

Technically Speaking

MP3 Players: Get Your Groove On

Daman Kapoor

MP3 players are an essential for the 21st century college student. Do you want to buy an MP3 player, but are overwhelmed by the various MP3 players hitting the market? The following information will help you determine the right kind of MP3 player for your needs.

MP3 Players with Flash Memory Lightweight and portable MP3 players with flash memory allow you to put your favorite songs right in your pocket while you are exercising, traveling or just on the go. Many different brands are available with a variety of features and memory capacity. The Apple iPod series is the leading seller of MP3 Players with flash memory. The iPod Nano, Apple's latest release, has a pencil-thin feather-light design with a color LCD screen for viewing pictures and is available in 2GB or 4GB priced at \$200 and \$250 respectively. iPod Shuffle is available in 512MB or 1GB. iRiver and Creative Labs offer

MP3 players with up to 1GB memory and are good for those who want tiny keychain size players with enough capacity to store approximately 200 MP3 songs. SanDisk MP3 players offer FM radio and voice recording capability as well. 512MB players can be priced anywhere from \$100-\$120 and 1GB players from \$120-\$145 depending on the brand.

MP3 Hard Drive Players MP3 hard drive players can store up to 15,000 songs in about the size of a pocket package of Kleenex and weigh less than 7 ounces. Yet again, iPod proves to be unbeatable, but iRiver and Creative Labs are slowly catching up. iPod Photo 60GB MP3 Player is the king of this category stor-



ing up to 15,000 songs or up to 25,000 digital photos viewable on a 2-inch full-color LCD. iPods also have features like video, contacts, calendars and games. iPod 60GB is priced at \$350 and is worth every penny. Then we have iPod 30GB at \$299 and 20GB at \$250. Creative Labs Zen MP3 player series is comparably priced with iPod and offers good battery life, user-friendly controls and a variety of colors. However, the Zen lacks the color LCD display and photo viewer. iRiver also offers a color LCD display, but the price is a bit higher than its counterparts. Also, iRiver lacks stream compatibility like AAC, Audible, AIFF and Apple Lossless, whereas iPod is compatible with all these forms of streams. 🐾

Are Toolbars a Good Thing?

Allen Lode

Web browser toolbars are loved by some and despised by others. Google, MSN, Yahoo, AOL, Dogpile, WebFerret, Viewpoint and Merriam-Webster are today's most popular toolbars. To an extent, toolbars can be a helpful way to navigate more easily on the web. They allow the user to perform a quick web search, block pop-ups or even provide a news or stock ticker.

While all of these features are great and fun, there are some drawbacks to toolbars. For one, toolbar pop-up blockers can cause headaches. Most toolbars come with built in pop-up blockers. Most of these blockers will block many necessary pop-ups, such as messages in web-based email or some eCompanion windows. Most browsers come equipped with their own blockers

that are just as (if not more) effective than a toolbar's. So disable any pop-up blocker on a toolbar to help ensure that you can open desired pages.

Another downside to toolbars is that most of them report information about what pages you visit back to the company that provides the toolbar. Google, Yahoo, MSN and Viewpoint all collect various information about who you are and what sites you look at, but each of these companies promises that the information will not be shared with third-party companies.

Use toolbars wisely (remember: one is plenty) and you should not encounter any difficulties. If you are having trouble browsing the web, the toolbar needs to be the first thing to go. 🐾

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Help Desk Hours

M-T 8 am—10 pm

Fri 8 am—5 pm

Sat 11 am—4:45 pm

Sun 1 pm—10 pm

Notebook Support Center Hours

M-F 8 am—4:30 pm

Library Lab Hours

M-T 7:30 am—11:45 pm

Fri 7:30 am—4:45 pm

Sat 11 am—4:45 pm

Sun 1 pm—11:45 pm

On the Web!



Fun Links

www.webshots.com

- This a cool website where you can download high quality pictures for your desktop or screen saver.

www.hangar1.com

- You can quickly and easily check what movies are at the Maryville theater.

thestation.dvdtorent.com

- The website shows you what movies are available to rent at The Station.

www.haloandsprocket.com

- Official website of the Halo and Sprocket comic book.

XBOX 360

For all you gamers out there, this November the XBOX 360 comes out. Below you will find information to assist you in making your purchasing decision for the XBOX 360.

First there are two different XBOX 360 packages. The first one sells for about \$300 dollars and is the base package. The base package comes with the XBOX 360 console, XBOX Live Silver, one standard wired controller and a standard AV Cable. However, the hard drive is not included. The second package sells for about \$400 dollars and comes with a media remote, one wireless controller, component HD AV cables, a headset and the hard drive.

When you are out shopping or if you ask for the XBOX 360 for Christmas, make sure you get the \$400 dollar package. The hard drive alone will make up for the \$100 dollar difference, because it is \$100 dollars when sold separately. All the extras in the second package totals to about \$240 dollars value and will allow you to enjoy your new gaming system more.

Computer Lingo



Terms you should know

Hardware – The physical components that make up your computer. These include the processor, monitor, mouse, CPU, etc.

Software – Programs used to tell the computer hardware how to achieve the tasks assigned to it. Ex. Operating system (Windows), Microsoft Word, Paint, etc.



Help! I'm Addicted to Facebook

Erin Jewell

Whether you love it or hate it, are addicted or have never heard of it, there's no denying that Facebook is the new craze on campus this fall. Facebook was created to establish a new way to reconnect with old classmates from high school and to also make new friends from your college campus. In regards to reconnecting with old friends, you can search through your old high school's Facebook page and find friends whom you have not heard from since graduation. With regards to making new friends, the possibilities are endless. You can even search for new friends through the bolded interests on your page. Click on a blue link and it shows everyone on campus that has listed the same thing on their page. Facebook also makes it possible to advertise for free parties and other events.

One unique feature of Facebook is the concept of "Poking". Sure, it's fun to receive a notice that "You have been poked by...(Insert name)", but does anyone actually know what this means?? The poke should be used for saying a quick "Hi" to someone if you don't have time to type a message or

write on a wall. However, PLEASE don't abuse the poke!! Nothing is more annoying than continuing a long-standing poke war.



When using Facebook, many people don't seem to realize or even care that there is a risk associated with broadcasting so much personal information for everyone to see. Recently, a female college student using Myspace, a site similar to Facebook, was murdered by a man she met through the site. He

had used the information she provided to learn more about her and began stalking her. Facebook wants to eliminate potential stalkers; however, they are leaving the privacy option up to individual users. Each member is responsible for realizing there is a potential danger and taking precautionary measures. Each user has the option of determining what information they would like to display and to whom. If you have not already done so, update your privacy page to change the display settings and only display what you feel comfortable with.

Happy Facebooking!!! 🐼

Wireless Technology

Taft Burnes

Have you ever wondered how wireless technology sends information to another computer? Well, wireless technology is technology that transmits data using some type of electromagnetic wave. The dictionary defines an electromagnetic wave as, "radiation consisting of waves of energy associated with electric and magnetic fields resulting from the acceleration of an electric charge." Basically an electromagnetic wave is some type of radio wave, infrared light, visible light, X-rays and so on. The three main types used with computers are radio waves, satellite transmission and infrared light with each of these being divided into their own categories.

Infrared Transmission This transmission type uses infrared light to send data to and from computers. Some examples are remote controls and Personal Digital Assistants (PDA's), such as a Palm Pilot.

Radio Wave Transmission Two common types of radio wave technology used today are Wi-Fi and Bluetooth. What are the differ-

ences between them? Wi-Fi stands for Wireless Fidelity and is used to create a wireless network such as the one Northwest uses. Wi-Fi has a range of a few hundred feet and transmits data using high frequency radio waves. Bluetooth, on the other hand, is used to connect peripheral devices, such as cell phones, mobile computers and other portable devices. These devices are similar, but differ in how far their signals can reach. With all this in mind, remember that it is a Northwest Policy to restrict any wireless device that uses 2.4 GHz. The restriction is to ensure the stability of the Northwest wireless network.

Satellite Transmission Satellite transmission uses a station found on the earth, which sends data to a satellite orbiting the earth. The satellite then sends the data back down to earth to another station to finish the transmission.

Beyond these three types of wireless technology, many more types exist. For more information, use your favorite search engine. 🐼

I'm Getting Out of This Place!

Chris Grandfield

As you look forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks, you may be planning on taking your laptop home with you over these breaks. In preparing to take your laptop home, keep the following things in mind. The first thing you need to remember is to grab the power supply for your laptop.



Otherwise, your laptop will only run for 3 or 4 hours the whole time you are gone. Next, you need to think about whether or not you are going to be connecting to the Internet from home. Take both your green Ethernet cable and your black phone cable with you. The Ethernet cable will allow you to connect to a local network and the phone cable will allow you to connect to a dial-up Internet service provider.



Beyond making sure you take the proper equipment home with you, you also need to ensure your computer's health prior to leaving campus. To reduce the amount of spyware on your computer, run Spybot. Next, make sure all system updates have been downloaded and installed. Finally, make sure the latest virus definition files have been downloaded and installed. Performing all of these updates will help to ensure the health of your computer while you are away from campus, since your computer will not receive these updates from home. If you have any questions, consult the PERT in your building. 🐾



Wide Open: Open Sourced Programs

Becky Rainford

Everyone like things that are free, especially college students. Many people on the Internet also like free things and believe that everyone should have access to programs and software without having to spend money fueling giant corporations. Hence the motivation to provide open source software. A program is called open source if it and its code are available for free. Programmers make software, most of the time without getting paid, and then put it on the Internet for anyone to download or improve for free.

Many of these programs are full programs with the same features as store bought software. Thousands of open source programs are available on the Internet for anyone to use or improve. You should already be using

one weekly: Spybot Search and Destroy comes loaded on all university machines and is a great program for ridding your computer of malicious spyware and adware. Without it, your computer would become slower and slower as more spyware downloads itself to your computer.

One software package that makes people cringe if they have to buy it is Microsoft Office. To get Word and PowerPoint on your personal computer, you will spend about \$500 for the full version. However, OpenOffice (available at openoffice.org) is an open source software suite that is available for free download and has similar programs to PowerPoint, Excel and Word. 🐾

AniVirus at the Right Price

Many of you do not like having to fork over \$25 to \$50 for antivirus software. AVG has a version of its anti-virus software that is free for download. If you are in a pinch and do not want to pay for other anti-virus software, you can read more about free AVG anti-virus software at <http://free.grisoft.com>

Computer Tips

- You should back up your data at least once per month.
- You should run Spybot and an antivirus scan monthly to keep your computer running smoothly and efficiently.

PERT SPOTLIGHT

Erin Jewell
Franken Hall PERT

Erin is currently a junior from Garden City, MO. She is double-majoring in Pre-Professional Zoology and Spanish and is a member of the Pre-Med Club, as well as, Sigma Society, a service organization on campus.

In her free time, Erin enjoys playing basketball and other sports, watching movies, singing along with Brad Paisley, reading and spending time with friends and family. Anyone up for a "friendly discussion" regarding KU's supremacy over Mizzou in basketball is more than welcome to come see her.

In the future, Erin plans on attending an osteopathic medical school and specializing in Pediatrics. She is currently engaged and will be getting married in May 2007. Erin plans on settling in the Kansas City area.

Preview for Next Month...

Don't miss next month's edition to learn about different Web Browsers

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