

# The TarMac Vaporware Gazette

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## Mac Pro To Sport Dual-Dual Core Chips?

June 9, 2006  
Remy Davison, Insanely Great Mac

AppleInsider speculates about the future of the Power Mac replacement, likely to be called Mac Pro. As the high-end professional machine in Apple's line-up, it's likely, says AI, that Apple and Intel will try to stuff twin Core chips into the Mac Pro, so that its performance is at least commensurate with the powerful Quad Power Mac G5. But it's not at all clear what chips Intel will supply for the Mac Pro. Core Duo chips may be passé by the time the WWDC rolls up in August, which is where CEO Jobs is expected to announce – if not release – the Mac Pros. Reportedly, Apple has passed on motherboard design to Intel, where work has been in progress since last October. Apple has developed the design to fit in with Intel's Core architecture, and reports from those familiar with the design state that the mobo is the same size as the Power Mac G5 board. How much work Apple does and how much input Intel has is another question altogether. Woz recently praised Apple for continuing to do much of its own board design, as it did for the G5s, before sending them to manufacturing. However, Intel is traditionally in charge of putting together essentially the whole enchilada – not just the processor and system bus. There are OS implications as well. Leopard, the forthcoming 10.5, would need to have support for quad processing built in, if that's the way Mac Pro goes. Moreover, Mac Pro needs to be demonstrably faster than the Quad PM G5 in CPU-intensive tasks, if only so pros can justify the upgrade. But expect Apple to sell the G5s for quite some time until the critical mass of pro apps go UB. Quark, for instance, has only just released version 7.0 – and it's PowerPC-only. Adobe's CS isn't likely to go UB until the first quarter of 2007 at the earliest. A revamp – how radical is anyone's guess – of the PM case design is also on the cards, if only change for the sake of change, to emphasize the changeover to Intel. And we still don't have any clues as to the future of XServe. Will all be revealed at WWDC?

### Check out the new ads:

"Out of the Box,  
"Work vs. Home" and  
"Touche"



[www.apple.com/getamac/ads](http://www.apple.com/getamac/ads)

## Intel Says More Efficient Chips are Coming Soon



Ben Ames, IDG News Service

Researchers at Intel have found a better way to insulate circuits, enabling them to save energy as they pack more transistors onto each processor.

Intel could start building chips with these new "tri-gate transistors" by 2010, enabling either a 45 percent increase in speed or a 35 percent reduction in total power used, compared to the company's current 65-nanometer process transistors, said Mike Mayberry, director of components research and vice president of Intel's Technology and Manufacturing Group.

The advance could be a powerful sales tool, since power efficiency is a crucial marketing metric for chips in PCs ranging from powerful servers to mobile laptops and handheld PDAs.

Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) has purchased billboard ads that claim its Opteron chip will reduce electricity costs compared to Intel's Xeon chips. And Sun Microsystems frequently taunts competitors Hewlett-Packard and IBM for using fans to cool their servers, instead of using more efficient chips like Sun's UltraSPARC T1.

Intel's new technology would also extend the reach of Moore's Law, the prediction made 40 years ago by Intel co-founder Gordon Moore that the number of transistors on a chip would double about every two years. Engineers have recently predicted that trend would soon end, because electricity tends to leak out of tiny wires as chip geometry shrinks below 90 nanometers.

One solution is to build chips with multiple cores that run at slower speeds, since chips leak more electricity and run less efficiently as they run faster than 2GHz. Chip makers from Intel to AMD and Sun have all followed this path.

Another answer could be carbon nanotubes, according to scientists at IBM, who said in March they had built an electronic integrated circuit by combining conventional silicon technology with a carbon nanotube molecule.

But Intel says its tri-gate solution is the best. "Compared to carbon nanotubes, it is far easier to build," Mayberry said. "The problem with carbon nanotubes is that no one knows how to put them in a particular spot except by moving them one at a time. Even our smallest chips have millions of transistors, so that is an insurmountable challenge."

A tri-gate transistor is a component in the standard CMOS (complementary metal oxide semiconductor) design, but acts as a better "traffic

## Tonight's Agenda

Help desk with Tom until 6:45

6:45 **MagicTime!**  
New members  
Dues (\$3)

7:00 **FontaGula:**  
**Managing your Fonts in  
MacOS X**  
with Lynn MacAlpine

8:00 Wrap-up

Please consider dining at C&M. With more diners, we ensure that meeting costs remain low. **Thank You!!**

cop" to control the flow of electrons, surrounding each wire on three sides instead of just one.

"It's better to wrap the gate around, just like it's easier to block a garden hose by squeezing on all sides than just holding your thumb on one side," he said.

The technology is still on the drawing board, but Intel designers will be able to quickly apply it to new chips someday because they can use existing equipment in the fabrication plants.

"This will be an option for chips somewhere beyond 45 nm — in the 32 or 22 nm mode — so that gives us confidence we can continue scaling Moore's Law into the next decade," said Mayberry.

Intel has said it will be making more chips with 65-nm geometry than 90 nm by the third quarter of 2006, and move to 45-nm in 2007 and 32-nm by 2009.



## Mac Office 2004 Security Patch Closes Vulnerability

Peter Cohen - MacCentral

Microsoft on Tuesday released its Microsoft Office 2004 for Mac 11.2.4 Update. The update is available for download from Microsoft's Mac Web site — it measures 57.5MB.

"This update fixes vulnerabilities in Office 2004 for Mac that an attacker can use to overwrite the contents of your computer's memory with malicious code," reads a statement on the Microsoft Web site. "This update also fixes issues in Microsoft PowerPoint 2004 and Entourage 2004, and it includes all of the improvements released in all previous Office 2004 updates." The update can be applied to the following Microsoft products:

- Microsoft Office 2004 Standard Edition
- Office 2004 Student and Teacher Edition
- Office 2004 Professional Edition
- Word 2004
- Excel 2004
- PowerPoint 2004
- Entourage 2004

In related news, Microsoft has started offering the \$50 mail-in rebate for users who purchase Office 2004 for Mac Student and Teacher Edition through September 12, 2006. That lowers the final cost of the Student and Teacher Edition to \$99.

## Why Adobe and Microsoft Hit Delete on PDF Deal

By Rob Pegoraro  
June 6, 2006

If you want to know why so many computer programs are so bad these days, take a look at the Adobe-Microsoft mess.

These two powerful software developers have gotten into an argument over whether Microsoft can include a new feature in its upcoming Office

2007 productivity suite -- the ability to save your work as a Portable Document Format (PDF) file.

In the process, they're showing how old-fashioned greed and the more modern ailment of lawsuit phobia can turn a promising program sour.

Judged strictly on its merits, there's nothing to argue about that feature. It would end the worry that your Word, Excel or PowerPoint document might look weird or be unreadable on someone else's computer. PDF files preserve their appearance -- from fonts to footnotes to photos -- wherever they're read, so long as a recipient has a PDF-reader program. These programs, almost all free, are available for nearly every kind of computer, down to "smart phones" and handheld organizers.

Competing productivity suites, such as Corel's WordPerfect Office and the free and open-source OpenOffice.org, have offered this option for years. So does Apple's Mac OS X, which offers PDF output as a systemwide feature. When Microsoft announced in October that it would follow suit in its next release of Office, it seemed like a refreshing acknowledgment of reality in Redmond, Wash.

You'd think that would have delighted Adobe as well. The San Jose, Calif., firm has worked for years to establish the PDF as a standard way to share data, having written versions of its free Adobe Reader for all the major desktop and handheld operating systems. And while the company charges \$299 for its Adobe Acrobat PDF-creation toolkit, it's encouraged other developers to release their own.

For some reason, however, Adobe saw things differently when Microsoft wanted to join the PDF party. As Microsoft explained, in February, Adobe asked it to sell this feature as a separate add-on for Office 2007.

"We needed to break it out, offer it separately and charge a price for it," recounted David Heiner, Microsoft's deputy general counsel, in a phone interview. Adobe also asked Microsoft to yank support for a Microsoft-developed, PDF-like format called XPS. Lastly, Adobe wanted XPS support removed from Windows Vista, the successor to Windows XP that is due in January.

If those demands were not met, the implication seemed clear: See you in court.

Adobe publicists would not answer questions about this. The company released a short, vague statement that said that Adobe's "sole motivation is to maintain a fair, competitive landscape in the software industry" but that it "has made no determination to take legal action against Microsoft."

Heiner said Microsoft wanted to avoid any legal entanglement and offered to yank the PDF-export option from Office, instead making it available as a free download (although, he added, Adobe still wants Microsoft to charge extra for it). Microsoft also would allow computer manufacturers to omit XPS software from the copies of Vista pre-loaded on new machines.

With Adobe clamming up in public, it's hard to figure out what this company is trying to accomplish. If Adobe wants to stop Microsoft's XPS from replacing its own PDF, what better way than to get PDF support in the single most-used productivity suite?

A more reasonable theory holds that Adobe is worried that Microsoft's own PDF software will produce files that aren't strictly PDF-compatible, thus poisoning this standard. But that makes little sense on examination; the best way for Microsoft to quash Adobe's format is to keep Office PDF-illiterate.

Then there's the thought that Adobe's Acrobat, at \$299, will compete poorly with any free save-as-PDF option. But Adobe had to have foreseen that possibility when it issued a blanket invitation to the world to write PDF-compatible software. As its own documentation reads, "Adobe gives anyone copyright permission, subject to the conditions stated below, to ... Write drivers and applications that produce output represented in the Portable Document Format."

Further, for any company to start telling another how it should charge for its products is at best arrogance, at worst price collusion -- a violation of basic antitrust law.

All that and more about this story refuses to add up. It doesn't help that neither company has earned much right to wear a halo.

Adobe has its own monopolistic instincts: Last year it bought what was by far its biggest competitor in the graphics-software business, Macromedia. And it's been happy to exploit the demand for its free Adobe Reader to push unrelated software on users -- the Windows version normally comes with a Yahoo toolbar and Adobe's Photoshop album photo organizer.

Microsoft, meanwhile, has a history of taking standards developed by other companies, then writing software that somehow makes them work best, or only, on Microsoft operating systems. That conduct helped Microsoft lose many of its antitrust battles in the past decade; it's easy to see why the company wants to avoid a return to those days.

Still, from what we do know, it's hard not to wish that the bad old Microsoft would re-emerge for this one occasion and tell Adobe to go pound sand.

## 'Break out Q4' for Apple?

June 13th 2006  
M. Sharp, *Insanely Great Mac*

Quoting Piper-Jaffray and Needham analyst comments, Houston Chronicle (AP) reports Apple could see strong sales next quarter as elements of the company's computer hardware and software strategies come fully into play. "We believe September has the potential to be a breakout quarter for Apple due to the convergence of the following factors:



back-to-school selling season, full availability of MacBook and MacBook Pro, Boot Camp impact on overall Mac demand, PC-to-Mac switcher ad campaign, and the [iPod] halo effect," said Piper analyst Gene Munster. ***"The driver of our upgrade is the increase in Mac shipments that should result from its ability to run Windows applications. Our survey of Windows users in the US home market ... indicated that 8 percent of them would switch once the Mac ran Windows,"*** said Needham analyst Charlie Wolf. There's a growing gulf between the expectations iPod halo effect doubters and believers. Are you [still] a believer?

# Tonight's Demonstration Tip

# Pro

## Tip of the Week

# Checking for Bad Fonts



If there's one thing that can bring a document (or your system) to its knees, it's using a corrupt font (meaning a font that accepts bribes — sorry, that was lame). Anyway, finding out which fonts on your system might be corrupt was no easy task, but in Tiger, it just got a whole lot easier. Here's how to search for rampant font corruption: Go to your Applications folder and launch Font Book. You can either click directly on any font that you might think is suspect (look to see if the font is sweating), or Command-click on the fonts you want interrogated, then go under Font Book's File menu and choose Validate Fonts. This brings up a Font Validation window and if your fonts are on the up and up, you'll get a little round checkbox beside them. If there's reason to believe something may be wrong, you'll get a yellow warning icon beside a font. If it's corrupt, you'll get a round icon with an X in it, telling you not to use this font. Click the checkbox beside that font, then click the Remove Checked button to remove this font from your system.

## Disk Warrior Bug



Here is an important tip for those of you who use the utility software, DiskWarrior:

A bug that causes DiskWarrior to unexpectedly quit at step 10 in the rebuild process due to the presence of QuickTime has yet to be resolved with the latest QuickTime releases or an update from Alsoft (DiskWarrior's developer).

This issue was created with the installation of QuickTime 7.0.4 and continues with QuickTime 7.1 and 7.1.1. In the meantime, this issue can still be resolved via our previously published workaround, as follows:

1. Quit DiskWarrior 3.0.3
2. Control click on DiskWarrior 3.0.3 and from the contextual menu select "Show Package Contents"
3. Locate the "Complete.aiff" sound file - the path is: - DiskWarrior 3.0.3.app -> Contents -> Resources-> Complete.aiff
4. Rename the "Complete.aiff" sound file "Alert Complete.aiff" - then close ALL windows"

An Alsoft technical support representative states: "We're disappointed that the issue wasn't fixed with the update to QuickTime 7.1. We will have to work around this in a future version of DiskWarrior.

"However, the actual DiskWarrior rebuild process is completed and the crash will do no harm to your data. Thus, you could simply leave DiskWarrior as is, and re-launch the software if you need to rebuild another drive.

The Apple Groups Team (TAGteam) is not affiliated with Apple Computer.

## iPod Sales Estimates Slashed by 12%

June 15, 2006 - MacNN



Apple's iPod has been the driving force for the company's growth in the past, but going forward, Macs will become a more significant part of its future, according to one analyst. Merrill Lynch analyst Richard Farmer has lowered his iPod sales estimates by 12 percent from 8.1 million units from 9.2 million units for the June quarter based on historical sales data. The analyst also lowered full-year sales estimates of the popular portable media player to 39.4 million from 43.4 million units. However, Farmer increased his Mac computer revenue growth estimates "given what appears to be a decent early reception to new MacBooks," according to The Associated Press. "As iPods decelerate, the Apple story becomes more dependent on upside to Mac estimates, which we see as plausible," he wrote. Farmer maintained a "Neutral" rating on the stock but lowered his revenue and earnings estimates to a 2006 per-share profit of \$2.01 on \$18.9 billion of revenue, compared with prior estimates of \$2.13 per share on revenue of \$19.9 billion.





## More MacBook Praise

### Slick Apple MacBook Does Windows Too. Well-designed Intel-based notebook offers good value for the price.

June 9, 2006

Harry McCracken, PC World



With its new MacBook, Apple has filled out its Intel-based portable line with an entry-level model. But this mobile Macintosh packs so many clever, practical features into its compact case that using it never feels like a compromise. In fact, the \$1499 matte-black version I tried out is one of the best-looking, best-designed laptops I've ever used, regardless of cost. (An otherwise identical shiny-white configuration goes for \$1349; prices start at \$1099.

The MacBook's unusual in-between size turns out to make a lot of sense: At 12.8 inches wide by 8.9 inches deep by 1.1 inches tall, the 5.2-pound system is trim enough to be travel-friendly, yet it packs a 13.3-inch wide-screen display with plenty of real estate for everything from letterboxed movies to expansive spreadsheets. The screen is Apple's first with a glossy surface. It's a definite plus for movie watching, and I wasn't overly distracted by the reflections I occasionally saw.

A startlingly high percentage of the pricier MacBook Pro line's features have trickled down here. Even the basic \$1099 iBook sports an Intel Core Duo CPU, an integrated iSight Webcam, Front Row media software and a tiny remote to control it, optical audio input and output, and 802.11g and gigabit ethernet networking. In addition, like all Apple computers, MacBook laptops run the slick and functional OS X 10.3 operating system and include the powerful iLife digital media suite.

What's missing? Not much, but the MacBook does come with integrated graphics rather than the faster discrete adapter that gamers and graphics pros will want. And it has no ExpressCard, PC Card, or memory-card slots, nor a dial-up modem.

Designwise, the MacBook shines. The sunken keyboard looks weird, but it feels solid, and the keys can't brush up against the display and scratch it when the case is shut. Magnetism keeps the MacBook closed without a physical latch and connects the power brick to the notebook in a way that makes it almost impossible to damage either the MacBook or the plug if the cord gets accidentally yanked. As I used this computer, I kept asking myself, "Why don't Windows notebooks do that?"

Wait a minute—the MacBook, like all Intel-based Macs, can be a Windows PC, once you've installed Apple's Boot Camp utility and a full copy of Windows XP SP2. I did, and the 2-GHz Core Duo

MacBook achieved a respectable score of 88 in our WorldBench 5 speed test. Boot Camp is still beta-ware, and it shows: The Webcam doesn't work in XP, and Windows forgets what time it is when you power down. But all in all, the MacBook is a terrific piece of hardware that's a good value, too.



### Apple MacBook laptop has lots to like, low price

June 12, 2006

Walter Mossberg - Virginian-Pilot



As part of its switch to Intel processors, Apple Computer has overhauled its line of Macintosh laptops this year. It has retired its venerable PowerBook and iBook brands and replaced them with just three main laptop models.

On the high end are two versions of the MacBook Pro, which replaces the Power-Book. And for more price-conscious consumers, Apple has just added the MacBook, to replace the iBook.

I reviewed the MacBook Pro earlier this year, and lately I've been testing the new Mac-Book, a handsome machine that packs a very good screen and keyboard into a fairly thin enclosure and is surprisingly inexpensive.

There's a lot to like about the MacBook. It's a very good choice for anyone considering a Mac and operating on a tight budget. Like the other Intel-based Macs, it can even run Windows alongside Apple's own Mac OS X operating system. However, it is missing some key features that are standard on Windows-based laptops, and it is heavy compared with its closest Windows competitor.

The first thing you notice about the MacBook is its sharp, vivid 13.3-inch screen, which is larger than the 12.1-inch displays in the latest rash of relatively small Windows laptops. The MacBook screen is glossy, which makes for sharper contrast. Such screens can be subject to annoying reflections, but I didn't find that to be a problem.

Another striking feature is the keyboard, which uses widely spaced keys that have flat tops, instead of the usual curved surfaces. It looks great, and although I worried it would make typing clumsier, it wasn't a problem.

The MacBook also has a builtin camera, a built-in slot-loading DVD drive, and Intel's new Core Duo processor, which packs the equivalent of two chips into one. There are three basic configurations, ranging from \$1,099 to \$1,499, and you can configure each to your specifications. Two of the configurations come in a white case. The top version is black and costs \$150 more than a comparably equipped white model.

Perhaps the most surprising thing about the MacBook is its price. Despite Apple's reputation for charging more, the MacBook is actually less expensive than its closest major Windows competitor. That would be the Sony Vaio VGN-SZ240, which also has a 13.3-inch screen with the same resolution, includes a built-in

camera, and is available with the same processor and the same memory and hard-disk capacity as the MacBook.

When configured to match the major specs of the base model of the MacBook, the Sony costs \$1,629, nearly 50 percent more than the MacBook's \$1,099 base price.

Yet the MacBook is much heavier than the Sony. It weighs 5.2 pounds, 37 percent more than the Sony's 3.8 pounds.

In my tests, the MacBook proved to be very snappy. Internet performance over my Wi-Fi network was excellent. Microsoft Office ran very well, as did the Firefox Web browser, Adobe Reader and everything else I tested.

On my tough battery test, in which I turn off all power-saving features and keep the hard disk spinning and the screen at maximum brightness, the Mac-Book lasted three hours and 47 minutes. That suggests you could get nearly five hours with powersaving on and a more normal usage pattern. A high-end model of the much costlier Sony, which I tested in April, lasted three hours and two minutes.

And like all Macs, the MacBook is vastly superior to Windows machines in terms of bundled software and security. Apple's operating system is better designed, more stable and more modern than Windows XP. Its built-in iLife suite of multimedia software can't be matched on Windows. And it has – so far – been attacked by only two viruses, compared with the more than 100,000 viruses and spyware programs that plague Windows. Those qualities are worth hundreds of dollars, in my view.

Like all Mac laptops, the Mac-Book lacks a right-click button, even though Apple's own software displays right-click menus. To emulate a right click, Mac users typically must hold down the Control key while clicking the sole button. The MacBook has a new way to do this that's simpler: Place two fingers on the touch pad and click with a third. It works well. The MacBook also has Apple's very cool scrolling feature, which allows you to scroll any screen by moving two fingers over the touch pad. It's better than any Windows laptop scrolling feature I've seen.

The MacBook lacks two important hardware features that are nearly ubiquitous on Windows laptops. It has no slots for the flash memory cards used in digital cameras, smart phones and other devices. And it lacks a card slot for the adapters that can provide laptops with many add-on features, including flash memory sockets and cell phone data modems.

The lack of the card slot is particularly nettlesome. Among Apple laptops, only the costlier MacBook Pro has one. Every computer maker seeks to differentiate its low-priced and high-priced products. But withholding a near-universal industry-standard feature from a consumer machine is a bad way to do this. Even Dell's \$499 laptop has a card slot. So if you buy a MacBook, you'll need to connect your camera with a cable, and to do without some add-on features that require a card slot.

Despite these drawbacks, the MacBook is a solid machine at a great price.



Two cows are standing next to each other in a field. Daisy says to Dolly, "I was artificially inseminated this morning." "I don't believe you," says Dolly. "It's true, no bull!" exclaims Daisy.





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User ID: ipod Password: video