



The *GAB'er*

The Newsletter of the Greater Albany Apple Byters

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Unpatched QuickTime Vulnerability Exploited

A recent vulnerability in Apple's QuickTime software is reportedly being successfully exploited on the internet, according to security research vendor Symantec.

The vulnerability affects recent versions of QuickTime, including 7.2 and 7.3, and remains unpatched by Apple. The vulnerability lies in improper handling of RTSP headers which can lead to a buffer overflow where an attacker can execute their own code. Symantec rates the vulnerability as "High" criticality.

Now, Symantec reports (via Macworld) that the vulnerability is being exploited in the wild. Both known exploits involve redirection from the intended web page to a server that uses the vulnerability to load code onto the victim's machine.

Initially, the attacks appear to be loading Windows executables, however Symantec warns that the vulnerability affects both Windows and Mac operating systems.



Coordinator's Corner

by John Buckley

We anxiously awaited the introduction of the latest, greatest operating system from Apple. From all reports now that Leopard is out of the cage, its introduction appears have been a success. I have installed it on one computer and so far, no problems. I have started a discussion forum on Plain Vanilla for those who have taken the leap. If you are wondering what **Plain Vanilla** is, you haven't visited our website lately.

Last month, Linda Rackliffe did an excellent presentation the new word processing part of iWork, Pages.

This month we will take a first look at the new cat Leopard. There already has been an upgrade to version 10.5.1, but there is still much discussion about the features and some of the problems. This month's presentation will be of important if you are buying a new Mac or upgrading and old one.



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Next GAAB Meeting
December 12, 2007

Leopard OS X
7:00 p.m.

Troy High School
1950 Burdett Avenue, Troy

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Serving the Apple Computer User Community Since May 1984

The Greater Albany Apple Byters is an Apple Computer User Group. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month (except July and August) in Room 212 of Troy High School, located on Burdett Avenue, Troy, NY.

Annual membership fee is \$10.00. Membership privileges include this newsletter, access to a large public domain software and video/audio tape library, local vendor discounts, special interest groups, and other special offers.

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Apple Ambassador

Parents the winner in Leopard, Vista showdown

The following article from CNET News.com provides insights as to how parental controls of computers can be very helpful and what are some of the shortfalls are.

In a showdown of new parental controls in Apple's Leopard versus Microsoft's year-old Vista, there's one clear winner—the parent.

When Apple unveiled its newest operating system on October 26, the computer maker made its first major overture to parents by infusing Leopard with a slick set of child controls. New settings help parents manage a child's time online, block use of certain Web sites or applications like instant chat or iTunes, and watch over what kids do and who they communicate with when Mom and Dad aren't around.

Apple was playing catch-up to Microsoft's parental controls for Vista, which the computer giant unveiled in January. It, too, made its biggest push into the parental-control market with Vista, adding the same finely tuned features, so much so that parental advocates say Vista's parent controls are a reason to buy the software. And that's true of Apple now, too.

“The battle to one-up each other in parental controls is only going to benefit consumers,” said Chris Swenson, director of software industry analysis at the research firm the NPD Group. “There's really no excuse now for parents not to lock down their PCs for their children.”

Parents are clearly paying more attention to technology for managing their children's computer use, especially as more kids venture online at younger ages. As one proof point, U.S. retail sales of parental control software were up 47.3 percent in the first nine months of 2007 over the same period last year, according to NPD, which tracks sales of major retailers such as Amazon.com and BestBuy. Top sellers at stores are controls from Enteractive, Microforum, and ContentWatch.

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It's a fact of life. Any image you post publicly online can be stolen or misused.

Billboards for Australia's Virgin Mobile recently featured 16-year-old Alison Chang. But the Texas teenager didn't consent to the use of her photo. The company found her photo on the popular photo-sharing site Flickr.

A friend of the teen had posted the photo under a Creative Commons license. The license allowed the photo to be used for commercial purposes. Alison's family and the photographer are suing Virgin Mobile.

Don't let this happen to you. Take steps to protect your images online.

Your best bet is to make your images private. You can share them with people you trust not to misuse them. The leading photo sites allow you to keep your photos private.

Even then, you might be granting a site the right to use your photos. So before posting photos online, learn what rights you're giving away.

Flickr

You retain the rights to photos you post on Yahoo!'s Flickr. However, you grant Yahoo! a license to use photos posted in public areas. Yahoo! does not pay royalties for the use of photos.

Yahoo! can use your photos to promote Flickr. Yahoo! also claims the right to modify or adapt your publicly posted photos. If you remove the photos from Flickr, Yahoo!'s right to use them ends.

However, you can assign Creative Commons licenses to some or all of your work. The rights granted under these licenses vary. If you assign one, make sure you understand what it means.

AOL Pictures

You own the photos you post to AOL Pictures. But, like Flickr, AOL is granted rights to use photos posted in public areas.

AOL and its affiliates have the right to adapt your content. Further, you grant AOL the right to use the photos in any medium.

Unlike Flickr, AOL does not give you the option to apply a Creative Commons license. Users may grant such licenses in comments displayed alongside a photo.

AOL includes a link to a Picture Usage Reminder. It reminds visitors that they need permission to use your photos.

Kodak Gallery

Kodak Gallery does not claim ownership of your photographs. However, you give Kodak the right to use and distribute your images. This is for the purpose of fulfilling orders for merchandise, such as prints.

When you share your images with others, they can also make copies of the pictures. You're allowing them to make prints or add them to their photo gallery.

Photos you share on Kodak Gallery are not publicly available. So it's unlikely that strangers will download them.

Picasa Web Albums

You retain the copyright to images you post to Google's Picasa Web Albums. However, Google is licensed to use your photos.

Google claims a perpetual, irrevocable license. Further, the license is royalty free and worldwide. Google can modify and distribute your content.

Google also claims the right to make your photos available to companies to which it provides syndicated services. The license is intended to help Google promote its Picasa Web Albums service.

Picasa Web Albums does not provide a way to offer Creative Commons licenses.





Education SIG

Mac Offers Best of Both Worlds Profiles in Success: Iona College

New Rochelle, NY — When visitors trooped into Iona College’s Ryan Library in the spring of 2007, they were amazed — and delighted — to see 52 sparkling new iMac computers ready for business. Since that first rollout the systems have seen nonstop usage, and requests for more Macs are springing up all over campus — remarkable, given that Iona had maintained a Windows-based computing environment for more than 20 years. With the availability of Boot Camp on Intel-powered iMac computers running Mac OS X Leopard, faculty, students, and all users have the best of all computing worlds.

Iona College is a midsized, liberal arts institution, offering accredited undergraduate and masters programs. Its March 2007 iMac deployment followed years of dedicated PC support. According to Vice Provost for Information Technology (IT) and Chief Information Officer Joanne Steele, the single-platform strategy was meant to simplify maintenance and support issues.



“We always select universal setups,” explains Steele, “so that if someone’s using a technology in one of the labs on campus, it could also be used in the library or in any of the public computing facilities. When we started researching Boot Camp, we realized that we could give our faculty the advantages of Mac-based software while supporting our Windows-based environment all over campus. This met our goals for innovation while serving our students’ needs, which really drove our purchasing decision.”

Mac, Boot Camp Ideal for College

“When we started researching Boot Camp, we realized that we could give our faculty the advantages of Mac-based software while supporting our Windows-based environment all over campus.” — Joanne Steele, Vice Provost for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, Iona College

In addition to the availability of Boot Camp, Dimitris Halaris, Iona’s associate vice provost for IT, says there was another

factor that led his team to consider the Mac: The small footprint of the iMac promised to be the perfect fit for the library. “The design of the iMac is much more efficient and attractive than a PC-based tower,” Halaris notes. “We really needed a desktop machine; the towers would have been too big. Plus, we’d have to deal with students kicking the towers, and the need to lock them down in the public spaces. The iMac is so sleek and innovative, and it’s very easy to secure it in an open space.”

Boot Camp, a feature of Leopard, Apple’s newest version of the Mac OS X operating system, enables users with a Microsoft Windows XP installation license to install Windows XP on any Intel-based Mac. With Boot Camp, users can run either Mac OS X or the Windows operating system. “This solution clearly eased our migration to the Mac,” Halaris says. “Dual boot has been critical for us: It helped us begin the adoption of Mac-based applications while enabling the campus community to support its existing Windows-based software.”

Though it would be normal to assume that such a switch from the college’s established computing model would take months to evaluate, Halaris says Iona’s decision took considerably less time: The IT team looked at Boot Camp in mid-January, and had the iMac computers online a few weeks later. With the help of Apple Remote Desktop, the group saw that they could create and deploy a single desktop image in almost no time, greatly shrinking the assessment cycle.

“We played with Boot Camp for about two or three weeks to make sure we knew how to manage our image — which was really easy with Apple Remote Desktop — then we just jumped in head-first,” Halaris says. “From concept to deployment was about a month. Everything has worked wonderfully to date, and we’re really pleased with our decision.”

“Now that we have the versatility of being able to put both operating systems on one computer, and the pricing is competitive, it doesn’t make sense not to go with Apple.”



— Dimitris Halaris, Associate Vice Provost for InformationTechnology, Iona College

Naysayers Now Fans

Steele says some members of the IT department were not entirely enthusiastic about the concept of supporting a different operating system. Those same employees are now some of the Mac's biggest fans, she reports.

"When Dimitris and I talked to our team about this initiative, some of them were worried because they'd never touched a Mac before," recalls Steele. "Within a week, the one person who was the most fearful came into our office, and said, 'This is really cool; it's very easy.' Once everyone had hands-on experience with the Mac they realized the benefits to the college, and they were very happy."

Two Machines for the Price of One

The IT group had other concerns, Steele adds. Some members suggested that the Mac would prove more costly to purchase and support. But with Boot Camp's ability to boot between Mac- and Windows-based applications on a single computer, Steele and Halaris say Iona is getting twice the bang for its buck.

Iona College

Says Steele, "When you consider the hardware prices with Apple's educational discounts, the bottom line is just fine. We've also gained the ability to get two machines for the price of one. Plus, the Mac software options, such as Final Cut Express and Aperture, are far superior in their design for journalism and publishing."

"In our classes we had projection systems, and a podium with a PC in them," adds Halaris. "A typical setup ran us about \$15,000, with the DVD player, the screen, and everything. In two of our labs we wall-mounted two 24-inch iMacs, which was a huge savings: We don't need the DVD players or the whole technology podium; professors just swing the iMacs off the wall during use, then put them away when they're finished. Not only has this been a significant reduction in costs, it's enabled a huge shift in the use of technology here. We've really started to lean toward the Mac to see what else we can do."

Given the popularity and nonstop usage of the iMac computers in the library, Halaris says requests for additional Macs are flowing in from all over the campus: New iMacs have been installed in the Samuel Rudin Academic Resource Center, with additional systems planned for the Department of Mass Communications. A trio of iMacs is also being used by Iona's IT department, an additional Mac has been deployed as a server in the student labs, and two more have

been installed at Iona's Center for Learning and Teaching (a faculty support and resource center). In all cases professors can run their Mac-based programs of choice, while still enabling access to the Windows applications they need.

Iona College

Halaris believes the inclusion of the Intel processors in the new iMac computers is the key to this flexible computing environment. "Now that we have the versatility of being able to put both operating systems on one computer, and the pricing is competitive, it doesn't make sense not to go with Apple," observes Halaris.

"The purchase of our first Macs has created a trend here, with professors from every department requesting that we buy more," adds Steele. "Every year we evaluate what labs need to be replaced, and we do pricing among three vendors. We look for the lowest-priced vendor who can provide the greatest solution. Clearly, Apple has won that contest fair and square this time around. And in the future, I suspect that Apple will continue to win."

Program Coordinator

Continued from page 1.

To find out what's happening, GAAB is the place to be. So be sure to be at our December meeting and every meeting to find out the best information about the Mac.

The December meeting will be held at Troy High School in room 212 on Wednesday, December 12, 2007. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. Troy High School is located at 1950 Burdett Avenue two blocks south of Samaritan Hospital. From the Northway, take exit 7 to Alternate Route 7. Follow Alternate Route 7 to Troy. Route 7 becomes Hoosick Street in Troy. Travel east on Hoosick Street to the first light past a liquor store on your right. This is Burdett Avenue. Turn right and travel past Samaritan Hospital for about two blocks. Troy High School will be the second school on your left. The name is on the front of the building. You can park in the front lot. Come in the main entrance, go up the main stairway to the second floor, turn left and go to room 212.

If needed there is a new elevator in the lobby, which is open to the public and requires no key.



Apple Ambassador

Continued from page 2.

Apple and Microsoft don't have numbers on how many customers use parental controls, but analysts say the feature will easily be a selling point for Leopard and Vista this holiday season. Apple sold 2 million copies of Leopard in the first weekend it was available, blowing away early adoption rates of its Tiger software. In contrast, Microsoft has sold as many as 88 million copies of Vista.

Despite the uptick in U.S. retail sales of parental controls, some parents buy such software and then are left baffled by how to use it, or don't have the time to properly install it, according to analysts and parent advocates. That's why experts believe that operating-system software must be extremely easy and effective to use—which both Vista and Apple have proved to be so far. As millions of parents begin to upgrade their computers with the preinstalled software, parental controls on the PC may start to become mainstream, they say.

"Parental controls at the operating system level is really the best way on the family PC," said Anne Collier, co-director of ConnectSafely.org, a community site for parents and kid safety. "There are more options for the parent and it's seamless, rather than having to install something that may or may not crash the system."

Feature by feature, Vista's and Leopard's parental controls are on par—with time settings, various levels of site and application blocking, and log activity files. But for parents of kids who play games online or on the desktop, Vista offers parents an edge with more granular controls for games. The settings include detailed age and content appropriateness ratings for games from an industry nonprofit called the Entertainment Software Rating Board, or ESRB. Parents of a 5-year-old boy could allow him to only play "early childhood" games, for example.

"That's definitely a strength with Vista—where families are using it for gaming it has the rating system so that parents can block games based on (their child's age and content appropriateness)," said Tom Laemmel, Windows product manager. That parental control feature was recently added to Microsoft's Xbox, too.

"Parental controls at the operating system level is really the best way on the family PC."

—Anne Collier, co-director, ConnectSafely.org

In terms of user interface, however, Apple controls come off cleaner and simpler. Parents can configure their child's Apple home page dock with only three tabs and one-click options so that younger kids operate the computer more easily. Leopard includes drop-down menus for setting when and how long a child can be on the computer. Microsoft's Vista, in contrast, offers a calendar grid to set time.

In addition, Apple's Leopard settings newly enable parents to control a child's computer from their own, unlike Vista.

"We have a rich set of parental controls that are incredibly easy to use and that give parents the flexibility to decide how to use them and to create a certain experience for their child on the Mac," said Chris Bourdon, senior product line manager for Mac OS.

Microsoft's Laemmel said the company is good at remote administrative controls in the business realm, but in the home, it's unnecessary.

"Within the home environment, you want it to be straightforward, you don't want to have to have an IT person," Laemmel said.

Parents the winner in Leopard, Vista showdown

Steve Borsch, a father from Minneapolis and CEO of a consulting company, said he was seriously looking at buying a software package of parental controls to manage computer usage by his 13-year-old son, whom Borsch had caught looking at risque anime sites a couple of times. But he waited for the release of Apple's Leopard because he's a fan of the Mac and OS-level controls, which add up to one fewer moving

part on the computer, he said.

He set up an account for his son, and the controls are password-protected. With Leopard, he restricts his son from unfettered access to the Web and applications such as file-sharing service BitTorrent. He has also set allowances for sites like Anime-Planet.com, a cartoon site, but blocked a similar URL without a dash between the words, which is a pornographic site. On school days, he restricts computer use between 9:30 p.m. and 6 a.m.; on weekends, his son must stay offline from 11 p.m. to 8 a.m.



After using the Mac parental controls for several weeks, he said he particularly likes the ability to control his son's computer from his own, or remote controls.

"Rather than having me run up to his room and open system preferences, he'll yell down to me that he wants to visit a particular site, and I'll just add a site on the approved list. It's great," Borsch said.

He also likes the ability to see every application his son uses.

"If he decides he can slip one by me and download an application that I haven't purposely set up in parental controls, I can see whatever app he runs in (log files). Or I can log on and share his screen and he doesn't know it. There's a great deal of oversight I could have. In my opinion, kids have to play and explore, but I have the controls in place to make sure he doesn't wander down the wrong road."

When Microsoft released Vista, it unveiled its most extensive parental controls yet. It added settings that enable parents to regulate which sites a child can use, almost to a granular effect. For example, a parent can block Web sites that contain references to tobacco or alcohol.

Laemmel uses the Vista parental controls with his 12-year-old daughter, but he takes the trusting approach. He looks at the monthly activity reports that are newly available with Vista controls, but that's all.

Still, no system of protection is perfect. Some people have reported issues with Leopard's parental controls hogging memory and CPU usage, according to Josh Tigford, owner of the Apple Blog based in Denver. But Apple said it hadn't heard such complaints.

Conrad Sykes, an 18-year-old from Spokane, Wash., already has reported on his blog TheComputerKid.com about how kids can get around Vista's parental controls. He suggests that kids can work around the controls by using Web proxies, applications that encrypt Web site access.

"There are thousands of Web proxies, and it would become a full-time job for a parent to block all the proxies," Sykes said.

Neither Leopard nor Vista parental controls address the increasing mobility of devices in the home. More and more kids use handheld devices with built-in Web browser and Wi-Fi capabilities, making it possible for them to go online nearly anywhere without supervision.

For example, a parent of a 15-year-old said his son saved up money to buy an iPod Touch. When configuring the device, his son asked for the home Wi-Fi network password, and realized that he didn't have much control over his new device.

"I did not give him the key to our home network," the dad said. "I did my research to find out that there isn't much I can do technically. I could put up a firewall in my house but what is to keep kids from jumping online at a friend's house, or McDonald's?"

An Apple representative said the company hasn't offered parental controls for devices like the iPod Touch, but the Safari browser bookmarks could pass from the computer to the device. Similarly, Microsoft's parental controls aren't mobile, but the company recently introduced settings for the Xbox.

Parental controls in operating systems are "a good step forward for parents," Collier said. "But it's not a panacea. There are so many devices that they can access the Net with and so many places they can access the Net."

Send insights or tips on this topic to stefanie.olsen@cnet.com.

About the author

Stefanie Olsen covers science and technology for CNET News.com. In this series, she examines the young generation's unique immersion in the Web, cell phones, IM and online communities.

Resources for parents

Additional resources for parents and discussion about this topic are available at:

http://www.news.com/Parents-the-winner-in-Leopard,-Vista-showdown/2009-1025_3-6219420.html



Mac Gift Guide 2007: 10 picks for your favorite Apple fan

Whether it's a new OS, a laptop backpack or a one-of-a-kind widget, options abound

by Ryan Faas, Computerworld

With Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Cyber Monday now behind us, the holiday shopping season is in full swing. Last month, we offered our Holiday Gift Guide to help you sort through this year's gadgets and techie toys.

But shopping for Mac users and Apple fans can sometimes be a challenge — especially if you want to get something other than the obvious choices, or if you're not as big an Apple fan as the person you're shopping for. With that in mind, here are 10 great gift ideas for the Mac user on your list.

Mac OS X 10.5 'Leopard'

If you're shopping for a die-hard Mac fan, chances are good that he has already upgraded to Leopard, which has been out since Oct. 26. Many users, however, delay making a major upgrade like this for weeks or months — sometimes for cost-related reasons, sometimes to make sure those first-release bugs have been found and fixed. Others wait until they're ready to buy a new computer so that they can simply get the latest operating system included.

With more than 300 new features and revamped apps, the \$129 Leopard is a great gift for someone who's been on the fence about when to make the jump to the operating system. Even for nontechnical users, Leopard is a holiday winner because it includes Time Machine, the easiest (and coolest) backup software on the planet, and screen-sharing via iChat.

If you're the power user in the family who always gets stuck with the "something's wrong with my computer" phone calls, Leopard is a gift that keeps on giving — to you. That's because screen-sharing with iChat

works great as a remote troubleshooting tool for family and friends.

If you're eyeing Leopard as a gift, keep two things in mind. First, make sure the people you're buying for haven't bought it already (or plan to buy it in the immediate future). Also, you'll want to be sure that their Mac meets the minimum Leopard system requirements. (Among other things, they need a computer with at least 512MB of RAM, a PowerPC G4 or better chip running at a minimum of 867 MHz and a DVD drive.)

An external hard drive

Since we mentioned Time Machine as a reason to give Apple's latest operating system, let's move on to another smart gift idea for Leopard users (or as a companion gift to the operating system): a large-capacity external hard drive. Time Machine makes backing up easy, but it's best to use it with an external hard drive. The bigger the drive, the better the safety net Time Machine can provide.

So, how big is too big? There's no such a thing as too big when it comes to data storage. However, a 500GB drive is probably ample for most Mac users to maintain solid backups of their systems and digital media such as photos, movies and music. Apple's online store currently offers a deal on a 500GB USB 2.0 drive from Iomega — priced at \$169.95 — that's worth considering.

iLife '08

Many Apple fans went out and bought copies of iLife '08 when it shipped in August, but as with Leopard, there are no doubt a number of Mac users who didn't upgrade immediately, figuring that they'd get a new version of iLife

with their next Mac. iLife '08 is a perfect gift for these users, particularly if they never warmed to the earlier versions of iLife because iMovie seemed slow to import video or GarageBand seemed too complicated.

Apple addressed these issues and added handy enhancements to every application in the suite, making it well worth the \$79 price tag. For those who like to share photos and videos online, the updates to iWeb and the .Mac Web galleries are impressive enough on their own to make iLife '08 a great gift.

If your giftees have already upgraded iLife and spends a lot of time working with iMovie and/or GarageBand, you might consider getting them Final Cut Express 4 or Logic Express 8. Although these are a little pricey at \$199 each, they offer an introduction to the realm of Apple's professional video- and audio-editing tools for budding videographers, musicians and DJs.

The more budget-minded should consider iMovie plug-ins such as those from Gee Three and cf/x, which offer enhanced special effects and other features, or Jam Packs that add all manner of audio loops and add-on tools for GarageBand. The Gee Three software ranges in price from \$29.95 to \$49.95, but you can save money when buying more than one. The cf/x plug-ins range from \$1.50 to \$9.95, making them the digital equivalent of stocking stuffers, while Jam Packs go for \$99 each.

Note: At present, iMovie '06 is required to use plug-ins because iMovie '08 is a complete revision and the plug-ins don't yet work with it. That's why iMovie '06 is left in place when iLife '08 is installed; it's also available as a free download from Apple.



Another solid gift choice: iWork'08 (\$79), which offers full compatibility with Microsoft Office and great tools for making presentations, newsletters and all manner of graphically rich spreadsheets. Although not the most exciting gift for many, iWork is a great idea for the workhorse in the family, as well as for moms and dads who may need, for instance, to manage soccer teams or other extracurricular school activities.

.Mac

Apple's .Mac service has been called a waste of money. In fact, just last year it was possible to get all the features of .Mac using various free services. But much can change in a year — and in this case, it has. Now, in addition to an e-mail account, Web hosting and external storage space, .Mac offers an array of impressive extras.

One new feature already mentioned is the stunning Web galleries that create a shared space for people to easily share photos and video online.

Other additions include Back to My Mac, which allows Leopard users to instantly access all of the files on their computers (or simply share the screen) from anywhere on the Internet, as well as the ability to sync an impressive array of data settings (including e-mail accounts, contacts, calendars, System Preferences settings, Dashboard widgets and more) across several Macs. All of these make .Mac, which goes for \$99.95 a year, a strong gift choice.

iPod, iPhone and accessories

No gift list would be complete without an iPhone and the latest iPods. Every iPod model makes a great gift and has its own set of advantages, whether in features, size or price.

The iPod Touch is, of course, the most impressive as it boasts the same touch-screen display as the iPhone and can

function as a mobile Internet device when in range of a wireless network. However, the iPod Classic is also a great gift, particularly for users who have large collections of music, movies and photos that they want to carry with them.

The iPod Nano and iPod Shuffle work for the more budget-conscious. The Nano is now the lowest priced video-capable iPod ever available and is a great gift for anyone on the go who wants a small fully powered iPod. Prices range from \$79 for the iPod Shuffle all the way up to \$399 for the 16GB iPod Touch.

So much has been said about the iPhone, now just \$399, that there's little need to describe it. Without a doubt, it will make a great gift, and we've heard plenty of people of all ages (from teens to seniors) already asking for one.

The one thing to keep in mind is that the iPhone requires an AT&T contract. If you're buying for users who have existing cellular service on a different carrier, you may want to consider the length of time left on their contract and the availability of AT&T service in their area. (How you ask them about those topics without giving away your gift plans is up to you.)

iPod and iPhone shopping isn't limited to the hardware; there's an entire ecosystem of iPod and iPhone accessories that make great stocking stuffers. Pick from an assortment of cases for protection and transparent screen protectors like Power Support's Crystal Film Set.

Other possibilities include travel chargers, FM transmitters such as Griffin Technology's iTrip and Monster Cable Products' iCarPlay series to listen through a car radio, and all manner of iPod docks and speaker systems.

Apple TV

Apple TV made a lot of news when it was released last March, two months after its debut at Macworld — and then promptly fell off most people's radars in the wake of the iPhone. But for anyone with an HDTV sporting component or HDMI connections (or even a standard-definition TV — though these are not officially supported), Apple TV is a great idea.

Apple TV brings all of the music, video and photos on a person's computer (Mac or PC) into the living room. Anything purchased from the iTunes Store can be viewed or listened to. Video podcasts can be watched like any TV show. And the screensaver includes a 3-D grid of floating pictures that offers a great way to have an ever-changing array of family photos in the background whenever the TV isn't in use.

One of the coolest features of the device has to be the ability to browse and watch YouTube videos from the comfort of the sofa using a remote control. Any YouTube fan will love this — and it will probably make new YouTube fans as well.

Apple TV comes in two versions: One has a 40GB hard drive and sells for \$299; the other has a 160GB drive and sells for \$399.

Elgato's EyeTV and Turbo.264

If that special someone already has an Apple TV, then check out the offerings from Elgato Systems, which has two product lines that make excellent gifts. First is the EyeTV family of products, a series of TV tuner and personal video-recording devices for the Mac. In plain language, the EyeTV devices and bundled EyeTV software let users watch and record TV directly on their computers.

The devices offer digital-recording capabilities similar to TiVo and the



DVR boxes offered by many cable and satellite providers — but without the monthly subscription. The EyeTV software, which comes bundled with each device in the EyeTV lineup, also makes it easy to convert recorded programs for other uses (such as syncing to an Apple TV, iPod or iPhone, or burning to DVD).

Leading off the EyeTV lineup is the EyeTV Hybrid, a very compact device that retails for \$149.95 and supports viewing and recording both HD and analog television on Macs with a G4/G5/Intel processor (though for HD content a dual-core G5 or Intel Mac is required).

While the EyeTV Hybrid is a great choice for newer Macs (particularly those with Intel processors), older Macs may see better performance with the EyeTV 250 Plus (\$199.95), which includes video-encoding hardware and doesn't rely solely on the Mac's processor.

And for homes with multiple Macs, the \$199.95 HDHomeRun allows all Macs to access television signals over a home network and supports two separate Macs recording different content at the same time.

The Turbo.264, which sells for \$99.95, is a separate product that connects to a Mac and accelerates the conversion of video to H.264, a format that offers high quality and small file sizes and is used by iTunes, Apple TV, iPod and iPhone.

If you can't afford the turbo.264, another possibility is Techspansion's \$23 Visual Hub, which allows users to convert video but doesn't augment the Mac's own processing power. The turbo.264, in contrast, offloads the processing, resulting in much faster conversion and freed-up resources on the Mac for other uses.

A laptop case

Laptops need protection, too. Cases and bags are always on my wish list — with good reason. MacBooks and MacBook Pros account for the majority of Macs sold. They are great laptops that need to be protected and carried securely, meaning a good quality case is a must.

Bags and cases come in a wide range of sizes, styles and prices that can fit every individual. But be sure that the case will fit the computer that will be carried in it. Some offer compartments designed only for certain sizes (like one I bought for my 15-in. MacBook Pro that said it fit “up to a 14-in. laptop” in fine print — no chance of squeezing my laptop in that case).

Another thing to remember is that backpack designs offer some flexibility for other uses. Keep in mind that while a bag that practically screams “I love my Mac” is nice, it will also scream “I've got a laptop.” Thieves will appreciate that.

An extra battery

When buying battery-operated toys for kids, my family always wraps up batteries as a gift to go with them. Even though portable Macs and other Apple devices use rechargeable batteries, that doesn't mean an extra battery is a bad idea. They can extend the usefulness of the device when away from a power source, or they can be used to replace aging batteries that no longer hold a charge.

If you know an iBook or PowerBook owner whose computer is a few years old and no longer holds a good charge, a replacement battery makes a darn nice gift. Costing just over \$100, a battery can greatly extend the usefulness of an older computer for a few more years. Replacing batteries in Macs is easy and doesn't require specialized installation.

Replacing an aging iPod's battery is a different matter. It requires physically opening the iPod up, which isn't a user-

accessible process. Some iPod battery replacement services are available, but in many ways, you're probably better off buying a new iPod as a gift, given the cost of batteries and the replacement service.

External batteries and power packs are a different matter. Energizer now offers an inexpensive portable power pack for iPods called Energi To Go (available online for around \$25-\$30) that runs off two AA batteries, making it an excellent low-cost gift idea.

Custom widgets

Most Mac users who have used Mac OS X Tiger or Leopard are used to Dashboard, the simple interface that allows mini-applications called widgets to be viewed on top of the current Desktop. In Leopard, Dashboard received some major updates, including Dashcode, a tool for developing Dashboard widgets.

Full-on widget creation may seem daunting, but Apple has provided a wide range of free templates for such things as countdown timers, maps, daily quotes or news stories, photo-of-the-day widgets and more. Using these templates, you can actually build widgets without ever writing code.

By experimenting a little, you can create fun custom widgets for family and friends with no cost. It will also show that you care enough about the recipients to spend some time on their gift, with the added bonus of making you look like the most impressive Mac user your family has ever seen.

(Note that widgets created in Dashcode can be used only on Macs running Leopard.)

For comparison's sake, building a custom widget with Dashcode isn't as easy as building a Web site with iWeb (part of iLife '08), but it's not terribly hard either. And who would turn down a widget designed especially for them?



Mac Tips

Mouse-Free Folder Moves

One of the best tricks for speeding up your computer work is to keep your hands on the keyboard, not the mouse.

It's not a macho, anti-mouse thing, but a simple matter of efficient motion. Using the mouse or trackpad means moving your hands off the keyboard, locating the cursor, making your move, and then shifting your hands back to the keys. If you can skip these steps, things tend to go faster.

There's no better example than navigating folders within Finder windows. You can select, open, and browse folders from the keyboard for greater speed and less multi-window clutter.

Test it out yourself: In Finder, open a new window by pressing Command-N. To view the folders in List view, press Command-2. (Command-1 lets you view by Icons, while Command-3 changes the view to Columns.)

In List or Columns view, choose a folder that contains several subfolders, and open it by pressing the right arrow key. You can move up and down between folders or documents by pressing the up and down arrow keys. Close folders (or navigate backwards, if you're in Columns view) with the left arrow key.

When you've located the file you want, speed your work even more by opening it with Command-O instead of double-clicking. In most Mac applications, you can close the file again by typing Command-W.

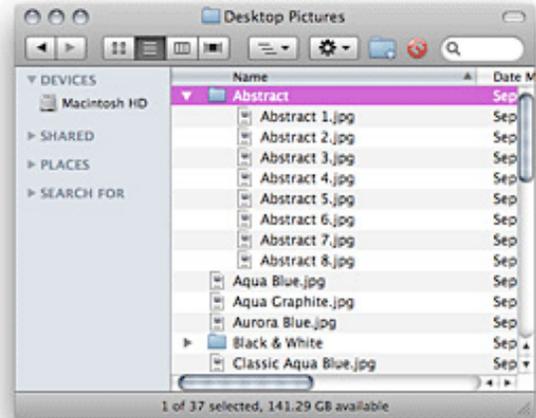
Once you're accustomed to navigating through folders and files with key commands, you may be surprised by how fast you can move around, mouse-free, on your Mac.

Using Mac OS X Zoom for Demos

If you're a trainer or you need to demo a technique in front of a group of people, there is nothing worse than losing your audience because they can't see your cursor or the detail you're pointing at. Fortunately, Mac OS X has a built-in solution for this problem: screen zoom.

To enable screen zooming, open System Preferences, click on Universal Access, and click On in the Zoom area. You are immediately ready to zoom: Press Command-Option-= to zoom in and Command-Option-hyphen to zoom out. If you click the Options button in Universal Access, you can fine-tune how Mac OS X displays the zooming effect – for example, you can set how far the screen should zoom in.

Zooming in and out is a great way to draw your audience's attention to just what you want them to see.



Try opening and closing folders with the left and right arrow keys instead of double-clicking.



While Zoom was originally designed for visually impaired users, it is also very useful for people who need to demonstrate Mac OS X applications.



List of Applications Not Compatible with Leopard

From Mac Guides

Below is a list of applications not performing well under Leopard. This article is split into three sections; Applications with major problems, applications with minor issues, and applications now fully Leopard compatible.

Older software which has not been updated to the latest version may also experience issues. Make sure you've downloaded all the available software updates for your applications before testing them under Leopard.

Applications with major issues

- * Acidsearch 0.7 Beta 2 is ready to download, very buggy though. I havnt had a chance to test it yet. Check sites news section for more details
- * Adobe CS3 - links to a pdf where Adobe outlines what will work and what won't (Acrobat and video apps have issues as does Lightroom)
- * AlchemyTV - A fix will be coming, but no timetable for it
- * Alien Skin - Photoshop Plugins that crash Photoshop under Leopard; fix expected week of November 19th
- * AOL Crashes when attempting to edit Preferences
- * Aperture Apple: Aperture should not be run at the same time as Time Machine. Potentially dire consequences. (Does Aperture update 1.5.6 fix this?)
- * Applejack Will not run - gives message "not authorized as root user. Applejack must quit"
- * Application Enhancer by Unsanity Most current version will simply not work but earlier versions cause the blue screen issue when upgrading to Leopard, forcing the user to have to remove the files manually or perform an archive and install.
- * Azureus Conflicts with airport driver (In Core2Duo Macbook Pro 802.11N card) causing kernel panic (works on Aluminum PB G4 Airport Extreme, maybe an 802.11N issue?)
- * BOINC Link to discussion about Leopard incompatibility. Code change required.
- * Collectorz.com (Excluding, at least, Movie Collector following installer update) - So far the Collectorz series of software is not compatible with Leopard. A reply on their forums states they are looking into it.
- * Crossover - some dispute over whether this works or not, see forum thread
- * Digital Performer 5.12 runs, but some functions don't work properly
- * DiskWarrior - potential for some compatibility issues (click link for details)
- * Fan Control - does not increase fan speeds.
- * Filemaker Pro 9 - Version 9.0v2 is now available for FM9 and FMAdvanced 9, though not for server. Based on some user reports, versions 6 to 8.5 crash on Leopard if used in non US-English, Instant Web Publishing doesn't work.
- * GCALDaemon - Unable to sync Google Calendar with iCal (due to the new file format that it uses).
- * GPGMail - Author has acknowledged the issue; a fix is in the works.
- * GroupCal - SnerdWare have no idea when this will be updated for Leopard compatibility at this time, something to do with libraries they need being shipped PPC-only in the developer seeds so they haven't been able to work on it at all.
- * Various Growl Plugins - growlnotify, GrowlMail, GrowlTunes etc do not work.
- * HttpMail working version out now, mileage will vary
- * HoudahSpot 1.5 - HoudahSpot 2.0 will be a free upgrade for registered users. HoudahSpot 1.5 is now freeware for Tiger users.
- * iGTD - iCal sync problems
- * iGrabNews - almost inoperative. Author can not be contacted, so no Leopard version should be expected.
- * InsomniaX - Legacy version on websites download list will function on Leopard
- * Intech Hi-Cap driver - Not possible until Apple makes some provisions in Leopard
- * iScroll2 Version 0.30 Released 11-13. Should now be compatible. [1]
- * jgrasp
- * Last FM client Opens multiple instances, randomly crashes, stays crashed in background (despite no dock icon appearing), will not load into menu bar, will not detect music playing (scrobbling). The old version of AudioScrobbler seems to work fine in Leopard, and will allow you to scrobble your tracks as normal.
- * mFurc (game) Fills stack and crashes on load. Update due soon.
- * Mail Act-On (Mail plugin) Doesn't load, like all other Mail plugins.
- * Mail.appetizer (Mail Plugin)
- * Mail Unread Bundle
- * Max - v0.7.1 doesn't output anything, developer working on compatibility with the unstable version available
- * Mercury Messenger - Transparency causes application crash, no spaces compatibility.
- * Mirror widget - Does not work with Leopard (uses QuartzComposer in a way that Leopard does not allow).
- * MissingSync - Compatibility update available soon.
- * Nokia Multimedia Transfer - Application does not load
- * One Finger Snap
- * Onyx - Latest beta works with Leopard, latest stable release does not.
- * OSS 3D - Does not process audio
- * PandoraBoy - Text fields not accessible. No update planned.



- * PeerGuardian 1.4.2 - Application closes upon launch. Widget will run. Unofficial fix available.
- * Piclens - Safari Plugin, does not show up. (Now claims to be Leopard compatible.)
- * PithHelmet New Version available and works fine for most, some users still report issues.
- * Popcorn
- * Protocols
- * Postfix Enabler replaced with Mail Server for Leopard
- * PureFTPD Manager - won't launch, developer working on it. Server itself still works.
- * QuickVerse - Most features do not work with Leopard; developer asking users to "wait one month" before upgrading to Leopard to give them time to put out updates.
- * Safari Extender - Not yet Leopard compatible. Contextual menu appears but doesn't allow tab sets to be created
- * Saft (Safari Plugin) Working Leopard Version is now available; make sure SIMBL is up-to-date. [[2]] .
- * Shapeshifter
- * Shrook RSS Reader
- * Sogudi (Safari plugin) (Leopard + Safari 3 beta available)
- * Sidetrack
- * Smart Scroll X - Fix promised "soon".
- * Songbird
- * SuperDuper! - 05DEC2007 "A lot more progress has been made. Testing is going really well."
- * Synergy - (keyboard & mouse sharing, NOT the iTunes controller) Uses 10.2.8 SDK and a lot of calls that are deprecated. Refuses to even start. Recompiling from in Xcode 3 does NOT fix. Compiling raw UNIX source does NOT fix. Update: SynergyKM DOES work under Leopard. But the Sourceforge project needs some serious TLC.
- * TouchGraph Weird because it worked fine in Safari 3.0x under Tiger
- * Unity (game development system) - Unity games (standalone and web) run fine, but Unity editor (1.x and 2.0) has problems/crashes for some. An update of 2.0 with Leopard support is now being prepared (a beta version is available on request). There are no current plans to update Unity 1.x.
- * UNO - Apple script error, then '10.5 found, UNO will now exit' message.
- * Ventrilo - works but some features disabled
- * Vectorworks - Version 2008 with service pack 1 is compatible, Version 12.5.3 is compatible
- * VirtualBox Beta 2 - Application stops working upon launch.
- * Volume Logic For iTunes - Support Has been dropped
- * VPN Tracker - Update coming soon.
- * Window Shade
- * Xee (Fullscreen doesn't work)
- * Xtorrent - display of WebKit-based browser content and torrent download status fails; frequent crashes, too
- * Yahoo Widget engine/Konfabulator - Author has acknowledged the issue; a fix is in the works.
- * ZBrush - Application does not work.

Applications with minor issues under Leopard

- * AppZapper 09NOV2007 - quote from developer: AZ works with Leopard, EXCEPT for the genie and automator functions, which are being fixed by Ausin
- * Art Directors Toolkit - RGB color picker picks only black
- * Battlestar Galactica: Beyond the Red Line - Requires a simple manual fix using TextEdit in order to launch.
- * Cisco VPN - (Version 4.9.01.0080 or higher) Requires reinstall if Archive & Install used.
- * DNSUpdate - Daemon (In /Library/LaunchDaemons) won't launch unless you chown it to root:wheel then it works perfectly.
- * Flex Builder - You will need to reinstall the Flash Debugger to get it to work.
- * Flying Buttress - The StartUp Item needs some tweaking to work under Leopard. See the app's support forum for manual tweak method pending a Leopard compatible release.
- * Gimp - (Version 2.4 RC3 Intel or higher) Will launch, but creates multiple X11 icons.
- * MagiCal - Unable to access the preferences menu.
- * Microsoft Office 2004 - Windows get glitchy when used with Spaces.
- * Motion 3 - May or may not require a reinstall. Uninstall and reinstall if you receive an Ozone plugin error.
- * NUDC - Now Up-to-Date and Contact: QuickDay and QuickContact no longer appear in Menu Bar.
- * Perian - Slows down Coverflow on some machines.
- * Transmission - (Version 0.92 or higher) Will sometimes take a long time when closing the application, causing it to go Not Responding.
- * VersionTracker Pro - Some problems auto-installing updated apps, but works fine overall.
- * World of Warcraft - Playing the game in a windowed mode will lag Expose, Spaces and Dock have clipping issues when overlaid with game window.

Applications that work, but previous versions have issues

- * Adobe Acrobat 7 (refuses to print PDFs)
- * Butler - new version 4.1.3 fixes Leopard bugs
- * Eclipse - Versions 3.2.* will create a clone dock icon when launched.
- * Cal Events Widget New version 2.3 works with Leopard.
- * Lingo - Version 2 works with Leopard, 2.0.2 fixed bugs.
- * Quicksilver - Versions older than 1.0b53 - Icon won't remove from dock as well as a nasty bug that took down their update server (reference). Direct link to latest version
- * Skype - New beta
- * SRS iWOW The previous version of iWOW did not work at all on Leopard. The currently updated version works on both PPC and Intel Macs. at least as of the time of writing (iTunes 7.5 and Mac OS 10.5.1).
- * ToolPlayer - v0.2 Leopard compatible version available
- * Papers - Leopard compatibility available in v1.5.1



