

What Is The Difference Between a Mac and a PC ???

By Frank, Your Computer Tutor/Mentor

An operating system manages computer hardware and software and lets you control the computer do what you want it to do. In 2007, Mac and PC, essentially, are the same computers but with different Operating Systems (OSs). Beyond that, it's important to understand what Mac & PCs really are, and weigh-in *your* pocketbook factor.

Mac **is** both a computer make/model **and** an operating system (OS) manufactured by the Apple Co. A Personal Computer (PC) is a multi-manufactured computer, i.e., Compaq, that can use a **variety** of OS, including M\$Windows.

Mac's current OS release is "X-Tiger". Windows: current OS release is the %#!* "Vista". To you, the most important between OS "X-Tiger" and "Vista" is **your personal** interface with the OS – like a car, it's the feeling of how it drives. With a computer, it's what you "**see**" on-screen and how you "**interact with**" the Graphical User Interface (GUI). Simply put, *ease of use is key*.

Mac's OS X is notable for its security; it's believed the reason why OS X has so few known viruses is because of Mac's low market share (5%). Yet Norton & McAfee make Antivirus/Spyware for Macs. Why? To communicate with the rest of the world you'll need to invest in pricey "**Windows for Mac**" programs (Word, etc) that open you up for bugs targeted for Micro\$oft programs. Irony rules here.

The Windows OS is known for world-portable use with business computing and its security vulnerabilities issues. Micro\$oft's front-line software bundle, "Office", includes word processing, a spread-sheet, and paper/web publishing programs; Windows also supports super-duper on-line gaming applications.

Hardware wise, even right off-the-shelf, both Mac & PC machines are purely powerfully to perform any average computer function. The specifications of the modern machines are equal in processing business data, internet broadcast streaming, and graphical applications like animation and movie making.

As discussed, Mac computers are made solely by the Apple Co, and designed to run only OS X, however, recent processor switches allow Macs to run Windows. The most important thing to remember about Windows is it will be used by a variety of processors - any hardware/computer company including Dell, HP and BeyondTech may use it.

With all the above in mind, here's a quick contrast of the two:

Mac: OS X Tiger 10.4.10: Noted for stability, security, nifty design with bragging rights.

Pros: stable, secure, user-friendly GUI, optimized hardware with software.

Cons: low computability with games and main-stream apps: MAC machines and software are expensive, and only a few technicians fix them, thus making them expensive to repair.

Windows XP & Vista 6.0: Noted for Business, gaming, developing

Pros: Support for a large range of apps and games, most compatible OS. PC machines and software are reasonable and any competent technicians can fix them.

Cons: security vulnerabilities, but with a reasonable regiment of protective software your machine is safeguarded - most virus & malware issues are operator-inflicted anyway these days.

Before buying, I advise to take a visit an Apple store and see how long it takes for service. Then take a long, intimate MAC/PC side-by-side test drive at vendor companies, CompUSA and Microcenter.

Refs: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operating_system - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/windows_vista - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/mac_os_x_tiger - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/microsoft_windows - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/apple_computer_Co - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/windows_nt -

There's lots more info about your computer's, health, life and future at **Beyondtechnology.net**

Happy Computing!

MENTOR FRANK HARE, M.A., has Hundreds of Happy Clients & manages Colorado-based BeyondTech, LCC:
IN-HOME SERVICES Offered: Custom-Built PCs / MAC Repairs – Wireless Networking – Crashed Hard Drive Recovery – Tutoring - 303-575-1774 - frank@beyondtechnology.net