



# The *GAB'er*

The Newsletter of the Greater Albany Apple Byters

Volume 21, Number 3 - November 2004



## Paint it Black



Like no other, iPod U2 Special Edition stands out. Jet black, it bears a prominent red Apple Click Wheel and, on the flip side, the autographs of each U2 band member. Available for just \$349, it comes with an exclusive U2 poster and, of course, the signature white iPod earbuds. As an extra special treat, it includes an iTunes Music Store coupon you can use to get \$50 off your purchase of "The Complete U2." As unique as the iPod itself, this digital boxed set brings together an amazing 400 U2 tracks. Songs span the band's celebrated career. From "Boy" to "War" to "The Joshua Tree" to "Zooropa" to the soon-to-be-released "How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb," it includes every U2 album and brings us over 25 rare and unreleased tracks. Look for it on the iTunes Music Store at the end of November.



## Coordinator's Corner

by John Buckley



If you know what this picture is, then you have an idea about this month's topic. We will be looking at different web browsers for the Mac, since the browser wars ended a couple of years ago, Microsoft has done very little to change Internet Explorer. Netscape has become a pop-up menu haven for AOL.

However, a vacuum always invites something to fill the void. A number of new browsers with names like Firefox, OmniWeb, and Opera have come upon the scene with some excellent features. Most are free for the trying, others you have to pay for. Find out why someone might pay for a browser.

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

The November meeting will be held at Troy High School in room 212 on Wednesday, November 10, 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**  
**November 10, 2004**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Mac Web Browsers**

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

**Featured in this Issue**

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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

The following information is about the latest updates to OS X as posted on MacInTouch at <http://www.macintouch.com/> on November 6, 2004.

Apple released [Mac OS X 10.3.6 Update](#), a package for updating Mac OS X 10.3.5. (A [combo](#) update covers Mac OS X 10.3 through 10.3.5.) According to the release notes, fixes include:

### Internet and .Mac

- Resolves an issue in which Safari might not load webpages correctly [when the hard drive name included a non-ASCII character](#) such as a symbol, diacritical, or two-byte character.
- Safari no longer times out after 60 seconds when attempting to connect to a webpage or to submit form data. With this update, Safari will keep trying indefinitely (or until you cancel the attempt).
- With this update, a synchronized iDisk correctly resizes .Mac storage after its allocation changes.
- Addresses a kernel panic issue that could occur when using an external, wireless USB broadband modem with Mac OS X 10.3.5.

### Networking

- Improves AFP service performance.
- Addresses a situation in which a file name change that occurred on a server while a client was running Terminal resulted in the client Terminal's failure to recognize the change.
- Addresses an issue that could prevent login via a network user account.
- Resolves an issue for Mac OS X 10.3.5 in which, sometimes, network-based applications could not open an application from an automounted AFP volume, such as `/Network/Applications/`.
- SMB/CIFS servers in `/Network` no longer suddenly disappear and reappear after the network changes.

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Finding a wireless (Wi-Fi) hookup for your laptop is getting easier. More hotels, coffee shops, and public areas are providing them for a fee. Access usually costs about \$10 - \$15 per day. But with a little research, you won't have to pay a cent.

There are thousands of free Wi-Fi hotspots around the country. Numerous Wi-Fi Web directories list them by state and country.

One such site is Wi-Fi FreeSpot (<http://www.wififreespot.com>), a continually updated database. You'll find locations listed by state. If you're traveling to a foreign country, there's a listing of countries organized by continent.

Most free networks are established by retail businesses. It's a way of getting you through their doors. Obviously, the longer you stay, the more apt you are to spend some money.

Some big name companies are providing free service as well. Apple retail stores and Shlotzsky's sandwich shops are among those that provide access to customers.

Also among the providers of free hotspots are hotel chains. Best Western, Clarion, Comfort Inn and Omni hotels are just a few of the national chains that offer free Wi-Fi. ConnectedHotel (<http://www.connectedhotel.com>) and the Wi-Fi FreeSpot hotel page (<http://www.wififreespot.com/hotels.html>) lists specific hotel locations.

Commercial organizations aren't the only ones providing free hotspots. The Wireless Librarian lists libraries in the United States and abroad that provide wireless networks. Read it carefully. Some libraries require a nominal fee. Others are restricted to staff only. You'll find the list here: <http://people.morrisville.edu/~drewwe/wireless/wirelesslibraries.htm>

If you want to surf the Net under an old oak tree, you might be able to find a hotspot in a park. Bryant Park and Union Square Park in New York City both have free access. It'll take

a little digging to find parks. Wi-Fi HotSpot List (<http://www.wi-fihotspotlist.com/>) has an extensive listing of hotspots, including parks. Most of the parks are free.

There are a number of altruistic private citizens who believe that the Internet should be free. They have banded together to create free networks around the world. WirelessCommunities (<http://www.personaltelco.net/index.cgi/WirelessCommunities>) has an exhaustive listing, although some links are out of date.

If you can't find free service, there are some pay networks. Two of the big players are T-Mobile and Boingo.

T-Mobile (<http://www.t-mobile.com/hotspot/>) has nearly 4,600 locations throughout the United States. It costs \$9.99 per day or \$29.99 per month. Its hotspots are located in Starbucks coffeehouses, Borders Books & Music stores, airports and other areas.

Another large network is Boingo Wireless (<http://www.boingo.com>). It doesn't own the hotspots—it contracts them out. Currently, it has over 6,000 locations under contract throughout the world. Boingo costs \$7.95 for two days, or \$21.95 per month.

Wi-Fi does have its limitations. It will only reach 75 - 150 feet inside a building with many rooms. Outdoors or inside a large open area, a signal might stretch 350 - 500 feet. There may be service at an airport, but it might not reach your terminal. You may have to do a little walking around and experimenting to get a strong signal.

Also, Wi-Fi is not as secure as your Internet connection at home or at work. Most free public wireless networks turn off all security functions by default. This is done to make it easier to connect. To safeguard your computer, turn off all file sharing and avoid sending sensitive e-mail or making online purchases.

Despite its drawbacks, Wi-Fi is a fast way to access the Internet. Thanks to some interested parties, it can be yours for free.





## Education SIG

### Redefining the Role of Computers in Education, The Vendor's Curricula

by Neil Mercurius

The following is from <http://www.techlearning.com/> and is a shared printable article. This is an excellent example of how networking and the web are changing the ways educators are using technology.

With 30 years of computing technology in public education, finally education technology vendors are aligning their curriculum to state standards. Vendors who sell education curriculum are confident the curricula products they sell can help schools bolster student achievement.

In the late 1990s, pressure from within the academic community to change the curricula and instructional delivery to meet specific outcomes provided an incentive for vendors to move closely to aligning their curriculum with teachers' needs and state standards. They invested money and time by hiring active and retired educators to make sure the curricula products aligned with curriculum standards, modeled best practices, and extended instructional modules.

As the curriculum delivery shifts from software on disks to curriculum on the Internet, finally the task of integrating technology across the curriculum is meeting the needs of teaching and learning. Vendors and educators are partners; they are working together to make learning come alive by engaging all students with technologies that are relevant to them. The technologies include camcorders, digital cameras, and scanners for input plus software for editing videos, importing sound clips, organizing digital photos, constructing animations, and developing simulations into presentations. When classroom curriculum and projects are relevant, students are motivated and involved and thus, achievement improves.

#### Focus on the Curriculum

Apple computers were first on the scene to provide the hardware and the curriculum software. Apple Classroom of Tomorrow (ACOT) studies looked at the impact of a vendors' curriculum on teaching and learning. The ACOT classrooms' research viewed technology as a tool for learning and a medium for thinking, collaborating, and communicating.

The ACOT study focused on the curriculum, not the technology. Books are not the only source of information. The teacher is no longer the only voice of knowledge. The

modern students know of several ways to check the information the teacher is delivering in the classroom. The information is freely available on the Internet or other electronic media and accessing and presenting the information requires the computer.

The vendors' curricula promotes a paperless classroom where every subject taught in schools is on CD-Roms or Web-based. The use of e-Books, e-Library, computer-based instruction, Web-based instruction, distance learning, online assessment, video conferencing, and streaming technologies create an electronic curriculum. In fact, many manufacturers and suppliers of education products are now digitizing their curricula. For example, [Prentice-Hall](#) and [Allyn & Bacon/Longman](#) have a Course Compass — a dynamic, interactive e-Learning program in partnership with [Blackboard](#), an online company.

Similarly, new vendors are presenting their curriculum with great success. In the late 1990's, *Hooked-on Phonics* came on the scene like gangbusters and created an uproar about teaching whole language. Parents reacted to the advertisements on TV and questioned school administrators' logic for failing to implement phonic-based reading. These parents were able to buy the product and use it at home. With the computer delivering the content, parents were able to participate and share in the responsibility for their children's learning, therefore impacting the very foundation of learning.

#### The Internet

Electronic Learning or e-Learning is reinventing the way people learn. The desk, the chalkboard, the paper and pencil, and the knowledge-giver no longer dominate the classroom. The Internet is the biggest influence. When delivered via the Internet, the vendors' curricula can personalize learning. Any student can use the computer as a medium through which the access of information and resources manifest itself as the supernatural agency.



The Internet is dynamic. Up-to-date information on MSN or Yahoo portals, for example, is as current as the click of the mouse. For the Internet to continue to be effective and efficient in delivering current information into the classroom, schools must incorporate clear goals, objectives, and long-term strategic plans to create the best method of delivering of the information to teachers and students. However, the content requires constant monitoring by educators to be certain that content is appropriate and synchronized with the goals and objectives of the institution.

In addition, the Internet shrinks the globe. Collaboration extends from the classroom to distant places; information is global. The ability to link multiple resources worldwide is an advantage of the Internet. It creates the avenue for an integrated curriculum, thus providing individualized learning modules for all learners.

### Vendors' Curricula

To sample a list of vendors' curricula, log into *T.H.E Journal: Educators' Road Map to the Web*. This Web site link provides vendors' curricula online for language arts, math, music, science, social studies, psychology, physical education, and even technology.

In addition, see *District Administration's "The Art of Online Learning,"* by Terian Tyre, and their "*Curriculum Hot Spots on the Web 2003,*" by Egil Dyrli both in the *September 2002* issue.

Examples of active curricula sites:

| <u>Subject</u>                        | <u>Web-site</u>                     |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| The Arts .....                        | <a href="#">Artsonia</a>            |
| Language Arts & Literature .....      | <a href="#">Bartleby.com</a>        |
| Music .....                           | <a href="#">HN-naxos Classicals</a> |
| Mathematics .....                     | <a href="#">Boxermath.com</a>       |
| Science .....                         | <a href="#">TechSpace</a>           |
| Social Studies .....                  | <a href="#">EyeWitness</a>          |
| Health/Nutrition/Physical Education . | <a href="#">YouthHealth.com</a>     |
| Theater .....                         | <a href="#">CreativeDrama.com</a>   |

### Enriched Curriculum

Other vendors' curricula that are making strides on K-12 campuses are *Accelerated Reader* for reading, *Riverdeep* for math, and *The Princeton Review* for assessment. Students use *Kidspiration* software in the elementary grades and *Inspiration* software in the secondary grades to organize their thoughts graphically. In addition to the Web and curriculum-based software programs, *Microsoft Suite*: Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, and Publisher in the hands of skilled educators provide an invaluable K-12 curriculum support base.

*Microsoft OfficeXP* CD contains more than 24,000 premium images, animations, and sounds to help students and teachers enhance their documents, presentations, spreadsheets, and Web pages quickly and easily. Microsoft also claims that the CD provides a step-by-step process that can help students learn at their own pace, build the skills they need, and practice with real-world examples by selecting just the lessons they need or by working through the complete course.

*Apple Computer's Curriculum Mobile Labs* page tells the story about bringing curriculum, technology, and staff development together in one comprehensive mobile solution bundle with the purpose of raising student achievement.

*Macromedia's eLearning* boasts that it provides a comprehensive array of software for designing and delivering the most exciting content and sites on the Web.

*AOL@School:Teachers* provides teachers a complete package. The site lists each state standard, subject area, lesson plans, special needs & counseling, professional development, classroom tools and tips, education news and research and reference. Students and teachers have chat rooms and bulletin boards — it is a virtual school.

*Renaissance Learning* states that it can supercharge a school's curriculum and instruction. The research-based school renaissance school improvement process provides help to educators to dramatically speed up pre-K-12 learning for all students, at all ability levels. The Web site also claims that Renaissance increases reading, math, and writing programs with a combination of software, professional development seminars, consulting services, web-based training tools, and books, videos, and support materials.

*Epic Learning* provides the ultimate e-Learning package. The site helps schools design, develop, and deliver e-Learning. The virtual classroom provides a live online instructor-led class environment. Students are able to participate in live presentations and demonstrations, ask questions using either text or audio interfaces, respond to instructor-generated polling questions.

*SBC Knowledge Network Explorer* is one of the more aggressive Web sites that is committed to the success of teaching and learning. The Knowledge Network Explorer is the official web site of SBC's education program, *Education First*. It supports education by helping schools and libraries acquire and effectively use Internet and *Videoconferencing* technology. *Online Learning in the Classroom and Library* contains lessons, activities, tools, and resources developed by SBC team of librarians and teachers, all of whom are experienced instructional designers and web developers.



# Apple Ambassador

*Continued from page 2.*

## Applications

- Addresses an issue that could occur when using some scholastic information management applications with Mac OS X 10.3.5; this alert could appear: “Another module has ‘locked’ the MS Tx file. You will gain access when their task is completed.”
- Addresses an issue in which “zooming” in Halo 1.0.5 could lead to blurry video when using certain Nvidia video cards.
- Many calculating and conversion features within Calculator are improved by this update.
- Addresses an issue in which TextEdit could unexpectedly quit when changing text from Euphermia regular to italic.
- Addresses an issue for Mac OS X 10.3.5 in which Final Cut Pro HD 4.5 could unexpectedly quit.

## Other

- Improves ColorSync calibrating for Apple Cinema HD Display (23-inch DVI) displays.
- Resolves an issue in which the display could sometimes remain dark when waking from display sleep (the mouse pointer might appear, but normal function could not be restored) if using Screen Saver password on a portable computer.
- Adds WMC connectivity capability for [Nokia 7610 phones](#).
- Addresses an issue for Mac OS X 10.3.5 in which some glyph fonts, certain “Expert” or “dingbat” fonts, would no longer appear in some applications.
- Resolves a situation in which incorrect characters could show up for some fonts.
- Addresses some issues that could cause Classic to unexpectedly quit when starting up.
- This update makes it easier to scroll through a long list of user names in the login window.
- Includes recent [Security Updates](#).

Apple has also released a [Mac OS X Server 10.3.6 Update](#) for 10.3.5 (and a [Server 10.3.6 Combo](#) update for earlier versions), describing “key enhancements” as follows: improved performance and reliability of AFP, CIFS and NFS file services more reliable network automounts and application launching from /Network/Applications/

- improved interoperability with Active Directory and compatibility with the latest Windows clients
- more reliable SMTP authentication when using CRAM-MD5
- added Fibre Channel Utility application and improved Fibre Channel reliability and performance
- additional support for third party Fibre Channel storage devices
- previous standalone security updates.

## More Information

Additional information from users can be found on MacInTouch Reader Reports on [Mac OS X 10.3.6](#) report discusses issues with FireWire drives following the update, plus Calculator problems and a variety of other issues. We strongly advise not installing the update without a complete, valid backup, and keeping FireWire disks disconnected initially. (And please let us know how the upgrade works for you.)

[DVD Studio Pro 3.0.2](#) updates Apple’s DVD authoring software with improved general stability plus compatibility for double-layer media on supported systems. The companion [Compressor 1.2.1 Update](#) offers improved application stability and improved Preview window performance. Both require Mac OS X 10.3.2 or later.

“Brad” reports problems with Apple’s “.Mac” mail service, which comes on the heels of trouble with the iDisk service: The email component of Apple’s .Mac service has been down for over 12 hours, and despite what this page [[.Mac Support](#)] reports - “a small number of .Mac customers” - it appears to be a widespread, and disturbing, failure of Apple’s entire .Mac email system.

## Google Desktop for Apple?

Reuters reports that Google is planning on releasing a version of its desktop search tool for the Mac. This comes from Google’s chief executive, Eric Schmidt, on Friday. Schmidt, however, could not provide a timeframe for the release. Desktop Search tools have recently made headlines with Microsoft, AOL, Google and Apple entering this arena. Google has already launched a Windows version of the desktop search tool.



## Education SIG

*Continued from page 5.*

### Conclusion

Vendors' curricula use technology to create virtual learning environments, connecting multiple locations. The curricula promote the belief that technology can organize and create accessibility to teaching resources on-demand, thus improving the ability to share best practices. Furthermore, the curricula foster the idea that technology can extend the reach of students. The outcome of using technology is to help students learn early literacy skills, improve their language skills, and engage them in the study of math, science, and subject concepts.

Often, educators considered computer use in the classrooms as hopeless and obtrusive to teaching and learning. This was the conversation in academic circles because earlier models of the vendors' curricula and the method of delivery used the computer as a tool. In the past, the attention around the computer use focused on action (tool) — keyboarding, games, and programming — rather than an agent (medium) for thinking, collaborating and communicating. Now, many vendors' curricula redefine the role of computers in education by providing the information for educators, students, and content in the classroom setting.

### iMac G5 on Cover of December Consumer Reports Magazine

Mac News Network reports that the iMac G5 will grace the cover of the December issue of Consumer Reports Magazine, due out this week. According to MacNN, the caption will read "Unspectacular results for Intel's new processor. Plus 59,940 reasons to reconsider Macs." and the article will contain these comments:

In this atmosphere of low expectations, Apple Computer has actually raised its support satisfaction for desktop computers over the past three years to levels well above all competitors, while offering the most reliable desktop hardware.

Another factor working in Apple's favor: Macs are vulnerable to few viruses and little spyware because both target mostly Windows-based users. Symantec, maker of Norton AntiVirus, says approximately 60,000 viruses aim at Windows-based PCs, but about 60 target Macs.

Despite not giving Apple and Mac OS X some of the credit for operating system security in comparison with Windows, this type of quotation and the iMac's featured position in the issue being released as the holiday buying season begins are certain to boost Apple's visibility and sales.

## Mac Rumors

Rumor Report - October 17, 2004 - *CherryOS*

Is CherryOS for real? It's been one of the most pressing questions on the collective minds of the Mac community over the past week or so, and we've finally had the time to sit down with some of our friends in the industry and at Apple to talk it over. CherryOS is a Windows application which claims to be able to emulate a G4 Mac with 80% of the x86 system's native performance. The developer of CherryOS, MXS (Maui X-Stream, previously known for video software) has made conflicting claims of the emulator's readiness (at one time stating version 1.0 was ready for release; the official word now is that CherryOS is "still under development and only available as a beta release for selected users") and doubts abound even as hope surges for a product that could contribute dramatically to the tide of Switchers coming to the Mac platform.

Setting aside speculation about things that are only known with certainty inside of MXS itself, there is plenty of information out there about CherryOS both factual and inferred. We sat down today in a multi-way AV conference with some of our highest-rated sources and friends to see if we couldn't dig up more. CherryOS offers to Windows users most of the things that VirtualPC offers to the Mac: the ability to access peripheral hardware (USB, Firewire, etc) via the emulated operating system, support for the latest operating system releases (in this case Panther), networking support, drag and drop, et cetera.

Rumor Report, November 7, 2004 - *Four-way G5s*

Two hot rumors are rapidly developing as we enter a new week - a week in which there's a significant chance we'll have some major breaking news. But these two rumors are rather more long-term.

First, quad-processor G5's. We are still trying to chase down confirmation of details like exactly which model(s) of PowerMac or Xserve might be expected to sport the new technology — and we are also attempting to reconcile these new, apparently reliable, four-way G5 rumors coming out of Cupertino....with previous statements by IBM sources that the dual-core PowerPC 970MP wouldn't be desirable for multi-chip systems in its initial silicon.

But regardless of these details, there is new evidence that Apple intends to not only hit 3GHz (shipping in Feb. or March) with its new PowerMacs to be announced early next year....it also intends to ship at least one, and quite possibly several, quad-processor/dual-chip 970MP systems in the same time frame. More on this in the coming week's updates.

As for Powerbooks, the grapevine is leaning ever harder away from a jump directly to PBG5 in January; instead, a surprisingly modest PBG4 bump with an "unannounced G4 variant" and Radeon 9800 Mobility graphics in the high-end appears to be in the cards. Some speculate that the "unannounced G4 variant" is a dual-core Freescale chip, but so far that's all it is — speculation.

One thing that does appear to be predicted with some degree of confidence: at least one Powerbook model will receive an entirely new display along with some enclosure updates.



