



Southern Maryland
Mac User Group

20058-D Point Lookout Road
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Meetings second

Monday of the month from 7pm to 9pm
at the SMARTCO warehouse.

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Is Apple's G5 the world's fastest PC, and is it worth it?

By GENE STEINBERG

Gannett News Service

11/04/2003

For several years, Apple Computer has suffered the indignity of seeing Windows hardware fly past its speediest offerings.

Apple expects the situation to change with the Power Mac G5, its new top-of-the-line desktop computer. The G5 boasts a new microprocessor developed by Apple and IBM that Apple says is faster than even the most expensive Pentium chips that power the Windows PCs. Apple bills it as "world's fastest personal computer."

The G5 is more akin to a workstation than a desktop PC. It's optimized for the demanding requirements of graphic artists, animators, movie special-effects teams and scientists. If you don't work in one of these areas, the G5 might be overkill.

Apple's less expensive eMac and iMac lines are capable of running office applications, surfing the Web and working with amateur or semiprofessional digital photography and video software.

But if you're a video-game fan looking for the highest frame rates, the G5 is worth a look.

The G5 comes in several configurations starting at \$1,999. All include hard drives that use a new high-speed interface known as Serial ATA, SuperDrive for burning CDs and DVDs, and impressive video cards from industry leaders NVIDIA or ATI. Even the least expensive configuration should easily outperform any of Apple's G4 computers and keep pace with Pentium PCs in the 2.4GHz range.

We checked out the top-of-the line G5, which is decked out with not one, but two 2GHz G5 processors, 2 gigabytes of memory and an ATI Radeon 9800 graphics card. As configured, this system costs \$4,349. We tested it running Panther, Apple's new OS X 10.3 release.

In order to test Apple's claims of superior performance, we searched for a Windows PC that would be a suitable candidate for such a matchup. We decided to pit it against an HP xw6000 workstation outfitted with a pair of 3.06 GHz Intel Xeon processors, 2GB of memory and a powerful NVIDIA graphics card. This configuration sells for more than \$5,500.

Finding a clear winner with such powerful computers is difficult. We ran a small set of benchmarks in the powerful image-editing application, Adobe Photoshop 7, consisting of nine common tasks often used by graphic artists. Application preferences were set exactly the same, and each test run was repeated four times.

Most of the tasks were completed in a fraction of a second, but the xw6000 started the match-up ahead. Where it took the G5 10 seconds to launch Photoshop, the HP got there two seconds faster. Opening a 44.4MB test photo took half a second on the HP, versus a second more on the Mac.

But after that, it was the G5 all the way. It took an average of 23.5 seconds to run through the test script. The HP couldn't manage better than 32 seconds.

Most routine tasks on the two computers seemed about equal.

Apple G5

RATING: 5 (out of 5)

PRICE: \$1,999 for the 1.6 GHz model, \$2,399 for the 1.8 GHz model. The dual-processor 2 GHz model starts at \$2,999.

PRO: The G5's very fast processor, hard drives and video challenge even the fastest Windows computers.

CON: Overkill and expensive for most home and small-business users.

BOTTOM LINE: If you need the speed, you can't go wrong.

INFORMATION: <http://store.apple.com>

Caution: FileVault Destroys Files

05 November 2003 07:18 EST

Kevin E. McKenna

I turned FileVault on about seven days after installing Panther. The result has been a complete disaster.

The first thing that happened was that it corrupted my entire iTunes Music Library and left with a message saying that your "iTunes Music Library seems to be an invalid file".

Trying to restore the music library seemed the right thing to do but whatever FileVault did i it rendered all of the music files downloaded (over 400+) from the iTunes Music Store corrupted. I had to remove those files from my music Library before iTunes would create a valid music Library.

In addition to that mess; all of my keychain information was lost, preferences lost or reset for everything from applications to my dock. I am currently going back and checking every document and application to see if they have been affected in any way.

Needles to say, I am have turned off FileVault.

I can't be alone on this, can you please report the experiences of others to help bring awareness to this problem so that maybe Apple with validate the problem and put in a fix for it OR if nothing else to prevent other unsuspecting Panther converts from turning on this much touted but these this well executed feature in Panther.

FYI: I am running Panther on a PowerBook 17" with a 1.33 GHz processor with 1GB of RAM.

Reader Feedback

There are a total of 1 comment(s) on this story.

RE: Caution: FileVault Destroys Files

Wednesday, November 05, 2003

drblank

You might want to check out the priveledges for each of the files. When I turned on/off FileVault, it changed all of the priveledges from my user to system. It takes a while to change all of the files, but it does usually fix everything.

DB

**This is a poll currently running on-line. Thought the results were interesting so I've added it to this newsletter. You too can vote at:
<http://www.macmerc.com/pollBooth.php?pollID=62>**

Current Poll Results

System Check: What OS are you running?

Mac OS X 10.3 (Panther)
63.27 % (1001)

Mac OS X 10.2 (Jaguar)
29.27 % (463)

Mac OS X 10.1
1.20 % (19)

Mac OS X 10.0
0.00 % (0)

Mac OS 9
5.44 % (86)

Mac OS 8 and older
0.82 % (13)

Total Votes: 1582

NEWS FLASH !!

Your iChat AV beta software will expire in January 2004, but you can upgrade now to continue chatting with friends, family, and colleagues in full-screen video with full-duplex audio. iChat AV is now part of Mac OS X version 10.3 "Panther" along with over 150 other new features, like Exposé for instant access to any open window or desktop file, and a new Finder for easy access to everything you need no matter where it lives. Mac OS X Panther costs only \$129 and is available today from the Apple Store. Shop online or [visit an Apple Store](#) near you.

If you wish to continue using iChat AV with Mac OS X Jaguar (v10.2.5 and later), you can purchase and download the upgrade online at the Apple Store for \$29.95.

BusinessWeek: Apple on verge of revival in education market?

Wednesday, November 05, 2003 - 09:14 AM EST



BusinessWeek looks at Apple's potential resurgence in the education market in the article, "A Classroom Comeback for Apple?"

"While K-12 sales numbers are weak, reviving strength in laptops for students and in the college market could signal a broader recovery," BusinessWeek reports. "Apple may be on the verge of a revival in a sector that accounted for 11 million PC sales worldwide in 2002, according to tech tracker IDC. While its overall education sales were down in the quarter, Apple reported that sales to colleges and universities were the best in seven years. Moreover, an October survey by education technology tracker Quality Education Data (QED), a unit of Scholastic Corp., predicted that over the next 12 months Macs should account for 30% of PCs purchased by K-12 school districts across the country vs. Dell's 37%, as administrators opt to buy more laptops. That would be up nine points from fiscal 2003 and would be the highest figure for Apple in four years."

"If that prediction pans out, it could foretell a long-awaited reversal of fortune for Apple in its former stronghold. Pair that with Apple's good news in higher ed, and the Mac could be about to bounce back at school," BusinessWeek reports. "And while Dell has gained ground, the 45% of the market that neither Apple nor Dell controls could provide plenty of room for future growth. Hirsch notes that Apple has made big improvements with OS X, which is much easier to manage now than Apple's early operating systems. Should enough school purchasers agree, Apple could find new prosperity in classrooms."

OS X 10.3: Setting the Defaults for Browser & Mail By Steve Manke

OS X 10.3 sports dozens of changes that are immediately evident as one starts working their way through the Preference Pane. Many of changes are logical and welcome—with one exception. The Internet Preference Pane has been removed all together!

You will likely remember our old friend, the Internet Preference Pane. That is where you specified the default applications to use web browsing, and email. So far, with my limited time on 10.3, I have found only one way to

change the default browser setting. Open Safari and go to the preferences. There, in the General Section, you can set your systems default web browser.



Similarly, if you would like to change your default email client, you must load OS X's Mail application. There, in the preference, you can then set the default mail client!

It seems a little out of the way to me, but who am I to quibble. From what I have seen so far, Apple has done an

outstanding job with the latest build of the operating system. And with all of the improvements and changes, you can bet we will have many more OS Tips and Tricks to come!

U.S. Senate approves antispam bill

By Grant Gross, IDG News Service
October 23, 2003 10:45 am ET

The U.S. Senate Wednesday passed a bill regulating unsolicited commercial e-mail and allowing fines as large as US\$3 million for some types of illegal spam.

The Senate voted 97-0 to approve the Controlling the Assault of Non-Solicited Pornography and Marketing (CAN-SPAM) Act on Wednesday after a compromise among members of the Senate's Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee allowed an amendment authorizing a federal agency to launch a national do-not-spam registry.

CAN-SPAM would require commercial e-mail to include valid opt-out mechanisms and allows fines of up to \$100 per piece of spam sent with misleading header information.

Senator Charles Schumer, a Democrat from New York, had been holding up an antispam bill the committee approved in June in hopes of including a do-not-spam registry. Schumer announced Wednesday he has negotiated a deal with members of the committee, including Senators Conrad Burns, a Montana Republican, and Ron Wyden, an Oregon Democrat, sponsors of the CAN-SPAM Act.

Some critics, including the Coalition Against Unsolicited Commercial Email, have criticized CAN-SPAM, saying its provisions requiring consumers to opt out of unsolicited e-mail instead of opting in to commercial e-mail make it a pro-spam, not an antispam, bill. "The

problem is that I have yet to see a piece of legislation that qualifies as antispam," coalition counsel Ray Everett-Church said in May, after CAN-SPAM had been introduced.

CAN-SPAM sponsors Burns and Wyden applauded the Senate's passage of the bill. "Today, the Senate has sent the message that the government is going on the offensive against kingpin spammers," Wyden said in a statement. "Americans are tired of just watching and fretting over in-boxes clogged with unwanted e-mail, and this legislation is an important step toward giving them more control."

The Schumer amendment to CAN-SPAM would require the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to deliver to Congress a plan to create a national do-not-spam registry within six months and authorize the FTC to launch it within nine months of the bill's passage, Schumer said. The bill just approved by the Senate would have to be approved by the U.S. House and signed by President Bush before the FTC were to start its no-spam registry.

No antispam bill has yet been approved by a committee in the U.S. House, as members continue to debate the merits of two bills introduced there.

Schumer has pushed for a national no-spam registry, which would be similar to the national do-not-call telemarketing list now in effect. Some FTC officials have questioned the effectiveness of a do-not-spam list, although they help administer the do-not-call list, in part because of the frequency with which many e-mail users change or add e-mail addresses.

But Schumer noted that his polling shows nearly three-quarters of U.S. residents want a do-not-spam list.

CAN-SPAM allows maximum penalties of \$3 million for some types of spam. The bill allows fines for e-mail sent with misleading header information, deceptive subject headings or no functioning return address. CAN-SPAM also requires that unsolicited messages include valid physical postal addresses and clear notification that the message is an advertisement.

Additional criminal provisions, authored by Senators Orrin Hatch, a Utah Republican, and Patrick Leahy, a Vermont Democrat, were added into the Burns-Wyden bill through an amendment on the Senate floor. The Hatch-Leahy criminal provisions create several criminal penalties, ranging up to five years in prison, for some common spamming practices, including the following:

hacking into someone else's computer to send spam;

using open relays to send bulk spam with an intent to deceive;

falsifying header information in bulk spam;

registering for five or more e-mail accounts using false registration information, and using these accounts to send bulk spam.

Microsoft Corp. cheered the Senate vote, and Brad Smith, senior vice president and general counsel, said in a statement that the Hatch-Leahy amendment strengthens the protection of children from pornographic e-mail.

"These provisions not only make the overall bill stronger but help give parents more peace of mind that stiff penalties have been put in place to ward off criminals and to better protect children on the Internet," Smith said in the statement. "Spam is no longer just an inconvenience for consumers and the online industry; it has become an intrusive problem that makes it hard for people to sort through their personal e-mail and reduces productivity."