



The GAB'er

The Newsletter of the Greater Albany Apple Byters

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Apple Schedules Media Event for September 12

The Loop reports that Apple has just sent out invitations for a media event scheduled for next week Wednesday, September 12. The event will be held at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco and is scheduled to begin at 10:00 AM Pacific / 1:00 PM Eastern. The tagline on the invitation is simply "It's almost here."

Apple is of course expected to introduce the next-generation iPhone and give a final preview of iOS 6 at the event. Apple's "iPad mini" is reportedly also nearing a launch, but sources have indicated that Apple is planning a second media event for October to introduce that product.



Apple's iPod lineup is also rumored to be seeing an update at one of the two events, while rumored iMac updates and the launch of a 13-inch Retina MacBook Pro are likely to appear separately.

There's clearly a "5" in the shadow of the invitation, suggesting that Apple's next iPhone will indeed be called the iPhone 5.



Coordinator's Corner

by John Buckley

Welcome back to the 2012-2013 GAAB program year. The school year is also the beginning for the Greater Albany Apple Byters year. Last year ended with a great turnout for our dinner at the Plum Blossom and are looking forward to another great year for GAAB.

We will be starting the New Year again at our exciting location, the Leonard Board Room at St. Mary's Hospital in Troy. The location is easy to locate with the room on the first floor, plenty of parking, and great technology. I have to thank Dr. Les Goldstein again for helping to secure our location for this year.

As usual, check our [website](#) for the most current GAAB information. You will find a map and aerial photograph showing how to get to the meeting location.



At the September meeting we will set the schedule for the demonstrations and then take a look at what is now available from Apple including the new Mountain Lion Operating System (OS X 10.8). In addition, we will look at to make a great slide show using iWork on your Mac.

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Next GAAB Meeting
September 12, 2012
Mountain Lion (OSX 10.8)

7:00 p.m.
St. Mary's Hospital
Troy, NY

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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

by John Buckley

If you have been spending a lot of time enjoying the summer and very little time with your computer, you may have missed the launching of Mac OS X 10.8 in July. As of today, Mountain Lion has been adopted by 20% of the Mac population. Now that the first update is out, you can feel a little safer in doing the update. [The Huffington Post](#) carried an Associated Press article by [ANICK JESDANUN](#) providing a quick introduction to Mountain Lion in late July which is below.



NEW YORK (AP) — I didn't need to spend a lot of time with the new Mac operating system to see that phones and tablet computers have won out over personal computers at Apple.

Mobile devices are already responsible for the bulk of Apple's sales and profits. Now, Apple is making the new Mac system even more like the iOS software that powers its iPhones and iPads. It's also casually dropping the "Mac" name from the Mac OS X operating software, though computers will still be called Macs, not "Super-sized iPads."

The new system, formally OS X 10.8 and dubbed Mountain Lion, went on sale Wednesday as a \$19.99 download from Apple's App Store. It builds on the previous system, Lion, which came out last July.

Mountain Lion is made for a world where your computer is just one of your computing devices, along with your iPhone and your iPad. Apple wants to make it easier to switch from one to the other, several times a day.

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Technology changes at lightning speed. Laws concerning electronic snooping and privacy lag considerably behind.

But important cases end up in court often enough that it pays to occasionally review where you stand in the event you and technology clash with workplace policies and law enforcement.

The first thing to know is: I am not a lawyer. Although it's possible to draw some general conclusions about the current state of digital affairs you should seek legal counsel in any encounter with the police or whenever you feel your rights are being violated.

Visit the website of digital rights watchdog [Electronic Frontier Foundation](#) to stay current on Internet legislation and case law.

You basically have no rights at work

It should be clear to all workers by now that they should never use a company computer or smartphone for personal business. Yet, employees get fired and disciplined everyday for questionable Web surfing, downloading and emailing at work.

Time and again, employees also get into trouble for saying dumb things on blogs and social networks, even if it was done on their own equipment and their own time.

When disputes even make it that far, courts consistently side with employers. Your First Amendment right to free speech protects you against the government - not private employers.

Planes, homes and automobiles

If you're driving or flying back into the U.S., agents can take your laptop or other gadget and examine it without a

warrant or probable cause. Your Fourth Amendment rights that protect against unreasonable search and seizure take a back seat to the government's right to fight terrorism and crime and to protect the border.

Your home is on more sacred ground. Unless you consent to a search, police can't search your home, your home computer or any of your gadgets without a warrant. When there is a warrant, it must specifically state that the computer and gadgets are part of the search.

If your computer and electronic devices are encrypted, the police can't force you to divulge your passwords. However, a judge or a grand jury can order you to disclose your data.

State laws differ when it comes to cars and smartphones. If you are pulled over while driving, for instance, and the cop suspects there is evidence of a crime in your car, state law may allow the officer to search your phone much as he would your glove box or a center console.

If you're placed under arrest, police can take your phone and whatever else is in your pockets. Some states allow police to search the phone without cause; others require a warrant. Here again, you're not required to hand over a pass code unless ordered by a court.

Snooping through the back door

In response to a recent Congressional inquiry, major cellular carriers in the U.S. revealed that they responded to a jaw-dropping 1.3 million demands for subscriber information from law enforcement agencies in 2011.

Sprint reported that it fielded approximately 1,500 law enforcement requests per day, while AT&T tallied 700.

Keep in mind that Google and many other Web services firms will do the same thing when approached by law

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Education SIG

Automated Production

It is time to face the reality concerning jobs in this country, and for that matter the rest of the world. We have been blaming foreign countries for taking jobs in the United States by replacing American workers with low paid, and supposedly low skilled workers in other countries. This process is commonly called outsourcing. When another country can undercut employee expenses, the jobs are moved to the new location. While this has been true up until now, we have been spending all of our time blaming others and not looking to correct the situation that is really causing the problem.

As mentioned in a number of comments on Amazon.com about the book “[Race Against the Machine](#)” by Erik Brynjolfsson and Andrew McAfee, economists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, “The root of our problems is not that we’re in a Great Recession, or a Great Stagnation, but rather that we are in the early throes of a Great Restructuring.” “The pace and scale of this encroachment into human skills is relatively recent and has profound economic implications,” they wrote in their book. This makes the case for the need of a rapid transformation in how we educate our students and workers in the United States and throughout the world.

The article in the New York Times on August 18, 2012, “Skilled Work, Without the Worker” by [John Markoff](#), sites a number of examples of how newer more sophisticated robots are able to replace unskilled labor throughout the world. Technology is leap-frogging our current economy and working conditions through out the world. The use of robots will be changing how we work and where the work will be done. No longer will companies be able outsource work to countries with low paid unskilled laborers. Robots will be able to do the work being guided by fewer highly skilled employees. This will dramatically change the educational needs of our students at all levels. These needs are not a generation away, but are something that is occurring right now. The falling costs and growing sophistication of robots have touched off a renewed debate among economists and technologists over how quickly jobs will be lost.

A Phillips plant in China with hundreds of workers making electric shavers is being matched by a sister factory in the

Netherlands with 128 robot arms doing the same work with yoga-like flexibility. Video cameras guide them through feats well beyond the capability of the most dexterous human. This is done with only one tenth the supervising workers that are in the plant in China.

This is the future. A new wave of robots, far more adept than those now commonly used by automakers and other heavy manufacturers, are replacing workers around the world in both manufacturing and distribution. Factories like the one here in the Netherlands are a striking counterpoint to those used by [Apple](#) and other consumer electronics giants, which employ hundreds of thousands of low-skilled workers.



A robot stacking solar panels at a factory in Milpitas, Calif.

In the cavernous solar panel factory run by Flextronics in Milpitas, south of San Francisco there is a large banner proudly proclaims “Bringing Jobs & Manufacturing Back to California.” Yet in the state-of-the-art plant, where the assembly line runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week, there are robots everywhere and few human workers. All of the heavy lifting and almost all of the precise work is done by robots that string together solar cells and seal them under glass. The human workers do things like trimming excess material, threading wires and screwing a handful of fasteners into a simple frame for each panel.

Such advances in manufacturing are also beginning to transform other sectors that employ millions of workers around the world. One is distribution, where robots that zoom at the speed of the world’s fastest sprinters can



store, retrieve and pack goods for shipment far more efficiently than people. Robots could soon replace workers at companies like C & S Wholesale Grocers, the nation's largest grocery distributor, which has already deployed robot technology.

And at Earthbound Farms in California, four newly installed robot arms with customized suction cups swiftly place clamshell containers of organic lettuce into shipping boxes. The robots move far faster than the people they replaced. Each robot replaces two to five workers at Earthbound, according to John Dulchinos, an engineer who is the chief executive at Adept Technology, a robot maker based in Pleasanton, Calif., that developed Earthbound's system.

The Obama administration says this technological shift presents a historic opportunity for the nation to stay competitive. "The only way we are going to maintain manufacturing in the U.S. is if we have higher productivity," said Tom Kalil, deputy director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Government officials and industry executives argue that even if factories are automated, they still are a valuable source of jobs. If the United States does not compete for advanced manufacturing in industries like consumer electronics, it could lose product engineering and design as well. Moreover, robotics executives argue that even though blue-collar jobs will be lost, more efficient manufacturing will create skilled jobs in designing, operating and servicing the assembly lines, as well as significant numbers of other kinds of jobs in the communities where factories are.

And robot makers point out that their industry itself creates jobs. A report commissioned by the [International Federation of Robotics](#) last year found that 150,000 people are already employed by robotics manufacturers worldwide in engineering and assembly jobs.

But American and European dominance in the next generation of manufacturing is far from certain.

A Faster Assembly Line

The next generation of robots for manufacturing will be more flexible and easier to train.

Witness the factory of [Tesla Motors](#), which recently began manufacturing the Tesla S, a luxury sedan, in Fremont, Calif., on the edge of Silicon Valley.

More than half of the building is shuttered, called "the dark side." It still houses a dingy, unused Toyota Corolla

assembly line on which an army of workers once turned out half a million cars annually.



While the many robots in auto factories typically perform only one function, in the new Tesla factory

As many as eight robots perform a ballet around each vehicle as it stops at each station along the line for just five minutes. Ultimately as many as 83 cars a day — roughly 20,000 are planned for the first year — will be produced at the factory. When the company adds a sport utility vehicle next year, it will be built on the same assembly line, once the robots are reprogrammed.

Hyundai and Beijing Motors recently completed a mammoth factory outside Beijing that can produce a million vehicles a year using more robots and fewer people than the big factories of their competitors and with the same flexibility as Tesla's, said Paul Chau, an American venture capitalist at WI Harper who toured the plant in June.

The New Warehouse

Traditional and futuristic systems working side by side in a distribution center north of New York City show how robotics is transforming the way products are distributed, threatening jobs. From this warehouse in Newburgh, C & S, the nation's largest grocery wholesaler, supplies a major supermarket chain.

The old system sprawls across almost half a million square feet. The shelves are loaded and unloaded around the clock by hundreds of people driving pallet jacks and forklifts. At peak times in the evening, the warehouse is a cacophony of beeping and darting [electric vehicles](#) as workers with headsets are directed to cases of food by a computer that speaks to them in four languages.

The new system is much smaller, squeezed into only 30,000 square feet at the far end of the warehouse and controlled by just a handful of technicians. They watch over a four-story cage with different levels holding 168 "rover" robots the



size of go-carts. Each can move at 25 miles an hour, nearly as fast as an Olympic sprinter.

When the arm is finished, the cube of goods is conveyed to a machine that wraps it in clear plastic to hold it in place. Then a forklift operator summoned by the computer moves the cube to a truck for shipment.

Humans' Changing Role

In the decade since he began working as a warehouseman in Tolleson, Ariz., a suburb of Phoenix, Josh Graves has seen how automation systems can make work easier but also create new stress and insecurity. The giant facility where he works distributes dry goods for Kroger supermarkets.

Mr. Graves went to work in the warehouse, where his father worked for three decades, right out of high school. The demanding job required lifting heavy boxes and the hours were long. "They would bring in 15 guys, and only one would last," he said.

Today Mr. Graves drives a small forklift-like machine that stores and retrieves cases of all sizes. Because such workers are doing less physical labor, there are fewer injuries, said Rome Aloise, a Teamsters vice president in Northern California. Because a computer sets the pace, the stress is now more psychological.

Mr. Graves wears headsets and is instructed by a computerized voice on where to go in the warehouse to gather or store products. A centralized computer the workers call The Brain dictates their speed. Managers know exactly what the workers do, to the precise minute.

Several years ago, Mr. Graves's warehouse installed a German system that automatically stores and retrieves cases of food. That led to the elimination of 106 jobs, roughly 20 percent of the work force. The new system was initially maintained by union workers with high seniority. Then that job went to the German company, which hired nonunion workers.

Now Kroger plans to build a highly automated warehouse in Tolleson. Sixty union workers went before the City Council last year to oppose the plan, on which the city has not yet ruled.

"We don't have a problem with the machines coming," Mr. Graves told city officials. "But tell Kroger we don't want to lose these jobs in our city."

Some jobs are still beyond the reach of automation: construction jobs that require workers to move in

unpredictable settings and perform different tasks that are not repetitive; assembly work that requires tactile feedback like placing fiberglass panels inside airplanes, boats or cars; and assembly jobs where only a limited quantity of products are made or where there are many versions of each product, requiring expensive reprogramming of robots.

But that list is growing shorter.

Upgrading Distribution

Inside a Spartan garage in an industrial neighborhood in Palo Alto, Calif., a robot armed with electronic "eyes" and a small scoop and suction cups [repeatedly picks up boxes and drops them onto a conveyor belt](#).

It is doing what low-wage workers do every day around the world.

Older robots cannot do such work because computer vision systems were costly and limited to carefully controlled environments where the lighting was just right. But thanks to an inexpensive stereo camera and software that lets the system see shapes with the same ease as humans, this robot can quickly discern the irregular dimensions of randomly placed objects.

The robot uses a technology pioneered in [Microsoft's](#) Kinect motion sensing system for its Xbox video game system.

Such robots will put automation within range of companies like Federal Express and United Parcel Service that now employ tens of thousands of workers doing such tasks.

"We're on the cusp of completely changing manufacturing and distribution," said Gary Bradski, a machine-vision scientist who is a founder of Industrial Perception. "I think it's not as singular an event, but it will ultimately have as big an impact as the Internet."

Future Needs

These examples demonstrate not only why many jobs have been disappearing, but also how we must change how we educate and train our students. Because the world of work will be constantly changing, our students and our workers must be ready to make changes in the work that they do. Students will have to be flexible and able to problem solve in order participate in the new economy.



Apple Ambassador

Continued from page 2.

It's already easy to switch between iPhone and iPad. For instance, songs and apps you buy on an iPad will automatically pop up on your iPhone through Apple's iCloud online-storage service. Lion has some iCloud features, but Mountain Lion really brings the Mac into the iPhone-iPad family.

That's what I like most about Mountain Lion. It borrows a lot from its mobile cousin.

The Mac already had such mobile-like features as the ability to zoom in or out on a MacBook by pinching your fingers on its touchpad. Mountain Lion goes a lot further:

- A notification center slides out from the right of the screen to offer calendar reminders and the latest mail items. It mimics, down to the background color, layout and font, the way you get Facebook updates, news alerts and other notices on your iPhone.
- The Mac's iChat app has been scrapped in favor of Messages, which is made phone friendly by incorporating the iMessage service for iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch users to exchange texts, photos and video. Now you can send messages from your Mountain Lion computer to your mobile friends, or reach another Mountain Lion user from your phone. The way conversations are presented feels more like texting than instant messaging.
- Mountain Lion borrows a "Share" button from iPhone and iPad apps. The iPhoto image organizer on Lion had that, but it's now built into other apps such as the Safari Web browser and the Preview document reader. The options change depending on the app. In Safari, for instance, you can send a Web page by email or post a link on Twitter. In Preview, you can share a photo on Flickr or add it to iPhoto.

Facebook integration is coming this fall. You'll be able to limit who sees your post and add your current location through that share button. No longer will you have to cut and paste links. Mountain Lion will also sync contact information on Facebook friends with your Mac's address book. You need to sign on to Facebook only once, and Mountain Lion takes care of the rest.

That "single sign-on" feature is available right away for other services, including Twitter and Flickr. Once you're signed in, you don't need to enter your username and

password again when accessing that service from another app.

Mountain Lion brings over another philosophical change from the iPhone.

For the longest time, personal computers let you install anything without question. But with Apple's mobile devices, you are limited to pre-approved software from the company's App Store. Apple wants to protect you from bad experiences, but it has also rejected some apparently harmless apps for mysterious reasons.

Mountain Lion adopts that gatekeeper philosophy, though the restrictions aren't as severe. If software you try to install doesn't come from the App Store, it has to be from a software developer who has registered with Apple for \$99. The company doesn't review software unless it goes through the App Store, but the Mac checks to make sure the registration is valid. A registration can be yanked if a developer turns out to be evil.

I was denied the ability to install Google's photo-editing software, Picasa, likely because it was written before the registration program began. It took some sleuthing to figure out how to override that.

Now back to iCloud, my favorite part about Mountain Lion. All you need is an Internet connection and an Apple ID — the same one you create for free to buy songs and apps on iTunes. That Apple ID links your experience across the various devices. The iCloud service comes with five gigabytes of free storage; you can pay for more.

Consider Pages, Numbers and Keynote — Apple's versions of Microsoft's popular Office programs for word processing, spreadsheets and presentations. Documents are automatically stored online through iCloud, unless you change the location to a folder on your computer. It's a tactic Microsoft plans with its just-announced Office upgrade.

That means your documents follow you wherever you go. Type a sentence in a document on your MacBook and see the changes on the iPad a half-minute or so later. You can access your files even if you don't have an Internet connection. Copies are stored on your computer, and changes will be replicated to the iCloud folder once you're back online.

It's not so graceful when you type on both devices at once, as you are stopped and asked to choose one. But it's a promising start, and it's not often you're working on both devices at once anyway.



You get the benefits of iCloud when surfing the Web on Safari as well. You see what websites are open on other devices, so if you started researching that dream vacation at home, you can quickly access those same Web pages in the office (Note to boss: I meant to say “financial balance sheet,” not “dream vacation”). Think of it as automated bookmarks. For this to fully work, your mobile devices need the iOS 6 upgrade this fall.

A number of other features jumped out:

- The search and address bars are now combined on Safari, just as they are on Google’s Chrome browser. Too often, I had wasted my time entering search terms in the box for the Web address.
- Safari’s Reading List now works offline. If you are reading a Web page and need to go somewhere, just click the small “glasses” icon for the browser to store a copy. You can continue reading in the car or on a train, even if you don’t have an Internet connection.
- Gamers will appreciate Game Center, which started out as a way for mobile users to find opponents and keep track of high scores. Mountain Lion users can now join in the fun.

I did run into a few hiccups using Mountain Lion, but none were deal-breakers. The iCloud features were easy to use once I signed in, but I had difficulty getting the startup screen to come up because of how my office Wi-Fi network is set up. I also had some trouble getting a new Notes program to sync, but it worked well once it did.

Apart from that, my experience was relatively pain-free and seamless.

If you’re a Windows user, see what Microsoft has in store with Windows 8, which comes out Oct. 26. That system also promises to work well with tablet computers, but will it be as seamless as Mountain Lion?

If you already have a Mac, you can upgrade directly to Mountain Lion only if it’s running Lion or its 2009 predecessor, Snow Leopard. It took a colleague an hour and a half to download and install Mountain Lion. You can upgrade for free if you bought your Mac since June 11.

Otherwise, shell out the \$20. That’s \$20 for all your Macs, not each one. It’s well worth the price just for the integration with iCloud, and you get a whole lot more.

Internet SIG

Continued from page 3.

enforcement. It’s spelled out in all those Terms of Service agreements that you accept but don’t read.

A simple subpoena can net the police basic account data, including credit card information. Anything beyond that - your locations, texts and calls - is supposed to require a court order or a warrant. Agencies have been known to cut through red tape by citing an imminent danger or emergency.

There’s no question that smartphone surveillance has become a critical counterterrorism and crime-busting tool. Until policymakers shine a light on this shadowy part of the digital frontier, however, the arm wrestling between public safety needs and privacy rights will continue.

Meantime, there isn’t much you as a consumer can do about digital dragnets, unless you avoid using your smartphone and the Internet altogether.

Good luck with that!

Program Coordinator

Continued from page 1.

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

The September meeting will be held at St. Mary’s Hospital in the Leonard Board Room on Wednesday, September 12, 2012. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. [St. Mary’s Hospital is located at 1300 Massachusetts Avenue in Troy NY.](#)

However, the best route to take from the Northway is the following:

1. Merge onto NY-7 East from the Northway.
2. Follow Route 7 to Troy where it becomes Hoosick Street.
3. Turn left on Oakwood Avenue (10 Street/NY-40) which is the first light after the bridge and bare right.
4. Turn right on Sausse Avenue.
5. Turn left onto Lindenwood Court.
6. When you come to the first entrance to the hospital parking lot, turn left and park.



Apple: Wedbush Ups Target to \$885 on iPhone 5, iPad Mini Prospects

by Tiernan Ray, Tech Daily Trader

Among a raft of positive Apple notes, Scott Sutherland of Wedbush Securities reiterated an Outperform rating on the shares while raising his price target to \$885 from \$800, after raising estimates for this year and next to reflect the introduction of the iPhone 5 on September 12th, and the prospect of both a smaller iPad, in the first fiscal quarter, and a television set from Apple.

Sutherland, who issued his report prior to Apple's formally announcing a press conference on September 12th, took his cue from the rumors of said press conference, and consequently increased his estimate for the fiscal year that ends this month to \$156.6 billion in revenue from a prior \$155.9 billion, and to \$44.04 in EPS from a prior \$43.68 per share.

Sutherland thinks that the September 12th event will "overshadow" a raft of new product introductions happening this week, with Nokia and Microsoft tomorrow expected to unveil new "Lumia" phones running Microsoft's "Windows Phone 8" software, Motorola Mobility expected to unveil perhaps a new "Droid Razr" smartphone, and Amazon.com expected to unveil new models of its "Kindle" and "Kindle Fire" tablet computer.

Sutherland thinks the inclusion of "long-term evolution," or LTE, broadband wireless chips in the new iPhone, for the first time, will be "a major selling point" for Apple, and he raises his iPhone unit estimate today to 24 million from 21.6 million. (Note that Piper Jaffray's Gene Munster wrote, following the announcement of the press event, that Apple may sell 6 million to 10 million iPhone 5 units this month, assuming introduction on Sept 21st, for a total of 27 million units for the quarter.)

Sutherland sees the "iPad Mini" coming in the December quarter, and a television set in 2014:

Product pipeline remains robust with mini iPad on deck then Apple TV. We have long held the belief that providing a range of screen sizes to satisfy consumer choices makes the most sense in the connected device world. In addition, we believe it is in Apple's best interest to close the door on the lower end smaller form factor table market. We now expect Apple to introduce a smaller iPad, the iPad Mini, next quarter. We are thus increasing our iPad unit estimates for FY13 to 94.2 million from 90.8 million, but moderately lowering our ASP assumptions. We also expect the iTV (integrated TV) to feature a new user interface and compatibility with the iCloud to be introduced in 2014.

Attention GAAB'er Members

Please pay your 2012-2013 dues to Cecila MacDonald.



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