WAMUG

Apple News

Macworld Expo began January 14th. At the Keynote, Steve Jobs introduced many things. None was groundbreaking like the iPhone of last year, but they were interesting. Things keep on improving.

Apple is really pushing the online rental of movies. You need high speed internet access, then you can rent them through iTunes. The selection is small at the moment, but will quickly improve. Movies rent for $3 for old movies, $4 for new, and $5 for High Definition versions. After you rent them, you have 30 days to start watching the movie. Once started, you have only 24 hours to finish watching it. Apple TV has been improved via software and the price has been lowered to $229. This is another means for Apple to increase its movie rental business.

Steve introduced the MacBook Air, the the world's thinest notebook. It measures only 0.16-inches at its thinnest point, while its maximum height of 0.76-inches is less than the thinnest point on competing notebooks. MacBook Air has a 13.3-inch LED-backlit widescreen display, a full-size and backlit keyboard, a built-in iSight video camera for video conferencing, and a spacious track-pad with multi-touch gesture support so users can pinch, rotate and swipe. MacBook Air is powered by a 1.6 GHz or 1.8 GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor with 4MB L2 cache, and includes as standard features 2GB of memory, an 80GB 1.8-inch hard drive, and the latest 802.11n Wi-Fi technology and Bluetooth 2.1. MacBook Air delivers up to five hours of battery life for wireless productivity and

includes AirPort Extreme 802.11n Wi-Fi networking. Price is $1799 for the base version, $3098 with a solid state hard drive.

There are software upgrades for the iPhone, iPod Touch, and Apple TV.

Tim Capsule was introduced. It is a backup appliance that automatically and wirelessly backs up everything on one or more Macs running Leopard. Time Capsule combines an 802.11n base station with a server grade hard disk in one small package. Simply plug it in, then easily set up automatic wireless backup for every Mac in your house to a single Time Capsule with just a few clicks. Time Capsule offers the benefits of a full-featured 802.11n Wi-Fi base station, and comes in two models: a 500 gigabyte model for US$299 and a 1 terabyte model for $499. Time Capsule will be available in February.

Office 2008

Get all the essentials for families and students in one affordable package. Includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Entourage. $149 for the family/ student edition. Seems to have everything necessary for us non-business users.

Bento From Filemaker

Meet Bento, the new personal database from FileMaker that's as easy to use as your Mac. It organizes all the details of your busy life in one place. So you can manage contacts, co-ordinate events, track projects, and prioritize tasks faster and easier than ever before.

Substance, meet style It's never been easier to get organized thanks to built-in links with Mac OS X Address Book and iCal, ready-to-use templates, and elegant themes designed by Mac artists.

Bring it together From contacts and calendars, to projects and events, you can organize just about every type of information you have--and access it instantly--all from one place.

See things your way Just point and click or drag and drop to change the look of any form and see information in a way that makes sense to you.
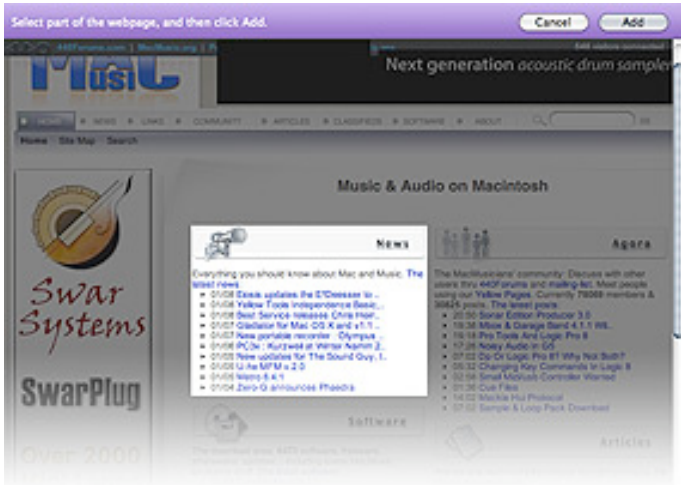
Features

• Super easy for anyone to learn and use

• Links directly to Mac OS X Address Book and iCal

• Import of spreadsheets and other CSV files

• Ready-to-use templates and themes

• iTunes-style searching

• Compatibility with iPhone and .Mac

• Designed exclusively for Mac OS X Leopard

Creating Web Clip Widgets

Leopard makes it easy to create a Dashboard widget from a segment of a web page. For example, you can capture a "new releases" list from a media website, or the "latest posts" field from an Internet discussion group. These Web Clips appear, automatically updated, whenever you open Dashboard.

Here's an example, using www.macmusic.org, a cool music software website.

We navigated to their home page in Safari and clicked the Web Clip button (next to the address field). The entire page darkens save for a bright rectangle. Drag the rectangle from its center and edges until it covers the segment you want to capture. Then click Add and Safari sends your Web Clip to Dashboard. (If Safari doesn't display the Web Clip button, choose Customize Toolbar in Safari's View menu and add the button to Safari's toolbar.) Now the Web Clip appears as a new widget in Dashboard. You can still edit it: Move your cursor over the widget's lower-right corner until a small letter i appears.

Click it to resize or reposition the content, or customize its border using built-in styles.

Mouse-Free Folder Moves

One of the best tricks for speeding up your computer work is to keep your hands on the keyboard, not the mouse.

It's not a macho, anti-mouse thing, but a simple matter of efficient motion. Using the mouse or trackpad means moving your hands off the keyboard, locating the cursor, making your move, and then shifting your hands back to the keys. If you can skip these steps, things tend to go faster.

There's no better example than navigating folders within Finder windows. You can select, open, and browse folders from the keyboard for greater speed and less multi-window clutter.

Test it out yourself: In Finder, open a new window by pressing Command-N. To view the folders in List view, press Command-2. (Command-1 lets you view by Icons, while Command-3 changes the view to Columns.)

In List or Columns view, choose a folder that contains several subfolders, and open it by pressing the right arrow key. You can move up and down between folders or documents by pressing the up and down arrow keys. Close folders (or navigate backwards, if you're in Columns view) with the left arrow key.

When you've located the file you want, speed your work even more by opening it with Command-O instead of double-clicking. In most Mac applications, you can close the file again by typing Command-W.

Once you're accustomed to navigating through folders and files with key commands, you may be surprised by how fast you can move around, mouse-free, on your Mac.

Copying Keychains

Q: I have a lot of passwords stored in my PowerBook's keychain. I want to put an exact copy of the keychain on my iBook, just in case my trusty PowerBook gives up the ghost, but Mac Help is vague about how to do this. -- Jason M. Krellenstein

A: The first step to copying your keychain is finding it. Look inside your user folder /Library/Keychains. Login.keychain is the default user keychain file that OS X creates-- the one you unlock with your login password. (If you've created a new keychain-- Chris's keychain.keychain, for example-- you'll find it here as well.)

Copying a keychain from one computer to another, however, can be problematic. If that other computer uses a different user name or password, it'll bombard you with password requests. Even with the same user name and password, you'll run into the occasional request for a password you know is in the keychain. For example, when I copied my keychain to another computer that used the same user name and password, Internet Connect asked me for my virtual private network (VPN) password-- despite the fact that it never did that on the original computer.

If you subscribe to Apple's .Mac service ($99 per year), you'll be happy to know you already have a way to avoid these problems. The service gives you the option to sync your keychain between your .Mac account and any

Macs you sync with it (see "Keychain Syncing").

You'll find the option for syncing keychains-- as well as bookmarks; calendars; contacts; Mail accounts; and Mail rules, signatures, and smart mailboxes--in the Sync tab of the .Mac preference pane. Select the Synchronize With .Mac option and then choose from the list.

Easy blind carbon copy option for Mail

Q: I like to use the Addresses window in Apple's Mail to address my messages. But I don't see a button there that will let me put an address in the BCC field instead of the To field. What's the best way to do that? -- Marty Grauer

A: The Addresses window (Window: Address Panel) in Apple's Mail for OS X 10.4 (Tiger) doesn't include a BCC option. Try a different approach: create a new e-mail message (1-N), choose View: BCC Address Field (1-option-B), open the Address Panel, and then drag the recipient names you want into the BCC field.

Senior Editor Christopher Breen is the author of Secrets of the iPod and iTunes, fifth edition, and The iPod and iTunes Pocket Guide (both Peachpit Press, 2005).

Find Chris' books at www.amazon.com and www.peachpit.com. Get special user group pricing on Macworld Magazine! Subscribe today at http:// www.macworld.com/useroffer.]