**Mac Operating System**

Mac OS is a series of [graphical user interface](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graphical_user_interface)–based [operating systems](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operating_system) developed by [Apple Inc.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apple_Inc.) for their [Macintosh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macintosh) line of [computer systems](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_system).

The [original operating system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/System_1) was first introduced in 1984 as being integral to the [original Macintosh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macintosh_128K), and referred to as the "System". Referred to by its major revision starting with "System 6" and "System 7", Apple rebranded version 7.6 as "Mac OS" as part of their [Macintosh clone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macintosh_clone) program in 1996. The Macintosh, specifically its system software, is credited with having popularized the early [graphical user interface](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graphical_user_interface) concept.

**OS X:**

OS X, introduced as Mac OS X in 2001 and renamed OS X in 2012, is the latest version of Apple's operating system. Although it is officially designated as simply "version 10" of Mac OS, it has a history largely independent of the earlier Mac OS releases. Major revisions to Mac OS are now issued as point revisions, such that, for example, 10.2 is substantially different from 10.5.

**Mac OS Features and Functions:**

**What is the Finder?**

The Finder is the app that helps you navigate all of the files and folders on your Mac. The Finder lets you browse your apps, disks, files, and folders in a variety of ways. You can use the Finder to organize these items the way you want. You can also use the Finder to search for items, delete files you no longer want, and more.

### Classic:

Mac OS X Public Beta’s support for running pre-OS X Mac apps in the Classic Environment wasn’t perfect—[users reported many bugs](http://www.macopz.com/osxbeta/)—but Apple included it anyway because it needed extensive testing from users. Apple finally killed support for Classic in Mac OS X 10.5 when Macs made the switch to Intel processors.

**Spotlight:**

Introduced as the desktop search successor to Apple’s Sherlock in OS 10.4, Spotlight made waves for its metadata index and instant-search capabilities. The utility’s in-depth search allowed users to search inside their files, rather than by name alone. And with Leopard, introducing the calculation of simple math equations and dictionary searches, Spotlight has only grown as a reference and lookup tool.—SERENITY CALDWELL.

### Time Machine:

Computing is risky business: All hard drives will fail eventually, and people accidentally delete files. [Introduced with OS X 10.5](http://www.macworld.com/article/60668/2007/10/leopard_time_machine.html), Time Machine was hugely important for one simple reason: It made backing up your data easy—and therefore, something you were much more likely to do.

Sure, the 3D interface may be a little cheesy, and Time Machine can slow down your system. It’s also not always easy to find a file when you need it. But Time Machine makes backing up a given. And on top of that, Time Machine backups are great when you’re migrating to a new Mac. Those are reasons alone to celebrate this OS X capability.—JONATHAN SEFF.

### Bonjour:

Thanks to Bonjour, it’s a lot easier to connect to printers, servers, other computers, and other devices over a network. Originally introduced in 2002 as Rendezvous in Mac OS X 10.2 and [renamed Bonjour](http://www.macworld.com/article/44277/2005/04/bonjour.html) with the 2005 release of Tiger, Bonjour is Apple’s version of the Zero Configuration Networking (Zeroconf) technology. When devices on a network are using Bonjour, there’s no need to mess with confusing network settings and controls. Bonjour devices automatically make themselves available on the network, and the technology resolves any addressing issues for you.

Bonjour has a wide variety of implementations; it can be used to connect your Mac to a printer, or you can connect to another Mac to share files. There’s even a Windows version of Bonjour, so your Mac can connect to a Windows PC. Software programs like ichat and iphoto can use Bonjour, too—the most common software use of Bonjour is in iTunes. When you connect someone who’s sharing their music, you’re witnessing Bonjour at work.—ROMAN LOYOLA.

### Safari gesture navigation

Although Safari is faster and safer than ever due to sandboxing and the improved Web Kit 2 engine, the feature that I’ve found myself enjoying more than any other is the ability to navigate backwards and forwards through web history. The gesture feels natural and efficient and I’d have a hard time going back to clicking tiny buttons or mashing the backspace key.

In addition, a nice two-finger double-tap-to-zoom gesture gives you an in-browser magnification mode that augments the standard Control + scroll full-screen zoom. When you use the in-browser zoom you also get the added benefit of the text being re-rendered for easy viewing, keep it crisp.

### Preview:

I’m extremely happy with how much love Preview got in Lion. I left Preview behind a long time ago for other options like Skitch, but I still had to deal with it day to day as the default way that I glanced at files and handled PDF’s. With the new updates to Lion, I’m ready to give Preview another try as my default ‘quick image editor’. The interface is clean and more logical now, it supports Versions, which the editing apps that I normally use don’t yet and it’s got a great set of PDF editing tools.