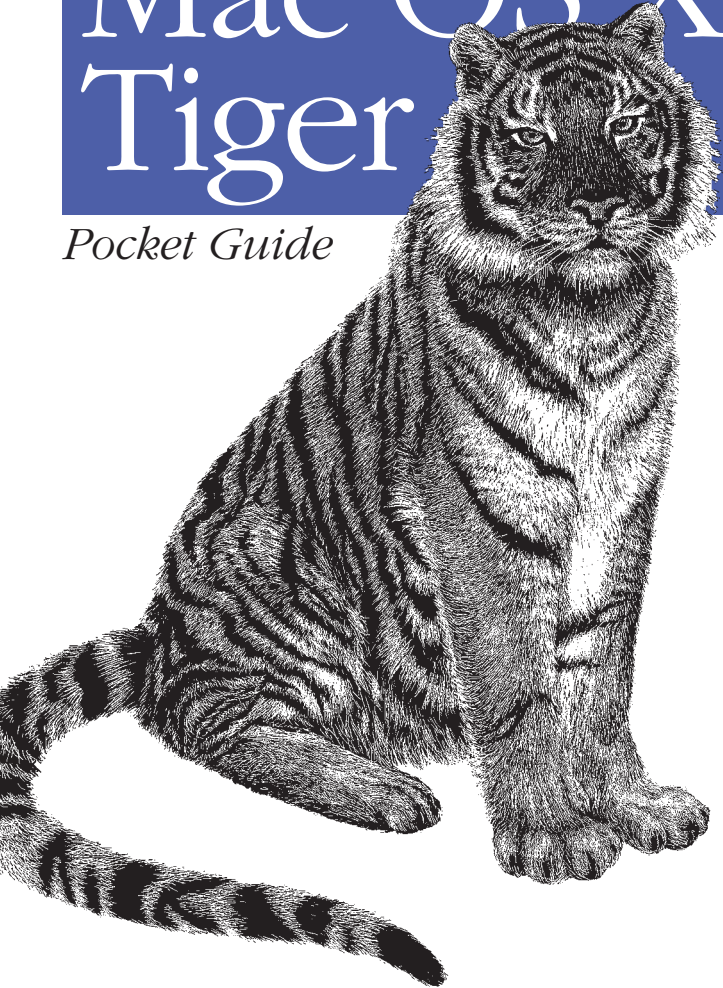


A User's Guide to Mac OS X

Mac OS X Tiger

Pocket Guide



O'REILLY®

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What's New in Tiger?

Long before releasing Mac OS X Tiger, Apple offered a preview to developers and also posted some information about Tiger's top features on the OS X web site (<http://www.apple.com/macosx>). But just in case you missed the big list of features, here's another rundown of what's in store for you:

- **Dashboard** puts everything you need at your fingertips, in a dash. Dashboard comes with a set of “widgets” that give you instant access to local weather reports or even the Yellow Pages. See the “Dashboard” section, later in this book, for more details.
- **Automator** lets you create “actions” that use multiple applications to do complex tasks for you.
- **Spotlight** helps you find stuff quickly and easily by indexing and cataloging content in all of the files on your system. Spotlight's search capabilities are built into the Finder, System Preferences, and many applications, including Mail and Address Book.
- **Parental Controls** lets you manage users and restrict their access to things (for example, by allowing them to view only administrator-approved web sites or controlling with whom they can chat over iChat).
- **VoiceOver** provides powerful accessibility features for persons with physical disabilities.

- **Safari** continues to improve, and with Tiger, it now supports RSS and Atom syndication protocols, automatically letting you know that a site has a news feed you can subscribe to. When you visit a web site with an RSS/Atom feed, a blue RSS icon pops up in Safari's address bar; click the RSS icon to see the site's feed.
- **QuickTime** with H.264 is a new MPEG encoding method that allows videos to be scaled up or down to run on everything from high-definition (HD) televisions to cellular phones.
- Speaking of H.264, the new version of **iChat AV** uses this encoding method to provide higher quality audio and video for your chats. And the new version of iChat also works with Jabber, and supports audio chats with up to 10 people and video chats with up to 4 people (including yourself). This makes using iChat a great way to keep in touch with friends, family, and coworkers.
- **Migration Assistant** allows you to migrate data to Tiger from another Mac or disk partition.
- **.Mac Sync** enables you to keep valuable data on Macs, portable devices, and .Mac accounts up to date.
- **Xcode 2.0** provides sweeping changes for the way programmers develop applications, allowing them to create apps more quickly and take advantage of new Apple technologies.

Developers also get a new set of application programming interfaces (APIs), including Core Data, Core Image, Core Video, and a new .Mac SDK that allows non-Apple developers to create applications that work with the .Mac services.

NOTE

If you're a developer and you're interested in learning more about the new APIs for Tiger, you should visit the Apple Developer Connection (ADC) web site, at <http://developer.apple.com>.

- If you thought iPhoto’s Smart Folders were great, just wait and see what **Smart Folders** and **Burn Folders** let you do in Tiger. You can even create special “Burn Folders” to quickly burn files to CD or DVD without first having to create a disk image.
- A totally new **Mail** application allows you to create Smart Mail Folders and manage your accounts better.
- More power to **Unix** with an improved kernel for more speed, 64-bit enhancements for Macs with G5 processors, and new utilities.
- Changes to old standby apps like Address Book, iCal, iSync, iChat, etc.
- Lots of little enhancements, including tweaks to the Finder, search capability built into System Preferences, and .Mac Sync, to name a few.

Whew! And that’s just for starters! In total, Apple boasts that over 150 new features have been added to Mac OS X Tiger, and while some might not be so evident from the surface, you’ll definitely find little gems along the way. Whether it’s a vast speed improvement in Tiger’s startup time or some seemingly minor new feature for your favorite application, Tiger has something to make all Mac users purr.

Cool New Features in Tiger

Okay, so you’ve already heard about some of the bigger features added to Mac OS X Tiger—Spotlight, Automator, Dashboard, VoiceOver, etc.—but Apple had plenty more up its sleeves. For example, these are some of the lesser-known features Apple has added to Tiger:

Use Tiger’s built-in dictionary

This allows you to look up any word in a file you have open. All you need to do is move your mouse over a

word, and then hold down Control-⌘-D. A dictionary pop-up window appears (Figure 2), showing you a full dictionary-style definition for the word beneath the mouse pointer. This is particularly handy when someone sends you a file that's full of big words you don't know. Try moving your mouse around and watch as the pop-up window changes to the definition of a new word.

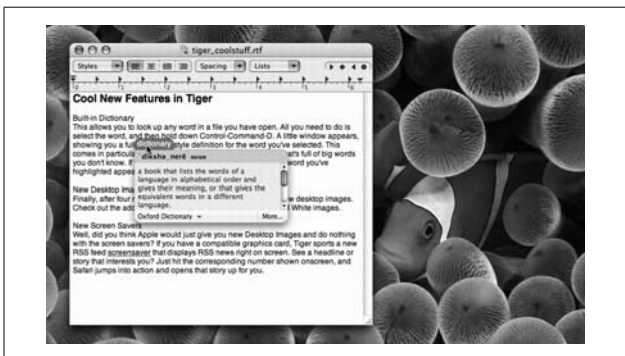


Figure 2. Use Tiger's built-in Oxford Dictionary to quickly see phonetic spellings and definitions for words you don't know. The pop up also features a Thesaurus.

Flashy new Desktop images

Finally, after four versions of Mac OS X, we get to see some new Desktop images. Check out the additions to the Nature set (see the clown fish in Figure 2?) or the new Black and White images.

Way cool screensavers

Well, did you think Apple would just give you new Desktop images and do nothing with the screensavers? If you have a Quartz-compatible graphics card, Tiger sports a new screensaver that displays RSS news right onscreen (see Figure 3). See a headline or story that interests you?

Just hit the corresponding number and Safari jumps into action and opens that story for you.

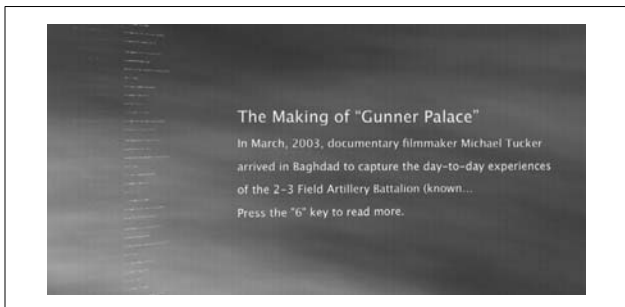


Figure 3. Tiger's new RSS screensaver not only lets you read the news from your favorite site, but also lets you quickly jump to news stories in Safari by pressing a number key.

Two new folder types

That's right, just when you thought it was safe to create an ordinary folder, it's time to think again, because Tiger introduces two new folder types: Smart Folders and Burn Folders. Yes, I know Smart Folders have been available in iPhoto and other applications, but this is the first time you can use them anywhere! For more information on these folders, see the section "Creating New Folders" in Part III.

Search with Control

Say your friend sends you an email asking what the annual rainfall in Portland, Oregon, is; how are you going to find that out? Well, in Tiger, you can select the text in the email ("annual rainfall in Portland, Oregon"), and then Control-click the text you've selected. In the contextual menu that appears (see Figure 4), you'll see two new items at the top: Search in Spotlight, and Search in Google. The Spotlight option searches for related items on your computer, while the Google option searches the entire Internet.



Figure 4. Just select some text and Control-click it to either search with Spotlight or search with Google.

.Mac Sync

If you've got more than one Mac (or if you use a Mac at work and have one at home) and you have a .Mac account (<http://www.mac.com>), Tiger's .Mac preferences let you synchronize data from your Address Book, iCal, Safari's Bookmarks, your Keychains, and even your Mail (including folders, preferences, mailboxes...everything) from one computer to the other in a flash.

Shared contacts

Beyond syncing your Address Book contacts between your work and home computer, wouldn't it be nice to share your contacts with your brother across town or a coworker in another state? While you *could* allow them to sync with your .Mac account, that's not the best idea,

since you'd also have to supply them with your password. Tiger's new Address Book allows you to share your contacts with other .Mac members. To set this up, just follow these steps:

1. To turn on contact sharing, open Address Book's preferences (Address Book → Preferences, or **⌘-**), and click the checkbox next to "Share your Address Book."
2. Click the + button and select a .Mac member to share your Address Book with.
3. Click the Send Invite button. This opens a new message in Mail that includes a link to your Address Book info.
4. When the other user receives your email message, all she needs to do is click the link. When she does, her Address Book opens, with a sheet (see Figure 5) that asks if she wants to subscribe to your Address Book.

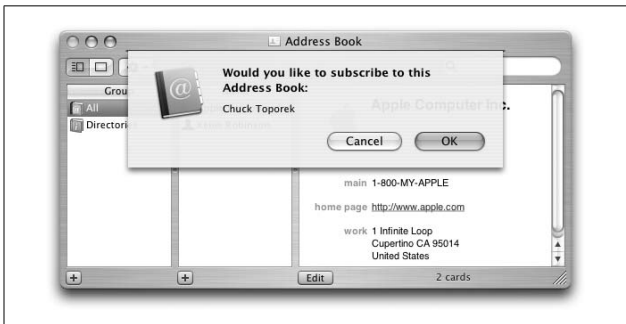


Figure 5. Just click OK to subscribe to another .Mac member's Address Book.

5. After she clicks OK, your Address Book contacts are "synced" to her Address Book.

Another option for subscribing to another .Mac member's Address Book is to select File → “Subscribe to Address Book,” and type in the email address for a .Mac member (such as *eyeheartportland@mac.com*). If that user has enabled Address Book sharing for you, you'll be able to subscribe to his list of contacts.

Download your updates

There's no bigger pain than to have Software Update endlessly bouncing up and down in your Dock when some new update is released. Instead, you can now opt to have Mac OS X download those updates to your Mac in the background, letting you choose when to install them. For this, go to System Preferences → Software Update and turn on “Download important updates in the background.”

Add birthdays to iCal

If you use Address Book's near-hidden feature of including a birth date in someone's record (in Address Book's menu bar, select Card → Add Field → Birthday), you can now get those birthdays to automatically show up in iCal. All you need to do is:

- Open iCal (located in your Dock or in your Applications folder).
- Open iCal's preferences (iCal → Preferences, or ⌘-), and turn on “Show Birthdays calendar.”

A new Birthdays calendar appears to the left, in iCal's list of calendars. Notice the little birthday cake icon—complete with a candle on top—to the right of the calendar name, as shown in Figure 6.

These are just some of the many new features that have been added to Mac OS X Tiger. As you work your way through this book, you'll become aware of even more, but these should give you a taste of what's to come.

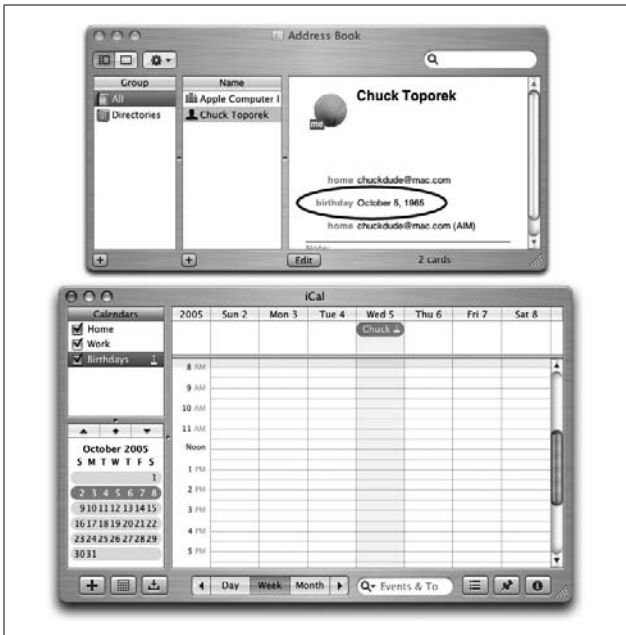


Figure 6. Tiger's Address Book and iCal work together to provide you with a Birthdays calendar, so you'll never forget to send out a birthday card again.

NOTE

If you need a more in-depth look at Mac OS X Tiger, don't miss David Pogue's *Mac OS X: The Missing Manual, Tiger Edition*. David's Missing Manual series is the best in the lot if you want to learn more about your Mac, and there's no better place to start than with his book on Mac OS X (which, by the way, has been the #1 computer book in North America *three years running!*). For a complete list of the books in the Missing Manual series, and to see what else David is up to, visit <http://www.missingmanuals.com>.
