

Magazine of the Apple User Group of Canterbury Inc.

Applebyte



August 2013



p.19

Waimairi School

August 28th 7:30 pm

APPLEBYTE is the monthly magazine of:
Apple User Group of Canterbury Inc.

Submissions for publication are due by the 12th of the month of publication. Please submit all articles to:

editor@appleusers.co.nz

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Meeting venue

Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month (except December) beginning at 7:30pm, at Waimairi School at the end of Tillman Avenue, off Bligh's Road.



Drinks and snacks are available while we all calm down after the excitement of the meeting.

Some members carpool to get to meetings. If you don't have a car and find it difficult to get to meetings, please contact a committee member to arrange transport. Usually there is someone living near you who can offer a lift.

Meeting programme

Wednesday 28th August 2013

7:30 Monthly Meeting

- Welcome and News
- 'Jobs' docos, and other bits & pieces
- Information Exchange
- Supper

Come along and share your passion for Apple products. Learn about the latest technology, and enhance your skills. And meet with old and new friends over supper. Visitors welcome.

Thursday 29th August

A group visit to Hoyts is proposed to view the 'Jobs' movie, but programme information isn't available yet. More information will be made available by email.



Submitting your article

Electronic submissions are preferred (to save wear and tear on my fingers). Just choose whatever format suits and send it to:

editor@appleusers.co.nz

One page is roughly 450 words. Most articles are less than 4 pages, but longer articles may be accepted if of particular interest or relevance. Please ask in advance if you are planning a longer article.

Please write clearly; short sentences are recommended to help you do this. Use a spell-checker. If you are quoting some other article, please include an acknowledgment of your source.

Pictures can help explain your article, so by all means include one (or more) if appropriate. The format is not important - jpeg, tiff and gif are all fine, but try to provide a high quality image (300 dpi) if possible.

For screen shots, you can use the build-in Apple functions Apple-Shift-3 or Apple-Shift-4, or a utility such as Snapz Pro, available from:

<http://www.macdownload.com>.

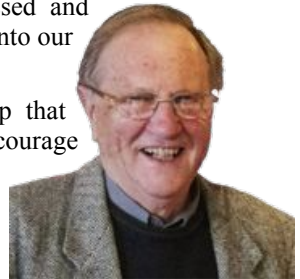
Next Deadline: 12 September 2013

Prez sez

Noel Strack

Well, winter apparently seems to have passed and everywhere spring is bringing bright colours into our lives.

Gardens will need regular attention to keep that spring growth in check and it could also encourage those digital photo enthusiasts to try out those time lapse techniques that we heard about earlier in the year.



- Watch a sprig of corn grow or an early flower emerge.
- Our lecturer showed us how, and it looked so easy-
- We should all bring an example to a club evening soon to show just how attentive we are to detail.
- It's worth a try anyway, just to show that we can master some new techniques and not just press the buttons on a new app while playing games.
- Lets see some tangible results at our next few evenings when we get together to check out all that's new and interesting in our digital world.

Members

Noel:

I've been unable to read - or drive or really do anything useful for so long - but things look to improve and even though we'll be out of house and home for a few more months I hope to get to our next meeting

Nigel:

I have moved from Chch to Waiheke Island. Address and phone to be advised. Cell phone the same 021-123 2402. Family up here. All well.

I am currently looking for either an iPad 2 or a Macbook Air with sound (mine has no sound). Know of any friend looking for a sale?

Jim:

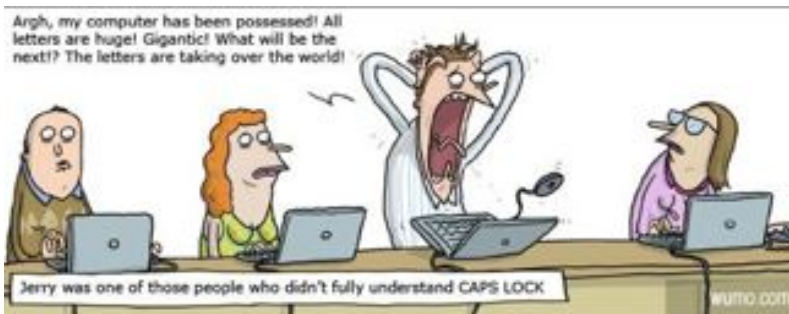
They told me to **back up** my drive,
Which has crashed—it's no longer alive.
Had I heeded their warning,
I wouldn't be mourning
My data, which didn't survive.

Committee:

Our 30th Birthday is coming up on 7th March 2014. (We actually met for a while before then, but that is when we decided that we really had a group, and we kept minutes for the first time. Scanning the attendance list, there are not many of us still around - are there, Cyd?)

The Committee is considering whether to have a knees-up next year, or whether to combine celebrations with our Xmas meeting this year. What do you think?

Also, if you have any ideas on any appropriate way to celebrate this occasion, please let us know.



Take Control eBook

Adam and Tonya Engst

Reduce paper clutter with

Take Control of Your Paperless Office, 2nd Edition

Good day!

Take a look around. Do you see piles of paper on the floor, stacks of folders teetering on your desk, and file cabinets lurking in the corners? If you feel like you're drowning in a sea of paper, let Joe Kissell help clear some of that clutter out of your office and out of your life with the advice in his latest ebook, the 147-page "*Take Control of Your Paperless Office, Second Edition*" This book isn't just theory - having lived in tiny apartments in San Francisco and Paris, plus having experienced two transcontinental moves, Joe has lived a nearly paperless life for years. The book normally costs \$10, but the 30% MUG discount drops that to \$7. Learn more about the book at:

<http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/paperless-office>

With Joe's guidance you can develop a personal clean-up strategy and choose your tools—a document scanner and the software you need to perform OCR (optical character recognition); devices and services for storing your digitized documents; and software to categorize, locate, and view your digital document collections. Once you have your gear in hand, Joe shows you how to convert paper documents to digitized files and gives you ideas for how to organize your office workflow, explaining how to develop day-to-day techniques that reduce the amount of time you spend pressing buttons, launching software, and otherwise managing your war on clutter.

If you've already embarked on a campaign to reduce the amount of paper in your life, Joe even has a chapter about reassessing your paperless strategy, to make sure you're working as effectively as possible given recent changes in software, services, and paraphernalia.

In addition to all of the above, Joe clues you in to these paper-reducing tasks and skills:

- * Scanning or photographing documents you find while out and about—business cards, receipts, menus, flyers, and labels—so you keep only digitized versions. Joe discusses a variety of mobile scanning options, with an emphasis on using a camera-equipped iOS device, and lists similar options for employing Android, Windows, and BlackBerry smartphones.

- * Creating a digitized image of your signature so you can sign and share documents digitally, rather than printing them for the sole purpose of signing them with a pen.

* Setting up your computer to send and receive faxes so you can avoid using a physical fax machine with paper input and output. Joe describes online fax services and using a fax modem.

* Common techniques for reducing paper—paperless billing, online bank statements, and more—and less common practices, such as paperless postal mail services and check depositing services. Joe also shares effective tips for reducing the amount of catalogs, junk mail, and paper that you receive.

Thanks for your support of the Take Control series.

cheers...

Adam & Tonya Engst, Take Control publishers

P.S. Check out some of our other recently released ebooks,:

- *Take Control of LaunchBar* (access your documents and apps quickly)
- *Take Control of Backing Up Your Mac* (are your digitized papers backed up?)
- *Take Control of Your Passwords* (are your online documents secure?)
- *Take Control of Dropbox* (great for making data available on multiple devices)

And remember there is a 30% discount on all our *Take Control* ebooks.

New Technology

We all love our new toys, but on the other hand, we can be very quick in condemning companies for bring us new technology. No, I am not referring to Microsoft's Windows 8 and their Surface tablets ... but to Google Glass. Google Glass can best be described as a wearable computer with an optical head-mounted display. By using voice commands the glasses can take pictures, videos and essentially do everything else that you could on Google. This product hasn't even hit the shelves yet and it's already getting banned.

Top 10 Places that Have Banned Google Glass:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 10. Banks/ATMs | 5. Hospitals |
| 9. Sports Arenas/Concert Venues | 4. Classrooms |
| 8. Locker Rooms/Dressing Rooms | 3. Strip Clubs |
| 7. Movie Theaters | 2. Casinos |
| 6. Vehicles | 1. Bars |

Come on now, folk - if we ban them everywhere, we won't be able to laugh at how ridiculous people look wearing them!

And where will we be able to wear ours?

Special offers

Peter Fitchett

Note: These specials are available to all user group members. Contact Peter (web@appleusers.co.nz) for access or coupon codes.

MacPhun: Snapheal

From MacPhun, Snapheal (<http://www.macphun.com/snapheal>) easily gets rid of unwanted objects and fixes imperfections on your photos to make your shots look more professional than ever. With just a click, remove photobombs from your favorite photos, eliminate distracting objects, and perfect your shots with spot healing and retouching. Snapheal is loaded with a host of tools to reduce noise, sharpen and enhance your favorite photos like never before.

Apple user group members can save \$5 (US) today by purchasing this downloadable program for only \$9.99 (US), which is regularly sold for \$14.99 (US). Recommended by many, at this special user group price, Snapheal makes fixing your photos easy and fun (or is that 'phun'?)

This offer is valid through **October 31, 2013**.

MicroMat: TechTool Deluxe 3.1.4

If you ordered an AppleCare Protection Plan with your Mac between 1999 and March of 2011, you also received TechTool Deluxe as part of your protection plan. TechTool Deluxe checks the major computer components covered under your AppleCare Protection Plan, and was available only by purchasing an AppleCare Protection Plan for a Mac. TechTool Deluxe was based on Micromat's powerful TechTool Pro diagnostic and repair utility.

This new TechTool Deluxe update is free to users of the above previous versions. Users should update their current version software to download the new update. TechTool Deluxe 3.1.4 works on more Macs and is also compatible with Lion. Your original version must be installed to load the update.

More information is available at:

<http://www.micromat.com/ttd3-download-reg>

And for the very latest version of these diagnostic tests, TechTool Pro 7 is now available for (US)\$99.99; upgrade (US)\$39.99.

<https://www.micromat.com/products/techtool-pro>

Note: These specials are available to all user group members. Contact Peter (web@appleusers.co.nz) for access or coupon codes.

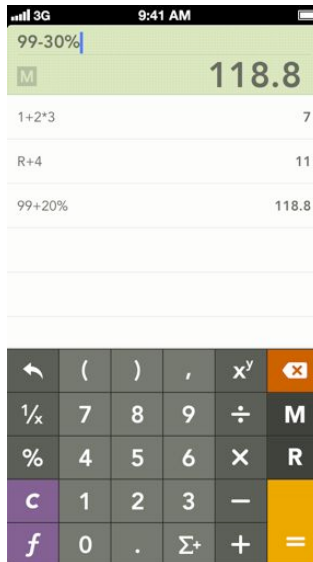
Inseries

New Calculator Promises to Calculate Different

Independent developer Gerald Aquila has introduced Inseries, a completely new approach to iPhone calculators that allows you to enter calculations more naturally and to clearly view your previous results. Award-winning designer Wolfgang Bartelme created the clear and functional design of the app combining aspects of financial and scientific calculators with a spreadsheet-inspired way of entering calculations. “Inseries is a simple, yet powerful calculator app,” said Gerald Aquila, the developer of Inseries. “For instance, if you enter ‘100 – 30%’ it will really calculate 70, correctly assuming you wanted to deduct a discount. You can also easily add taxes in the same way.”

Inseries provides fast access to common mathematical functions and constants including a real random number generator. Financial calculator functionality includes naturally adding and subtracting of percentages, a quick-sum function key and fast switching between all, 2 and 4 fraction digits. In order to keep the user interface clear and simple, storing, recalling, and clearing memory is implemented using swipe gestures.

A real “new” is that Inseries stores previous calculations and results persistently and provides an undo functionality to go back one result. In addition, the calculator app provides quick and convenient access to memory and the current result via built-in variables.



Device Requirements:

- iPhone 3GS, 4, 4S, iPhone 5, iPod touch and iPad
- Requires iOS 5.0 or later
- 2.2 MB

Pricing and Availability:

Inseries 1.0 is **\$1.99 USD** (or equivalent amount in other currencies) and available worldwide exclusively through the App Store in the Productivity category. More information can be found on the “Calculate Different” website:

<http://inseriesapp.com>

Materials

What new materials are we going to be seeing in our futures? Gary Marshall has cast his TechRadar around to expose some hints:

Liquidmetal

Smartphone firms including Apple are very keen to use **Liquidmetal**, and you can see why: it's twice as strong as titanium, exceptionally scratch- and wear-resistant and can be moulded into incredibly intricate shapes.

Graphene

Graphene is getting lots of people very excited: according to Nobel laureate Andre Geim, "it's the thinnest possible material you can imagine... it's also the strongest material ever measured; it's the stiffest material we know; it's the most stretchable crystal."

Willow Glass

We're all familiar with Corning's **Gorilla Glass**, the super-tough glass used in smartphone screens. **Willow Glass** is its successor, and its incredible thinness - it's roughly the same thickness as a standard sheet of copy paper - and flexibility - it can be bent into curved shapes - mean that the touch-screen devices of the future needn't be thick or flat.

Flexible OLED

Fancy a flexible smartphone or a curved TV for gaming? LG and Samsung are working on it: both firms are experimenting with **Flexible OLED** displays, which are manufactured using a process that's rather like inkjet printing and which creates bendable, rollable screens.

Starlite

Starlite is a plastic that's able to withstand incredible amounts of heat - nuclear explosion levels of heat - and can be moulded into any form, and while we've known about it for two decades it's never been used in any commercial product.

That's because creator Maurice Ward, a hairdresser from Yorkshire, was so paranoid about somebody stealing his invention that he refused to licence it. Ward died in 2011, and it's unclear what happened to his formula: some say that the whole thing was an elaborate hoax, while others say it's real and that Ward's family still have it.

Nanocellulose

You already know about cellulose, the material that makes tree bark and plant stems, but you might not know that if you mess around with its

chemical structure you can create one of the strongest materials known to man.

It's light, conducts electricity, and if you mix it with graphite you can use it to make bendable batteries. Not only that, but you can use it to make body armour, lighter and more efficient vehicles and flexible phones - and, because it's essentially wood pulp, it's recyclable too.

Metal Foam

As the name suggests, **metal foam** is metal with a lot of holes in it: it's a metallic structure containing huge numbers of gas-filled pores. It's very strong, but as more than three quarters of it is empty space it's also exceptionally light.

That makes it particularly well suited for applications including prosthetic bones and joints, construction, soundproofing and heat insulation. It's particularly interesting to car manufacturers: it's a very effective shock absorber that adds strength without also adding weight.

Bioplastics

Bioplastics have been around for a while but they haven't become mainstream yet. That's because, despite their green credentials - while normal plastics generally come from fossil fuels and don't biodegrade, **bioplastics** are made from natural sources such as vegetable oils and cellulose and/or don't clog up landfills forever, they've been pricey to produce.

Nanodots and perovskite

One of the big problems with solar power is that solar panels are horribly inefficient: today, 20% efficiency is considered pretty good. Researchers at Stanford University believe that gold "**nanodots**" could lead to much thinner, much more efficient solar panels.

In the meantime, dye-sensitised solar cells (DSSCs) offer similar efficiencies to current solar panels but at much lower costs, driving down the per-watt cost of solar electricity. DSSCs use **perovskite**, an abundant mineral that you'll also find in piezoelectric components and fuel cells.

E-skin

Engineers at UC Berkeley have created what they call **e-skin**, a plastic film containing a transistor, organic LED and pressure sensor in each pixel.

It's flexible and can be laminated onto almost anything, with possible applications including touch-sensitive controls in cars, wallpapers that work as touch screens, or robots with a very delicate sense of touch.

How about an **e-skin** bandage applied to an arm as a health monitor that continuously checks blood pressure and pulse rates.

Podcast Clients

Frank Petrie

We are looking at four popular podcast clients with differing intentions and strengths. Perhaps there is something that may be useful to you.

COMMON FEATURES

All of the clients have the same set of controls. To avoid repetition, they are as follows: the standard thirty second forward/reverse buttons (except Podcasts, which only has the reverse selection), go to the beginning/end buttons, the speed control button and edit buttons.

PODCASTS (available in the App Store)

This is Apple's bare-bones entry. I use it as my audio podcatcher. Why? Because I only catch three audio podcasts and my requirements are simple (although this is not to say this is the limit of its capabilities).

It has access to a collection of podcasts but the choices, I feel are fairly limited (although you can, of course add your own feeds). The store is that strange 'program merry-go-round' that you swipe left or right to pick a category, then swipe down to see your various choices (obviously not a particular favorite UI of mine).

The latest iteration is the first to fall to the chop of the skeumorphiism hatchet. Gone is the reel-to-reel tape recorder, replaced with a very simple functions bar. The interface is very simple, cover view or list view. Personally, I find the list layout on the iPad the most appealing (thanks to the extra screen real estate) and the portrait layout easier to navigate on the iPhone.

One qualm with this app is that the iCloud refresh on the iPhone seems awfully slow. I regularly have to hit the refresh button twice for whatever reason, while the refresh on the iPad is fine. It's the same app, so go figure!.

Another would be that it's manual is hard to find. due to the fact, it's located on Apple's site. It's also not very helpful. To find out how to unsubscribe from a podcast, I had to go to a third party site and while they could tell me how to stop the delivery of episodes, they couldn't tell me how to remove the artwork from my library. Once you learn what you have to do, it's actually quite simple (irony).

Somewhat of a plus is that you can sync your podcasts between iDevices (although you have to download the same podcast to both iDevices and wait a long time for them to sync up). A downside, however, is that you can not subscribe to podcasts that require a password prescription. To get these, you must manually connect to your desktop and engage iTunes.

Also, of note, you'll find a button at the bottom of your screen, "My Stations." Think of it as "My Playlists" and you'll know exactly what to do. You can keep track of what episodes are downloaded for each podcast, how many are in the queue and download settings.

Grade: B-

Price: Free

iCATCHER! (available in the App Store)

I use this app on my iPad to capture some of my video podcasts (the rest I get through my AppleTV). This is my choice because this is the podcatcher I started with and I haven't felt that I needed any app that provided more features.

ICatcher presents you with a simple interface with five screens: podcasts, downloads, playlists, help and settings. From within 'Podcasts,' you can subscribe to podcasts, video and/or audio, from a search bar or by entering a URL, video or audio. And you can subscribe to password enabled podcasts. Like ScreenCastsOnline (hint, hint). As in Podcasts, you keep track of what episodes are downloaded for each podcast, how many are in the queue and download settings

Downloads is self explanatory, as are playlists, help and settings. There are also settings for separate audio and video podcast playlists.

You can change the play speed by pressing the speed button, or swiping up the screen to increase speed and swiping down the screen to decrease speed. There's support for password protected feeds, support for AirPlay, episodes/podcasts/playlists data sync via iCloud (although, like Podcasts, you have to download the same podcast to both iDevices and wait for them to sync up) and numerous other features.

In the last month, iCatcher has released a new version with sync-able bookmarks. This may very likely keep me on iCatcher.

Grade: B+

Price: Free

INSTACAST (available in the App Store)

First, the basic. Instacast has a very nice GUI in iPad but, while I appreciate the utilitarian approach to the iPhone interface, I found it unnecessarily convoluted. I was constantly switching between settings screens. (NOTE: This was quite possibly an OM (Operator Malfunction) issue.)

You're presented with extensive settings, EXCEPT I couldn't find a way to limit downloads other than by size. I would like to limit it by number of episodes, I couldn't locate such a setting. And as much as I love Mac OS Ken and British Tech Mac (fly me to The Bash, Ewen?), I don't wish

to chew up my flash memory with several hundred episodes. Still, easily enough remedied. Mark all as played, then delete all played episodes.

Tap on the episode of choice and it brings up a gorgeous minimalist screen. Click on the wrench icon reveals a handful of features such as AirPlay, speed choice, sleep timer and more.

You have a choice of main screens - subscriptions or playlists. I found both very useful, so it's a matter of choice. There's also a play pause button on the page, so if you have no desire to go to the podcast page, you can simply pick an episode and control playback from this page. Nice touch. But then again, it begs the question that if you're going to use it in this simple fashion, why did you purchase a feature rich app to begin with? Still, it's a convenient option.

I played with the badge setting but couldn't get one to appear on the iOS icon. However, there are badge icons on each podcast within the playlists page showing how many episodes you haven't viewed/listened to. So, if you are not a fan of badges on your apps screen, you're in luck.

You can bookmark sections of a podcast. This way you can return to only specific sections of your podcasts. Very nice feature.

Grade: A-

Price: \$4.99

DOWNCAST (available in the App Store)

I found the iPhone layout to be a very nice GUI. The iPad is more utilitarian than eye candy, which was good. It placed all of your controls in one place. There's even a button to produce a gesture field to operate the playback purely by hand gestures. Very nice feature.

However, assigning a podcast to a particular playlist required a bit of searching (due to a strange naming convention) and didn't send it to my desired playlist right away.

When you tap on a podcast for play in iPad, it not only gives you the playback controls, but automatically presents you with the information page. Me like, a lot.

Also included, are lots of customizable settings for each separate podcast and a built in-web browser (as in 1Password) which comes in very handy.

Naturally it allows you, as does Instacast and iCatcher, to set login and passwords for individual podcasts (another obstacle removed for you to stop you from procrastinating subscribing to ScreenCastsOnline). But there is a caveat.

Unfortunately, I found subscribing to SCO a bit of an exercise in futility, although the app's directions were very straightforward. First, you have

to return to SCO's website to set up the podcast on both Instacast, Downcast and iCatcher. Fair enough.

However, Downcast was a particular nightmare. Even with all the syncing turned on plus ID and PW manually entered on both iDevices, it would only download the trailers and kept insisting my verification was no good. Yet that very verification would allow me onto SCO's Member Pages. Aaaargh! (The same procedure is required to subscribe via iCatcher. But with that podcatcher, I had no problems.)

Grade: A

Price: \$1.99

So dear reader, at the end of the day, I'm afraid that I have no advice for you. Other than you map out how you like to view or listen to your podcasts and on which devices. Do the free ones satisfy your requirements or are you willing to pony up for extra features? That's all up to you.

As for me, Podcasts serves my needs just fine for my audio podcast experience on my iPhone. As for my video podcasts downloaded to my iPad, I'm going to hold onto iCatcher but start experimenting with Downcast. How about you?

©2013 Frank Petrie

iMumble 20.0

Barry Clark

iTerrorise

iDon't need the GCSB to tell me that terrorism is part of the world we live in. It is around us every day not only with the likelihood of a car bomb or IED, but also murder, rape, assault, robbery, burglary, shop-lifting, bullying, cheating, lying; all these things frighten or terrorise us, on our streets, at work and in our own homes ... the perpetrators are let out on bail and we are expected to get used to it, so suck it up. Yeah, right.

SuperScanner!

Mel Martin

SuperScanner! is an impressive emergency radio scanner for your iPad. *SuperScanner!* (US\$9.99) recreates the days of the Radio Shack scanners with a slick iPad app that gives you access to police, fire, aircraft and other emergency frequencies. You're not stuck with just your local police and other public frequencies, but can hop all over the US and the world.

The major difference from the beloved 16-channel hardware scanners is that you can search for any location, program frequencies in, and then listen for hours. You can program favorites, have the app switch frequencies at a set time, or touch an active frequency to hold it there. *SuperScanner!* can be set to give you background audio if you want to do something else, but not miss out on the action.

I spent some time exploring my local channels, then took a virtual trip to New Zealand, and then over to New York and Los Angeles where the channels are very active. *SuperScanner!* can also "travel" randomly.

SuperScanner! has well-featured, but the user interface is not terribly intuitive should you want access to the deeper features. Help is built-in, but a trip to the developer website answered more of my questions:

<http://hypernovasoftware.com>

SuperScanner! requires iOS 6.1.3 or greater, and an iPad 2 or newer. I'd love to see this app in a universal format so it could run on my iPhone, but there are many similar apps offered that will work on the smartphone. *5-0 Radio Pro Police Scanner*, *Emergency Radio*, and *Police Scanner+*.



Dictionaries

Eleven of Merriam-Webster's Best-selling Dictionaries and Merriam-Webster's Pocket Dictionary for Mac OS X

Paragon Software Group, in partnership with Merriam-Webster, Inc., have announced the release of eleven monolingual and bilingual reference classics from Merriam-Webster for Mac OS X. The apps are conveniently combined in a single Merriam-Webster's Dictionaries in-app catalog app, allowing the user to immediately find the right dictionary, download it, and test it for free, before making the purchasing decision. The new app comes with a full version of Merriam-Webster's Pocket Dictionary at a special price of only \$0.99 USD (the regular price \$19.99 USD).

The "Merriam-Webster's Dictionaries" app includes the following additional dictionaries:

- Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary, Eleventh Edition
- Webster's Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged
- Merriam-Webster's English-French and French-English Dictionary
- Merriam-Webster's English-Spanish and Spanish-English Dictionary
- Merriam-Webster's Medical Dictionary (* without a sound module)
- Merriam-Webster's Advanced Learner's English Dictionary
- The Merriam-Webster Dictionary
- The Merriam-Webster Dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms
- Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Thesaurus
- Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Law
- Merriam-Webster's Essential Learner's English Dictionary

Search and translate features:

Search through dictionary headwords. Full text search to look up usage examples. List of similar words results in case of misspelled look ups. Wildcard Search if you are unsure of the exact word spelling. Use "?" and "*" symbols to replace the missing letters. Morphology module to translate words in any grammatical form. Look-up functionality from other applications – while working in other applications you can easily and quickly look up any desired word without leaving that application. Search through Favorites. Search History – while you are using the dictionary, all looked up and viewed words/phrases are saved in the History.

Learning features:

Audio pronunciations. Irregular verbs. Word forms.

Availability:

Merriam-Webster's Dictionaries app includes Merriam-Webster's Pocket Dictionary and is available for \$0.99 USD at:

<https://itunes.apple.com/app/id609411821>

Other dictionary prices range from 19.99 to 59.99 USD.

Around, About

Peter Fitchett

USB: Over the past years, USB (USB 2) has become the interface for all devices connected to our computers. There are other interfaces: Firewire, Firewire 800, and eSATA come to mind immediately but they are for special or high-performance uses. In the past couple of year, a further 2 interfaces have appeared, USB 3 and Thunderbolt. Our demand for speed seems to know no bounds, however, and more are coming. Apple has included Thunderbolt 2 (at 20 Gbps) in its announced Mac Pro computer that will begin shipping later this year; and now the USB standard has been enhanced to USB 3.1, (also known as Superspeed USB), transferring data at up to 10Gbps (the same speed as Thunderbolt). It looks like there will be plenty of interfaces available to give us choices, and to keep us confused well into the future.

Belkin's Dyle TV Receiver connects your iPad to your local television networks - it is a small TV receiver that plugs into your iPad, providing the local TV programs without internet or Data Plan. The Receiver costs (US)\$100 and works with the free Dyle TV app for iOS devices. Of course, it isn't really as simple as that - the Dyle app only works for some free-to-air channels in the USofA, so even though the Belkin receiver can receive all the channels, the app won't let you use many of them - in some areas, it won't let you use any! And the receiver only works with iOS devices with the old 30-pin sockets. Someone doesn't seem to have thought this out!

iPhone: John Dvorak, writing for PC Magazine, commented that there's been a blitz of new phones announced in the past few weeks, (we haven't noticed, have we?) and he's heard a rumor that explains why: Apple has determined the month of September is when phone sales peak. Everyone

SeniorNet Mac

Computer Training Lessons: Two-hour sessions, once a week for four weeks. Course notes are provided. Classes are small with a maximum of six students and two tutors per lesson.

Social Events: Held on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Newsletter: Supplied every two months.

We are now located at: 190 Worcester Str, Christchurch.

Contact: If you would like to join SeniorNet Mac and are in the 55-plus age group, please contact Allan Rutherford at (03) 352-4950, or email:

ajmr@xtra.co.nz,

or else leave a message on the club's answerphone at (03) 365 2003.

else wants to get in first, so that they don't get buried in Apple's press. Dvorak then adds: "This brings me to a weird story my son told me that he has checked out and thinks is probably true. I can believe it... A friend of his claims that in the modern bar scene you will not get laid if you have anything other than an iPhone. It's an automatic deal killer if you pull out an HTC One or even a Galaxy S 4. An oversized Samsung Galaxy Note would be a deal breaker for certain."

Precision Guided Firearm: This rifle was shown at the CES. Actually, the PGF isn't just a rifle; it's a system of devices designed to work together to make hunting safer and more enjoyable through technology.

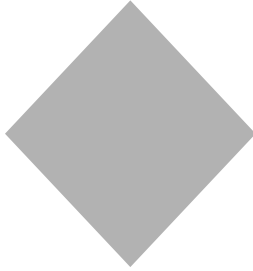
A processor inside the rifle collects environmental data like temperature, barometric pressure, distance to target, the orientation of the barrel and even the Earth's magnetic fields from sensors built into the networked digital tracking scope on top of the rifle. The user can then choose to input more data like wind direction and speed, then use the digital tracking display inside the scope to find a target and "lock on" by pressing a big red button. The scope will then display a big red dot that automatically compensates for environmental variables like wind, distance and intervening objects to show the user where they need to point the rifle in order to hit their intended target. It will even track the target if it moves by employing digital image processing techniques to determine what object the user is trying to target (elk, deer, a paper cutout, etc.) and updating the targeting reticle as the object moves relative to the rifle.

The PGF is a self-contained system, so you need to buy the whole package (roughly US\$20,000). It comes with a complementary iPad Mini to record the action, so friends, family and trusted hunting partners can see what a great (or not so great) shot you are.

AUGC contacts

Website	http://www.appleusers.co.nz	
Mailing Lists	Peter Fitchett listadmin@appleusers.co.nz	(3) 960 8189
	The AUGC Discussion List is for members who wish to discuss club matters.	
	The HELP list is open to all Mac users who wish to give or receive assistance.	
Membership	treasurer@appleusers.co.nz with printed Applebyte: \$45 per annum without printed Applebyte \$25 per annum (\$5 discount for early renewal)	

About the user group



Aims

The Apple User Group of Canterbury Incorporated (AUGC) is a non-profit organisation which exists for the purpose of exchanging ideas and expertise about the use of Apple computers, the Macintosh operating systems, and related hardware and software.

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Help: A full list of helpers and volunteers can be viewed in the Contacts section of our website.

Snail Mail: PO Box 31-053, Christchurch, New Zealand.

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Apple User Group