THE SEED

A Newsletter From Your...

DENVER APPLE PI
Macintosh User Group

**Denver Apple Pi
Mac SIG & Help SIG Meetings are held at**
Applewood Community Church
12930 W 32nd Avenue
Golden CO 80401
7 to 9 pm
SEE WEBSITE FOR MAP

2020 Calendar		
Xmas Party	--	cancelled
Help SIG	--	cancelled

On occasion, Applewood Community Church may have shelter obligations. You will be notified by email if DAPi meetings are to be cancelled.

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Denver Apple Pi Announcements

December 2020

We are awaiting conditions to change so we might continue our regular meetings.

The Applewood Church has established COVID-19 safety regulations that DAPi members must sign in order to attend meetings. When we resume meetings, Elissa will print off a number of waivers for attendees to sign at the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

We are putting collection of dues on hold until we are able to have meetings.

Membership dues for DAPi are $15 per year and you will receive the monthly newsletter, *The Seed*, via email in PDF format. If you prefer, you can pay $20 and receive a snail mail copy of the newsletter. You can bring your payment to the monthly meetings or you can mail your remittance to the club mailing address: Denver Apple Pi, 6501 Welch Court, Arvada, CO 80004.

COMING EVENTS: TBA

REMINDERS:

Help SIG—Call Elissa to get your name/problem on the list so our DAPi Help people will be prepared. You will need to bring your computer, your own power cord, mouse, and keyboard. Elissa will keep a sign-up list for those asking for help at the Help SIG meetings so members can be helped in a prioritized way. Drop-ins are welcome. Contact Elissa at elissamc@comcast.net or at 303.421.8714. Tom King says if you have questions about Excel for Mac, the spreadsheet software program, bring your questions to the Help SIG meeting. Please call Elissa in advance.

Need help with iPad, iPhone? If you would like assistance with navigating and synchronizing your iPad and iPhone, bring them to the Help SIG meeting. Notify Elissa what help you need, and we will try to get the problems resolved.

As of September 29, 2020, the following Apple stores are open in Colorado, says The MacObserver Express:

1. Boulder, Twenty Ninth Street
2. Broomfield, FlatIron Crossing
3. Colorado Springs, The Promenade Shops at Briargate
4. Denver, Cherry Creek
5. Littleton, Aspen Grove
6. Lone Tree, Park Meadows

WIRELESS OVER-EAR AIRPODS MAX

Apple Press Release December 8, 2020
https://www.apple.com/newsroom/2020/12/apple-introduces-airpods-max-the-magic-of-airpods-in-a-stunning-over-ear-design/
Can order December 8 with availability beginning Tuesday, December 15.

An unusual third Apple virtual event announced the new AirPods Max on December 8, 2020. These AirPods Max are over-ear headphones as opposed to the in-ear AirPods. And they're expensive! Features include:

- Revolutionary mechanism balances and distributes ear cup pressure
- Acoustically engineered memory foam to create effective seal
- Digital Crown offers precise volume control with play or pause, skip, answer or end phone calls, and activate Siri
- Noise control button switches between Active Noise Cancellation and Transparency mode
- Battery life up to 20 hours
- Smart Case puts AirPods Max in ultralow power state to help preserve battery charge
- Colors include: Silver, Space Grey, Sky Blue, Pink, and Green with the ability to choose custom engraving

Starting at $549 – requires iOS 14.3 or later, iPad OS 14.3 or, macOS Big Sur 11.1 or later, watch OS 7.2 or tvOS 14.3 or later.

iPhone iOS 14 Messaging Problems

At first, only users of iPhone 12 with iOS 14 were identifying SMS messaging problems including inability to send or receive messages to missing notifications. Some users report occasional messaging problems to no messaging capabilities at all. Users around the world, including Australia and Japan, are complaining about these problems.

In some cases, iPhones using both 4G and 5G were dropping calls with signals dropping to zero, often when moving around and switching cell towers. For some, the fix for this was to switch to Airplane mode/reboot. Apple issued iOS 14.2.1 and then iOS 14.3, but in a 9-5Mac December 11 report these newest updates don't fix the problem either.

In a Forbes' December 2020 article, new reports indicate that **all** iOS 14-compatible phones are potentially at risk from these same problems, and other popular third-party messaging apps like WhatsApp and Signal are experiencing the same problems.

In the meantime, putting off buying a new iPhone 12 until these known problems are resolved seems reasonable.

SMS , MMS and OTT

SMS (Short Message Service) and MMS (Multimedia Messaging Service) are sent over a cellular network and only require a wireless plan from cellular carriers to get started.

SMS is a universal technology supported by every single mobile network and device today. All you need to start texting over SMS is another person's phone number. This makes SMS a popular channel for businesses to communicate with customers because it is more immediate than email and doesn't require any additional app downloads.

Standard SMS messages are limited to 160 characters per message and if message exceeds the 160-character limit, message are broken up into multiple segments of 160 characters.

MMS allows SMS users to send multi-media content, including pictures, audio, phone contacts, and video files.

OTT (Over the Top) applications including iMessage, Whatsapp, WeChat, Facebook Messenger and others do not require a cellular network and use IP (internet protocols) instead. To send and receive OTTs, your devices need to be connected to the internet, either over WiFi or via a mobile internet connection.

Chrome Browser Slows down MacBooks and iMacs

More than one Apple web specialist is condemning the Chrome Browser and its automatic updater called Keystone. With Chrome, MacBooks slow down appreciably. User Loren Brichter was so frustrated with

Chrome's performance, he studied the problem and deleted Chrome and Keystone from his MacBook and then he remembered, "My family had been complaining about the sluggish performance of a 2015 iMac since practically the day we bought it." He had installed Chrome right after the purchase of this iMac. So he removed Chrome and Keystone and the iMac's performance was instantly improved. Here's his quote:

"I deleted Chrome, and noticed Keystone while deleting some of Chrome's other preferences and caches. I deleted everything from Google I could find, restarted the computer, and it was like night-and-day. *Everything was instantly and noticeably faster, and WindowServer CPU was well under 10% again."*

Loren Brichter says, "Yeah, I realize this sounds like a freakin' infomercial, but it worked so well I spent $5 on a domain name and set up this website even if it makes me sound like a raving nut."
https://chromeisbad.com/

In "Chrome Is Bad," Brichter gives specific instructions on how to remove Chrome and updater named "Keystone" from your Mac computers.

Rene Ritchie, another regular Apple specialist with his own YouTube chanel, https://www.youtube.com/reneritchie, noticed his new 16" MacBook Pro was (very) slow. At first he blamed it on MacOS Catalina but after further investigation, he found it was actually the browser Chrome and it's automatic updater named Keystone. He searched the web to discover that Loren Brichter had done a thorough study of

Chrome deep into the Activity Monitor showing that "Keystone," the automatic updater for Chrome, was causing the slow-down problem *even when it was not actually running*. As a result of these revelations, Rene Ritchie has an 11:41 YouTube video that also suggests dumping Chrome.

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Sophos virus Protection doesn't work on MacOS 11, Big Sur

Sophos, the endpoint virus protection many Mac users have installed, will not run if you upgrade to Big Sur MacOS 11. Although Sophos' developer (University of Arizona) plans to have an upgrade available (hopefully in late December 2020), you will not be protected if you upgrade to Big Sur.

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COMPUTER BUYING DURING THE PANDEMIC

by Darlene

I applied for and got a temporary part-time job teaching on line. They set up an appointment with an expert they had hired to teach the teachers how to use the software that the school is using to teach classes. When we were trying to go through this process, a message showed up on my screen saying it didn't support System 10.6 and some other operating systems. This was on a Friday afternoon. I had to think it over as to how I wanted to proceed. I called Apple a couple of times, and they provided helpful information.

I had already committed to do the class, and I didn't want to leave my employer in the lurch. I decided to buy a new computer. I think it was 5:00 p.m. that I called the Apple Store at Cherry Creek to order a new computer. That number rang to some central call center. The person with whom I dealt was very helpful in discussing what to buy. I decided on a MacBook Air. She said I could add $9 to the bill and have the computer delivered to my home so that I wouldn't have to make an appointment and drive to the Apple Store to pick it up. They set a delivery time of the next day from 11:30 to 1:30. The next day, I was working in the front yard when a young woman drove up and got out of her car and asked, "Are you Darlene?" I said yes. She said, "Here is your computer." It turned out that she lived in Boulder and she had picked up the computer in Boulder. She was one of those independent drivers that choose their tasks.

Mind you, I ordered the computer at 5:00 p.m. on Friday and it was delivered at noon on Saturday, the very next day! I was very impressed with how easy it was to shop for the computer, to order it, and to get it delivered — all without leaving home and risking my safety. So if you're in the market for a new computer, I can't imagine an easier, quicker, or safer way to get one.

Denver Apple Pi Membership Information

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MEMBERSHIP DUES are $20.00 per year for a monthly hard copy of The Seed and $15.00 per year for a monthly PDF copy. Fill in the form below or ask for an application to send with your check to the Club mailing address: DENVER APPLE Pi, 67501 Welch Ct, Arvada CO 80004. For information, call Elissa McAlear at 303.421.8714 about Apple II, GS and Mac. Email elissamc@comcast.net. Our web site is: http://www.denverapplepi.com

Mac SIG meets the THIRD Tuesday of the month, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Troubleshooter Group Help SIG meets the FOURTH Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. unless a holiday necessitates a change. Seed articles should be mailed to jjetherton@comcast.net, subject: Seed article.

Membership Form

Date _____   Renewal   New ☐ Change

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone(s)_____

Email _____

Kind of Computer: Apple II _____ GS _____ Mac _____ OS _____

Denver Apple Pi Officers

President _____Larry Fagan
Vice President (Mac) _____ Tom King
Vice President (Help) _____ Tammy Hanson
Secretary _____Elissa McAlear
Treasurer _____ Larry Knowles
Membership Chair _____ Herman Pflueger

Appointees:
Web Master:_____Tammy Hanson
Seed Editor: _____ Joyce Etherton
Web Monitor: _____ Darlene Boord

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