

The TarMac Vaporware Gazette

all the news that's fit to download!



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If you show up you're a member • If you speak up you're an officer • If you stand up you're the president • homepage.mac.com/tidewatermug • tidewatermug@mac.com

Apple Ships Faster Than Expected MacBook Pro



Jim Dalrymple - MacCentral

Apple on Tuesday shipped its recently introduced Intel-based MacBook Pro, surprising customers with processors speeds that are faster than previously announced. The new laptops are available beginning this week with speeds up to 2.16GHz.

The high-end notebook now includes a 2.0GHz Intel Core Duo processor, up from the previously announced 1.83GHz, and will begin shipping this week. The \$1,999 model now includes a 1.83GHz Intel Core Duo processor, up from the previously announced 1.67GHz, and will begin shipping next week.

In addition, customers may now upgrade to a 2.16GHz Intel Core Duo processor as a build-to-order option on the Apple Online Store. The MacBook Pro will come with a built-in iSight video camera and include MacOS X Tiger and iLife '06.

In addition to being able to upgrade the processor as a build-to-order option, customers can also upgrade to several other components including 120GB (5400 rpm) or 100GB (7200 rpm) hard drive, up to 2GB DDR2 SDRAM, Apple USB Modem, and the AppleCare Protection Plan.



Microsoft, partners to challenge Apple iPod

Fri Feb 10, 2006 5:40 PM ET
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Microsoft Corp. and its hardware partners will continue to develop new digital media devices aimed at challenging the dominance of Apple Computer Inc.'s ubiquitous iPod music player, Chairman Bill Gates said on Friday. "I don't think what's out on the market today is the final answer," Gates said, speaking to a group of minority students. "Between us and our partners, you can expect some pretty hot products coming out over the next few years."

The Microsoft founder praised Apple's iTunes music store and said the software giant was talking with hardware partners to create media devices that can be less expensive and easier to connect and can handle pictures and video better. Gates said the market share for digital music players compatible with Microsoft software is around 20 percent, a figure that is lower than he would like.

Microsoft's strategy has been to allow various device manufacturers to create players that would be compatible with its software, arguing that it offered consumers more options. However, BusinessWeek reported last week that Microsoft is mulling its own media device in an effort to cut into Apple's nearly 70 percent U.S. market share. The company declined to comment on the article at the time.

Gates did not disclose any plans for a Microsoft-branded device on Friday and alluded often to working together with partners for future media devices.

Microsoft

Windows... the Gates of Hell!

Tonight's Agenda

- 6:45 Help desk with Tom & Gus

6:45 **Magic Time!**
New members - Brian
Dues (\$3) - Ray

7:30 Tonight's demo:

Digitizing LP records



with Ray Kallman
TarMac Treasurer & Webmaster

8:00 Wrap-up - Brian

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This is the home of the little engine that could... find everything... except maybe a billion people!

What is this?

Tonight's Demonstration: Converting Record Albums to CD's presented by Ray Kallman

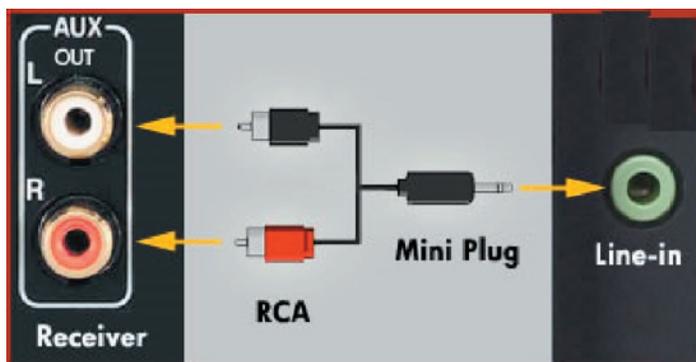
Converting Record Albums to CD's

What you'll need:

- (1) Turntable (or tape deck) and receiver
- (2) Mac with a CD burner
- (3) Software:
 - (a) Sound Studio (v3.0.2 \$80, v2.2.4 free) www.feltpip.com/products/
 - (b) Audiocorder (v4.7.0 \$20 www.blackcatsystems.com/software/audiocorder.html)
 - (c) Other audio capture software (e.g. Audio Hijack)
 - (d) LAME framework (optional) for MP3s www.versiontracker.com/dyn/moreinfo/macosx/22570
- (4) Cable with RCA jacks & mini headphone jack

Hardware hookup:

- (1) Connect your turntable or tape deck to your receiver
- (2) Plug the RCA jacks into the "AUX Out" on the receiver
- (3) Plug the mini headphone jack into the microphone jack on your computer.



Software configuration:

- (1) Open the "Sound" System Preference and ensure input device is set to "Line In".
- (2) Launch Audio program (in this case, Sound Studio). Go to Sound Studio > Preferences and make sure the appropriate audio input is selected.

(Read the first 8 pages of the Sound Studio Manual.)

Record from LP:

- (1) Turn on the play-through option. Start playing the record and see if the level meters start working and sound starts coming through the computer. Adjust the levels so that it goes into the yellow occasionally, but not into the red.
- (2) Select File > New and press the record button in Sound Studio. Start your record playing again.
- (3) Play entire side and stop recording when done. Waveform appears in window. Save file.

Edit Waveform:

- (1) Selecting "View > Fit All in Window".
- (2) Find all connection points where tracks start and stop. (*Sausage links*)
- (3) Click once where the first song starts and insert a marker, by selecting "Insert > Marker". Repeat inserting markers for the start of each track. Optionally, name each marker after the track that comes after it, by double-clicking in the name of the marker and typing a new name.
- (4) Split the one long file into several shorter files by using Edit > Split by Markers.

Move files to iTunes:

- (1) After all the tracks are saved, drag the folder full of tracks into iTunes or any other CD burning software and create a CD using that software.

Create MP3 files:

- (1) In iTunes, you can turn the tracks into MP3 files by selecting Advanced > Convert to MP3 to convert the files to MP3s.
- (2) If you don't want to use iTunes to save music in mp3 format, install LAME framework. Then save each file as an mp3 using File > Save as & select MP3 Audio.

For Mac OS 9 & 8:



Sound Studio 2.0.7

<http://www.feltpip.com/products/soundstudio/download9.shtml>

Audiocorder for Mac OS 8/9

<http://www.blackcatsystems.com/download/audiocorder.html>

Coaster 1.1.3

<http://www.visualclick.de/>



Apple Fundamentals Remain 'Strongest in Technology'

Maya Roney, 02.15.06,

American Technology Research analyst Shaw Wu maintained a "buy" rating on Apple Computer, expecting the company to continue to grow above market rates over the next one to two years.

"We continue to believe that Apple's fundamentals remain sound and arguably among the strongest in technology, but negative investor sentiment and its weak technicals may indicate further share price downside," wrote the analyst in a research note Wednesday.

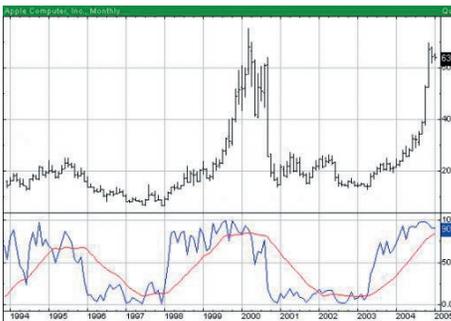
"For longer term fundamental investors, we would take advantage of the pull-back to build and/or add to Apple positions."

Late Tuesday, Apple released the Mac OS X Tiger version 10.4.5, an updated version of its operating system software for both Intel and PowerPC Macs.

This update fixes the well-publicized video glitch that Apple had with its FrontRow software on an Intel-based iMac Core Duo, in-line with Wu's expectation that this would be a software fix and not a hardware component problem that many feared would require a recall.

Also on Tuesday, Apple announced that its MacBook Pro is shipping, despite speculation that it may be delayed until April, and with faster-than-expected Intel processors.

Wu's proprietary checks with industry and channel sources revealed that Intel's yields have improved, enabling Apple to ship more high-end Core Duo systems.



Don't look now, but the Internet is under attack!

BY Phillip Robinson • Phillip Robinson is founder of the NetForAmerica Internet service. Reach him at phillip.r.robinson@gmail.com.

Your Internet is in danger. So is your economic future. That's because some large telecom companies want to change the Internet's rules. They want to do it quietly, secretly, before regular Internet users like you notice and have a chance to stop them.

These companies want to end "network neutrality." That will mean higher prices and fewer choices. Here's why.

Today, all bits moving across the Net are treated the same. Whether personal or business, e-mail or phone call, personal blog reading or corporate Web site selling, video download or music upload, the bits move through the Net at the same speed. The network is neutral; it doesn't play favorites by pushing some bits along faster than others.

That's why we have the Internet economy, with companies such as Amazon, eBay and Google appearing out of nowhere.

The big telecoms want to change that. They want to charge Internet companies for "priority" – a guarantee that their bits will move fastest. They even want to charge them for Net access – the right for their bits to travel to customers at all.

It isn't enough for them to charge you to get on the Internet. They also want to charge the services and sites you reach on the Internet, so they can get money coming and going. The result would be that only big companies already making tons of money could afford to reach customers. We all know that the best service and the best price always comes from the biggest company, right? You wouldn't see new, faster, better search services. Your only choice would be today's search sites or any new search site created by the phone or cable companies. Soon, you could see charges every time you used a search service, and the search could be filtered, a form of corporate censorship that seems more appropriate in Communist China than the United States.

You wouldn't get free Internet phone calling, because why would the big telecoms – especially the phone companies – allow that? You'd get to use their Internet phone service at whatever price they decided was right, or you'd go without. You'd see bigger fees at eBay and higher prices at

Amazon because they'd have to pay big taxes to the cable and phone companies and would have to pass those costs along to you.

You'd discover that some Web sites you saw mentioned in magazines or on TV, or passed along by friends, wouldn't work on your computer or would be slow and unreliable.

How can you fight this attack on the Internet, on the economy, on your rights? Tell them how you feel. Tell your Internet provider that they'd better support network neutrality or you'll switch to another provider that does. Tell your congressperson that they'd better support Internet freedom and network neutrality or you'll vote for another who will. If they weasel and claim "there's no need for this because the competition between cable companies and phone companies will keep the Internet free" or that "regulation can only hurt this free market," first give yourself a chance to stop laughing. Then point out that neither cable nor phone companies are famous for their customer care, that both are infamous for raising prices, and that both have had huge government-granted monopolies and subsidies first to build their networks and then to expand broadband access.

While you're at it, you might ask why, 10 years after the big 1996 telecom deregulation, when the telecoms promised to build broadband everywhere in exchange for less government control, the United States now has the worst broadband in the developed world. Look at the testimony in last week's congressional hearings at commerce.senate.gov/hearings/witnesslist.cfm?id=1705. Tell the FCC how you feel at www.fcc.gov.

Look up more through your favorite search site. That is, while it's still working, still free and able to search the full Net.

(Disclaimer: Keep in mind that I run an Internet service provider and so, in theory, should be biased toward this idea of another way to make money. Instead, I think it stinks and will destroy the Internet.)





Phind the Phishers

By Rob Griffiths (macosxhints@macworld.com)

Mac OS X Hint of the Week

If you haven't heard the term **phishing** by now, you've undoubtedly experienced it. Phishers send e-mail messages designed to trick people into forking over personal data, such as usernames, passwords, bank account numbers, social security numbers, and more. Usually you receive an innocent sounding e-mail message -- from your bank, eBay, or PayPal -- that says something has gone wrong with your account, or that you need to update some data. Somewhere in the body of the message, there's usually a link to your "account status page," "information update page" or "personal info page." If you click one of these links, the resulting page might look legitimate, as phishers use steal imagery from the real site. However, you'll actually be on the phisher's site, not its legitimate counterpart. *So how do you protect yourself?*

For starters, if you use Apple's Mail, you can force it to display plain text only. This forces most phishing e-mail messages to appear without links and images. (Other mail applications may offer similar options.) However, since this means you won't see images or text styling in any e-mail messages you receive, this approach is clearly not for everyone.

Another option is to never click an unknown link in an e-mail--at least not until you know where that URL may go. Thankfully, if you use Mail in OS X 10.3 or 10.4 it's surprisingly easy to see where any given link goes, even before you click it.

If you're running OS X 10.3, just click-and-hold on the link for about a second, then begin to drag the link toward your desktop. When you do, a small gray box will appear, revealing the URL behind the link. After you've had a chance to read the destination URL, just hit Escape to cancel both the drag and the click on the link. The only problem with this method is that there's a chance you could accidentally click the link

while trying to view it. In OS X 10.4, Apple has fixed things so that's no longer possible. There's no more clicking and dragging required--just hover over the link for a second with your mouse, and you'll see a pop-up revealing the URL's destination. Since you don't have to click the mouse button, there's no danger of accidentally activating the link.

There are lots of phishers (and scammers) out there. But if you use a bit of common sense along with these link-checking techniques, you'll be well protected from their emails.



Sprint's Music Milestone Nothing To Brag About

Market Scan

Rachel Rosmarin, 02.15.06.

In the race to become the top mobile digital music store, Sprint Nextel's latest milestone is a poor marker of success.

In the nearly four months since the Sprint Music Store debuted, more than 1 million tracks have been downloaded, Sprint Nextel announced today. But Apple's iTunes store sold the same amount in less than a week when it launched way back in May 2003, and will likely sell its billionth song this month.

The audience for cell-phone songs is considerably smaller than that for computers and media players like the iPod from Apple Computer, but Sprint's service allows songs to be downloaded straight to a PC, putting it in competition with iTunes.

Sprint's mobile music store was the first to market, but the competition is right at its heels.

Verizon V-Cast music store, launched Jan. 5, is on-track to reach the million-song mark sooner than Sprint's did because of its cheaper pricing. Sprint charges customers \$2.50 plus tax per song, while Verizon Communications offers songs for \$2 when downloaded to a phone, and 99 cents when downloaded to a computer. Apple also charges 99 cents per song.

Limits to functionality, like the inability to play songs bought from Sprint as ring tones because of copy protection, have also slowed consumer acceptance of Sprint's music store.

Of the one million tracks downloaded from Sprint, it is unclear how many of those were paid purchases. To promote the new service, Sprint offered five free song downloads to many customers.

Apple updates iDVD, iPhoto, iWeb, iTunes, iMovie

Peter Cohen - MacCentral
Wed Feb 15.

Apple on Wednesday updated most of the individual applications that are included with its iLife 06 suite. The updates are available for download through the Software Update system preferences pane.



Most of the applications have been updated to "address a number of minor issues," according to Apple.

iDVD 6 also fixes integration problems with other iLife applications, importing of legacy projects and theme-related issues.

iPhoto fixes problems with photocasting, viewing thumbnails in large libraries and ordering cards, calendars and books. iWeb fixes issues related to publishing and blogs.

iTunes includes "stability and performance improvements" over its predecessor.

iMovie fixes problems with Ken Burns rendering performance, Scrubber Bar editing performance and theme image quality.

The updates are also individually described and available for download on Apple's software downloads page.

Macs are for those who don't want to know why their computer works.



MacLaughn!

Linux is for those who want to know why their computer works.

DOS is for those who want to know why their computer doesn't work.

Windows is for those who don't want to know why their computer doesn't work.

