

Mac OS X Part 3

This class will cover a basic overview of Aqua, the Mac OS X interface. Basic navigation, manipulating files and folders in the Finder, and System Preferences will be discussed.

Finder is the Mac OS X file browsing application, analogous to the Windows Explorer or X11. Although the classic Mac OS file browser is also called “Finder”, the Mac OS X Finder is a completely different program, but is named the same because it has the same purpose and a similar look and feel. Services provided by Finder include file browsing, file searching, creating new folders — directories — opening folders — and files in their appropriate application — previewing certain file types, changing file mappings, renaming folders and files, and deleting folders and files. The Dock, which is one of the technologies inherited from NeXT, is a useful place to put frequently-used applications and documents for one-click launching, shows the currently running applications, and has a range of options. Keyboard shortcuts are a way to maximize efficiency by implementing a command without having to reach for the mouse.

System Preferences is the program for configuring settings — ranging from each user’s personal settings like desktop picture, dock settings, and screen saver, to network settings, which disk to start up off of, and managing user accounts.

Mac OS X, like the classic Mac OS, is designed with ease of use and intuitiveness in mind. Apple has a Human Interface Lab dedicated to researching what non-computer savvy people would feel normal computer behavior is. This provides Apple with a lot more information to set up default configurations and behaviors that make sense to the widest possible range of people.

Other classes in this series:

Mac OS X Part 4, Friday October 24, 2003, 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM, MMC 1745
Discusses the various applications included with Mac OS X, and the process of configuring printers in Mac OS X.

Mac OS X Part 5, Friday October 31, 2003, 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM, MMC 1745
In-depth look at the Mac OS X file system, and an overview of data storage options.

For more information, see: <http://www.macos.utah.edu>