

August 2011 Newsletter



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Additions to the Apple Range

Apple have rounded off their product updates this month with the introduction of a new range of Macbook Airs, Mac Minis and the new Mac OS X Lion. The new Macbook Airs have a great range to choose from, the specifications can be seen below.

They have also discontinued the standard Macbook, the closest replacement is the entry-level Macbook Pro 13.3" (MC700)

	11.6" Macbook Air		13.3" Macbook Air	
Model No.	MC968	MC969	MC965	MC966
Processor	1.6GHz i5 Intel Core		1.7GHz i5 Intel Core	
RAM	2GB	4GB		
HDD	64GB	128GB	256GB	
Weight	1.08KGs (2.38 Pounds)		1.35KGs (2.96 Pounds)	
Graphics	Intel HD 256MB	Intel HD 384MB		
Connectivity	Two USB + Thunderbolt		Two USB + Thunderbolt + SD Card	
OS	OS X Lion			

Coinciding with the release of these new Mac Products, Apple have also released the latest version of their OS X, Lion. With increased Accessibility which involves the following: 23 different voices for VoiceOver, and further high-quality ones to download. A picture-in-picture zoom window, that enlarges an area of the screen while leaving the original page behind. Support for 80 new Braille tables, varying verbosity. The Cursor even looks better when enlarged for easier use. With improved drag and drop, VoiceOver Activities and Single-Letter web page navigation, there are plenty of in-built features for Mac Users.



OS X Lion



Mac mini

The new Mac Mini range means that the worlds smallest desk-top just became a whole lot more powerful. With high speed processors and some competitive specs, the Mac Mini is a great alternative for an iMac if space is limited.

	2.3GHz Mac Mini	2.5GHz Mac Mini
Model No.	MC815	MC816
Processor	2.3 GHz i5 Intel Core	2.5 GHz i5 Intel Core
RAM	2GB	4GB
HDD	500GB	
Graphics	Intel HD 3000 288MB	Radeon HD 6630M 256MB
Connectivity	4 x USB, Thunderbolt, Firewire 800, HDMI, SDXC Card Slot, Gigabit Ethernet, Audio In/Out	
OS	OS X Lion	

MatchWare Mind View Product update

MatchWare have announced that they will be updating their product range as of September 1st. The Standard version for Windows is now discontinued, and only the Business Edition will be available. And for Mac users the long awaited Version 4 Standard will be released as well, so now both Operating Systems will have the very latest and up to date versions.

Mind View Business brings the added functionality of Outlook, Excel and Gantt Charts to Mind View for PC.



Software Updates

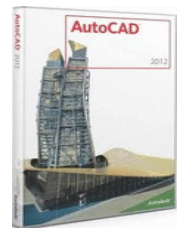
There have been a number of updates to various other different software packages across the Music Software and Design Software, here is a rundown of some of the changes:

Apple have updated their software Line-Up too, Final Cut Pro X has been released, and as a indirect result, Final Cut Express 4 has been discontinued and there is no replacement other than Final Cut Pro. Also Final Cut Pro X is now only available as a download from the Mac App Store, which will have to be done on-site with the student.

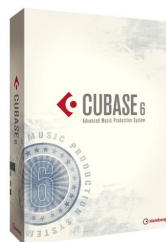


Sibelius has updated as well, moving from Version 6 to 7. Sibelius 7 Academic Student would appear to be the best option for DSA, having the capabilities of the full version, while saving on the costs.

AutoCAD 2011 has been replaced by AutoCAD 2012, both on Windows and Mac. This includes the Education Suites and Inventor too.



Avid Media Composer is now on version 5.5 and Steinberg Cubase has now also moved on to Version 6; this is for both the Full Version and the Basic version, which is now known as Steinberg Cubase 6 Artist instead of Essentials.



Avid Pro Tools 9

The licensing for Avid Pro Tools 9 (both separate and with the Mbox) has changed, and the software now unfortunately requires the purchase of an **iLok USB Licence Key**. This is a stand-alone product that is needed in order to activate the Pro Tools software.



SEIKO

Franklin Product Update

Franklin have released some new products to their current line-up, replacing some of the more popular units too with newer models:

The DMQ-1500 replaces the 1490, with an improved screen and a refreshed design, it refreshes an already fantastic device to make it even better for the end users.



The DMQ-2100 replaces the 1870. Again a new design is being used, with a folding lid to make it more compact and to prevent abrasion of the keys which was a slight issue with heavy users of the 1870 in that the keys became un-readable after a while. A big additional is that it now features the Britannica Concise Encyclopaedia, with over 25,000 articles in it. The buttons are bigger and easier to use, and it now also comes with a built in language translator and phrasebook for English, German, French, Spanish and Italian.



However if you need other languages too, then maybe these may be for you, the EST-5014 is a 14 Language speaking translator, spell phonetically or part of a word and the translator will do the rest for you. Languages include; Arabic, Mandarin (Chinese), Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Turkish.



Alternatively there is the EST-7014, which features a colour display, Travel guide for 10 International cities, a visual dictionary covering 5 languages and 18,000 entries. Again this covers the same 14 languages; Arabic, Mandarin (Chinese), Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Turkish.



NEW!

Dragon Dictate 2.5 for Mac has Launched!

Think It. Speak It. Create It.

OS X Lion
Compatible

As with Dragon Naturally Speaking V11.5, the Mac Equivalent has been updated to 2.5 as well. Again this will be a free update for any current 2.0 users. The updates include:

- Enhanced Word 2011 Support, to allow talking and typing to be done simultaneously. Complete with additional voice commands.
- Extra time saving can be achieved by using an iPhone as a wireless mic through the Free Dragon Remote Microphone App.
- Social Media commands allows dictation to your favourite social networks such as Twitter or Facebook.
- There is an improvement on formatting controls and better voice training.

Mac Printer/Scanner Issues

At this moment due to the Lion Operating System, there is a long list of printers, scanners and multifunction's that are now no longer compatible with Macs, this includes the highly popular Plustek OpticBook 3600.

Of the Printer/Scanners being requested the Canons would appear to be the best model of choice for Macs at this time as they have released drivers to fix these problems. Epson are also releasing drivers, but at this time there is no sign of a Plustek Solution.

For full details please feel free to contact us on this matter.

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