

KEYMAC

JOURNAL

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What's a SuperMUG?

I don't know if there is an official definition in Webster's, but it is the name of the newest MAC group in Upstate SC!

The leadership folks in the Greer MUG spurred Wayne and I to meet with them, twice now, to see how we could benefit our organizations. The Spartanburg MUG and the the Greenville MUG were invited to our last meeting, but didn't make it. We met recently in Taylors for several hours over dinner. All were pleased at the common ground, as well as the desire to move forward. And we settled on the name SuperMUG.

We each have our strong points, and they aren't the same. Several interesting notes -- they have more than a few of their members presenting in each of their once monthly meetings; the presenters meet the week before the meeting and "rehearse" their presentations. Their meeting is on the same day as our General Meeting -- the third Tuesday. Because most of their group works, their get-togethers are in the evening. Our meeting attendance is about the same number. They have been around for a little more than a year; we have been meeting since 1997.

We will be exploring a bunch of ideas for common meetings -- special classes with real trainers, an all-day back up your Mac session (you bring your computer and we will do it with you), maybe even a Meet The Mac day where our communities can come and see what the Mac fuss is all about.

Our next session will be in September, and we expect to invite the Asheville and Brevard MUGs also -- we will keep you up to date with what we learn.

- Gene Madill

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WWDC Keynote

Next Meeting

At the World Wide Developers conference in San Francisco on Monday, the Apple keynote speech made several major announcements. Technology permitting, we will be showing that keynote video at our next regular meeting Tuesday, June 17th. So this edition of the Key Mac Journal will focus on the lesser known announcements of WWDC and leave the big announcements covered in the video for our meeting.

Mac OS X 10.6

Early News

Along with many other announcements at the World Wide Developer's conference held June 9th - 13th in San Francisco was a bit of information about Apple's next operating system. Mac OS X 10.6 will be called Snow Leopard. (Like Leopard, but cooler. Get it?)

At this point, Snow Leopard is projected to be released in January of 2009. Most of the details of Snow Leopard were revealed behind closed doors. All of the sessions at WWDC except for the keynote, are covered by a Non Disclosure Agreement, so it's not for public consumption. Therefore what we do know is limited, and as with all things Apple, distorted by rumors.

The first rumor is that Snow Leopard will not support PowerPC Macs. This would make it the first Intel-only system. Because this is not part of the official

Apple announcement, you can choose to believe this rumor or not.

What Apple has officially announced about the upcoming system is that it will provide more support for multi-core computers. Snow Leopard will also have 64-bit technology which makes it theoretically possible to have a computer with 16 Terabytes of RAM. This is more RAM than is available in most users' hard drives today. Snow Leopard will be fully compatible with Microsoft Exchange the dominant mail server of the corporate world. This positions the Mac to play nicer in business environments.

At this time, Apple has announced that the server version of Snow Leopard will have ZFS. ZFS is an advanced file system developed by Sun. The name ZFS originally stood for Zettabyte File System, however zettabyte is now being abandoned as a computer term so the abbreviation is no longer intelligently expandable. This had been widely rumored to be part of 10.5, but upon release, it was not included.

Here's why ZFS is important. The scheme used for a file system does several things, and across the board ZFS is more advanced than the file system used in any personal computer today. One of the more fundamental things is that it sets the theoretical limit on how big a hard drive can be. Once the limits of the file system is reached, the computer can no longer retrieve the data. Computers in general have rapidly outgrown most of the file systems designed for them.

The ZFS file system is so advanced that it will last longer than any previous file system. ZFS could handle a hard drive big enough to hold multiple copies of the entire Internet, though at this time no such drive exists. In fact, according to Wikipedia, "If a billion computers each

filled a billion individual file systems per second, the time required to reach the limit of the overall system would be almost one thousand times the estimated age of the universe." Now that is big.

It's possible that ZFS may be included in the non-server version of Snow Leopard, but so far, Apple isn't talking.

I can't help but contrast the projected time of the next Mac system's release with that of Windows. Apple says 10.6 will be out around January of 2009. Currently Microsoft is projecting the next Windows system, Windows 7, to take three years to develop. Sometimes it's like there's no competition at all.

Apple's Snow Leopard page is at <http://www.apple.com/macosx/snowleopard/>

KeyMac Club Schedule for '08

All meetings are in the Keowee Room as far as we know.

OS X Meetings

August 5th 10am
September 2nd 10am
October 7th 10am
November 4th 10am

General Meetings

June 17th 10am
July - no meetings
August 19th 10am
September 16th 1:30pm
October 21st 1:30pm
November 18th 10am
December - no meetings - Holiday Party December 9th at the Club

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The New .Mac

MobileMe

Another interesting development out of WWDC was the retooling and rebranding of .Mac. Rumors had been going around about this for about a month prior. These rumors were suddenly strengthened when someone noticed that all references to .Mac in OS X 10.5.3 and in the iPhone Software Development Kit 2.0 had been replaced with a variable, presumably so the real name could be added easily upon rollout.

Finally, as part of the keynote speech, it was revealed that the new name for .Mac would be MobileMe. The most exciting features of MobileMe were covered in the keynote itself. MobileMe is evolving into a service that provides live syncing for its subscribers, similar to ActiveSync in the Windows world. Live syncing means that any change made to data MobileMe monitors (e.g. iCal, Address Book, email, and more) are instantly pushed to other devices you have linked to your MobileMe account.

The term “push” got thrown around a lot during the keynote. Let’s take a moment to define this term. Normally when a user wants some piece of data, such as a web page, they request it. When you ask your browser to display a web page, it is sending a specific request to the page asking for the HTML code to be returned. This is what is known as pull data. You pull the information to you by your request. Push, on the other hand, is when something else not on your local computer decides for you that you need data sent. The data is then pushed out to all receiving applications.

Currently, when subscribers of .Mac want to sync their computers, they must start a sync on each computer. This act of initiating the sync is a pull event. With the new MobileMe, the user won’t have to do anything. The data will be kept in sync constantly by small push events. When you change a meeting in iCal, for example, that schedule change will be pushed out to your other computers without the user having to request it.

There are other changes happening to .Mac in addition to a name change and live syncing. The personal account storage space on MobileMe will be 20gig, twice the .Mac storage limit of 10gig. The web interface has been completely revamped for the new MobileMe. Now interacting with Mail or Calendar brings up a display that looks and behaves almost exactly like Apple Mail or iCal. As someone who has developed web pages, trust me when I say that this reflects a huge amount of retooling on Apple’s part. These MobileMe pages look like an application rather than a web page. This makes everything easier and more intuitive to the average user.

The photo sharing capabilities of MobileMe are similarly enhanced. Looking more like iPhoto than before, it is now easier to upload photos, arrange them into libraries, and share them with friends and family. These photos can now even be viewed on the TV by AppleTV owners.

iDisk has always been a part of .Mac. The new iDisk interface on the MobileMe web page looks just like the finder on a Mac, which makes this part easier as well. But this iDisk has a new trick up its sleeve. iDisk can be used as a delivery system for files that are too big to email. The user uploads a file to iDisk, then uses iDisk’s interface to send an email

to a person over the web. This email includes a link to enable them to download the file directly. No more worry about how large an attachment your mail system or their mail system supports.

MobileMe live syncing will require the upcoming 10.5.4 patch to function. This may indicate that the 10.5.4 update will be released on or before the July 11th iPhone release.

There is a guided tour for MobileMe at <http://www.apple.com/mobileme/guidedtour/>

iPhone Nav?

Mysterious Indications

Place your bets. Start your own iPhone rumor. This topic is rife for speculation.

The new iPhone has a sophisticated GPS system that pulls data both from GPS satellites and from cell towers. This allows it to do fast, accurate positioning, and makes many new applications possible.

However, the iPhone 2.0 Software Development Kit, according to reports, has [a clause in it that specifically prohibits developers from making a turn-by-turn navigation system](#). The Dutch company TomTom is working on one anyway, and supposedly the application is very polished and close to being ready. Yet, it is unknown if they will be able to sell this app because of the prohibition in the SDK.

What is Apple up to? Was this clause just badly worded by Apple lawyers? Is Apple developing their own navigation system for the iPhone and they’re seeking to shut out competitors?

Currently, no one knows, but lots of us are watching closely.

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Why I Attend KeyMac

by Ken Marsh

It is easy to have questions answered if you know what question to ask, but this is not always the case. I attend the KeyMac Club meetings because I hear comments, tricks and procedures that are very useful, but that I had no idea actually existed, so never formulated a question. One very simple example was presented in the May 20 2008 meeting - to display the phone number in address book from about 3/4" to full screen. Please try this if you missed the May 20 meeting. Open Address Book and place the cursor on the category label field to the left of a telephone number (where it says work, home, fax, etc). Right click on a 2 button mouse or ctrl click for a 1-button mouse and click on the Large Type item on the menu. The telephone number is then displayed across the entire screen. With my eyesight and tri-focal glasses, this becomes a significant advantage, especially as I attempt to call that number.

Mike Wall made a presentation of how he uses his computer. Although he mentioned use of programs I do not use, he also covered standard programs (Mail, iPhoto, Safari, Google Earth) that I use often. He had hints about features I had not known about and which have now been added to my capabilities. For example, Mail has a handy tab for To Do items and take Notes. I set up a file for notes because I never noticed this feature. These are not the primary features - with which I was familiar, but items that will improve my productivity.

Woody Allen once said

"Is knowledge knowable, and if so, how would I know?"

Well our KeyMac Club imparts such knowledge that we may or may not know about. And such knowledge makes the time spent with our group well spent.

Watch Me Grow?

by Ken Marsh

When the new MobileMe service goes live, the web address will be www.me.com. As mentioned in the previous article about MobileMe, the interface is very advanced, like using an application on the Macintosh. This style of website is what is known as a Web 2.0. Web 2.0 uses behind the scenes web technology such as Java, Ajax, Flash, whatever the developer deems necessary to add interactivity to the web page.

According to reports from those who have gotten an advanced preview of the Me site, Apple, as usual, has produced a very polished product. This has led to speculation that Apple may expand the Me service down the road to compete in the arena of web apps. If the iWork suite was ported as Web 2.0 apps, it would compete very favorably with Google docs. Those in a position to know say that this would be very easy for Apple to do.

Is this one of the growth paths that Apple has in mind? Only those close to Steve knows. If this happens it would be fairly long range plans. Many people consider this the future of computing, and Apple is favorably positioned to move in this direction. It's hard to know how that would fit in to the profit scheme of a company that is primarily a hardware manufacturer, but speculation is already starting.

Most people consider this growth area to be Google's for the taking. Will Apple challenge them in this arena? It sounds like an extreme long shot to me, but I would have said that about applications living on the net in general just a few years ago, but that is already a reality. If Apple does decide to move in this direction, I have no doubt that they will make a huge impact.

It will be interesting to see what happens as we watch Me grow.

Naples MUG iChat Guide

The Macintosh User's Group of Naples Florida has produced a nice list of tips for using iChat on the Mac. You can find it at <http://tinyurl.com/498nsx>

KeyMac Journal Legalese

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