

## Goings Ons - 8.29.12

I hope you are all having a wonderful summer. I was fortunate enough to travel a bit and spend a lot of time with my family and friends at the beach.

I'm back in town and have sent my older son for college. Over the summer, there has been a lot of news re Apple, data share plans, etc... and I just wanted to share my thoughts with you.

First off, Mountain Lion is now available and Lion is no longer available through the App store on Apple. If you've already purchased and downloaded Lion on one computer then you will be able to download it on other computers if you still have Snow Leopard or Leopard and assuming you are using the same Apple ID for your purchases.

After all the articles I've read, it seems that there are still kinks that are being worked out with Mountain Lion, which hopefully were addressed in the recent software update Apple issued this past week.

If you are using Lion or Mountain Lion, you have already noticed changes in the way you scroll (it's a pain but you get used to it very quickly), search in safari is now in the html field and other features.

Secondly, the new iPhone is coming out and with it, a new software for existing iPhones. With the new software, ios 6, here are some big changes you can expect:

- there will no longer be a Apple You tube (the license between Apple and youtube expired). Instead, you can google you tube and/or google is working on an app you can get from the Apple App store

- the google maps app will no longer be available. Instead, Apple is coming out with their own version. If you are really like google maps, then you may want to check out what the new ios6 software looks like on the new iPhone and iPad by visiting an apple store. I have heard that google will be offering an App for the map system through the App store but as always, I will believe it when I see it.

Regarding the data share plan, if you are in the market for a new phone, keep in mind that you can no longer obtain an unlimited data plan. The phone companies are looking to charge for data and I believe that that is where the money is. With the 4G networks, it is much quicker and easier to download more data faster than before. Keep in mind this can accumulate into huge data usage...huge phone bills. If you switch your plan, I would copiously observe how much data your family is using and we can figure out a way to cut it back by trying to use WIFI for certain tasks.

Thirdly, with the advent of my son in college and the recent crash of my computer of 6 years that held over 14,000 pictures and videos taken with my camera over the past 12 years, I cannot stress enough BACK UP and BACK UP and BACK UP!!!! First off, my computer went dead suddenly and I took it to the Apple Store. The logic board no longer works and it cost a little over \$600 to repair, while a new basic iMac (21") was

\$1,200. Suffice to say, I purchased the new computer. My computer was backed up and it was very easy to transfer all my data onto my new computer from the Time Capsule I had set up. If you ARE NOT BACKED UP, then the cost to extract data from a hard drive can run up to \$2,500, so a \$150 investment in an external hard drive or \$200-\$300 for a time capsule is well worth the price, especially when it comes to pictures and videos of those we love the most. REMEMBER - ALL COMPUTERS CRASH AT SOME POINT!!!!

Take a moment now to make sure you are backed up. On your top screen, look for the circle with an arrow that looks like a clock. Click it and see if it says "latest back .....). If there is no latest backup in the last few days, then the computer is not getting backed up. I would be happy to come by and make sure your computers are backed up either with a connected external drive or wirelessly for those who use laptops.

Fourthly, sending my son to college got me thinking of what would happen should his hard drive crash. First of all, I sent him with an external hard drive. Whether he uses it or not, I have no idea, but I did the initial back up and can only hope he remembers to connect it every so often. The other thought is to have your child back up their documents (which is most likely to bring the most amount of stress should they be lost) to a "Cloud". A Cloud service can be google docs, dropbox, skydrive (microsoft documents), iCloud (pages, keynote and numbers) or perhaps the College server (not sure how it is set up but an IT person at your child's college might know). There are others too. I recommend saving it on your hard drive on the computer AND a cloud service that way if you lose the computer it's on the cloud and if the internet isn't working, you can still access the document. For the iCloud to work on the Apple computers, you need to be using Pages, Keynote or Numbers and your computer has to be using Lion or Mountain Lion as it's operating system. Keep in mind, if you use the iCloud, Apple's inclination is to have you save everything on the iCloud, which I think is great, but I still like a hard copy on my computer should the WIFI be down. THEREFORE save it on both the iCloud and in your documents.

Regarding sending your child with a printer, I believe a lot of schools have a central printer in different locations for kids to print their documents. You can buy your child a printer or if you have an old one that works you can send it along with them, but make sure you bring a printer/USB cord as it is difficult to program these printers to work with the schools existing wifi network.

I also sent my son with an 8 gb flash drive for transporting data if necessary and an ethernet cord should he have to connect directly to a network (not via wifi). For a macbook air, you would need a thunderbolt-ethernet adapter.

Another big point of confusion people have is the use of a central Apple ID for purchases and the their Apple ID they use for email. My recommendation is that you keep them separate. You can check this by going to any device and going into settings and scrolling down to store to see what Apple ID you are using for your purchases. If

your family is using a central Apple ID, then you want it to be separate from the Apple ID or email that you use for your correspondence.

Lastly, a quick note on iTunes and the number of devices/computers that can use the same Apple ID for purchases. I generally recommend that a family share the same Apple ID for purchases as it allows everyone to share APPS, music, etc... without having to pay twice for the same thing. It used to be that you could have up to 5 computers and unlimited devices for 1 Apple ID. Apple has recently changed this to limit it to 10 devices in total. Therefore, you may see that you can't add all the computers/devices you want. You can manage this through your iTunes account on the computer. Choose Account and then Manage Devices. I do not find the list totally accurate as I have 5 computers and it only listed 3, but I'm not complaining. Remove any old devices that you are no longer using.

Anyhow, these are just some of my initial thoughts. I'm sure as the new iPhone and operating system for the devices comes out I will have more thoughts and will be happy to share them with you.