



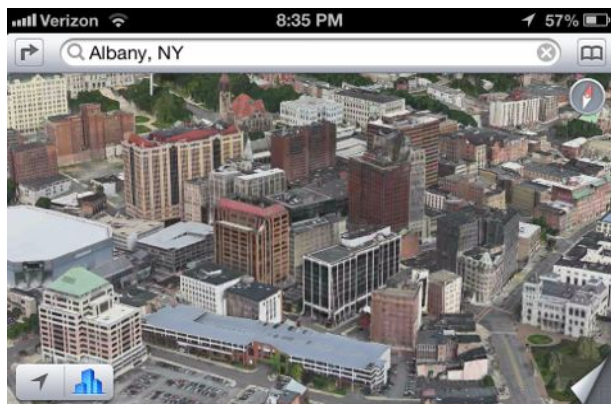
The GAB'er

The Newsletter of the Greater Albany Apple Byters

Volume 29, Number 6 - February 2013

Albany 3D City Map Added to Flyover

Since its launch, Apple's never stopped working on Apple Maps. Even a feature that's not broken, like 3D Flyover mode, is getting new content. Check out these 12 new cities that have just been made fully 3D, including **Albany, NY**.



These 12 major cities that weren't 3D before but are now. 11 of them are U.S. cities, 1 is European. You can find them [here](#) along with a screenshot of each one. Also see the [complete list of 3D Flyover cities in Apple Maps](#).

In another upgrade worth noting, several metro areas have been expanded with additional 3D areas. These include London, New York City, Chicago, Boston, Houston, and Portland.

Coordinator's Corner



by John Buckley



This month we will check out the latest version of iTunes, the Mac application that has been around for a number of years. However, the new version has a new interface. We will explore the many functions and that iTunes provides.

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 February meeting we will also set the schedule for the remaining demonstrations and then take a look at some of the features of Mountain Lion Operating System (OS X 10.8). There have been two updates since its release and a new one on the way. So members should feel safe in installing the new system. It is only available through the Mac App Store with a cost of \$19.99.

To find out what's happening, GAAB is the place to be. So be sure to be at our December meeting and every meeting to find out the best information about the Mac and other Apple products.

Continued on page 6.

Next GAAB Meeting
February 13, 2013
iTunes
7:00 p.m.
St. Mary's Hospital
Troy, NY

Featured in this Issue

Albany Added to 3D Flyover	1
Program Coordinator	1
Apple Ambassador	2
Internet SIG	3
Education SIG	4
Super Wi-Fi	10
GAAB Internet Addresses.....	11

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.

Contents of The GAB'er are copywritten, all rights reserved. Original articles may be reprinted by not-for-profit organizations, provided that proper credit is given to the author, The GAB'er, and a copy of the publication sent to The GAB'er editor.

The views expressed herein are the sole responsibility of each author, and do not necessarily represent the views of the Greater Albany Apple Byters.

Note: Trademarks used in this newsletter are recognized as trademarks of the representative companies.

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
466-7492

Education SIG
John Buckley
272-7128

Internet SIG
Lou Wozniak
465-2873



Apple Ambassador

by John Buckley

Again this month Apple prices take the spotlight. [Apple Insider](#) posted the following article on prices.

Apple notebook fire sale continues with \$1,499 13-inch MacBook Pro with Retina display by Katie Marsal

The entry-level price for an Apple MacBook Pro with Retina display has been unofficially slashed by \$200 to just \$1,499, as the company continues to work with its indirect sales channel to push units on the back of a lackluster quarter for Mac sales in general

MacConnection on Saturday let *AppleInsider* know that it's now selling for a limited time the [2.5GHz 13-inch MacBook Pro with Retina display](#) (8GB/128GB model MD212LL/A) for [\\$1,499](#) -- a \$200 price drop on the entry-level Retina product and the lowest entry-level pricing for a Retina display equipped MacBook Pro available since the notebook's inception.

The move comes on the heels of several other price reductions and limited-time fire sales on Apple's notebook offerings that have been viewed as abnormal, especially in light of their close proximity to the recently-ended and heavily-discounted holiday shopping season.

It's a trend that began in earnest [just days before](#) Apple released results for its fourth calendar quarter of the year that spooked industry-watchers and analysts when they revealed [a 17% year-over-year decline](#) in Mac unit sales. Shares of the Cupertino-based company bled more than 10% of their value in the hours following the disclosure.

The Mac maker, which has largely outperformed the overall PC industry several times over during the last several years, is particularly sensitive of steep price cuts that it believes could devalue the company's brand image in the eyes of consumers.

Therefore, there's suspicion that Apple was working in concert with Best Buy when it [slashed MacBook Air prices](#) and subsequently [MacBook Pro prices](#) by double digit percentages just weeks after Christmas.

Continued on page 7.





For an industry that's based on math, science and engineering, technology sure spawns a surprising amount of myths.

Some of these myths are amusing or only mildly annoying. A relative might send you a chain email claiming that Microsoft will pay you cash to forward it on. Another rumor surfaces

occasionally that Facebook is going to start charging users a subscription fee.

However, clinging to certain myths can cost you time and money. Let's take a closer look at these serial offenders.

1. Macs never get viruses

Last year's outbreak of the malicious Trojan called Flashback infected more than 600,000 Macs. The year before that, the fake anti-virus rogware known as MacDefender also caused chaos for Mac users.

These high-profile security breaches were a wake-up call for Mac users who believed that Apple computers were immune to the viruses that plague PC users.

Apple once boasted in its ads that Mac users could relax and let the built-in defenses of OS X do all the heavy lifting to safeguard their data. The tech giant has since toned down that message.

Don't let your purchase of a Mac lull you into a false sense of security. Like PC users, Mac users should make safe browsing and vigilant virus monitoring a top priority.

Download one of the excellent - and free - Mac security programs in my [Security Center](#). And keep it up to date!

2. You get what you pay for with software

Even with budget systems available, computers are a sizeable investment. Fortunately, the software you install doesn't have to add to the bill. Modern computer users are lucky to have a vast and growing library of free, open-source software available. Open-source free software can save you hundreds or thousands of dollars over commercial programs without sacrificing essential features.

[LibreOffice](#) and [Thunderbird](#), for example, are free programs that can effectively replace Microsoft Office and Outlook. [GIMP](#) is a popular free alternative to Adobe Photoshop.

Free software isn't about all work and no play. [VLC](#) is one of the best media players available. It will handle nearly any video or movie format you throw at it, including DVD and Blu-ray.

[Click here for a larger list of free software that you'll love.](#)

3. The more megapixels, the better the camera

Many consumers focus too much on megapixel count when buying cameras. A 16MP camera has to be better than a 12MP camera, right?

Not necessarily. Camera sensor quality is as much about physical sensor size as pixel amount.

A large 12MP sensor in a DSLR will produce better photos than a tiny 16MP sensor in a point-and-shoot.

To cram that many pixels onto a small sensor, manufacturers shrink the size of the pixels. Smaller, crowded pixels don't capture light as well as bigger pixels spread across a large sensor. The small sensor struggles to capture the tonal range of bright scenes and generates unwanted noise when used in low light.

Continued on page 9.





Education SIG

Apple TV and iPad in the Classroom

Working with student teachers in different schools has enabled me to see many implementations of technologies in the classroom. I feel that the combination of an Apple TV and the iPad is a winning combination combining low cost and versatility. The following two articles describe how this combination is being used in classrooms.

The iPad2 and Apple TV ... Ed Tech Industry Killer? by Scott Meech at EdReach

What would you rather get for your classroom, an iPad 2 and Apple TV or an Interactive Whiteboard? Are your teachers asking for Interactive Whiteboards? Hold on to that discussion and don't answer until you know all of the possibilities!



I think we now have the ability to put together a very highly effective digital classroom with the combination of iPad 2s, a digital projector, and an Apple TV. All of this can be done at a fraction of the cost of most 21st century classrooms that have combined the use of Interactive Whiteboards. I just don't know why you would ever want to purchase them anymore.

Maybe we can get rid of the need for document cameras, scanners, clicker hubs, and still or digital video cameras as well?

Perhaps you don't know about the new possibilities of this fantastic little black box called Apple TV. Now, if you are looking for the rationale on why you might want to go with this new setup, here is mine!

1. You are not locked into a finite space for interactivity with a "computer" and the ability to share with a large audience. One-way to look at it in my opinion is that you are providing your students with a portable Interactive Whiteboard anywhere you want them to interact with the device.
2. As we all know, there are many apps that provide a robust learning experience that are completely interactive and much better than teacher created Notebook files.
3. The iPad w/ Apple TV allows your iPad to function as a document camera, still camera, video camera, scanner, e-clicker hub, and Interactive Whiteboard.
4. The iPad continues to be functional for classroom experiences when you turn off the projector.
5. The vast amount of other uses an iPad provides including an e-reader, executive functioning with email, calendar, tasks, reminders, etc.
6. The iPad / Apple TV set up is completely portable. I have yet to see an Interactive Whiteboard get carried under someone's arm comfortably.
7. Apple TV allows you to use a computer as a media server. When you combine Apple TV's, you can now pull content from one shared space effectively without a complicated setup for teachers to navigate.
8. Professional Development on an iPad / Apple TV set up in comparison to an Interactive Whiteboard is drastically different. I would love to debate this one with anyone at any time. I have so many examples of very elderly to my 2 1/2 year old who are effectively learning with an iPad.



9. We want to see students at the center of the learning. IWB's continue to be teacher-dominated devices. Teachers appear to be much more comfortable handing over an iPad than they seem to be with bringing the kids.
10. I simply laugh at the savings that you can get from simply using an iPad 2 as a video conferencing tool in comparison to the unbelievable amount of money that has been spent on this technology in other forms. Simply turn on Skype on the iPad 2 and away you go.

Apple TV in the Classroom by Jeff Herb at Instructional Tech Talk

Instructional technology takes so many forms. In some buildings that may mean simply having a computer lab of desktop computers. In others, you may find SMART Boards and laptops in every room. And, in some of the more advanced classrooms, you may find an Apple TV serving as a media hub for a teacher (and possibly students) with an iPad. The question, "What can I do with an Apple TV in the classroom?" has been asked of me quite a bit – this post should help to identify how to set it up, what it can do, and some ways you can use it in the classroom.

What is Apple TV?

Before we talk about how to configure/set it up, it makes sense to get a working understanding of what the device actually does.

The Apple TV:

- lets you stream the movies and TV shows available on iTunes to the HDTV or Projector connected to the Apple TV
- stream Netflix content
- allows you to stream content from iOS devices using Airplay
- Display your iPad 2,3/iPhone 4S screen on your HDTV or projector via Airplay Mirroring

The Apple TV points of consideration:

- The Apple TV really is most beneficial if you have iTunes, an iOS device, or are a Mac based school.
- The Apple TV is not a computer. It really does rely on other devices to make it most functional.
- Connection possibilities are limited. HDMI is the main output. There are ways around this, however.

How to Set it up in Your Classroom

First things first. Determine what you will be connecting it to – and that will determine how you will set it up. If your classroom has an HDMI enabled device (HDTV or a projector with HDMI input) you are good to go, setup will be a breeze.

If you do not have an HDMI capable device in your classroom, consider purchasing [Kanex ATV Pro](#) to convert the signal to VGA so you can output from the Apple TV to any screen that has a VGA input. The majority of projectors and interactive whiteboards have this type of connection, making this accessory a great little product. Also, note that the accessory has an audio out port, preserving the audio from the HDMI cable, something that many devices like this do not do well (or at all).

The next step is connecting the Apple TV to your network. Obtain the wireless key from your IT coordinator and simply enter that when prompted when you first plug in your Apple TV. If the ATV has been setup before, just navigate to Settings -> Network and enter the setup for a new wireless network.

If your IT person is not interested in telling you the password, see if they will set it up for you. If this even fails, all hope is not lost. If you have a Mac, you can quickly create an AdHoc network to which you can connect your iPad and your Apple TV. Mind the fact that you will no longer be connected to the internet, but many of the uses don't require an active connection.

Uses in the Classroom

This is when the Apple TV gets fun. Each person I talk to has a different use for their Apple TV, but the general method of use is pretty much the same. I will take you through some of the logistical methods of use that will then let you apply your own needs of use to the ATV easily.

The most common use of the Apple TV in a classroom is iPad screen mirroring. Thanks to AirPlay, the iPad 2 and above and the iPhone 4S will let you wirelessly display your device's screen on a HDTV/Projector that is connected to your Apple TV. This is great for the classroom as sharing Apps and tutorials via the iPad are becoming more popular.

Considering mirroring works iOS wide, you can share just about anything you do on your iPad with your class.



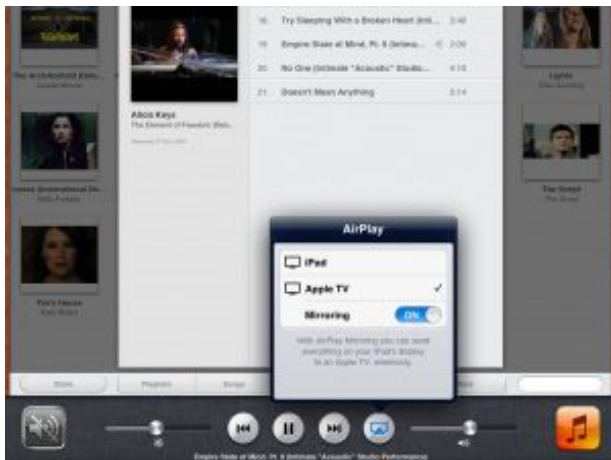
Here are some ways we (and our friends) use the Apple TV in the classroom:

- YouTube videos
- Seamless transition between video clips (comparison between renditions of a play, perhaps)
- Annotate documents live with your students
- Display pictures of student/teacher work
- Demonstrate apps
- Play review games (many free ones available on the app store)
- Subscribe to Netflix? Show relevant documentaries or shows.
- Rent thousands of titles from the iTunes store.
- Use as an interactive whiteboard (whiteboard apps)
- Access to iTunes U videos
- Use of the Khan Academy app
- Creative project presentations (student ice-breaker collages)
- Walk the room while still remaining connected
- In a 1:1 iPad deployment, students can share their screen on the Apple TV
- Use as a document camera
- And many more (as many of these can be easily expanded upon)

Starting up iPad Mirroring

So, you have some good uses in the classroom. Here's how you being mirroring your iPad's screen to the Apple TV.

1. Turn on the TV/Projector connected to the Apple TV.
2. Ensure each device is on the same network.
3. Double tap the home button on the iPad.
4. Swipe to the right until you see the options below:



5. Tap the button that is blue in the image above. This displays the available devices for use with AirPlay.

6. Tap on your Apple TV's name and then slide Mirroring to 'On'.

7. That's it – your iPad should now be showing on the screen connected to your Apple TV!

Final Thoughts

For \$99, you really can't beat it. If you don't have an interactive whiteboard, but you do happen to have an iPad, this is a really cheap way to enable whiteboard functionality (with so much more, in my opinion).

The freedom the Apple TV gives you to engage with students around the classroom (since you're not tethered to a cable) is invaluable. For those who rely on technology in the classroom but also love moving throughout the room, this is the device you needed yesterday.

We are constantly coming up with uses for the Apple TV, you will to. Getting it is really the first step – understanding how you will use it daily comes with trial and error. Don't be afraid to try new things.

Program Coordinator

Continued from page 1.

The February meeting will be held at St. Mary's Hospital in the Leonard Board Room on Wednesday, February 13, 2013. 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. Turn left onto Lindenwood Court. When you come to the first entrance to the hospital parking lot, turn left and park.



Apple Ambassador

Continued from page 2.

In the hours, days and weeks that followed, several other members of Apple's reseller channel engaged in a game of follow-the-leader, yielding the lowest first-quarter pricing ([Price Guide](#)) for Mac notebooks yet.

[B&H Photo](#) is offering a free copy of Parallels 8 and [up to \\$427 off Macs bundled with 3-years of AppleCare](#).

* MacMall is offering AppleInsider readers an additional 3% off all MacBooks with Promo Code: **APPINSDRMWB37994**

Don't forget to [sell your old Macs and iOS devices for cash](#); it helps offset the cost of your new Apple gear.



Discount

MacBook Air

11" Air (1.70GHz/4GB/64GB)	\$999.00	\$939.98	\$911.77*	\$999.00	\$899.99	\$99.01
11" Air (1.70GHz/4GB/128GB)	\$1,099.00	\$1,038.99	\$1,007.82*	\$1,099.00	\$1,039.00	\$91.18
13" Air (1.80GHz/4GB/128GB)	\$1,199.00	\$1,099.98	\$1,066.98*	\$1,199.00	\$1,099.99	\$134.41
13" Air (1.80GHz/8GB/128GB)	\$1,299.00	n/a	\$1,231.89*	n/a	on order	\$67.11
11" Air (2.00GHz 8GB/128GB)	\$1,349.00	n/a	\$1,303.68*	n/a	\$1,349.00	\$45.32
13" Air (1.80GHz/4GB/256GB)	\$1,499.00	\$1,418.99	\$1,376.42*	\$1,499.00	\$1,419.00	\$122.58
11" Air (2.00GHz /4GB/256GB)	\$1,549.00	n/a	on order	n/a	\$1,249.00	\$200.00
11" Air (2.00GHz/4GB/256GB)	\$1,699.00	n/a	\$1,610.19*	n/a	\$1,659.99	\$88.81



13- and 15-inch MacBook Pro (without Retina display)

2.5GHz 13" (4GB/500GB HDD)	\$1,199.00	\$1,090.59	\$1,096.08*	\$1,089.00	\$1,099.00	\$110.00
2.5GHz 13" (8GB/500GB HDD)	\$1,299.00	n/a yet	\$1,212.49*	n/a yet	n/a yet	\$86.51
2.9GHz 13" (8GB/750GB HDD)	\$1,499.00	\$1,419.98	\$1,377.38*	\$1,499.00	\$1,398.00	\$121.62
2.9GHz 13" (8GB/128GB SSD)	\$1,599.00	n/a yet	on order	n/a yet	n/a yet	\$52.82
2.9GHz 13" (8GB/1TB HDD)	\$1,599.00	n/a yet	\$1,546.18*	n/a yet	\$1,559.00	\$52.82
2.9GHz 13" (8GB/256GB SSD)	\$1,899.00	n/a yet	\$1,837.18*	n/a yet	\$1,899.00	\$61.82
2.3GHz 15" (4GB/500GB HDD)	\$1,799.00	\$1,709.98	\$1,658.98*	\$1,649.00	\$1,699.99	\$150.00
2.3GHz 15" (4GB/750GB HDD)	\$1,899.00	n/a yet	\$1,837.18*	n/a yet	n/a yet	\$61.82
2.3GHz 15" (4/750/ANTI-GLARE)	\$2,149.00	n/a yet	n/a yet	n/a yet	\$1,999.95	\$149.05
2.6GHz 15" (8GB/750GB HDD)	\$2,199.00	\$2,079.98	\$2,017.58*	\$2,199.00	\$2,049.00	\$181.42
2.7GHz 15" (8GB/750GB HDD)	\$2,599.00	n/a yet	on order	n/a yet	n/a yet	\$82.82

NEW



13-inch MacBook Pro (MBP) with Retina display

2.5GHz 13" MBP (8GB,128GB)	\$1,699.00	\$1,614.97	\$1,566.52*	\$1,499.00	\$1,515.59	\$200.00
2.5GHz 13" MBP (8GB,256GB)	\$1,999.00	\$1,899.97	\$1,842.97*	\$1,994.00	\$1,879.00	\$156.03
2.9GHz 13" MBP (8GB,256GB)	\$2,199.00	n/a yet	\$2,066.09*	n/a yet	\$2,199.00	\$132.91
2.5GHz 13" MBP (8GB,512GB)	\$2,499.00	n/a yet	on order	n/a yet	\$2,499.00	\$79.82
2.9GHz 13" MBP (8GB,512GB)	\$2,699.00	n/a yet	\$2,521.99*	n/a yet	\$2,699.00	\$177.01
2.5GHz 13" MBP (8GB,768GB)	\$2,999.00	n/a yet	\$2,615.99*	n/a yet	\$2,999.00	\$383.01



NEW

15-inch MacBook Pro (MBP) with Retina display

2.3GHz 15" MBP (8GB, 256GB)	\$2,199.00	\$2,079.97	\$2,017.58*	\$2,199.00	on order	\$181.42
2.3GHz 15" MBP (16GB, 256GB)	\$2,399.00	n/a yet	\$2,263.97*	n/a yet	\$2,399.00	\$135.03
2.6GHz 15" MBP (8GB, 512GB)	\$2,799.00	\$2,649.97	\$2,570.57*	\$2,799.00	\$2,599.00	\$228.43
2.6GHz 15" MBP (16GB, 512GB)	\$2,999.00	n/a yet	\$2,837.24*	n/a yet	\$2,999.00	\$161.76
2.7GHz 15" MBP (16GB, 512GB)	\$3,249.00	n/a yet	\$3,088.47*	n/a yet	\$3,249.00	\$160.53
2.6GHz 15" MBP (16GB, 512GB)	\$3,499.00	n/a yet	\$3,322.24*	n/a yet	n/a yet	\$176.76
2.7GHz 15" MBP (8GB, 768GB)	\$3,549.00	n/a yet	\$3,427.98*	n/a yet	\$3,549.00	\$121.02
2.7GHz 15" MBP (16GB, 768GB)	\$3,749.00	n/a yet	\$3,563.77*	n/a yet	\$3,749.00	\$185.23

NEW

Mac mini

2.50GHz dualCore i5 Mac mini	\$599.00	\$588.84	\$588.83	\$549.00	\$564.80	\$50.00
2.30GHz quad Core i7 Mac mini	\$799.00	\$788.85	\$788.84	\$794.00	\$784.00	\$15.12
2.30GHz quad Core i7 mini Server	\$999.00	\$968.86	\$977.19	\$989.00	\$949.00	\$50.00

NEW

iMac

2.7GHz 21.5" iMac (8GB, 1TB)	\$1,299.00	on order	on order	\$1,279.00	on order	\$5.00
2.7GHz 21.5" iMac (16GB, 1TB)	\$1,299.00	n/a yet	on order	n/a yet	on order	\$5.00
2.9GHz 21.5" iMac (8GB, 1TB)	\$1,499.00	on order	on order	limited	on order	\$20.00
3.1GHz 21.5" iMac (8GB, 1TB)	\$1,699.00	n/a yet	n/a yet	\$1,699.00	n/a yet	\$0.00
2.9GHz 21.5" iMac (16GB, 1TB)	\$1,699.00	n/a yet	on order	limited	n/a yet	\$5.00
2.9GHz 21.5" iMac (8GB, 1TB Fusion)	\$1,749.00	n/a yet	\$1,744.00	n/a yet	on order	\$5.00
2.9GHz 27.0" iMac (8GB, 1TB)	\$1,799.00	\$1,799.00	on order	\$1,779.00	\$1,799.00	\$20.00
3.1GHz 21.5" iMac (16GB, 1TB)	\$1,899.00	n/a yet	on order	n/a yet	\$1,899.00	\$5.00
2.9GHz 21.5" iMac (8GB, 3TB)	\$1,949.00	n/a yet	n/a yet	\$1,949.00	n/a yet	\$0.00
2.9GHz 21.5" iMac (16GB, 1TB Fusion)	\$1,949.00	n/a yet	\$1,944.00	n/a yet	pre-order	\$20.00
3.2GHz 27.0" iMac (8GB, 1TB)	\$1,999.00	on order	on order	\$1,979.00	pre order	\$0.00
3.2GHz 27.0" iMac (8GB, 1TB)	\$2,149.00	n/a yet	n/a yet	\$2,144.00	on order	\$5.00
3.4GHz 27.0" iMac (8GB, 1TB)	\$2,199.00	n/a yet	n/a yet	n/a yet	on order	\$0.00
3.4GHz 27.0" iMac (16GB, 1TB)	\$2,549.00	n/a yet	on order	n/a yet	n/a yet	\$5.00
3.4GHz 27.0" iMac (16GB, 786GB Flash)	\$3,849.00	n/a yet	n/a yet	n/a yet	pre-order	\$0.00



Mac Pro

3.20GHz 4-Core Mac Pro	\$2,499.00	\$2,285.99	\$2,285.99	\$2,449.00	\$2,286.34	\$213.12
2.40GHz 12-Core Mac Pro	\$3,799.00	\$3,629.88	\$3,629.98	\$3,799.00	\$3,630.00	\$169.12
3.20GHz 4-Core Mac Pro Server	\$2,999.00	\$2,713.88	\$2,898.99	\$2,999.00	\$2,714.07	\$285.12



Internet SIG

Continued from page 3.

Don't get me wrong; megapixels are important. Generally, having more megapixels leads to greater detail in images and allows you to make larger prints.

But the quality of the camera's lens and its on-board image processor is also very important.

The trick to buying a camera is finding one that fits your shooting needs without overspending on technology that you may not need. [My Essential Guide to Digital Cameras](#) will help you find the camera that's right for you.

4. Password-protected public Wi-Fi is safe

I'm always urging my listeners to secure their home wireless networks to keep out hackers and criminals. [Click here for detailed instructions.](#)

Unfortunately, the same isn't true for public Wi-Fi, such as your neighborhood coffee shop or café, even if it is password-protected.

The point of a password at home is to keep hackers off the network entirely. With public Wi-Fi, hackers can access the network for the price of a cup of coffee.

Once a hacker is on the network, your laptop or mobile gadget is exposed. Any sensitive browsing you do, such as online banking, puts your information at risk of being intercepted.

Some hackers even like to set up their own network with the same name as the coffee shop network. You might think you're connecting to a legitimate business network, but it's really a hacker-controlled network. That makes it even easier for them to steal your information. Even security professionals fall for this tactic!

Be wary about where you go and log in when Web browsing in public. Wait until you get home to do any online banking or shopping, or at least use a cellular connection.

Want some other tips for staying safe on public Wi-Fi? [Click here for my 5 simple rules.](#)

5. Always buy new gear

Many shoppers will endure horrific lines to save 10 percent on the latest gadget, yet they shun 20- to 30-percent

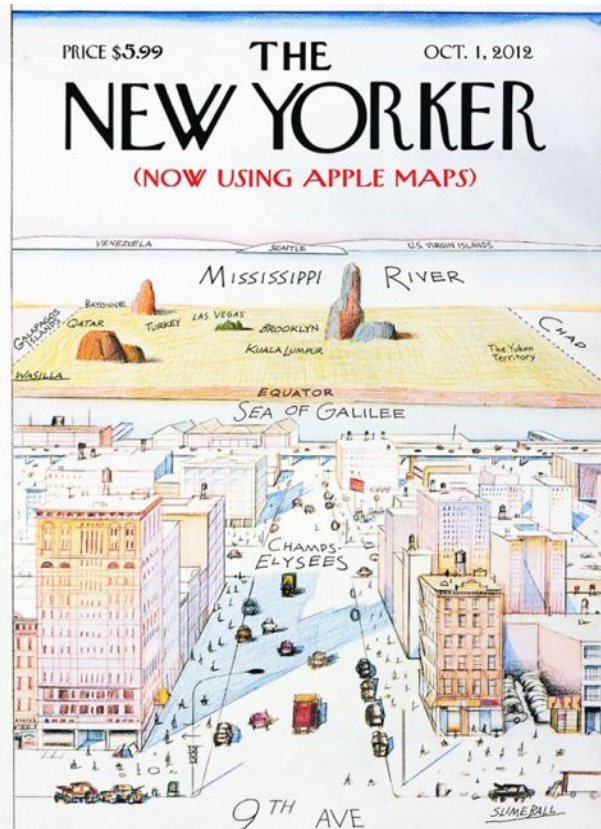
discounts on refurbished computers and other tech gear. The assumption is that a refurb will be faulty or buggy.

Customers do indeed return products because they didn't work correctly. But sometimes it's just buyer's remorse and the gear is fine. How do you know?

Go with a refurb from a major company. Tech giants like Apple and Dell fix, test and resell their products with the same support and warranty as new products. Apple even gives you a new battery on mobile products.

As long as you buy direct from the manufacturer (or a trusted reseller), and there's a good return policy and warranty in place, there isn't much of a downside to buying refurbished.

In Apple's case, you can even buy an extended warranty for a refurb. [Click here to find out whether that's a smart buy.](#)



What is “Super Wi-Fi?”

by Steven J. Vaughan-Nichols, ZDNet

Summary: The Washington Post is reporting that the US Federal Communications Commission wants to “create super WiFi networks.” So what are they talking about anyway?

According to The Washington Post, the US Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) chairman Julius Genachowski “wants to create super WiFi networks across the nation, so powerful and broad in reach that consumers could use them to make calls or surf the Internet without paying a cellphone bill every month.” Oh yes, and this will be “free.”

This new Wi-Fi “would be much more powerful than existing WiFi networks that have become common in households. They could penetrate thick concrete walls and travel over hills and around trees. If all goes as planned, free access to the Web would be available in just about every metropolitan area and in many rural areas.”



Later this decade we may get “super Wi-Fi,” but it won’t be free and its speeds will be in the 4G range.

In a statement, Genachowski said “Freeing up unlicensed spectrum is a vibrantly free-market approach that offers low barriers to entry to innovators developing the technologies of the future and benefits consumers.”

That sounds like the best thing ever doesn’t it? It only leaves me with one little question: “What the heck is super Wi-Fi anyway!?”

OK, so I’ll tell you. First, it’s not as new as it might sound. According to sources at the FCC, “This is not a new idea or proposal – it’s about the availability and use of white space for unlicensed devices in the TV bands as part of the FCC’s incentive auction process. The promise of the 600 MHz band, post incentive auction, is that the guard bands would mean that spectrum for unlicensed use would be available nationwide – in all markets, including places where there is little or no white spaces today.”

Guard bands would be 6MHz chunks of white space spectrum between licensed users such as TV channels. This spectrum is currently occupied by Ultra High Frequency (UHF) channels 31 to 51. These guard bands could then be used for wireless networks.

On the record, Neil Grace, an FCC spokesperson, said, “The FCC’s incentive auction proposal, launched in September of last year, would unleash substantial spectrum for licensed uses like 4G LTE. It would also free up unlicensed spectrum for uses including, but not limited to, next generation Wi-Fi. As the demand for mobile broadband continues to grow rapidly, we need to free up significant amounts of spectrum for commercial use, and both licensed and unlicensed spectrum must be part of the solution.” These auctions, if passed by the full FCC, would begin in 2014.

So, what could we expect from this new 600MHz spectrum? That’s a good question. For range, the 600 MHz “Access points” would have a range of approximately a dozen miles. For bandwidth, we should be looking at 20Mbps down and 6Mbps up. But, real-world results are going to vary on exactly how we end up apportioning and utilizing the bandwidth.

If we really end up getting “super Wi-Fi” it may not be super in terms of speed, but in as far as range goes it will indeed be “super.”

That said, the earliest we’ll see it is late 2014 and, whatever else it will be, it won’t be free. Building out the Internet infrastructure to support 600 MHz Wi-Fi will taken hundreds of millions, if not billions, of dollars and users will end up paying for it just the same way they do today for conventional Internet access and 3G and 4G wireless networking.



GAAB Internet Addresses

Names

E-Mail Addresses

Aaron Ambrosino.....	aambrosi@mac.com
Gary Blizzard.....	gmbizzard@aol.com
Mark Bogossian.....	mark@castlecomp.com
Steve Bradley.....	ssbradley@adelphia.net
John Buckley.....	jbuckley@nycap.rr.com
Sheldon Carnes.....	sheldoncarnes@hotmail.com
Tina Cook.....	twonotrump@nycap.rr.com
Anthony Eldering.....	tonye11@verizon.net
Trudy Ellis.....	TE52@earthlink.net
Lilajane Frascarelli.....	afrascar@nycap.rr.com
Les Goldstein.....	lgoldst1@nycap.rr.com
Richard Hester.....	hesterfp@capital.net
Ottmar Klaas.....	ottmar.klaas@gmail.com
Michael LaFrank.....	mglafrank@gmail.com
Thomas Levanduski....	msglevnduski@aol.com
Cecilia MacDonald.....	cecilia@midtel.net
Mike Mannarino.....	rfd230@nycap.rr.com
Roger Mazula.....	aluzam@aol.com
Brendan O'Hara.....	bohara1@nycap.rr.com
Eric/Lee Rieker.....	Erieker@aol.com
AbdurRahman Rozell..	aryr100@gmail.com
Judith Schwartz.....	jfschwartz2@earthlink.net
Saul Seinberg.....	saul.seinberg@gmail.com
Bill Shuff.....	wjshuff@earthlink.net
Shelly Weiner.....	olliedawg@yahoo.com
Lou Wozniak.....	louw@nycap.rr.com

To start or renew your GAAB membership, see Cecilia MacDonald or send your fees payable to her at the following address:

*Cecilia MacDonald
260 Sever Road
Delanson, NY 12053*



Visit GAAB on the Internet at <http://www.applebyters.com>

