

The TarMac Vaporware Gazette

10.18 close **173.64**
10.11 open **166.79**
Apple Stock Price

all the news that's fit to download!

Apple's New Operating System To Hit Stores Oct. 26

Apple Cuts Price on DRM-free Music To 99 Cents!

Apple Board Member Al Gore Awarded Nobel Peace Prize

10.16.07 - Scott Hillis - Reuters

Apple Inc said on Tuesday the newest version of its Macintosh operating system will go on sale on October 26, finally hitting the market after a four-month delay due to the company's work on the iPhone.



The new operating system, which is called Leopard, is the sixth update to Apple's OS X software and will cost \$129 for a single user and \$199 for a family pack, which can be installed on up to five computers in a single household.

New features include a file back-up feature called "Time Machine," improvements to e-mail and instant messaging, the ability to preview documents or files without launching a separate program, and quick access to other computers on a home or office network.

"This is going to be great for Mac momentum, which has already been strong for the past few years. This is just one more thing on top of that," Apple's vice president of marketing, Phil Schiller, told Reuters in an interview.

In its fiscal third quarter that ended June 30, Apple sold nearly 1.8 million Mac computers, up 33 percent from a year earlier, a growth rate that is about triple that of the broader PC market. Back in April, Apple delayed the release of Leopard to October from its original June target, citing the need to divert software development resources to the iPhone, which was launched in late June.



10.16.07 - Jim Dalrymple - Macworld

Apple has cut the price of its DRM-free music from \$1.29 to 99 cents, the same amount it charges for songs encoded with its FairPlay DRM technology. The move brings Apple's pricing closer to that of Amazon, which recently began selling DRM-free music for 99 cents or lower.

Apple's DRM-free music catalog is largely made up of artists from EMI -- Apple and EMI signed a deal to offer higher-quality songs with no DRM, but the songs were priced at a premium.

"iTunes Plus has been incredibly popular with our customers and now we're making it available at an even more affordable price," said Apple spokesperson, Tom Neumayr.

While Apple has relied on EMI to provide it with its DRM-free music, the company said more music is on the way. "We're adding over two million tracks from key independent labels in addition to EMI's digital catalog and look forward to even more labels and artists making their music available on iTunes Plus," said Neumayr.

Not only will the The DRM-free songs come down in price, they will also remain at the higher-quality bitrate of 256kbps AAC instead of the 128kbps AAC for DRM songs.

Amazon MP3 recently opened its own DRM-free music store. Amazon sells its music for between 89 cents and 99 cents, but analysts don't feel they will challenge Apple in the long run.



1015.07 - Mark H. Anbinder - tidbits.com

Former U.S. Vice President Al Gore, whose documentary film "An Inconvenient Truth" won an Academy Award (or "Oscar") and who himself won an Emmy Award for his Current TV channel, last week added the ultimate award to his resume. The Norwegian Nobel Committee announced that the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize would be shared between Gore and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Such announcements are normally outside what we cover in TidBITS, but both Gore and his film are deeply connected to Apple and the Mac industry.



In fact, while we were hoping for other news from Apple's PR machine (see "Leopard Slated for October 26th?," 2007-10-04), they instead spent the day touting Gore's achievement, customizing Apple's home page and linking to multiple news reports on the Hot News page. The one-time politician, named to Apple's board of directors in early 2003, has frequently been linked to the company's products. He has for years been an avid user of Apple's Final Cut Pro software, and he used Keynote to assemble the material presented in "An Inconvenient Truth."



Nobel medal

A NEW MAC TIP EVERY DAY Browsing iCal more quickly!

10.08.07 - tips4mac.blogspot.com

It is a simple iCal tip that might seem obvious, but if you don't know about it, it takes a lot more time browsing through your calendars. First, you can move through the months with "Command - Right Arrow" and "Command - Left Arrow". But that is not what I wanted to talk about. It is the great shortcut "Command - T". It will bring you back to the current month, week or day, no matter where you are in iCal.



Go to Today	⌘T
Go to Date...	⇧⌘T
Day View	⌘1
Week View	⌘2
Month View	⌘3
Next	⌘→
Previous	⌘←
Hide Info	⌘I
Hide Mini Months	
Show Notifications	
Show Search Results	
Show To Dos	⌘T
✓ Show All-Day Events	

Tonight...

- 7:00 Help desk - Tom Davis

7:00 **MagicTime!**
New members - Brian Fountain
Dues (\$3) - Ray Kallman

@ 7:30 **iTunes** - Brian

Wrap-up - Brian



Seagate Hybrid Hard Drives Not Mac-Compatible

10.17.07 - Adam C. Engst - tidbits.com

Seagate Technology has released the new Momentus 5400 PSD hard drive, the first "hybrid hard drive" that puts 256 MB of non-volatile flash RAM in a 2.5-inch notebook hard drive to improve boot time and overall performance, reduce power consumption, and increase reliability. In essence, the flash memory serves as a large cache that can serve out commonly accessed data, enabling the drive to spin down more frequently and providing that data more quickly than it could be read from the disk platter. Because the drive spends less time spinning, power consumption drops, and because the drive is far less likely to be damaged while spun down, reliability increases at the same time. (Put another way, not using the drive makes it more efficient and more reliable - what a concept!)

Seagate's press release received quite a bit of play in the Mac press, but I'm sorry to say that there's absolutely no point in buying one for your MacBook Pro just yet. I confirmed with Mike Hall of Seagate that explicit operating system support is required for all the benefits of a hybrid hard drive, and the only operating system that provides such support right now is Windows Vista. Mike did say that Seagate hopes to increase the number of operating systems that support the Momentus 5400 PSD, but he didn't know of any support in the works from Apple. If you were to install one of these drives in a Mac now, Mike said it would work just like any other normal hard drive. And since the Momentus 5400 PSD drives are likely to be more expensive than normal drives, you should save your money.

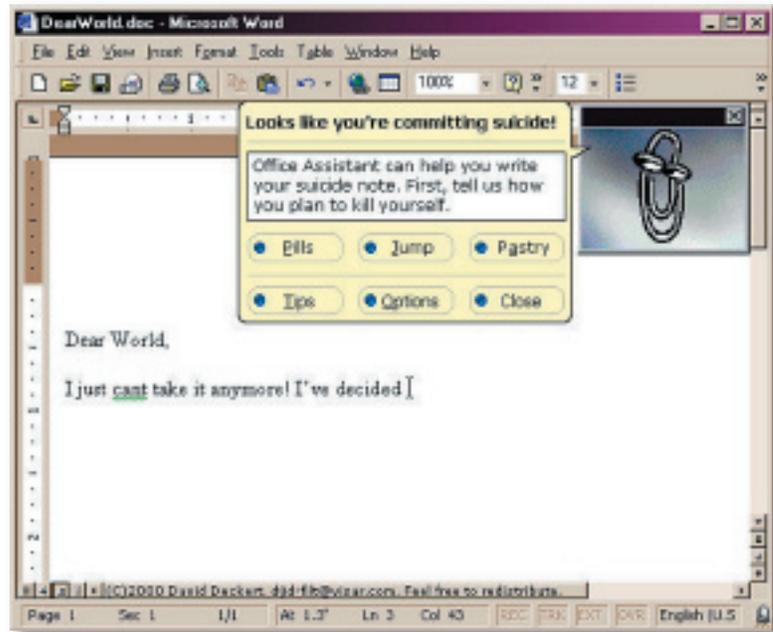
That said, it's likely that we'll see a refresh of Apple's laptops in the next few months, and perhaps also the Mac mini and the Apple TV, all of which use 2.5-inch hard drives. It would be entirely within character for Apple to add hybrid hard drive support to Leopard, and to include the Momentus 5400 PSD in laptops as a way of increasing battery life and in the Mac mini and Apple TV to reduce power consumption and noise.

I think we'll be seeing more of this melding of solid-state storage with spinning-disk storage trend. Flash RAM prices continue to drop, with 16 GB Compact Flash cards as low as \$128 and 8 GB SDHC cards at \$65. I don't know how comparable those prices are to what's being used in the Momentus drives, since the 256 MB flash RAM that Seagate's using may be faster and thus more expensive than consumer-level cards, but Seagate can also undoubtedly reduce costs significantly by buying in quantity. If operating system support for hybrid hard drives becomes widely available, putting some flash RAM in a hard drive would seem like an easy win for everyone.

Seagate



Ms Word Joke



iPhone Apple Faces Potential Environmental Lawsuit

10.15.07 - Jim Dalrymple - Macworld

The Center for Environmental Health on Monday said that it has given Apple 60-days legal notice -- a step required by California law before a lawsuit is launched. The action is based on the report by environmental group Greenpeace, released earlier today, that found hazardous materials in Apples iPhone. The Greenpeace tests revealed chemicals that included phthalates in the vinyl plastic earphone wiring at levels that are prohibited in young childrens toys in San Francisco and the European Union (EU).

Under Californias Proposition 65 law, products that can expose consumers to phthalates or other chemicals that are reproductive toxins or carcinogens must carry a warning label, according to the Center for Environmental Health. There is no reason to have these potentially hazardous chemicals in iPhones said Michael Green, Executive Director of Center for Environmental Health. We expect Apple to reformulate their products to make them safer from cradle to grave, so they dont pose a threat to consumers, workers or the environment.

Apple representatives were not immediately available for comment on the potential lawsuit or the Greenpeace report. The Center for Environmental Health wants Apple to clearly label the iPhone saying that it contains phthalates, but ultimately it wants the company to get rid of them altogether. "In general what we try to do is encourage the manufacturers through a negotiated settlement to reduce the use of these chemicals," Caroline Cox, a spokeswoman for the Center for Environmental Health, told Macworld. "That would be our goal with Apple." Cox said her organization has had no communication with Apple yet.



Update: Added comment from the Center for Environmental Health. 3:58 pm 10/15/07. The Center for Environmental Health clarified that they sent Apple the required 60 days legal notice today, not a lawsuit. The 60 day notice is required before a lawsuit can be launched. 5:53 pm 10/15/07

TarMac

Tidewater Area Macintosh Users Group
Apple User Group

The Tarmac Vaporware Gazette, named in honor of past president Jerry Rowe, is published for each meeting by smittys printshop, a non-existent shop specializing in things of little or no importance to the world at large. Send your comments, good or bad, to smittysprintshop@mac.com.

TarMac "Control Panel"

Brian Fountain, president
Tom Davis, vice-president
Ray Kallman, treasurer
Lyle Sanders, user group ambassador
Jamie Lewis, master-at-arms

other panel members

Tarmac By-laws

If you show up you're a member
If you speak up you're an officer
If you stand up you're the president

Jan Cook
Cindy Huffman
Lynn McAlpine
Frank Smith

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