

The TarMac Vaporware Gazette

all the news that's fit to download!



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Apple Replaces eMac with \$899 iMac for Education

Jul 5, 2006 - Peter Cohen - MacCentral

Apple on Wednesday introduced an \$899 version of its 17-inch Intel-based iMac specifically for the educational market. The company took the wraps off the new model at this week's NECC conference in San Diego, Calif. Apple says the new low-cost iMac is its replacement for the eMac, Apple's last CRT-based system.

The \$899 iMac boasts some similar specifications to Apple's base-model iMac that's available for \$1,299. The Core Duo processor is clocked at the same speed — 1.83GHz — and it features an iSight video camera and comes with iLife '06 pre-installed. It also comes with 512MB of 667MHz DDR2 SDRAM, expandable to 2GB, built-in 10/100/1000 Base-T Ethernet capabilities, built-in 802.11G Wi-Fi wireless networking, three USB 2.0 ports and two FireWire 400 ports.

What's missing compared to the \$1,299 retail model is Bluetooth connectivity, an optical SuperDrive (instead this system features a 24X CD-RW/DVD-ROM "Combo" drive, and ATI-based graphics — this system instead features integrated Intel GMA 950 graphics. The educational iMac also features a smaller hard drive, 80GB, as opposed to 160GB.

The new low-cost iMac is available immediately through the Apple Store for Education. The eMac, which has been restricted to education sales only, is no longer in production but will remain available while supplies last through the Apple Store for Education.

from MacRumors.com

July 11, 2006 Posted by [arn](#)

American Technology Research Analyst, Shaw Wu, echoes sentiment that the new iPod nano will come in a new metal enclosure. Shaw Wu, however, specifically states that the new

Apple could face weak Sept quarter

July 12, 2006 - MacNN

Shares of Apple today slipped to their lowest levels since late last year, as one analyst predicts that the company may not be able to hit Wall Street's estimates for the company's September quarter (its fiscal fourth quarter) and pressure from soon-to-be competitors such as Microsoft mount. The company, expected to announce earnings for its July quarter on July 19, could face both revenue and profit shortfalls as it cuts back on shipments of iPod digital music player to transition to new/updated iPod models. Reuters reports that Apple shares slipped to an 9-month low after Credit Suisse First Boston analyst Robert Semple said he expects Apple to forecast revenue of \$4.6 billion to \$4.8 billion, shy of the \$4.9 billion noted by Reuters Estimates. In addition, the analyst said that Apple could forecast a quarterly profit of 50 cents a share, short of analysts' view of 52 cents a share.

"We expect Apple will once again use the September quarter to reduce iPod inventories as the company prepares for a refresh of its product lineup, which we continue to believe will occur in the Sept/Oct time frame," he said in a note to clients. Along with rumors of delays with the new iPod, the recent spate of rumors about Microsoft's upcoming iPod killer (right) have also put pressure on Apple stock, according to the report. "We are continuing to hear that Microsoft may be much closer to launching its iPod killer, a wireless iPod. I think that could be behind the pressure we are seeing in Apple," Jon Najarian, co-founder of information Web Site insideoptions.com, told Reuters. Reports have said that Microsoft will start selling a wireless digital music and video player to compete with Apple's iPod by the holiday season. While it is rumored to have advanced features such as over-the-air downloads of movies and songs, it is not expected to dethrone Apple's dominate iPod music player; however, any new offering could cut into Apple's marketshare, affecting both profits and revenue targets for the December quarter.

iPod nano cases will be made of magnesium rather than aluminum. According to Wu, the new magnesium nanos are expected by October of this year.

Meanwhile, Wu also reiterates that the Intel PowerMac revision is expected at WWDC.

Tonight's Agenda

Help desk until 6:45 with Tom

6:45 **Magic Time!**
 New members - Lynn
 Dues (\$3) - Ray
 Ambassador & Industry
 news - Lyle
 Shareware - Ray
 Wanted/Items to sell

7:30 Tonight's mini-demo:
**Publishing the TarMac
 Vaporware Gazette**

presented by Frank Smith

8:00 Wrap-up - Lynn



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

Jobs Named in Shareholder Lawsuit

July 12, 2006 - Remy Davison - Insanely Great Mac

Steve Jobs and a string of former Apple executives and CEOs are named in the shareholder lawsuit against the company, PCPro reports. The case relates to irregularities in the issuance of stock options, which the company revealed to the SEC, following an internal investigation into how options were granted within the firm. It is alleged that Apple's directors and executives committed a breach of fiduciary duty by colluding to maximize their stock options and that this cost Apple millions of dollars in losses. Michael Spindler (CEO 1994-96) along with retired executives Fred Anderson (Interim CEO 1997 and CFO 1996-2005), Jon Rubinstein (recently-retired VP of hardware engineering) and Avie Tevanian (current VP of software engineering) are all named in the suit. All the members of the board are named, except former US VP Al Gore, a relatively recent addition to the board.



Bill Gates, Version 2.0: Full-Time Philanthropist

June 16, 2006 - Sara Kehaulani Goo - Washington Post

Three decades after starting the most influential American technology company, Microsoft Corp. Chairman Bill Gates said yesterday that he plans to step down from day-to-day work at the software giant to focus his energy full time on the \$29 billion foundation he started with his wife 12 years ago.

Although the transition will not take place until July 2008, the move signals a new era for the software company that has been closely associated with Gates's geeky persona and provides an opportunity, according to many in the public health community, for Gates to become one of the most important philanthropists in U.S. history.

Microsoft founder Bill Gates smiles during his keynote presentation at the Computer Dealer Expo, or Comdex, Sunday, Nov. 12, 2000, in a Las Vegas file photo. Microsoft Corp. said after the bell Thursday that Gates will transition out of a day-to-day role in the company to spend more time on his global health and education work at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Microsoft Corp. will gradually lose the day-to-day participation of its longtime iconic leader, Bill Gates, but the company should make the transition "without missing a beat," he said yesterday, as he begins to focus more on his charity work and the company continues to battle its software rivals.

Every move of the world's largest software maker, whose operating systems drive 90 percent of all PCs, sends ripples through the technology world.

Gates said he intends to remain chairman of Microsoft "for the rest of my life" but plans to relinquish all daily duties at the company and instead focus his legendary competitive drive on improving global health and access to technology. He and Microsoft chief executive Steven A. Ballmer yesterday laid out a two-year transition plan to begin grooming the next crop of executives to run the Redmond, Wash., firm. Gates's sometimes relentless management style has bulldozed the company through many roadblocks, overcoming the government's attempt to break it up as a monopoly and overwhelming competitors such as Apple

Computer Inc., International Business Machines Corp. and AOL. While Gates's founding vision of a personal computer on every desk has essentially come true, the basis on which he built the company -- software -- is being overtaken by the spread of high-speed Internet. New rivals such as Google Inc. promise a future where tools such as spreadsheets and e-mail reside online instead of in software on someone's hard drive. Gates's departure comes at a time when Microsoft is scrambling to adjust to that sudden shift.

"With success, I have been given great wealth. And with great wealth comes great responsibility to give back to society, to see that those resources are put to work in the best possible way to help those in need," Gates told a group of reporters yesterday afternoon from the company's headquarters. "Obviously, this decision was a hard one for me to make. I'm very lucky to have two passions."

Six years ago, Gates stepped down as chief executive to serve as "chief software architect," but he continued to be a towering daily presence at the company even as it saw the rise of Google and a new breed of competitors. Now 50, he made clear yesterday that he intends to step away from corporate life to focus on a foundation that already surpasses many governments across the globe in terms of spending and impact in the areas of vaccines, immunization and AIDS research.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's \$29 billion endowment is 10 times the size of the Rockefeller Foundation and three times the size of the Ford Foundation. The foundation has contributed \$159 million, or half of worldwide funding, for research and treatment that could result in nine or 10 new drugs that would help the world's poorest people fight diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis. Public health experts said the effort has invigorated areas of research that had fallen by the wayside and introduced innovative approaches by partnering with other nonprofit groups, governments and drug companies.

"This is good news for the world's poor," said Anne Lynam Goddard, chief of staff of CARE, an Atlanta-based nonprofit group focusing on ending global poverty and social injustice that received \$10 million from the Gates foundation this year for health initiatives. "The Gates foundation has been a trendsetter. They've raised the bar in public health and reinvigorated interest in it."

Goddard and other public health experts said it is not just the sheer amount of money Gates brings to the table but also the businesslike focus on results and effectiveness that has made an impact. It's the "entrepreneurial, results-focused culture [that] has been a great thing for global health," said Orin Levine, executive director of a Johns Hopkins University program to spread access to pneumococcal vaccines, which received funding from the foundation.

"It wasn't that long ago people thought we couldn't make a malaria vaccine. But Bill said, 'No, let's do it,'" Levine recalled. "We had amazing results where we did a small but important trial in Mozambique, and this was the first evidence in the field that malaria vaccine could protect kids against malaria disease. It's indicative of what they've brought to the table. They're not afraid to tackle really big, difficult problems."

The Gates foundation has partnered with major drug companies to help subsidize research programs and bring a focus to some of the poorest countries. In Botswana, Bill and Melinda

Gates spoke with former prostitutes to learn more about the spread of AIDS in that country. "In some countries, the issue of AIDS is very much an issue of commercial sex workers. Where others might have shied away from working in that sector, they haven't," Goddard said. "They come with no political agenda."

Gates made clear yesterday that he does not plan to take the helm of his foundation, where his wife, Melinda, already devotes much of her time. He said his role there will be similar to his current role at Microsoft, but he added, "I don't know what it will be like to not come to Microsoft every day." (Melinda Gates serves on the board of The Washington Post Co.)

Gates and Ballmer tried to assure investors and employees yesterday that the company would not change much once Gates departs, but that was hard to fathom given that his image and persona have long been intertwined with those of the company.

Gates typically dresses in the casual geek-chic style of khakis and V-neck sweaters -- he wore one during his announcement yesterday -- and carries an equally self-effacing public demeanor. But behind closed doors, he has a reputation for being abrupt and dismissive of ideas he considers sub-par.

"There is that ruthless streak in him," said Laura DiDio, an analyst with the Yankee Group who also followed Gates as a reporter. During meetings, he was known to dismiss comments as "stupid," she said, and as his persona and Microsoft's corporate stature grew over the years, so did people's reluctance to challenge his authority. "You don't challenge the emperor on his home turf," DiDio said. "I don't think anybody's going to dominate Microsoft the way Bill has," and the company will benefit from new ideas and new blood of the younger generation of engineers, she said.



Microsoft reportedly readying iPod rival for holidays

July 6, 2006 - Shelley Solheim - IDG News Service

Microsoft is reportedly readying an iPod killer set to hit retail shelves in time for the end-of-year holiday shopping season.

Microsoft's portable music and video player is rumored to include wireless connectivity, enabling users to download songs without being tethered to a PC, according to The New York Times.

Microsoft faces an uphill battle in its efforts to take on Apple, which shipped 8.5 million iPods in the second quarter of 2006 alone, marking a 61 percent increase from its sales for the same quarter in 2005. Apple is due to announce its third-quarter earnings July 19.



Mini-Demo Resources

Primary news sites used for the Gazette:

www.insanely-great.com
www.macworld.com/news
www.macintoshnews.it/rss.xml
www.macnn.com/news
Virginian-Pilot business section

Additional news sites suggested by Ray Kallman:

www.appleinsider.com
www.applelinks.com
www.lowendmac.com
www.macfixit.com
www.macintosh.com
www.macminute.com
www.macosserver.com
www.macosxhints.com
www.macrumors.com
macslash.org
www.macsurfer.com
www.tidbits.com
www.woz.org

Software resources:

for page layout:
Adobe InDesign version 2.02

for image editing:
Adobe Photoshop version 7.01

for text reformatting:
Apple TextEdit version 1.4
(part of OS X)

for image searching:
Google Image Search
(www.google.com/imghp?hl=en&tab=wi&q=)

Printing resources:

printer:
Epson Stylus Photo 1280



paper:
HP Bright White Inkjet Paper
11"X17" (279 x 432 mm)
24 lb. (90g/m²)
108+ brightness

ink:
remanufactured cartridges purchased locally

Printed at 360dpi

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OS 10.4.7 squirts out



June 27, 2006 - M. Sharp - Insanely Great Mac

Apple has released OS X.4.7. This dot-fix includes a host of networking and application-specific tweaks:

- Preventing AFP deadlocks and dropped connections
- Saving Adobe and Quark documents to AFP mounted volumes
- Bluetooth file transfers, pairing and connecting to a Bluetooth mouse, and syncing to mobile phones
- Audio playback in QuickTime, iTunes, Final Cut Pro, and Soundtrack applications
- Ensuring icons are spaced correctly when viewed on desktop
- Determining the space required to burn folders
- iChat audio and video connectivity, creating chat rooms when using AIM
- Importing files into Keynote 3
- PDF workflows when using iCal and iPhoto
- Reliable use of Automator actions within workflows
- Importing and removing fonts in Font Book
- Syncing addresses, bookmarks, calendar events and files to .Mac
- Compatibility with third party applications and devices
- Previous standalone security updates

Of course, the mothership is also offering Combo. Mactel, Mactel Combo and Server versions.

Sudden Shuffle Death?



June 24, 2006 - Remy Davison - Insanely Great Mac

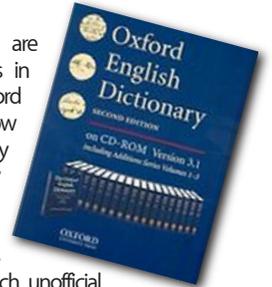
Apple is replacing iPod Shuffles under warranty when they display the 'flashing orange and green lights of death'. 550 posts on Apple's Shuffle discussion boards have discussed the issue. It appears to be the signal for hardware failure, but the display-less Shuffle, of course, can't give any error codes. The MP3 player will not play after this occurs. Apple's policy is to replace all products under the standard 12-month warranty and Shuffles have been replaced without question when this has occurred. Apple documents suggest the flashing lights indicate a 'generic errors'. However, some Shuffle owners have reset the player successfully by downloading the latest version of the Shuffle iPod Updater. However, this does not appear to work in all instances. Apple has not officially commented. The company continues to sell around 1 million 512MB and 1GB Shuffles per month, according to analysts' estimates. Has this Shuffle issue happened to yours?

Google™ Becomes a Verb!

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July 11, 2006 - Adam C. Engst - Tidbits

Trademark lawyers are shaking their heads in dismay, as the Oxford English Dictionary has now added Google's company name to the dictionary as a verb. Although this would seem to be a good thing for Google, thanks to the free advertising, such unofficial uses dilute company trademarks, making it more difficult to pursue trademark infringement lawsuits. Other companies whose names have fallen prey to "verbification" include FedEx, TiVo, and Xerox.



Apple Abolishes Term 'Laptop' - It's All Portable Now

June 26, 2006 - Remy Davison - Insanely Great Mac

Apple Detects reports on Cupertino's move to expunge the word 'lap' from its marketing, advertising and web material. One can feel the heavy hand of Apple Legal at work here. Apple has changed its advertising material to the less-specific 'anywhere you want' (but presumably and preferably not on your lap). Critics argue that this shift is due largely to the excessive heat generated by the Intel-powered MacBook and MacBook Pro. There is no real consensus over whether the new 'portables' (It's Not A Laptop) generate excessive heat.



Some users report that the problem is confined largely to early-production models, with more recent shipping product staying much cooler on the lap-o-meter. Apple is also replacing some MacBook Pro logic boards, although it is unclear whether this is due to heat-related issues or simply DOA mobos.

Analysis: There may well be a heat issue, but dead/dying mobos are nothing new. My superseded PB G4/1.67 came with a dying mobo (no extra charge) right out of the box. The tech who fixed it said they do lots of them. MBP is apparently no different and it's yet another reason to either opt for the full 3-year AppleCare on any portable you buy, or to check whether your credit card company provides additional warranty coverage on computer products you purchase. Bear in mind too that the PB G3s and G4s (particularly the latter) were thought of as very hot-running laptops on warm days. There was even a 'scorched legs' icon for the PB G3. The move to metal enclosures with the TiBook meant that PowerBooks became a hotbox. And in cold weather, they're a slab of ice...

GarageBand changing the face of music creation



June 21, 2006 - Jim Dalrymple - Macworld

When Apple released GarageBand in 2004, the music creation program aimed at consumers seemed like just another component in the iLife suite of multimedia applications. But a little more than two years after that initial release, audio software and hardware makers have come out with consumer products of their own. And few make any secret of the fact that it was GarageBand that inspired them to reach out to this new audience.

"GarageBand is bringing music to the masses in a way that is very easy," said Chris Bristol, senior vice president & general manager of Roland's U.S. operations. "You feel that you are in a creative mode right away. There are always people that want higher-quality recording, but the basic fundamentals need to be delivered in a simple package and that's what GarageBand does."

Indeed, while Roland's Boss and Edirol brands are synonymous with gear and instruments among professional musicians, that hasn't stopped the company from coming out with consumer products such as the UA-4FX Mobile Recording Studio or the various digital stompboxes from Boss.

"It's a good idea for us to get our technology in a less expensive format that more people can use," Bristol said. "We think people should be enjoying music, just like Apple is doing with GarageBand."

And Roland is hardly the only company to take this approach, according to analysts. "I think [GarageBand] was a bit of a wake-up call for the high-end music industry," said Mike McGuire, an analyst with technology market research firm Gartner. "I think [the music industry is] seeing a moment of inspiration, not to compete, but to make their stuff more intuitive, like Apple."

Take Blue Microphones, a company that typically makes mics for recording and touring musicians. It recently introduced a \$149 microphone called the Snowball, bringing Blue into a market it never thought it would touch.

The Snowball was conceived directly because of GarageBand, explained Skipper Wise, president of Blue Microphones. Wise's daughter was using GarageBand and a USB mic to make music on her Mac. Noticing the lack of quality in the recording of the microphone, Wise decided to make an inexpensive mic using what he had learned making the \$12,000 mics at work.

"We are really more of a higher-end company, but when you do something of a higher quality and then you trickle it down to a price point of the Snowball, you can apply all of the things you know work on the high-end products," Wise said.



Indeed, that's been much of the secret to GarageBand's success. While the program is easy to use, it still delivers powerful features, thanks in large part to using the same core technologies that Apple uses for its professional-level Logic music software.

"We started from scratch and made the best application we could for the novice user," said Xander Soren, Apple's senior product line manager for consumer audio applications. "That's what Apple loves to do. We are good at making it available to everybody, by having a price that makes sense and making it achievable for the average user."

"GarageBand makes it so easy to make music with just a few clicks and some samples," Gartner's McGuire agreed. "Even some pros are taking advantage of these features in GarageBand to do quick things."

And that's why companies at the top end of the music industry are feeling GarageBand's influence. Athan Billias, director of marketing for Tech Products Pro Audio at industry giant Yamaha, recalls that years ago, making a record cost a lot of money—so much so that amateurs were shut out of the process. That's not the case anymore.

"That is the challenge—making the technology transparent," Billias said. "That is what the Mac experience is all about in my mind, making technology transparent, making a great user experience."

It is trends like these that Billias keeps in mind when Yamaha sits down to create a new product. Incorporating the company's knowledge from its high-end products into different levels of products—like the MW10 and MW12 mixers—for all users. "Making it simple is really hard," Billias said.

Yamaha remains successful throughout the years because of its philosophy when creating new products. "The first thing we had to do is realize that people are not interested in Yamaha—they are interested in what the products can do for them. If you keep this in mind, you can't go wrong," Billias said. "Apple focuses on the customer experience: 'Plug it in and it works.' That's how we do things too."

Apple Releases Boot Camp 1.0.2 Beta

July 12, 2006 - MacObserver

Apple released an updated version of Boot Camp, its Windows dual booting application for Intel-based Macs on Tuesday. Unfortunately, Apple hasn't provided any information about what is included in the Boot Camp 1.0.2 release. The update is included in the full installer application that can be downloaded from Apple's Web site. MacFixIt reports that there are no discernible changes after reinstalling the Windows drivers that are included with the update.





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05/01/06-07/31/06

User ID: **ipod** Password: **video**

Apple rebellion fears addressed

July 12, 2006 - MacNN

Leander Kahney, a writer for Wired.com, posted a new column today asking the question "Are Apple's Customers Rebellious?" The question is raised by recent reports doubting the quality control and over all value of buying Apple products such as the iPod media player.

Recent reports from the BBC, Daily Telegraph, and The Scotsman all question the long term success of the iPod as problems with the device get the media spotlight. The Scotsman recently published article stating, "... two years after Britain fell in love with the iPod there are signs that the pocket-sized box that transformed the way millions listen to music is beginning to lose its shine." These comments are echoed around the media as the backlash of iPod faults grows.

Teething troubles Apple has reported 20 percent year-over-year growth for Macs and 200 percent growth for iPods. "True, some of the new machines are having teething troubles," wrote Leander Kahney, columnist for Wired.com. "But it's hard to tell how widespread these problems are. The internet is a notorious echo chamber; a few vocal critics can make it seem like there's a full-scale breakdown." Kahney believes that the problem is not nearly as widespread as the voices on the internet suggest, speculating that the numbers of faulty MacBooks is probably less than 10 percent. The columnist blames the media for "backlash," claiming that the effect is limited to newsgroups and journalists hunting for stories. "No doubt there's a lot of customers out there who are quite happy with their new machines," he explained, "And they'll remain blissfully silent until something goes wrong."

Apple in the spotlight PC Worlds' John Dvorak is fingered as one of the "pundits" in the media who likes to draw negative attention to Apple in an attempt to balance out the overwhelming number of journalists who are "Mac Fans." Kahney claims that all the attention is due to Apple's cutting-edge mentality and technology that sets both design and feature trends throughout the industry. "A funky looking iMac looks better on the front page than another dull Dell—even if the Dell will outsell the Apple machine by a factor of 10 to 1," Kahney said. Apple CEO Steve Jobs uses this media affiliation with Apple to make every product announcement an event, which reverberate through numerous media outlets. All of the positive attention Apple draws can turn against the company, however, if something goes awry.

While researching, Kahney found that Dell recalled 553,000 AC adapters, and IBM recalled 225,000 in 2004. Those stories received nearly no press coverage compared to the 128,000 batteries recalled by Apple last spring, however. "Apple has long punched above its weight in terms of the media attention it attracts—it's just now it's attracting the wrong kind."