



The *GAB'er*

The Newsletter of the Greater Albany Apple Byters

Volume 21, Number 1 - September 2004



What if you could fit your whole life — all your music, all your photos, all your movies, all your email — in a computer as fun and useful as an iPod? Now you can. Introducing the futuristic iMac G5 in 17- and 20-inch widescreen models. The entire computer, including a G5-based logic board, slot-loading optical drive, hard disk, speakers, and even the power supply — dwells inside the enchanting display. Modern living starts at \$1299.

The Display is the Computer

Apple designers removed the extraneous, miniaturized the necessary, souped up the performance and concealed the result in immaculate perfection. The iMac G5 hangs suspended from a graceful anodized aluminum stand and its widescreen display lets you chat with several friends while you retouch photos, surf the web or scan email — and see everything at the same time. In fact, the 1680 x 1050 pixel resolution 20-inch display can show more than two full pages side by side. That's 36% more screen area than the 17-inch, at 1440 x 900 pixels.

Technology Democratized

The iMac G5 brings the same innovative system architecture in Apple professional desktops to the home. The G5 processor makes

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Coordinator's Corner

by John Buckley

It is that time again. The beginning of the school year is also the beginning of the year for GAAB. We will be starting our new year at Troy High School in a lab that will soon have new eMacs for us to use. Again, the summer has ended with some members attending MacWorld in Boston. If you want to see what's happening, this is the place to be.

At MacWorld in Paris, the real news is about the new iMacs. At the September meeting we will set the schedule for the remaining demonstrations and then take a look at what is now available from Apple and .Mac. In addition, we will take a look at MS Office 2004 for the Mac.

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

The September meeting will be held at Troy High School in room 212 on Wednesday, September 8, 2004. The meeting will begin at 7:00 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 the old closed Dunkin Donuts. 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.

Next GAAB Meeting
September 8, 2004
7:00 p.m.

MS Office 2004 for Mac

Room 212, Troy High School
Burdett Avenue, Troy, NY

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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

New and Update Mac Products

Here are some products that are new or updated recently for the Mac. The information is from Macintouch.com, a Mac news website.

K-werx released [Front End Convert Drop 1.0](#), which provides a drag-and-drop digital media conversion front end for QuickTime. It can convert and resize video to QuickTime-supported formats, rip sound from movies, convert and resample audio files (to WAV, AIFF, and uLaw), add filters and effects to QuickTime video, convert video and sound to AVI, encode audio and video to MPEG4, and more. Front End Convert Drop is \$9.95 for Mac OS X, Classic Mac OS, and Windows 2000/XP.

Recordare LLC released the first Mac OS X version of its [Dolet for Finale](#) plug-in. The plug-in enables Finale to exchange files with programs that support the MusicXML format, including Sibelius, PhotoScore Professional, and Virtual Composer, and it also enables Finale 2004 to read files from Finale 2005. Dolet for Finale is \$89.95 for Mac OS X.

Quark announced the release of [Quark Publishing System 3 Classic Edition](#) (QPS Classic 3), a new version of its software for professional publishing and editorial workflows. This release offers full support for QuarkXPress 6 and Mac OS X, full support for TCP/IP, improved performance, WYSIWYG editing in QuarkCopyDesk, assignment of QuarkCopyDesk articles from any layer so localized or regionalized text can reside in the same layout, and other features. Contact [Quark](#) for pricing.

iView Multimedia released [iView MediaPro 2.6](#), an update of the media asset manager. The new version features import of iPhoto albums, enhanced image editing tools, expanded file format support, improved color profile management, improved rendering of 16-bit TIFF and Photoshop documents, and other changes. iView MediaPro is \$199 for Mac OS X, Mac OS 9.1 and up, and Windows.

[EyeTV 1.6](#) updates the software for all of Elgato's [EyeTV](#) digital video recording hardware. The new version adds export to many different formats (including MPEG-4, QuickTime, and AVI), signal strength and quality indicators, an option to wake the computer to check for TitanTV or tvtv schedule changes, and other changes and bug fixes.

[ProofMaster Adesso 2.0](#) is a software RIP for inkjets that features standard ICC profiles for color calibration and a PDF 1.4 distiller that can print both composite and separated PostScript (as well as PDF and other formats). It supports the Canon S9000, HP DesignJet 10PS/20PS/50PS, and Epson Stylus Photo 1200/1270/1280/1290, Stylus Photo 2000P, and Stylus Pro 2100/2200. This release adds

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Internet SIG

Get the Picture with Video Instant Messaging

by Kim Komando

AOL Instant Messenger (AIM), ICQ, MSN Messenger and Yahoo! Messenger are among the most popular instant messaging programs. They also provide free video services. The video isn't the best, but it's a fun way to communicate with someone thousands of miles away.

It doesn't cost too much to get up and running. First, you'll need a Web cam. These cameras generally cost between \$50 and \$200. Look for a camera in the \$100 range. Those priced lower may provide poor video.

You'll notice little difference in video quality among the four instant messaging programs. All are slightly jerky, but if you don't move around too much, it's not distracting.

All allow you to see yourself, as well as the person with whom you are talking. This helps center the picture. You want to transmit your face, not your neck. They also allow you to communicate using only one Web camera. The person with the Web cam transmits video and audio. The person without the Web cam responds the old fashioned way—by typing.

The biggest differences among the programs occur in the extras.

AOL Instant Messenger (<http://www.aim.com>) and ICQ (<http://www.icq.com>) are short on features but easy to use. Once a chat session is initiated, press a button (the video button on AIM and the Web cam icon on ICQ) to get streaming video and audio. The picture size is relatively small (less than 3 inches diagonal). Neither program allows adjustment of the picture size or quality. AIM operates on both Windows and Mac. ICQ runs only on Windows XP.

MSN Messenger (<http://messenger.msn.com>) and Yahoo! Messenger (<http://messenger.yahoo.com/>) require an extra step for streaming video and audio. You have to press one button for video and another for audio. If you find yourself with video and no audio, you may have skipped a step.

Both programs allow you to resize the video screens from small (about 2 inches) to large (over 4 inches). You can also tweak your Web camera's settings to change the brightness

and contrast. There are advanced settings that correct color and allow you to flip the image vertically or horizontally. Both operate on Mac and Windows.

Although all services are relatively easy to use, you might have to do some troubleshooting. Some users might experience difficulty if they are behind a firewall. Check with the program's FAQ and help sections if you run into connection problems.

Having the proper lighting is key to a good picture. Bright, overhead and evenly lit areas are the best. Avoid rear light sources from behind, such as windows. They will cast you in shadow, making you difficult to see.

If you are using the Web cam's microphone, set it away from your computer's speakers. Otherwise, you will have audio feedback. If your speakers are placed next to your monitor, try a headset/microphone that plugs into the back of your computer. They're about \$20.

Or, purchase a microphone that clips onto your shirt—it costs less than \$10. This way, you can still use your computer's speakers. This is beneficial when you have a group of people in the room.

Video messaging can be fun, but take precautions. Video can be recorded. Anything you say or do could be distributed by someone else.

A couple of years ago I tried video messaging with a friend who lived a few states away. The video was so jerky that after a few minutes I started to feel nauseous. It's gotten much better. It's not as smooth as something you would see on the Jetsons, but it's close.

About Kim Komando

Kim's Komando has a syndicated column in over 100 Gannett newspapers across the country. She also hosts the three-hour weekend Kim Komando Show. Every weekday you can hear her "Daily Computer Minute." She writes a weekly column for USA Today, too. Additionally, she writes for MSN's bCentral site. You can read Kim's log at: <http://www.komando.com/kimslog.asp>





Education SIG

New York Learns

The New York State Education Department is in the process of developing a Virtual Learning Space where educators can go to gather materials to enhance the educational process through the use of technology in the classroom. Among the links featured on the site is NYLearns.org, an excellent site which provides curriculum, teaching ideas, and lesson plans that integrate technology into the teaching process across the different content areas at all grade levels.

NYLearns.org is a standards-based, educational website that offers resources to enhance teaching and learning. The **NYLearns.org** approach to the standards is unique in the level to which alignment can occur. In **NYLearns.org**, all educational resources are aligned to the New York State Learning Standards at the performance indicator level.

In **NYLearns.org** there are two environments, non-registered and registered. In the non-registered environment, available to the public, educators can participate in a virtual community that allows them to access curriculum and content. In addition, information about assessment practices and tools are available. With the Assessment Builder, educators can search for questions from NYS assessments and create customized worksheets using questions that are aligned to specific performance indicators.

NYLearns.org further supports educators by offering professional development opportunities. Professional development is essential in helping educators find new ways to engage their students in the learning process. The **NYLearns.org** Professional Development Workshop Catalog contains a collection of online and face-to-face course offerings from a variety of educational organizations.

In the registered environment, educators are empowered to share educational resources such as learning experiences, activities, and best practices and strategies. **NYLearns.org** provides registered users with the necessary tools to publish exemplary instructional content and resources. After creating their content, educators submit it to an electronic peer review process. This process is based on the peer review model created by the New York State Academy for Teaching and Learning. Once content is approved, it is published and made available to all users through **NYLearns.org**.

In addition, registered users have access to a full range of Development Tools. These tools allow users to compile a personal portfolio of resources and to share those resources with others through the development of a webpage. Educators can manage their classes and post assignments, utilizing their webpage as a powerful communications tool.

Established and maintained by the Center for Applied Technologies in Education at the University at Buffalo, NYLEARNNS is a dynamic and continually evolving learning environment. The Buffalo Public Schools, Oswego City School District, and many community, cultural, and content providers continue to support and contribute to this educational initiative.

The following is from the June 2004 **NYLEARNNS UPDATE** is published courtesy of the Center for Applied Technologies in Education (CATE). The update helps educators to keep informed of the latest changes and enhancements to **NYLEARNNS**. In addition, it includes links to some of the new and exciting lessons, activities, resources, etc. as they are added to this educational website for teachers, students, parents, and school administrators.

Professional Development

If your organization's focus is to support standards-based teaching and learning, **NYLEARNNS** can enhance your professional development program. The Center for Applied Technologies in Education of the University at Buffalo offers a three-session series of training workshops to support NYLEARNNS. All of the sessions are day-long, hands-on workshops facilitated by a NYLEARNNS trainer.

- Teachers and school administrators can participate in a virtual learning community that allows them to access standards-based instructional content and resources.
- As a registered user in **NYLEARNNS**, educational professionals have access to a full range of Development Tools. These tools allow users to compile a personal portfolio of resources, and to share those resources with others through the development of a web page.
- **NYLEARNNS** provides educators with the necessary tools to publish their best instructional content and resources. After content is approved in a peer review process, it is published in the NYLEARNNS database and is available through NYLEARNNS to other teachers across the State.

NYLEARNNS has entered into successful training partnerships with the Buffalo Public Schools, the Orchard Park Central School District, the Ballston Spa Central School District, and various schools within the Diocese of Buffalo. Our scope extends throughout the Western New York region and is moving statewide. If your organization would like to join **NYLEARNNS'** virtual learning community, please contact Carmella Spina.



Writing Strategies for the Six Traits

The statewide passing rate on New York State's fourth-grade English assessment test dropped by 2 percentage points this year, marking the first time those grades have declined since the current testing system began in 1999. Recognizing this and similar trends at other academic levels, **NYLEARNS** has begun to incorporate "Writing Strategies for the Six Traits" into the English Language Arts instructional content.

Working with Dr. Jim Collins and Jessica Catalano from UB's Graduate School of Education, developers at the Center for Applied Technologies in Education have produced an "Interactive Thinksheet" for the children's book *The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash*. Thinksheets were introduced by Dr. Collins to help young readers better understand and write about age appropriate books that they may encounter at home or in the classroom. In true **NYLEARNS** fashion, this concept was taken one-step further and applied to the web. Students can now access and use these strategies via **NYLEARNS** to improve their skills and control the production of writing. Look for more "Writing Strategies for the Six Traits" content and Thinksheets at **NYLEARNS**.

New Instructional Content Available in CDOS

In an effort to add quality instructional content in the Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) section of **NYLEARNS**, we have added 158 CDOS activities spanning the three academic levels. These activities are not only aligned to the CDOS Performance Indicators but also Performance Indicators in other standard areas as well.

To review all these activities:

1. Go to the Instructional Support Search section of **NYLEARNS**.
2. To the right of the "Keyword / Phrase" box, click on the underlined words "Advanced Search."
3. From this screen, chose the standard area CDOS and then click on "Activity" in the box entitled "Content Types."
4. When you submit the search by clicking on "Submit Search" at the bottom of the page, you should get 158 results.

Upon your review of these activities, you will notice these activities were derived directly from the CDOS Core Curriculum and Resource Guide published by the New York State Department of Education (NYSED). Each one is properly reference with a page number if you wish to view the original activity and how NYSED presented the information.

As we continue to build out the content in **NYLEARNS**, we hope you will agree we have drastically improved the CDOS area.

NYSATL Learning Experiences Published in NYLEARNS

As the lead supporting organization behind the **NYLEARNS** initiative, the Center for Applied Technologies in Education of the University at Buffalo invited master teachers from the New York State Academy for Teaching and Learning (NYSATL) to publish their best instructional content in **NYLEARNS**. This initiative represents a continued effort to improve instruction in K – 12 schools.

"Publishing their learning experiences in **NYLEARNS** represents their continued commitment to being a model teacher in an effort to improve teaching and learning across New York State," said Michael Horning, Jr., **NYLEARNS**' Educational Content Manager. "These learning experiences are commendable examples of best teaching practices helping students across New York State to meet and exceed the New York State Learning Standards."

To view all the NYSATL Learning experiences currently live in **NYLEARNS**:

1. Go to the Instructional Support Search section of **NYLEARNS**.
2. In the "Keyword / Phrase" box, type in "nysatl."
3. Click on the "Submit Search" button at the bottom of the page.
4. Your search results for "nysatl" should return 35 Learning Experiences.
5. Click on the titles to view the individual pieces of instructional content.

All of the "learning experience/unit" pieces such as, *Wildflowers: ELA Component*, were published with permission from the authors of the content. These NYSATL Learning Experiences went through the rigorous peer review process in Albany. We are sure you will find these Learning Experiences as invaluable pieces of instructional content to use in your classroom and/or share with others.

The Center for Applied Technologies in Education will present a one-hour workshop on the fundamentals of **NYLEARNS** at the following conferences:

- New York Library Association (NYLA) in Rochester on Saturday, October 23
- Association of Mathematics Teachers of New York State (AMTNYS) in Rye on Friday, November 5

- New York State Reading Association (NYSRA) in Saratoga Springs on Saturday, November 6

Please see September's "UPDATE" for additional information on the following conferences:

- New York State English Council (NYSEC) in Albany in October
- New York State Association for Computers and Technologies in Education (NYSCATE) in Rochester in November
- New York State Middle School Association (NYSMSA) in Lake Placid in October
- Science Teachers Association of New York State (STANYS) in Nevele in November

If you would be interested in having us present **NYLEARNS** at your professional organization's conference, please contact us.

This news update is provided to registered members of **NYLearns**. As you can see, this is on one website that is a very valuable resource to educators.



Apple Ambassador

Continued from page 2.

new tools for editing color profiles, including Dot Gain Correction, Gray Correction, White Point Correction, Primary Color Correction, and customer-defined Spot Colors. ProofMaster Adesso is \$499 for Mac OS X 10.2.2 and up.

NovaMind 2.3.1 is a mind-mapping program that enables you to organize, arrange, and relate ideas graphically using position, color, and shape as well as text. It includes a spelling checker, hyperlinks, OPML import/export, and export to an image or text file, among other features. Changes since Version 2.2 include the ability to link to iPhoto albums via the Graphics Library, XML import/export from Mind Manager, removal of extra blank lines from RTF export, and an expanded Adornment Library. NovaMind is \$79 (\$99 for Screenwriters Edition) for Mac OS X 10.2 and up.

FinKit 2.4 is a multi-function “time value of money” calculator that can calculate effective and equivalent rates, periodic to nominal and effective annual rates, present and future value, and much more. The new version adds a revised Calculation menu, a Life Tables window, a new calculation for the probability of survival or death for a given time span, Whole Life Annuity and Temporary Life Annuity calculations, and other improvements. FinKit is \$25 for Mac OS X.

Jiggler 1.1 keeps a Mac awake through lengthy tasks when it would rather fall asleep by jiggling the mouse at selectable intervals from 1 to 30 minutes. The new version adds an onscreen indicator that it’s active, plus options to jiggle for a preset period of time, when the processor is busy, when a CD or DVD is being burned, or when a particular application is active. Jiggler is free for Mac OS X.

Site Studio 1.1.1 is a theme-based web-authoring program with a single window interface and plug-ins for an image gallery, weblog, WYSIWYG editor, HTML editor, external file tool, and hyperlink tool. The new version includes “a new and completely fixed WYSIWYG engine, FTP upload fixes, and many bug fixes.” Site Studio is \$30 for Mac OS X.

World Clock Deluxe 4 can display multiple clocks in a horizontal or vertical palette and in the Dock. It can show Coordinated Universal Time and Internet Time, assign labels and colors to clocks, and calculate date and time conversions across different time zones. The new version offers a revised interface, extended cities and time zones, daylight savings time rules, weather reports, clocks in the menu bar, and other changes. World Clock Deluxe is \$15 for Mac OS X 10.1.5 and up.

Runtime Revolution released **Dreamcard**, a new card-based authoring environment for beginning to intermediate developers, students, hobbyists, and others. Like the company’s Revolution, it can create cross-platform software, but Dreamcard projects are not standalone and must be run with the free Dreamcard Player. Programmers use “cards” to create different screens and “stacks” to create windows, palettes, and dialog boxes, using built-in components. The interaction and functionality of Dreamcard projects can be enhanced using Transcript, the software’s built-in scripting language. Dreamcard is \$99 for Mac OS X, Classic Mac OS, Linux/Unix, and Windows.

The MathWorks released **RF Blockset** and **RF Toolbox**, which expand the scope of the company’s MATLAB and Simulink for signal processing and communications engineering applications, providing features for RF system design, analysis, development, and implementation. RF Blockset works with Simulink and offers a library of blocks to model the behavior of RF amplifiers, mixers, filters, and transmission lines. RF Toolbox extends MATLAB by providing pre-built design and analysis functions and a graphical tool for working with the behavior of RF components. Prices start at \$2,000 for the RF Blockset and \$1,000 for the RF Toolbox, which are available for Mac OS X 10.3.2 and up (with a G4 or G5), Windows, Linux, Solaris, and HP-UX.

Electric Butterfly released **WSL-Amazon 1.0**, a Web Services library for REALbasic developers. The library wraps the Amazon Web Services API into a class library of 72 methods and 66 properties with support for US, UK, German, and Japanese Amazon stores. It includes search and information retrieval capabilities, the ability to create, update, and check out remote Amazon shopping carts, and complete source code for a fully-functional Amazon-powered application. WSL-Amazon is \$49 for REALbasic 5.5 and up and requires an Amazon Developer Token for use.

Intego introduced two new Mac products aimed at spam and security:

- The \$59.95 Intego Personal Antispam X3 (for Mac OS X 10.2 and up) works in conjunction with Apple Mail and Microsoft Entourage to filter spam by Bayesian analysis, address, content, layout, whitelists, and blacklists, and includes monthly updates.
- Scheduled for release in the fourth quarter, Intego DiskGuard X3 (also for Mac OS X 10.2 and up) prevents unauthorized access to internal and external hard disks and removable media with password protection. According to the company, the password protection remains in force for network access and even for computers where Intego DiskGuard X3 is not installed.

Apple’s **AirPort Card Update 2004-08-31**, available via Software Update, brings AirPort and AirPort Extreme drivers to Version 3.4.3, promising to improve “reliability in mixed 802.11b and 802.11g environments.” It’s recommended for all AirPort and AirPort Extreme clients running AirPort 3.4 and later.

4D, Inc. began shipping **4th Dimension 2004**, the latest version of its relational database and rapid application development environment. The new release offers a streamlined Design environment (including a new form editor and new interface objects), new deployment features that provide low cost of ownership, enhanced web serving, new XML and web services technologies (including XML streaming generation), and more. 4th Dimension 2004 is priced starting at \$349 for Mac OS X 10.2.8 and up and Windows 2000/XP.

Runtime Revolution shipped **Revolution 2.5**, an update of its multi-platform development tool. This release brings new data security features, support for XML-RPC, Linux native theme (GTK) support, an improved user interface, overhauled documentation, and “over 700 other enhancements.” Revolution is priced from \$299 (Studio) to \$899 (Enterprise) for Mac OS X and Classic Mac OS, as well as Linux, Unix, and Windows.

Ovolab Phlink 1.5 combines with the Ovolab Telephone Adapter (a USB device) to answer phone calls, identify callers through Caller ID, record a message, and send email to a predefined address. It



can execute scripts, launch applications, or open documents when numbers on the telephone keypad are pressed. The new version adds support for network Caller ID, building on Apple's Rendezvous to allow automatic broadcasting of caller information over the local network. Ovolab Phlink and the Ovolab Telephone Adapter are \$149.95 for Mac OS X 10.2 and up.

Barcode Automator 3.0 is a barcoding suite specifically designed for bulk generation and AppleScript automation, with nine different symbol sets, EPS and TIFF export, and a bundled set of OCR fonts. The new version offers support for Global Trade Identification Numbers and full Sunrise 2005 compliance, customizable naming schemes, complete price barcode add-on and magazine issue support, direct input for price and step values, support for testing printed barcodes with an IntelliScanner 3200i or IntelliScanner Pro USB Barcode Reader, and more. Barcode Automator is \$499.95 for Mac OS X 10.2 and up and Mac OS 9.2.

Tex-Edit Plus X 4.8 is a scriptable, styled text editor with the ability to read and write RTF documents and to insert pictures in common formats (TIFF, JPEG, GIF, PICT, PSD), regular expression searches, a Markup menu, and more. The new version adds a floating Script

Tools palette, hex display for two-byte as well as one-byte selections, a fix for a drag bug associated with some picture clippings, and other changes. Tex-Edit Plus X is \$15 for Mac OS X.

Griffin Technology announced the **PodPod**, a cup-shaped soft foam iPod holder that fits in any auto cup holder. Scheduled for release in October at \$9.99, the non-scratch foam holder provides room for the docking cable and holds the iPod (or iPod mini) at an angle for better visibility.

Skype Technologies released **Skype for Mac OS X Beta 0.8.0.2**, the first available Mac software for its peer-to-peer voice-over-IP (VOIP) phone service. The Skype software is free for Mac OS X 10.3.

Optima System released **MapSpinner 1.0 Public Preview 2**, a WYSIWYG utility for creating HTML image maps without writing HTML code. It enables maps to be saved as HTML documents or pasted directly into existing documents and offers a map wizard, a layout helper, browser preview, source code view, and other features. MapSpinner is available for Mac OS X 10.2 and up.

New iMac Announced

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everything zippier — connecting to email or the web, creating movies, songs and DVDs, arranging photos or playing music. Choose a 1.6 or 1.8GHz G5 processor that's ready to run modern 64-bit applications under the secure and stable Mac OS X operating system. What's more, the G5 speeds up Mac OS X and all the other included software, such as iLife '04, Quicken 2004 and World Book.

All-in-One Ease

iMac G5 tucks away all the modern amenities in its two-inch thin(1) body, such as a slot-loading SuperDrive or Combo drive. Burn DVD slideshows of vacation photos or send friends a DVD with a special movie for the holidays. Back up your iTunes collection or make a mix CD for that special someone. Naturally, you can pop in your DVD movies and watch them in 16:10 widescreen letterbox format on the gorgeous LCD display. Your ears will hear pristine audio from built-in stereo speakers. Pointed down, the speakers bounce sound waves off your desk, counter or table into your ears.

Stay Connected

Of course the iMac G5 offers all the right ports to connect to your universe with ease. Starting with the new headphone jack that's also a mini-optical plug. So you can watch DVDs and listen to them in 5.1 surround sound. You'll also find a passel of USB 2.0 and FireWire 400 connectors for your camera, camcorder or gamepad. Or if you want to connect your iMac to your TV or a digital projector, the mini-VGA port gives you the option. The line in jack lets you record an electric guitar into GarageBand.

iMac offers Ethernet for wired networking as well as a modem for dial-up Internet. Your modem can also double as a fax machine.

Go Wireless

Better yet, eliminate the desktop clutter of unnecessary cables with wireless connections to the Internet, your keyboard, mouse or cell phone. Pop an AirPort Extreme Card into your iMac, and you're ready for the freedom of wireless networking from anywhere in your home or dorm — up to 150 feet from an AirPort Extreme Base Station. Or try AirPort Express with AirTunes to stream your music to your stereo and send documents to your printer. Plus, you can configure your iMac with internal Bluetooth to wirelessly access many devices that previously required cable. That means you can get an Apple Wireless Keyboard or Mouse to control your iMac from across the room, or sync your cell phone address book while your phone is in your purse, 30 feet away. Impress your friends, confound your enemies — wireless only looks like magic.

Extreme Graphics

The sizzling graphics processor and next-generation high-bandwidth architecture kicks 3D games and graphics into high gear, with three times the frame rate as the previous iMac in Unreal Tournament 2004. NVIDIA graphics provides hardware transform and lighting (T&L), per-pixel shading and drop-dead gorgeous effects at high resolutions. All models deliver over a billion textured pixels per second and an advanced Live FX engine engineered to generate the most lifelike characters. With Quartz Extreme, the graphics processors take over transform and lighting calculation functions from the CPU, freeing the G5 processor to perform essential system tasks faster than ever before.

1. The 17-inch model is 1.99 inches thick; the 20-inch model is 2.2 inches thick.



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Directions

Troy Hight School is on Burdett Avenue in Troy. Take Alternate Route 7 into Troy (it becomes Hoosick Street), turn right on Burdett Avenue. The school is past Samaritan Hospital, on the left. Call an officer if you need additional directions.



To start or renew your GAAB membership, see Cecilia MacDonald or send your fees payable to her at the following address:

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