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1

Introducing Lion

Lion is the latest operating system from Apple Computers. It is not only enjoyable and secure to use, it also has a raft of innovative features that transform a number of traditional ways for using computers. This chapter introduces the OS X interface and shows how to get started with it.

- 8** About OS X Lion
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- 12** About Your Mac
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Don't forget

UNIX is an operating system that has traditionally been used for large commercial mainframe computers. It is renowned for its stability and ability to be used within different computing environments.

About OS X Lion

OS X Lion is the seventh version (10.7) of the operating system for Apple computers; the iMac, MacBook, Mac Mini and Mac Pro. When OS X (pronounced 'ten') was first introduced it was a major breakthrough in terms of ease of use and stability. It is based on the UNIX programming language, that is a very stable and secure operating environment and ensures that OS X is one of the most stable consumer operating systems that has ever been designed. More importantly for the user, it is also one of the most stylish and user-friendly operating systems available.

Through the previous six versions of OS X it has been refined and improved in terms of both performance and functionality. This process continues with OS X Lion, but there are also a number of revolutionary features that are unique to any operating system.

Some of the new features in OS X Lion are innovative in that they have been inspired by the functionality of Apple's mobile devices: iPhone, iPod touch and iPad, rather than vice versa. The two main areas where the functionality of the mobile devices has been transferred to the desktop and laptop operating system are:

- The way programs can be downloaded and installed. Instead of using a disc, OS X Lion utilizes the Mac App Store to provide programs, which can be installed in a couple of simple steps
- Options for navigating around pages and applications on a trackpad or a Magic Mouse. Instead of having to use a mouse or a traditional laptop trackpad, OS X Lion allows new Multi-Touch Gestures that provide a range of ways for accessing programs, apps and web pages and navigating around them

OS X Lion also addresses another area that has been a constant annoyance for computer users: the loss of work or information if your computer crashes while you are working on a document. OS X Lion solves this problem with a new function that will automatically save your work in the background, without you having to worry about it.

In many ways OS X Lion is a genuinely revolutionary operating system and, with its range of functions and innovations, it can justifiably claim to be in a position to radically change the way in which people work and interact with their Macs.

Installing OS X Lion

One of the many new innovations in OS X Lion is the way that programs can be downloaded and installed. Traditionally, this has been done with an installation CD or DVD, but OS X Lion changes this by providing programs for downloading directly from the online Mac App Store. This also includes obtaining OS X Lion itself. New Macs will have Lion installed but if you want to install it on an existing Mac you will need to have a minimum requirement of:

- OS X Snow Leopard (version 10.6.8)
- Intel Core 2 Duo, Core i3, Core i5, Core i7, or Xeon processor
- 2Gb of memory

If your Mac meets these requirements, you can download and install OS X Lion as follows:

1 Click on this icon on the Dock to access the App Store



2 Locate the Lion icon and click on the Install button to begin the installation process



3 Follow the installation screens including one for where OS X Lion is installed (this is usually the Mac Hard Disk)



Don't forget



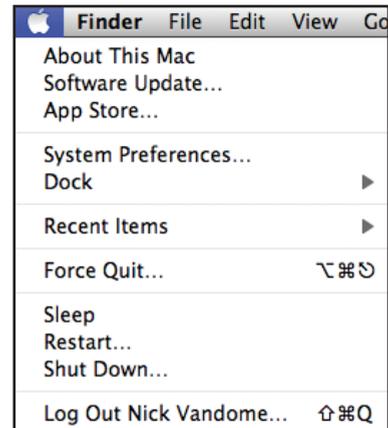
The installation of OS X Lion usually takes a minimum of 30 minutes, depending on the power and speed of your Mac.

The OS X Environment

The first most noticeable element about OS X is its elegant user interface. This has been designed to create a user friendly graphic overlay to the UNIX operating system at the heart of OS X and it is a combination of rich colors and sharp, original graphics. The main elements that make up the initial OS X environment are:



The Apple menu is standardized throughout OS X, regardless of the program in use



Hot tip



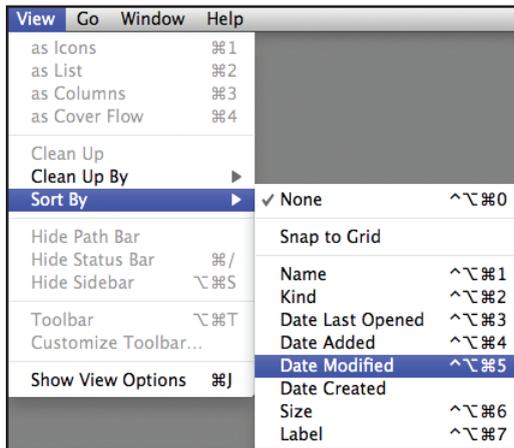
The Dock is designed to help make organizing and opening items as quick and easy as possible. For a detailed look at the Dock, see Chapter Two.

Aqua Interface

The name given by Apple to its OS X interface is Aqua. This describes the graphical appearance of the operating system. Essentially, it is just the cosmetic appearance of the elements within the operating system, but they combine to give OS X a rich visual look and feel. Some of the main elements of the Aqua interface are:

Menus

Menus in OS X contain commands for the operating system and any relevant programs. If there is an arrow next to a command it means there are subsequent options for the item:



Window buttons

These appear in any open OS X window and can be used to manipulate the window.



Option buttons

Whenever a dialog box with separate options is accessed, OS X highlights the suggested option with a pulsing blue button. This can be accepted by clicking on it or by pressing Enter. If you do not want to accept this option, click on another button in the dialog box.



Don't forget



The graphics used in OS X are designed in a style known as Quartz. The design of this means that some elements, such as menus, allow the background behind them to show through.

Don't forget



The red window button is used to close a window. However, this does not quit the program. The amber button is used to minimize a window and the green one is used to expand a window.



About Your Mac

When you buy a new Mac you will almost certainly check the technical specifications before you make a purchase. Once you have your Mac, there will be times when you will want to view these specifications again, such as the version of OS X in use, the amount of memory and the amount of storage. This can be done through the About This Mac option that can be accessed from the Apple Menu. To do this:

- 1 Click on the Apple Menu and click on the About This Mac link



- 2 The About This Mac window has information about the version of OS X, the processor, the memory and the Startup Disk being used



Don't forget



For more information about Software Updates, see Chapter Eleven.

- 3 Click on Software Update... button to see available software updates for your Mac

A blue button with the text 'Software Update...' in white.

- 4 Click on the More Info... button to view more About This Mac options

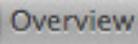
A blue button with the text 'More Info...' in white.

...cont'd

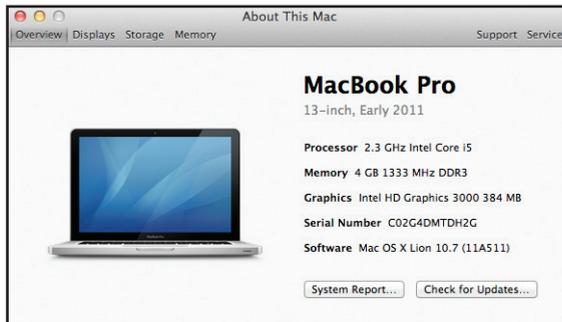
Overview

This gives additional general information about your Mac:

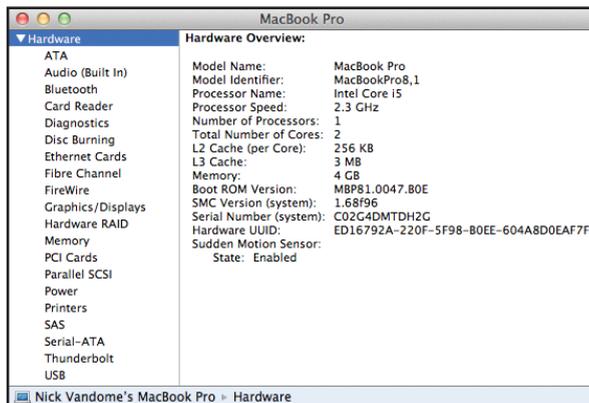
- 1 Click on the Overview button



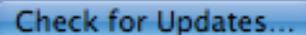
- 2 This window contains additional information such as the type of graphics card and the Serial Number



- 3 Click on the System Report... button to view full details about the hardware and software on your Mac



- 4 Click on the Check for Updates... button to view available software updates for your Mac



...cont'd

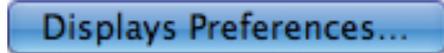
Display information

This gives information about your Mac's display:

- 1 Click on the Displays button 
- 2 This window contains information about your display including the type, size, resolution and graphics card



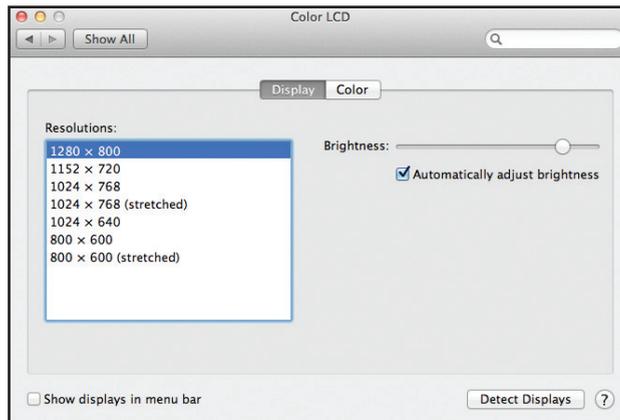
- 3 Click on the Displays Preferences... button to view options for changing the display's resolution, brightness and color



Don't forget



For more information about changing the resolution, see page 20.



...cont'd

Storage information

This contains information about your Mac's physical and removable storage:

1 Click on the Storage button

Storage

2 This window contains information about the used and available storage on your hard disk and also options for writing various types of CDs and DVDs



Don't forget

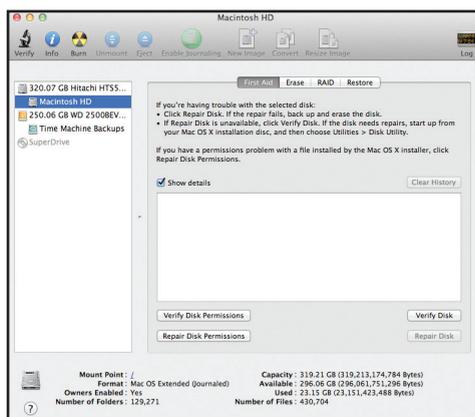


The disk usage is shown for different content types on your Mac e.g. videos, music, photos and applications.

3 Click on the Disk Utility...

button to view options for repairing problems on your Mac

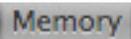
Disk Utility...



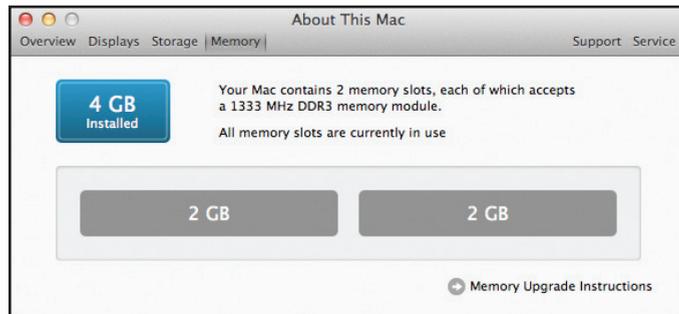
...cont'd

Memory information

This contains information about your Mac's memory, that is used to run OS X and also the applications on your computer:

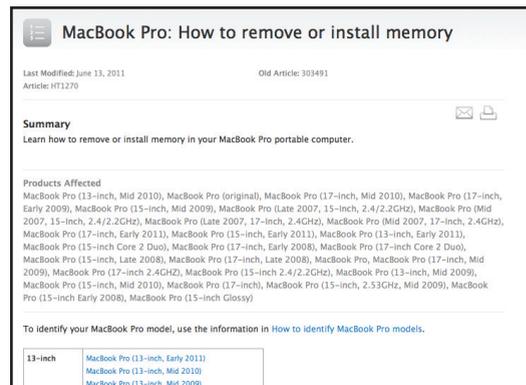
1 Click on the Memory button 

2 This window contains information about the memory chips that are in your Mac



3 Click on the Memory Upgrade Instructions if you want to upgrade your memory chips 

4 A page on the Apple website gives instructions for upgrading memory chips for different makes and models of Macs



Beware



Always wear an anti-static wristband if you are opening your Mac to insert new memory chips, or any other time when you are working on the components of your Mac.

About System Preferences

OS X Lion has a wide range of options for customizing and configuring the way that your Mac operates. These are located within the Systems Preferences section. To access this:

- 1 Click on this button on the Dock (the bar of icons that appears along the bottom of the screen), or from the Applications folder



Don't forget



For more detailed information about the Dock, see Chapter Two.

- 2 All of the options are shown in the System Preferences window

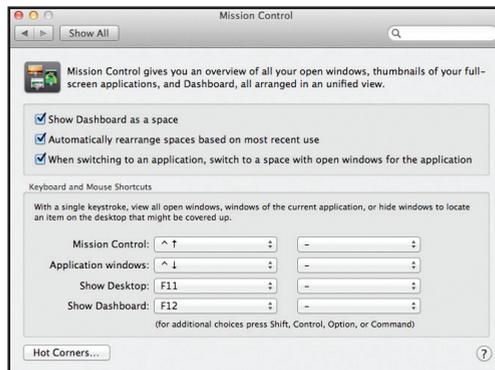


Don't forget

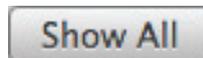


For a detailed look at the System Preferences, see Chapter Two.

- 3 Click once on an item to open it in the main System Preferences window. Each item will have a number of options for customizing it



- 4 Click on the Show All button to return to the main System Preferences window



Changing the Background

Background imagery is an important way to add your own personal touch to your Mac. (This is the graphical element upon which all other items on your computer sit.) There are a range of background options that can be used. To select your own background:

Don't forget



You can select your own photographs as your desktop background, once you have loaded them onto your Mac. To do this, select the iPhoto folder and browse to the photograph you want.

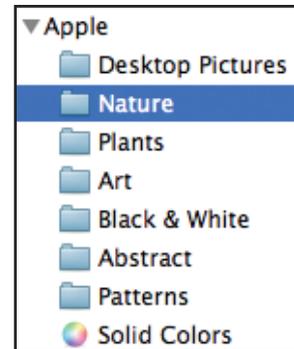
- 1 Click on this button in the System Preferences folder



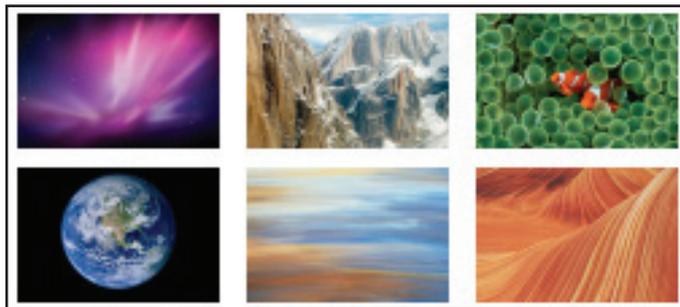
- 2 Click on the Desktop tab

Desktop

- 3 Select a location from where you want to select a background



- 4 Click on one of the available backgrounds



- 5 The background is applied as the desktop background imagery

Changing the Screen Saver

A screen saver is the element that appears when the Mac has not been used for a specified period of time. Originally this was designed to avoid screen burn (caused by items being at the same position on the screen for an extended period of time) but now they largely consist of a graphical element. To select your own screen saver:

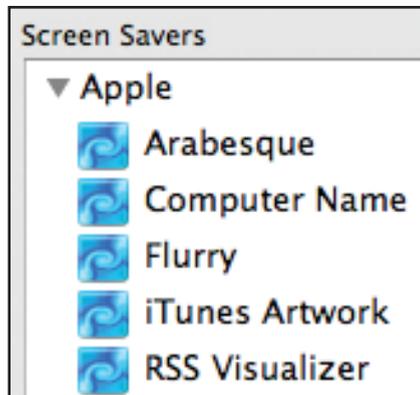
- 1 Click on this button in the System Preferences folder



- 2 Click on the Screen Saver tab

Screen Saver

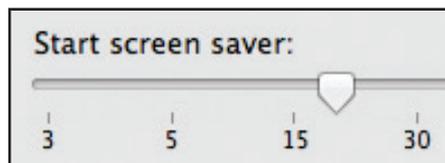
- 3 Select a location from where you want to select a screen saver



- 4 Click the Test button to preview the selected screen saver

Test

- 5 Drag this slider to specify the amount of time the Mac is inactive before the screen saver is activated



Don't forget



Screen savers were originally designed to prevent screen burn (areas of the screen becoming marked as a result of elements remaining static for a prolonged period of time), but now they are more for cosmetic graphical purposes.

Changing the Resolution

For most computer users the size at which items are displayed on the screen is a crucial issue: if items are too small this can make them hard to read and lead to eye strain; too large and you have to spend a lot of time scrolling around to see everything.

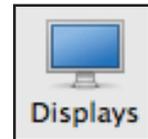
The size of items on the screen is controlled by the screen's resolution, i.e. the number of colored dots displayed in an area of the screen. The higher the resolution the smaller the items on the screen, the lower the resolution the larger the items. To change the screen resolution:

Don't forget



A higher resolution makes items appear sharper on the screen, even though they appear physically smaller.

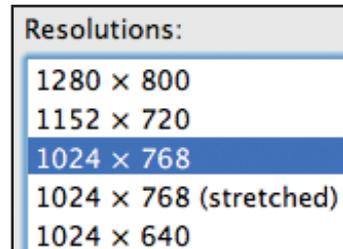
1 Click on this button in the System Preferences folder



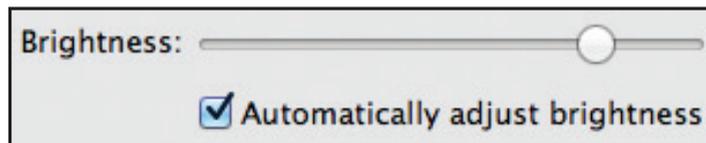
2 Click on the Display tab

Display

3 Select a resolution setting to change the overall screen resolution



4 Drag this slider to change the screen brightness. Check on the box to have this done automatically for the current lighting conditions, via an ambient light sensor (if fitted)



5 Click on the Color tab to select options for using different color profiles and also calibrating your monitor

Color

Universal Access

In all areas of computing it is important to give as many people access to the system as possible. This includes users with visual impairments and also people who have problems using the mouse and keyboard. In OS X this is achieved through the functions of the Universal Access System Preferences. To use these:

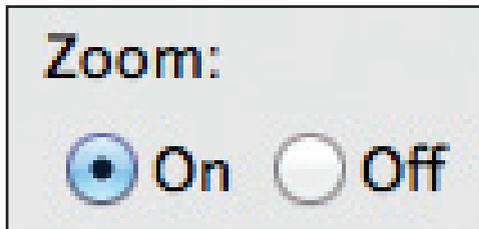
- 1 Click on the this button in the System Preferences folder



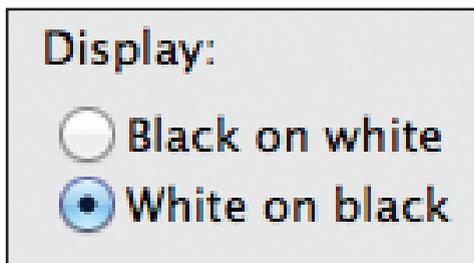
- 2 Click on the Seeing tab for help with issues connected with visual impairment

Seeing

- 3 Check on the Zoom On button to enable zooming in on specific areas of the screen



- 4 Check on the White on Black display button to invert the default settings for your system display



Don't forget



Experiment with the VoiceOver function (in the Seeing window) if only to see how it operates. This will give you a better idea of how visually impaired users access information on a computer.

Don't forget



Under the Keyboard tab there are options for the time it takes for a keystroke to appear on the screen and how long before a keystroke is repeated if a key is held down for a few seconds.

...cont'd

5 Click on the Hearing tab to adjust settings for audio problem

Hearing

6 Click on this button to adjust the system volume

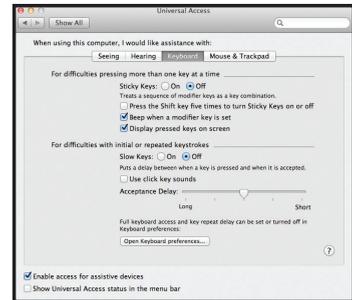
Adjust Volume...

7 Check on this box to make the screen flash whenever there is a sound alert on your Mac

Flash the screen when an alert sound occurs
Test the screen flash: Flash Screen

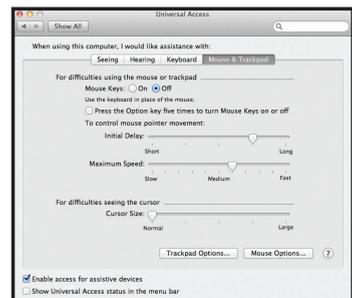
8 Click on the Keyboard tab to access options for customizing your keyboard

Keyboard



9 Click on the Mouse & Trackpad tab to access options for customizing these devices

Mouse & Trackpad



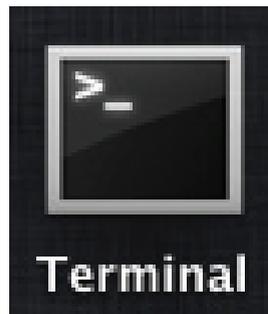
Background on UNIX

UNIX is the powerful and robust operating system that is the foundation on which OS X runs. In fact, OS X is essentially a very impressive graphical interface placed on top of a version of UNIX known as Darwin.

UNIX was developed in the early 1970s by programmers who wanted to design an operating system that could run on any platform, i.e. different types of computers. Up until then, each operating system had generally been designed for a specific type of computer. Another benefit of UNIX was that it was designed to be available to the whole development community. The program that was used to create UNIX is the now widely used C language.

UNIX first gained popularity in academic institutions and it was then taken on by government organizations. Its adoption by Apple as the foundation for OS X has seen UNIX move into the mainstream of consumer computing. UNIX's greatest strength is its stability, while its greatest weakness is perhaps its non-user-friendliness. Apple have made the most of the former and overcome the latter with its Aqua interface and Quartz graphics.

For people with experience of UNIX, programming can be performed within OS X in the Terminal window. This is the gateway into the UNIX environment and it can be located in the Applications>Utilities folder.



If you are not familiar with UNIX, you need never worry about it or the Terminal again.

Don't forget



In addition to OS X on consumer computers Apple have also released a server that runs on UNIX. This is called Lion Server and it is used to run and manage computer networks.

Shutting Down

The Apple menu (which can be accessed by clicking on the Apple icon at the top left corner of the desktop or any subsequent OS X window) has been standardized in OS X. This means that it has the same options regardless of the program in which you are working. This has a number of advantages, not least is the fact that it makes it easier to shut down your Mac. When shutting down, there are three options that can be selected:

Don't forget



When shutting down, make sure you have saved all of your open documents, although OS X will prompt you to do this if you have forgotten.

- **Sleep.** This puts the Mac into hibernation mode, i.e. the screen goes blank and the hard drive becomes inactive. This state is maintained until the mouse is moved or a key is pressed on the keyboard. This then wakes up the Mac and it is ready to continue work
- **Restart.** This closes down the Mac and then restarts it again. This can be useful if you have added new software and your computer requires a restart to make it active
- **Shut Down.** This closes down the Mac completely once you have finished working

Don't forget



OS X Lion has a Resume function where your Mac opens up in the same state as when you shut it down. See Chapter Two for details.

Click here to access the Apple menu

Click here to access one of the shut down options

