

# The Window

MACNJ

MACNJ

Serving the Central New Jersey Macintosh Community since 1986

March 2013

## The Master - Dave Marra!

By Bil Barr, Program Chair

One of the films last Sunday receiving mention at the Academy Awards was THE MASTOR. It is, I'm sure, an intriguing story about a man who knew "everything". I didn't see it. Did you? But I have heard a lot about it. The movie is not what first comes to mind when I talk of ..... THE MASTOR! No, sir. I think of Dave Marra, Senior Systems Engineer with Apple.

**Dave Marra will be our Master speaker, presenter and all around great guy at the March 9th MACNJ meeting.** As you know, we give him the whole show after brief opening remarks and Q&A. The floor is his.

OS X Mountain Lion is the latest Apple operating system. Are you on it? If not, you're missing out on some terrific features. Dave will bring them to light, so you know what you're missing. Yes, more than 200 new features. Mail, Calendar and iTunes have new "faces" to them. You gain some of the features notable in the iOS 6 "smart phone" arena.

The iCloud allows iOS 6 to play with OS X. Dave will demonstrate many of those features such as iMessage, system-wide sharing, Dictation, AirPlay Mirroring and more. Have you wanted to keep ALL your machines matched up with a document you can edit from the iPhone, iPad, Laptop or Desktop? Wireless updating/synching is now possible. And so much more with iCloud and Mountain Lion.



Come see our "Master" - Dave Marra, March 9th at Voorhees High School just north of High Bridge, NJ. The meeting runs from 9am to noon and is open to the public. Quality refreshments are served. Bring a friend or family member or the fellow who's just looking - Mac or PC? All are welcome.

See you soon.



### "It's Time to Pay Your MACNJ Dues"

If you have not paid your **2013** dues, please bring your check for \$24 to Saturday's meeting.

If you'd prefer, you can mail your check to the address on the membership form of this newsletter..

Thank you in advance for your prompt payment!

# Apple Tweaks MacBook Specs and Prices

by Adam C. Engst

In a cut-and-dried press release, Apple announced that it has made a variety of minor CPU, RAM, and pricing adjustments to the MacBook Pro and MacBook Air lines.

**13-inch MacBook Pro with Retina display** -- Apple's smallest Retina-enabled MacBook Pro previously cost \$1,699 and \$1,999 for flash storage amounts of 128 GB and 256 GB and a 2.5 GHz dual-core Intel Core i5 processor. Now, the 128 GB configuration retains the 2.5 GHz CPU, but drops \$200 in price to \$1,499, whereas the 256 GB configuration gets a 2.6 GHz CPU and drops \$300 to \$1,699. The 256 GB model also gains a built-to-order option of a 3.0 GHz processor, whereas the 128 GB model retains its 2.9 GHz option.



**15-inch MacBook Pro with Retina display** -- On the larger end of the MacBook Pro model line, pricing remains the same, with the base model with 256 GB of flash storage listing for \$2,199 but gaining a 2.4 GHz quad-core Intel Core i7 processor in favor of the previous 2.3 GHz CPU. The higher-end 256 GB model also jumps from a 2.6 GHz Intel Core i7 to a 2.7 GHz version for the same price, but it doubles the RAM to 16 GB as well.

There is now just one standard configuration of the non-Retina 15-inch MacBook Pro, a 2.3 GHz quad-core Intel Core i7 with 4 GB of RAM and a 500 GB hard drive for \$1,799. You can change those specs during checkout to match the previously offered higher-end configuration, so offering just one pre-configured option is just a matter of marketing. However, the non-Retina 15-inch model lets you substitute a high-resolution (1680-by-1050 pixel) anti-glare screen for the normal 1440-by-900 pixel glossy screen for an additional \$100 — it's the last Apple laptop model that still offers what many people believe is an essential option.



**13-inch MacBook Air** -- Lastly, the larger MacBook Air model with 256 GB of flash storage retains the same specs but drops \$100 in price from \$1,499 to \$1,399

**Why Lower Prices?** -- It's a little unusual for Apple to drop prices midstream like this; the company generally prefers to improve a model's specs while keeping the price the same (and presumably improving the margin a little in the process). We could speculate about Apple wanting to goose sales a little to bolster Wall Street perceptions, but honestly, it's hard for that to be anything more than a wild guess.

It's equally likely that the cost of 13-inch Retina displays has dropped significantly since the price was initially determined, and Apple felt it would be helpful to pass on the savings in the form of lower prices. That, along with lower flash storage and RAM costs, might account for some of the other changes as well. It is a little interesting that the non-Retina models of the MacBook Pro saw no changes, and the MacBook Air line remained untouched at a technical level as well.

Regardless, there's no question the improved specs and lower prices are welcome, and they make Apple's already attractive laptop line all the more compelling.

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# Why Plain Text Books Are Here to Stay

by Adam C. Engst



The most breathless news releases and stories surrounding books today have one thing in common — they’re pushing the concept that the latest and greatest involves audio, video, and interactivity. Even the tools that get the most attention — iBooks Author, Inkling Habitat, Vook, and a variety of others — emphasize how they can take books beyond plain old text and graphics. The implication — sometimes unstated, other times explicit — is that these enhancements are the future of the book, that in enough time, all books will be bleeping and blooping and playing video non-stop while we happily swipe around in interactive graphics. Because, after all, who would want to sit down and read a plain old book when all that multimedia goodness beckons? We’ve even been accused of buying into this ourselves, with our “Take Control Live: Working with Your iPad [ <http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/tclive-working-ipad?pt=TB1161>]” experiment, which supplements 4 hours of online video with PDF-based notes and links.

Speaking as not just a publisher, but as an inveterate reader, I want to make clear that this is entirely wrong. There’s no question that authors and publishers have come up with new forms of the book over the years, and there’s certainly a role for enhanced multimedia in books. Textbooks are obvious examples, and it’s not hard to imagine certain other types of books and individual titles benefiting from judicious use of multimedia as well.

But you know what? Multimedia in books may be easier to create than ever before, and it may be easier to find and read enhanced books than ever before, but the overall concept is nothing new. Back in the early 1990s, Voyager (aided in part by our own Michael Cohen) created over 60 titles in their Expanded Books series. Those titles had most of what enhanced books have today, and while they were ground-breaking, they didn’t, to mix earth and water in my

analogies, mark a sea change for publishing. In part, that’s because the hardware and software of the time was neither sufficiently powerful nor widespread — an iBooks Author enhanced book can reach far more people on an iPad today than a floppy or CD-ROM title of 1992 could.

Hardware and software limitations may have fallen by the wayside, but two other reasons why we still have plain text books remain in full force. First, it’s a heck of a lot harder and more expensive for authors and publishers to create an enhanced book than a plain text book, making an already tenuous business model even shakier. Second, and more importantly, the goal of book publishing is to convey information, and I see no indication that enhanced books are de facto better at conveying information in every case and to every reader.

It’s tempting to paint the world of books with a broad evolutionary brush, where natural selection determines which species survive and which are crushed under history’s heel, and that overly simplistic model fits well with the modern media’s desire for conflict and controversy. But while the form of the book is evolving — and will undoubtedly continue to do so — the ecosystem of books and information is such that each evolutionary change merely adds to an already diverse set of choices for authors, publishers, and readers.

So no, enhanced books won’t replace the plain text novel on paper or via a Kindle, nor the laid-out technical book with its screenshots and lists in PDF and EPUB, nor the toddler’s board book, nor the gorgeously illustrated coffee table book, nor any other type of book. Or rather, enhanced books might replace individual titles within each of those types, but as long as a particular type of book — in physical or electronic form — remains useful to readers and compelling to authors and publishers, it will survive.

Besides, if fancy audio and video were the ultimate solution for conveying information, I have just one word for you: television.

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# Deciding If Time Machine Should Back Up Dropbox

by Alicia Katz Pollock



If you use Time Machine to back up your Mac, you have the security of automatic backups. And if you're a Dropbox user, everything in your Dropbox folder benefits from both the protection of offsite storage and file versioning. But what may not have occurred to you is that, by default, Time Machine is also backing up the contents of your Dropbox folder.

It's important to realize that one of the key aspects of how Dropbox works is that it creates a Dropbox folder in your home folder and then syncs the contents of that folder with the Dropbox Web site. Move a file into the Dropbox folder and it's copied to the Dropbox Web site; make a change, and that change automatically propagates to the Dropbox site. Because there's nothing special about the Dropbox folder itself, it's part of Time Machine's backup set by default



On the one hand, backing up your Dropbox folder with Time Machine gives you an added layer of confidence that your files in Dropbox are backed up locally, in case something were to go wrong with the Dropbox Web site. Plus, Dropbox maintains deleted files for only 30 days unless you pay for a Dropbox Pro account and enable the Packrat add-on in your account settings, so a Time Machine backup could let you restore deleted files after that 30-day period.

On the other hand, since all those files in your Dropbox folder are duplicated on the Dropbox Web site, they can be restored easily in case of accidental deletion or hard drive death. Which you prefer is up to you. Another point in favor of a Time Machine backup is that Dropbox lets you restore only files, not folders, and it sees application packages as folders, so restoring an entire folder of deleted files would be time-consuming, and restoring a deleted application might be nearly impossible if it was made up of many individual files.

To exclude your Dropbox files from your Time Machine backup, open the Time Machine pane of System Preferences and click the Options button to reveal the "Exclude these Items from Backups" dialog. Drag your Dropbox folder from the Finder into that list, or click the plus sign at the bottom and select the Dropbox folder in your home folder. Click Save when you're done.



When I initially discovered my Dropbox files on my Time Machine backup, my first reaction was to exclude the files from my backup. After more thought, though, I realized there already had been times that I had deleted files from my Dropbox folder that I could have rescued via Time Machine. But if you have a Dropbox Pro account with Packrat enabled, or simply aren't worried about needing to restore a deleted file more than 30 days later, you might prefer to save some space on your Time Machine drive.

*[Alicia Katz Pollock has been working with computers since designing a database on an Apple IIc for her father's dental practice when she was 13. Today she is a consultant at Royalwise Solutions [http://royalwise.com/] and a course author for Lynda.com. She holds a variety of Apple, Microsoft, and Intuit certifications.]*

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# Cool Products from Macworld/iWorld 2013:

by Adam C. Engst

## Part 1

My friend Ivan Drucker, a consultant in New York City, posed an interesting question at breakfast on the first day of Macworld/iWorld 2013 in San Francisco. “Would Macworld exist, if it hadn’t always existed?” he asked. The answer, we decided, while walking past the surprisingly aggressive pan-handlers in Union Square, was no, that the traditional trade show is no longer the main solution to the problem of obscurity, that companies with products to bring to market can do so in many other ways today.

Two days later, Chris Bastian, another friend who heads up the MetroMac users group in New York City (I have to go to San Francisco to see New Yorkers?) noted that, in the past, Macworld served essentially three purposes: a toy store where Mac geeks could shop for the latest and greatest; an old-time revival meeting where everyone would come once a year to get the religion during Steve Jobs’s keynote; and summer camp, where you’d catch up with friends every year. And, he observed sadly, the Apple keynote is no more, fewer people return for camp each year than in the past, and the toy store is more about looking than buying.

And yet Macworld keeps plugging on, bringing together hundreds of companies and many thousands of attendees for three days of non-stop hubbub on the show floor; numerous talks, sessions, and panels; and, at least for those of us with a long history at the show, invaluable face time with far-flung colleagues, customers, and business partners. No, you don’t see IDG World Expo or other companies starting lots of new technology-related trade shows, for the most part (O’Reilly’s Maker Faires might be a counter example), but the fact is, we’ll keep having Macworld/iWorld as long as it’s profitable to put on, and it remains profitable because it still offers the most concentrated discovery experience for new Apple-related products

We could never cover every product exhibited at Macworld/iWorld, but here is the first set of our picks for the products that stood out for us — if you ran across others, be sure to

let us know in the comments. This list doesn’t include everything we want to share, but I’m exhausted from a number of nights of interrupted sleep, so tune in later this week for more of our show picks.

**Live Vicariously Through Your iPad** -- It will probably be some time before the Double telepresence robot from Double Robotics becomes commonplace, but it easily took the prize for the coolest product at Macworld/iWorld. Double consists of a self-balancing driving cylinder with an extensible stalk, topped by an iPad. The idea is that you can use another iPad over the Internet to control where your Double goes and see what its iPad camera sees while displaying your face on its iPad, all in real time. You can even raise and lower the stalk to maintain face-to-face conversation whether the other people are sitting or standing. Double Robotics suggests that Double might be used for remote meetings, college tours for potential students far away, mobile kiosks for retail stores, and more — I could also imagine it being used to keep an eye on an elderly relative. Double weighs only 15 pounds (6.8 kg) and can operate all day on a single charge. It’s not cheap though, listing for \$2,499 and available for pre-order for \$1,999, with an early 2013 ship date.



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## cool products

**Mouse with Mauz** -- If you've ever accidentally put your hand down on your iPhone next to your keyboard, expecting it to be a mouse, you'll love the Mauz, from a startup called Spicebox. Mauz is a Wi-Fi-based dongle that plugs into an iPhone's dock connector or Lightning port and communicates with special software on the Mac to translate movements of the iPhone into movements on the Mac. With all the iPhone's sensors, this goes well beyond simple sliding back and forth on the desk — Spicebox demonstrated turning a Mauz-equipped iPhone around in mid-air to rotate a 3D model in Blender and showed how hand swipes above the iPhone could be detected by the iPhone's camera to move back and forward in a Web browser. The communication between the Mac and Mauz is two-way, so when the Mauz software on the Mac detects an application switch, it can display specialized controls on the iPhone screen beyond the basic buttons and scroll area. Mauz isn't yet available; Spicebox anticipates shipping in about 6 months (and the Lightning port version may be delayed more, due to needing "Made for iPhone" approval from Apple). Pricing is set for \$69.99, but you can pre-order today via *Kickstarter* for \$45. (The Kickstarter project reportedly doesn't have to fund for Mauz to be produced; the company is using it more to get the word out and get pre-release feedback. And what Spicebox would really like is to have Mauz acquired by a company like Logitech or Microsoft with reach into the pointing device market.)



**Transporter: Dropbox You Control** -- One theme of discussions we had at the show was just how comfortable different people are with cloud-based services. Our 14-year-old son Tristan is at one extreme, nearly refusing to work with local files in Pages or iTunes in favor of Google Docs and Spotify/Pandora. On the other end is an author who was so uncomfortable with cloud-based services that he bought a pair of the just-released 1 TB Transporters from Connected Data purely to maintain and sync local copies of his book in progress. The Transporter is an Ethernet-connected hard drive that can synchronize and

back up files with both computers and other Transporters, thus creating what is effectively a Dropbox-like service where all the data resides on devices you control. Files are synced transparently in the background — to as many Transporters and computers as you control — but the data is never stored in the cloud. Professionals interested in the Transporter include lawyers, who may have significant client confidentiality requirements surrounding the storage of legal documents, and doctors, who are required by the HIPAA legislation in the United States to maintain off-site backups of all records in a secure form. Connected Data sells the Transporter in 1 TB (\$299) and 2 TB (\$399) sizes, but you can also get an empty Transporter (\$199) and add your own 2.5-inch hard disk.



**Walk While You Work** -- A number of us, including me and Glenn Fleishman, have switched to standing desks (although I've been forced back to sitting temporarily while a nasty case of plantar fasciitis resolves itself). I normally just stand, but Glenn followed the lead of our buddy Lex Friedman, now writing for Macworld, and has installed a treadmill under his desk.

If that's not feasible for you, but you still want to keep moving at your desk, check out the *InMotion E1000 Elliptical Trainer* from Stamina Products, which we ran across at the Anthro booth at Macworld/iWorld.



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## cool products

It's a compact elliptical machine with two foot pedals (no handles to get in the way of your desk) that go in both directions. A tension knob adjusts the amount of force necessary, and an electronic counter tracks number of strides per minute, total number of strides, exercise time, and calories burned. Weighing in at only 24 pounds (10.9 kg) and requiring a footprint of only 20 inches by 12 inches (50.8 cm by 30.5 cm), the *InMotion Elliptical Trainer* might be the perfect way to get some exercise while working in environments where a treadmill is infeasible. The range of motion isn't large, but it's quiet and inexpensive, listing for \$199.99, and available from Amazon for \$100 or less. It seemed feasible to type while using it, though we weren't able to test that at the show. And, before you ask, no, it can't generate electricity too.

**Stand Up Straight, Young Man!** -- If your posture isn't what it should be (imagine yourself suspended from a string attached to the top of your head), you can suffer from a wide variety of maladies, ranging from back pain to knee trouble. The new LUMOback sensor and iOS app can help you learn better posture. The sensor is affixed to a belt that wraps around your waist; it vibrates gently when it detects you slouching. The free LUMO app (compatible only with the iPhone 4S and 5, the fifth-generation iPod touch, and the third- and fourth-generation iPads, due to its reliance on the Bluetooth low energy feature of Bluetooth 4.0) tracks your progress and helps you improve over time. LUMOback costs \$149 and is available now in two sizes.



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## USE THE MACNJ FORUM!

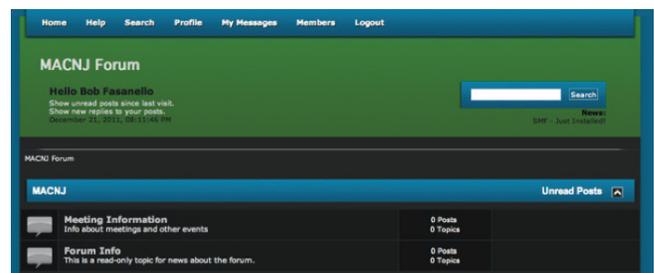
Our forum, using new software to keep out spambots, is only as good as we make it. All members are encouraged to use the forum. It can be of great help in answering questions, providing news, etc., between meetings.

### To Register:

There are two links to the forum on the MACNJ home page; or go to [macnj.org/forum/](http://macnj.org/forum/) and you are there.

**Click on "register"** (top right). You'll have to agree to conditions.

**Enter a user name** which can be used to identify you as member of MACNJ—not strange encrypted names such as xyz123— or you won't be approved. Check the member list to see what names have been accepted.



**Enter a valid email address.**

**Enter and confirm your password.** Then remember it! **You can also stay logged-in**, if desired. Look under Profile Information and **enter your location** (City, State). This is mandatory. Enter any other profile information which you choose to use. Click "submit" button, bottom of page. You will be notified by email that you are registered as a MACNJ Forum member. Most questions about the forum are answered in the FAQ Section.

# MACNJ Member Directory



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## About the Member List

Every effort is made to keep the member directory current. If your name has disappeared from the list, you may be delinquent in your dues. Send all address updates, changes and corrections to President David Davis.

## Member Benefits

MACNJ User Group members in good standing are encouraged to take advantage of the following savings and benefits

### Peachpit Press

Peachpit Press provides our group members with a 30% discount off the list price of any of their books. At check-out, right before you put your credit card number in, you must enter the user group coupon code UE-23AA-PEUF (case-sensitive). This coupon code is an exclusive offer that may not be used in conjunction with any other coupon codes.

### O'Reilly & Associates

Don't forget, you can receive 35% off any O'Reilly, No Starch, Paraglyph, Pragmatic Bookshelf, SitePoint, or Syngress book you purchase directly from O'Reilly. Just use code DSUG when ordering online or by phone 800-998-9938. ordering at <<http://www.oreilly.com>>.

### Vendor Offers For MUGs

The MUG Center, the Resource Site Macintosh for User Groups, offers a number of software, shareware, and hardware specials for User Group members. Visit<<http://www.mugcenter.com/vendornews/vendornews.html>>.

# MACNJ Meeting Information

Check the latest meeting information on the MACNJ website at [www.macnj.org](http://www.macnj.org)



MACNJ's general monthly meetings are usually held on the second Saturday of each month at Voorhees High School, in High Bridge, New Jersey, from 9 AM to noon. Visitors are welcome.

## From the Morristown area

Go west on State Route 24 to County Route 513. Go southwest on 513 for 4.9 miles through Califon. Continue on 513.

Voorhees High School will be on the left at 256 Route 513, across from Voorhees State Park.

## From the Somerville area

Go north on US Route 202 until it intersects with interstate 287. Take I-287 northwest for 4.2 miles to I-78 west. Follow I-78 west for 13 miles to Route 31 north (this is the Clinton/Washington exit.) Follow Route 31 north 2.1 miles to a traffic light where there will be a sign for High Bridge. Turn right onto County Route 513. Follow 513 north for two miles into the town of High Bridge. Voorhees High School is two miles further north at 256 Route 513, on the right, across from Voorhees State Park.

## From points west

Go east on I-78 to exit 15 (Clinton/Washington exit for Route 31 north) Follow 31 north 2.1 miles to a traffic light with a sign for High Bridge. Turn right onto County Route 513 North. Follow 513 for two miles into the town of High Bridge. Voorhees High School is two miles further at 256 Route 513, on the right, across from Voorhees State Park.

## From the Flemington area

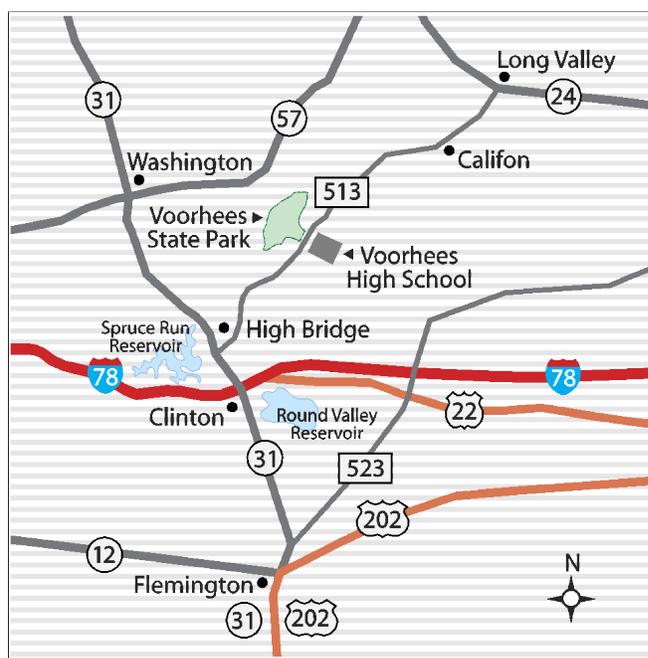
Take Route 31 north past Clinton to a traffic light with a sign for High Bridge. Turn right onto County Route 513 north. Follow 513 for two miles into the town of High Bridge. Voorhees High School is two miles further at 256 Route 513, on the right, across from Voorhees State Park.

## Parking and Entrances

Parking is plentiful and free. Park in the main parking lot of the school, enter the main entrance by the flag pole, and follow the signs for the MACNJ meeting room in the choir room on the first floor.



Photo by Bill Barr



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# MACNJ Membership

Annual dues are \$24, due each January. Members joining during the year pay \$2 per month for the months remaining in the current year. Families may join for \$35. Please make all checks payable to "MACNJ". Checks can be given to President David L. Davis at the monthly meetings, or mailed to:

MACNJ Membership  
David L. Davis  
242 Cherryville Road  
Flemington, NJ 08822

Fill out this form and return it with your payment.

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## MACNJ Membership Form

Check one: Membership Renewal  New Member

Month membership begins

amount enclosed (\$2 per month, \$24 for the entire year/\$35 per family)

Name ( if a family membership, please list all member names)

Street address ( if this is a renewal, please indicate if any of your address information has changed.

city

state

zip code

Home telephone number

mobile phone number

e-mail address

What I do with my Macintosh ( favorite Apps, creative work, etc ) Be as descriptive as possible!.