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Get Info



WWDC Wows on Software Hardware MIA

By Monte Ferguson

As I write this article Apple's World Wide Developers Conference is in full swing. It's Apple's annual event to showcase upcoming software releases, and features, to it's most technical users. Which might beg the question: Why should you be interested? It's a fair question. This is my answer: For a secretive company like Apple, this is the one time where we're given a clear idea of where the company is heading. It also emphasizes what Apple feels are the features and tools we'll love going forward.

Let's take a look at what Apple announced. Starting with WatchOS 8

WatchOS 8

WatchOS8 will bring improved texting and photo sharing, as well as new HomeKit integration (think smart home features). The Breath app has been replaced by a new app called Mindfulness. Mindfulness incorporates the features of the former Breathe and Reflect activities. There are new animations for Breathing while Reflect sends mindfulness prompts such as: "Bring to mind a relationship you cherish and think about it," and an accompanying calming animation you can focus on

as you reflect. There are also new tips to help you focus and relax throughout your day. The idea being to take a break from staring at your devices all day long. Fitness also gains some improvements. Apple is adding two new workouts: Tai Chi and Pilates. If you subscribe to Apple Fitness+ you will see a new set of workouts focused on high-intensity interval training. Respiratory rate tracking, for sleep not workouts, has also been added with this release. Of course there is a new watch face that comes with this release. It's focus is to showcase the photos you possess, particularly the portrait photos. You can zoom in on the subject of the photo on your watch. Similarly the Photos app on the watch has a mosaic mode which lets you more easily navigate your images, as well as select and send images to others. You can now select and edit text on your Apple Watch. Apple has added cursor to aid in this matter. It will require using your finger to tap and select while the crown is employed to move the cursor.

Other features coming to Watch OS 8 include;

Update to Apple Messages. It will now support sending GIFs and easier emoji integration. There is also a new Contacts app.

Apple Wallet gains support to carry your drivers license. (not a picture, just the relevant information securely stored and encrypted on the Watch) to be read by TSA in supported states. Details on which states will support this are forthcoming.

Hyatt resorts and hotels announced they're the first to support room keys on your Watch, as well as iOS devices. (Disney is also coming onboard as a partner for this feature. Disney will also enable you to embed your park pass on your device.) This same technology can also be used to gain access to your office, assuming your company is onboard with the idea. Lastly, Car Keys adds proximity based functionality like unlocking the trunk, or adjusting climate settings. The feature takes advantage of the UWB chip in the Apple Watch. Therefore no hardware upgrades are needed for your car. Just a software update.

HomeKit's integration has also been revamped with a new control center giving easy access to an intercom function, lights, temperature, and other HomeKit-enabled devices' quick functions. It can also now send a notification to

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your Apple Watch when a package arrives or let you see, hear, and talk to who's at your door when the doorbell rings.

Apple's also adding severe weather alerts, next hour precipitation notifications, Find Me integration to track Air Tags, support for multiple simultaneous timers (great for cooking, and supported by Siri), a new Tips app, Contacts app, and Radio support within the Music app.

A solid upgrade to be sure. You may notice that each release allows the Watch to be a little more independent, meaning you need to use your iPhone less and less. Another positive thing about this update is that it supports watches all the way back to the Series 3 models*. (*Turns out the Series 3 models will not be able to take advantage of the new watch face.)

iPad OS 15

Many people love their iPads but are not as happy with the iPad OS experience. They will often compare and criticize it next to it's cousin, the iPhone. Though both are derived from the same code base, not every feature on the iPhone makes it to the iPad in a given year. This year Apple is making up for some of that.

One thing that an iPad is

good at, and that an iPhone is NOT, is multitasking. Quite simply the iPad has the screen real estate to handle such a feature. But in the past this has been awkward to enable, let alone find, the feature. Not any more. Now Apple has made dedicated on screen buttons to invoke split screen (or full screen or slide over view), aka multi tasking. If you tap Split View, iPadOS temporarily pushes the app aside so you can pick a second app from anywhere (including the Dock) to complete the divided screen. This also happens if you swipe down on the top of an app to replace it in Split View. You can also invoke a floating window, say a new mail message, over top of the split view apps, as long as the main app is displayed.

There's even a new area, called the shelf, which gives you easy access to all open windows of an app. (Much like Mission Control on a Mac.)

This next features are more of a catch up to the iPhone. That's the ability to have widgets anywhere, like say your home screen, and App Library. The iPad does get a larger maximum widget size which benefits the larger screen. Widgets will have to be updated to take advantage of this new size. Currently first party widgets like Apple TV, Files, Game Center, and Photos. iPad OS also gains an App Library. It works much like you'd

expect if you've used it on your iPhone. Apple has made a dedicated on screen button for App Library in the Dock.

Quick Notes are something different. They are an iPad specific feature. You invoke a quick note by making a diagonal up motion, using either finger or Apple Pencil, from the bottom right of the iPad screen. This brings up a light weight note that floats on top of the screen until dismissed.

Quick Note is aware of which app you have on the screen. If you create a note when a Safari page is shown, for instance, the note will contain that page's URL. Tap the URL, and the site is embedded in the note with a picture. Visit that URL later, and the corresponding note pops up in the lower-right corner again.

You can also highlight text on a Safari page, and a link to that text is created in the note so you can refer back to that spot on the page later. You can create Quick Note links to third-party apps, such as restaurant listings in Yelp.

To scroll through previously created Quick Notes, swipe left or right on a displayed note to see the others. Or just open Notes to see your Quick Notes collected there.

In addition to Quick Notes,

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Apple has added a few organizational features:

Tags: As in other apps and social services, tags (such as #julio) let you organize your notes. For navigation, Apple has added a tag browser.

@Mentions: When you @mention someone in a note with a social media-style ampersand (such as @julio), that person gets a notification with a link to that note.

Activity View: This view shows you what has changed in a shared note while you were away.

Swift Playgrounds get a big update as well in this release. Swift Playgrounds are an interactive way to learn how to code. Now you can also create and compile apps right on your iPad. Changes you make are instantly updated in the preview. This is huge. Previously you could try things out on an iPad but you could only create apps on a Mac.

Health has three new features: Mobility ("Walking Steadiness" from device-motion sensors); Labs (the health app now includes detailed lab data explanations and expected ranges); and Trends (insight on long-term physiological factors). You'll also be able to share your Apple Health data with your doctor. If it's your job to take care of

children or aging parents, you can be granted access to their health data, too, so you can keep an eye on your loved ones' health. Of course, all this data is encrypted, and there are tons of sharing controls for your health data.

MacOS Monterey

Last year Apple made a big deal out of Big Sur and jumping the version number to 11. This year we have a new code name, but Apple is coy on the version number. Perhaps it's MacOS 12?

Apple is really doing a good job of making as many features as possible go live on all of its platforms. If something sounds familiar here, it's likely because it also appears on the iPhone or the iPad.

New with the MacOS

Monterey release is Universal Control. This feature allows you to share control of a Mac and an iPad with one mouse and keyboard. Simply set an iPad near a Mac and you can move the cursor between the two effortlessly. You can drag and drop files between the devices without going through Air Drop. Apple demonstrated it between an iMac, MacBook and an iPad. All three worked seamlessly.

You can now use your Mac as an Air Play device. This allows you to play video and audio, as well as share documents, from your iPad

or iPhone, directly on your Mac.

Shortcuts, the automation feature that has been on iPhones and iPads, now makes a jump to the Mac. Apple says you can utilize any existing short cut work flows on your Mac. For those invested in Automator Apple indicates it's still supported. You can even import existing Automator workflows into Shortcuts. (Applescript was also briefly mentioned as still being supported as well.)

Safari is getting a bit of an overhaul in MacOS Monterey. It will have a visually thinner and cleaner toolbar. It will also sport more compact tabs. Active tab bars will now house the traditional URL and search fields, and tabs can now be grouped together and accessed through Safari's sidebar. These tab groups can then be accessed and updated across Macs, iPhones, and iPads. According to Apple's documentation on the new version of macOS (and iOS), Safari now "automatically upgrades sites known to support HTTPS from insecure HTTP."

Monterey brings a number of improvements to Finder: a new folder for collaboration via iCloud shared files and documents, the ability to access Shortcuts from within Finder, and automatic window resizing when

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moving Finder between displays of different sizes.

But we wanted to highlight one little quality-of-life change that at least claims to help with a task you'll find yourself doing in Finder all the time: copying files. When you copy files, you'll see "a new pie chart progress window" that Apple claims will give a better sense of how long the files will take to copy. Further, you can stop a large copy action and resume it at a later time.

Low Power Mode is coming to Macs. Long a feature on iPhones this welcome addition should help laptop users eke out more battery life from their Macs. It's activated in the Control Center. Once activated it changes system clock speed, display brightness, UI animations, as well as other features, to all add up to increased battery life.

Another feature that is making its way from iOS to MacOS is Erase all contents and settings. Apparently this is to simplify the process of repurposing a Mac, or wiping it before sale. Located in System Preferences, this option will allow you to erase all data and apps associated with a user from a Mac without having to reinstall the operating system. "Because storage is always encrypted on Mac systems with Apple silicon or the T2 chip,"

Apple's macOS page says, "the system is instantly and securely 'erased' by destroying the encryption keys."

iCloud Passwords gains Windows support. This one is big if you've been using iCloud Keychain but have been frustrated by either its platform support limitations or how oddly buried it is in macOS presently.

Passwords are moving to a new "Passwords" section in System Preferences, similar to how they are located in a top-level Settings app page on iOS and iPadOS. You'll also be able to either import passwords from other password managers or export your iCloud passwords for use in those other managers.

Better still for those who live on multiple desktop operating systems, you'll soon be able to manage iCloud passwords on Windows PCs with a new app called "iCloud Passwords," which is included in iCloud for Windows. Apple is also introducing an iCloud Passwords extension for Microsoft's Edge browser.

The following systems are listed as MacOS Monterey compatible:

- Early 2015 and later MacBook Air

- Early 2015 and later MacBook Pro

- Early 2016 and later MacBook

- Late 2015 and later iMac

- Late 2014 and later Mac mini

- 2017 and later iMac Pro

- Late 2013 and later Mac Pro

iOS 15

Perhaps it shouldn't be surprising to note that the first new feature Apple touted for iPhones, well for all of its platforms, was a major update to FaceTime. With the pandemic all of us have been relying more and more on conferencing apps. Frankly FaceTime had lagged Zoom, in terms of features and ease of use.

Apple introduced a new spatial audio feature that will make FaceTime calls sound like you're talking in the same room. You'll also be able to tell who is talking both visually as well as audibly. (The audio will sound like it's coming from the direction of the of the speaker's thumbnail. Machine-learning-powered voice isolation will block out background sounds, while a "wide spectrum" mode will pick up everything in the room. A new grid view will let you view FaceTime calls like you do Zoom calls. A

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Apple Releases New M1-Based 24-inch iMac in Spring Colors

By Adam Engst

Given the astonishing performance of the M1 chip, it can be hard to remember that Apple sees it as powering the low end of the Mac line. That's why the company introduced it in the MacBook Air and low-end MacBook Pro and Mac mini, leaving the higher-end models of the latter two powered by Intel chips. Continuing the M1's takeover of the Mac line from the bottom up, Apple has now unveiled an all-new 24-inch iMac powered by the M1, replacing the 21.5-inch iMac with 4K Retina display. The Intel-based 27-inch iMac with 5K Retina display remains available, although we expect Apple to replace it with an Apple silicon version soon enough, perhaps within the year.

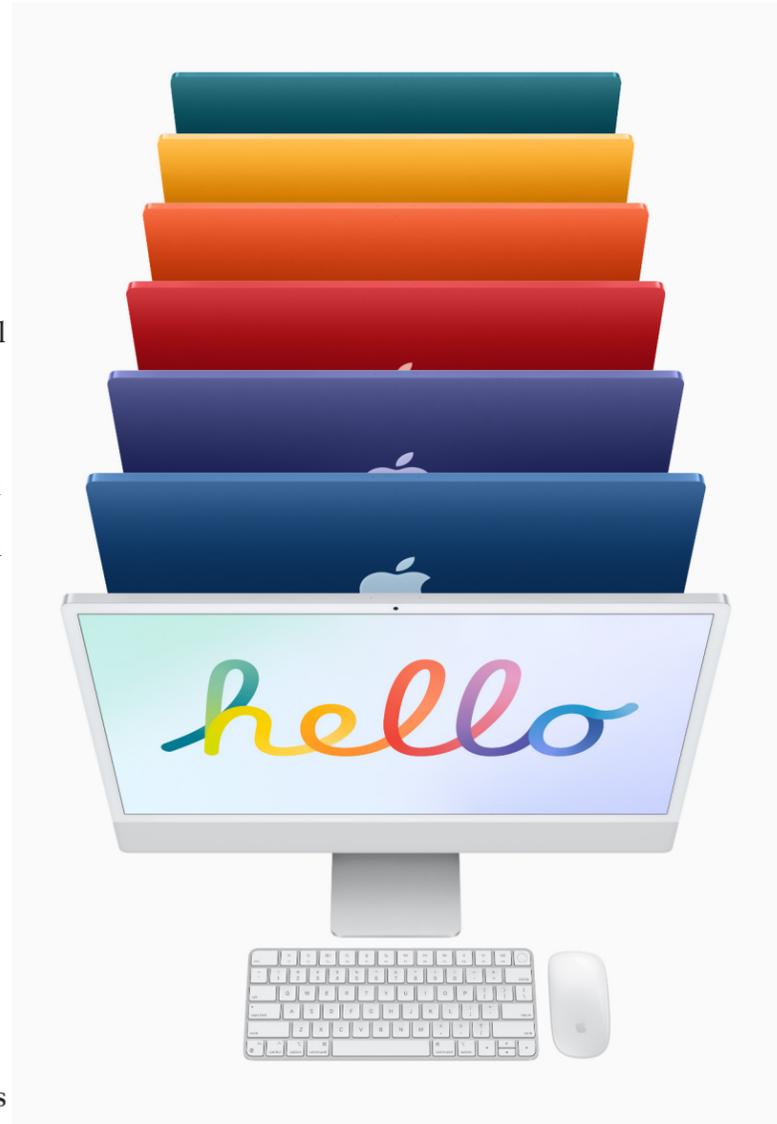
Whereas the previous M1-based Macs differed from their predecessors purely by their internals, the new 24-inch iMac marks

Apple's first major redesign since 2012, or, arguably, the most significant one since the screen-first design replaced the "desk lamp" design in 2004. The new look resembles a 24-inch iPad Pro clipped to an aluminum stand, available in seven colors: blue, green, pink, silver, yellow, orange, and purple.

What's not quite clear from the picture above is that the front of the iMac features a muted color and gray bezels, whereas the back is a bolder, brighter version of the color. As Apple said, the back of the iMac is on display in many situations, and the company wants it to look as attractive as possible. If you don't like the colors, just get the silver model.

There's apparently a single sheet of glass

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over the entire front. We'll see what iFixit says in a teardown, but I'm not betting on these iMacs being easy to disassemble. Admittedly, although repair will always be necessary to recover from accidents, there's nothing to upgrade inside, given that everything is on the motherboard.

As anyone who has moved 27-inch iMacs around knows, they're not light at 19.7 pounds (8.9 kg). In contrast, the new 24-inch iMac is half the weight at just 9.8 pounds (4.5 kg).

Apple also sells a version with a built-in VESA mount adapter instead of the stand.

It's All Screen

The 23.5-inch (diagonal) screen, which includes the brains of the iMac, is only 11.5 mm thick, a feat that's made possible by the M1 chip's significantly reduced cooling needs and Apple externalizing the power supply. Apple claims the fans in the 24-inch iMac won't get above 10 decibels, which is barely noticeable.

What about the screen? It's a 4.5K Retina display with a 4480-by-2520 resolution at 218 pixels per inch. It has 500 nits of brightness, support for 1 billion colors, and supports

both P3 wide color and Apple's True Tone technology. Sadly, Apple did not introduce a low-cost (or even reasonably priced) external display. Still, the 24-inch iMac can drive a single external display at up to 6K resolution, meaning Apple's insanely expensive \$6000 Pro Display XDR.

In the introduction, Apple focused a lot of attention on the fact that the 24-inch iMac now features a 1080p FaceTime HD camera backed by the M1 image signal processor. That should provide radically better videoconferencing quality. Alas, it doesn't

provide Face ID authentication. Also welcome for videoconferencing is the new six-speaker sound system with force-canceling woofers and the studio-quality three-mic array with directional beamforming. Apple promises that the mic array will home in on your voice and ignore other sounds in your environment.

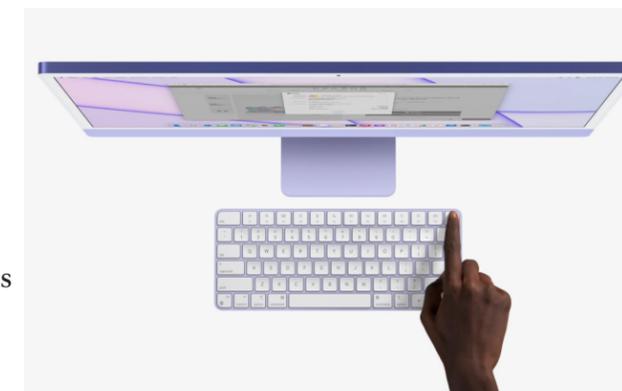
Reach Out and Touch New Keyboards

Apple matched the colorful new iMacs with new input accessories as well. The new Magic Keyboard includes special keys for Spotlight, Dictation, Do Not Disturb, Lock, and Emoji.

The arrow key arrangement is poor, but let's hope Apple is using a good switch mechanism under the keys.

The Magic Keyboard with Touch ID is even

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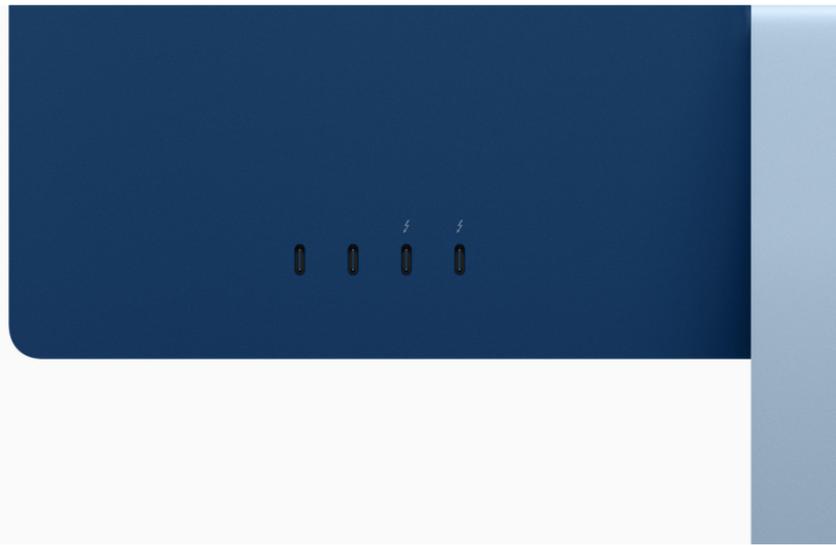
more notable since it's the first time Apple has separated the Touch ID sensor (in the upper-right corner) from the Mac, iPhone, or iPad that it unlocks. Apple claims that the wireless communication with the Secure Enclave in the M1 chip is secure, and I'm sure the engineers put a great deal of work into it.

For those who need their keypads, Apple also has a new Magic Keyboard with Touch ID and Numeric Keypad. To match the new keyboards, the company also introduced new color-coordinated models of the Magic Mouse and Magic Trackpad. It's not clear how different these are from the existing models that will undoubtedly continue to ship with other Macs, but it's likely that Apple will eventually pare the accessory line down to these new devices.

Core Specs and Connectivity

Unsurprisingly, Apple made a big deal out of how much faster the 24-inch iMac is than the 21.5-inch iMac that it replaces. Whatever—we assume it will perform much like the M1 Mac mini. All you need

to know is that it uses the same 8-core M1 chip that



Wi-Fi 6 and Bluetooth 5.0. Gigabit Ethernet is available

has given the other M1-based Macs stellar performance thanks to four performance cores and four efficiency cores. There are 7-core and 8-core GPU models, as before, and it's likely that the 7-core models are 8-core units that failed testing, although we haven't heard any complaints about 7-core GPUs in the previous M1-based Macs.

8 GB of unified memory is standard, though you can order the iMac with 16 GB, which seems like a good idea given that the memory can't be upgraded later. Still, unified memory is accessed differently (and much more quickly) than traditional RAM architectures, so perhaps 8 GB is sufficient for non-intensive uses.

In terms of wireless and wired connectivity, the 24-inch iMac includes 802.11ax

but not standard on all models, and to reduce cable clutter, Apple built the Gigabit Ethernet port into the external power adapter. The power brick attaches to the iMac using a new custom magnetic connector on the end of a woven, color-matched cable. Finally, there's a 3.5 mm headphone jack, nicely positioned on the side.

Configuration and Availability

Much like the other M1-based Macs, the 24-inch iMac comes in two basic configurations:

- The low-end config, which lists for \$1299, includes the M1 chip with an 8-core CPU and a 7-core GPU. It has only 256 GB of SSD storage, configurable to 512 GB or 1 TB. It also provides just two

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Zoom 5.4.7

Zoom has updated its eponymous video conferencing app to version 5.4.7, adding compatibility with M1-based Macs (note that there is a separate installer in Zoom's download center). The release also brings enhanced cloud contact integration for chat/call features, enables hosts and co-hosts to use the Raise Hand feature along with meeting participants and webinar attendees, improves grouping of security options (moving the "Only authenticated users can join" option to the Security section of the scheduling window), and adds support for text messaging for users with Zoom Phone Pro licenses. (Free, 23.3 MB, release notes, macOS 10.9+)



EagleFiler 1.9.2

Michael Tsai of C-Command Software has issued EagleFiler 1.9.2, a maintenance release for the document organization and archiving app that updates its indexer to run natively on M1-based Macs. The update now uses standard system colors for built-in tags, enables you to exclude certain images from processing when importing from Evernote to work around a macOS crashing bug, improves indexing when EagleFiler can't find or load the relevant Spotlight plug-in, works around a macOS bug that prevented the diagnostic report from working properly, and fixes a bug where the source list didn't update



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New iPad Pros Boast M1 Chips and Liquid Retina XDR Display

By JULIO OJEDA-ZAPATA

Back in September 2020, when Apple released a new version of the iPad Air with a look

Apple's insanely expensive Pro Display XDR, for only a small price increase.



and feel nearly identical to the 11-inch iPad Pro, the latter suddenly seemed like a terrible purchase.

Apple has now unveiled upgraded versions of the 11-inch and 12.9-inch iPad Pro with beefier specs that set them apart once again. The industrial design hasn't changed, but these new iPad Pro models offer significant upgrades to the processor, camera technology, display, and more.

Most notably, the new iPad Pro models incorporate the M1 chip found in the latest updates to the MacBook Air, MacBook Pro, and Mac mini, plus the just-announced 24-inch iMac. The 12.9-inch iPad Pro also borrows technology from

M1 Chip Comes to the iPad Pro

It seems fitting that the new iPad Pro models would gain the M1 chip, given that it was largely derived from the A-series chips powering earlier iPads. Apple poked fun at this in the event with a Mission Impossible-style video (starting at 37:26). The iPad and Mac lines have never been so tightly intertwined.

Compared to the A12Z Bionic chip powering the previous-generation iPad Pro models, the new models feature impressive specs, including an 8-core CPU with up to 50% faster CPU performance and an 8-

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core GPU with up to 40% faster GPU performance. This combo, Apple claims, widens the iPad Pro's lead as the fastest device of its kind.

12.9-inch iPad Gets an XDR Display

The display on the 12.9-inch iPad Pro represents a significant upgrade derived from Apple's Pro Display XDR. The 12.9-inch iPad Pro's new Liquid Retina XDR display is notable for a vastly larger number of individual light-emitting diodes—more than 10,000 miniature LEDs, up from 72. Other specs include up to 1000 nits of full-screen brightness, 1600 nits of peak brightness, and a 1 million-to-1 contrast ratio. These, according to Apple, combine to offer true-to-life visuals with the brightest highlights and the most subtle details in even the darkest images.

It's hard to know how much of a difference the Liquid Retina XDR display will make for most uses. If you think the display is the deciding factor between the 11-inch and 12.9-inch iPad Pros, we encourage you to compare them with the same images or videos in person.

5G Wireless Data

The iPad has long offered cellular-data connectivity for those wanting online access on the go without needing to hunt down Wi-Fi hotspots. But, unlike the iPhone 12, even last year's iPads lacked support for the speedy 5G service being offered



in more places in the United States (see "The iPhone Gets 5G, but What's It Like in Real-World Use?," 19 November 2020).

That changes with the new iPad Pro models. They should be able to handle the various flavors of 5G being deployed by at least AT&T, T-Mobile, and Verizon. Apple was careful to note that the iPad Pro supports millimeter-wave 5G, the fastest variant available. That's good news for those living in the growing number of US urban cores that enjoy such connectivity.

iPad Pros Switch to Thunderbolt

While it seemed forward-thinking when Apple switched the port on recent iPads from Lightning to USB-C, it was unclear why Apple didn't go all the way to Thunderbolt 3. It now seems likely that the A-series chips lack a Thunderbolt controller, and thanks to the switch to the Thunderbolt-enabled M1 chip, Apple has finished the transition.

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after renaming a tag to an invalid name. (\$40 new with a 20% discount for TidBITS members from C-Command Software or the Mac App Store, free update, 31.2 MB, release notes, macOS 10.12+)

Nisus Writer Pro 3.2.1



Nisus Software has published Nisus Writer Pro 3.2.1, a maintenance update that focuses on fixing a few key issues. When running macOS 11 Big Sur, the release alleviates sluggish behavior and excessive RAM usage; fixes incorrectly sized toolbar items; resolves minor drawing and placement issues with some controls, annotations, and toolbar items; and addresses failures with the Compare Documents macro. The update also ensures thesaurus suggestions are displayed in the Language palette in 10.14 Mojave, correctly restores document windows that are minimized in the Dock after app relaunch, fixes a bug that caused EPUB export failures for non-English file names, and makes Dark mode improvements. (\$65 new with a 25% discount for TidBITS members from Nisus Software and the Mac App Store, free update, 277 MB, release notes, macOS 10.11+)

Timing 2021.1



Daniel Alm released Timing 2021.1, adding the capability to share projects with team members and view their time entries in the Timing

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The new iPad Pro models now support Thunderbolt 3 and USB 4, giving them connectivity parity with Macs and other modern computers. Thunderbolt provides 40 Gbps of throughput—four times more wired bandwidth compared to previous iPad models.

Thunderbolt supports 10 Gbps Ethernet and opens up these iPad Pros to high-performance

hardware, such as external storage devices and high-resolution external displays. They even support the Pro Display XDR at its full 6K resolution. How you'll use all that bandwidth is another question, but at least the hardware is ready for iPadOS 15 to catch up.

Center Stage for Video Calls

Certain "smart displays" from the likes of Amazon, Facebook, and Google have lately provided camera-tracking technology for use during video calls. It helps keep participants in the field of view even if they move around.

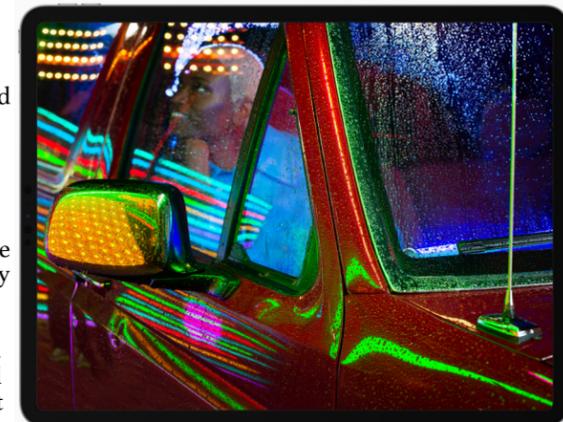
Apple has no such product; it arguably doesn't need one since the iPad fills that role reasonably well when paired with a stand. The new iPad Pro models significantly improve the videoconferencing story, thanks to a 12-megapixel Ultra Wide Camera that enables the new Center Stage feature.

According to Apple, the iPad Pro taps into the M1 chip's machine-learning capabilities to recognize and keep participants centered. As people move around, Center Stage virtually pans and zooms to keep

them in the shot. If others join in, the camera detects them as well and zooms out to fit everyone into the view.

Center Stage will work with Apple's own FaceTime, of course, and the company says third-party videoconferencing services also will be supported.

The only question is why M1-based Macs don't get Center Stage as well—perhaps that will happen in macOS 12.



iPad Pro Pricing,

Availability

Pricing remains similar for the 11-inch iPad Pro, which starts at \$799 with 128 GB of storage and goes up to \$1899 with 2 TB. The Liquid Retina XDR screen increases the starting prices of the 12.9-inch iPad Pro by \$100 to \$1099 with 128 GB; it tops out at \$2199 with 2 TB of storage.

Apple says that iPad Pro models with 128 GB, 256 GB, or 512 GB storage come with 8 GB of RAM, whereas models with 1 TB or 2 TB storage come with 16 GB of RAM. So that might be a reason to bump up the storage if you were debating between 512 GB and 1 TB.

The Wi-Fi + Cellular variants previously commanded a \$150 premium; that has now risen to \$200. However, if you activate with AT&T, T-Mobile, or Verizon, you can get \$150 back from AT&T or \$200 back from T-Mobile and

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Apple's AirTag Promises to Help You Find Your Keys

By JULIO OJEDA-ZAPATA

Do you often misplace your keys or purse? Apple's long-rumored AirTag has finally arrived to rescue you from your torment. The round doohickey attaches to something you tend to misplace or fear losing so you can zero in on it using your iPhone.

This idea is hardly new. Similar location-tracking tags are available from the likes of Chipolo, ESR, Samsung, Spigen, and Tile. But full integration with Apple's ecosystem is a selling point here since AirTags work with the Find My app that already helps you keep track of your Apple gadgetry along with your family and friends.

An AirTag is a small disc of polished stainless steel with IP67 water and dust resistance. It incorporates a speaker to announce its whereabouts, and a removable cover lets users replace the CR2032 battery. Apple is offering free engraving, including a selection of 31 emojis.

Apple intends the AirTags to match AirPods for setup ease. Simply bring them close to any iPhone running iOS 14.5 or an iPad running iPadOS 14.5 to connect. At that point, you can assign an AirTag to an item with a corresponding name (such as "keys" or "backpack") or use any other name you like.

An updated version of the Find



My app features a new Items tab (along with People, Devices, and Me) that displays your AirTags. If you need to track down a particular AirTag, Find My displays a map with the item's



current or last known location. Better yet, if the AirTag is within Bluetooth range, you can use Find My or Siri to make it emit a sound, just as you would with

AirPods.

You'll get the best experience when tracking down an AirTag with an iPhone 11 or iPhone 12, which can detect the AirTag's U1 chip using Ultra Wideband technology. When that's the case, a feature called Precision Finding lets you accurately determine the distance and direction of a lost AirTag if it's within Bluetooth range. As you move, your iPhone gathers input from the camera, ARKit, accelerometer, and gyroscope to guide you using a blend of sound, haptics, and visual feedback—including a pointing arrow that shifts on the screen.

What if you're not within Bluetooth range of the AirTag? That's when Apple's vast Find My network—with nearly a billion in-use Apple devices—comes into play. Any of those devices within range of the AirTag can relay its location—anonously, privately, and in the background—back to you.

If you lose track of an AirTag, you can place it into Lost Mode to be notified if and when it is found. A person finding that AirTag can tap it on an iPhone or other NFC-capable device (such as an Android phone) and be transported to a Web page showing contact information if you've provided it.

Apple was careful to share other important facts:

- iOS devices can detect an AirTag that isn't with its owner and notify you if an unknown AirTag is seen to be traveling with you from place to place over time.

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Web app. After setting up a team and inviting members, colleagues can record time towards the projects you shared with them. The time and productivity tracking app also improves the pixel-alignment of several icons for a crisper look, increases the Timing window's initial size at launch, works around a rare issue that could cause intermittent "Foreign key constraint" errors when deleting projects, and resolves a sync issue related to undoing the deletion of app usage or tasks. If you have renewed your Timing license on or after 1 January 2020, Timing 2021.1 is a free update. (\$42/\$66/\$96 annual subscriptions, free update, in Setapp, 35.6 MB, release notes, macOS 10.13+)

Pixelmator Pro 2.0.3

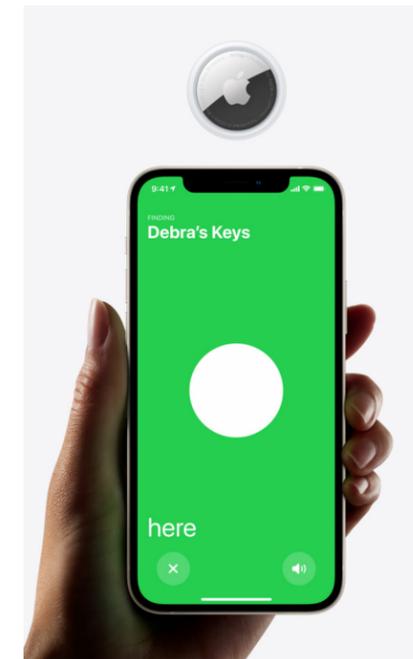


The Pixelmator Team has issued Pixelmator Pro 2.0.3, a maintenance release with improvements and bug fixes for the image editing app. The update adds support for Apple ProRAW photos (see "Apple Releases Apple Fitness+, macOS 11.1 Big Sur, iOS 14.3, iPadOS 14.3, watchOS 7.2, and tvOS 14.3," 14 December 2020), enables recovery of more detail in the shadows and highlights of photos, adds three new effects to the Effects tool (Gradient Map, Displacement Map, and High Pass), adds support for exporting WebP

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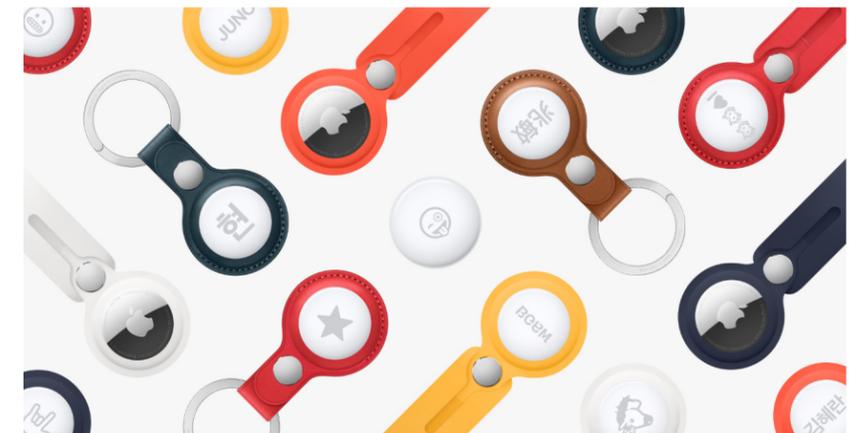
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That addresses concerns about the Find My network being used to



track people without them knowing.

- If you detect an unknown AirTag, you can tap it with an iPhone or other NFC-capable device, and instructions will guide you through disabling the



unknown AirTag.

- An AirTag separated from its owner for an extended period will, when moved, play a sound to draw

attention to itself. It's probably best that it be a sound and not a little voice calling out, "Help me!"

Apple took accessibility into consideration when designing the AirTag. Precision Finding using VoiceOver, for instance, can direct blind users to an AirTag with directions like "AirTag is nine feet away on your left."

The company also put a focus on privacy. No location data or history is stored inside AirTags. Communication with the Find My network is end-to-end encrypted so only the owner of a device has access to its location data, and no one, including Apple, knows the identity or location of any device that helped find it. Bluetooth signal identifiers transmitted by AirTags rotate frequently to prevent unwanted location tracking.

Apple is making it easy to personalize your AirTags. In addition to engraving, it will sell a range of keychain-like accessories made from materials such as polyurethane and leather. Third-party manufacturers such as Belkin, Moment and Nomad are already announcing their own AirTag accessories.

Apple is again teaming up with the

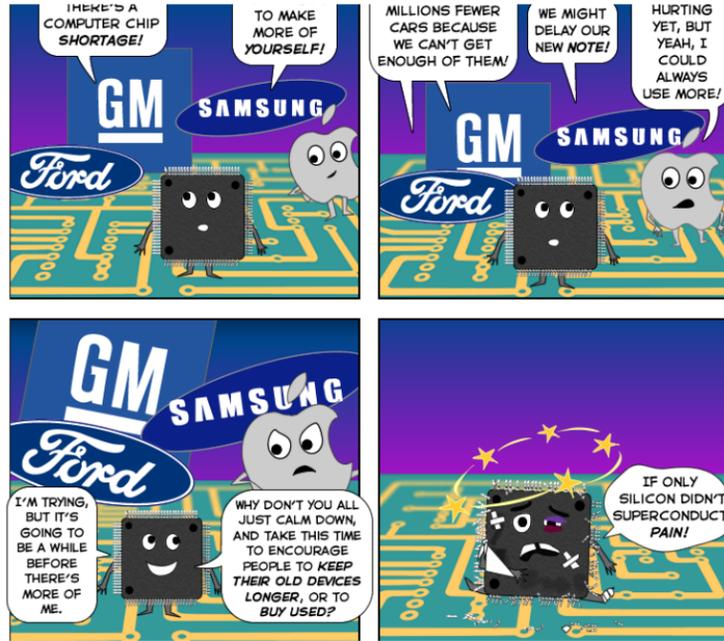
luxury leather maker Hermès to offer ludicrously priced accessories such as the Bag Charm (\$299), Key Ring (\$349), and Luggage Tag

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(\$449). Apple says that Hermès accessories will be sold with a custom-engraved AirTag based on the brand's iconic Clou de Selle signature. We don't know what that means either.

A single AirTag costs \$29, or you can buy a four-pack for \$99. Pre-orders opened on 23 April 2021, with availability on 30 April 2021.



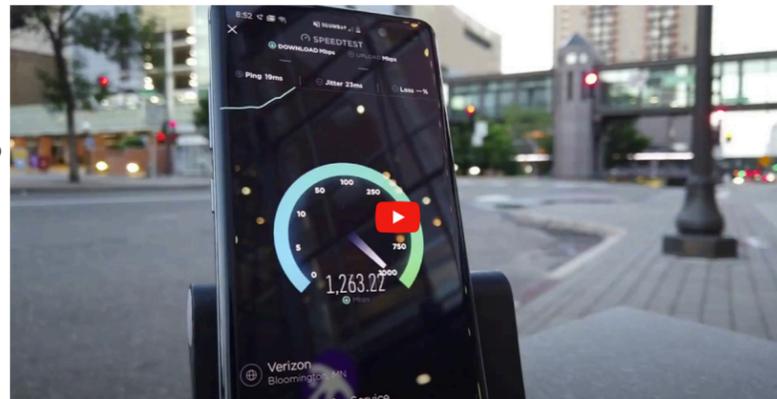
The iPhone Gets 5G, but What's It Like in Real-World Use?

By JULIO OJEDA-ZAPATA

Ever since 5G began rolling out where I live, in Minnesota's Twin Cities, I've eagerly waited for the iPhone to support the next-generation cellular data technology.

In part, that's because I've experienced eye-popping speeds on 5G-capable Android phones that have been shipping in the last year or so. One lovely summer 2019 day in downtown St. Paul's Rice

Park, I achieved download speeds of more than 2



gigabits per second, about twice the maximum throughput of wired home broadband in St. Paul. ¡Ea rayo! (That's Puerto Rican for "holy crap!")

As those who buy one of Apple's 5G-compatible iPhone 12 models will discover, though, 5G in its current form is far from a passport into a science-fiction future of ubiquitous broadband-grade wireless access. Those crazy-fast downloads are not available everywhere, or really, much of anywhere.

What coverage you'll find depends on your carrier—AT&T, T-Mobile, or Verizon

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images via the Export for Web tool, displays the full range of the Hue slider in the Selective Color adjustment by default, and ensures that drawing paths with the Pen tools correctly snap into place. Normally priced at \$39.99, Pixelmator Pro is on sale for \$19.99 through the holiday season. (\$39.99 new from Pixelmator and the Mac App Store, free update, 217 MB, release notes, macOS 10.14.4+)

BusyCal 3.12.2 and BusyContacts 1.5.1



In December 2020, BusyMac released BusyCal 3.12 and BusyContacts 1.5 with added support for M1-based Macs and Office 365 Hybrid Authentication. When restoring from a backup, you can now restore selected calendars or contacts as local (enabling selective restoration instead of replacing all your existing contacts with a previous snapshot). BusyCal now enables you to configure a shared CalDAV calendar to ignore colors set by others, resolves an issue that could delete Zoom meetings when modifying an event on Google accounts, addresses a date conversion issue with Exchange where the timezone isn't correctly specified, and ensures that copied events include end dates for all-day events. BusyCal also fixes a bug where the app may

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in the US—and where you live. The vast majority of 5G users across the country will not see eye-popping 5G speeds on par with what I experienced in Rice Park, and many will have no 5G access at all even if they have 5G phones.

So, while I had a blast recently testing T-Mobile and Verizon 5G on an iPhone 12 and an iPhone 12 Pro, I

“Understanding 5G, and Why It's the Future (Not Present) for Mobile Communications,” 11 November 2020).

But, for this article, I'm focusing on how 5G breaks into three broad categories:

- High band: This is the fastest of the 5G wireless frequencies—the one I was tapping during my St. Paul speed test—but also the most limited in range and



came to realize how far we are from ubiquitous 5G coverage.

A Three-Layer Cake

Making sense of 5G takes a bit of effort because it is not one technology, but a hodge-podge of wireless frequencies. My TidBITS compadre Glenn Fleishman goes into quite a bit of detail about 5G complexities and implications (see

coverage. It's meant to be used mostly outdoors since it's easily foiled by walls and other obstructions. It's available in extremely limited urban areas.

- Middle band: This is a good compromise option with higher speeds than the low band provides and far greater (though still mostly urban) coverage than the

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crash when dragging/dropping contacts to notes. Version 3.12.2 of BusyCal fixes some minor bugs and lets you edit To Do completion times for iCloud and Reminders, while version 1.5.1 of BusyContacts now copies the job title and the company name when clicking an address and choosing Copy Name & Address. BusyMac also notes in a blog post that the Mac App Store editions of BusyCal and BusyContacts will move to subscription-only pricing by the end of January 2021. However, buy-once perpetual licenses will still be sold through the BusyMac Web site. Perpetual-license versions include free updates for 18 months, after which a 40%-off renewal is required to receive another 18 months of updates, although older versions will continue to run indefinitely. (\$49.99 new for BusyCal from BusyMac or the Mac App Store, free update, in Setapp, 23.1 MB, release notes, macOS 10.12+; \$49.99 new for BusyContacts from BusyMac or the Mac App Store, free update, in Setapp, 12.7 MB, release notes, macOS 10.12+)

Bare Bones Software has published **BBEdit 13.5.4**, moving the default location for the BBEdit Backups folder to the Application Support folder to avoid various bugs in macOS 11 Big Sur. The long-standing text editor also adjusts the behavior of “automatically wrap files with long lines” so that it is less likely to do so for files that don’t actually require it, improves performance when dragging (or pasting the contents of) an extremely large file into an empty untitled document, reduces the amount of memory required when inserting a file’s contents by dragging it into the text area in an editing window,



and addresses an issue that could cause a crash during restart/shutdown operations. (\$49.99 new, free update, 18.7 MB, release notes, macOS 10.14.2+)

Default Folder X 5.5.4



St. Clair Software has published Default Folder X 5.5.4, a maintenance release that fixes a bug that could prevent the Open/Save dialog enhancement utility from launching correctly. The update also works around a bug in macOS 11 Big Sur to ensure file dialog sizes are always forced to their previous sizes, ensures items are removed from the Drag Zone and Finder drawer if the corresponding file or folder is deleted, addresses problems with the cursor disappearing in file dialogs in Big Sur, and addresses problems that prevented Default Folder X from enhancing Save As dialogs in Photoshop and Save As PDF dialogs when printing. (\$34.95 new, TidBITS members save \$10 on new copies and \$5 on upgrades, in Setapp, 15.7 MB, release notes, macOS 10.10+)

Keyboard Maestro 9.2



Peter Lewis of Stairways Software has released Keyboard Maestro 9.2, a maintenance update for the automation and clipboard utility. The update works around a bug in macOS 11 Big Sur that caused Alert and Prompt For User Input windows to move on each invocation, resolves issues with the Fast User Switch action in Big Sur, addresses a Dark mode-related display glitch in the Clipboard Preferences, and adds the Set File Icon action for setting the icon of a specific file. Previously, version 9.1 (released in November 2020) added support for running natively on M1-based Macs. (\$36 new with a 20% discount for TidBITS members, free update, 34.3 MB, release notes, macOS 10.11+)

Airfoil 5.10.1, Piezo 1.7.1, and Audio Hijack 3.8.1



Rogue Amoeba has added full compatibility with M1-based Macs to Airfoil 5.10.1 (wireless audio broadcasting), Piezo 1.7.1 (simple audio recording), and Audio Hijack 3.8.1 (full-featured audio recording). The three apps also update their Audio Capture Engine to version 11.6.1 with a workaround for an incompatibility with future macOS updates running on M1-based Macs. Additionally, Airfoil includes fixes for issues with its menu bar icon on macOS 11 Big Sur. If you’re a TidBITS member, you can purchase Piezo, Airfoil, and Audio Hijack at a 20% discount. (Airfoil, \$29, 36 MB, release notes; Piezo, \$19, 16.1 MB, release notes; Audio Hijack, \$49, 27.7 MB, release notes; all three are free updates and require macOS 10.13+)

KeyCue 9.9



Ergonis has released KeyCue 9.9, improving compatibility with macOS 11 Big Sur and updating user interface elements. The keyboard shortcut and emoji cheat sheet utility also adds support for Emoji 13 for Big Sur and later, improves detection of the key labels “option” and “alt,” provides extended diagnostics information for keyboard-related issues, and fixes a cosmetic issue where a light version of the KeyCue icon was displayed in a light menu bar in Big Sur. (€19.99 new with a 25% discount for TidBITS members, free update, 4.0 MB, release notes, macOS 10.7+)

PDFpen and PDFpenPro 12.2.2



Smile has released version 12.2.2 of PDFpen and PDFpenPro with a

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smattering of improvements for the PDF-manipulation apps. The updates enable newly added pages to match the current document page size, resolve a crash when copying pages with URL links, improve copying link annotations across documents, improve the handling of certain text fields, and add beta channel support in the Update preferences. The standard version of PDFpen is included in the \$9.99-per-month Setapp subscription service. (\$79.95/\$129.95 new with a 20% discount for TidBITS members, free update, 88.8/136 MB, macOS 10.13+)

SoundSource 5.2.1



Rogue Amoeba has issued SoundSource 5.2.1, updating the Audio Capture Engine to version 11.6.2 to work around an incompatibility with future macOS updates running on M1-based Macs. The audio control utility also fixes a bug that caused the Headphone EQ effect to apply the wrong correction curves between sample rate changes, properly respects the Follow System Accent Color preference, improves the memory footprint related to SoundSource’s Undo history, and no longer unnecessarily adds digital muting to audio redirected to a muted device. (\$39 new with a 20% discount for TidBITS members, free update, 23 MB, release notes, macOS 10.13+)

Agenda 12



Momenta has released version 12 of its Agenda date-focused note-taking app, adding the capability to insert tables into your notes. The new tables feature (type |||—three pipes—as the text shortcut) also enables you to add and remove columns and rows, use inline styles like bold and italic, and add

horizontal rules to divide up your notes. The update also splits up the Note menu to show a separate Insert menu, displays the paragraph dot for empty notes, resolves an issue with window traffic light buttons disappearing after the macOS 11.1 Big Sur update, fixes a bug where the note would stop editing when switching between apps, and addresses a crash that occurred with switching projects or choosing Show Project in an overview. (Free with \$24.99 in-app premium feature purchase, free update, 64.6 MB, release notes, macOS 10.12+)

Bookends 13.5.1



Sonny Software has published Bookends 13.5, now a universal build that runs natively with both Intel-based and M1-based Macs. The reference management tool improves its handling of ad-hoc attachment folders (used when you tell Bookends to leave attachments where they originate), fixes several bugs in the Works Cited Inspector that affected the user interface and the hierarchical pop-up menu, addresses an error that could occur when trying to add a notecard when no reference was selected, resolves an issue in Google Books online search where the book cover art was not displayed, updates the database engine, and removes the Attachment Flow view. Shortly after this release, Sonny Software issued version 13.5.1 to fix issues that arose with the new universal build, including an error when editing a label in the preferences, a bug that prevented Z39.50 searches, and a failure to find and display PDFs containing Unicode characters. (\$59.99 new with a 25% discount for TidBITS members, 72.6 MB, release notes, macOS 10.13+)

SpamSieve 2.9.42



C-Command Software has released SpamSieve 2.9.42, which now runs natively on M1-based Macs. The spam-filtering utility works around a macOS bug that could block communication between Mail or Outlook and SpamSieve on M1-based Macs, attempts to detect if Mail will incorrectly report an “Incompatible Plug-ins Disabled” error in macOS 11 Big Sur, improves the installer and diagnostic report to better work around problems with Mail’s plug-ins folder in Big Sur, and switches to maintaining its own error log files so you can still access information for troubleshooting when the macOS system log isn’t working properly. (\$30 new with a 20% discount for TidBITS members, free update, 19.5 MB, release notes, macOS 10.9+)

Rogue Amoeba has issued SoundSource 5.3



a big update to the audio control utility that brings faster device switching with in-app keyboard shortcuts. Use SoundSource’s global hotkey to reveal SoundSource, then press Command-0 to highlight the Output Device’s device selector. Arrow to your desired device, press Return, and you’re done. The release also adds a new Bypass Effects option to disable effects processing for a specified application or output device, enables the Headphone EQ effect to load custom-created profiles, improves SoundSource’s Undo support, ensures the app no longer incorrectly takes keyboard shortcuts when its main window is not open, updates the Audio Capture Engine to version 11.6.3, and provides full compatibility with M1-based Macs. (\$39 new with a 20% discount for TidBITS members, free update, 24.2 MB, release

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notes, macOS 10.13+)

Quicken 6.1

Quicken Inc. has published version 6.1 of Quicken for Mac, a maintenance release for the financial management app that introduces new reconcile functionality and more consistent behavior for saving reports. The update now ensures all of your reconciled sessions are remembered and can be reviewed in the new Reconcile History window, prompts you to save reports to ensure the changes are what you want saved, displays the amount of a previous payment when paying a bill using Quick Pay or Check Pay, enables you to choose the date you want a Check Pay payment to arrive by, and resolves a bug that deleted some QuickFill rules after editing and syncing. (\$34.99/\$51.99/\$77.99 annual subscriptions, free update for subscribers, release notes, 86.2 MB, macOS 10.13+)

Security Update 2021-001 (Catalina and Mojave)

Apple has released Security Update 2021-001 for macOS 10.15 Catalina and 10.14 Mojave, patching 32 security vulnerabilities in Catalina and 23 vulnerabilities in Mojave, including a kernel bug that Apple says may have been exploited in the wild.

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portrait mode will allow you to blur the background so that a person's face is emphasized. A welcome new feature allows you to create a link for FaceTime calls, much like Zoom. Now you can schedule FaceTime calls. You can also invite Android and Windows users to a FaceTime call. The one limitation is that they will have to join via web browser.

Apple made much of an upcoming feature that looks like it was inspired by the COVID-19 lockdowns of last year. SharePlay is another feature to foster more personal time, or shared experiences, over Messages or FaceTime. It lets you share your screen, or media of your choice, over the chat/video call. Apparently it's meant as an antidote to the isolation many endured during the lockdowns.

Photos in iMessages, which is accessed through a widget, are displayed in a grid view minus the large border that used to surround them. That means your pics can expand to fill that space. You no longer swipe left and right but instead scroll up and down. You can view all photos by grabbing the bar and pulling it up, rather than having to hit a "view all photos" button. You can also search your photos by typing directly into the search bar of the Photos iMessage app. Searching can be done by subject (cat, dog, sunset), person (Mom, Aunt

Joyce), or location (Newberry MI).

You can now pin selected content with a long-hold and tap. This makes it easy to come back to some important item that was shared with you later. Then, whenever you tap on your contact's name at the top of the Messages window, you will see a new section on top full of all your pinned content. This is similar to the "links," "photos," and "documents" section that already existed.

When someone sends you multiple photos they are now displayed a little differently. If it's a small number of photos, say two, they're displayed one atop the other but slightly askew. If a bunch are sent all at once it comes through as a stack. You can click on the stack to expand it and see the photos in grid view. A download icon sits next to the stack do you can import them effortlessly to your Photos library.

Shared With You is a new feature that spans pretty much all of iOS, and is also included in iPad and MacOS. Say someone sends you a link to a news article or a podcast. You're not able to look at it at that time. No worries, the content is added to a Shared With You section in the relevant app. In our example that would be Apple News and Podcasts.

Notifications, and managing Notifications also received

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You can access these updates via Software Update. Given the severity of the exploited vulnerability, we recommend installing these security updates after waiting for a few days to ensure there aren't any unwanted side effects. If you notice any problems after updating, please let us know in the comments. (Free, various sizes, release notes, macOS 10.15.7 and 10.14.6)

Carbon Copy Cloner 5.1.25



Bombich Software has released Carbon Copy Cloner 5.1.25 (CCC) to fix an issue causing "On Reconnect" tasks to fail after remounting a macOS 11 Big Sur or macOS 10.15 Catalina destination volume. The drive-cloning and backup utility also makes a handful of VoiceOver-related adjustments, fixes the positioning of the wandering Preferences window, disallows cloning a Big Sur volume into another volume in the current startup disk's APFS container due to consistent failure, and improves the Dark Mode appearance of the update notification window. (\$39.99 new, free update, 19.4 MB, release notes, macOS 10.10+)

BusyMac has released **BusyCal 3.11**, adding support for using natural language input (such as "three days" or "next month") in the Go To



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some thoughtful updates. Using machine learning, and referencing your settings, your device will learn how to prioritize Notifications. You can create groups which define who can contact you at a given time. Say coworkers during the work daily and family at night. A notification summary will highlight all of the notifications that have come in throughout the day while you were busy. You can also set certain apps and contacts as being allowed to contact you no matter what.

Apple has added a new camera mode called Live Text. It utilizes machine learning to recognize text in live video, or your saved photos. You can use text section tools to copy and paste text from a photo to another app. You can click on phone numbers in photos and your iPhone will dial them. Clicking on an image in a photo will bring up information about that image if Siri has a reference source for it. (identifying dog breeds was one of the examples used).

Apple Maps sees some pretty substantial updates. It's now projected on a 3D globe (reminiscent of Google Earth). Added to this years roll out will be 3D map elevation, and night time lighting. New driving map details show crosswalks, bike lanes, and 3D overlapping highways and bridges.

Transit lets you pin your favorite route to the top of the UI. A 3D augmented reality camera view will let you quickly orient yourself without relying on the sometimes-unreliable compass.

Privacy continues to be a major focus for the company. This year's release continues that trend. A new privacy dashboard will give you reports on apps, showing which ones accessed which permissions in the past seven days. Mail will also block tracking pixels and your IP address. Siri voice commands won't leave the device anymore, thanks to on-device voice recognition. The upshot: Siri is a lot faster, too.

Conclusion

This year's WWDC announcements, while welcome, seemed to lack a certain wow factor viewed in isolation. It is only when you take in the sum of the new features that the true depth of the new releases start to take shape. The announced features are by no means the only new, or updated, features coming this fall. Apple chooses which features they feel are the most compelling, and lend themselves to a live demonstration like WWDC. Have no fear, this fall will be bringing a cornucopia of new tools for us to use.

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Verizon.

Pre-orders for the new iPad Pro models open on 30 April 2021, and Apple says they'll become available in the second half of May.

Apple's Magic Keyboard is great for turning an iPad

into a laptop-like device, though it's pricey at \$299. Tuesday's event had a bit of news in this department: you can now get the Magic Keyboard in white. And if you already have a Magic Keyboard for a 12.9-inch iPad Pro, sorry, but you'll need a new one since the new model is 0.5 mm thicker, just enough to mess up the zero-tolerance fit. The updated Magic Keyboard will work with older 12.9-inch iPad Pros, though.

Apple's Spring Loaded Appetizers: Apple Card Family, Podcast Subscriptions, and a Purple iPhone

By MICHAEL E. COHEN

Apple front-loaded its "Spring Loaded" event with a series of appetizer announcements about the Apple Card, podcasts, and a new iPhone finish. None are all that major, so we've collected them here.

Financial Fun for the Whole Family

Since time immemorial (roughly corresponding to the introduction of the Diners Club card in 1950), spouses and offspring have been asking to borrow another family member's credit card to make a purchase or demanding a credit card of their own. Many amusing family meetings have resulted as household members attempted to account for their purchases when the monthly bill arrived. Now Apple is stepping into this delightful family minefield with its new Apple Card Family.

With Apple Card Family, a

service available starting in May 2021, two people can co-own one Apple Card,

limits and controls—using an updated Family Sharing service.

Under Apple Card Family, an Apple Card customer can add as many as five people to an Apple Card account as long as those people are all part of the same Family Sharing group and are at least 13 years old. For businesses, co-owners will be able to share a single Apple Card account, enabling the consolidation of business expenses and accounting.

The devil, as usual, is in the details, and when the service becomes available, we suggest you read all the accompanying statements and caveats that come with signing on to the service, since the road to hell is paved in part with misunderstanding liabilities and financial responsibilities associated with credit cards.

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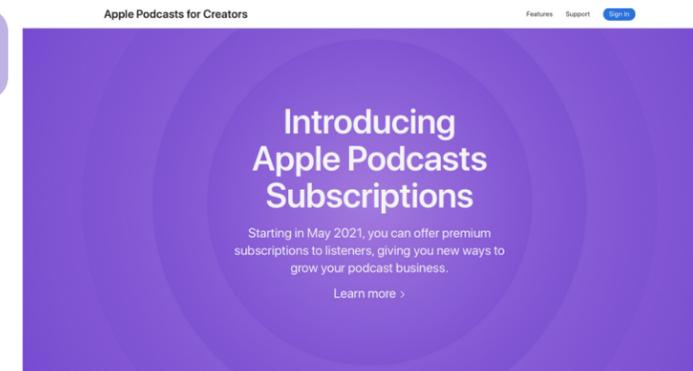
sharing and merging their credit lines and benefiting equally from the shared credit history. In addition, Apple Card Family lets parents share an Apple Card with their children—including setting spending

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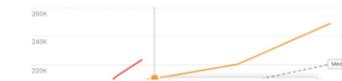
Nonetheless, aside from making Apple just a bit more money, Apple Card Family promises to make managing family finances in an age of credit cards and digital purchases a little bit easier and more useful. We'll know in a few months whether that promise has been fulfilled.

Pay to Play

Apple has a new spin on podcasts: subscriptions. Wait, what? Couldn't you subscribe to podcasts already? Well, yes, you could, but not to these sorts of podcasts. Starting in May 2021, in over 170 countries, Apple's Podcasts app will support "premium subscriptions." And by "premium," Apple means that you pay for them. Naturally, Apple is not going to suddenly charge for the (literally) millions of podcasts available via the Podcasts app. Instead, the company will provide podcast creators with the tools to create new pages for



Analyze. Promote. Grow.



their podcasts, organize shows into channels, and offer paid "premium" subscribers ad-free listening, access to additional content, and early or exclusive access to new series.



A revised Podcasts app in iOS 14.5 will support these features. It will include an enhanced Search tab that provides quick access to Top Charts and categories and a new Smart Play

button that starts playing from the beginning of the latest episode or the start of a series. Listeners will also be able to download individual episodes for offline playback. For those who wish to offer premium podcasts, Apple has unveiled the new Apple Podcasters Program through which they can craft and deliver their shows—it costs \$19.99 per year. Apple will take a 30% cut on the first year of a subscription and drop that to 15% after a year if auto-renew is enabled. As far as we can see, the deal isn't exclusive, so podcasters can still sell

ads and sponsorships directly as well. Podcast creators will be able to set their own prices for their premium services.

Whether or not they offer premium podcasts, podcasters will soon be able to get more information about their audiences with

new performance metrics and visualization tools. Jason Snell reports that one of the rights that Apple asks for, though creators can opt out, is the ability to create

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and distribute transcripts. That could be a boon for podcasters who lack the resources to develop such transcripts on their own. Someone said—probably in a podcast—that in the future, everyone will have a podcast. If so, Apple is making it easier to monetize those podcasts—and, of course, skim a little profit off for itself as well.

The Color Purple

Finally, several people of

my acquaintance will be delighted that Apple now offers its iPhone 12 and iPhone 12 mini models in an “all-new stunning purple finish.” Others will be frustrated that this new hue has become available only after they purchased their iPhones.

No matter how you feel about it, purple iPhones are now an option. Should purple be your pigment of preference, you can order one starting on 23 April 2021, with delivery on 30 April 2021.

Wrap Up

None of the above tidbits from the Spring Loaded event are sufficiently earth-shaking to do more than jostle a seismograph needle. Still, they reveal that Apple is not letting the grass grow under its feet (verdant as the lawn at Apple Park looked) when it comes to finding additional ways to monetize its offerings, both large and small. Now, if only Apple would release an iPhone in brown—oh, wait, Microsoft already tried that with Zune.

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improves detection of external changes to Reminders for quicker sync, resolves an issue with Zoom meetings where the personal meeting ID from account settings would not be used for some accounts, and fixes a bug that caused the organizer of a meeting to receive empty meeting updates. (\$49.99 new from BusyMac or the Mac App Store, in Setapp Mac app subscription service, free update, 31.9 MB, release notes, macOS 10.11+)

The Pixelmator Team has issued **Pixelmator Pro 2.0.5**, a maintenance release with improvements and bug fixes for the image-editing app. The update increases the maximum intensity of the Sharpen adjustment, improves launch speed by around 20%, exports PNGs without assigned color profiles more quickly, fixes a bug that caused long shutter speed times to be displayed incorrectly in the Color Adjustments tool, resolves an issue where switching from a document while ML Super Resolution was being applied would cause the app to stop responding, and addresses a problem with the Increase Resolution of Images Automator action producing completely white images. (\$39.99 new from Pixelmator and the Mac App Store, free update, 225 MB, release notes, macOS 10.14.4+)

Zoom updated its eponymous video conferencing app to **version 5.5**, enabling meeting hosts to play a video file as shared content and adding a blurred background option for all users. The release also relocates attendee view controls for webinars to the View Options button, enables macOS users to rotate their camera video feed by 90 degrees, lets you block or allow participants

from specific countries or regions when scheduling a meeting, and enables you to view contacts organized into sub-folders from synced third-party services (Outlook, Exchange, and Google). Shortly after this release, Zoom issued version 5.5.1 to fix some minor bugs. (Free, 23.3 MB, release notes, macOS 10.9+)

Ergonis Software has released **PopChar X 9.1**, bringing additional functions in the Fonts tab to select or mark fonts in the main window and copy a font list to the clipboard. The character discovery and font exploration utility also works around a cosmetic issue where sheet windows (like About and Preferences) appeared before the main window when opened from the menu bar icon, fixes a bug that caused the P in the menu bar to ignore clicks after a Command-click, improves the diagnostics report to show information about the location of the P icon, and resolves an issue where the keyboard icon at the bottom of the PopChar window appeared upside-down in macOS 11 Big Sur. (€29.99 new with a 25% discount for TidBITS members, free update, 5.3 MB, release notes, macOS 10.10+)

Uncomplex has released **Mailplane 4.3.1**, a maintenance update for the Gmail-specific email client that adds support for the new Google Calendar offline mode, which enables you to view, but not edit, events from four weeks in the past or any time in the future. The update also improves Save Clip > DEVONthink to import entire messages plus attachments, adjusts the Dark Mode style of checkboxes in macOS 11 Big Sur, improves password-filling functionality, supports Command-Option-arrow keys to switch tabs to the left and right, and fixes a bug that

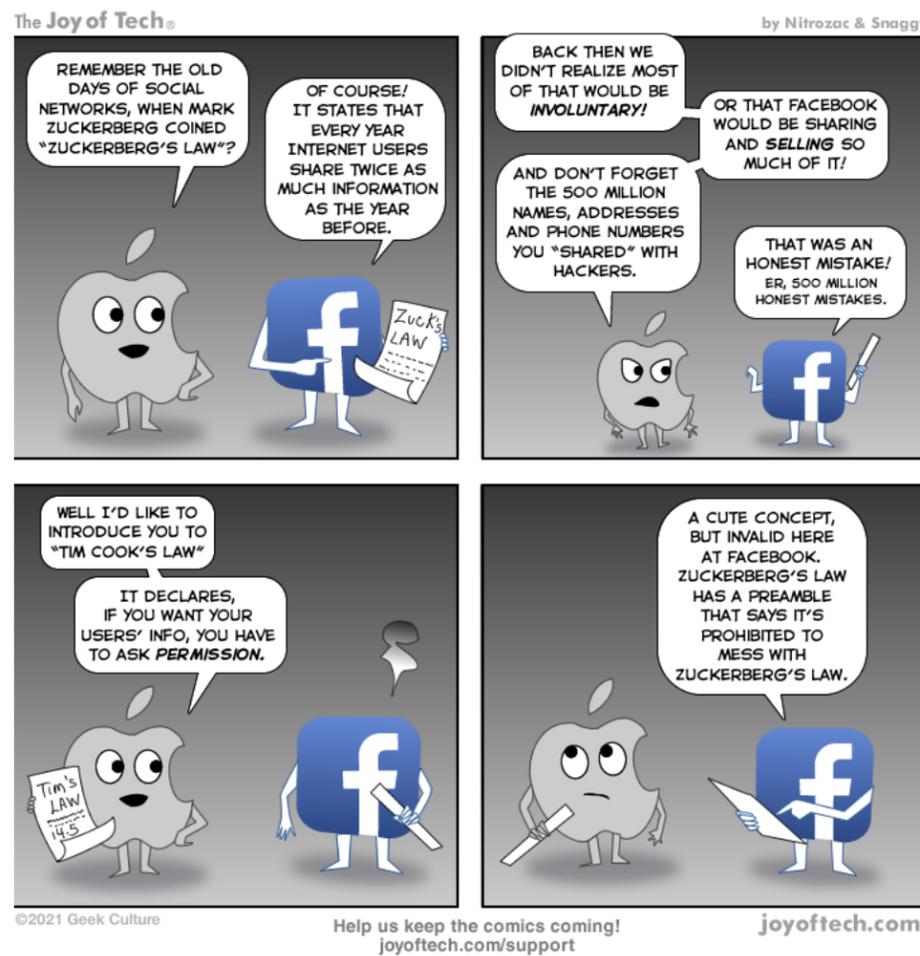
caused Mailplane content to get blurry after changing screen resolutions. (\$29.95 new, free update, 78.2 MB, release notes, macOS 10.12+)

MacPaw released **Gemini 2.8** with a new Duplicates Monitor feature that watches over specified folders or disks and notifies you when a duplicate appears to help you prevent clutter. Instead of forcing you to rescan your Mac repeatedly, Gemini provides notification via the menu bar so you can remove duplicates immediately. Shortly after this release, MacPaw updated Gemini to version 2.8.2 to fix unspecified bugs. (\$19.95 new from MacPaw and the Mac App Store, in Setapp, 47.8 MB, macOS 10.10+)

Homebrew has released version 3.0 of its command-line package manager, previously recommended by Josh Centers in several TidBITS articles (including “Downloading YouTube Videos in macOS,” 18 July 2019). The update now officially supports installations in /opt/homebrew on M1-based Macs, automatically generates command usage text, adds the new HOMEBREW_BOOTSNAP environment variable to allow use of the Bootsnap gem to speed up repeated brew calls (but not on M1-based Macs), adds the new brew completions command to opt-in to completions provided by third-party taps, and fixes a bug where brew update could be run every time. (Free, release notes, macOS 10.14+)

Apple has released macOS **Catalina 10.15.7 Supplemental Update and Security Update 2021-002 for macOS 10.14 Mojave**, both of which can be accessed via Software Update. The Supplemental

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high band offers. And, like the low band, it works indoors or outdoors. It is possible that the middle band will someday be what most users equate with 5G.

- **Low band:** This wireless frequency has the widest coverage by far, blanketing much of the country (including rural areas). However, its speeds are much slower than the high band—often on par with or slightly faster than 4G LTE. Unlike the high band, the low band works just fine indoors as well as outdoors.

T-Mobile provides an apt analogy in the form of a three-layer cake that illustrates the proportional availability of its high-band, middle-band, and low-band service in the United States.

AT&T, T-Mobile, and Verizon all provide low-band service across much of the country. All three also offer high-band service, known as millimeter-wave or mmWave, but just in nooks and crannies of particular cities. Middle-band service is currently a T-Mobile exclusive in this country, courtesy of its recent merger with Sprint, but its rivals are reportedly

snapping up spectrum for their own middle-band offerings down the road.

5G also has been confusing on the hardware front, with not every Android phone supporting every flavor of 5G. The new iPhone models, however, will work across the entirety of the 5G spectrum. They're fully compatible with the 5G flavors offered by AT&T, T-Mobile, and Verizon, along with companies such as Comcast that rebrand 5G service from one of the big three carriers.



With T-Mobile and Verizon 5G SIM cards plugged into loaner iPhone 12 and iPhone 12 Pro devices, I set out on my most extensive and exciting 5G adventure to date.

Verizon's High Band

With Verizon, I focused on the high band—what the carrier calls Ultra Wideband—since it's the only carrier to offer mmWave service in my area. To my chagrin, the service footprint has not expanded a great deal in St. Paul since I sampled it a

year or so ago. So much for Verizon's promise to expand its Ultra Wideband coverage aggressively.

On the map below, dark red sections represent slivers of coverage across downtown St. Paul, southwest along the West Seventh Street commercial drag, and in a couple of pockets to the southeast across the Mississippi River. Interestingly, those pockets include the area around the building where my St. Paul Pioneer Press employer is based, possibly because we share the premises with

Comcast and its Verizon-derived Xfinity Wireless. Lucky us!

Verizon's high-band network is more built out to the west in Minneapolis. But, again, it is mostly centered on that city's downtown,

along with scattered portions of surrounding neighborhoods. In other words, the vast majority of residents and businesses across the Twin Cities metro area (including suburbs) have no mmWave access.

As of mid-October, Verizon offered mmWave coverage in 55 cities, including an announcement of 19 new cities timed to coincide with Apple's iPhone 12 press event (see "The iPhone 12: Here's What You Need to

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Catalina patches two vulnerabilities with the Intel Graphics Driver that could allow an application to execute arbitrary code with kernel privileges. Both updates address a vulnerability with the sudo command in the Terminal app that could allow a local attacker to gain elevated privileges. We recommend installing these updates, but since they're hot off the presses, we suggest waiting a week or so before installing to ensure there aren't any unwanted side effects. If you notice anything, please add a comment to this article. (Free, various sizes, release notes, macOS 10.15.7 and 10.14.6)

ChronoSync 4.9.13 and ChronoAgent 1.9.9



Econ Technologies has released ChronoSync 4.9.13 and ChronoAgent 1.9.9, addressing several issues with macOS 11 Big Sur. ChronoSync adds a warning to ChronoSync's Bootable Backup Assistant that explains why macOS 11 Big Sur volumes aren't listed as sources and directs users to the tech note about how to create a macOS Big Sur bootable backup. ChronoSync also updates the list of AWS S3 endpoint regions, works around some Big Sur behavior that made it difficult to identify a targeted APFS volume group after a macOS update, resolves an issue in Big Sur that was causing exceptions when running scheduled sync tasks, and fixes bugs with the Resolve Alias feature that were introduced by changes in Big Sur. ChronoAgent fixes a bug that prevented the agent from starting up on some M1-based systems. (\$49.99 new for ChronoSync with a 20% discount for TidBITS members, free update, 67.3 MB, release notes, macOS 10.11+; \$14.99 new for ChronoAgent, 26.7 MB, release notes, 10.10+)

Adobe Acrobat DC and Adobe Acrobat Reader DC



Adobe has updated Adobe Acrobat DC and Adobe Acrobat Reader DC to address numerous security vulnerabilities in the wild against Acrobat apps. Adobe's Security Bulletin gives this update the most serious rating, reporting that one vulnerability has been exploited in the wild against Acrobat Reader DC for Windows. If you haven't updated Acrobat Reader DC for a while, now would be a good time to do so. You can update from within the app or download a free copy from the Acrobat Reader DC download page. The full Adobe Acrobat DC package comes in two editions: Standard (\$12.99 monthly subscription) and Pro (\$14.99 monthly subscription), and is also included in the full Adobe Creative Cloud bundle. (Free updates, various sizes, release notes, macOS 10.13+)

Default Folder X 5.5.6



St. Clair Software has published Default Folder X 5.5.6, working around a bug in macOS 11 Big Sur to ensure the width of the sidebar in file dialogs is now saved and restored. The Open/Save dialog enhancement utility also adds the option of holding down the Option key while switching folder sets to open all Favorites from that set in the Finder, adds support for searching with the version of HoudahSpot available on Setapp (in addition to the standalone version from Houdah Software), correctly opens files chosen from the Recent Files menu in a file dialog, and incorporates additional workarounds for disappearing cursor problems in Big Sur. (\$34.95 new, TidBITS members save \$10 on new copies and \$5 on upgrades, in Setapp, 15.7 MB, release notes, macOS 10.10+)

URL Manager Pro 5.7

Alco Blom has released version 5.7 of his URL Manager Pro bookmark



manager, adding the capability to bookmark all tabs from all open windows with a single click. The update also enables you to grab all URLs currently selected in an email message in Mail. Plus, the optional Add Bookmark Safari extension places a bookmark toolbar icon in Safari's toolbar for directly capturing bookmarks. URL Manager Pro is free to download from its Web site or the Mac App Store, and a \$35 payment unlocks its advanced features, such as search, add all tabs, and importing/exporting bookmarks. (\$35 new, free update, 13.0 MB, release notes, macOS 10.13+)

Evernote



has released version 10.8.6 of its eponymous information management app, bringing back "toggle view" keyboard shortcuts that enable you to cycle quickly through snippets, cards, the top list, or the side list. The update also adds a new keyboard shortcut for opening a new note window from anywhere (Command-Option-Control-N), enables you to edit global keyboard shortcuts via the keyboard shortcuts reference menu, ensures external links in your notes open the first time you click them, enables you to right-click tags in the sidebar for quick access to more options, and lets you apply tags by dropping a note from the note list onto a tag in the sidebar. (Free from Evernote or the Mac App Store, 141 MB, macOS 10.10+)

EagleFiler 1.9.3

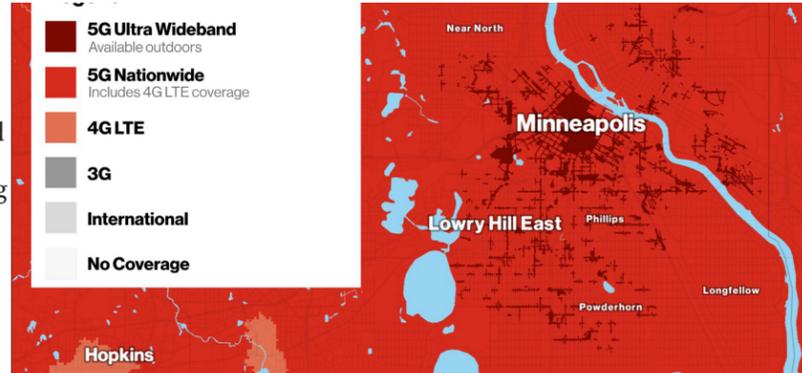


Michael Tsai of C-Command Software has issued EagleFiler 1.9.3, improving importing of Web pages from various publications and optimizing performance when importing large numbers of small files. The document organization and archiving app ensures that its capture key works in Reeder 5,

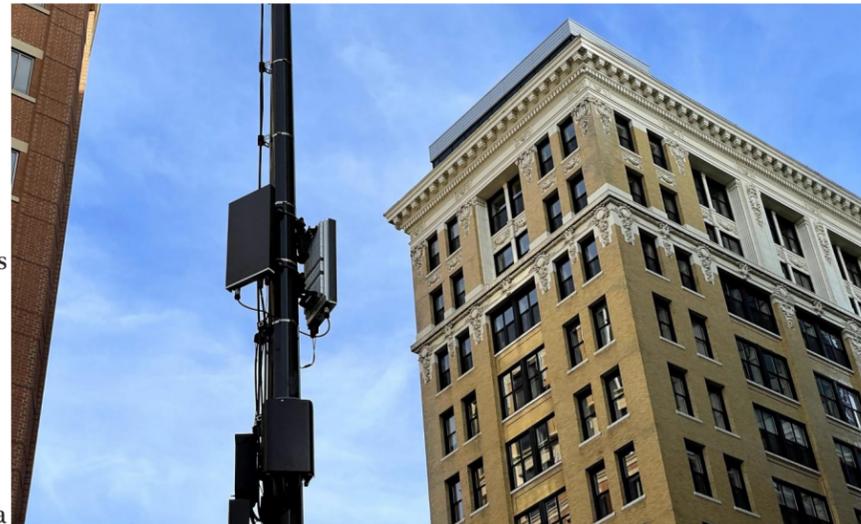
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Know,” 13 October 2020). The company aims to have Ultra Wideband in 60 cities by year’s end, along with low-band service that, as of mid-October, served 200 million people in 1800 US cities.



But Ultra Wideband, though often ultrafast, has a few gotchas. Verizon makes it clear that the service is intended to be used mostly outdoors since it can’t penetrate walls. In fact, it is easily disrupted by anything physical—such as tree leaves or torrential rain—that impedes line of sight with one of the 5G mini-antennas densely deployed in urban areas, typically on light poles and the like.



While testing Verizon’s Ultra Wideband, I got the best results when near (and with a clear view of) the above antenna array on a light pole near Rice Park. I never was able to duplicate those earlier 2 Gbps downloads, but I got close, with around 1.7 Gbps.

Elsewhere downtown, I mostly saw slower downloads, though they were still in the hundreds of megabits per second.

And, as I wandered downtown, I found it tricky to

find an mmWave signal even while trying to stay within the Ultra-Wideband portions on the coverage map. The tip-off is the “UW” badge that pops up beside “5G” on the upper right of the iPhone screen when it detects an mmWave

signal. But those letters would maddeningly wink on and off on my iPhone 12 as I twirled around and took steps in various directions in often-vain attempts to lock in. I must have looked like a crazy person practicing dance moves.

I got great service in places where it wouldn’t seem to be

of much use, such as on the Robert Street Bridge linking downtown to southeastern sections of St. Paul. Yet, just across the bridge, strolling the grounds of 10 River Park Plaza where Comcast and my employer have their digs, I struggled to connect. (So much for that lucky location.)

In any case, my speed tests never approached the 4 Gbps peak download speeds Verizon CEO Hans Vestberg bragged about while on stage with Tim Cook.

Given my difficulties when trying to find Ultra Wideband coverage, I’d hate to depend on it. But, when I was able to use mmWave, I did often feel like I was in the future. I once lived in downtown St. Paul in a

high-rise condominium with a balcony that, based on a check of the coverage map, would seem to allow the current condo residents to tap into Verizon’s Ultra Wideband while enjoying the amazing view. I almost regret moving.

Verizon 5G is unremarkable for those outside an Ultra-

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Wideband footprint. doesn’t

is much LTE. In my low-band around 50 on par with regular an iPhone

T-Mobile’s That is Mobile’s 5G appealing.

Like Verizon, it has blazingly fast mmWave service. As of this writing, it can be found in pockets of seven cities—Atlanta, Cleveland, Dallas, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, and New York City.

But millions of T-Mobile customers who are not in one of those tiny mmWave footprints have the next best thing, middle-band service. It’s slower than mmWave but still plenty fast compared to low-band service.

As of 28 October 2020, T-Mobile’s middle-band service was available in 410 cities and towns across the country and is slated to cover 100 million people by the end of the year. For context, T-Mobile’s low-band network covers 260 million people across 7500 cities and towns.

As with Verizon, I tested T-Mobile’s service while roaming downtown St. Paul. I didn’t need to squint at a coverage map, though, since middle-band service is more broadly available (displayed on the map below as a

magenta ocean, with isolated darker pockets denoting



home office, middle-band service wasn’t stunning. I’d get downloads of 100 megabits per second or so, which is a huge slowdown. Nevertheless, it’s about twice what I’d get with 4G LTE and about what I see with my Comcast Xfinity home broadband service, so I



guess I should not gripe.

Speed variability is related to signal strength. Though T-Mobile’s St. Paul coverage map is a uniform shade of magenta, clicking around the Web interface shows signal quality ranging from “excellent” to “limited” in various spots. In fact, T-Mobile guarantees dependable middle-band coverage in only a handful of

municipalities other than St. Paul and Minneapolis, but the carrier said its coverage in the Twin and elsewhere is expanding.

with these limitations, I found T-Mobile’s service to be appealing. While Verizon’s Ultra Wideband borders on useless because of its minuscule St. Paul footprint, T-Mobile’s middle-band service is exponentially more practical since I can tap into it around St. Paul and some of its surroundings.

But What’s It Good For?

I have heard lots of pie-in-the-sky talk about what 5G will be used for in the coming years.

Glenn’s article lists such “purported potential uses of 5G” made possible by the technology’s higher speed and lower latency, including augmented reality, high-performance video games, vast sensor networks, and remotely controlled medical procedures, autonomous vehicles, and industrial robots.

Although I’m sure some of these 5G predictions will come to pass, I can’t help rolling my eyes because I have heard much such fanciful talk

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related to past technological advances in my decades as a technology journalist.

However, I have already alluded to an obvious 5G use: home broadband service. With such speedy connections, wouldn't it make sense to roll out some kind of 5G residential broadband service?

As it happens, Verizon has done exactly that. Its 5G Home service taps into Ultra Wideband to compete, at least within its limited geographic availability, with traditional broadband options like Comcast Xfinity and CenturyLink Fiber. 5G Home is available in eight US cities—including Minneapolis and St. Paul—with two more cities reportedly coming online by the end of the year.

5G Home costs \$50 per month for those with certain kinds of Verizon cellular-wireless plans and \$70 per month for others—with no data caps in either instance.

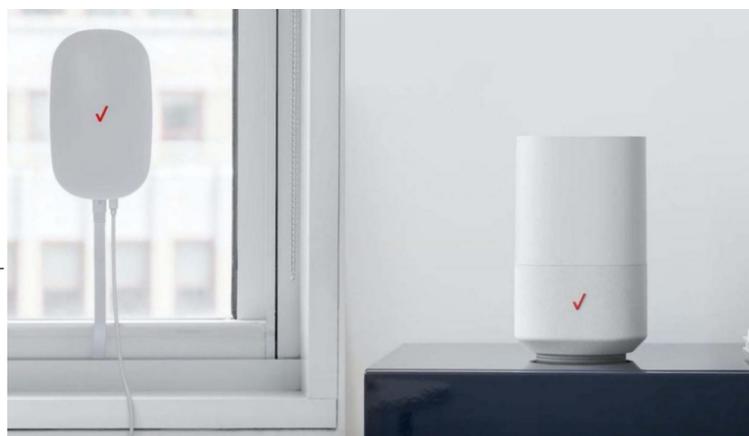
To go around mmWave's difficulty with physical obstructions, Verizon positions antennas either outside a home or indoors attached to a window; Verizon assures me that the 5G signal penetrates some kinds of glass just fine.

This means, if I still lived in my condo, Verizon could be my broadband provider. If so, I am a bit envious of whoever



resides there now since the wireless service would be up to twice as fast as any wired residential broadband service available here.

So what about a T-Mobile broadband option using middle-band service? T-Mobile tells me that is in the works. The carrier does



provide 4G LTE-based home Internet in certain, largely isolated parts of the country. So, for that matter, do AT&T and Verizon. But T-Mobile middle-band home broadband would be an improvement, assuming its performance matches what I experienced.

So Is a 5G iPhone Worth It?

All this raises the obvious question: Should you upgrade to one of the iPhone 12 models for 5G alone? (There are lots of other reasons to upgrade, but we'll sidestep those for now.)

If you use AT&T or Verizon, perhaps not. With nationwide service mostly of the low-band nature, the speed benefits over 4G LTE are incremental at best.

T-Mobile customers interested in faster service should give an iPhone upgrade more thought. Its speedy middle-band service can be found in lots

of places, though it's not as common as the company's low-band service. If you are in such a middle-band service area, the purchase of a new iPhone gets you a decent, consistent speed boost. T-Mobile does not charge extra for it, either.

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You should also check whether you live or work in or near one of the places where one of the carriers provides blazingly fast high-band service. This includes the 36 cities where AT&T has such connectivity. But, again, keep in mind that the service works only in small portions of such cities, so study coverage maps carefully to see whether such mmWave pockets are relevant and useful to you.

In the end, few people will buy a new iPhone for its 5G capabilities. What's important is that upgrading will future-proof yourself for the near future, when decent 5G speeds become more widely available from all the carriers.

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Thunderbolt/USB 4 ports and offers Gigabit Ethernet as an option. It's available only in blue, green, pink, and silver. Finally, it comes with the new Magic Keyboard and Magic Mouse in matching colors.

- The high-end config, which starts at \$1499 and is available in all seven colors, has an M1 chip with both an 8-core CPU and an 8-core GPU, and while it starts at 256 GB of storage, it's configurable to 512 GB, 1 TB, or 2 TB. It boasts two Thunderbolt/USB 4 ports and a pair of USB-C ports, and Gigabit Ethernet is standard. Finally, it includes the new Magic Keyboard with Touch ID.

Apple is making the 24-inch iMac available for pre-order on 30 April 2021, with delivery promised for the second half of May. Because the online store pages aren't yet available, I can't provide prices on the build-to-order options. However, based on other models, I'd guess along the following lines:

- Memory: Expect a \$200 cost to upgrade from 8 GB to 16 GB.
- Storage: From the base level of 256 GB, expect storage costs to be \$200 for 512 GB, \$400 for 1 TB, and \$800 for 2 TB.
- Gigabit Ethernet: There's no precedent here, so I'd guess either \$50 or \$100.

Overall, the new 24-inch iMac is a tremendously compelling machine. As with the previous M1-based Macs, it's the low end of the iMac lineup, but that's fine. There's plenty of demand for a svelte, attractive iMac in kitchens, bedrooms, and dorm rooms. Apart from the base M1 performance, it may not have pro-level specs, but it's not pretending to. More so than any Mac Apple has sold since the original gumdrop iMacs from 1998 through 2002, these new 24-inch iMacs are built for the home.

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helps you import partially downloaded Outlook messages, adds the Import From Apple Mail (Plain Text) script, works around an encoding bug in Mail that could alter message data, fixes a hang from syncing tags during an import, resolves an issue that could cause metadata loss if you moved a record's container while it was being imported, and prevents damaged Microsoft Word files from causing EagleFiler to import bad metadata. (\$40 new with a 20% discount for TidBITS members from C-Command Software or the Mac App Store, free update, 32 MB, release notes, macOS 10.12+)

The Omni Group has published **OmniFocus 3.11.4** with automation improvements for the Pro edition of the task management app.  OmniFocus Pro now supports storing and accessing credentials for Omni Automation in the keychain, enables you to assign keyboard shortcuts to Omni Automation Plug-Ins, and fixes layout issues in the Perspectives window. Both the Standard and Pro editions fix a bug that could truncate project titles in the project picker, address layout problems in Quick Open in macOS 11 Big Sur, improve the appearance of checkboxes and buttons in the View popover in Big Sur, and resolve a crash that could occur when evaluating an Omni Automation script. (\$39.99 new for Standard and \$79.99 for Pro from the Omni Group Web site, \$39.99 for Standard from the Mac App Store with an in-app purchase option to upgrade to Pro, 70.7 MB, release notes, macOS 10.14+)

OmniOutliner Essentials and Pro 5.8.2

The Omni Group has issued version 5.8.2 of OmniOutliner Essentials and 

OmniOutliner Pro with automation improvements for the Pro edition of the outlining and information organization app. OmniOutliner now supports storing and accessing credentials for Omni Automation in the keychain, enables you to configure keyboard shortcuts for plug-in actions, and eliminates a crash that could occur when evaluating an Omni Automation script that results in an error. OmniOutliner Essentials receives a bug fix to address unsupported styles in pasted text that would cause files to be recognized as Pro documents. (\$9.99 new for Essentials, \$59.99 for Pro, 40.5 MB, release notes, macOS 10.14+)

Microsoft Office for Mac 16.46

 Microsoft has released version 16.46 of Office for Mac with adjustments for sensitivity labeling (such as Personal, Public, Confidential, etc.). Government customers in the GCC and GCC-H environments can now apply sensitivity labels to Word, Excel, and PowerPoint documents and Outlook emails. Administrators can see when users apply, change, or remove sensitivity labels on their documents and emails in Microsoft 365 audit logs. Both Word and PowerPoint can recommend or automatically apply a sensitivity label based on the content detected. PowerPoint also enables you to select a range of slides when exporting to animated GIF and adds an option to export an animated GIF with a transparent background. (\$149.99 for a one-time purchase, \$99.99/\$69.99 annual subscription options, free update through Microsoft AutoUpdate, release notes, macOS 10.14+)

Brave 1.20.108

 The Brave Web browser (one of our favorites here at TidBITS) has been updated to version 1.20.108 with a fix for a

DNS leak regression in Tor private browsing windows. Brave enables you to hide your browsing history and mask your location from the sites you visit by using its Private Window with Tor feature, which routes your browsing through three different computers in the volunteer-run Tor network. The update also fixes an ISP DNS leak when you enable Brave's shields (which block most ads and trackers), resolves a crash that could occur when using the zoom function in macOS, and fixes another crash that could occur when using the built-in digital keyboard. (Free, 106 MB, release notes, macOS 10.11+)

CleanMyMac X 4.8

 MacPaw has released CleanMyMac X 4.8, adding native support for M1-based Macs. The Mac maintenance utility receives an overhauled user interface with refreshed colors, simplified shapes, fancy glass-like icons, and a new sidebar menu with easier navigation. The update also adds the new Universal Binaries feature to the System Junk module, enabling users to safely remove the code that enables apps to work on both Intel- and M1-based Macs. On the malware side, CleanMyMac X 4.8 scans for malware more quickly, detects the Silver Sparrow malware, and improves ways of detecting and killing malicious processes within Smart Scan and Malware Removal. (\$89.95 one-time fee, \$34.95 annual subscription, in Setapp, free update, 78.2 MB, release notes, macOS 10.10+)

Fantastical 3.3.5

 Flexibits has issued Fantastical 3.3.5, a maintenance release for the calendar app with a variety of improvements and bug fixes. The update adds an option to enable a waiting room when creating Zoom meetings, enables invitees to be sorted by

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acceptance state and name, adds support for Gather.town conferences, improves conference call detection, resolves an issue where the due date of tasks from Reminders might not match what is shown in the Reminders app, fixes a bug that prevented users from joining some Bluejeans meetings, addresses an issue where event notifications that were swiped away in macOS 11 Big Sur could reappear, and fixes a bug where the menu bar item wouldn't update to show the number of remaining events. (\$39.99 annual subscription

from Flexibits and the Mac App Store, free update, 41.8 MB, release notes, macOS 10.13.2+)

Little Snitch 5.1.1

 Objective Development released Little Snitch 5.1 with improved VPN detection for Automatic Profile Switching and fixes for memory leaks. The network traffic management utility now accepts code signatures of iOS apps running on M1-based Macs, performs code signature verification for shell scripts and other scripts, treats the macOS kernel as if it were code-signed (allowing default localnet rules to apply to the kernel), improves detection

of the remote computer name, fixes a bug where the traffic view in Network Monitor did not display any data, and resolves an issue where loading subscribed rule groups failed. Shortly after this release, version 5.1.1 fixed a possible loss of network connectivity due to a crash of the Little Snitch network extension. (\$45 new, upgrades available, 30.6 MB, release notes, macOS 11+)

