

# MacFacts

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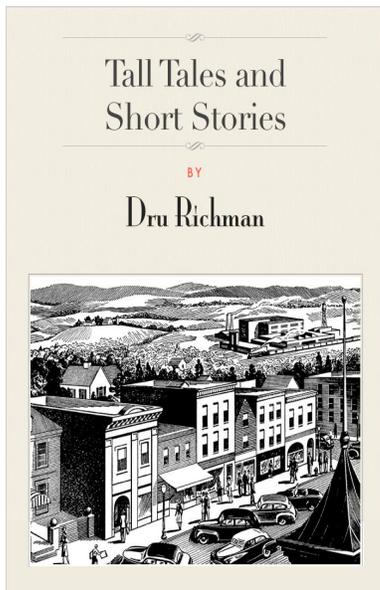
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## A Message From Dru

Hope all y'all had a lovely Valentine's Day.



My book, *Tall Tales and Short Stories*, is undergoing a final read-through. If all goes well, I should see the book published by the end of next month <fingers crossed>. Then we'll have a party or two. Anyone who sponsors a 'Meet/Greet the Author' event gets a free copy of the book. Contact me for details. You can go here - <http://www.machelpdesk.com/stories/all.pdf> - to read the first tale in the book, my award-winning story, **All**.

Deep breathe! I apologize for the frenetic pace over the past few months. What with Ava's 7 week stay in the hospital, and my heart surgery (what's one more stent among friends), it's been crazy here. And for better or worse, it's not gonna get any better anytime soon. Because of the Jewish calendar's eccentricities, the Spring Jewish holidays start early this year. Purim is March 1<sup>st</sup>, and Passover starts March 30<sup>th</sup>.

Ever watch a medical drama on TV? In some instances (rare, I must admit), the patient dies. Does anyone really think the hospital forgoes the bill just because the patient didn't survive? Well, same with me. If you bring your Mac to me for repair, and I do everything in my skill-set to save your Mac, but it is none-the-less unsavable, you will still receive, and be expected to pay, a bill from me. As many other professionals will tell you, you're paying for my knowledge and expertise, not the final outcome.

The office will be closed on Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup> for the Jewish holiday of Purim. See more here - <http://www.jewfaq.org/holiday9.htm>

Heading to La La Land: Thanks to the beneficence of G-d, and a raffle at a local synagogue, Ava and I will be jetting to LA to see her 93-year old aunt from March 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>. We'll get back to Dallas on Wednesday March 7<sup>th</sup> at 5 a.m. But I will be working that day. I may be a bit weary, but I will be there for y'all!

Speaking of travel, our honeymoon trip to Alaska has now been paid. So I guess we're really gonna go. I'll keep y'all posted as we get closer to the dates.

To all my Jewish client/friends:



## PAGE 2 - ASK THE TECH



**Q: How do I read files stored from a Mac on a PC?**

A: It depends on the file type. The most common applications have files that can be read on both platforms. So if, for example, you're using Microsoft Word, you could simply email the file from the Mac to the PC (making sure that before you sent it, you put the '.doc' file type at the end of the file name.)

That's fine but I use Pages. No problem. One of the outstanding features of Pages is that it lets you output files to other formats including '.doc' and '.rtf', both of which are easily read by Office for Windows.

The about solution are great for a file or two, but what if you have a LOT of files? You could always connect both machines up to your wired or WiFi network and transfer the files that way. Barring that, you could always use a properly formatted flash drive to transfer files.

**Q: What is a good anti virus software for the Macbook Air?**

A: For the longest time I have been using Malwarebytes' "Anti-Malware for the Mac" for ridding my Mac of malware, crapware, spyware, adware, and ransomware.

For everything else, I use Sophos. Used in conjunction I believe my Mac is virtually impenetrable. And best of all, they're both free!

See more here - <https://www.malwarebytes.com> and here <https://home.sophos.com>

**Q: How can I revert from OS High Sierra to OS Sierra?**

A: It's relatively easy...but you're not gonna like it.

The only way to return to an older Operating System is to backup your hard drive, then erase the drive and reinstall the older version of the OS. Then you can restore from the Time Machine backup. You'll probably have to restore manually as Apple doesn't allow you to restore files from a newer System to an older one. It is laborious, but not too difficult.

An easier method, is let Mac Help Desk do that for you. Just call me at he office. How long it will take depends on how much data is on your hard drive and if you've been backing up.

**Q: Can i use the charger for my MacBook Pro on my iPad Pro?**

A: Nope! Two completely different types of plugs.

**Q: Does the Magic Mouse 2 work out-of-the-box with the Macbook Pro 15" (2017)—or does it require an extra adapter to charge from the laptop itself?**

A: It will right out of the box. Just go to the System preferences and select Mouse and it will automatically connect to the Magic Mouse 2.

You will need a USB-C to Lightning Cable or a USB-C to USB Adapter with the supplied cable to charge the

mouse with the USB-C ports only MacBook Pro.

**Q: Does the MacBook Air have video chat?**

A: Sure does! It's called FaceTime.

FaceTime is Apple's video and audio calling service. Think of it as a phone that uses your Wi-Fi or cellular data connection instead of traditional phone lines. You can use it from any iPhone, iPad, iPod touch or Mac, to call anyone else using any one of those devices. That's what makes FaceTime perfect for seeing and hearing family during the holidays, when you're on the road, keeping grandparents connected to grandkids, making international calls when you have no long-distance plan, getting a second opinion on that jacket while you're out shopping, sharing a show, making a meeting, and much, much more.

See more here - <https://www.imore.com/facetime>

**Q: What is meant by 'extended period for Magic Mouse 2 battery conservation': several hours or several days?**

A: At the apple store, they said it holds a charge for 1 month if you use it every day. I use my Magic Mouse every day and only charge it every 1 and a half to 2 months.



**Lost?**

Call us and we'll get you going in the right direction!

# PAGE 3 - PRODUCT REVIEWS

## HomePod Real World Review: Is it Worth \$350?

By Jeff Gamet

Now that the initial hype and excitement about HomePod is behind us and we're over the "OMG it's shiny and new" phase, we can take a serious and real world look at Apple's entry into the smart speaker market.

### HomePod Explained

HomePod looks like a single bookshelf speaker, but if you take a hacksaw to one you'll find a seven speaker array, six beam forming microphones, and a high excursion woofer.

### Apple's HomePod smart speaker

Here's what that means: The seven speakers are evenly spaced in a ring so they can push sound out all the way around HomePod's body. The six microphones are also evenly spaced around the body so they can focus on your voice from any direction, and analyze the room's acoustics.

When you set your HomePod on a table or shelf in a room it "listens" to the sound as it plays songs. It takes about a single track for it to create a sound map of the room based on where it's sitting and adjust to best fill the space. If you move your HomePod somewhere else in the room it'll recalibrate for its new position.

Apple said you can put HomePod anywhere in a room, then later on quietly clarified that saying the speaker needs at least 6-inches all the way around to effectively build its acoustic map, and shouldn't be placed on soft surfaces like carpeted floors.

### HomePod Audio Quality

Here's the deal: Audio quality is absolutely subjective, regardless of how much you pay for speakers or headphones, and what features they include. It doesn't matter if you're into KEF, Bowers & Wilkins, JBL, Beats, or some no-name cheap mono speaker you picked up for a few dollars. If you like it, that's good enough. Anyone that tells you otherwise, or shames you for what

you like, needs to shut up and mind their own damn business.

I like how HomePod sounds. I like it a lot. In fact, after two weeks it's my go-to streaming music device. Before HomePod my Amazon Echo with external speakers was my primary streaming music setup, and while I still like that, I find myself calling out to Siri instead of Alexa when I want to hear some tunes.

### HomePod, Echo, and Home size comparison

I like HomePod's clarity, how I hear much more of the subtle nuances in songs compared to my Echo setup, and how it fills my living room with a stereo-like sound even though it isn't a stereo speaker system.

I like how Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon wraps around me, how Dave Brubeck's Take Five practically sounds like a live concert in my home, and how I'm suddenly listening to The Beatles a lot more than I usually do. I also like how classical music sounds clean and crisp, and it's like I'm sitting with the band when listening to bluegrass.

Even though HomePod is versatile enough to make me smile when listening to pretty much anything, the bass in ambient music is so overpowering that I won't even consider streaming it. Occasionally other songs have overpower lows, too, but not so much that I catch myself saying, "Siri, stop" just to make it go away. That's reserved exclusively for ambient music.

Sometimes highs feel a little too brash for me, and mids could be a little clearer in some tracks, as well. Still, it's clear Apple designed HomePod to handle a wide range of musical styles in hope of making this the home speaker of choice for as many people as possible.

### HomePod's Mixed Bag

Apple did an amazing job of making HomePod easy to set up: just take it out of the box, plug it in, and hold your iPhone close. After a couple taps your HomePod is set up and ready to use. There's a little fold-out sheet in the box explaining the

process, and it's almost as simple as setting up AirPods.

You manage HomePod settings in the Home app, which I guess makes sense considering it's also a HomeKit remote access bridge, just like Apple TV. That said, you don't control your Apple TV from the Home app.

While HomePod works fine today, it's missing a couple promised features. First, it doesn't work in pairs yet. Two units should be able to work together to create a more stereo-like sound in a room. Second, multi-room streaming isn't available.

### Should You Buy HomePod?

HomePod costs US\$349, so is it worth buying? I can't give you a definitive yes or no answer, but I can arm you with what you need to know to make an informed choice.

If you subscribe to Apple Music, or plan to, HomePod is great because it uses Apple Music and iCloud Music Library for streaming. Siri integrates well and typically serves up what you want to hear.

If you're big into Spotify, however, HomePod may not be the best choice because right now you have to use AirPlay from another device to play your music. There's a long list of Alexa-compatible speakers on the market that already support Spotify. Hopefully Apple will change that with a future software update.

If you're a HomeKit smartphone device user HomePod is great. Mine responds to my commands more reliably than my iPhone or Apple Watch, plus it hears me from practically everywhere in my apartment. If you use a wider range of smart home devices, an Alexa-compatible device like Amazon Echo, or a Google Assistant device like Google Home may be a better choice.

And finally, if HomePod makes you happy as a music player, smart home voice assistant, or for any other reason, get it. Speakers are subjective, and if HomePod is the one that makes you happy, that's great because we can always use more happiness in the world.

## PAGE 4 - HINTS &amp; TIPS



### How to make your Mail signatures more interesting

Mail lets you create and use multiple signatures you can easily pop inside your emails, but on first glance it seems to limit you to using a standard font without any text formatting, unless you know this tip:

#### Use the Fonts palette

Like every other text-based app, Apple includes text formatting tools in Mail's Fonts palette – and you can use them when creating a signature.

You can get to Mail's Fonts palette by tapping *Command-T*, or by choosing *Format>Show Fonts* in Mail's Menu.

The palette lets you choose fonts, character styles, type styles and more. You can also tap *Shift-Command-C* to access the colors palette, where you can apply colors to your signatures.

You should make sure that the checkbox that says 'Always Match my Default Message' font is left unchecked, by the way.

### How to take a screenshot on your Mac

There are numerous ways to take screenshots on your Mac, including several seldom used options and a couple of Mac-specific choices, too. Learn all of them in this guide,

#### How to capture the entire screen

You can capture an image of the entire screen by pressing *Shift-Command-3*. You'll find the image as a png file on your Desktop.

#### How to capture an element of the screen

You can take a shot of a specific part of the screen. To do so tap *Command + Shift + 4* and use the draggable crosshair to select the onscreen elements you need.

#### How to take a picture of a window

Press *Shift-Command-4* and then tap the Space bar. You should see a camera icon on screen. To select a specific window to take an image of just use your mouse to place that icon above the window you require (it should be highlighted). When the correct window is selected just click.

### iPhone controls you (probably) didn't know

You can buy an iPhone today and be relatively secure in thinking you'll get software updates and a new model with the same basic UI in a year or two's time. And there are always new things to learn. Here are four handy controls most people just don't know about:

#### 3D Touch and App Switcher

This is a great way to shift between apps: just press firmly on the left side of the display and drag your finger to the middle and you'll be in App Switcher. Or press on the left edge of the screen and drag all the way right to return to your previous app.

#### Faster image navigation

Opened an image? When you do just swipe down on it in the app to return to the previous view – this works in Photos and Messages, and some other apps, too. You can also tap the bottom edge of an album in Photos to scroll to the bottom of the collection.

#### Where did I go?

Get to the Tab view in Safari and tap and hold the + button at the bottom of the page to see your recently closed tabs.

#### Handwriting notes

When you are in Messages try turning your iPhone to landscape and you should see a new squiggly line control appear at the bottom right of the keyboard, to the left of the Return key. Tap this and you'll be able to send

handwritten notes and doodles to friends – a little more personal than a sticker or emoji, I think.

### How to find iTunes lyrics on Mac, iPhone, iPad

#### Where are the song lyrics on Apple devices?

iTunes/Apple Music now provides you with song lyrics for the currently playing track. You'll find these on Macs, iPhones, iPads, the Apple TV, and even on PCs running iTunes, though each one of these packs them inside a slightly different part of the user interface.

#### Where can I find the lyrics on my Mac?

When listening to a song in iTunes on your Mac you'll find two routes to get to the lyrics:

- 1 First way:** Click on the three lines/hamburger icon to the right of the song information at the top of the page, and choose the *Lyrics pane*.
- 2 Second way:** Click on the artist icon to the left of the Now Playing track to *invoke the mini player*, click the three-lined icon you see in that player and choose *Lyrics*

#### Where can I find the lyrics on my iPhone or iPad?

It's really quite easy to get to the lyrics on an iOS device:

- 1** *Swipe up* to invoke the Now Playing window for the current song.
- 2** *Swipe a little more* and tap the word *Show* to see the current lyrics.

Alternatively, tap the *three-dot icon* under the playback controls and choose *Lyrics* in the next window.

*Note: Conversely you can Google, 'lyrics, <name of song>' in Safari or other web browsers. — Ed.*