MacOS

Return to Operating Systems

MacOS is a proprietary graphical operating system developed and marketed by Apple Inc. since 2001. It is the primary operating system for Apple's Mac computers. Within the market of desktop, laptop, and home computers, and by web usage, it is the second most widely used desktop OS, after Windows NT.

macOS succeeded the classic Mac OS, a Macintosh operating system with nine releases from 1984 to 1999. During this time, Apple co-founder Steve Jobs had left Apple and started another company, NeXT, developing the NeXTSTEP platform that would later be acquired by Apple to form the basis of macOS.

The first desktop version, Mac OS X 10.0, was released in March 2001, with its first update, 10.1, arriving later that year. Releases from Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard and thereafter are UNIX 03 certified. Apple's mobile operating system, iOS, has been considered a variant of macOS.

A prominent part of macOS's original brand identity was the use of Roman numeral X, pronounced “ten” as in Mac OS X and also the iPhone X, as well as code naming each release after species of big cats, or places within California. Apple shortened the name to “OS X” in 2012 and then changed it to “macOS” in 2016 to align with the branding of Apple's other operating systems, iOS, watchOS, and tvOS. After sixteen distinct versions of macOS 10, macOS Big Sur was presented as version 11 in 2020, and macOS Monterey was presented as version 12 in 2021.

macOS has supported three major processor architectures, beginning with PowerPC-based Macs in 1999. In 2006, Apple transitioned to the Intel architecture with a line of Macs using Intel Core processors. In 2020, Apple began the Apple silicon transition, using self-designed, 64-bit ARM-based Apple M1 processors on new Mac computers.

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Datasheet	
Developer	Apple Inc.
Written in	C, C++, Objective C, Swift, Assembly
OS family	Unix, Macintosh
Working state	Current
Source model	Closed Source with Open Source
Initial release	March 24, 2001
Latest release	11.4
Available in	39 Languages
Platforms	ARM64 (11.0–), x86-64 (10.4.7–), IA-32 (10.4.4–10.6.8), PowerPC (10.0–10.5.8)
Kernel type	Hybrid (XNU)
Default user interface	Aqua (Graphical)
License	Commercial software, proprietary software
Official Website	www.apple.com_macos

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