Chapter 1

Hey, It Really Does Have Everything I Need

In This Chapter

▶ Identifying the important parts of your Mac laptop

▶ Locating the right home for your computer

▶ Plugging stuff in and getting hooked up

▶ Playing with your bundled software

▶ Buying additional stuff that you might need

*M*ost action films have one scene in common: I call it the "gear up" scene, where the good guys strap on their equipment in preparation for battle. (It doesn't matter what era — you see "gear up" scenes in *Gladiator, Aliens,* and virtually every movie Arnold has made.) You're sure to see lots of clicking straps and equipping of offensive weapons (and sometimes even a dash of war paint). The process usually takes a minute or so, all told with whiplash camera work and stirring martial music in the background.

Well, fellow Macintosh road warrior, it takes only *two seconds* and *one move* for you to gear up: closing the lid. That's because your Mac is a self-contained world, providing virtually everything you'll find on a desktop Power Mac. This is indeed the decade of the laptop, meshing nicely with your cell phone and that wireless connection at your local coffee shop. You have selected the right companion for the open road.

Unlike some of Apple's other designs, such as the Mac Mini or the iMac, your MacBook looks similar to a PC laptop running Windows. (In fact, an Intel-based Mac laptop can run Windows, if you absolutely must.) But your laptop holds a number of pleasant surprises that no PC laptop can offer! In this chapter, I introduce you to the hardware and all the major parts of the machine — and you'll even find out how to unpack and connect your computer. And, as frosting on the cake, I'll preview the software that Apple is so proud of, as well as the accessories that you should buy now instead of later.

Welcome to your Mac laptop, good reader. Let's gear up!

An Overview of Your Mac Laptop

Sure, your MacBook Pro may be only an inch thin, but a lot of superb design lives inside, and you'll encounter the same parts that you'd find in a desktop machine. In this section, I discuss those important parts — both the stuff you can see and the stuff that's shoehorned within.
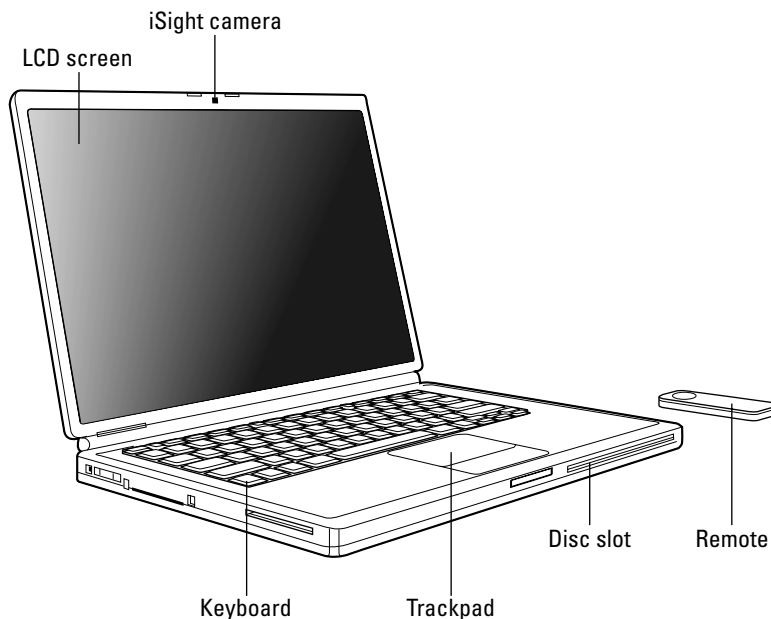
The parts you probably recognize

Every laptop requires some of the same gizmos. Figure 1-1 helps you track them down. Of course, as you'd expect, a computer has a body of sorts in which all the innards and brains are stored, a display screen, a keyboard, a mouse or other pointing device, and ports for powering and exchanging data with outside toys.

That magnificent screen

What a view you have! Today's Mac laptops feature a 13", 15", or 17" LCD display.

LCD screens use far less electricity than their antique CRT ancestors do, and they emit practically no radiation.

Figure 1-1: The charismatic form of a typical Mac laptop.

Feeling outdated? Never!

Are you using an older iBook or PowerBook? It seems that Apple's product line changes every time you tear a page from your 12-month calendar, and every new generation of laptops includes new whiz-bang features. Sometimes you can add those features separately to your older machine — such as an external iSight camera or an AirPort Extreme card — but you can't update things like your iBook's motherboard. Sigh.

Here's my take on this situation: If your older laptop does what you need at a pace you can accept, there is *no need* to upgrade it.

Skeptical? Here's the proof: Before my recent upgrade to a MacBook Pro, yours truly was lugging a pristine iBook G3, which booted Tiger and did absolutely everything that I demanded. (A little more patience was required, certainly, but technology authors are simply *brimming* with patience.) The moral is here too: Avoid the upgrade fever unless you really need a new companion!

If your laptop bears the iBook or PowerBook logo, you can still enjoy this book and discover new tips and tricks from it! Unless the new breed of Intel-based Mac laptops has a feature that you absolutely can't use on your iBook (such as booting directly into Windows), you can sail on with your current computer, fiercely proud of The Bitten Apple that appears on the cover. Although this book was written with the MacBook and MacBook Pro lines in mind, virtually everything you read here still applies to your older laptop.

Apple's laptop screens offer a *widescreen* aspect ratio (the screen is considerably wider than it is tall), which augurs well for those who enjoy watching DVD movies. (A favorite editor of mine loves it when I use the antique word *augur,* meaning *to predict or foretell.*)

TIP

That reminds me: Throw away your printed dictionary! You won't need it because Mac OS X Tiger includes the fantastic Sherlock application, which uses the Internet to retrieve definitions from `Dictionary.com`. More on Sherlock in Chapter 7 . . . and yes, it does contain *augur.*

The keyboard and trackpad

Hey, here's something novel for your laptop — unlike the external input devices on a standard desktop computer, your Mac has a built-in keyboard and trackpad (which does the job of a mouse). The keyboard is a particular favorite of mine because from here

- ✔ You can either control the sound volume or mute all that noise completely
- ✔ High-end Mac laptops have illuminated keyboards, which are perfect for darkened dorm rooms and airplane flights
- ✔ A handy-dandy Media Eject key lets you eject a CD or DVD

The disc slot

You'll notice a long groove at the bottom-right corner of your MacBook or MacBook Pro. No, it's not for your credit card. This slot accepts CDs and DVDs into your optical drive. If the drive is empty, loading a disc is as simple as sliding it in an inch or so; the drive sucks in the disc automatically. (And we don't need a stinkin' floppy. Macs haven't had floppy drives for years now, and the PC types are just beginning to follow.)

WARNING!

"Luke, the printed label side of the disc should always be *facing you* when you load a disc. Always."

Food for your ears

A machine this nice had better have great sound, and the Mac doesn't disappoint. You have a couple of options for Mac laptop audio:

- ✔ Mac laptops sport built-in stereo speakers (and a microphone to boot).
- ✔ Use built-in optical/digital Line Out ports to connect your Mac's audio to a pair of headphones, or a more powerful (and expensive) external speaker system, or a home stereo system.

The power cable

Sorry, can't get a wireless power system . . . yet. (Apple's working hard on that one.) However, the MacBook Pro was the first major release of a laptop with a magnetic power connector; the MacBook followed suit soon after. The MagSafe connector reduces the chances of your pride and joy being yanked off a desk when someone trips over the power cord. Now that's *sassy*.

The Apple remote

Oh, here's a pleasant surprise that you won't find with most PC laptop boxes: the remote looks like an iPod Shuffle, but it allows you to control your laptop wireless from across the room. (Think DVD viewings, presentations, and lazy iTunes listening.)

The power button

Yep, you have one of these, too. It's on the upper right, next to the keyboard.

The iSight camera

Have you noticed that tiny square lens above your screen? That's a built-in iSight camera, which allows you to chat with others in a videoconferencing environment using Tiger's iChat feature. You can even take photos with it, using the PhotoBooth software that comes with your laptop, or set up a travelin' Webcam.

The battery compartment

You can open the cover on the bottom of your laptop to switch batteries. Many road warriors who constantly use their laptops for extended periods swear by extra batteries, especially if they're on site in the middle of nowhere and there's not an AC outlet to be found.

Of course, your laptop automatically charges the battery while it's plugged in, so you shouldn't have to remove the battery unless you're replacing it or switching it with another battery.

The holes called ports

The next stop on your tour of Planet Laptop is Port Central — those rows of holes on the sides of your computer. Each port connects a different type of cable or device, allowing you to easily add all sorts of functionality to your computer.

Each of these stellar holes is identified by an icon to help you identify it. Here's a list of what you'll find, and a quick rundown on what these ports do.

Connections for external devices and networking:

- **FireWire:** These ports are the standard in the Apple universe for connecting external hard drives and DVD recorders, but they do double-duty as the connector of choice for peripherals like your iPod and your digital video (DV) camcorder. (A *peripheral* is another silly techno-nerd term that means a separate device you connect to your computer.) Depending on the model of laptop you chose, you'll have one of the older FireWire 400 ports, and you may also have a much faster FireWire 800 port.

- **USB:** Short for *Universal Serial Bus,* the familiar USB port is the jack-of-all-trades in today's world of computer add-ons. Most external devices that you want to connect to your laptop (such as portable hard drives, scanners, and digital cameras) use a USB port. Depending on the model of laptop, you'll have either two or three USB 2.0 ports available. USB 2.0 connections are much faster than the old USB 1.1 standard, but they still accept USB 1.1 devices running at the slower speed.

    Get the lowdown on FireWire and USB ports in Chapter 20.

- **Ethernet:** Today's Mac laptops include a standard 10/100/1000 Ethernet port, so the laptop is ready to join your existing wired Ethernet network. (Alternatively, you can go wireless for your network connection; more on that in the next section and in Chapters 17 and 20.)

✔ **ExpressCard/34:** When you need the absolute fastest performance possible from an external device, you can connect that device to your laptop using the ExpressCard slot. These cards are the descendants of the popular PCMCIA (or PC Card) cards, which many models of older Mac PowerBooks and iBooks can use.

Connections for external video and audio:

✔ **VGA/DVI connector:** In case that splendid screen isn't good enough, you can buy an adapter for this port that allows you to send the video signal from your laptop to another VGA or DVI monitor, or even S-Video output for your TV and VCR.

✔ **Headphone/Optical Output:** You can send the high-quality audio from your rectangular beast to a set of standard headphones or an optical digital audio device such as a high-end home theater system.

✔ **Optical Line In:** Last (but certainly not least) is the optical audio Line In jack, which allows you to pipe the signal from another audio device into your laptop. This one comes in particularly handy when you record MP3 files from your old vinyl albums or when you want to record loops in GarageBand.

Don't forget the parts you can't see

When you bought your new digital pride and joy, you probably noticed a number of subtle differences between the low-end MacBook and the uber-expensive top-end MacBook Pro model. I call these differences the *Important Hidden Stuff* (or IHS, if you're addicted to acronyms already), and they're just as important as the parts and ports that you can see.

Internal storage devices:

✔ **CPU:** Today's Mac laptops feature — gasp! — Intel processors, which run faster and cooler than the old G4 processors that powered the iBook and PowerBook models. Of course, the faster the processor, the better. (Definitely *not* rocket science.)

✔ **Hard drive:** MacBook and MacBook Pro laptops use the latest in hard drive technology: *serial ATA* hard drives, which are significantly faster than the EIDE hard drives used in previous Mac laptop models. (You don't need to worry about what ATA and EIDE mean here. Really.) As you might expect, the MacBook Pro laptop line has a larger capacity hard drive as standard equipment, but you can special-order a MacBook from Apple with a larger hard drive.

✔ **Optical drive:** Okay, I'm cheating a little here. I mention the optical drive in an earlier section, but all you can see is the slot, so it qualifies as an IHS item. Depending on your Mac, your computer includes one of the following:

- A DVD-R/CD-RW SuperDrive (which can play and record both CDs and DVDs)

- A DVD/CD-RW combo drive (which can record CDs but only read DVDs)

    If your laptop can't burn DVDs with the internal drive, don't give up hope of recording your own DVD movies. Thanks to those handy FireWire ports, it's child's play to add an external DVD recorder.

TIP

Time for a plug: If you're interested in recording your own audio and data CDs, or you have an itch to burn DVD movies, I can highly recommend the bestselling *CD & DVD Recording For Dummies,* Second Edition (Wiley). It's written by yours truly; hence the solid recommendation. You'll find everything you need to know to use Roxio's Toast recording software. In a few minutes, you'll be burning your own shiny digital treasures.

Wireless communications devices:

✔ **Wireless Ethernet:** "Look, Ma, no wires!" As I mention earlier, you can connect your laptop to an existing wireless Ethernet network by adding an AirPort Extreme card (either as an installed option or after you've started using the computer). With wireless connectivity, you can share documents with another computer in another room, share a single high-speed Internet connection betwixt several computers, or enjoy wireless printing. Truly *sassy!*

TIP

Although Apple would want you to build your wireless wonderland with an Apple AirPort Extreme base station — go figure — you can use your Mac with any standard 802.11g wireless network. And yes, PCs and Macs can intermingle on the same wireless network without a hitch. (Scandalous, ain't it?)

✔ **Bluetooth:** Let's get the old "digital pirate" joke out of the way: "Arrgh, matey, I needs me a wireless parrot." (Engineers again . . . sheesh.) Although strangely named, Bluetooth is another form of wireless connectivity. This time, however, the standard was designed for accessories such as your keyboard and mouse, and devices such as a personal digital assistant (PDA) and a cell phone.

Video display device:

> ✔ **Video card:** If your applications rely heavily on high-speed 3-D graphics, you'll be pleased as punch to learn that today's MacBook Pro line of laptops come equipped with cards such as the ATI Mobility Radeon X1600. This card is well-suited to 3-D modeling, video editing, and well, honestly, blasting the enemy into small smoking pieces with aplomb. As of this writing, the MacBook line uses an integrated video card, so it's not a good choice for hard-core gaming or 3-D design.

Location, Location, Location!

If you choose the wrong spot to park your new laptop, I can guarantee that you'll regret it. Some domiciles and office cubicles don't offer a choice — you have one desk at work, for example, and nobody's going to hand over another one — but if you can select a home for your Mac, consider the important placement points in this section:

> ✔ **Keep things cool.** Your new laptop is silent, but that super fast Intel Core Duo processor generates heat. Make sure the location you choose is far from heating vents and shielded from direct sunlight. I also recommend a laptop cooling pad, which elevates the base of your laptop to allow air to circulate underneath.

> ✔ **Outlets are key!** Your computer needs a minimum of at least one nearby outlet, and perhaps as many as three:
>
> > • A standard AC outlet
> >
> > • A telephone jack (if you have an Apple modem for connecting to the Internet or sending and receiving faxes)
> >
> > • A nearby Ethernet jack (if you use the Mac's built-in Ethernet port for connecting to a wired Ethernet network)
> >
> > If you prefer to send your data over the airwaves, consider wireless networking for your Mac — I discuss everything you need to know in Chapter 17.

> ✔ **Don't forget the lighting.** Let me act as your Mom. (I know that's a stretch, but bear with me.) She'd say, "You can't possibly expect to work without decent lighting! You'll go blind!" She's right, you know. You need a desk or floor lamp at a minimum.

> ✔ **Plan to expand.** If your laptop hangs out on a desk, allow an additional foot of space on each side. That way, you have room for external peripherals, more powerful speakers, and an external keyboard and mouse if you need one.

If you want to keep an external keyboard handy, consider a laptop shelf — these Plexiglas or metal stands elevate your laptop several inches above the desk, putting the screen at a better ergonomic position and allowing you to park your keyboard and external mouse underneath.

Unpacking and Connecting Your Laptop

You're going to love this section — it's short and sweet because the configuration of a laptop on your desktop is a piece of cake. (Sorry about the cliché overload, but this really *is* easy.)

Unpacking for the road warrior

Follow these guidelines when unpacking your system:

- ✔ **Check for damage.** I've never had a box arrive from Apple with shipping damage, but I've heard horror stories from others (who claim that King Kong must have been working for That Shipping Company).

  Check all sides of your box before you open it. If you find significant damage, take a photograph (just in case).

- ✔ **Search for all the parts.** When you're removing those chunks o' Styrofoam, make certain that you've checked all sides of each foam block for parts snuggled therein or taped for shipment.

- ✔ **Keep all packing materials.** Do *not* head for the trash can with the box and packing materials. Keep your box and all packing materials for at least a year, until the standard Apple warranty runs out. If you have to ship the laptop to an Apple service center, the box and the original packing is the only way for your machine to fly.

  And now, a dramatic Mark's Maxim about cardboard containers:

  Smart computer owners keep their boxes far longer than a year. If you sell your laptop or move across the country, for example, you'll want that box. *Trust me on this one.*

- ✔ **Store the invoice for safekeeping.** Your invoice is a valuable piece of paper, indeed.

  Save your original invoice in a plastic bag, along with your computer's manuals and original software, and other assorted hoo-hah. Keep the bag on your shelf or stored safely in your desk, and enjoy a little peace of mind.

✔ **Read the Mac's manual.** "Hey, wait a minute, Mark — why do I have to read the manual from Apple along with this tome?" Good question, and here's the answer: The documentation from Apple might contain new and updated instructions that override what I tell you here. (For example, *"Never* cut the red wire. Cut the blue wire instead." Or something to that effect.) Besides, Apple manuals are rarely thicker than a restaurant menu.

Connecting cables 101

Your laptop makes all its connections simple, but your computer depends on you to get the outside wires and thingamabobs where they go.

The absolutely essential connection

After your new Mac is resting comfortably in its assigned spot (I assume that's a desktop), you need to make just one required connection: the power cable! Plug the cable into the corresponding socket on the Mac first, and then plug 'er into that handy AC outlet.

Adding the Internet to the mix

If you have Internet access or a local computer network, you need to make at least one of the following connections in this section.

If you don't have *any* Internet service, start with local dialup Internet access. (Owners of MacBook and MacBook Pro laptops will need an external USB modem, because these models no longer have an internal modem.) You can check high-speed options later — typically, your local cable and telephone companies can provide you with more information on your long-term choices for Internet service.

If you get on the Internet by dialing a standard phone number and your laptop has an internal or external USB modem, just make two more connections:

1. **Plug one of the telephone cable's connectors into your external modem port.**

2. **Plug the other telephone cable connector into your telephone line's wall jack.**

After you get your account information from your ISP, Chapter 17 has the details on configuring your modem and Internet settings for dialup access.

If you have high-speed Internet service, or if you're in an office or school with a local computer network, you can probably connect through your laptop's built-in Ethernet port. You make two connections:

1. **Plug one end of the Ethernet cable into the Ethernet port on the Mac.**

2. **Plug the other end of the Ethernet cable into the Ethernet port from your network.**

   Your network port is probably one of the following: an Ethernet wall jack, an Ethernet hub or switch, or a cable or DSL Internet router (or sharing device).

TIP

Will you be joining a wireless network? If so, you'll find the information you need on installing an AirPort Extreme wireless card in an older Mac laptop in Chapter 20, and all the details you need to configure Tiger for wireless networking in Chapter 17.

Great, a Lecture about Handling My Laptop

Proper handling of your laptop is important, so we'll take a moment to cover the Rules of Proper Laptop Deportment. Okay, perhaps I'm lecturing a bit, but a little common sense goes a long way when handling any computer equipment, and your laptop is no different. (Scolding mode off.)

Keep these rules in mind while opening and carrying your laptop:

- ✔ **The cover is your friend.** Open your laptop's cover slowly, without jerking or bending it.

- ✔ **Close it before you move it.** By closing your laptop, you put your Mac OS X operating system into sleep mode, and the hard drive automatically spins down (making it safer to move). The laptop is still on, and will spring back to life once you open the cover.

- ✔ **Be nice to your keyboard.** Don't press too hard on those keys! Use the same amount of pressure that you use with a desktop computer keyboard.

- ✔ **Keep food and drinks far away.** Care to turn your laptop into a very expensive doorstop? Then go ahead and park your soda next to it. (Oh, and crumbs are perfect if you're interested in buying replacement keyboards.)

- ✔ **Keep your laptop as level as possible.** Using your laptop while it's tilted too far in any direction can eventually cause problems with your hard drive. I kid you not.

An Overview of Mac Software Goodness

This section answers the most common of all novice computer questions: "What the heck will I *do* with this thing?" You'll find additional details and exciting factoids about the software that you get for free, software you'll want to buy, and stuff you can do on the Internet.

What comes with my laptop?

Currently, Apple laptops ship with the following major software applications installed and ready to use:

- **The iLife 2006 suite:** You know you want these applications! They turn your Mac into a digital hub for practically every kind of high-tech device on the planet, including DV camcorders, digital cameras, portable music players, PDAs, and even cell phones.

  Chapters 11–15 focus on the major applications that make up iLife: iMovie HD, iDVD, iTunes, iPhoto, and GarageBand.

- **Office 2004 and iWork trial versions:** You can try both of those productivity suites, but expect to buy the full shooting match if you want to continue using either one.

- **QuickBooks for Mac:** Track your expenses, build a budget (and watch it evaporate), and plan for your financial future. Your checkbook suddenly becomes manageable and tax time becomes easier when you organize your financial world with QuickBooks.

- **Photo Booth and Front Row:** You'll discover more about these applications in Chapter 10 — for now, suffice it to say that Photo Booth works with your laptop's iSight camera, while Front Row is the remote-control software you'll use with your Apple remote.

The installed software on your Mac might change as new programs become available.

Connecting to the Internet from your lap

What is a modern computer without the Internet? Apple gives you great tools to take full advantage of every road sign and off-ramp on the Information Superhighway right out of the box:

- **Web surfing:** I use Tiger's Apple Safari Web browser every single day. It's faster and better designed than Internet Explorer, with unique features such as tabbed browsing and built-in RSS feeds.

If *tabbed browsing* and *RSS feeds* sound like ancient Aztec to you, don't worry. Chapter 8 is devoted entirely to Safari.

✔ **Web searches:** Sherlock can search the entire Internet for stocks, movie listings, airline schedules, dictionaries, and foreign language translations. I explain this Internet sleuth in Chapter 7.

✔ **Chat:** *iChat* lets you use your Mac to chat with others around the world for free using the Internet — by keyboard, voice, or full-color video. This is awesome stuff straight out of Dick Tracy and Buck Rogers. If you've never seen a video chat, you'll be surprised by just how good your friends and family look!

Always wear a shirt when videoconferencing.

✔ **E-mail:** Soldier, Apple's got you covered. The Mail application is a full-featured e-mail system, complete with defenses against the torrent of junk mail awaiting you. (Imagine a hungry digital saber-toothed tiger with an appetite for spam.) Send pictures and attached files to everyone on the planet, and look doggone good doing it.
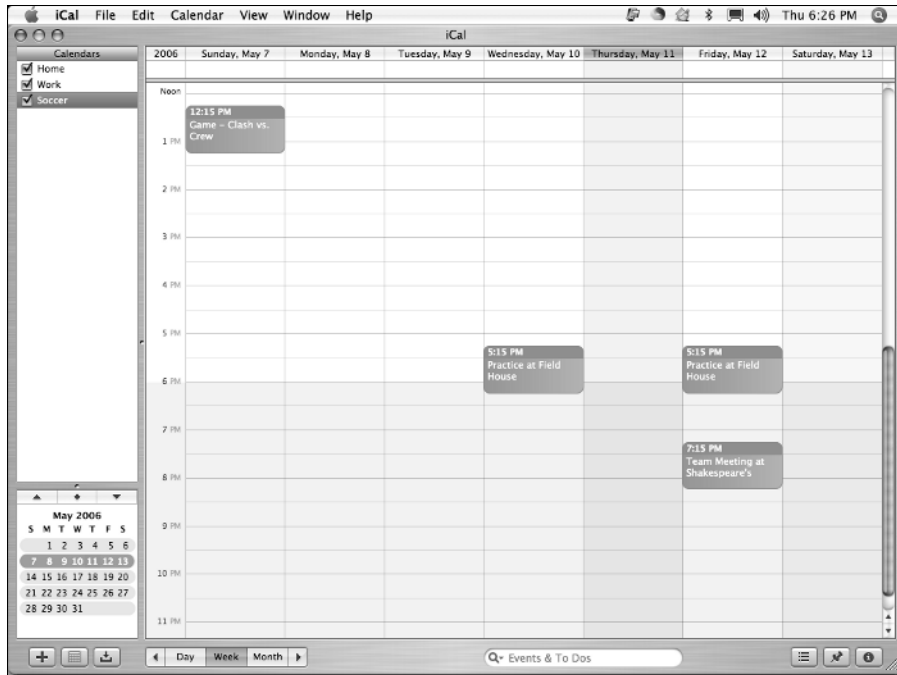
Applications that rock

Dozens of small applications are built into Mac OS X. I mention them in later chapters, but here are four good examples to whet your appetite:

✔ **iCal:** Keep track of your schedule and upcoming events, and even share your calendar online with others in your company or your circle of friends. See how to keep your life in order in Figure 1-2.

✔ **DVD Player:** Put all that widescreen beauty to work and watch your favorite DVD movies with DVD Player! You have all the features of today's most expensive standalone DVD players, too, including a spiffy onscreen control that looks like a remote.

✔ **Address Book:** Throw away that well-thumbed collection of fading addresses. Tiger's Address Book can store, search, and recall just about any piece of information on your friends, family, and acquaintances.

✔ **Chess:** Ah, but this isn't the chessboard your Dad used! Play the game of kings against a tough (and configurable) opponent — your MacBook — on a beautiful 3-D board. Heck, your Mac even narrates the game by speaking the moves!

You can use the data you store in your Address Book in other Apple applications included with Tiger, such as Apple Mail and iChat.

Figure 1-2:
Hey, isn't that iCal running on your Mac? You are iTogether!

Boot Camp For Dummies

Although Mac OS X Leopard — the next version of Mac OS X — is still being polished, one particularly exciting feature of this upcoming release is available now. You can use Apple's Boot Camp utility and your licensed copy of Windows XP to install and boot Windows on your Intel-based MacBook or MacBook Pro laptop!

Boot Camp creates a Windows-friendly *partition* (or section) on your hard drive, where all your Windows files are stored. Other than the slightly strange key assignments you'll have to remember, early adopters of Boot Camp report that it's surprisingly reliable and easy to use. However, I strongly urge that you back up your laptop on a regular basis; inviting Windows to your Mac laptop also invites potential viruses as well.

For more information on Boot Camp and how you can download and install it, visit Apple's Mac OS X page at www.apple.com/macosx/.

Other Stuff That Nearly Everyone Wants

No man is an island, and no computer is either. I always recommend the same set of stuff for new PC and Mac owners. These extras help keep your new computer clean and healthy (and some make sure you're happy as well):

✔ **Surge suppressor:** Even an all-in-one computer like your laptop can fall prey to a power surge. I recommend one of these:

- A basic surge suppressor with a fuse can help protect your Mac from an overload.

- A UPS (uninterruptible power supply) costs a little more, but it does a better job of filtering your AC line voltage to prevent brownouts or line interference from reaching your computer.

   Of course, your laptop's battery immediately kicks in if you experience a blackout, so a UPS is less important for your computer. However, any computer tech will tell you that filtered AC current is far better for your laptop, and your UPS will also provide power for external devices that *don't* have a battery.

✔ **Screen wipes:** Invest in a box of premoistened screen wipes. Your Mac's screen can pick up dirt, fingerprints, and other unmentionables faster than you think.

   Make sure your wipes are especially meant for LCD or laptop computer screens.

✔ **Blank CDs and DVDs:** Depending on the type of optical drive installed in your laptop — and the type of media you're recording, such as computer data CDs, DVD movies, or audio CDs — you'll want blank discs for

- CD-R (record once)

- CD-RW (record multiple times)

- DVD-R (record once)

✔ **Cables:** Depending on the external devices and wired network connectivity you'll be using, these are

- A standard Ethernet cable (for wired networks or high-speed Internet)

- FireWire or USB cables for devices you already have

   Most hardware manufacturers are nice enough to include a cable with their products, but there are exceptions, especially USB printers. *Shame on those cheapskates!*

- ✔ **A restraining cable:** For those who are a little more security-conscious or tend to use their laptops in public places, a standard Kensington laptop lock slot is provided on your computer's case. The principle is the same as a bicycle cable lock: if your laptop is secured by a cable to a sturdy fixture, it's going to be nearly impossible for it to walk off with someone else.

- ✔ **A wrist rest:** You might have many reasons to buy a new Mac laptop, but I know that a bad case of carpal tunnel syndrome is not one of them. Take care of your wrists by carrying a keyboard wrist rest in your laptop bag.