

Mac OS 9

Mac OS 9 is the ninth and last major release of Apple's classic Mac OS operating system. Introduced on October 23, 1999, it was promoted by Apple as "The Best Internet Operating System Ever",^[2] highlighting Sherlock 2's Internet search capabilities, integration with Apple's free online services known as iTools and improved Open Transport networking. While Mac OS 9 lacks protected memory and full pre-emptive multitasking,^[3] lasting improvements include the introduction of an automated Software Update engine and support for multiple users.

Apple discontinued development of Mac OS 9 in late 2001, transitioning all future development to Mac OS X. The final updates to Mac OS 9 addressed compatibility issues with Mac OS X while running in the Classic Environment and compatibility with Carbon applications. At the 2002 World Wide Developers Conference, Steve Jobs began his keynote address by staging a mock funeral for OS 9.^[4]

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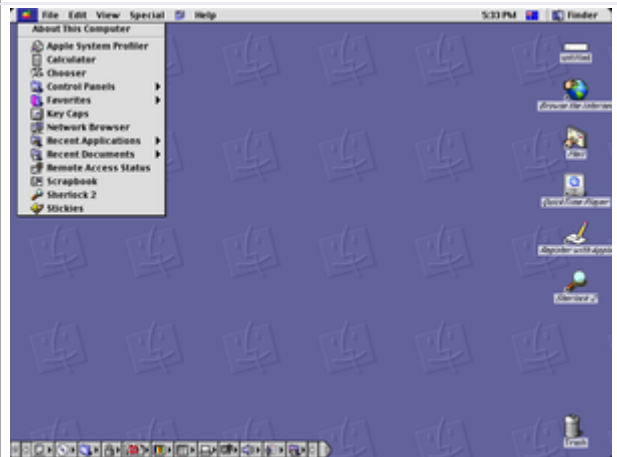
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Features

Apple billed Mac OS 9 as including "50 new features" and heavily marketed its Sherlock 2 software, which introduced a "channels" feature for searching different online resources and introduced a QuickTime-like metallic appearance. Mac OS 9 also featured integrated support for Apple's suite of Internet services known as iTools (later re-branded as .Mac, then MobileMe, which was replaced by

Mac OS 9

A version of the classic Mac OS operating system



Screenshot of Mac OS 9.0.4

Developer	<u>Apple Computer, Inc.</u>
OS family	<u>Macintosh</u>
Working state	Historic, not supported
Source model	<u>Closed source</u>
Released to manufacturing	October 23, 1999
Latest release	9.2.2 / December 5, 2001 ^[1]
Kernel type	<u>Nanokernel</u>
License	Proprietary
Preceded by	<u>Mac OS 8</u>
Succeeded by	<u>Mac OS X 10.0</u> <u>Mac OS X Public Beta</u>
Official website	Apple - Products - Mac OS 9 (<u>https://web.archive.org/web/20001109004000/http://www.apple.com:80/macOS/</u>) at the <u>Wayback Machine</u> (archived November 9, 2000)
Support status	

iCloud) and included improved TCP/IP functionality with Open Transport 2.5.

Historical, unsupported as of February 1, 2002

Other features new to Mac OS 9 include:^[5]

- Integrated support for multiple user accounts without using At Ease.
- Support for voice login through VoicePrint passwords.
- Keychain, a feature allowing users to save passwords and textual data encrypted in protected keychains.
- A Software Update control panel for automatic download and installation of Apple system software updates.
- A redesigned Sound control panel and support for USB audio.
- Speakable Items 2.0, also known as PlainTalk, featuring improved speech synthesis and recognition along with AppleScript integration.^[6]
- Improved font management through FontSync.
- Remote Access Personal Server 3.5, including support for TCP/IP clients over Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP).
- An updated version of AppleScript with support for TCP/IP.
- Personal File Sharing over TCP/IP.
- USB Printer Sharing, a control panel allowing certain USB printers to be shared across a TCP/IP network.
- 128-bit file encryption in the Finder.
- Support for files larger than 2 GB.
- Unix volume support.
- CD Burning in the Finder (introduced in Mac OS 9.1).
- Addition of a "Window" menu to the Finder (introduced in Mac OS 9.1)

Mac OS 9 and the Classic Environment

PowerPC versions of OS X prior to 10.5 include a compatibility layer (a shell) called Classic, enabling users to run applications and hardware requiring Mac OS 9 from within OS X. This is achieved through running Mac OS 9 without access to its Finder inside OS X. This requires Mac OS 9 to be installed on the computer even though computers that can run the Classic environment are not necessarily able to boot into Mac OS 9. Some Mac OS 9 applications do not run well in Classic. They demonstrate screen redraw problems and lagging performance. In addition, some drivers and other software which directly interact with the hardware fail to work properly.

In May 2002, at Apple's Worldwide Developers Conference in San Jose, California, Steve Jobs, accompanied by a coffin, held a mock funeral^[4] to announce that Apple had stopped development of Mac OS 9. Mac OS 9.2.2, released in December 2001, was the final version of Mac OS 9 and the "classic" Mac OS. In June 2005, Jobs announced that the Macintosh platform would be transitioning to Intel x86 microprocessors. Developer documentation of the Rosetta PowerPC emulation layer revealed that applications written for Mac OS 8 or 9 would not run on x86-based Macs. The Classic Environment remains in the PowerPC version of OS X 10.4; however, x86 versions of OS X do not support the Classic environment.

As a workaround for Intel-based Macs, Mac OS 9 can be emulated up to version 9.0.4 by using SheepShaver, a PowerPC emulator. It cannot emulate versions newer than 9.0.4 because SheepShaver does not emulate a memory management unit. The PearPC PowerPC emulator does not support Mac OS 9.^[7] Recently QEMU added support for emulating Mac OS 9 and PowerPC versions of OS X however.

Availability

While Mac OS 9 is no longer supported by Apple, retail copies are still available from several Internet businesses at varying prices.

Although now classed as abandonware, as development on it has ended, it is still in use by those who cannot upgrade to OS X due to hardware limitations or prefer it to OS X. Mac OS 9 is also a popular choice for retrocomputing hobbyists. Mac gamers also sometimes revert to Classic (often via emulation) or native OS 9 in order to play games that are not supported on OS X; for example: *Bugdom*, *Nanosaur*, *Oregon Trail*, *Civilization II*, and the *Marathon Trilogy*.

Other uses

Aside from Apple-branded hardware that is still maintained and operated, Mac OS 9 can be operated in other environments such as Windows and Unix.^[8] For example, the aforementioned SheepShaver software was not designed for use on x86 platforms and required an actual PowerPC processor present in the machine it was running on similar to a hypervisor. Although it provides PowerPC processor support, it can only run up to Mac OS 9.0.4 because it does not emulate a memory management unit.

Version history

Version	Release Date	Changes	Codename	Computer	Price
9.0 (https://web.archive.org/web/20041113095034/https://developer.apple.com/technotes/tn/tn1176.html)	October 23, 1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial release 	Sonata	iMac G3	99 USD
9.0.2	February 2000 (Shipped with Macs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bug fixes. 	N/A	PowerBook (FireWire)	Only shipped with referred Macs
9.0.3	March 2000 (Shipped with Macs)			iMac/iMac DV/iMac DV SE	
9.0.4 (https://web.archive.org/web/20041012000629/https://developer.apple.com/technotes/tn/tn1194.html)	April 4, 2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved USB and FireWire support. Other bug fixes. 	Minuet	iMac G3 (slot loading)	Free Update
9.1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20041011070919/https://developer.apple.com/technotes/tn/tn2010.html)	January 9, 2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated Disc Burning within Finder. Implementation of Finder 'Window' menu. Improved stability. 	Fortissimo	iBook 14 inch and 12 inch	
9.2	June 18, 2001 (Shipped with Macs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> G3 processor as minimum system requirement. Improved speed and Classic Environment support. 	Moonlight	Power Mac G4 (QuickSilver)	Only shipped with referred Macs
9.2.1	August 21, 2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor bug fixes. 	Limelight	iBook (Late 2001), PowerBook G4 (Gigabit Ethernet)	Free Update
9.2.2	December 5, 2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bug fixes relating to Classic Environment. 	LU1	eMac	

Updates to Mac OS 9 include 9.0.4, 9.1, 9.2.1, and 9.2.2. Mac OS 9.0.4 was a collection of bug fixes primarily relating to USB and FireWire support. Mac OS 9.1 included integrated CD burning support in the Macintosh Finder and added a new Window menu in the Finder for switching between open windows. Mac

OS 9.2 increased performance noticeably and improved Classic Environment support.

Compatibility

Macintosh Model	9.0 ^[9]	9.1 ^[9]	9.2.1 ^[9]	9.2.2 ^[9]
<u>Power Macintosh 6100</u>	Yes	Yes: Must install from CD	No	
<u>Power Macintosh 7100</u>				
<u>Power Macintosh 8100</u>				
<u>PowerBook 2300</u>		Yes		
<u>PowerBook 2400c</u>				
<u>PowerBook 5300</u>				
<u>PowerBook 1400</u>		Partial: Password Security unsupported		
<u>PowerBook 3400</u>		Yes: Hard disk driver must not be updated		
<u>Power Macintosh 5200 LC</u>		Yes		
<u>Power Macintosh 5300 LC</u>				
<u>Power Macintosh 5500</u>				
<u>Power Macintosh 4400</u>				
<u>Power Macintosh 6200</u>				
<u>Power Macintosh 6300</u>				
<u>Power Macintosh 6400</u>				
<u>Power Macintosh 6500</u>				
<u>Power Macintosh 7200</u>				
<u>Power Macintosh 7300</u>				
<u>Power Macintosh 7500</u>				
<u>Power Macintosh 8500</u>				
<u>Power Macintosh 7600</u>				
<u>Power Macintosh 8600</u>				
<u>Power Macintosh 9600</u>				
<u>Twentieth Anniversary Macintosh</u>				

<u>PowerBook G3</u>				
<u>PowerBook G3 Series</u>				
<u>PowerBook (FireWire)</u>	Yes: Machine-specific version only		Yes	Yes
<u>PowerBook G4</u> ^[A]		Yes: Machine-specific version only		
<u>PowerBook G4 (Gigabit Ethernet)</u> ^[A]		No	Yes: Machine-specific version only	
<u>PowerBook G4 (DVI)</u> ^[A]		No		Yes: Machine-specific version only
<u>PowerBook G4 (1 GHz/867 MHz)</u> ^[A]				
<u>PowerBook G4 (12-inch)</u> ^[B]				
<u>PowerBook G4 (17-inch)</u> ^[B]				
<u>PowerBook G4 (12-inch DVI)</u> ^[B]	No			
<u>PowerBook G4 (12-inch 1.33 GHz)</u> ^[B]				
<u>PowerBook G4 (12-inch 1.5 GHz)</u> ^[B]				
<u>PowerBook G4 (15-inch FW 800)</u> ^[B]				
<u>PowerBook G4 (15-inch 1.5/1.33 GHz)</u> ^[B]				
<u>PowerBook G4 (17-inch 1.33 GHz)</u> ^[B]				
<u>PowerBook G4 (17-inch 1.5 GHz)</u> ^[B]				
<u>iBook</u>	Yes			
<u>iBook (FireWire)</u>	Yes: Machine-specific version only	Yes	Yes	
<u>iBook (Dual USB)</u> ^[A]	No	Yes: Machine-specific version only		
<u>iBook (Late 2001)</u> ^[A]				
<u>iBook (14.1 LCD)</u> ^[A]		No	Partial: Classic Environment only	Yes
<u>iBook (16 VRAM)</u> ^[A]				
<u>iBook (Opaque 16 VRAM)</u> ^[A]				
<u>iBook (32 VRAM)</u> ^[A]				
<u>iBook (14.1 LCD 32 VRAM)</u> ^[A]				
<u>iBook (Early 2003)</u> ^[A]				Yes: Machine-specific version

				only
<u>iBook G4</u> ^[B]				Partial: <u>Classic Environment</u> only
<u>iBook G4 (14-inch)</u> ^[B]				
<u>iBook G4 (Early 2004)</u> ^[B]				
<u>Power Macintosh G3 All-In-One</u>	Yes			
<u>Power Macintosh G3</u>				
<u>Power Macintosh G3 (Blue and White)</u>				
<u>iMac G3</u>				
<u>iMac G3 (266 MHz, 333 MHz)</u>				
<u>iMac G3 (Slot Loading)</u>				
<u>iMac G3 (Summer 2000)</u>	Yes: Machine-specific version only	Yes	Yes	
<u>iMac G3 (Early 2001)</u> ^[A]	No	Yes: Machine-specific version only		
<u>iMac G3 (Summer 2001)</u> ^[A]				
<u>iMac G4</u> ^[A]	No			Yes
<u>iMac G4 (February 2003)</u> ^[B]				Partial: <u>Classic Environment</u> only
<u>iMac G4 (17-inch 1 GHz)</u> ^[B]				
<u>iMac G4 (USB 2.0)</u> ^[B]				
<u>iMac G5</u> ^[B]				
<u>iMac G5 (Ambient Light Sensor)</u> ^[B]				
<u>iMac G5 (iSight)</u> ^[B]				
<u>eMac</u> ^[A]				Yes
<u>eMac (ATI Graphics CD-ROM drive)</u> ^[A]				Yes: Machine-specific version only
<u>eMac (ATI Graphics Combo drive)</u> ^[A]				
<u>eMac (ATI Graphics SuperDrive)</u> ^[B]				Partial: <u>Classic Environment</u> only
<u>eMac (USB 2.0)</u> ^[B]				
<u>eMac (2005)</u> ^[B]				
<u>Power Mac G4 (PCI Graphics)</u>	Yes	Yes		
<u>Power Mac G4 (AGP</u>				

Graphics)			
Power Mac G4 (Gigabit Ethernet)	Yes: Machine-specific version only		
Power Mac G4 Cube			
Power Mac G4 (Digital Audio) ^[A]	No	Yes: Machine-specific version only	Yes
Power Mac G4 (QuickSilver) ^[A]		No	
Power Mac G4 (QuickSilver 2002) ^[A]	No		Yes: Machine-specific version only
Power Mac G4 (Mirrored Drive Doors) ^[A]			
Power Mac G4 (FW 800) ^[B]			Partial: <u>Classic Environment</u> only
Power Mac G4 (Mirrored Drive Doors 2003) ^[A]			Yes: Machine-specific version only
Power Mac G5			Partial: <u>Classic Environment</u> only
Power Mac G5 (June 2004)			
Power Mac G5 (Late 2004)			
Power Mac G5 (Early 2005)			
Power Mac G5 (Late 2005)			
Mac mini (G4) ^[B]			

- ¹Some newest G3 and most G4 Macs can only run at least Mac OS 9.1, and some only run at least Mac OS 9.2. This is because the late development of G3 Macs and the mid-development of G4 Macs was during the development of Mac OS 9 and only the versions the G4 Macs support were designed to be compatible with those G4 Macs.
- ¹Some newest G4 and all G5 Macs can only run at least Mac OS 9.2, and can only run its compatible versions of Mac OS 9 in OS X's Classic Environment because the "Mac OS ROM" was never updated to allow those Macs, which were developed during the OS X era, to directly boot it (but probably continued to run in userspace, with the restriction that it would only run at least Mac OS 9.2, so it was still supported in the Classic Environment).

See also

- List of Apple operating systems

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Preceded by Mac OS 8	Mac OS 9 1999	Succeeded by Mac OS X 10.0 (Cheetah)
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