

The Window

MACNJ

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March 2010

DAVE MARRA

...need I say more?

Apple Senior Systems Engineer, Dave Marra, comes to MACNJ in March. Our long time friend will have the whole show for the morning. He can fill it easily.

As a Senior Systems Engineer for Apple, Dave Marra has conducted thousands of technology presentations, keynote addresses and workshops for schools, Mac and PC user groups, businesses and other professional organizations across the United States and Canada. Certified as both an Apple Certified Technical Coordinator and an Apple Certified Systems Administrator, his specialty areas include digital multimedia, internet technologies, accessibility and Mac/PC integration. For more information about Dave, please visit his web site at www.marrathon.com.

We've forwarded your questions for him to answer. Yes, some have commented they don't like Snow Leopard. Let's see what Dave has to say about that!

Because at this meeting you'll see in great detail Snow Leopard, Mac OS X v. 10.6, the upgrade from 10.5, which is Apple's most successful operating system ever, Snow Leopard builds upon a decade of Mac OS X innovation with hundreds of refinements, new core technologies and out-of-the-box sup-

port for Microsoft Exchange, all engineered upon a rock-solid, 64-bit UNIX foundation. Snow Leopard features a more responsive Finder; significantly faster built-in applications; a Dock with Exposé integration; Safari 4, the world's fastest web browser; QuickTime X, to easily view, record, trim and share video; and much, much more! You will discover Mac OS X v.10.6 Snow Leopard at MACNJ. It is the world's most advanced operating system, finely tuned.

We don't know whether he'll have an iPad with him. He couldn't make any commitments to me; so I'll leave it to all of you, just like me, to come see for yourself. Yes, I really, REALLY hope he brings an iPad. 'just don't know, if it will happen.

But the donuts, coffee and tea will be there for sure! All are welcome. If you haven't joined us before, you couldn't pick a better time than NOW to visit. Dues are cheap! (Did you pay yet?) Or just drop in. We'd love to meet you. When? Saturday at 9am to noon, March 13th. See you real soon!

See you real soon.
Bill Barr, Program Chairman



Apple Releases Aperture 3

by Doug McLean



It has been nearly two years since Apple last released a major update to its professional photo editing program Aperture, a wait so long that many were beginning to wonder if the program had been shelved. But with the debut of **Aperture 3**, with over 200 new features, it's clear that Apple hasn't forgotten about its powerful photo management and editing software.

Many of Aperture's new features have been lifted from iPhoto '09 and enhanced, improving the program's ease of use for amateur photographers looking to take their photos to the next level. Of these features, support for Faces and Places are the most recognizable transplants. As in iPhoto '09, Faces in Aperture enables users to identify and tag friends or family members in photos based on facial features. Faces also receives some fine tuning in Aperture 3, including the capability to limit the events Aperture searches within for face matches (to avoid scanning your entire library). Also, a new Unnamed Faces view displays all your unmatched faces in one place (this is possible in iPhoto '09 via a smart album).

Places in Aperture, as in iPhoto '09, enables users to sort and tag photos by the location in which they were taken. Cameras with geotagging capabilities automatically assign location information to photos, but if your camera, like most, doesn't support geotagging, you can instead manually tag photos or groups of photos in several ways: by searching iPhoto's location database, by dragging and dropping thumbnails onto an interactive map, or by separately importing GPX files from a GPS logging tool and matching your photos to the GPS data.

Aperture's third major feature addition is Brushes, which is aimed at providing a higher level of photo-editing sophistication. The Brushes feature enables users to apply filters and effects only to specific areas of a photograph instead of the entire image. Fifteen Quick Brushes cover the most basic editing tasks users are likely to need, including burning, dodging, smoothing areas, sharpening details, or reducing color saturation. A Detect Edges option makes it easier to make adjustments in tight spots by preventing your brush

strokes from bleeding over to other undesired areas. Finally, brush strokes can be turned on or off individually, making changes non-destructive and worry-free.

In addition to these major feature additions, Aperture 3 also includes the capability to save adjustment presets (sequences of changes or brush strokes that can be applied as unified blocks to subsequent images), improved library management capabilities, and support for 64-bit mode in Snow Leopard. Also improved are the slideshow options (including HD support), the full-screen editing and viewing modes, and options for exporting to MobileMe, Facebook, and Twitter. The Aperture library is also now capable of storing and letting you work with video files as well as still images.

(Shortly after putting out Aperture 3, Apple released the Aperture SlideShow Support Update 1.0 which fixes an issue with playing back video clips in Aperture 3 slideshows when working in Snow Leopard. The 62.33 MB update is free and available via Software Update or the Apple Support Downloads page.)

Aperture 3 is available now, requires that you are running at least Mac OS X 10.5.8 on an Intel-based Mac, and costs \$199 new or \$99 as an upgrade from a previous version. A free 30-day trial is also available on Apple's Web site (look for the Free Trial button in the upper right hand corner of the main Aperture page).

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Clipperz Does the Impossible: A Safe Online Password Manager

by Matt Neuburg

For safety's sake, I use a different, randomly generated password for every Web form I encounter. Since I don't know any of these passwords, I store them, password-protected, using a password keeper application. But this technique, although it's pretty secure (unless someone sneaks into my house and bonks me over the head while the password keeper is open), works only if I'm sitting at my own computer. How can I access these passwords safely and securely from any computer?

Enter Clipperz.

I first heard about Clipperz on an [IT Conversations podcast](#), and my immediate reaction was, "Why didn't anyone tell me about this sooner?" Clipperz is a web application, so you



navigate to it in a browser; thus, you have access to your online passwords exactly when you need them, namely, whenever you're

online. When you arrive at the clipperz.com Web site, you enter your username and a master passphrase; the guessability of this combination is the weakest link in the chain, of course, so you should use a rather long and unnatural passphrase. However, the passphrase itself is not sent to clipperz.com during login. In fact, clipperz.com doesn't know your username, your master passphrase, or any of your passwords!

How can this be? Well, clipperz.com is what's called a "[zero-knowledge database](#)". It doesn't store anything in cleartext; everything is encrypted, and clipperz.com doesn't have the key. All of the stored data is encrypted; communication with Clipperz is also encrypted (double so, since it also is transmitted using SSL). All the encryption and decryption happens at your end - in the browser. This is possible because of the speed of modern computers and JavaScript implementations (JavaScript data is lost when you change Web pages, so Clipperz uses AJAX to refresh screens while keeping you on the same page). Moreover, the apparent weakest link, the initial password-based authentication, uses [Secure Remote Password \(SRP\) authentication](#), which is itself zero-knowledge (clipperz.com knows only a public key derived from your username and passphrase), and is as secure as password-based authentication can possibly be - probably vastly more secure than any other password-based authentication

you ever do on the Internet. Finally, all of Clipperz's code is open source - since, as you doubtless know, security by secrecy is the worst security of all.

The screen shot shows the simple interface that you see once you're logged in. It's a straightforward "rolodex" of information. Down the left side run the names of your "cards"; you click on the name of a card and you're shown its "fields". I'm not afraid to show you this because the password field is always portrayed as six stars, which you can copy (using Command-C, not Control-C as stated in the screen shot) to paste into the password field of a Web form, which is presumably open in another window. (If you're on a public machine, remember to copy something else onto the clipboard later, so as not to leave your password there in cleartext.) You can also "unscramble" the password, showing it directly in cleartext; this is safe as long as no enemy spies are sitting behind you.

Naturally, online passwords are not the only data you might store securely this way. You could keep credit card numbers or anything else you might need while online. A card's fields are customizable, so you can set up a card to display whatever might be appropriate for a particular datum.



Another cute feature is that you can set up "one-time passwords". These are login passphrases that are deleted as soon as they are used. As every reader of spy novels knows, a one-time pad is the most secure form of encryption. So if you're in a public space, use one of your one-time passwords; even if a spy sitting behind you can memorize your finger movements on the keyboard, that knowledge will be useless.

And here's the icing on the cake. I've said that the encryption and decryption happens in the browser; I've also said that the data stored at clipperz.com is encrypted. Hence, there is no loss of security if you store the data from clipperz.com on your machine. And that is just what Clipperz allows you to do. You can download a (very large) Web page containing the encrypted data and all the JavaScript. When you open that Web page with your browser, it's exactly like talking to clipperz.com - you still have to log in with your username

(continued from page 3)

and passphrase - but you're *not* talking to clipperz.com; you're working offline. So this one downloaded Web page is doing for me everything that my password keeper application was doing previously! The only thing missing is editability; you're working with a read-only copy of your data. Pretty slick, eh?

Clipperz isn't perfect. Copying the scrambled password doesn't work reliably - but the Clipperz folks are working on a new Web interface, currently called the "gamma", which solves that problem. The interface for some operations, such as entering multiple cards by importing from a textfile, is very confusing (I succeeded, but only after much experimentation). The overall interface is, alas, clumsy on an iPhone; there is a mobile version of the Web interface, but it doesn't work for me at all. Finally, there's a promising feature called "direct

login" that lets you click a link and automatically, with no further action on your part, go to the target Web site's login page, enter your username and password, and submit the form; but it doesn't work for all Web sites, and the interface for editing a direct login is somewhere between clumsy and non-existent (though this, too, is nicely solved in the new "gamma" interface).

Quibbles aside, I've found Clipperz a tremendous help in my daily Web life. It lets you access your online passwords, online. It's free, it's open source, it's safe and secure, it's ingenious, and it's way cool. What more could you ask? Perhaps you'll give it a try, and you, too, will be wondering why no one told you about this sooner.

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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 checkout, 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 30% 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>](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>](http://www.mugcenter.com/vendornews/vendornews.html).

Illustration by David Davis



“A Reminder: It's Time to Pay Your MACNJ Dues”

MACNJ operates and survives on the monthly dues provided by our members. The 2010 membership fees are now due. Please bring your annual dues to the February meeting or mail a check using the form on the last page of this newsletter. Your promptness in this matter ensures the uninterrupted operation of MACNJ. Thank you.

Minutes of February 13, 2010

by Hugh Murphy, Jr.

The meeting was opened by President Davis with a reminder to pay annual membership dues for 2010. Dave visited the NHV Tech office to get the internet connection restored for our meetings. With the connection restored, he was able to demonstrate the bookmarklet "Readability" described in our previous meeting. Stan Menscher was introduced as a new member. A question which was raised about alphabetizing bookmarks. The answer will be posted on the Forum. Bob Fasanello mentioned "Click to Flash" which removes Flash from web pages until it is desired. The release of the iPad was discussed. The consensus was that it was a consumer rather than a producer. The Bookshelf idea was borrowed. In the midst of the discussion, Dave presented a video of the Keynote speech on YouTube which was edited by Neil Curtis to retain essentially only the hyperbole of the presentation. He also showed several cartoons "Mother Goose & Grimm" by Mike Peters about comical iPhone apps and the Joy of Tech cartoon with Obama using the iPad to save his administration.

One of the products from MacWorld is a stylus for drawing on the surface of an iPod Touch. Also mentioned were Inklet and pogo sketch for use on touch screens and track pads in the manner of a Wacom Tablet. Continuing discussion of the iPad, an online version of the New York Times will be available. The life of the iPad battery is rated for ten hours. It will be competing with Kindle for reading books; Don McBride bought his son a Kindle after comparing it with Sony. Ed Lavan did not like a cookbook on his Kindle which he assumed would be much better looking on an iPad. When polled, about one-half of the audience expressed an interest in owning an iPad. Chod Lang stated that it will be possible to create one's own applications on the iPad.

Bill Barr attended a presentation at the Bridgewater Apple Store by Ron Wyatt showing digital photos of the Beijing Olympics which eventually resulted in an 8-page spread in a photography magazine. Ron prefers Nikon cameras which he used usually in an automatic mode. Ronni Buffington asked questions about Wi-Fi connections and differences among monitors, and Bob Fasanello brought up the luminance of monitors affecting the difference of how a picture appears on the screen and how it appears when it is printed. Don McBride suggested opening System Preferences to get to the monitor profile and calibrate the monitor. Our new member, Stan Menscher, asked about importing a Power

Point program into Keynote and saving it in Keynote. Dave advised him to save it in Keynote with a new name. It can then be edited in Keynote. It could also be saved as a QuickTime movie. Fonts may have to be changed for compatibility between PowerPoint and Keynote. Dave displayed the various characters available. He recently bought a 750 GB external hard drive for only \$129, showing how much the cost of storage has decreased. Hugh Murphy wondered why he could not get decent printing speeds from his Canon printer in the wireless mode, but it performed well when connected to the printer with a USB cable. Various solutions were offered, which he had already tried; Ed Lavan suggested using a Bluetooth adapter.

Bill Barr announced that Dave Marra would make his annual presentation in March with the emphasis on Snow Leopard.

The featured presenter of Uncovering the Magic of AppleScript was member Dennis McAvoy, a contractor for 30 years with McAvoy Construction, who is now a carpenter and executive director of the Central Jersey Chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry. He used Apple Script for the repetitive processes of extracting lists of contractors for the NARI and a list of Spanish teachers for Ed Lavan from the New Jersey state website. Apple Script was released in 1993; its first major application was Quark Express. He described the various elements built into the application, the third party software available, and the learning tools. The only book he recommended is AppleScript 1-2-3 by Ben Waldie, who also helped Dennis set up his scripts. Other sources of information on the internet are MacScrip.net, MacTech.com, and Apple.com. There is also the Philadelphia Users Group, podcasts, and DVD training.

Dennis had his files on his iMac which could not be directly connected to the projector to display the results of his work. His computer was restarted in Target mode to serve as a hard drive for the MACNJ laptop which was connected to the projector. The system did not work as expected, perhaps because the iMac had Snow Leopard installed, while the laptop did not. While he could not show AppleScript acting to extract the data, he was able, by connecting the laptop to the internet and going to the state website, to demonstrate the source of his data and indicate the steps required to obtain the desired results.

The iPad Arrives

by Adam C. Engst

At a media event on 27 January 2010, Apple announced the **iPad**, the tablet-sized computing and communications device that has generated more bits of industry speculation than any previous product in memory. Featuring a 9.7-inch display and an optional keyboard dock, the iPhone OS-based iPad will be available for prices ranging from \$499 to \$829, depending on storage capacity and 3G data capability. Wi-Fi-only models will go on sale in March 2010, with Wi-Fi+3G data models following in April.



During the announcement, Apple CEO Steve Jobs led up to the revelation of the iPad by pointing out that there are already two well-defined markets for mobile devices: the smartphone, which used to be too expensive and complicated for all but serious business users, and the laptop, which may offer more than many users need while having a relatively large form factor.

Jobs noted that any new mobile device has to fit between those two form factors and must perform key tasks better than one or the other. He then pointed out that products in the popular netbook category fail that test. "The problem is, netbooks aren't better at anything," he said, noting that they're generally slow, have low-quality displays, and, well, run Windows. The price may be right, but that's all that's right about netbooks in his opinion.

Apple sees the iPad as sitting between the iPhone and the MacBook, and competing directly with - and outshining - the entire netbook category. Certainly, the iPad's screen looked far better than any netbook we've seen, and the responsiveness of the demoed apps was impressive.

(Jeff Carlson and Glenn Fleishman, who were at the event, wrote about using the device in [Hands-on Impressions of the iPad](#), 29 January 2010.)

Apps – Based on the iPhone OS, the iPad's core apps offer similar functionality to their iPhone equivalents, but have been rewritten to provide more capable interfaces that take advantage of the iPad's larger display. Honestly, they're impressive - whereas it was always neat how well Apple made use of the limited display space on the smaller devices, increasing that display real estate enables much more fluid interfaces and fewer separate screens.

iPhone apps run unmodified, either with pixel-for-pixel accuracy within a black box, or with a pixel-doubling technique that trades some crispness to zoom up to the larger size of the iPad screen. A tiny 1x/2x button appears in the lower right of the screen in this mode, and tapping it swaps between the modes instantly, even with video or animation playing.

Needless to say, this level of compatibility with "nearly all" of the 140,000 apps in the App Store is huge, because it means that not only will the iPad be useful from the moment it's available, but also that users accustomed to the iPhone and iPod touch will be able to continue using their favorite apps. (Developers must have been overjoyed to know that good iPad sales wouldn't cause a commensurate drop in revenue from unmodified programs.)

That said, apps will be able to take advantage of the iPad's unique screen size and other capabilities, and to that end, the iPad SDK is available for download at Apple's Web site. Developers have access to an iPad emulator on the Mac, just as they have an iPhone emulator.

Apple showed not only the core iPad apps for browsing the Web, playing music, and flipping through photos (complete with support for events, Faces, and Places if syncing with iPhoto), but also a version of the iWork suite for the iPad: Keynote, Numbers, and Pages. Each app will be available for \$9.99, so you don't need to buy the suite if you need only one app. For these apps, Apple had to rewrite the user

(continued from page 6)

interface completely, switching from a mouse- and keyboard-based interface to the multitouch approach used by the iPhone OS.

The inclusion of iWork, and the extended time spent describing its functionality during the announcement, is a clear nod toward attracting the business traveler. But the iWork demonstration raises a number of important questions and shows some of the potential limitations of a device that bridges between a smartphone and a laptop.

Apple didn't address file format or storage issues, but described the capability to "import" iWork '09 files, which could be a problem for business users exchanging files, especially in Microsoft Office format, via email or cloud services like Dropbox. It also remains to be seen how cloud-based Web apps like Google Docs, which are often unusable on the iPhone and iPod touch, will work on the iPad.

Like Apple's other iPhone OS-based devices, there's no support for Adobe's Flash in the iPad, which is more glaring, given the iPad's larger screen, longer battery life, and (presumably) more capable processor. This is the only gaping hole in Apple's "the whole Internet" claim, as some media sites offer Flash-based players for video or audio. Steve Jobs pointedly showed a missing Flash movie on the New York Times home page when using the mobile Safari browser at one point, to some laughter.

Publishing – Not surprisingly, Apple is setting the iPad against Amazon's Kindle, both for reading newspapers and magazines, and for full-length books. The New York Times demoed a new app that attempts to capture the essence of reading a newspaper, with skimmable pages and the capability to dive deeper into articles. The app offers the look-and-feel of the New York Times, and features color pictures and even inline video. We expect to see similarly rich media apps from other publications as well.

But more interesting yet was Apple's demo of the iBooks ebook reader app, which provides a Delicious Library-like bookshelf interface for displaying your books and linking to an iBookstore that enables you to discover, purchase, and download ebooks right on the iPad. Titles will initially come from Penguin, Harper Collins, Simon & Schuster, Macmillan, and Hachette Book Group. No mention was made of how other publishers - or independent authors - will be able to get into the iBookstore, though Apple did say that the iBooks

app relied on the EPUB format. Apple also made no mention of PDF support, though the iPhone and iPod touch can handle PDF and various other formats, so it seems likely that the iPad will have similar capabilities.

Of course, the burning question is how the iPad will compete with Amazon's Kindle DX, which costs \$489 and beats the iPad in only one respect - battery life. Thanks to its E-Ink screen (which is the same 9.7-inch size as the iPad's), the Kindle DX can run for a week, even with its Whispernet wireless connectivity turned on, whereas Apple claims 10-hour battery life for the iPad.

In every other respect, though, the Kindle falls far short. The Kindle's screen is grayscale rather than color and is slow to refresh; the Kindle relies on an awkward joystick for navigation versus the iPad's multitouch interface; and the just-announced "active content" for the Kindle stands no chance of comparing to the 140,000 apps in Apple's App Store (see "[Amazon Opens Kindle to Developers, Changes Royalties](http://db.tidbits.com/article/10940)" [http://db.tidbits.com/article/10940], 21 January 2010).

Amazon's main consolation is that the Kindle iPhone app should work just as well or better on the iPad as on the iPhone and iPod touch, so the iPad may help push ebook sales through Amazon for titles that aren't yet available on the iBookstore, or that are less expensive through Amazon.

Hardware – The basic specs for the iPad are as follows: It's 0.5 inches (12.7 mm) thick, weighs 1.5 pounds (680 g), and features a 9.7-inch IPS display (a type of active-matrix LCD display). The capacitive multitouch screen offers 1024-by-768 resolution at 132 pixels per inch.

Since the iPhone and iPod touch, Apple has typically shied away from providing detailed processor specifications, but in this case Jobs did reveal the iPad is based on Apple's own A4 chip, running at 1 GHz. Although it's impossible to compare directly against the iPhone 3GS's quite different 600 MHz processor, Jobs said with regard to the A4, "it screams." We presume that the A4 is based on technology from P.A. Semi, a fabless semiconductor company that Apple purchased in 2008. The A4 is not just a CPU, but a full system-on-a-chip, including the processor, graphics processor, I/O handler, and additional core functions.

Depending on the model, the iPad will come with 16, 32, or 64 GB of flash memory for storing apps and data - Apple has not said how much RAM the iPad will have for app execution. All models will include 802.11n Wi-Fi plus Bluetooth 2.1+EDR.

(continued from page 7)

Apple claims that the iPad will have a 10-hour battery life in active use, though that will undoubtedly drop depending on network usage, and the battery will reportedly last 30 days in standby mode. Other features will be familiar to iPhone users - an accelerometer, electronic compass, speaker, microphone, and dock connector.

Jobs was careful to note that the iPad is a good environmental citizen, being free of arsenic, BFRs, mercury, and PVC.

Perhaps the most significant hardware-related announcement was the iPad Keyboard Dock, which holds the iPad in portrait mode and provides an Apple aluminum keyboard (with a slightly modified key layout) that you can use instead of the iPhone OS's standard virtual keyboard. Although we don't yet know if the keyboard dock will work with the iPhone and iPod touch as well, that would be ideal, since all these devices could be used far more effectively for writing with a keyboard. We suspect that editing may still be somewhat cumbersome, given the iPhone OS's interface for copying and pasting text and lack of drag-and-drop.

In the same vein, we're pleased to see that the Bluetooth support in the iPad enables use of the Bluetooth Apple Wireless Keyboard, a feature that's often been requested for the iPhone and iPod touch. Unfortunately, Apple representatives at the event, when asked, said that Bluetooth keyboard support is not currently planned for the iPhone and iPod touch.

Other accessories include an iPad Case that protects the iPad and holds it in a variety of positions, a small iPad Dock that lets you charge and sync your iPad to a computer, an iPad USB Power Adapter that lets you charge your iPad from a wall outlet, and the iPad Camera Connection Kit. This final accessory enables you to import photos and videos from digital cameras either by connecting them via USB to the iPad, or by inserting the camera's SD card into the SD Card Reader. We expect this to be a popular accessory with travelers looking to offload images from their digital cameras while on vacation, though many digital photos from a modern high-megapixel camera could overwhelm the iPad's relatively limited storage space.

Speaking of which, the most notable omission in the iPad is a camera - it's surprising that Apple didn't add one, as on the iPhone, for still images and video, since it seems as though the iPad could be an ideal video-chat device if the problem of camera shake could be solved with image stabilization



capabilities. Another part of the problem might be where to put it, since the back is ideal if your subject is in front of you, and the front is ideal if you want to appear in the video yourself; we can imagine Apple meeting both needs in a clever way in a future device.

Pricing and Availability – Jobs thoroughly enjoyed discussing the iPad's pricing, noting that industry pundits (hey, we resemble that remark!) thought it would have to sell for \$999. (We never said anything of the sort.) Instead, the iPad comes in six different models, three that are limited to Wi-Fi for networking, and three that combine Wi-Fi with 3G cellular data connectivity.

The Wi-Fi models cost \$499 (16 GB), \$599 (32 GB), and \$699 (64 GB), while the Wi-Fi+3G models are more pricey at \$629 (16 GB), \$729 (32 GB), and \$829 (64 GB). The Wi-Fi-only models will reportedly become available in March 2010, with the Wi-Fi+3G models following a month later in April.

Of course, for the 3G models, you also need a 3G data plan, which will cost \$14.99 for 250 MB per month, or \$29.99 per month for unlimited data. Both plans are available only through AT&T in the United States, which will no doubt cause much consternation among those who dislike AT&T's coverage and network capabilities. Apple said the iPad would be available internationally, but cell data details will undoubtedly vary by carrier.

iPad data subscribers also get free access to all of AT&T's Wi-Fi hotspots, much as iPhone users do (for more on this deal and on finding Wi-Fi in general, see "Find Free and (continued from page 7)

Inexpensive Wi-Fi [<http://db.tidbits.com/article/10872>]," 23 December 2009). Apparently, all the rumors about the iPad working with Verizon Wireless were wrong.

We're pleased that the data plans don't require a contract, meaning iPad owners with 3G-capable models can activate this feature a month at a time when they're going to be traveling, and needn't pay for a data plan for months when they and their iPads will mostly be around home, work, and Wi-Fi-enabled coffee shops.

Padding the Numbers – At first glance, and while we are admittedly still within the Reality Distortion Field, the iPad looks like a winner. The hardware looks sufficiently capable, the use of the iPhone OS means that it will have a huge app library from day one, and the price is far more reasonable than many feared.

Many in the Apple world will undoubtedly be ordering iPads as soon as they're available, but the real question is if the iPad will continue to extend Apple's reach to those who didn't previously own a Mac or an iPhone.

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USE THE MACNJ FORUM!

by Mike Fordice

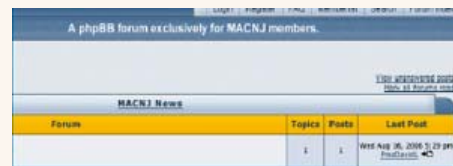
Our forum, using new software to keep out spambots, is only as good as we make it. All members are encouraged to use the forum. It can be of great help in answering questions, providing news, etc., between meetings.

To Register:

There are two links to the forum on the MACNJ home page; or go to macnj.org/forum/ 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.

Freshly Squeezed Reviews: The App and The Book

by Frank Petrie

Product: The Best Camera

Author: Chase Jarvis Worldwide
<www.thebestcamera.com/>

Requirements: iPhone

App Price: \$2.99

Book Price: \$13.59 paperback; \$9.99
Kindle

Test Rig: iPhone 3Gs

The axiom: "The Best Camera Is The One That's With You". Pragmatic and true.

The best shots are accomplished through your creativity, not through the bells and whistles of any device. Oh, you can clean things up in post-production but you still need to start with a photo that's evocative.

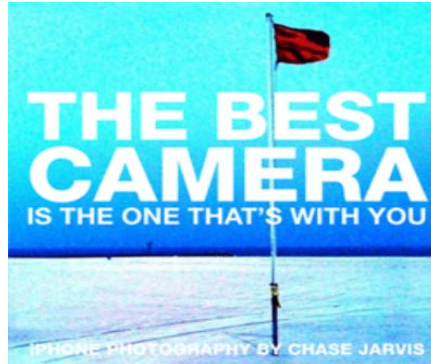
"The Best Camera Is The One That's With You", but it's also an inspirational 3-part "ecosystem" created by world-renowned photographer, Chase Jarvis. Introducing an iPhone app that allows you to shoot, edit and share your images; a book that celebrates photography with any camera; AND a thriving, online community made of iPhone images from around the world."

Today we are looking at an app, a book and a community. In short, an aesthetic movement, or as Mr. Jarvis puts it - "an ecosystem."

THE JUICE

APP - With Best Camera you can utilize a single filter or layer several filters to create a unique, more advanced effect for your pictures. This app makes it simple and easy. With a palette of 14 filters from which to choose, you can change your image to black and white, saturate your colors, create a cinematic look, brighten, darken, or crop your picture on the fly. "There are four "signature" filters that can be identified by the flags - they offer the slickest one-touch option for a filter. Further to the right on the dock, you'll find an assortment of 10 additional filters that can act as one-touch filters, or are great "tools" to correct images that were poorly captured originally."

COMMUNITY - With the simplicity that we've come to expect with instant messengers, Best Camera shares your photos with the same services that help you stay in touch with



your friends at Facebook, Twitter, email, or www.thebestcamera.com. With the simple check of a box, you can decide where you want share your image(s). It's that simple.

BOOK - If you're looking for visual inspiration or just want to see what's possible with mobile phone photography, pick up a copy of The Best Camera Is The One That's With You. It's the world's

first photo book featuring exclusively images from a mobile phone, although you wouldn't know their origins from the results.

THE PULP

Best Camera delivers as promised. I sat for over one hour trying a multitude of settings on a single portrait. And when I was finished, I had three different versions that I found hard to choose from.

The Book is worth buying on its own, even without the app. Mr. Jarvis has a tremendous eye for composition. And the pictures in his book will most definitely get you to pick up your iPhone and start looking at your surrounding environs with a different eye.

THE RIND

I would like to see a single slider with each filter to give me a smidgen more control. But it's not a deal breaker by any means.

SUMMARY

Even at such low prices, there are few apps that I consider a no-brainer, a must have. This is one of those rare exceptions. If you have an iPhone, you HAVE to have this app in your arsenal.

Now, turn off the computer, get off your butt and surprise yourself.

RATING: 10 of 10

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Roxio's Toast 10 Titanium

review by David L. Davis

All Macs come with a CD/DVD drive that will read and write disks. If all you want to do is a basic burn of a CD or DVD then the burn command in Mac OS X will suffice. However, if you want a more specialized burn, you might want to look into more sophisticated software as **Roxio's Toast 10 Titanium**. With **Toast**, you can save and convert video from many popular video sharing websites, convert and burn your favorite TV shows, music and data to CD, DVD and Blu-ray discs, or sync to your iPhone, iPod and other mobile devices.

I've been using **Toast** software to create CDs and then DVDs for as long as burning disks have been available in Macintoshes. The process has and continues to be straightforward and bulletproof. You can create a data CD filled with files and folders, you can copy an existing CD, data or music, and do multi-session, time-separated burns to add material to existing CDs you have created. I could not test the Blu-ray capabilities, but I understand that they work quite well.

As burning drives got more sophisticated and burning speeds increased, **Toast** made improvements right with them. The latest is the ability to burn Blu-ray disks, providing you have the appropriate burner. The interface is a pleasure to use. Once you have set your preferences, as to automatically bring up the **Toast** window when a blank disk is inserted, or to allow for "instant Toasting" of a folder from the contextual menu, you simply need to decide which type of disk you want to create, fill up the window with the appropriate materials, arrange the list anyway you need to, and click "Burn". Capture streaming audio using "Spin Doctor" and have the meta data details automatically attached to it.

Toast is sold in two versions. The basic version does all of the preceding and more! The Pro version adds a group of 4 excellent software titles that could make your disk-making more creative and productive.

FotoMagico is a slideshow creation software that, among other things, allows for the individual timing of slides and gives the smoothest Ken Burns (pan & zoom) effect I have yet to encounter. I tested it on a 15 second panoramic image that I panned across and there are none of the artifacts and jitters that are so apparent in iMovies' pan treatments. The clarity and pacing of the slideshow is beautiful. File size can be a bit large though if its HD quality.

If you make any sort of videos, **SonicFirePro**, scoring Edition, gives you the ability to add music in a creative and exciting manner. It is a multi track music editor that comes with a variety of

instrumental tracks which can be altered in an amazing number of ways. Using one of the included multi-leveled files, you can separate the instruments, change the tempo, mood and timing to fit a video segment. It plays your movie in a window as you create a timed soundtrack for the action. Of course much more music is available for sale online to download, but you can use your own CDs etc. Stereo tracks can be used, but are not as flexible as the multilayered ones from Smartsound. You can export the finished, timed soundtrack to attach to your movie file as desired.

If you do any transferring of music from old vinyl or tapes, you have probably heard lots of unwanted noise, hum, clicks, pops, etc. **Sound Soap** is an audio "cleaner" that helps bring out the music and get rid of the noise. I tried it on some old 45 RPM records that we had around and it worked quite well.

And for the serious photographers among us, there is **Light-Zone**. This powerful editing software evens out the light in poorly exposed photos and finds all sorts of details in others. If you are prone to experimenting with a photo, you can do an amazing amount of non-destructive editing. It has its own series of tools that allow adjusting lighting, detail and other properties. The zone-mapper tool is especially useful for enhancing selected areas of a photo's exposure.

You may already have software that does what these supplemental items do, but the additional software would cost nearly \$300 if purchased separately. I feel its a no brainer if you can use them! I checked to see the current versions of the included software items and most were up to date. I checked costs online at Amazon: **Toast 10 basic costs \$79.00** (\$99. list) and the **Pro version from \$100.00** (\$149.00 list). Even at full price, this is a great suite of software if you can use it.



MACNJ Member Directory

from the MACNJ membership database

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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. Please check with treasurer Graham Curtis. Send all other address updates, changes and corrections to President David Davis. Thank you.

 Apple User Groups

MACNJ Meeting Information

Check the latest meeting information on the MACNJ website at 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.

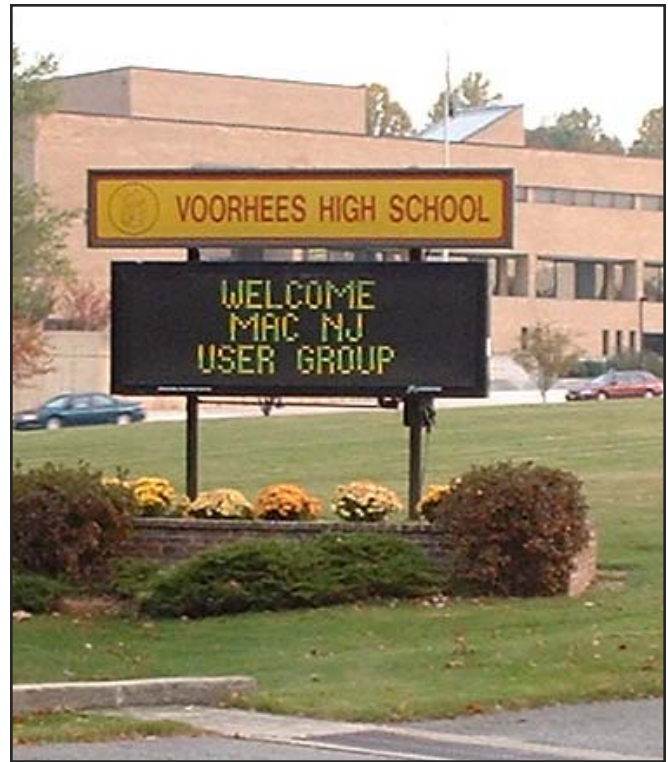


photo by Bill Barr



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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. Please make all checks payable to "MACNJ". Checks can be given to Treasurer Graham Curtis at the monthly meetings, or mailed to:

**MACNJ Membership
c/o Graham T. Curtis
33 Woodland Road
Maplewood, NJ 07040**

fill out this form and return it with your payment

MACNJ Membership Form

check one: membership renewal new member

month membership begins

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

name

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

city

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computer interests (list as many as you'd like)

 Apple User Groups