

# 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.

# WWDC 2008 News

Every year, in June Apple hosts its *World Wide Developer's Conference*. This is the opportunity for the folks who design and publish hardware and software for our Macs to gather together, take classes from Apple engineers and network with their peers.

WWDC is also a time when Apple announces future plans for its products. This gives the developers a head start working on new and wonderful toys for us to buy.

As usual, Steve Jobs was ringmaster to an exciting keynote speech. And, as usual, the famous RDS\* was turned up to maximum as the crowd went wild.

Here are the major announcements from Steve:

- Mac OS X 10.6 is coming in about a year. Breaking with all computer industry tradition, 10.6 will have *no new features!* Instead, 10.6 will enhance and improve the features that Mac OS X already has. This is as close to sacrilege as a software product can be. I predict that the tech press will do all that it can to tar and feather Apple and ride it out of town on a rail. The idea that a computer product would be perfected instead of made over with new, byzantine layers, is anathema to tech pundits everywhere.

As for me, this is what I have been requesting for years! Make our software better! Stop changing it for change's sake. Stop making us have to learn our applications all over again with every new version. And, stop adding features and capabilities that *no one ever uses!* Please!

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\* The RDS is Steve Jobs' infamous and astonishingly effective *Reality Distortion Field*. First noted by Bud Tribble (interesting guy; look him up) in 1981. He observed that when Steve Jobs talks, his audience's grip on reality becomes temporarily warped until it matches Steve's own. Thank goodness it's only temporary!

Because Mac OS X 10.6 will be an extension of 10.5 (nicknamed *Leopard*) Apple has dubbed 10.6 *Snow Leopard*. With luck Apple will be able to deliver on this promise and *Snow Leopard* will be a pussy cat and not a beast.



- *dotMac* is dead, long live *MobileMe*! In July, Apple will finally put to sleep its moribund *dotMac* service and, Phoenix-like, resurrect it as *MobileMe*. Existing *dotMac* accounts will be grandfathered into *MobileMe* accounts. *MobileMe* (awful name, that) provides most of the features of *dotMac* (email, *iDisk*, web site creation and hosting, synchronization, back up, etc.) with some enticing enhancements: The *iPhone* and *iPod Touch* can now play along side your Macs, *iDisk* space increases to from 10GB to 20GB of online storage, new web-based email, address book and calendar that (they say) will work as smoothly and quickly as *Mail*, *Address Book* and *iCal* do on your local Mac. There's a *Microsoft Windows* version, too.

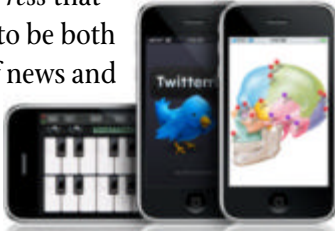
The promise of *MobileMe* is that your really important stuff will be available and up to date for you, no matter where you are or what computer you are using. *dotMac* promised that too and never really delivered. I'm skeptical. We'll see.

Like *dotMac*, *MobileMe* will be a subscription service that costs \$99.00 per year. Go to <http://www.me.com> for more information.

- *iPhone 2.0*. Also due in July is the next operating system for *iPhones* and *iPod Touches*, version 2.0. The major advance of 2.0 is the ability of software developers other than Apple to create applications that will run on these pocket devices. No longer

will Apple need to provide everything for them. Lots of new, innovative and fun stuff is coming!

Jobs, and his minions, showed off new applications like an auction tracker from *eBay*, a news notifier made by the *Associated Press* that allows you to be both recipient of news and AP reporter in the field, a marvelous music maker, medical applications for analysis of x-rays and CT scans, social networking from *Loopt* and games by *Sega* and *Pangea* (*Enigmo* anyone?).



Apple will be approving these new applications to assure that they are safe, effective and a good value. You'll be able to get them or buy them (many will be free) right on your *iPhone* or *iPod Touch* or through *iTunes* on your Mac. *iPhone 2.0* will be free to all *iPhone* owners and \$9.95 for *iPod Touch*.

The least important announcement got the most attention from the press.

- *iPhone 3G*. The original *iPhone* has just turned one year old. So, what do you give to the cell phone that has "everything?" 3G, of course.

The cell phone system has gone through three generations. Generation one was the basic functionality of making a wireless phone call. Generation two added more speed so that voice and computer data could travel over the cell phone system. Generation three added even more speed so that cell phones using the internet are approaching the speed of computers using DSL. Generation four is somewhere just over the horizon.

In addition to more speed, the *iPhone 3G* also received a real GPS kit, so you won't need a separate GPS receiver to drive from here to there. Some very clever things can be done if your phone knows exactly where you are.

Other presents include the ability to work with the email systems of major corporations, support for all of *Microsoft Office* and Apple's *iWork*, *Address Book* search, longer battery life and a scientific calculator.

Then there was the best present of all. The *iPhone's* price has been reduced from \$399.00 to \$199.00 for the 8GB model and from \$499.00 to \$299.00 for the 16GB model. A two year AT&T service contract is required. This means that the *iPhone's* price is now subsidized by AT&T (as virtually all other

phones are), so the monthly plan rate will go up \$10.00 a month. AT&T now treats the *iPhone 3G* the same way it treats all of the other cell phones that it sells and authorizes. No more special privileges. Darn!

After the keynote presentation, thousands of developers floated from the hall to the classes that they really came for. Soon, the RDS wore off and the real work of making great products began.

## June Tip—

Do you really like words? Are you a *Scrabble* fan? The built-in dictionary in Mac OS X 10.5 *Leopard* can feed your word lust. Just hold down the Command (Apple), Control (ctrl) and letter d keys on your keyboard. Pass the mouse cursor over words in applications like *Safari*, *Mail*, *TextEdit* and you will see each word defined:



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