WAMUG

Apple News

Packed with more than 300 new features, Mac OS X Leopard goes on sale Friday, October 26, at 6:00 p.m. at Apple's retail stores and Apple Authorized Resellers, Apple announced today. And, beginning today, customers can place pre-orders on Apple's online store. "Leopard, the sixth major release of Mac OS X, is the best upgrade we've ever released," said Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO. "And everyone gets the 'Ultimate' version, packed with all the new innovative features, for just $129."

Apple continues to increase its share of the personal computer market, pointing to another strong quarter of sales and profit gains.

In the third quarter, Apple's Mac computers accounted for 6.3% of all PCs sold, up from 5.7% a year earlier, according to estimates from IDC analysts. This growth means that Apple pulled further ahead of its competitors as it increased its lead as the No. 3 player in the market, a position it took over earlier in the year. Hewlett-Packard and Dell remain No. 1 and No. 2.

The results suggest that Apple will report another quarter of stellar revenue and profit growth on Oct. 22. The Macintosh computer has been a mainstay of Apple's business since its inception. Mac sales have stood out for their increasing contribution to Apple's sales. In the first nine months of the company's fiscal year, the Mac accounted for 41% of the company's total revenue, up from 36% during the same time last year.
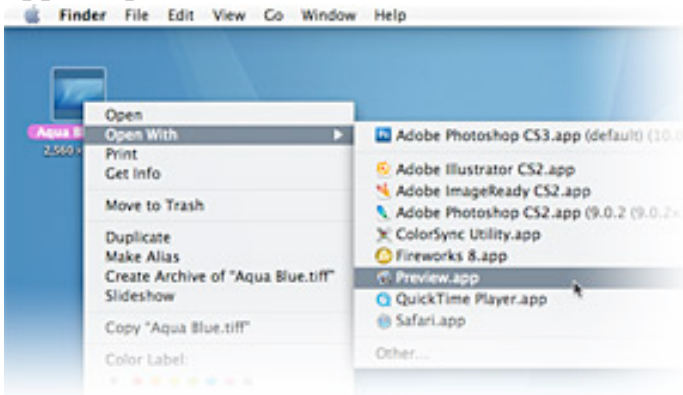
"I think that Apple's primary focus is and will continue to be PC," said Kirk Kim, a portfolio manager with Transamerica Investment Management. "In end, the PC game is still more profitable than the iPod or iPhone."

iLife 08 ($79 or on new Macs) has been re-leased with all its components updated. iMovie has been changed so much that Apple has included the old version on the DVD for those people that are adept with the old. They have simplified the new version so beginners can make videos easily. They may have simplified it too much. iPhoto has been upgraded so organizing of photo libraries is improved.

Opening Moves
Apple Tip

In most cases, double-clicking a file on your Mac automatically opens it in the appropriate application. But sometimes you may want to overrule your Mac and open a file in something other than the default.

For example, say you've edited a series of images in Photoshop, and now you want to take a quick look at them. You might prefer to view them in Preview, a Mac OS X program that opens in an instant, rather than the larger, slower-to-load Photoshop application.
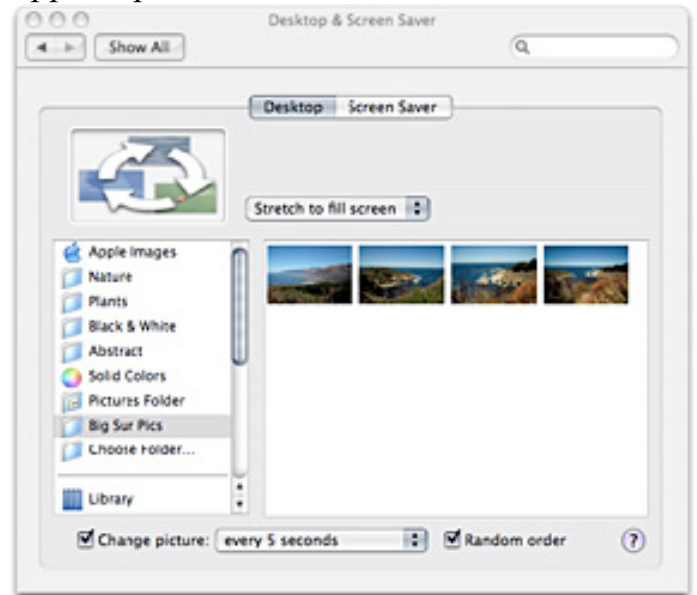
To quickly specify your app, Control-click the item you want to open, then choose Open With from the pop-up menu that appears. This takes you to a list of every application your Mac considers capable of reading the

file. Choose the name of the application you want, and the file opens in that program.

If you think you'll be opening the file repeatedly in that program, you may want to specify an ongoing Open With preference. To do so, select the file and press Command-I to see the file's Info window. Click the Open With tab and choose your program. Now the file will always open with your preferred application. And if you click the Change All… button, every file of the same type will open with this application.

Desktop Slideshow
Apple Tip

Changing your Desktop picture is easy: Just click the Apple menu and choose System Preferences. Select Desktop & Screen Saver and click the Desktop tab. Then select Choose Folder and navigate to the folder containing the picture you desire.

You can also create a custom desktop slideshow by putting the images you'd like to use inside a new folder, navigating to it as described above, and selecting one of the im-

ages. Before you close the Desktop & Screen Saver window, select the Change Picture checkbox. Using the pull-down menu, specify how quickly you'd like the images to change and whether you'd like the images to cycle in random order.

To keep things tidy, you may want to store your new custom picture folder in the same location as your default Mac OS X desktops. They reside in your root-level Library folder, in the folder called Desktop Pictures.

My Ears Rejoice

Freshly Squeezed Reviews

Product: Radioshift

Author: Rogue Amoeba

Radioshift™
Radio On Your Schedule

<www.rogueamoeba.com> Binary: Universal

Requirements: 10.4 - 10.4.10

Price: $32.00

Test Rig: MacBook 1.87/2GB RAM

OK. You can't wait for 'Car Talk' to come on each week. Your guilty pleasure. But it's the school year and your playing Mommy/Daddy Taxi at your special time. So, you can listen to bits in the car, but it's hardly a relaxing get-a-way. Do you have to write off your special time?

Au contraire, my little dust bunnies. Rogue Amoeba, the audio shareware cavalry to the rescue once again with Radioshift. Think

TiVo for internet audio streaming and AM/FM radio (using Griffin's Radio Shark).

Is it easy to use? We're talking Rogue Amoeba here!

THE JUICE

Launch the application and you're presented with the familiar Apple- style pane. A column on the left for your stations and the main body, which is split into three sections: Search, Popular and Favorites. With favorites you bookmark your favorite streams, shows and stations.

The GUI is extremely intuitive. You'll be up and running in seconds. At the very top of the pane are four headings to get you moving: Home, Explore, Genres and World. Then each one of those are broken down into sub-headings

Preferences are laid out so that either your grandmother could set them (spoken voice or music) or you can go to Custom and select your bit rate and format of choice.You can also specify the audio editor you use (I would imagine the RA suggest that you use their editor, Fission) and to show the count of un-heard recordings. You can also set it to wake from sleep or to power-up to record.

THE PULP

Nada.

THE RIND

Nada.

SUMMARY

As usual, Rogue Amoeba does not disappoint.This is a powerful one trick pony. And it lives up to the standards of Rogue Amoeba.

This would be a perfect give this Christmas for friends or family who have moved across country or across the globe. They can still keep one ear firmly in their previous location. And as usual, RA wants your feedback and suggestions for additional features.

So, now drive that taxi with the radio off, knowing that you're not missing a thing.

RATING : 10 of 10

iSight alternatives

Q: *Now that all new Macs come with a Web cam built in, Apple has discontinued the iSight. But that's a problem for me and my older Mac. There don't seem to be any Mac-friendly Web cams out there--in other words, ones that "just work" without additional software. Any suggestions?--via the Internet*

A: The simplest solution is to find an old iSight camera. Some non-Apple retail stores have a few in stock. You can also find iSights on eBay (but be prepared to pay a premium).

If that doesn't pan out, you'll find that tracking down a Web cam that works with the Mac is easier now, thanks to the UVC (USB Video Class) standard--an open standard for video devices. Apple added support for UVC Web cams with Mac OS X 10.4.9.

Just plug a UVC-compliant camera into a Mac running this operating system (or a later one), and it should work. (See a list of compatible Web cams.)

If you're running an earlier version of Mac OS and therefore can't take advantage of a UVC Web cam, try Ecamm Network's $10 miChatUSBCam 2.2.1. This software allows Macs to use an even wider variety of third-party Web cams. It requires OS X 10.3 or later and is Universal (in other words, you can use it on either an Intel Mac or a PowerPC Mac).

But you might not need to buy anything at all. If you have an old FireWire camcorder with a built-in microphone, you can use it as a Web cam. Just attach it to a free FireWire port and switch it into camera mode. iChat AV should recognize it as a viable source. Read the camera's manual to learn how to keep it switched on--most cameras will turn off after a period of time by default. For example, you may need to turn off an energy-saving setting, remove the tape from the camera, or switch the camera into its single-image capture mode.

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.]