

The Juice

A snapshot of news in the world of Apple, Inc.®

iPhone, iPod touch 2.1 firmware

Available by 9/12, the iPhone and iPod touch 2.1 firmware upgrade fixes "a lot of bugs," according to Steve Jobs. On iPhones, the software cuts down on dropped calls and is also said to provide "big" improvements to battery life. It also improves the reliability of apps and speeds up the backup time before a sync begins. The update is free for both iPhones as well as any iPod touch already upgraded to version 2.0 firmware. Pre-2.0 iPods can buy the update through iTunes for \$10.

Apple patent application describes 'MacBook touch'

A recent patent shows that Apple has been developing interface technology that would allow for a multi-touch handheld with full Mac OS X, larger than an iPhone or iPod.

AT&T launches USBConnect Mercury 3G stick

AT&T's USBConnect Mercury provides modern Macs with a USB port connector to connect to the carrier's full HSPA network. AT&T says the adapter should download as quickly as 1.7Mbps in real-world conditions and upload as quickly as 1.2Mbps in areas with fully-updated networks. The device also tucks away a microSD slot to turn the modem into a makeshift storage drive.

Microsoft to deploy "Gurus"

The photocopiers are running full blast at Microsoft. Now they're planning to deploy in-store "Gurus" to large chains like Best Buy to help consumers with their PC issues. The "Gurus" will not be on commission and will handle general questions and give demos of products. However, they will not be available for any real tech support or repairs. So they're kinda like Apple Geniuses, only a lot less useful. Microsoft plans to roll out around 155 of these experts during a trial run sometime before the end of the year.

Comcast caps monthly Internet use at 250GB

On Oct. 1, Comcast will update its user agreement to say that users will be allowed 250 gigabytes of traffic per month. Customers who go over the limit will be contacted by the company and asked to curb their usage.

Sep 9th "Let's Rock" event highlights

Second-gen iPod touch brings new shape, Nike+

The second-generation iPod touch brings a revised casing with a contoured profile similar in shape to the iPhone 3G, but with stainless steel replacing plastic. Other similarities with the iPhone include new volume buttons and a speaker, from which owners can hear both music and system sounds. The Nike+ sport system receiver has been integrated into the device, requiring the standard shoe transmitter to function. Capacities remain at 8, 16 and 32GB models, but prices have been cut to \$229, \$299 and \$399, respectively.



4G iPod nano

The environmentally-friendly fourth-generation iPod nano combines the best of the 2nd-generation player's shape with the large screen and video playback of the third-generation model. It is thinner and adds an enhanced, accelerometer-driven interface that rotates the on-screen display; improving the use of Cover Flow and photo browsing. The new software also automatically builds in voice recording and has a context-sensitive menu that appears just by holding the center button. Battery life includes 24 hours of audio and four hours of video. The nano ships in an 8GB model for \$149 and a 16GB version for \$199; nine colors are available. Most models should be available by the weekend, though the 16GB may be delayed to 9/15.



iPod Classic, shuffle

Apple has scrapped the iPod Classic 160GB model and now offers just a single 120GB model in silver or black for \$249. New colors highlight the iPod shuffle update: bright blue, green, red, and pink. Pricing and feature sets remain the same as the second-generation shuffle. A 1GB model sells for \$49, while a 2GB version is available for \$69.

iTunes 8

iTunes 8 will feature "Genius" playlists, which automatically match songs thought to go together. iTunes can also recommend tracks to purchase via a sidebar. Recommendations will be based on anonymous uploads of user data, meant to gradually improve the accuracy of what shoppers are offered in the future. Another feature is a grid-based album browsing view, an alternative to CoverFlow which lets users sort by criteria, such as "artist." The announcement also brought with it the availability of HD TV episodes through the iTunes Store. Notable in the debut is the return of NBC, which had previously deserted iTunes on conflicts over pricing.

High-end earphones

Apple has also introduced new high-end earphones (\$79) with a built-in play/pause control similar to those with the iPhone: double-clicking skips to the next track, while three clicks skip backwards. The earbuds come with three different fits for different ears.

App Store downloads top 100 million

Apple announced that iPhone and iPod touch users have downloaded more than 100 million applications from its groundbreaking new App Store since its launch on July 11, 2008. More than 3,000 applications are currently available on the App Store, with over 90 percent priced at less than \$10 and more than 600 offered for free.

SOFTWARE/HARDWARE

The iPhone 2.0.2 Software Update, which includes "bug fixes" and supercedes all previous versions, is available via iTunes Update (248.7 MB (iPhone 3G) and 241.9 MB (1st-gen iPhone).



FruitMenu (\$10) gives you the ability to customize the Apple Menu and contextual menus to provide content to suit your needs. You can also assign hotkeys to particular menu items. This is one of very few 3rd party apps that I cannot live without!

<http://unsanity.com/haxies/fruitmenu>



The Lexar JumpDrive Secure II Plus will soon be available in a 16GB version. An e-ink capacity meter is onboard to give a quick glance at free space even when the power is turned off. Price is not yet available.

http://www.lexar.com/jumpdrive/jd_secureII_plus.html

The new Logitech diNovo Edge bluetooth keyboard may be the best keyboard yet for your Mac, if you can afford \$159. See pictures and an extensive review at:

http://www.applelinks.com/index.php/more/is_the_logitech_dinovo_edge_really_the_worlds_most_advanced_keyboard_charlie/



Shure has launched the SE102MPA music and cellphone mic combo (\$120), using the earbud design of the earlier E2C with the same music phone adapter as higher-end kits. The pairing gives owners of iPhones (including first-generation models) the ability to listen to music at good quality while still having a quick toggle and mic to answer a phone call.

http://store.shure.com/store/shure/en_US/DisplayProductDetailsPage/productID.107013700

For a description and rating of the App Store's 19 solitaire games, go to:

<http://www.ilounge.com/index.php/articles/comments/iphone-gems-every-solitaire-game-reviewed/>

JIBBLE

Apple Mac's had a 10.4% share at the end of the first quarter of this year, compared to 7.5% for the first quarter of 2007 and 5.4% for the first quarter of 2006.

Apple recently passed Google in market value, \$157,012,662,240 versus Google's \$156,392,862,560. They've already passed (in decreasing market value numbers) Cisco, Intel, Hewlett-Packard, Nokia, Research In Motion, Disney, Dell, Sony, Amazon, Yahoo, Adobe, Motorola, RealNetworks, Palm and Napster. IBM could be next at \$169,964,678,000. Microsoft's market value is \$255,648,204,000.

More than one in every three new PCs is downgraded from Windows Vista to the 7-year-old Windows XP, either at the factory or by the buyer, according to a recent survey of 3,000 new PCs.

Apple is planning to build between 40 and 45 million iPhone 3Gs in the next 12 months, and it seems likely that they will build—if not sell—their 10 millionth iPhone before the end of this month.

Abilene Christian University has given the 950-student freshman class an Apple iPhone 3G or iPod touch—the first time a university has introduced these devices as learning tools on such a large scale.

TIPS

To move your Address Book contacts from one Mac to another, launch Address Book on the old Mac, select all the contacts and drag the highlighted contacts to the desktop, creating a vCard file. Copy this file to the new Mac and drag it into Address Book. The contacts should appear as they did on the old Mac. You will, however lose any groups that you've created.

InDesign CS3 contains a useful shortcut for accessing a picture frame and its content: double-click to select the content, or triple-click to select the frame itself. (Double-click to move the picture inside the frame; triple-click to move the frame and its content.)

You can re-size all columns in the column-view mode by double-clicking on the double-line icon at the bottom of a column. The column will resize so you can see the entire file names. If you option-double-click on one of those icons, all the columns will resize to the maximum width necessary to display the longest name.

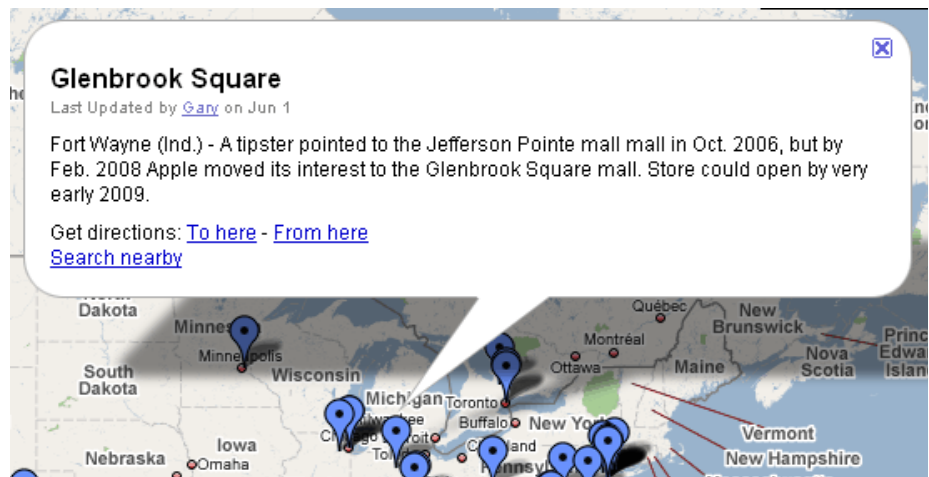
To sort your albums automatically in iPhoto 8.0, control-click on one of your album names and choose Sort Albums from the contextual menu. iPhoto will alphabetize your smart albums into one group and your regular albums into another group.

If you'd like a larger cursor for presentations, etc., go to System Preferences>Universal Access and click the Mouse tab. Adjust the Cursor Size slider bar to the size you desire. This change will also affect the size of the grabber hand, pointer finger, text selection tool, etc.

You can use Instant Handbrake to make movies for your video iPod. Just insert a DVD and start up Instant Handbrake.

To use your iPod as an alarm clock, go into the Extras menu, choose Clock and then Alarm Clock. You can set it to wake you up with your favorite tunes every morning!

You can display the time in the top of your iPods screen by going to Settings, Date and Time and turning on Time in Title.



Source: ifoapplestore.com