Southern Maryland Mac User Group

20058-D Point Lookout Road
Great Mills, Maryland 20634
Meetings second
Monday of the month from 7pm to 9pm
at the SMARTCO warehouse.

August 2005

Apple Releases New Mouse

Apple released a new mouse last week, dubbed "Mighty Mouse." This is the first Apple mouse with more than a single button. It is fully programmable and incorporates a touch-sensitive top shell, a clickable scroll ball and force-sensing side buttons.

Mighty Mouse requires a Mac with USB ports and OS X (OS X 10.4.2 is required for full programmability) or a PC with USB ports and Windows 2000 or XP.

Visit www.apple.com/mightymouse for more information.

Apple Updates iBook, Mac Mini

The new iBook G4 is available in two standard configurations, a 12" 1.33 ghz model and a 14" 1.42 ghz model with 8x Superdrive, priced at $999 and $1299 respectively. All models feature standard 512 MB RAM, 40 or 60 GB hard drives, Airport Extreme, Bluetooth 2.0, Sudden Motion Sensor, Scrolling Trackpad and ATI Radeon 9550 graphics with 32 MB DDR video memory. Unlike the previous model's ATI Radeon 9200, the new 9550 supports Core Image in Mac OS X 10.4.

The new Mac Mini incorporates some minor enhancements, but no speed increases. The previous models remain, and a new configuration with standard 4x Superdrive is available for $699. All models now include 512 MB RAM and 40 or 80 GB hard drives. The 1.42 Ghz models include Airport Extreme and Bluetooth standard.

Visit www.apple.com/store for build-to-order options and pricing.

Apple iBooks Enhance Learning in Broward County Public Schools

Official Apple press release reprinted from www.apple.com

CUPERTINO, California and BROWARD COUNTY, Florida—July 27, 2005—Apple® today announced that it will supply 30,000 new iBook® G4s to Broward County Public Schools for use by all of its students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. The iBooks will greatly increase students' access to the latest technology for learning, authoring and communication.

"We're excited to work with Broward County to provide students with the best learning tools available," said Tim Cook, Apple's executive vice president of Worldwide Sales and Operations. "Thousands of schools across the coun-

try have improved academic achievement with the help of Apple's education solutions, and the addition of 30,000 iBooks will do much to help provide students with necessary 21st century skills."

"As one of the nation's leading school districts, Broward County Public Schools has long used technology to enhance teaching and learning," said Dr. Frank Till, superintendent of Broward County Public Schools. "The new iBooks are ideally suited to meet the needs of our students, and demonstrate Apple's commitment to education."

Designed with education in mind, the new iBook is encased in a sleek, durable polycarbonate plastic enclosure and offers improved performance with either a 1.33 GHz or 1.42 GHz PowerPC G4 processor. Providing up to six hours of battery life for all-day use in the classroom, iBook features AirPort® Extreme 54 Mbps 802.11g wireless networking. Every iBook also comes preloaded with Mac OS® X and iLife® '05, allowing students and teachers to make the most of digital movies, photos and music in school projects and presentations. The lightweight iBook fits easily in a backpack and its slot-load optical drive has no protruding trays or doors that can break. The new iBook also includes a scrolling TrackPad to easily scroll through long web pages or pan across large photographs and Apple's Sudden Motion Sensor technology to help protect a spinning hard drive if the notebook is accidentally dropped.

Apple ignited the personal computer revolution in the 1970s with the Apple II and reinvented the personal computer in the 1980s with the Macintosh. Today, Apple continues to lead the industry in innovation with its award-winning desktop and notebook computers, OS X operating system, and iLife and professional applications. Apple is also spearheading the digital music revolution with its iPod portable music players and iTunes online music store.

FRESHLY SQUEEZED REVIEWS: Mighty Simple

by Frank Petrie

Product: Mighty Mouse
Company: Apple Computer, Inc. <www.apple.com/mightymouse/>
Requirements: Mac OS X,Windows 2000 or Windows XP; Certain programmable features require 10.4.2 or later
Price: $49.00 USD
Test Rig: PowerMac G4/DP 1.42Ghz/1.5 GB RAM/OS 10.4.2
Review Date: 02 August 2005

First, man discovered fire. Second, man walked on the moon. And finally, and probably most importantly, Apple gave us a multi-button programmable mouse!

Whaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaat!?! Yeah, it's that big of a deal. As Dennis pointed out, first the Intel announcement, then this. I'm closing my eyes. I don't want to know what happens next. All I can say is that if Bush is elected to a third term, I'm outta here!

So, did Apple get it right, or is this just another eRodent?

THE JUICE

Both USB 1.1 and 2.0 compatible, the Mighty Mouse will befuddle all of those who see it (particularly if you ever were stuck with one of those awful hockey pucks). First thing, is that it looks like a lozenge for a horse. Apple has stayed true to form in regards to simplicity of design. At first, it looks bigger than the current mouse. But a side by side comparison shows that it is the same body. Only the way it has been painted has changed.

There's a scroll button in the middle that can scroll in any direction or, if using 10.4.2, can be used to summon or discharge Dashboard with a click. It's every bit as nifty as the iPods click wheel. And it feels a lot nicer than the average scroll wheel.

Leave it to Apple's design brain trust to make two buttons look like one button. Users get what they want; Steve gets what he wants. There are two side buttons that can be programmed to work simultaneously, as well. But here again is where the details come in. The degree of programmability depends on whether or not you're running 10.4.2.

But if you're running an older version of X or one of the specified Windows OSs, you can still make good use of this mouse. You just won't have as many bells and whistles to customize. And if you dearly miss the one button concept, you can revert it back to that mode.

THE PITS

I'm sure that it's a business move to draw in the Bluetooth-impaired, but it has a tail/wire. Which is fine for the many Mac and Windows users who don't have Bluetooth. Obviously, a strategic decision to make it more accessible to Windows users. Like the iPod, this is Exhibit B of the 'Halo Effect.' Can you say, "Trojan Horse?"

I found the side buttons a bit awkward, but that could be my bias. I have never felt comfortable using side buttons. But I plan to try. And I would like to see if Apple could usher in a era of ergonomically fashioned mice. That would be sweet, especially for my wrist.

But if this what it takes for world domination, so be it. Hoist the Jolly Roger!

THE RIND

Nada.

THE PULP

'Here I come to save the day, you can tell Steve Jobs is on the way.' So, let's review: we have the Mini Mac, the multi-buttoned programmable mouse and a shift to Intel processors. Geez, ya' think Apple's planning something?

RATING: 8 out of 10

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Japan iTunes Music Store Sells One Million Songs in First Four Days

Official Apple press release reprinted from www.apple.com

TOKYO—August 8, 2005—Apple® today announced that music fans in Japan have purchased and downloaded
more than one million songs from the iTunes® Music Store since its launch just four days ago. With over 90 percent
of the songs priced at just ¥150 per song, the iTunes Music Store in Japan features a mix of local favorites and popu-
lar international artists, with Japanese artists claiming both the number one song (Def Tech) and the number one
album (Ulfuls).

"iTunes has become Japan's number one online music store in just four days," said Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO.
"iTunes has sold twice as many songs in just four days as all the other online music services in Japan sell in one
month."

The iTunes Music Store in Japan gives music fans the same innovative features, breakthrough pricing, seamless in-
tegration with iPod® and groundbreaking personal use rights that have made iTunes the number one online music
service in the world, with over 500 million songs purchased and downloaded. The iTunes Music Store in Japan fea-
tures local favorites including iTunes Originals from globe and Ulfuls, exclusives from Def Tech, Crazy Ken Band,
Chara, Little Creatures, Chie Ayado and The Complete B'z digital box set. Other iTunes exclusives include music
from international artists such as U2, Jack Johnson and Björk, and over 10,000 audiobooks, including works by
Japanese authors.

With iTunes 4.9, listeners have everything they need to discover, subscribe, manage and listen to Podcasts built right
in. The iTunes Music Store in Japan includes a wide variety of Japanese-language Podcasts, such as InterFM, Radio
SOTOKOTO and Radio Nikkei.

Pricing & Availability
iTunes for Mac® and Windows includes the iTunes Music Store and is available as a free download immediately
from www.apple.com/jp/itunes. Purchase and download of songs from the iTunes Music Store for Mac or Windows
requires a valid credit card with a billing address in the country of purchase. Music fans in Japan have the option to
use iTunes Music Cards for cash purchases on the iTunes Music Store. iTunes Music Cards are available at Sofmap,
Yamada, BIC Camera, Amazon Japan, Kojima, Yodobashi Camera as well as through the Apple Store
(www.apple.com) and Apple's retail stores.

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desktop and notebook computers, OS X operating system, and iLife and professional applications. Apple is also
spearheading the digital music revolution with its iPod portable music players and iTunes online music store.

HP Calls It Quits With the iPod

HP recently announced that it will no longer resell the iPod + HP, a marketing scheme that allowed Apple inroads into retailers that wouldn't normally sell Apple's products. "I can confirm we have exited the relationship," Hewlett-Packard spokesman Ryan Donovan said. The iPod + HP typically averaged 5% of the total iPod market, a small slice of the iPod pie that is likely recovered with a much larger slice provided by Apple's new relationship with retailers such as Radio Shack and Wal-Mart, which recently began selling Apple-branded iPods. Apple fans interested in collectible Apple products might consider purchasing one of these oddball iPods with an HP logo, which might become collectibles in the future.