

printout

Keystone MacCentral Macintosh Users Group ❖ <http://www.keystonemac.com>

Image Graphics Programs

by Tom Bank



We're all aware of Photoshop and Photoshop Elements, whether we have one or the other or not. They do a myriad of modifications to our digital photographs, both correcting their defects and adding enhancing touches. But they aren't the only apps that can enhance the artistry of what we get when the shutter goes click. Several others come with your Mac. Then there are others that come from a variety of sources and vary in price. There are utilities that can save the day or cut the time you need to organize your photographic collection – if you know about them and how to use them. There are programs that add “effects,” ranging from child pleasers and educators to those that yield professional artistic

results. There are the “one trick ponies” and the ones that go all the way up to being so complex you need a road map (which they let you build) to get precisely the final results you want. And – of course – there are those that range from free to those that compete in price with Photoshop.

We'll look at the features offered by a number of these image processors. You will be let in on a special offer by one of the software houses whose product will be reviewed. And with luck, you may see something that you will enthusiastically add to your collection of Mac software. ☺

Meet us at

Giant Food

Corner of Trindle Road & 32nd St (Route 15)
3301 East Trindle Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011

Tuesday, May 21 2013 6:30 p.m.

Attendance is free and open to all interested persons.

Contents

Image Graphics Programs <i>by Tom Bank</i>	1
Keystone MacCentral Minutes <i>by Gary Brandt</i>	3
Show, Don't Tell, Where You Went with Google Maps <i>by Matt Neuburg</i>	3 - 5
Explore Alternatives to Google Reader <i>by Josh Centers</i>	5 - 7
Cool Products from Macworld/iWorld 2013: Part 2 <i>by Adam C. Engst</i>	7- 10
Mac 911 <i>by Christopher Breen</i>	10 - 11
May Software Review	11 - 12

Keystone MacCentral is a not-for-profit group of Macintosh enthusiasts who generally meet the third Tuesday of every month to exchange information, participate in question-and-answer sessions, view product demonstrations, and obtain resource materials that will help them get the most out of their computer systems. Meetings are free and open to the public. The *Keystone MacCentral printout* is the official newsletter of Keystone MacCentral and an independent publication not affiliated or otherwise associated with or sponsored or sanctioned by any for-profit organization, including Apple Inc. Copyright © 2013, Keystone MacCentral, 310 Somerset Drive, Shiresmanstown, PA 17011.

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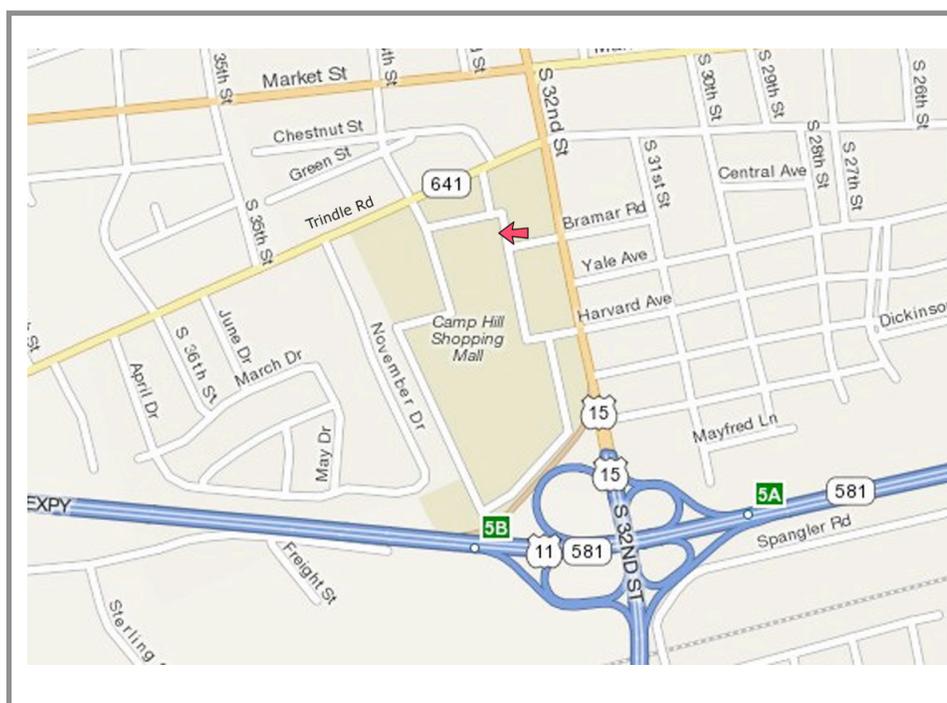
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by Gary Brandt, Recorder

Keystone MacCentral Minutes

April 16, 2013

Auction Action

Our annual auction was held on April 16th at the Giant store in Camp Hill, with sodas and snacks provided for all those attending. Auction rules remained the same as in previous years.

Eric Adams had sent e-mails to many vendors seeking donations and some very generous vendors sent us some great items. Eric was also the contact for anyone who needed to register the software downloads we sold. Contact Eric if you did not do so at the auction so he can pass your contact information along to the vendors of the products you bought. Chuck Joiner served as our very able auctioneer. Jim Carey staged the items for Chuck, and served as auctioneer when Chuck wanted to bid on an item.

The KeyMac board handled their regular auction duties. Linda Cober brought in the collected items and took payments at the end of the auction. Tags for most of the items were attached prior to the auction so we get a good start on the proceedings. Chuck Joiner and Tom Owad gave quick reviews of the items they were familiar with. Many items got rave reviews before bidding began. Eric and Mikhaila Adams passed the auction slips to Gary Brandt who tracked the winning bids. The slips were given to Tim Sullivan who was running the database to tally all of the sales. KeyMac Vice President Tom Owad donated an

OWC Voyager USB Hard Drive Dock from his company, Schnitz Technology.

Both hardware and software titles were offered. Bidding was strong for many of the Apple branded items we received. Items from Devon Technologies also brought out the bidders. The iPad owners in attendance got involved in the bidding for the iBallz line of products that had been donated.

This year's auction featured some new items for us, like the Garmin Forerunner 10 GPS Watch. Matius donated a keyboard again this year. Mariner Software, Smile Software, and MacPaw were some of the vendors donating multiple software titles. Micromat donated a copy of TechTool Pro 6, which always inspires the bidders.

The iPhone photographers who attended bid up the olloclip lens offering fisheye, wide-angle, and macro lenses for their iPhones. Topaz Labs donated some software that also appealed to photographers. Roxio Toast 11 Titanium was sold to one lucky bidder.

For the full list of items that were donated, please visit the Vendors page of our web site. We hope you will support these vendors whenever possible. A look at that list will show you the wide array of items available at a typical KeyMac auction and maybe serve as inspiration for you to attend the next one.

Thanks go to everyone who contributed to such a great evening. It was a lot of work but also a lot of fun. 🍷

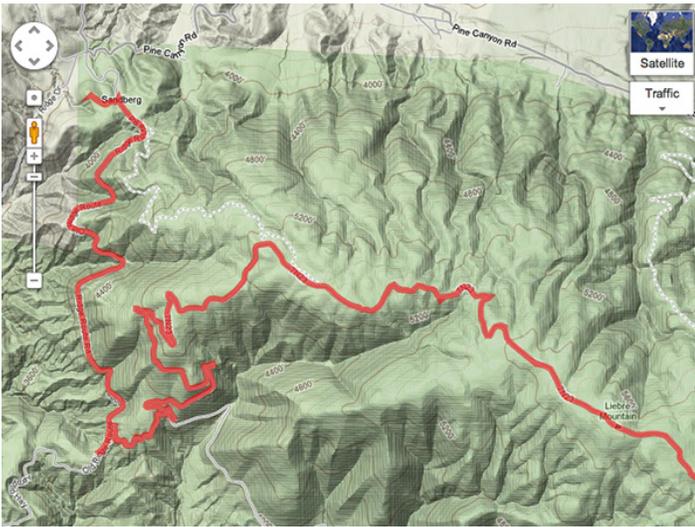
by Matt Neuburg

Show, Don't Tell, Where You Went with Google Maps

*It occurs to me that this could enhance those multimedia travelogs of vacations by car.
Ed.*

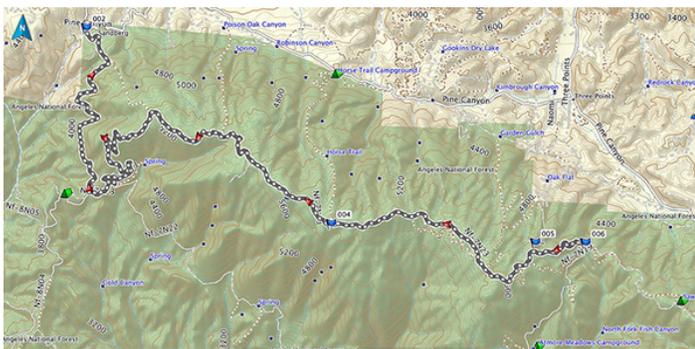
I went on a little dirt bike ride the other day (that's "dirt bike" with an internal combustion engine, not a pedaled mountain bike). Instead of describing where it was and telling you how the road climbed in switchbacks from the

Old Ridge Route to a mountain ridge above the Mojave high desert and parallel to the San Andreas fault, I'll show you: the start of my route looks like this. For the full effect, though, you should look, not at a screenshot of the map, but at the map itself; to do so, please [click this link](#) to view my route as portrayed by Google Maps (don't forget to come back here afterwards!).



To me, that's just incredibly cool. It's cool because Google Maps is cool. You get all the magic of Google Maps. You can slide the map around, to view more of the route I took. You can zoom out, to get a better sense of what part of the world all this happened in. You can change to Satellite view, to see the area photographed from above. It's a Google Map, as provided by Google – but the path I followed as I was dirt biking is projected onto it.

Perhaps this doesn't seem miraculous to you. But it does to me, because I remember when this feature of Google Maps didn't exist. We all have a GPS tracker these days. I was a late adopter, as usual, but as soon as I had a GPS tracker, I wanted to use it to make a record of the various places I like to go dirt biking. I discovered immediately that showing such a record to other people was not at all easy! I had to resort to mapping my tracks on my own computer and then posting a screenshot. That's okay, but you can't scroll or zoom a screenshot; what you see is all you see. A Google Maps map is dynamic and interactive. You can use it to learn and explore. It's part of the great Google Maps cartographic overview of the whole world.



An alternative, in the old days, was to give someone a KML file (or a KMZ file; it's the same thing as a KML except that it's compressed) containing the track. They could then open that KML file on their own machine, using Google Earth, and thus examine Google Earth's display of the track, projected onto satellite imagery of the world. But Google Earth, while very cool in its own way, didn't contain a topo map view. And, of course, downloading a file and opening it with Google Earth on your own machine is a lot more work

than just clicking a link and instantly seeing the map in your Web browser. But although Google Earth could display a GPS track from a KML file, Google Maps couldn't.

I don't know when Google Maps acquired the capability to display a KML / KMZ file. But it can now do so, and that's why the earlier link in this article works. You, too, can export a waypoint or a track from your GPS tracking device, hand it to Google Maps, and provide your friends (or the whole world) with a link they can click to see that information in Google Maps. And now I'm going to tell you how.

1. The first step is to obtain the KML / KMZ file containing the waypoint or track that you recorded while you were out doing whatever you were doing: driving, hiking, standing in some cool place. This step can be a bit tricky, so let's pretend you've already accomplished it and I'll come back to this matter later.

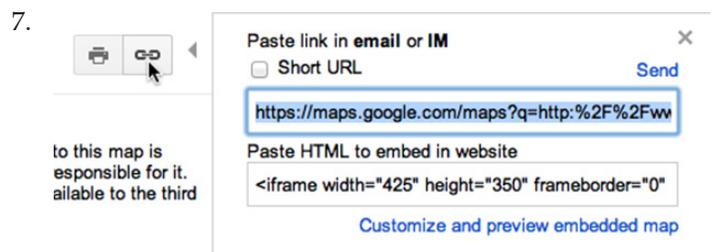
2. Next, you need a Web site to which you can upload the KML / KMZ file. Upload the file to that Web site. For example, I uploaded a bunch of KML and KMZ files to a directory on my Web site, <http://www.apeth.com/kmz/>. Google Sites and Google Docs also provide [ways to host](#) a KML / KMZ file.

3. Figure out the HTTP URL of the KML or KMZ file that you want to display in Google Maps. Test that URL by entering it into your Web browser; if the file downloads, your URL is correct.

4. Go to <https://maps.google.com/> in your browser. Near the top of the Web page is the Google Maps search field, where you can enter an address you want to show on the map. Instead, enter the complete URL of the KML or KMZ file, and click the search button to the right of the search field. Presto, the Google Map graphically displaying your KML / KMZ file appears!



6. Finally, configure the map the way you want others to see it initially. Change the zoom. Change to Terrain view, or to whatever view you prefer. Scroll to the initial position you like. When the map is ready, click the Link icon (to the right of the Printer icon). A field appears containing the URL that you can share with others to display this map! Even better, select Short URL to change that URL to a very short URL more suitable for pasting into an e-mail message (or a TidBITS article). Whoever clicks that URL will now see the map just as you've created and configured it.



Now let's go back to the step where we obtain the KML or KMZ file to begin with. This can be extremely easy or quite tricky, depending on your circumstances. If you're lucky, your GPS tracker will simply give you a KML/KMZ file, so there won't be any problem. For example, let's say your GPS tracker is your iPhone. If you use the MotionX-GPS app to record your track, then using the Share feature to e-mail a track or waypoint generates two files: a GPX version of the information, and a KMZ version. That KMZ file is ready to use with Google Maps, if you so desire.

If, on the other hand, your GPS tracker provides files in some other format, then you'll have to transform the track recording from that format to KML. For example, let's say I'd rather not carry my iPhone on a dusty, potentially crashy dirt bike ride. Instead, I use my Garmin Forerunner 305, which I also use for running. When I get home, I attach the Garmin device to my computer, and it hands me a file in GPX format.

So now, if I want to make that track available for Google Maps, I have a conversion problem: I need to convert from GPX to KML. Luckily, GPX is a popular format, and this conversion is a common one, so there are easy ways to do it. One way is to let Google Earth do it for you. You do have a copy of Google Earth on your computer, right? Well, Google Earth can import a GPX track and then export it for you as KML or KMZ. Choose File > Open in Google Earth, select your GPX file, and select Create KML Tracks in the little dialog that appears. The file is converted to KML and imported into Google Earth, which lists the imported track under Temporary Places (and maps it onto the earth). The track's listing is also selected, so immediately choose File > Save > Save Place As and save it out as a KML or KMZ file.

Another approach is to perform the conversion online, using the [GPSVisualizer Web site](#). This excellent site has many other splendid features: for example, it can [split a multitrack file](#) into individual tracks.

If the file you're starting with is not in GPX format, the conversion is going to be trickier to perform, and I can't tell

you exactly how to do it, especially because there's such a wide variety of formats in use. However, there are some free universal GPS file format converters that can help. The GPS Visualizer Web site, which I just mentioned, has a [good converter interface](#).

Another option might be the free "universal" GPS file converter, [GPSBabel](#). It's available as a command-line tool, and if you're reasonably adept with such things, you can easily download the source code and compile it, and use it via Terminal. Alternatively, there's a prebuilt application wrapping GPSBabel, called GPSBabelFE, [that you can download](#).

Unfortunately, GPSBabel is relatively difficult to use. The command-line options are numerous and confusing, and if you get them wrong, your converted file won't turn out properly. The prebuilt application is no better; it provides a graphical interface for setting all those command-line options, but the interface itself is confusing, and defaults to the wrong settings.

To make a KML, you want your output format to be "Google Earth (Keyhole) Markup Language." In the Options dialog, you want to deselect everything and then select Write KML Track. Another nice option is to select Line Color, which enables you to dictate the color in which the track will be displayed in Google Maps; alas, you must enter the color manually as a sequence of hexadecimal digits. I did in fact use this feature, though, to make my KML files; the track color on the Google Map from the first link in this article is 991111EE.

I'm sure there are lots of other ways to do everything described in this article (and perhaps readers would like to tell us about them in the comments). My purpose here has been to celebrate the fact that Google Maps can display data from a KML file, to explain how I'm using that fact, and to encourage you to do the same. Don't tell your friends where you were – show them! 🗺

by [Josh Centers](#)

Explore Alternatives to Google Reader

Google says it will shut down the Google Reader RSS aggregation and synchronization service on 1 July 2013. (For simplicity, we'll use the familiar term "RSS" to mean both the RSS and Atom news feed formats, and the overall ecosystem of syndicated news feeds.) This comes despite the fact that Reader reportedly [generates more traffic](#) for publishers than the company's Google+ service. It's bad enough to lose the Web client, but because many RSS app developers relied on Google Reader to handle syncing and update retrieval, the future of many independent RSS readers is in doubt. This includes

the venerable [NetNewsWire](#) for OS X, currently owned by Black Pixel. (For more general pondering about what the Google Reader shutdown means, see Adam Engst's "[Thoughts Prompted by Google Reader's Demise](#)," 14 March 2013.)

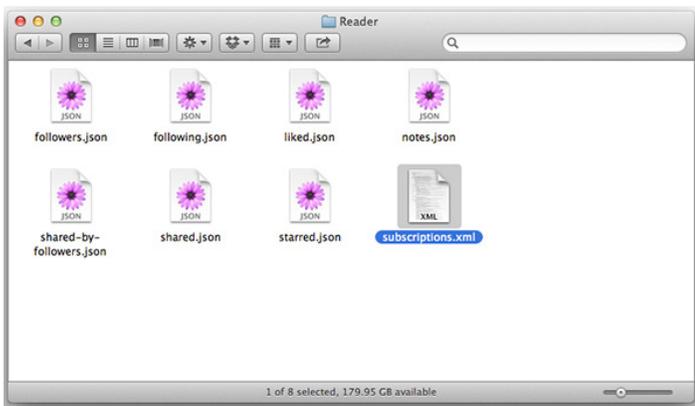
Developers, including [Zite](#) and [Digg](#), are scrambling to fill the gap left by Google's announcement. The RSS race is on, and we're sure to see new developments by the time Google Reader goes dark. However, that does little to help Reader users now. Fortunately, several existing products

can ease the pain of transition. Paul Bradshaw of the Online Journalism Blog posted a [call for comments on Google Reader alternatives](#), and was then nice enough to compile a [spreadsheet of the results](#) that lets you check out the field and compare competitors.

Get Takeout from Google — First things first. Export your subscription data from Google Reader so you have the flexibility of switching to another RSS reader at any time in the future. Google offers a direct method via its data portability site, [Google Takeout](#). Visit the site, login if prompted, and click the Choose Services button. From the list of buttons that appears, click Reader and then click Create Archive. The file won't be huge, but it will probably take a while for Google to build it. If you get tired of waiting, you can select the "e-mail me when ready" checkbox and do something else as it builds.

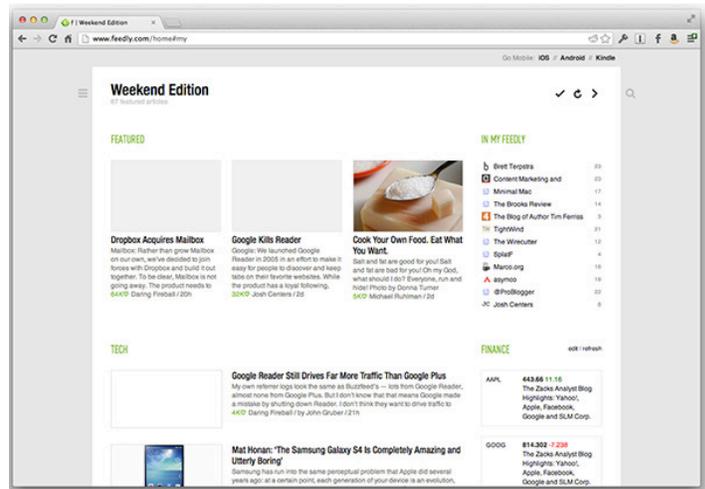


The Google Reader export is compiled as a downloadable Zip file. Inside are several JSON files with various metadata, but most important is the file called subscriptions.xml. This is an XML file in the OPML format, a standard import and export format for RSS readers. You can import this file into just about any RSS client to restore your Google Reader subscriptions.



(If you use NetNewsWire and sync with Google Reader, you can export your subscriptions locally. Make sure you have performed a sync and then chose File > Export Subscriptions to create an OPML file.)

Feed Me an Easy Solution — If you're looking for a one-click transition, your best bet is [Feedly](#), a Google Reader client that comes in a variety of forms, including a Web client, Chrome extension, Safari extension, Firefox add-on, iOS app, and Android app. Log into your Google Reader account from a Feedly client, and it presents your subscriptions in an attractive, magazine-like format that's particularly nice on touch screens.



What's most compelling about Feedly isn't its looks, but its upcoming [Normandy](#) service for synchronizing your subscriptions between devices. When Google Reader shuts its doors, Normandy will take over on the back end, in what will hopefully be a seamless transition. Other developers can integrate support for Normandy, too.

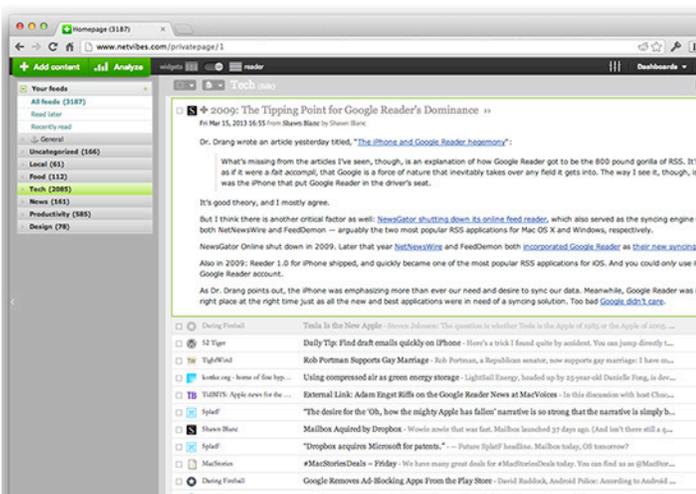
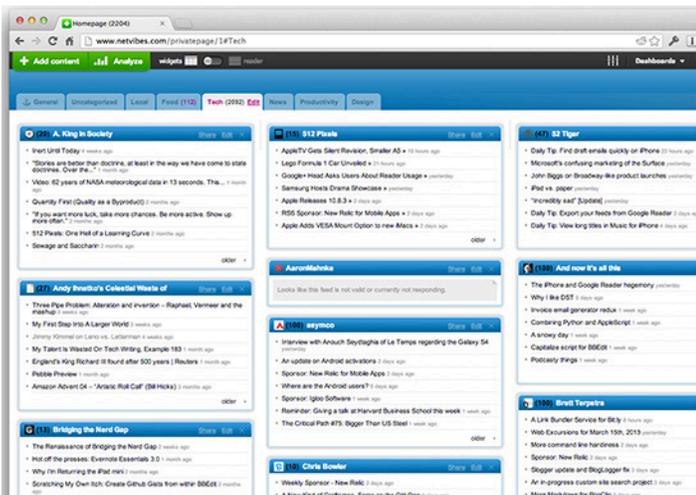
Run a Fever — Nice as Feedly is, it requires that you rely on yet another company for your RSS-reading needs. If you can handle a bit of system administration, [Fever](#) is worth a look. Fever is a self-hosted news reader and feed aggregator. It costs \$30, and you have to provide your own Unix server running Apache, MySQL, and PHP. If you have no idea what I just said, then Fever is not for you.

Fever and Google Reader are functionally equivalent. You read news in Fever through its Web client. Fever does set itself apart from Google Reader by sorting and compiling articles by "temperature," a rating calculated by how many links and how much discussion the article has garnered.

Fever is particularly interesting for fans of the [Reeder](#) RSS client for the iPhone and iPod touch, since it already supports Fever in addition to Google Reader. Unfortunately, the Mac and iPad versions of Reeder don't yet support Fever, so you have to turn to Fever's Web app on those platforms. However, Fever does work via the site-specific browser [Fluid](#) on the Mac, which turns the Web interface into a Mac app, complete with a count of unread items in the Dock. For another dedicated Fever client for the iPhone and iPod touch, check out [Sunstroke](#).

Good Vibe-rations — Google isn't just killing Reader, it's also [shutting down iGoogle](#), its personalized Web portal, as of 1 November 2013. Fortunately, there's a blast from the past that can replace both: [Netvibes](#).

Netvibes started years ago as a personalized Web portal, like iGoogle, but has since evolved into a RSS reader as well. You can switch between modes with a click. In wide-get mode, each of your feed folders shows up as a tab, and each feed is its own widget. This mode is awkward for reading, so most will probably prefer the reader mode, where feeds are presented in a more-traditional style.



Netvibes's extra juice comes from adding more than just RSS feeds to your interface. There are widgets for e-mail, Google Analytics, weather, and more. There's also a respectable mobile site, though for some reason if you save

it to your iPhone's home screen, the resulting Web app doesn't fill the iPhone 5's screen.

Unfortunately, Netvibes is showing its age. Its design is outdated, and it feels slow and clunky. However, if you're hurting from losing both Google Reader and iGoogle, it's a decent stopgap. And Netvibes lets you export your feeds, so it's easy to move on to greener pastures later on.

RSS: I'm Not Dead Yet! — Google has given neither users nor developers much time to respond to the shuttering of Google Reader. While several alternatives already exist and more will arise, the transition will break many apps that rely on Google Reader's synchronization capabilities when developers choose not to update their software or users fail to migrate in time.

But fear not, RSS lovers. Useful Internet technologies always evolve to meet the ever-changing environment. There's no better proof of that than the persistence of e-mail, which remains the primary form of communication for most professionals. e-mail is based on open standards, has no central authority, and can't be controlled by a corporate behemoth, unlike social networking services Google+, Facebook, and Twitter. If the online outrage over the death of Google Reader is any indication, syndicating Web updates via RSS and Atom feeds will remain viable into the foreseeable future.

Rather than suffering from the Three Horsemen of the Techpocalypse – Fear, Uncertainty, and Doubt – RSS aficionados should rejoice. By providing a good solution for free, Google Reader has essentially monopolized aspects of the overall RSS world for many years, and its upcoming death has inspired countless developers to build alternatives that will undoubtedly look not just to replace Google Reader but also to go well beyond it. 🗑️

by Adam C. Engst

Cool Products from Macworld/iWorld 2013: Part 2

Flint = Square – Card Reader — The payment processing service Square made waves for small local businesses with its hardware and software system for accepting credit card payments on an iOS device (see [“Square Provides Easy Alternative to Cash and Checks,”](#) 8 November 2011). But the little dongle that plugs into the headphone jack and through which cards are swiped is a bit awkward, and for those who don't use it regularly, easy to forget or lose. A new payment processor called Flint provides essentially the same service, but eliminates the need for the card reader by instead “scanning” the credit card's number with the iOS device's camera. The Flint folks at Macworld/iWorld were very clear that the app is not taking a picture of the

card, but is instead digitizing the image of the numbers and sending that off to be processed, storing nothing on the device itself. The result is of course the same, but it's interesting that there's a perceived issue with using the camera. Flint also offers extras like social marketing associated with the purchase, customized e-mail receipts, and low rates (1.95% + \$0.20 per charge for debit cards; 2.95% + \$0.20 for credit cards). Currently, Flint is available only in the United States, and works only with Visa- and MasterCard-branded cards. [ACE]

Extend Wi-Fi Range with BearExtender — Wi-Fi hacking no longer makes the news, but there are still times when you need more than what Apple's built-in hardware

can do for you. In particular, if you're just out of range of a Wi-Fi network, the \$49.97 [BearExtender Mini](#) may be just the ticket. It's a USB-connected, 1000 milliwatt Wi-Fi transceiver with an omnidirectional 2 dBi external antenna (an optional 5 dBi antenna provides even more range). BearExtender claims two to four times the range of the standard AirPort card, which would have been perfect for our friends who moved in next door and couldn't quite reach our Wi-Fi network while their cable Internet connection was being installed. The hardware is tiny – not much larger than a house key – and it comes with a clip to attach to a MacBook's screen. There's even a 16-foot (4.9 m) USB extension cable if you need to position the BearExtender Mini outside or away from interference. (Note: our own Michael Cohen won one of these in a drawing at the show; although he personally has no practical need for it, he may have something more to say about it once his unit arrives.) [ACE]



CamRanger and CameraMator – The most interesting photography-related development at this year's Macworld/iWorld was the capability to control a DSLR camera remotely from an iOS device via Wi-Fi. In fact, two vendors were showing off devices. Both the [CamRanger](#) and the [CameraMator](#) plug into a camera's USB port and create their own ad-hoc Wi-Fi networks (CameraMator can also use an existing Wi-Fi network). After you connect an iPad, iPhone, or iPod touch to the network, you can get a live view of what the camera is seeing and control nearly all of the camera's settings, such as shutter speed, aperture, ISO, and the like. Other software and devices enable this interaction (like OnOne Software's [DSLR Remote Camera HD](#)) but require the computer to be physically tethered to the camera. Compatibility with certain features varies by

camera. CamRanger lists models and supported features; so far the CameraMator site doesn't include this information. Both devices cost \$299.99, and use free iOS apps to control the camera. [JLC]

Better iPad Presentations – As handy as the iPad is for in-person presentations and showing off of portfolios, the screen is a bit small to see across a conference-room table. With a [Monitor2Go](#) from Mobile Monitor Technologies, though, you can mirror your iPad's 9.7-inch display on a 15.6-inch screen that can face your audience vertically while you look and work on the iPad's screen horizontally. The Monitor2Go connects to the iPad (or any other device) via HDMI, rotates and pivots 180 degrees, and has a slot to hold the iPad. It also uses DisplayLink technology to act as a secondary monitor for a Mac or Windows laptop via USB 2.0 (meaning that it would probably be a little slow; hopefully they'll get the [USB 3.0 version of DisplayLink technology](#) for higher performance soon). Two versions are available, the 1366-by-768 resolution Monitor2Go for \$299 and the 1600-by-900 Monitor2Go HD+ for \$329 – apart from resolution, they're identical. It's too bad the resolutions and aspect ratios don't match the iPad, but Retina-level screens are probably both pricey and unnecessary for viewing from a distance. [ACE]



Street Photography for iOS Users – Sometimes you want to take a picture with your iPhone or iPad without being painfully obvious by holding your device vertically to use the camera. With the [MirrorCase](#) for the iPhone 4/4S, iPhone 5, and iPad, you can hold the iPhone horizontally, as though you were innocently reading something, and still snap pictures and take videos of scenes in front of you. Or, if you're using your iPad to take notes in a lecture, it can remain flat on the desk while still having a clear camera view of the lecturer's slide presentation. It's all done via smoke and mirrors, without the smoke, and the free [MirrorCase app](#) handles the necessary pixel-flipping so everything is right-side up (a \$0.99 [MirrorCase Plus](#) version adds sharing and in-app access to the Camera Roll). The MirrorCase for the iPhone 4/4S is available now for \$49.95, the iPhone 5 version is available for pre-order for \$59.95, and the iPad version is also coming soon for \$79.95. [ACE]



iPad Note Taking with Synced Audio, Text, and Photos

— I've long been looking for a note-taking app with which I could record a lecture and have any notes I take synced to the right point in the audio, along with any photos I take. Synced audio and text is fairly common, but an iPad app I saw at the show, the \$1.99 [Projectbook](#), may be the first I've seen to include synced photos too, which I want as a way of recording the presenter's slides. But Projectbook is way more than a note-taking app, also storing to-do lists, Word documents and PDFs, Web clip-pings, images, and sketches. Notes can contain styled text, handwritten text, sketches, photos, and synced audio. Notes and other documents are automatically related by their contents, and you can also tag notes, file them in folders, or organize them by date. I'm not certain I'd want to use Projectbook for task management, at least until the Mac and iPhone versions are available, but it looks to have compelling features for note-taking and information management. [ACE]

Kanex ATV Pro — For my "The iPad for Photographers" session, I geeked out by delivering my entire presentation from my iPad, wirelessly, using an AirPort Express and an Apple TV. (I wrote about the setup in more detail in the Seattle Times.) But the day before I was to appear onstage, I ran into an unexpected snag: the projectors used at the show offered only old VGA connections. The third- and fourth-generation Apple TV use HDMI connections as the only way to output video and audio, so I figured I'd have to fall back to an iPad VGA adapter, tying me to the lectern for my talk. Talk about an occasion when it was great to have a bunch of vendors on the show floor nearby! I headed to the Kanex booth, knowing that they've offered video adapters of all sorts for years, and sure enough, they had exactly what I needed: the \$59.95 [Kanex ATV Pro](#). It plugs into the Apple TV's HDMI port, and includes a port for attaching a VGA cable. There's also a 3.5mm audio-out jack to output sound. In talking with one of the company's representatives in the booth, I learned that the ATV Pro is one of their best-selling products, especially to education customers who aren't able to upgrade older projectors but want to take advantage of the AirPlay media and screen-sharing capabilities of Apple's latest devices. [JLC]

Givit and BUZZcard Enhance iPhone Videos — We went to Macworld/iWorld planning to do some video interviews, and while that didn't happen much for a variety

of reasons, we noticed a couple of video app/service combos that might be of interest to those shooting video on an iPhone. The [Givit](#) app and service (free for up to 5 GB of storage, \$29.99 per year for 100 GB) let you easily clip the best bits out of longer videos, enhance them with motion effects (slow motion, speed-up, replay), add music, and then quickly share privately or to social media services. [BUZZcard](#) doesn't offer editing (and could use more pre-viewing features), but instead focuses on branding videos, helping you add an intro and an outro, plus music and a watermark over the video. It's targeted at sales professionals like real estate agents and car dealers who need to show off products but don't have the skills or time for video editing. BUZZcard's \$9.95 per month service currently posts to YouTube after processing the video; a \$19.95 Pro service that's coming soon will host the videos itself. Read on to see our BUZZcard sample video! [ACE]

Best Bag Demo — The [Platforma](#) bag from Strotter deserves mention both for its elegant design and for the performance demo its designer had worked up to show off all its features. The bag converts from a vertical messenger bag to a sling-type backpack, and with the switch of a clip, creates a hands-free platform on which you can work on the iPad. The iPad sticks tight to the bag thanks to a magnetized polycarbonate case that will also hold your iPad to a refrigerator. The \$169 Platforma is made of water-resistant leather with bright red nylon lining, features waterproof zippers, and has one internal pocket along with two front-wall pockets and one back-wall pocket, a magnetic flap closure, and a 1.5-inch seatbelt strap with custom buckle. You can read more about it on Strotter's site, or watch the [video](#) we took and branded with BUZZcard. [ACE]

Cooking with iPad and Chef Sleeve — For as long as I can remember, the computer has been poised to become a digital kitchen companion — and yet most of us still reach for paper cookbooks when standing at the kitchen counter. Part of the problem is that cooking is messy, and while nature may abhor a vacuum, iPads abhor soup. The folks at [Chef Sleeve](#) sell disposable iPad sleeves (25 for \$19.99, available directly and at Target) that protect the tablet from ingredients that never completely make it into mixing bowls. The booth representatives said the fitted plastic bags are reusable, but I'm not crazy about having to toss excess plastic, even if it is recyclable. However, what intrigued me more was the company's \$34.99 iPad Dishwasher Safe iPad Stand and \$69.99 Cutting Board with iPad Stand. Both products are made from recycled wood fibers and a food-safe resin, and — as advertised — can be cleaned in the dishwasher. The stand can hold the iPad in two angles (45 or 20 degrees) depending on which slot you use; I like that the wider slot accommodates an iPad with a Smart Cover wrapped around the back. The cutting board features a slot for the iPad, so you can keep your recipes right in front of your work. Maybe this arrangement will finally convince me to digitize my old index card recipes. [JLC]



Simplest iPhone Holders — Lastly, we wanted to call out [Insanely Great Products](#), a small California company that was selling oodles of simple, inexpensive iPhone holders and elegant iPad stands. **Their shtick?** In an industry where many products are made badly in China by low-paid workers, Insanely Great Products is at the forefront of the Made in America re-shoring trend, doing all their manufacturing in Silicon Valley. Though known

mostly for software, Silicon Valley has also always had a rich tradition and ecosystem for hardware manufacturing, and everyone at Insanely Great Products participates in building the company's products, starting with sheets of acrylic, steel, and aluminum and then designing, cutting, bending, etching and assembling each item by hand. The company got its start in the maker-focused [TechShop](#) in the San Francisco Bay Area, though they had to purchase some of their own equipment to be able to produce sufficient quantities. If you're looking for an iPhone gadget that can prop your iPhone up on your desk, hold it to a window, or dangle it from your car's vents, their ingenious suction-cup and binder-clip holders really do work. And if aluminum, acrylic, and steel are too industrial for you, their natural bamboo iPhone 5 stand, which also can hold an iPad mini at a nice reading angle, is also an attractive accessory.

[ACE] ☞



by Christopher Breen

Mac 911

Skype and the crashing camcorder

Reader Dave Eng can't seem to broadcast his mug over the Internet. He writes:

Every so often I use Skype for multi-participant video conferences and when I do, I use my FireWire DV camcorder rather than my Mac's built-in camera. I launched Skype the other day and it immediately crashed when I switched on my camera. I restarted my Mac, reinstalled Skype, but the same thing happened every time. What's going on?

The current version of Skype (at least as I write this) has a bug that causes it to explode (okay, without the fire, smoke, and noise) when you connect a FireWire camcorder to your Mac and switch it on. The folks at Skype are aware of the issue but the most recent updates haven't fixed the problem.

In the meantime, [Oldapps.com](#) has the most recent version that is compatible—Skype 6.0.0.2946. Just toss out your current copy of Skype, install this one, and Skype should behave itself. (And no, you won't lose any of your settings or contacts by installing the earlier version.)

And, for those reading along, why would you use a camcorder rather than the Mac's perfectly fine built-in camera? If your Mac doesn't have a camera—you're using a Mac mini or Mac Pro, for example—an add-on camera is a requirement. A camcorder is going to offer better quality,

plus they have optical zoom capabilities that you can manipulate with a remote control. (Though you can use Ecamm Network's \$20 iGlasses 3 to add digital zoom—and a lot of other effects—to the Mac's built-in camera.) And although you probably could with a long hunk of duct tape, mounting a laptop on a tripod for the best camera placement isn't a convenient option.

A lot of people have old camcorders and tripods gathering dust that could be put to good use when employed during video chats. Setting them up is simple. Mount the camcorder so that it's facing you. String the FireWire cable between your camcorder and the Mac (or to a Thunderbolt-to-FireWire adapter if your Mac lacks a FireWire port). Switch the camcorder to the Camera setting. (Some camcorders will put themselves to sleep if they either do or don't have a tape loaded—experiment with yours to see which makes it happiest.) Launch the application you'll be using for the chat and in the application's audio/video preferences choose the external camera. (I prefer using an external microphone as well, place just out of the picture frame.)

When Safe Boot won't boot

Reader Simon Hansen finds his Mac slow to do his bidding. He writes:

My Mac has been running very slowly lately and I wanted to see how much faster it would be if I disabled its startup items. But when I try to start up in Safe Mode, it shows the progress bar, but that bar never fills up and my Mac doesn't boot. What's going on?

For the benefit of readers who are unfamiliar with Safe Mode (also known as Safe Boot mode), let's back up and explain how to access Safe Mode and exactly what it is.

You enter Safe Mode by shutting down your Mac and then starting it up while holding down the Shift key as soon as your Mac's monitor lights up. You can let go of the Shift key when you see the Apple logo and a progress bar. According to Apple, this is what happens during Safe Mode (and I quote):

It forces a directory check of the startup volume. You may see a progress bar on the screen during this check, and the computer may take longer than usual to complete its startup.

It loads only required kernel extensions (some of the items in /System/Library/Extensions).

In OS X v10.3.9 or earlier, Safe Mode runs only Apple-installed startup items (such items may be installed either in /Library/StartupItems or in /System/Library/StartupItems; these are different than user-selected account login items).

It disables all fonts other than those in /System/Library/Fonts (OS X v10.4 or later).

It moves to the Trash all font caches normally stored in /Library/Caches/com.apple.ATS/(uid)/, where (uid) is a user ID number such as 501 (OS X v10.4 or later).

It disables all startup items and login items (OS X v10.4 or later). OS X v10.5.6 or later: A Safe Boot deletes the dynamic loader shared cache at (/var/db/dyld). A cache with issues may cause a blue screen on startup, particularly after a Software Update. Restarting normally recreates this cache.

Apple goes on to note that certain features won't work when your Mac is booted this way. Specifically, DVD Player, iMovie video capture, audio input and output devices, and modems won't work. If you're running OS X 10.5 or later, hardware accelerated graphics are also kaput. And with OS X 10.6 or later, file sharing access is disabled so you won't be able to mount network attached storage (such as the drive in Apple's Time Capsule).

Now that we're all up to speed, why won't your Mac boot? I'm afraid my answer will be far shorter than the background information I've provided. I'll lay dollars-to-doughnuts that an external device (or many such devices) is causing the problem. I have multiple external hard drives jacked into my Mac Pro and I simply can't boot into Safe Mode—as with your Mac, mine stalls. However, once I shut down the Mac and unplug all those drives, my computer Safe Boots like there's no tomorrow. As you're booting into Safe Mode specifically to see how your Mac runs “naked,” doing without those external drives for awhile won't hurt you.

And if you discover that your Mac is a speed-demon in Safe Mode but slows down again when you restart your Mac with no keys held down? Time to launch System preferences, choose Users & Groups, select your account, and take a close look at your login items. Do without those that you don't absolutely need and see how your Mac performs.

[Macworld Senior Editor Christopher Breen is the author of “Secrets of the iPod and iTunes (6th edition),” and “The iPod and iTunes Pocket Guide (4th edition)” both from Peachpit Press and

“OS X 10.5 Leopard Essential Training (video)” from lynda.com Find Chris' books at www.amazon.com and www.peachpit.com. Get special user group pricing on Macworld Magazine! Subscribe today at <http://www.macworld.com/useroffer> 

May Software Review

Apple Updates

Digital Camera RAW Compatibility Update 4.05 Apr 17, 2013 - 6.0.2 MB

System Requirements

- OS X 10.8.2 or later
- OS X 10.7.5 or later

This update adds RAW image compatibility for the following cameras to Aperture 3 and iPhoto '11:

- Fujifilm X20

- Fujifilm X100S
- Fujifilm X-E1
- Fujifilm X-Pro1

iPhoto 9.4.3 Apr 16, 2013 - 730.91 MB

System Requirements

- OS X Lion 10.7.5
- OS X Mountain Lion 10.8.3

What's New in Version 9.4.3

- Photos can now be deleted from My Photo Stream by dragging to the Trash

- Photos can now be exported from Photo Stream using the Export command in the File menu
- RAW images manually imported from My Photo Stream are now editable
- Fixes a bug that could cause manually-rotated photos to appear unrotated when shared to Photo Stream
- Addresses an issue that could cause iPhoto to quit unexpectedly while syncing to Facebook
- Resolves an issue that could cause calendar text to appear at the wrong font size, resulting in order cancellation
- Fixes an issue that could cause books to have an incorrect number of pages after rearranging two-page spreads
- Includes stability improvements

Canon Laser Printer Drivers v2.0 for OS X
Apr 16, 2013 - 22.92 MB

- System Requirements
- OS X Mountain Lion
 - OS X 10.6.1 or later
 - OS X Lion or later

This update installs the latest software for your Canon Laser printer or scanner.

Epson Printer Drivers v2.14 for OS X
Apr 16, 2013 - 1.04 GB

- System Requirements
- OS X Mountain Lion
 - OS X Lion
 - OS X 10.6 or later

This update installs the latest software for your EPSON printer or scanner.

Apr 16, 2013 - 63.92 MB

- System Requirements
- OS X Lion 10.7 or later
 - OS X Mountain Lion 10.8 or later

Java for OS X 2013-003 delivers improved security, reliability, and compatibility by updating Java SE 6 to 1.6.0_45.

Safari 5.1.9 for Snow Leopard
Apr 16, 2013 - 48.40 MB

- System Requirements
- Mac OS X 10.6.8 Snow Leopard

Safari 5.1.9 allows users to enable the Java plug-in for Safari on a website-by-website basis.

Java for OS X 10.6 Update 15
Apr 16, 2013 - 69.39 MB

- System Requirements
- Mac OS X 10.6.8 Snow Leopard

Java for OS X 10.6 Update 15 delivers improved security, reliability, and compatibility by updating Java SE 6 to

1.6.0_45. This update enables website-by-website control of the Java plug-in within Safari 5.1.9 or later.

HP Printer Drivers v2.14 for OS X
Apr 16, 2013 - 470.43 MB

- System Requirements
- OS X Mountain Lion
 - OS X Lion
 - OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard

This download includes the latest HP printing and scanning software for OS X Mountain Lion, OS X Lion and OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard.

Aperture 3.4.4
Apr 16, 2013 - 523.15 MB

- System Requirements
- OS X Lion 10.7.5
 - OS X 10.8.2 or later

What's New in Version 3.4.4

- Addresses an issue that could cause Aperture to quit unexpectedly during image import
- Nikon P7700 RAW images are now displayed correctly in the Import window
- Thumbnails with version names longer than 250 characters are now displayed correctly
- Fixes an issue that could cause multiple warning dialogs to appear when web albums are synced after waking from sleep
- Addresses an issue that could cause Aperture to quit unexpectedly when uploading photos to Photo Stream
- Shared Photo Stream invitation lists now scroll correctly
- Includes stability and performance improvements



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