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iPhone 3G S offers speed boost, video capture

New phone features faster internals, autofocus camera, voice control
 Posted on Jun 8, 2009 3:19 pm by [Philip Michaels](#) and [Jason Snell](#), [Macworld.com](#)

Apple on Monday unveiled a new version of the iPhone. Dubbed the iPhone 3G S, the latest version of Apple's popular smartphone promises to launch applications and run software faster than the previous model, as well as take advantage of faster cellular networks. It debuts in the U.S. on June 19, two days after the [iPhone 3.0 software update](#) arrives.



The new phone will also be available in Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Switzerland on June 19. A week later, Apple says, the phone will launch in six more countries, with more launches to come in July and August.

"The 'S' stands for speed," Phil Schiller, Apple's senior vice president of worldwide product marketing, told Worldwide Developers Conference attendees during Monday's conference-opening keynote.

"Overall, it's just a faster better, quicker, snappier experience," Bob Borchers, senior director of worldwide iPhone product marketing, told Macworld. Borchers said that developers of iPhone apps would

have "a lot more headroom to play with," and suggested that users would appreciate "the speed of the processor and the overall experience." While Apple is loath to discuss technical specifications of iPhones, the technical message here is clear: the iPhone 3G S is faster at least in part because it's powered by a faster processor, has more available onboard memory, and perhaps features improved display circuitry.

The iPhone 3G S can also take advantage of 7.2 Mbps HSDPA, a faster cellular networking format that's becoming available in some countries, including the U.S.

For new and qualifying AT&T customers, the new iPhone will sell for \$199 for the 16GB version and \$299 for a 32GB model. Apple is also cutting the price on the current iPhone 3G to \$99 for the 8GB phone. However, people who bought the iPhone 3G last year will discover that the cost to upgrade to this new model will be higher. Because AT&T subsidizes the purchase of iPhones and amortizes those costs over a two-year contract commitment period, many existing iPhone users will need to pay higher prices, which can vary based on each person's individual contract standing with AT&T.

Physically, the iPhone 3G S is almost identical to the previous iPhone 3G model. The only exterior differences are painfully subtle: the "fine print" writing on the back of the phone is now color-matched to the silver Apple logo, and the screen is covered with a new oil-resistant coating.

But there are changes on the inside. the new phone offers a

(cont'd page 3)

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NEED HELP?

This is a list of RIAG Consultants. We may not be able to answer all your questions but hopefully we will be able to direct you to a knowledgeable source.

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This is a volunteer service. Please be reasonable as far as calling times are concerned and try to have all the pertinent data at hand before you call. Before calling, have your computer running so we can quickly answer your questions. If you would like your name listed, please call the editor.

Editor's Note

I have to appologise for not getting the newsletter out last month. I was tied up with teaching a course at CCRJ and was not able to get it together on time. At any rate, I have this month's under control and you should be reading this in time for the meeting! As usual, Apple has introduced some new product upgrades (the same better, faster and cheaper than before). I'll try to show as much of that as I can fit. Also look for my little article about my iPod in the wash!
 John

Club Calendar

SIG = Special (or Specific) Interest Group. These smaller meetings focus on just one type of computer and often can be the place to get more detailed help or advice on your problem.

Monthly Meeting Jun 20, Saturday
 At Mark's house TIME: at 2 PM. It's our annual summer cookout at Mark's! Bring a friend, bring a computer problem! Map on page 4.

RIAG Board Jun 30 (Last) Tuesday At Dave Angell's house. Time: 7:30 PM. The membership is invited. Call (401) 941-8934 for directions.

* AppleWorks SIG (Last) Thursday
 The AppleWorks SIG is taking a hiatus. If you have any questions call Michelle or Dave Angell.

Internet SIG The Internet SIG is ending because of low turnout. If people request it this group will meet from time to time. For dates, location and directions call John at 946-2486.

Up-Coming Dates:

General Meeting Topic: Annual Summer Cookout!	Saturday	Jun 20, 2009
RIAG Board meeting at Dave's	Tuesday	Jun 30, 2009
NO MEETING	Saturday	Jul 18, 2009
RIAG Board meeting at Dave's	Tuesday	Jul 28, 2009
NO MEETING	Saturday	Aug 15, 2009
RIAG Board meeting at Dave's	Tuesday	Aug 25, 2009
General Meeting Topic: To Be Announced.	Saturday	Sep 19, 2009
RIAG Board meeting at Dave's	Tuesday	Sep 29, 2009
General Meeting Topic: To Be Announced	Saturday	Oct 17, 2009
RIAG Board meeting at Dave's	Tuesday	Oct 27, 2009

Please let us know what meetings you would like to see.

President's Report, June 2009

Hi everyone!

This month's meeting is our Cookout! so bring something. If you can, let me know what you are bringing.

We will have Hot-dogs, and Grilled onions.

If you have a computer problem, we will spend some time at the beginning. After that, it's Party Time!!

There are no meetings in July or August. Enjoy the summer.

Apple has updated it's line of portables.

Every new MacBook Pro features an advanced built-in battery that lasts up to 7 hours (8 hours on the 17-inch MacBook Pro) on a single charge.

These machines feature LED-backlit displays for sharper pictures and better colors.

The bodies are made of one piece of aluminum. Go take a look!

Mark



The new iPhone 3G S *(cont'd from pg 1)*

brand-new camera that lets you control the focus either by tapping on the screen or using the autofocus feature. In addition, the iPhone's new camera also captures standard-definition video.

The iPhone 3G S also comes with Apple's new standard for headphones, previously found in the second-generation iPod touch, fourth-generation iPod nano, and fourth-generation iPod shuffle. This set of headphones includes a microphone, a clicker, and volume controls.

Holding down the clicker — or, if you're not using headphones, the iPhone 3G S's Home button — activates the phone's new Voice Control feature, which allows users to speak commands for applications on the phone, including dialing contacts and playing music. Accessibility improvements on the iPhone 3G S include VoiceOver support for reading to users and the ability to zoom in on the phone's display for larger icons.

Enterprise users get a requested feature in the form of hardware encryption. For anyone using an Exchange service or the Find Your iPhone feature in the iPhone 3.0 software update, remote wipe is instantaneous and

backups are encrypted whenever hardware encryption is enabled.

Apple promises improved battery life with the iPhone 3G S. The new phone offers nine hours of Internet access on Wi-Fi, 10 hours of video, 30 hours of audio playback, and 12 hours of 2G talk time. The five hours of 3G talk time on the new model is consistent with the estimated talk time of the previous iPhone 3G.

In keeping with Apple's ongoing push to tout the environmental friendliness of its products, the company noted that it reduced packaging for the phone by 23 percent. The iPhone 3G S also features arsenic-free glass and a mercury-free LCD; the phone is also free of brominated flame retardant (BFR) and PVC.

Other features announced during Monday's keynote include a built-in digital compass, and support for the Nike+ fitness accessory.



Don't wash your iPod!

by John Gentile

A few weeks ago we had to travel to upstate NY for a wedding and stayed at my sister-in-law's house. We packed light thinking that we would use her washer and dryer. Well, I have been keeping my iPod Nano - 3rd Gen in my watch pocket of my jeans - it fits perfectly, and I was not expecting my wife to through the jeans in the wash. I was a little concerned when I couldn't find my wallet while getting ready to go to the wedding, and my wife thought about the jeans in the wash. Sure enough, my wallet with all the contents were now wet and soggy. So we went to the wedding and when we came back we took the clothes out of the dryer and it occurred to me that I couldn't find the iPod! I grabbed my jeans and found a wet iPod with a large glob of water under the screen. I was sure it was trashed!

I immediately went online and looked up iPod, washing machine and dryer. If you go to the Google entry in Safari and start typing in iPod wash... there will be a list of items related to iPods and washing machines. It seems to be happening a lot! Most of the entries I read about supported my believe that the iPod was gone, an expensive piece of electronic junk - not even heavy enough to be a paperweight!

But I did read one entry from someone in England who also had a 3rd Gen iPod Nano who said that his

survived the washer and dryer episode. It gave me some hope, but I didn't want to try to turn it on while I could still see water in the screen. I waited until I got home and thought that I could open the case and let it dry out completely before trying to turn it on. But I found that I couldn't get the case opened, so I thought I would try it and when I hit the menu button, nothing happened. I then thought that I would attempt to plug it into my computer to see if it would recognize it, and as soon as I did I saw the Apple logo that appears if you have to reset the iPod. Once it went through the resetting process, synced, and recharged it worked just as well as it did before! What a relief!

So just a word of warning! The iPods are small enough to hide in pockets - don't let them go through the wash. I was lucky, but there are many others who had to through theirs away!

John



Apple updates, adds to MacBook line

13-inch models now MacBook Pros; MacBook Air gets price cut, speed boost

by [Peter Cohen, Macworld.com](#)

Apple revamped almost its entire laptop line Monday during its [Worldwide Developer Conference keynote](#), promoting its 13-inch Aluminum unibody MacBooks into the MacBook Pro line, upgrading the existing 15- and 17-inch MacBook Pros, and slashing MacBook Air prices while boosting speeds.

The new 13- and 15-inch MacBook Pro models have been equipped with a lithium-polymer battery previously seen on the 17-inch MacBook Pro. Apple says it lasts for up to seven hours, dramatically longer than previous models. The battery lasts up to 1,000 recharges before it needs replacing. Apple claims the battery design is more environmentally friendly as a result. However, this means the battery is no longer easily swappable. The only way to remove the battery is to unscrew the bottom of the case and remove it, as is the case with the 17-inch MacBook Pro and the MacBook Air.



According to Phil Schiller, Apple's senior vice president of worldwide product marketing, the new MacBooks have the "nicest display [Apple] has ever put in a notebook" with a 60 percent better color gamut than before. What's more, both models gain an SD memory card slot — albeit at the expense of an ExpressCard slot on the 15-inch model. Schiller said that Apple made the decision because ExpressCard slots are rarely used and most MacBook Pro users have digital cameras with SD media cards.

All the models can now accept up to 8GB of RAM, and can be outfitted with a 500GB hard disk drive or a 256GB solid-state drive.

In a victory for those who complained about the disappearance of FireWire from the previous generation of unibody MacBooks, the 13-inch MacBook Pro now sports a FireWire 800 port. A backlit keyboard is now standard. The 13-inch MacBook Pro comes in two models: 2.26GHz, 2GB RAM, 9400M graphics, 160GB hard drive, for \$1,119; and a 2.53GHz, 4GB, 250GB hard drive model for \$1,499.

The new 15-inch model sports processor speeds from 2.53GHz to 3.06GHz, at prices ranging from \$1,699 to \$2,299 depending on how it's configured. The MacBook Pro can handle up to 8GB RAM, and a 256GB Solid State Disk (SSD) is also an option. Nvidia graphics, both integrated and discrete, are included.

The 17-inch MacBook Pro model also gets a refresh; it now features a 2.8GHz processor, 500GB hard drive and keeps its ExpressCard slot, all for \$2,499.

Lest we forget, the MacBook Air also got a refresh today. The \$1,499 model comes equipped with a 1.86GHz processor, 2GB RAM, and a 120GB hard drive. For \$1,799 you get a 2.13GHz MacBook Air equipped with a 128GB SSD. That's a lot more power for a much lower price tag than before, giving the MacBook Air a mainstream price tag for the first time in its existence. The Air now includes a USB-to-Ethernet adapter right in the box, which was previously available only separately.



10 Snow Leopard Features Not Mentioned at WWDC

WWDC's Philnote had us squealing with delight over the flurry of new product updates and announcements, but we still felt like we were left a little high

and dry when it came to news regarding the new Mac OS X operating system, Snow Leopard. Though the iPhone 3G S did steal the spotlight at the show, we were hoping for a few more details regarding our favorite operating system. While we do know that Snow Leopard will be taking advantage of the hardware that comes bundled with our Macs, including the graphics accelerator OpenCL and 64-bit compatibility, we're wondering what else we'll get when we eventually upgrade this Fall.

1. Multi-touch Gestures
2. Shut Down and Wake Up now Twice as fast
3. Higher Resolution iChat Video Chats
4. Better Services Integration
5. Flight Data Detector
6. Split-Pane Terminal
7. AirPort Menu Signal Strength
8. iChat will only require one-third the bandwidth
9. Automatic spelling correction
10. Jump around webpages with web spots



Mac 911 Tip of the Week

Reader Peter Frank questions Apple's devotion to senior citizens. He writes:

"I use Address Book and iCal, which sync to my iPhone very nicely except for birthdays of people over about 76 years of age. Anyone born before 1/1/1933 (for this year) does not get their birthday synced over to the iPhone. Why is this and is there any way to fix it? Each year my family and friends get older and some are over this arbitrary cut off."

Allow me to outline what's happening here. In Address Book you've caused the Birthday field to appear by opening Address Book's preferences, clicking the Template tab, and, from the Add Field pop-up menu, selecting Birthday. In Address Book, you then entered birth dates for your nearest and dearest.

You then launched iCal, opened its preferences, and enabled the Show Birthdays Calendar option in the General tab. You then browsed through iCal and, sure enough, there were the birthdays you'd added in Address Book.



Good so far. Now, when you synced your iPhone to this birthdays calendar you discovered that those of advanced years did not appear on your iPhone. The reason is that the iPhone and iPod touch are limited to repeating a single event just 75 times. Regrettably, your iPhone doesn't see Aunt Toni's 76th birthday through sentimental eyes. To it, she's just an event that's repeated one time too many.

The solution is to create a separate repeating event in a different iCal calendar for your well-seasoned friends and family members that begins this year. Unless they live to be more than 150 years old, you should be set.

- Christopher Breen



8 Essential Twitter Apps for Mac Users

You've signed up, you've made friends and now you're finally ready to stop using the Twitter web site to update your feed. For the new Twitter user, and seasoned veteran, we've assembled a list of Twitter apps we think you'll find useful.



OS X Clients	iPhone Clients
TweetDeck	Tweetie
Tweetie	Twitterific 2.0
Nambu	La Twit
	Twistori
	SpreadTweet

Learn more about our favorite Twitter clients and find your favorite.



Snow Leopard Ships in September for \$29

Posted 06/08/2009 at 1:42:32pm | by [Zack Stern](#)
Rawr!

Apple previewed some of the features of Snow Leopard at the [WWDC keynote](#). The operating system update is still being pitched as an under-the-hood refinement to Mac OS X 10.5 (Leopard); those users will be able to upgrade to Snow Leopard for \$29 when it ships in September.



Snow Leopard rewrites more of the underlying technology to utilize 64-bit chips and otherwise boost speeds. Apple touts speed improvements to Mail, Preview, the Finder, the installation process, and more.

Improved multi-core support will let the OS dynamically manage multi-core threads. With Leopard, an idle program can hog the ability for the multi-core chips to execute instructions--individual threads. Snow Leopard allocates these threads so that idle apps don't waste resources.

[OpenCL](#) support lets essentially any company tap into chips that had been designed for video processing.

Many graphics processors aren't taxed by general use, so software can capture these under-used resources to speed up anything.

QuickTime also gets updated with interface and tech improvements. Our favorite assists in compressing and re-encoding video for other devices, such as iTunes and iPhone.

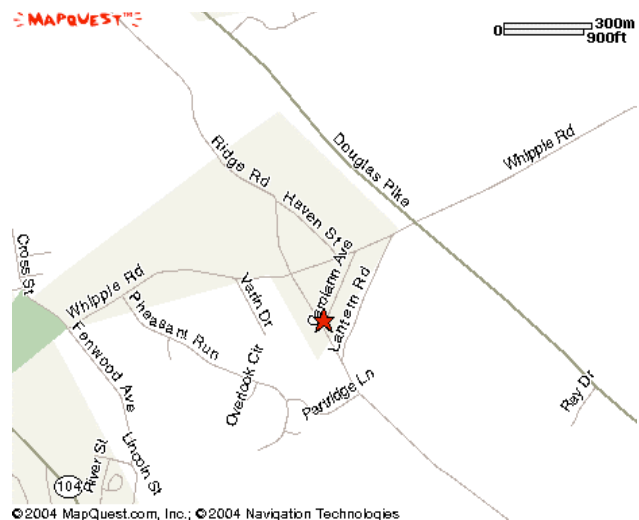
And Snow Leopard adds Exchange support for Exchange Server 2007. This business standard will work with Mail, iCal, and Address Book to share contacts, meetings, and calendars over a network.

All together, these and other updates should improve the OS without drastically changing it... except for one more thing. Snow Leopard will work only on Intel Macs, finally ending support for PowerPC processors.



Meeting Directions:

Directions to Mark Rafferty's House.

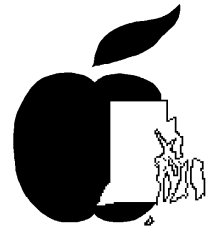


From 295, take the route 7 exit south to Whipple Road, turn right and take the 2nd left onto Carol Ann Drive.

From 95, take the route 146 exit and then take the Twin River Rd exit, turn right on Twin River Rd and go 1 mile to Route 7 (Douglas Pike). Turn right and go up to Whipple Road, turn left and then take the 2nd left onto Carol Ann Drive.



Membership Application
RHODE ISLAND APPLE GROUP
PO Box 387
East Greenwich, RI 02818-0387



Please fill out the information below and send it with a check for \$30 (\$20 for one year's membership and a one time fee for initiation of \$10) to the above address or bring it to any meeting. (Please Print)

Name: _____

Address 1: (Home) _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Address 2: (Business/School) _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephones: (_____) _____ - _____ (Home) (_____) _____ - _____ (Business)

Would you like your () Home or () Business/School # on the Membership list?

In an effort to better serve our members, we would like to know a few things about you and your computer system. This part is, of course, OPTIONAL but the information will help us better serve you.

Occupation: _____ (Optional)

I use my computer in: (Home), (Business), (School), Other _____ Circle all items that apply)

Briefly describe your computer system (present and planned). Please include any modem, hard drives, or major pieces of software, you have.

Computer _____

Printer: _____ Hard Drive: _____

Modem: _____ Other: _____

• Is your computer used primarily for business, entertainment, science, education, or other applications?

• What are some of the things (help, software, etc.) that you want or expect to get out of this group?

• Is there anything you would be willing to contribute to the club. This might include: Demonstrations of Software or Hardware, newsletter articles, programs, and teaching others.

How did you hear about the club?

June 2009

May 2009							June 2009							July 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4				
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	
31																				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 2:00 PM RIAG Main meeting at Mark's house
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 7:00 PM RIAG Board of Directors meeting	30	1	2	3	4

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