# Mac Mobile Computing

## Video Mirroring and Extended Desktop

Video mirroring allows you to see on your laptop what is being projected onto a large screen for a presentation. Mac OS X supports this feature and extended Desktop (a combined work area covering your laptop and an external monitor). Just follow these steps:

1. Put your system to sleep.
2. Attach the external video cable.
3. Lift the lid or press a key to wake the system.
4. Mac OS X will detect the additional screen, but some adjustments can be made by opening System Preferences and clicking the Display icon.
5. Click on the Arrange tab.
6. The external screen may have defaulted to an extended Desktop. You can optional click and drag the screens to rearrange them or drag the menu bar from one screen to the other.
7. To enable video mirroring, click the Mirror Displays checkbox. Be sure they are both set to the same resolution.
8. Quit System Preferences.

## Trackpad Configuration

The Mouse System Preferences in Mac OS X provides options for configuring your Trackpad. To set these options:

1. Launch System Preferences and click the Mouse icon.
2. Set your Tracking speed. If you're working on graphics, slower speeds are easier to control.
3. Set the Double-Click speed. If new to the art of double clicking, you may find a faster speed helps.
4. Select the following Trackpad options' checkboxes as desired:

    • Clicking (tap the pad - use gentle pressure)
    • Dragging
    • Drag lock (tap the pad to release - use gentle pressure)

Recommend a check for Clicking as a minimum. Also, you may want to check the Ignore Trackpad When Typing box, depending on your hand positions when typing.

## Items of Note

Mac OS X does not fully support PCMCIA cards; they don't show on the Desktop. To use them reliably, you need to boot into OS 9.x.

To make a difference in your laptop's performance, install as much RAM as possible.

File synchronization is not included with Mac OS X. However, using an iTools account that can reached from anywhere by both desktops and laptops can eliminate the need.

Remember the following, when preparing to board an airplane with your laptop:
- Apple has stated it is safe for PowerBooks/iBooks to pass through properly tuned x-ray machines. But because some conveyor belts use magnetic components, place your laptop close to the "tunnel" entrance and pick it up immediately after it passes through.
- Metal detectors do not damage PowerBooks/iBooks.
- Airport security personnel personally inspect laptops and request that you turn the computer on. Be sure you have a fully charged battery ready.

## Travel Preparedness

Mac laptop users will need a few key items to achieve "road warrior" status, even if it's just for commuting to and from SDSU:

1. One extra charged battery for that quick change in a pinch or while you waiting for the other one to charge.
2. An extra power cord, one for your primary location and another for your laptop bag.
3. An extension cord, since convenience probably wasn't considered when the available outlets were installed.
4. An electricity line (outlet) tester as you can't assume that every electrical line has the proper ground or voltage.
5. For those who take "road warrior" to mean computing in the car, you will need to have a DC power adapter for the cigarette lighter during roadside stops.
6. Just like the extension cord, consider having an extra-long phone cord in your bag.
7. A digital-to-analog adapter is handy with most phone lines in hotels going digital.
8. Ethernet cables. If you plan on networking at SDSU, then a standard two-way cable will work. To network your Mac laptop to another computer, you'll need a crossover Ethernet cable.
9. Twist Ties. Those plastic things that come with garbage bags are great to tidy-up any excess length on your cords/cables that are in use or in your bag.
10. System software. A bootable system software disk/CD would be a boon, if your hard drive has a problem.
11. Your connection settings written down and in your bag as a backup (i.e. preference files becoming corrupted). Besides who would want to remember all of those PPP, ARA, TCP/IP, and phone numbers, when the mind is already cluttered with class assignments and research.
12. A mouse. Trackpads are nice, but many (even "road warriors") find a mouse easier to handle.

13.  For those travelling far and wide, a computer catalog in your bag may provide the only dependable vendor for miles.  Or if you have access to the Web at your destination, you can forgo this item.

Be sure to review the list and use what fits your needs.  Enjoy laptoping!

## Mac Airport Access

You no longer have to hunt around for a telephone with a data port when you're traveling.  Reason - companies have begun setting up high-speed wireless access in public locations using standard IEEE 802.1 1b (Airport) protocol.  For example:

- If you're waiting for your plane at an airport, launch your browser for your Airport-equipped Mac and log on to Wayport (http://www.wayport.com/).

- If you're at a Starbucks or in airports, convention centers, restaurants, car rental facilities, and hotels, your Airport-equipped Mac can log on to the MobileStar Network (http://www.mobilestar.com/).

- If you're in San Francisco, your Airport-equipped Mac can find free wireless access through either the AirWave Wireless (http://www.airwave.com/) or the Surf and Sip Network (http://www.surfandsip.com/).

Visit the web sites and select their Location links to locate covered areas for each.  Though the latter two are free, the first two are not and can be costly, if you're connected for awhile.