**MacOS X 10.3**

**History**

Mac OS X Panther (version 10.3) is the fourth major release of Mac OS X (now named MacOS), Apple’s desktop and server operating system. It followed Mac OS X 10.2 and preceded Mac OS X Tiger. Apple released Panther on October 24, 2003.

**Function and features**

Apple advertised that Mac OS X Panther had over 150 new features, including:

* Finder: Updated with a brushed-metal interface, a new live search engine, customizable Sidebar, secure deletion, File labels and Zip support built in. The Finder icon was also changed.
* Fast User Switching: Allows a user to remain logged in while another user logs in
* Exposé: Helps the user manage windows by showing them all as thumbnails.
* TextEdit: TextEdit now is also compatible with Microsoft Word (.doc) documents.
* Xcode developer tools: Faster compile times with gcc 3.3.
* Preview: Increased speed with PDF rendering
* QuickTime: Now supports the Pixlet high definition video codec
* New applications in Panther
* Font Book: Font Book, Apple's font manager, simplifies viewing character maps and installing fonts. It also allows the user to sort fonts into categories.
* FileVault: On the fly encryption and decryption of a user’s home folder
* iChat AV: The new version of iChat. Now with built-in Audio- and video-conferencing.
* X11: X11 is built into Panther
* Safari: New browser made to replace Internet Explorer for Mac, developed when the contract between Apple and Microsoft ended. Internet Explorer for Mac was still available. Safari 1.0 was included in an update in Jaguar but was used as the default browser in Panther.

**System requirements**

* PowerPC G3, G4, or G5 processor (at least 233 MHz)
* Built-in USB (indicative of a New World ROM being present)
* At least 128 MB of RAM (512 MB recommended, minimum of 96 MB supported unofficially)
* At least 1.5 GB of available hard disk space
* CD drive
* Internet access requires a compatible service provider; iDisk requires a Mac account

*Video conferencing requires:*

* 333 MHz or faster PowerPC G3, G4, or G5 processor
* Broadband internet access (100 kbit/s or faster)
* Compatible FireWire DV camera or web camera
* Panther still supported the Classic environment fully for running older Mac OS 9 applications but made Classic application windows double-buffered, which interfered with some applications expecting to directly draw to the screen.

**Advantages**

1. Simple but powerful user interface: Both macOS and Windows have easy-to-use graphical user interface or GUI. But OS X offers a more straightforward approach to computing. Those who are accustomed with the GUI of iOS found in iPhone and iPad will find macOS somewhat familiar.

2. Fewer viruses and other security issues: One of the advantages of macOS is that it is considerably safer than Windows. Of course, some Apple loyalists would argue that Macs are completely invincible from viruses or malware. This is no longer true.

3. Seamless integration between OS and hardware: Apple is both a software developer and a device manufacturer. This means that they have optimised the macOS to work seamlessly with all of the hardware components of a Mac device. It also ensures that all hardware components work hand-in-hand.

4. Comes preloaded with productivity apps: Standard Windows OS usually does not come with Microsoft Office Suite. Both are sold separately most of the time. In addition, new Windows-based laptop and desktop computers come with random software or apps that merely bloat the entire system and external storage.

5. Effective and unparalleled multitasking feature: Multitasking is another notable advantage of macOS. Mac computers have hardware specifications designed for multitasking. And because macOS integrates seamlessly with Mac hardware components, the overall operation is smooth and responsive.

6. Integration with other Apple products: One of the strengths of Apple is that most of the products under the brand are completely integrated. The iPhone or iPad works best with a Mac computer. This advantage of macOS is exclusive for Apple users—or those individuals with several Apple devices.

**Disadvantages**

1. Mac computers are considerably expensive: The fact remains that Apple sells expensive computers whether it is the new MacBook Pro with Retina or a Mac Mini. This is more noticeable when comparing the price point of Mac computers with their Windows counterpart.

2. Inflexible when it comes to hardware upgrades: A standard Mac computer cannot be upgraded easily because most of its hardware components are integrated both at a design and engineering levels. This is a macOS disadvantage that is unacceptable for hobbyists.

3. Lack of game titles and advanced gaming experience: There are more game titles available for Windows than in macOS. This is another noteworthy disadvantage of macOS. Some titles from independent producers that have gained large following are unavailable for Mac computers.

4. App ecosystem is still lacklustre: Windows has more software or applications. Developers, especially small and independent software companies, often consider building software for Windows first because of greater reach.