

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.

iWork '08 Review

iWork '08 is a brand new version of Apple's productivity* suite. *iWork '08* adds a new spreadsheet, named *Numbers*, to the *Pages* (word processing) and *Keynote* (presentation) applications. Many see the new *iWork* as a challenger to *Microsoft Office*; I see *iWork '08* as the long awaited replacement for buggy, old *AppleWorks*.

What makes it iWork? *iWork*, like *Microsoft Office*, is three separate applications sold in a single box. Like *MS Office*, the three applications are: word processor, spreadsheet and presentation creator. Here the resemblance ends. Yes, *Pages* will open *Word's* files, *Numbers* will open *Excel's* files and *Keynote* will open *PowerPoint's* files. But, if you need true compatibility with *MS Office's Word, Excel and PowerPoint*, unfortunately, only the real thing will do. *iWork* is much less expensive than *Office* (and somewhat less capable). *iWork* can be found at Amazon.com for \$75.00. *MS Office* is \$360.00 for the standard version or \$125.00 for the special *Student and Teacher Edition*.

AppleWorks, on the other hand, can word process, spreadsheet and present (plus drawing, painting and data base), but with far fewer capabilities and many more bugs than *iWork*. When *AppleWorks* was available (it is discontinued), it was \$79.00. In doing the tasks that most folks use *AppleWorks* to do, *iWork* does them better at less cost. *AppleWorks* still takes the prize for ease of use, however.

Pages is *iWorks'* word processor. With *Pages* you can write anything from a shopping list to the Great American Novel. (I wouldn't attempt a 1000 page technical manual. For that, it's *MS Word* or nothing.)

*Productivity = software intended not to be fun. Such software is intended to make you "productive." Bleh!

Early versions of *Pages* were hampered by its powerful page layout features. In trying to get *Pages* to rival such monster applications as *Quark Express* (\$900.00) and *InDesign* (\$700.00), Apple made it too cumbersome for the simple jobs that most of us do. *Pages '08* fixes this without losing its most sophisticated capabilities.



Launch *Pages '08* and you are greeted with a window full of templates. These templates are predesigned documents featuring 15 business and personal letter and envelope designs, 8 invoice and fax forms, 14 resumés, 8 school and business report layouts and many more. Or, skip the whole thing and be greeted by a plain, blank page ready for typing.

On top of the window are tool bars. The most needed functions are available: font, size, color, alignment, spacing, etc. Labels and icons are unfortunately small and hard to see. New are Track Changes and Comment tools for collaborative editing.

Pages '08 uses styles better than *AppleWorks* allowing you to tie style changes to F-keys for quick access. It also has many advanced features like proofreading, mailing label creation, automated footnotes and table of contents generation. Excellent spell checking and find and replace functions are here as well, along with pro-level graphic importing.

Pages '08 is now ready for the average user. I recommend this powerful word processor. It's more able and stable than *AppleWorks* and less difficult to use than *MS Word*.

Keynote is iWork's presentation creator. You may know of Microsoft's *PowerPoint* (an application infamous for spawning innumerable, boring corporate slide shows!), *Keynote* is a *PowerPoint* antidote. With superior tools and more refined taste, *Keynote* makes the creation of slideshow presentations easy, attractive and interesting. *Keynote* was developed for Steve Jobs' speeches and was used by Al Gore in the making of his film *An Inconvenient Truth*.

Keynote '08 is only slightly enhanced with several new templates, effects and transitions. Compatibility with *PowerPoint* is very good though not perfect. I tested ten, simple and complex *PowerPoint* files and found that *Keynote '08* opened all of them acceptably. *Keynote '08* makes an excellent substitute for *PowerPoint* for all but the most obsessive-compulsive users.

Numbers is the newest addition to iWork. Users can now calculate as well as write and present.

Numbers is a dramatic improvement over the *AppleWorks* spreadsheet. More complex formulas are supported, text wraps within cells, charts and graphs are more flexible and attractive. *Numbers* approaches, but does not surpass, *Excel's* mastery of calculations.

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SALLY'S DINNER PARTY
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2007

SPINACH ARTICHOKE DIP



Ingredient	Amount	Scaled amount
Artichokes	1 1/2 oz	3 oz
Mayonnaise	1 Teaspoon	2 Teaspoon
Grated lemon rind	1/2 Tablespoon	1 Tablespoon
Salt and Pepper	1 of each	2 of each
Bag spinach	10 oz	20 oz
Lemon juice	3 Tablespoon	6 Tablespoon
Hot sauce	to taste	0

Recipe serves 4 Prepare for 8

Instructions

1. Chop artichoke hearts in food processor.
2. Wash spinach and blanch in boiling water.
3. Squeeze dry and chop in food processor.
4. Add chopped artichoke hearts and remaining ingredients.
5. Process until blended.

Prepare 1 day in advance
Makes 2.5 cups

PASTA WITH TOMATOES



Ingredient	Amount	Scaled amount
Angel hair pasta	9 oz	18 oz
Olive oil	3 Tablespoon	3/8 Cup
Sliced and halved zucchini	1/2 Cup	1 Cup
Sliced and halved yellow squash	1/2 Cup	1 Cup
Garlic cloves	3 Cloves	6 Cloves
Tomatoes	2 Tomatoes	4 Tomatoes
Fresh basil	1/3 Cup	2/3 Cup
Shredded parmesan cheese	1/3 Cup	2/3 Cup

Recipe serves 4 Prepare for 8

Instructions

1. Heat oil in medium sauce pan.
2. Add zucchini, squash, and chopped garlic.
3. Cook for 5 minutes.
4. Add tomatoes and basil; cook for 5 minutes or until hot and slightly thickened.
5. Toss pasta with sauce; garnish with parmesan cheese.

CHOCOLATE CAKE



Ingredient	Amount	Scaled amount
Flour	18 Cup	9 Cup
Baking soda	1/2 Teaspoon	1/4 Teaspoon
Salt	1/2 Teaspoon	1/4 Teaspoon
Packed brown sugar	3/4 Cup	6 Tablespoon
Butter	1/2 Cup	1/4 Cup
Vanilla	1 Teaspoon	1/2 Teaspoon
Egg	1 Egg	1/2 Egg
Chocolate chips	2 Cup	1 Cup
Chopped walnuts	1/2 Cup	1/4 Cup

Recipe serves 16 Prepare for 8

Instructions

1. Combine flour, baking soda, and salt in small bowl.
2. Beat sugar, butter, and vanilla in large bowl until creamy.
3. Beat in egg.
4. Gradually beat in flour mixture.
5. Stir in 1-1/4 cups chocolate chips and nuts.
6. Spread into greased 9-inch square baking pan.
7. Bake 20-25 minutes; place on cooling rack.
8. Sprinkle remaining chocolate chips on top.
9. Cool completely, refrigerate 5-10 minutes.

Where *Numbers* does beat *Excel* is in ease of creation of complex, good looking documents. If you have a need to combine figures with words and pictures, *Numbers* will make that easy. There are several well designed templates to act as a starting point. From here you can substitute your own information and quickly sort lists or project budgets. The dinner party example above would never be mistaken for a stodgy old *Excel* spreadsheet.

So, is iWork the *AppleWorks* replacement we have been waiting for? For most users, yes. All three iWorks '08 applications greatly exceed the capabilities of the *AppleWorks*

equivalents and squash the nasty bugs that have been plaguing us for years.

Please keep in mind that you will need to learn new ways of doing things. There is good help available from the Help menu and tutorials at Apple's web site. Also, you will need a fairly powerful Mac and Mac OS X 10.4.10 or higher.

So, if you are dissatisfied with *AppleWorks*, I recommend stepping up to *iWork '08*.