

## **Making the Switch**

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I am so glad I made my life easier by making the switch from a PC to a Mac. You know, the grass really is greener on the other side. No more worries about programs working or not working, viruses, spyware, malware, and everything else that comes along with being online. My Mac does what I need it to do. Honestly, for the first time, I can actually enjoy sitting in front of my computer. It is no longer an instrument used for work; it is something I use as a source of entertainment. Would you like to know why I switched and why I suggest that you do? Here are just a few reasons I said *sayonara* to my Windows antiquity.

### **1. No Blue Screen of Death. The Mac just works.**

I spent countless hours researching and dialoguing with IT personnel in an effort to understand why my PC crashed. Let us equate our computer with a household appliance, for example, how often has your toaster crashed? In our home we use our toaster every day, I don't recall when it was purchased, but I do know it works, every time. This is what I expect from my computer. I'm not a computer specialist, neither do I wish to be, however, considering the amount of time I spent figuring out why I have this annoying blue screen on my monitor, I sometimes felt that was the direction I was heading.

A Mac (like your toaster) is designed to work. A Mac offers an unprecedented integration of hardware and software. The people who make the computer also make the operating system as well. With a PC however, the maker of the computer is not the author of the operating system. For example, Dell makes computers (pretty good computers by PC standards) it does not write the Windows OS that it is installed with. A good analogy would be to consider a PC to be much like a church potluck. Some people bring casseroles that are outstandingly delicious while others bring dishes that just do not measure up to the same standard. Needless to say you will be suffering the consequences afterwards. With a PC you really have no guarantee of who made what is in your computer. However, with a Mac you do, and that is the reason it works.

### **2. I Can Be Creative.**

Thanks to an impressive software suite that is included with the Mac, iLife, I can actually have fun at my computer. iLife consists of iPhoto, iMovie HD, iDVD, GarageBand, iTunes, and iWeb. These are programs that I (or anyone who owns a Mac) can use to create stunning movies and DVD's or even beautiful web pages. Yes, I know there are similar programs with which you can do similar things on a PC. But the beauty of iLife is that each of these programs works together, it is a seamless integration of software. For example, if I am creating a movie and I need an original musical score to go with my movie, I can use GarageBand to create and edit the score and then use iMovie to place it where I want in the movie. The amazing thing about iLife is that I don't need to be a Hollywood moviemaker or a music composer to use it.

### **3. My computer hasn't received a virus.**

To find a virus in a Mac is like looking for the proverbial needle in the haystack. According to Sophos, a worldwide leader in anti-virus solutions, there are over 114,000 reported viruses for the PC, but none of any major significance for the Mac. Look at it this way, if there are only 100 viruses in existence perhaps 0.0002 would be for the Mac. This reason alone is enough to get a Mac. There are still threats and vulnerabilities for the Mac but the risk of your computer being harmed by those threats is incredibly low.

Here's how it works,

People attempting to break into computers may disguise a malicious program as a picture, movie, or other seemingly harmless file. You might download such files from the Web, or get them via e-mail or chat. Where a PC blindly downloads viruses, a Mac, however, will let you know that you may be getting a wolf in sheep's clothing. The Mac web browser, Safari, can differentiate between a file and a program, and will alert you whenever you may be downloading the latter.<sup>1</sup>

### **4. Macs Run Microsoft Office**

The title speaks for itself. I use a PC at work and a Mac at home and I run the same software. I cart files back and forth between my PC and Mac.

These are my reasons for getting a Mac. I have worked with Macs for approximately three years and in September of 2006, I finally purchased a Mac and I am so glad I did. In relation to computers I can truthfully say I am stress free.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.apple.com/ca/getamac/viruses.html>