

**Microsoft**



Microsoft  
**Virtual PC for Mac**  
VERSION 7

Business Overview

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# Microsoft Virtual PC for Mac Version 7

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# Overview

Virtual PC for Mac Version 7 is designed for Macintosh users who sometimes need access to Windows-only programs. By enabling Mac users to run Windows-based programs on their Macs, Virtual PC for Mac can save costs by eliminating the need to purchase a second computer for an employee who requires access to both operating systems.

Virtual PC for Mac creates a Windows-based "virtual machine" that runs on a Macintosh computer. This virtual machine is much like a real computer. Users can install an operating system on it, such as Windows XP, as well as programs, such as Microsoft Access or Microsoft Visio. All the virtual machine lacks is physical hardware.

The virtual machine appears in its own window on the Mac, and users can switch easily between programs on a virtual machine and programs on the Mac.



The virtual machine window appears on the Mac desktop. The user can switch easily between Windows and Mac operating systems.

Virtual PC for Mac is as easy to use as any Macintosh program. For example, the user can do the following:

- Switch from Mac OS to Windows and back with a mouse click.
- Drag files and folders from the Macintosh desktop to the Windows desktop and back again.
- Start Windows-based programs by using the Windows **Start** menu or by adding Windows program icons to the Dock.
- Print from the virtual machine by using the same printer drivers as the Mac OS uses — no additional configuration required (users of Mac OS 10.3 or later only).

# Benefits

Benefits of using Virtual PC for Mac include the following:

- **Reduces costs** Rather than purchasing multiple computers, one for each operating system, Mac users can use Windows-based software, files, and networks right from their Macs. This saves their organizations not only hardware costs but also overhead costs, such as power and additional office resources.
- **Extends your current investment in hardware and software** Many companies have developed custom line of business (LOB) applications exclusively for the Windows platform, such as expense reporting tools, finance tools, and customer databases. Traditionally, the IT department has had only the following costly options for providing its Mac users with access to LOB applications: Port the software, or purchase additional Windows-based machines for its Mac users.

Now there is an economical solution: Provide users with Virtual PC for Mac so that they can run custom LOB applications on their Macs.

- **Enables broad access to Windows-only software, networks, and devices** With Virtual PC for Mac, Mac users get seamless access to software not available in native Mac format, so they can easily and productively use Windows-only software, files, networks, and printers directly from their Macs. For example, by using Virtual PC for Mac, users can run popular Windows-based programs, such as Microsoft Access and Microsoft Visio.
- **Provides stability** Virtual PC for Mac keeps operating systems strictly separate. This means that if a virtual machine develops a problem, the problem is confined to that virtual machine and has no effect on the Mac operating system or on any other virtual machine running on that Mac.
- **Enables cross-platform testing** People who need to test their work on both Windows and Mac operating systems — for example, Web developers and graphic designers — can do so easily by using Virtual PC for Mac. Rather than having to move back and forth between two physical machines, they can perform cross-platform testing on one computer.
- **Is easy to use** Users can switch between operating systems and programs with a mouse click. They can copy and paste, and drag files and folders between the virtual machine and the Mac operating systems. Users can also dynamically resize the virtual machine window and share folders between operating systems.

## How Virtual PC for Mac works

Each virtual machine running on Virtual PC for Mac acts as a standalone computer. It has its own emulated sound, video, and network cards as well as its own emulated processor. And each virtual machine runs its own operating system. Microsoft fully supports the following operating systems running in a virtual machine on Virtual PC for Mac: Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional, Windows XP Professional, and Windows XP Home Edition.

Programs that users install on their virtual machines work the same way that they do on a Windows-based computer, including business, education, Internet, and other programs. And most devices that users connect to their physical computers, such as printers, modems, CD-ROM drives, and so on, also work with their virtual machines.

**Note** A virtual machine running Windows is exposed to the same security risks faced by Windows-based computers. To lower the risk, users should always install the latest Windows security patches and service releases.

# History

Seven years ago Connectix, a pioneer in the development of virtual machines in the personal computer industry, launched its first version of Virtual PC for the Macintosh. It was designed to simulate the Microsoft Windows operating system environment on a Macintosh computer, providing Mac users access to Windows-based software.

In early 2003, Microsoft acquired Virtual PC for Mac from Connectix. Microsoft has more than 20 years' experience creating award-winning software for the Mac. Since then, development of Virtual PC for Mac has been driven by the same award-winning team that creates Microsoft Office for Mac, the Macintosh Business Unit (Mac BU). Virtual PC for Mac Version 7 is the first full Virtual PC release from Microsoft.

# New features

Virtual PC for Mac Version 7 has the following new features:

- **G5 compatibility** Good news for all those who want the fastest Mac hardware: Virtual PC for Mac has been significantly rewritten to run on the new G5 processor.
- **Improved performance** Virtual PC for Mac customers identified performance as one of their main concerns. Based on extensive customer research, the Mac BU targeted and fixed some of the main problem areas. Virtual PC for Mac is now 10 to 30 percent faster than its predecessors. Programs start faster, refresh easily, and are generally quicker to respond.
- **Graphics handling** Virtual PC for Mac takes advantage of Mac OS improvements and delivers faster, cleaner graphics. Now screen redraws are quicker and graphics are more responsive.
- **Easy printing** For users of Mac OS X version 10.3 (Panther), there's no need to download special Windows printer drivers; they can simply click Print to tap into the same printing functionality and drivers as the Mac OS uses.
- **Quick stops and starts** With Virtual PC for Mac, users can quickly put a virtual machine to sleep by clicking the red Close button in the virtual machine window. Virtual PC for Mac saves the state of the virtual machine, allowing the user to quickly restart and resume working.

# Scenarios

The following scenarios provide real-life examples of how Virtual PC for Mac can improve productivity and reduce total cost of ownership in medium and large organizations.

- **Karen, account manager for an advertising agency** Though an ardent Mac user, Karen used to be frustrated by her inability to open and use files sent to her by clients and colleagues who use Windows-based computers. Now Virtual PC for Mac gives Karen the ability to drag a file she receives in an e-mail message directly to the Windows desktop and open it in a Windows environment. She can also use Virtual PC for Mac to run Visio, a Windows-based program that many of her colleagues rely on. With the new Easy Printing functionality in Virtual PC for Mac, Karen doesn't have to know anything about printer drivers. She clicks Print in Visio, and the USB printer connected to her Mac produces the printed Visio document.
- **Brannon, graphic designer** Like many creative professionals, Brannon is a Mac user in a sea of Windows-based machines. But that doesn't stop him from using his company's Access database, tracking expenses on his company's custom reporting application, or sharing files with coworkers. To view attachments created in Windows-based programs, he used to perform complicated maneuvers, but now, by using Virtual PC for Mac on his Apple G5 Power PC, he can do everything he needs to do from his own office, on one computer.

- **John, software developer** John develops Web sites, software, and presentations on multiple operating systems in a cross-platform company. To ensure compatibility, John needs to test on both Mac and Windows operating systems. By using Virtual PC for Mac to perform all testing on his Mac, John saves both desk space and the cost of another computer. Additionally, Virtual PC for Mac allows John to verify his work faster because each virtual machine starts quickly, and he can switch virtual machines with a mouse click.

## Product comparison: Virtual PC for Mac and Remote Desktop Connection

Both of these products are useful for people who sometimes need to access Windows-based software from their Macintosh computers. But there are important differences.

- Virtual PC for Mac allows the user to run Windows-based programs directly on a Mac. The user can create a virtual machine and then install Windows-based software on that machine.
- Remote Desktop Connection allows the user to connect from a Mac to a Windows-based computer and work with programs and files on that computer. To connect to a Windows based computer, the user needs network access and permissions to connect to the Windows-based computer, and the Windows-based computer must be running Terminal Services or Remote Desktop Services.

## System requirements

To install and run Virtual PC for Mac Version 7 on a Macintosh computer, users must have the following:

- 700 MHz or faster native G3, G4, or G5 processor. The processor speed must be a part of the physical computer and cannot be added as a CPU accelerator.
- CD drive.
- Mac OS X version 10.2.8 (Jaguar) or 10.3.x (Panther). Mac OS X version 10.3.x is required for the Macintosh G5.
- Minimum of 512 MB of RAM.
- 3 GB or more of free hard disk space.
- Monitor with 1024x768 (or higher) resolution that displays thousands of colors.
- Mouse or compatible pointing device.
- Supported operating system. The operating systems supported for use with Virtual PC for Mac are Windows XP Professional, Windows XP Home Edition, and Windows 2000.

# Volume licensing

Microsoft volume licensing programs offer companies of all sizes a great way to obtain and manage multiple software licenses for as few as five desktops. Companies can enjoy significant savings by acquiring Virtual PC for Mac licenses in volume.

The benefits of volume licensing include the following:

- Saves time and money by making it easier to acquire and manage multiple software licenses.
- Offers significant savings over full packaged product.
- Helps organizations better manage their software.

Microsoft Virtual PC for Mac is offered in the following volume licensing programs:

- Open License
- Select License
- Enterprise Agreement
- Campus & School Agreements
- Government Programs

**Note** Volume licenses of Virtual PC for Mac Version 7 do not include a Microsoft Windows operating system. Volume licensing customers who wish to run Microsoft Windows operating systems on their Macs should acquire the Microsoft Windows software separately. An upgrade to Microsoft Windows software can be licensed through Microsoft Volume Licensing and can be installed on a Mac running Virtual PC for Mac.

To learn more about Microsoft licensing programs, do one of the following:

- Visit the Microsoft Volume Licensing Web site.
- Call (800) 426-9400, Monday through Friday, 6:00 A.M.-5:30 P.M. Pacific Time to speak directly to a Microsoft licensing specialist.