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Issue Highlights

Welcome to the March 2004 issue of *GPSolo Technology eReport.*

Worried about protecting your assets and your very identity from thieves? See Mark Durham's article on preventing identity theft.

Want to know about how technology will affect our lives in the next few years? Read Jeffrey Allen's article "I Went to the Show(s)" for insights into product development and technology.

Tony Vittal tells you about portable power sources and universal power supplies in **TechNotes**. Jeffrey Allen talks about Apple's newest version of iLife, including GarageBand, in **MacNotes**.

Check out **ProductNews** for information on a collection of hot new products for the lawyer on the go.

Finally, don't miss **SectionNotes** for information about the Section's activities and future Section and ABA meetings.

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Identity Theft: Reducing Your Risk

By Mark Durham

From its financial and legal systems to its intricate economies of celebrity and prestige, modern society is unimaginable without authentication—the ability to prove that people really are who they say they are. At the same time, we inhabit a world of mass production and interchangeable parts, where much of what we see, hear, and share takes the form of digital data, infinitely reproducible and instantaneously transmissible. Identity can be tough to prove—and easy to fake. Unfortunately, criminals have discovered a very efficient way to make that premise profitable.

Americans are only beginning to understand how widespread identity theft has become—and how personally and professionally vulnerable they are. The Federal Trade Commission found that nearly 10 million Americans were victimized by identity theft in 2002—an increase of 41 percent over the year before—at a cost to the U.S. economy of nearly $53 billion. According to newly released data from The Aberdeen Group, a market research firm, the worldwide cost of losses from identity theft to consumers, businesses, and government organizations in 2003 was expected to come to $221 billion. Worse yet, those losses are escalating at a jaw-dropping 300 percent compound annual growth rate, and could reach $2 trillion worldwide by the end of 2005.

Consider these recent news items:

- Investigators in Georgia served 80 arrest warrants in a scam where identities of dead people were stolen to bolster the credit ratings of car buyers.

- An inmate at the Tennessee Prison for Women, a University of Memphis basketball player, and six others allegedly used information obtained from prison data entry work to obtain merchandise, cash, and gift cards from various department stores.

- The father of four-month-old Wyatt McVay tried to open a savings account with the contents of Wyatt's piggy bank; the father's credit union informed him that more than a year earlier, an identity thief had used Wyatt's Social Security number to cash fraudulent checks. As a result the infant was unable to open a bank account. After some hemming and hawing, the Social Security Administration eventually agreed to issue Wyatt a new number.

In addition to the damage to their finances and reputation, victims often endure fear, anger, anxiety, and depression. Nor does the damage stop with the victim. Families and employers are also hit hard. Financial hardship, emotional turmoil, and the agonizing process of cleaning up the mess can take a heavy toll on family relationships and on workplace productivity.

Fraud experts distinguish between two main types of economic crime related to identity theft. Account takeover occurs when an identity thief acquires a person's existing credit or bank account information and uses the existing account to purchase products and services. The scam is generally first noticed with the arrival of a monthly bill or bank statement.

In the far more serious case of true identity theft, on the other hand, the perpetrator uses a victim's Social Security number (SSN) and other identifying information to fraudulently open new accounts, often using a false address to avoid detection by the victim. Victims often don't discover that someone has tried to assume their identity until long after the original crime has occurred. Because the victim may be unaware of true identity theft for an extended period of time, the ruse—and the damage to the victim's finances and reputation—may continue for months or even years, with victims' information often passed on from criminal to criminal on the global black market. In many cases, it's only when the victim's credit history is reviewed (in the course of a home purchase, for instance)—or when a defaulted creditor arrives to collect the unpaid fraudulent account—that the scam finally comes to light.

For many victims of identity theft, trying to erase the bogus debt and rebuild a good credit history becomes a prolonged struggle. They're shuffled from one government agency to another as they try to report and resolve the crime. Just when they think the nightmare is over, another charge pops up in their name, indicating that the perpetrator—or some new assailant—is still on the prowl.

One factor that makes cases of true identity theft especially intractable is the role that SSNs have assumed in our society. Used as a universal personal identifier for everything from

educational records to health insurance, SSNs are treated as proof of identity—and required, de facto or de jure, in almost any significant financial transaction, from receiving a credit card to filing federal taxes. Once issued, a person's SSN is nearly impossible to change. In those rare instances where the Social Security Administration relents, that person has a lifetime of explaining to do. Yet the very ubiquity of the SSN has made it notoriously easy to obtain. The resulting situation is something like leaving a house key under the doormat: the appearance of security combined with a very real vulnerability.

While SSNs provide an especially attractive target, identity thieves will make use of any information that helps them to impersonate a victim or provides access to a bank or credit card account. Stealing wallets and purses was once the most common way of obtaining SSNs, driver's licenses, credit card numbers, and other identifying information. Today, identity thieves attack virtually every area of an individual's life—wherever personal information is stored or sent. Among the currently favored methods:

- "Dumpster diving" in trash bins for credit card statements, loan applications, and other documents containing names, addresses, account information, and SSNs

- Stealing mail from unlocked mailboxes to get preapproved credit offers and newly issued credit cards, utility bills, bank and credit card statements, investment reports, insurance statements, benefits documents, or tax info

- Gaining fraudulent access to credit files by posing as a loan officer, employer, or landlord

- Getting names, addresses, birth dates, and SSNs from personnel or customer files in the workplace

- "Shoulder surfing" at ATM machines and phone booths to capture PIN numbers

- Culling personal data from online sources, such as public records and fee-based information sites

- Hacked databases, packet-sniffing technologies, and "phishing" e-mail scams

Stolen personal data travels fast. A global black market for identity data has emerged. The potential rewards for criminals vastly outweigh the risks—which may explain the increased involvement by organized crime in scams based on identity theft. The rapid evolution of digital technology and electronic communications—which enable the instantaneous proliferation of stolen personal data and fuel a constant mutation in the techniques available to scammers—have also contributed significantly to making identity theft a truly universal threat.

Defending Against Identity Theft

Established personal habits and lax credit industry practices make it relatively easy to commit this crime. Nonetheless, there's a lot you can do to reduce your risk. For starters, three things are essential:

- Scrutinize your credit report at least twice a year

- Sign up for a credit monitoring service

- Periodically check other personal records, such as your DMV file

That said, every potential target of identity theft—and that means anyone with a credit card, a bank account, a driver's license, or an SSN—should minimize his or her risk by following the five steps described below.

1. Know your personal information—and your vulnerabilities.

Your personal information is the key to proving that you are who you say you are. This makes it immensely valuable — and not just to you. Here are the pieces of data identity thieves covet most:

- Your SSN

- Your driver's license

- Your credit card information

- Your bank account information

- Your mother's maiden name

- Your home address and phone numbers

- Any other information that helps an imposter pretend to be you

Your SSN, in particular, is a prime target for criminals. Release it only when absolutely necessary. Don't carry your Social Security card unless it's truly required, such as your first day on a new job. Likewise, avoid carrying cards that display your SSN—health insurance cards, for instance—and never have it printed on your checks.

Your home address, in the wrong hands, can create two vulnerabilities: mail theft and burglaries that target your personal information. As for your mother's maiden name, people still accept it as proof of identity, so do your best to protect it.

2. Reduce your exposure.

Here's a checklist of specific areas where you can make your personal information less vulnerable:

- *Your wallet or purse.* Don't carry your Social Security card, birth certificate, passport, or extra credit cards except when truly necessary. At work, store your wallet or purse in a safe place.

- *Credit cards.* Minimize the number of cards you actively use, and carry only one or two in your wallet. Cancel unused accounts—their account numbers are recorded in your credit report, providing a tempting target. Keep a list or photocopies of your credit cards in a secure place to expedite reporting if they're lost or stolen.

- *Checks*. Pick new checks up at the bank instead of having them mailed to your home. If you have a post office box, use that address on your checks. Store canceled checks in a safe place. In the wrong hands, they can reveal a lot—your account number, your phone number, and sometimes your driver's license number.

- *Passwords and PINs.* When creating passwords and PINs (personal identification numbers), don't use the last four digits of your Social Security number, your mother's maiden name, your birth date, your pet's name, or anything else that could easily be discovered or guessed. Password-protect computer files containing sensitive personal data, using alphanumeric passwords that combine six to eight characters and mix uppercase and lowercase letters.

- **Marketing lists.** Remove your name from the marketing lists of the three credit reporting bureaus — Equifax, Experian, and Trans Union — by calling (888) 5-OPTOUT. Add your name to the National Do Not Call Registry. Sign up for the Direct Marketing Association's Mail Preference and Telephone Preference services, which will add you to name deletion lists used by nationwide marketers. Say no to sharing of your financial data by your bank, credit card companies, insurance companies, and investment firms.

- **Postal mail.** To deter mail theft, install a locked mailbox at your residence, or use a post office box or a commercial mailbox service. During extended absences, have mail held at the post office or ask a trusted neighbor to pick it up.

- **E-mail and websites.** Shop online only with companies that provide transaction security protection and have strong privacy and security policies. When paying with credit cards, be sure secure transmission and storage methods are used. Avoid opening spam and other e-mail from unknown sources—it may contain viruses or other programs that will make your computer vulnerable to intrusion.

- **Phone calls.** Never give out your SSN, credit card number, or other personal information over the phone, by mail, or on the Internet unless you have a trusted business relationship with the company and you have initiated the call.

- **Document storage.** Store personal information securely in your home, especially if you have roommates, employ outside help, or have service work done in your home. Install a firewall between your home computer and your connection to the Internet (DSL or cable modem). Install virus protection software—and keep it updated (daily if possible, and weekly at the bare minimum)—to prevent a worm or a virus from causing your computer to send out files or other stored information.

3. Make your data useless to criminals.

Whenever possible, digital data that you send or store should be encrypted. Document destruction is also critical. Trash is a prime target for identity thieves, so buy a crosscut or confetti shredder. Find out how your loan or credit applications are disposed of—some auto dealerships, department stores, car rental agencies, and video stores treat customer applications carelessly. Finally, before disposing of a computer, remove data by using a strong "wipe" utility program to scrub your hard drive.

4. Review your information regularly.

Order your credit reports twice a year to check for errors and fraudulent use of your accounts. Use credit monitoring to alert you to suspicious credit activity and possible fraud. Each month, carefully review credit card and bank statements and phone bills (including mobile phones) for

unauthorized use. Examine your Social Security Personal Earnings and Benefits Estimate Statement each year to check for fraud.

5. Act fast if trouble strikes.

If you are hit by identity theft, time is of the essence. Assess the situation—but do it quickly, preferably with the guidance of someone who knows this complex terrain and is committed to seeing you through the whole process. Then determine what needs to be done and begin reclaiming your identity.

These tips will be invaluable both for you and for your clients. But other issues related to identity theft may arise with respect to your practice. If you have staff, they are potential victims as well as potential perpetrators or enablers of identity theft. Database compromise, too, is a significant concern, especially in states such as California that mandate disclosure to affected parties of suspected, as well as actual, security breaches.

You, your clients, and your colleagues can all expect to face increased risk as the incidence of identity theft and related fraud continues to rise. Incidents of database compromise, too, will increase. Your clients will be looking to you for solutions. When they do, make sure you're ready.

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I Went to the Show(s)

By Jeffery Allen

Conventioneers at the 2003 COMDEX convention in Las Vegas, NV.

As both a technophile and a technologist (fancy words for people with an overactive geek gland), I love the late fall and early winter. What, you ask, could the seasons have to do with technology and my insatiable search for useful gadgetry, gizmos, and other electronic devices? Smiling to myself, I respond. Well, here's the story: It is the season of the Big Three computer and electronic shows.

Every November Las Vegas hosts COMDEX. Although COMDEX has fallen on hard times since the destruction of the World Trade Center and its impact on the economy in general and the travel industry in particular, it is still a significant event. COMDEX has historically been the gathering place for computer-related technology. Recently, it has narrowed that focus toward IT (information technology).

Every January, San Francisco hosts MacWorld. MacWord San Francisco is the biggest Mac event of the year. It is at MacWorld that Apple (and many other vendors) traditionally presents (or at least announces) new products and improvements to existing products. MacWorld has a somewhat different orientation than the other two shows as it seeks to attract the end user as its primary audience, while the others look for distributors, retailers, and other industry connections as well as media attendees.

The Consumer Electronics Show (CES) also occurs in January every year in Las Vegas. By far the biggest of the three now, CES attracts makers of all manners of electronics and related technology. At CES manufacturers show off their wares including computers, office machines, home theater equipment, and myriad communications devices ranging from wired and wireless telephone to radios and transmitters, digital cameras, video cameras, and so forth.

The interesting thing about these events is that by actively participating in them, you can learn about what products are available for purchase today as well as what products you can expect to see over the next few months and even years. For those of us with a relatively high geek quotient, the frustration runs high when we see some of the products in the pipeline (or already released in other markets, usually Asia) and have to live with the knowledge that we can't get them here in the United States now or in the foreseeable future.

I write this piece annually in order to respond to the many questions I get about what I saw that looked good at COMDEX/CES/MacWorld and to share with you my insights and observations about developing tech and electronic trends.

For those of you who have not yet fully wired your homes or offices for broadband Internet connections and networking in every room, take heart, you don't have to do that any more. The word I saw and heard most often this year was wireless. It seemed like everywhere I went vendors showed new wireless products. Wireless networking for home and office has taken off on the new, faster 802.11(g) standard. The 802.11(g) technology runs at a nominal speed of five times faster than the older 802.11(b) standard (54 as opposed to 11 megabits per second); unlike the similarly paced, but older 802.11(a), the (g) standard is backward compatible with 802.11(b) equipment. Equipment supporting the new (g) standard sells at the same price or sometimes even less than the older equipment sold for a year ago. The good news is that the equipment works reasonably well and is continually improving.

You can set up a completely wireless network in your house or office in just a few minutes. Moreover, the new standard provides solid security to protect your network from hackers. To make things even more interesting, within two weeks of the CES show, at least two vendors announced "ultra 'g'" connectivity, using adjacent channels to double the nominal rate of an 802.11(g) connection to 108 megabits per second. Although I have not yet had the opportunity to personally try the "g ultra" technology, I have talked with reliable sources who have reported that it does work at a noticeably faster speed than normal 802.11(g).

Do you have your surround sound home theater system installed yet? No, well, then do you at least have your house wired for it? No? Well, guess what? You don't need to wire your house for home theater any more. New versions of home theater systems provide wireless connectivity for the ultimate flexibility in locating your surround sound speakers. Your home theater won't be complete without a big screen HDTV. New offerings from major manufacturers include larger and less expensive LCD and plasma display screens. The price for plasma displays has dropped to less than half of what it was two years ago.

Another form of wireless connectivity also dominated the CES show. For the last few years the phenomenon known as "Bluetooth" has grown slowly but steadily. I have expected Bluetooth technology to take off big time, and it looks like this is the year when that will happen. I saw a tremendous number of Bluetooth devices at the show. Examples include Bluetooth keyboards, Bluetooth mice, Bluetooth-driven remote control units, Bluetooth connections to speakers, and Bluetooth headsets for all kinds of telephone configurations. For those of you not familiar with Bluetooth, it is a short-range wireless connectivity technology supporting connections among devices over approximately a 30-foot range.

Presentation technology continues to flourish and has reached the point of affordability for most attorneys. Just a couple of years ago you could not find a sub $5000, sub 5-pound projector that generated more than 1,100 lumens. Now you can find extremely small-footprint projectors costing less than $3,000, weighing three pounds or less, that produce 2,000 lumens. Projectors generating 3,000 lumens have also become readily available, but in somewhat larger configurations and weights. For a small office presentation under controlled lighting, a 1,000+ lumen projector should prove sufficient. For larger rooms and brighter lighting conditions, you will need more powerful projectors (more lumens). You should look at around 2,500-3,000 lumens for use in courtroom presentations to a jury.

As an added bonus, some of the newer projectors offer wireless connectivity as well. The wireless connection to your computer means that you don't have to worry about carrying a connection cord or about where to lay the cord so that people don't trip over it. It also means that you can have the projector in the location most convenient for projecting the image to the screen and your computer in the location most convenient to you. The location of the computer will no longer be subject to the limitations of the location of the projector and the length of the connecting cable.

Multifunction devices (printer/copier/scanner/fax combination machines) that once we eschewed as unreliable compromises that were too prone to break down have achieved higher quality and a much greater level of acceptance. The current crop of such devices looks to be much more dependable, faster, and more reasonably priced than earlier versions. Less expensive offerings appear well suited for home office and small office environments, while bigger and more powerful units will meet the needs of larger offices. Many of these units offer network connectivity to better enable them to work in office environments. Good news for attorneys working with Macintosh computers: these devices no longer work only with Windows. Several manufacturers have released multifunction devices that will work in a

network environment for both Windows and Mac users.

Color printing, once prohibitively expensive or (in the case of ink-jet printers) just too slow for most small firms and solo practitioners, has become faster, better, and more reasonably priced. You have many choices of color ink-jet printers at very reasonable costs (ranging from "free after rebate" when packaged with a new computer purchase to much more, depending on the quality and features). Color at a reasonable cost is no longer limited to ink jet printers, however. Xerox uses a hard ink technology that works exceptionally well in its Phaser printers. My personal experience with one of the networkable Phaser printers has been delightful: rapid production, good quality color, and reliability. At not too much more, you can also find color laser printers.

Computers continue to get smaller, lighter, more connectable, more powerful, and less expensive. Look for more and more emphasis on the laptop and tablet varieties as desktop computers become more and more easily replaceable.

Digital photography has all but taken over the field. Many manufacturers now offer a plethora of choices for the digital photographer. Cameras continue to get more powerful and less expensive. Newer consumer and amateur models have broken the 6 megapixel barrier and sell for under $1,000. Video cameras also have improved with new offerings including the ability to record directly to a DVD disk or in a new Mpeg 4 mode onto flash memory cards in very small units that easily fit into a shirt pocket and produce quite acceptable video (although not as good as mini-DV recorders).

Music continues to become more portable with newer, bigger, and better MP3 players. Pictures join the party along with video through new pocketable offerings of hard drive-based portable devices (usually in the 20-30 GB range) that display still pictures or video images on integral LCD screens.

There was much more to see at the shows, but I have already run out of space . . .

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Tech**Notes**

Trends in Technology

By J. Anthony Vittal

Power for the Road Warrior

You're on the road again, equipped to conduct ongoing business for the office, present a CLE program with computerized slide presentation, and attend meetings, with a traveling office strapped to your back. Notebook computer with wireless network (WiFi) adapter card, AC power supply with transformer brick, and two onboard batteries to help feed the gluttonous craving for power of the WiFi card when running off the power grid and to power your notebook while flying to and from your destinations. Cellular telephone with AC charger. Wireless PDA with AC charger. Collectively heavy and bulky. By the time you arrive home, you feel as if you have trekked across the Southwest as a rented mule instead of a tech-savvy lawyer. New technology, however, offers you helpful solutions to lighten or redistribute your load.

Portable Power Sources

With the advent of lithium ion polymer battery technology, affording relatively lightweight thin-cell power sources, our devices no longer need to be tied to power cords to operate beyond the capacity of their onboard batteries.

Electrovaya, Inc. (www.electrovaya.com), is a Toronto-based manufacturer and marketer of advanced, high-energy, rechargeable batteries based on its patented lithium ion SuperPolymer™ technology. This technology provides the highest lithium ion polymer storage capacity in the industry, at 470 Watt/hours per liter. Electrovaya has applied this technology to several product lines, including its line of PowerPad external notebook batteries. The most powerful of them, the PowerPad 160 (MSRP $479.00), provides up to 160 Watt/hours of power, at 15–20 Volts, in a 3/8" thin package slightly larger than a sheet of letterhead, weighing just 2.4 pounds. This translates to 12–16 hours of additional run time for your notebook computer. The PowerPad 160 will recharge to 80% of capacity in four hours, with another hour needed to fully recharge. Imagine being able to work without interruption, with no power cord, for a transoceanic flight, or a day at the beach!

The only disadvantage to the PowerPads is their limitation to powering notebook computers. If you want to run your notebook computer and simultaneously provide auxiliary power to a handheld device like a mobile phone, Valence Technology, Inc. (www.valence.com), headquartered in Austin, Texas, offers its N-Charge™ Power System devices, also using lithium ion polymer battery technology. The Valence VNC-130 (MSRP $299.00) provides up to 130 Watt/hours of power in a half-inch thick package measuring 9.06 x 11.81 inches, weighing 3 pounds and offering up to 10 hours of additional run time for your notebook computer. The N-Charge™ devices also provide a low-power DC output, at 5-12 Volts, enabling you to simultaneously recharge or power a handheld device such as a mobile phone.

Over time, as costs come down, we are likely to see lithium ion polymer battery technology incorporated directly into our equipment. Until then, these auxiliary power devices offer the best solution to our need for additional unconnected run time.

Universal Power Supply

Mobility Electronics, Inc., has developed the iGo® line of universal power supplies to enable you to leave your multiple device chargers behind when you are on the road. While the iGo® Ice (AC only) and PowerXtender (DC only for autos and commercial aircraft) devices have their uses, the most versatile is the iGo® Juice combination AC and auto/air power adapter. Weighing less than half a pound, the iGo® Juice can draw power from an AC wall plug, an automobile cigarette lighter or auxiliary power outlet, or the power outlet at your seat on a plane, to generate up to 70 watts of continuous power output to simultaneously power your notebook computer and, using a separate Peripheral Powering System (PPS) cable, charge a handheld device such as a PDA or mobile phone. Using interchangeable tips on its notebook input cord, the iGo® Juice (MSRP $119.99) comes with an interface for the optional PPS cables, an Auto/Air connection cord, a standard wall outlet power cord, and a carrying case, and will interface with most notebook computers. The PPS cables (MSRP $29.99) are unique to each handheld device you wish to charge, necessitating one for each device. If you don't need auxiliary battery power, this solution will at least lighten your load.

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MacNotes

By Jeffrey Allen

This issue's MacNotes column focuses on having fun. One of the joys of owning a Macintosh computer for work is the entertainment it can provide both after and during office hours (c'mon folks, you all know that you take a few minutes of personal R&R time during a busy and hectic workday). We have known about the graphics and musical capabilities of Macintosh computers for some time. Apple has now expanded those capabilities through a combination of new hardware and software at extremely reasonable prices.

During his Keynote address at MacWorld early in January, Steve Jobs introduced iLife '04 to the world. Describing it as "Microsoft Office for the rest of your life," Jobs impressed virtually everyone in the standing-room-only auditorium at the Moscone Convention Center in San Francisco.

Apple introduced the original iLife package about a year ago. In the package, Apple included several programs that it had already made available without cost to Mac purchasers, upgrading some and augmenting the package with new software. The package included iPhoto for managing digital photographs; iTunes, the whiz-bang program created by Apple to handle your music, regardless of source, and the doorway to the online 24/7 iTunes store opened by Apple; and finally the iMovie application, which provided would-be videographers and moviemakers with a reasonable and competent video editor. At $49, iLife represented an incredible value. But improvements and additions have been made in the latest version of the software.

GarageBand. As good a value as the original was, the '04 version of iLife offers a much better value. In addition to all the original programs (several of which Apple again upgraded), Apple added a new program to the mix, GarageBand. Simply put, GarageBand can make you look like a talented composer, even if you can't read music.

Jobs wowed the Apple faithful at MacWorld as he used GarageBand to seemingly effortlessly weave together a composition out of a combination of prerecorded music, a live guitarist, and a MacIntosh. Jobs was assisted by a fairly decent USB musical keyboard that Apple sells for $99 (Apple does not require that you use their musical keyboard: almost any USB keyboard will do).

Musical loops serve as the basic building block in GarageBand. The program comes with a library of about 1,000 loops. You can drag and drop the loops into the GarageBand window to create a new track. You can then modify the track by changing its duration, tempo, and key. You can build a composition by adding additional loops. Apple also sells a supplemental library of 2,000 loops for $99 as the GarageBand Jam Pack. The Jam Pack also includes another 100 software instruments and additional presets and amplifier configurations, further expanding GarageBand's already substantial capabilities.

You can augment the musical loops with music created by you on software instruments that you can play through a software keyboard that appears on screen (or better, through the use of the USB keyboard referred to above). You can also add music from other prerecorded and live sources.

GarageBand will mix all the tracks down to a stereo AIFF file (full CD quality). You can export the finished composition to iTunes (Apple's music management program, also included in iLife '04) for inclusion in your computer music library and subsequent exportation to your MP3 or AAC format player, or to a CD.

iTunes 4.2. The new version of iTunes sets the program up to work well with the new iPod Mini as well as the traditional iPods. If your music library exceeds the capacity of your iPod or iPod Mini, iTunes will now prioritize to ensure that the portion of the library synched and downloaded to the iPod includes your play list songs, your most played songs and your top rated songs.

iPhoto 4. Apple substantially improved its iPhoto software, releasing it as iPhoto 4. iPhoto 4 increases the program's capacity to handle photographs numbering up to 25,000. The new version handles the photographs more quickly, more easily, and more efficiently than its predecessor versions. It also adds a new sepia effect to enhance presentation and an increased facility for exchange with others through Rendezvous.

iMovie 4. iMovie 4 now allows editing in timeline form. It also allows simultaneous application of effects and transitions to multiple clips. Apple has substantially improved the program's editing capabilities as well. Additional improvements/features include new export options for your finished movie, new titling capabilities and the ability to import movie clips from Apple's iSight camera.

iDVD 4. Apple has added new themes to iDVD 4 as well as a number of new transition effects. The new version also includes new navigation tools. You can also incorporate an autoplay feature into movies or slide shows recorded to DVD.

And On Another Subject: Microsoft has announced that it plans to release Office 2004 for the Mac later this year. The new release will work only on System X and will require OS 10.2.8 or higher. It violates the newsletter's policy to review an unreleased product. Accordingly, I will not review it here—I will simply pass along the fact that the preliminary information that has been made available to and through the media promises an expanded, better integrated, more powerful, and more sophisticated package of programs than Office X and should bring the Mac version of the suite to substantial parity (if not, in some cases, outright superiority) over the current Windows version of the suite.

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ProductNotes

By the Editorial Staff (Edited by Jeffrey Allen)

A Potpouri of Hot Products for Lawyers on the Go

● No travel kit should be considered complete without a collection of Zip-Linq retractable cables. Zip-Linq cables retract to a small key-chain-sized unit and extend at varying lengths to as much as 48". Cable choices include a variety of USB connections, 4 and 6 pin FireWire cables, telephone jack (modem) cables, Ethernet (Cat 5) cables, and PDA synch cables. Zip-Linq offers power cables and connectors to charge PDAs and mobile telephones. For special values, look at their travel kits, which include an assortment of cables and a USB, travel mouse, or power connections and cables for a variety of mobile phones. Check it out at www.ziplinq.com. Available at computer and office supply stores. Don't leave home without them.

- No matter what portable devices you use, you will want to add e-grips to them. eGrips are a self adhesive-backed decorative non-slip material that enhances the appearance of your device while making it less likely that it will slip out of your hands or off a table or wherever else you place it. Prices vary by device, but all are under $11. www.egrips.com.

- Satellite radio is a relatively new phenomenon. There are two major suppliers of programming, XM (www.xmradio.com) and Sirius (www.sirius.com). Both are by subscription (cost is about $11-14/month). Receivers are source-specific, so check out the programming before making your decision. The programming is similar between the suppliers, but there are some differences. Satellite radio gives you around 100+ stations with limited or no commercial interruptions. Reception in open areas is very good. Signal loss inside of tunnels, garages, and so forth can result in loss of sound until the signal is restored. Available in configurations for home/office, auto, and boom box. An excellent choice for your office, home, or car.

- The Delphi All-In-One CD Audio System is the industry's first all in one, self-contained boom box with an XM SKYFi receiver dock on one side and an AM/FM radio/CD player/MP3 player on the other. The SKYFI receiver ($129.95) is a portable XM Radio receiver that allows existing car or home stereo systems to receive XM Satellite Radio's digital radio programming, coast-to-coast. SKYFi's small, sleek design combined with Home or Vehicle Adaptor Kits ($69.99) or the SKYFi Audio System (boom box) allows you to take XM with you wherever you go. In open areas the sound quality and reception both proved quite good. The Audio System works on 6 D-cell batteries or a supplied AC connection. www.delphi.com

- Innergy extended power external batteries for PDAs and laptop computers. A variety of adapter tips make the laptop battery compatible with a wide variety of computers. PDA batteries come with a leather Targus case for the battery and PDA. These batteries offer a good answer for travelers on long flights or PDA users making extensive use of Bluetooth and/or WiFi connectivity. PDA batteries start at $59 depending on power. Computer batteries cost $99. With the proper adapter, the laptop battery can also power DVD players, cell phones, and other devices. Actual length of operation will depend on the device used and on the nature of the use. www.pwrplant.com.

- Need a case for your electronic gadgetry? Check out the collection from Waterfield (www.sfbags.com). Among the notably excellent are their iSight and iPod travel cases and the combination iPod/inMotion case. Well made, just the right size, all the pieces have places, well padded and attractive.

- Don't feel like carrying a large computer bag? Want to pack your computer in a suitcase or a briefcase? Booq makes exceptional computer sleeves with straps. Put the strap on and use it as a small computer bag. With or without the strap, it is a competent and protective sleeve. Made for Macintosh PowerBooks and iBooks, the sleeves fit all similarly sized computers. $34.95; www.booqbags.com.

- Apple Computer's iPod ($299–499): a slick package and a solid product. A hard-drive-based MP3 player and more in shirt-pocket size available for the Mac OS and for Windows in 15, 20, and 40 Gb sizes. www.apple.com.

- Griffin Technologies makes several iPod accessories. iTrip ($35) FM transmitter allows you to play iPods through any FM radio or car stereo system without wires. Powered by the iPod, no batteries required. Well designed to match your iPod. Griffin Technologies' PowerPod ($24.99) provides DC power connectivity to all iPods. Talk about "plug 'n play…. www.griffintechnology.com

- Belkin also makes useful iPod accessories. Go to www.belkin.com and check out the Backup Battery pack ($69.99) that provides 15-20 hours of playing time for iPods; also check out their Voice Recorder ($59.95) enabling you to use the iPod to record memoranda, lectures, meetings, and so forth. Belkin also has a DC adapter and an FM transmitter for the iPod.

- Altec Lansing's inMotion is a cleverly designed external speaker system that folds up into a very portable unit and opens to hold the iPod. Thanks, in part to its MaxxBass technology, the inMotion provides good sound considering its compactness. Battery or AC power; $149 list. www.alteclansing.com.

Neither the ABA nor ABA Sections endorse non-ABA products or services, and the product reviews in the Technology eReport *should not be so construed.*

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Section**Notes**

In This Issue's Section News:

- 2004 Spring Meeting – Sun, Golf, and a True American Hero

- NEW! GPSolo Young Lawyers Page (please bookmark!)

- New Book! *Letters for Litigators*

- 2004 Annual Meeting—Solo Day and Section Passport Information

- *GPSolo Technology and Practice Guide Magazine*—How to Set Up a Law Office

- GPSolo Section Member Discount for ABA TECHSHOW ®

Save the Date: 2004 GPSolo Section Spring Meeting

ABA GPSolo Section Chair William Hogan invites you to join us for what will truly be a most memorable meeting from April 21–25, at the Gold Canyon Golf Resort located at the foothills

of the Superstition Mountains outside of sunny Phoenix, Arizona. **The Section will be presenting our Lifetime Achievement—Difference Maker Award to the esteemed General E. E. Anderson.** In addition to the **gala dinner** on Friday to fete our award winner, the Section will be holding numerous **committee meetings** as well as hosting a **golf tournament.** You won't want to miss out on all the fun!

(Did we mention most of the rooms at the Resort have their own hot tubs and that the Resort's golf course was rated as the No. 1 public golf course in Arizona? Rooms/casitas start at $122!)

For more information on this meeting, please visit :
www.abanet.org/genpractice/events/04spring/index.html

GPSolo Section Young Lawyers Page

Judge Jennifer Rymell, Chair of the Section's Young Lawyers Committee, invites you to visit the Section's newest resource for our young lawyers. Our **Young Lawyers Welcome Page** provides a wealth of resources at your fingertips . . . from finding out more about the Section's benefits, to highlighting recent *New Lawyer* articles, to providing book suggestions on topics relevant to your level of practice.

Please visit the Young Lawyers Page at
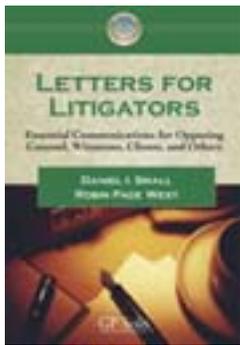www.abanet.org/genpractice/younglawyers/index.html

And don't forget to bookmark the page!

Hot Off the Presses . . .

Letters for Litigators **NEW!**
Essential Communications for Opposing Counsel, Witnesses, Clients, and Others
Daniel I. Small and Robin Page West

Save time and simplify your office routine! This publication includes numerous letters that can help simplify the task of communicating with opposing counsel, witnesses, clients, the court, and others. As an added benefit, all letters contained in the book are also included on CD-ROM.

As electronic communication via quick e-mails and voicemail becomes the norm, and paper letters the exception, it becomes increasingly important not to lose sight of the importance of documenting the file and maintaining a professional tone. These letters simplify and expedite this effort, whether they are sent in paper form or via e-mail. Don't reinvent the wheel. Start with these letters instead.

238 pages + CD-ROM
Regular price $80.00
General Practice Solo & Small Firm Section Member $65.00
Product Code 5150290
ISBN: 1-59031-267-8
Order Now!

2004 Atlanta Annual Meeting Passport and Solo Day Information
ABA 2004 Annual Meeting
August 5–8, 2004
Omni Hotel at CNN Center, **Atlanta, Georgia**

The GP|Solo Section is pleased to announce the availability of Section Passports!

Passports include admission the Section's Friday CLE programs as well as to all LPM and Litigation Section CLE programs at no additional cost! *(Admission to Solo Day excluded.)*

PASSPORT PRICES
$150 for Section Members
$175 for non-Section members
$100 YLD, Govt., and Judges
$0 Law students

While in Atlanta Be Sure Not to Miss…

Solo Day 2004—"We Are a Team": 99 Tips for Maximizing Your Potential
Featuring three educational sessions:

- Go TEAM!!!! Marketing for Solos

- How to Avoid Trouble: Making Your Malpractice Carrier Part of Your Team

- Slippery Slope or Innovative Idea? Teaming With Other Attorneys WITHOUT Losing Your Clients

Solo Day attendees will receive a copy of *"We Are a Team": 99 Tips for Maximizing Your Potential* (a list of 99 of the best tips from the Solo Day Program).
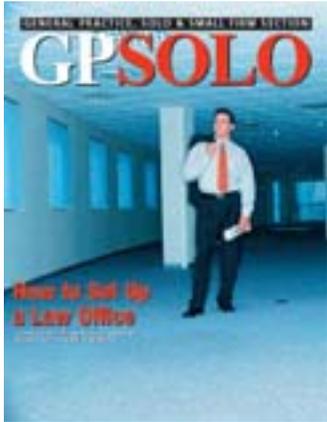
Price Information
$125.00 includes copy of Thomas Kane's *Letters for Lawyers*
$ 75.00 without the book

For more information on registering for the meeting and purchasing Passports or Event Tickets please visit: www.abanet.org/genpractice/home.html

GPSolo Technology and Practice Guide December 03 Issue:
How to Set Up a Law Office

The December issue of the *GPSolo Technology & Practice Guide is* now online. The topic is "How to Set Up a Law Office." From Jim Calloway and Ellen Freedman's article on "The Planning Phase" to David L. Master's article on "Setting Up the Paperless Office," this issue will advise you step-by-step on how to get started. This issue also provides recommendations on what kind of hardware and software products are best suited for your needs (and budget!)

Section Members Get a Discount for ABA TechShow® !

ABA TECHSHOW ®
March 25–27, 2004
Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers, Chicago, IL

Offers more than 50 education sessions in eight different tracks and a two-day expo featuring the latest cutting-edge technology.

General Practice members using program promoter code PP25 receive an additional $100 off!

General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Section

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