

# California Computer Care

News,  
Views,  
Tips and  
Cool Techniques  
for CCC Members

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We  
speak  
Geek,  
so you  
don't  
have to.

# Jaguar

Mac OS X 10.2



Did you know that Mac OS X 10.1 is officially named *Puma*? Me neither until Apple announced version 10.2 and called it *Jaguar* (or Jag-wire as Steve Jobs says). Cute name as long as using 10.2 is like petting a kitty and not like riding a tiger!

If you read the internet trouble reporting sites, you'd think that *Jaguar* is a tiger indeed, but in my tests it is a well behaved pussy cat (well behaved for a cat is a relative term). I have Mac OS X 10.2 installed on three Macs with excellent results on each.

The computer pundits will tell you that *Jaguar* is a must-have because it has features like Rendezvous networking, Quartz Extreme video rendering and much improved performance on PC networks. That's all well and good for people on corporate networks, but what about real people like us?

*Jaguar* has real advantages. Speed is improved: start-up time is nearly twice as fast, Classic launches in a third the amount of time, folders pop open almost instantly (with a nice, satisfying zoom action) and applications launch in two or three bounces instead of seven or eight. Spring-loaded folders are back (folders automatically open when a file is dragged to them making it a snap to put files where you want them). Printing is greatly improved. Many new free applications are included: *iTunes3*, *iCal*, *iChat*, *Mail 1.2*, *Address Book 3.0.1*, *Sherlock 3* and *Quicktime 6*. *Jaguar* also supports many technologies to aid folks with vision, hearing and motion impairments. And, since *Jaguar* is just as much UNIX-based as every other Mac OS X incarnation, it just plain doesn't crash under normal conditions. I haven't had a single crash on any of my three Macs in the month that I have been testing *Jaguar*.

OK, cool. We should all upgrade, right? Uh, maybe. Please keep in mind that any software upgrade involves pain, agony, suffering, and system software upgrades offer the maximum of all three. So, it is wise to have very good reasons to go through this mess!

Take Curt's *Should I Upgrade? Quiz*—

- Q) Are you currently using a version of Mac OS X?  Yes  No.
- A) If you answered 'Yes' and you can afford \$129.00 for the upgrade, by all means, get it. Pain, agony and suffering will be minimal (almost certainly less than you are experiencing now with the older versions of Mac OS X).

If you answered 'No', go on to the next question.

- Q) Do you have a G3, G4, iMac or iBook?  Yes  No.
- A) If you answered 'Yes', you have a Mac that is approved by Apple for *Jaguar*.
- If you answered 'No', you don't get to play. Sorry.
- Q) Do you have an original G3 desktop or minitower with a beige colored case?  Yes  No.
- A) While technically compatible with Mac OS X, in reality these Macs are just not fully up to the task. Sorry.
- Q) Do you have at least 256MB of RAM and 6GB of empty space on your hard disk drive?  Yes  No.
- A) If you answered 'No' you will need to upgrade to meet these minimums.

Q) Are you satisfied with the performance and capabilities of the version of Mac OS that you are using now?  Yes  No.

A) If it ain't broke, don't fix it!

Q) Are you willing to upgrade your applications to Mac OS X compatible versions?  Yes  No.

A) If you answered 'Yes', keep in mind that in most cases you will have better, more capable applications, but this will cost money (about \$100 per application) and will bear its own pain, agony and suffering (gosh, I make it sound so very attractive!)

If you answered 'No', most of the benefits of *Jaguar* will not be available to your old applications making the *Jaguar* upgrade very nearly pointless.

Q) Are you willing to take the time to unlearn some deeply ingrained habits and learn a bunch of new ways and new capabilities?  Yes  No.

A) If you answered 'Yes', you are an adventurous soul and you will be rewarded.

If you answered 'No' don't even think about upgrading!

Q) Is your primary use of your Mac in the graphic arts or music fields?

Yes  No.

A) If you answered 'Yes', *Jaguar* will be very useful to you, but not quite yet. Hold off until *Quark Express*, *Adobe Acrobat Distiller* and remaining font issues are resolved and the major music applications are released in Mac OS X compatible versions.

If you answered 'No', for once you are on the *Jaguar* side of things.


Q) Are you getting ready to buy a new Mac?  Yes  No.

A) If you answered 'Yes', that new Mac will already have *Jaguar* installed and ready to go. The new Mac will also have Mac OS X compatible internet and utility software. You will still need to upgrade your applications like *MS Word* and *Quicken*. The new Mac will also have a fully functional copy of Mac OS 9.2, so you won't be forced to use Mac OS X if you prefer not to. However,


If you answered 'No', keep in mind that Macs made after December 2002 will not be able to start up in Mac OS 9; it'll be Mac OS X or no new Mac for you.

## September Tip

Our old friend the screen shot returns with new tricks.

As we've discussed before, if you hold down the Apple  and Shift keys, on your keyboard, and type the number 3 key, your Mac will take a picture of its screen and store it as Picture 1 for future reference.

In Mac OS 9, you'll find the picture by opening your hard drive icon, in Mac OS X the picture will be placed conveniently on the desktop. You can also hold down the Apple  and Shift keys and type the number 4 to cause your mouse arrow to become a cross-hair. Click and drag the crosshair to define a portion of your screen for snapshotting when you don't want a picture of the whole thing.

Mac OS X 10.2 adds a new wrinkle. Hold down the Apple  key, Shift key and the Control (ctrl) key when you type 3 or 4 and the picture will be placed on your Mac's clipboard ready to be instantly pasted into a document or email. The picture will remain on the clipboard until you copy something else.

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