

*from NY Times Review - STATE OF THE ART*

## ***The iPod's New Trick:***

### ***Photo Show***

**By DAVID POGUE**

All right, Apple. The iPod has 92 percent of the market for high-capacity music players. You sold two million of them in the last quarter alone. Your music store, whose songs play only on the iPod, has 70 percent of the online song sales market, and you've just rolled it out in 10 new countries.

What on earth do you do for an encore?

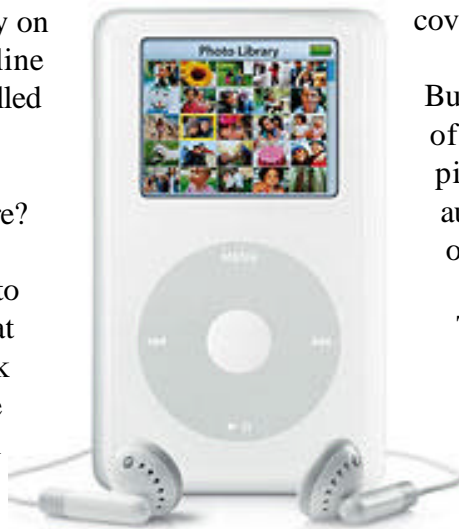
Apple revealed its answer Tuesday to an invited audience of journalists at a half demonstration, half U2 rock concert here: a new, top-of-the-line model that takes the iPod concept in a new direction that's simultaneously risky and overwhelmingly natural. Instead of just playing your music, this model also shows off your photos.

The iPod Photo, as it's called, looks and feels exactly like the existing iPod (it's one millimeter thicker). There's the famous white click wheel, there's the shiny

chrome back panel, there are your fingerprints on it. But its two-inch screen is now in bright, crisp color.

The color screen is infinitely superior to the old black-and-white one, thanks in part to its new, sharper typeface. It makes a world of difference to built-in iPod programs like the calendar and the arcade games. It also shows the album's cover artwork when a song is playing.

But the real purpose of this screen is, of course, to display your digital pictures, which the iPod Photo automatically copies from your Mac or PC.



That stunt is brought to you by Version 4.7 of Apple's free iTunes jukebox software; you use it to specify a source for your photo collections. On the Macintosh, it's taken for granted that you use Apple's iPhoto software to

organize your pictures; you can specify which albums (that is, subsets) you want synced to the iPod.

On a PC (Windows XP or 2000), you can sync the

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## Con't from page 1, Color iPod

iPod with photo collections you've set up in Adobe Photoshop Elements or Photoshop Album, or with any pictures folder on your hard drive (like My Pictures).

Of course, a two-inch display isn't what you'd call a billboard; it's no bigger than the screen on the back of a digital camera. Fortunately, you can also connect the iPod Photo to a TV set by plugging the included iPod-white, three-headed audio-video cable into, of all things, the iPod's headphone jack. (There's also an S-video jack on its charging cradle.) This way, you can entertain the whole family with your little "Day in the Life of Me" presentation, as your handpicked music plays in the background.

As it turns out, the existing iPod's design, originally conceived for music, lends itself beautifully to photo shows.

For example, the functions of the click wheel's four buttons - Menu, Previous, Next and Play/Pause - apply just as naturally to slide shows. Ditto for the iPod's navigational system: the click wheel can breeze through the list of photo albums just as it does through music playlists. And running your finger around the wheel during a slide show adjusts the soundtrack volume just as it does during straight-ahead music playback.

In short, graduating from a traditional iPod to a color iPod involves virtually no relearning.

A kind of slide-sorter view displays 25 tiny pictures per screen; it's one way to pluck a certain photo from among the hundreds. Another is to spin the click wheel, which can page through full-screen photos astonishingly quickly and smoothly. They flicker past almost as though they're frames of film.

Here's another nice touch: When the iPod Photo is hooked up to a TV, your adoring fans see only the full-size photo on the TV screen. But you, captain of the iPod, see a tidy little command center on its screen: the current photo, flanked by thumbnails of the previous and next ones. They provide a convenient crutch for narrating the show. ("O.K., see how cocky Chris looks here, going up the ski lift? Now I'll show you Chris five seconds later.")

And because you can see which photo is coming next, you'll never be caught in what veteran presenters call a "Now how'd that get in there?" moment.



*SNAPSHOT - The iPod Photo plays music, but it can also store and display 25,000 color photos, and CD cover art, too.*

Before shuttling your photos off to the iPod, the iTunes software does quite a bit of preprocessing, including scaling down your huge multimegapixel digital pictures to fit the iPod's two-inch screen. Because the resulting files are so tiny, Apple says that up to 25,000 of them can fit on the iPod Photo. (You can choose to include the full-resolution photos on the iPod's hard drive, too, which is handy when you want to transport them from one computer to another. In that case, of course, the iPod holds far fewer than 25,000.)

Unfortunately, all that processing adds a considerable amount of time to the syncing process. On the Macintosh, the added delay is tolerable; you wait about 10 seconds for a dozen fresh pictures. But on Windows, syncing is measured in minutes, not seconds. For best results, keep a stack of Popular Photography magazines next to your iPod cradle.

Photo fans should also note that the iPod's 220-by-176-pixel screen doesn't neatly accommodate pictures that have 4:3 proportions, or even 3:2

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proportions (the standard aspect ratios of digital photos). Unless you care to crop each of your 25,000 photos before synching them to your iPod, be prepared to accept a subtle letterbox effect, a thin strip of black above and below each photo. (What the heck; the Bravo channel does it all the time.)

The iPod Photo comes in two models, both pricey. One, with a 40-gigabyte hard drive, costs \$500, which is \$100 more than its black-and-white counterpart. The other, with a new 60-gigabyte drive, goes for \$600.

Both models, despite the color screen, somehow manage to provide about 25 percent longer battery life than their predecessors: 15 hours of music playback, or five hours of slide shows with music. ("Which is probably more than your friends will watch," added Steve Jobs, Apple's chief.)

So, yes, the iPod Photo is beautifully done. But within hours of its unveiling, iPod cynics were asking some hard-nosed questions online. Why can't you download your pictures onto this thing straight from a digital camera? Why do you have to use iTunes, a music program, to manage the photo loading? And, inevitably: Why can't it play video?

After all, for the same \$500, you can buy a Windows Mobile Portable Media Center that plays not only music and photos, but videos too. (Of course, its hard drive holds only half as much as the iPod Photo's, you can't use it to record your own TV shows, and it's three times the size of an iPod. But still.)

These are rational questions. And if you're among those baffled by the iPod's appeal, well, consider yourself lucky. You won't find anything as beautiful, as polished or as simple to master, but you may well find a rival with more features or a lower price.

(And if you are in that category, you'll definitely want to avoid the striking new iPod U2 Edition, also unveiled this week. It's a traditional, 20-gigabyte, music-only iPod with a shiny black face, a red click wheel and the four U2 band members' signatures laser-etched onto the back panel. And it costs \$350,

*from The Mac Observer*

## *Atomic Learning Releases GarageBand Tutorial Videos*

Atomic Learning today released a series of tutorials for Apple's GarageBand. The collection of 40 narrated QuickTime movies adds to the site's collection of over 11,000 large-format movie tutorials.

The first section of the GarageBand tutorials are available free. Access to the remainder, as well as Atomic Learning's entire library, costs \$79.95 per year. ●

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which is \$50 more than a regular white iPod.)

But as about six million people now know, buying an iPod isn't a rational decision. It appeals to people's emotions, their creativity, and even their vanity. It's not a machine, it's a personal accessory. In fact, it's practically jewelry.

That's why the iPod Photo makes so much sense. The iPod has always played your songs, in your chosen sequence, at a volume only you can hear; now it also shows snapshots of your life, friends and memories. In other words, Apple has found a way to make the iPod even more expressive, individualized and personal. Rational, schmational - get me on the waiting list. ●

### *Mac Lab Meetings*

Mac Lab is a Special Interest Group (SIG) associated with the Kitsap Computing Seniors. The Lab offers an opportunity for persons interested in the Macintosh computer to gain some hands-on experience and get answers to questions in an informal setting. The Lab is conducted by members of KMUG.

Mac Lab meets every Tuesday afternoon that school is in session.

The meeting is at Poulsbo Jr High in Room A2 from 2:45pm until 4:30pm. If you have any questions contact Gwen Kauffroath (360)377-1715; gwenk17@comcast.net

## *Google to Give Gmail POP3 Support & Plans Antivirus*

*By Juan Carlos Perez, IDG News Service  
MacCentral*

Google Inc. will roll out POP3 (Post Office Protocol) support gradually over the coming weeks to Gmail users, who will be able to use the feature to download e-mail messages from Gmail servers to e-mail applications on devices such as PCs and wireless devices.

With POP3 support, users will be able to transfer their server-based Gmail messages to a client-side e-mail application and have the messages stored on their local hard drive and thus accessible when they are offline. Users with wireless devices that have POP3-compliant e-mail clients will also be able to download their Gmail messages to personal digital assistants or cell phones.

Google is also working on adding an antivirus scanning feature to the Web mail service, possibly by licensing an existing technology, and developing an HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) interface that would make Gmail compatible with browsers that don't support JavaScript. Currently, only JavaScript-enabled browsers can access Gmail, which uses JavaScript extensively.

These and other possible enhancements, such as adding further wireless device support through WAP (Wireless Application Protocol) or XHTML (Extensible HTML), are part of Google's attempt to eventually make Gmail, which is still being beta tested, the most feature-rich Web mail service available, a Google executive said.

"We want to make it the best e-mail service in every single dimension so you have absolutely no reason to use any other," said Georges Harik, who is in charge of new projects at Google and whose title is director of Googlettes, the term the company uses

## *The Apple Wins Billboard Digital Music Awards*

*by Misha Sakellaropoulo*

Apple won Billboard's 2004 Digital Entertainment Award for Brand of the Year, while CEO Steve Jobs was named Visionary of the Year. Apple's iTunes Music Store lost out to Real Networks' Rhapsody for Best Downloadable or Subscription Music Service, however, and Apple was also edged out by XM

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to refer to this type of effort.

Google considers POP3 support a must-have for Gmail.

"This is a very important feature that every e-mail system should provide. We're going to make it easy both to transition into and out of Gmail so you can use the best possible e-mail reading interface," Harik said.

"We're making our way down the list of things so in the end you'll be able to access Gmail on everything," he said.

Also in the works is beefed-up antivirus protection. Currently, Gmail protects users against Windows viruses by blocking messages that have certain files attached to them, such as .exe, or executable, files. But a full-fledged virus-scanning feature is on the horizon for Gmail, Harik said.

"We block executables and other things that are usually carriers of viruses so most viruses don't go through, but there are always weird file types. So we're working on getting a full antivirus scanning solution to add to the current list of things that we do. We're likely to possibly license one (from a third party)," Harik said.

Also a possibility for Gmail would be support for IMAP (Internet Message Access Protocol), a protocol similar to POP3 but more sophisticated, he said. ●

# Apple Supported Technologies Approved by DVB

By Jim Dalrymple, MacCentral

The Digital Video Broadcasting Steering Board (DVB) has approved a revision to its implementation guidelines for audio and video codecs over a broadcast Transport Stream. The revision includes two technologies supported by Apple Computer Inc., H.264 or Advanced Video Codec (AVC) and High Efficiency AAC (HE-AAC) audio codecs.

AVC and AAC are codecs supported by MPEG-4, an open standard technology based on the QuickTime file format and adopted by the ISO governing body.

"The investment we made in the MPEG-4 standard is paying off incredible dividends for QuickTime and for Apple," Frank Casanova, Apple's director of QuickTime product marketing, told MacCentral. "Allowing the ISO the use our file format has turned out to be the best decisions we could have made."

AVC was discussed less than a year ago as an up-and-coming codec, but in recent months the technology has gained traction being ratified for the HD-DVD and Blu-Ray specs -- the two new standards for high definition content on DVDs.

"AVC is clearly the chosen direction, which comes

as no surprise to me because interoperability across any industry is important," said Casanova. "Any proprietary technology would naturally get shutout where interoperability and openness is required. MPEG-4 provides a level of openness and compatibility that all of these different industries from 3G to HD all require."

In addition to the ratification by DVB, AVC has received the nod from the MPEG-4 group, the 3GGP group and the Association of Japanese Broadcasters. While worldwide support for the technology has been quick, the United States broadcasters have yet to ratify AVC, except for use in HD-DVD and Blu-Ray. With the benefits the technology brings to broadcasters, Apple thinks it's just a matter of time.

"The broadcasters in the U.S. haven't made a final decision about what technologies they will use, but I think it's just a matter of time," said Casanova. "Japan and the European community have gone forward and I have no doubt that as the broadcast communities here in the U.S. decide how to make the most effective use of the bandwidth available, they will chose AVC. It makes good business sense -- it saves them bandwidth and at the same time gives them more programming flexibility."

With its ability to encode content for so many mediums, Casanova sees uses for AVC in many of the everyday things we do today, including DVD movies, Cable television providers, on-demand television in hotels and next-generation cellular

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telephones. For example, with AVC, DVD content authoring houses could use the same size DVD disk, but output the content in HD quality.

"Cable providers will be able to encode their content at HD quality and send it down the wire at the same data rate as MPEG-2, yet get much better quality," said Casanova.

As with MPEG-4 itself, AVC is an open standard, which means that many different companies contribute to the process of evolving the codec into something the public sees on their computer or television.

"This is a technology that we've been intimately involved with for a while -- everybody, including Apple is very excited about this. It's about interoperability, standards and openness -- something we've been all about across QuickTime and much of Apple for a long time."

### **Competition from Microsoft**

Microsoft Corp. is touting its Windows Media Player 9 format as competition for AVC, but Casanova sees several reasons that AVC will win out in the end, not the least of which is performance.

"Windows Media 9 is a few years old and it's evolved a few times," said Casanova. "AVC is brand new -- it's just at the very beginning of its quality and optimization curves. This puts us in an incredible advantage from a competitive standpoint because Windows Media has likely had most of its

optimizations and performance wrung out of it already by Microsoft's engineers and we're just getting started."

Microsoft has submitted the Windows Media 9 format to the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers as a standard, but unlike an open standard, only Microsoft can make changes and enhancements to the Windows Media format. With an open standard like AVC, all member companies contribute to the technology.

"We feel so confident about this technology against the competition [Windows Media 9]," said Casanova. "We have no concerns at all -- we are thrilled with it from a video standpoint and certainly I couldn't be happier from a worldwide industry adoption perspective."

Apple has long preached the benefits of using and promoting open standards in its software. It is the interoperability of these standards that Apple believes will lead AVC to continue to be adopted in the future.

"The DVB selection of AVC is just one more example of where the world is insisting on open standards," said Casanova. "It doesn't matter if you're a cell phone manufacturer, broadcaster or producer of HD decoded video, interoperability counts. AVC is being ratified into relevancy by all of these standards organizations and Apple is right there.

"In this world of 'my codec is better than yours' -- this codec is better," said Casanova. ●

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## Con't from page 4, Awards

Satellite Radio for Innovator of the Year.

As Brand of the Year, Apple overshadowed finalists EA Sports, Virgin Mobile, and XM Satellite Radio.

Jobs, meanwhile, one-upped Mark Cuban, owner of the Dallas Mavericks and Chairman of HDNet, Rob Glaser, Chairman & CEO of Real Networks, and Will Wright, designer of SimCity and The Sims. ●

### 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's 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 its informational content.

Evening Meeting

## ***KMUG Meeting***

*November 4, 2004*

Don Diehl opened the meeting by introducing Steve Cox, who presented the evening program. He started by giving a brief overview of the features in the uncoming new operating system named Tiger.

Then Steve gave the 20 attending members his professional views on how best to care for our Macs. He advised investing in an APC or similar Power Battery Backup (\$50 to \$60 at Office Depot, etc.) which comes with both a battery portion (plug the CPU and Monitor and external hard drives in here) and a surge protector for other add on hardware. For further information "Google" Battery Back up.

For further safety, Steve advises shutting your computer down for overnight or when leaving the house, in case of possible overheating. He also suggests buying memory from a reputable dealer.

Backing up is extremely important. An easy way to do it is to put everything you create into your User Folders and then back those up to an external hard drive or with some other method. If your computer crashes or refuses to shut down, try holding down the Cmd/Control/Power buttons to try to force a restart. If that doesn't work, hold down the Power button about 3 seconds to force a shut down. Do not just pull plugs. ●

Submitted by Phyllis Robie

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Luncheon Meeting

## ***KMUG Meeting***

*October 21, 2004*

Don Diehl opened the meeting with a short discussion about giving a presentation of "Things Mac" at the Kitsap Mall in the spring and also another at the Central Branch of the Kitsap Regional Library possibly during January in order to whet the public's interest and bring in new members.

The main presentation to the group of 26 members was given by Brad Weiger from COMP USA on the Apple iPod and it accessories. The iPods with large storage capacities are convenient to use as external hard drives to transfer files between computers or to store files other than music. Special

playlists can be made in iTunes and then plug the iPod into the computer to be updated. Two programs mentioned for use with the iPod were iPod Access (shareware at \$10) and Rip to iPod (free) which are both available from [www.versiontracker.com](http://www.versiontracker.com).

Accessories mentioned were iTrip which works remotely through an auto's audio system and is about \$30, a Media Card Reader device and battery pack.

Later Bob Higgens from Kitsap Computing Seniors spoke a few words about that organization. He stated they have around 600 people and are also looking to bring in new and younger members. They have a Newsletter that can be read and downloaded from [www.ffogynews.org](http://www.ffogynews.org). ●

Submitted by Phyllis Robie

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Technology - MacCentral

## ***Virtual PC 7 Update Fixes RAM-Based Crashes***

*By Brad Cook MacCentral*

Microsoft's Macintosh Business Unit on Tuesday (9 Nov 04) issued a patch for Virtual PC 7 that fixes a problem that occurred when running the software on Power Mac G5 computers with more than 2GB of RAM installed. Previously, Virtual PC 7 would not run on those computers, causing a fatal error that crashed the application. Microsoft also noted that Virtual PC 7.0.1 also offers stability improvements, although it wasn't more specific than that -- some users have reported problems with using USB devices and other issues. ●

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**KMUG**

**P.O. Box 1271, Silverdale, WA 98383**

or come to one of our meetings and sign up!

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**Evening**

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**This month's newsletter editor was Joe Williams**



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