

# Take Control

## of Syncing in Tiger

by Michael E. Cohen

### Table of Contents (1.2)

Read Me First.....	2
Introduction.....	5
Quick Start to Syncing .....	6
A Briefing on Syncing.....	7
What You Can Sync .....	15
Connect Your Gear .....	22
Sync an Apple Device with iTunes .....	39
Sync a Handheld Device with iSync .....	67
Sync Another Mac with .Mac .....	76
The Conflict Resolver .....	111
Sync with Third-Party Software.....	113
Lost in Translation.....	132
Synchronize Yourself .....	137
Appendix A: A Shot at Troubleshooting .....	140
About This Book .....	149



This is a free sample of "Take Control of Syncing in Tiger."  
[Click here to buy the full 154-page ebook for only \\$10!](#)

## READ ME FIRST

Welcome to *Take Control of Syncing in Tiger*, version 1.2.

This book explains how Tiger “thinks about” syncing, and shows you how to take advantage of its syncing capabilities, and how to go beyond them when they fall short. It was written by Michael E. Cohen (with an assist from the Digital Medievalist), edited by Don Sellers, and published by TidBITS Publishing Inc.

Copyright © 2007, Michael E. Cohen. All rights reserved.

The price of this ebook is \$10. If you want to share it with a friend, please do so as you would a physical book. [Click here](#) to give your friend a discount coupon. [Discounted classroom copies](#) are also available.

### Basics

In reading this book, you may get stuck if you don’t know certain basic facts about syncing or if you don’t understand Take Control syntax for things like working with menus or finding items in the Finder. Please note the following:

- **Menus:** When I describe choosing a command from a menu in the menu bar, I use an abbreviated description. For example, the abbreviated description for the menu command that backs up your Address Book contacts is “File > Backup Address Book.”
- **Path syntax:** I occasionally use a *path* to show the location of a file or folder in your file system. Path text is formatted in bold type. For example, Tiger stores most utilities, such as Calculator, in the Utilities folder. The path to Calculator is: **/Applications/Utilities/Calculator**. The slash at the beginning of the path tells you to start from the root level of the disk.

You will also encounter paths that begin with ~ (tilde), which is a shortcut for starting the path at a user’s home directory. For example, if a person with the user name **joe** wants to install iSync mobile phone plug-ins that only he can access, he would install the plug-in files in his **~/Library/PhonePlugins** folder, which is another way of writing **/Users/joe/Library/PhonePlugins**.

- **Finding the .Mac sync preferences:** Some of the sync settings in Tiger have moved from the iSync application to a pane in the .Mac preferences in System Preferences. To access the .Mac sync preferences:
  1. Open System Preferences. You can use the Dock icon or choose it from the Apple menu.
  2. In the System Preferences window, click the .Mac icon (located in the Internet & Network group).
  3. In the .Mac preference pane, click the Sync tab.
- **Variable control labels:** Some of the labels that appear in windows and on menus have variations that depend on context. For example, the Conflict Resolver has a checkbox that may say Resolve All Similar Conflicts Using .Mac if you click an item from .Mac, or it may say Resolve All Similar Conflicts Using Address Book if you click an item from your Address Book. When I discuss such items I indicate the variable part with italic formatting, like this: Resolve All Similar Conflicts Using *source name*.

## What's New in Version 1.2

This version adds coverage of the Apple TV and the iPhone, as well as providing some incidental updating of material that has changed since the last update. Here are the most important changes:

- The *Sync an iPod with iTunes* section has morphed into [Sync an Apple Device with iTunes](#) (p. 39) and has been almost completely rewritten to include Apple TV and iPhone syncing; it also updates some iPod syncing information.
- [What You Can Sync](#) (p. 15) discusses how the Apple TV and the iPhone fit into Apple's syncing paradigm.
- I added a sidebar, [Shuffling Your Shuffle](#) (p. 49), that describes the iPod shuffle autofill function.
- **Table 3** has been revised to incorporate the most recently added iSync-compatible phones (p. 20).
- [Connect Your Gear](#) (p. 22) now includes a detailed description of how to connect an Apple TV over a local network. The section also contains new iPhone-related connection information.

## What Was New in Version 1.1

This version covered the extensive changes to iPod syncing that iTunes 7 delivers. I also took the opportunity to provide a few other enhancements to the text. Here are the highlights:

- The *Sync an iPod with iTunes* section was completely rewritten. (The section is now called [Sync an Apple Device with iTunes](#), p. 39.)
- **Table 3** was updated to list more iSync-compatible phones (p. 20).
- A new [sidebar](#) (p. 125) discusses how *packages*—that is, folders that look and act like files—can affect some syncing operations.

## INTRODUCTION

“That syncing feeling.” “I’m syncing in the rain.” “Everything but the kitchen sync.” “Sync-le white female.” Through the course of writing this book, I have heard almost every single pun on the word “sync” that could be made from people I *once* considered friends.

But after the ritual *punishment* that inevitably ensues when I tell someone I’ve been writing about syncing, I’m usually asked, “What *is* syncing, anyway?”

I have three answers.

The shortest answer is this: syncing is a technological solution to that age-old question, “How can you be in two places at once?” This answer usually evokes a glazed uncomprehending stare—it’s the answer I use to retaliate for the worst puns.

A slightly longer answer goes something like this: “You know your Mac’s Address Book? Wouldn’t you love to have all those addresses and phone numbers on your mobile phone? Oh, you’ve done that? Well, then, you already know something about syncing.” This answer usually elicits a self-congratulatory nod. Once I have my listener hooked, I talk about how adding phone numbers and contacts on the phone and moving them back to Address Book, and I tell them about syncing calendars, too, and then I say, “Oh, and you have a desktop and a laptop Mac, too, right? You know, you can sync them, too—not just your phone book and your calendar, but your bookmarks, and your Mac’s keychains, and bunch of other stuff.” This goes over pretty well, because I stop before I get all geeky on them.

But the most complete answer I can give to this question is the one you just downloaded (or are holding in your hands): this book. In it, I explain how syncing works in Tiger, cover how you can sync your shiny devices—your iPods, your iPhones, your Apple TVs, your mobile phones, your PDAs, and your Macs—and describe the software you use to do that syncing. I also tell you how to solve the occasional syncing conflict, and suggest ways you can integrate syncing into your daily computing life. In short, my goal is that this book help *you* take control of syncing.

But please don’t send me your favorite syncing pun. I’ve heard it.

## QUICK START TO SYNCING

Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger provides great synchronizing capabilities to help you share your information among different devices—unfortunately, to a casual observer those capabilities may seem to be confusingly scattered all over. In fact, though, there's order in the chaos: to take control of syncing you need to understand only a few simple concepts, make a decision or two, and, usually, follow a few short steps.

### Understand what syncing is:

- Learn the basic syncing concepts with [A Briefing on Syncing](#) (p. 7).
- Check out [The Elements of Syncing](#) (p. 11) to get a Tiger's eye view of what syncing is all about.
- Know the difference between syncing and backups. See [Syncing vs. Backups](#) (p. 13).

### Get your stuff together:

- Find out [The Information You Can Sync](#) (p. 16), and decide what you want to sync.
- Decide which of [The Devices You Can Sync](#) (p. 17) that you'll be syncing, and then [Connect Your Gear](#) (p. 22).

### Get synced:

- If you have an iPod, an iPhone, or an Apple TV, see [Sync an Apple Device with iTunes](#) (p. 39).
- If you use a PDA or mobile phone, [Sync a Handheld Device with iSync](#) (p. 67) is where you want to go.
- Have two or more Macs? [Sync Another Mac with .Mac](#) (p. 76) tells you how to get your information on all of them.
- If none of Tiger's tools and talents quite meet your syncing needs, you can always [Sync with Third-Party Software](#) (p. 113).

### Avoid trouble:

- Sidestep conflicts with [The Conflict Resolver](#) (p. 111), learn techniques that might keep your data from getting [Lost in Translation](#) (p. 132), and, if necessary, take [A Shot at Troubleshooting](#) (p. 140).
- Finally, develop syncing strategies for staying up-to-date by learning how to [Synchronize Yourself](#) (p. 137).

## A BRIEFING ON SYNCING

The idea behind *synchronizing*, or *syncing*, is simple: take information you collect on one device, like the calendars and contact lists you keep on your laptop or mobile phone, and combine it with similar information on other devices, like your desktop Mac or your iPhone, so that the two sets of information match.

Though the idea behind syncing may be simple, putting syncing into practice requires coming up with reliable solutions to some knotty problems. Here are the biggies:

- How do you get the information from one device to another?
- How can you guarantee that the most recently changed pieces of information replace the outdated ones?
- How do you resolve conflicts when the same pieces of information are changed in different ways on different devices?
- How do you translate between the internal storage formats that different devices may use for the information you want to sync?

All tough questions, but questions you don't have to answer because the developers who create syncing applications already have—in fact, Apple itself has answered those questions several times in several ways over the last few years.

The answers that Apple came up with in Tiger, and the path they took to get there, can help you better understand how syncing works (the first step in taking control of syncing), whether Apple or a third-party developer supplies the solution you end up using to meet your syncing needs.

### Apple Syncing's Evolution

Apple's first stab at a syncing solution came in 2002, in the form of iSync for Jaguar, a one-stop syncing solution for portable devices and Macs. Apple designed iSync to work with Jaguar's new personal information applications—iCal and Address Book—providing an easy way for Mac users to sync calendar and contact information with other Macs (via Apple's .Mac online subscription service) and with mobile phones, PDAs, and iPods.

## WHAT YOU CAN SYNC

When you want to start syncing, you must consider both the kinds of information you want to sync and the devices between which you want to sync.

### The Information You Can Sync

As [The Elements of Syncing](#) points out, the information you can sync falls into one of two types: structured information and files.

Structured information is what Tiger's sync engine was created to handle. **Table 1** lists this structured information, along with some of the applications on your Mac that can host it. When you sync the kinds of information shown in **Table 1**, whether you use a built-in Tiger application or a third-party program, chances are good that that information passes through the Tiger sync engine.

Table 1: Structured Information and Tiger's Sync Engine	
Type	Hosting Applications
Bookmarks	Safari
Calendar/Appointments	iCal, Entourage, SOHO Organizer
Contacts	Address Book, Entourage, SOHO Organizer
Email settings	Mail (only mail rules, accounts, and smart mailboxes)
Keychains	Keychain Access
Notes, clippings, PDFs, Web archives, and URLs	NetNewsWire, Yojimbo, Entourage notes

Syncing files requires a different set of techniques than those offered by the Tiger sync engine. **Table 2** provides some notes about various file types you can sync.

## CONNECT YOUR GEAR

Knowing what you can sync, as described in the previous section, is not enough, of course: you have to know how to hook things up so you *can* sync. Whether you want to sync your Mac with an iPhone, a PDA, or another Mac, at some point you must establish some sort of connection between them—or with an intermediary that can connect to both. Fortunately, your Mac loves to make connections.

That's not to say that all connection methods are simple matters of plug-and-play; though some are, others are more like plug-and-do-a-lot-of-other-stuff-and-*then*-play. And then there are some connection methods, like Bluetooth, that don't involve any plugging at all.

In this section, you can find the connection methods you need to sync your devices, and, where necessary, the details of what you need to do to get them to play.

### Connect over a Network

You'll connect over a network either to use Apple's .Mac syncing capabilities, to sync your Apple TV, or to use some third-party syncing utilities.

#### .Mac

To use Tiger's Mac-to-Mac syncing capabilities with .Mac, you need two things:

- A network connection to the Internet
- A .Mac account

The first part is easy: Tiger loves networks. Boot your Mac, and it will try to find a network any way it can, and once it finds a connection, it will try to connect to the Internet through it. Your Mac needs the Internet connection both for syncing structured information via .Mac and for iDisk file syncing (the only Apple-supplied method for file synchronization) as described earlier in [Syncing between Macs](#).

The second part is also easy: give Apple \$99.95 a year for a .Mac account (or \$179.95 for a .Mac Family Pack). With a .Mac account and an Internet connection, you can take advantage of Tiger's .Mac syncing features to sync the various items listed in [Table 1](#).

## SYNC AN Apple Device WITH iTUNES

Ever since iTunes 2.0 came out, Apple's music player has offered at least one syncing capability, albeit a narrowly specialized one: the capability to sync music playlists to an iPod. As both the iPod and iTunes matured, iTunes' syncing capabilities became more powerful and varied, while still maintaining the original narrow iPod focus. By the time the video iPod was released, iTunes could sync music, podcasts, photo albums, videos, iCal calendars, and Address Book contact lists.

Recently, Apple has added two other types of devices to the iTunes syncing stable—the Apple TV and the iPhone—and has provided syncing capabilities tailored for these devices. For example, when an iPhone is connected, iTunes adds the capability to sync Safari bookmarks and Mail account settings along with all the other things it can sync.

Behaviorally, iTunes divides how it syncs stuff with an Apple device into two different categories:

- **Media:** This includes video, audio, and photos. iTunes sends these items on a one-way trip from your iTunes or iPhoto libraries to the device.
- **Structured information and media metadata:** This category comprises not only the commonly synced structured information items, like contacts and calendars, but things like a song's rating, a song's current playback position, and the last time you played it. Such items can flow both from iTunes to the device and from the device to iTunes. (Naturally, if you can't change the information on the device, the syncing is still effectively one-way: from iTunes to the device—for example, the contact information on an iPod.)

[Connect Your Gear](#) describes the ways in which you can connect your Apple devices to your Mac. To recap, these Apple devices use the following connection methods:

- **iPod with video, iPod nano, iPod shuffle, iPhone:** These devices use USB, so see [Connect with USB](#).
- **Apple TV:** This uses either a wired or wireless network connection, as described in [Connect over a Network](#).

## SYNC A HANDHELD DEVICE WITH iSYNC

Formerly the core of the Mac OS X syncing experience, iSync now has a more focused mission: to sync calendar and contact information between your Mac and your portable, non-Apple devices.

When iSync syncs with a handheld device it uses the contact info managed by Address Book and the calendar info managed by iCal. However, that doesn't necessarily leave contact and calendar data from other programs out in the cold: if those other programs can sync with the Tiger sync engine, their information can be included in the Address Book's and in iCal's data collections, and make its way from there to the device (for example, see [Sync Entourage](#)).

To use iSync with your device, you have to do the following:

- Connect the device to your Mac (see [Connect Your Gear](#)).
- Add the device to iSync's collection of known devices; see [Add Phones](#) and [Add Palm OS Devices](#) (and see [Remove Devices](#) if you no longer want to sync that device).
- Tell iSync what info you want to sync with that device (hint: your Address Book contacts and iCal calendars are involved). [Configure Device Sync Settings](#) explains the kinds of options available.

As you can see in **Figure 6**, each device you add to iSync appears in the iSync window. Once you've set everything up, all you have to do is click the Sync Devices button and iSync syncs with all the connected devices.

**FIGURE 6**



iSync shows the devices that you have introduced to it, along with a .Mac icon just for old-time's sake.

## SYNC ANOTHER MAC WITH .MAC

.Mac is Apple's entry into the *software-as-a-service* sweepstakes, and the particular service that .Mac provides is a personal information sharing and exchange center. Included with .Mac's many features (which would take an book like Joe Kissell's *Take Control of .Mac*—<http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/dot-mac.html>—to describe) is the capability to sync both individual files and all the stuff listed in **Table 1** (such as Safari bookmarks and some contact info) between your home Mac and office Mac and any other Macs you happen to have handy.

Although you can replicate just about every information sharing and exchange feature that .Mac offers some other way, the part of the .Mac service you can't replicate is how well integrated it is with Tiger.

The integration begins with how you obtain a .Mac subscription: as noted in [Connect over a Network](#), you can purchase a .Mac subscription right from the Accounts view of Tiger's .Mac System preference pane. You use the other three views in the .Mac System preference pane to manage aspects of the syncing capabilities that .Mac provides:

- **Sync:** Use this view to choose the structured information types that you want to sync and when you want to sync them (see [The Elements of Syncing](#) for more about structured information). *Choose What and When to Sync with .Mac*, next page, explains how to use the controls in the Sync view.
- **iDisk:** Use this view to specify how your Mac syncs files with your iDisk (see [Syncing between Macs](#) for an introduction to iDisk and the role it plays in file syncing). [Sync Files with iDisk](#) goes over the options you can set in this view and explains iDisk in more detail.
- **Advanced:** Use this view to control which Macs sync with your .Mac account and to reset your synced information if necessary; see [Reset Information](#) for the lowdown on the Advanced view.

In addition to syncing information between Macs, .Mac gives you access to some of your synced structured information—specifically calendars, Safari bookmarks, and addresses—from any Web browser on any computer (even non-Macs). .Mac also provides ways for you to share some of that information with other people. You can even share files with your .Mac iDisk. See [Share Synced Information with .Mac](#).

## THE CONFLICT RESOLVER

Both iSync and .Mac syncing can occasionally encounter conflicts in the information being synced that exceed the capability of the sync engine and the truth database to resolve automatically. Such conflicts can occur when you change the same item of information on two different devices between syncs: for example, suppose you change a contact's phone number on your phone, and also in your Address Book—but, by mistake, you make a typo in the Address Book entry. Because both changes happened between sync sessions, the sync engine cannot ascertain which change takes precedence when you finally do sync. Whenever such conflicts arise, Tiger presents a Conflict Resolver dialog asking you to resolve the conflicts. You can choose to resolve the conflicts immediately, or wait until a later time to resolve them.

**TIP** The syncing status menu (see [Sync by button or menu](#)) becomes almost essential when it comes to resolving conflicts: when you choose to resolve conflicts at a later time, the syncing status menu displays the number of conflicts waiting to be resolved along with a Conflict Resolver menu item you can choose when you decide you want to resolve the conflicts. If you don't have the syncing status menu visible, though, you'll have to make your way to **/System/Library/CoreServices/** to find the Conflict Resolver application. Since you shouldn't mess around in this important directory, I suggest you show the syncing status menu in your menu bar.

The extremely simple interface of the Conflict Resolver appears in **Figure 16**. The Conflict Resolver displays each set of items that conflict and requests you to select the right one. Click the item with the correct information and then click Continue to resolve the conflict. You can choose to fix all conflicts manually, stepping through them one by one with the Previous and Continue buttons, or you can select the Resolve All Similar Conflicts Using *source name* checkbox. "Similar conflicts" are those that have a similar cause: for example, conflicting timestamps in calendar events, as shown in **Figure 16**. When you select the checkbox and click Continue, the Conflict Resolver uses the information source you picked for resolving the similar conflicts.

**FIGURE 16**



You don't need to take a special training course in conflict resolution: just choose the item in the Conflict Resolver window that contains the information you want to keep.

When you finish stepping through and resolving your conflicts, a Conflict Resolver alert tells you that it will act upon your decisions during the next sync. If you don't want to wait, you can click the Sync Now button in the alert—or, if you suddenly get a case of cold feet, you can click Cancel in the alert and go through the conflict resolution process again at some later time when you're feeling more confident.

## SYNC WITH THIRD-PARTY SOFTWARE

Tiger puts a lot of power and intelligence behind its syncing services, but it doesn't offer syncing support to meet all contingencies. When Tiger falls short, you have to jump off the Apple mothership and board a third-party craft.

There are many reasons why you might want to, ahem, sync different:

- **iSync shortcomings:** Although iSync can sync Address Book and iCal information with lots of devices (see [Table 3](#)), you may have a nifty new piece of handheld bling that iSync knows nothing about; in that case, flip ahead a page to [Add plug-ins to iSync](#) for help finding an iSync plug-in for your device.

Or you may find that your device manages information that iSync doesn't sync (for example, text notes, special contact or calendar information such as birthdays, or music) or that you use a contact or calendar application that iSync doesn't handle; if so, consult [Substitutes for iSync](#) to learn about applications that go beyond iSync's narrow focus on iCal calendars and Address Book contacts.

- **iTunes inadequacies:** Apple may have made iTunes your syncing solution for iPods, but that doesn't mean they've covered all the bases—for example, iTunes can sync your contacts and calendars with your iPod but it doesn't let you see or change those contacts or calendars. What's more, because of Apple's agreements with music publishers, iTunes only provides limited capabilities for copying songs and videos from an iPod to a Mac. [Sync iPods with Third-Party Software](#) describes ways to overcome these iTunes inadequacies.
- **.Mac deficiencies:** .Mac requires synced information to trek across the Internet, which seems preposterous when all you want to do is to sync structured information between two Macs on the same local network—[Sync with .Mac Substitutes](#) can help you keep your syncs local.

Furthermore, no one can claim that .Mac's iDisk provides a perfect file-syncing solution, especially when you have to sync vast numbers of files or large datasets; [Sync Files with Third-Party Applications](#) introduces you to several Mac-to-Mac file-syncing solutions that overcome iDisk's limits.

## LOST IN TRANSLATION

There's a special edition DVD of *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* that has a clip from the movie first dubbed into Japanese, and then subtitled with an English translation of the Japanese dubbed dialogue: not surprisingly, the English subtitles don't *quite* match the original English dialogue. The result is hilarious.

During a sync, when structured information (see [Syncing structured information](#)) moves from one program to another similar-but-not-quite-identical program, the same kind of thing can happen: contact info may come back missing pieces, or with items mislabeled, or calendar events may be set for a different time zone. However, hilarity (usually) doesn't ensue—not, at least, if it's *your* data.

Address Book and iCal are the programs most prone to this problem, and for at least one good reason: iSync is all about exchanging Address Book contacts and iCal calendars with handheld devices and each of the many dozens of different handheld devices that iSync syncs with has its own phone book and calendar function, each with its own ways of storing and labeling contact and calendar information.

But it's not just iSync alone that can lose things in translation: now that Tiger has made it possible for other applications to use the sync engine, your data can just as easily experience lost-in-translation issues when syncing between two different programs on your Mac (see [Entourage calendar syncing quirks](#) for an example).

Although you can't always completely avoid this annoyance, you can develop strategies to work around it. At the very least, you can figure out what kinds of information get lost or changed and avoid surprises.

The following sections use contact managers and calendar programs as examples because you're most likely to encounter the problem when using them, but the strategies I describe should be applicable to most other programs that might lose things in translation.

### **Compatibility Strategies Used by Tiger's Sync Services**

Tiger's sync engine allows software that syncs to use and to provide *schemas* that describe the shape, if you will, of structured information that applications sync. The truth database (see [Apple's Syncing Model](#))

## SYNCHRONIZE YOURSELF

The preceding sections of this book have dealt with the software, the hardware, and the underlying concepts involved with syncing in Tiger. There's but one piece of the syncing puzzle left to put in place: you, the user.

How well Tiger's various syncing capabilities work for you depend in part on how well you can align your syncing needs, and your computational habits, with the tools that Tiger and third parties provide. I am not you: I don't know what you wish to sync, or why. But I can offer some short bits of advice based on my own syncing needs, experiences, and habits.

### Go with the Flow

As you've seen, Tiger's syncing services and the model on which they're built make various assumptions about what you'll sync and how you'll sync. Structured information syncing (see [Syncing structured information](#)) works best with various small bits of information that can be stored in and managed by a database—such as contact information, passwords, or preference settings—rather than large undifferentiated blobs of binary information—like image files, movie projects, or novels in progress.

A case in point: although you can use a sync-enabled application like Bare Bones' Yojimbo to sync large chunks of data via .Mac, that's not the best use you can make of .Mac syncing. Your sync sessions with .Mac will certainly take longer than you'd like, and the amount of free space on your iDisk will begin to plummet.

Remember that Tiger's syncing services, and the applications that work with those services, are designed for individual use, and don't scale up to enterprise-level use. Don't expect Address Book, for instance, to handle the contacts for an entire business, or iCal to manage the schedules of dozens of people.

### Choose a Master

Although the whole point of syncing is to make the same information available everywhere you need it—on your phone, your PDA, your Mac laptop—that doesn't mean that those locations are interchangeable. Apple specifically advises you, for example, not to sync a

If this were the philosopher Gottfried Leibniz's best of all possible worlds, I would have nothing to put into this appendix. However, experience has shown me that the philosopher Murphy trumps Leibniz: things will go wrong in any given situation, if you give them a chance. This appendix describes some common syncing problems and my advice for conquering them.

### **Scrutinize Common Troublemakers**

Syncing involves a variety of different programs and devices all working together. Any one of the actors in this syncing drama can, metaphorically, forget or flub a line or miss an entrance: when that happens, syncs won't work right. Here I describe the general causes of miscues that make syncs go wrong, and offer some tips on how to fix them.

#### **Check connections**

To sync two or more devices, you have to connect them, so when a sync fails, the connection is one of the first things I check. As I describe in more detail in [Connect Your Gear](#), connections can be wired or wireless, and they can be direct between devices or established over a network. Adapt the following advice to the way you connect your syncing devices.

#### ***Is everything plugged in?***

Cables, whether Ethernet, FireWire, modem, or USB, sometimes magically pull loose just enough to cause all sorts of havoc. Even when you know in your heart of hearts that everything's plugged in, take the time to check the cables: sometimes your heart can be wrong.

#### ***Is everything turned on?***

Yes, this is a no-brainer. Check anyway. I once spent half an hour wondering why I couldn't sync my Mac with my mobile phone until I realized that I had turned Bluetooth off on my Mac a few days earlier. (Yes, the Bluetooth status menu was visible; no, I didn't notice it was dimmed.)

## ABOUT THIS BOOK

Thank you for purchasing this Take Control ebook. We hope you find it both useful and enjoyable to read. We welcome your feedback; click Feedback on the [cover](#). Keep reading in this section to learn more about the author, the Take Control series, and the publisher.

### About the Author

In no particular order, Michael has been a teacher, a programmer, a short-order cook, a postal employee, a Web designer, a multi-media producer, a certified usability analyst, and an assembly line worker. He's the author or co-author of several books, including *The Xcode 2 Book*, *Airport and Mac Wireless Networks for Dummies*, and *Teach Yourself VISUALLY iLife 04*. He lives in Santa Monica, California, with about a half-dozen working Macs and his wife, the world-renowned Digital Medievalist.

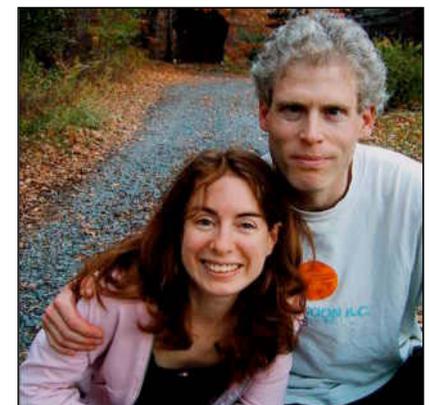


### Author's Acknowledgments

I offer my profoundest thanks to the Digital Medievalist, for her research and sound advice during the composition of this book, to Don Sellers, for his patience in reorganizing the book's complexly confounded first draft, and, of course, to Tonya Engst, who believed in the face of all evidence to the contrary that this book would actually be finished someday.

### About the Publisher

Publishers Adam and Tonya Engst have been publishing Mac-related content since they first created their online newsletter, *TidBITS*, about Macintosh- and Internet-related topics in 1990. *TidBITS* has been in continuous, weekly production since then. At the *TidBITS* Web site you can subscribe to *TidBITS* for free, join in *TidBITS* Talk discussions, or search many years of news, reviews, and editorial analysis (<http://www.tidbits.com/>).



Adam and Tonya are known in the Mac world as writers, editors, and speakers. They are also parents to Tristan, who thinks ebooks about clipper ships and castles would be cool.

## **Production Credits**

Link-making AppleScript: Matt Neuburg

List macros: Sharon Zardetto-Aker

Take Control logo: Jeff Tolbert

Editor: Don Sellers

Editor in Chief: Tonya Engst

Publisher: Adam Engst

Thanks to the Sciencenter and the Earth Arts day camps in Ithaca, NY for excellent summer programs, and thanks to Michael and Don for providing the synchronicity for this book to happen.

*Take Control of Syncing in Tiger*

ISBN: 1-933671-16-5

July 2007, Version 1.2

Copyright © 2007, Michael E. Cohen. All rights reserved.

TidBITS Publishing Inc.

50 Hickory Road

Ithaca, NY 14850 USA

<http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/>

TAKE CONTROL books help readers regain a measure of control in an oftentimes out-of-control universe. Take Control books also streamline the publication process so that information about quickly changing technical topics can be published while it's still relevant and accurate.

The electronic version of this book does not use copy protection because copy protection makes life harder for everyone. So we ask a favor of our readers. If you want to share your copy of this ebook with a friend, please do so as you would a physical book, meaning that if your friend uses it regularly, he or she should buy a copy. Your support makes it possible for future Take Control ebooks to hit the Internet long before you'd find the same info in a printed book. Plus, if you buy the ebook, you're entitled to any free updates that become available.

Although the author and TidBITS Publishing Inc. have made a reasonable effort to ensure the accuracy of the information herein, they assume no responsibility for errors or omissions. The information in this book is distributed "As Is," without warranty of any kind. Neither TidBITS Publishing Inc. nor the author shall be liable to any person or entity for any special, indirect, incidental, or consequential damages, including without limitation lost revenues or lost profits, that may result (or that are alleged to result) from the use of these materials. In other words, use this information at your own risk.

Many of the designations used to distinguish products and services are claimed as trademarks or service marks. Any trademarks, service marks, product names, or named features that appear in this title are assumed to be the property of their respective owners. All product names and services are used in an editorial fashion only, with no intention of infringement of the trademark. No such use, or the use of any trade name, is meant to convey endorsement or other affiliation with this title.

This title is an independent publication and has not been authorized, sponsored, or otherwise approved by Apple Inc. Because of the nature of this title, it uses terms that are trademarks or registered trademarks of Apple Inc.; to view a complete list of trademarks and registered trademarks of Apple Inc., visit <http://www.apple.com/legal/trademark/appletmlist.html>.

This is a free sample of "Take Control of Syncing in Tiger."  
Click here to buy the full 154-page ebook for only \$10!

## FEATURED TITLES

Now that you've seen this book, you know the Take Control books have an easy-to-read layout, clickable links if you read online, and real-world info that puts you in control. Click any book image below or visit our [Web catalog](#) to add to your Take Control collection!

### Take Control of Fonts in Mac OS X

by Sharon Zardetto Aker

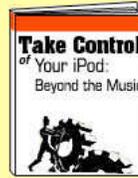


Learn how to organize, install, and use fonts like a pro, plus access a treasure trove of special characters hidden in your fonts.

\$20

### Take Control of Your iPod: Beyond The Music

by Steve Sande

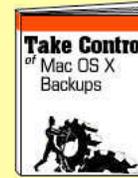


Have you ever wondered what your iPod could do beyond playing music? Find out in this engaging compendium!

\$10

### Take Control of Mac OS X Backups

by Joe Kissell



Create a rock-solid backup strategy so you can restore quickly and completely, no matter what the catastrophe.

\$10

### Take Control of Customizing Tiger

by Matt Neuburg



Find real-world advice in this road map to customizing Tiger, plus get started with new features, such as Spotlight and Automator.

\$5

### Take Control of Digital TV

by Clark Humphrey



Learn how to shop for a new high-definition TV, and get the features you want for your budget and viewing style.

\$10

### More Titles!

Delve into even more topics, including:

- Running your Mac—upgrading, troubleshooting, permissions, accounts, sharing files, and more.
- Buying gear—Macs, cameras, and digital TVs.
- More topics—.Mac, AirPort and Wi-Fi security, spam, Apple Mail, podcasting, GarageBand, iWeb, and Microsoft Office.

This is a free sample of "Take Control of Syncing in Tiger."  
[Click here to buy the full 154-page ebook for only \\$10!](#)