

# PhET Mac Mini info

cmalley (4/8/06)

This document contains info about how the PhET Mac Mini was configured. This is stuff you'll want to read before attempting to use the machine.

## Choosing which OS to boot with:

Any partition that contains an OS X installation will be identified as a *Startup Disk*. Use the *System Preferences > Startup Disk* control panel to select which version of the OS you boot with. The System Preference app should be in your dock by default. If it's not, it lives in `/Volumes/OS 10.*/System Preferences`.

## Disk Partitions:

There are 3 partitions:

- `/Volumes/OS 10.4 (~18G)`

- `/Volumes/OS 10.3 (~18G)`

- `/Volumes/Common (~35G)`

I sized these so that the OS partitions have a generous amount of room to grow. The first two partitions appear as startup disks in the *Startup Disk* control panel.

## System Name:

The system name appears in the login window. When you're running OS 10.4, the system name is "Mini 10.4"; for OS 10.3.9 the name is "Mini 10.3". So you can tell which OS you've booted with by looking at the login window.

## Applications:

Apple includes many applications as part of an OS installation, and you should generally consider these applications to be specific to that version of the OS. OS-specific applications are installed in the Applications folder for the OS (for example, `/Volumes/OS 10.4/Applications`). Make sure that you run the correct version of these applications! For example, if you're running OS 10.3, make sure you run apps out of `/Volumes/OS 10.3/Applications`. The easiest way to make sure this happens is to drag your favorite applications to the

dock.

Any applications that are not OS-specific (generally 3rd party stuff) I have put in /Volumes/Common/Applications. I started you off with Firefox, IntelliJ, Eclipse, OpenOffice, and a few other things that seem to be generally useful for PhET development. *I strongly advise that you continue to install 3rd-party apps in /Volumes/Common/Applications, rather than in one of the OS's Applications folders.*

### **User Accounts:**

The user accounts are: cmalley, rjl, reids, phetguest, root. Call me for the default password.

All of the user accounts (except phetguest) have admin privileges. Be careful! Do not attempt to directly delete any of the files (even application files) that were part of an OS installation. If you are unsure about whether something can be safely deleted, ask me.

*I've created a directory for each user in /Volumes/Common, and you should get in the habit of saving OS-independent files there. Why?* Well, because each Startup Disk contains a home directory for each user. For example:

/Volumes/OS 10.4/Users/cmalley

/Volumes/OS 10.3/Users/cmalley

The home directory that you see will therefore change based on which OS you have booted. So if you save stuff to your home directory (for example, by saving stuff to the desktop) and then switch startup disks, you will *\*not\** see the files that you've saved. I set things up this way because trying to share a home directory between different OS versions can cause problems; for example, an OS 10.3 version of an application may fail when it tries to read preference files written by the OS 10.4 version of the app. If you this setup bothers you, we can investigate moving home directories to the Common partition.

### **Keyboard Layout:**

Sam Reid prefers a Dvorak keyboard layout. I'm guessing that the

rest of us use a standard US (qwerty) layout. All user accounts were configured with a US layout. An “input menu” should appear in the menu bar, and this is where you can change layout. (For OS 10.4, you can also choose the layout via a combo box in the login window.) If all else fails, use the *System Preferences > International* control panel.

### **Security:**

Use the *System Preferences > Sharing* control panel to enable/disable network service, web server, and the built-in firewall. By default, the firewall is “on” and remote login (ssh,scp) is enabled. *I strongly recommend keeping the firewall “on”.* Macs are not as frequently hacked as PCs, but I’d prefer not to have to this rebuild the machine again.

### **Control Panels:**

All control panels are accessible via the System Preference app (see above). I added the 3rd-party “Menu Meters” control panel, which shows performance information in the menu bar (currently configured to show CPU and memory usage).

### **Dock configuration:**

All user accounts have their docks configured with some things that I thought you’d find useful for doing PhET development and system administration. If you want to remove something from the dock, simply drag it off the dock. If you want to add an application to the dock, simply locate in the Finder and drag it onto the dock.

### **Software Updates:**

Software updates are handled by the “Software Update” application, accessibly under the Apple menu at the far left of the menu bar. The machine is configured to automatically check for software updates from Apple. If you are a user who has “admin” privileges, Software Update may automatically open to show you what’s new. If you don’t want to check for updates automatically, turn it off in Software Update’s Preferences menu. It’s advisable to install OS and security updates after checking the Apple forums to see if anyone is experiencing problems.