WAMUG

Apple News

Many new Apple products have been introduced since the July newsletter. iLife 08, iWorks 08, iMac, iPods have all been updated. OSX Leopard will be released in a month or two.

The iPod lineup has been optimized for video, including the Nano. The Nano has changed the most, being shorter and wider with a larger screen. The newest iPod is the "touch". It is an iPhone without the phone, but it can still go online so you can watch videos and browse the internet, What Apple wants you to do is buy music, TV shows, and movies from them.

Talking about the iPhone, Apple lowered the price $200. That is nice for those customers buying the phone now, not so nice for the early buyers. There was much screaming, so Apple offered a $100 credit at the Apple Store.

The iMac has been improved with the same form-factor, but is made from aluminum and glass instead of the white plastic. It has a glossy screen and is a bit faster in speed. The price has dropped $300 to $1200 on the 20 inch base model and dropped $200 to $1800 on the $24 inch model.

iWork 08 ($79) has been released with updated Pages and Keynote components with a new addition called "Numbers". It is a spreadsheet program that has been missing since Appleworks. Appleworks has now been officially discontinued.

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.

Trip to the Apple Store
by Alan Webster

I went to the Apple Store Brea to pick up a copy of iWorks. While I was there I looked at all the new toys. What caught my attention was the new iMac and iPod Nano.

The iMac is similar to the old except it is made of glass and aluminum. It looks sleek. I was prepared not to like the new screen because it is the glossy type, but I liked it. Glare off the screen from lights was not noticeable and the picture was vibrant looking. The new keyboard is slim and doesn't have much keystroke distance. I don't know what to think of it. It is easily replaced with a usb keyboard of your liking.

The iPod Nano is shorter and wider than the past version. This gives it a bigger screen and smaller scroll wheel. The screen is nice and gives a sharp picture even with video. The interface has been changed to improve navigation. Battery life has been improved

I use a Nano daily to listen Podcasts. I was impressed by the screen picture quality. You can actually watch videos on it without squinting. I like the new navigation, as you can sort through lists quickly using the "split screen". When my Nano breaks, I will buy the new one. It is still going strong though.

1Passwd 2.4.11
Review by: Bob Carpenter (applepickers.org)

Did you ever want a program that can keep track of your passwords no matter which browser you're using? Do you want a place to keep password protected notes? Do you want a program that allows you to autofill more fields than simply your name and address? Well, 1Passwd can do all that and more.

After you install 1Passwd, the most visible way to see how it works is to start up your browser. If you use any major Mac browser (except for Opera), you'll notice a new "1P" button in your toolbar (you can change the look of the button if you want). If you use Shiira, Agile has said that support is coming.

You'll start out using 1Passwd by simply going to a website where you need to enter your login and password. Once you've entered your login and password and clicked on the "login" button (or whatever the website calls it), by default 1Passwd will pop up a password save window. In this window, you can rename what name is used for saving your login and password. If you just want 1Passwd to save your login and password and not bother you with a window, just click on "Save forms automatically without this

prompt". I like the prompt so I can rename the form name.

The next time you go to that website, you simply click on the "1P" button in your browser's toolbar and choose the first option on the menu "Restore form". I've found this incredibly convenient for websites like Hotmail (now called Windows Live Hotmail) where I have multiple E-mail addresses set up. 1Passwd allows me to save multiple forms for the same website and I can pick the login and password that I want to use.

What's a "form"?

I hadn't thought of this question until someone E-mailed me and mentioned that the terminology was confusing. To a web developer (which I'm not), web-pages that accept logins and passwords are forms. However, maybe it would've made more sense if Agile had used the word "password" instead of form since you are saving logins and passwords on these forms.

Do I have to re-enter all of my logins and passwords into 1Passwd?

It really depends. 1Passwd imports files from Safari and Camino if you were already saving your logins and passwords with these programs. It also imports data from a number of password saving programs (too many to list here). It even imports data from the popular RoboForm program for Windows. That's very useful if you're switching to the Mac from Windows. Unfortunately, 1Passwd doesn't yet support a simple CSV import of logins and passwords. That means if you were using an Excel spreadsheet or text file to remember your different passwords, you'll have to re-enter your passwords into

1Passwd. However, if you were keeping your passwords in a spreadsheet program, you had to re-enter the logins and passwords each time you visited the website anyway.

Ok, so saving your logins and passwords are fine, but can't you do that in most browsers? Actually, you can. However, any logins and passwords that you save in a browser (and not in 1Passwd) can usually only be accessed by that one browser. That's very inconvenient if you normally use one browser (maybe Safari) but you use Firefox for that one website that doesn't like Safari.

What are identities (and why would I ever need more than one)? Identities are where you save your name, address, E-mail address, sample user name, credit card number and much, much more. This is very handy when you run into a shopping website where you have to enter your name, address, and other personal information in order to create an account. I have two separate identities set up. One is for actual websites where I need to give correct information. The other identity is filled with junk information when I'm forced to enter information for a website that really doesn't need my information and is just being annoying.

Even better, when you use an identity on a webpage that wants you to enter your login and password, 1Passwd will create your login either using your "Username" that you entered in your identity or your E-mail address if that's what the website is asking for. 1Passwd will also automatically generate a password that's not easily guessed by password cracking programs. By default, it actually creates a longer password (50 characters) than some websites will accept. I'm sure you're wondering how you'd ever remember

such a long, nonsense password. It's simple: you don't have to. 1Passwd saves the password for you. All you do is click on the "1P" button and tell 1Passwd to restore your login and password. 1Passwd also backs up its keychain on your hard disk every day. It's still very important to backup your 1Passwd keychain (along with all of your other important files) onto a CD, DVD, or external hard drive.

Unfortunately, because of how most web-pages are set up, you can't really use it to enter separate shipping and billing addresses. That was a disappointment. I'm hoping that Agile can find a way around this problem in the future.

What kind of security is being used?

That's a valid question to ask since you may be saving logins and passwords for your online banking website. More importantly, you may decide to save your credit card in 1Passwd. Wisely, 1Passwd decided not to try to create their own encryption standard. It uses the same Keychain that Apple built into OS X.

If you're interested in technical information on Keychain security, Agile has a web-page on this subject: How Secure is the Keychain?

What else does 1Passwd do?

1Passwd does allow you to save secure notes. However, you can't put passwords on an individual note or note folder. Right now, 1Passwd is fine for small notes, but it really doesn't compete with the various note taking programs that are available for the Mac. Currently, you can't even put any formatting (bold, underlining) on a note. You can organ-

ize notes into different folders, but that's the extent of the note organization you can do. Honestly, 1Passwd does so well in managing passwords in almost any web browser that you use that I consider any note functionality as purely a bonus.

Any other thoughts?

I should mention that 1Passwd has a free version that has a limit of only 12 forms (sets of logins and passwords) and only one identity. It used to be less than that. However, if that isn't enough forms for you to decide if 1Passwd fits your needs, Agile does have a 30-day money back guarantee.

If you download the free version and you decide you're interested in buying the unlimited version of 1Passwd, Agile has a 25% off user group deal. Here's the URL (web address) for the offer:

http://agilewebsolutions.com/promo/mug

Really, it's a personal decision as to whether 1Passwd is worth $29.95 (or $22.46 with the user group offer). If you're lucky enough to only have a few website passwords, you may not find 1Passwd necessary. However, I currently have around 40 websites that 1Passwd is tracking. I used to use a password structure of one type of password for non-important sites (New York Times login), one password type for a more important site, and one password for my bank. With 1Passwd, I can finally create unique passwords for every website that I use without having to remember them all. Even if I didn't get a free review li-

cense from Agile, being able to do that is easily worth $29.95 to me.

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.

Of overcharging and iPods

Q: *I recently got a Bose SoundDock and wanted to know whether it was a bad thing to keep the iPod permanently mounted in the dock. The SoundDock continuously charges it. Can that hurt the battery?--Danny Sat*

A: In general, you can't overcharge your iPod. It's a savvy little piece of gear that understands when enough is enough, even if it's connected to a power source like the $299 SoundDock () for days on end. Some folks (but not Apple) suggest that undocking the iPod once a month and letting it run on battery power for a while is a good idea. Allegedly, this will "exercise" the battery and lengthen its life span.

I haven't tested the theory, because, frankly, I don't have the patience to conduct multiple-year battery trials. But given that even the most devoted homebody is likely to leave the house on at least a monthly basis, it certainly wouldn't hurt to take your iPod for a walk every so often.

Another battery question I hear frequently is "So, when should I charge my iPod--should I run it all the way down first? Halfway down?" Invariably, my response is "Don't

sweat it." No matter what you do, the battery will eventually die, and you'll either replace it or get a new iPod.

Running an iPod all the way down and letting it sit for a week with no juice is unnecessary--the batteries in iPods don't have a "memory" that you need to reset by running them dry, as did the batteries in some older devices. Nor will the battery become overly stressed if you recharge it at the end of each day, even though you've used only a quarter of its charge.

In short, charge your iPod when it's convenient. If you're going on a transpacific flight, then by all means find a spare power outlet at the airport and top your iPod off. Or if you've listened to it for only a couple of hours and don't feel like taking it out of your backpack, pocket, or purse, then leave it where it is at the end of the day, enjoy its many gifts tomorrow, and charge it the next time you think of it.

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.]