

Upcoming Programs

December

Holiday Party
Food and fun!

Video Podcasting
Allen Emory will present

January

Member Favorites
Melanie Crain will give a short presentation of Shutterbug

Back-up Strategies, Part I
Overall strategies and planning

February

Member Favorites
Any volunteers?

Back-up Strategies, Part II
Software and hardware

Member Favorites are short presentations from members on their favorite freeware or shareware application, game, script, tool, trick or tip. Members are invited to step forward to present; there is plenty of room on the schedule.

If you wish to be included on the schedule please contact Allen Emory at aemory@earthlink.net.

PREZ SEZ



President Duane Reaugh

The Year in Review

It has certainly been a great year at Apple. The stock was selling for about \$64 a share a few months ago and it split 2 for 1 and now it is up to almost \$74. A few years ago it was selling for \$14 (really \$7 after the split). The iPod has gone thru several incarnations in just the last year with the iPod Shuffle and the new video iPod. The iPod product line starts at \$100 and goes up to \$399. With all those price points, I suspect there will be a lot of iPods under the tree this holiday season.

Apple announced they were switching to the Intel architecture and the world did not come to an end. Mac sales are still strong and now Apple has a 4-processor tower that has got to be the faster computer for under \$3,500. A similarly equipped Dell would cost over \$5,000. You can buy a 12" iBook for under \$1,000 and a Mac Mini for \$499. The powerbook remains as one of the top portables. There are rumors that Apple is hiring Sony VAIO engineers (one of the other top portables) so I am expecting great things for next year. Apple is hoping to change the video distribution marketplace like it has the audio world. Tivo just announced the new release, which will allow users to download their Tivo-saved TV programs to the video iPod. I repeat it has been a great year for Apple and Apple users.

At the same time, it has been a bad year for the country. We have had two really bad hurricanes, people are killed in Iraq every day and not a lot of progress toward a peaceful solution. As we enter the holiday season, I hope everyone will spend a few moments reflecting on the last 12 months and maybe do something to make it a better place to work and live. Make a donation to the Red Cross, give a pint of blood, find a good home for your old Mac, show someone how to use a computer, do something nice for a complete stranger.



© American Red Cross

And have a happy holiday season.

NOTE: Officer e-mail addresses will be changing soon!

President

Duane Reaugh
pres@tmug.org

1st Vice President

Allen Emory
vp1@tmug.org

2nd Vice President

Melanie Crain
vp2@tmug.org

Secretary

Ruth Landa
secretary@tmug.org

Treasurer

Stefan Jeglinski
treasurer@tmug.org

Web Master

(open)

Postmaster

Paul Lemieux
plemieux@tmug.org

Get Info Editor

Lisa Colwell
editors@tmug.org

Listserv Administrator

Chips Chapman
velomac@mindspring.com

TMUG Committees and their Chairmen

Programs: Allen Emory

Membership: Alec Whittaker

Web site: Melanie Crain, pro tem

<http://www.tmug.org/>

Apple, the Apple logo, the MacOS logo and Macintosh are trademarks of Apple Computers, Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries.



APPLE FLASHBACK

CUPERTINO, California—January 19, 2000—Apple® today announced that its Board of Directors has unanimously voted to grant the Company's CEO Steve Jobs stock options to purchase ten million shares of Apple common stock and to give him a Gulfstream V airplane in recognition of his service to the Company during the past two and a half years.

"Apple's market cap has risen from less than \$2 billion to over \$16 billion under Steve's leadership since his return to the Company two and a half years ago," said Apple Board member Ed Woolard. "Steve has taken no compensation thus far, and we are therefore delighted to give him this airplane in appreciation of the great job he has done for our shareholders during this period."

"Steve's stock options were granted a week ago at the then-market price, and will gain value only as Apple's stock price rises, to the benefit of all shareholders," said Apple Board member Jerry York. "This grant reflects Steve's and the Board's confidence in the future value of Apple."

Steve's salary will remain at \$1 per year.

Apple ignited the personal computer revolution in the 1970s with the Apple II and reinvented the personal computer in the 1980s with the Macintosh. Apple is committed to bringing the best personal computing experience to students, educators, creative professionals and consumers around the world through its innovative hardware, software and Internet offerings.

© 2000 Apple. All rights reserved. Apple, the Apple logo and Macintosh are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Apple. Other company and product names may be trademarks of their respective owners.

Group Therapy for iPod Users

by Steven Sande, stevensande@mac.com

Hi, my name is Steve S. and I have an iPod problem.

Therapy Group: "Hi, Steve!"

Therapist: "Steve, now that you've admitted that you have a problem, you've taken the first step to helping yourself. Could you tell the rest of the group members a little about your problem?"

Well, I know I shouldn't carry my iPod with me everywhere, but it's just so handy that I find myself using it for everything! For instance, last night my wife and I were sitting at an outside table at a restaurant and it was wobbling, so I used my iPod nano as a shim under the table leg to keep it from rocking. Yeah, I know David Pogue already did that, but it was one more way to use my iPod.

Therapist: "But Steve, isn't the iPod just an MP3 player? Why are you talking about using it to do other things? Isn't playing music enough?"

You see, that's exactly the problem - it isn't just an MP3 player, although it excels at that task. Why, with a little thought and effort, you can use it to do just about anything! Who needs a Palm or Pocket PC? You can use an iPod for your calendar and your address book, you can use it to read books or email....

Therapist: "Okay, calm down, Steve. Just tell the group about how your 'problem' with iPods began... Breathe slowly, inhale... exhale... inhale... exhale... that's better."

It started in 2002. This was during a short time in my life where I didn't have a Mac and was forced against my will to use a PC. But that's another story. Anyway, the second-generation iPods had just come out on the market and they worked with Windows. I love music, so I thought it would be a good idea to buy one so I didn't have to carry CDs with me on trips. As soon as I got it out of the box and charged up, I noticed that there was something in the instructions about moving my Outlook contacts to my iPod. I did it. And I liked it.

Therapist: "That seems rather innocuous. I mean, just storing a few addresses on your iPod isn't too out of the ordinary. What happened next?"

As time went by I found myself using the calendar function on the iPod as well, and then I decided that I really wanted a Mac again so I bought a PowerBook, and I reformatted the iPod to

work with it. That's when I noticed the option called "Enable disk use." I found that I could actually store a lot of my files from the PowerBook on my iPod to back them up! At that point I was relying on a single Mac, so I knew I'd be in trouble if I couldn't boot it up some day. I even installed Panther on my iPod so I could boot from it if the system on my PowerBook was corrupted.

Therapist: "This still doesn't seem too bad. Go on."

Finding out that I could move files easily to the iPod started me down the path to my, er, problem, with iPods. First it was just backing up files and using my iPod as a startup disk. Next, I started grabbing text ebooks from Project Gutenberg and reading them on the iPod. When the iPod photo came on the market I knew it was the answer to my wishes - I could store all of my photos on it and view slideshows! I could even leave my PowerBook at home on business trips and deliver my presentations from the iPod photo.

Therapist: "But didn't you want to have your laptop with to do things like find directions or play games?"

Nope. I looked up a bunch of locations before I went on my business trips and found directions from my hotel to those places. Then I moved all that info to my iPod so I could look it up! And my iPod comes with games. Not many, but when I installed iPodLinux on it I was able to install and play more games - Minesweeper, Othello, TuxChess, even Doom!

<http://ipodlinux.org/Applications>

Therapist: "You loaded Linux on your iPod? Why?"

Because I could? No, it's a way for me to do even more with my iPod. I'm hoping that I can use it as a Web server soon.

Therapist: "Hmm. I'm beginning to think that this is a deep-rooted problem. I'd better contact my colleague in Vienna..."

According to the World Clock on my iPod nano, it's about 1:30 AM there right now, so I don't think he'd appreciate an unexpected wakeup call. After all, he probably used the sleep timer on his iPod to put him to sleep. Of course, if you do want to call him I'll use the iPod nano's stopwatch and time your call so you don't end up paying some ridiculous amount to your long-distance company. It would probably be a better idea just to wait until his iPod wakes him up tomorrow morn-

continued on page 4

Setting up a Database for Lost and Misplaced Items

by Phil Shapiro

A simple and very practical introduction to databases is to create a database of lost and misplaced items. I constantly get confused about whether an item of mine is lost or misplaced. Now that I've created a database, I can find out in a flash whether an item is lost or misplaced. For me, it gives me peace of mind knowing that I have a detailed record of all lost and misplaced items.

Almost any database program can be used to keep track of lost and misplaced items. On Windows, you can use Microsoft Access. On the Mac, FileMaker and AppleWorks both work well. I've found that I need to use Oracle to keep track of the quantity of items I've lost and misplaced, but for the average person, any of the above programs works fine.

Once you have your database set up, it makes sense to print out weekly reports of your lost and misplaced items. I keep my reports on a clipboard, right by my computer. If you find the smaller clipboards don't hold enough sheets, you can get a clipboard that can comfortably hold over 100 sheets.

You can streamline this database, too, by planning ahead. If I buy anything new, I automatically add it to misplaced items, knowing that within a week or two I will have misplaced it. There's a certain satisfaction when you find out that you've misplaced something that is already in the database. In truth, this technique saves a lot of work. There's nothing like being prepared and planning ahead. Doing so will help you organize your lost and misplaced items in a way you never thought possible.

Over time you can look back over the database noting trends. For instance, I've noticed I lose umbrellas mainly in the spring

and fall, so that helps remind me that I need to have all my umbrellas entered into the database before spring and fall arrive. In the spring, I enter the sunglasses I expect to lose and misplace in the summer. In the fall, I enter all the gloves and hats I expect to lose and misplace in the winter.

I don't know what I'd do without my database of lost and misplaced items. My life would be so disorganized without it.



— Phil Shapiro

The author has lost over 50 umbrellas, 65 hats and 120 socks — in the past year. He sometimes spends time looking for items he already is wearing. He can be reached at pshapiro@his.com. His satire can be reached at the bottom of <http://www.his.com/pshapiro/stories.menu.html>.

continued from page 3

ing, Vienna time, and then call him.

Therapist: “Steve, your iPod problem is getting out of hand. I certainly hope you’ve followed my advice and are keeping a journal so you can see how this problem is affecting you.”

Not only am I keeping a journal, but my friends at TidBITS have published my thoughts in an ebook called “Take Control of Your iPod: Beyond the Music.” It tells people all about how to do the same things I like to do with my iPod. The initial release had 128 pages of detailed info and screenshots for only \$10, and I’ve just released the 1.1 update with 22 more pages to cover the video-capable iPods and more.

<http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/ipod-btm.html?14@@!pt=TRK-0025-TB806-TCNEWS>

Therapist: “This has gone entirely too far! Now you’re acting as an enabler, teaching other people how to emulate your insidious iPod addiction. I want to hear what the group has to say about this! Group? Hello? Anyone???”

I don't think they can hear you, Doc! I taught them how to convert my ebook into audiobook, so they're all listening to it right now. See those little white cables? Doc? Are you all right? Doc?

The Tale of Moving Friends from Windows 98 to a G5 iMac Revision 3 (iSight)

by Bill Davies, bdavies@macnexus.org

(c) 2005 Bill Davies, MacNexus, the Sacramento Macintosh User Group

Friends of ours recently decided to change from their Sony Vaio desktop computer running Windows 98 to a G5 iMac (Rev 3) running Tiger. Although I did not preach this change to them, I certainly wanted to do everything I could do to facilitate it. And so I thought it would be interesting to write an article about what I went through trying to make it semi-painless for them.

First, let's talk scope. The lucky couple owned a Sony Vaio desktop PC and wanted to move to a Mac-based laptop with a wireless network in their house. After reviewing what they wanted and what Apple currently had to sell, I convinced them to wait on the laptop and start with the new iMac G5 revision 3 (iSight). The husband owned an HP-branded iPod but had never put music on the Sony Vaio computer. Instead he would go to his brother's house and buy his music on his brother's Powerbook, so I did not have to worry about getting his iTunes library off the Sony computer, because it wasn't there.

These folks have a fairly tall stack of receivers, Tivos, DVD players, speakers, etc., and so knowing that they wanted to be able to use their future laptop in their back yard, and that they would have digital music, I made a shopping list for them that consisted of the following items:

- iMac G5 20" screen
- Revision 3 with 1GB of RAM
- Apple Airport Express Base Station
- Airport Express stereo connection kit
- AppleCare
- Canon Pixma 5200 printer

If you're considering the iMac G5 Rev 3, I would echo other sentiments that I've seen which state that this is not a revolutionary machine, but for those who need to conserve space or who may be young at heart, the machine is a lot of fun. The screen real estate is utterly gorgeous, and the machine seems plenty speedy for web browsing and e-mail tasks. The white plastic that surrounds the machine is somewhat more pliable than I would like, and smelled like plastic. The Mighty Mouse drove me crazy, although Stan Lunetta tells me that if I had one, I'd love it. I do not like that all the ports are on the back of the machine, and I do not like that this machine is not user serviceable like previous iMac G5 models. So if you're considering this machine, my advice is to load it up the way you'll

want it two years from now, because it is going to be a royal hassle to add RAM or a larger hard disk later. This machine does not cry out "professional" to me, nor does Apple intend it to be professional. It's basically a \$2,000 consumer machine, which remains at the high end of the margin, but if you figure the display is worth \$700 of that, it is not too bad of a deal. And, I might add, the little remote control that is the size of an iPod shuffle was just a boatload of fun. (A comparable Sony Vaio desktop, which included a printer, 17" monitor, a built-in TV tuner allowing the user to watch TV, and a full remote control, was in today's BestBuy advertisement for \$1,559. It's not nearly as elegant as the G5 iMac, and takes up more space. I priced a 17" G5 iMac at Apple's online store, and it came out to \$1474 without a printer, and no TV tuner is available pre-installed.)

Heat may be an issue. The machine vents a constant stream of warm air out of the top. On a sixty-five-degree Fall day in Davis, we had to open a window after being in the computer den for a couple of hours. If you have a drafty room that needs a space heater, this computer may be the perfect addition!

Enough about the machine. How did the setup go? For those of you who don't want all the bloody details, suffice it to say I arrived at 10 a.m., the Airport base station was connected to their SBC-Yahoo DSL account by 10:30, the new iMac was connected wirelessly by 11 (I could not plug it into the Airport base station because the Sony Vaio was connected into that), and I spent roughly the next 4 hours trying to get the Vaio and the iMac to connect to one another. If you care how I finally got it to work, read on.

Initially I figured that since Macs can connect to Windows shares easily on most networks, I would turn on file sharing on the Windows machine and see if it showed up over on the Mac. I set the workgroup name on both the PC and the Mac to the same name, knowing that Windows likes that. I should add that the reason the people were dumping this machine was that it was randomly crashing, would not recognize its own CD drive, and would not recognize a thumb drive. So let's just say it was messed up before I got there. The Network Properties box appeared to have lots of duplicate stuff there (left over from several Windows installs, Enternet PPPoE software, etc) so it was not entirely clear whether I was even working on the correct adapter or port. To make this long story short, the Windows computer could not see the Mac (with file sharing enabled on the Mac), and the Mac could not see the Windows computer.

continued on page 6

continued from page 5

We decided to run over to OfficeMax and buy a little ethernet switch, so that both computers would literally be plugged in next to each other and not have to send packets through the Airport base station to see one another. That didn't help.

While we were getting ready to go, and while we were at OfficeMax, I set the Mac to go about importing two years of digital pictures that our friends had never been able to import onto their Windows PC. So I went through three 512MB SD cards and just let iPhoto import away. The pictures looked gorgeous on the screen, and even more amazing was how nicely one of them printed on the new printer. We easily used the little remote control to start up a slide show from across the room.

Back to moving the data from the old computer. Getting desperate, I went back to the Mac's sharing control panel and enabled FTP access. I then launched Internet Explorer on the Sony Vaio, and presto, I was told that anonymous login was not allowed. I then researched the property syntax for formatting an FTP connection with an embedded user name (ftp://user@192.168.1.5 if you care), and once I did that, a box popped up asking for a password. I typed in the password for the Mac home directory I was trying to get to, and the next thing I knew, Internet Explorer on the Sony was displaying a web page with links for Desktop, Documents, Movies, Pictures, and Music. So I was in!

Now I had to actually try to move some data. The problem with Windows is that you won't really know where it all is. I launched their Outlook Express and saw a ton of mail there, but these people said they didn't care if I got their mail to move across. That was probably a stroke of luck most installers won't get. I then went to their contact list and they had 133 e-mail addresses there. I tried to export them as a group as vCards, but Windows popped up a dialog box telling me I had to do one at a time. I did not bring my sleeping bag with me, so I had to find a better way. Finally what I did was to compose a blank message in their Windows Outlook Express program, address it to their account on the new computer, and dragged the 133 contact names into the message body. That worked, and seconds later, the Mac had an e-mail from the Sony containing 133 vCards. I then did "Save all" from the little pop up in the Apple Mail program and saved them onto the desktop. Finally, I launched OS X Address Book and dragged them into the window, and they instantly imported into the Mac's address book.

The remaining data to be copied was some MP3 files (not from the iTunes store) and some old tax returns and book lists. Fortunately for me, these people did not keep their entire life on the computer, or else they have no life! It was not clear to me whether I could upload to the Mac via the Internet

Explorer FTP web page showing the Mac directories, but I clicked on Desktop and Internet Explorer re-drew the screen and showed me the desktop. I then opened a second window behind using the Windows desktop file manager, found a folder of old tax documents, and dragged the entire folder onto Internet Explorer's window. I was nothing short of amazed when the contents of the folder began transferring via FTP and a progress box appeared on the Sony Vaio's screen. Once I determined that this could work, I repeated this process for the remaining tax folders and the MP3 folders. And I wrote down what I did, so that if they found more things to transfer after I left, they might actually be able to do it themselves.

Now, you might ask, could they open their Word and Excel documents once I got it across? I didn't really get into that. I had suggested they buy Office 2004 for the Mac, but they had declined due to the large purchase they were already making, and said that if they needed to edit one of their Word or Excel docs, they would just e-mail it to work and do it there. But watching how foreign this machine was to these refugees from Windows, it occurred to me that if they did have Word or Excel installed, they would have something on the computer that was at least familiar to them. Say what you will about Microsoft, but I think when you're going to a totally foreign operating system there is going to be something comforting about seeing Word or Excel on your screen, because you know how those programs work, and you know where to find things. Obviously Apple is not going to give away free Microsoft software on their machines, but I think there is a compelling reason to suggest that "switchers" buy some software on the machine that will be at least vaguely familiar to them.

On the iMac itself, I made a few other observations. First of all, if Apple expects a non-techie person to accomplish something like this themselves, they're woefully mistaken. Given the very messed up condition of the Windows installation on the Sony Vaio, in my opinion it was a crapshoot at best to wonder if I would ever get the two systems to talk, and I wasn't going to sit there and reinstall Windows 98 for them. I could not connect a USB drive, because the computer was so messed up it wouldn't recognize one. My point is that the documentation provided by Apple to do this sort of thing is wholly inadequate, not to mention that the documentation provided with the new iMac for these people, who had not touched a Mac since 1992, was also completely inadequate. Literally everything on the screen was unfamiliar to these Windows refugees.

On the software side of the Mac, I was interested to note that Apple no longer preinstalls Stuffit Expander or the now-discontinued Internet Explorer. So when I went to download Firefox or some other application that I wanted to add, I found the Microsoft Word Trial Run launching when I had a .sit file that

continued on page 7

needed to open, because Stuffit Expander was not on the machine. Shades of DOS! So if someone were really green and trying to figure out how to decompress some .sit file they just downloaded, they would have a hard time unless they had someone knowledgeable to call. Perhaps Apple's model customer is one who just runs Software Update and doesn't install a bunch of non-Apple stuff on their beautiful new machine?

The Canon Pixma 5200 printer was a breeze to set up and printed beautifully the first time. Much better than my old Epson 980N. The only glitch with the Canon printer is that no USB cable was provided, but we had purchased one of those on our trip to OfficeMax, so I was ready.

I ended up installing Firefox 1.5 on the machine and making it the default browser, as I like the way that Firefox can now update itself and the end-user doesn't have to do anything except click the button that says, "let Firefox update itself" and the rest is automatic. I also found a little RealBasic program that puts the current IP address in the menu bar. Most people would have no use for this, but as these people may shut down or reboot their two machines, my instructions on how to send files from the Windows machine to the Mac were dependent on the customer knowing the Mac's IP address, so this was why I took that precaution. I also installed Acrobat Reader 7.05 since there is some stuff out there that won't open in Apple's Preview application, but will open with Acrobat Reader. It also gives you the ability to fill out PDF forms embedded in web pages, such as many online job applications.

The iTunes integration with Airport Express was pretty much flawless. I was expecting the Airport Admin utility to detect the Airport Express and ask me if I wanted it to join an existing network, but to my dismay, the Airport Express added itself as a new, randomly named menu in the Airport menu bar icon, and I couldn't find it until I switched to that network, at which time I could tell it to merge itself with the existing airport network. Nothing terribly hard to do, but if a person weren't paying attention they could have futzed with that setup for a couple of hours. I was also annoyed, and this is something that appears limited to Tiger, that every time I rebooted the G5 iMac, I would need to manually go to the Airport icon in the menu bar and re-join the wireless network. This was after I had typed in the WPA password and told the Mac to remember the password in its keychain. So when I get a call asking me why iTunes can't send music over to the home stereo, the first question I'm going to ask these folks is whether the Airport icon in the menu bar is black or grey. I think Apple has dropped the ball a bit on this one.

The standout program on the new iMac is Photo Booth, which is a completely silly little application that simulates one of those photo booths at the carnival. A person could easily waste several hours a day screwing around with this photo-morphing program. Photos are somewhat grainy, and of marginal quality for enlargement, but even a complete novice will be able to sit in front of the computer, activate the iSight, and shoot a bunch of silly photos of themselves.

All this work left me about 15 minutes to give the happy couple a quick tour, and I felt a little guilty that there wasn't a DVD or something in the box they could watch to find their way around the system. (Wouldn't it be nice to find Terry White's MacOS X Training for Windows Users DVD in the box, or a coupon to get it for \$10?) It has been thirteen years since they had a Mac. These are forty-somethings, so they'll figure it out, eventually, but I still think Apple doesn't do much to facilitate switching. I'll probably need to give these folks a Missing Manual book as a homecoming present.

At the end of it all, I asked these people why they had switched back to the Mac, and was told that husband's brother had a Powerbook and an iPod, and the combination was just too irresistible. Husband wanted to be like his brother and join the clan, and sit on the couch with a glass of scotch and a small laptop and surf the web. Which is where it will all end up, although I have recommended waiting until after January 2006 to get a laptop since there's fairly good intelligence that the Apple laptops will be getting slimmer and cooler by February of next year.

How has it gone since I walked out the door? Apparently the Sony Vaio shut down completely and they haven't turned it back on. The Mac locked up once when they launched FrontRow when iTunes was already playing, and they didn't even know where the reset button was. They called AppleCare, only to find it wasn't a 24-hour operation. They agreed with me that the lack of documentation or getting started tutorials was rather glaring. Other than that, they've already sent me distorted pictures of their faces taken with Photo Booth, and an Amazon gift certificate as a thank-you present. On the whole, not a bad way for a Mac veteran to put his skills to work.

The Cult of iPod

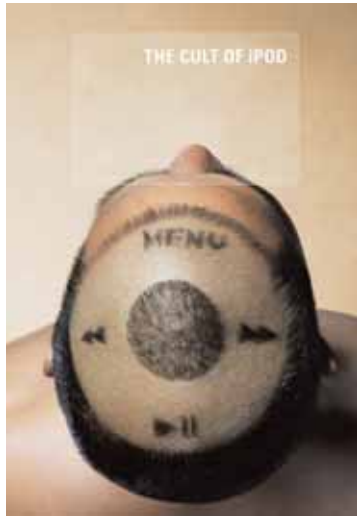
by Leander Kahney

reviewed by Frank Petrie

No Starch Press www.nostarch.com

\$ 24.95 USD

ISBN: 1-59327-066-6



So begins *The Cult of iPod*, a book that delves not only into how Apple's little music-player-that-could has affected the tech industry but also how it has changed musical perceptions. It has also changed the very culture we live in, and it has implications for the future.

First, the people responsible for this book, from the author to the graphic designers, don't miss a chance to let us know

how much the iPod fits into everyday life and consciousness. If you keep track of the right hand page numbers, you will find the iPod battery icon. As the book progresses, it slowly loses power. With that kind of detail, you know your in for a heck of a ride. I mean, just look at the cover alone! Can you say 'intense'?.. and it was good.

Contrary to popular mythology, the iPod was not the brain-child of Messrs. Ives and Jobs. In fact, Apple was two years late to the portable digital music party. What Apple did was even more of a breakthrough; they made the device user friendly and, most importantly, they made it cool. The iPod-iTunes-iTMS digital troika wasn't even the concept of any one at Apple but of Tony Fadell, who became known online as "iClod" for his leaving the party just before the concept skyrocketed. But, the idea had been turned down previously by numerous other manufacturers, including a small Japanese firm, Sony, so who could blame him.

Perhaps the most iconic feature of the iPod are the white earbuds. Scholars have studied this subject and have determined that as far as the street, showing your white earbud's cord is a silent signal to other iPod owners that you 'get it.' Marketing marvel? Hardly. They were made white simply to match the iPod's case. Such is history.

Theories abound. Some claim that what really makes the iPod special is that it has totally changed our musical listening habits, thanks to the Shuffle Songs feature. The New Yorker's

music critic, Alex Ross, says the shuffle feature leads to unusual, and sometimes magical, musical juxtapositions. "The little machine goes crashing through barriers of style in ways that change how I listen." iPods have also changed the DJ scene. Instead of lugging crates of vinyl, a mixer, two iPods and a descent sound system have changed the way many DJs work. Even to the point of creating playlists for special occasions such as weddings, family reunions, clubs, etc. Some clubs invite users to bring their iPods to play their dream thirty-minute playlists. They sign up and await their turn. If they start getting booed, they get the hook.

And what iPod treatise would be complete without exploring the many accessories have been created for the gadget. Handbags for one, handbags for 17, recording mics, FM transmitters, chargers and probably more skins than there are songs to put on your iPod. And that's just scratching the surface. There are also services that will, for a fee, convert your entire CD/vinyl collection to the format of your choice, ready for loading. They'll then ship them back to you via DVD, hard drive or multiple iPods.

The most known effect is related to those iconic white earbuds. Some reports claim that the recent rise in New York City armed robberies can be laid directly at the dock of the iPod. Then there are those who use their iPods to syphon applications like Office of off store demo computers with a simple FireWire connection. But it's not all bad. One quick-thinking owner who was being attacked, grabbed his iPod mini, held it like a dagger and beat down his assailant.

This book is priceless. Even if someone you know has no interest in ever obtaining an iPod, they'll love this book. You would never think that something like this could have such a major impact on the human psyche, but here's the proof. Curl up in your favorite chair, make a steeping hot cup of tea, put in your buds, hit shuffle and then relax for a wonderful read.

RATING: 10 out of 10

©2005 Frank Petrie, Freelance writer, *Macsimum News* contributing editor, *Curmudgeon*

E-mail: phranky@mac.com

iChat: *phranky*

AIM: *phrankywArchive: home.comcast.net/~phranky*