

The TarMac Vaporware Gazette

Where to Find Everything You Need to Know About Every Apple Product

mcsolo.com | August 11, 2015

There are times when you need to know something about your Mac, or a friend's Mac, or a co-worker's iPhone, or a family member's iPad. How do you find out what you need to know? Google? Call a knowledgeable friend? Check the Apple website?

There is a better way and it's free.

I don't know exactly how many years I've been using MacTracker, but probably since all it tracked was information about the Mac. Every Mac I've ever owned dating back to the beginning, 1984, or every Mac or Apple product I wished I'd owned is in the MacTracker database.

That's what it is. It's called MacTracker, but it's become the go-to database for all things Mac, iPhone, iPad, iPod, Apple TV, accessories, add-ons, and even various Mac OS versions going back to forever. This labor of love utility starts with Apple's product categories in the lefthand sidebar. Click on one and ye shall receive.

What you'll find with just a few clicks is detailed information on every Mac ever made. All the specifications and details are there. CPU, RAM, optical drives, OS versions, graphic cards, and more.

Visit <http://mcsolo.com/2015/08/how-to-know-everything-you-need-to-know-about-every-apple-product/>

Steve Jobs, the Opera: Coming in 2017

by David Ng | latimes.com | August 5, 2015

The life of Apple co-founder Steve Jobs has inspired biographies, documentaries and two feature films, including one starring Michael Fassbender and written by Aaron Sorkin to be released in the fall. Now an opera about the late computer guru is also in the works.

The Santa Fe Opera announced Wednesday that "The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs," by composer Mason Bates and librettist Mark Campbell, is scheduled to debut in 2017. The work is a Santa Fe Opera commission and will explore Jobs' complicated professional and personal lives.

Entire article at <http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/arts/culture/la-et-cm-steve-jobs-opera-20150805-story.html>

Building Attention Span

by David Brtools | newyorktimes.com | July 10, 2015

If you're like most of us, you're wondering what the Internet is doing to your attention span. You toggle over to check your phone during even the smallest pause in real life. You feel those phantom vibrations even when no one is texting you. You have trouble concentrating for long periods.

Over the past few years researchers have done a lot of work on attention span, and how the brain is being re-sculpted by all those hours a day spent online. One of the conclusions that some of them are coming to is that the online life nurtures fluid intelligence and offline life is better at nurturing crystallizing intelligence.

Being online is like being a part of the greatest cocktail party ever and it is going on all the time. If you email, text, tweet, Facebook, Instagram or just follow Internet links you have access to an ever-changing universe of social touch-points. It's like you're circulating within an infinite throng, with instant access to people you'd almost never meet in real life.

Online life is so delicious because it is socializing with almost no friction. You can share bon mots, photographs, videos or random moments of insight, encouragement, solidarity or good will. You live in a state of perpetual anticipation because the next social encounter is just a second away. You can control your badinage and click yourself away when boredom lurks.

This form of social circulation takes the pressure off. I know some people who are relaxed and their best selves only when online. Since they feel more in control of the communication, they are more communicative, vulnerable and carefree.

This mode of interaction nurtures mental agility. The ease of movement on the web encourages you to skim ahead and get the gist. You do well in social media and interactive gaming when you can engage and then disengage with grace. This fast, frictionless world rewards the quick perception, the instant evaluation and the clever performance. As the neuroscientist Susan Greenfield writes in her book "Mind Change," expert online gamers have a great capacity for short-term memory, to process multiple objects simultaneously, to switch flexibly between tasks and to quickly process rapidly presented information.

Fluid intelligence is a set of skills that exist in the moment. It's the ability to perceive situations and navigate to solutions in novel situations, independent of long experience.

Offline learning, at its best, is more like being a member of a book club than a cocktail party. When you're offline you're not in constant contact with the universe. There are periods of solitary reading and thinking and then more intentional gatherings to talk and compare.

Research at the University of Oslo and elsewhere suggests that people read a printed page differently than they read off a screen. They are more linear, more intentional, less likely to multitask or browse for keywords.

The slowness of solitary reading or thinking means you are not as concerned with each individual piece of data. You're more concerned with how different pieces of data fit together. How does this relate to that? You're concerned with the

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"Bluebook" for used IT equipment

To find out what your used computers and IT equipment are worth, visit Sage Bluebook at <http://www.computerworld.com/article/2955518/sustainable-it/a-new-tool-for-pricing-used-it-equipment.html>

BUY ~ SELL ~ DONATE

The *Vaporware Gazette* features items you'd like to buy, sell, or give to a good home. Email content at least one week before the first meeting of the month to huffman.creative@gmail.com

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The *TarMac Vaporware Gazette*, named in honor of past president Jerry Rowe, is published monthly. Send kudos, complaints, and article ideas to Cindy Huffman, editor.

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TarMac

TARMAC "CONTROL PANEL"

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Ray Kallman, vice-president
Jan Cooke, treasurer
Brian Fountain, user group ambassador

Other Panel Members

Eleanor Cavin
Gary Gobel
Cindy Huffman
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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.

website: <http://tidewatermug.757.org/index.html>

e-mail: tidewatermug@mac.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TidewaterAreaMacintoshUsersGroup>

Meetings: 2nd & 3rd Thursday each month except Dec. (first meeting only). 6-8:30 pm. **Help desk** opens at 6.
Pops Diner, 1432 Greenbrier Pkwy., Chesapeake 23320

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narrative shape, the synthesizing theory or the overall context.

You have time to see how one thing layers onto another, producing mixed emotions, ironies and paradoxes. You have time to lose yourself in another's complex environment.

As Greenfield puts it, "by observing what happens, by following the linear path of a story, we can convert information into knowledge in a way that emphasizing fast response and constant stimulation cannot. As I see it, the key issue is narrative."

When people in this slower world gather to try to understand connections and context, they gravitate toward a different set of questions. These questions are less about sensation than about meaning. They argue about how events unfold and how context influences behavior. They are more likely to make moral evaluations. They want to know where it is all headed and what are the ultimate ends.

Crystallized intelligence is the ability to use experience, knowledge and the products of lifelong education that have been stored in long-term memory. It is the ability to make analogies and comparisons about things you have studied before. Crystallized intelligence accumulates over the years and leads ultimately to understanding and wisdom.

The online world is brand new, but it feels more fun, effortless and natural than the offline world of reading and discussion. It nurtures agility, but there is clear evidence by now that it encourages a fast mental rhythm that undermines the ability to explore narrative, and place people, ideas and events in wider contexts.

The playwright Richard Foreman once described people with cathedral-like personalities — with complex, inner density, people with distinctive personalities, and capable of strong permanent attachments. These days that requires an act of rebellion, among friends who assign one another reading and set up times to explore narrative and cultivate crystallized intelligence.

Full article at <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/10/opinion/david-david-brooks-building-attention-span.html>



Turn your iPhone into a Super 8 camera

by Raymond Wong | mashable.com | June 15, 2015

Please visit http://mashable.com/2015/07/13/lumenaticinematic-smartcase/?utm_cid=mash-prod-email-velocity-alert&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=velocity&utm_emailalert=viral

Phone & iPad Apps Gone Free ~ Weekly Updates

iosnoops.com | August 11, 2015

Want to try great apps without hurting your wallet? Each week this site displays 18 iPhone, iPad and iPod touch apps that are now free. Visit <http://www.iosnoops.com/2015/08/11/iphone-ipad-apps-gone-free-august-11-2015/>