

06_Mac vs Windows

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06_RC_Mac
vs Windows

Englisch 11. Klasse

Computer software



Mac Vs. Windows: Which Operating System is right for you?

There has never been a better time to buy a personal computer. Today's top machines are more powerful than ever, thanks to the two popular operating systems, Microsoft's Windows and Apple's macOS. Therefore, computer shoppers have to make a decision before buying. Do you delve into the deep well of Windows machines or go for one of Apple's premium MacBooks?

What is an Operating System?

An operating system (OS) is a software program loaded into the computer by a boot program and acts as an intermediary between computer users and computer hardware. It manages all applications and programs on a computer. The operating system allows users to interact with their devices by providing basic commands for tasks like managing files, running programs, and launching applications. OS also manages memory allocation, device drivers, security settings, input/output protocols, and more.

The application programs request services from the operating system through a designated application program interface (API). Users can also directly interact with the operating system through interfaces like a graphical user interface (GUI) or command-line interface (CLI). Popular operating systems include Windows, macOS, Linux, iOS, and Android. macOS and Windows are the most popular desktop operating systems, but what makes them stand out? Let's find out.

Windows Overview

Windows, also known as Microsoft Windows, is an operating system provided by Microsoft Corporation. It was first released in 1985 and has been the go-to choice for most personal computers worldwide. Microsoft has released several Windows versions, with the most recent version for Windows machines being Windows 11.

Windows has an easy-to-use and navigate graphical user interface (GUI) with features such as Taskbar and Start Menu. Moreover, it is compatible with a wide range of software and hardware, and its customizability allows users to change themes and settings.

macOS Overview

macOS is a proprietary graphical operating system provided by Apple Incorporation for Apple Mac computers. It's based on the Unix operating system and was developed using Objective-C, C, C++, Swift, and assembly language. Apple launched the first macOS version in 2001, and its latest stable version is macOS 13 Ventura.

macOS is the second most popular operating system in computers after Windows. It has a clean and intuitive interface with features such as Mission Control and Dock. macOS integrates seamlessly with other Apple devices like iPhones, allowing Mac users to share files and data easily. Moreover, it has reliable built-in security features such as Gatekeeper, which protects the system from malware or malicious software.

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Mac vs. Windows: Similarities and Differences

1. macOS vs. Windows: Security

Computers running Windows operating systems have been besieged with more malware than Mac computers, including viruses, ransomware, spyware, botnets, and other vicious malware. But because Windows is 'omnipresent,' it is no surprise that it has to contend with a lot of malware.

However, Microsoft is doing an admirable job of constantly updating its security by pushing Windows Defender updates and introducing anti-ransomware measures. But given the sheer number of Windows users, this operating system still suffers a greater volume of attacks.

Conversely, macOS is more secure thanks to the company's policies and fewer users. Fewer users mean fewer people creating malware for the operating system, but that doesn't mean macOS is immune to security vulnerabilities. So, it's still better to install antivirus software on your Mac.

2. macOS vs. Windows: Update Frequency

Windows receives more updates than macOS, especially security updates. Even though it's good that Microsoft often releases security updates, updating Windows multiple times a month can be frustrating. And while security updates beef up security on Windows, these updates may sometimes cause issues. Numerous devices can run Windows, so some updates can cause unforeseen problems.

Conversely, macOS updates aren't so many and don't always work as intended. Nevertheless, they have a better track record than Windows updates. Since Apple releases fewer updates, it can take time to fine-tune them. And the company is releasing updates for its own products, so it can better ensure updates won't cause any or many problems.

Apple and Microsoft release one yearly for significant updates that introduce new features. Microsoft has opted for annual releases like Apple instead of the more frequent vital updates.

source: <https://www.sapphire.net/mights/mac-vs-windows/> (05.12.23; abbreviated and adapted)

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Reading comprehension: Read the text above and answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. How can users interact with the operating system?

a. Users can interact with the operating system through interfaces such as a graphical user interface or command-line interface

b. They can issue commands, manage files, run programs and launch applications through these interfaces.

2. What is an operating system (OS), and what role does it play in a computer?

a. Answer: An operating system is a software program that acts as an intermediary between computer users and hardware. It manages applications, runs programs and facilitates user-device interaction.

b. It also

3. Which operating system is more endangered when it comes to malware and why?

4. Why can the regular Windows updates be annoying?