



Apple Bytes

March 2005

A publication of the San Leandro Macintosh User Group



OS X 10.3.8

This is the latest update of Panther and is a definite improvement on 10.3.6 and 10.3.7. However 10.3.9 has been seeded to developers and will surely be released before Tiger. It could show up by early April leaving room for 10.3.10 before Tiger's arrival. Some would speculate that there may be thousands of bugs still loose in Panther.

The "Big Three Magazines" have a plethora of favorable reviews from many of the recent software releases. iWorks is becoming more and more favored but is still not a total replacement for the venerable Appleworks. Some say AW could live forever. Who knows...

New iPods were just released. Some new and some changed. Still the biggest seller in the Apple Store. The new additions seem to broaden and improve the product line.

MacMini is quite an amazing little computer. I call it the low end of the G4 totem pole. Right in line with the 12" iBook but no screen. However, outfitted with custom options and the smallest monitor Apple makes, now we're up in the range of the G5 iMac, which is a heck of a lot more bang for the buck.

Think about it...

Club Calendar for March

Mar 2005

3... SLMUG General Meeting 7:30 pm
San Leandro High School
Room 507 (Shop 7 Graphics Lab)
2200 Bancroft Ave.
San Leandro (Info: 510 828-9314)
SLMUG Board Meeting is normally held after the general meeting at a nearby eating establishment.

17... SLMUG Mac SIG
The Mac SIG meets on the third Thursday in Room 507, the Shop 7 Graphics Lab. Items for discussion are brought by you, the attendees. Discussions are specific to your problems and requests.
(Info: 510 828-9314)

April 2005

7... SLMUG General Meeting 7:30 pm
San Leandro High School
Room 507 (Shop 7 Graphics Lab)
2200 Bancroft Ave.
San Leandro (Info: 510 828-9314)

The Fine Print

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Editor
P.O. Box 4111
San Leandro, CA 94579

Kline's Korner

Mac OS X

Mac OS X 10.3.9:

10.3.8 has been a problem for a larger group than for a normal update.

In a seed note accompanying the latest build, Apple is reported (AppleInsider) to have told developers to focus their testing efforts in the following areas: Bluetooth, DVD Player, FireWire devices, Modems (both internal and external), Networking, Printing, Safari, Terminal and USB devices. The company also asked that developers assess the 'general system usability and reliability.'

Apple also listed approximately 30 areas of change and enhancement that are already reflected in build 7W72. Some of these improvements include various video driver fixes, improved Directory Services performance, Java garbage collection optimization, 'wake from sleep' performance improvements, and a new version of the Mac OS X kernel (7.9.0).

QuickTime 7.0 Pro will require paid upgrade.

Along with Mac OS X 10.4 "Tiger" Apple will ship a major update to its QuickTime digital media software, labeled QuickTime 7.0.

Sources close to the development team say the 7.0 release will require "Pro" users to purchase a new license for the software, expected to cost \$30. All license keys for versions of QuickTime 6 will be disabled in the new version, sources explained.

QuickTime 6 also has the ability to play MPEG-2 Playback. This includes DVD-quality, enabled Digital TV set-top boxes, and enabled Digital Versatile Disk (DVD), with the addition of a MPEG-2 playback component. <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/products/mpeg2playback/update/>

The Mozilla Foundation released an update to its popular Firefox Web browser. Version 1.0.1 is a security update and is recommended for all users. "Regular security updates are essential for maintaining a safe browsing experience for our users," said Chris Hofmann, director of engineering for Mozilla. "The Mozilla Foundation has developed a community of users and developers who continuously provide feedback on Mozilla software, and as a result of that constant vigilance, we are able to provide quick and effective responses to security vulnerabilities." <http://64.12.168.243/pub/mozilla.org/bouncer/firefox/mac/en-US/Firefox%201.0.1.dmg>

Does your iPod play favorites? In other words, does Apple get kickbacks to promote certain artist?

When an iPod does a shuffle, it reorders the songs much the way a Vegas dealer shuffles a deck of cards, and then plays them back in the new order. So if you keep listening for the week or so it takes to complete the list, you will hear everything, just once.

What is interesting is people generally listen only to the first few dozen songs. I listened to 10 songs recently traveling on BART to the City. It's entirely possible that nothing at all is amiss with the shuffle function. It's quite common for random processes (like coin tosses) to get unlikely results here and there, like runs of six heads in a row. Over a very long time, it evens out, but it's hard for us to envision that. 10 songs are but a small sample of my 3,600 songs, and still a small sample of 300 or so songs in the playlist.

Jef Raskin, GUI pioneer, interface expert, Apple employee #31, and the man most credited with the creation of the Apple Macintosh, died of cancer on Saturday February 26, 2005. It was Raskin who named it after his favorite fruit, the McIntosh apple, although he said that he changed the spelling to "Macintosh" to avoid potential copyright conflicts with McIntosh, the audio equipment manufacturer."

So what if Plishing leads to identity theft?

More than 9.9 million Americans were victims of identity theft last year, crimes that cost the nation roughly \$5 billion not including lost productivity, according to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. The Federal Trade Commission ranks identity theft as the No. 1 fraud-related complaint.

Many victims are dumbfounded by the dearth of federal and state laws aimed at protecting their credit histories and other information about them that data brokers gather and sell to institutions including news organizations, banks and, increasingly, companies vetting prospective employees. Victims are also frustrated by the amount of time it takes to re-establish identities.

According to a 2003 survey by the San Diego-based nonprofit Identity Theft Resource Center, the average victim spends at least 600 hours over several years recovering from identity theft. And based on wages of people surveyed, it cost the average victim nearly \$16,000 in lost or potential income -- not including what they might have paid for bogus purchases creditors wouldn't reimburse.

"It alters the way you look at things for the rest of your life."

Needham & Co. analyst Charlie Wolf reiterated his assumption that 11% of Windows users owning iPods will purchase a Mac.

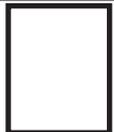
Enjoy!

March 3rd meeting...

Last call for dues.



San Leandro Macintosh
User Group
P.O. Box 4111
San Leandro CA 94579-0111



Main Meeting - Mar 3rd