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PC vs. Mac II: Getting personal >

Executive Summary:

The battle rages and it sometimes it comes down to something as simple as whether the software fits or not.

By Janeson Keeley

(This is the second of two parts on this topic.)

If you want to get into a spirited discussion without mentioning politics or religion, ask

a group of people to weigh in on the pros and cons of Macs vs. PCs. I did so on Facebook and got a lot of enthusiastic responses.

John Lusher, owner of John Lusher Consulting, switched from a PC to a Mac several years ago. "I was tired of the conflicts, problems with updates and just the general less than promised results that Microsoft offered on the PC platform," reports Lusher, who adds, "I miss absolutely nothing about PCs."

Pilot/photographer Pat Richards, owner of Airshots Aerial Photography, is considering switching to the Mac on the recommendation of others in the industry. "I'm nowhere near as knowledgeable about the post-production stuff as my full-time aerial photography associates. Most, if not all, of the ones I've talked to use and highly recommend [the] Mac," he says.

"In August of last year I spilled an entire over-sized mug of coffee on two, count them, two Dell laptops. They died," relates author Brooke McGlothlin. On the recommendation of several friends, she purchased a Mac. "I was apprehensive at first, not knowing if it would be hard to take a lifetime of Windows use and translate it into Apple-speak, but I've loved every second of owning my MacBook Pro. It's very user-friendly, I don't worry about viruses anymore, and it just seems to be more intuitive than the many PCs I've had over the years.

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Can't imagine going back," she says.

"Basically, I use a PC because I always have and all of my photography software (which is horribly expensive) is for the PC version," says Lisa Upchurch of peacefulposters photography. "My husband and daughter use Macs, and I can use them, too, but to replace all my software, laptop and desktop would be just too expensive for me."

William Frost solves the Mac/PC software dilemma by using Parallels software. "Parallels is awesome," he reports, "You can actually use Windows and Mac [OSX] at the same time and dedicate resources according to your preferences. It is my experience that Windows works better on a Mac than a PC."

But, in the end, it's all about personal preference. Lizetta Staplefoote of Rackspace uses the Mac for work but prefers the PC

for personal use. "I think the preference is strongly influenced by what you were introduced to computers on," she asserts. "The programs that I was introduced to on Macs, I prefer to use on Macs only. The PC experience feels foreign. However, Word, which I learned on a PC, I can't get used to on the Mac. It feels backward." 

(As I have not yet figured out how to add more hours to my days (other than having switched from a PC to a Mac last year, which helped me gain an average of two hours of working computer time a week), this is my last column for Valley Business FRONT. Many thanks to Dan Smith and Tom Field for giving me the opportunity and excuse to meet so many helpful and knowledgeable people. My gratitude also to all who have so generously offered their expertise to me as I conducted my research. And, to you, the readers, I hope you learned stuff. See you online.)



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