

from the DMUG Newsletter

InSites

By Anne Grifan
DVMUG Member

Those wacky Widgets. Right off the bat I can predict they are exactly the type of eye candy that I love to hate, but for now I feel strangely compelled to explore each new arrival as they trickle in to Apple's Dashboard page at the rate of about a half dozen a day. Today I was delighted to and that my favorite comic, *The Joy of Tech*, now has a widget. (The observant will note that it was released the day after my *ApplePress* deadline, bless our illustrious editor and his inanimate patience).

So off I went to see just how badly I could clutter up my desktop. Out of the box Tiger installs fourteen Widgets, only a few of which I find useful. The Dictionary is handy, and I love the Weather Widget. I was a tad disappointed one rainy day to see that Weather rain was not animated, but I got over it once I figured out how to switch the location from Cupertino to Concord and watched the temperature jump 10 degrees. All the others I could live without, with the possible exception of the Tile Game. Then I clicked on the More Widgets button. What's this? Hula Girl? Now we are talking.

TV Tracker was the first to join my collection of desk accessories, quickly followed by Whois and Wikipedia. I could not resist Pileup, but I passed on SlothCam. With hundreds to choose from I began to see the point of the Dashboard—you could never at all this stuff into your Dock.

And what about third-party widgets? A Google search for Dashboard Widgets led me to dashboardlineup.com, which had a link to a cool-looking one called Locket. "Locket is a Dashboard widget that provides an ambient monitor for a single iChat user on your buddy list. When the person is available, the locket opens. Otherwise, it is closed. Clicking on the open locket will start a new IM chat." It's very attractive, to boot. It's not likely I'll ever use it, but I went off to the developer's site to poke around a bit.

Here's where things got hairy as I stumbled on Zaptastic, my first Malicious Widget! I am not even going to provide you with a path to this place, lest you accidentally allow this puppy to install. There was a big stink about this possibility, that eventually someone would create an evil widget, when Tiger was first released. "Welcome to Zaptastic. If you are using Safari on Tiger, thanks to the magic of widget auto install, combined with the <meta> tag, a slightly evil widget has been installed in your dashboard. It could

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KMUG MONTHLY MEETING	
Luncheon	Evening
Third Thursday of each month at 10:30 A.M. Solarium Room, All Star Lanes, Myhre Road, Silverdale (one block East of Silverdale Way)	First Thursday of each month at 6:30 P.M. Solarium Room, All Star Lanes, Myhre Road, Silverdale (one block East of Silverdale Way)

***KMUG's home page is now at:
<http://www.homepage.mac.com/kmug1>***

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InSites

be a lot worse. There's a slightly more evil widget linked lower in this page, and I think it would be possible to make a much more destructive widget. I gave you something fairly tame. You're welcome."

Yikes!

I emailed the author of this malware right away to and out what he had to say about his evil widget; he quickly replied with his cell phone number, although he cautioned me that he was out partying with his grandpa in Vegas at the moment. Ever curious, call I did, and Stephan told me he has had 150,000 hits since his antics were mentioned on Slashdot. He confirmed that the purpose of this exercise was to get Apple to close the Auto-install hole in Dashboard, which they did with the 10.4.1 update.

Meanwhile, I have a good collection of aborted down-



loads from Zaptastic on my desktop, all for the purpose of researching this article. I think I'll stick to [Hula Girl. http://www.dashboardlineup.com/article.php/20050516140838347](http://www.dashboardlineup.com/article.php/20050516140838347)

<http://stephan.com/widgets/zaptastic/>

This article came from the newsletter of the Diablo Valley Macintosh User Group. KMUG participates in a monthly newsletter exchange with DVMUG. ●

from the NY Times

Beyond Wi-Fi: Laptop Heaven but a Price

By DAVID POGUE

This article discusses innovations in wireless internet connection and is applicable to Mac as well as PC platforms. ed.

Plenty of technologies can get you online wirelessly these days, but there's always a catch. Wi-Fi Internet hot spots are fast and cheap, but they keep you tethered to the airport, hotel or coffee shop where the hot spot originates. A Bluetooth cellphone can get your laptop online, but at the speed of a slug. And smoke signals - well, you know. The privacy issues are a nightmare.

But for the laptop lugger with an expense account, there may be another option. It's a relatively new

cellular data network called C.D.M.A. 1xEV-DO, which, as you surely knew, stands for Code Division Multiple Access Evolution-Data Only. No wonder Verizon Wireless, the earliest and largest adopter of this technology, just calls it the BroadbandAccess plan.

To get your laptop onto this very fast wonder-net, you need a special cellular card that slides into its PC-card slot. Novatel and Kyocera have recently given the blossoming EV-DO future a big thumbs-up by releasing new cellular cards for laptops running Windows (and, with a little tweaking, Mac OS X).

EV-DO offers two addictive benefits. First, it's cellular. You don't have to hunt down public hot spots; an entire metropolitan area is a hot spot.

Second, EV-DO means sheer, giddy speed. EV-DO

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is a so-called 3G (third-generation) network, the fruits of \$1 billion in Verizon development. And when your laptop or palmtop locks onto a good signal, you can practically feel the wind in your hair.

How fast is that, exactly? Verizon claims you'll be able to download data at an average of 400 to 700 kilobits per second (kbps), which turns out to be true. That makes EV-DO at least five times as fast as the rival technology offered by Cingular and T-Mobile, called EDGE (70 to 135 kbps), and about seven times as fast as Verizon's original data network (still available), which it calls NationalAccess (60 to 80 kbps).

Yeah, but how fast is that? Who besides network geeks measures anything in kilobits per second?

A more familiar unit might be time, as in how long it might take you to download a two-megabyte attachment. On a dial-up modem, you'd wait over six minutes; Verizon's older NationalAccess service, about five minutes; the EDGE wireless network, about three minutes; and Verizon's BroadbandAccess, about 40 seconds.

In short, using BroadbandAccess (EV-DO), you feel as if you're hooked up to a cable modem, even when you're sitting on a beach, your deck or a speeding commuter train. When your signal is strong, you get Web pages in a flash, file attachments in no time and video feeds without a hiccup.

(Sending data is a different story, however. You average around 100 kbps, because these cards use the older, slower channel for uploading. "When you download a big presentation, it goes really fast," says Roger Entner, a telecom analyst at the consulting firm Ovum. "But then if you forward it to someone else, you feel as though you've hit a wall." He suspects that the wireless carriers limit upload speeds so that wireless laptops can't be used as traveling Web sites. "The wireless carriers want to avoid letting people using the card as a wireless Web server," he explains. "It kind of kills your business model.")

So in general, speed is not a problem with EV-DO.

But coverage and price may be.

Verizon's high-speed wireless network now covers 32 major metropolitan areas, including biggies like New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Miami, along with a somewhat baffling selection of smaller cities like West Palm Beach, Fla., and Madison, Wis. Verizon says that the rollout has just begun, and that by the end of this year, half the American population will be EV-DOable.

Fortunately, even when you're outside the designated cities, you can still get online. Verizon's software seamlessly switches you to its older, slower NationalAccess network, which pretty much works wherever Verizon cellphones do. There's quite a speed hit; you feel as though someone secretly swapped your cable modem for a dial-up modem. But at least you can check your e-mail without having to return to, say, West Palm Beach.

Finally, there's the little matter of price: \$80 a month, a price that seems expressly designed to milk corporate business travelers. On one hand, that price gets you unlimited service, and it really is \$80 a month; at this point, you're not saddled with the taxes and fees that jack up your cellphone bill. On the other hand, that price doesn't even include cellphone service. (Of course, you can always use a free program like Skype to make voice calls while you're connected - but you didn't hear it from me.)

Then again, Verizon has the playground all to itself, so it can charge whatever it wants. But wait until **Sprint** introduces its own EV-DO service later this year. You might not be able to pronounce "C.D.M.A. 1xEV-DO," but you can sure say "competition."

If EV-DO sounds, on balance, as though it would be a good fit, your next step is to choose a cellular card for your laptop. Verizon offers three EV-DO models to individuals: Verizon's older, slower, less-featured **Audiovox** card (\$100), and two new ones: the Novatel V620 (\$50) and Kyocera's KPC650 (\$70). (A fourth card, from Sierra, is offered only to corporations.)

In general, the cards are pretty much alike. Each can

from MacCentral

Apple Europe Unit Sales Up 48 Percent

By Jonny Evans, Macworld UK

Apple has exceeded average PC market growth in the European markets in the second quarter 2005.

The company achieved 48 percent market growth (year-on-year) in the European, Middle East and African (EMEA) markets.

This contrasts with the 23 percent growth of the PC market as a whole, according to new research from analyst firm, IDC.

Apple's 48 percent growth is eclipsed by Acer's 68.4 percent, as the latter firm maintains an aggressive grab for market share here.

Apple has itself eclipsed the achievement of

Europe's second biggest supplier, Dell, which achieved 32 percent growth.

Apple ships 283,000 Macs

In the quarter, HP led the market, with 2,436,000 units shipped and 20.8 percent growth. Dell shipped 1,928,000 PCs. Apple shipped 283,000 Macs in EMEA, according to IDC, for 2 percent market share.

While statistically this means Apple remains a junior player in contrast to Dell or HP, its 48 percent unit sales growth eclipses all others, bar Acer.

Apple desktops drive results

Desktop sales remain strong in EMEA, while falling

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automatically switch to the older NationalAccess network when necessary. Each protrudes from your laptop by over an inch, meaning that you'll probably have to eject the card each time you put the laptop back in its case.

The Novatel and Kyocera cards come with Verizon's VZAccess Manager software, a little dashboard that lets you switch among your three wireless options: BroadbandAccess (EV-DO), NationalAccess (the older, slower network with more coverage) and Wi-Fi (if your laptop is so equipped). This software isn't especially gorgeous, but it's rock solid, easy to install and filled with useful displays; one shows a graph of your connection speed, for gloating purposes. It also lets you exchange short text messages with your friends' cellphones.

(The software works only in Windows. But at EVDOinfo.com - a great site for EV-DO news and instruction - Mac OS X fans can find step-by-step instructions for making these cards work in PowerBooks, too.)

Kyocera says there's quite a difference between its card and its rivals, though: its KPC650 is supposed to provide speeds up to 35 percent faster, especially in low-signal areas. Its tricks include faster circuitry, shielding from interference and a flip-out antenna that swivels in any direction. And sure enough: PC Magazine found that the Kyocera card was faster than the Novatel in two-thirds of its test locations.

My tests in downtown Tampa, Fla., which has BroadbandAccess coverage, must have fallen into that "other third" category. With the antenna in its best position, the Kyocera averaged 476 kbps, versus the Novatel's 543. (Test protocol: five runs of the bandwidth tester at www.toast.net.) Clearly, speed tests are flaky and variable, giving different numbers depending on your signal strength, which online bandwidth test page you use, and the mood of the EV-DO gods. (If you really get the bug, you can also buy an external antenna for extra speed and reception.)

But no matter which card you get, the big winner is EV-DO - or it will be, once its coverage grows and its price shrinks. Someday soon, it may even become the first completely satisfying wireless way to get online. ●

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notebook prices continue to drive business customers to portable solutions, IDC confirmed.

Apple's notebooks have driven much of the company's successes in recent years, but the tide is turning for the company.

In a pattern that presumably underlines the increased urgency with which Apple's management must consider the importance of significantly revising its notebook products, its desktop sales have seen significant growth.

IDC senior research analyst Ian Gibbs told Macworld: "Apple's desktop growth has been particularly strong — much stronger than its notebook segment."

IDC is still analyzing the results of its quarterly EMEA PC market survey, so Gibbs declined to furnish further details.

Market analysis

The EMEA market remains price-driven, with lower costs of entry helping to maintain growth.

"Consumers continued to respond very positively to increasingly attractive price points, which assisted strong double digit growth in both the consumer notebook and desktop market," IDC said.

Elsa Opitz, research manager for IDC's EMEA Quarterly PC Tracker warned of patchiness in

Europe's business market, particularly in Germany and Italy as a result of fragile economic conditions.

"Renewal trends are slowing down in the U.K.," Opitz explained, adding, "the Nordic region continued to enjoy very healthy growth rates."

Looking ahead, IDC expects unit growth will be higher due to notebook sales, though in revenue terms forecasts are likely to remain flat, due to the price-driven nature of the current marketplace.

Apple continues to gain

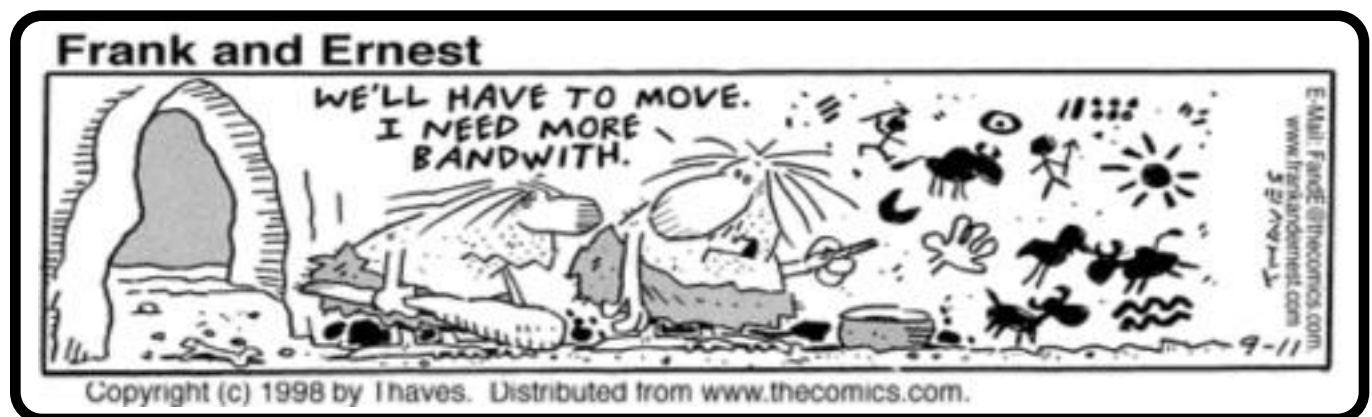
Apple continues to gain glory at present, as its successful digital music products drive interest in the brand, and its advanced technologies continue to press home the company's market offerings.

The company recently revealed the best financial quarter in its history, with a US\$320 million profit.

And analysts at Needham & Co. this week claimed that in excess of 400,000 Windows users have acquired Macs so far this year, driven by Apple's gleaming "iPod halo" factor.

That halo looks set to remain rosy for some time to come. A recent study in the U.S. found that over 32 million Americans plan to buy an iPod by the end of 2006.

This week, Apple broke another record. It became the world's first legitimate music service to sell 500,000,000 tracks through its iTunes Music Store. ●



from MacCentral

Apple Making Big Inroads in Business with OS X

By Jim Dalrymple, MacCentral

Apple Computer's UNIX-based Mac OS X operating system is making inroads in the business community, according to a report by market research firm Jupiter Research. The report tracks desktop and server operating systems in medium to large sized business.

The report found that in businesses with 250 employees or more, 17 percent of the employees were running Mac OS X on their desktop computer at work. In Businesses that

had 10,000 or more employees, 21 percent of employees used Mac OS X on their desktop work computer.

Mac OS X Server is also doing well with businesses. Nine percent of companies with 250 employees or more used Mac OS X Server, while 14 percent of companies with 10,000 employees or more used Apple's Server software.

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Luncheon Meeting

KMUG Meeting

July 21, 2005

Dick Nerf's very informative and creative presentation titled "Thinking Inside the Box" with a restaurant analogy of a cook with his pots and pans using recipes and having his ingredients close by in the pantry or needing to run to the store in the middle of making a dish to acquire others, was enthusiastically received by the 23 attendees. He also explained some about Bits, Bytes, Nibbles, etc., from the software developer's viewpoint.

Questions and remarks included a possible problem with the new G5 power supply, using Preview to read PDF files, deleting cookies regularly from the browser, using the Take Red Eye out feature of iPhoto, (click on Red Eye then click right on the red pupil of the eye) and bringing the preview pane

of Mail back up into view by grabbing the bottom line and pulling it up. Also Don Diehl mentioned that he had downloaded the 10.4.2 update and so far things were running smoothly.

Submitted by Phyllis Robie

Evening Meeting

KMUG Meeting

July 7, 2005

Ross Tocher gave out sheets of tips on using Digital Techonology and then showed some examples of slide shows he has made. He suggested using iMovie for slideshows rather than iPhoto and using mostly fade type transitions rahter than many fancy ones. Also that instrumental backgrounds work well (non royalty songs can be found through Google). 20 attended.

Submitted by Phyllis Robie

Disclaimer

The KMUG Newsletter is a compilation of information related to the Macintosh community or areas which impact Macintosh computing. Content comes from a variety of sources: contributions, other user groups or internet news sources. All articles are given full credit for the author and it's source.

The information presented in the KMUG Newsletter does not reflect the opinion of KMUG, but is presented for it's informational content.

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Due reporting techniques, comparisons to where Mac OS X was last year at this time were not available. However, Jupiter Research Senior Analyst and author of the report, Joe Wilcox, characterized the numbers as significant for Apple.

“What we are seeing is Mac OS X taking share away from traditional UNIX installations,” Wilcox told MacCentral. In some cases, OS X is taking share away from Windows, as well.”

Wilcox explained that large businesses with expensive UNIX systems are opting for Mac OS X when they upgrade for a variety of reasons. OS X is winning out over Linux in some cases as well, said Wilcox because these businesses would already have UNIX expertise on staff; OS X has a good stable of server applications and it can run traditional UNIX apps; and OS X is more viable as a desktop platform.

Jupiter also sees opportunities for Apple with companies that currently run a UNIX and Windows combination. With Mac OS X's UNIX underpinnings, companies can use Apple's operating system to replace the other two.

Microsoft's Windows Server operating system saw a marginal decrease in installed base this

***Meeting Program
for August 18th
Frank Buxton
on video editing and how to
shoot videos***

year, according to the report.

Wilcox said it was too early to gauge reaction to Apple's recent announcement that it intends to switch to Intel-based systems next year. While cost will be definitely be a factor, Jupiter's Wilcox said that is not always the largest cost center.

“With a lot of these systems the biggest cost is software, not hardware,” said Wilcox.

Linux users also represent a big pool of potential switchers, according to the report.

“I'm surprised to see just how much Mac OS X has captured the interest of potential Linux switchers,” said Wilcox. “Companies that were considering Linux are now buying Mac OS X instead.” ●

Need some technical assistance?

There are several local people who are in the business of providing technical assistance for the Mac. You may have seen and heard them making presentations and answering questions at KMUG meetings. If you need help, look at the Professional Technical Assistance Referral area on the KMUG Website.

<http://www.homepage.mac.com/kmug1>

***KMUG's home page is now at:
<http://www.homepage.mac.com/kmug1>***

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To join Kitsap Macintosh User's Group, send name, address (e-mail and snail mail) and dues (see renewal below for membership fee to:

KMUG

P.O. Box 1271, Silverdale, WA 98383

or come to one of our meetings and sign up!

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To renew with the newsletter e-mailed to your computer, dues are \$20.

To renew with a paper newsletter, dues are \$30.

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Luncheon

Third Thursday of each month at 10:30 A.M.

Solarium Room, All Star Lanes,

Myhre Road, Silverdale

(one block East of Silverdale Way)

Evening

First Thursday of each month at 6:30 P.M.

Solarium Room, All Star Lanes,

Myhre Road, Silverdale

(one block East of Silverdale Way)

This month's newsletter editor was Joe Williams



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