

NEWS BREAK

Volume 23, Number 2

March 2008

MARCH 5, 2008 MEETING TERRY DOES TAXES – TERRY HELSER

Join us on Wednesday, March 5 at 7:30 p.m. in **Hodgdon IRC-4** on the SUNY Oneonta campus for MUG ONE's March meeting.

Our own Terry Helsler will review several commercial tax programs. He will show us the pros and cons of web-based tax return preparation with Lassiter's TaxAct, Intuit's TurboTax and H&R Block's TaxCut software. Get timely tips for getting an early start on this year's federal and state returns.

We'll round out the evening with a demo of MUG ONE's new Bento database by Brian Foley and other brief tips as time permits.

As always, the meeting will include a question and answer session, refreshments and a door prize drawing for members. This month Terry will tempt us with homemade walnut chocolate chip cookies. Mmmm.

MUG ONE library materials will be available for circulation to members at the meeting. If you have items checked out from the library, please remember to return them.

All MUG ONE meetings are free of charge and open to the public. Everyone is welcome. For directions, see <http://mugone.com/pages/map2007.html>

For more information, check MUG ONE's website <http://www.mugone.com> or email Elsa Travisano at: mugone@stny.rr.com.

TaxACT



UPCOMING MUG ONE MEETINGS

April 2 - Computer Art Lab with Sven

May 7 - Apple's Dave Marra!

June 4 - to be announced

Visit MUG ONE's web site at <http://www.mugone.com>



New Macbook Pro and Macbook models

NEW MACBOOKS, MACBOOK PROS, IPOD SHUFFLES AND APERTURE 2 RELEASED

In February Apple released updates to the MacBook and MacBook Pro laptops, shipped a significantly improved version of its high-end photo software, Aperture, and announced a 2GB iPod shuffle and a 50% price cut on the 1GB model.

The aluminum **MacBook Pro** gains the multi-touch trackpad first introduced on the MacBook Air. Like the iPhone and the iPod Touch, the MBP's trackpad interprets two- and three-fingered pinches, to efficiently resize, rotate and move objects on the screen. <http://www.apple.com/MacBookpro/features.html>

The base model 15" MacBook Pro (\$1999) comes with a 2.4 GHz processor, 200 GB hard drive and 256MB NVIDIA GeForce 8600M GT graphics processor. The souped-up 15" (\$2499) and 17" (\$2799) models have a 2.5 GHz processor, 250 GB hard drive and 512 MB graphics processor; both can be custom-ordered with 2.6 GHz processors. All ship with a dual-layer SuperDrive and 2 GB RAM, expandable

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FEB. 6, 2007 MUG ONE MEETING MINUTES

Macworld Expo Tour – Elsa Travisano

LibraryThing – Ed Brodzinsky

Our fearless leader, Elsa Travisano, began the meeting by pointing out that the Mysterious Legend of the Vice President's Office seems to be in effect, with our recently elected VP, Keith Robisch, vacationing on an island in Georgia. [The legend? All VPs move someplace warmer. Ed.]

Then the question and answer portion of the meeting began. Someone asked how long MUG ONE has been around. Believe it or not, the first meeting was in Dec. 1984, several years before the computer was even invented (um....no).

We had some new members, ranging from beginner switchers to power-users. Each new member had very good questions, which shows, once again, that MUG ONE is for every level of Mac user.

One question concerned how to save a Pages file in a different format. It turns out that instead of "saving," you should click the "export" item from the menu bar, and then chose the "advanced" button to get your format options.

Elsa regaled us with a Keynote slideshow from the Macworld convention in SF this January. She's on the User Group Advisory Board, which she chaired until October when she stepped down to spend more time with her family.

We got to see photos of Elsa schmoozing with the "Macristocracy" - the likes of Steve Wozniak, David Pogue, Robin Williams (the female Robin Williams who wrote "The Little Mac Book" - not that other Robin Williams), Dave Marra and Adam and Tonya Engst. We even got to see a YouTube video of David Pogue singing a tech-oriented parody of John Lennon's "Imagine."

(You'll remember Dave Marra and Adam Engst from their annual lectures at our MUG ONE meetings. One can only hope that Elsa was leaning on Woz to visit our little burg someday.)

Other Macworld topics she covered were the MacBook Air (amazingly thin notebook), Ladybug (an "unfoldable" set of speakers with an iPod dock), and new releases such as the upgraded Photoshop Elements and Time Capsule.

Time Capsule is a hard drive and wireless AirPort base station that can automatically back up any Mac that can run the Time Machine program. You need to be running OS 10.5 Leopard to use Time Machine. You can use the AirPort to network the hard drive to a PC or Mac. You can buy a Time Capsule with 500 GB or a terabyte of space, and the price seems surprisingly reasonable to me.

I was particularly impressed with a photo of a vending machine that Elsa saw in the Metreon Mall in San Francisco. You could actually buy an iPod in that thing! I wonder how many quarters you need for that.

We then saw a nice demonstration of an iPod Touch, using a solid-object projector. The Touch uses amazing technology which lets you manipulate the screen by touching it. Elsa showed us Maps, a GPS program based on Google Earth. Unfortunately we didn't have an internet connection for the Touch to see the YouTube videos, but we got the idea.

Elsa's presentation was followed by Ed Brodzinsky's fascinating introduction to LibraryThing. LibraryThing is an online book-cataloging internet site. Ed explained that there are other such sites on the web, such as Shelfari, but the difference is that, while the others are heavy on the social-networking side, LT was heavier on the book-features. LT is free for the first 200 books you catalog, it's \$10 a year, or \$25 for life after that. www.librarything.com

In a nutshell, an online book-cataloging internet site lets you create a profile of yourself, your literary interests, etc. You can decide what parts of your profile are private and which are public. Then you can enter in the names of any books you own, have read, or would like to read. You can enter the title, author or ISBN number, and LT will find it in their database and add it to your "bookshelf."

If you have friends who use LT, they can visit your bookshelf, suggest new books for you to read, comment on your books, add them to their profile, etc.

There are also "groups" who share information about particular genres, authors or books. You can start or join groups and get notices of new messages from friends or groups.

Particular features of LibraryThing

Most online book-cataloging internet sites can access the databases of the Library of Congress and amazon.com. LT has an auxiliary list of libraries around the world and in many different languages. Ed often accesses a library database in Finland. I wish I'd asked him what he is looking up there.

Another feature of LT which I found intriguing is pre-publication book reviews. If you are a paying member, you get a list of about 20-30 books a month, which LT would like you to review. If you agree to review one (the review could be from a sentence or two to a full-blown article) you get a regular, bound copy mailed to you. That seems like not only a great deal, but a terrific way to get in on the "ground floor" of some up-and coming new writers.

We wrapped up our meeting with the ever-popular door-prizes, and refreshments were provided by our venerable officer and recently elected Treasurer, Terry Helser. Terry has taken over the duties of Treasurer from Joanne Johnston, who we missed at the meeting.

See you at the March meeting, where, among other things, we'll get Terry Helser's presentation, "Terry Does Taxes."

– BRIAN FOLEY



Versalife's Ladybug iPod speaker dock in silver and red

REVIEWS

VESTALIFE LADYBUG SPEAKER DOCK

Vestalife <http://www.vesta-life.com> \$109

When I first unwrapped my new Vestalife Ladybug, I was struck by its cute appearance. The little red sphere with its unfolding wing-speakers looked more like a child's toy than a high-tech iPod speaker dock. However, my little Ladybug's appearance was actually appropriate – for this elegant little machine combines the high-tech and the simple in a manner that is all too rare these days.

It took mere moments to hook up the Ladybug. The process is easy and intuitive and should prove simple for anyone, no matter his or her amount of technological know-how. The place where the iPod rests also serves as a charger, which means that you can just grab it from the charger and go. Heck, you can grab the Ladybug itself on your way out the door! Weighing in at 1.25 lbs, the Ladybug even comes with a cute little plush carry-bag. I'm definitely taking it with me on my next trip, and when I leave for college in the fall.

The only disadvantage I can possibly see with this delightful little piece of technology is the fact that the palm-sized remote control (yes, it has a remote) only affects it from the front... and the speakers can't go up quite as loud as a larger speaker system. However, depending on your neighbors or family, that might not be such a bad thing.

– EMILY TRAVISANO

Available in silver and ruby red. Limited edition Elements Skateboard artists' versions will be available in April. The Ladybug comes with full function remote control, carrying bag, AC adapter (US only), iPod universal dock and dock connectors for iPod mini, iPod nano (1st and 2nd generation). For 3rd generation iPod nanos, please use dock connector included with the nano upon purchase.

IPOD THE MISSING MANUAL 6TH ED.

iPod the missing manual, 6th edition, J.D. Biersdorfer with David Pogue. 278 pp. Pogue Press/O'Reilly, 2008. \$19.99 ISBN 978-0-596-51491-4

The sixth edition of iPod, the Missing Manual is a perfect starting place for owners of current-generation iPods – beginner-friendly, but equally useful to more experienced iPod owners who want to quickly learn the features of their newest iPod.

The book begins with the basics of using the iPod Classic, Touch, second generation Shuffle and video Nano, then delves into iTunes and the iTunes Store, the power of playlists, adding and playing videos and photos (on all but the Shuffle, which lacks a screen), using the calendar, address book, stopwatch and other features, and connecting to your car's or home theater's audio system. There's a full chapter on browsing the web with the iPod Touch, and a final (and much-appreciated) chapter on troubleshooting for when things go wrong.



Most topics are covered on one or two pages, and the tone is un-intimidating and folksy. Inviting color photos and plentiful Mac and PC screen shots make the book a pleasure to browse. I found the light sans serif typeface somewhat hard to read, but that's probably a middle-aged eyes issue – it passed the eighteen-year-old daughter test with no problem.

Of special interest to me were the tips on using the iPod Touch, including how to customize the four icons at the

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MAC 911 – HELP DESK

Solutions to your most vexing Mac problems

By Christopher Breen

NEW YEAR, OLD BUSINESS

Before I leap into the business of a new year, it's time to clean up issues remaining from the year just departed. Along those lines, reader Jim Schoster follows up on last year's Broken iDisk Syncing with this:

Thank you for your helpful article about iDisk. Where do I find the .sparsebundle file to delete?

If you click on your synced iDisk and press Command-I to bring up the Info window you'll find the path to this file listed as:

your user folder/Library/FileSync

and then a folder with a cryptic series of letters and numbers. Inside this folder is the sparsebundle file.

Reader Rishi Patel got in touch about a remark from a recent Macworld Podcast.

I was listening to your podcast about Macworld's holiday gift guide and I heard the guest say he was able to upgrade his laptop's RAM for \$27. I was wondering what site that was, or if you know of a good website to find cheap RAM. I have a PowerBook and am looking to upgrade the RAM.

Take a gander at the Ramseeker website. Here you'll find RAM prices from a variety of popular memory vendors. Just look in the Ramseeker Mac section and choose your Mac model from the Select Macintosh Model pop-up menu.

Update: Dan Frakes, the guest who performed the upgrade on his laptop, wrote in to also suggest DealRAM, which is where he found the RAM he mentioned.

Finally, in reference to a question regarding incessant prompting for passwords in February's Mac 911 column, reader N.L.C asks about Keychain Access' Keychain First Aid:

Lots of my Mac friends have this problem since we started our iPhone service. I was initially elated to see a fix, but I can't find anything on my PowerMac G5 running 10.5.1 that says "Keychain First Aid."

Rereading my answer I see that I didn't tell you where to find that command. My apologies. You'll find it under the Keychain Access menu (the menu where you traditionally select the About and Preferences commands). Increasingly

Apple and other developers are placing helpful commands in this application menu yet many old-time Mac users forget to look there.

While I have your attention, this seems like an opportune time to remind you that if you select Help in an application running under Leopard, type the name of the command you're looking for, and then select that command's name in the resulting list under the Help menu (commands are identified by the small menu icon next to them), a floating blue arrow appears that points to the location of that command.

Intel, backup, and drive formats

Reader Michael Jones has walked through the fire and emerged a more enlightened soul. He seeks only a tiny bit of additional information to complete his quest for an Intel-compatible Time Machine backup drive. He writes:

I have been a Windows user all my life and my Acer laptop hard drive crashed. I replaced my machine with a new Apple laptop, which I love. DriveSavers recovered my photos to an external hard drive that could work with both a Mac and a PC. I was able to download all my pictures onto my new Apple, but they told me I needed to reformat the drive to be optimal for backing up a Mac. What is the best format for the Mac OS and what resources can I use to help me do it?

I'm going to assume that your new Apple laptop is really a new Apple laptop, meaning that it's a MacBook or MacBook Pro, both of which contain Intel processors. For a Time Machine drive connected to an Intel Mac, Apple recommends that you use a GUID partition type. (Those with PowerPC Macs should use the Apple Partition Map scheme.)

To impose this partition type on the drive, launch Disk Utility (found at /Applications/Utilities), select the drive in the resulting Disk Utility window, and click the Partition tab.

From the pop-up menu labeled Current, choose the number of partitions you'd like on the drive (1 Partition is perfectly acceptable if you want to create just a single volume). Now click the Options button. In the sheet that appears, choose GUID Partition Table. Click OK to dismiss the sheet. Click Apply and the drive will be reformatted with the GUID partition scheme.

Note: When you reformat that drive, you erase everything on it. Be sure you've copied everything you want off that drive before you do this.

Another note: You'll go through this same process if you're formatting a drive that was originally used with a PowerPC Mac for use when booting an Intel Mac. For example, I had a FireWire drive that I used with my Power Mac G5.

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– *iPod Missing Manual*, continued from page 3

bottom of the Music screen (my choice was to swap in Audiobooks, which was previously buried on a sub-screen) and how to quickly pause or adjust the sound of a song when you're not on the Music screen (tap the Home button twice to bring up an adjustment dialog box). In the Touch's version of Safari I also learned that a two-fingered flick lets you navigate a scrolling window inside a frame, and that tapping the menu bar in zips you to the top of that page with no scrolling - a real time- and finger-saver.

iPod, the Missing Manual, 6th edition makes an excellent gift for the owner of a new iPod, but you'll want to be sure to keep a copy for yourself. Highly recommended.

– ELSA TRAVISANO



– *Mac 911*, continued from page 4

In the early days of Leopard, I wanted to install OS X 10.5 on this drive so I could take the new OS for a spin without committing my Mac Pro's internal drive to it. Although my Mac Pro could use this drive for external storage, when I attempted to install Leopard on it, I was told that, as it was connected to an Intel Mac, I must use the GUID partition scheme. This I did and the installation proceeded in hitchless fashion.

Converting video for iPod

I have videos on my Mac in QuickTime and WMV formats and I would like to load them onto my iPod touch. Drag and drop doesn't want to work. The error message says that the videos are not viewable on the iPod. Is there a way to convert these files to an MPEG-4 file?

Sure. For QuickTime movies you'll find a solution within iTunes. Just drag your QuickTime movie to the Library entry in iTunes' Source list and it will appear under the Movies heading. Select it there and, from the Advanced menu, choose Convert Selection for iPod/iPhone. Once you've invoked the command, iTunes will do exactly as it promises and convert the movie to an H.264-encoded MPEG-4 video file, playable on your iPod.

Windows video files can't be converted for playback in iTunes. Apple's \$29 QuickTime Player Pro in league with Flip4Mac's free Windows Media Components for QuickTime can do the job, however. After upgrading QuickTime to the Pro version and installing WMCfQT, open the movie in QuickTime Player, choose File -> Export, and in the Save Exported File As window that appears, choose Movie to iPhone from the Export pop-up menu. Your file will be saved as a .m4v file, suitable for playback on your iPod.

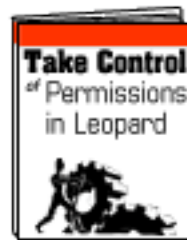
Macworld Magazine Senior Editor Christopher Breen is the

author of The iPhone Pocket Guide (2007) and The iPod and iTunes Pocket Guide, second Edition (2006) (both Peachpit Press).

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>.



NEW TAKE CONTROL EBOOK EXPLAINS PERMISSIONS IN LEOPARD



"If you like to go under the hood of Mac OS X, or if you've been forced to by quirky problems, you'll want to check out our latest ebook, freshly revised for Leopard - "Take Control of Permissions in Leopard."

Written by Unix guru and Mac aficionado Brian Tanaka, the 87-page ebook mixes practical how-to details and troubleshooting tips with just the right amount of theory as it explains permissions in relation to how you keep your files private, copy files to and from servers effectively, set the Ignore Permissions option for external disks, repair screwy permissions, and delete those files that just won't die. It's \$10, with the usual 10% MUG discount (available from your group ambassador).

– ADAM AND TONYA ENGST, TAKE CONTROL EBOOKS



MORE USER GROUP DISCOUNT CODES FROM OUR FAVORITE BOOKSELLERS

O'Reilly

O'Reilly offers MUG ONE members a 35% discount off all their titles. Use the code DSUG at checkout to get your discount.

<http://www.oreilly.com/store/>

Peachpit

Peachpit Press gives MUG ONE members a 30% discount off the list price of any of their books. At checkout, right before you put your credit card number in, enter the user group coupon code UE-23AA-PEUF (case-sensitive). This coupon code is an exclusive offer that may not be used in conjunction with any other coupon codes.

<http://www.peachpit.com/store/>

THE X LEX

Monthly Excerpts for MUGs from Take Control: The Mac OS X Lexicon

PLUGGING INTO VIDEO

Nothing is simple, it seems—at least not when it comes to hooking up computers. Something as basic as connecting a monitor can leave you swimming in alphabet soup as you try to sort out all the connector and adapter types. Here's our handy guide to the various kinds of video hookups.



ADC (Apple Display Connector)

A variant of the DVI video connector, Apple's ADC connector was a good idea that didn't catch on. It took DVI's digital and analog video and added USB and power connections, putting it all into a single 35-pin plug. "The only cable your monitor will ever need" was the idea, and it was a good one. Unfortunately, the rest of the industry didn't see it that way, and Apple abandoned ADC in 2004 in favor of the industry-standard DVI. There are adapters that let older ADC-equipped Macs and monitors work with newer DVI equipment.



DVI (digital visual interface)

A way of sending digital video from a computer to a monitor or projector. DVI uses a 29-pin connector; 5 of the pins can carry analog VGA video signals so that you can also connect an older analog computer monitor, using a special plug adapter.



HDMI (high-definition multimedia interface)

A way of sending high-definition digital video and audio from one device, such as a computer or Blu-ray DVD player, to another, such as a large-screen HDTV. HDMI uses a 19-pin connector.



RCA connector

A round connector commonly used for audio and analog video signals. It's been a good many years since Apple put RCA jacks on a Mac, but most audio and video equipment—TVs, DVD players, stereos—have them. They're usually in sets of two for audio (white connector for left channel, red connector for right), and three for composite video (with the third, yellow, connector for the video). For component video, the color coding is red, green, and blue to match the signals they carry. (RCA: The Radio Corporation of America introduced this design in the early 1940s so you could connect your phonograph to your amplifier. Well, not you, of course....)



S-Video

A way of sending analog NTSC video from one device, such as a VCR or DVD player, to another. In the S-Video scheme, color and brightness signals are carried on two separate lines, which helps to improve the image quality compared to composite video (though not as much as component video). S-Video uses a four-pin mini-DIN connector.



VGA (video graphics array)

An early-'80s standard for analog video; it has a resolution of 640x480 pixels and uses a 15-pin D-subminiature connector. The term is often used as shorthand for 640x480 video of any kind. A proliferation of variants came later, including QVGA (320x240), SVGA (800x600), XVGA (1024x768), and extending all the way up to WQXGA (3840x2400). There are dozens more, but rather than continue listing names, we've provided a weblink to a handy chart: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Video_Standards.svg.

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Take Control: The Mac OS X Lexicon is an ebook available at <http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/mac-lexicon.html>. User-group member discount, 10% on all Take Control titles: coupon code CPN31208MUG. Queries: xlex@33thingsbooks.com. Email Sharon (sharonLex@33thingsbooks.com) or Andy (Andy@33thingsbooks.com) about the Lexicon.

Special Offers from the Apple User Group Bulletin

These discounts are brought to you by the Apple User Group Advisory Board. You must be a current Apple user group member to qualify for these savings.

Serene Saver 2 HD: 33% Off

Serene Saver 2 HD is a unique cross between a video desktop (moving wallpaper) and a traditional screen saver. Actual nature scenes play as real movies on your desktop to bring you a bit of serenity while you work.

This user group special offers single-user Serene Saver for \$19.95, regularly \$29.95, or \$33.27 for five computers, regularly \$49.95, or \$66.57 for a site license, regularly \$99.95.

Promotion code: *****

Download to test or purchase.

<http://www.serenesaver.biz>

This offer is valid through April 15, 2008.

RAID Storage Offer: 30% Off Retail

LH Computer Services offers SATABeast Xi extreme density, energy efficient data storage for Xserve and MAC Pro Systems. You can get up to 42TB of RAID storage in only 4U of rack space. AutoMAID energy-saving technology greatly reduces power consumption and cooling costs, while offering full Enterprise Class performance, reliability and management, plus dual function 4Gb Fibre Channel and iSCSI connectivity. These are ultra high-end, high-capacity data storage units for businesses and professionals that need to store terabytes of data.

Apple user group members get 30% off MSRP of units priced from \$25,000-\$75,000.

Coupon Code: *****

Order today by phone. 954-752-5805

<http://www.LHComp.com>

This offer is valid through May 30, 2008.

FUTURE SONICS: Believe Your Ears at 20% Off

Upgrade your iPod, iPhone, MacBook or any digital media player with Atrio Series professional earphones. Your products will sound their best with Future Sonics' own miniature dynamic speakers. Their signature sound offers BIGGER SOUND at lower volume without extended bass boost or any enhancements.

Regularly priced at \$199, pay just \$159.20 for online orders, a 20% discount, plus an audio satisfaction guarantee.

Coupon Code for Model m5 (onyx black) or m8 (cobalt blue): *****

Get more information or place your order.

<http://www.futuresonics.com/usergroups>

Limit five per household.

This offer is valid through July 31, 2008.

Azure Talon Exces: 30% Discount

Exces is a simple, easy-to-use and secure encryption utility that allows you to protect your files with the click of a button. Just pick a password, lock and you're good to go. Exces uses the strong, uncracked, AES encryption standard that sports an elegant user interface. It is simply one of the most appealing file protection solutions available.

Apple user group members pay the special price of \$13.50 instead of the retail price of \$19.50.

<http://excesapp.com>

This offer is valid through May 31, 2008.

Dejal: Discounts Up to 50 Percent

Dejal produces easy-to-use utilities that enhance your website and improve your productivity. Dejal's Simon is an essential site-monitoring tool that checks servers for changes or failures and notifies you via email, sounds and other means. BlogAssist makes HTML markup easier and Macfilink cloaks affiliate links on your website to protect your income. Caboodle stores and organizes information like recipes, directions and everything else you want to remember, and Narrator uses speech synthesis to read your stories and other on-screen text in multiple voices.

User group members receive a discount of up to 50% off retail, from \$9.95 to \$195, depending on item.

Coupon Code: *****

Use this link to receive a discount.

<http://www.dejal.com/>

This offer is valid through May 31, 2008.

The MUG Store

The MUG store is your very own place to shop for great deals on all the latest Apple gear. With special discounts, free shipping and knowledgeable consultants available on the phone, you can't go wrong!

In addition, the MUG store offers great deals on discontinued or older accessories and parts.

Everything your members buy earns points for your group to spend any way you want!

03/01/08 - 06/30/08 User ID: ***** / password: *****

<http://www.applemugstore.com>

Newsbreak is the monthly newsletter of MUG ONE
– the Macintosh User Group of Oneonta, NY

Editor: Elsa Travisano

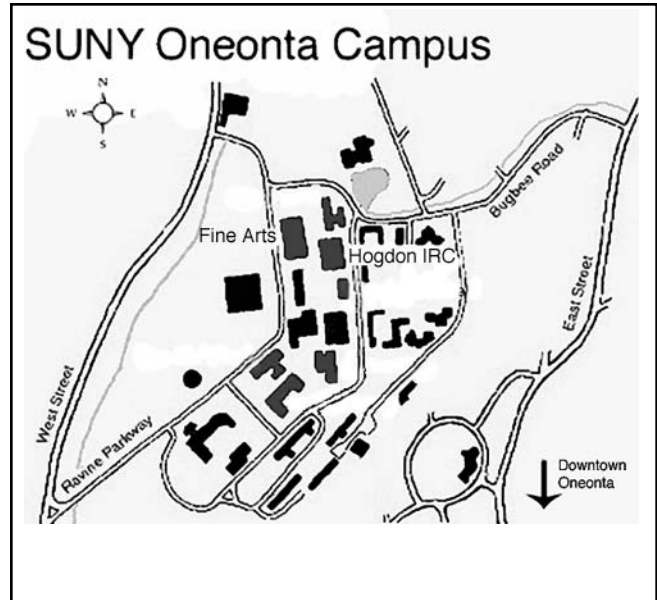
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Newsbreak is an independent publication not affiliated with Apple Computer, Inc. *Newsbreak* received an award for excellence at the January 2001 User Group University.



FEBRUARY AUG MARKET REPORT PODCAST

The Apple User Group Market Report podcast features interviews with vendors and members of the user group community. February's podcast features an interview with Kevin Kachikian about Serene Saver.

The AUG Market Report is a great source for information about Apple user groups, vendor discounts, special events and more:

<http://homepage.mac.com/ugab/resources.html>

ONE STOP SHOPPING FOR OFFERS

Looking for information on a past user group offer? Tom Piper of the Apple User Group Advisory Board publishes a page with all current offers, expiration dates and codes.

<http://homepage.mac.com/ugab/offers/vendorcodes.htm>

Password: *****

For public information about vendor offers and more visit:

<http://homepage.mac.com/ugab/offers.html>

Continuing offers on publications include:

- Mac|Life magazine charter subscription
- Macworld Magazine special subscription offer
- Take Control ebooks
- Peachpit book club
- O'Reilly Publishing discount offers

For information about Apple User Group Advisory Board activities (MUG ONE president Elsa Travisano serves on the UGAB), Macworld events and what's happening in the user group community, visit

<http://homepage.mac.com/ugab>

– *New MacBooks, continued from page 1*

to 4 GB, and a choice of glossy or antiglare screen. The 17" model can also be configured with a high-resolution LED screen.

The base model **MacBook** (\$1099) comes with a 2.1 GHz processor, 1 GB RAM, 120 GB hard drive and a combo drive (reads and writes CDs but only reads DVDs). The \$1299 model has a 2.4 GHz processor, 2 GB of RAM, a 160 GB hard drive and a dual-layer SuperDrive. Both are white plastic. The black plastic model further ups the ante with a 250 GB drive, for \$1499. All have 13" screens.

The new MacBook Pros and MacBooks use the Penryn Intel Core 2 duo processor chip, which brings faster performance and reduced energy consumption. All MacBook and MacBook Pro models have built-in iSight cameras, 802.11n wireless capability and magnetic MagSafe power adapters that safely pull away if they're tugged or tripped over.

Aperture 2 is a major upgrade to the photo editing and management software that adds an improved, easier-to-use interface, a much faster image processing engine, new image enhancement tools and the ability to post portfolios to .Mac's web gallery, where they can be viewed on the web, the iPhone, iPod Touch or Apple TV. The price has been reduced to \$199, and version upgrades are \$99.

Finally, the price of the tiny iPod shuffle has been reduced to \$49 for the 1 GB model, and a 2 GB model has been added to the lineup for \$69. <http://www.apple.com>

