



The GAB'er

The Newsletter of the Greater Albany Apple Byters

Volume 26, Number 8 - April 2010

New Mac Models Scheduled for Launch?

A MacRumors forum poster points to a report from Taiwanese newspaper Apple Daily that appears to claim that new MacBook, MacBook Pro, and MacBook Air models are due for launch sometime this month.

While the Google translation leaves much to be desired in the way of clarity, the report seems to indicate that new models were planned for introduction in March but shortages of Intel's new chips pushed the launch back to this month. The report also claims that Apple will be pushing all three sizes of the MacBook to a maximum of 640 GB hard drives with 8-hour battery performance across the board. The remainder of the report primarily focuses on suppliers, with Quanta and Hon Hai (Foxconn) targeted for assembly of the devices and Innolux and AU Optronics being tapped for LCD panels.

Updates to Apple's MacBook Pro line have been widely expected for several months, although reports of possible release plans have become less frequent in recent weeks as attention has shifted to the iPad. Apple's MacBook Air is similarly due for an update, as it was last refreshed in June alongside the new MacBook Pros. The MacBook was last updated in October and thus has not necessarily been viewed as ready for an update, but we are beginning to approach its typical refresh window as well.

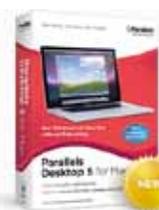
Coordinator's Corner



by John Buckley

The March meeting featured Cloud Computing and using Google Apps. This is what the future may hold for us and a way to save money, always a favorite with GAB'ers.

This month we have seen the introduction of the iPad and this is a further glimpse into the future of computing. However, our demo this month will deal with what many of us might consider the past, running Windows on your Mac.



While we usually do most of our computer using Macintosh applications, we still come across situations where we may have to use a Window application. For example, if you do any work on web design, it is useful to see how your website will look on Internet Explorer, only available on Windows computers. There are a few ways of running Windows and other operating systems on the Mac and we will take a look at one of them-Parallels 5.

We will discuss the news from Apple including a look at the iPad. To find out what's happening, GAAB is the place to be. So be sure to be at our April meeting and every meeting to find out the best information about using your Mac.

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Next GAAB Meeting
April 14, 2010
Windows on your Mac
7:00 p.m.
St. Mary's Hospital, Troy
Leonard Board Room

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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

The following articles explore how the iPad may be changing the way we use computers in the near future.



Goodbye Mouse?

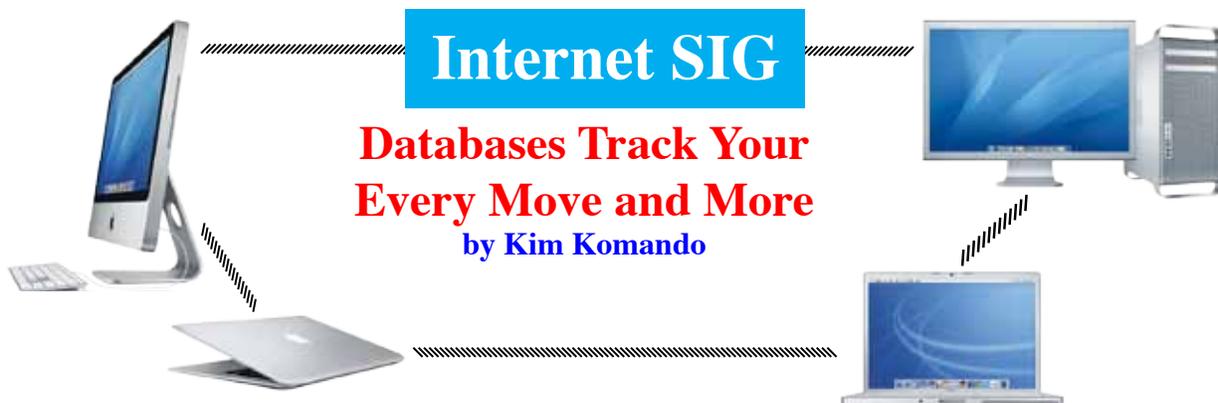
by Lee Irwin Pringle, ezinearticles.com

Once upon a time, computers were difficult, cumbersome machines. Our only way of interacting with them was by the humble keyboard. Thankfully, Apple then brought us the mouse and what a revolution that was. The mouse started the GUI renaissance; we could now manipulate icons, images and video, almost anything ON SCREEN without having to remember irritating key combinations. What a brave new world this was. The mouse has lived happily side-by-side with us ever since. Until now, that is.

It's ironic that the company that brought us the mouse will now be responsible for sending it to the junk yard of gadget history. Earlier this month, Apple unveiled its newest and exciting bit of tech, the iPad. This mouse-basher is a touch-screen affair, with only one button, much like its iPhone. Many believe the iPad will change how all of us use and interact with PC's forever. Sit the iPad next to any modern quad-core, keyboard/touchpad endowed laptop, and you'll be amazed how the iPad makes it look positively antique with its sexy curves and multi-touch interface. The iPad hopes to replace your laptop, netbook even your desktop soon. Good for Apple, but is it good for us? Only time will tell.

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Ever wonder just how much information about you is contained in databases and on the Internet? Here's a hint. It's much more than you think.

If your telephone number is published, a simple Google search can turn up your home address, phone number, and a map to your front door. Everyone knows that. But there are other databases and sites that contain intimate details of your life.

Specialty reports let potential insurers check your prescription history. Retailers can view your purchase returns history. And your employment and rental history are also online.

This information may be incorrect. It can haunt you when you apply for a job, credit or health insurance. So, it's a good idea to do a background check on yourself from time to time.

The Fair Credit Reporting Act lets you request free credit reports once a year. You can also request a report if you've been denied credit based on information it contains. And, you can request that any errors be corrected.

Credit Reports

Credit reports are widely used to verify your credit-worthiness. Experian, Equifax and TransUnion are the three main reporting agencies. You can request your free report by visiting AnnualCreditReport.com. You can request reports from all three agencies.

Personal Information Reports

Personal Information Reports include information on your employment and tenant history. They also contain information on liens and judgments, voter registration and more. This information is used for background screening.

Start by requesting a report from LexisNexis. Then, request your background screening report from Acxiom. You can also request information from Acxiom's directory and fraud detection service; however, there is a \$5 charge for that.

You should also request a Full File Disclosure from ChoicePoint, a LexisNexis company. The information will differ from your LexisNexis report.

Insurance Reports

Your ChoicePoint Full File Disclosure will include home and auto insurance claims. But you'll also want to order a report from Insurance Services Office.

Have you applied for individual health or life insurance in the past seven years? Then, you may have a file at the Medical Information Bureau. It is designed to protect insurers from fraudulent or incomplete applications.

Your file may include information on medical conditions and tests. It could also include driving history and dangerous hobbies or professions. You can request your consumer file from MIB. However, it may not have one on you.

Your prescription drug information may also be available to insurance companies. IntelliScript and MedPoint compile information on drugs, including refills and dosages. It can go back five years.

Checking Reports

Banks often use ChexSystems to vet account applications. Your report may reflect accounts that have been mishandled. For example, it shows if you have had excessive overdrafts.

Retailers use TeleCheck for check verification. It gathers information on returned checks and check fraud.

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Education SIG

The iPad in Education

The following two articles give some sense as to how and where the iPad will fit into the education picture now that it is available.

Developers Seek to Link iPad with Education by D. Carter, eschoolnews.com

Some educational iPad applications are available at no cost in the Apple store.

Technology experts say Apple's latest gizmo, the iPad, won't replace students' laptops, but a menu of applications could help teach the periodic table, a range of languages, and a host of other K-12 and higher-education subjects.

More than 300,000 iPads were sold April 3 in Apple Stores and through pre-orders, Apple announced April 5, and education technology enthusiasts finally got to experiment with the device that Apple CEO Steve Jobs describes as a "game changer."

The iPad App Store is stocked with more than 150,000 downloadable programs, including some that might catch educators' attention.

"The Elements: A Visual Exploration" guides students through every part of the periodic table with stunning graphics of each element, presenting an old lesson plan in a captivating platform.

Hello-Hello.com, a language learning web site that launched last year, released its iPad app April 1, offering access to the site's entire Spanish course and allowing access to social networking sites where students can chat with native speakers of the language they are studying.

Hello-Hello.com plans to release iPad apps covering more languages in the coming weeks, according to a company announcement.

WolframAlpha, an online search engine that caters to researchers, released an iPad app that connects directly to the WolframAlpha supercomputing cloud, a potential

boon for campus research teams who could continue their work with a device that is more portable than even a laptop, experts said.



Educational iPad applications can cost \$2, \$15, or more, but some programs are available for free, like the "USA Factbook," which features descriptions of all 50 states. There's also "States & Capitals" for no charge in the iPad apps store, designed for students prepping for a geography quiz or exam.

Ronald Yaros, an assistant journalism professor at the University of Maryland, was among the iPad early adopters—Yaros ordered the eReader device shortly after Apple unveiled it in February—and said the product could be useful for students interested in the evolution of news consumption.

"To those professors who don't use technology, it'll be revolutionary," said Yaros, whose curriculum is centered around new media and technology. "I would say it's another tool in the toolbox. ... It depends on how [tech-savvy] the professor is."

Yaros, an avid Apple consumer with an iPhone and several Apple laptops, said the iPad takes some "getting used to" because its keys are flat on the screen, rather than raised like a traditional keyboard.

"You have to have it positioned just right to type," he said.

News site applications such as *The New York Times* and the Associated Press (AP) could serve as worthy journalism class lessons, Yaros said, especially for students studying electronic presentation of the news.

The AP iPad app, for instance, has headlines with corresponding photos near the bottom of the iPad screen. Yaros said the subtle placement of stories that might pique readers' interest—even when an iPad user is perusing



another AP story—should be a lesson in itself for his students.

“The stories just kind of float across the bottom of the screen, and they come with what I would call explanatory headlines,” he said. “They don’t tease the reader so much, and that’s something I tell my students to avoid.”

Learning-management system giant Blackboard Inc. has joined the iPad store with its own application that lets students check their assignments, upcoming exams, and class grades on the Apple tablet. In an April 5 announcement, Blackboard said its app would be free for iPad users in “an effort to help institutions get started quickly in mobile [technologies] and to encourage use of the iPad as a learning tool.”

The program, called Blackboard Mobile Learn, will be available in June on platforms for students who use the iPhone operating system, BlackBerry, and Google Android.

Officials at Seton Hill University in Greensburg, Pa., were perhaps the earliest iPad adopters in education, announcing March 30 that all full-time students would receive an iPad beginning in the fall 2010 semester.

Providing the latest eReader for students is part of the university’s Griffin Technology Advantage Program launch, which “provides students with the best in technology and collaborative learning tools, ensuring that Seton Hill students will be uniquely suited to whatever careers they choose—even those that have not yet been created.”

Seton Hill also will provide 13-inch MacBooks for full-time students. The students will own each Apple device, meaning they can take the iPad and laptop off campus and keep the products after graduation, according to the university’s announcement.

The University of Maryland partnered with the International Children’s Digital Library (ICDL) to create a free iPad app for online children’s books in more than 50 languages. The application gives access to a children’s search engine designed by Maryland’s Human-Computer Interaction Laboratory to sift through ICDL’s 4,000 book titles.

“In today’s digital and global age, children should be encouraged to read anytime and anywhere,” said Michael Levine, executive director of the Joan Ganz Cooney Center at Sesame Workshop, which supports investment and research in digital technologies. “*ICDL for iPad* does just that.”

The iPad has gotten mostly favorable reviews from technology writers, although some—such as *New York Times* technology columnist David Pogue—caution that the device isn’t meant to replace a laptop.

“The iPad is ... not nearly as good for creating stuff,” Pogue concludes. “On the other hand, it’s infinitely more convenient for consuming it.”

**Apple’s iPad ‘makes technology instantly accessible’
It’s every bit as smart and stylish, as you’d expect
by Michael DeAgonia (Computerworld)**

I have read every review about Apple’s new iPad leading up to -- and after -- its launch today. I’ve seen just about every possible adjective used to describe the brilliant, 1024-by-768-pixel screen; have heard every imaginable description of how “fast” the iPad responds, thanks to Apple’s custom A4 chip set; been told how the 1.5-lb. device disappears, leaving you alone with the content on-screen. And I’ve seen reviewers struggling to fully articulate what using an iPad is really like.

Virtually everyone has gushed about the iPad in the run-up to day’s release, yet I haven’t seen anyone really capture the essence of using one.

I admit to a certain prelaunch bias after watching the iPad demonstrations. Never having touched the product, it seemed to me that Apple clearly had a winner on its hands ... under the condition that the iPhone experience scaled with the larger 9.7-in. screen available on the iPad.

Now that I have one of my own, I realize it might not be possible to capture in words the “Eureka!” moment a few minutes with the iPad delivers. Yes, everything you’ve read about the iPad is true: It is immersive, it is a device whose presence fades away when you use, and it is very fast and responsive. Given that Apple uses iTunes for content management -- just as it does in the iPhone and iPod Touch -- and uses the same home-screen-with-icons design on the iPad as it does on the iPhone/iPod Touch, iPhone owners will feel immediately at home. The UI is both as limiting and as straightforward as you’ve come to love/expect/loathe. But the native software available for the iPad is what makes it stand apart from the iPhone/iPod Touch.

Best for viewing content

I’ve always used a Mac because content creation was a hobby and a pastime, and always felt that the Mac is the best tool for that kind of work. Having now spent an afternoon with the iPad, I’m convinced that this device is the best tool available for viewing content. I would even go as far to say that this is the Apple product that



should legitimately be called the real Mac Mini. The other computer from Apple that bears that name is merely a desktop in a small form factor running the full version of Mac OS X; the iPad truly is a mobile version of desktop computing.

The iPad's OS works like Mac OS X, but it's different in important ways that actually add to the experience rather than subtract from it. Take the Photos app, for instance. On the iPad, Photos is what iPhoto would be if it had been built for a touch interface. The redesign needed to incorporate multi-touch capabilities makes the application -- all such apps, in fact -- far more intuitive, natural and obvious to use than a mouse and keyboard could ever convey.

Apps, apps, apps

The same is true with the iPod app on the iPad (which sounds like a tongue twister, I know). It's one thing to use iTunes with a mouse and keyboard, navigating and clicking your way through menus and song lists. It's another thing to use the iPod software on the iPad, where flicking your way through songs and videos seems more natural than doing it on a desktop computer. Suddenly, a mouse and keyboard feel like they get in the way of the whole computing experience.

The quality of the software I've tried out -- both the Apple-made applications (like Pages) and third-party apps -- is good. Both take advantage of the display (although iPhone apps that haven't been updated yet still run in iPhone mode in the center of the screen). In fact, I predict that the iPad will give Netflix a real boost. I was thinking about canceling my Netflix subscription until I installed the Netflix app on my iPad and started watching videos. I put my cancellation plans on hold. It's also important to note that virtually all of the 140,000 apps that work on the iPhone will run on the iPad. That offers a lot of potential versatility, depending on how you'll use it.

The iPad is as solid as the software it runs, and my first thought upon picking it up for the first time can be summed up in one word: quality. The entire front is glass, with the now-familiar black border at the edges. The side and back are aluminum, and the design is Steve Jobs-approved minimalist. All you'll find are a volume button on the right side, a screen-lock button right next to it, a power button on top, and the home button at the base of the screen. (The iPad connects to your computer for syncing, or to the supplied charger for charging, with a port at the bottom.) There are no seams, screws or anything else to indicate that this is anything less than a solid chunk of technology hardware. The iPad looks like it came from a science fiction movie prop room, except it's fully functional.

It's not perfect

As remarkable as the iPad is, it's not perfect.

It's a little heavier than I'd like. You don't notice it so much at first, mind you, but extended periods of use will require resting the device on something, such as your leg or lap. The optional \$39 Apple case is highly advised, both as a way to protect the iPad and to serve as a display stand. And as you'd expect, the screen is a fingerprint magnet -- even if it does have a special oleophobic coating that allows you to wipe greasy marks off easily. (It's the same coating that's on newer iPhones.)

The iPad model released today may not be the right tool for everyone, however, given that network connectivity is limited to Wi-Fi only. The iPad with 3G and GPS technologies may suit more needs and satisfy more requirements for those looking for truly mobile computing and content viewing, since the 3G iPad allows for access to AT&T's mobile network. Of course, the 3G models cost an extra \$130 and you have to pay to access AT&T's network if you want to connect when you're away from Wi-Fi.

Personally, I bought the Wi-Fi version because I have a company-issued Sprint MiFi, which means I have wireless connectivity when on the road. If a virtually ubiquitous connection is what you need, you're better off waiting until the 3G models arrive.

The one thing I wish this version of the iPad came with is GPS, which would really strengthen Maps and other location-aware applications. I know the 3G version that's coming will have it, and obviously the lack of GPS wasn't a deal-breaker. I can use my iPhone for GPS functionality, of course, but it'd be nice to have it in the iPad as well. If I were delivering Jobs' trademark keynote, GPS is the "one more thing" I'd offer up in the iPad.

Final thoughts

This is the first tablet computer that has a genuine shot at real mass adoption. It makes technology instantly accessible to people for whom a computer is still a mysterious black box that doesn't always do what it's supposed to. Apple has long had a knack for designing complete products that appeal to both geeks and everyday people without making either group feel dumb. Now it's even gone beyond that, crafting something that a young kid or an older grandparent can take to with ease.

The \$499 starting price (for the 16GB model) helps, too. Even the most expensive model, with 64GB of storage and 3G accessibility, is just \$829. In between is a price point that just about anyone can reach. Don't believe the hype? Go try one for yourself.



The Apple Two

The iPad is Steve Jobs' final victory over the company's co-founder Steve Wozniak.

by Tim WuPosted, Slate.com



Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak. In 2006, professor Jonathan Zittrain of Harvard Law School predicted that over the next decade there would be a determined effort to replace

the personal computer with a new generation of “information appliances.” He was, it turned out, exactly right. But the one thing he couldn’t forecast was who would be leading the charge. How, indeed, could anyone have guessed that Apple Inc., the creator of the personal computer, would lead the effort to exterminate it?

There are many interesting things to be said about the iPad. It might save publishing, television, and journalism. It might overrun Sony and Microsoft in computer gaming.

It also might turn Americans back into the passive couch potatoes they were in the 1950s. But perhaps the greatest story is of Apple itself, and the degree to which the iPad’s design does battle with the company’s own history and the computing legacy of its co-founder, Steve Wozniak.

Apple is a schizophrenic company, a self-professed revolutionary that is closely allied with establishment forces like the entertainment conglomerates and the telecommunications industry. To understand this contradiction we need to look back to Apple’s origins. Let’s go back to a day in 1971 when we find a bearded young college student in thick eyeglasses named Steve Wozniak hanging out at the home of Steve Jobs, then in high school. The two young men, electronics buffs, were fiddling with a crude device they’d been working on for more than a year. That day was their eureka moment: Apple’s founders had managed to hack AT&T’s long-distance network. Their invention was a “blue box” that made long-distance phone calls for free. The two men, in other words, got started by defrauding the firm that is now perhaps Apple’s most important business partner.

The anti-establishment spirit that underpinned the blue box still gives substance to the iconoclastic, outsider image Apple and Steve Jobs have long cultivated. Back in the 1970s, the inventors reinforced their company’s ethos with their self-styling as counterculturals. Both men had long

hair and opposed the Vietnam War. Wozniak, an inveterate prankster, ran an illegal “dial-a-joke” operation; Jobs would travel to India in search of a guru.

But the granular truth of Apple’s origins was a bit more complicated than the simplifying imagery suggested. Even in these beginnings, there was a significant divide between the two men. There was no real parity in technical prowess: It was Wozniak, not Jobs, who had built the blue box. And it was Wozniak who conceived of and built the Apple and the Apple II—the personal computer that would be unquestionably the most important Apple product ever and arguably among the most important inventions of the latter 20th century. Jobs was the businessman and the dealmaker, essential as such, but hardly the founding genius of Apple computers, the man whose ideas became silicon and changed the world. That was Wozniak.

Wozniak’s Apple took personal computing, an obscure pursuit of the hobbyist, and made it into a culture-wide phenomenon, one that that would ultimately transform not just computing, but communications, entertainment, business—in short the whole productive part of American life. And in doing so he made the ideology he followed—“open computing”—America’s ideology. Of course, such an idea didn’t originate with Apple; it was at least as old as the ideas of Man-Computer Symbiosis in the 1960s. By the 1970s, it was an orthodoxy of amateur societies, like the Bay Area’s Homebrew Computer Club, where Wozniak offered the first public demonstration of the Apple I in 1976.



Wozniak’s design was open and decentralized in ways that still define those concepts in the computing industries. The original Apple had a hood, and as with a car, the owner could open it up and get at the guts of the machine.



Although it was a fully assembled device, not a kit like earlier PC products, Apple owners were encouraged to tinker with the innards of Wozniak's machine—to soup it up, make it faster, add features. There were slots to accommodate all sorts of peripheral devices, and it was built to run a variety of software. Wozniak's ethic of openness also extended to disclosing design specifications. In a 2006 talk at Columbia University, he put the point this way: "Everything we knew, you knew." To point out that this is no longer Apple's policy is to state the obvious.

While a computer you can modify might not sound so profound, Wozniak contemplated a nearly spiritual relationship between man and his machine. He held, simply, that machines should be open to their owners and that all power should reside in the user. That notion mattered most to geeks, but it expressed deeper ideas, too: a distrust of centralized power and a belief, embedded in silicon, that computers should be tools of freedom.

In 2006, when Wozniak gave his talk at Columbia, I asked him what happened with the Mac. You could open up the Apple II, and there were slots and so on, and anyone could write for it, I said. The Mac was way more closed. What happened?

"Oh," said Wozniak. "That was Steve. He wanted it that way."

Apple's origins were pure Steve Wozniak, but the Mac, the iPod, the iPhone, and the iPad are the products of the company's other founder. Steve Jobs' ideas have always been in tension with Wozniak's brand of idealism and the founding principles of Apple. Jobs maintained the early, countercultural image that he and Wozniak created, but beginning with the Macintosh in the 1980s, and accelerating through the iPhone and climaxing with the iPad's release this month, he has taken Apple on a fundamentally different track, one that is, in fact, nearly the opposite of the Wozniak vision.

Jobs believes in perfection, not muddling through. He would seem as much at home in Victorian England as behind the counter of a sushi bar: a man who believes in a single best way of performing any task and presenting the results. As one might expect, his ideas embody an aesthetic philosophy as much as a sense of functionality, which is why Apple's products look so good while working so well. But those ideas have also long been at odds with the principles of the early computing industry, of the Apple II, and of the Internet. The ideology of the perfect machine and open computing are contradictory. They cannot coexist.

As Wozniak told me in 2006, it was the Macintosh, launched in 1984, that marked the first departure from many of his ideas as realized in the Apple II. To be sure, the Macintosh was a radical innovation in its own right, being the first mass-produced computer to feature a "mouse" and a "desktop," ideas born in the mind of Douglas Engelbart in the 1960s and that had persisted without fructifying in computer science labs ever since. Nevertheless the Mac represented an unconditional surrender of Wozniak's openness, as was obvious from the first glance: There was no hood. You could no longer easily open the computer and get at its innards. And only Apple stuff, or stuff that Apple approved, could run on it (as software) or plug into it (as peripherals). Apple thus became the final arbiter over what the Macintosh was and was not, rather in the way that AT&T at one time had sole discretion over what could and could not connect to the telephone network.

Now in 2010, the iPad takes the same ideas to their logical extreme. It is a beautiful and nearly perfect machine. It is also Jobs' final triumph, the final step in Apple's evolution away from Wozniak and toward a closed model. The main, and most important, concession to openness is the App Store, a creation that shows Jobs learned something from Apple's bitter defeat by Microsoft in the 1990s. You cannot run software Apple does not distribute itself. You cannot access the file system unless you hack the machine. You cannot open the hood; indeed, the machine lacks any screws. I compared my iPad to various appliances around the home—coffee machines, toaster, cameras—and the only thing comparably sealed was, well, an iPod. The iPad has no slots; its only interface is an Apple-specific plug. Oddly enough, this all means that the iPad is not a machine that Apple's founders, in the 1970s, would have ever considered buying.

But this may not matter for many people, for the iPad is handy tool for getting well-produced content from the industries that make it. And even if it doesn't do everything a computer does, it still does most things. Still, it is meant for consumers not users, and as such has far more in common with the television than the personal computer. It is not meant for the Homebrew Computer Club—for tinkerers, hobbyists, or for that matter, creators.

Steve Wozniak has said that he pre-ordered three iPads, two for himself and one for a friend. This is a testament to his incredible good nature and his loyalty both to the firm that marginalized him in the 1980s and to a friend, Jobs, who refused to write a foreword for his memoirs. Yet somewhere, deep inside, Wozniak must realize what the release of the iPad signifies: The company he once built now, officially, no longer exists.



WSJ: Apple “Developing New iPhone,” Plus Another for Verizon (update: iPhone HD, front-facing camera?) by Darren Murph, engadget.com

You heard right, folks -- according to the Wall Street Journal, Apple is currently “developing a new iPhone to debut this summer,” and as if that weren’t enough, it’s also “working on another model for US mobile phone operator Verizon Wireless.” As of this moment, details about the break are nowhere to be found, but it’s not like either tidbit is shocking. This summer will mark the one-year anniversary of the iPhone 3GS, and if the Cupertino-based company keeps with its historical refresh pattern, we’re just a few months out from seeing the latest and greatest iPhone. There’s also been no shortage of iPhone-to-Verizon rumors over the years, with the latest of ‘em happening during the run-up to the iPad’s launch.

Update: We’re now learning that the “next iPhone is being manufactured by Taiwanese contract manufacturer Hon Hai Precision Industry,” which just so happens to be the same outfit responsible for crafting all prior iPhones. That’s according to “people briefed on the matter” and sourced by the WSJ. It’s also stated that the world’s first CDMA iPhone will be manufactured by Pegatron Technology, which we caught just last week dabbling in some of NVIDIA’s Tegra 2-based wares. If all goes well, Pegatron could begin mass production of the CDMA iPhone (exact model not disclosed) this September, so it’s hard to say if Sprint or Verizon would have access before the all-too-lucrative holiday season. As for quotes on the matter? Most everyone involved wouldn’t say a word, but an AT&T spokesman did utter the following: “There has been lots of incorrect speculation on CDMA iPhones for a long time. We haven’t seen one yet and only Apple knows when that might occur.”

On a week that couldn’t possibly get any bigger for Apple, that’s exactly what just happened. Everyone suspected that a fourth-generation iPhone was in the works, but having an outlet like the WSJ confirm it just makes the summer that much harder to wait for. There’s also the possibility that 2010 will be the final year that AT&T retains its death-grip on the iPhone, but by the sound of this report, it still seems as if the nation’s largest GSM carrier may nab exclusive rights on the latest iPhone. We also can’t help but wonder



about the future of a true 4G iPhone -- will Sprint manage to grab a WiMAX-enabled version? Will Verizon get its grubby paws on an LTE model? We figured only Jobs would know, but now... there might just be someone else out there willing to spill the beans.

Update 2: Soon after the news broke, we were informed that the next-generation iPhone would be announced on June 22nd (a Tuesday, naturally) and would be dubbed the iPhone HD (a name that has been tossed around before). That certainly makes sense given that Apple almost certainly has to up the pixel count in order to rival the EVO 4G, HD2 and all of those other high-res handsets, but we’re still reserving judgment until we see that fateful media invite hit our inbox.

Update 3: John Gruber’s just weighed in with some more tidbits, in his characteristically polite way. Gruber says the next model will have an A4-class SoC, a 960 x 640 display, a front-facing camera, and that iPhone OS 4.0 will enable third-party multitasking. A pretty safe set of predictions, in all, but Gruber’s done pretty well in the past, so we’ll just have to wait and see.



Apple Ambassador

Continued from page 2.

Whatever happens, it would seem that the touchscreen is enjoying its time in the limelight, with Microsoft releasing Windows 7 with touchscreen capability, and with other companies rushing out new touchscreen devices all the time, it will only be a matter of time before the gentle, peaceful clicking of busy mice and the finger-prodding rumble of keyboards will become a thing of the past.

The following article on web design indicate additional changes that we will probably see in the near future.

On the iPad and Web Design (somadesign.ca)

As usual, Apple's newest creation has produced opinions. The rhetoric of those for and against it is predictably strong and, occasionally, ridiculous. I don't care to add my voice to the din. My attention is more fixated on the fact that if the iPad is successful, we'll have to say goodbye to a whole host of assumptions as we say "hello" to a new era of touch computing. What does this mean for web designers?

Goodbye Mouse, Hello Hands

How much of your site depends on mouse hover states? Hopefully none, if you're committed to accessibility. But, chances are there are parts that labour under the assumption that everyone is—and always will be—using a mouse. If touch computing replaces the mouse + keyboard paradigm that's dominant today, there's going to be a lot of scurrying to retrofit websites to be usable by folks getting their hands on your site. I know that I'm not going to make anything rely on mouse hover states from here on out.

But that's merely a technical hurdle. There's a fundamental difference between an interaction with your screen mediated by a mouse and reaching out and touching something. Your website will no longer have clicks; it will have users touching, pinching, swiping, rotating. In short, the touch experience is flush with potential for a richer, more textured interaction paradigm in our websites. Touch might be as large a paradigm shift beyond today's web as the web has been over print.



Goodbye Landscape, Hello Portrait

Computer monitors have always had a landscape orientation. This has only become more prominent in recent years as we moved from ubiquitous 4:3 ratios to various widescreen formats. In short, we've had ample width and short heights. (Thus the religious wars over "the fold.")

But here we have a 3:4 orientation. Portrait. Does portrait encourage vertical scanning instead of horizontal? What does it mean to relax about how high on the page our central content is? How many assumptions about how the web works do we have that are based on the landscape orientation?

You might wish to inform me that the screen can just as easily be used in landscape, but my money's on people using it in portrait more often than not. But even that ability to choose has big implications for our assumptions about designing for the web.

Goodbye Flash, Hello Web Standards

Virtual ink is being spilled with abandon over the iPad and Flash support. Flash gained traction because web standards were deficient in 2 core areas: video and animation. HTML5 has the video element, and animation via canvas, SVG, CSS animations, and plain ol' JavaScript can do 98% of the things that Flash is currently used for.

More importantly, web standards can do 100% of the desirable things that Flash can do. Those technologies aren't yet supported by every browser, but they are supported by Safari, and that's all that matters here. And are you really going to miss those punch a monkey banner ads?

The two things preventing Flash's demise are 1) momentum and 2) authoring tools. The former is shifting thanks to the iPhone and iPad, and the latter is bound to change.

Goodbye Fringe, Hello Mainstream

Browsing on the iPhone can be frustrating when the content you're looking for is all Flash. Other times the site has simply been overly optimized for the desktop and/or Internet Explorer. Some may blame the device, but as the iPhone continues to grow and the iPad emerges, it'll be business suicide to have a poor experience in the mobile sector. Let's face it - users with enough money to spend on an iPhone and/or an iPad are exactly the types of people that most businesses want to appeal to.

In short, web designers who understand how to design good web experiences for these platforms will only become more sought after. And this just might allow me to justify an iPad as a business expense.



Internet SIG

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Employment history

The Work Number collects employment and income information. The data comes from employers. Also also gathers employment-related information.

These companies may not have information on you. Still, you'll want to request copies of your files from both companies.

Tenant history and utilities reports

A number of companies gather tenant information. The information can include evictions and disputes with landlords.

Your tenant history may be available from one or more databases. Check with First Advantage SafeRent, RentBureau and Tenant Data Services.

The National Consumer Telecom and Utilities Exchange provides information to utility companies. It stores information on defaulted and fraudulent accounts.

Other reports

The Social Security Administration sends yearly Social Security statements. Your statement shows your Social Security earnings history. It also includes estimated benefit payments. You can request a copy of your report at any time.

The Retail Equation is designed to prevent fraudulent and abusive returns. Information provided may prevent you from returning an item to a store. In that case, request a copy of your return activity report.

Teletrack collects subprime credit information. It is used by payday loan companies.

CentralCredit is a credit bureau used by the gaming industry. Casinos use it when extending credit to guests.

The process for requesting a specialty report varies from database to database. You may need to call the company or mail a form. Be prepared to disclose your Social Security number and current address. You may also need to submit copies of documents to prove your identity.

Program Coordinator

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In addition, I have started to create a presence for GAAB on Facebook. If you go to our website, you will see a badge for our Facebook page in the lower right hand corner of the page. Click on that badge and go to the page and become a Fan of GAAB. In order for us to be eligible for a simple Facebook url, we need to have 25 fans. All it takes to join Facebook is a name and an e-mail address and then you can become a Fan of GAAB.

Our Facebook page will enable us to have an additional way of discussing GAAB issues between meetings.

The April meeting will be held at St. Mary's Hospital in the Leonard Board Room on Wednesday, April 14, 2010. 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.

iPhone OS 4.0 Preview

Gizmodo reports that Apple has sent out media invitations for a preview event scheduled for this Thursday, April 8th, to show off iPhone OS 4.0.

Reports of iPhone OS 4.0 features began to surface in January ahead of the iPad media event, but the software was not included in that presentation. At the time, claims of new multi-touch gesture support, multitasking, and a user interface refresh were making the rounds. Multitasking has been the focus of a number of subsequent reports, with a recent one noting that iPhone OS 4.0 will carry an implementation similar to that of Exposé in Mac OS X. Other rumored features include a unified inbox for multiple email accounts and the ability to place contacts directly on the home screen.

Evidence of iPhone OS 4.0 in testing appeared late last year, and the new operating system is presumed to be introduced alongside new iPhone hardware sometime in the June-July timeframe.



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