

# Welcome To Macintosh!

## You Have Made a Wise Investment! Now, To Get You Started ...

As a new Macintosh owner, you are probably already aware of the wonderful yet powerful software that comes built-in. **iLife** (*iPhoto, iMovie, iDVD, iWeb, GarageBand*) has all you need for managing and maintaining your Digital Life, and all this while having fun, too! With your Mac, you can create, organize, share and explore countless possibilities with your photos, videos, music, presentations, research, documents and so much more!

Here is a list of other must-have software and hardware items and resources to get you going and enjoying your new Mac even more!

### Security

#### Data Backup

While the Mac is a “low-maintenance” and highly reliable computer, there nevertheless is the ever-present possibility that your internal hard disk may “crash” (geek-speak for “break”)! A hard disk drive is still a mechanical device that **will** eventually fail. And so, you must have a backup plan to safeguard your valuable photos, videos, and other personal documents.

The Mac’s operating system software, called **OS X 10.5 “Leopard”** (or **10.6 “Snow Leopard”**) comes with a very important program called **Time Machine**. With *Time Machine* configured properly and working with an attached external disk drive, your Mac’s data files are continuously backed up. Should you ever need to retrieve them - even older versions of your files - it can be immediately done in an easy, highly intuitive, and fun manner.

And so, I recommend the purchase of at least a 1–Terabyte external USB or FireWire Hard Disk Drive. The Apple store sells excellent brands such as *Seagate, LaCie, Western Digital* and others. When visiting the Apple Store online (**store.apple.com**), go to the “Storage” section. Alternatively, if you want to save some \$\$, I recommend **Amazon.com** or **OtherWorldComputing (www.MacSales.com)**.

#### Password Security

Your personal identity, online data and website access are just as important as the information stored on your new Mac. This becomes even more important if you access the Internet from a laptop computer which is more prone to theft and abuse.

For this reason, I strongly recommend **1Password** by *Agile Web Solutions*, the best password manager program for the Mac. It’s a \$40 program; another wise investment. A free trial is available. For more information, visit **www.AgileWebSolutions.com**.

## Malware

As of this writing (see date in the masthead), there is no need to install anti-malware software on your Mac unless you work in an environment that requires it. While there have been some reports of the occasional “trojan horse” malware in the wild, the low incidence and probability of infection precludes this investment and the hassles associated with this kind of software. *This is not to say* that Macs will never be targeted for higher instances and severity of attacks. Be vigilant, stay informed, keep your software up-to-date, and question whenever you are prompted for a password. Your Mac will generally not install anything without your specific permission. For questions or concerns, contact me at **sandro@MyMacMedic.com**.

## E-Mail

I strongly recommend that you configure the **Mail** program that comes with your new Mac. As with other Apple applications, it integrates seamlessly with every other program in the Apple suite of software. For example, if you are working on your photos in *iPhoto*, you can have your photos automatically emailed. If using a web browser for your mail (“web mail”), you have to take multiple steps in order to attach and send a photo. This is just one of numerous examples of *Mail*’s tight integration in Mac OS X.

## iWork

Unless you feel you *must* use *Microsoft Office for Mac*, I recommend Apple’s own **iWork** software suite. *iWork* consists of three productivity applications: **Pages** for word processing and page layout (desktop publishing), **Numbers** for spreadsheets and charting, and **Keynote** for memorable presentations. Like *iLife* and other Apple applications, these programs fit-in and integrate beautifully to make you more productive and have fun at the same time! *iWork* is an incredible bargain at \$79; a little cheaper at **Amazon.com**.

## Shopping Tips

**AppleCare** - Consider purchasing an *AppleCare* 2-year warranty extension (3-year total) for your new Mac. You have one year after your Mac purchase to obtain the extension. If purchasing an *Apple Cinema Display* with your Macintosh (on the same invoice), the *AppleCare* will also cover the display at no additional cost. So, do you *really* need *AppleCare*? Although I have never had serious problems with my many Macs over the years, I enjoy peace-of-mind having *AppleCare* coverage. To me it’s worth the fraction of the cost of the new Mac! If anything, you SHOULD NOT HESITATE to purchase *AppleCare* coverage for laptops. Due to tight tolerances, complex manufacturing considerations and rough handling, breakage is more likely to occur on laptop models.

**The Apple Store and Apple Store Online**- There are no price differences between Apple’s online store (**store.app.com**) and their stores you can walk into. The online store frequently offers more options for configuring a new Mac (called “build-to-order”). I have purchased all of mine on-line, and may offer a number of other accessories and goodies not available in a physical store. Delivery is fast online, too! Apple does sell refurbished Macs online, guaranteed to be like-new with the same warranty. You can save a bundle!

**Other Places to Shop** - For actual Apple computers, iPods, iPhones, and Apple-branded peripherals, you are better off shopping at the Apple Store or at the online Apple Store. Apple *does not* have sales or discount their products (except in a very limited way on “Black Friday”). If you need accessories for your new Mac - like disk drives, memory, cases, cables, books, software, printers, cameras and more - *and* you want to save big \$\$, then you should shop elsewhere. Check out these vendors: **Amazon.com**, **OtherWorldComputing (www.MacSales.com)**, **MacMall (www.MacMall.com)**, **Dr. Bott (www.drbott.com)**, **Griffin Technology (www.GriffinTechnology.com)**, **RadTech (www.radtech.us)**. These are the preferred online companies I trust and use regularly.

## Support

You cannot beat the service you get from the industry leader, *The Apple Genius Bar*, located inside each Apple Store. These are highly-trained and motivated individuals who’s sole objective is to get you out the door with a fixed computer or iPod/iPhone and questions answered. Be sure to make an appointment on line before you plan a visit. To locate an Apple Store near you and to make or change appointments, go to **www.Apple.com/retail**.

Apple does not make house calls. However, Apple will recommend local consultants who have been tested and certified by Apple to provide Macintosh support. These members of the **Apple Consultants Network** are dedicated and trained individuals who you can trust your Mac support to. Apple maintains a Web site that you can use to find a nearby consultant. Visit **Apple.Consultants.com**.

Finally, there are a number of third-party businesses that are *Authorized Apple Resellers* and *Authorized Apple Support Providers*. For a list of these businesses, visit **www.apple.com/buy/**

## Recommended Reading for New Mac Users

- 🍏 *Switching to The Mac: The Missing Manual* by D. Pogue (~ \$19 @ Amazon.com)
- 🍏 *Take Control of Switching To the Mac*, an e-Book in PDF format by S. Knaster a \$10 download from [www.takecontrolbooks.com](http://www.takecontrolbooks.com)
- 🍏 *My New Mac, Snow Leopard Edition: 54 Simple Projects to Get You Started* by Wallace Wang (~ \$20 at Amazon.com)
- 🍏 *The Macintosh iLife '09* by Jim Heid (~ \$25 at Amazon.com)
- 🍏 *iWork '09 - The Missing Manual* by Josh Clark (~ \$25 at Amazon.com)

**For more information and resources, visit ...**

**[www.MyMacMedic.com](http://www.MyMacMedic.com)**



**Consultants Network**