Macintosh & Windows Compatibility

How the Macintosh can fit in with Windows PCs

One of the important characteristics of the Apple® Macintosh® personal computer is its high degree of compatibility with Windows PCs. The following are some brief explanations about Macintosh & Windows compatibility.

Run Windows on the Macintosh

There are several ways to run the Windows or MS-DOS operating system and applications on the Macintosh.

For users who want the utmost in performance, there are a variety of "PC on a card" hardware cards from Apple and third-party manufacturers that provide Intel microprocessor compatibility for MS-DOS, Windows 3.1, and Windows 95. With this card added to the Macintosh, users have a "dual processor" computer running Windows and the Mac OS simultaneously. And because the two processors work independently, users can quickly switch between environments and even copy and paste information between them. Both environments have full access to all hardware, including monitors, networks, CD-ROMs, hard drives, sound, floppy drives, and other removable media.

Another way to run Windows on the Macintosh is with Insignia Solutions' SoftWindows and SoftWindows95 software applications. SoftWindows is an application that runs like any other Mac application on the Mac desktop. SoftWindows lets users run multiple MS-DOS and Windows applications simultaneously, and all applications can share hardware resources such as hard disks, networks, and CD-ROMs.

Insignia Solutions also offers NTRIGUE, a software product that brings a Windows session to a Mac user over the network from a Windows NT server. The Windows environment is provided to the Mac user in a window on the Mac desktop.

For more information on running Windows on the Macintosh, contact the following vendors:
Apple Computer   800-538-9696   www.apple.com
Insignia Solutions   800-848-7677   www.insignia.com
Orange Micro   714-779-2772   www.orangemicro.com
Reply Corporation   800-801-6898   www.reply.com

File Sharing

Many Macintosh users don't need to actually run Windows, they just need to share files with Windows users. Fortunately, every Mac comes with tools that make it simple to share files between the Mac and Windows .

File sharing is easy today since so many applications have versions for both Windows and Macintosh. Examples include Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Adobe PageMaker, Photoshop, and WordPerfect. File formats are usually identical between Mac and Windows versions, so users simply open the file to view or modify. There are also many CD-ROM titles available that can run on both platforms; in fact many applications today are provided on "hybrid" CD-ROMs that offer both Macintosh and Windows versions on the same CD.

If the application does not have an identical version on the other platform, then file translators are often included in the application to translate the files. For instance, Microsoft Excel includes translators to read Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheets.
Even if the application does not have translators built-in, Apple includes the Dataviz MacLinkPlus translators with

Mac OS System 7.5 and 7.6. MacLinkPlus has hundreds of file translators that allow users to open almost any type of file with all document formatting intact. Apple also includes Easy Open, which lets the user choose which application they would like to use to open an unknown file.

To transfer the file between the Macintosh and PC, users can use floppy disks, a serial connection, other removable media, or any network. For floppy transfer, Macs include the SuperDrive floppy disk drive, which can read Windows, MS-DOS, and Mac OS files. Users simply insert their Windows or MS-DOS disk into the Macintosh SuperDrive, and Apple's PC Exchange software places an icon of the disk on the Macintosh desktop. The user can then open that icon and access the files on the disk.

Networking

The Macintosh was designed from the start to be a networked computer, and today the Mac is compatible with virtually every network system at a number of key levels.

Hardware connection. Most Macintosh models include built-in industry-standard Ethernet, and all models include LocalTalk networking and high speed serial ports. A wide variety of high speed modems, ISDN connections, Token Ring connectors, and additional networking hardware cards are available from Apple and many third-party vendors.

Multi-protocol support. Macintosh computers support all major network protocols, and can often run multiple protocols, such as TCP/IP and AppleTalk, simultaneously. And Apple's Open Transport networking architecture is designed to make multi-protocol networking extremely fast and easy to use.

Network Services. Macs can easily share files and printers with Windows users using any of the popular network operating systems, including Novell NetWare, Windows NT, and Unix. For mostly Macintosh environments where

AppleTalk protocols and AppleShare file servers are more common, Windows users can run AppleTalk protocols that allow them to access AppleShare file servers and network printers. Other important network services that are provided for both Mac and Windows users over the local area network include electronic mail, multiuser databases, mainframe access, remote control, and network management.

The Internet

The emergence of the Internet places the Macintosh on an equal compatibility level with Windows PCs for the next generation of corporate information systems being deployed on the Internet and corporate Intranets. Popular web browsers such as Netscape Navigator and Microsoft Explorer are available for both the Mac and Windows, and the Mac's built-in support for TCP/IP makes connections quick and easy. And Apple has built Java into the Mac OS, so that any Java applications on the Internet will run easily on the Macintosh with Macintosh Runtime for Java software.

For more information about any of these compatibility solutions, visit your authorized Apple reseller or contact any of the vendors listed above. Call 1 800-538-9696 for the location of your nearest authorized Apple reseller, or visit www.apple.com.