

KeyMac Journal

Volume 11, Number 7

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September, 2007

President's Message

GONE
FISHIN'



MONTHLY PROGRAMS

September 18: We are trying something different, Bob "Dr. Mac" LeVitus will give a talk over iChat. He has been considered one of the world's leading authorities on the Macintosh and Mac OS X for many years. Doctor Mac Direct LLC is a company that provides expert technical help and training via phone.e-mail.

October 16: TBD

November: No Meeting

December 11: Christmas Cocktail Party

OS X DISCUSSION GROUP

Informal gatherings where members help members

October 2: 10 a.m. to noon

November 6: 10 a.m. to noon

MASTHEAD

Published by the KeyMac Computer Club

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**Putting the iPhone in Perspective
by Wayne A. Walker**

If you're like me, you've probably already seen way too much iPhone news. Everywhere you turn there's another story on the iPhone. However, this article is not so much iPhone news as it is big picture news; how do all the pieces fit together, and how does this affect you? Read on and see what I mean.

We live in heady technology times. Big changes come rapidly. If you pay attention to the pundits and their views over time, you'll see that nobody has a lock on where the future is going. The experts are actually wrong just as much as they're right. Some of them can't even beat the average of flipping a coin.

I'd like to enter the fray and give you my own personal thoughts on why I think the iPhone is important and what we should expect to see because of it. I figure I can't do any worse than the people who get paid to do this. While a paycheck would be a nice ego stroke, as an unpaid columnist, I can make you one ironclad guarantee that the big boys don't: my advice will be at minimum worth many multiples of what I'm being paid (since any number times zero is still zero). So let's get down to it. Why is the iPhone important?

First, because the iPhone is also an iPod, it instantly makes its users part of the best online music store in existence, the iTunes store. Other cell phone companies have tried to create music stores with disappointing results, but the iTunes infrastructure is already the third largest music store in the country even counting brick and mortar stores (physical stores you can walk into). Apple has created a service that is easy to use, high in quality, and reasonably priced. This is the future of music sales unfolding before our eyes. Almost everyone else's store is trying to catch up and, so far, none of them has come even close.

Second, the iPhone brings a previously unachieved ease of use to digital phones. I have a Motorola RAZR, which was the previous generation's standard for ease of use. I can't begin to tell you how frustrating it is to use my phone sometimes. Finding phone numbers takes way too many clicks, and other features of the phone are buried in submenus that only occasionally make sense. The iPhone instantly surpassed that standard and makes a portable phone as easy to use as a Mac. I would say changing from a standard cell phone to an iPhone is an even bigger jump in ease of use than moving from a Windows computer to a Mac.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance: August 8, 2007	\$1548.86
Deposits:	
Dues paid	20.00
Interest:	.66
Balance: September 12, 2007	\$1569.52

This amount includes raffle money for April—June of \$154.00 but does not include August raffle.



Third, the iPhone adds a real browser to a phone. Previous phones with a browser only worked in a limited fashion. Web pages had to be redesigned and dumbed down to work on a cell phone, and as a web designer, I can tell you that this process wasn't pretty or very workable. It required a great deal of effort on the part of the web content provider to offer a cell phone compatible website, and even then, what the user got was an ugly and abbreviated form. With Safari 3 in the iPhone, this is no longer the case. The Internet now is truly accessible from a cell phone.

Fourth, there is the issue of cost. When the iPhone first debuted, I was happy to let the bleeding edge users buy them as I sat on the sidelines. It was an ultra-premium phone at a corresponding price. With Apple's announcement lowering the cost of the 8 gig model by \$200, this is no longer true. I would rate the current price of the iPhone as a premium phone at the high end of phone prices, but it is no longer so large a price that it makes my wallet cry. This rapid drop in price also suggests that newer models of the phone may be coming sooner than anticipated. Keep an eye open, and, remember, you heard it here first.

Finally, and most importantly, the iPhone is a complete game-changer for the cell phone industry. It sets the bar much higher for all phones. Because of this, everyone who buys a cell phone will win in the long run whether they buy an iPhone or not. This is just like the days when the Mac was first introduced. The advances in ease of use represented by the Mac forced all other computers to get easier to use. Because of the Mac, Windows was forced into existence and then forced to evolve rapidly. I expect the same thing to happen across the board with all phones thanks to the iPhone and Apple.

Early speculation on the price drop of the iPhone was that it reflected poor sales. However, we now know that in its first 74 days, the over one million iPhones have been sold. This exceeded Apple's prerelease sales target and is an even more rapid start than the iPod enjoyed. Think how different portable music is today because of the iPod. I owned an MP3 player prior to the iPod that shall remain nameless. It was hard to use, big and bulky, and held less songs than the iPod. Loading those songs was a pain, and the unit was so poorly built that it didn't last very long. (I'm not complaining about that last part though, since it freed me to switch.)

All portable music players have evolved rapidly thanks to this pressure from Apple. The same thing will now happen with phones. Regardless of which model you

buy in the future, it will be better because it has to share the market with the iPhone, and once again, Apple leads the way.

I've now officially started saving my pennies to buy an iPhone. Maybe next spring. Maybe. Hopefully. ☐

Quickly Edit a File's Name

By Christopher Breen

I push around a bunch of large files (full resolution video clips). Sometimes I just want to change a file name. But when you select a large file in the Finder, it usually takes a good bit of time as the finder is "fetching" info. Is there some way to bail out of this rather than sitting there for minutes waiting?

I'll take you at your word that you're only really concerned about selecting a file and quickly changing its name without the annoying delay that sometimes occurs. It's a simple trick.

Just click once on the file and press the Mac's Return key—*bang*, the file's name is instantly editable. No need to time that second click so that it either incorrectly opens the file or selects it again. ☐

Using Your Dock Efficiently

By Kali, kali@smalldog.com

The Dock can seem like an annoyance from time to time, but there are lots of things you can do to make it more useful. Here is a basic tutorial along with some shortcuts that will have you singing its praises in no time!

1) The vertical line: The line that separates the Trash and your applications is a good thing to note—for one thing, you can click and hold on this line to resize your dock on the fly, either dragging up to make it larger or down to make it smaller. Additionally, you can put files and folders on the right side of it (right next to the Trash) for easy shortcuts. Though it seems to be a constant struggle, I like to keep my Desktop free of clutter, and this dock tidbit seems to do the trick.

2) Dragging to or right-clicking on your icons: A really easy way to open a file in the application of your choice is to drag the file right on top of the application's icon in the dock. (It's also a great way to see which applications will recognize your file if you're unsure.) By right-clicking (Ctrl+clicking on a one-button mouse) on your items in the dock, you will bring up a nice contextual menu that gives you multiple options and/or shortcuts. For example, right-clicking on Mail gives me the option to compose a new message straight from the dock! Also, if you have put folders in your dock, right-clicking on them will give you the option to pick the exact file you're looking for, right then.

3) Hiding applications, or even the Dock itself:

The keyboard shortcut to hide an application is Command/Apple-H, as well as from the contextual menu once you've right-clicked on it. I do this a lot, since I like to keep my applications running but I don't always like to see them. Similarly, if you don't want to see the Dock but you hesitate to hide it all the time, you can do so on the fly with Option-Command/Apple-D.

4) The floating Dock: My favorite, though, has to be the floating dock—by clicking Command/Apple-Tab, you will see a slightly transparent, "floating" version of the applications that are open on your computer. If you hold the Command/Apple key down and then press Tab repeatedly, it will scroll through the list. Though this trick is not necessarily a function of the Dock itself, it is a great way to preview what you have open and quit programs right from there. To quit, keep holding the Command key down and switch your other finger from the Tab key to the Q. So quick! □

Before Upgrading to iLife 08...

By Ed, ed@smalldog.com

I recently purchased one of the new 24" iMacs, partly to use iLife 08. After all, as Steve Jobs says "iLife is free. You just have to buy a new Mac to get it." So far I'm loving both the iMac (by far the best bang-for-the-buck computer I've used) and iLife 08—particularly the new iPhoto. Since I was starting from scratch on the new iMac, I didn't have to worry about upgrading from an earlier version of iLife. However, I will eventually install iLife 08 on my MacBook Pro.

Before upgrading to the new version of iLife, it's important to back up all your current iLife projects and assets. Your digital photos, music, movies and Garageband projects could be at risk of being corrupted or even deleted if there is a problem with the upgrade.

As any long-term reader of this newsletter knows, we strongly recommend backing up your Mac on a regular basis. However, it's also possible to individually back up your iPhoto and iTunes libraries. You can burn these assets to CD or DVD. However, a DVD will only hold about 4.7 GB of data; most iPhoto libraries and iTunes collections are much larger than this. It's easiest to simply back up to an external hard drive. When I do this, I simply create a folder on the external drive called "itunes_8_21_2007" (or whatever that day's date is) and drag the iTunes Library from my Mac into that folder. I do the same thing for my iPhoto library and iMovie projects. It's fast and easy. Here's how Apple describes the same process:

<http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?path=iPhoto/7.0/en/6301.html>

Here's a tip about backing up your iTunes 7 music to DVD or CD:

<http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=302392>

I like (and use) LaCie's D2 drives to back up my Macs. See all of our storage options here:

<http://www.smalldog.com/category/x/x/storage/storage/wag113/wag10013/> □

