

My apologies to Apple, for ignoring Mac OS X and related products.

I finally get it!

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For the people that already use some flavor of a Mac, you're going to wonder what took me so long to get it.

For the people that have never taken a good look at Mac, you might be thinking, "Oh brother, another one of those Mac Zealots!" That's sort of true, but read further before drawing a conclusion.

My Mac experience started over a year ago. Here are the high points:

1. Over a year ago, one of my friends asked what I thought about Mac laptops, since his daughter wanted to get one for college. I told him that I had never even looked at one and I really couldn't help him and if she had any issues with it I wouldn't be able to help. I thought that maybe I should do a little research, but Windows kept me busy enough.
2. At the CMG'09 International Conference in Dallas, Texas, I noticed that a large number of participants had laptops with the Apple logo. I asked a few why and they all said that they liked them better. So, I started thinking again that I really needed to take a closer look, but after the conference the holidays hit and I completely forgot about it.
3. After the holidays were over, my uncle who is almost 90, asked if I could help him get his new Apple computer on his home network. OK, that request made my head spin! He had a coupon for \$400 off and thought that it would be fun to play with something new. After I got to his home, it only took three mouse clicks to get him on his home network, having never been on a Mac before. I found out later, that it could have been done in one click!
4. So, now I was really interested! I started by reading all of the promotional information and watching the promotional videos on the Apple website. The more research I did, the more impressed I was and I finally decided that I needed to get one of my own. I finally bought the 13" MacBook Pro and I love it!
5. I told my wife that we would be taking it on vacations and that I would teach her how to use it. She's a bit of a technophobe, but she started playing with it one day, when I wasn't around, and loved it. Go figure!
6. I decided to go for broke and look into the Apple certifications. I now hold two of them: Apple Certified Technical Coordinator (ACTC) 10.6 and

Apple Certified Support Professional (ACSP) 10.6. My indoctrination is now complete! (humor intended)

You might be wondering what makes a Mac so attractive to a long time Windows user:

1. The base operating system is Open Source Unix, which is very stable. Also, my Linux skills are transferable, but due to an excellent GUI interface, not really required.
2. There are dozens of great open source programs available, including a free office suite called NeoOffice.
3. The laptop that I purchased is very strong, because it's manufactured from a sheet of aluminum.
4. The entire system is designed to work together, so you very rarely run into compatibility conflicts.
5. The standard items like software patching, backing up your data and other applications are very intuitive.
6. It has great performance! I did test drives of dozens of Windows 7 systems and had no concerns about buying a Mac.

I still see great value in the Microsoft Windows product line, but the Apple Mac OS X product line has a great deal to offer.

So, for ignoring Apple for so many years, I apologize!

About the author

Pete Warchol has been in the Information Technology industry for more than 20 years. He has held many different roles, spanning software development, business analysis, project management, staff management, systems administration, systems security analysis, and most recently, systems performance analysis. He has earned more than 90 professional certifications, including ACTC (Apple), MCITP (Microsoft), CPHIMS (HIMSS), VCP (VMware), CCA (Citrix), ASE (HP), CATE (IBM), Security+ (CompTIA), and CEH (EC-Council). He is employed by Siemens Healthcare and is a CMG Officer for the Philadelphia regional group (<http://regions.cmg.org/regions/phcmg/index.html>).