

California Computer Care

News,
Views,
Tips and
Cool Techniques
for CCC Members

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We
speak
Geek,
so you
don't
have to.

Memories are made of this

Silicon, if you are a computer.

Have you ever done this? You pull out the telephone book and look up a number. There isn't paper and pen handy, so you memorize the number and put away the phone book. You then turn to the phone, get momentarily distracted, and *whoosh!* the phone number is gone from your memory! Now you have to pull out the phone book again and look up the number. Again!

You just experienced what your Mac feels.

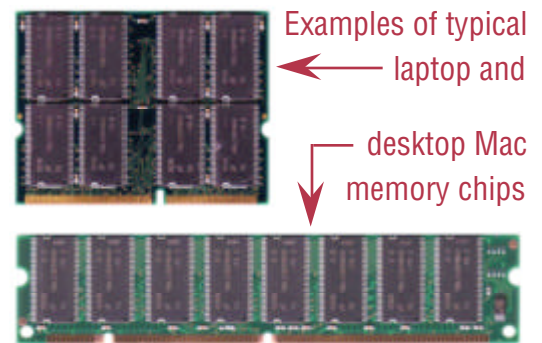
When you launch an application, *AppleWorks*, for example, your Mac searches its hard drive for instructions on how to use *AppleWorks*. Once it finds these instructions, it commits them to memory and begins to use them. When you ask your Mac to do something else, like print, it becomes distracted from the *AppleWorks* instructions and forgets them as it looks up and memorizes printing instructions. So, when you get around to doing another *AppleWorks* function, your Mac must look the instructions up again and re-memorize them. Ugh! Just like you and the phone book.

Wouldn't it be nice if you could plug in a few million more brain cells and increase the amount that you could remember so that you wouldn't lose the phone number when you get distracted?

Advantage Mac. Your Mac can do what you cannot. It can have millions of "brain cells" added anytime you like. This is called a memory upgrade. Every Mac has the ability to receive such an upgrade, allowing it to remember more instructions and facts without having to look them up over and over again. Next to a brain re-boot button, that is what I'd like most for my head!

Memory upgrades come as little electronic circuit boards usually referred to as "memory chips." Memory upgrades are made in a wide array of sizes and shapes to match

the specific needs of different Mac models. Virtually every Mac model uses different *memory chips*. Like everything else in the computer industry, the technology keeps improving and new standards arise. When new Macs are designed, they are designed to use the latest and greatest memory technology available.



Examples of typical
← laptop and

↓ desktop Mac
memory chips

The more, the merrier. Adding memory to your Mac will enhance speed and efficiency. With more memory, your Mac will be able to do more functions simultaneously and spend less time looking up instructions. This is definitely a good thing!

If you want more memory for your Mac, shop carefully. Memory at one time was incredibly expensive. When that was true, it was also incredibly high quality. Today, *memory chips* are very cheap. With cheap comes tiny profits for memory manufacturers. With tiny profits has come a flood of poor quality *chips*. When shopping for memory, only choose a supplier that has been in business for many years and offers a lifetime warranty. Good suppliers include 18004memory.com and thechipmerchant.com as well as the usual Mac mail order suppliers: MacZone, MacConnection, MacWarehouse, etc.

Or, order from us. We offer competitive pricing and we guarantee that you will get the highest quality memory, the right memory and that it is installed correctly and tested before you pay a penny. Call us for a memory upgrade quote before you forget!

Netflix

There are many services offering this and that on the internet, but none beats *Netflix* when it comes to usefulness, fun and reliability.

If you own a DVD player or a DVD capable Mac, you want Netflix.

What do they do? Take a trip to: <http://www.netflix.com> to see their well-designed website. Here is a video rental store for the computer age. Selection is comprehensive. Virtually every movie and TV show that has been released in DVD format is available. Each movie has its own descriptive web page with summary, cast information, user reviews, ratings and referrals to similar movies.

Movies are cataloged by title, genre, recommendation, critic's picks and more, so finding a movie is easy. Ordering is even easier and is accomplished with a single mouse click.

What happens next is the most remarkable part. The movie that you order is added to your "Rental Queue." The basic *Netflix* account

can have up to three movies rented at one time, so the first three movies in your *Rental Queue* are automatically mailed to you. You get to keep these movies as long as you like (no late fees!). When you have viewed a movie, just mail it back to *Netflix* in their prepaid return envelope. As soon as *Netflix* receives the movie, they send out the next one in your *Rental Queue*, so you can always have three movies ready to watch. At each step in this process, *Netflix* keeps you informed through email. *Netflix* emails you when they send a movie and when they receive one back, so you always know what is happening.

Netflix accounts come in four flavors and range from \$13.95 (four movies per month, two at a time) to \$39.95 (unlimited movies, eight at a time) per month. A credit card is required.

My favorite things about Netflix are that I can order movies anytime, watch

them when I please and return them when convenient at any post box. So, please excuse me as *Central Station* is ready to watch and the popcorn is hot.

June Tip—

When printing in *AppleWorks 6*, have you noticed that text gets cut off along the right margin of the printed document? The solution: turn on *Fractional Character Widths* in *AppleWorks*' preferences.

Choose *Preferences* from the *AppleWorks* menu and click on *General...*

From the *Topic* pop-up menu, choose *Text*.

Check the checkbox for *Fractional Character Widths*.

Click the *OK* button.

Fractional Character Widths causes *AppleWorks* to use a more accurate method of spacing letters as you type. This setting, oddly enough, makes text look mis-spaced on screen, but enhances the appearance of text in the printed version of your document.



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Like an
auto club
for your
computer.