
CAMP NEWS

Capital Apple Mac Performa User Group • Augusta, Maine

May Meeting Program

Jeff Frankel will demonstrate Apple Pages, which was recently updated for both macOS and iOS. The, ahem, Pages-turning action begins at 6:30 PM on May 9 in Room 9 of Buker Community Center, 22 Armory Street, Augusta.

iPhone's Magnifier

I'm a big fan of [The Week](#) magazine. The April 13, 2018 issue featured a short roundup of the best apps for seniors, and included the following:

Magnifier is a little-known feature built into iPhones that can turn the camera lens into a magnifying glass. Turn it on by opening Settings, choosing General, then Accessibility, then Magnifier. To use it, just triple-tap the Home button.

It works! There's a slider to adjust the degree of magnification, and you can even turn on the iPhone flashlight to better illumine the teeny-tiny text you're likely trying to read.

Sophos Home Antivirus Software for the Mac

Jeff Frankel

Most of us know that our Macs aren't as immune from viruses and malware as we'd like to think. And none of us *Mac users* are immune from phishing attacks or other web exploits. After installing [Sophos Home Free Edition](#) on my partner Elaine's new iMac several months ago, I decided to give it a whirl myself.

My prior experience with antivirus software had been decidedly mixed. The products I'd used in the past seemed to chew up a huge amount of my iMac's CPU power as they continually scanned in the background, and that hadn't changed when I auditioned several newer programs on my former iMac roughly a year ago. Sophos operates differently. Although the company recommends an initial fast scan upon installation, the software primarily works by evaluating files as they are opened. This avoids the constant CPU drain from always-on scanning that I had previously experienced. I also suspect that my new iMac's faster processor can handle the load much more handily than its predecessor.

Sophos Home Free Edition offers real-time antivirus protection, parental web filtering, and web protection from known malicious sites for up to three Macs, all managed from a handy menu bar icon and web-based dashboard. But what really scares me is ransomware—yes, [at least one strain of ransomware has targeted Macs](#)—but to obtain this level

Mousing Woes

If your Apple mouse doesn't track reliably on some surfaces, try blowing compressed air into the sensor area, as recommended by this [Apple support article](#). Doing so resolved the issue with my Magic Mouse 2.

To Sleep, Perchance to Dream?

Have you ever wondered if your Mac is actually sleeping, as opposed to running with the monitor dimmed? It's not always easy to tell the difference.

In days of old, the power-on light would softly pulse to indicate the sleep state, but that's gone the way of the dodo. However, there is an easy test. Depress the Caps Lock key so that the embedded green LED is glowing. Then, wait for the sleep time set in the Energy preference pane to kick in. If the computer is truly asleep, after a few seconds the LED will turn off. If the Mac doesn't go to sleep, make sure that the "Prevent computer from sleeping automatically when the display is off" checkbox in the Energy preference pane *isn't* ticked. ☼

of protection from Sophos, you've got to pay.

Sophos Home Premium costs \$50 per year and protects up to 10 Macs, but is offered as a 30-day free trial (no credit card required) when you sign up for Sophos Home Free Edition. In addition to enhanced ransomware protection, Premium also monitors access to your webcam and microphone and offers live chat and email support. The ransomware protection component purportedly monitors your Mac for file encryption activity, blocking the process and notifying you if it finds any. I got a taste of how this works when Sophos halted a Carbon Copy Cloner backup on my MacBook Air, which is encrypted by FileVault 2. Adding CCC to a whitelist allowed the backup to proceed, and I was comforted to know that Sophos was on guard. When I had an installation issue on one of my Macs, live chat quickly got me to a resolution.

The one drawback I've run into so far is that the fast scan and full scan take far longer to complete than [one reviewer](#) noted. But all in all, I'm very pleased so far.

The icing on the cake is that for \$50 per year I can obtain full antivirus protection on my 3 Macs and Elaine's 1 Mac. Heck, I'll even ask my daughter Hannah if she would like me to add her MacBook Air to the account. \$50 per year is far less expensive for multiple machines than all other paid Mac antivirus programs I am aware of. When I decided to upgrade from Free to Premium, I was pleasantly surprised to find that my first-year cost would be only \$25.

There are a fair number of reputable antivirus programs available for the Mac. Sophos Home, either Free or Premium, is definitely worth a look. If you own or manage multiple Macs, the paid tier is an unbeatable bargain. ☼

