

# WAMUG



Whittier Area Macintosh Users Group

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## Apple News 3

The Mac Mini and iMac were both upgraded this month. In depth stories below.

Apple introduced the all-new iPod shuffle. The world's smallest music player, the 3rd-generation iPod shuffle is nearly half the size of the previous model, but has four times the storage at 4 GB. To control it, you use the new earphone cord. Best of all, it talks to you. Thanks to the new VoiceOver feature, iPod shuffle speaks your song titles, artists, and playlist names. Available today in silver or black, it holds up to 1,000 songs and costs \$79.



Safari 4 public beta has been released with new features and a speed boost. Try it for free, but remember it is a beta version with some wrinkles. System 10.4.11 or newer needed.

<http://www.apple.com/safari/download/>

Carbonite is an online way to back up your hard drive [www.carbonite.com](http://www.carbonite.com). Software is loaded on your computer and over time the files you select are backed up over the internet to Carbonite's site. It has finally been made available for Macs, but it has to be an Intel based Mac. I have just started using it and will have a review of it next month....Alan

# Mac Mini Performance Boost

*by Adam C. Engst TidBITS.com*

Apple updated the Mac mini last week, keeping the form factor of the diminutive desktop Mac the same, but expanding most of the specs in what appears to be a successful effort to keep the Mac mini a compelling low-end desktop machine.

Although it will never compete with Apple's beefier desktop Macs, the new Mac mini now offers the choice of a 2.0 GHz or a new 2.26 GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor, dropping the previous 1.83 GHz option. The new model sports a frontside bus speed of 1066 MHz (up from 667 MHz) and 3 MB of on-chip L2 cache that will help boost performance. Oddly, the latter spec is down from the previous 2.0 GHz Mac mini model, which offered 4 MB of L2 cache, though the previous 1.83 GHz model had only 2 MB of L2 cache.

The Mac mini also now comes with an Nvidia GeForce 9400M graphics processor, much like the new MacBook line, leading to claims of improved graphics performance of up to five times over the previous Intel GMA 950 integrated graphics. However, the video card's memory is still shared with the main memory, which reduces performance. Also like the new MacBook line, the new Mac mini features a Mini Display Port, but it also has a Mini-DVI port, and includes a Mini-DVI to DVI adapter (a Mini-DVI to VGA adapter is sold separately). The two ports mean that the Mac mini can now drive two monitors, one at 1900 by 1200 on the DVI port, and another at up to 2560 by 1600

through the Mini DisplayPort connection, though driving such a large monitor on the latter requires a separate Mini DisplayPort to Dual-Link DVI Adapter.

You can now put up to 4 GB of RAM in the Mac mini, and a new 320 GB hard drive option joins the previous 120 GB option; 80 GB is no longer offered. The new model also trades FireWire 400 for FireWire 800, and adds a fifth USB 2.0 port to the back panel. Bluetooth 2.1+EDR and Gigabit Ethernet remain standard, but Apple bumped the new Mac mini's wireless capabilities up to 802.11n. A slot-loading SuperDrive is now standard, eliminating the Combo drive option.

Apple is also pointing out that the Mac mini now uses less than 13 watts of power when idle, supposedly making it the world's most energy-efficient desktop computer. Pricing on the new Mac mini starts at \$599, and even maxing out the processor, RAM, and hard drive options brings it only to \$1,049.

With this update, Apple has done a good job of addressing most of the compromises and criticisms of the previous Mac mini. Sure, it won't compete with the iMac in terms of performance, and attempting to mimic the iMac's specs with a Mac mini would likely cost more in the end for a slower Mac, but the Mac mini plays in a different sandbox. For anyone who already has a monitor and keyboard, or wants an inexpensive Mac to run a media center or home server, the Mac mini no longer feels underpowered.

# Apple Refreshes iMac Line

by Doug McLean TidBITS.com

Apple has released updates to its popular consumer iMac line. Both the 20- and 24-inch models have been updated with improved processor speeds, graphics cards, memory capacities, and hard drives.

In its new base configuration, the 20-inch iMac sports a 2.66 GHz processor, 2 GB of RAM, a 320 GB hard drive, and the same Nvidia GeForce 9400M graphics processor that has been appearing elsewhere in the Mac line of late. The updated model can support up to 8 GB of RAM, and has 640 GB and 1 TB hard drives as options.

The 24-inch iMac now comes in three different configurations with 2.66 GHz, 2.93 GHz, and 3.06 GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor speeds (these options are nearly the same as the previous lineup, which offered 2.66 GHz, 2.8 GHz, and 3.06 GHz configurations). The 24-inch model also now comes standard with 4 GB of 1066 MHz DDR3 SDRAM (upgradeable to 8 GB), which is double the previous amount, and either a 640 GB or 1 TB hard drive.

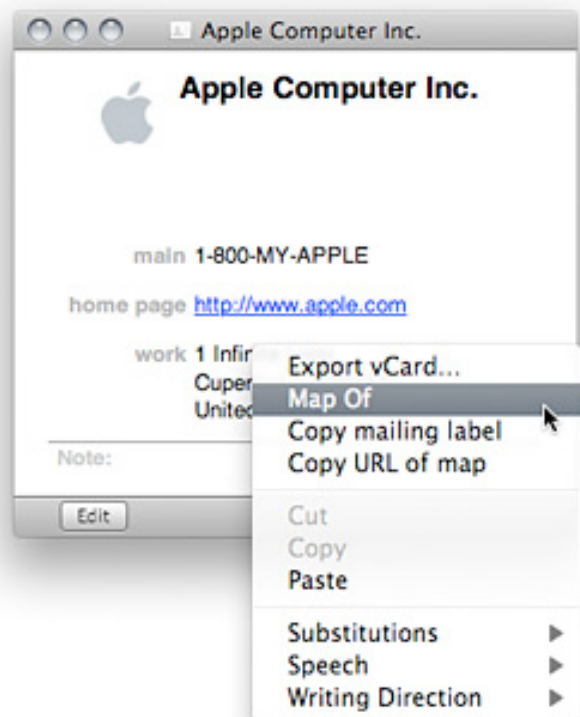
The 2.66 GHz model of the 24-inch iMac has the same Nvidia GeForce 9400M graphics processor as the 20-inch version, but the 2.93 GHz model uses the GeForce GT 120 with 256 MB of GDDR3 memory, and the 3.06 GHz model relies on the GeForce GT 130 with 512 MB of GDDR3 memory. You can also configure these latter two with the ATI Radeon HD 4850 discrete graphics processor, with 512 MB of memory.

As usual, all the new iMacs come with the built-in iSight camera, microphone, and speakers. Also included is Apple's Mini DisplayPort for connecting a second monitor, built-in AirPort Extreme 802.11n, Bluetooth 2.1+EDR, Gigabit Ethernet, four USB 2.0 ports (with an additional two ports on the wired keyboard), and one FireWire 800 port (dropping the previous FireWire 400 port).

The price point for the base 2.66 GHz 20-inch model remains the same at \$1,199, but Apple now offers the 2.66 GHz 24-inch model for \$1,499, which is \$300 cheaper than the previous revision. The 2.93 GHz model comes in at \$1,799, and the 3.06 GHz model costs \$2,199.

## Get Instant Maps

In Leopard, your Address Book doesn't just tell you where to go—it shows you!

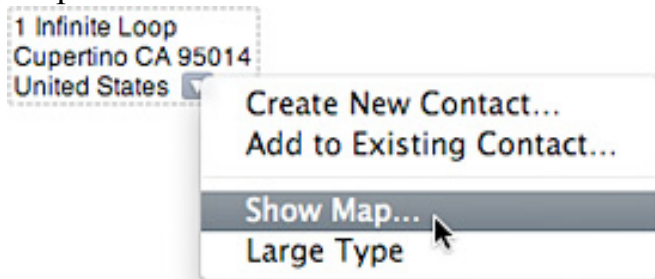


To get an instant map to any address, just control-click on the address field of a contact card (or right-click if you have a two-button mouse). Then select Map Of.

This command opens Safari (if it's not already open) and reveals the address in Google Maps.



This trick isn't just confined to Address Book: Leopard can detect street addresses within Mail as well. When your cursor hovers over a street address in an email, a dotted rectangle surrounds it and a small gray triangle appears. Click on the triangle and select Show Map... to see the address in Google Maps.



## Keep It Dry

While it's no news that water and electronic devices don't mix, Apple has of late rolled out an interesting and little-known design

feature: the liquid submersion indicator (LSI). Now integrated into the design of all Apple laptops, iPods, and iPhones, the LSI reveals whether or not its host device has been subjected to liquid damage.

As Apple clearly states on its support pages, "Liquid damage repair is not covered by the Apple one year limited warranty or the AppleCare Protection Plan." Thus, if your MacBook Air or iPhone receives an accidental dunking, you're not going to be able to convince Apple to repair it for free. Not as long as you have an iPhone or an iPod manufactured after 2006, or any laptop produced since 2008 - all these models include an LSI.

For the iPod and iPhone, the liquid submersion indicator is usually found in the headphone jack. Examining the inside of the jack with a magnifying glass reveals a white dot at the end of the passage. This dot turns half red or pink if the device has been submerged in liquid. For the iPhone 3G the indicator is located on the bottom of the connector housing, right under the 30-pin dock connector.

While iPod and iPhone owners can view the LSI without disassembly, the same is not true for the MacBook line. Apple doesn't say where the LSIs in the laptops are exactly, but AppleInsider published a diagram claiming to show their locations. The four LSIs in the MacBook, MacBook Pro, and MacBook Air are spread out in various points below the keyboard where they'd work well for detecting spilled liquid. Again, normally white, the indicators turn red when exposed to moisture, but even getting to them to determine if there was liquid damage can reportedly take a technician up to 2 hours.

We can only assume that Apple's repair technicians had sufficient evidence of people returning liquid-damaged devices under phony pretenses to warrant the creation and implementation of these indicators. It's also likely that the cost to incorporate the LSIs in the new laptop models was small enough to make it worthwhile for cutting down on repair fraud.

On the user end, the most obvious concern is that these LSIs will somehow indicate liquid damage when the device hasn't been dunked. In particular, people living in extremely humid climates have voiced concern that the indicators could misinterpret environmental conditions and prevent them from receiving deserved support. How much of a concern this should be is hard to say, given that the information available on the nature or composition of these indicators is slim. We did find a note from an Apple repair technician passing on the claim from Apple that the indicators are "very accurate" and "will not be affected by humidity or environmental factors."

More troublesome might be actual exposure to liquid that activates the LSI but does not, at that point in time, cause the device to fail. Should the device need repair in the future for a seemingly unrelated reason, that repair may be denied because of the LSI. Water, for instance, doesn't itself necessarily damage electronics, but can cause electrical short circuits that will. So if power is removed instantly, and the device is allowed to dry, it may be fine. Unfortunately, other liquids like coffee and soda may contain corrosive substances or leave behind conductive residues even after the liquid has evaporated. In such cases, the device may seem to work properly

for some time after the spill, but gradually become flakier.

The moral of the story? You already know to try to keep liquids away from your devices, but if the worst does come to pass, you'll just have to own up to the mistake and pay for repair or replacement unless you have computer insurance coverage from a company like Safeware.