

OSX Tips for All Users

If you've purchased a computer or hard drive that we've installed OS X on, your User ID is administrator, the password field is blank. Use System Preferences>Accounts to change password on the Administrator account, or add new accounts.

Since OSX is a user based system designed around BSD Unix there are a few things that most Mac users haven't had to contend with, one of which is permissions. When you install software or fonts that you intend for everyone on your system to use, you need to install them from the main user which is sometimes called Admin or Administrator account. It was the first account you set up when you first installed your software. If you install something from one of the user accounts, it will only be accessible by that account.

BEFORE AND AFTER YOU INSTALL SOFTWARE and on a regular basis run the Disk Utility (in the Utilities folder) and repair permissions. You have to boot from the first install CD to run the Disk Repair feature. Another handy program is System Optimizer X. It is on the OSX Kitchen Sink in the Diagnostics folder. It runs all of the maintenance on your system on demand. It is a \$12 shareware program but the demo works fine until you decide to register it and this one is well done, so try it and register your copy.

If you are installing OSX for the first time:

1. **Read the installer notes and make sure your system has the qualifications for the upgrade.**
2. **Backup all important work.**
3. **Run Disk First Aid or the repair utility of your choice. Rebuild the desktop.**
4. **Make ABSOLUTELY sure your firmware is up to date.**
5. **Know how to zap the pram.**
6. **Know how to push the reset switch on your motherboard.**
7. **If you don't know how on any of the above, don't start.**

NOTE: It will take longer for your system to boot and synch with your monitor when booting into X. Be patient.

Lose Your X Password or Need to Change It?

Boot up from the first OSX install CD by placing it in the drive and holding down the C key. When it comes up, choose Reset Password from the Installer Menu at the top of the screen, and follow the instructions.

X and Norton?

Don't use Norton. It will kill your OS X install!!!

HOW DO I BACKUP MY X INSTALL?

Carbon Copy Cloner (<http://www.bombich.com/software/cccl.html>) is on the X version of the Kitchen Sink. This puppy allows you to backup your OSX drive to an internally connected drive or an external Firewire drive (this will only work for booting with built in Firewire but will not work on Blue & White systems). This will make a bootable backup! It can also be used to recover parts or all of your X install. This solved one of the main objections I had to X and why I was not an early adopter. If you don't have an internal second drive consider purchasing one (you must have a rev 2 motherboard on a blue & white machine). We will talk you through the install if you need help.

TIP: On older systems like your Beige DT and MT's and early iMacs you have to use a command in the menu of Carbon Copy Cloner called Bless Old World Target Drive. This is not well documented and is absolutely essential. If you don't bless it your drive will not appear and will show up as damaged under repair programs. Remember on older systems it has to be LESS THAN 8GB partition for X to recognize it. One final note. I usually end up having to manually copy the OS9 System Folder over by hand. In fact I usually just Finder copy the OS9 folders over and only use cloner on the OSX stuff.

My OSX JUST SITS THERE SPINNING THE BEACHBALL AND NEVER FINISHED BOOTING? or maybe you get the Kernal Panic Screen (charcoal gray panel with printing).

ANYTIME YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE BOOTING UNPLUG EVERYTHING FROM THE BACK OF YOUR COMPUTER except the keyboard and monitor, and of course the power plug. Fix one thing at a time. If you just installed hardware remove it.

1. Try booting with the shift key held down. This is called safe mode. If it comes up okay then sometimes you can then simply reboot and things will work normally.

2. Boot from the 1st OSX install disk by inserting it and holding the C key down after rebooting. Run Disk Utility Disk Repair, then run Repair Permissions..
3. Last resort - install the OS again. Make sure you don't tell it to wipe the drive. Once you have reinstalled run the latest combined update to get your system version back up to snuff.
4. You can always recover from the backup you made using Carbon Copy Cloner (assuming you made one).
5. Run Repair Permissions before and after installing software.

OSX MAINTENANCE

Run Repair Permissions before and after installing software. Run Repair Permissions anytime you have trouble with an Application or just any problem in general. If permissions are fouled up it can really munge up a system.

Periodically and before any major upgrades boot from the original X install disk and run the Disk Utility from the menu and run REPAIR.

Maintenance

We've started using a program called Maintenance in machines with Tiger or Leopard. You should find this in your dock or in the Applications folder. It performs the same kind of maintenance as System Optimizer and Applejack.

Applejack

We recently started preinstalling AppleJack on all OSX systems. This little utility (Kitchen Sink OSX Diagnostics Folder or downloadable from <http://applejack.sourceforge.net/>) allows you to repair your disk, repair permissions, validate the system's preference files, and get rid of possibly corrupted cache files. In most cases, these operations can help get your machine back on track. The important thing is that you don't need another startup disk with you. All you need to do is restart in Single User Mode (SUM), by holding down the command and s keys at startup, and then typing applejack, or applejack auto (which will run through all the tasks automatically), or applejack auto restart (which will also restart the computer automatically at the end of the process).

The only gotcha I have found so far is on Beige G3 systems. If you had to borrow someones monitor to install X, then your other adapted monitor probably will show you a black screen at startup. Since you simply need to type applejack auto restart, I do just that blindly and then leave the system alone. It runs through the cycles and then restarts usually getting you back up and running. There are some other warnings in the documentation so read through them thoroughly before using on your system. This is an emergency repair program and I really would not run it all the time, but it has saved me more than a few times from the hours of reinstallation.

OS 9 Desktop - Chucking your drive:

When running OS 9 and OS X on a machine, there are several OS X files that appear in the hard drive directory when booted under OS 9. Neatfreaks! Warning: do not move or delete these files. They are part of OS X and must be exactly where they are. If you don't recognize a file or folder, leave it alone! We named this phenomenon after one of our customers who messed up his OS X install several times.

**PLEASE READ MY OSX Notes for installing on Beige G3 Systems at
<http://resale.headgap.com/osxnotes.html>**

UPDATING OSX

Apple issues major updates as well as Security Updates. I always download the combined update which gets everything. It's easier and seems to be less trouble.

PHONE TECH SUPPORT

We love this business and live, breath and eat Macs. We try to provide instructions where needed with your order. In the event you need further assistance, please use our tech support line at 405-601-5301 instead of our toll free number. Your help in keeping our expenses down will assist us in keeping our prices down. Use our email form on our website (use any Contact Us button) anytime you don't need immediate response or after hours. Make sure you identify the system you are on, the OS you are using and any other pertinent hardware facts.