

# Apple Bytes

## The Newsletter of the Lynchburg Apple Core

Volume 2005.6 ----- Lynchburg, VA ----- June 10, 2005

**General meeting is at Lynchburg College, Thursday, June 16, 7:00 PM  
Room 17 in Hopwood Hall** with general discussion and Q&A session at 7:00 p.m.  
There will not be a Branch Meeting at Westminster-Canterbury

**A Special Discussion on Apple's New Program to Switch to Intel Processors**

**A Special Digital Photo presentation by Michael Corbin on his recent trip to China**

**The featured technical presentation on Mac OS X Version 10.4 "Tiger" at 7:30 PM.**

## Tiger Is On the Loose!

Apple released Tiger to the world on April 29th, and things haven't quite been the same since. Michael Corbin and Gordon Mattox took a road trip to the Apple Store at Short Pump late that afternoon and were among the first to enter the store when the doors opened at 6:00 PM. There was a crowd of possibly 300 or more Mac addicts lined up at Shot Pump Town Center to participate in the release. Customers filing into the store were given scratch-off tickets for prizes ranging from a free iTunes song download to an iPod or even a PowerBook. Everyone was a winner! We are all winners when we upgrade to Mac OS X 10.4 "Tiger."

There are more than 200 new features in Tiger, so we will only just begin to cover some of them in the discussion at the meeting. Some of these features are quite evident to persons using Tiger for the first time, while others are not so evident and will only be found after a period of everyday use. To help users upgrading to Tiger, Apple has set up an on-line QuickTime video seminar focusing on eight primary areas, and we will look at some of these in the discussion.

- Spotlight - Find anything, anywhere, fast.
- Dashboard - Everything you need in a flash.
- Mail - Outsmart your inbox.
- Safari RSS - Your desktop is the new doorstep.
- QuickTime 7 - The future of video is crystal clear
- iChat AV - Face to face to face to face
- Automator - Your personal automation assistant
- Hidden Gems - Tiger: a further look

**Spotlight** is the feature that Apple seems to be the most proud of in Tiger. Spotlight is a new technology with which you can find anything in your computer. The significance here is that Spotlight searches more than just filenames. It looks at file content, or metadata, as well. It looks through all of your files and applications and begins to present results as soon as you type the very first letter. That's because Spotlight indexes every file on your computer transparently and in the background, so you never experience lag times or slowdowns. And when you make a change, such as adding a new file, receiving an email or entering a new contact, Spotlight updates its index automatically, so search results are always up-to-the-moment accurate. The resulting found information is sorted by the kinds of files found and is presented in a contextual format.

There are three primary ways to search for files and information. One way is directly in the Finder window which has a search field in the title bar. As soon as you begin typing your search word, Spotlight begins searching and showing results as fast as you type. Another way, in the Finder is to press Command-F (⌘-F) which opens a new Finder window where you can make some choices about the attributes of the file you are looking for, such as Kind, Date Modified, Contents, etc. A third way is to use the Spotlight field that is available at any time in the upper right corner of the Menu Bar. Just click on the bright blue circle showing the magnifying glass, and begin typing into the search field that shows. The search begins instantaneously and a list window quickly opens with the results as

they appear. If you click on the blue “Show All” at the top of the list, a new window opens which shows a list of the found files grouped according to one of the grouping choices you can make, such as Kind, Date, or People. This convenient search gives you instant results encompassing not only files, folders and documents but also messages in Mail, contacts in Address Book, iCal calendars, System Preferences and applications.

Probably the most noticeable and striking new feature of Tiger is **Dashboard**, the likes of which many users have never seen before. With the touch of the F12 Function key, four or more mini-applications spring to life at your service. These are called “Widgets” and take the form of a calculator, a calendar, a clock and a weather report, that come in the original configuration of Tiger. Eight more Widgets wait to be configured whenever you wish to add them to the active set, and potentially dozens more are available from the web. After you are finished using whatever Widget you wished, a click of the mouse or a touch of the Function key puts them away in a flash, to await your call again at a later time. The idea originally came from a shareware program called Konfabulator, which is still available for use Tiger and also in earlier versions of Mac OS X.

**Mail**, the e-mail application first appeared some years ago in OS X has been upgraded significantly with new capabilities. One very important feature utilizes the Spotlight technology. If you keep received and sent mail for record purposes, you can search across even the largest mailbox with pinpoint accuracy. Mail displays the most relevant e-mails at the top of the search results and lets you change your search on the fly. Search selected mailboxes or across all mailboxes. Search across the entire message or content or just the from, to or subject fields.

Mail sends and receives photos just as easily as you take them. With one click, Mail resizes your outgoing photos to small, medium, large or actual size and tells you how big an email will be based on the photo size you select. No more returned messages, lots more happy recipients. Mail even creates slideshows of photos in an email, complete with effects. Choose photos from a virtual index sheet, resize photos to fit your display, then enjoy the show. Fully photo-friendly, Mail makes it a snap to share, manage and view your pictures.

Tiger's new version of **Safari** is now RSS ready. RSS technology (Really Simple Syndication) is now being offered by major news organizations, community web sites and weblogs. Safari RSS lets you take these news feeds and view them together in a simple, ad-free list, so you can quickly find all the articles that interest you from across the Web. Safari is compatible with all the RSS feeds on the Internet because of its standards-based support for RSS 0.9, RSS 1, RSS 2 and Atom. Another new feature is that you can save and even e-mail web pages complete with images and links. You can keep them to read later. Archiving is ideal for saving short-lived web pages such as articles and personal receipts. The links embedded inside the page will continue to work as long as their destination web pages still exist.

Included with Tiger is **QuickTime 7**, the latest version of Apple’s dynamic sound and imaging technology, which is a cross-platform standard. It includes the new H.264 video codec which has been chosen as the industry-standard for 3GPP (mobile multimedia), MPEG-4 HD-DVD and Blu-ray. H.264 represents the next generation of video for everything from mobile multimedia to high-definition playback.

The new **iChat AV 3** features multi-way full-screen video conferencing which is a really exciting new technology. This will be demonstrated at a future meeting.

With the new **Automator** application, you can easily automate tasks such as renaming a large group of files, resizing dozens of images to fit an iPhoto slideshow or creating iCal birthday events using Address Book contacts, then repeat those tasks again and again. Simple and easy-to-understand application Actions are the building blocks, so you don’t have to write any code. Each Action has all of the options and settings you need. You don’t have to work hard to figure out how to make it work.

You can even incorporate Tiger’s new Spotlight search into Workflows to identify items automatically. Simply drag the Finder Action into your Workflow, click “Run” and powerful Spotlight search technology takes over to find files, disks, folders or items that match whatever criteria you choose.

And there are more hidden gems throughout Tiger. For instance, the new Open and Save dialog boxes have increased functionality. The built-in **Dictionary** application is based on the New Oxford American Dictionary and is available with a quick keyboard command in any Mac OS X application.

For an overview of many of the new features go to <http://www.apple.com/macosx/newfeatures/over200.html>.

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