
Subject: To Air is Human

Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 18:55:43 GMT

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New thin MacBook Air just announced. www.Apple.com

The track pad is multitouch now. Optional solid state drive. A bit slower CPU than the other MacBooks but not bad.

It looks pretty cool for something that light. But right now I need a heavy lifter 17" HD res box, so it's not for me.

Also at MacWorld: Software updates to iPhone/iTouch, movie rentals, a wireless backup system, and an iTV update.

No refresh for the other laptops (what I'm waiting for) yet. Dang! I guess they'll sneak that update in sometime between now and NAB, much like they did with the MacPro last week with little notice or fanfare.

I'm expecting LED backlighting on the 17", updated CPU and chipset for more speed and battery life, and now I'm expecting a multitouch track pad! Hope it doesn't take months...

Cheers,

-Jamie

www.JamieKruz.com

Subject: Re: To Air is Human

Posted by [Dedric Terry](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 19:32:05 GMT

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Jamie - Sorry there weren't other new laptops - maybe soon.

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In 10 years, we'll laugh at these early sizes as we buy 100TB solid state laptops with touchscreens for \$500. ;-) lol

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I'll let you know how it is - looks like some cool and much needed and really nice additional apps!

Woohoo! Email on the iPod touch!

Dang - started the latest minor update (165M on DSL.... zzzz) before seeing the new features update. It will be a while before I can buy and dl the new

major update.

Dedric

"Jamie K" <Meta@Dimensional.com> wrote in message news:478d0542@linux...

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Subject: Re: To Air is Human

Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 19:41:07 GMT

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Dedric Terry wrote:

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Subject: Re: To Air is Human
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 19:48:05 GMT
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> and XP on it I'd be sincerely interested, as long as the hardware specs aren't
> too horrible and they don't have massive hardware issues out of the chute.

HD is only 80GB (or 64GB if you want to spring for the solid state drive option). If that's enough space to add Debian and XP, bootcamp should support 'em. Or use one of the virtual machine setups if you want to switch between OSs on the fly. CPU is 1.8GHZ I think. Slower than the bigger/heavier laptops but still very capable.

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Posted by [Dedric Terry](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 20:11:13 GMT
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Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 20:31:47 GMT
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Posted by [TCB](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 20:34:42 GMT
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Really frustrating. Yep, your Psion is safe.

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On 1/15/08 1:31 PM, in article 478d1bbc@linux, "Jamie K"
<Meta@Dimensional.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: To Air is Human
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 22:05:41 GMT
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Yeah, it's a lightened sub-notebook. No room for all that stuff. Great for the market they're aiming it at, presumably. But not what I need

right now.

However the Air's optional external USB optical drive is interesting to me. Maybe I could take the internal DVDR out of my next MacBook Pro laptop and put in a second hard drive, that would be useful. And use the external DVDR that was just announced today for few times I'd need it with the laptop. Hmm.

Cheers,
-Jamie
www.JamieKrutz.com

James McCloskey wrote:

> And they left out FireWire. WTF are they thinking??? But hey it's thin enough
> to slice bread. What a joke!

>

> "TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

>> Never mind, I take it all back, it doesn't have ethernet. Nice job Apple,
>> leave out a ten cent part on an \$1800 laptop so I can't use it in my office
>> to talk to my servers securely over a wire.

>>

>> TCB

>>

>> "TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

>>> Drive space isn't much of an issue, this would be mostly an office/travel
>>> laptop, my music laptop is already tricked out with a 250GB drive. Also

>> SSD

>>> drives are just way to expensive now.

>>>

>>> I'll keep an eye on this. If they don't have any of the usual dying batteries/cracking
>>> cases problems that a lot of first gen Apple hardware has I'll give one

>> a

>>> serious look.

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Subject: Re: To Air is Human
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 22:07:08 GMT
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Glad it came back to life! Grounding is fitting punishment, and I'd cut off its allowance, too!

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>>> Guess this is Apple's (yet again) way of crippling their software on PCs
>>> to force people to buy Macs. What a joke.
>>>
>>> Detric
>>>
>>> "Jamie K" <Meta@Dimensional.com> wrote in message news:478d0fdc@linux...
>>>> Detric Terry wrote:
>>>>> Jamie - Sorry there weren't other new laptops - maybe soon.
>>>>> Yeah, bummer! But it'll happen. I can wait but hopefully it won't be
>>>>> too long. I'd also like to see them make the hard drive user swappable
>>>>> so I can easily add a solid state drive when the prices come down.
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Air looks interesting - big price difference between the PATA 1.7Ghz
>>>>> version
>>>>> and the solid state 1.8 - \$1799 to \$3100 - ouch. I guess solid state
>>>>> has a ways to go to be cost effective. 64G is a lot for solid state
>>>>> for now.
>>>>> In 10 years, we'll laugh at these early sizes as we buy 100TB solid
>>>>> state laptops with touchscreens for \$500. ;-) lol
>>>> Yep. Or it'll all be wireless into our brains, no touchscreen needed. :^)
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>> Getting ready to pick up the iPod Touch update (yep, got one before
>>>>> Christmas)
>>>>> I'll let you know how it is - looks like some cool and much needed
>>>>> and really nice additional apps!
>>>>> Woohoo! Email on the iPod touch!
>>>> Yeah, and notes, too. The Touch is starting to look like a useful
>>>> little device. Should my Psion start getting nervous?
>>>>
>>>> Cheers,

>>>> -Jamie
>>>> www.JamieKruz.com
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>> Dang - started the latest minor update (165M on DSL.... zzzz) before
>>>>> seeing the new features update. It will be a while before I can buy
>>>>> and dl the new major update.
>>>>>
>>>>> Detric
>>>>>
>>>>> "Jamie K" <Meta@Dimensional.com> wrote in message news:478d0542@linux...
>>>>>> New thin MacBook Air just announced. www.Apple.com
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Subject: Re: To Air is Human
Posted by [TCB](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 22:26:47 GMT
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TCB

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Subject: Re: To Air is Human
Posted by [TCB](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 22:36:57 GMT
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Never mind, I take it all back, it doesn't have ethernet. Nice job Apple, leave out a ten cent part on an \$1800 laptop so I can't use it in my office to talk to my servers securely over a wire.

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Subject: Re: To Air is Human
Posted by [excelav](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 22:56:06 GMT
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And they left out FireWire. WTF are they thinking??? But hey it's thin enough to slice bread. What a joke!

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Subject: Re: To Air is Human
Posted by [Dedric Terry](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 22:57:39 GMT
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No firewire? Pretty much kills it for what a film producer friend of mine was hoping - in-field video capture.

In a few years, most laptops will have solid state drives though. Someone had to be the guinea pig and make a first one that few people would want.

Dedric

"James McCloskey" <excelsm@hotmail.com> wrote in message
news:478d2bf6\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: To Air is Human
Posted by [rick](#) on Wed, 16 Jan 2008 11:27:28 GMT
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it's not about functionality, it's the ultimate ipod.

On Tue, 15 Jan 2008 15:57:39 -0700, "Dedric Terry" <dterry@keyofd.net> wrote:

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Subject: Re: To Air is Human
Posted by [TCB](#) on Wed, 16 Jan 2008 17:26:37 GMT
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Jamie,

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Subject: Re: To Air is Human
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Wed, 16 Jan 2008 17:42:50 GMT
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It looks to me like the design philosophy was "do everything you can to make it thinner." Clearly they wanted the bragging rights of having "The Worlds Thinnest Notebook" as they currently trumpet on their web site.

It's a faster subnotebook than Sony's, too, and less expensive apparently. So in that market, this little beauty should make a splash.

To get there, the battery is not user-removable (like iPods). There are minimal i/o ports. No expansion port. The CPU is a special sized-reduced model from Intel. Etc.

However, I just read that you CAN get ethernet from Apple via a USB to ethernet adapter for like \$30. If that helps.

In the end it's just another choice. When evaluating the available Apple laptop options, it's apparent that the regular MacBook is very comparable to the Air. The regular Macbook is almost identical in features with only slightly more weight, but with all the i/o ports, a faster CPU, user replacable battery, user replaceable hard drive, and lower cost. If I were you, assuming that the Air is sufficient for your needs except for the missing i/o, I'd get a MacBook.

The MacBook Pro is also pretty much the same thing but with an expansion port, faster graphics, and higher res screen choices. If I were me, and I am, I'd get that. :^) Primarily to cover the video/graphics/animation stuff I do - the audio stuff would be fine on a regular MacBook.

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Subject: Re: To Air is Human

Posted by [Ted Gerber](#) on Wed, 16 Jan 2008 17:47:17 GMT

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<http://store.apple.com/1-800-MY-APPLE/WebObjects/AppleStore.woa/wa/RSLID?nplm=MB442Z/A#overview>

I'm sure there are USB to Firewire adaptors available too.

Adding adaptors is second best I guess...

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Subject: Re: To Air is Human
Posted by [Ted Gerber](#) on Wed, 16 Jan 2008 17:48:57 GMT
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Posted by [TCB](#) on Wed, 16 Jan 2008 18:13:06 GMT
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Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Wed, 16 Jan 2008 18:25:05 GMT
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I agree it would be better to have those ports. Although mini FW doesn't supply power so that would leave some accessories in the cold.

But it looks like they were very strict in the design phase to leave off anything they could in the interest of ultimate low weight and thinness.

> What if your wireless drivers break? How do you get the right drivers on
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The external USB DVDR drive is a \$100 option.

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Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Wed, 16 Jan 2008 19:17:48 GMT
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> You're missing my point. Let's say I have a user in Bangalore who just blew
> out their wireless drivers. I can say, 'Go to the business center (or plug
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> fixing their machine. Wlth this Mac I'd have to say, 'Go buy a USB pen drive
> and borrow someone's laptop that works and call me on your cell phone.' Busy
> people traveling don't want to hear that.

I thought you were talking about buying a laptop for yourself.

If you're specing a machine for someone else that you support, and you think there's a possibility the airport capability might fail, you'd have to include the USB ethernet adapter.

> I know I think like a tech, so I'm not really on Apple's wavelength, but
> to me not having a secondary networking option is fundamentally bad computer
> design. It's asking for trouble.

It has a secondary networking option: that pesky USB to ethernet adapter.

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>>>>>>>>>> The track pad is multitouch now. Optional solid state drive.
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>>>>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>>>> It looks pretty cool for something that light. But right now
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Posted by [TCB](#) on Wed, 16 Jan 2008 20:08:17 GMT
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that
mark. Probably find a niche with post gen-x business travelers that live on
wifi and
thumb drives.

Not the solution audio and video people would want, but like Jamie said,
we still have other laptops for that - just not ones thin enough to
accidentally
bend in half, or send with a fax... ;-)

Imho, connectivity needs a little update - perhaps a snap locked fiber port
with 10+ G/s speeds. 1394 is too loose of a connection design, and 1394c and
faster are no
where to be seen yet (not to mention that most laptops use the smaller
unpowered 1394 port).
USB is too slow to be the defacto data port on laptops, even though it
is.
Fine for smaller or low bandwidth devices, but too slow for data backup of
any size.

My .02.

Dedric

"James McCloskey" <excelsm@hotmail.com> wrote in message
news:478e7056\$1@linux...

>
> MacBook air, wow! Yawn!
>
> I'm with Thad, this was a dumb oversight on Apple's part. In May they
> will
> do updates to the MacBook line, I just hope they don't discontinue the
> MacBook.
> I cant see paying a \$700.00 premium that is slower and can't do as much.
> Also the memory is soldered in, 2GB is the max. Thinner and lighter is
> great, but I need functionality. At \$1099.00, the MacBook is a better
> deal.
>
> Apple, give the people what they want!
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Posted by [TCB](#) on Wed, 16 Jan 2008 21:53:47 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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> fast. We're spec'ing out a new SAN that we picked up for the office and I
> patched an extra gigabit NIC into my Debian desktop (the linux network
> stack
> is absolutely fabulous) and set up an iSCSI mount on my desktop. Just for
> kicks I dragged a 700 MB ISO image over to the SAN. It moved in under 15
> seconds. A _lot_ under 15 seconds. It was so fast I thought that a symlink
> was created and the file would be copied when I unmounted the drive
> (happens
> with some linux file transfers). Nope, it was that fast.
>
> As someone who gets calls from 'post gen-x business travelers' at all
> hours
> of the day and night because they can't get on a wireless network in their
> hotel or airport, the first thing I ask is, 'Do you have a wired
> connection
> available? OK, try that just to be sure anything is working at all.'
>
> I just think this is incredibly stupid. You obviously disagree, so I'll
> drop
> it, but I seriously would have considered one had they not done this.
>
> TCB
>
> "Dedric Terry" <dterry@keyofd.net> wrote:
>>We seem to be headed towards a wireless world, so Air isn't too far off
> of
>>that
>>mark. Probably find a niche with post gen-x business travelers that live
> on
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>>Not the solution audio and video people would want, but like Jamie said,
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Subject: Re: To Air is Human
Posted by [Paul Braun](#) on Thu, 17 Jan 2008 03:30:06 GMT
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On 17 Jan 2008 03:26:37 +1000, "TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

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>Jamie,
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>There's plenty of room for FW and ethernet, and those should not be considered
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pab

Subject: Re: To Air is Human

Posted by [Dedric Terry](#) on Thu, 17 Jan 2008 04:10:35 GMT

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For some reason S3200 has been painfully slow to come to fruition, as was FW800. Maybe Apple sees the end of the road for 1394, or just a lack of consumer adoption (non-A/V world) - it may be a bandwidth limited design. And with 3G SATA, it's hardly a competitor for large data storage at 800Mb/s max currently, but certainly far better than USB2. I wouldn't be surprised to see another format emerge with much greater capacity.

I also think the connector format is way too loose for high speed, high risk reliability. And, firewire/1394 is far too susceptible to destroying ports during hot swapping, though it's supposed to be hot swappable.

Neither USB or firewire is a long term high speed data transfer solution, imho - just two more incremental stops along the way. Might take someone besides Apple to come out with a faster solution (other than Ethernet).

Dedric

On 1/16/08 8:30 PM, in article hfito318eg5bomg413oafvcmqj4djlvdjm@4ax.com, "Paul Braun" <cygnus_nospam@ctgonline.org> wrote:

> On 17 Jan 2008 03:26:37 +1000, "TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: To Air is Human
Posted by [excelav](#) on Thu, 17 Jan 2008 05:44:33 GMT
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I wish Apple would stop building obsolescence in to their products. They have put iSight cameras on the iMac and all the lap tops, why wouldn't they put one on the iPhone and the iPods? Why not add a mic to the iPod so you could do dictation or record lectures. I hate having to buy add on doodads. The whole idea, is suppose to be portability. I don't want to carry more stuff.

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Subject: Re: To Air is Human
Posted by [excelav](#) on Thu, 17 Jan 2008 06:00:43 GMT
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Another indicator that this was a bad move is Apple's stock price, it's dropped \$35.00 to 40.00 a share. Hopefully they get the message.

"James McCloskey" <excelsm@hotmail.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: To Air is Human
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Thu, 17 Jan 2008 06:06:47 GMT
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James McCloskey wrote:

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> \$35.00 to 40.00 a share. Hopefully they get the message.

Yep. But the Dow is down, too. The Fed does not seem optimistic:

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hwHbki86OAoUhqDveb6JLDol_4-gD8U78C780

"Separately on Wednesday, more big banks reported losses and said people were having trouble making payments for everything from credit cards to cars. Stocks were mostly down for the day, the Dow Jones industrial average declining 34.95 points, or 0.28 percent."

And here's a story about typical post keynote Apple stock performance patterns:

http://www.businessweek.com/technology/content/jan2008/tc20080116_282937.htm?chan=technology_technology+index+page_top+stories

So is there a clear message in Apple's stock price? Dunno. Interesting stuff, though.

Cheers,
-Jamie
www.JamieKruz.com

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>>> pab
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Subject: Re: To Air is Human
Posted by [Dedric Terry](#) on Thu, 17 Jan 2008 06:13:40 GMT
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Citicorp posted a \$10B loss last quarter with layoffs in the works - the biggest loss in their 196 year history (196?... guess so).

They are in trouble, but will still probably recover. That alone and a the inflation report has Wall Street scrambling. Apple is probably just a casualty since nothing they could introduce, other than an economic injector device could reverse that. ;-)

On 1/16/08 11:06 PM, in article 478ef3ff@linux, "Jamie K" <Meta@Dimensional.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: To Air is Human
Posted by [Neil](#) on Thu, 17 Jan 2008 06:42:25 GMT
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"James McCloskey" <excelsm@hotmail.com> wrote:

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I think Steve might be running out of ideas... this is nothing
revolutionary or market-changing.

Neil

Subject: Re: To Air is Human
Posted by [rick](#) on Thu, 17 Jan 2008 11:01:04 GMT
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not really. they're just addressing the dumbed down market they've created. i'm still waiting for the 5,000,000 song ipod to come out.

On 17 Jan 2008 16:42:25 +1000, "Neil" <IOIO@OI.com> wrote:

>
>"James McCloskey" <excelsm@hotmail.com> wrote:
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Subject: Re: To Air is Human
Posted by [TCB](#) on Thu, 17 Jan 2008 16:05:07 GMT
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Every PC I've set up in the last three years has had at least one FW port.

TCB

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Subject: Re: To Air is Human

Posted by [TCB](#) on Thu, 17 Jan 2008 16:06:42 GMT

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I think that had a lot more to do with Citibank writing off \$19 billion in bad mortgage loans. Like or not, markets tend to move monolithically. Then again, Sun got a bump by buying MySQL so maybe the market did look dimly on that stuff.

TCB

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Subject: Re: To Air is Human

Posted by [excelav](#) on Thu, 17 Jan 2008 21:26:06 GMT

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The MacBook air is definitely innovative. There is nothing on the market that is that thin, with that much battery life, and is that light with that big of a screen. I think they tried to cut corners and maximize profits too much, and forgot real customer needs in the process. The design may have not allowed for the FW port, and Intel may have had something to do with the decision. If you watch the keynote video on Apple's web site, and fast forward to the MacBook Air, you'll see the size of the MOBO is incredibly small. I'm sure it's great for the guy that has to travel all the time.

However, I would have rather had a bit thicker MacBook with more ports and an optical drive. For me, the regular MacBook is the way to go, It's faster and it's \$700 cheaper.

If the cost was \$999.00, we'd for give them for the lack of a FW port, although, I still need FW, especially on a portable.

Subject: Re: To Air is Human

Posted by [rick](#) on Fri, 18 Jan 2008 11:03:18 GMT

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yeah but they'll probably have to beef up the cases to protect the thinner laptops. i'm not being negative here on the product i'd rather see the innards improved and bugs ironed out.

On 18 Jan 2008 07:26:06 +1000, "James McCloskey" <excelsm@hotmail.com> wrote:

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