A story about USB floppy drives

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A friend of mine used to work on the development of the <u>USB</u> specification and subsequent implementation. One of the things that happens at these meetings is that hardware companies would show off the great USB hardware they were working on. It also gave them a chance to try out their hardware with various USB host manufacturers and operating systems to make sure everything worked properly together. One of the earlier demonstrations was a company that was making USB floppy drives. The company representative talked about how well the drives were doing and mentioned that they make two versions, one for PCs and one for Macs. "That's strange," the committee members thought to themselves. "Why are there separate PC and Mac versions? The specification is very careful to make sure that the same floppy drive works on both systems. You shouldn't need to make two versions." So one of the members asked the obvious question. "Why do you have two versions? What's the difference? If there's a flaw in our specification, let us know and we can fix it." The company representative answered, "Oh, the two floppy drives are completely the same electronically. The only difference is that the Mac version comes in translucent blue plastic and costs more."

This company was of course not the only one to try to capitalize on the iMac-inspired translucent plastic craze. My favorite is the iMac-styled <u>George Foreman Grill</u>. (I'm told the graphite ones cook faster.)

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