

CAMP News

NOVEMBER 2010
JEFF FRANKEL, EDITOR

Capital Apple Mac Performa User Group



Augusta, Maine
www.campug.org

Google Docs

Do you want to collaborate on line with others on document creation or editing? From across the room or across the world, you can do it with Google Docs. Check out the most popular tool of its kind when CAMP director-at-large Adam Tomash demonstrates Google Docs at the November 10 CAMP meeting. Join us at the Buker Community Center in Augusta at 7:00 p.m. for all the heart-stopping action!

Microsoft Wireless Mobile Mouse 3500

If you're looking for a less expensive wireless mouse than the Apple Magic Mouse and have an extra USB port to spare, the Microsoft Wireless Mobile Mouse 3500 may be a good alternative.

The Magic Mouse, of course, connects via the Bluetooth technology built into all modern Macs. The Wireless Mobile Mouse relies instead on infrared radio transmission to a receiver that plugs into a USB port and works with both Macs and PCs.



Typical USB receivers are about the size of a thumb drive and jut out from the side of a laptop. To avoid snapping the receiver off the laptop, the user must remove the receiver from the USB port before packing the laptop for travel.

Mouse manufacturers, including Microsoft, have partially dealt with this inconvenience by building a stowaway port into the body of the mouse for storing the receiver while in transit. The 3500 offers an ingenious alternative: a radio receiver so small that it doesn't *have* to be removed from the laptop. The receiver for the 3500 is a mere nubbin that barely protrudes from the laptop it's plugged into. And you still have the choice of storing the receiver in the mouse if you need to

take it elsewhere.

The 3500 is powered by one AA battery (included in the package). An on-off switch allows you to conserve battery power during periods of non-use.

I bought the 3500 on sale at an Augusta Staples store in September for \$20. The different mice in Microsoft's Wireless Mobile Mouse line offer a mix of standard-size and nubbin-size receivers and come in a variety of styles, colors and button configurations. The two that I own – a 4-button 3000 that I use with my desktop Windows PC at work and the 3-button 3500 that my wife uses with her Windows laptop – are

both medium in size, sport clickable scroll wheels, and track very well. The Intellipoint software downloadable from Microsoft's web site tricks out the mice with all sorts of customization options. These include button functions on a PC that mimic some of Apple's Expose functions on a Mac, such as displaying the desktop or showing miniatures of all

open windows.

There is one caveat to this review: I haven't used either mouse with a Mac or experimented with the Mac version of the Intellipoint software. On the Windows side, though, I'm very satisfied. ☀

