

SNS Laptop Manual 2007-2008, Term I

SNS Computing Staff
Institute for Advanced Study

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1 About the Laptops

The School of Natural Sciences has provided you with an IAS-owned laptop computer for use during your stay at Institute for Advanced Study. *Your use of this laptop computer is subject to acceptance of the **Laptop Conditions of Use** on page 3.*

In 2007, new members will be given an Apple MacBook Pro running Mac OS X 10.4 (Tiger)¹, with a 15.4-inch screen, a 2.2GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor, 2GB 667 MHz DDR2 SDRAM, and a 120GB 5400-rpm hard drive. The full hardware specifications are available online.²

Also, IAS has provided you with a storage bag for the laptop, a USB optical mouse and a portable USB flash drive.

¹Find out more about Mac OS X Tiger here: <http://www.apple.com/macosx/tiger/>.
Also see the Tiger support page here: <http://www.apple.com/support/tiger/>.

²See the full MacBook Pro specifications here: <http://www.apple.com/macbookpro/specs.html>.

2 Laptop Conditions of Use

The information that follows applies to everyone in possession of a School of Natural Sciences-owned laptop computer. This information should have been explained to you in person when you received the computer, but just in case, here it is in written form for your reference.

Because it may be necessary for you to configure networking or install software on the laptop when traveling outside IAS, we realize it is necessary to allow you certain administrative rights with respect to laptop computers over and above those which you are granted on your desktop machine. As well as certain practical issues, this raises some security concerns, and for this reason, some rules of conduct are documented below which we urge you to read. Things will appear a little formal but please, don't worry; if you have any questions or concerns please simply contact a member of the computing staff for clarification on 609-734-8030.

- Any information you place on this computer will not be backed up. This includes personal files and any software you may install yourself. You are responsible for maintaining the integrity of your data, for example by copying it to your disk space at IAS, which is backed up.
- You must maintain the laptop in good physical condition. This means you must keep the laptop case and screen clean. If any chips or cracks develop in the laptop case or screen, please notify the computing staff immediately for repair, as these problems tend to worsen.
- If you bring the laptop to a member of the computer staff because it is either unusable, or has a problem for which the fix is not apparent, the hard-drive may have to be returned to the state in which you originally received it by re-installing the operating system from the original media. If re-installing is necessary, you will be given an opportunity to back up your data, however re-installing will result in the loss of any software programs you have installed
- You may not install or re-install any operating systems on the computer.
- You may not run any additional services on the computer. A few specific services which are not running by default and which are particularly unsafe are: telnet, ftp, bind, http and mail. Should you wish to install a software package the best thing to do is to contact a member of the computing staff for advice first; we will be only too glad to help you.
- You must not disable any security software (such as anti-virus software or anti-spyware software) that is running on your system.
- If it is required of you, you must allow members of the computing staff physical access to the computer as soon as practically possible.

- You must not attempt to repair the machine yourself. Should the computer malfunction, contact a member of the computing staff at your convenience.
- You must not allow anyone else to use the computer, for example by lending the computer to someone else.
- Laptop use is subject to the IAS Computing Policies and Guidelines³.

³Read the full document here: <http://www.ias.edu/privacy-policy/>

3 Software Updates

Your laptop is scheduled to download and install software updates from Apple weekly. When updates are available, Mac OS X will prompt you to install them. Your password will be required to install most updates. It is required that you install all updates from Apple.

Please note: only Apple software will be updated automatically this way. Please see the Software section on page 7 for information on other software.

4 Using the USB Drive

When you insert a USB Drive, Mac OS X will automatically mount the drive as a folder on the desktop. You can drag and drop files in and out of this folder.

4.1 Advanced USB Drive Usage

Advanced users and terminal users: note that USB drives are mounted under `/Volumes`.

5 Configuring Email

We recommend Mozilla Thunderbird for Email. Follow the instructions located here:

<http://www.sns.ias.edu/computing/info/emailsetup.php>.

6 Energy Saving

Power saving options are very easy to configure in Mac OS X. You will find those settings in the **Energy Saver** section of **System Preferences**, or by typing “Energy Saver” into the **Spotlight** search bar.

7 Printing

Follow the printing instructions located here:

<http://www.sns.ias.edu/computing/info/osx-printing.php>.

8 Presentations

For presentations and talks, use **Keynote**. To include equations in a Keynote presentation:

1. Start **LaTeXiT**.
2. Type a **TeX** equation then press the **LaTeXiT** button.

3. Drag the resulting equation to Keynote, and resize as necessary.

If you must connect to a VGA projector, a DVI/VGA converter is included with your laptop. Generally, you should connect the external projector, then turn on the laptop. Usually, the projector will display an extension of your Mac OS X desktop. When you start a **Keynote** presentation, however, the slides will appear on the projector, while the laptop screen will display the full Keynote controls, which is convenient.

If you'd rather have the projector mirror exactly what is displayed on the laptop screen, then see the **Arrangement** pane of the **Displays** section of **System Preferences**.

9 Software

The following is a list of applications we have installed on your laptop *in addition to the base OS X software list*:

- **Adium**, a free instant messaging application for Mac OS X that can connect to AIM, MSN, Jabber, Yahoo, and more⁴.
- **Fink**, a software manager that provides ports of Unix software applications for Mac OS X⁵.
- **Flip4Mac** allows Windows Media files to play on Mac OS X.
- **iWork '06** provides **Keynote**⁶, a slideshow editor and presenter and **Pages**, a Word Processor.
- **Mac OS X 10.4 (Tiger)** is the Macbook Pro's Operating System. To this, we have added **X11**⁷ and **XCode Tools**⁸.
- **MacTex-2007** is a complete T_EX and L^AT_EX system for Mac OS X. It includes the GUI editor **T_EXShop**, and **L^AT_EXiT**, a tool for inserting equations into other applications, notably Keynote⁹.
- **Mathematica 6.0**
- **Mozilla Firefox 2.0**, the open-source web browser.
- **Mozilla Thunderbird 2.0**, the open-source email client.
- **NeoOffice 2.1**, a Microsoft-compatible, OS X build of OpenOffice¹⁰.
- **StuffIT Expander**, a versatile file extractor¹¹.
- **VLC Media Player** is a highly portable multimedia player for various audio and video formats (MPEG-1, MPEG-2, MPEG-4, DivX, mp3, ogg, ...) as well as DVDs, VCDs, and various streaming protocols¹².

⁴<http://www.adiumx.com/>

⁵<http://finkproject.org/>

⁶<http://www.apple.com/iwork/keynote/>

⁷<http://www.apple.com/macosx/features/x11/>

⁸<http://www.apple.com/macosx/features/xcode/>

⁹<http://www.tug.org/mactex/>

¹⁰<http://www.neooffice.org>

¹¹<http://www.stuffit.com/mac/>

¹²<http://www.videolan.org/vlc/>

9.1 Advanced Software Usage

Mac OS X is Unix-based¹³, so many Unix programs are installed by default. To use them, start the **Terminal** program. Also, **X11** is installed, so you can run any X-Window program. When you start X11, an xterm window will open.

Fink is useful for installing Unix programs. To add Unix programs, basically start **FinkCommander** and check off the ones you want. All Fink programs are installed in `/sw/bin`, so you should check that is in your path if these are not running. If it isn't in your path, you can run `/sw/bin/pathsetup.sh`. If you are in an xterm, do `export PATH=/sw/bin:${PATH}`. *That is particularly useful if you want to paste into the Fink version of emacs.*

Some other resources:

- OS X as a UNIX workstation for Astronomy
<http://www.astro.umd.edu/~vernaleo/osx-unix.html>
- OS X Commands
<http://www.ss64.com/osx/>
- Developing Cross-Platform UNIX Applications with Mac OS X
<http://developer.apple.com/unix/crossplatform.html>

¹³<http://www.apple.com/macosx/features/unix/>