



The RAG Times

December 2011

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Mammoth Apple store opens in Grand Central Station

by Roger Cheng cNet



One thing was made abundantly clear when Apple opened up its Grand Central store for the first time today: those early enthusiasts care more about the Apple experience than the products.

The Grand Central store opening garnered the kind of buzz typically reserved for a new product launch. Hundreds of Apple fanboys waited in line, which stretched into the tunnels of the station, all for a glimpse at a retail outlet. As with any product launch, the first wave of customers entered the store to thunderous applause and cheering from Apple employees.

"Your heart beats like crazy, seeing all the people cheering for you," said Gabriel Evans, a student from Poundridge, N.Y., who used his half day at school to come down to Manhattan to see the store.

The ritual of waiting in line has evolved beyond the desire to have the latest and greatest product first, and more for the shared experience of spending time with fellow fans. Stalwart fans at the front of line have regularly talked about the bonds they've created while waiting for the latest that Apple has to offer.

At the front of line this morning was Jacob Davis, who came down from Albany, N.Y., with his father, Robert. He got in line on Thursday morning to ensure he would be the first customer to step foot in the store. Jacob, who already has a slew of Apple products--he was carrying an iPod, iPhone, MacBook, and PowerBook with him in line--said he had planned on buying some accessories, but wasn't really there to shop.

Robert, who took two days off from work for the grand opening, said it was more about the experience of coming to Manhattan with his son. He quipped that maybe Apple would give his college student son a job.

The next person in line, Gary Allen, flew in from Berkeley, Calif., and got in line at noon on Thursday to check out the Apple store. Allen said he had been to a number of Apple stores around the world, and said he was more a fan of the architecture and how the store operates. Allen will have a lot to appreciate. Unlike other Apple stores, the Grand Central location uses less glass and actually integrates itself into the station's more classic look. It's the fifth Manhattan store and, given the traffic that Grand Central sees, will almost certainly be considered the New York flagship store.

The store sits atop the east and northeast balconies of Grand Central, providing consumers with a view of the main concourse below, where countless commuters come in and out of New York.

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RIAG Officers:

President * Mark Rafferty (401) 232-2023
 Vice President * Helen Anger (401) 247-1457
 Secretary * John Gentile (401) 946-2486
 Treasurer * Michelle Smith (401) 434-0946
 President Emeritus* Dave Angell (401) 941-8934
 * = Member of RIAG Board

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.

Dave Angell (401) 941-8934
 John Gentile (401) 946-2486
 Mark Rafferty (401) 232-2023
 Paul Gerstenbluth (401) 884-1330

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

Time again for our annual Christmas, Hanukkah, winter holiday party! (talk about being "PC"!) We can take a little break from all the holiday hassle and mingle with some of our Mac friends and learn a bit about backing up our data before we lose it!

Remember that the December meeting is on Thursday night at 7:00 PM at Mark's house. So come on over and bring a friend.

John

Club Calendar

Monthly Meeting Dec 15, Thursday
 7:00 PM at Mark's house* NOTE DAY AND TIME*
 Holiday party and backing up data! Map on page 6.

Monthly Meeting Jan 21, Saturday
 2:00 PM At Mark's house Map on page 6.

The monthly meetings take place on the 3rd Saturday of the month at Mark Rafferty's home in Smithfield, RI.

Please let us know what you would like us to cover at our meetings, or if you have a topic you would like to present, just let us know that too.

RIAG Board

The RIAG Board of Directors will meet occasionally at a time and place to be determined. When meetings are scheduled, the membership is invited to attend.

**President's Report December, 2011**

Hi everyone!

I was in NY Friday and Linda, my mother and I got to see the grand opening of the Grand Central Apple Store. It's the largest Apple store in the world! The thing is huge, 24,000 square feet.

It wraps around half of the station on the upper level. There were thousands of people there. It was wild! I'll have some pictures at the meeting.

I have a grand opening tee-shirt to give away from the store!! You have to have come to at least 3 of our meetings in the last 2 years to be entered in the drawing.

And that reminds me, our next meeting is Thursday night at 7PM. This meeting is our holiday party and we will talk about backing up your computer. We will also have a blast from the past with an Apple II reincarnation.

Come, it should be fun :o)

Mark

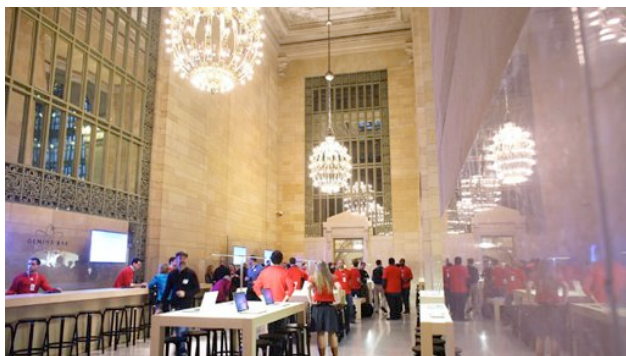
**New Grand Central Station Apple Store**

(cont'd from page 1)

Apple said the store will have two Genius Bars and a personal pickup area, allowing consumers to order products through the Apple Store app and pick them up once they reach the station. The company said the store will offer new 15-minute Express Workshops for consumers on a tighter schedule. It also boasts the largest personal setup area, as well as a room for personal training.

The Grand Central store is just the latest in a chain of more than 360 Apple stores in 11 countries. The stores have become an important extension of Apple's brand, as well as another revenue source for the company.

But many of the customers weren't necessarily in line to make big purchases that day. Allen said he didn't intend to buy anything. Likewise, Evans, who actually hopped in line right before the store opened, said he wanted to check out the Genius Bar to fix his iPhone 4S' battery problem, and pick up an accessory, but wasn't going to buy a big-ticket Apple item.



Nieves, an IT consultant who works near Grand Central, said he came by to check out products to buy for Christmas, but also wasn't looking to make a purchase. Still, he said he was moved when he entered the store amid the cheering crowd, when his thoughts went to the contributions that late co-founder Steve Jobs brought to the technology world.

"I could barely hold back my emotions coming up the stairs," Nieves said.



Mac 911: Which to choose: iMac or Mac Pro?

by [Christopher Breen, Macworld.com](#) Dec 9, 2011 2:00 pm

A reader who wishes to remain anonymous has to make the kind of difficult choice that many of us would welcome. He writes:

I work in a graphic design studio and we have a budget to upgrade our Macs. I can't decide what would be better—a tricked-out 27" iMac or an 8-core Mac Pro. Each would be packed full of RAM and have the best graphics card available. Do you have any opinions one way or the other?

At one time, the conventional wisdom was that you'd buy the latest tower Mac if you were a media pro or serious number cruncher and leave the iMac for

"regular" users who simply wanted a capable and reasonably affordable computer. Those days have mostly passed. Today's iMacs are serious hunks of hardware—they're wicked fast and have solid graphics performance. If you're concerned about storage, you can always attach an external drive or two or, in the case of a design shop like yours, move data on and off a server. The iMac also currently enjoys the advantage of having a Thunderbolt port, which the Mac Pro still lacks.

The Mac Pro is certainly no slouch. Ideally you'd wait to see if Apple releases an update to it that adds Thunderbolt and a faster processor, but there's no telling if and when that will happen. And, of course, if you want the greatest flexibility in regard to your computer's graphic performance, the Mac Pro is the better way to go as you can easily swap in a new graphics card.

That said, if I were in your studio my primary concern would be the display. You're in the image business and if your images don't look right to you on an iMac's screen, that isn't the computer you should be using. Sure, you can attach an external monitor to your iMac and use that monitor as your primary display (leaving the iMac's display for palettes), but it seems a waste to purchase a Mac with a display you don't care for.

Given that you're talking about an entire studio full of new Macs, I'd strongly suggest finding someone you know willing to lend you a current iMac for a couple of days. Calibrate the display and have the staff work on the thing for awhile to see if its monitor meets your requirements. If you find the display doesn't suit you—it's too reflective, the text is too tiny because of its resolution, or you find the thing too bright or brash—you may choose to go with the Mac Pro and hang on to your current monitors.

We're fortunate to have a lot of designers who, while waiting for one thing or another to render, stop by to share their knowledge. Keep an eye on this story's comments. You're sure to learn something from those who've been in your enviable position.



Bugs & Fixes: Decoding Apple's Safari 5.1.2 release notes

by [Ted Landau, Macworld.com](#) Dec 2, 2011 3:48 pm

Over the years, Apple has taken its share of criticism for the sparseness of the release notes that accompany its software updates. This lack of information can

make it difficult to determine exactly what has been fixed—or whether a supposed fix actually does its intended job.

Such is the case, even more so than usual, with the [release notes for Safari 5.1.2](#). For those of you seeking more guidance, I offer this closer look at the four cited “improvements” contained in the [latest Safari version](#):

- Improved stability: Presumably this means assorted bug fixes. This is fairly typically Apple jargon. To some extent, I give Apple a pass here. It’s not necessary to air all your dirty laundry. By listing every little thing that you’ve fixed, you wind up emphasizing every little thing that was wrong with the previous version. This doesn’t make for good PR. Still, many other software companies do exactly that—and remain successful. Especially if you’ve been bothered by a particular bug, it would be nice to know whether or not it’s been fixed.

Based on what I read on the Web, Safari 5.x has been less-well received than prior Safari versions—due to various bugs and performance issues. With people abandoning the Safari ship for Firefox or other browsers, more details here might help to bring people back.

- Address issues that could cause hangs and excessive memory usage: This is precisely one of the performance issues that has bothered users. It would be great if memory usage declined significantly with this update. Unfortunately, I could not detect clear evidence of this. I checked in with Activity Monitor. As seen in the figure below, Safari Web Content (a component of Safari) is using more memory than any other process. Add in the memory allocation for the separate Safari process, and the memory usage of the combined processes far surpass any other software.

Perhaps Safari 5.1.2’s memory allocation is lower than it would be with the prior version. Maybe. Even so, it’s hard to consider this issue “fixed.”

- Address issues that could cause webpages to flash white: A problem here is that Apple does not exactly make clear what it means by “webpages to flash white.” We are left to guess. Most people are guessing (and hoping) that Apple is referring to [a problem I covered in a prior Bugs & Fixes column](#): “If you have multiple tabs open in a Safari window, you may find that when you click to change the active tab, the newly selected page temporarily goes blank as it reloads.”

This irritating symptom typically happens if and when Safari Web Content crashes. So, to see if this had been fixed, I forced the process to quit. The result was unchanged: blank pages still popped up and reloaded. Again, something may have been improved (perhaps the frequency with which the symptom occurs is now less), but it’s hard to tell.

If you search the web, you may come across [a suggested work-around for this symptom](#): Enable Safari’s Debug menu and de-select the “Use Multi-process Windows” menu command. While this appears to work, I would stay away from the solution. Its side-effects are worse than the symptom it fixes. Not only does the work-around disable other useful features of Safari (such as extensions), but Safari may begin to crash repeatedly. That’s what happened when I tried it; [others are reporting this](#) as well.

- Allow PDFs to be displayed within web content: This is another case where Apple’s language is sufficiently sparse that its meaning is not immediately clear. Indeed, when I Googled this phrase, every article I checked quoted Apple’s text but did not further elaborate on what the fix meant. When I queried my Twitter followers, they came up nearly empty as well. One person suggested that it likely referred to embedding a PDF document within an HTML page (as covered in [an eHow article](#)). This seemed logical to me. Embedding isn’t done nearly as often as opening a PDF as a separate URL. But there are webpages that do this.

Confirming this explanation, when I tested out pages that contained embedded PDFs (such as [this one](#)), they loaded fine in Safari 5.1.2 but resulted in a “Missing Plug-in” error on a Mac still running 5.1.1. Wherever the plug-in is located, it’s not within the Safari app itself. When I launched a copy of Safari 5.1.1 on a Mac where 5.1.2 had already been installed, it loaded embedded PDFs correctly. I’m guessing the plug-in is in one of the frameworks in /System/Library.



"Apple II Forever"

ADTPro Apple Disk Transfer for ProDOS

Apple II Hardware & Software, Thirty Years On

Review by Kevin Powers

If you have Apple II or Apple /// disks (be they 5.25" disks, 3.5" disks, ProFILE hard disks, RAM disks, or any other device that can be read by your Apple II),

it may be only a matter of time before the chemicals on the disks degrade and your data from fifteen, twenty, or thirty years ago is gone forever. These days, it is a tall order to come up with a large quantity of disks, so making new copies would be difficult. Fortunately, with a working Apple II, a simple and inexpensive cable, and a terrific free program called ADTPro, it is now possible to archive perfect images of Apple II disks and preserve them forever.

ADTPro is a free download from adtpro.sourceforge.net and requires only the following:

- 1) A working Apple II (any model) or Apple ///
- 2) A serial cable with your Apple II's serial connection on one end and your modern computer's serial connection at the other end
- 3) Your disks
- *4) If your modern computer lacks a serial connection, then you will also need a USB-to-serial adapter
- *5) If you don't have an Apple II serial connection, then use a pair of mono audio cables for the cassette in/out on a II, II+, or //e

The directions on the ADTPro site are thorough and very easy for even the least technically-versed of us to follow. There are even YouTube format videos demonstrating how to get started. The steps involved, in short, are:

- 1) Connect the Apple II, either via serial cable or audio cables, to the modern computer (Mac OS, Windows, or Linux). You can use the serial connection on an Apple II Super Serial Card, the built-in serial connection on the Apple ///, //c, or IIGs, or the audio connections on the Apple II, II+, or //e.
- 2) Run the ADTPro client program on the modern computer and use it to "bootstrap" ProDOS into your Apple II, and then to "bootstrap" ADTPro itself into your Apple II. That's right--you can load the operating system and ADTPro directly from your modern computer without needing to have a physical floppy disk copy of the program. Everything is loaded literally from "bare metal."
- 3) Once you have ADTPro running, create a copy of the ADTPro floppy disk image (transfer it to a real floppy) so that you can boot off of it in the future.
- 4) Use ADTPro to transfer disks from physical disks to disk images on your modern computer, or to transfer disk images from your modern computer to physical disks.

The entire process of connecting the cables, bootstrapping the software, and getting ADTPro running takes less than fifteen minutes on a serial connection and less than a half hour on audio connections. Transferring a 140k DOS 3.3, ProDOS, Pascal, or CP/M floppy disk generally takes less than a minute on a serial connection... though an audio connection is substantially slower.

ADTPro has batch options so that you can back up a big box of floppies without needing to re-enter the name of each disk repeatedly.

I have tested ADTPro with 5.25" floppies, 3.5" floppies, ProFILE hard disks (both 5 MB and 10 MB), and RAM disks. It works great on all of these, and works as well with GS/OS (ProDOS 16) formatted disks and partitions as it does with ProDOS 8, DOS 3.3, Pascal, and CP/M disks!

The only hitch that arises is the same problem that frustrated many users who wanted to make physical backups of their commercial software back in the 80's. Some copy-protection schemes used in commercial programs from the 80's also inhibit perfect duplication under ADTPro. In order to copy protected disks, one can use a nibble copier program (such as Saltine's Super Transcopy) to make nibble disks, and then back up the nibble disks using ADTPro.

In my experience, ADTPro works best over a serial connection. I have tried the audio connections via Apple //e cassette ports, but while I have been able to get the cassette ports working perfectly for loading and saving AppleSoft BASIC programs, the same calibrated audio connections failed in repeated tests of ADTPro. Sometimes the bootstrap works, and sometimes ADTPro can read a directory listing over the audio cables, but I have yet to successfully copy full disk images over audio connections.

The cables themselves are not expensive. One of the co-authors of ADTPro, David Schmidt (who adapted and upgraded ADTPro from the earlier DOS 3.3 program ADT), will sell you the appropriate cable for your model of Apple II or Apple /// for between \$8.95 to \$19.95. His web site is retrofloppy.com/products.html and his service so far has been very good.

Apple II software and data are remarkably durable--many people find that their old floppies from the 80's are, by and large, still readable as much as thirty years later. But at some point, time will take its toll on old media. When it does, it is awfully good to know that backup solutions like ADTPro can allow

anyone still using Apple II or Apple /// computers to make archives that will last a lifetime.

In a future column, we will review some emulators for modern computers that allow for reading, writing, and running programs from your ADTPro disk images as though they were actual disks and as though your modern computer was a real Apple II!



Tips on How to Import AVI, 3GP, MP4, MPEG, RMVB Videos to iMovie

by Cora on MacDirectory Forums
Dec 12, 2011, 01:11 AM

iMovie is a really good video editing software flows on Mac, iPod touching 4th, iPhone 4 plus iPad 2, it can certainly help us to edit flicks for better video excitement and sharing, but the negative is definitely that can't accept any video format except for iPhone 4 H. 264, iPhone 4 MPEG-4 and various formats supported by iOS systems. If there are quite a lot of AVI, 3GP, MP4, MPEG, RMVB training videos or movies, how might we put them in iMovies for editing? Which may be difficult to you, but I think you will definitely get a way of them soon, because the following is a way of how so that you can import AVI video in iMovie with free Mac video converter, it will help you do what you wish, and you can as well visit Mac AVI to iMovie converter for detail.

<http://www.leawo.com/free-mac-video-converter/>

<http://www.leawo.com/knowledge/import-avi-to-imo-vie.html>

Step1, Establish this AVI to iMovie converter to get Mac to import AVI so that you can iMovie converter for remodeling. After importing AVI so that you can iMovie converter, you can preview reference AVI video files to assure you import the right AVI files you should process.

Step2, Leawo AVI so that you can iMovie Converter Mac presents comprehensive profiles for iMovie by way of clicking the icon in advance of 3D button. You can purchase proper output profile around Apple group.

Step3, This Mac AVI so that you can iMovie converter also presents some video editing features for yourself in Edit panel, like: trim video length, foliage video size, adjust training video effect and add photo or text watermark.

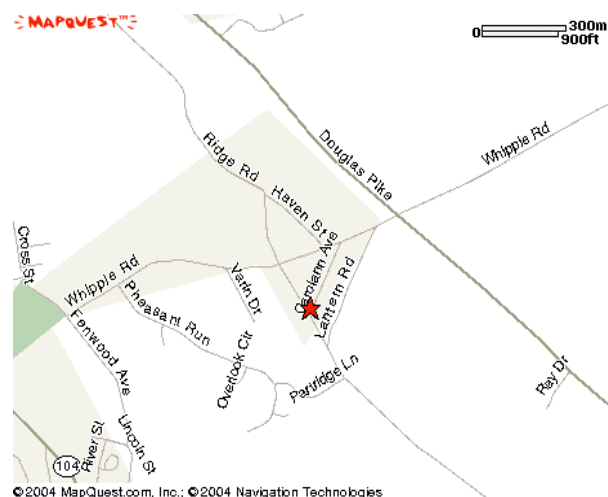
Step4, At this moment, click the convert button to begin with to convert AVI to iMovie videos during this AVI to iMovie converter to get Mac. After the conversion process, you can freely signfic AVI to iMovie to get editing.

Yes, the manner is convert AVI training video to format supported by way of iOS devices first, and after that import them onto iMovie to get editing, I believe you may approve it.



Meeting Directions:

Directions to Mark Rafferty's House.
10 Carolann Ave, Smithfield, RI



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.

The house is the 4th house on the left (an almond colonial with a farmers porch and a circular drive) Park on the street or in the circle.





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



Please fill out the information below and send it or bring it to our next meeting. There is no membership fee to belong to the RIAG! (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?

December 2011

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



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

