

Capital Apple



The official journal of the Wellington Macintosh Society Inc

Volume 37.03 – March 2020

Come to one of our meetings

Wellington

Monday, Cancelled
owing to Coronavirus
Subject: TBA

Kapiti

Monday, Cancelled
owing to Coronavirus
Subject: TBA

iPad Group*

TBA

Help Desk*

Wellington - TBA
1.00pm - 4.00pm

See page 2 for more
details of meetings

*Please register by emailing
vp@welmac.org.nz



Your next computer
is not a computer.

Where to find us

We will be guided by the rules and recommendations from the government, and aim to resume normal meetings as soon as possible. As at this writing, the alert level is 2, which includes measures limiting non-essential travel and recommending that high-risk people (including everyone over 70) remain at home. We do not think it is reasonable to hold group meetings under these conditions. As an alternative we will find a solution which allows us to run meetings with members joining in from home, via the Internet.

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The president writes ...



Graeme Moffatt

editor@welmac.org.nz

Hi folks.

Those who were at the AGM last month and the following Kapiti meeting at the beginning of this month, will be aware that I have replaced David Empson as president of the society. This is not the first time I have been president as I was also before David took over from me eighteen years ago.

This will necessitate some changes to the way things are being conducted as regards the society and one of the first is in the manner that this magazine is arranged and distributed.

I have been the editor for quite a number of years and also on different occasions as others have stepped in from time to time to give me a break. The biggest change will be that David will no longer be advising of meeting details and this and other functions were decided at our first post AGM committee meeting last Wednesday.

David will still writing a reduced size article on what is happening on the larger Apple stage and with any bits that our membership can gain from. The new person giving meeting updates has started this month and I will give a report on what is going on and forecast to happen with the society.

This month I have written a brief analysis of where our society has come from and where we see it going in the future. There will be a lot of discussion within the committee for a period of time and the outcomes of this will be passed on to the members each month in my report. You can see this report on page 8.

Meeting Notice

As everyone will be aware, there has been a major change to our daily lives with the outbreak

of the Coronavirus and we need to be cognisant of what is being instigated on a national level and how this will effect us. David sent an email to all the committee in which he stated; "Today's noon announcement from the PM is advising everyone over 70 to stay at home as much as possible.

Given that many of our members are in that age group, I think we now have no choice but to officially cancel the next meetings, unless we can arrange an online meeting of some kind in their place. Wellington Cathedral have also confirmed that they are cancelling all bookings until further notice, so we cannot hold Wellington meetings."

This is a wise move so we will investigate how we can come up with an acceptable alternative and let members know as soon as a decision is made

Monthly Presidents Report

Each month, in addition to commenting on what is happening in the Macintosh computer world in our neighbourhood. I intend to give a report on what transpired at the previous committee meeting so that members will be able to see what is being done to advance their interests as far as this society is concerned. The last such meeting, taking place a week or so ago, was the first since the AGM and as there has been a somewhat major change for the first time in eighteen years, we are having to address what needs to be altered as an effect of this.

One of the first things discussed was the housekeeping of things such as email addresses. As David has been received emails to his president@welmac.or.nz account for many years, we decided to continue with this in the meantime. All of the committee members already have a WelMac address of their first name followed by the WelMac domain with the exception of the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and the editor of Capital Apple. Now that I am now back as President, you can still email me at editor@welmac.org.nz.

Other items that arose at the meeting were in regard to our monthly newsletter, which will increase in size and content starting with this one. The delegation of the management aspects of the committee with Martin McKendrick now taking on

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the responsibility of supper coordinator, and that does not mean that he will be doing it but tapping others on the shoulder to have their turn. We are not expecting members who regularly come to meetings to undertake this for extended periods of time but to take a turn on a monthly basis.

We also discussed how we can further promote our society in order to, at a minimum, to maintain our present membership level of around the eighty mark, and to look at growing this progressively over the coming years. In this respect it was agreed that we would utilise the technology that we have come to love and rely on so will be investigating how social media can be utilised to this end. We are now in the process of establishing a Facebook presence and this will be a group page where members will need to be granted access by the administrator so that only members will be able to post and see others posts.

Over the last many years, some members of the committee, me included, have been collecting and storing Apple computers that have been donated by members and acquired from other sources. The aim has always been at some stage to investigate the best means as to how to be able to display these as many of them have now passed into the dustbin of history, and only those of us who were around when they were released and quite likely owned one, have any idea of their existence. Although we may not see and realise the fact, we are going through a monumental revolution that will be seen in the future as being every bit as significant as the Industrial Revolution

This took place from about 1760 to sometime between 1820 and 1840 and this transition included going from hand production methods to machines, new chemical manufacturing and iron production processes, the increasing use of steam power and water power, the development of machine tools and the rise of the mechanised factory system. The Industrial Revolution also led to an unprecedented rise in the rate of population growth.

What the current revolution will come to termed is at this stage unknown but quite likely will be something as simple as the Computer Revolution or Digital Revolution and is defined by Wikipedia as "The Digital Revolution", this is the shift from mechanical and analogue electronic technology to digital electronics which began anywhere from the

late 1950s to the late 1970s with the adoption and proliferation of digital computers and digital record keeping that continues to the present day. Implicitly, the term also refers to the sweeping changes brought about by digital computing and communication technology during (and after) the latter half of the 20th century. Analogous to the Agricultural Revolution and Industrial Revolution, the Digital Revolution marked the beginning of the Information Age.

I have been storing somewhere around fifty old computers dating from an Apple II from around 1980 up until a range of the coloured G3 iMacs of 1998. David also has a few of the clubs computers including an Apple II signed by Steve Wozniak, when he visited Wellington sometime around 1985.



It is costing me \$180 a month to store these in a secure lockup facility at Paraparaumu and although I do have some personal stuff stored as well, the computers make up the bulk. The time has now come when we need to establish what is going to be done with our reasonably vast collection and the establishment of a museum will be investigated over the coming months.

That's all, folks!

Graeme Moffatt

To contact me, email editor@welmac.org.nz, or you can ring me at home (027 660-3094)



David's Tech Guide

by David Empson

david@welmac.org.nz

04 976 9755

Welcome to my new semi-regular column in Capital Apple. Continuing with the pattern I've established over the several years, I'll be reporting on Apple products and software from a NZ perspective, and products from other companies which pique my interest.

New Apple Products for March

Apple has announced several new products, most of which will be shipping soon, but may not show up at retailers for several weeks. I expect Apple had these in development some time ago, and needed to announce them despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, because production was already switching over to the new models.

MacBook Air

<https://www.apple.com/nz/macbook-air/>

The 2020 MacBook Air looks almost identical to the 2018 and 2019 models but has significant updates in several areas:

1. The keyboard is now a "Magic Keyboard", with scissor switches instead of butterfly switches. This should eliminate reliability concerns, and improves the feel due to deeper travel. The arrow keys have reverted to an "inverted T" arrangement, like the 2017 and earlier MacBook Air. The top row is still function keys (no Touch Bar for the MacBook Air), and it has a Touch ID sensor in the upper right corner which lets you use a fingerprint for authentication.
2. Storage has doubled in the standard configurations: 256 GB in the the entry level model and 512 GB in the higher spec model. Custom storage upgrades are also cheaper.
3. A new generation of processors ("Ice Lake") which is notably faster for graphics. The entry level model has a dual core i3 processor which is slightly faster than the 2018 or 2019 MacBook

Air for CPU processing (despite a lower nominal clock speed). The higher spec model has a quad core i5 processor which can be nearly twice as fast for some tasks.

The starting price has come down again. Until mid 2019, Apple was still selling the 2017 model (which was a minor tweak of the 2015 model) with old ports, 128 GB storage and a non-retina display, starting at \$1649 (the 256 GB model was \$1999). The 2018 MacBook Air redesign with retina display and Thunderbolt 3/USB-C ports started at \$2199, and the 2019 refresh reduced that to \$1949.

The entry level 2020 MacBook Air (with dual core i3 processor and 256 GB storage) is **\$1799**.

If 256 GB storage is enough for you, and price is a major factor, then the entry level model is a good choice. If you want more storage and better performance, the higher spec model with the quad core i5 processor and 512 GB storage is **\$2349**.

If you order a custom configuration, you can tweak the details to match your needs, by starting with the base model and adding features you want, e.g. you could get the quad core i5 processor but stay at 256 GB storage for \$1999.

Standard memory is 8 GB, with a custom option for 16 GB (useful for running many applications at once, some special applications which need more memory, or if you keep a lot of web pages open).

Other custom options are faster processors (up to a quad core i7), and more storage (up to 2 TB).

All configurations have a retina display, two Thunderbolt 3/USB-C ports on the left side, a headphone socket, and the T2 security chip. Colour options are silver, gold or space grey.

Battery life is down slightly: now 11 hours for wireless web browsing (rather than 12). There is also a tiny weight increase (by 0.05 kg).

As a new model, the 2020 MacBook Air comes with macOS Catalina (10.15.4) and cannot be downgraded to older macOS versions.

If you need a new Mac notebook but cannot run Catalina (e.g. you have critical 32-bit software) then it is best to buy an older model or a different family such as a 13-inch MacBook Pro. For occasional use, the 2020 MacBook Air could run an older macOS version using virtual machine software.

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Mac Mini

The Mac Mini gets doubled storage at the same prices, but no other changes.

What about the 13-inch MacBook Pro?

No update, but I expect one by June. You should avoid buying a 13-inch MacBook Pro in the near future, due to the butterfly keyboard. At a minimum the next update should replace the keyboard and increase the storage.

iPad Pro

<https://www.apple.com/nz/ipad-pro/>

The 2020 iPad Pro has feature and performance updates from the late 2018 models.

The obvious change is the rear camera array, which resembles the iPhone 11 with the addition of a 10MP ultra-wide angle camera to the existing 12MP wide angle camera.

An additional feature on the camera array is a LIDAR sensor, which allows accurate 3D depth measurements at distances of up to 5 metres. This has significant benefits for Augment Reality applications, due to being able to instantly scan a scene without needing to move the iPad around to change perspective.

Under the hood, the 2020 iPad Pro has an A12Z processor (compared to A12X in the previous model). This increases the number of graphics cores for a big boost to graphics performance.

Every model of the 2020 iPad Pro has 6 GB of RAM. The 2018 models only had that much RAM in the highest configurations with 1 TB of storage. More RAM helps when working with complex documents or for keeping more apps in memory when switching between them.

It also adds an Ultra-Wideband chip (like the iPhone 11 series), which allows directional/distance sensing of other UWB devices. So far this is only used for directional AirDrop priority but we are expecting Apple to announce other products that can make use of this.

The 2020 iPad Pro also supports Wi-Fi 6 (802.11ax), which will improve wireless network speeds in future as it becomes more common.

The entry level iPad Pro models now come with 128 GB storage (up from 64 GB), but this does bring a jump in the price. All the other storage capacities are the same (256 GB, 512 GB, 1 TB) and they have small price increases.

The 11-inch iPad Pro now starts at **\$1499** (128 GB, Wi-Fi only), up to \$2399 for 1 TB Wi-Fi.

The 12.9-inch iPad Pro now starts at **\$1849** (128 GB, Wi-Fi only), up to \$2749 for 1 TB Wi-Fi.

An iPad with cellular data support adds another \$280 to the price. Separate options include Apple Pencil 2 for \$239, and a Smart Keyboard Folio for \$329 (11-inch) or \$359 (12.9-inch).

Magic Keyboard for iPad Pro

<https://www.apple.com/nz/ipad-keyboards/>

Apple has announced a new “Magic Keyboard” option for the 11-inch and 12.9-inch iPad Pro, but it won’t be available until May. (Just to confuse us, this is not the same as the existing “Magic Keyboard”, which will continue to be available, and also works on the iPad.)

The new Magic Keyboard works with the 2018 iPad Pro as well as the 2020 models, but not earlier iPad Pros (2015 and 2017), nor any non-Pro iPad.

This “Magic Keyboard” is not just a keyboard: it also has a trackpad. In effect, it turns the iPad Pro into a notebook computer.



In the above view the keyboard seems rather simple, but from the side you can see its potential.

The iPad Pro floats above the keyboard, with a fair degree of adjustable height and viewing angle.

The Magic Keyboard has its own USB-C connector, which also powers the iPad Pro.

That frees up the iPad’s own USB-C connector for a peripheral.

The catch: the Magic Keyboard is an eye watering \$549 (11-inch) or \$639 (12.9-inch).

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Did you say Trackpad?

Yes, the Magic Keyboard adds a trackpad to the iPad Pro. But it isn't the only way to do that.

iPadOS 13.4 is due for release on Wednesday 25 March (NZ time) and one of its new features is full mouse and trackpad support for all iPad models able to run iOS 13: iPad Air 2, 10.5-inch iPad Air, 2017 and later entry level "iPad", iPad mini 4 or later, and every iPad Pro.

You can pair any Bluetooth mouse or trackpad with the iPad. While the mouse or trackpad is connected, the iPad shows a small circular pointer on the screen which can be aimed at any object on the screen. Objects like buttons highlight to indicate you are pointing at them, and clicking the mouse or trackpad button acts like tapping the object. Selecting text is much easier with a mouse or trackpad than a finger. A trackpad also supports Mac-like multi-touch gestures such as pinch to zoom and swipe between apps for multitasking.

This opens up a lot of potential uses for all iPads, and solves the ergonomic problem of often needing to reach up and tap the display of an iPad which is being used with an external keyboard.

Note that this is not the same as the accessibility feature added in iOS 13 which allowed limited use of a mouse, but behaved like a finger so wasn't very precise (and it didn't support trackpads).

Not yet confirmed: whether it is possible to also use a USB mouse with an iPad given the right adapter (which might vary depending on the mouse, adapter and iPad model).

Third party keyboards and trackpads

Brydge has been working on a combined keyboard and trackpad for the iPad and they announced that the iOS 13.4 changes will also work with their product when it is released.

Logitech have announced simpler keyboard and trackpad cases: separate models for the 10.2-inch iPad and 10.5-inch iPad Air (the latter also works on a 10.5-inch iPad Pro).

Other Software Updates Coming

Apple will be releasing the next minor update of all the latests OS versions on Wednesday 25 March (NZ time). This is the "half way" release so includes some notable new features, not just the usual bug fixes and security updates.

I don't know yet whether Catalina 10.15.4 will fix enough issues with Mail that I'm willing to trust it

enough to switch over to Catalina as my main OS. I already know that the Music application is still going to annoy me, which I'll probably solve by forcing iTunes onto the computer (unsupported).

How to use the Apple Online Store

With movement restrictions due to COVID-19 and the possibility of tighter restrictions ahead, some people who want to buy a new Apple product soon may be unable to visit a retailer for research and purchase.

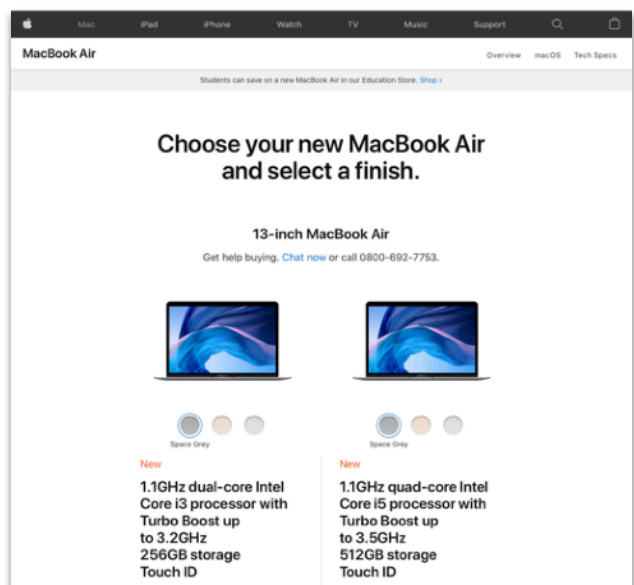
You can do a fair amount of research online, starting with Apple's web site for product details and pricing information, and doing a general search for reviews of products that interest you.

Apple's online store should remain available as a purchase option. Orders can be placed using a credit card, with some financing options available. The product is delivered directly to you at home, and delivery is free.

I'm happy to answer questions about getting new Apple products, and I've used the online store many times so can guide you through the process.

You can also use the online store to research pricing details and check custom options without committing to a purchase.

Start with the page for a product (e.g. the MacBook Air linked above) then click the blue "Buy" button in the top right corner to go to its online store page. This shows the standard models for the product.



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Some models (such as the iMac and MacBook Pro) have a size selector above the model pictures. You may also need to scroll down to see all the standard models of that type.

The next choice (just under the model picture) is the colour, in this case Space Grey, Gold or Silver.

Below that is a summary of each of the standard configurations, and if you scroll down you can see the price and delivery estimate.

<p>New</p> <p>1.1GHz dual-core Intel Core i3 processor with Turbo Boost up to 3.2GHz 256GB storage Touch ID</p> <p>Retina display with True Tone 1.1GHz dual-core 10th-generation Intel Core i3 processor Turbo Boost up to 3.2GHz Intel Iris Plus Graphics 8GB of 3733MHz LPDDR4X memory 256GB of SSD storage¹ Magic Keyboard Touch ID Force Touch trackpad Two Thunderbolt 3 ports</p> <p>NZ\$1,799.00</p> <p><small>Includes GST of approx. NZ\$235.00* 0% interest for 6, 12 or 24 months. Min. spend applies.</small></p> <p>Select </p> <p><small>Order today, delivers: 07/04/2020 - 16/04/2020 - Free</small></p>	<p>New</p> <p>1.1GHz quad-core Intel Core i5 processor with Turbo Boost up to 3.5GHz 512GB storage Touch ID</p> <p>Retina display with True Tone 1.1GHz quad-core 10th-generation Intel Core i5 processor Turbo Boost up to 3.5GHz Intel Iris Plus Graphics 8GB of 3733MHz LPDDR4X memory 512GB of SSD storage¹ Magic Keyboard Touch ID Force Touch trackpad Two Thunderbolt 3 ports</p> <p>NZ\$2,349.00</p> <p><small>Includes GST of approx. NZ\$307.00* 0% interest for 6, 12 or 24 months. Min. spend applies.</small></p> <p>Select </p> <p><small>Order today, delivers: 31/03/2020 - 07/04/2020 - Free</small></p>
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To see custom options, start by picking the model which is closest to what you want, then click the Select button.

You can never downgrade a feature of the standard model, e.g. if you want 256 GB storage in a MacBook Air, you need to start with the cheapest model. Apple sometimes offers fewer options on entry level models, but not in this case.

The next page starts by showing the configuration of the standard model, along with all the major components which can be customised as part of your order, and how they will affect the price. As you change options, the price and delivery summary at the bottom is updated.

Storage
How much storage is right for you?

256GB of SSD storage	
512GB of SSD storage	+ NZ\$350.00
1TB of SSD storage	+ NZ\$700.00
2TB of SSD storage	+ NZ\$1,400.00

Keyboard Language
[Learn more](#)

Keyboard Language
Backlit Magic Keyboard — US English

Each of these sections has a link under the heading which explains more about the options and the use cases where a higher spec component might help.

Note that when choosing a keyboard, New Zealand uses the “US English” keyboard, not the “British English” keyboard. The British English keyboard has quite a different layout and some changed keys, e.g. shift-3 is £ rather than #.

If you actually want to go ahead and buy, you can click the “Add to Bag” button at the bottom, then add any more items you also want and proceed to checkout. That is where you need to enter your contact details, credit card, etc.

If you are just browsing options, do not click “Add to Bag”. You can just close the web page, go back to the previous page, or leave it open for reference.

If you do accidentally add something to the bag, you can easily remove it again. The bag is accessed by clicking the Review Bag button (if visible), or the bag icon near the right end of the black banner at the top of each page on Apple’s web site.

Happy shopping!

<p> Order today, delivers: 07/04/2020 - 17/04/2020 - Free Delivery options for 6037</p>	<p>NZ\$1,999.00</p> <p><small>0% interest for 6, 12 or 24 months. Min. spend applies.</small></p>	<p>Add to Bag </p>
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My Early Computer & WelMac Recollections

by Graeme Moffatt

I first bought an Apple II Plus computer early in 1984 at a cost of \$5,500 to be able to process my business accounts in an easier manner than having to do them manually. Doing so saved me a lot of money as I no longer needed to pay staff to do these for me as I could now do them on my own and in one year the computer more than paid for itself.



I was living in Nelson at the time and there was no computer support groups there so I had to learn how to operate the computer and software on my own. I saw a Mac at a computer show in Nelson in 1989 and saw how it could do graphics and print the end result on a laser printer. The quality of this artwork was more than adequate and I immediately knew that I had to have one.



I subsequently bought a Mac Plus, an external hard drive (the computer did not have one), a greyscale scanner and a colour printer for \$16,500. The screen of the Mac was nine inches diagonally and only in greyscale so doing colour graphics was a bit of a hit and miss process. This is where the colour printer came in as I could do a printout to see how it looked.

I still had my Apple II computer, however had upgraded it to a IIe which increased the memory up to 64Kb as against the Apple II plus that was only 48Kb, and that was still being used to do the accounts. By this time I had a reasonably good word processor and spreadsheet application in the form of Appleworks and that was far superior to the Apple Write and Visicalc spreadsheet that I first used a couple of years earlier.



Jumping ahead a few years and I came back to Wellington and lived in Upper Hutt doing graphic design and typesetting on a Mac Classic that I had upgraded to. Once again still only greyscale, although I upgraded to my first colour computer, a Mac IIsi that cost me \$4,700 and had a Motorola 68030 processor running at 20MHz, up from the 8MHz of the Mac Classic.



In 1993, I met a chap who was running a photography shop who was also doing computer graphics and he told me about the Wellington Apple Users Group and how you could get shareware applications at meeting nights. I joined pretty much immediately and started going to the monthly meetings that were being held in St Mary's College in Guildford Terrace, just up Hill Street from where our Wellington meetings are currently held.

I joined the committee in my second year at the group and have been on it ever since. Around this time the internet was becoming a factor and starting with a 14.4k modem, I was able to access the shareware that the club had available and slowly other aspects such as email. Surfing the web was not something you did as we now do as it was terribly slow but that did improve as modem speeds increased up to the maximum of 56k they could run at.

The effect of this internet availability was that our membership began to decline at an amazing rate dropping from around 400 members when I started down to around 120 approaching the turn of the millennium. This had a number of consequences, with worst being that presidents began only lasting 12 months in office and there was no consistency as a result.

In 1999, I stood for President, as the previous one had retired after twelve months and I stated that I was prepared to stay in the chair for three years if re-elected two more times. This is what occurred and I tapped David to take over from me, as he had been in the group since its inception. He did not feel that he was up to the task to which I told him that I was confident that he was and the rest is now history.

The first thing I did upon assuming the presidents seat was to begin looking along with the committee as to how we could stabilise the membership at its current level of 120. By this stage we had moved away from St Mary's and were now located in the Johnsonville Community Centre and had begun running multiple meetings on the same night in different rooms with one dedicated to beginners and another for more advanced members.

These had a moderate level of success however it tended to split the membership up and made it more difficult for those attending meetings to mingle and get to know one another. Around this time after hearing some of our Kapiti based

members commenting that it was a bit far to come into town then back home late at night, I got talking to Don Niccol and between us we formulated and began holding meetings in St Mark's Church in Rosetta Road one week after the Wellington meeting with me mainly running the meetings discussing the same topic we had in Wellington the previous week.

The committee came up with an idea to hold a special night on one of our meetings where our members would be able to demonstrate to members of the public what we did with our computers. We invited two Mac dealers to come along and advertised in the local papers and some of us went around the Johnsonville area dropping leaflets into letter boxes. The evening was a great success with some new members being recruited and so a decision was made to do this again in conjunction with the Mac dealers but on a larger scale.

We formed a new company comprising of Ian Telfar from Magnum Mac, Phil Bowes of Econet and WelMac, the name we had changed the group to as they were the only Apple products now on the market. The company was called Expo Solutions Ltd holding a computer expo called the New Zealand Digital Solutions Expo and I became the director representing WelMac.

The first expo was held in a large room at Te Papa



and I had arranged for a decent number of exhibitors from around the country to purchase stands to exhibit the products they sold. WelMac also had a stand that we did not have to pay for with the aim of signing up new members, something that we were moderately successful at. We continued running the expo for another couple of years until it became increasingly difficult to get exhibitors as the internet was becoming more useful and the public was becoming less inclined to venture out to check out products as there was an increasing amount of information readily available online.

- Show leading edge digital products and software
- Help teach valuable techniques

**Friday & Saturday
24 & 25 Sept. 2004**
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Third Floor Concourse

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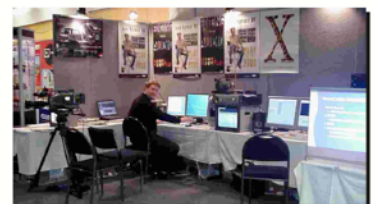

We tried to get more people to come to the event and came up with an idea to commence a movie competition for School children and amateur filmmakers and hired Te Papa's Soundings Theatre for the screenings. This was also moderately successful and we continued holding these for a number of years and formed a trust to run them. The benefit of aspiring filmmakers entering competitions such as the one we instigated has waned somewhat as the internet and Youtube in particular, has rendered these much less significant if you want the film you have worked hard to create seen by an audience. Like so many other aspects of our daily lives, especially activities organised by societies such as ours, the ever increasing sweep of the internet has made maintaining and growing physically based groups much harder.

What is The New Zealand Digital Solutions Expo About?

The New Zealand Digital Solutions Expo is designed specifically for creative businesses and individuals who wish to discover the benefits of using digital solutions for their multimedia content creation and other business needs.

The New Zealand Digital Solutions Expo is an ideal venue for promotion and sales of anything to do with commercial or home multimedia creation. It will educate and inform everyone, from beginners to experienced creators, with seminars, workshops and enthusiastic trade involvement.

The focus is on what is available for businesses now and in the future in the fast changing electronic communications medium.



Automate Window Positioning With macOS

by Julio Ojeda-Zapata

Don't squander precious time manually repositioning and resizing Mac windows over and over again. You can automate such drudgery to a large degree.

macOS offers some help. You're probably aware of Split View, which puts two windows side-by-side in full-screen mode, and Apple has built in additional capabilities. Third-party utilities give you even more window control. There are many such apps out there, and even general-purpose utilities like Keyboard Maestro can help you move windows around.

One window-positioning utility, Magnet, is a zero-configuration tool that anticipates what presets users want. It was my favourite app of this kind for a long time. Last I checked, the \$1.99 app sat atop the Mac App Store's productivity category.

Another, Moom, lets you customise your window behaviour. I weaned myself off Magnet and went all-in with Moom because of its flexibility. You can buy Moom for \$10 directly from its developer, Many Tricks, or through the Mac App Store.

Magnet and Moom provide a capability I have envied in Microsoft Windows and Google's ChromeOS: "window snapping." When you drag windows to the edges of the screen, window snapping causes them to snap into particular positions and shapes.

More on Magnet and Moom in a bit—let's look at what macOS can do for you first.

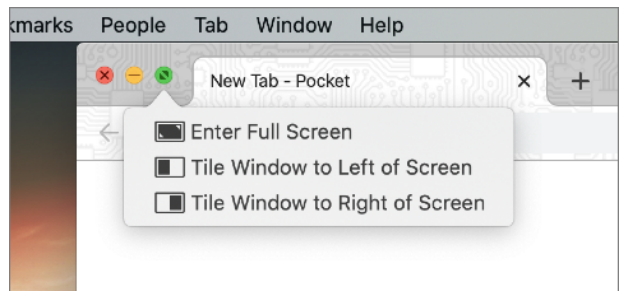
macOS Window Positioning Capabilities

Starting with macOS 10.11 El Capitan, Apple gave us Split View. Click a window's green full-screen button at the upper left. As you hold the button, the window shrinks, and you can drag it to the left or right side of the screen. Release the button and then click a window on the other side of the screen to add it to Split View.

In 10.15 Catalina, Apple simplified the interface. Hover the pointer over a full-screen button and a menu appears with options to tile the window to the left or the right of the display. Choose one of those options, and macOS prompts you to select one of the remaining windows to fill the rest of the screen. That menu also provides an option to make

a single window full-screen. That also happens if you tile one window but no additional windows are available to fill the remaining space.

Strangely, Apple's help article about Split View



makes no mention of a hidden feature in Catalina that gives you additional window-positioning options that don't invoke full-screen mode.

Hover your pointer over the green button while pressing the Option key for a few seconds to see a different set of commands that let you move windows to the left or right instead of tiling them—meaning the windows are not taken full-screen but simply shifted to one half of the screen or the other.

While you're Option-hovering, you also get a zoom button that causes a window to fill up the screen (minus the space occupied by the Dock and menu bar) without going full-screen. (In older versions of macOS, you can Option-click the full-screen button to maximise a window.)

I tip my hat to Scholle McFarland for including



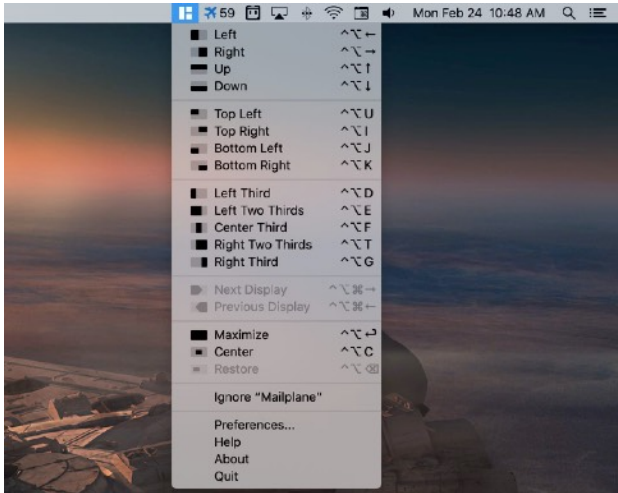
this information in her book, *Take Control of Catalina*, especially since so few others have noticed it.

Magnetize Your Screen Edges

Magnet gets you up and running quickly. Its menu bar presets include icons as well as text descriptors that make them instantly

understandable. Magnet's keyboard shortcuts strike me as difficult to memorise, but your brain might be up for the job.

Regardless, you can resize Mac windows as left



and right halves, as top and bottom halves, as quarter spaces, as one-third or two-thirds windows, and more, with results that never go full-screen. That's usually my preference since it keeps the Dock and menu bar visible. If you have multiple displays, Magnet also offers Next Display and Previous Display commands to easily move windows from screen to screen.

For an easier approach, use Magnet's mouse-based window positioning, which snaps windows into several positions and sizes:

- Dragging a window to the display's left or right edge triggers half-screen resizing.
- Dragging a window to the top maximises it (but does not take it full-screen).
- Dragging to the corners of the screen triggers top-bottom halving or quartering, depending on precisely where you position the cursor. This takes a little practice.
- Dragging to the bottom creates one-third or two-thirds windows, depending on exactly where you put the cursor. Again, practice makes perfect.

These dragging motions conjure up preview outlines of windows—as in Windows and ChromeOS—to guide you in achieving the desired positioning.

Tweak Moom to Your Liking

Power users seeking greater window-positioning superpowers should give Moom a look. You must

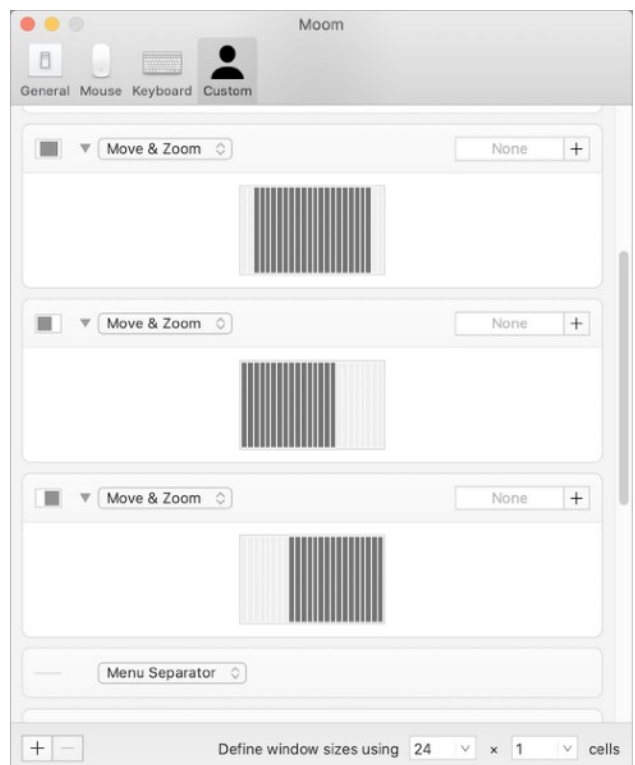
be willing to tinker, though, since Moom offers only a few basic features until you customise it to your needs.

You can run Moom as a Dock or menu bar app, but the latter makes the most sense because it simplifies accessing your customised window-positioning presets.

To get started, open Moom's preferences and click Custom. You'll find lots of options, but I suggest you start with Move and Zoom.

You're presented with a grid that functions as a tiny facsimile of the screen. Drag your pointer across the grid to make a square or rectangle that corresponds to a hypothetical window's onscreen shape and position. From then on, choose that preset from the Moom menu to position and size any window to those specs. If necessary for more precise positioning, you can tweak the grid's horizontal and vertical cell density before creating presets.

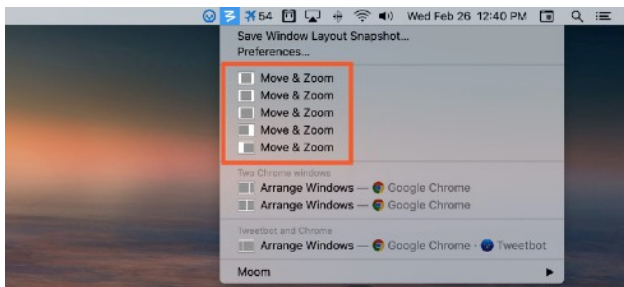
I've used this feature to create presets that centre windows with a variety of widths—narrower if I am browsing the Web and wider if I am working



with others in a Google Doc and need enough room for team comments on the right side. I've also

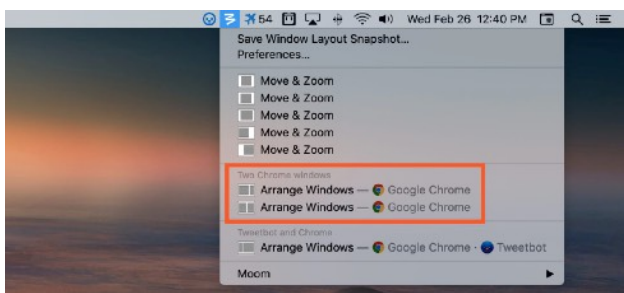
created presets that position windows that take up two-thirds of the left or right of my screen.

You can also use Moom to reposition multiple windows at once. I often need a wider Google



Chrome window to the left and a narrower one to the right. This was easy to set up. First, I manually positioned two Chrome windows exactly to my liking. Then, I chose the Save Window Layout Snapshot from the Moom menu. From then on, with two Chrome windows anywhere on the screen, I could instantly snap them into my preferred positioning. I also fashioned a preset for left and right Chrome windows of equal size.

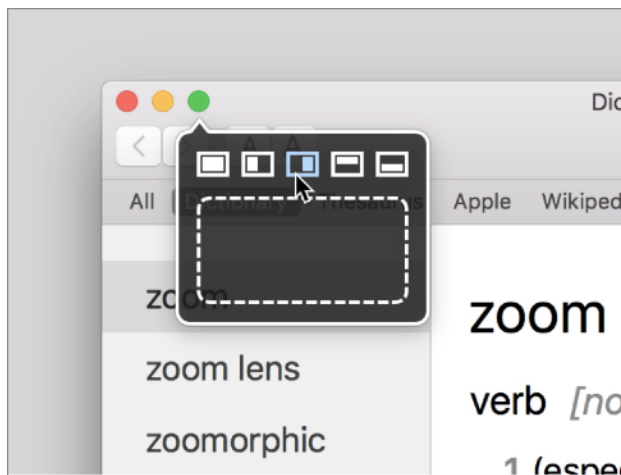
Moom even supports scenarios that involve multiple apps. I often like to put a one-column



Twitter client such as Tweetbot or Twitterrific on the left side of my display, with a Chrome window filling up the rest of the screen. Choosing Save Window Layout Snapshot saves this configuration in place. After that, when the Twitter client or Chrome is out of position, tidying them up is a cinch.

In addition, Moom takes over the green full-screen button in windows much the way Split View does in Catalina, but with more options in its hover menu. Hover the pointer over the full-screen button and you'll see clickable icons for left and right halving, top and bottom halving, and maximising.

Hold down the Option key while hovering and Moom presents you with quarter-window options.

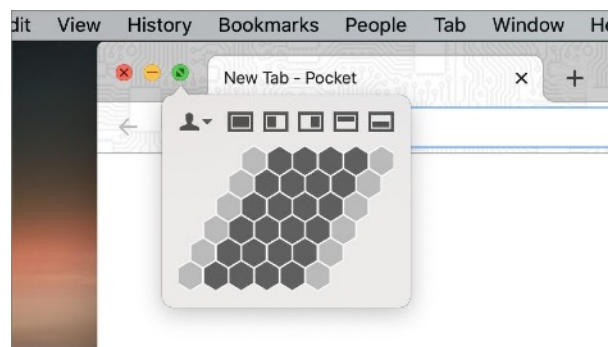


If you pine for Catalina's default hover menu, press Command (or Command and then Option) as you hover, and its menu will appear.

Wait, there's more! Moom offers a window "drawing" option via its hover menu. That means you can drag out a rectangle for on-the-fly resizing of your window in the proportions and positioning you want. You invoke this feature in one of two ways, depending on how you have configured Moom's preferences:

- In the hover menu, click the large icon that looks like a window outline (see image above). Moom displays a similar outline on your screen, and you can reposition and resize while holding down your mouse button. Release the mouse button when the outline is to your liking, and the window snaps to the rectangle you've drawn.
- In the hover menu, you'll see a hexagon-style grid. Drag your pointer across that grid to fill up any number of hexagons—the left half of the grid, the right two thirds, and so on. Moom reorients your window accordingly.

As a bonus, Moom includes window snapping via mouse dragging, but with fewer positioning



options than Magnet provides. Moom provides

only half-screen, quarter-screen, and maximise options.

Missing from Moom is a Magnet-style option to move windows from display to display with a keyboard shortcut.

Additional Utilities

I've focused on Magnet and Moom because they're the window-resizing utilities I've used the most. Also, based on my research, I believe they offer the best mix of features for maximum versatility.

But I'd be remiss if I didn't point you to a few other options.

- **Divvy (US\$13.99):** If you just want grid-based window management à la Moom, Divvy is for you. Draw on a pop-up mini-grid to resize windows on the fly, or configure presets for standard configurations. (For those who use Windows as well as macOS, note that Divvy also exists for PCs.)
- **BetterSnapTool (US\$2.99):** If you care mostly about window snapping, BetterSnapTool is the best choice I have seen that offers more granular control than Magnet and Moom. This app was also among the top-ranked paid apps in the Mac App Store's productivity section last I checked.
- **BetterTouchTool (US\$6.50):** Best known as a utility to turbocharge Apple trackpads and the Touch Bar on MacBook Pro laptops, BetterTouchTool provides window snapping, resizing, and moving controls. It's also available

via the US\$9.99-per-month Setapp app subscription service.

- **Rectangle.** If free and open source is your jam, this Magnet-like utility might satisfy with features roughly comparable to Magnet. The publisher also offers the US\$7.99 Hookshot, which offers all of Rectangle's features and adds additional window-snapping features.
- **Mosaic.** If you use Setapp, you have nothing to lose by kicking the tires on Mosaic, but I found it a bit confusing.

Window Positioning Nirvana

Given the abundance of window-resizing utilities for macOS, there's no reason to move and resize macOS windows manually all the time. If you find yourself constantly fiddling to get all your windows in just the right spot, macOS's built-in controls or one of these utilities might be just the thing.

Some people will be satisfied with macOS's native window-positioning features, which Apple improved in Catalina. If you want more, I recommend Moom because it offers a good mix of features along with a ton of customisability. For those with less inclination to tinker but who still wanting versatility, Magnet is a fantastic—and inexpensive—option.

Regardless, you have the tools at your fingertips to increase your Mac efficiency.



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- To exchange and disseminate information among the members concerning the computer arts and sciences.
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- To provide technical assistance to members of the group.
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