



TECHNOLOGY IN ACTION™

Taking Your OS X Lion to the Max



Michael Grothaus, Steve Sande, and Dave Caolo

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Michael Grothaus

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Apress®

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To Jerry Dresden and Hannah Kurylenko, your journey will soon be complete.

—Michael

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—Dave

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—Michael, Steve, and Dave

Introduction

OS X Lion has arrived with a roar.

Lion is the latest addition to the proud lineage of Mac OS, the operating system that has powered Apple's Macintosh line since 1984. When the first Macs rolled off the assembly line, the point-and-click Mac OS and the introduction of the mouse as a pointing device revolutionized the personal computing industry. No longer did computer users need to remember and type arcane command-line instructions; instead, Mac OS brought a more visual paradigm to personal computing.

Fast-forward to 2001. Apple released Mac OS X, a new version of Mac OS written from the ground up around the venerable Unix operating system. Bringing a new level of power, security, and stability to the Mac platform, Mac OS X is the software core around which the renaissance of the Mac has happened.

In 2007, Apple introduced the first iPhone. The operating system used on the iPhone, iOS, is based on Mac OS X but is specifically designed to let owners interact with their phones through touch gestures. iOS is about to enter its fifth generation and is now being used on the iPhone, iPod touch, iPad, and the second-generation Apple TV.

With the introduction of Mac OS X 10.7 "Lion," Apple took many of the features first popularized in iOS and moved them to the Mac platform. Through the Mac App Store, Mac users can purchase, install, and upgrade software for their computers without ever handling a DVD. In fact, OS X Lion is the first major personal computer operating system to be distributed primarily through the Internet rather than through the traditional store/disc method.

Of course, there's more to OS X Lion than just a fast electronic distribution method, and that's what this book is all about. *Taking Your Mac OS X Lion to the Max* is your introduction to the many new features—almost 250 in total—that make this new operating system so compelling. This book is primarily targeted to those who have used Macs in the past and are familiar with much of the terminology associated with the platform. If you know how to launch applications from the Dock, are familiar with the location of the menu bar and Apple menu, and can navigate your way around the Finder, then you'll feel right at home as you read this book.

A look at the changes to the Finder in OS X Lion is your first destination in the book. The Spotlight search engine has new options and features to make looking for your files faster and more enjoyable. AirDrop is a new and easy way for you to wirelessly share files with others just by dragging and dropping them on an image of the recipient. Apple has recognized the mobile Mac user with the addition of new or improved security features in OS X Lion, including improved FileVault encryption, Find My Mac, and remote wipe capabilities.

The Mac App Store debuted in Mac OS X 10.6 "Snow Leopard," but the virtual software store has really hit its stride in OS X Lion. You'll learn how to discover the latest software for Mac, buy and install it, and keep it up-to-date. Many apps are being rewritten to take advantage of OS X Lion's autosave capabilities and versions, a way of keeping a virtual audit trail of all changes made to documents that you create on your Mac.

While a discussion of Launchpad, Spaces, and Mission Control might seem to be more at home in a book about NASA, these are OS X Lion features that provide new methods of launching

and organizing apps on a screen. Fans of Dashboard, which was added to Mac OS X in version 10.4 “Tiger,” will rejoice when they find out how Apple has revitalized the world of widgets.

Most Mac owners use their computers to send and receive e-mail, and Apple has changed the look, feel, and functionality of the Mail app significantly in OS X Lion. It now more closely resembles the Mail apps on iPad, iPhone, and iPod touch, and it takes advantage of another Lion feature—full-screen mode. We’ll guide you through the new features of other apps included with OS X Lion, including iCal, Address Book, Image Capture, Preview, Photo Booth, and FaceTime.

If some of Lion’s features have you wishing you’d never upgraded your Mac, there’s a chapter in this book highlighting the many ways that System Preferences can bring back your happy thoughts.

Finally, we cap off the discussion of Lion with a look at OS X Lion Server. Whether you want to set up an office file server, share a calendar or address book with the Macs and devices in your home, or just want to learn more about the inner workings of OS X Lion Server, the final chapter of this book details how the Server application is used to configure and maintain a useful shared computing environment.

To get the most out of OS X Lion, we recommend reading the book from cover to cover to pick up all the details. But we also encourage you to experiment hands-on with Lion, and when you have a question or concern, the book is here to help you. Most of all, have fun while you’re learning how Lion is going to change your computing life. We had a blast trying the new operating system during its development, and we sincerely hope that our enthusiasm shines through in every chapter. Thanks for letting us show you OS X Lion.

Finder Basics

Mac OS X 10.7 Lion introduces another major revision to Finder, the Macintosh's default file system. After decades of refinement and revisions, Finder scarcely resembles its early incarnation. What is unchanged, however, is that Finder is the first thing a person interacts with when using a Mac. In many ways, it's a Macintosh's "first impression."

In this chapter, I'll explain what's new with Finder, from subtle changes in the preference panes to sweeping differences such as scroll behavior and a new method of window resizing.

First I'll explain how to acquire Lion, because Apple has moved to an all-new distribution system, and then I'll explain how to ensure that your Mac is ready for the transition. Let's begin with how and where to buy Mac OS 10.7 Lion.

Buying Lion

The sale of Lion marks a significant change for Apple. For the first time, the Macintosh operating system is being sold exclusively through the Mac App Store. Lion will not be available on DVD or other physical media.

To purchase Lion, launch the Mac App Store and find Lion. Click the price tag, and then click Buy Now. Enter your password when prompted, and the download will begin.

It's a large file, about 4GB. Once the download is complete, you'll be prompted through the installation.

System Requirements

As expected, Lion has specific system requirements. The following sections describe what you'll need to install Lion on your Mac.

A Compatible Mac

Mac OS X 10.7 Lion requires a Mac with an Intel Core 2 Duo, Core i3, Core i5, Core i7, or Xeon processor. You can identify your Mac's processor by selecting the Apple menu in the upper-left corner and choosing About This Mac. A new window will appear listing machine-specific information, including the processor.

Snow Leopard

Lion also requires the latest version of Mac OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard. Again, click the Apple menu and then select About This Mac to see what version of the operating system you have installed. Select Software Update to update to the latest version of Mac OS X 10.6.

The Up-to-Date Program

Apple's Up-to-Date Program lets customers who purchased a qualifying new Mac from Apple or an Apple Authorized Reseller within a certain date range receive a copy of Mac OS X Lion at no charge. See www.apple.com/macosx/uptodate/ to find out whether you qualify.

What's New in Lion's Finder

Apple has added several new features to Finder with Mac OS X 10.7 Lion, both big and small. For example, new window icons are minor in comparison to the sweeping support for Multi-Touch gestures. In the following section, I'll describe what's new in the Mac Finder under Lion, including the Finder windows (both in design and function), improvements to existing features such as Quick Look, all-new updates such as scroll bar overlays, and, of course, the extensive Multi-Touch support. Let's start with the login screen.

The Login Screen

As you can see in Figure 1–1, Mac OS X 10.7’s login screen is quite different from previous iterations.



Figure 1–1. *Mac OS X Lion's minimalistic login screen*

Note that I’ve described the default settings. You can make some changes to the login screen’s appearance and behavior via the Users and Groups system preference. (See the upcoming note.)

The most striking difference is the “gray linen” background, which is in keeping with a user interface theme used throughout the operating system. At the top of the screen is an Apple logo, and beneath that you’ll find an icon for each user account.

To log in, click your desired account’s icon, enter the password, and hit Return.

Three icons appear across the bottom of the screen: Sleep, Restart, and Shutdown. Clicking each does just what the name implies. In the upper-right corner you’ll find a battery status indicator (if your Mac is a laptop), a Wi-Fi signal indicator (if connected), and the current time. The battery icon, Wi-Fi icon, and time are new additions.

There’s also a lot missing. Snow Leopard’s login screen, which consisted of a control panel above a starry image, offered more information. Below the Apple logo and title “Mac OS X,” the screen displayed the administrator’s name. By clicking it, you could cycle through the following information:

- The OS version
- The OS build number
- The machine's serial number
- The machine's IP address (if online)
- Any available network accounts
- The current date, time (in hours, minutes, and seconds), day of the week, and time zone

Lion's login screen offers a simplified view.

NOTE: To alter the login screen's options, open System Preferences and then click Users & Groups. Next, click Login Options, and finally, authenticate with your administrator password. You'll find several—although limited—options for customizing your Mac's login screen. Other than some minor changes of wording and layout, these options are unchanged since Snow Leopard.

The Mac OS X Lion Desktop

For the most part, Lion's desktop is unchanged. However, a few minor yet notable additions are in place. See Figure 1–2.

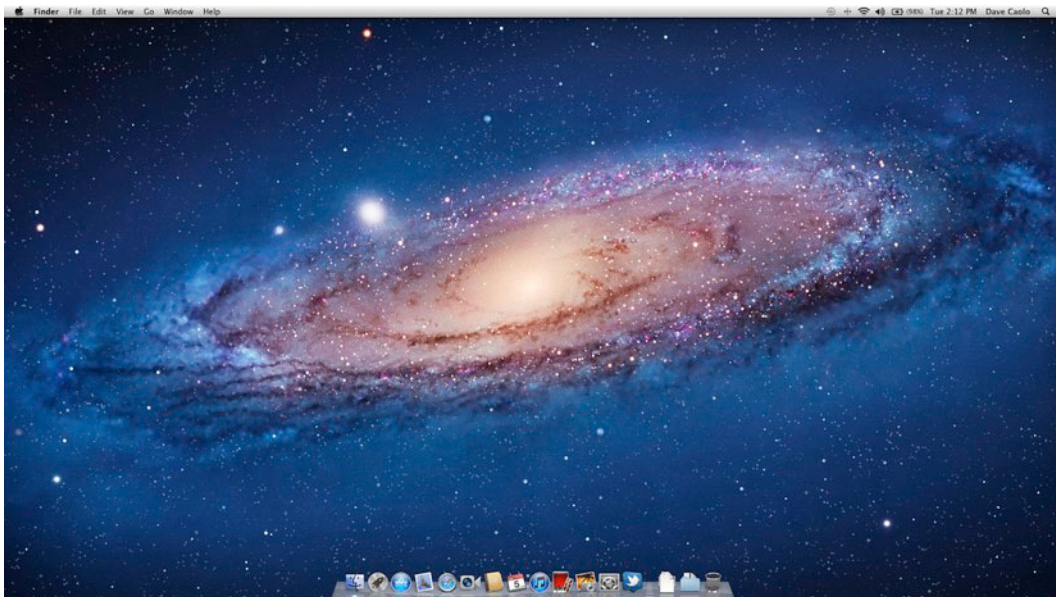


Figure 1–2. The default Finder desktop in Lion

Lion's desktop features a new default background image, or *wallpaper*, consistent with the outer-space theme introduced with Leopard. A swirling galaxy greets new users.

You'll also find new items in the Dock. For example, Launchpad's icon, a black "rocket ship" on a round field of brushed metal, is on the far left. (Launchpad is discussed in detail in Chapter 5.) You'll also find icons for the Mac App Store (the familiar, stylized A on a field of blue) and FaceTime (a sliver camera). Of course, you can relocate or remove these icons as you have in previous versions of the Mac operating system.

The Apple Menu

In the upper-left corner of your Mac, you'll find the Apple menu. It offers a handy list of features and functions, such as one-click access to the Mac App Store, System Preferences, and the Sleep, Shutdown, and Restart commands.

As with previous versions of the Mac OS, Lion's Apple menu also provides a link to system information such as the amount and type of RAM installed, the processor's type and speed, and more. However, the System Profiler application (now called System Information) has been revamped in Lion. See Figure 1–3.

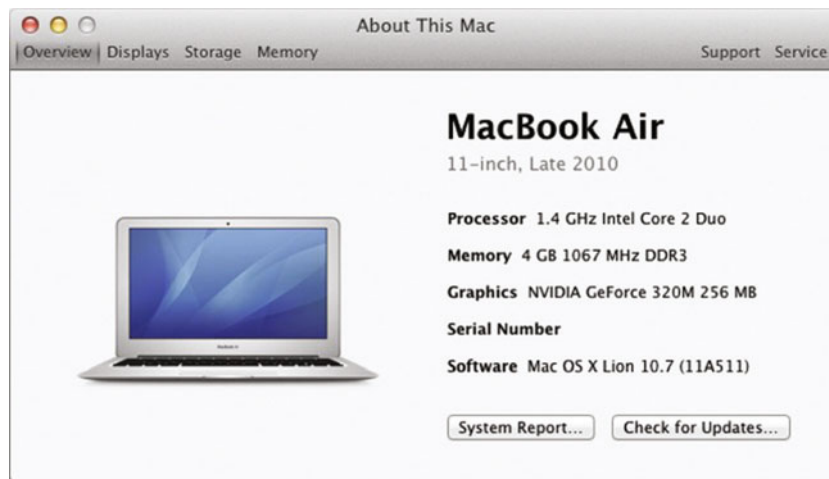


Figure 1–3. *The new About This Mac screen as shown in Lion*

To access System Information from the Apple menu, click it and then select About This Mac. A new window appears bearing the Apple logo and some general information. This is the same as it was in Snow Leopard. Next, click More Info... to launch the System Information application.

Right away you'll notice that its user interface has been completely rebuilt. Instead of the text-heavy lists of information that System Profiler offered in earlier versions of the Mac OS, System Information presents an elegant, tabbed window. You'll find details on System Information in Chapter 11.

New Finder Preferences

Apple has made several changes to Finder's list of preferences. To access these options, bring Finder to the front (click the desktop or Finder icon in the Dock, for example), and then select Preferences from Finder menu. The following sections describe what's new in the preferences list.

General Preferences

The General Preferences tab offers two minor changes. The first is a bit of wording; a line that read "New Finder windows open" in Snow Leopard is "New Finder Windows show" in Lion. The second change is a new default option in that list. Specifically, All My Files is the first choice (more on All My Files later in this chapter). See Figure 1–4.



Figure 1–4. The General Preferences tab, showing the new All My Files option

Sidebar Preferences

These options have changed quite a bit since Snow Leopard. As you know, Sidebar refers to the items that appear on the left sidebar in Finder windows (more on Finder windows later in this chapter). Unlike previous versions of Mac OS X, Lion offers 18 options across three categories: Favorites, Shared, and Devices. See Figure 1–5.



Figure 1–5. *The Finder window sidebar preference options*

New Favorites options include All My Files and AirDrop (which will be discussed in Chapter 2). All My Files offers a sorted list of nearly every document on your Mac. Previously, Finder offered an All Documents smart folder that dumped its contents into

an unsorted “everything bucket.” Lion arranges the contents of the All My Files folder quite neatly.

The other Favorites options are as follows:

- Applications
- Desktop
- Documents
- Downloads
- Movies
- Music
- Pictures
- Your Home Folder

From that list, Downloads, Movies, Music, and Pictures are new as one-click options. Previous versions of Mac OS X would let you drag these folders into a Finder window sidebar (Lion does as well), but this is the first time they’ve been offered as one-click options by the Finder preferences.

The Shared category offers Back to my Mac, Connected servers, and Bonjour computers, just as Snow Leopard did. Finally, the Devices category offers your machine, Hard disks, External disks, and, iDisk and removable media (CDs, DVDs, and iPods), just as Snow Leopard did.

The difference is the arrangement. Snow Leopard offered four categories (Devices, Shared, Places, and Search For). The Searched For category is completely missing, and its options—Today, Yesterday, Past Week, All Images, All Movies, and All Documents—are gone, having been replaced by the all-encompassing All My Files.

Finally, the Advanced preferences are the same as they were in Snow Leopard.

Finder Windows

The Finder windows in Lion feature several changes when compared to older versions of the Mac operating system. Most significantly, the sidebar (on the left side) and the toolbar (the top of each window) offer new options and functions. Here’s a rundown of what’s new in Lion’s Finder windows.

The Sidebar

Right away you’ll notice the absence of color among the sidebar icons. Apple has indeed gone with gray icons on a field of gray with Lion. See Figure 1–6.

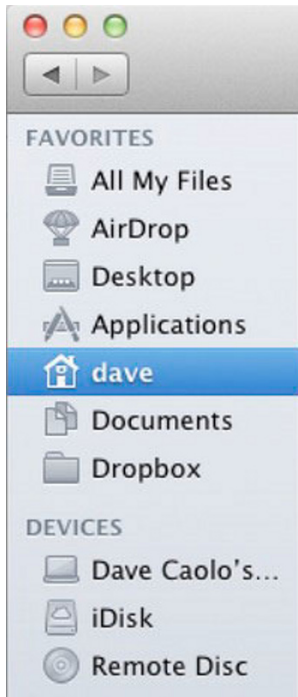


Figure 1–6. Default Finder window sidebar in Mac OS X Lion

The sidebar icons are divided into three sections: Favorites, Shared, and Devices (just as you saw in the preferences). This arrangement is similar to that of Mac OS X Snow Leopard, with a few notable additions.

The first is All My Files. Click it to reveal a sorted list of nearly every file that’s on your Mac. This “everything bucket” sorts your documents into several categories, such as Images, PDF Documents, Music, Movies, Presentations, Spreadsheets, and Documents. Of course, your Mac’s listings may differ, depending on what you have.

NOTE: There’s a hidden tribute to Apple’s advertising past in the All My Files icon. Here’s how to find it. First, right-click or Command-click the sidebar icon and then select Get Info. A new window appears. Click the icon in the upper-left corner and then select Copy from the Edit menu (or hit Command-C). Finally, open Preview and select New from the File menu to view the icon’s source file. You’ll find that snippets of the “Here’s To The Crazy Ones” poem that appeared in early “Think Different” TV ads are written on the “pages” in the drawer.

The next addition is a major new feature of Mac OS X Lion: AirDrop. In short, AirDrop lets you share files with other Lion users on your network. AirDrop and All My Files are explained in detail in Chapter 2.

The Toolbar

At the top of each Finder window is the toolbar, where you'll find handy tools for quickly finding documents and directories you need. Lion adds a new button for altering a folder's arrangement of its contents. Click it to see a list of options, similar to Figure 1–7. Again, this new feature is explained in detail in Chapter 2.

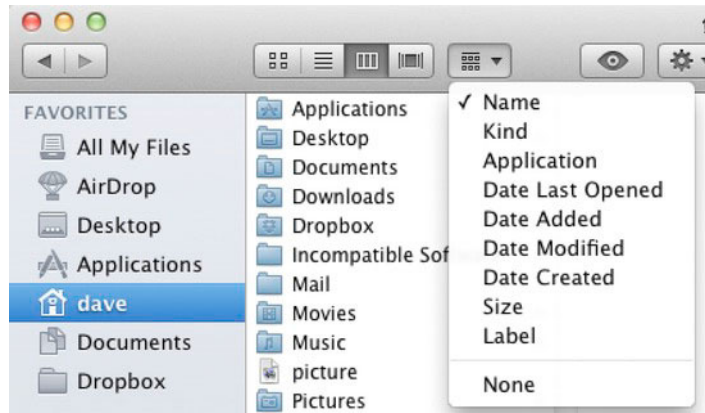


Figure 1–7. Item arrangement button and options in a Finder window

Quick Look

Quick Look is a feature of Mac OS X first introduced with version 10.5, or Leopard. It provides a one-tap preview of a file. To use it, simply click a file once to select it in Finder and tap your keyboard's spacebar. A window appears with a preview of your file, be it a text document, an image, an audio file, or so on.

The benefit is time saved. Because you can examine a file without opening the parent application (quickly examine a text document without launching Microsoft Word, for example), Quick Look lets you quickly examine reference material and then get back to what you were doing.

Mac OS X 10.7 Lion offers several significant enhancements to Quick Look, including a choice of applications and persistent audio tracks. Here's what's new with Quick Look under Lion.

Appearance

Quick Look has been updated in both its appearance and its functioning. The most striking change to its look is the white background. Previously, Quick Look presented previews on a field of black.

Also, the buttons for interacting with the file have moved from the bottom of the Quick Look window to the top. See Figure 1–8.



Figure 1–8. Updated Quick Look window replaces the black background color with white and offers new parent application options via the button in the right corner.

Function

In several ways, Quick Look is much more functional under Lion. The biggest change is the number of parent software options. In the upper-right corner of most Quick Look windows, you'll find a button labeled Open With [Name of default app], which will open the previewed item in an application. Here's how it works: