

February

Due to cancellation of the January Meeting, the topic originally scheduled for January will be presented at this Month's Meeting

An in-depth review of Art Text 2

and highlights of Macworld



Upcoming Meetings



Business Meetings are now Virtual (See Forums)

Main Meeting
Wednesday, February 11th

Quick Find Index

General club information	Page 2
Canon Pixma MX850 Printer	Page 3
diNovo EDGE Keyboard	Page 5
iPhoto 09 New features	Page 8
Mac 911	Page 9
Safari RSS Vulnerability	Page 10
100 Macworlds a Week?	Page 11
Items to be Auctioned	Page 12
Forms	Page 12

ApplePickers Main Meeting

We meet the second Wednesday of each month, 6:30-7:00 p.m. social time, main meeting 7:00-8:45 p.m. at the [Fishers Library](#). 5 Municipal Dr. just north of 116th St. in Fishers. Visitors are always welcome to come and join us.



ApplePickers Business Meeting

The business meeting is held via the ApplePickers "Virtual Business Meeting" forum topic. Any member is welcome to post in that topic stating their opinions on what the club should be doing.

Mac ProSIG

Each month, Apple Representative Greg Willmore hosts the Mac Programmer's SIG. You should email Greg at willmore@apple.com for specific information. Location varies.

Final Cut Pro User Group

The INDYFCPUG meets the fourth Tuesday of each month from 7:00-9:30 p.m. Since the location may vary, please be sure to check their [website](#).

ApplePickers Officers

President	Vacant	president@applepickers.org
Public Relations	Gareth Souders	pr@applepickers.org
Past President	Bob Carpenter	bobc@applepickers.org
Secretary	Irv Haas	irv@applepickers.org
Treasurer	Ron Beechler	ronb@applepickers.org
WebMaster	Steve Johnson	webmaster@applepickers.org

Newsletter Production

Editor this month	Bob van Lier	bobv@applepickers.org
Editor next month	Randy Marcy	randy@applepickers.org
The Review Guru	Irv Haas	irv@applepickers.org

About the ApplePickers

ApplePickers is a not-for-profit educational organization. We are made up of volunteers who donate their time for the community advancement of computing. We are in the business of giving away information. All are welcome to join and we encourage you to get involved. Contact anyone mentioned above or write to: ApplePickers, P.O. Box 20136, Indianapolis, IN., 46220

Remember that ApplePickers is here to help you. This help comes from our many members who give of their time and talents to the group. Please help us to help you by giving something in return.

Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and may not be construed as the official views of the ApplePickers MUG.

Newsletter Information

We welcome members' contributions to the newsletter. Submission deadline is the 20th of the month. Please send articles to the editor for that month. Randy is the editor next month. ApplePickers accepts a member's classified ad free of charge once every 6 months. Business ads are also accepted. Email pr@applepickers.org for more information, or visit our website: www.applepickers.org

Advertisement rates are as follows:

Business card size - 3" x 2.5" \$60 per 6 months

Quarter page size - 3.75" x 5" \$100 per 6 months

All advertisement requests must be approved by the board prior to inclusion in the newsletter. Full color or grayscale ads have the same price. We request that your ad be "camera ready" art. 300dpi is preferred. Email ads to either newsletter editor.

ApplePickers Message Boards

Come and join us at the ApplePickers' new Message Boards! Ask questions, read other ApplePickers member's postings. See gossip and news and special announcements. The ApplePickers Message Boards are a valuable and useful member benefit! Free subscriptions for ApplePickers members. To join point your browser of choice to www.applepickers.org, and click on the Forum tab on the top of the website. If you need an account or lost your password, please E-mail Bob van Lier at bobv@applepickers.org.

NEW Information

As a new benefit to members, we offer the ability to have your own @applepickers.org e-mail address. If you are interested in setting up an ApplePickers email address for yourself, please send an e-mail request to Bob van Lier and give us the address you wish to have and whether you just want a forwarding account or a regular e-mail account.



Review: CANON PIXMA MX850 ALL-IN-ONE

By Irv Haas
The Review Guru

For years, Canon has been making quality cameras, especially with their high end EOS SLR series of cameras. This level of quality has also come to Canon's point-and-shoot cameras. In my review of the PowerShot G9, I found it to be quite a capable camera, if a little higher-priced than most.

Canon's imaging products now include printers as well. From lowly standalone printers for home use to multifunction ones for businesses, Canon offers a wide selection.

One of their newer multifunction units (which Canon terms *All-In-One*) is the **Canon PIXMA MX850**. This unit does it all—printing, copying, scanning and faxing.

The chief benefit of the MX850 is its resolution. Canon promises a resolution of up to 9600 x 2400 color dpi (dots per inch). It uses a unique 4,608 nozzle print head to eject precise consistent droplets as small as 1 picoliter for smoother, virtually grain-free images.

The MX850 uses a 5-color ink system consisting of four dye-based inks plus a pigment-based black ink, which produces great photos and crisp, laser-quality text in an inkjet printer. If you want quality photo prints, you really should invest in a separate ink printer like the MX850 as opposed to the combined color cartridges that many manufacturers use.

Even five years ago, most printer manufacturers primarily made standalone printers. Now most manufacturers want to offer more bang-for-the-buck to users by offering more utilities. Now you can find multifunction machines with capabilities for copying, scanning, and faxing in addition to the usual printing functions. Let's look at each of these:

Printing

The benefit of printing with the MX850 has already been mentioned. But where this all-in-one shines is

in its speed. It can print out a single page in about 8 seconds from the time you hit *Print* until the page is in the output tray.

This kind of speed is often found in laser printers, but it is welcome in an inkjet. Canon promises up to 31 ppm (pages per minute) in black and up to 24 ppm for color. This translates to 1.9 sec per page for black and 2.5 sec. for color. Quite amazing, indeed!

Copying

In addition to the usual printing functions, this device is also a copier with a built-in document feeder and flatbed for printing most any document. Combined with its multi-tank printing, the MX850 produces quality color or laser text prints.

Scanning

Canon uses a Contact Image Sensor (CIS) to produce high quality scans to your computer. All the software to make this operation is included on the CD that comes with the printer. The flatbed on the MX850 is essential for scanning.

Faxing

Using a standard 33.6 Kbps for faxing. This function is comparable to other fax machines. However, the beauty is that you have fax capabilities in one machine without the need for purchasing a separate fax device.

Memory Card Slots

Since you've just climbed aboard the digital photography bandwagon, the PIXMA MX850 includes direct memory card slots, allowing you to bypass your Mac if you so choose.

Just insert your flash memory card and the MX850 will print out an index sheet with thumbnail photos (see attached) of your pictures. You can then bubble them in as you would on a standardized test and

the MX850 will print out your photos at the exact size you specify. Of course, if you like to tinker, you can use imaging applications such as *iPhoto* or *Photoshop Elements* to tweak your pictures and then print them out manually. It's nice having all these options on one printer.

These are the memory cards supported by the MX850:

- CompactFlash®
- SD™ Memory
- SDHC™ Memory
- MultimediaCard®
- MiniSD™
- MicroSD™
- MicroDrive®
- Memory Stick®
, Memory Stick
PRO™
- Memory Stick
Duo™
- Memory Stick
PRO Duo™
- SecureDigital/MultiMediaCard
- xD-Picture Card™

Installation

Set up on the MX850 was a breeze. Just follow the instructions on the poster-size sheet step-by-step. From unpacking to installing your drivers, you need to follow these instructions explicitly.

The final instruction is to install the included CD. When you are finished with the install disc, you will find that your MX850 printer is now active in the *Print & Fax* window of *System Preferences*. When you print, it will be there automatically. In addition, go to Canon's site to make sure that you have the latest drivers available as the CD may have been produced months before.

If you have any questions, Canon has included a printed 188-page manual, pretty hefty in this day of

electronic manuals. Like other manufacturers, if you lose your manual, just go to Canon's web site and download the PDF version.

To give you an idea of the PIXMA lineup, here are the specs of the MX850 as well as lower and higher end models. Keep in mind that the MP980 is designed as a higher-end photo printer.

Although Canon has set the price of the PIXMA MX850 at \$199.99, please use this as a reference only.

	MX310	MX700	MX850	MP980
Speed (Black/Color)	22/17	30/20	31/24	30/22
Incoming Fax Memory	50	100	250	No Fax
Max. Resolution	1200 x 2400	2400 x 4800	4800 x 9600	4800 x 9600
LCD Display	2-Line	1.8"	2.5"	3.5"
Card Slots	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Duplex Printing	No	No	Yes	Yes
Connectivity	USB	USB	USB, Ethernet	USB, Ethernet, Wi-Fi
Networking	No	No	Yes	Yes
Price	\$109.99	\$179.99	\$199.99	\$299.99

Although many office supply stores and consumer electronic stores sell the Canon line at MSRP, they frequently discount these models as well as secretly discounting them by offering gift cards that can act as a discount. The MX850 used for this review was purchased for \$159.99, for example.

Also, check on sites such as Dealmac.com that routinely offer \$20 off a \$100 order or \$30 off of a \$150 order when you order from office sites on the Internet. Using a \$30-off coupon on the MX850, effectively gives you a 15% discount, even though the vendor is not technically discounting the item.

Evaluation

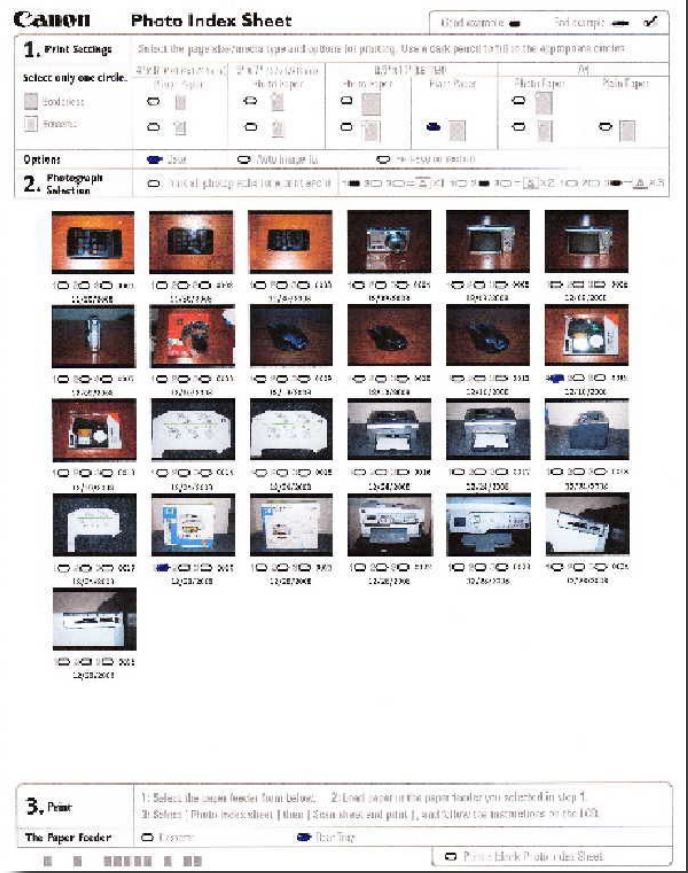
Since the Canon PIXMA MX850 is one of Canon's higher tier models, comparing it with other manufacturer's high-end models would not demonstrate much of a difference. However, if you look at print speed, this one is significantly faster than my previous model, the HP C6180. Although

it had similar rated print speeds, the Canon's copies came out significantly faster, under 9 seconds just for a one-page copy.

I appreciated all the little touches on the MX850. On the output tray, for example, Canon's tray is slightly elevated, so paper will not automatically fall on the floor, but stay in the tray. Control buttons are ergonomically arranged to make it easier to do operations—without consulting the manual each time.

The only negative with this printer is that the setup procedure is slightly more complex than other manufacturers. When setting up, for example, you have to install the print head before installing your ink cartridges. This is a separate procedure that most other manufacturers do not require. Do not plan to set up the MX850 in 5 or 10 minutes!

If you are looking for a multifunction machine that may not be the best printer, scanner, copier or fax machine on the market, but can capably handle any of these chores, seriously consider the Canon PIXMA MX850. It is priced not much higher than a quality printer alone. You are truly getting a lot of "bang for the buck."



Review: LOGITECH diNovo EDGE™, MAC EDITION

By Irv Haas
The Review Guru

If you need a state-of-the-art wireless keyboard that does almost everything but cook your breakfast, then check out the **Logitech diNovo Edge™, Mac Edition Keyboard**.

Logitech advertises this keyboard as the “World’s Most Advanced Keyboard.” Having tried many keyboards besides Apple’s, I was curious to test this broad claim. At a retail price of \$159.99, I was extremely dubious since this keyboard is priced at twice what Apple charges for their Wireless Keyboard (\$79.99).

Let’s look at some of the key features of this feature-laden keyboard. From a style perspective, it looks dazzling. It is made from pre-cut plexiglass with a brushed aluminum trim. It is an exact match for the current iMac with black/silver look.

Besides the physical look of this keyboard, what do you get for your money’s worth? This is a state-of-the-art Bluetooth keyboard. Like Apple’s Wireless Keyboard, just go to the Bluetooth icon at the top of your menu screen and have it search for your keyboard. Unlike USB keyboards, there are no ports to plug in that saves USB port space in case you are not using a hub. This keyboard will connect to your Mac up to 30-feet away,

The diNovo Edge™ comes with a dock for charging your keyboard. According to Logitech, just a 4 hour charge gives you up to two months of use. In my test, it took under 3 hours for a full charge.

Features

Let’s look at some of the specific features of this keyboard:

PerfectStroke Key System The feel of typing with this keyboard gives you a silent, natural and fluid typing feel. It uses a micro-scissor mechanism that distributes force evenly across the surface of the keys.



Recharging Stand (Dock) Used to charge the keyboard’s lithium-ion batteries. Logitech also says it can be used to put your keyboard on display—but why would you need to do that?

TouchDisc This unifies scrolling selection and cursor control by providing a mini-trackpad for navigating or scrolling. Unfortunately, this TouchDisc is only 1-1/2” in

diameter, not quite as flexible as an actual trackpad. The major downside of the TouchDisk is that it replaces the numerical keypad on most keyboards. Please note that Apple’s Wireless Keyboard has omitted this keypad as well.

Touchscreen Volume Control Lets you control volume just by sliding on the plexiglass.

Customized Mac Controls

This keyboard is designed especially for Mac users. Its function buttons cover many specific Mac applications. Unlike most other keyboards, the diNovo Edge™ gives ultimate flexibility in

programming keys. These are the assigned Function keys:

- F1 Brightness Down
- F2 Brightness Up
- F3 Expose
- F4 Dashboard
- F5 Mail
- F6 Safari
- F7 iTunes
- F8 iPhoto
- F9 Quick Look
- F10 Spaces
- F11 Cover Flow
- F12 Spotlight

In addition, there are other non-programmable buttons such as *Power* (put to sleep) and *Front Row*.

As indicated earlier, you can program these F buttons with more flexibility than what Apple normally allows. Check out the many options available:

- ✧ Open Application
- ✧ Key Strokes (Cut/Paste)
- ✧ Modifiers (Open Folders/windows)
- ✧ Open Folder
- ✧ Open web page
- ✧ Screen capture
- ✧ Eject CD
- ✧ Open document

Installation

1. Connect AC adapter to dock
2. Place keyboard on dock and charge for up to 4 hours
3. Turn power on keyboard

4. Set up Bluetooth connection on your Mac
5. Install Logitech Control Center software (CD) on your Mac.
6. Customize your F buttons

Negatives

Although I appreciated many features of this keyboard, I found many that I disliked, especially at the \$160 price point. Although I found the TouchDisc to be somewhat useful, it just did not replace my mouse's flexibility. And to delete the numeric keypad for this feature was unforgivable. The TouchDisc needed to be larger to be fully useful.

The flexibility was welcome, but most Apple keyboards can do some of these same customizations, if not all.

I use my keyboard in a keyboard drawer, so I did not find the silver hand rest to be a welcome feature. I had to move my hands farther into the drawer to access the keys.

The worst negative, of course is Logitech's pricing on this keyboard. It should be noted that if you want to save some cash, Logitech offers a wired keyboard (with a numeric keyboard in lieu of the TouchDisc for \$99.99).

But even this seems high compared to Apple's \$49 standard keyboard. Please note that I was never a fan of Apple's previous keyboard with its mushy feel. But I find its replacement that comes with every desktop a marked improvement.

If you think this keyboard is priced too high, be aware that Logitech has a separate diNovo Edge™ keyboard for PC users that is even \$20 higher than the Mac version.

Conclusion

Although I found many of the features of the Logitech diNovo Edge™ keyboard valuable, I cannot justify spending \$160 on the privilege. Unless you have money to blow, be sure you have the need for this keyboard. Although its features are admirable, the current pricing is not.

iPhoto '09 Adds Faces and Places

by Doug McLean

As our photo collections grow into the tens of thousands of photos, Apple is working on ways to make it easier to find particular photos, adding face recognition and geotagging support to [iPhoto '09](#).

In the same way iPhoto '08 enabled users to sort and tag their photos by events, iPhoto '09 makes it possible to search, sort, and tag by faces. Face detection technology, once you've taught the program properly, can identify friends or family members from your larger collection based on their facial features. Once the program believes it has found the person, it will ask you to confirm and tag the photo with their name. The tagging process is similar to tagging photos in Facebook. Clicking a top-level Faces collection in the sidebar shows all the people you've identified.

Unfortunately, face tags are not exported with photos, although it may be possible to assign a keyword to a person easily, and export that. It's also worth noting that the face recognition technology is unique to iPhoto and isn't more generally available in Mac OS X for other applications, which is a shame.

Additionally, with Places, users can sort and tag by the location the photograph was taken. Cameras with geotagging capabilities mark your photos with the longitude and latitude of the location they were taken. iPhoto interprets this information and correlates the spot to a Place in its database, showing pins on a map generated from Google Maps. If you don't have geotagging capabilities, you can instead manually tag photos or groups of photos with locations listed in iPhoto's location database.

Other than the iPhone, only one consumer-level camera, the [Nikon Coolpix P6000](#), makes it trivial to match GPS coordinates with photos. More are on the way, but as Glenn Fleishman explained in [an Ars Technica article](#), it's not a trivial problem due to how quickly cameras are turned on and off, leaving insufficient time to get a satellite lock.

iPhoto '09 also now includes useful Facebook and Flickr syncing capabilities. You can click a button to sync your photos to your Facebook or Flickr accounts, complete with name (for Facebook) and location (for Flickr) tags. You can even perform the reverse function, sending photos from online collections to your iPhoto library with tags in place.

Additional changes include more advanced slideshow customization and new themes that can all be synced to your iPhone and iPod touch. Finally, the new version includes enhanced Travel Book options including more themes, better printing, and geotagged maps.

iPhoto '09 is part of iLife '09, which will ship in late January 2009 for \$79 or \$99 for a family pack. Also available then will be the Mac Box Set for \$169, which includes iLife '09, iWork '09, and Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard. New Macs will continue to ship with iLife for free. If you purchase a new machine between 06-Jan-09 and 31-Mar-09 that does not include iLife '09, you can upgrade it for \$9.95 through Apple's [iLife Up-to-Date program](#).

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Removing Address Book images in Mail

Reader Helga Beuing would like to depersonalize the email she sends. She writes:

I have discovered that there is a small picture of myself in the upper right corner of every email I send. I have no clue how that started and would like to know how to eliminate that picture.

A: The source of that picture is Apple's Address Book application. When you open Address Book and choose your contact card (Card -> Go to My Card), in addition to your contact information you'll see any image you've assigned to your contact.

Note that your picture is not being sent across the great expanse that is the Internet as an attachment. Others who receive your mail won't see this image. Rather, you're seeing it because it's part of your Address Book card and Mail is displaying it because Mail displays pictures assigned to contacts in your copy of Address Book. Those you send messages to don't have that image in their copy of Address Book (unless you've given them the image and they've assigned it to your card) and so it doesn't display in their copy of Mail.

If you no longer wish to see the image when you look at your own messages, just open Address Book, select your card, and choose Card -> Clear Custom Image.

Mail's random and sequential signatures

Q: Reader L.T. desires greater flexibility in the signatures appended to his email messages. He writes:

I have over 75 signatures in my Signature file and am always adding and deleting from that file. I would

prefer not to be locked into the same signature time after time, and find it a nuisance going into the Mail Preferences each time I want to insert a different signature in my email. Is there a way to get, force, or program Apple Mail to automatically insert either sequential or randomized signatures from that Signature file each time an email is generated?

A: Yes, and it's a feature built right into Mail. Just choose Mail -> Preferences and click the Signatures tab in the resulting window. As you're probably aware, this is where you create your signatures. (And for those who aren't aware, just click the Plus (+) button at the bottom of the window to create a new signature.) All your signatures are listed in the middle pane when you click the All Signatures entry in the left side of the window.

At the bottom of the window you'll see a Choose Signature pop-up menu. When this menu is active you'll see that you have the option to choose signatures At Random or In Sequential Order. These are the options you're looking for.

People sometimes get confused, however, when they discover that this pop-up menu is grayed out. This occurs when you select either the All Signatures entry or any account that doesn't have a signature attached to it.

And why wouldn't an account have a signature attached to it? Because you either haven't selected an account and clicked the Plus button to add a signature to it (which, by default, will be your name followed by that account's email address) or dragged a signature from the All Signatures area to one of your accounts. Users new to Mail are routinely confounded by this.

Be confounded no more. Just be sure an account has at least two signatures attached to it and you can put the At Random and In Sequential Order options to good use.

Customizing the login screen

Q: Trendy reader Paul Mauro would like to tattoo his Mac's login screen. He writes:

A couple years ago you published a tip on putting a personal note on the login screen. I implemented this on two machines as an SOS in case I lost my computer and a kind soul found it. It said the computer was mine and how to contact me. But I have upgraded to OS X 10.5 and I can't get it work now. Could you check it on 10.5 and tell me what I should do now?

A: I have and I will. Although you could use Terminal and a hunk of text to do the job, why bother when you can simply download Titanium Software's free OnyX?

OnyX performs any number of tricks, including checking the viability of your hard drive, sweeping out old log files and caches, and customizing the Mac's interface in ways not possible without some stern Terminal twiddling. One of these customization options allows you to place a personal message in the Mac's login window.

Just launch OnyX, let it do its startup things--checking the S.M.A.R.T status of your hard drive and verifying that drive--enter your Admin password when prompted, and then click the Parameters icon. Click the Login tab within the window that appears and enable the Show Message in the Login Window option. Now just type a custom message in the field below--Property of Paul Mauro, pmauro@example.com, 555-555-1212, for instance--quit OnyX, and log out of your account. When the login screen appears you'll find that custom message near the top of the login window.

[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

"Mac 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.

Protect Yourself From the Safari RSS Vulnerability

by Rich Mogull

Programmer [Brian Mastenbrook revealed](#) on 11-Jan-09 that he has discovered a security vulnerability that could allow a malicious Web site you visit using Safari to read any file on your system. The flaw affects the latest versions of Safari when used in Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard or Windows, though not in earlier versions of Mac OS X. Mastenbrook wrote that he has reported the details to Apple.

The vulnerability apparently could reveal the contents of any file, which includes email messages, passwords stored in browser cookies, or other documents. We have strong indications that the problem is real and you should immediately protect yourself in case malicious attackers figure out the vulnerability's full details before Apple issues a patch.

The vulnerability lies in the Safari RSS reader, and according to Mastenbrook, you may be affected even if you don't use the reader, as long as Safari is set to be your default RSS reader, which it is unless you've changed the setting. This likely indicates that the problem relates to how Safari handles RSS subscription links or feeds, since browsing to those triggers Safari's RSS reader.

The good news is that it's relatively easy to protect yourself. If you are on Windows, just stop using Safari until a fix is released. If you are using Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard, follow the updated instructions on Mastenbrook's Web site, linked above. Simply changing the default RSS reader application in Safari does not provide full protection, unfortunately.

It's always a relief when there is a reasonable workaround to a potentially serious security vulnerability, and we won't be surprised if Apple patches this vulnerability fairly quickly.

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Apple's Canard of 100 Macworlds a Week

by Glenn Fleishman

Just as hard drives are described in units of "Libraries of Congress" - as in, "You can store 1,000 LOCs on this baby!" - so, too, has Apple taken to one-upping the [Macworld Conference & Expo](#) by enumerating the visitors to its retail stores in units of Macworld shows. Apple VP Phil Schiller said during this year's keynote that 100 Macworld Expos' worth of customers pass through Apple's retail store doors each week.

That's a red herring of epic proportions. Excluding the conference part of Macworld, in which hundreds of people pay hundreds to thousands of dollars for education, the trade show floor offers 500 exhibitors with at least 5,000 staffers providing non-stop hands-on demonstrations and answering questions.

Each [Apple Store](#), by contrast, presents one company, maybe a few hundred select products, a score of employees trained to answer questions identically, and a carefully controlled experience that's primarily about Apple's need to deliver high-dollar-per-square-foot retail sales. That's great for

Apple, but it doesn't open the eyes of Mac, iPhone, and iPod users to more than a limited set of items that Apple allows in its stores. And Apple is careful to keep out any product, such as a troubleshooting book, that might imply you could have problems using your Apple hardware.

I've seen thousands of models of cameras, printers, scanners, and other peripherals at Macworld; an Apple Store stocks only dozens. I was able to spend 15 minutes with a [Drobo](#) representative nailing down details I didn't entirely understand about the product, and I was able to pull a working drive out of a Drobo and watch it recover. I can't do that at an Apple Store.

The Apple Store metaphor is perfectly revealing about Apple's attitude. Apple customers are Apple's - not IDG's, not third-party developers', and not anyone else's. Apple's store, Apple's events, Apple's customers. Nothing more, nothing less, but I'd like to think I'm more than just a customer.

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Additional Family Members _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email (Required) _____

New Member (Single/Family \$25)

Renewal (\$25)

I prefer to receive my newsletter:

via email notice (download via web)

As an email attachment

Mail your application along with a check for \$25 made payable to ApplePickers to:

ApplePickers
PO Box 20136
Indianapolis, IN 46220

At our February meeting we will be auctioning the following items (See current, December, and January newsletters for reviews):

1. License for ArtText 2
2. HP LaserJet P1006 Printer
3. Logitech diNovo Keyboard
4. Targus Bluetooth Laser Mouse



Membership has its' benefits.
An ApplePickers membership offers the following benefits, plus many more:

- The ability to view and post on our message boards.
- The ability to have your own email address - ____@applepickers.org
- The ability to place a free ad every 6 months.
- The ability to participate in all club raffles and auctions

AUBIN CROSS
Copy and Print Center Manager

4032 E 82nd Street
Indianapolis, IN 46250
Phone: (317) 578-8316 Fax: (317) 578-8322
email: ods00065cpc@officedepot.com