Will We See iWork?

Rumor has it that Apple will launch its new iWork '05 productivity suite at Macworld Expo. The software, code-named Sugar, will include Keynote 2 as well as a new application, Pages.

It's unclear whether Pages will simply encompass a word processing application or whether Apple will wrap spreadsheet functionality into it as well. Apple's new word processing software had been rumored to be called Document, but sources say it appears that name has been abandoned, possibly due to the confusion a user might encounter when being told "this document is a Document document."

Chatter surrounding iWork—then called iWorks, as it was speculated to be the successor to AppleWorks—first emerged almost two years ago. Since then, iWork has become a perennial rumor favorite, as AppleWorks 6 continues to show its age and lack of refinement associated with Apple's applications today. Steve Jobs introduced AppleWorks 6 during Macworld Expo San Francisco in 2000, making the application a dinosaur in software years by today's standards.

iWork '05 will require a 500MHz system and Mac OS X 10.3.6, sources say. Additionally, the software will require a serial number. It's unclear whether the new iLife '05 will also require a serial number—previous versions have not. Also unknown is where iWork '05 pricing will fall. With Keynote currently selling for $99 and AppleWorks 6 costing $79, it seems unlikely that Apple will price iWork '05 at the same $49 price point as iLife.

What is almost certain, however, is that iWork will come bundled with most, if not all, of Apple's new systems, including the new $500 headless iMac. Such a move will enable Apple to market the affordable system as being ready-to-go out of the box with all the software most needed by users, including PC switchers.

Coordinator's Corner
by John Buckley

Last month we looked at designing web pages using *RapidWeaver*; a program published by *RealMac Software Limited*. During the discussion, we also looked at *Freeway Express* and *Freeway Pro*. I will bring some info on that program to the meeting.

This month we will look at *Photoshop Elements 3.0* from *Adobe*. This has become a very popular program and the latest version has some great features.

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

The January meeting will be held at Troy High School in room 212 on Wednesday, January 12, 2005. 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 the old Dunkin Donuts, which is now a liquor store. 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
January 12, 2005
7:00 p.m.

PhotoShop Elemennts 3

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

Featured in this Issue

Serving the Apple Computer User Community Since May 1984

Officers & Special Interest Group Leaders

Program Coordinator
John Buckley
272-7128

Membership Director
Cecilia MacDonald
872-0823

Treasurer
Cecilia MacDonald
872-0823

Public Domain Librarian
Bill Shuff
393-9753

Newsletter Editor
Roger Mazula
782-1160

Education SIG
John Buckley
272-7128

Internet SIG
Lou Wozniak
465-2873

Apple Ambassador

Apple to drop sub-$500 Mac bomb at Expo

This is from *Think Secret* at http://www.thinksecret.com/news/0412expo2.html and should be very interesting to see if this is true. *Think Secret* is being sued by Apple Computer for exposing Apple secrets.

December 28, 2004 - With iPod-savvy Windows users clearly in its sights, Apple is expected to announce a bare bones, G4-based iMac without a display at Macworld Expo on January 11 that will retail for $499, highly reliable sources have confirmed to *Think Secret*.

The new Mac, code-named Q88, will be part of the iMac family and is expected to sport a PowerPC G4 processor at a speed around 1.25GHz. The new Mac is said to be incredibly small and will be housed in a flat enclosure with a height similar to the 1.73 inches of Apple's Xserve. Its size benefits will include the ability to stand the Mac on its side or put it below a display or monitor.

Along with lowering costs by forgoing a display (Apple's entry-level eMac sells for $799 with a built-in 17-inch CRT display), the so-called "headless" iMac will allow Apple's target audience — Windows users looking for a cheap, second PC -- to keep their current peripherals or decide on their own what to pair with the system, be it a high-priced LCD display or an inexpensive display. Sources expect the device to feature both DVI and VGA connectivity, although whether this will be provided through dual ports or through a single DVI port with a VGA adapter remains to be seen.

The new Mac is expected to have a Combo drive only, but will possibly have an upgrade path to a SuperDrive at a higher price. It is unclear how big the hard drive capacity will be, although sources indicate it will be between 40GB and 80GB.

Other *expected* features of the iMac include:
• 256MB of RAM
• USB 2.0
• FireWire 400
• 10/100 BASE-T Ethernet
• 56K V.92 modem
• AirPort Extreme support

Internet SIG

Get the Most Out of Your Wireless Network
by Kim Komando
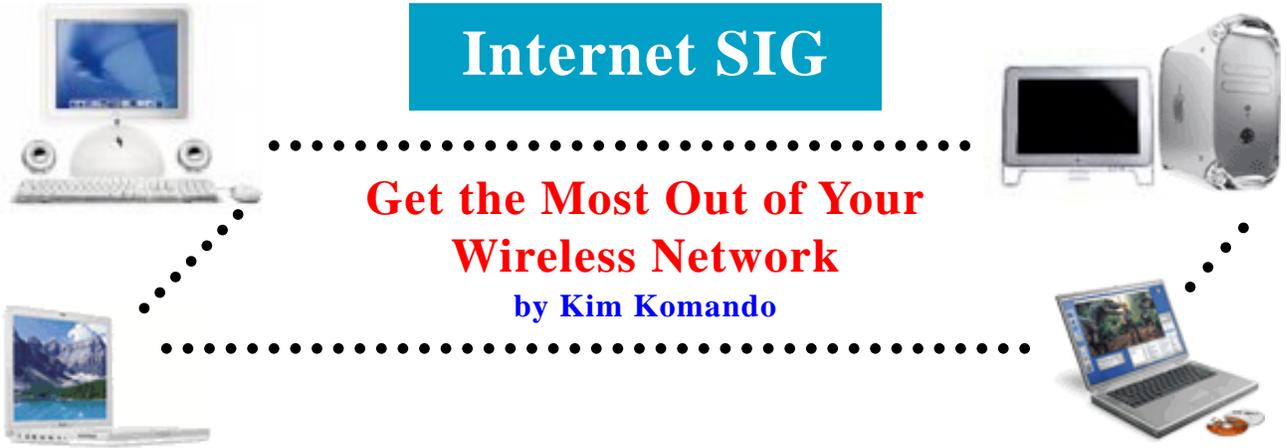
Home wireless networks are great for sharing an Internet connection among various computers. But why limit yourself to only that? New wireless-enabled gadgets let you use that network to its fullest capacity.

For example, printers with built-in Wi-Fi offer tremendous flexibility. Simply plug the printer into any electrical outlet and install its software; it will be recognized by any computer on your network.

Currently, there isn't a huge selection. But Canon (http://www.usa.canon.com), Epson (http://www.epson.com) and Hewlett Packard (http://www.hp.com) have models starting at $200.

Have a MP3 music collection stored on your computer's hard drive? Consider streaming the music to your home entertainment sound system. Plug Apple's AirPort Express (http://www.apple.com/airportexpress;$129, Windows and Mac) into an outlet by your stereo. Plug a standard audio cable between the AirPort Express' line-out jack and the audio input jack of your stereo. It works only with Apple's iTunes, which can be downloaded for free. Apple also sells a remote control for $59 that allows you to pause, skip or shuffle your collection.

If you don't want to mess with iTunes, Creative Labs' Soundblaster Wireless Music (http://www.soundblaster.com; $199) and Netgear's Wireless Music Player (http://www.netgear.com; $121) streams MP3 and Windows Media Audio files. Both connect to any stereo or stand-alone speakers and come with remotes.

You don't have to stop with your MP3 collection. You probably have a large collection of digital photos and maybe even some home movies stored on your computer.

You can stream that content to a media hub. A media hub, or media center, connects to your television set and/or stereo and displays video, audio and photo files. Most media hubs cost around $200. Media hubs are offered by Actiontec (http:/ /www.actiontec.com), D-Link (http://www.dlink.com) and PRISMIQ (http://www.prismiq.com), among others. The Actiontec and PRISMIQmodels allow you to surf the Net on your TV, too.

If you don't want to look at your pictures on your television, why not beam them to a digital picture frame? Wallflower digital picture frames (http://www.wallflower-systems.com) display pictures and video. They even connect to the Internet so your friends and family can e-mail pictures, which will instantly display. A 12-inch frame starts at $659.

You can also use your wireless network to stream content to a Wi-Fi television set. Sony's LocationFree TV (http://www.sony.com) lets you access multimedia content from anywhere in the house or even the world. As long as you have access to a Wi-Fi network, you can connect your computer and the TV's base station. You can surf the Net and conduct e-mail correspondence using the display's touch-screen keyboard. The 7-inch model retails for $1,099; the 12-inch model goes for $1,499.

One final note: Wi-Fi signals do not travel particularly long distances. They can reach theoretical distances of 150 feet. But walls, doors and floor levels can weaken or kill a signal. If you find that a particular product will not work in certain areas of your house, you can purchase an antenna to boost your signal for about $50.

Also, look at equipment marked "802.11n." This is emerging technology. It has a stronger signal than 802.11b or g.

Abour Kim Komando:
You can read Kim Komando's weekly syndicated column in over 100 Gannett newspapers across the country. She writes two columns a week for the USA Today Web site. She also hosts a three-hour weekend radio show (WGY 81-AM on Sunday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm). Every weekday, you can hear my Computer Minute. And she keeps a blog on her website: http://www.komando.com/kimslog.asp

Education SIG

Top 10 Ed-TEch Stories of 2004
From eSchool News Staff Reports
by John Buckley

The following is from **eSchool News** at http://www.eschoolnews.com/news. If you read the article electronically, you can click on the title lines to see the entire story. You will be asked to register the first time and then you can receive **eSchool News** for free.

The past year brought a number of important developments affecting users of school technology. And, while larger issues—such as the presidential campaign and its impact on ed tech, or the sudden halt of eRate funding earlier this year—dominated the headlines and perhaps carried more overall significance, several other stories captured readers' attention enough to pass them along to their colleagues. Here are the top 10 most recommended *eSchool News* stories of 2004, according to our readers:

10. Student deserves 'A' for homework-ware

For class credit, a Canadian high school student created a web-based homework management system that allows students to hand-in assignments electronically. He now is offering the service to schools across North America at no charge ...

9. CoSN profiles 'must-have' technologies

Datacasting, radio frequency identification (RFID) chips, student web logs (blogs), and intelligent essay graders are among a dozen technologies likely to emerge as must-have solutions in the nation's schools, according to a report unveiled Nov. 3 by the Washington, D.C.-based Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) &

8. Tech-savvy schools reclaim millions

San Diego is one of dozens of school systems nationwide reportedly benefiting from the use of new technology designed to track, monitor, record, and report on the delivery of special-education services. Not only do these electronic tools promise to reduce dramatically the amount of paper pushed across administrators' desks on a daily basis, but some say the technology also is helping foot the bill for special-needs children—giving schools a much more efficient means of applying for and collecting millions of dollars in state-provided Medicaid reimbursements ...

7. ED gives preview of new ed-tech plan

Student data management, online assessment, and eLearning will be key objectives in the next national educational technology plan presented to Congress by the U.S. Department of Education (ED), according to Susan Patrick, director of the department's Office of Educational Technology ...

6. Schools, colleges flock to Internet2

Move over internet: Internet2 has arrived. According to a bi-annual survey presented to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on Oct. 6, more than 25,000 K-12 schools, libraries, and museums in 34 states have graduated to the super-fast internet backbone, which works at a hundred times the speed of the fastest T1 line ...

5. Studies validate laptop programs in U.S., Canada

Two recent studies of schoolwide one-to-one computing initiatives—one in the United States and one in Canada—suggest that using laptops in the classroom can help improve students' writing skills and bolster overall academic success. The studies come as an increasing number of states and school districts are rolling out laptop programs of their own ...

4. Bookshare.org offers 17,000 royalty-free digital texts

For special-education teachers, providing required reading for blind and learning-disabled students is a significant challenge. Now, thanks to the aid of Bookshare.org, a nonprofit digital book service based in Palo Alto, Calif., educators have access to a library of thousands of titles they can download and reproduce for use on screen readers or as MP3 files for as little as $6 per text ...

3. ED unveils new educator training site

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) on Oct. 5 unveiled a new professional development web site for teachers and administrators. Its architects hope the free resource—built by teachers for teachers—will encourage the use of proven classroom strategies and provide more effective ways of using data to improve instruction in the nation's schools ...

2. Textbooks dumped in favor of laptops

No textbooks? No problem. A revolutionary new high school outside Tucson, Ariz., plans to do away with the bulky, hardcover tomes altogether in favor of laptop computers, making it one of the first schools in the nation to abandon the use of traditional textbooks for the educational value of the internet ...

1. Video on demand boosts students' math scores

Short video clips that reinforce key concepts are effective in increasing student achievement, according to a second research project. An earlier study found that video can improve learning in science and social studies. Now, brand-new research shows that judiciously selected video clips also can produce statistically significant gains in algebra and geometry scores ...

Apple Ambassador

Continued from page 2.

In terms of software, Apple will include a special **iLife suite** (minus iDVD) as well as AppleWorks, sources believe.

The new Mac is expected to be introduced by Apple CEO Steve Jobs at his keynote address on Tuesday, January 11, but is not expected to be available until later in the first quarter. Sources indicate "issues" have arisen in production of the new Mac, but that Apple never planned on shipping the new device immediately upon introduction. The plan is to air freight the new model from its manufacturing plants in Asia for at least the first three months of shipments, sources report.

The announcement of the new, inexpensive Mac will be a dream come true for Mac aficionados who have begged and pleaded for years to see just such a PC. Until now, the company has downplayed speculation that it would get into the low-end PC market. "In terms of our pricing, I feel very good about where each of our product lines are priced," Peter Oppenheimer, Apple's CFO, said in October. "To date, we have chosen not to compete in the sub-$800 desktop market and have put that R&D investment in expanding our products in the music area, in software, and in hardware."

So what has changed to motivate Apple in producing a low-cost Mac? In a word, iPod.

"Think of your traditional iPod owner," said a source. "This new product will be for a Windows user who has experienced the iPod, the ease of use of the iTunes software, and has played around with a Mac at an Apple retail store just long enough to know he'd buy one if it were a little cheaper."

Apple executives announced on October 13 that 45% to 50% of its retail store customers bought a Mac as their first PC or were new to the platform in the fiscal fourth-quarter. The company has refused to divulge more exacting figures on iPod buyers who also buy a Mac, for competitive reasons.

According to sources, internal Apple surveys of its retail store customers and those buying iPods showed a large number of PC users would be willing to buy a Mac if it were

cheap enough, less of a virus carrier than PCs (which all Macs already are), and offered easier to use software solutions not available on Windows-based PCs. Now, Apple feels it has the answer.

Apple has been working on the low-end Mac for almost a year, sources report. Indications are Apple has been working mostly on finding the right mix of price, performance and features that would motivate Windows users to consider a Mac, and less on the actual engineering of the product. "It doesn't take a rocket scientist to design a bare-bones PC," said one source familiar with the project. "What it takes is a team of marketing and software experts to find the right mix to convince Windows users to buy a Mac at a price that is not much more than the cost of an iPod."

Sources familiar with the product cautioned that the low-end Mac will be marketed towards a totally different audience than those who traditionally buy even a $799 eMac. "This product is not going to be about performance," said a source close to Apple. "This is going to be the basics, but with just as much of a focus on software as any Mac could ever be."

The New iHome Media Centre?

Mac OS Tips

Changing Apps in a Big Way

In Panther, if you don't feel like moving your cursor all the way down to the Dock to change applications, you can easily rotate an open application to the front by pressing-and-holding Command-Tab. This brings up a large transparent Dock-like window in the center of your screen, with huge icons showing just your open applications.To switch to another application, keep holding the Command key and press either the Tab key, the Arrow keys on your keyboard, or click on the icons with your mouse. Also, you can press the Home key to jump to the application on the far left, or the End key to jump to the app on the far right. Want to cruise through the applications in this window in reverse (from right to left)? Just press Shift-Command-Tab. Hey, somebody might want to do this. Really.

The Giant App Switcher Does More Than Just Switch

In the previous tip, we mentioned that holding the Command key, then pressing the Tab key, brings up a giant Dock-like window with huge icons in the center of your screen, where you can cycle through your open apps (using the Tab key, the Arrow keys, or clicking with your mouse). But there's more to it than that — you can quit any currently running app by cycling to it, then pressing the letter "q" (don't let go of the Command key; keep holding it while you press the letter "q"). Still holding the Command key, press "h" to hide the highlighted app

Speed Tip: Removing Toolbar Icons

To remove an icon from the toolbar, you don't have to go digging through the View menu to get the Customize Toolbar dialog. Instead, just hold the Command key, click on the icon, and simply drag it off the toolbar. When you release the mouse button the icon will disappear in a puff of smoke.

How to Tell if Snap Grid is Turned On

If you're wondering whether you have Snap to Grid turned on for a particular window, just look in the bottom left-hand corner of the window. If Snap to Grid is turned on for that particular window, you'll see a tiny grid icon (top image). If Keep Arranged By Name is turned on, instead you'll see four tiny evenly spaced folder icons (bottom image).

Speed Tip: Navigating Without the Mouse

If you're looking for a faster way to navigate within Finder windows while you're in Icon view, try navigating using just your keyboard. Just as in previous versions of the Mac OS, you can use the Arrow keys on your keyboard to move from icon to icon, but you can also look inside folders by holding the Command key and pressing the Down Arrow key on your keyboard. To go back up a level (i.e., close the folder and return to where you were), press Command-Up Arrow.

Mac Users Face Rare Threat
by Munir Kotadia, CNET News.com

A script-based threat that spies on Mac users caught the attention of some security watchers.

The malware, which has been dubbed Opener by Mac user groups, has the potential to disable Mac OS X's built-in firewall, steal personal information or destroy data. At the moment, however, it seems to pose little danger.

Security experts say those threatening traits are common among the thousands of online threats targeting Microsoft's ubiquitous Windows operating system but are virtually unheard of on Apple Computer's Mac OS.

Paul Ducklin, Sophos' head of technology in the Asia-Pacific region, said that the software, which Sophos calls Renepo, is designed to affect Mac OS X drives connected to an infected system and that it leaves affected computers vulnerable to further attack.

Ducklin said Opener disables Mac OS X's built-in firewall, creates a back door so the malware author can control the computer remotely, locates any passwords stored on the hard drive, and downloads a password cracker called JohnTheRipper.

Opener is a "rootkit," or a set of software tools that intruders can use to gain access to a computer; it's installed either through a known vulnerability or password-cracking. Rootkits don't spread on their own, as viruses do, and require administrator access to be installed.

According to Ducklin, Opener could try to spread by copying itself to any drive that is mounted to the infected computer. This could be a local drive, part of a local network or a remote computer.

It could also be the start of a spate of attacks that use Mac OS X's scripting features against its users, he said.

"The existence of Unix shells—such as Bash, for which this virus is written—and the presence of powerful networking commands opens up the game a little bit for Mac users. It is no longer necessary to know about Mac file formats or executables. You can write your malware in script. And if you really wanted to, you could probably write a portable virus that would run on many flavors of Unix" and Mac, said Ducklin.

Chris Waldrip, president of the U.S.-based Atlanta Macintosh Users Group, posted a detailed description of Opener on the MacInTouch Web site.

Waldrip, who acknowledges that the threat has him "a bit spooked," said Opener seems to have started out with a legitimate purpose but may yet be developed into something more dangerous.

Waldrip's site also cautions against overreacting to Opener and advises people to use proper security techniques: "As readers take pains to point out, the threat has not yet been incorporated into a widespread virus, worm or Trojan horse, but that's a fairly short step from what we've already seen, and it's important to implement good security procedures."

Mikko Hypponen, director of antivirus research at F-Secure, said that viruses targeting the Macintosh system virtually disappeared in the late 1980s.

Viral Entertainment?
Mac.Simpson Virus

A mass mailing email worm targeting Macintosh computers directs the infected user's browser to an online archive of the popular U.S. television show, "The Simpsons".

The worm is received in an email message which reads:

Hundreds of Simpsons episodes were just secretly produced and sent out on the internet, if this message gets to you, the episodes are enclosed on the attachment program, which will only run on a Macintosh. You must have system 9.0 or 9.1 to watch the hilarious episodes, in high quality. Just download and open it. From, — To get random signatures put text files into a folder called "Random Signatures" into your Preferences folder.

Attached is an AppleScript file named Simpsons Episodes. On MacOS 9.0 or above, if the attachment is opened, the worm installs itself in the Startup Items folder, directs the browser to http://www.snpp.com/episodeguide.html (a legitimate site offering archives of various Simpson shows and memorabilia), and then mass mails itself to addresses contained in the Outlook Express and Entourage mail clients.

Mac.Simpson can be removed from the system by rebooting your system with the extensions turned off and deleting the Simpsons Episodes file from System Folder | Startup Items. MacInTouch.com provides a log of the worm's initial discovery and follow-up commentary from readers, along with additional advice for manually removing the worm from the system.

According to F-Secure the Mac.Simpson worm impacts Macintosh users only. Though Windows and Linux users might receive the worm via email, it will be unable to do anything on those systems.

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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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