

# THE NEXT MOVE

## How to upgrade to Mac's OS X system

About 65% of all Mac users in professional design, illustration and page layout have migrated to Apple's Mac OS X operating system by now. For many page layout users, the biggest delay had been the long-delayed release of an OS X-native version of QuarkXPress, but with the release of the OS X-ready QuarkXPress 6 late last summer, that last big issue was removed. That said, there are thousands of design and page layout people in North America still

working with some version of Mac OS 9 or even OS 8. If you're one of them, or thinking about taking the plunge, this article is for you.

### Why move?

First of all—why should you move? Well, if you don't, the world of Mac hardware and software is passing you by very quickly. If you're buying a new or recent Mac, very few are capable of starting up in anything earlier than OS X. In addition, much of the latest Mac add-on hardware either requires OS X or works without some features on earlier Mac operating systems.

All the latest and greatest new Mac programs are Mac OS X only, whether you use them or your customers do. If you have a dual-processor Mac, you need OS X to actually use the second processor effectively, and you can't get a G5 Mac to run at all without OS X. Those are a few of the good reasons not to stay with the old Mac OS.

On the positive side, moving to OS X brings many other advantages in addition to just avoiding obsolescence. For starters OS X is a lot more stable than earlier Mac operating systems. Based on UNIX, the 30-year-old operating system common to

larger computer systems, OS X brings protected memory allocation, allowing the computer to keep on running even if one or more programs crash. A program may crash, but the rest of the computer—or other programs open—are rarely affected.

Virtual memory now works far more effectively than ever before, although having enough real RAM is still the best option. OS X comes with pre-installed driver software for literally hundreds of current and recent digital cameras, scanners and printers, and it can automatically select the right driver software when the device is connected—a big timesaver.

Connecting to other Macs, Windows PCs or the Internet is now easier and faster than ever before. A Mac OS X machine right out of the box can connect to Windows servers, act as an FTP, Web or print server, receive faxes over a phone line, smoothly filter out spam e-mail and a lot more. You'll also like Preview, which opens most graphic file formats and is incredibly fast in viewing PDF files.

OS X 10.3 Panther, the most recent version of the new operating system, brings, along with hundreds of technical changes under the hood, a new look to the Finder. You now have a consistent window and dialogue box design, whether you're browsing a disk, remote server or folder window, or opening or saving a file. They all look and work basically the same way, and it's surprising how much this actually speeds up routine file management chores.

My favourite feature is the new left-hand column in all Finder windows, which contains all the most commonly used folders on your system, and you can add any favourite folders or files by just dragging them into the column. The new Exposé command is also a great time-saver. If you're like most design or production people, you often have about 20 overlapping and buried windows for open files and folders. Trying to find one specific window in all that clutter can be tedious, but hit the Exposé command (the F9 function key) and all open windows resize and reposition themselves so that all are visible at the same time. Rolling the pointer over any screen shows you exactly what it is, and clicking on it takes you into that file or window.

OS X is quite a package, and the look of it all is smooth, elegant and very polished when compared to any earlier Mac or PC operating system—the Aqua graphics management software built into OS X allows for smooth resolution-independent graphics and type at any size, window translucency, smooth drop shadows and

## Take the OS X tour

Just upgraded to Mac OS X 10.3, or thinking about it? Here's a quick tour of some new features in OS X and Panther to speed up the learning curve

This is a full-screen shot of a typical OS X Panther desktop view with a TextEdit file and a Web browser window open. Aside from a general brushed-metal look similar to iTunes, there are not a lot of obvious differences between 10.2 Jaguar and 10.3.

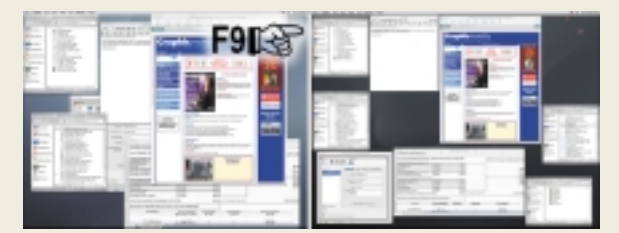
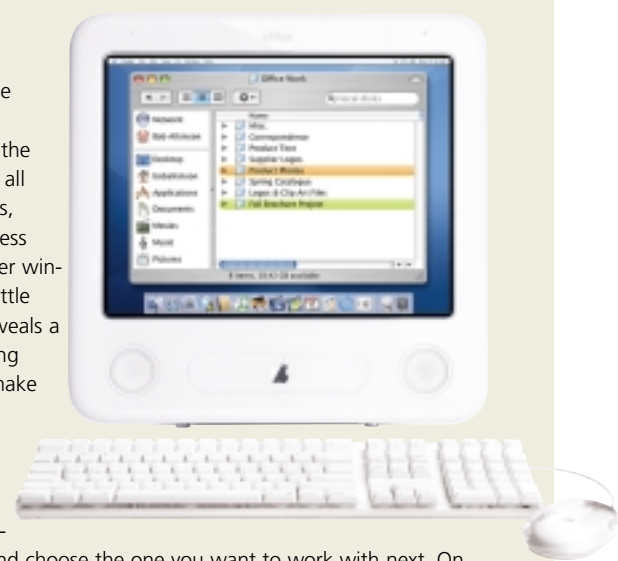
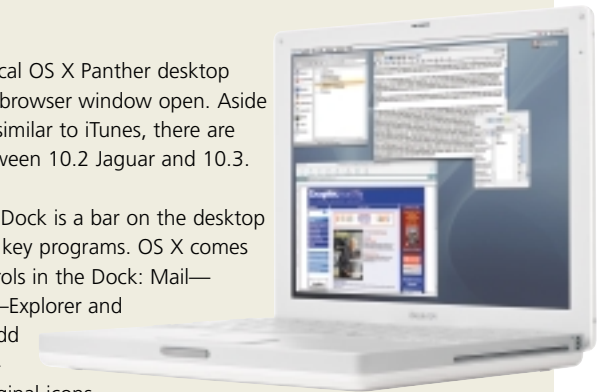
As with all versions of OS X, the Dock is a bar on the desktop where you can place aliases of your key programs. OS X comes with a dozen or so key system controls in the Dock: Mail—Apple's great OS X e-mail program—Explorer and Apple's iLife applications. You can add your own favourite programs, documents or folders by finding their original icons and dragging them to a spot on the Dock, which creates the alias. Once installed there, clicking once on an item opens it. The dock can be positioned across the bottom or on either side



of the desktop and set to hide itself until you roll the mouse pointer over that area, all done in the Dock section of the System Preferences Panel. The Dock is one good idea Apple borrowed from the Windows Task Bar. Open items have a little black tab under them.

A closer look at a disk or folder contents window reveals more of the brushed-metal look and a few important changes. Most obviously, the left-hand panel where you can drag all your favourite items—files, programs, folders, disks, servers, etc.—and access them instantly from any disk or folder window like this one. Very handy. The little gear icon at the centre in the top reveals a menu with all the usual housekeeping tasks—open, copy, move to trash, make alias, new folder, and so on.

One of the coolest desktop features of Panther, Exposé can instantly clear up desktop clutter, display every window you have open and choose the one you want to work with next. On the left, you have my typical desktop view during the workday—three open disk/folder contents windows, plus open files in Excel, TextEdit and PhotoShop, all overlapping or buried. Hit the F9 key and Exposé darkens the screen and moves or resizes all windows to be fully visible without overlap. Rolling over a window tells you its file or window name, and clicking there takes you into it. Very cool, and guaranteed to impress your windows or pre-Panther Mac friends.



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great built-in screen-savers. And, once you get used to it—it takes at least a week or so of daily use—you'll wonder how you ever survived with OS 9.

### Easy upgrading

So, what's the easiest path to upgrade? Start with your Mac itself. If you're buying any new or recent Mac, all this is taken care of, and you'll get OS X pre-installed. If you have an older Mac you'll want to make sure it's capable of running OS X properly. On the OS X 10.3 Panther box, Apple says you'll require a Mac with a G3, G4 or G5 processor and 128 Mb of RAM to install and run OS X.

I can't recommend OS X on a G3-based Mac, nor one with less than 512 Mb of RAM, however. Without the faster G4 or

Mac OS X hardware		
ITEM	MINIMUM	RECOMMENDED
Processor	G3, 300MHz+	G4 or G5, 500MHz+
RAM	128Mb+	512Mb+
Free disk space	5Gb+	10Gb+

**Recommended Mac systems for OS X:** Any G4 or G5-based Mac desktop, G4 PowerBook, G4 iMac or eMac. New Panther pre-loaded Mac systems cost from \$1,100 (eMac) up to \$5,200 (Dual 2GHz G5 Mac with 17" Apple monitor)

Mac OS X software		
TOP 12 PROGRAMS	UPGRADE COST*	NEW COST*
PhotoShop CS	\$240	\$910
Illustrator CS	\$237	\$700
InDesign CS	\$237	\$980
GoLive CS	\$237	\$560
Acrobat 6 Pro	\$190	\$580
QuarkXpress 6	\$399	\$1,359
FreeHand MX	\$210	\$557
Dreamweaver MX	\$290	\$580
Flash MX	\$290	\$720
Microsoft Word X	\$145	\$320
Microsoft Office X	\$335	\$565
SuitCase X1	\$75	\$145

\* All prices are typical competitive street prices in Canada. Upgrades are from most recent non-OS X native versions

G5 chip and lots of real memory you'll find OS X quite sluggish. So if you have an older Mac with a G3 or earlier processor, I'd strongly recommend a new machine to run OS X. New G4 or G5 Macs will cost you anywhere from \$1,100 for a simple EMac up to about \$5,200 or more for a Dual 2GHz G5 production system including monitor. You'll also want a fair amount of space on your main hard drive, about five Gb minimum—this OS is big



Click on the System Preferences icon in the Dock and you get this handy all-in-one OS/X preferences control centre. Click on any one to see that panel...

Panther shares files and folders in just about every way you could want—all password protected. Personal File Sharing used to be called AppleShare File Sharing on earlier Macs. Windows Sharing allows users of any recent version of Windows on your local network to see your shared folders and access files. Web Sharing and FTP Access allow remote users across the Internet to access your Mac; Remote Login and Remote desktop allow Mac users to remotely access your Mac or even see its display views.

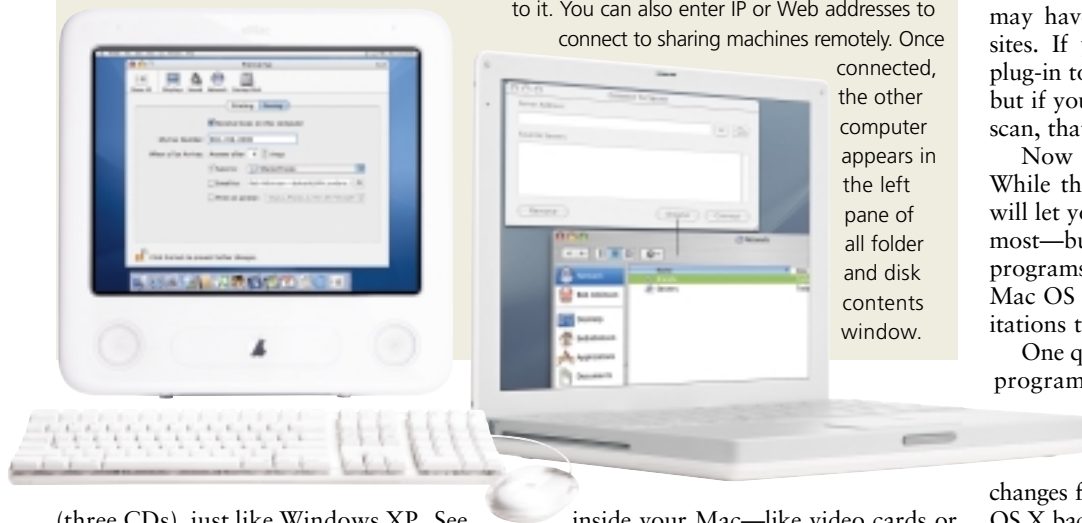
Panther comes with drivers for many current inkjet and laser printers or copiers and recognizes them automatically when connected, but you have to tell the Mac to look for them. Bring up the Print & Fax preferences panel, click on the Set Up Printers button and then hit the Add button. All local printers will appear in the list. Click on one to add it to your printer list. If you have an older printer, you should check with the manufacturer's Web site to see if there's any OS X driver software for it that you can install before choosing it.

Here you create, edit or delete any user accounts for the computer. As with earlier versions of OS X, each Mac can have any number of registered user accounts, each with their own passwords, preferences, favourite folders, and so on. This is handy for homes or offices where more than one person will use the computer.

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Click on Faxing in the Print & Fax panel and you get this Faxing panel. Since most Macs come with a built-in modem, you can use it and a phone line to send and receive faxes in the background.

In the Finder, the Connect to Server under the Go menu brings up a box that allows you to connect to local or remote Macs or PCs. Hit the Browse button and a list of local machines sharing files or folders will appear. Double-click to connect to it. You can also enter IP or Web addresses to connect to sharing machines remotely. Once connected, the other computer appears in the left pane of all folder and disk contents window.



(three CDs), just like Windows XP. See Table 1 for a quick summary of hardware recommendations.

One other hardware issue relates to any non-Apple hardware you have installed

inside your Mac—like video cards or SCSI adaptor cards—or connected to your Mac—like scanners, USB printers, external disk drives. Many devices of this sort come with special driver software, so you should

check with the manufacturers' Web sites to find out if the OS X version of this software is available. As I mentioned, OS X does come with drivers for a lot of current and recent printers and digital cameras, but other devices, especially older ones, may have a problem, so check the Web sites. If your scanner uses a PhotoShop plug-in to work, that will be fine in OS X, but if you run a separate little program to scan, that could have a problem in OS X.

Now look at all your key software. While the Classic mode built into OS X will let you start up in OS X and then run most—but not all—Mac OS 9-compatible programs under Classic's emulation of Mac OS 9.2.2, there are a number of limitations to this approach.

One quick tip for determining whether a program is running native OS X or in Classic mode: when running in Classic, the little Apple logo at the upper left of the screen

changes from the blue shiny plastic look of OS X back to the old multi-coloured Apple logo. The good news is that current versions of the leading graphics and design software are now OS X-native and take full advantage of the new operating system. That

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includes PhotoShop, Illustrator, FreeHand, Flash, QuarkXPress, InDesign, MS Office, GoLive, DreamWeaver, Toast, SuitCase, Font Reserve, Acrobat, Internet Explorer, Fetch and most other programs used by graphics and page layout pros.

The non-OS X software that's most likely to cause you problems running in Classic mode are the older programs, especially shareware that's not regularly updated and programs that rely on older graphics drivers—games are a good example of this. See Table 2 for the top dozen OS/X native graphics, design and prepress software packages with pricing.

All your PostScript, OTF and TrueType fonts will also work without any problem. Adobe's ATM does not work in OS X, but the OS itself handles font smoothing for screen and non-PostScript printer use. You'll still want to have ATM 4.6.2 or newer installed to smooth fonts in your programs that run in Classic mode. PostScript printers still work fine—in fact, Display PostScript and PDF are a fundamental part of the



Apple's great OS X-only Mail program, now in version 1.3, has excellent spam-filtering tools that actually learns from experience. You show it typical junk mail and spam, and before long it filters them to the trash automatically, and with surprising accuracy.

Mac OS/X has an excellent online help system. Available under the Help menu, it has literally thousands of pages of detailed help information about OS X and it's incredibly fast. Just type in a word or two in the Search field at the top right. It's the Mac OS X manual you didn't get in the box.

OS X environment, and now almost any program can save directly as a PDF file.

Finally, if you're upgrading your current Mac from OS 9, the OS X 10.3 Panther operating system software upgrade from OS 9 will cost you \$175 for a single user or \$285 for a five-user pack. It comes on three CDs, and plan on the

upgrade process taking about a hour, counting the setup program that runs automatically after installation. ■

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