

# Mac's new Snow Leopard worth the price

**computer notes**  
*from the road*  
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your hard drive – only 7GB. That leaves room for photos, music files, documents and printer drivers, which Mac saw fit to provide more of.

In Preview, text is easier to select from columns. This is great news if you work with a lot of PDFs.

Now you can scan directly into Preview and have the ability to soft-proof photos prior to processing them in Photoshop.

There are a lot of changes in Preview that you'll want to take a closer look at.

The finder is re-written in Cocoa and now truly supports a 64-bit processor, if you have one.

If you have a machine that acts as a file server, it can now go to sleep and still offer access to files on its drive.

Just like Leopard, Snow Leopard does

not support OS 9 programs – no classic mode. If you're running those older programs, stick with 10.4 Tiger. If you already made the move to all OS X software, you're good to go.

I'm hopeful that photo correction has been improved. Apple changed the default gamma from 1.8 to 2.2, which means monitors should show images better. Leave the new settings for a week or two after upgrading to get a feel for the new look of the screen. If you don't like it, change gamma back to 1.8. However, I strongly recommend giving the new setting a try – you'll quickly get used to 2.2.

One of the big changes in Snow Leopard is the improvement to search functions. Spotlight now gives you a menu that shows the type of files you find and allows you to look within the media you're searching.

For those who use it, better support for Microsoft Exchange Servers is built into 10.6.

File sharing between desktops is improved with Boot Camp and Windows installed on your machine.

Overall, this is a good upgrade if you have a new Intel-based Mac. It improves not only the function but also the speed of your computer for very little money.

A careful look at Mac's new OS X Snow Leopard will convince you that this is an upgrade well worth buying.

The cost is only \$29, which makes this a minor upgrade but a major version jump to 10.6.

Snow Leopard requires an Intel processor, 1GB of ram, 5GB of hard drive space (7GB for the full install) and a DVD drive to run the upgrade disk.

The first thing you'll notice is that Snow Leopard looks very much like Leopard – not much is visually different. This new software is more of an under-the-hood update.

After upgrading, your machine will run faster and smoother. Many of the frustrations expressed with 10.5 have been addressed. Snow Leopard boots up and shuts down faster than previous operating systems.

In fact, it does everything faster – from ejecting drives to performing a search. Mac's backup software, Time Machine, is faster the first time it's used; even the install is faster, taking half the time of an older version.

Snow Leopard takes up less space on

## Quark offers great deal on upgrade through end of September

Don't miss out on this opportunity to update any version of Quark Express to 8.0, the latest version, for only \$300. But hurry, the offer is only good until the end of this month.

Even if you have 3.0 or 4.1 or 7.0, those old serial numbers will let you jump to 8.0. Of course, you're going to need a newer computer to run the latest version. The new version will open files from older ones so the conversion should be easy.

Specs for this program are:

Macintosh – OS X v10.4 (Tiger) or 10.5 (Leopard). A G5 or faster Power PC or Mac Intel®, 1GB of RAM and 1 GB of hard disk space.

Windows – XP Service Pack 2 or 3

or Windows Vista; 1GB of RAM and 500MB of hard drive space.

Many people are afraid to upgrade to the latest version of Quark because of extensions used with older versions. My advice is to call and make sure that the new program supports or has replacements for your old extensions.

By the way, the new Quark has proven to be problematic with older printers so when you call find out if it supports your older lasers and image writers. Since many of us send PDFs to our printers check and see if they can accept the newer type of Quark documents.

The program looks much like Quark 7 at first glance. But if you're upgrading from 4, 5 or 6 it will look like a new pro-

gram. The active windows down the side of the screen are like most Adobe programs. These let you have quick access to many tools instead of fishing the menus.

Quark 8.0 works well with Photoshop, even letting you turn on and off layers within the Quark document – if the photo is saved as PSD.

My favorite thing about this new version is how well it works with Adobe Acrobat, letting you use the PDF-X standards when creating one.

Although it may take a little getting used to if you're coming from an older version, this deal is too good for Quark users to pass up.

## plugged **IN**

*Time to backup is before disaster strikes*

Think about what a loss a major fire at your newspaper office would be like.

We found out the hard way in Anadarko that starting from scratch can be a painful process.

Losing things that might seem minor can be a major headache in the reconstruction process. It's a good idea to have your important information and data backed up off-site.

Back up your files, documents, ads and artwork – but don't stop there. Keep copies of passwords, software serial numbers, e-mail settings, setup info for services such as Associated Press and necessary Websites.

Keep records of every program you run on your machines. Even if you salvage the hard drive from a fire, you may want to install everything on a new machine and this information is vital.

Don't forget the small programs you run such as Fetch, Acrobat and printer drivers. You might jot down your settings for Acrobat Distiller as well as your print setups. Contacts and bookmarks also are nice to have.

Accounting and circulation data also need to be backed up off site. Flash jump drives are an excellent tool for archiving data. I recommend keeping two copies in different locations.

Taking an hour or so to protect your data can save you hours of heartache if a crisis occurs.

## Photoshop Elements worth considering

Upgrading to a new computer might be more expensive than you realize if your software was never upgraded.

If you find yourself in this situation, consider Photoshop Elements for most of your workstations. It can do the majority of work on black and white photos.

However, you still need one full copy of Photoshop for CMYK work.