

OS X.8 Mountain Lion Seminar

Upgrading

Mountain Lion is only available for download from Apple's Mac App Store & costs just \$20. You can legally load onto all your family's Macs. You need to be running Lion or Snow Leopard and have a 2008 or newer iMac or MacBook.

Multi-Touch Gestures

In Mtn. Lion you interact with your Mac with your fingers. Tap, Scroll, Pinch & Swipe your trackpad or Magic Mouse to control what's on screen in a more fluid, natural and intuitive way. See: <http://www.apple.com/osx/what-is/gestures.html>

Reminders

Apple's new 'To-Do' app auto-syncs between your Mac and iPad/iPhone.

Safari

- **Reading Lists** – save a webpage for reading later, even without Internet.
- **Combined Search/Text box** – makes your searches easier.
- **iCloud Tabs** – click the iCloud icon to open webpages on all your devices.
- **Sharing** – share webpages via email, Messages or FaceBook.

iCloud

A free 5 Gb cloud storage system from Apple to save all your work across platforms. Save on a Mac and open on your iPad or iPhone. You need to set it up in System Preferences on your Mac and under Settings for your iPad/iPhone.

Mail

- **Preview** – scan or read your emails without opening them.
- **Threaded Conversations** – all email responses on the same subject are grouped together to organize them for future use.

Notes

Designed for whatever is on your mind. Jot down your thoughts, add photos or 'cut & paste' from webpages. Then with iCloud support, open on any Apple device.

Contacts

AddressBook is now Contacts. Three column design is easier to manage. FaceBook is intergrated so your friends profile photos and info updates automatically. Vcards make sharing easier and of course the info is available on your iPad/ iPhone too.

Calendar

iCal is now Calendar. Keep track of your busy schedule and share it with others. Maintain separate calendars for work and home but view them altogether. And FaceBook birthdays show up automatically so you never miss a big day.

Messages

Unlike SMS texting, Messages transmits data via the Internet so Apple users incur no phone company charges. You can now carry on simultaneous conversations with many friends from the comfort of your full keyboard (no more thumb typing!).

Notification Center

As alerts pop up on your Mac, be it an email, a text, a software update or a calendar reminder – Notification Center handles them without annoying pop-ups. Click on the icon or swipe from the right to see the full list.

Power Nap

Your Mac sleeps to save power, but your applications stay up to date. So you have the latest information – email, notes, messages & texts when your Mac wakes up.

Dictation

Click the Fn key twice to start dictating through your Mac's built-in microphone in

Mail, Notes, Pages, etc. Say "question mark" for a ? and other punctuations. Even recognizes names from your contacts to get the spelling right.

FaceBook

Mtn. Lion integrates well with FaceBook. Your friends contact info and photos update automatically into Contacts and their birthdays into your Calendars. And you can share webpages and photos by posting them to your Facebook page.

AirPlay

Airplay allows iPads to share content with Apple TV and now Mtn. Lion adds this functionality to your Mac. Show webpages, YouTube or photos in the living room.

GateKeeper Security

Helps protect you from downloading malicious virus software onto your Mac and gives you more control over what software you install. Setup one of three levels of security in System Preferences (under Security & Privacy).

LaunchPad

Turn your Mac into an iPad! Launchpad opens an elegant full-screen display of all the apps on your Mac. You can organize them into folders just like on the iPhone/iPad.

Full Screen Apps

Like an iPad, showing just one app full screen on your Mac is an excellent way to present it and keep focused on the task at hand. Plus in using the entire screen, it makes even the 11" MacBook a practical workstation.

Mission Control

This powerful and handy new feature provides you with a comprehensive view of what's running on your Mac. A bird's-eye view of everything - including Expose, Spaces, Dashboard and full screen apps - all on one screen.

Airdrop

This app allows you to share photos and files among all the Apple devices in your home via Bluetooth, so a wireless network isn't necessary.

Resume

Resume and Autosave keep track of all your on-going projects carefully backing them up in the background so you don't have to. And if you wish, re-opens all your previous apps when you power back up your Mac.

Versions

Think of Versions as a mini Time Machine that automatically saves all changes to Pages, Numbers & Keynote files so you can retrieve previous drafts if needed.

Some helpful links:

MacLife Magazine– 80 OSX 10.8 Tricks and Tips:

www.maclife.com/article/howtos/80_os_x_mountain_lion_tips_and_tricks

MacWorld Magazine – Full Mountain Lion Review:

www.macworld.com/article/1167823/mountain_lion_arrives_in_mac_app_store.html

Apple's own OSX review:

<http://www.apple.com/osx>

My Keynote slideshow on our website:

[Rmug/weebly.com](http://rmug.weebly.com)

Mountain Lion: Apple gets its operating systems in sync

MacWorld Magazine

Jason Snell, Editor

One year and one week since the release of [OS X Lion](#), Apple is back with Mountain Lion, also known as OS X 10.8.

Like Lion, Mountain Lion offers numerous feature additions that will be familiar to iOS users. This OS X release continues Apple's philosophy of bringing iOS features "back to the Mac," and includes iMessage, Reminders, Notes, Notification Center, Facebook & Twitter integration, Game Center, and AirPlay Mirroring.

At \$20, Mountain Lion is Apple's cheapest OS X upgrade; like Lion, Mountain Lion is available only via a Mac App Store download. The combination of the low price and the easy download will likely make Mountain Lion the most quickly adopted OS X upgrade of all time. Given how solid a release I found Mountain Lion to be, that's a good thing.

In 2011, in his last public event as Apple CEO, [Steve Jobs introduced iCloud](#)—Apple's Internet-based system of data storage and synchronization. At the time it was clearly a major strategic move for the company, and users of iOS 5 have benefited. On the Mac, iCloud integration has been limited. OS X Lion was finished before iCloud arrived, which prevented Apple from deeply integrating the two. But Mountain Lion makes much better use of iCloud and—most impressively for users of both Macs and iOS devices—use iCloud to work together.

It starts at setup: In Setup Assistant, the system asks for your iCloud ID and will sync a bunch of core preferences—essentially the information stored in the Mail, Contacts & Calendars pane in the System Preferences app. With this single log-in to iCloud, all your email accounts, contacts, calendars, notes, reminders, and the like, will be available on the Mac you're using.

Imagine a future where most users' apps are purchased on the Mac App Store, and most apps store their documents in iCloud. In that world, logging into iCloud from a new Mac will be almost as seamless as restoring from iCloud on an iOS device. This is definitely the direction Apple is headed in, even if Mountain Lion doesn't take users

all the way there.

Since last fall, Apple's iWork apps for iOS ([Keynote](#), [Numbers](#), and [Pages](#)) have supported iCloud's Documents in the Cloud feature, which lets you store documents on Apple's Internet servers and access them from any iOS device. Now the Mac versions of those apps have been updated to support that feature. In a set of app updates timed with the release of Mountain Lion, Apple has updated the Mac iWork apps to support Documents in the Cloud. Apps from other developers are also free to support this feature in future releases, so long as they're sold through the Mac App Store.

Here's how it works: Instead of the traditional Open dialog box, there's a new box with two options: iCloud and On My Mac. When I first opened Pages on my Mountain Lion-powered Mac, I was greeted with a collection of documents I didn't expect to see—they were all items I had created over the past year on my iPad using Pages. I was able to open them and edit them, and the edits showed up almost immediately on my iPad, too. When the process works, it's nothing short of magical.

Many expert users will blanch at the concept of not using the traditional file system, but Apple believes that most computer users struggle with finding files and traversing file systems. Between Launchpad and Documents in the Cloud, many novice Mac users will increasingly find little reason to use the Finder.

While iCloud is free, that's only for the first 5GB of data. But still: With Mountain Lion, it's a lot clearer to see how iCloud will benefit everyone who uses Apple products by tying those products more closely together and eliminating a lot of fussing and fiddling with files.

iOS apps come to the Mac

With Mountain Lion, Apple is continuing the approach begun in Lion to sync up the look, feel, and even nomenclature used by OS X and iOS. The Address Book app is now **Contacts**, as on iOS. iCal is now **Calendar**. More notably, there are a handful of new apps that have been built specifically to match up with iOS counterparts—and to sync data across devices.

The new **Reminders** app, which looks more or less identical to the [iOS version introduced with iOS 5](#), syncs your reminders via iCloud. This is an app for people who want a basic set of checklists synced across all

their devices.

With its yellow ruled paper interface, the **Notes** app will be instantly familiar to iPhone and iPad users. The Notes app on iOS and Mac sync together, of course, so instead of having various separate notepads on all your devices, all your notes are with you at all times. It really works, and it's been useful enough to prompt me to start using Notes on my iPhone.

iMessage supplants iChat

In 2011 Apple introduced [the iMessage communication system](#), a replacement for text messaging that let iOS devices communicate directly with one another. Unlike SMS text messages, the Message system transfers data (not just text, but images and files) via the Internet, so there are no text charges.

With Mountain Lion, support for Message comes to the Mac as well. Like Messages on the iPhone, **Messages** for Mac lets you hold multi-person chats and can optionally let people know when you've received and read their messages and when you're typing a reply. An integrated video-chat button allows you to kick off a video chat with capable devices by launching the FaceTime app.

There's a lot to like about having access to Message on the Mac. When I'd receive a message on my iPhone while working on my Mac, I'd be frustrated that I had to type out a response on my iPhone keyboard rather than the big Mac keyboard right in front of me. It's now really easy to send a quick text message to my wife when I'm at work—all I have to do is type her name in a new Messages window and then type a message.

This isn't to say that there aren't [frustrating things about Messages](#), every time I receive a message via Message on my Mac, my iPad and iPhone also chime or vibrate. There should be a way for Apple to detect which device I'm actively using to have the Message conversation and stop ringing the rest of them.

Notifications

Sometimes your Mac needs to get your attention. For years, many Mac app developers have built their own—think of meeting reminder pop-ups in iCal or Microsoft Office, for example.

With Mountain Lion, OS X gains a [system-level notification system](#) accessible to every developer, with features much like those already found in iOS. Alerts appear in the top right corner of the screen in a small bubble.

In iOS 6, you see all your recent notifications by pulling down from the top of the screen to reveal **Notification Center**. In Mountain Lion, the Notification Center list is a narrow band that lives just to off the right side of your screen. You can reveal it either by clicking on the new Notification Center icon at the far right of the menu bar, or by swiping with two fingers starting at the far right edge of the trackpad. Either way, your entire Mac interface will slide to the left, revealing a list of what's been trying to get your attention recently.

Not all notifications come from apps, either: Because Mountain Lion includes integrated support for Twitter and Facebook, Notification Center can display notifications from either service—direct messages, events, etc.

There's also a new Notifications pane in the System Preferences app, analogous to the Notifications submenu in iOS's Settings app. From here, you can choose which apps appear within Notification Center and how their alert bubbles behave.

Another clever feature is Notification Center's auto-sensing when a Mac is connected to an external display. If I hook up my MacBook to an HDTV or a projector, the alerts will be suppressed. Because the last thing you want is for a message from one of your friends on Twitter to float over a slide in an important presentation you're giving.

I've found Notification Center to be a useful addition to my Mac.

Gatekeeper

Ever since Apple introduced the [Mac App Store](#), many people have speculated that it was only a matter of time until the Mac, like iOS, could only run software sold directly via the store.

I never really thought that was a serious possibility, and Mountain Lion seems to clinch it. The [new Gatekeeper feature](#), found in Mountain Lion's Security & Privacy preference pane, adds an intermediate level of protection between fully-approved App Store apps and random files downloaded from unknown sources over the Internet. It's Apple's attempt to bring more iOS-style security to Mac users even if the apps they use are not from the App Store, and it's a great move.

By default, Mountain Lion will launch newly-downloaded apps from the Mac App Store as well as any apps written by “identified developers” without complaint. Identified developers are members of Apple’s Mac developer program who have obtained a certificate linked to their identity, which they use to cryptographically sign their apps. (Apple doesn’t do any sort of background check on the developer, and it doesn’t approve any of this software. All it means is that Apple knows who the developer who signed the app was—and that gives Apple the ability to revoke the developer’s license if they’re discovered to be a distributor of malware.) The act of cryptographically signing apps also prevents legitimate apps from being tampered with after the fact, since any modified apps will fail the check Mountain Lion performs.

Most people will only run into Gatekeeper when downloading an app that hasn’t been updated with a developer signature. You can turn off Gatekeeper altogether, of course, but you can also choose to open unidentified apps manually: Just control-click on the app in the Finder and choose Open. Gatekeeper won’t stop you.

It’s also important to note that, as the name implies, Gatekeeper is *not* a system that continually scans your Mac looking for malware. It works only the very first time you try to open an app, using the same system that warns you before you open just about any file that you downloaded from the Internet. Once you give that app entry through the gate and into your Mac, there’s no more security.

Developers have known since February that Gatekeeper was coming; I’d wager that most Mac developers have acquired their certificates and signed their apps. And the ones that haven’t been signed will still run, once you’ve used your own judgment to decide whether you let them through the gate. It’s a sensible strategy that doesn’t leave developers whose apps can’t be in the Mac App Store out in the cold, and most users won’t notice a thing.

Sharing

In an attempt to reduce the amount of steps required to share stuff on your Mac with others, Apple has added a sharing button to most of its apps and provided access to the same sharing functionality for third-party app developers. When you click on the (familiar to iOS users) share button in an app, you’ll see a pop-up menu listing several ways to share the item you’re working with.

In Safari, the Share button lets you post a link to Facebook or Twitter add a bookmark, send a link via Messages, add the page to Reading List, or send the story via email. (If you choose to send the story via email, you can choose to send a link, the HTML of the page, or a stripped-down view of the page in the style of Safari's Reader feature.)

You can add your Twitter and Facebook account information in the Mail, Contacts & Calendars system preference. Once that's done, it becomes easy to quickly share items from just about anywhere via the Share menu or the buttons at the top of the Notification Center list. I was able to post an image to Twitter and Facebook from within Preview, as well as send it to Flickr. I could even transfer it to a nearby Mac via Apple's AirDrop file-transfer feature, all without leaving my Preview window.

Twitter and Facebook integration goes beyond that, though. Mountain Lion can sync with your Facebook contacts list, so that all your Facebook friends appear in Contacts. If the denizens of your Contacts list are also your Facebook friends, Mountain Lion will do its best to avoid making duplicate entries. (A few of my friends were duplicated when I tried this, but merging them back into one record wasn't too hard using the Merge Selected Cards command in Contacts.) Mountain Lion can also optionally update the pictures attached to each of your contacts based on those contacts' public Facebook profiles.

Dictation

Dictation, a feature previously available only on the iPhone and the iPad, comes to the Mac with Mountain Lion. Mountain Lion's dictation engine appears to be identical to the one found on iOS, and requires an Internet connection. (Keep in mind that Dictation and [Siri](#) are two separate functions. Mountain Lion doesn't offer Siri.)

Mountain Lion dictation can be used just about anywhere there is a blinking cursor. If you can enter text there, you can dictate text into it—no app updates required. By default, you kick off a dictation session by tapping the Function key twice. Then you just say what you want to say, and once you're done, your utterances will be rendered (usually quite accurately) as text.

It's a great addition. Of course, there are better speech-to-text options available commercially—Nuance offers [Dragon Express](#) for \$50 and [Dragon Dictate](#) for \$200. Those programs work on your Mac without an Internet connection and offer voice-training and customizability

that Mountain Lion's dictation feature can't match. But not everyone who might use Dictation needs that level of customizability.

I've never managed to use most dictation products for very long, but I find that I use iOS dictation every now and then when I need it. I look forward to being able to do the same on my Mac with Mountain Lion.

Power Nap

When a Mac is asleep, it's basically dead to the world. When an iOS device is asleep, it's still doing stuff—checking your mail, making alert sounds, and even backing up. It means you can flip open an iPad and your Inbox is already current, for example.

With Mountain Lion, Apple is introducing a version of this iOS feature to the Mac. It's called Power Nap, and it's a somnambulant state that's neither asleep nor awake as we currently understand them.

First, the restrictions: While I'd wager that most future Macs will support Power Nap, right now it's only supported by a handful of systems. On day one of Mountain Lion, you'll only be able to take advantage of Power Nap if you've got a newer MacBook Air or the new MacBook Pro with Retina Display – both with solid state hard Drives.

To turn Power Nap on and off, you use the new Enable Power Nap setting in the Energy Saver control panel. By default, Power Nap is turned on when your laptop is connected to a power adapter and turned off when on battery, but you can choose to turn it off completely or turn it on for both.

Power Nap works by periodically waking up a MacBook even when it's closed, but it's not the usual wake-up. Fans don't spin and the screen doesn't come on. And since Power Nap only works on systems that use flash storage instead of spinning hard drives, disk access is silent too. From the outside, you'd never know that it was awake.

When in this dark-wake state, your MacBook will (once an hour, if you're connected to a power adapter or have more than 30 percent of battery remaining) check your mail, sync your contacts, update your calendars, sync reminders and notes, make sure Documents in the Cloud are synced, and update Photo Stream. If you've got the Find My Mac feature turned on, it'll also phone home with its current location just like an iOS device would.

AirPlay

There aren't that many different ways to say, "Here's a feature that you've seen on iOS that's also now on the Mac." But here we are again: AirPlay mirroring, a feature [introduced in iOS 5](#), has arrived on the Mac.

For a while now, Macs have been able to play back iTunes audio and video to Apple TVs but in Mountain Lion, you can mirror the contents of your Mac's display on any video device connected to an Apple TV.

When a 2011-vintage or later Mac running Mountain Lion senses the presence of an Apple TV on the local network, an AirPlay icon appears in the menu bar. Click and select an Apple TV, and your desktop will be duplicated on the TV it's connected to. I found myself using this feature all the time at home.

Safari

When Apple first announced Mountain Lion in February, it didn't make a big deal about changes to its Safari Web browser. But now Safari makes Apple's list of the major changes in Mountain Lion. And quite right, too—there are numerous nice additions in Safari that make it a much better browser.

The biggest addition to Safari has been done by subtraction: The search box next to the address bar has vanished. Instead, the address bar is also your search field. If you know an address, you can type it there, but if you don't, you can just enter in search terms and Safari will perform a search using your preferred search engine.

Now if you type "mountain lion" into that box, you'll get a bunch of links about Apple software (and real mountain lions!) instead of an error message telling you that Safari can't find the website "http://mountain%20lion/." Much more useful, right? As you type, Safari will also make suggestions, including search terms and pages from bookmarks and other pages you've visited, including a Top Hit area with the most likely pages you're looking for based on your previous browser history.

Another new Safari feature that I like a lot is iCloud Tabs, an icon on the Safari toolbar that displays a list of all the webpages you've got loaded across all your devices. This feature becomes much more useful when you upgrade to iOS 6 on your iPhone & iPad. At that point, you'll be able to start reading on your Mac and then pick up right where you

left off on your iPad.

The new Tab View feature certainly looks good: If you've got more than one tab open in Safari, and pinch on your trackpad, Safari zooms out until you see the current page on a gray background. Now you can swipe left or right and view the contents of all the other tabs. It's a pretty, visual way to see all your currently open tabs, and it makes a great demo.

There are several more additions to Safari, too—it's a solid upgrade. As I mentioned earlier, the new Share menu appears in the Safari toolbar. The Safari Reader button has gotten large and now sits just to the right of the address bar, turning blue when a page is eligible for Reader. The Reading List feature now offers an offline mode, so you can save articles to read later even if you're not connected to the Internet later.

Mail

I've got a love-hate relationship with OS X's Mail app. Well, that's not entirely accurate. It's more of a tolerate-hate relationship. During the Snow Leopard era, I got so fed up with it that I switched to Gmail, but the [improvements to Mail in Lion](#) lured me back. Mail hasn't received a major upgrade in Mountain Lion, but its support for Notification Center has led to the addition of one big feature: VIPs.

It's logical that you'd want Mail to notify you when you get new mail. But for anyone who gets a large volume of mail, that's just too many notifications. So you can choose, from Mail's Preferences window, just how you want Mail to use Notification Center: Every time a message comes in, just when a message comes to your Inbox, when you get a message from someone in your Contacts list, or when you get message from a VIP.

To mark someone as a VIP, just open a message they've sent you and move the cursor over their name. Just to the left, you'll see the faint outline of a star. Click it and it will darken slightly. That's it. That Person is now Very Important. Little stars show up next to their messages in your mailbox. That's how important they are.

New features, across all devices

The biggest story in the release of Mountain Lion isn't a particular feature. It's Apple's new dedication to a yearly release cycle for OS X, and more important, to a cycle that's synchronized with the release of iOS.

Apple's strategy is to roll features out across all its devices, on both operating system platforms, simultaneously—or at least as close to simultaneity as possible for a company that has two separate operating systems to update every year. There will always be features that are tuned for the very different interactions that users have with their iPhones than with their MacBooks, but most of the basic ideas will span devices and operating systems, and most of them will sync together using iCloud.

To those who would argue that these features water down the Mac, I'd point to a feature like Power Nap; that seems like a manifestation of the always-on iOS philosophy, but translated into a quintessentially Mac-focused feature.

Yes, some of the features Apple has introduced in Lion and Mountain Lion are specifically designed for new and novice users, and that's appropriate given how many of those users there are. But features like Launchpad and Gatekeeper and Documents in the Cloud are easily ignored or overridden by expert users; on the Mac, Apple seems to have chosen a path that makes the out-of-the-box Mac experience better for new users without wrecking things for the experts.

Macworld's buying advice

All told, I found Mountain Lion to be a stable, solid release. Traditionally at the end of an operating-system review, you'd expect a discussion of whether the upgrade is really worth the money. But at \$20 (and that's a one-time purchase that can be used on every Mac you own), the money isn't the issue. Do you have an iPhone or iPad that you've upgraded to iOS 6? Or are you going to buy Apple's next iPhone when it comes out? Do you want to have access to the latest features Apple is rolling out across its entire product line? If so, your answer is a definitive yes.

Mountain Lion is the next step after Lion. It's Apple's current state of the art. If you're running Lion (or even if you're a holdout running Snow Leopard), I recommend hopping on board.

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