

*The Mobil Mac: Part II*

## *Holiday Gift Ideas for Your Favorite Mobile Mac*

*By Dodie Katague*  
*DVMUG Director*

Every laptop user who wants to be a true Mobile Mac has several favorite light-weight, portable gadgets that lighten the laptop load but still do the trick out in the field. I'd like to share some of my favorites with you and list some items I would like to get in the future. This list may give you some holiday gift ideas for your favorite Laptop User! (The number in italics corresponds to the picture bullets.)

### **Power Adapter**

While the PowerBook A/C power adapter has a stylish Yo-Yo shape, it is much too large to be considered portable by a true mobile Macolyte. The perfect power gadget is the Madsonline MicroAdapter A/C Adapter. (#3) ([www.madsonline.com](http://www.madsonline.com)) The adapter is credit card size at 1.7 x 3.5 x 0.92 but it has two dangling cords that need to be dealt with. I use the Targus Windup Cord Reel (#5) [www.targus.com](http://www.targus.com) and Cable Turtles (#4) to keep the cords in check.

### **Mouse**

I have found the perfect mobile mouse for the Mobile Road Warrior for now. The Kensington PocketMouse Pro (#13) ([www.kensington.com](http://www.kensington.com)) is a regular-size

optical mouse with a retractable cord. No cord mess! In the future, I'll be looking for a Bluetooth cordless mouse when Macs have a built-in Bluetooth card. The current Bluetooth devices require a small transmitter dongle in the USB port, just another dongle to lose. And Bluetooth is still too buggy and uncommon to consider.

### **Hubs**

My PowerBook only has two USB ports, so in many cases a portable USB hub is a necessity. I've found the perfect one, the Keyspan Mini USB 4-port hub ([www.keyspan.com](http://www.keyspan.com)). (#7) It has a short USB cable that tucks away in the case. The case is as large as credit card, weighs only two ounces and is one centimeter thick. It features four USB ports and is both bus-powered and self powered. It comes with a power adapter, but that's so bulky that I leave it at home and use the hub in buspowered mode only.

The Titanium PowerBook has only one FireWire port. While you can daisy-chain from one FireWire

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to another, some devices need more power than the FireWire bus provides. I haven't found the perfect portable FireWire hub yet. If you know of one that's as small as the Keyspan, let me know.

### **Retractable Cables**

Targus ([www.targus.com](http://www.targus.com)) makes a lot of good portable laptop products. Two on my Christmas list include the Targus Retractable Flat FireWire cable and the Targus Retractable USB cord. This will go

(#22), and a great stocking stuffer is the Case Logic Velcro Straps. (blue strap on #15 and 17).

### **Luxuries**

I have two luxury items that I insist on carrying. The first is an OWC LSP laptop screen protector. (#2) ([www.macsales.com](http://www.macsales.com)) It's a thin piece of black leather that covers the screen and palm-rest area to protect the entire PowerBook screen from hand oils on the keyboard. At \$18 for a thin piece of leather, it's definitely an item that should be received as a



along with my Targus Retractable Ethernet cable (#12) and my Targus Retractable phone cord (#9).

### **Sound**

I rarely use earphones, but when needed I use the Jensen JB6 Earbuds ([www.jensen.com](http://www.jensen.com)) (#8) with a windup reel in a circular case. If I know I am going to need sound in a presentation to a large audience, I carry the Sony SRS-T77 travel speakers (not pictured).

### **Miscellaneous**

I also carry a generic brand pen-sized laser pointer

gift.

The other luxury is a Kensington USB Flylight Platinum. (#11) It plugs into the USB port and flexes around the top of the screen to put a small blob of light on the black keyboard, perfect for the dark lecture hall or boardroom. It's also stylish in a silver anodized or black color. A third luxury item I will get someday is a Minolta Dimage X ([www.minoltausa.com](http://www.minoltausa.com)) (not pictured). This miniature USB 2.0-megapixel digital camera is only

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3.4 inches x 2.6 inches the ultimate in portability and size.

### **Storage**

With no floppy drive or built-in zip drive, how do you exchange files without a network? I now carry a Sonnet Piccolo USB flash drive. (#10) This device is about the size of a house key and has a key ring, so that you can carry it on a keychain. It's hot swappable and works with Mac OS X, OS 9, Windows XP, and Me 2000 without drivers. It comes in storage sizes up to 256 megabytes. Whenever I need to transfer a file or document to a Windows user with a modern laptop, I plug the Piccolo into my USB port, copy the file, eject the device from the desktop, and then plug it into the Windows USB port and transfer the file. It works great and is the ultimate in portability! No need to carry an external zip drive or external floppy drive.

For that rare occasion where I have to use a coworker's digital camera and need to transfer the pictures to iPhoto, I carry a generic 6-in-1 travel USB card reader (#15). It has a small USB cord that hides in the device and is smaller than a deck of cards in size and thickness. It reads Compact Flash, Smart Memory, Microdrive and memory sticks. It mounts in OS X without a driver and comes with a USB extension cord. Available at [www.newegg.com](http://www.newegg.com).

### **Security and Contingency**

For laptop security, the Kensington Notebook Microsaver Security cable (#6) is a must. I tie down my laptop while it sits in the hotel room, if no safe is available. For peace of mind, I carry a small portable hard drive similar to the Wiebetech MicroGB (#14). It's a 20 GB 2.5 hard drive in a small miniature FireWire/USB external enclosure. The case is bus powered and needs no power brick. I use Carbon Copy Cloner to make backup copy of the laptop hard drive and put a backup copy of my PowerPoint presentation and other Macintosh hard drive utilities on it. In the event of a laptop hard drive crash, I can still boot from the external portable hard drive and get by. For the ultimate in security redundancy, I also place a copy of my PowerPoint presentation on my iDisk which is part of the Apple's .Mac (Dot-Mac)

service ([www.mac.com](http://www.mac.com)). I can use someone else's laptop, connect via the Internet and download the file, should my laptop totally crash or get stolen.

Speaking of stolen, if my PowerBook Titanium gets stolen (and thieves drool over most Apple equipment), I use software called MacPhoneHome ([www.Pcphonehome.com](http://www.Pcphonehome.com)). This software sends out stealth e-mails whenever the PowerBook senses the Internet Protocol address has changed. The email has important Internet address information that can help high-tech-savvy law enforcement pinpoint the stolen Mac's location and hopefully get enough information to obtain a search warrant to retrieve it and arrest the thieves.

### **Wireless Modem**

I haven't found the perfect wireless Internet service since Ricochet went bankrupt, but during those times where I am truly out of land-based Internet access for e-mail, I use my Verizon Wireless Motorola V120 (or V60) cell phone (#16) and a special Motorola USB cable (#17) and a freeware Verizon modem script and driver to use my cell phone as a wireless modem to connect to Verizon's Mobile Office ([www.Verizon.com](http://www.Verizon.com)). Mobile Office is a free service for Verizon users and includes Verizon's Quick2Net Internet access (but no e-mail address). The service uses your plan's minutes, so if you have a lot of minutes to spare, there is no additional cost. But the connection is slow at 14.4k bps and Web surfing is painful, so I only use it to check my e-mail. My cell phone is not the perfect mobile Mac device, so I am searching for a smaller one that is Verizon compatible. Also, I have not yet found the perfect OS X faxing software. I can't recommend any of the current ones out there.

### **Printer**

I rarely print on the road, and when I know I am going to need a printer at a place that doesn't have one to use or rent, I carry the Canon Color BubbleJet BJC-85 (not pictured) ([www.usa.canon.com](http://www.usa.canon.com)). It connects via USB and has OS X drivers. It's compact and weighs 4.5 pounds with AC adapter. Still, I consider it too heavy for everyday portability and I

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rarely pack it with me.

### **Bag**

I hate to say it, but I haven't found the perfect bag. I have three of them. The heaviest is a hard-shell case with wheels and retractable handle that can withstand the rigors of the airport luggage carousel; I got it at Lowe's hardware store (hard to find now.) The second is a nylon case with 2 large compartments, wheels and retractable handle, and the third is a Dell fake leather bag with shoulder strap. It has lots of pockets to hold all the above-

mentioned gadgets. This one fits perfectly under an airplane seat and the fake leather is tough enough to provide some protection from bumps and wear and tear. But I'll still be looking for that perfect bag at Macworld!

### **Future**

Macworld SF is the place to search for new gadgets to add to my mobile menagerie. The annual exposition and trade show is my gift buying spree after Christmas. If you are a mobile Mac Road Warrior and have a favorite gadget that I haven't mentioned, let me know about it. You can e-mail me at [dkatage@mac.com](mailto:dkatage@mac.com).

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## Technology - MacCentral

# *A look inside Adobe Premiere 6.5*

*by Peter Cohen*

Adobe Systems Inc. took the wraps off of Premiere 6.5, the latest iteration of the company's popular and long-running digital video editing application. The newest version of Premiere is Mac OS X compatible and sports myriad new features and enhancements. Recently MacCentral spoke with Adobe Premiere product manager Bruce Bowman to find out what's new under the hood of the new version.

### **FireWire spurring growth in digital video**

"The biggest factor that's affecting the growth of digital video right now is FireWire," said Bowman. Digital video camera sales growth is outpacing analog video camera sales growth and has been for the past several years, according to Sony's own market research.

Bowman noted that FireWire standard across the entire Macintosh product line and has become standard on an increasing number of PCs offered by Sony, HP and Compaq. FireWire add-on boards are available for PCs for less than \$100, and the IEEE 1394 Trade Association's recent decision to license the FireWire brand identity from Apple will help to build awareness of the technology in a less confusing and disjointed way as it has now -- where FireWire, iLink and IEEE 1394 all mean the same

thing, but users of the technology may not be aware of such interoperability.

### **Mac OS X now supported**

"It was a significant investment to port Premiere 6.5 to Mac OS X," said Bowman. And with Apple's continued emphasis on the "digital hub" concept, Bowman said that Premiere 6.5 integrates really well with existing Apple technology.

"Apple makes it really easy," said Bowman. Not only does Apple include all the tools you need to import and edit digital video, he said, but it gives you the software you need to write that content back out to DVD-Rs if you're using a SuperDrive equipped Mac. Bowman's own company has had to license technology from Sonic to manage that capability on the Windows side.

But with iMovie already included with Macs these days, is there still room for Premiere in the Macintosh market? Adobe certainly thinks so. Bowman explained that Adobe has positioned Premiere midway between a consumer application like iMovie and a professional application like Final Cut Pro. This is reflected by Premiere's price -- about \$550, unchanged from the

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last version.

### **Real-time software effects now supported**

Bowman said the biggest change in Premiere 6.5 is support for real time software effects. "Anything you can do in Premiere can now be previewed in real time," Bowman said. "Titling, chromakeying, even third-party effects."

Bowman explained that Premiere dynamically adjusts the frame rate of video playback on the fly in order to accommodate special effects. It will drop quality to draft mode if necessary to maintain proper playback. "It does this without falling out of sync, so the workflow remains smooth and consistent," he said.

Surprisingly, Premiere's hardware system requirements aren't that steep. The software runs on a Power Mac G3, though Bowman notes that a G4 loaded up with lots of RAM will offer users a better overall experience.

If you're still using Mac OS 9, you'll find that Premiere is well-supported by hardware add-on boards like the Matrox RTMac, to further enhance performance for special effects rendering. Bowman said that Matrox's engineers are still working on Mac OS X support for their board, however.

The software also features new titling capabilities billed as Adobe Title Designer. It incorporates typographical controls including outline text, leading, kerning and baseline shift. You can use more

than 300 pre-designed templates, with support for still layouts, rolls, and crawls, and you can customize your own text styles if you prefer. You can import text files, map textures onto text, apply multicolor gradients, emboss, bevel text edges, apply shadows, and control transparency as well.

Sound gets some improvements in Premiere 6.5, thanks to the inclusion of TC Works' SparkLE. It provides two-track audio processing capabilities and enables you to work with WAV, AIF, SDI, and QuickTime audio formats. You can also decode MP3 audio with it. Even better, SparkLE supports VST audio plug-ins and ASIO hardware, so if you have a MIDI sequencing rig you'd like to hook up with your Premiere editing station, you'll be good to go.

### **Integration is key**

Adobe recognizes that integration with Apple's own digital video capabilities is key to Premiere's success. That's why Premiere 6.5 integrates with both iDVD -- Apple's consumer-level DVD authoring software -- and DVD Studio Pro, Apple's pro-level DVD mastering solution. You can save content in DV format for use in iDVD. And with DVD Studio Pro installed, you can create DVDs in MPEG2 format straight from the Premiere timeline. Timeline marker data can be exported, so you can use your Chapter points and 1 Frame data with DVD Studio Pro also.

That's not all. Adobe's MPEG Encoder enables you to export MPEG1 files as well, so you can deliver content to VideoCD, SVCD or to the Web. You can also output back to DV or to analog tape (if your

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### **Con't from Page 5, Prmiere 6.5**

Mac is equipped to interface with such devices).

Integration with other Adobe products is also key for the latest version of Premiere, said Bowman. Five new plug-ins are included with Premiere 6.5 from After Effects, Adobe's motion graphics and visual effects package. Bowman explained that Premiere 6.5's new "Edit Original" command lets you work with your original bitmapped images, vector graphics and motion effects in Photoshop, Illustrator and After Effects -- when you save your changes, you'll see your updated content in Premiere, too. You can even import your movie into a GoLive-made Web page and keep metadata intact.

System requirements for Premiere 6.5 call for a PowerPC-equipped Mac, Mac OS 9.1 or later,

32MB RAM, 50MB HD space, QuickTime 5.0.2 or later. If you'll be using Premiere for DV-based import and export, you'll also need a 300MHz or faster processor, FireWire 2.7 or later, IEEE-1394 equipped interface, and HD capability of sustaining at least 5MB/sec transfer rate.

Look for Adobe Premiere 6.5 to hit store shelves in the third quarter of 2002. The software will retail for \$549, with upgrades available from previous versions for \$149. Bowman also noted that Premiere 6.5 will be featured in future releases of the Adobe Digital Video Collection, both in its Standard (\$1,499) and Production Bundles (\$2,499).

"I hope it's really clear from this announcement that Adobe is dedicated to the digital video market on the Mac," said Bowman.

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### **Technology - MacCentral**

## ***Internet backbone withstands major attack***

***By Matt Berger and Nancy Weil, IDG News Service***

The Internet withstood what appears to have been a major assault on its core infrastructure late Monday when all 13 of its root servers were attacked, according to a spokesman for VeriSign Inc., which operates two of the servers.

The distributed denial of service (DDOS) attack started at about 5 p.m. EDT Monday and lasted for about an hour, said Brian O'Shaughnessy, a spokesman at VeriSign, the largest Internet domain name registrar.

The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI (news - web sites)'s) National Infrastructure Protection Center "is aware of the matter" and is "addressing" it, said Steven Berry, a supervisory special agent with the FBI's press office.

Root servers are used by the Internet's DNS (domain name system), which takes easy-to-remember domain names used by people and

converts them into the numerical IP addresses used by computers.

Four or five of the Internet's 13 root servers kept working during the attack and so Internet traffic kept moving, because the DNS is structured so that eight or more of the servers have to stop working before slowdowns occur, according to a report Tuesday evening in the online edition of the Washington Post, which was among the first to report the incident.

In fact, no major outages occurred as a result of the attack, according to the Post, meaning Internet users were unaware of what had happened. Nevertheless, one source quoted in the report characterized the incident as one of the largest attacks ever against the Internet.

"This was the largest and most complex DDOS attack ever against the root server system," an anonymous

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source at an organization responsible for the system told the Post.

Matrix NetSystems Inc., which tracks the status of Internet traffic, said Tuesday that the DDOS actually lasted for as long as six hours and may have slowed down Web traffic and the delivery of e-mails for some users late Monday night.

"What happened was dramatic," said Tom Ohlsson, vice president of marketing for Matrix NetSystems, which compiles reports that detail how much traffic goes through the Internet backbone at any given time. "In terms of damage, the worst is probably behind us as of (Tuesday)."

DDOS attacks blast servers with more data than they can handle, which can cause servers to overload or crash and networks to clog with traffic. They are typically very simple to carry out, Ohlsson said.

Officials at organizations that operate the Internet backbone told the Post that they did not know yet who is responsible for the attack.

Matrix NetSystems traced the attacks to a number of U.S. Internet hosting service providers, as well as one in Europe, which likely acted as "unwitting hosts" to the perpetrators, Ohlsson said. He said the attack could have originated anywhere.

VeriSign said its two root servers kept working during the incident. "VeriSign expects that these sort of attacks will happen, and VeriSign was prepared," O'Shaughnessy said.

Other root server operators include NASA (news - web sites) Ames Research Center, the U.S. Army Research Lab, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers and the Internet Software Consortium.

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## ***KMUG Meeting Minutes***

***November 21, 2002***

Frank Hartung, President, opened the meeting at 10:30 AM in the Solarium of the Starlight Bowling Lanes in Silverdale. He began by having Gwen Kauffroath explain that Mac Lab meets every Tuesday from 2:45 PM to 4:30 PM in Room 2A at the Jr. High School on Hostmark Street. Here ideas are discussed and problems hopefully solved in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. There will be no meetings the last two weeks of December.

Frank presented a slide show of this year's gorgeous and colorful foliage (with a lovely rendition of Autumn Leaves by Eva Cassidy) which also included a number of interesting leaves that he had scanned into his computer.

Frank also gave advice on the best way to install Jaguar. Planning ahead on how one is going to

partition is important. And if OS 9 is going to be installed it needs to go on a partition first and then do Jaguar, since after Jaguar is installed it will not allow OS 9 to be installed. When using OS X or higher, it is important not to move application icons from their folders, but to use aliases instead.

Buying and installing new printers was discussed. For users with both OS 9 and OS X it is important to be sure the printer is installed and selected for both systems. Other subjects mentioned were: speaker choices, how to make new iTunes play lists, using the Windows Media Player to use with .wav., setting defaults fonts in TextEdit, and when changing a password for a web site it is necessary to close the browser and relaunch after the change.

Submitted by:  
Phyllis Robie

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



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SILVERDALE, WA 98383**

