

By ~~April 2007~~ Mihailescu, Apple News Editor

More to Leopard Than Just the OS?

Could Apple decide to bundle iLife and iWork with it?

While rumors are just rumors, a recent ThinkSecret hints at something that could prove huge if it comes to pass. While rumors regarding Leopard usually contain more of the same, usually regarding the release date of the much anticipated OS, this one touches on Apple's other software. Apparently, the new versions of iLife and iWork are also scheduled for release around the same time as Leopard. No surprise here, as it was about time for the new versions. However, the report mentions that the new software will be packed with extensive Leopard-dependent features, which again is not surprising since the software will want to make use of the technological advancements in the OS. The first interesting part of the report is that Apple is considering dropping the yearly naming convention for the software suites entirely, and '07' could very well be replaced with the 'Leopard Edition'. While such a move would make sense in terms of getting rid of the dated feel that the programs get after a while, it would also have a reverse effect, that of creating a strong psychological link between the new version of the OS and the software. Such a link would make it difficult to release new versions of the programs without a new version of the OS from which they can draw their name. Such a potential link has taken on new light with the mention that Apple is considering the option of bundling one or both the software suites with the OS itself. Such a bundle would give a lot more sense to the new naming convention, and add incredible value to Leopard. Such a move would massively differentiate it from Microsoft's Vista and make it incredibly compelling. While rumor is rumor, and sources have been known to be wrong before, the potential here is too great to be ignored. If Apple does decide to go through with this, it would be a major blow to Vista and Office both.