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BUSINESS



Apple Unveils New, Cheaper MacBook Air With Faster Processor, Longer Battery Life



The new MacBook air models unveiled today by Apple. *Credit: (Apple)*

By Matt Rocheleau

Boston.com Staff

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Apple Inc. released a new, cheaper version of its MacBook Air that the company said is faster and has longer battery life.

The starting price for a MacBook Air dropped \$100 to \$899, the company

announced.

That cheapest model features a screen that measures about 11 inches diagonally, a 1.4 GHz fourth generation Intel Core i5 processor with Turbo Boost speeds up to 2.7 GHz, 4GB of memory and 128GB of flash storage, the company said. An 11-inch MacBook Air with 256GB of flash storage starts at \$1,099.



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*Based on avg. fleet-wide seat pitch of U.S. airlines.

A 13-inch MacBook Air with 128GB of storage starts at \$999, and a 13-inch version with 256GB of flash storage starts at \$1,199, Apple said.

Customizable upgrades can be added, including a 1.7 GHz Intel Core i7 processor with Turbo Boost speeds up to 3.3 GHz, up to 8GB of memory and up to 512GB flash storage.

Both the 11-inch and 13-inch models have two more hours of battery life than their predecessors when used for wireless web access, according to Apple. The 11-inch model has up to 9 hours of battery life and the 13-inch models have up to 12 hours of battery life.

“With MacBook Air starting at \$899, there’s no reason to settle for anything less than a Mac,” said a statement from Philip Schiller, Apple’s senior vice president of Worldwide Marketing. “Macs have never been more popular, and today we’ve boosted the performance and lowered the price of MacBook Air so even more people can experience the perfect everyday notebook.”

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Holder: Subtle Racism Worse Than Bigoted Outbursts



Attorney General Eric Holder says subtle, institutionalized racism has a more “pernicious” effect than the occasional bigoted outburst.

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Harvard Prof. Henry Louis Gates Gets Unreal Housing Perks From NYU

Harvard University professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr.’s side gig as a consultant to New York University has apparently won him some enviable New York City housing benefits.

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Three Injured in Fitchburg Shooting



Three people were shot at KC’s Pub on River Street in Fitchburg after midnight Saturday, NECN reports.

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Boston Celtics Owners Invest in Skateboard League



There might not be many obvious similarities between high-tech electric car racing and some dude in a hoodie riding a skateboard.

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BDC Now - Weekend Event Picks

Looking for something to do this weekend? Check out some events that include plenty of wine, a chance to meet some Red Sox players, a burger bash, and more. Watch BDC Weekend with Jenny Johnson.



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US Ordered Not to Force Feed Guantanamo Prisoner



A federal judge in Washington ordered the U.S. military on Friday to at least temporarily stop force-feeding a hunger striking prisoner at the Guantanamo Bay naval base.

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Genetically Modified Foods Confuse Consumers

Genetically modified foods have been around for years, but most people in the United States have no idea if they are eating them.

Food and dining  2 hours ago  Share

Vt. Sex Offender Faces Sentencing in Niece's Killing



A convicted sex offender who killed his 12-year-old niece after luring her to his house with a ruse about a pool party is due to be formally sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.

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Hike with Caution at White Mountains

Campgrounds in New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest are open, but the Forest Service is warning people that some areas still have snow, and spring melt-off can lead to some slippery footing.

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Will Connecticut Schools Ban Chocolate Milk?

Connecticut lawmakers moved forward this week on a new nutrition bill that





could remove chocolate milk from public schools.

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Lacrosse Team Honors Fallen Officer and Coach



The girls lacrosse team at Exeter High School is honoring their late coach Stephen Arkell, a New Hampshire police officer who was killed in the line of duty.

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Celebrating 10 Years of Gay Marriage

On May 17, 2004, Massachusetts offered the first marriage licenses to same-sex couples. We asked five couples to talk about what they've learned about themselves and their relationships over the past decade.

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10 Parting Shots at SNL Heading Into The Season Finale

Here are "10 Parting Shots at SNL" as the show's 39th season comes to a close Saturday night with Andy Samberg as host.

Obnoxious Boston Fan  3 hours ago  Share

Environmentalists in Portland Oppose Tar Sands Oil

Environmentalists will rally at the Deering Oaks Park bandshell in Portland to oppose the Keystone XL oil pipeline and the shipping of tar sands oil through Maine.

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Broke Beats: F.Stokes – 'Liquor Sto' Diaries'



Broke Beats is BDCwire's open-source hip-hop column. Every Saturday, we showcase the best new albums, EPs, and mixtapes available for free stream or download. The Midwest has long been a stronghold for spirited rappers and producers who haven't quite pierced the East Coast market. F.Stokes is among the most fearless of these artists, and the... [Read more »](#)

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Oprah's Network Postpones Sam Documentary


The planned documentary by the Oprah Winfrey Network on Michael Sam, the NFL's first openly gay player, has been postponed.

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Woman Falls Down Elevator Shaft at Fenway Park

A 22-year-old woman is hospitalized after falling down an elevator shaft at Fenway Park Friday during a Red Sox game, according to the Boston Fire Department.

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Obama, Congress Move to Address Veterans Affairs



Firestorm



The Obama administration and Congress are moving quickly to respond to a growing political firestorm over allegations of treatment delays and falsified records at veterans hospitals nationwide.

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Conn. Exhibit Looks at Benedict Arnold as Hero

A new exhibit on display at the Slater Memorial Museum is the latest effort to bring heightened visibility to a subject Norwich has deliberately ignored for centuries.

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Testing Inconclusive, Suspected Bobcat Returned

A judge has returned a 38-pound feline to a New Jersey woman after DNA testing couldn't conclusively say whether it was a purebred bobcat.

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Clearing This Afternoon with Sunshine for Sunday

Weather Wisdom  6 hours ago  Share



Nissan's Taxi of Tomorrow Hoping for a Fare Future

Members of the New England Motor Press Association had the dual experiences of driving and riding in this Taxi of Tomorrow when Nissan brought a pair of the hackney versions of its NV200 van to town.



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Teen's Arm Reattached After Pasta Accident





Four surgeries later, 17-year-old Brett Bouchard can move his arm after it was severed below the elbow.

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Red Sox Fall to Tigers, 1-0, Back Under .500

The loss drops the Sox back below .500, at 20-21, and 10-12 at home.

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North Reading Man Busted Allegedly Selling Drugs Out of Restaurant

Richard "Ricky" Ward faces a number of drug charges following a six-month investigation by police.

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