BUCKEYE MACINTOSH GROUP LLC

Serving Macintosh and Internet Users In Central Ohio *April 2009*

Monday, April 27th

App-i-teasers
Ebay How-to

Q & A begins at 6:15
Program begins at 7:00

At The Museum Of Biological Diversity
1315 Kinnear Road, South side of the road, easy to find
East of North Star or West of Kenny and Olentangy River Roads and Rt. 315

Learn how to take advantage of the largest online auction site's powerful features! List items, post photos, and figure out what to do when it's all over.

Laptop Cooling

by Brian Paloski

Over the course of a month, we receive questions and comments to the Buckeye Mac Group via the BMG website. One of the questions sent to us was a great one that we wanted to share with everyone in the group. If you have a notebook computer, you may have had to deal with the one factor that really burns everyone: heat. No longer are notebook computers the lightweights in the product matrix. Now you can get a notebook that is just as powerful as the computer on your desktop with the added advantage of portability. With this great power comes a byproduct that is unavoidable: heat, and lots of it. It is possible for the bottom of a notebook computer to reach temperatures of around 135 degrees or higher. This is not Apple specific, but product specific. As we crave the processing power and speed, the tradeoffs of heat and shorter battery life are part of the deal.

The question posted on the BMG webpage was: Do notebook coolers have any advantages, and do they do any good?

Here is the response.

I personally have experimented with a few notebook coolers, both powered and non-powered (we'll get to that in a bit) and have found that they do work, but are limited to the amount of cooling that they can provide. Below are examples that I have personally worked with. They are personal experiences and the available products are not limited only to the choices below.

The two types of powered cooling stands are;

1.) **USB powered**, which draw power from your laptop that actually lowers your battery life. They are the more convenient of the two powered units since no batteries or power cords are necessary. They offer limited cooling because the power output from your USB is not as powerful as a battery or power cord.

Example:
Antec USB-Powered Notebook Cooler
http://www.amazon.com/Antec-NOTEBOOK-COOLER-USB-Powered-Notebook/dp/B0000BVYTV/ref=pd_bbs_sr_1?ie=UTF8&s=electronics&qid=1236471545&sr=8-1

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Laptop Cooling

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2.) **Non-Powered**, which do offer convective cooling by either lifting the laptop and allowing air to move underneath it, or by raising the back end of the laptop on small nubs. This requires no power, and generally, does a great job of allowing air to move freely around the laptop which keeps them much cooler. Some of these are much smaller than the USB powered units, and can be much easier to travel with.

Examples:

Griffin Technology Elevator
http://www.griffintechnology.com/products/elevator

Matias iFold Notebook Stand
http://store.apple.com/us/product/TP628VC/A?fnode=MTY1NDA2OA&mco=MjI1NjM4OA&p=1&s=topSellers

Rain Design iLap
http://store.apple.com/us/product/TK789ZM/A

As for my own personal review, I have both the Griffin Technology Elevator and Matias iFold non-powered notebook stands. I use my laptop as my primary computer so that I can travel with all of my files. In my travel bag, I have the Matias iFold because it folds down to a 1/2 inch thick square that is about the size and weight of a hardcover book of the same size. The iFold is not as physically sturdy as the Griffin Elevator, but travel versions of products are usually built for convenience not strength. On my desk at home is the Griffin Elevator which is made from steel and molded clear plastic (as not to be visually intrusive) and holds my 15" MacBook Pro without any problem. I have used a few temperature monitoring programs on my laptop, and have found that the stands above have kept the laptop at the same or lower temperature than running them on my USB powered stand.

The USB powered stand is the Antec listed above. I actually gave this to a friend of mine who uses it with his HP laptop on his desk at home. He powers his laptop from the wall plug, so pulling power from the USB port is not an issue. He uses it primarily to keep it cool to save the internal components.

The Rain iLap is the least "cooling" of all products. It essentially allows you to better type at an angle while the laptop is on your lap. The laptop sits directly on the surface which doesn't allow air movement around it, so it's more for lap convenience than for cooling.

Each has its own pros and cons, and is specific to its application. The USB powered stands are about an inch to 2 inches thick, whereas the stands raise the laptop up about 5 inches. What I have done is plugged a full size Apple USB keyboard into my laptop and I prefer to use that and my mouse than use the laptop keyboard and trackpad. When I'm traveling, the built in keyboard works just fine.

I would highly suggest a notebook cooler in almost every situation because it will allow your computer to stay cooler, which has got to be better for the advanced technology located inside of the case that provides us with the muscle we need to get our work (or playing) done. Apple, and other computer companies test their products in an array of high-stress situations, and they guarantee their products to perform as stated, however, it's a small investment to make, and it may enable you to get more time out of your laptop, um... notebook.

Depending on your personal needs, overall price, and necessity for a notebook cooler, there are many options available for you. Come to the next BMG meeting and discuss your experiences with your notebook computers and cooling products.

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Nine months after opening its App Store, Apple announced on its Web site that it reached the milestone of selling its one billionth iPhone application on Thursday, April 23rd. The lucky winner of Apple's contest in celebration of selling its one billionth app will get a $10,000 iTunes Gift Card, an iPod touch, a Time Capsule, and a MacBook Pro.

The App Store, which currently has more than 35,000 apps available for download, is perhaps the sleeping giant of Apple's mobile strategy. Everyone thought it would be cool to be able to download an app for the iPhone, but I don't think anyone knew it would catch hold so quickly.

The App Store isn't just good for Apple in terms of revenue (the company gets 30 percent of the sales), it has also been a boon for developers too. The iPhone brought a lot of developers to the platform who have seen amazing success of apps that are free, or cost $1 or a few dollars.

Read more at Macworld:
http://www.macworld.com/article/140190/2009/04/onebillionth.html

Membership Benefits

ThermaPAK's patented HeatShift Technology is a unique blend of phase changing material (PCM) created by research and development engineers. It requires no refrigeration, no laptop power (which extends battery life), is easy to carry (approved for airport security), and performs better than USB fan-style products. The HeatShift Laptop bag is made of a high-density memory foam for strong protection and has a removable HeatShift Pad inside.

Ranging in retail price from $27.99 (US, 13" laptop) to $34.99 (US, 17" laptop), this user group special takes 25% off.

ThermaPAK's Laptop Cooling HeatShift Pads and HeatShift Bags are also available at a discount.

Get your cooling pad:
http://www.thermapak.com/products.php

Coupon code: maccool

This worldwide offer is valid through April 30, 2009.

Next Month @ BMG

No Meeting in May

Enjoy Memorial Day

See you Monday, June 22nd

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