



The Apple Core

Latest technical news

• The biggest announcement over the last few months has been Apple's introduction of a new device, something which they believe will sit between the iPhone and the MacBook. It's a touch-screen enabled computer designed to take on the netbook market, but rather than scaling down Mac OS X and making the interface very awkward to use on a small screen (like Windows computers have), Apple have scaled up the system that powers the iPhone.

It will have a 10" screen and wireless networking. Some models will even have a 3G antenna, meaning that you'll be able to get online anywhere by using a mobile phone signal. This isn't a phone though and you won't be able to make calls with it, but you'll be able to check your emails and browse the web.

This new machine - called the iPad - should be available in late March and the 3G-capable models will arrive about a month later. Pricing in New Zealand hasn't yet been set, but the basic model will cost US\$499 (plus tax), which can give you a rough idea what to expect.

The Hardware Refresh Cycle

To help you time your Mac, iPod or iPhone purchase perfectly

Model	Last Updated	Recommendation
Mac Pro	3 Mar 2009	Nearing end of life cycle
Mac mini	20 Oct 2009	Mid product cycle
iMac		
MacBook Air	9 Jun 2009	Updates expected soon
MacBook	20 Oct 2009	Mid product cycle
MacBook Pro	9 Jun 2009	Updates expected soon
iPad	N/A	Coming Soon
iPod shuffle	9 Sep 2009	Mid product cycle
iPod nano		
iPod classic		
iPod touch		
iPhone	9 Jul 2009	Nearing end of life cycle



The Help Desk

Answering your most pressing technical questions

Q: Sometimes, when I'm browsing through a web page on my MacBook, the text seems to increase in size. This also happens in Pages and my Desktop icons seem to shrink and grow at random. What's going on?

A: MacBooks possess an advanced trackpad which is based on technology developed for the iPhone and iPod touch. This means it can sense the position of multiple fingers on it. What's happened in your case is that you've inadvertently used two fingers on your trackpad.

If you place two fingers and move them further apart, you are in fact telling your Mac to zoom into a web page, or increase the font size of highlighted text in Pages.

Bring those two fingers closer together and you'll be zooming out, reducing the font size of selected text or even shrinking your icons on the Desktop.

Move two fingers together up or down to replicate a mouse's scroll wheel action (enabling you to scroll up or down web pages with ease, as long as the cursor is over the page in question, of course).

Move four fingers up to trigger the Exposé action of revealing your Desktop. Four fingers down lets you see all your open windows at once.

There are many more combinations available. To see them all, go to your Apple menu, select System Preferences and click on Trackpad.

To submit your questions, send an email to help@machelp.co.nz.



Safeguarding your Digital Life

Computers are so powerful and we can do so much with them that we tend to forget how vulnerable they can be. If your photos, documents, music or home movies are important to you, you should seriously consider backing them up.

Don't wait until it's too late. *Contact me* to find out how.

The iPad : a new computing experience



It's hard for the computing media to get really excited about the iPad because it goes against everything that defines what a computer is supposed to be: it's not expandable, it's not about specs and it can't be tweaked and modified to your heart's content. But if you think about it, that's not what most of us want to do with a computer anyway. We'd rather use it to get work done, but sadly we've been stuck with complex and difficult to understand devices for what seems like forever.

Before the iPhone, so-called "smart-phones" where anything but if you weren't a geek engineer. 40 million iPhones later, it's obvious to see that if a complex pocket computer is designed to be as easy to use as possible, then people will buy them in droves. Apple are betting that the same will be the case for the iPad.

It isn't designed to be your primary computer, but imagine the possibilities: as soon as it's available for sale, nearly all of the iPhone's 150,000 programs will be compatible with it.

Apple will also have its iWork productivity suite available (US\$10 each for Pages, Numbers and Keynote) and there's bound to be many new iPad-specific applications just waiting to be downloaded. You'll be able to sync your music, movies and TV shows from iTunes, purchase new ones from the iTunes Store and even buy digital books from the forthcoming iBook Store. You won't have to worry about where to save your work or where anything is stored: the iPad will take care of all that for you. All that will be left is for you to use it.

This could be the first appliance computer: as easy to use as a toaster and - hopefully - just a trouble-free. I can't wait !

Steve Paris has had over 25 years experience in computers. He is an internationally published writer supplying articles, reviews and tutorials to the main Mac magazines worldwide. He is also an Apple Certified Trainer and provides consultancy, training and troubleshooting services to the Waitakere area. You can contact him on **09 817 4127** or **0210 264 8320**.