

## Macintosh Learning Center

--- Shell Weinberg

*Third Floor, Southeast corner*

*Laguna Woods Village Community Center*

*Laguna Woods Town Centre*

*Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday*

### ***Okay... so what is the difference between a Mac and a PC ???***

In the early days of desktop personal computer development the difference was very wide and could easily be explained. Simply stated, the **IBM-created platform** required the memorization of keyboard combinations that had to be typed in to activate the functions. The **Apple Computer Corporation-platform** (*introduced early 1980's*) used a point-and-click operating system referred to as "goosey", GUI... graphical user interface.

This allowed the computer user, using a device called a "mouse", to simply point an arrow cursor at an item on the screen, then tap the mouse button to activate the item. So much easier than typing in a keyboard formula... and that, plus other hidden refinements, established the "user friendly" reputation for the Mac.

**Mac** is short for Macintosh, the computers that are produced by Apple using the **Apple Operating System**, while PC is the term used for all other computers. PC, of course, means personal computer... and the Mac, as you know, is also a personal computer, but separates itself from the rest of the computer universe by using the "Mac" reference.

In mid 1980's, Microsoft recognized the user friendly features of the Mac OS and came up with a GUI version for PC users and they called it "Windows". Windows has been trying to catch up with the Mac OS ever since.

Over the years, PC computer sales have generally been much higher than Mac sales. Fact of the matter is Mac probably only has about 4% or 5% of the market presently. However, it does seem like we are seeing a lot of switching from PC to Mac visitors in our Mac Learning Center lately.

I believe price has been the main reason for fewer Mac sales, although there are other folks who argue there has never been enough software programs written to run on the Mac OS. That thinking may have been true in the early stages of personal computer development but I do not think it is true today... with the only exception possibly being computer gaming.

Apple has concentrated on areas better suited to **creative endeavors** for Mac users. Such as programs that offer digital photography, digital movie making, digital music and sound production, including the software to produce your very own custom musical composition.

Macintosh is the Cadillac of the industry. To get such quality you may have to pay a few more dollars. When shopping for a new computer you will find Apple has worked hard to establish more competitive price points in today's market.

Currently we can see the differences between a Mac and a PC have narrowed, however, some do still exist. Let's take a look at what might be generating the growing interest in the Mac...

**Viruses:** Nasty virus exposure to PC programs continues to plague PC users. Virus problems are rare in the Mac environment. Bad guys find it easier to write programs for PC than for Mac.

**Operating System:** A new Mac always comes with the Mac OS already installed... no need to buy additional software like "Windows". (*Note: Should you be a PC user buying a new Mac with Intel Duo Core inside, you will need to purchase and install "Windows" to run the various Microsoft programs.*)

**Typical software programs that come with many new Macs, installed and ready to use:** iPhoto, iTunes, iMovie, iChat, iCal, iDVD, TextEdit, GarageBand, Pages, Dashboard, Spotlight, Safari browser, and Mail for email.

**Aesthetics:** The engineering and design departments at Apple have consistently created extraordinary industrial designs that enhance Mac computer operation. Having a Mac product in your home is like having a little piece of award winning art to look at and appreciate.