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MAY 12, 2008 9:55 AM PDT

Today's sign that the 3G iPhone is nigh

by [Tom Krazit](#)

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The iPhone will soon be faster. We'll define 'soon' as between four and six weeks.

(Credit: CNET Networks)

Widespread [iPhone](#) shortages, combined with an explosion in carrier deals, point to the launch of the next-generation iPhone as right around the corner, according to [Piper Jaffray](#).

I know, I know: [this isn't the first time](#) you've heard that theory. But you have to admit that signs are piling up that a 3G iPhone is in Apple's short-term plans. Let's recap the evidence so far.

The iPhone is currently unavailable at half the Apple retail stores surveyed by Piper Jaffray over the weekend. Both the [8GB and 16GB models are unavailable](#) from Apple's online store. Shortages have also been reported [in recent weeks in the U.K.](#) following a price cut.

Also, Apple is adding wireless carriers at a frantic pace. [Canada](#), Mexico, Australia, much of Latin America, [four new countries in Asia](#), and almost [half of Europe](#) are now on track to start officially selling iPhones in short fashion. The big Asian prizes, China and Japan, remain outsiders for the moment, but unlocked iPhones are [selling briskly in China](#) under the table.

Piper Jaffray expects Apple to announce the 3G iPhone at the [Worldwide Developer's Conference](#) in June (where, believe it or not, [Apple CEO Steve Jobs will deliver a keynote address](#)). The [iPhone 2.0 software](#) is expected to arrive by the end of June, which will mark the [one-year anniversary of the iPhone's debut](#).

So, those of you who were wondering if you should wait to purchase an iPhone until the 3G model comes out, rest easy. You simply can't buy one now even if you wanted to--or at least, you're going to have trouble finding one.

[Tom Krazit](#)

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Tom Krazit writes about the ever-expanding world of Google, as the most prominent company on the Internet defends its search juggernaut while expanding into nearly anything it thinks possible. He has previously written about Apple, the traditional PC industry, and chip companies.

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