



BusyCal

Publisher: BusyMac
Category: Personal Productivity - Calendar
Cost: Single: US\$49; Family [5]: US\$79; 30-day free downloadable trial;
N.B. - 20% discount for 60 [?] days from Mar 12, 2010 - Promo Code 'Screencasts'
Requirements: OS 10.5 or 10.6
Current version: 1.2.3 [as of 22/03/2010]
References: MacWorld EDDY Award 2009; MacLife Editor's Choice
Resources: ScreenCasts Online #SCO0241 Mar 10 [Members only];
Podcasts: MacBreak #305, MacVoices #1032, MacVoicesTV #1022
www.busymac.com; www.busymac.com/busycal/videos.html

Major features:

1. Developed by the 'Now' team [Now Up-to-Date, etc.]. Think of it as 'iCal Pro'.
2. Seamless calendar sharing and enhanced productivity tools for workgroups and individuals.
3. Shared calendars can be viewed and edited by multiple users and changes are instantly synchronized between users. BusyCal also syncs with Google Calendar offering online access and sharing across platforms.
4. Compatibility: BusyCal syncs with iCal, MobileMe, the iPhone, and other applications and devices that support Sync Services.
5. Features:
 1. Sync calendars on your LAN via Bonjour
 2. Sync with Google Calendar
 3. Sync with the iPhone/iPod Touch [to iCal - no iPhone app yet?]
 4. Multi-user editing possible
 5. Security - calendars can be password protected as read/write or read only and encrypted with SSL
 6. Offline editing automatically updated once back online
 7. Recurring ToDos with carry forward
 8. Free-floating Info Panel
 9. List view customizable
 10. Live weather from AccuWeather for today and next four days
 11. Graphics added to events or days [adjusted for size, position, opacity]
 12. Sticky Notes can be shared and synced through MobileMe
 13. Rich Text - make Events with customizable font, size, style & colour

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What I like about BusyCal:

1. Fonts in all-day and multi-day Event banners are much more legible.
2. Seamless syncing with other calendars; syncing with Things for Todos
3. Weather at your fingertips
4. In Day and Week Views, all-day and multi-day Event banners are shown in a separate panel across the top of the screen, with any Todos for that day.
5. Multiple alarms; customized Info Panel for each Event
6. Holiday notifications separated from Events by placement at bottom of daily event space
7. Addition of graphics to any date space or through the Info Panel as an Event icon
8. List View is customizable, if wanted.
9. Floating Event Info Panel is customizable
10. Very easy, automatic data Backup and Restore function [in addition to your TimeMachine backups, of course]
11. BusyCal does not have to be open to be able to see today's calendar Events and Todos through a menu bar icon
12. No serious bugs that I have found yet, even though the product is obviously under constant development. Minor fixes released fairly frequently. Someone is actually interested in it.