



SMUG NEWSLETTER

April 2, 2012

Meeting Notice

All meetings, except for the December, will be at the Grande Prairie Library at 3479 W 183rd St., Hazel Crest. The December meeting will be held at the Homewood Public Library.

Walter Palmer, Editor

Mountain Lion

If you liked the fact that Lion is very iOS-like then you will love Mountain Lion. One new feature is the "Trusted Download" feature. The software comes with a list of trusted sites that the user can download from. Hopefully, users can add their own.

There was some talk about developers being able to apply to Apple for "Trusted" status, but that does not begin to cover the possibilities. Also, one can only speculate about the opportunities for abuse of the "Trusted" status, or, its revocation by Apple. I have said in these pages that if Apple had the power to act like Microsoft they would. And they have been.

Consumer Corner

Consumer Corner is a space for SSMUGers to post complaints and complements. I get to start.

Apple Store

This is a gripe - they do not have hard drives in stock. They have to order them from some place. I had an internal hard drive go bad and it took them several days for one to come in. They took out a (bad) Toshiba and put in a good Western Digital. Western Digital makes, in my opinion, commodity drives.

Verizon

Mrs Editor lost her cell phone March 24, - we thought it was March 25. We went to the Verizon store in Matteson to replace it. She wound up getting an iPhone 4 for a really good price. We were told that Verizon accepted old cell phones and if we

found the old one we would get \$30 for it in trade - just bring it in.

The phone was located April 1. We traded in the old phone and were given, initially, \$5.00 for it. We complained and asked to see the manager. We were told he was in a conference call - actually he was about three feet away. Mrs Editor complained and we were told that they would give her that credit and apply it to the account. After checking online an hour and a half later, the credit was not there.

It has appeared that this was indeed, a promotion and that it did end on March 31. Editorial Ire is now directed to the first sales person who said "Just bring it in any time." And, of course, the person who lied about the whereabouts of his manager.

Alternatives:

Another Verizon Store.
Best Buy
Radio Shack
Apple (for some things).

Lesson:

Be open, honest, and complete with the customers. The rules are what the rules are. However, if we had known what was going on we would have felt differently - maybe we would have waited until the next promotion, either at Verizon or another place. That store has lost us as customers regardless. There are too many other places to deal with Verizon.

iPhone5

Let the speculation begin. It's like speculating about next year's car models used to be, at least for me. Much more interesting than some celeb's nocturnal adventures. But then, Mr and Mrs Editor prove that you can be a nerd and not be involved in the physical sciences.

Anyway, as I write this at the end of March the speculation seems to be gelling. One reason for this is that Apple was supposed to introduce the iPhone5 last August, but introduced the iPhone4S

instead. Except for SIRI, frankly, it was a yawn, and Apple's stock price showed it. It dropped.

Anyway, the speculation is this:

Larger screen

This is a repeat of last summer's speculation. The competition is going to larger screens, so the idea is that Apple will follow. (To someone in his mid-sixties, this is, in the words of one of our frequent speakers, good.)

Slightly different "form factor"

Wider, thinner, with a rounded back. I guess this is good for the case manufacturers. Unless the outsides have changed much in the past year, good for the case manufacturers because they they get to sell a bunch of new cases and they may have a stock of cases in their warehouses. Unless, of course, they trashed them when the iPhone 5 was delayed.

4G and LTE

Why not - the iPad3 has it the iPhone should at least keep up.

The rest is rank speculation and anything else is truly a guess. The best guess is that there will be nothing else.

Except for iOS6, of course. Who knows - SIRI for the masses? A crippled SIRI for the masses?

The liveliest rumors are over when it will happen - June or August? In late March that is a complete guess. June has become the traditional month, but that would mean that the 4S would only be top dog for nine months.

What next?

People are wondering what Apple can come up with next. As with the Macintosh line, they seem to have gone as far as they can go and the rest is gilding the lily. 2013 is where Tim Cook will show his worth. Momentum has to be kept up and they have to come up with something for a 'wow' factor. Commentators are having a hard time even coming up with a wish list.

Our Stuart Kurtz about neural links as an interface. If you want to read a lengthy series of books in which neural linked computers play a major role, try Peter Hamilton's "Night's Dawn" series. Nine books with the neural link only really explained in the last. Think of an antenna implanted in the

human nervous system and connected to the internet via "Wi-Fi".

Personally, your editor would like to see a touch screen iMac. Think in terms of a 21" iPad with keyboard and inclined at the same angle as an iPad with the Apple cover. I think there are graphics workstations with that "form factor". for us older people with bifocals that would be wonderful. Plus, if you had a computer on your desk you could look at someone without turing or craning the neck. An end to "peek a boo".

Lawsuits

Apple's won a few and lost a few. I haven't been keeping track but they seem to be winning more than loosing.

Money

Gobs and gobs for Apple. Apple is even declaring a dividend. iOS devices are responsible for 75% of Apple's income.