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Here's just what you need!

# Switching to a Mac<sup>®</sup>

FOR

# DUMMIES<sup>®</sup>

**A Reference  
for the  
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**Arnold Reinhold**  
Coauthor of Mac mini Hacks &  
Mods For Dummies

Set up your Mac,  
move files from  
your PC to your Mac,  
and more



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# ***Switching to a Mac For Dummies***

**by Arnold Reinhold**



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# About the Author

**Arnold Reinhold** has over three decades experience in the software industry. His first Apple product was a Mac 512. Arnold helped found Automatix, Inc., a pioneer in robotics and machine vision, and is coauthor of *The Internet for Dummies Quick Reference*, *E-mail 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 [mathinthemovies.com](http://mathinthemovies.com).

Arnold studied mathematics at City College of New York and MIT, and management at Harvard Business School. You can check out his home page at [hayom.com/reinhold.html](http://hayom.com/reinhold.html).

## 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 iPod or iPhone and are curious about other Apple products. Maybe you've had one virus scare too many and are fed up with Windows. Maybe the daunting prospect of upgrading to Vista has made you open to other possibilities. Maybe you are a Mac fan who wants to show some friend how easy and productive Macs can be. Wherever you are coming from, I hope you find this book meets your needs.

Apple Incorporated of Cupertino, California, is over 30 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, for the most part, are the ones who actually have to use them. Offering systems that satisfy and even delight its users is a matter of survival for Apple.

Many of the virtues of the Macintosh are a matter of taste: the easy-to-use graphical interface, the elegant industrial design, and the 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, and other evil software, Mac users were completely 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 there are differences, big and little, that can cause problems for the unaware.

In this book, you find helpful guides for every aspect of your switch, from deciding that you do in fact want to switch to Macs, to making buying decisions, to setting everything up. You even find suggestions for what to do with your old PC.

Much of this book looks at switching to a Mac from a Windows user's perspective, but most any new Mac user can find help. You find out the best way to transfer your things from Windows to a Mac, as well as tips on how to do common Windows tasks the Mac way. But users of Linux and older Mac operating systems who want some perspective on switching to OS X can also find assistance in this book, especially in Chapter 16, which was written especially with these users in mind. Similarly, I address the needs of both home and business users who are making or considering a switch.

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

Of course, you may read this book from cover to cover, if you're that kind of person, 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* you're smart).
- ✓ **You own a personal computer based on an operating system different than Apple's OS X.** This book is mostly aimed at Windows XP users, but I think it will be helpful to users of Windows Vista, older Windows editions, DOS, and Linux, and even owners of older Macs.
- ✓ **You are 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 approach.
- ✓ **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 have used the Internet and know about browsers, such as Internet Explorer, and search engines, such as Google.** (If not, I recommend picking up a current edition of *The Internet For Dummies*, by John R. Levine, Margaret Levine Young, and Carol Baroudi.) I do cover getting your own Internet connection in case you are not hooked up at the moment or it's time to update your service.

✓ **You are looking to buy a new Macintosh** (one based on microprocessors from Intel Corp.) rather than the older PowerPC or 68K models. While I briefly discuss the used market, this book primarily addresses the Intel Macs, which are all that Apple sells these days.

Whoever you are, welcome aboard. I think this book can help you.

# How This Book Is Organized

I divide this book into the following highly logical (to me) parts. Each is self-contained for the most part. Feel free to skip about.

**Part I: Informed Switching Starts Here:** In this part, I explain why the Apple Macintosh is such a big deal and why you should consider getting one. I also introduce you to the Apple product line and present a few different approaches to conversion (no dunking in water involved).

**Part II: Making the Switch:** I help you decide what to buy and what you can reuse from your old setup. Then, I hold your hand as you make the big leap, moving your computing life to a Mac. OS X is a little different from Windows. I tell you what you most need to know to get started.

**Part III: Connecting Hither and Yon:** Macs are to networking what ducks are to swimming. It comes naturally, but there are a few tricks. We cover what you need to do to get your Mac online and talking to any other computers you have, including that old PC.

**Part IV: More Software, More Choices:** Your Mac comes with a ton of preloaded software (0.907 metric tons). And you can buy — or even download for free — a lot more. Windows advocates complain that little

software is available for the Mac, but so much is out there that I could write several books. And, yes, lots of cool games are available.

**Part V: Specialty Switching Scenarios:** Kids, seniors, and businesses all have a lot to gain from the Mac way of doing things. I also talk about converting from other operating systems and dive a bit deeper into OS X.

**Part VI: The Part of Tens:** If you've read other *For Dummies* books, you're no doubt familiar with The Part of Tens, entertaining lists containing ten (more or less) elucidating elements. They're fun to write; I hope they're fun to read.

**And more!:** In addition to all this, I've included a glossary in the back of this book and a Cheat Sheet in the front. The Mac world talks with a vocabulary all its own, and you may encounter other technical terms on your switching journey (everything is a journey these days). I think you'll be happy to have this glossary of words and definitions on your bookshelf.

## Typographic Conventions

For the most part, stuff you need to do on a Mac is graphical, but from time to time, I may ask you to type something. If it's short, it appears in boldface, like this: type **elm**. When I want you to type something longer, it appears like this:

terribly important text command

Be sure to type it just as it appears. Then press the Enter or Return key. Capitalization usually doesn't matter on a Mac. But OS X is based on UNIX (as I discuss in Chapter 17), and UNIX considers the uppercase and lowercase versions of the same letter to be totally different beasts.

In the text, Web addresses are shown in this typeface: [www.ditchmypc.com](http://www.ditchmypc.com). I leave out the geeky http:// part, which Mac browsers don't need you to type in anyway.

Apple keyboards have a special key with an Apple logo (⌘) and a fan-shaped squiggle that looks like this: ⌥. It has various nicknames — Apple key, fan key, propeller key — but I use its formal name, the *Command key*, in the text.

## Icons Used in This Book



A little tidbit that can save you time or money, or make life a little easier. “Avoid jackrabbit starts to save gas.”



Pay attention. Trouble lurks here. “Never open the radiator cap on a hot engine.”



These are words of wisdom to keep in mind that could save your derriere in the future. “Have your car battery checked before each winter.”

Macs keep the gears and pulleys pretty well hidden. This is under-the-hood stuff for the technically



inclined; the rest of you can skip it.

## Where to Go from Here

Hey, it's a Mac. You're set. If you do have problems not covered here, lots of resources are available to help you (see Chapter 18). You can also visit my Web site, [www.ditchmypc.com](http://www.ditchmypc.com). I'd be happy to hear from you directly at [switchtomac@ditchmypc.com](mailto:switchtomac@ditchmypc.com), and would love to know what you think of this book and how it could be improved, but I cannot promise individual advice.

Meanwhile, use your new Mac to build a Web site, create a business, solve the world hunger problem, write the great novel of the twenty-first century, produce your first feature film, meet some cool people, or just have fun. After all, the rest of your computing life has just begun.

## Part I

# **Informed Switching Starts Here**

# The 5<sup>th</sup> Wave

By Rich Tennant



“He saw your MacBook and wants to know if he can check out the new Mac OS X features.”

## **In this part . . .**

**P**erhaps you are fed up with Windows and are ready to try something different, or maybe you're a happy Microsoft user who is curious to read what silly justifications someone might come up with for switching to a Mac. In this part, I suggest some reasons I find compelling and address common objections. Then, I introduce you to the Mac family and help you figure out what to buy when you're ready to take the plunge.

# Chapter 1

## Why Switch? Demystifying the Mac Mantra

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### *In This Chapter*

- ▶ Why switch?
  - ▶ Take your best shot — overcoming objections
  - ▶ Advantage Apple
  - ▶ It's okay to switch
- 

Apple's Macintosh computers aren't perfect. They won't cure bad breath, save your marriage, or fix a bad hair day. Apple has had its share of product recalls. Talk to enough Mac owners, and you'll find one who thinks he got a lemon and wasn't satisfied with Apple's service. You can probably find a cheaper computer that will do what you really need. The vast majority of computer users get by using Microsoft Windows, and you can, too. So why even think about switching?

Macs offer you a far better experience; that's why. In big ways, such as security and industrial design, and in countless little details, Apple makes the extra effort to get things right — right for the user, not some corporate purchasing department. For those of us who spend a good part of our lives in front of a video display, those

easier-to-use controls, well-thought-out software choices, and better hardware fit and finish all add up to create a tool that lets us do what we want and doesn't get in our way. For more casual users, Mac's simpler design means less head scratching while you figure out how you did that task the last time.

Life is too short for Windows aggravation. Computers are now integral parts of our lives: We use them for work, for play, to communicate, to find mates, to shop, to express ourselves, to educate our children, and to manage our money. They help us fix our homes, cure our diseases, and even clean out our attics. No one has time to fuss over them, fix crashes, fight viruses, clean out hard drives, figure out why the printer won't work, reload the software, or press Ctrl+Alt+Delete. We need computers to be there when we want them. And for the most part, Macs are. Macs just work.

Microsoft isn't run by a bunch of idiots. The company is run by some very smart people, and they hire top-notch engineers. Just getting a product as complex as Windows out the door takes extraordinary talent. But Windows is designed for corporations. A Microsoft engineer revealed on his blog that one of the company's corporate users had 9,000 programs for Windows. The user simply couldn't afford to update them for new releases.

Microsoft Windows has to support all the old software that is out there. Apple is better able to let go of the past and is therefore more nimble in developing new ways to make your life easier.