



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

CLC Apple Mac Support Information

October 13, 2008

Contents

[Introduction](#)

[Can a Mac run Windows?](#)

[Boot Camp – Run Windows on your Mac](#)

[Running Windows in a Virtual Machine](#)

[Can a Mac run Microsoft Office?](#)

[I would like to run Windows on my Mac but I am not sure what the best options or costs are?](#)

[Do I need to run Windows on my Mac?](#)

[Recommended Minimum Computer Specifications for Macs](#)

Introduction

If you currently own an Apple Mac or plan to purchase one, the following information may be helpful in determining what capabilities your current Mac or potential new Mac may have for the Chicago-Kent network and its resources. These pages are a basic guide in assisting you with the various options available for Mac computers.

If you have any additional questions after reading this information, please contact the **Center for Law and Computers** Helpdesk.

The CLC Helpdesk can be reached on the phone at (312) 906-5300 (6-5300 house phones) or by email at helpdesk@kentlaw.edu. We are located in suite 540 if you would like to stop by our offices.

Mon - Thurs: 8:30 am - 6:00 pm

Fri: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Can a Mac run Windows?

Yes, beginning with models released in mid-2006, all Macs are capable of running Windows in some fashion. This can be done either by using a Mac OS X feature called “Boot Camp” or by using special virtualization software to run a “virtual” Windows computer on your Mac. Running Windows allows your Mac to look like a PC and run all those **Windows-only** applications such as Exam Soft and Outlook for mail.

Boot Camp - Run Windows “directly” on your Mac

Boot Camp is a built-in feature of version 10.5 (**Leopard**) of the Mac operating system and comes with every new Mac. It lets you run Windows just as if your Mac were a PC. When using Boot Camp, you select whether you want your computer to run the Mac operating system or a Windows operating system when it powers-up. Those running Apple’s Boot Camp beta on the older (**Tiger**) operating system will continue to work but will no longer be supported with updates to existing drivers and will need to upgrade to the current version of the (**Leopard**) operating system for continued updates.

Note: You must have an **Intel-Based Mac** to use Boot Camp.

*Note: If you plan to use the “Boot Camp” feature, you need to allocate enough hard drive space to store the Windows operating system and the Windows applications you may install. Failure to do so will prevent you from having sufficient room for additional applications such as the Windows version of Microsoft Office. When you create the hard drive partition for Windows, you can choose to use 32 GB, use half of the Disk, or set a custom size. The Windows partition should be at least **32 GB** or more to run Windows Vista Ultimate, Windows Vista Business, or Windows XP Professional. **In all cases you will need to acquire a licensed copy of the Windows operating system.***

For complete information on Boot Camp, please see the link below.

<http://www.apple.com/macosx/features/bootcamp.htmles>

Running Windows in a Virtual Machine

A virtual machine can be thought of as a computer running as an application within your current operating system. Intel-powered Macs released from 2006 onwards are capable of running Virtualization software such as Parallels Desktop for Mac and VMware Fusion. With these pieces of software, you can run another operating system, such as Windows XP Professional or Windows Vista Business at the same time as Mac OS X.

If you want to run Mac OS X and Windows side by side, you must purchase Parallels Desktop for Mac or VMware Fusion as well as a licensed copy of the Windows operating system. After installation of one of these programs, and the Windows operating system, you can run the occasional Windows application right next to your Mac applications, without having to restart.

For additional information on these virtualization products, and their respective system requirements, please see the links below.

Parallels Desktop for Mac
<http://www.parallels.com/en/desktop>

VMware Fusion
<http://www.vmware.com/products/fusion>

Can a Mac run Microsoft Office?

Yes, there is a version for Mac's and it is the Microsoft Office 2008 for the Mac. Word, PowerPoint, and Excel files created with Office 2008 are fully compatible with their equivalent programs from Office 2007 for Windows. Many other popular applications are also available for the Mac.

I would like to run Windows on my Mac but I am not sure what the best options or costs are?

No problem, call or drop by the Helpdesk and we will be glad to discuss the various options and associated costs.

Do I need to run Windows on my Mac?

Not necessarily, your Mac can connect to the Chicago-Kent network with a hard-wired Ethernet connection using a standard Category 5 Ethernet cable. In most cases, the Chicago-Kent wireless network can be accessed after some configuration changes to your Mac. You could forego the installation of Windows and use any of the lab computers (Lab 700, Lab 760, and Lab 900) or the Student Lounge.

In the open areas such as the concourse and first floor are the general purpose computers which can be used for accessing the Internet and checking your email via the Web. Some limitations of using only your Mac would be:

- 1. No access to Chicago-Kent network printers**
- 2. No access to network file shares for personal file backups and posted class materials**
- 3. Mac web browsers such as Safari and Firefox are not capable of displaying much of the information on the Law School's Web for Students portal and possibly other web sites which are developed using technology specific to Microsoft's Internet Explorer web browser.**
- 4. Softest by ExamSoft, the application used for taking exams on computers, is not available to run natively on the Mac platform**
- 5. WordPerfect will not run natively on Macs**

Recommended Minimum Computer Specifications for Macs

Below are guidelines to consider if you are purchasing a new Mac computer.

Additionally, the following link to Apple's store web site will show you pricing with Apple's educational discount for notebook computers and other Apple items.

http://store.apple.com/us_edu_254774

Macbook (White or Black)

13" – 2.1 to 2.4 GHz
2-4 GB Memory
250GB Serial ATA drive
DVD Drive
AppleCare Protection Plan (Optional)

Macbook Pro

15" 2.5GHz
2-4 GB Memory
300GB Serial ATA drive
DVD Drive
AppleCare Protection Plan (Optional)

Macbook Air – (Does not have a built in Ethernet port for connecting hardwired!)*

13" 1.6 to 1.8 GHz
2 GB Memory
80GB Parallel ATA drive
DVD Drive is an optional device
AppleCare Protection Plan (Optional)

(*) - A USB to Ethernet adapter cable is an optional accessory. Using this adapter occupies the one and only USB port on the Macbook Air.