

# Texas State University and Macintosh OS X 10.5 Leopard

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## *Technology Resources*

On October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Apple released their latest operating system, Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard. This is the sixth major release of the Mac OS X operating system for Apple's Mac line of personal computers, the successor to Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger.

Overall, the transition from Mac OS X Tiger to Mac OS X Leopard appears to have few compatibility issues.

After researching and testing of Technology Resources' supported applications, it appears that users will be able to upgrade to Mac OS X Leopard with few, if any issues. However, Mac OS X Leopard does have hardware requirements (both in processor speed and RAM) that are greater than previous Mac OS X releases.

## *What's New*

According to Apple, Leopard contains 300+ changes and enhancements, covering core operating system components as well as included applications and developer tools. Leopard introduces a significantly revised desktop, with a redesigned Dock, Stacks, a semitransparent menu bar, and an updated Finder that incorporates the Cover Flow visual navigation interface first seen in iTunes. Other notable features include support for writing 64-bit graphical user interface applications, an automated backup utility called Time Machine, support for Spotlight searches across multiple machines, and the inclusion of Front Row and Photo Booth, which were previously only included with some Mac models

**Complete list of New Features in Leopard:** <http://www.apple.com/macosx/features/>

**Guided Tour of New Features in Leopard:** <http://www.apple.com/macosx/guidedtour/>

Preliminary testing and research shows that most applications working in Mac OS X Tiger will continue to work in Mac OS X Leopard. Unlike the past changes in the release of Mac OS X Tiger that required many third party software developers to release new versions of their software, the changes in Mac OS X Leopard, in general, will not require such software releases.

## *Core Technology Enhancements*

Mac OS X Leopard provides a true 64-bit operating system and is the first mainstream operating system to completely and seamlessly support both 32-bit and 64-bit applications on the same platform. However, to take advantage of the 64-bit processing, third-party software developers will need to release new versions of their software to use the 64-bit libraries and other resources that Apple provides in Mac OS X Leopard.

**Details on Core Technologies found in Leopard:** <http://www.apple.com/macosx/technology/>

## Hardware Requirements

The hardware requirements for running Mac OS X Leopard are considerably higher than for previous versions of Mac OS X. Although Apple states the minimum memory specification as 512MB, Technology Resources recommends that you have at least 1GB of RAM. If you plan to run Windows on your Macintosh using a virtual machine application such as Parallels, you should have at least 2GB of RAM.

**Hardware Requirements for Leopard as specified by Apple:** <http://www.apple.com/macosx/techspecs/>

- Mac computer with an Intel, PowerPC G5, or PowerPC G4 (867MHz or faster) processor
- 512MB of (RAM) memory (TR recommends 1GB+)
- DVD reader for installation
- 9GB of available disk space

## Known Issues related to Texas State University – San Marcos

Technology Resources organized a Leopard Test Team to test the new operating system for potential compatibility issues with software and services used in the university computing environment. The results of that testing indicated a high compatibility with existing Technology Resources-supported applications running under Mac OS X Leopard.

All Technology Resources' supported applications and services are compatible with Mac OS X Leopard with the following exceptions or qualifications:

- **SPSS 16** – In early December 2007, SPSS released version 16 of [SPSS for Mac OS X](#). With the release of version 16, SPSS is now supported on Intel-based Macs including those running Mac OS X Leopard. The system requirements for SPSS can be found at: [http://www.spss.com/spss/system\\_req.htm](http://www.spss.com/spss/system_req.htm)
- **SAP GUI 7.04** – The current version of SAP GUI does not run on Mac OS X Leopard. However, SAP released SAP GUI 7.10 release 1 which is compatible with Leopard in early December 2007. SAP GUI 7.10 release 1 will need to be officially tested by the SAP Competency Center at Texas State. **Technology Resources discourages SAP GUI users from upgrading to Mac OS X Leopard until testing by the Texas State SAP Competency Center has been completed and the compatibility with Leopard confirmed.**
- **VirusScan 8.5** – VirusScan 8.5 is not supported in Mac OS X Leopard. However, VirusScan 8.6, which is compatible with Mac OS X Leopard, is currently available for download on the Technology Resources website.
- **Adobe Acrobat version 8** – Adobe Acrobat 8 and prior versions are not compatible with Leopard. An update for Acrobat is expected to be available in January 2008. <http://www.adobe.com/support/products/pdfs/leopardsupport.pdf>
- **Adobe Creative Suite 3** – Adobe Creative Suite 3 is not 100% compatible as there are several applications that will require updates from Adobe that will be available in December 2007. <http://www.adobe.com/support/products/pdfs/leopardsupport.pdf>
- **Parallels Desktop for Mac** – The vendor highly recommends that Parallels Desktop customers only run Parallels Desktop 3.0 Build 5160 on their new Leopard operating systems. However, there is a set of known issues that limit some functionality that they are working to correct. <http://www.parallels.com/en/support/leopard/>

## Recommendations for Support

Because of the minimal impact to currently supported software applications, Technology Resources recommends upgrading to Mac OS X Leopard for university owned and personally owned hardware.

**Note:** This recommendation is only for systems that meet or exceed the Apple and TR hardware requirements above. SAP GUI users are encouraged to continue using Mac OS X Tiger, until further compatibility testing is completed.  
(Please note the Leopard Support Timeline below)

To see current memory and processor speed:

- With the mouse, select the Apple menu, then "About this Mac."

To see hard drive capacity and free space:

- With the mouse, select the hard drive icon on the desktop, and then from the File menu, select "Get Info."

## Product Purchase and Licensing Information

- **Departmental Use – Faculty and Staff**
  - Request Mac OS X Leopard media through Technology Resources Business Services – Software Licensing, visit: <http://www.tr.txstate.edu/software>  
(Please note the Leopard Support Timeline below)
- **Personal Use – Faculty, Staff, and Students**
  - Purchase direct through Texas State's Apple website:  
<http://www.tr.txstate.edu/hardware/personal-hardware.html>
  - Purchase through Texas State's University Bookstore (512.245.2273)
  - Purchase at any major software retailer  
(Please note the Leopard Support Timeline below)

## Texas State – Mac OS X Leopard (10.5) Support Timeline

- Full support for the Mac OS X Leopard operating system will be available from Technology Resources via the IT Assistance Center (Help Desk) to Faculty, Staff, and Students beginning with its release on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007.
- The Technology Resources software image for Macintosh computers will be updated to include Mac OS X Leopard as early as mid-November. Macintosh computers ordered through Technology Resources after October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007, will include Mac OS X Leopard as the primary operating system.  
(This only pertains to those Macintosh computers ordered *with* the software image)