



The GAB'er

The Newsletter of the Greater Albany Apple Byters

Volume 30, Number 4 - December 2013

Apple's App Store Hits One Million Apps in the United States



Apple's U.S. App Store has reached one million live apps, according to [data](#) from app discovery platform [Appsfire](#). Our own app discovery site [AppShopper](#) lists the same one million milestone, with a total of 1,006,557 apps available for download at the time of writing.

While Apple [noted](#) that it had a million apps in its worldwide catalog back in October, this marks the first time that various app platforms have seen the U.S. numbers climb above one million.

Apple has approved a total of approximately 1,439,451 apps since the App Store opened in 2008 and over the course of the year, has been creeping towards the million milestone. Of the 1 million apps available for download, more than half a million are available for Apple's iPad, and over 900,000 are available for the iPhone. The company has now paid out more than \$13 billion to App Store developers.

In May of 2013, Apple hit [50 billion](#) worldwide app downloads, which it celebrated with a promotion for a \$10,000 gift card for the person who downloaded the 50 billionth app. Currently, those numbers have climbed to 60 billion downloads, putting Apple well on its way towards its 100 billion download milestone.

December 2013/January 2014 GAAB Meeting

There will be no December Meeting because of the Holidays. The next GAAB meeting will be Tuesday, January 14, 2014.



**Meeting: January 14, 2014
7:00 PM**

Panera Bread
161 Washington Ave Ext, Albany, NY
A map can be found at the GAAB website at
http://applebyters.com/index.php/meeting-information/meeting_map/

GAAB Meeting Agenda
Greetings and Dinner
Discussion: Topics to be presented by members
News from Apple including Mavericks
GAAB Help Desk: Bring your questions to the meeting

Next GAAB Meeting
January 14, 2014

Mavericks OS X, etc
7:00 p.m.

Panera Bread
Crossgates Common, Albany

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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

by John Buckley

LibreOffice

This past week I ran into a problem opening files for a friend. He has been a Mac user for a long time with a relatively old mac. A number of his files were Appleworks files. He had just purchased a new iMac loaded with Mavericks and a number of software products including iWorks. The only problem, the iWorks on the new computer could not open any of his Appleworks files nor could it open any of his older Microsoft Word files. He had not gotten a new version of Microsoft Office and his old version would not work on the new iMac.

In order, to solve the problem, I spent sometime doing Google searches on the web and discovered that the newest version of LibreOffice would open Appleworks files as well as older Word files. He downloaded the program, installed it and was able to open his files.

He could then save them in a file format that he could open in iWorks or in a new version of Word if he decides to buy it. LibreOffice is a perfectly could alternative to Microsoft Office and it is free.



Features

LibreOffice is a comprehensive, professional-quality productivity suite that you can [download](#) and [install](#) for free, with no fear of copyright infringement. There is a large base of satisfied LibreOffice users worldwide, and it is available in more than 30 languages and for all major

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The holidays are a time for family, feasting, fun and - let's face it - stress. The more stressed you are, the more likely it is you'll make mistakes. It could be something minor like forgetting the cranberry sauce, or it could be major like downloading a finance-stealing virus on your computer.

Here are four major tech mistakes people make during the holidays, and how you can avoid them.

1. Using unsecured Wi-Fi

Your family arrives with smartphones, tablets and laptops in tow, and demands to use the Wi-Fi. No problem, until everyone starts having trouble with your super-secure - and hard to type - Wi-Fi password. [Click here for my simple method to create super-strong passwords.](#)

So in frustration you decide to just turn off your Wi-Fi security. While your family now has easy access, so do the neighbors and anyone who happens to wander by. That's bad.

Instead, choose a simpler password while your family is in town. Or check your router's manual to see if you can enable a guest network. This is a second network that guests can use while keeping your computers and gadgets safe.

Wi-Fi worries aren't just at home, however. If you're traveling, beware of the free Wi-Fi available in the hotel, restaurants or airport. Who knows what snoopers are on the network with you? Avoid visiting sensitive websites - like your bank - until you get on a secure, private network. Learn more rules for using public Wi-Fi safely

2. Buying an extended warranty

In your rush to buy that special holiday gift, you might buy something you wouldn't normally. I'm talking about an extended warranty.

Extended warranties are almost always a money-loser for the customer. Most gadgets either break within the free factory warranty period or after the extended warranty expires. [Here are some more reasons why an extended warranty usually isn't worth the money.](#)

Instead, check with your credit card company. It might automatically extend the factory warranty on things you buy with a certain card. You can also shop around; some stores will extend the factory warranty for free as an incentive to buy.

3. Giving your kids or grandkids unsafe gadgets

A tablet, smartphone, ereader or video game console is on almost every kid's wish list this year. As a loving parent - or grandparent - you decide to oblige.

You'll treasure the look of joy on their little faces when they open their shiny new gadget on Christmas morning! However, if you aren't careful, that can turn to shock when they accidentally load up a video, website or book that isn't age appropriate.

Before you give any gadget to a child, take it out of the packaging a few days in advance and make sure you know how it works. Set any parental controls and [be sure you know the rating systems for games and apps.](#)

On the big day, set aside time to chat with your child about the gadget. Establish rules about what they can and can't watch or play. Start them on the road to becoming a responsible digital citizen early. If you aren't sure where to start, [I have plenty of advice on teaching kids to use tech wisely.](#)

4. Falling for phishing scams

You've embraced the 21st century and ordered your gifts online this year. Way to go!

But what's this? You have an email from USPS, FedEx, UPS, DHL or another carrier saying your packages are delayed! Christmas is ruined!

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Education SIG

Connecting America's Schools to Next-Generation Broadband by the National Telecommunication and Information Administration

The White House recently set an ambitious goal to connect 99 percent of American students to ultra-fast broadband within five years. President Obama's [ConnectED initiative](#) would bring Internet speeds of at least 100 megabits per second and high-speed wireless to K-12 schools across the nation.

At NTIA, we are already making these types of connections a reality in K-12 schools through our Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, which has invested about \$4 billion in roughly 230 projects nationwide to expand broadband availability and use. Of our 116 network infrastructure projects, about 75 percent are linking or supplying additional bandwidth to schools. Overall, roughly 10,000 schools in 44 states are being connected or upgraded, and almost 70 percent are getting access to speeds of at least 100 megabits.

Thanks to our grant program, teachers, students and parents are witnessing how technology can transform education, expand student horizons and create new opportunities for those living in even the most remote corners of the country.

A high-speed Internet connection can let students take online courses and access cutting-edge research at universities across the country. It can bring Advanced Placement classes and foreign language programs to small rural schools with limited resources. And it can help teachers customize lessons for students at different learning levels by leveraging all sorts of online curriculum materials.

But all this requires bandwidth – enough bandwidth to handle online video and other applications that rely on high-speed connections to the Net, and enough bandwidth to pipe this content into multiple schools and classrooms with dozens of computers and tablets logged on at once.

That's why the State Educational Technology Directors Association projects schools will need Internet connections of at least 100 megabits per second for every 1,000 students and staff by the 2014-15 school year, and 1 gigabit per second by 2017-18.



The Avery County public school system has assigned every child a laptop or a tablet.

The projects funded through NTIA's broadband grants program are already delivering these speeds to schools across the country. One state leading the charge is North Carolina.

MCNC, a non-profit broadband provider that operates the North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN), has leveraged NTIA funding to significantly expand and

fortify its statewide fiber-optic network – ensuring it can scale to meet the ballooning bandwidth needs of North Carolina schools in the years ahead.

MCNC supplies high-capacity Internet backhaul connections for education and other anchor institutions across the state - including North Carolina's 115 K-12 school districts, with nearly 2,500 schools. NCREN serves as a "middle-mile" bridge that links districts to each other, to advanced research networks such as Internet2 and to the Internet itself.

In recent years, network utilization by these 115 districts has skyrocketed - from a gigabit in 2009 to 35 gigabits during peak hours today. NTIA's broadband grants program has enabled MCNC to keep up, and prepare for more growth to come.

MCNC has used its federal investment to upgrade 800 miles of existing fiber and add 1,800 miles of new fiber across its network – giving school districts access to speeds of 100 megabits or faster. Our program is also funding direct fiber connections to NCREN for districts in many rural areas where providing these "last-mile" connections would otherwise not make business sense.



This new bandwidth is changing the way teachers teach and students learn in North Carolina.

The Avery County public school system, with nine schools and 2,250 students in the rural northwest corner of the state, now has 250 megabits coming into the district. This capacity has enabled Avery to equip all sixth through 12th graders with MacBooks that students can take home at night, and all kindergarteners through fifth graders with iPads.

With one-to-one computing, individualized Web-based projects are replacing teacher lectures. Online instructional resources are replacing textbooks. And teachers are using cloud-based tools to create virtual classroom portals where they can post lesson materials, make assignments and communicate with parents.

Rutherford County Schools, with 19 schools and 8,800 students in southwest North Carolina, is making similar use of technology with up to 500 megabits of bandwidth. It, too, has given laptops to every teacher and every sixth through 12th grader.

By supplying every student with a computer, Rutherford has been able to migrate from paper and pencil drills to

more engaging, interactive online educational activities. Social studies and foreign language classes are using Skype, for instance, to chat with students abroad about geography and climate patterns on the other side of the globe.

What's more, in a district where more than 60 percent of students qualify for subsidized lunches, the laptops are often the first computers in the home for many families.

Meanwhile, the Mooresville Graded School District, north of Charlotte, has become a national model for one-to-one computing in education and hosted President Obama when he laid out his vision for ConnectED. The district has 500 megabits to serve eight schools and 5,800 students, and now handles just about everything electronically - from homework assignments to quizzes. Mooresville doesn't even buy textbooks anymore.

As the ConnectED initiative gets off the ground, we hope to build on all we've learned from MCNC and other projects we have funded that are connecting K-12 schools. The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program is showcasing how technology can transform learning in the classroom and beyond. And it represents an important investment in our children's future.

Apple Ambassador

Continued from page 2.

operating systems, including Microsoft Windows, Mac OS X and GNU/Linux.

What's outstanding about LibreOffice?

LibreOffice is a feature-packed and mature desktop productivity package with some really great advantages:

- It's free – no worry about license costs or annual fees.
- No language barriers – it's available in a large number of languages, with more being added continually.
- Supports large number of file formats, including Microsoft Office binary formats, OOXML, and RTF – both loading and saving.
- LGPL public license – you can use it, customize it, develop it and copy it with [free user support](#) and [developer support](#) from our active worldwide community and our large and experienced developer team.
- LibreOffice is a free software community-driven project: development is open to new talent and new ideas, and our software is tested and used daily by a large and devoted user community; you, too, can [get involved](#) and influence its future development.

LibreOffice gives you high quality:

- The roots of LibreOffice go back 20 years. This long history means it's a stable and functional product.
- Thousands of users worldwide regularly take part in beta testing of new LibreOffice versions.
- Because the development process is completely open, LibreOffice has been extensively tested by security experts, giving you security and peace of mind.

LibreOffice is user-friendly:

- You get a simple-to-use yet powerful interface that is easy to personalize – Microsoft Office users will find the switch easy and painless, with a familiar look and feel.
- Compatible with all major competitors' file formats. You can easily import files from Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint and many other formats, and can easily save to Microsoft Office and other formats when needed.
- LibreOffice is supported by a big worldwide community: volunteers help newcomers, and advanced users and developers can collaborate with you to find solutions to complex issues.



What does LibreOffice give you?

Writer is the word processor inside LibreOffice. Use it for everything, from dashing off a quick letter to producing an entire book with tables of contents, embedded illustrations, bibliographies and diagrams. The while-you-type auto-completion, auto-formatting and automatic spelling checking make difficult tasks easy (but are easy to disable if you prefer). Writer is powerful enough to tackle desktop publishing tasks such as creating multi-column newsletters and brochures. The only limit is your imagination.

Calc tames your numbers and helps with difficult decisions when you're weighing the alternatives. Analyze your data with Calc and then use it to present your final output. Charts and analysis tools help bring transparency to your conclusions. A fully-integrated help system makes easier work of entering complex formulas. Add data from external databases such as SQL or Oracle, then sort and filter them to produce statistical analyses. Use the graphing functions to display large number of 2D and 3D graphics from 13 categories, including line, area, bar, pie, X-Y, and net – with the dozens of variations available, you're sure to find one that suits your project.

Impress is the fastest and easiest way to create effective multimedia presentations. Stunning animation and sensational special effects help you convince your audience. Create presentations that look even more professional than the standard presentations you commonly see at work. Get your colleagues' and bosses' attention by creating something a little bit different.

Draw lets you build diagrams and sketches from scratch. A picture is worth a thousand words, so why not try something simple with box and line diagrams? Or else go further and easily build dynamic 3D illustrations and special effects. It's as simple or as powerful as you want it to be.

Base is the database front-end of the LibreOffice suite. With Base, you can seamlessly integrate your existing database structures into the other components of LibreOffice, or create an interface to use and administer your data as a stand-alone application. You can use imported and linked tables and queries from MySQL, PostgreSQL or Microsoft Access and many other data sources, or design your own with Base, to build powerful front-ends with sophisticated forms, reports and views. Support is built-in or easily addable for a very wide range of database products, notably the standardly-provided HSQL, MySQL, Adabas D, Microsoft Access and PostgreSQL.

Math is a simple equation editor that lets you lay-out and display your mathematical, chemical, electrical or scientific equations quickly in standard written notation. Even the most-complex calculations can be understandable when displayed correctly. $E=mc^2$.

LibreOffice also comes configured with a PDF file creator, meaning you can distribute documents that you're sure can be opened and read by users of almost any computing device or operating system.

You can download LibreOffice here: [Download LibreOffice now and try it out today.](#)

One of the things that LibreOffice lacks is the ability to share and work on files with others at the same time, a feature that is becoming more and more popular. It is a feature that can be done with iWorks using iCloud, with Microsoft Office, and with some of the other applications. If this feature is not something you need, then LibreOffice would be a perfect replacement for Office.

Also, LibreOffice is an off-shoot of Open Office that for a while had fallen behind because of a number of changes in ownership. We had discussed Open Office at previous GAAB meetings. It is now owned by Apache and has been updated.

You can download the latest version of Open Office here: (<http://www.openoffice.org/>).

Internet SIG

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If the email includes an attachment or link, and you open either, Christmas really will be ruined. The email is a common scam that will download a virus to your computer.

A real shipping email will give you a tracking number and tell you to go to the shipper's website for more information. Don't be fooled by anything else.

Also be on the looking for too-good-to-be-true deals that arrive in your inbox and [fake charities](#) asking for donations. Both will sucker you into providing financial information that goes straight to a hacker. [Make sure you know how to spot similar phishing scams before the worst happens.](#)



Hacks to Improve Your Google Search

by Nina Strohlic, The Daily Beast



Even the king of all search engines can be throttled up with a few simple tricks. From finding flights to discovering new music, here are 13 ways to hack Google.

Ever since the Internet's dozens of Web crawlers (AltaVista, anyone?) were whittled down to a single alpha engine, pinpointing your online destination has been a relative breeze. But it turns out even Google can be juiced up with a few simple tricks. We were inspired by a thread on [Quora](#) sharing tips to make searches work better. They're simple and infinitely useful. And when it comes to muddling through the ever-expanding sprawl of the Internet, you can never have too many tricks.

Set Timers

Type in "set timer for" followed by a number of minutes, or a specific hour you'd like an alert, and Google will graciously comply with an obnoxious beeping once the moment has arrived. Just make sure the volume's on.



Wild Card

Sometimes a memory lapse leaves you searching for the right word. Instead of guessing, put an asterisk in the vacant spot and have the search engine figure it out for you.



Similar To

To encompass a wider definition than you're currently searching for, add a "~" in front of the word, and Google will pull up results from similar terms as well.



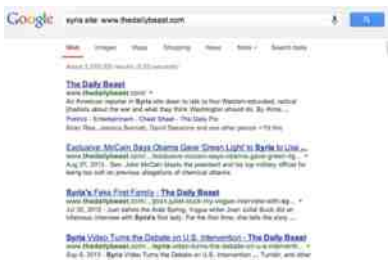
Flight Times

Instead of slogging through your airline's website, just type in your flight number and get an easy look at all the important stuff: flight status, times, terminal, and gate.



Search a Website

For a search you want specifically from a certain site, just type your term and then "site:" with the desired outlet.





Exclude Words

Sometimes, especially after a big news event, what you're really looking for gets buried. To unearth what you need, put a minus sign in front of any terms you want excluded from your search.



Convert Units

Skip doing math in your head and punch in the units you want to convert. Like "10 euros to dollars," or "3 meters to feet."



Either/Or

Divide terms with the word "or" or use the "|" key to make your search more fruitful if you're not looking for something specific.



Search a Date Range

This one's a little touch-and-go, but entering two dots ("..") between years will confine your search to that date range.



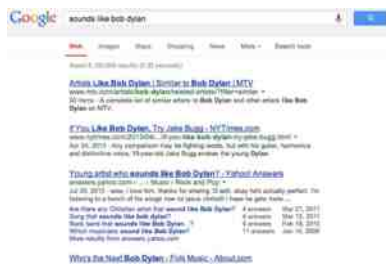
Translate

For an easy toggle between languages, Google has one of the best translators around. Type in "translate" along with your desired phrase and language to get the translation and phonetic guideline right in front of you.



Global Timepiece

Just like Siri, Google responds well to questions. Ask "What time is it" in whatever city piques your curiosity.



Find New Content

For better or worse, the Internet is a hotbed of professional and amateur reviewers. On the prowl for a new artist or book? Punch in "reminds me of" or "sounds like" and include a favorite of yours to get some new suggestions.





Track Packages

Because sometimes finding the number-tracking line on UPS is too much effort, just copy and paste your package number into Google’s search, and it’ll take you straight there.

Online Superheros: Battle for the Internet

by Paul Caridad, VisualNews.com

From the creative mind of [Caldwell Tanner](#), illustrator of [College Humor](#), writer of his own captivating and hilarious illustration blog, and graphic artist/comedian extraordinaire, now comes “[The Internet League of Justice](#)” illustration series! Imagine if the most popular online websites and social media networks were superheroes! What powers would they have?

Who would their nemeses be? Thanks to Tanner’s amazing wit and humor, we don’t have to guess anymore! He has created superpowers and archenemies for each imagined, internet superhero ie, Facebook, Google, Amazon, etc. Depicting Google as an “overpowered hero” with “near infinite abilities”, Caldwell draws us into his fascinating and humorous fantasy of a world immersed in a perilous battle for internet domination!. Can you envision Amazon as a super hero/villain(?) with amazing powers to “drain bank accounts” and provide “super saver shipping”, whose worst nemesis is Craigslist? Or perhaps, Google + as a “noble” superhero with “good intention”s, who yet may not have much value. See all of Caldwell Tanner’s internet superhero [illustrations](#) for more amusing descriptions of these online heroes. More information about Tanner and his “image-based laughtermagic” can be found on [Google +](#), [FaceBook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Vimeo](#), [Tumblr](#), and [Twitter](#). Hmm... does it seem, perhaps, that Tanner and his graphic humor, could be said to be dominating the internet, as well?!




GOOGLE

An overpowered hero with a near infinite amount of abilities. Everyone relies on him more than they should while secretly hoping he'll never flip out and use his powers for evil.

POWERS
Way too many to ever use.

NEMESIS
Yahoo





AMAZON

Powered by the green energy of people with no willpower and lots of money, Amazon is able to conjure up any good or product imaginable.

POWERS
Draining bank accounts, Super saver shipping.

NEMESIS
Craigslist







THE FACEBOOK

An eccentric young billionaire who runs a company used by basically everyone. He is well liked, but his methods of preserving peace and privacy are somewhat questionable.

POWERS

A utility belt full of newsfeeds, sidebars, and other pointless gadgets

NEMESIS

4Chan & Tumblr



HUFFINGTON POST

A strong, independent hero who, despite being knowledgeable and well-respected, isn't really any one's favorite.

POWERS

A Lasso that can hastily grab snippets of news from all over the internet

NEMESIS

Cheezburger



GOOGLE PLUS

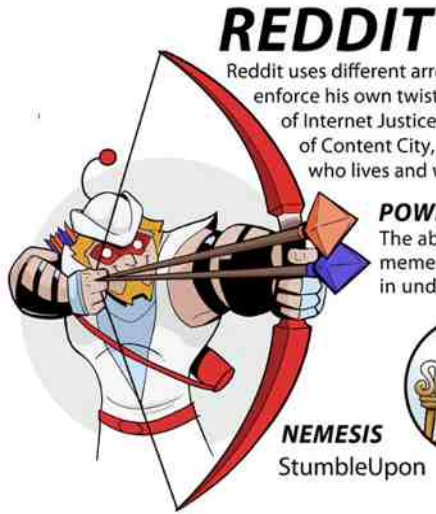
A hero who, despite being noble and good-intentioned, is generally thought to be worthless and kinda dumb.

POWERS

Same as The Facebook, just *watered down*.

NEMESIS

The Facebook



REDDIT

Reddit uses different arrows to enforce his own twisted brand of Internet Justice. In the town of Content City, he decides who lives and who dies.

POWERS

The ability to run any meme into the ground in under a day.

NEMESIS

StumbleUpon



GAAB Internet Addresses

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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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