



We are on hiatus this month, so here's the Virtual Mac Basics+ S.I.G.

Enjoy the AA Art Fair!

June 23, 2009

Hospital: Jobs "excellent" after Liver transplant



Confirming earlier reports that Steve Jobs traveled to Tennessee for [transplant surgery](#), the [Methodist University Hospital Transplant Institute](#) on Tuesday acknowledged the Apple executive did, in fact, receive a liver transplant. The operation was announced by James D.

Eason, M.D., the Program Director, with consent from Jobs to release the information. Although specific details were not disclosed, Eason claims Jobs is "recovering well and has an excellent effectively qualified him as the sickest patient on the waiting list for his blood type. Although surgery centers are plentiful in California, the early leaks suggest Jobs traveled to Tennessee due to shorter waiting lists. The Transplant Institute policies allegedly do not consider residency a requirement. While national waiting times average 306 days, patients in Tennessee average just 48 days before receiving a transplant. Following the leak, Methodist University claimed Steve Jobs was not listed as a

patient there. The wording did not explicitly deny his presence prior to the statement, however. A rumor claims the executive may have [purchased a mansion](#) in Memphis, which was used as a recovery location in close proximity to Methodist University in case of a complication. The 7,500 square-foot building is owned by an LLC associated with a law firm, although the attorney involved with the purchase has declined to comment. While the Memphis mansion rumor remains unconfirmed, Jobs was recently spotted back

on the Apple

Your Virtual S.I.G.

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2009

MacTechnics
Ann Arbor, Michigan



Mac OS X Snow Leopard.

Coming September 2009 with every new Mac. Upgrade from Mac OS X Leopard for just \$29.

Mac OS X Snow Leopard requires an Intel-based Mac.



campus. The company has not yet disclosed further details of the CEO's health status, although he is expected to return on time from his six-month leave of absence.

[Apple issues fix for slow SATA speeds on new MacBook Pros](#)

In one of its quicker turnarounds, Apple has released a firmware update for its mid-2009 MacBook Pro lineup that addresses Serial ATA speeds that were unintentionally cut in half.

[Product News - Apple Releases AirPort/Time Capsule Update with Five Bug Fixes](#)

by Bryan Chaffin

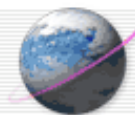
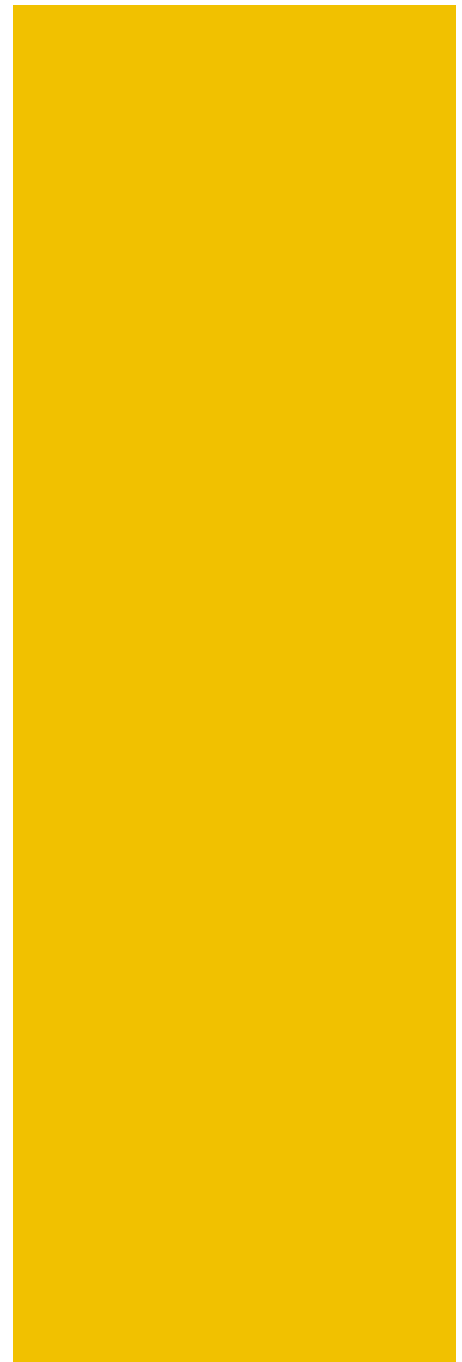
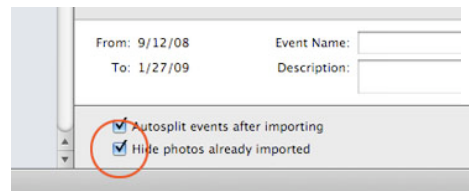
Apple released Time Capsule and AirPort Base Station Firmware Update 7.4.2, a firmware update that includes five bug fixes. Most of the fixes deal with connectivity issues, as well as a Back To My Mac fix.

livepage.apple.com



Every year Apple rolls out another version of iLife. While iPhoto and GarageBand got major updates, some apps, like iWeb and iDVD, ended up being nearly forgotten about. Still, with updates come new features to figure out and a navigation that's changed ever so slightly. We dived right into the new suite and came up with 20 tips and tricks that we hope will help you enjoy all the features the new iLife '09 has to offer.

1. Add geo-tagging info to your uploaded photos - By default, iPhoto doesn't upload photos with location information to online sites. To share your location with the world, open the iPhoto preferences, choose Web and click on "include location information for published photos."



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Why isn't eBay easier? by Terry White

Being a gadget guy, I'm always buying new gear, toys, gadgets, etc. This means that I usually always have something for sale. However, most times the stuff just sits here because of the effort it takes to sell it. For example, this week [I'm selling my Nikon D300 DSLR Camera Body on eBay](#). I've learned over the years that when I get something new that I'm not going to keep it forever, therefore I try to keep the original box, cables, manuals, etc. intact so that when that day comes that I want to sell it I have everything ready to go. Even with that effort it's not as easy as it should be.

Sell it locally

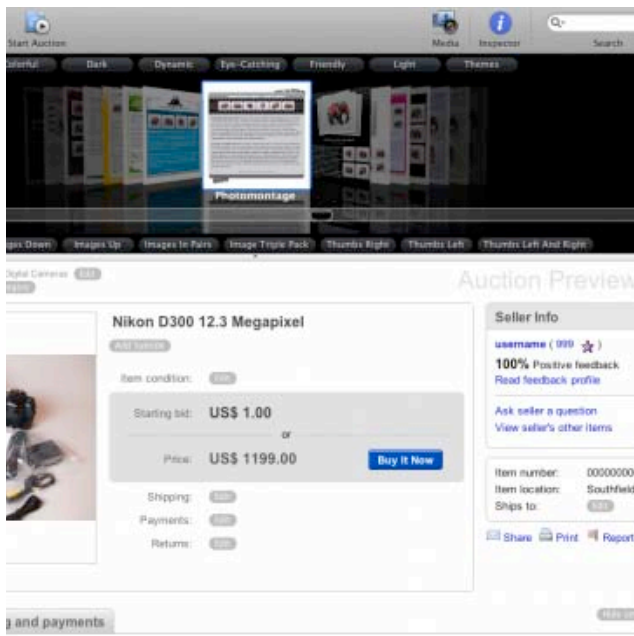
Whenever possible I like to sell things locally. This is just a lot easier. I tell my friends, family, etc. that I've got _____ for sale and see if I get any takers. If that doesn't work, then I turn to [my local users group](#). We have a very popular [bulletin board \(forum\)](#) where members can advertise their gear and sell it other members. Although I haven't used [Craigslist](#) yet, many of my friends have had good luck putting stuff on their to sell locally too.

Sell it on eBay

When I can't sell something locally, I usually turn to eBay. The problem is the process of selling on eBay isn't as easy as it could be. It could be downright intimidating to a first time eBay. When you decide to sell on eBay you're going to need to:

- Do a little research to see what your item is going for?
- Gather your item and as many of the original contents as possible (box, manual, cables, etc.)
- Take pictures of your item
- Write a description of what you're selling and try to include as much detail as possible
- Then post your item. If you want it to stand out, you're going to have to use a little HTML.
- Answer questions from potential buyers
- Hopefully sell your item
- Then wait for payment
- Finally ship your item and hope that the buyer is happy

Just looking at the list above makes me sigh. Although eBay is constantly improving their site to attempt to make it easier to create an auction, the process is still daunting. Many frequent eBayers turn to 3rd party apps to make the process easier. I did the same thing. Last year I bought an app called [GarageSale](#). GarageSale attempts to make the process of creating an auction on eBay as painless as possible. You basically create you auction using a very friendly interface that's all drag and drop. There are a ton of templates built-in to spice up the look and feel of your auction.



Although GarageSale makes the process as painless as possible (within the eBay constraints), there is still too much for the user to figure out. GarageSale is for the Mac. [Here's a popular app for Windows](#).

eBay could be much easier if...

Have you ever gone online to a car manufacturer's site to build your car? Better yet, have you gone to the [Kelly Blue Book](#) site to see what your car is worth? For the most part the experience is pretty easy and you can usually do it an about 5 steps/screens. So for eBay I'd like to start with a Google like search for the item

I'm selling. The eBay site would then return with the average price that my item goes for. It would also come back with a "nicely written description" sample including the complete specs of the item I'm selling. Then I would only have to UNCHECK the items that I don't have. Of course you would be able to change the description anyway you want, but this way you'd have something start out with instead of a blank page. Now in all fairness, eBay does allow you to pull down the specs for some items and even stock pictures, but you're still on the hook to write the description and lay it all out.

The one time I got burned on eBay
Although I have a ton of success both selling and buying on eBay, I have been burned before. Last year when the iPhone 3G came out, I sold my original 16GB iPhone on eBay. iPhones usually go for top dollar on eBay and my auction was no different. My iPhone brought in a really nice price! I know what you're thinking, get the money up front! Well that much I knew. I only accept [Paypal](#) and the woman did pay me immediately! The money was in my account, no question. I could withdraw it either via my Paypal debit card or transfer it to my bank account. So what could go wrong with this picture? Here's where I screwed up. I was a sucker for the "it's a gift for my brother in the Philippines" story. I thought, "well I've got the money, she's paying for whatever the shipping costs are, what do I care where I ship it?" Big mistake! I followed her instructions to the letter. She wanted it shipped to the Philippines with no insurance stating the real value so that he wouldn't have to pay duty. You see where this is going don't you? I shipped it via the USPS International Priority Registered Mail. It never made it to her brother. Although I could have had it traced by the USPS, they were only on the hook for \$20 at that point! She contested the whole transaction with Paypal and even though I had complete documentation of everything that happened, including custom forms, receipts, etc., Paypal ultimately took the the money back out of my account and gave it back to her. So I learned an expensive lesson! I don't ship things to 3rd parties. I only ship to the registered PayPal address with full tracking and insurance.

It took me quite a will to get over that one and to sell again on eBay.

A couple of eBay tips from past experience and from the eBay pros

Start with a very low opening bid price. I usually go with \$1. This encourages people to bid.

If you're worried about your item not going for the price you want. Set a Reserve Price. This guarantees that your item won't be sold for less than you want. Also this helps with the first bullet above.

Charge a reasonable shipping price. If your shipping price is too high, it can actually scare people away.

Have your auction end on Sunday night. 6PM PT seems to be the sweet spot that the pros say use.

No need to go 7 days on popular items. Usually you want your item to be listed for a week. However, if you're selling a hot item chances are you can sell it in 5 days or maybe even 3 days.

Communication, Communication, Communication! Be quick to answer questions about your item. Provide as many details as you can in your description.

Ship it via a trackable service such as the USPS, UPS or Fedex. Don't ship to 3rd party addresses!

Insure your shipment for the price it would take to refund the buyer in case something happens (lost, stolen, damaged, etc.)

DON'T SHIP YOUR ITEM until the money has cleared. Be wary of fake Money Orders and Cashiers Checks.

Be prepared to have the funds held up by Paypal. Paypal has started putting holds on funds from sales of electronics. This is to help protect the buyer. Once the buyer provides positive feedback or after a certain time frame (a couple of weeks), the funds are released to you.

Lastly DON'T agree to ANY side deals outside of the eBay/Paypal system. If you do you basically have no protection against scams.

UPDATE BONUS TIP from my buddy Bruce - when in doubt, ask for a phone number. Simple as that. If it's a scam then most likely they won't respond or won't want to give you a number. If they do give you a number, call it. Granted someone who's really out to scam could just keep getting fake numbers, but chances are it's too much work for the average scammer.

The Bottom Line

I still find [eBay](#) to be very useful for selling my older gear. I just wish the process was easier to do and I'd be more inclined to do it more often. Sure there are services out there that will post your items on eBay for you, but usually their commissions are usually higher than I'm willing to pay.

Also be sure to check out the [eBay Desktop AIR app](#) for both Mac and Windows as well as the [FREE eBay Mobile app for iPhone/iPod touch](#).

Top 100 Essential Mac Applications

Application

Tagged Under: [Applications](#), [List](#), [Top](#)



Hey

I love my Mac and I have hundreds of applications installed on it. As a result I wanted to do a post on what I believe are the top 100 Mac applications that are essential to any user. I've picked a variety of applications that I could think of. I have tried to go for the cheaper free option, but quite a few you have to pay for. If you think I am missing an application leave a comment with a link to the app and why you should think it should be included, it doesn't have to be long, I just want your opinions. If you disagree with any leave a comment with your reasons.

Each application will be split into a couple of major sections. There are some applications that could be in more than one section, but that is not the point of this post. I will also include a link and a bit of descriptive text on what the application is about. There may be duplicate items of the same nature i.e word processing, i've included this due to the differences each application has. The list is in

no particular order, mostly alphabetical.

If you want to take your knowledge of Mac apps a bit further I recommend these two books on [Amazon](#), [Cool Mac Apps](#) and [The Little Mac Book](#) they have got some raving reviews and are probably a good read. I'm sure if you look through Amazon there is plenty of stuff that you can find.

Computer Files

This section is all about programs that can be used to work with files and applications



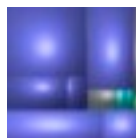
1) [AppFresh](#)

Software updater is great for Apple applications, but appfresh has the ability to check thrid party apps for updates. A great little tool for keeping upto date.



2) [AppZapper](#)

Although applications are easy to uninstall on a mac there are usually small preference files hanging about. Appzapper cleans up an uninstall all of those files.



3) [Disk Inventory X](#)

A simple program that scans your disk and visually shows what files takes up how much space, good to visualize if you are running out of space and you have some size hogs.



4) [Grand Perspective](#)

Very similar to Disk Inventory X, shows you what files take up how much space on your website.



5) [OpenPlist](#)

A very cool little tool if you need to end up editing Plist files.



6) [Quicksilver](#)

One of the best applications ever made for the mac. Its a quick launch tool that enables you to open and do practically anything. Very fun and really increases your productivity.

7) [Stuffit](#)

An application design to unstuff or unpack nearly any file. Create if you use archives a lot.

Want to see the other 93?

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