



SMUG NEWSLETTER

November 2104

SSMUG Newsletter

The December meeting will be at the Grande Prairie public library. January, February, and March will be at the Flossmoor Station Pub. All at 7:00 pm.

Apple seems to be a victim of their success. I cannot write something about how Apple has hit another homerun, because that is a "Dog Bites Man" story. It only makes news when they are not successful.

Macworld, the major Macintosh magazine, has followed the example of this newsletter and is now digital only. MacWorld Expo, one of the premier Macintosh trade show, is now no more. When Apple dropped out it died, it just took a few years for the publisher to realize it.

This has been a busy three months for Apple.

I am not going to go into detail about any of this. I am sure that all of you know the basics.

Two new iPhones.

Bendgate: shortly after the new iPhone 6 and 6+ started going into

customers' hands, hip pockets, rather, it was noticed that the cell phone was bending - to the point of damaging the screen - which did not bend. This is a one - time bend, not a flexibility. After the surprise settled down, it was noticed that quite a bit of force is needed to bend the phone, but still ... case makers must be drooling. [This issue died away after about ten days.]

The iPhone6+ is selling better than the smaller iPhone 6. So much so that production capacity is being modified to favor the 6+.

Apple has reported its best quarter ever, due they say, to iPhone 6(+) sales.

iOS 8

iOS 8 has had its problems as well. iOS 8.0.1 cut off the cellphone and Touch ID functions of the iPhone 6 and 6+ for 40,000 users, according to Apple. This was fixed the next day but I am sure it has hurt. Also, performance of early iPad 2s has been noticeably degraded. True, Apple does not support devices forever, but there are a LOT of iPad2s out there. It is left to the owner of an iPad2 to decide whether

or not performance is still acceptable. Performance does improve over time.

On the plus side, it is nice to be able to receive telephone calls on the iPad (if the iPhone is close). Some of the other features are still in the “disconcerting” stage. The new camera software is supposed to be very good and very flexible.

One of the problems is that iOS 8 wants you to upgrade to I Cloud Drive. If you do so you will loose I Cloud functionality with an iMac running Mavericks. Therefore, no I Cloud for you until you install Yosemite on your Mac if you opt for I Cloud Drive.

iOS 8.1, with Apple Pay was made available and has been a mixed success. First, third party software has proven to be a very mixed bag. Sometimes it does not work at all, sometimes it double or triple bills. Credit card companies have proven to be understanding – it seems they want to make this work. The feature seems to be like the little girl with a curl – when it works it is great, but is awful when it does not. Early adopters seem to be patient with the problems so far.

More worrying is the fact that some retailers have removed the HFC terminals they were using with Android phones to keep Apple Pay from working. (See below) Apple Watch (as in “Apple Timepiece”)



Many people including myself, have been calling it the iWatch. Unfortunately, someone else already has the trademark. Even Tim Cook slipped during the introduction and called it the iWatch.

This will not ship until March or April, so there is not a whole lot to say. It looks good and will not work well without touching base with an iPhone occasionally. The Apple Watch ships with three watch bands, out of a selection of twelve. “Normal”, “Sports” and “Glitz”.

The bands are really one of the best features and an excellent example of Apple engineering. There is a small button that releases the band, which then slides off.



My personal favorite feature is the “no pinch” feature.

Rumors, and other indications (talks with the FDA and Insurance companies) seemed to foreshadow more than just a pulse indicator - BP, blood gas, even blood sugar. This

has not happened (yet). Just before the introduction, it was rumored that all the sensors were not ready and they were not and are not. Your Editor is going to hold off a least a year - the other features are nice, but after helping Mrs. Editor with her parents and having seen blood pressure spikes, I'll wait a bit.

One final point: for the sensors to work it will by necessity be a wristwatch.



iPad

The new iPads are, as usual with Apple, smaller, light faster. Touch ID has made its appearance in the new iPads. The heavily rumored larger iPad is still to appear.

The iMac was updated with Retina screens and Yosemite. The Yosemite upgrade seems to have gone well with only one bug and that appearing after about a week after introduction. Of course, it is a very serious one with a lose of Wi-Fi connectivity being the problem. Apple yet to comment.

Legal News

Jay Who?

From a “The Verge” report:

“Jay Cutler, best known as the husband of television personality Kristin Cavallari, doesn't care about the #brandscape. He just wants to play football — at least enough football to finish third in the NFC North, perhaps more if he's feeling inspired. But sometimes the #brandscape gets in the way, like when Microsoft pays nearly half a billion dollars to shower teams and announcers with Surfaces.”

Bear Down, Jay, Bear Down (I had not noticed the sarcasm “just wants to finish third”. I originally saw this as an example of Chicago obscurity, but now I see it as commentary from a Bears fan. Of course, even finishing third will take a miracle unless the Bears change drastically.)

In related news:

San Francisco 49ers Quarterback Colin Kaepernick Breaks Rules Again, Covers Beats Headphones Logo
Marika Kazimierska , Design & Trend
Oct, 14, 2014

San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick is not letting go of his Beats by Dre headphones so easily. After the 49ers beat the St. Louis Rams 31-17 on Monday night, Kaepernick appeared at a post game press conference. (Kaepernick had put masking tape over the Beats logo. He had been fined \$10,000 the previous week for letting the Beats logo show at the post game press conference.)

The NFL has implemented a [policy](#) that players and coaches are not allowed to wear Beats in front of cameras because of the league's exclusive deal with Bose, a competitor of the Beats by Dre

brand. The NFL's exclusive deal with Bose means players and other personnel on the sidelines of a game must wear Bose headphones.

In reaction to this policy, Apple is dropping Bose products from the Apple retail channels. Verizon seems to be feeling the pressure because when your editor was in a Verizon store recently, he got a serious sales pitch for Bose products. Is Apple saying that Bose and Apple products cannot be sold in the same store?

GT Declares Bankruptcy

GT, a company that had been hired to run Apple's Sapphire screen factory has declared bankruptcy. The usual legal battles have started. GT wants to be let out of its contracts with Apple citing "oppressive and burdensome" contract terms. This is what is known as pleading language - no doubt this is an echo of the Bankruptcy Statute.

More interestingly, two GT execs sold large amounts of stock just before the bankruptcy. At first glance, (prima facie) this is insider trading - "The buying or selling of securities based on information not generally available to the public." Hello, Club Fed.

The Apple Pay Fiasco

(But for whom?)

Not so much for Apple, but for others. Shortly after Apple Pay came out in iOS 8.1, people started trying it out in all sorts of places, whether it was officially supported by the vendor or not. Well, two of those

places were CVS Pharmacies and Rite-Aid Pharmacies. They belong to a consortium including (headed by?) Wal-Mart. They are developing an alternate system based on QR codes, linked to a debit card. No doubt to avoid credit card fees. They had been using the terminals that Android had been using for a while now. Once Apple got into the act they pulled the terminals.

They are now getting negative publicity over this including boycotts. The manufacturer of the terminals is urging them to restore them (!). It is thought that Walgreens will appreciate the boycott (!). Master Card has weighed in on the side of NFC. (Remember, most credit cards work as debit cards as well.)

Your guess as good as mine as to what the end result of this will be. I do that Wal-Mart is thrilled with the pharmacies jumping the gun on this. My guess is that WM does not like dealing with companies as large they are. Since Apple has dumped Bose, will Wal-Mart (and BestBuy) be close behind? Wal-Mart, maybe, not BestBuy, but who knows? Tim Cook seems to take fewer things lying down than Steve Jobs did. I would not be surprised if Apple started buying large percentages of the stock of smaller companies involved in this. I doubt that they will, but Apple could take that mountain of cash they have and start buying Wal-Mart stock. Personally, Your Editor would "make a run" on Wal-Mart stock just to remind them what they could do if they chose. The effectiveness of any consumer action will determine what happens.

Disney will honor Apple Pay. When Pixar, a Steve Jobs company,

merged with Disney, there were more Pixar directors on the board of the new company than (previous) Disney directors. So, if I were answering a Bar Exam question on the matter, I would say that Pixar bought Disney and the name of the entity was changed to Disney. Disney trademarks were then adopted. Tim Cook is on the Board of Nike so they probably will as well.

October 28, 2014

Tim Cook has said that Apple Pay registered over a million credit cards in its first 72 hours and is larger than other similar service. How this weathers Wal-Mart's war on credit cards remains to be seen.

From "The Verge" October 29, 2014

"the [New York Times](#) has confirmed today that MCX partners working on the system are contractually required to accept CurrentC exclusively. Any retailers that decide to accept other payment services, such as Apple Pay, will be fined:

(Pay a contact agreed penalty – there are no fines on the "civil side". WP, ESQ)

The problem is that under the terms of their MCX contractual agreement, they are not supposed to accept competing mobile payments products like Apple Pay, according to multiple retailers involved with MCX, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. If these retailers break their contracts, they will face steep fines for doing so, these people said.

As we pointed out last week, retailers that have signed on to help build and accept CurrentC started

[disabling their NFC terminals](#) to block the usage of services like Apple Pay, Google Wallet, and Softcard."

So, Wal-Mart wants to take on Apple *and* Google. Of course, what they are really taking on is credit card usage. I am not sure they can break the world of the credit card habit. Finally, it seems odd that the agreement has evidently been in force for some time and only now are they removing NFC. And why remove the NFC terminals before CurrentC is available?

UPDATE: Meijer has broken with CurrentC and continues to accept Apple Pay and Google Wallet.

HOW TO

How to put text on your iOS lock screen.

1. Write some text, typically a name and address, using your favorite word processor.
2. You need to choose a contrasting colors for the text and the background. Clearly you need to have a lock screen picture in mind. Solid colors only.
3. Use `cmd-shift-4` (or `cmd-$`) to make a screen capture of your text. This is automatically saved to the desktop as a jpg.
4. Choose a custom picture that you want to use and make a copy of it. Always only work with copies of pictures.
5. Open the picture and the jpg of your text in question with a graphics program. Your editor uses Graphic Converter.
6. Select the text picture and make a copy (`cmd-c`).

7. Paste this into your picture. Position and hit return. Then save.
8. Copy this into your iOS device in any of the picture files and select using the usual method.

I do not know if this will work using Preview because I do not use it. The graphics program you use must be able to paste graphics into larger graphics. Some graphics programs will allow you to enter text directly. Graphics Convertor used to, but that menu item seems to have gone missing. If you have PhotoShop, that will "getter done". Questions regarding Pixelmater should be addressed to Mr. Todd Smith.