# Macs or PCs in Your Law Office?

Hi all,

Just curious to see where Sezzers fall on this one. I recently recommended
Apple products in a Lawyerist post that I wrote and it sparked a mini
debate in the comments.

So what do you use? And why'd you make that choice? Anyone out there switch
from PC to Apple? If so, why and how'd the transition go?

Niki

*Nicole Black* New York

---

I use PCs in the office because it's what I have used for ever.  I have a
basic understanding of the Windows system and can find my way around it.
 In college I took a class that covered DOS (long time ago) and I have been
pretty comfortable with PCs since.  Mac is completely foreign, so rather
than go through the learning process and finding software that will work on
a Mac, I just stick with PCs.  I would not want to get a Mac and find that
I have to replace a lot of other items because the existing items don't
work with Macs.  So I suppose the answer is 'Ignorance'

Dennis Chen, Florida

---

No matter where you are or what the specific subject, there will always be this "mini debate" between
Mac and PC.  (Remember the commercials from a few years back?)
I started my solo practice six years ago (wow!) and within a few months I bought a MacBook laptop.
Since I transitioned so early, there were virtually no "transition" issues.  Fortunately, there is an Apple
store within a ten-minute drive and I took full advantage of a one-on-one tutorial program for the first
three years.  Even now, if I have a problem I can access the Genius Bar at the store for free to help
analyze the odd problem/glitch.
All in all, I really like the Mac.  It's stable and reliable and I don't think I'll ever go back.  My wife/office
assistant uses a PC, so we're pretty well covered.

William B. Richards

---

I'm sure the Mac users will view this as heresy, but there's really a lot less difference in functionality and ease of use between the two operating systems than there used to be. The PC still has an a little bit of an edge in terms of business related programs, but that (slight) edge is diminishing as more and more programs are based in the cloud (case management being a good example).

I've worked with both PCs and Macs. On balance I still favor the PC, but only because Apple's products, while clearly more stylish, are more expensive when compared to PCs with similar features. For example, you can get a decent, functional laptop PC these days for around $500. Just try finding a brand new Macbook of any kind for less than $1000.

YMMV.

kwg

*Kevin W. Grierson, Virginia

I'm running Windows XP on an iMac (with BootCamp, not under MacOS). Tried VMWare briefly, but didn't have enough apps to justify running MacOS as the primary OS, and ditched it. Amicus is not available for the Mac at this time (and support is not anticipated).

I also have an IBM ThinkPad running Windows XP for remote paralegal access (and occasional use at home), and I remote in from home with either a Titanium PowerBook (PPC) or a G5 (PPC) running OS X over LogMeIn.com. I recently obsoleted the iLamp in the kitchen; relegated it to Mom.

How's that for hybrid?

-Rick

Richard J. Rutledge, Jr., North Carolina

What's the MOBO? You might be able to install OSX on it. I'd probably use a different disk for it and have a true dual-boot setup.

Steve O'Donnell, Pennsylvania

I always have used PCs. I started practicing just as PCs were becoming available (my first partner transitioned from Wang word processors to PCs just as I started with him). My first computer was an IBM AT that became my secretary's as soon as I hired her (I used it long enough to get familiar with it); the next year, I bought a Compaq Portable II, with the same processor, for my use. I started with Microsoft Word, I think v. 2.0, and upgraded every time until 5.5 (I did not have a mouse then); after I got my first Windows computer (3.0, then 3.11), I went through the various versions of Word, and upgraded through Windows XP Pro and Office XP Pro (I skipped the ME versions). I bought a ThinkPad x61 convertible tablet with Vista, but upgraded to Windows 7 when I was building a replacement desktop (also with Windows 7); I bought Office 2007, but only to get the free upgrade to Office 2010 Pro.

I didn't care for the Compaq proprietary hardware (I spent a fortune on a modem for it to get access to online research; even a replacement floppy was Compaq only), so when I came to understand how much more proprietary Apple equipment was, it was an easy decision for me to stay away (read iWOZ and Steve Jobs for even more insight into this issue). The fact that all the software I have ever used worked better or only under DOS or Windows kept and still keeps me firmly in the PC camp.

T. B. Patterson, Jr. ("Brownie"), South Carolina

PC desktop with triple monitor set up. More comfortable to use when I have to work on multiple docs/windows. Cheaper than a Mac.

Have a Mapple laptop for using on the go.

Dan X. Nguyen, California

A few months ago someone gifted me with an iMac 27". I had never used an Apple product. I am now a big fan.

Pros:

I have not once had a crash of any program or the computer itself;

Installation and use of apps. For example, I was set to download a PDF utilities program for around $70 that I had been using on my Windows computer, instead downloaded a better app right from the Apple Store for $1.99 (with seamless download, install and integration because it's designed for Apple);

Multiple programs open at the same time with no issues;

Backups with Time Machine are incredibly easy.

I will probably recall other pros after I send this, because overall I am
very happy with the switch.

One con: I liked the Windows tray that showed everything open at a given
time. The Mac only "docks" what you minimize. That means if I have multiple
items open that I don't want to minimize I either have to move items around
to get to what I want or hit the mission control icon in the dock (not too
big a deal, but the Windows tray was one simple click & I was spoiled).

*Donna R. Ireland*, Paralegal, New Jersey

---

That's a nice gift!

You can set a hotcorner for Mission Command, so you can just move your mouse to that corner and see
everything.

David A. Shulman

---

Or move to a Magic Trackpad and swipe 3 fingers up and get to Mission
Control, three fingers swiping left or right will move through Spaces

Steve O'Donnell

---

I am so not ready to start using trackpads.

I was using the Magic Mouse. It is a great tool, but it was so sensitive to
my movements it was constantly shifting me around when I didn't want to be
shifted. I know that's a learning curve, but I gave up on it for a while
and got a nice, old-fashioned mouse.

*Donna R. Ireland*

---

PCs at the office - there is STILL no OSX bankruptcy software, and spending
the money for Apple hardware to run Windows on it makes no sense.  At home,
a mix of PC and Mac.  I held off spending the money on a MacBook Air by
replacing my Thinkpad HD with an SSD, but the small performance boost I got
didn't cut it.  So I waited until a great deal on a 13" MBA showed up on
the Apple outlet store.  It is an insanely good computer.  So good that
SWMBO has stopped using her iPad since Santa brought her an 11" MacBook Air.

Wendell Finner, Florida

---

I got my first Mac in January 2012 and haven't looked back. Our office is 100% Mac.

Using a Mac has made me realize how terrible Windows is.

Anthony S. Alpert, California

The response of the Magic Mouse is adjustable through the control panel.

Paul Hogan, California

In making price comparisons, give a fair credit to the iMac for its amazing screen. Yes, it costs more, but yes it is amazing too.

Paul Hogan

Yes that is another definite pro! I had a 24" HP monitor which was nice, the 27" iMac screen is even nicer and the display is superior.

Donna Ireland

I run an all-Mac office. I run Windows on Parallels for HotDocs and CaseMap.

I'm not an Apple fan-boy. But, I like the fact that they curate their hardware. In other words, there is someone paying attention to how things work together, and WHETHER things work together. That's important to me.

Also, I like the fact that they are easier to use, because that means that my staff doesn't ask me to help them do stuff.

Cheers,

David Allen Hiersekorn, California

Using my laptop from law school days. Will likely go for a Mac on the next go around though.

Reshard J. Alexander, Texas

Basic PCs are cheaper in price but more expensive ( in time and money) to maintain. It is like saying that an old used car is cheaper than a new car.

Ernest Schaal, Japan

I use PC's.  I haven't used a Mac since the 90s, which is the last time I thought Macs were faster than PC's (they essentially use the same hardware noe).  I dint kike the Mac GUI, and my software doesn't run natively on it.

Lesley Hoenig, Michigan

I just purchased an 11" MacBook Air, with a 128 GB SSD and 8 GB RAM. I can't wait. I already use an iPhone.

The reason I'm switching is that everyone I know who uses Macs loves them. Even in this thread, no one says that they absolutely love PC. The reason they don't switch is either ignorance, price, or no available software. No one "loves" PC. I'm going all in to see what the fuss is all about.

Andrew Legrand

I don't get emotionally attached to my technology - it's just a toolkit. :-)  I have both PC and Mac on my desk though the reality is that the vast majority of my real work gets done on a PC. Fewer compromises.

I have clients running PCs and clients running Macs - not surprisingly about 95% of my clients run PCs and 5% Macs (that's more or less the percentage of deployment in the general population too). I have clients that have switched from PC to Mac and LOVED it, and I have clients that have switched from PC to Mac and hated it.

The one bit of advice I'll offer somebody considering the switch is...don't go halfway. The clients we have that are 100% PC and the clients we have that are 100% Mac are the ones that are the happiest. The ones who try to integrate a couple of Macs into their PC environment end up with a lot of headaches.

Disclaimer: I've still never been a lawyer.

Ben M. Schorr, Arizona

I'm only in love with my ScanSnap, which as far as Mac or PC goes is bi.

David Shulman

Thanks for all the replies!  Really interesting perspectives and information.

Personally, I switched to Apple across the board back in ~2007 and have never looked back. Prior to that I'd always used PCs and was fairly adept at using them. But the mac experience has been virtually hassle-free. I turn on my computer or device and 99% of the time, it just works. Not crashes, no annoying spyware and anti-virus software running in the background and slowing things down. It was undoubtedly one of the best decisions I've ever made.

But, it's a very personal choice and what works for one person/office isn't necessarily right for another.

Thanks again for all of your replies!

Niki

*Nicole Black*

---

I disagree with you about the relative danger of getting malware on the Mac versus Windows. Although it is true that the risk of getting something bad on the Mac is worse than before it is far less than on a Windows machine.

Personally, I use the firewall feature and am very tight on what I share. I don't use weak passwords and I do use anti-virsus software and I watch out for possible Trogian apps.

Ernest Schaal