



The GAB'er

The Newsletter of the Greater Albany Apple Byters

Volume 30, Number 6 - February 2014

Apple 'Spending an Enormous Amount' on 'Macs of the Future'

by Jordan Golson, MacRumors.com

Apple hasn't "given up on the Mac" like some of its competitors and has ["some really cool things" coming](#), according to CEO Tim Cook who sat down for a wide-ranging interview with The Wall Street Journal.



Answering a question about new product categories, Cook said the company is going to focus on "only doing a few things and doing them great", but that Apple does have [significant new products](#), in new categories, in the works.

He went on to say that he felt Apple has a long way to go in its existing categories as well, the Mac in particular.

I think Apple can grow well with great improvements and new products on its existing category of products [...]

And we haven't given up on the Mac. A lot of people are throwing in the towel right now on the PC. We're still spending an enormous amount on really great talent and people on the Macs of the future. And we have some really cool things coming out there. Because we believe as people walk away from the PC, it becomes clear that the Mac is what you want if you want a PC.

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February 2014 GAAB Meeting

This month we will be discussing the newest version of Pages, the word processing and desktop publishing app that comes with every new Mac and is free if you update to Mavericks (Mac OSX 10.9) and have an older version of Pages.

**Meeting: February 11, 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 including Mac History. This month members requested that we discuss Pages.
- News from Apple including Mavericks
- GAAB Help Desk: Bring your questions to the meeting

**Next GAAB Meeting
February 11, 2014**

**Pages, 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

As I sit here at my computer looking out the window at the snow coming down, I am thinking about how some are looking to be in the future and are locked in the past while others are in the future but have a strong interest in the past. An article in the Time Union this past week is an example of the first and an event coming up in April is an example of the second.

Unable to Move at the Speed of Life Parts of Capital Region Can't Get Access to Fast Online Connection by Larry Rulison

This region calls itself Tech Valley. But to those who live in rural towns and even parts of the suburbs, it can seem like Tech Siberia.

Retired teacher Bob Moore lives in West Sand Lake in Rensselaer County. Even though he's less than 10 miles from the state Capitol in Albany by car, he can't get high-speed Internet service from Time Warner Cable.

But, wait — he can if he's willing to pay \$4,000. That's what Time Warner Cable said it would cost him to bring broadband service to his home, which he says is about a quarter mile away from the closest connection.

Instead, Moore and his wife get satellite TV and get online using a Wi-Fi service from their cellphone carrier,



ION president Joe Calzone, at right, and director of internet apps Abby Horn at their State Street offices Friday Jan. 24, 2014, in Albany, NY. (John Carl D'Annibale / Times Union)

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The battle to maintain some semblance of privacy in our online lives is a classic one-step-forward, two-steps-back situation. Just when you start to feel you have a grasp of things, we get hit with new revelations about government spying.

The latest? How U.S. and British intelligence agencies are working to take advantage of the extraordinary information that online social-media sites are collecting on us.

So that's the latest two steps back. The latest one step forward deserves more notice.

Both Apple and Android have recently introduced new ways for advertisers to deliver targeted ads to us. This sounds like bad news, but the good part is that, given widespread consumer outrage on the issues, both companies have shown some spine and designed the new protocols both to keep the data anonymized and to make it easier for us to opt out from tracking.

Let's be honest. In the realities of the world we live in, we have to accept not just advertising but creative advertising. Most of the Internet is free; the price we pay for it is ads of one sort or another. But changing technology – and the advantage companies have over us when it comes to understanding the implications of technology – has created a situation that is both excessive and harmful.

And, further, we should note that the ad-tracking data the companies collect should be anonymous. They just know a certain user associated with a certain random identifier buys cat food regularly, likes action movies, and visits a Baskin-Robbins a little too frequently – not that it's you, John W. Smith, doing it all.

That said, let's look at the new systems, and I'll tell you how to opt out.

Neither company goes out of its way to make this easier. ([Details on the new Android ad tracker, incidentally, were broken by USA Today's Alistair Barr.](#)) Removing them or resetting them takes a bit of work.

If you're an iPhone user, you need to go into Settings, then click Privacy, and then scroll all the way down to Advertising. You'll see a button labeled says, "Limit ad tracking." If it's not showing a green color, click the button so that it shows green. This will stop ad companies from tracking what you do with your phone and serving up targeted ads.

Right underneath that, incidentally, you'll see the "Reset Advertising Identifier." Clicking on that will zero out the anonymized identifier as relates your personal data. To trackers, you will then appear to be a new user.

Now let's go to Android. The new Google "AdID" system has similar intents – and is similarly difficult to find. Here, you don't go to your Android phone settings, but your Google Settings app.

Look for the Ads link. There, as with the iPhone, you'll be able both to reset your advertising ID and click on a box to "opt out of interest based ads."

Now let's go back to what I mentioned above. Most of the Internet is free; what's wrong with a little tracking? Because it's not just tracking. It's tracking and storing. And it's an amount of data that, as we've seen time and time again, can quickly begin to paint a compelling picture of every customer.

The implications are heavy. I'm sure you heard about the report last year of a man who called Target in a rage because his 16-year-old daughter was suddenly being served up with expectant-mother ads. He called the store back later to apologize—turned out his daughter was pregnant. The

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Education SIG

Edutopia: What Works in Education The George Lucas Educational Foundation

The following article discusses recommendations for apps that help in a trend in a number of school districts where students bring their own devices to be used in school. There are a number of footnote links at the end of the article that you may want to use.

20 Awesome BYOD and Mobile

Learning Apps

by Vicki Davis

This is our first year of Bring Your Own Device (1) (BYOD), and boy, did the students bring it. They brought it all! We have iPads (2), Surface RT (3) and Pro (4), iPhones (5), Droids (6), Chromebooks (7), Macs (8), and PC laptops. Here's my current thinking. Please share yours in the comments section below.

Notetaking

If students can't find, review and access their notes or pictures of the board, their mobile notetaking system is useless. There are two multi-platform frontrunners.

Microsoft OneNote

In my opinion, the most robust single note-taking app is Microsoft OneNote (9) because it looks just like a traditional notebook. It rocks interactive whiteboards because the notes you write on the board go directly into the notebook you share with the students. You can also edit simultaneously with a maximum of five students (my unofficial number from testing it). Students can write notes, grab screenshots and make to-do lists.

Even with its strengths, I think the iOS version of OneNote is lacking, and it doesn't have the robust developer and app community of Evernote. But if you're predominantly using Windows or Surface RTs and have an IT staff who can support the setup, this may still be your best option.

Evernote

Evernote (10) is a multiplatform app with robust, useful apps like Skitch (11) that let you work with your notes



in cool ways -- but you cannot edit simultaneously. It's compatible with a great new tool for special ed (or for any student, really), the LiveScribe pen (12), which uses a tiny camera to scan every word that is written on LiveScribe paper. (You get a free premium subscription (13) to Evernote with a new Livescribe pen and can also print free paper out of the Livescribe desktop software (14).) Pencasts (15) made with Livescribe are a fantastic flipped classroom (16) tool.

The premium version searches handwritten text so that photos of the board or your notes can actually be found later. The new Reminders (17) feature can help students remember what to review and study on a routine basis.

eBooks

With ebooks as the current battleground of education technology, students should know how to find and download ebooks and PDFs on Kindle (18), iBooks (19) and Kobo (20). (Google Play (21) is must for Chrome or Droid.) Students should know how to take notes and search any reader that goes with their etextbook.



Writing

Traditional Essay Writing

For writing “traditional” essays, Microsoft Word (22) is still a standby on Microsoft devices. Students are syncing personal documents through Skydrive (23). More iPad/Mac students are writing on their devices with Pages (24) and then opening it up at icloud.com (25).

Collaborative Writing

For collaborative, simultaneous writing and peer feedback, Google Drive (26)/Docs is still king, although Office 365 (27) has some new robust features that make Microsoft Word simultaneous even on the desktop. We couldn't do our team projects or online presentations without simultaneous word processors -- every school should choose one.

Moving Between Platforms

Students should know how to convert, export, import and move data seamlessly between apps and devices of all kinds. They should also know how to “print to epaper” and how to open and annotate the documents in various readers.

Bloggng

Blog posts can often start in other programs, but I'm careful to only use apps that are completely compatible with blogs and RSS

(Microsoft Word is notoriously not.) I recommend Blogsy (28) for iOS, Windows Live Writer (29) for Microsoft and MarsEdit (30) for Mac because they are all compatible with major blogging platforms like Wordpress (Edublogs (31)) and Blogger (Kidblog (32)), and let students write at home and post when they return to school. On Chrome, I love the Scribfire plug-in (33) (although you have to be online to use this extension). For Edmodo (34), just use the Edmodo app (35).

Cloud Sync

One issue with mobile learning is how students will submit work. While we use Skydrive (36), Google Drive (37) and Dropbox (38) depending upon the circumstance, Dropbox is my go-to workhorse (39) because students can upload video or anything else. You can also link Dropbox (40) with dropitto.me (41) to have students turn work in even if they don't have access to Dropbox.

Screenshots are King

No matter what platform, I want every student to know how to “grab” a screenshot. The built-in method is best, but Skitch (42) is an awesome backup. Not only is this a cyber safety protection skill, it's also great for turning in work from a mobile device when you just can't figure out how to export -- or when the interface is buggy (as many are.)

If you've implemented BYOD or mobile learning, what are the most important lessons you've learned? What are your favorite apps? Please share links to blog posts you've written about this rapidly emerging field and the reality of how these apps work.

Source: www.edutopia.org/blog/20-awesome-byod-mobile-apps-vicki-davis

Links

- 1 www.edutopia.org/blog/byod-makes-sense-beyond-1-to-1-andrew-marcinek
- 2 www.apple.com/ipad/
- 3 www.microsoft.com/surface/en-us/products/surface
- 4 www.microsoft.com/surface/en-us/products/surface-pro-2
- 5 www.apple.com/iphone/
- 6 www.android.com
- 7 www.google.com/intl/en/chrome/devices/#foreveryone-promo-family
- 8 <https://www.apple.com/mac/>
- 9 office.microsoft.com/en-us/onenote/
- 10 <https://evernote.com>
- 11 evernote.com/skitch/
- 12 www.livescribe.com/en-us/
- 13 evernote.com/partner/livescribe/
- 14 <https://support.livescribe.com/entries/22263341-60013-Printing-free-Livescribe-3-or-Livescribe-wifi-smartpen-dot-paper>
- 15 www.livescribe.com/en-us/pencasts
- 16 www.edutopia.org/blog/biggest-hurdle-flipping-your-class-jon-bergmann
- 17 blog.evernote.com/blog/2013/08/06/how-to-never-miss-a-deadline-with-evernote
- 18 <https://kindle.amazon.co>
- 19 www.apple.com/ibooks



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- 20 store.kobobooks.com/en-us
 - 21 <https://play.google.com/store?hl=e>
 - 22 office.microsoft.com/en-us/word
 - 23 <https://login.live.com/login.srf?wa=wsignin1.0&rpsnv=12&ct=1390613377&rver=6.2.6289.0&20>
 - 24 www.apple.com/mac/pages/
 - 25 <https://www.icloud.co>
 - 26 <https://drive.google.com/>
 - 27 office.microsoft.com/en-us/
 - 28 blogsyapp.com
 - 29 www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=8621
 - 30 www.red-sweater.com/marsedit/
 - 31 edublogs.org
 - 32 kidblog.org/home/
 - 33 www.scribfire.com/category/google-chrome/
 - 34 <https://www.edmodo.com>
 - 35 <https://www.edmodo.com/mobile/>
 - 36 https://login.live.com/login.srf?wa=wsignin1.0&rpsnv=12&ct=1390941485&rver=6.2.6289.0&wp=MBI_SSL_SHA_RED&wreply=https:%2F%2Fskydrive.live.com%2F%3Fmkt%3Den-US&lc=1033&id=250206&cbcxt=sky&mkt=en-US&cbcxt=sky
 - 37 <https://drive.google.com/>
 - 38 <https://www.dropbox.com/>
 - 39 www.coolcatteacher.com/dropbox-organization-teachers/
 - 40 www.coolcatteacher.com/create-an-online-folder-for-students-to-turn-in-work-for-free/
 - 41 dropitto.me
 - 42 evernote.com/skitch/
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Apple Ambassador

Continued from page 2.

a patchwork of services that costs several hundred dollars a month. “Something needs to be done,” Moore said. “This is nuts.”

Ten years ago, high-speed broadband Internet access was considered a luxury. Today, with bosses expecting people to read email at all times of the day and almost every type of commerce taking place online, high-speed Internet access has become a necessary part of modern life.

David Salway, director of the [New York State Broadband Program Office](#), says that people without broadband are not on an equal footing with the rest of society. He cited a study released in October by Internet Innovation Alliance that found that consumers with broadband connections squeezed \$9,300 in savings out of their annual household spending on purchases such as groceries, travel and gasoline because they had quick access to cheap online deals and price comparison data.

“Where it hits home are the opportunities that are lost for those who don’t have access,” Salway said.

New York State defines “broadband” Internet as download speeds of 6 megabits per second. But globally, the fastest Internet connections are much faster than that. In Sweden, the average download speed is 136 megabits per second, and in Japan it’s 95 megabits per second, according to the [Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development](#), which tracks Internet performance around the world,

Salway says the goal is to give everyone in the state access to 100 megabit speeds. “That’s really what we’re trying to hit,” Salway said.

But pushing the industry to build broadband networks using costly fiber-optic systems is easier said than done without legislating it, a step that the state doesn’t see as the solution, Salway said.

[Jim Becker](#), chief executive of ION HoldCo LLC, an Albany company that builds fiber-optic networks, says just one mile of a system costs \$20,000, money that can never be recovered from just a few customers.

“A lot of the areas that aren’t built out — that’s why,” Becker said.

Sand Lake residents are better off than many others who live in rural areas of the Capital Region.



About 60 percent of the town can get broadband Internet access.

But there are places in Rensselaer County where less than 15 percent of the households have access to broadband Internet service, towns like Berlin, Hoosick, Nassau and Schodack, the state Broadband Program Office said.

Albany County is the most wired in the area, with 91 percent of the households having access to broadband Internet.

Rensselaer County is at the bottom of the list, with only 35 percent having broadband access.

There isn't much that local government can do to force companies like Time Warner Cable and Verizon to build out their wire line networks to rural customers — even though local TV franchise agreements typically require cable companies to build out their networks to most of the town at no charge to customers. That's because state law limits that to areas that have 35 customers or more per cable mile.

Time Warner Cable spokeswoman [Joli Plucknette-Farmen](#) said the company often drops the threshold but it's a money-losing operation below that, she said, which is why the company often asks customers to pay.

The other option is to seek government grants.

"Often we look for options to extend our services, and at times that can include an investment on the part of the customer or the community," Plucknette-Farmen said.

Last year, the state announced \$25 million in grants through the Broadband Program Office to expand high-speed Internet service, most of which was awarded to town governments to subsidize commercial expansion.

The state says the subsidies have extended broadband to 153,000 homes at a cost of about \$183 per house.

But the future might not even be in wired broadband. That's because it's easier to extend the range of cellular networks, which are increasingly able to handle more data at faster speeds.

In fact, in rural areas of the Capital Region, high-speed broadband Internet service is available through Verizon Wireless, even in places where it's too expensive for companies like Time Warner Cable to build its wire line network. Plans range from \$50 to \$100 a month, which are generally higher than cable offerings.

"There are lots of more rural areas where we have wireless service (where) you can't get a wired broadband connection," said Verizon Wireless spokesman [John O'Malley](#). "Because wireless voice and Internet access are more of a 'cloud' of coverage versus a physical wire that goes to each and every home or business location, it's easier to provide that connectivity."

Vintage Computer Festival East 9.1

April 4-6, 2014, [InfoAge Science Center](#), Wall, New Jersey

The ninth "annualish" Vintage Computer Festival East will be held April 4-6, 2014, at the InfoAge Science Center, in Wall, New Jersey.

VCF East is a celebration of computer history from the 1940s-1980s. The schedule includes a hands-on exhibit hall, technical workshops, lectures, a marketplace, tours of the InfoAge museum complex, a dollar-per-pound book sale, prizes, more.

This year's show will be bigger than ever. New attractions include Friday's "VCF East University" which is a full day of technical classes. Friday attendees can win an oscilloscope courtesy of Tektronix!

The main show on Saturday-Sunday will have lectures/workshops and dozens of exhibits.



Evan Koblentz demos the Mimeo replica Apple1 at MARCH booth at Hope #9 in NYC

Keynotes include former IBM archivist Paul Lasewicz and IEEE 802 LAN/MAN committee founder Maris Graube. Other lectures topics include software preservation, the history of Franklin Computer Corp., and many more, all scheduled for the morning. In the workshops you can learn hands-on vintage computer repair skills or even build a working replica of something exotic.

This year there will be two exhibit halls instead of one. Exhibits open in the afternoon – imagine an antique car



show, but instead of “no touching” signs, everyone has to take you for a ride! Registered exhibits so far cover everything from a real Apple 1 to the M.I.T.S. Altair to DEC minicomputers. In addition, the event’s main sponsor MARCH (Mid-Atlantic Retro Computing Hobbyists) will debut its UNIVAC 1219-B military mainframe computer, circa 1965.

Tickets for VCF East University are just \$20 and include a pizza lunch. Tickets for the main show are \$15/day and \$25/both days. Saturday/Sunday tickets are free for ages 17 and younger. A three-day adult admission is \$40.

Proceeds benefit MARCH. Official sponsors include the InfoAge Science Center, VintageTech, Tektronix, the Trenton Computer Festival, Eli’s Software Encyclopedia, and Vintage-computer.com. Archive.org, IBM, and the IEEE History Center are providing informal assistance.

- Steve Wozniak, co-founder of Apple: “Seeing the early equipment at VCF is an amazing experience. For many of us, it’s better than a museum. It touches on all the hopes and dreams of the time and the many efforts to achieve what others thought would never happen. It brings back memories of a revolution in the making. ... The people you meet at the VCF are amazing.”

- Lee Felsenstein, moderator of the legendary Homebrew Computer Club and creator of the Osborne 1 portable computer: “In 35 years the personal computer grew from nothing into the most important device shaping everyday life. It should be part of everyone’s education to see how it grew and to learn from the people who grew it in ways they wanted to see it grow. VCF is the place to be where not only the equipment can be seen and tried out but, perhaps more importantly, where the people who rose to the challenge offered by these machines can be met and heard from.”

- Gordon Bell, top DEC engineer and co-founder of the Computer History Museum: “As a speaker at the first September 1998 VCF, I have been delighted to see it grow and flourish. The Vintage Computer Festival is an important institution for computing history simply by getting everyone together for collecting, sharing, and trading all form of bits. Having a forum, gathering, and market for old stuff a.k.a. vintage computers and the software that made them live is an essential way to preserve and expand the history of computing -- for some of us, the greatest invention.”

- Dave Ahl, founder/editor, Creative Computing magazine: “Vintage Computer Festival East celebrates the hard work and vision of all the volunteers who have made the InfoAge Science Center -- now a National Historic Landmark -- a place where one can learn from the past to live for the future. Oh, and it’s great fun too!”

Internet SIG

Continued from page 3.

store’s algorithms for figuring out such things had been spot on!

The storage of the data means that, at some point, someone can get to it. And as we recently read, intelligence agencies in the U.S. and Britain have begun to do just that for social-media sites. And when it comes to ad trackers, it’s not too hard to imagine an enterprising behind-the-scenes government initiative to remove that anonymization.

In fact, they can barely control their glee about it. One of the PowerPoint slides recently released was headlined, “Golden Nugget!”

Imagine if the government passed a law that required all U.S. citizens to carry around GPS tracking devices and complete records of our buying and playing habits. That, I think you will agree, would be a hard sell, and provoke widespread protests. So why are we all essentially volunteering that information to companies and a government that might not be trusted to use it carefully and legally?

Future Macs

Continued from page 3.

According to the well-sourced KGI Securities analyst Ming-Chi Kuo, Apple is planning to release an [ultra-slim 12-inch Retina MacBook](#) in the middle of 2014 and it could be one of the “really cool things” that Cook talked about.

Elsewhere in the interview Cook revealed that Apple has [repurchased \\$14 billion in stock](#) over the past two weeks, and that the company is open to making large acquisitions if it makes sense. He also reiterated that Apple is working on [“some really great stuff”](#) in new product categories, an assertion that Apple executives have made numerous times over the past few months.

Investor Carl Icahn, who has been agitating for an increase in Apple’s stock repurchase program, [tweeted today](#) that Wall Street is “still not listening” to Cook’s statements and Apple’s stock price remains relatively flat.



The 10 Best Mac Keyboard Shortcuts for Productivity from the Apple Gazette

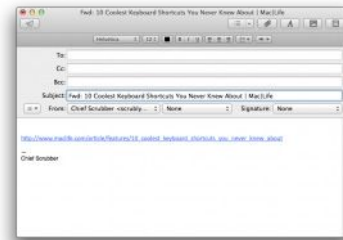
Keyboard shortcuts are pretty awesome. Few productive people can get through their day without using an assortment of keyboard shortcuts. The less you have to leave your keyboard for and try to navigate to a setting or feature, the smoother your work will be. And besides, a few of these are just plain cool.



Check out the top ten best keyboard shortcuts for productivity on the mac and see if you're using them. Have one we missed? Leave it in the comments below. This is far from an [extensive list](#), but those can get a little long and drawn out, anyway.

1. Command + Option + I - This will give you an info pane for whatever is currently selected. Want info on multiple items? Highlight them then use this command.

2. Shift + Command + I - This little shortcut will take whatever webpage you're currently viewing in your default browser and generate a new mail message in your default mail app with that URL and page title.

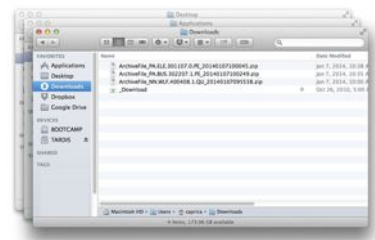


3. Command + Option - Spotlight is one of the most underused features in OS X.

Many people just use it for finding files they might have misplaced, but Spotlight is a powerful app launcher, too. Start typing the app you want and it should pop up. Enter a basic math problem into Spotlight and it'll solve that for you, too.

4. Command + Option + Space - All you have to do is add the space bar to the Spotlight command and you have a Finder window open with a search all ready to be started. This can be easier to navigate than the window that comes up in a standard Spotlight search.

5. Command + ~ - In OS X Mavericks you gained the ability to use Finder tabs, but many people still leave multiple Finder windows open. To cycle through them one by one to find the one you're looking for, use the Command + ~ shortcut. Add Shift into the command to go the other way.



6. Command + Shift + 4 + Space - We mentioned this shortcut when talking about [screen shots in OS X](#), but it's a really useful shortcut for productivity, so it made a second list. This command will take a screen shot of any window currently open, including the toolbar and the Dock. just hover the camera over the item you want a shot of and click. Remove the space bar and you get the regular drag box version of screen shot.

7. Command + 1/2/3/4 - Here's another great Finder shortcut. Hit Command + the numbers 1 through 4 to cycle through the different Finder views. This helps you to see things a little clearer without needing to click.



8. Command + Shift + A/U/D - Do you frequently open Find windows for Applications, Utilities, or the Desktop? Instead of opening Finder and clicking on those folders, you can just hold down Command + Shift then hit the letter associated with the folder. You do need to have Finder as the active app for this to work, so clicking on your desktop will do the trick.



9. Command + Tab - A lot of people know that you can use Command + Tab to cycle through open applications, but for anyone who doesn't, this is a great way to find the app you're looking for, especially if you've hidden the Dock.

10. Command + Tab + H - Since you know how to look through open apps now with Command + Tab, you can add in the H key and hide whatever app you have selected.

Wrap-Up

Keyboard shortcuts are one of the easiest ways to save time and frustration while working on your Mac. They help keep your head in what you're doing and stops the need to search menu bars and task bars to find the setting or app you need.

Mozilla Is Shelling Out \$300K to Help Develop Super-Fast Internet

by Klint Finley, WIRED.com

Mozilla, maker of the popular Firefox web browser, is putting its weight behind new efforts to significantly improve the speed of the country's internet connections.

On Friday, the browser maker unveiled the [Mozilla Gigabit Community Fund](#), which will disperse \$300,000 in grants to software projects that make use of the gigabit fiber services in Chattanooga, Tennessee and Kansas City, Kansas, which can transmit as much as a billion bits of information a second.

Also backed by the National Science Foundation and an organization called US Ignite, the fund will award 10 grants in each city, ranging from \$5,000 and \$30,000, aiming to spark a new breed of web service for use on this new breed of internet connection. Although Mozilla will be dispersing the money, the funds are being provided by the National Science Foundation. Big-name internet service providers such as Verizon and Comcast have been slow to roll out super-high-speed connections, and Mozilla — like Google and others — wants to ensure that internet infrastructure continues to evolve here in the U.S. as quickly as it does overseas.

Google Fiber, the search giant's fiber service that went live in 2012, is probably the most famous gigabit internet service, but the first city to offer such blisteringly fast speeds was Chattanooga, Tennessee. Since then, many other cities — such as Lafayette, Louisiana and Wilson, North Carolina — have followed Chattanooga's lead in

creating their own gigabit internet services. Google has also announced that it will roll out services in Austin, Texas and Salt Lake City, Utah.

These services provide over 50 times the internet speeds offered by traditional connections. That seems like nothing but a good thing, but many people are still wondering how we can truly take advantage of all that extra speed. The Mozilla fund aims to change that. It will award money to projects that “demonstrate how emerging gigabit technologies are relevant in people's everyday lives.” But it also wants applications that are “rooted in the local community, and that are pragmatic, deployable in the near term, have measurable impact, and are re-usable and shareable with others.”

Mozilla will also establish organizations dedicated to providing digital media education in Chattanooga and Kansas City as part of the program. The not-for-profit has already established similar organizations — called Hive Learning Communities — in other cities, including New York and Chicago.

The new program follows a previous gigabit development fund called the [Mozilla Ignite Apps Challenge](#), which awarded grants to the developers of applications such as an [emergency response system](#) and [interactive, virtual fitness studio](#). That may seem like small potatoes. But you have to start somewhere.



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