and Core Video will enable developers to access the speed of the graphics processing unit (GPU) built into today's video cards. My impression is that Core Image and Core Video will basically enable faster and fancier eye candy than ever before. And while we're on the topic of video, Apple will be revving QuickTime to support H.264, a new MPEG-4 video codec (compressor/decompressor) that can display video on platforms from cell phones to high-definition TV; iChat AV for Tiger relies on H.264 for better picture quality without the need for additional bandwidth. <http://www.apple.com/macosx/tiger/64bit.html>

Tiger Server - One more thing... As with previous Mac OS X releases, Apple also has a server version. Along with the improvements in Tiger, Tiger Server will include Weblog Server for publishing a weblog, an iChat server for protecting the privacy of internal communications (it will be compatible with open source Jabber clients for various operating systems), a variety of tools that aim to ease the process of migrating from Windows-based servers, server-based home directories for mobile users, a Software Update Server that lets administrators control the availability of Apple's updates for Tiger, an Internet Gateway Setup Assistant to simplify setting up Internet sharing services, and Apple's Xgrid clustering software.

<http://www.apple.com/pr/library/2004/jun/28tigerserver.html>

Tiger Server shares the same amorphous ship date as Tiger itself - the first half of 2005 - and it will retail for \$500 for 10 clients of \$1,000 for an unlimited-client edition. It sounds good, and by

G5 computers.

The 30-inch Apple Cinema HD Display supports resolutions up to 2560 by 1600 pixels, or approximately 4 million pixels overall. It features a brightness level of 270 cd/m² (candela per square meter) and a contrast ratio of 400:1. Due to the increased pixel count, the 30-inch display will work only with a Power Mac G5 equipped with an Nvidia GeForce 6800 Ultra DDL graphics card; that card will be available in August as a build-to-order option for new Power Mac G5 purchases, or as a \$600 kit for existing Power Mac G5 owners. The card offers dual DVI connections in parallel, and it will also support the use of two 30-inch displays. The 30-inch Cinema Display costs \$3,300, and will be available in August 2004.

The 20-inch and 23-inch models may appear to be Apple's existing displays in different cases, but the new screens add more than just aluminum. The 20-inch Cinema Display, priced at \$1,300, still sports up to 1680 by 1050 pixels, but now has a brightness of 250 cd/m² compared to 230 cd/m² and a contrast ratio of 400:1 instead of 350:1. Similarly, the \$2,000 23-inch Cinema HD Display handles up to 1920 by 1200 pixels, but features the same 270 cd/m² brightness (up from 200 cd/m²) and 400:1 contrast ratio (up from 350:1) as the 30-inch Cinema HD Display. Both displays will ship next month.

The new Cinema Displays include two self-powered USB 2.0 ports, two FireWire 400 ports, a power button, brightness buttons, and a Kensington security slot. Apple is also introducing a magnetic iSight mount that will be included with new iSight cameras or available in a separate iSight Accessory Kit in the next few months, as well as a Cinema Display VESA (Video Electronics Standards Association) Mount Adapter Kit for connecting a display to a third-party ergonomic mount.

The displays also abandon Apple's proprietary ADC (Apple Direct Connection) connector found in previous displays, in favor of the more common DVI (Direct Video Input) connection. ADC was an Apple favorite because it reduced cable clutter and eliminated the need for a power supply by routing power from the computer to the monitor. The new displays also feature a single cable exiting the display, though it splits off into power, graphics, USB 2.0, and FireWire 400 connectors; the display's power presumably comes from an external power brick. According to Apple, the 20-inch and 23-inch models will work with existing Power Mac and PowerBook models. These two displays will also work with "Windows-based PCs containing graphics cards that support DVI ports with full single link digital bandwidth and VESA DDC standard for plug and play setup," according to the specifications at Apple's Web site; the 30-inch model will only work with a Power Mac G5 and Nvidia G3Force 6800 Ultra DDL card. As with the iPod, this hardware expansion out of the Mac bubble can only improve Apple's sales to the large Windows market.



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 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.