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Making a "Classic" OS X Desktop

If the OS X Desktop looks a bit intimidating for pre-OS X users, you can make a few modifications and have a more "Classic" OS X Desktop.

To begin, go to the Finder and choose Finder Preferences. In the dialog box, click the boxes adjacent to:

- Hard disks
- Removable media
- Connected servers

So each will appear on the Desktop. Also, click on the box for "Always open folders in a new window".

To alter the large photographic icons on the Desktop, go to the Finder and choose View, Show View Options. Set the Icon Size slider to the third size marker to achive a size similar to "Classic" icons.

To create a less confusing window/toolbar view, select the List View option for the View button. Then, click the pill-shaped button in the upper right corner of the window to collapse the toolbar.

Two more (optional) changes require downloading and installing a couple of applications:

1. Visit http://asm.vercruesse.de and download the freeware utility, ASM. This software installs as a System Preference pane and brings back the Applications menu with customization options.
2. Visit http://www.unsanity.com/products.php and download a $7 utility, WindowShade X. This software installs and brings back the double click on a title bar to collapse a window. It also adds a few new features, such as window transparency and the ability to minimize the window in the Dock instead of collapsing it.

The above changes can make the switch to OS X more comfortable for pre-OS X users.