

# Macs Merging into Mainstream

If you're a Mac<sup>®</sup> user, you already know Apple<sup>®</sup> is transitioning all of its Macs to Intel<sup>®</sup> microprocessors by the end of 2007. As of this e-mail, every new Mac ships with an Intel processor — from the smallest Mac mini to the most beefed-up Mac Pro. Powered by Intel chips, these Macs offer an exceptional level of performance.

Apple's switch to Intel processors also means that, in this multi-platform world, running Windows on Mac's OS<sup>®</sup> X is simpler and faster. And you now have more choices than the previous option, Microsoft Virtual PC.

As some of you all know, I'm a recent convert to the Mac<sup>®</sup> side... as I look back at my transition, it was really seamless. In no way am I telling to make the switch but I will say this... at the time of this writing, Mac<sup>®</sup> has just about everything Windows has plus security.

NOTE: Add Links to Apple vs. Windows videos

## **Boot Camp opens Windows**

In the spring, Apple introduced Boot Camp, public beta software that enables Intel-based Macs to run Windows XP. Available as a download, Boot Camp allows users with a Microsoft Windows XP installation disc to install Windows XP on an Intel-based Mac, and once installation is complete, you can restart your computer to run either Mac OS X or Windows XP. Boot Camp will be a feature in Apple's upcoming Mac OS X version 10.5 "Leopard".

Boot Camp requires a shutdown and restart before you can move between the two interfaces, enabling you to run both Mac OS X and Windows XP at full speed. This is great if you have files that eat up large amounts of bandwidth because you'll have no worries about speed degradation or file corruption. However, if shutting down and restarting doesn't appeal to you, there's another option: Parallels Desktop for Mac, a solution for running "guest" operating systems within OS X.

## **Parallels Desktop for Mac opens Windows and more**

Parallels Desktop for Mac uses the Intel chip's hardware virtualization technology (VT). VT lets an Intel CPU act as if it were several distinct CPUs, which in turn enables guest operating systems to run much faster. What it really means is that you can run a wide variety of operating systems, including multiple versions of Windows — from 3.1 to 2000 to XP and Microsoft Vista when it ships — as well as multiple versions of Linux, without ever rebooting your machine.

Installing Parallels Desktop for Mac is no different than installing any other OS X program that uses an installer. And when you launch it, the Windows OS appears inside a window on your Mac desktop. You can switch back and forth between your Mac OS and Windows (or any other OS for that matter) as easily as you go between any two windows on your Mac desktop.

Using Parallels Desktop for Mac and the Parallels Shared Folders tool, you can easily share documents and folders or cut and paste data between any Windows XP, 2003 or 2000 virtual machine and your Mac OS X machine. This is handy for anyone who needs to test the integrity of cross-platform projects, such as HTML documents or graphics files.

## **The bottom line**

If you're a Mac user, Boot Camp and Parallels Desktop for Mac give you the flexibility and the freedom to choose the software and platform that works best for you.