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Apple at WWDC 2012: iOS 6, new MacBook Air and Pro models, Mountain Lion, and more

By [Thomas Houston](#)



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Apple's WWDC 2012 keynote kicks off today and we're live from Moscone Center with all of the big news. An iOS 6 preview seems a sure shot by now, and there have been rumors of a refreshed Mac lineup floating around. Check in here for every news announcement from today's event.



JUN 11, 2012
DIETER BOHN

iOS 6 to feature 'Do Not Disturb' setting, 'Reply with message' feature for calls



dnd

Apple is expanding users ability to control how and when people talk to them on their iPhones in iOS 6. It has announced a new "Do No Disturb" feature that will continue to allow messages to come in, but your phone will not alert you to them until later.

However, you can enable a setting where a second call from the same source will ring, so you're still reachable if it's an emergency. You can also set your Do Not Disturb to automatically turn on and off at scheduled times — say when you're going to bed — as well as allow calls from specific groups to bypass the DND setting and reach you anyway.

Apple is also adding a feature that has been bouncing around on various smartphones since the days of the Treo 700w, a "Reply with Message" option for incoming calls. Instead of simply answering or ignoring a call, the new feature will allow you to reply to the caller with a text message. You can choose from a few stock messages or enter a custom one.

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JUN 11, 2012
T.C. SOTTEK

New MacBook Air vs. the competition: by the numbers



Gallery Photo: MacBook Air liveblog photos

Apple's just upgraded its MacBook Air line with speedy SSDs and Ivy Bridge cores, but in terms of overall specs, it's a mixed bag when comparing to the competition. Apple has brought the Air line at least up to par on the processing front with top-of-the-line ultrabook competitors that have recently adopted Intel's 3rd-generation Core i5 and i7 chips. The 13-inch Air's base clock speed of 1.8GHz looks nice against the competition, with competitors like the Envy Spectre XT following closely behind at 1.7GHz. The new Air also reaches parity with competitors at the high-end, with an Intel Core i7 clocked at 2GHz — speed that matches the Spectre XT. Apple is also fairly close to its competition in the memory department, with most models featuring 4GB of DDR3 RAM as a basic option. Where Apple really pulls away in the performance department is in storage, with a competitive 128GB SSD standard, and an impressive 512GB SSD high-end option.

Things are a little more disappointing on the display front, which Apple has opted to keep consistent with last year's specs — but that stagnation has caused it to fall behind competitors. Several new high-end ultrabooks exceed the MacBook Air's resolution of 1440 x 900 px, with the Lenovo ThinkPad X1 containing a 1600 x 900 px display, and

the Asus Zenbook UX31A offering up to 1920 x 1080 pixels within a 13.3-inch display. When it comes to graphics power, Apple and its competition are mostly on level ground, with most high-end slim laptops opting for Intel's integrated HD Graphics 4000 chip.

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JUN 11, 2012
DAVID PIERCE

Apple brings Siri to the iPad

Apple announced that as part of iOS 6, Siri will be available on the iPad in addition to the iPhone. It's part of a larger update to Siri, allowing the voice-controlled app to now do everything from launch apps to report the batting average of your favorite baseball players. Apple's Scott Forstall mentioned that Siri was coming to "the new iPad," so it sounds like older iPad owners might need to upgrade to get all the new features.

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JUN 11, 2012
DANTE D'ORAZIO

'Eyes Free' Siri to be built into cars within next 12 months

via d351b3d1296zwu.cloudfront.net

Apple has announced partnerships with auto manufacturers to integrate a new "Eyes Free" Siri feature to their cars. The new feature allows drivers to use the dictation and search features of Siri without taking their hands off of the steering wheel — for example, you could send a tweet with the new version of Siri without looking at the screen, and you would only have to press a button on the car dashboard to activate the

talking assistant. Apple emphasised that the screen will remain off in "Eyes Free" mode to prevent distractions. BMW, Mercedes, GM, Land Rover, Jaguar, Audi, Toyota, Chrysler, and Honda were announced as partners that have already agreed to include the new feature, and the first cars with "Eyes Free" Siri are said to be available within the next year. From the one photo that was shown, this **is not** a custom "Siri Button" that you're going to see in the next 3 Series — it's just new support that uses already built-in general voice-activation buttons, like the one shown above from BMW iDrive. Additionally, the feature doesn't truly integrate, as you'll still need to have your iPhone mounted in the car.

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JUN 11, 2012
VLAD SAVOV

Siri in iOS 6: iPad support, app launcher, new languages, Eyes Free, Rotten Tomatoes, sports scores, and more

siri ios 6

Apple has updated Siri in sync with its introduction of iOS 6, now adding sports scores and stats to the things the companion app can inform you about. The data is provided

by Yahoo! Sports, and includes player bio information as well, with the Siri demo on stage at WWDC showing it providing an answer to the question, "who's taller, LeBron James or Kobe Bryant?"

A most welcome new addition for the voice assistant is the overdue ability to launch apps — you can now tell Siri to "play *Temple Run*" and the app will launch. Also long-awaited is new language support, with Italian, Korean, Mandarin and Cantonese dialects of Chinese joining the group already available.

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JUN 11, 2012
NATHAN INGRAHAM

iOS by the numbers: 365 million devices sold, 150 billion iMessages sent, 80 percent of users on iOS 5

via d351b3dl296zwu.cloudfront.net

Scott Forstall is out to introduce iOS 6, but first he's giving some details on the state of the platform. He took a moment to note the state of the iOS installed base compared to Android — about 80 percent of iOS users are running iOS 5, while a similar percentage

of Android users are running 2.3 Gingerbread (which we know is well over a year old) — he also noted how only about seven percent of Android users are currently running the most current Android version. All in all, some 365 million iOS devices have been sold as of March 30th this year.

Apple is also pushing out tons of messages and notifications — there's some 140 million iMessage users, who have sent 150 billion messages in total (with an average of one billion sent every day). There has also been about 10 billion tweets sent through iOS 5, and nearly half of all photos come from iOS 5 users. Even Game Center appears to be widely used by iOS customers — there's 130 million total accounts, with five billion scores submitted every week.

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JUN 11, 2012
CHRIS ZIEGLER

Apple announces iOS 6, coming this fall; developer beta available today

iOS 6

Apple has officially unveiled iOS 6 at its Worldwide Developers Conference today, the next version of its mobile operating system used by the iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, and Apple TV. iOS has consistently received a significant update every year since its introduction in 2007 — and by all appearances, version 6 will continue that trend with a claimed 200-plus new features. It'll be available for the iPhone 3GS and later, the 2nd- and 3rd-generation iPad, and the 4th-generation iPod touch in the fall, though it warns that "some features may not be available on all products." Meanwhile, a beta is available to developers today.

Among them, Siri gets updated with iPad compatibility, support for sports (including scores and statistics) and restaurant selections sorted by rating; you can book a table via OpenTable right from Siri's interface. Movie listings have been added as well with Rotten Tomatoes integration, important for avoiding the duds. Perhaps most importantly, Siri can now launch apps — just speak the name of the app and it'll open. A number of new languages are being added, including Chinese and Korean.

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JUN 11, 2012

Apple demos Safari 6 with iCloud tabs, Smart Search Field, and Tab View

Gallery Photo: Safari liveblog photos

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JUN 11, 2012

NILAY PATEL

Apple OS X 10.8 Mountain Lion will be \$19.99 in July: adds Facebook integration, PowerNap updates, dictation, mute switch for notifications

mountain lion mute switch

Apple just announced that OS X 10.8 Mountain Lion will cost \$19.99 when it's released in July, and users can upgrade from both Lion and Snow Leopard. Customers who buy new Macs from today on will receive free upgrades.

Most of the details of the new OS are the same as in the preview build we saw in February, there are some new features: a new silent-updating system called PowerNap, a mute switch for notifications that lets you work in peace, and dictation, which lets you talk to type anywhere in the system.

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JUN 11, 2012
ADI ROBERTSON

Apple announces 26 million copies of Lion shipped, 40 percent adoption

via d351b3d1296zww.cloudfront.net

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JUN 11, 2012

AARON SOUPPOURIS

Retina MacBook Pro vs. the pixel density competition

via d351b3dl296zww.cloudfront.net

Now that Apple has announced its first MacBook with a Retina Display, we thought we'd take a quick look at laptops past and present to see how the new MacBook Pro stacks up against the competition.

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JUN 11, 2012
EVAN RODGERS

Apple adds Thunderbolt adapters: FireWire 800 and Gigabit Ethernet

via d351b3dl296zww.cloudfront.net

Apple has announced two new Thunderbolt accessories for its new MacBook Air and MacBook Pro. They've detailed a FireWire 800 adapter and a Gigabit Ethernet adapter. Apple may have a history of leaving legacy ports behind, but with the number of professional applications for FireWire 800 and faster Ethernet, it's good to see Apple making the extra effort. Previously, 10/100 Ethernet was as fast as Apple's official accessories had gone. We do think it's a little disappointing that you'll have to pay for an adapter per port, though, when a single Thunderbolt connection should easily be capable of both. The FireWire adapter has yet to be put up on Apple's store, but the Gigabit adapter is available now for \$29.

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JUN 11, 2012
DANTE D'ORAZIO

Apple announces MagSafe 2 power port, goes back to T-connector style (update)

via cdn2.sbnation.com

Apple has shown off an updated version of its MagSafe power port, dubbed MagSafe 2. The new port was shown off on the side of the new, next-generation 15.4-inch MacBook Pro. Apple said that it was "thinner," and upon close inspection of the picture we can see that the edges appear to be curved off compared to the last-generation port. The power contacts themselves appear to be the same — there are still five of them — so we'd hope that there's some sort of backwards compatibility. It's not yet clear if the new port is only for the just-announced, next-generation MacBook Pro or not, but it seems likely

that Apple would bring the thinner port to the MacBook Air line, at least, as both machines put a premium on width.

Update: Now that the Apple Store is back online, we have a few more details on the new MagSafe 2 power port. There are both 45W and 85W versions of the power adapter, for the new MacBook Air and MacBook Pro with Retina Display, respectively.

Unfortunately, Apple hasn't maintained any backwards compatibility — you'll have to buy a \$9.99 adapter to power your new laptop with one of your old chargers. Also, oddly enough, Apple has moved away from the "barrel" style connector and back to the T connection of old. Many users had issues with fraying wires on those old power cords, so we find it curious that Apple has decided to bring it back.

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JUN 11, 2012
NILAY PATEL

OS X, pro apps, and games updated for new MacBook Pro Retina Display

Apple's also touting a number of key third-party apps that have been updated for the new display, like Adobe Photoshop and AutoCAD. There's also a new version of Diablo III, which is a bit more fun.

Developing. Check out our [Apple WWDC live blog](#) for the latest updates!

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JUN 11, 2012
DIETER BOHN

Apple announces next-generation 15-inch MacBook Pro with Retina display, ships today for \$2,199

next gen macbook pro retina

Apple has announced what it calls a "next-generation" MacBook Pro, with a Retina display. It goes along the rest of the MacBook line, but Apple is looking forward with this model: removing the optical drive to enable a laptop that's only 0.71 inches thick. The premiere feature, however, is clearly the Retina display, which packs a 2880 x 1800 pixels into 15.4-inch screen, which adds up to 220 ppi. The new MacBook weighs under 4.5 lbs, making it the lightest Pro laptop Apple has ever produced.

Phil Schiller called it "the most beautiful computer we have ever made." It's beautiful on the inside as well, with a quad-core i7 processor, up to 16GB of RAM, and an Nvidia Kepler GeForce GT 650M GPU. Naturally, Apple is focusing on flash storage instead of a traditional hard drive, and will offer it with up to 768GB. Battery life is rated to 7 hours, and ports include an SD card slot, HDMI (an Apple laptop first!), USB 3.0, two Thunderbolt ports, MagSafe 2 and a headphone jack. It also has two microphones. Connectivity includes 802.11n for Wi-Fi and Bluetooth 4.0, but so far Apple has unfortunately not made mention of 4G connectivity being built-in. As with other MacBooks, it features a backlit keyboard, a multitouch trackpad, and conforms to Apple's "Environmental Checklist."

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JUN 11, 2012
VLAD SAVOV

MacBook Pro upgraded with Ivy Bridge CPUs, Nvidia graphics, shipping today

Apple has just revealed its new line of 2012 MacBook Pro laptops, upgrading them to Intel's Ivy Bridge processors and Nvidia's new Kepler-based GeForce GT 650M graphics. All new models are shipping today.

The big highlight of today's show is actually the introduction of a so-called next-generation MacBook Pro with an incredible 2880 x 1800 display, however that's happening quite aside from Apple's regular hardware refresh. You'll still find your usual 13-inch MBP with a 1280 x 800 screen, only now it has a new 2.5GHz Core i5 processor as the base spec, upgradeable to a 2.9GHz Core i7 chip. Regrettably, only Intel's integrated HD Graphics 4000 are listed for the 13-inch model. Prices start at \$1,199 as previously.

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JUN 11, 2012
T.C. SOTTEK

New MacBook Air models officially unveiled with Ivy Bridge upgrade

As rumored, new 11-inch and 13-inch MacBook Air models have just been officially announced by Apple at WWDC 2012. Unsurprisingly, Apple is keeping pace with competitors with the addition of Ivy Bridge to its slimmest line of laptops. The 11-inch models will start at \$999 with a 1.7GHz dual-core Intel Core i5 processor, 4GB RAM, integrated Intel HD 4000 graphics, 64GB flash storage, and 5 hours of battery life, with a higher-tier model for \$1099 that contains 128GB of flash storage. The 13-inch models start at \$1,199 and include the same 1440 x 900 display as the previous models, along with a 1.8GHz dual-core i5 processor, 4GB of RAM, the same graphics as the 11-inch model, and 128GB of storage. \$1499 will get you an extra 256GB of storage; specs are the same otherwise. Apple has also opted to include a pair of USB 3.0 ports in its new Air lineup.

Apple says the new 11-inch and 13-inch Macbook Air models are available now.

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JUN 11, 2012
NATHAN INGRAHAM

Apple by the numbers: 30 billion app downloads, 650,000 apps available in the App Store

As per usual, Apple kicked off its WWDC keynote with some stats on the company's performance in recent months, and the news is unsurprisingly upbeat. For starters, CEO Tim Cook gave us some updates on the App Store — there's over 400 million registered store accounts, up from 225 million at WWDC 2011. The App Store is now home to over 650,000, with over 225,000 made specifically for the iPad. That's up from 425,000 apps last year, with some 90,000 specifically designed for the iPad.

Probably the biggest number Cook shared was the whopping 30 billion apps downloaded in all since the store launched in 2008 — up from the 14 billion downloads Apple touted at WWDC 2011. Cook also announced that Apple has paid out over \$5 billion to developers (that's up from \$2.5 billion announced at last year's WWDC) and that the App Store is now available in 152 countries.

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JUN 9, 2012
DANTE D'ORAZIO

Our live blog of Apple's WWDC 2012 keynote starts at 10AM PT, 1PM ET

Apple WWDC 2012 venue

Are you interested in iOS 6? How about a refreshed Mac lineup? Let's not forget that new iPhone backplate that's been floating around. We can't promise that we'll see any of those things at Apple's WWDC 2012 keynote on Monday, but we'll be at San Francisco's Moscone Center to bring it to you live. Our live blog is going to kick off shortly before **10AM PT on Monday, June 11th, 2012** — join us, won't you?

In case you missed it during E3 last week, we've got a brand-new, rock-solid live blogging tool called Syllabus to bring Joshua Topolsky's commentary straight to you. You can get settled in at the live blog now if you so desire, but things will start heating up around 10AM PT on Monday (conveniently converted to your local time below).

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