

Making Everything Easier!™

OS X Lion Edition

# Switching to a Mac®

FOR  
DUMMIES®

## Learn to:

- Choose the Mac that's right for you
- Transfer your files from Windows®
- Surf the web, send and receive e-mail, and make FaceTime® video calls
- Get the most from Mac OS® X Lion and create cool projects with the iLife® suite

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# Switching to a Mac<sup>®</sup> For Dummies<sup>®</sup>

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[www.dummies.com/cheatsheet/switchingtoamac](http://www.dummies.com/cheatsheet/switchingtoamac) to view this book's cheat sheet.

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# ***Switching to a Mac<sup>®</sup> For Dummies<sup>®</sup>***

**by Arnold Reinhold**



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## About the Author

**Arnold Reinhold** has more than three decades of experience in the software industry. His first Apple product was a Mac 512. Arnold helped found Automatrix, Inc., a pioneer in robotics and machine vision, and is coauthor of *The Internet For Dummies*

*Quick Reference, E-Mail For Dummies, Green IT For Dummies, and Mac mini Hacks & Mods For Dummies.* He developed and maintains [Diceware.com](http://diceware.com), widely regarded as the gold standard in password security, and [The Math in the Movies Page](http://mathinthemovies.com) (<http://mathinthemovies.com>).

Arnold studied mathematics at City College of New York and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and management at Harvard Business School. You can check out his home page at <http://arnoldreinhold.com>.

## Dedication

To Max and Grete, who put me here, and Josh, who keeps me going. B”H.

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# Introduction

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Maybe you love your iPad, iPhone, or iPod and are curious about Apple's Macintosh computers. Maybe you've had one virus scare too many and are fed up with Windows. Maybe the daunting prospect of upgrading to Windows 7 has made you open to other possibilities. Maybe you're a Mac fan who wants to help a friend discover how easy and productive Macs can be. Wherever you're coming from, I hope you find that this book meets your needs.

Apple, Inc., of Cupertino, California, is more than 35 years old, and few brands in the history of business generate such fierce customer loyalty as Apple and its Macintosh line of personal computers. That loyalty runs both ways. Apple knows that the people who decide to buy its products are, for the most part, the ones who have to use them. Offering products that satisfy and even delight its users is a matter of survival for Apple.

Many virtues of the Macintosh are a matter of taste: its easy-to-use graphical interface, its elegant industrial design, and its integrated suite of software. But one virtue is a simple matter of fact: In recent years, when Windows users endured wave after wave of computer viruses, worms, spyware, botnets, and other types of evil software, Mac users were essentially immune. 'Nuff said.

## About This Book

Macintosh computers and the OS X operating system have more in common with Windows than all the hoopla would suggest. Still, differences exist, big and little, that can cause problems for newcomers to the Mac.

In this book, you find helpful guides for every aspect of your switch, from deciding that you do in fact want to switch to a Mac, to making buying decisions, to setting up everything. You also find help getting started with all the cool software that comes with your Mac, including iPhoto for organizing your snapshots and iMovie and GarageBand for making your own media extravaganzas. I tell you how to use your Mac with other Apple products you may own, such as the iPad, iPhone, iPod, and Apple TV. You even find suggestions, responsible and irresponsible, for what to do with your old PC.

This book looks at switching to a Mac from a Windows user's perspective. You find out the best way to transfer your information from Windows to a Mac, as well as tips on how to do common Windows tasks the Mac way. But most any new Mac user can find help here. I also address the needs of both home and business users who are making or considering a switch. And if you have an older Mac and want to move stuff on it to OS X, check out the bonus chapter available on this book's web page: [www.dummies.com/go/switchingtoamac](http://www.dummies.com/go/switchingtoamac).

OS X often provides more than one way to accomplish a task. I try to describe one straightforward method for each task, perhaps with a keyboard shortcut, rather than confuse you with lots of options.

If you've already decided to buy a Mac, you can skip the first chapter. If you've already bought a Mac, start with the second part of the book.

You can read this book from cover to cover if you're that kind of person, of course, but I try to keep chapters self-contained so that you can go straight to the topics that interest you most. Wherever you start, I wish you and your new Mac well.

# Foolish Assumptions

Try as I may to be all things to all people, when it comes to writing a book, I had to pick who I thought would be most interested in *Switching to a Mac For Dummies*. Here's who I think you are:

- ✔ **You're smart.** You're no dummy. Yet the prospect of switching to a new computer platform gives you an uneasy feeling (which *proves* that you're smart).
- ✔ **You own a personal computer based on an operating system different from Apple OS X.** This book is aimed mostly at Windows XP users, but I think it will be helpful to users of Windows 7, Windows Vista, and even older Windows editions.
- ✔ **You're considering buying or have bought an Apple Macintosh computer.** You want to transition to your new computer expeditiously. I suggest straightforward methods and don't attempt to cover every possible solution.
- ✔ **Alternatively, you're a Mac user who knows OS X well but wants a resource to give (okay, even lend) to friends who are considering abandoning the dark side.** What a good friend you are.
- ✔ **You've used the Internet and know about browsers (such as Internet Explorer) and search engines (such as Google).** I briefly cover getting your own Internet connection in case you're not hooked up at the moment or it's time to update your service.
- ✔ **You're looking to buy a new machine.** This book addresses only the Intel Macs (ones based on