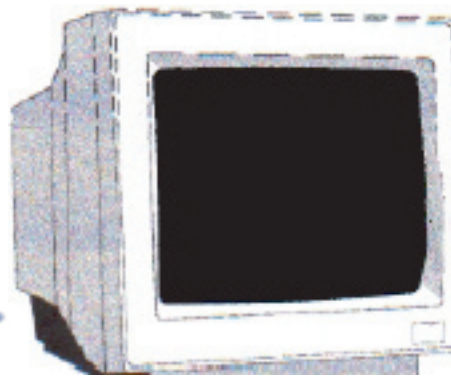


CVAUG Monitor



Cumberland Valley Apple User Group Newsletter WWW.CVAUG.ORG November 2006

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A Word from the President

by Gregg McFarland

October turned out to be the month many folks (including myself) were waiting for. Apple updated the MacBook Pro line of portable computers. Apple finally equipped the 15" and 17" MacBook Pro laptops with the new Intel Core 2 Duo mobile processor giving the portable computers a modest performance boost of just over 30%. There are some other improvements that made more holdouts happy they waited this long and we'll get into that in another article this month. Enjoy the Monitor and remember to submit your articles.

Apple Updates MacBook Pro

by Gregg McFarland

On Tuesday October 21st Apple updated their professional line of laptops, the MacBook Pros. Here is a copy of their Press Release, "The entire MacBook Pro line of notebooks now includes the new Intel Core 2 Duo processor and delivers performance that is up to 39 percent faster than



the previous generation. All MacBook Pro models now offer double the memory and greater storage capacity than the previous generation, as well as a FireWire 800 port for connecting to high-speed peripherals." The main advance is the movement from the Intel Core Duo processor to the newer Intel Core 2 Duo. The Core 2 Duo mobile processor features a 4MB L2 Cache and as Apple's web site puts it, "a myriad of other engineering leaps." It all

This Month:
Demo the New Core 2 Duo 15" MacBook Pro

boils down to a processor that will be able to more efficiently handle the multimedia and processor intensive tasks that creative professionals throw at their computers. The updated computers do

not have a Build To Order option for a fast 7200rpm Hard Drive, but there is a 200gb BTO option that provides a previously unthinkable amount of internal storage for a laptop. The lack of speed may be made up for by the fact that the entire MacBook line (pro or not) use Serial ATA hard drives that allow for much faster data access than the IDE hard drives used in previous Macintosh Laptop models. The new models also mark the

return of a FireWire 800 port to the 15" model. The FW800 port provides data access to external hard drives at twice the speed of the standard FireWire port. This is a feature that stopped some laptop users who edit video from buying the last line of 15" MacBook Pro computers because the faster FW800 external drives are much better at capturing and working with video files. The giant 17" MacBook Pro still has a BTO option of a 7200rpm internal Hard Drive and has a speedy 8x Double-Layer Super Drive (the 15" now has 6x version of the same drive) for burning to all sorts of CD and DVD formats. And the 17" MacBook Pro was graced with a third USB 2.0 port. The 15" MBP has two models with different processor speeds. The 2.16GHz MBP starts at

\$1,999 and the 2.33GHz starts at \$2,499. The 17" MBP is available at one processor speed, 2.33GHz starting at \$2,799.

To Buy or Not To Buy - That is the Question

by Gregg McFarland

If you have been looking to upgrade to a new laptop, you may be asking yourself, "Is now the time to buy?" Some folks will jump right on these new models, but others will wait until the beginning of January for any possible product announcements at the Macworld Expo in San Francisco. Consider this, back in September of 2003 Apple announced the long awaited 15" version of the Aluminum PowerBook G4 after

releasing the 17" & 12" the previous January. In January 2004 at the Macworld Expo Apple announced the iPod mini and the G5 xServe. There were no consumer computer announcements that Expo. However, that February the entire PowerBook line received modest updates (those updates were speed, Sudden Motion Sensor, and the Scrolling Track pad) The setup for this January is very similar. This MacBook Pro announcement was a long awaited update to the product line and only included the 15" model.

These factors lead me to believe that this January will be too early for a major update to this product, making this a fairly good time to upgrade, if you have been waiting for this type of announcement.

CVAUG October Meeting Minutes

by Dieter Protsch

President Gregg McFarland called the regular monthly meeting for October 2006 to order at 09:35 hrs.

The meeting was attended by a total of 9 (nine) members : Wayne Younkins, (VP), Dieter H.B. Protsch (Sec/Treas), Bill Isham, Hugh Wachter, Trina Johnson, Peter Dominico, Kathryn Lant, Jack Leach

New Business

The CVAUG Monitor: Members noted that they received only 5 pages of 6 pages. The editor stated that an error occurred and that it actually did only

have 5 pages.

Membership Roster: The secretary distributed to members present an updated paper copy membership roster rather than publication on the web site, to preclude access via the internet and maintain privacy.

Meeting Room: Gregg and fellow member Trina mentioned that we may change rooms, including a third floor room, which may limit our present wireless reception and transmission with our laptops. No actual change has been confirmed, but should this problem occur we do have alternate locations, i.e. the "Gourmet Goat" among others.

The secretary mentioned that we should make another donation to the church should we remain there, as our members previously mentioned making a donation of \$50.00 each May and November. Recycling of Equipment: Questions were brought up regarding the disposal of old computer equipment. CVAUG's previous visits to a site (Eagle, Inc.) (Richard) at 18238 Showalter Rd (301-665-9169) in Hagerstown, MD, e-mail: rshulam@freedomrecycling.com were quite interesting and educational. For those members interested in recycling should contact the

aforementioned.

Adjournment of Business Meeting

No other new business being presented, the official administrative business meeting adjourned at 10.07 hrs.

Problem solving, technical advice and demonstration session.

Following the business meeting, the President opened the problem solving session, and discussion of various technical items, such as. Discussions included wireless operations, WIFI security, and a discussion and demonstration of Bluetooth, a new wireless technology, a short-range communications technology intended to replace cables connecting portable and/or fixed devices, while still maintaining high levels of security. Common used for Bluetooth:

Wireless keyboard, mouse and other input devices, synchronizing contacts with cell phones and PDA's, exchanging other data with cell phones and connecting to the internet.

Program also included the fun side of Bluetooth usage, such as "Bluejacking" and security hazards such as "Bluesnarfing"..

The regular session of CVAUG was concluded at aprox 11:30 hrs.

NOTE: All members in attendance enjoyed Bill's contribution and want to thank him for his customary donuts contribution.

“On the negative side, I’ve been getting charged for a ton of stuff I didn’t order lately. On the positive side, I did win that ‘Who’s Got the Best Password’ contest on AOL last week.”
— Spike Donner