

**I'M A MAC. NO WAIT, I'M A PC.  
YOU MEAN I CAN BE BOTH?**

# TECHNOLOGY

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**B**y now we've all seen the Mac versus PC ads from Apple depicting the PC as typical middle-aged, middle-management type and the Mac as a hip, young creative type. Now Microsoft has fired back with their own commercial in which a hip, female twenty-something declares she is not "cool enough" to be a Mac person. Obviously the line in the sand has been drawn. Are you a Mac or a PC? What if I told you there was a way you could make everyone happy and still keep your computer street cred? You could be a Mac when you wanted to edit some photos and a PC when you had to do some accounting. With the latest Macintosh computers with Intel processors it is all possible. Welcome to computing nirvana.

Why would anyone in their right mind want to have a computer run Mac and Windows on the same machine and maybe even at the same time you ask? There are plenty of reasonable responses from which to choose. Maybe you need the payroll function from the Windows version of QuickBooks that is missing from the Mac version or your company has some proprietary web application that will only run in Internet Explorer. Maybe you design software or web pages and want to see how they look and perform on both platforms or how about that new game that is PC only. But before we go any further, I must admit something. My name is Brian, I own a company that consults and supports Apple Macintosh computers and users, and I run Windows on my own Macs. Wow, I feel better now that everything is out in the open! I've always tried to avoid the "platform wars", but I definitely prefer the Mac. However, the way I see it is that I have the capability to run Windows very easily alongside the Mac, so why not? Even though the Macintosh has been steadily gaining market share over the last 5 years, the Windows operating system still accounts for about 90% of the computing world. Right now there is simply more software available for Windows and I think if a piece of

Windows software solves a problem then why not use it? If you are a longtime Mac user or a recent "switcher" there may come a time when you want to run Windows on your Mac.

Apple's biggest growth areas have been people switching from PC to Mac and the conversion of small businesses over to Mac from PCs and I think the duality of the Macintosh has helped them sell the transition. In my experience, even though most people are conscious of the Windows on a Mac possibility and maybe even purchased a Mac because of this feature, most are confused on how to go about making it work. There are two ways to run Windows on a Mac.

## Dual Boot

Apple provides dual boot functionality built in with every Intel Mac with what they call Boot Camp. Dual boot means you can choose either Apple's Leopard or Microsoft Windows when the machine starts and then run the selected operating system. If you want to switch to the other operating system, you would have to reboot and select the other operating system. It's pretty simple actually. All you need for a barebones dual booting machine is a Macintosh with an Intel processor and a copy of Windows. Even though Apple provides the ability to dual boot, they are limited to how much support they can give you since they don't make Windows. Apple provides instructions for setting up Boot Camp but you are basically on your own. Dual booting is most beneficial for people who are using very intense Windows programs that demand all of the power of the machine.

## Virtualization

An even fancier solution is to use virtualization software so you can run Leopard and Windows at the same time! Virtualization is an IT buzzword that means you can run "guest" operating systems inside a "host" operating system. The Mac in this case would be the "host" and Windows would be the "guest." Virtualization

has been in use for years in the server world and has proven to be a huge money saver. By having the ability to run several "guests" on one "host" means you are able to get the functionality of several computers on one physical machine. Virtualization works great and I think it is the best way to go in most cases. You still need a copy of Windows and there is also the added cost of the virtualization software, but it is worth it. Parallels and VMware Fusion are the two main flavors in virtualization software for the Mac and they are both priced about the same. First, either Parallels or Fusion virtualization software is installed and then Windows is installed inside of the virtualization software. That's it! Now you can really enjoy the benefits of both worlds. Switching back and forth from Mac to Windows is as easy as launching any other program on your Mac.

Now that you have Windows installed via Boot Camp or virtualization, all that is left is to install the programs that drove you to Windows on your Mac in the first place. There is one thing I must warn you about and it concerns viruses and spyware. If you are a longtime Mac user you may be scratching your head right about now since Mac's have not been the target of many hacker attacks, but if you are a recent PC to Mac convert you know what I am talking about. Your new super-Mac has two brains. A Mac brain and a Windows brain. Make sure you protect the Windows brain with anti-virus software and anti-spyware software since it is still vulnerable to the attacks of hackers targeting Windows. This is especially true if you are running a dual boot system.

Now you are all setup with Windows on your Mac. It feels a little wrong at first, but it's something you get used to and honestly it really is being able to have your cake and eat it too. I love the fact that I can run almost any software I can think of and I don't need two or more computers. One Mac does it all! ✕



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