




**Is That A Tiger in Your Tank?**  
**Elizabeth LaPorte, EDMT 627 – Assignment 1**

A Review of *Running Mac OS X Tiger: A No-Compromise Power User's Guide to the Mac*  
 by James Duncan Davidson, Jason Deraleau, 2006, O'Reilly Media, Inc., 372 pages

**Choosing a Mac OS X technical publication.** Through an online bookstore search (search terms: Mac OS X Tiger) via both Amazon and Barnes & Noble, I narrowed down my choice for a reference publication about Macintosh operating system 10.4, also known as Mac OS X Tiger. What I eliminated at the get-go: I'm wary of "bibles," as usually I need a reference manual for some pretty specific purposes. So a "Mac OS Bible" was not for me. And buying a book that implies I am currently a dummy is personally offensive. So out of principal, I avoid purchasing a "dummies" series book, if possible. After my online research, I went to Borders to actually look through the books in more detail before purchasing. My choice for the top three contenders, include the following:

		
<p><b>Mac OS X: The Missing Manual, Tiger Edition,</b> David Pogue          Pub. Date: 2005, \$19.77          Comments: B &amp; N Top listed Amazon's top listed (based on purchases). Reviews very positive</p>	<p><b>Running Mac OS X Tiger</b>          James Duncan Davidson, Jason Deraleau          Pub. Date: 2006, \$26.37          Comments: Amazon top 3 listed – seems the most up-to-date, not many reviews written</p>	<p><b>Mac OS X Tiger in a Nutshell</b>          Chuck Toporek, Chris Stone (Editor) 3rd Ed.          Pub. Date: 2005, \$26.37          Comments: B &amp; N Top 10 listed but no reviews? Amazon Top 5 listed – "more of a Mac to Unix reference"</p>

**My final choice.** *Running Mac OS X Tiger: A No-Compromise Power User's Guide to the Mac*, by Jason Deraleau, James Duncan Davidson. This book fit all my top criteria. This is one of the most current publications on OSX Tiger on the shelf. The publish date is 2006. A technical book published by O'Reilly, automatically carries a lot of weight in terms of credibility. I own several O'Reilly books and think that they are a reputable publisher with consistently good authors.

“From the beginning, our editors, authors, and developers have been active members of the technical communities whose work we chronicle in our books and websites,” according to O’Reilly. And based on my experience with O’Reilly books, this is very true.

**Running Tiger.** This book is less about tricks and more about system operation, networking and file systems. It is a good technical reference (as opposed to a tutorial) about how things work – what makes the Mac tick. It does not include a CD but lists many references in the text (other books and Web sites). Since it’s new on the shelf, there were few reviews written about it. I chose this book because it is new, has the most up-to-date information and is a “no muss, no fuss” technical reference. The book has met my expectations in providing understandable technical information. The tasks (e.g., partitioning a drive and file management) are described in a manner that makes them seem very doable.

O’Reilly’s description: “Completely revised and updated for Mac OS X Tiger, *Running Mac OS X Tiger* covers all the new features and functionality of Tiger. You can count on authors Jason Deraleau and James Duncan Davidson to give what you need--and not bother with what you don't. They don't spend time on Finder tips and keyboard shortcuts; they focus on showing you what makes a Mac tick and, more importantly, how you can make it tick just the way you want it to.” (Review online at [www.oreilly.com](http://www.oreilly.com))

**Level of expertise.** For intermediate to advanced users who want to know more about how a Mac works, including the capabilities for customizing Mac OS X, *Running Tiger* provides enough step-by-step to help me with OS features that I knew little or nothing about. *Note:* the book also includes information that I am not ready to dive into but it’s there: developer Tools for Mac OS X, including Xcode.

**Organization of book.** It has a good table of contents and index. *Running Tiger* is divided into a total of 14 chapters and covers the following: history behind Mac operating systems, how OS X is structured and why it works; what users need to examine how OS X is running and how to optimize it, with step-by-step instruction; and networking issues, including how OS X connects

to the world, including wireless. The organization of the book seems logical and presumes that the reader has some basic knowledge of Mac OS, file systems and networks, which I do.

Learning more about the core of the Mac OS is very helpful. Five things in the book that I didn't know before but found useful, include:

*1. Keyboard shortcuts for basic operations.* Why it's important: The fewer keystrokes, the better. Under the help menu, keyboard shortcuts provide the key combinations for tasks and you can get this information, specific to the application (e.g., open iCal, go to help and get iCal shortcuts). Also, learning more about how to manage multiple windows open via Expose was great. I am often moving and resizing windows – using Expose should help cut down on this time warp.

*2. Step-by-step instructions for partitioning.* Why it's important: I wondered about the wisdom in partitioning a drive. Now I know and can determine when it might be useful and how to do it.

*3. Networking.* Why it's important: I wanted to expand my knowledge about networking so that I could better understand what our IT support people are talking about and so that we can better take advantage of capabilities.

*4. Tips for Backing up.* Why it's important: These tips alone were worth the price of the book (e.g., backing up preferences easily). Loosing data is never fun. Most of us invest a lot of time with our projects. Making sure that we have a plan, and are regularly updating this plan is so vital to our work.

*5. Automating tasks.* Why it's important: I want to take better advantage of the time management tools (iCal and Mail) available to me but did not take the time to read about them previously. The book also had a lot of detail about scripting, which I did not explore now but I'd like to in the future.

These five things have given me a better idea of how I can make my computer work more efficiently for me. I gave up customizing my Mac a while back when conflicting extensions created problems and we ended up reloading OS often. But I'm confident that this is time well spent making the most of OSX. The practical advice about shortcuts and file back-up is great.

**Style.** The writing style of Davidson and Deraleau was straightforward, no-nonsense and provided enough detail to be challenging and informative. I'm not interested in a reference manual with jokes. I'm interested in learning from someone who really knows the subject and can communicate it well to others. Duncan and Deraleau present the information well, provide enough background, and refer the reader to other sources for more information.

**Tasks.** The authors were most helpful with this, preparing to do tasks and with the system setup options (e.g., reasons why a clean system install was best). I noted in the areas where code examples were given, there were many tips (indicated by paw prints) that forewarned the user.

For instance:

Keep in mind that if you want to clone the drive or partition that contains (p1 216) your installation of Mac OSX, you shouldn't use Disk Utility to accomplish this task while the system is running. Instead, you should either boot from Tiger's Install DVD or put your Mac into target mode and mount its drive(s) via FireWire or another system.

*Running Tiger* is not an illustrative publication. The figures are presented in black and white and the text is in one color black. Figures presented adequately assist readers in supporting the text and conveying various points. And the formatting, including the paw prints icons, text indenting and other formatting methods, help in the readability of the text.

**Addressing the 25 questions.** About 40 percent of the information on the "list of 25" was really easy to find in *Running Tiger*. *What was easy?* Finding out about how the OS works, how to

install. Another 40 percent of the “list of 25” took some research (via the TOC or the Index) but was still not a problem. The other 20 percent, I used additional references. Some desktop appearance information and “eye candy” information about Aqua (Mac GUI) features was not in there but this is readily available via the Mac online Help menu, as well as in the G4 specs PDF file. And this since *Running Tiger* is supposed to be for intermediate – advanced users, I was not surprised that this was missing. Also, when encountering some acronyms *Newton’s Telecom Dictionary* was helpful to have as a quick reference with more than 22,000 terms in there! See *appendix* for answers to the “list of 25.”


**Overview.** *Running Tiger* is the nuts and bolts guide to the Mac OS X. I know more about the operating system after reading this publication than ever before. I feel confident after exploring OS X with Duncan and Deraleau’s help that my colleagues will also find this information useful to optimize their Mac to work more efficiently with fewer problems. So I anticipate some brown-bags to share what I’ve learned.


**Suggested changes or additions.** If money were not an object, I would probably have found it very useful to have both of the O’Reilly’s books, *Running Tiger* and *Mac OS X: The Missing Manual, Tiger Edition* on my shelf. Since *Running Tiger* was less about the “eye candy” for the Mac, I found the book a bit lacking in this area but no manual does everything well, despite the claims to the contrary. In lieu of buying both books, however, I found that using the Mac online references (Help), as well as the Mac G4 how-to manual and *Newton’s Telecom Dictionary*, along with *Running Tiger* worked well. Though it’s important to keep in mind this book is not for beginners, I would definitely recommend it to intermediate-advanced users. Every Mac aficionado or expert needs a reference like this to tame the tiger in the tank.

## Appendix

**Completed the Pre-test quiz** on technical terms January 15. Would like the results of the test before the end of the term to determine what I need to look up before the final test.

### Mac OS Operations – List of 25 Key Questions

**How can you tell what version of the OS you are running?** Select  main menu bar (top left of the desktop), choose “About this Mac.” A dialogue lists the OS version (e.g., 10.3.9). It also lists the processor (e.g., 1.5 GHz PowerPC G4) and the memory. For complete system information, click on the system profile button. *See figure 1.*

**How do you get updates?** Select  main menu bar, Software Updates. A wizard application reviews the necessary, if any, updates and then lists them. Next, the user has the option to select all updates or not. A password may be required to update software. A license agreement is usually required and basically states that software should not be copied from one user to another or a purchase agreement. Note that the automated updater wizard only applies to Apple OS updates and/or Apple applications (e.g., iTunes, iPhoto) and does not search for other software updates (e.g., Adobe Photoshop).

**How do you change the appearance of the desktop?** Select  main menu bar, System Preferences, “Personal,” Appearance.

**Can you record a sound with a microphone?** Yes. Mac G4 has a 16-bit CD-quality stereo output (maniac), two built-in stereo speakers and an internal omni directional microphone. *Record:* via the built-in mic using movie software. *Option:* connect an external mic via the USB port, including a MIDI interface peripheral for even better sound quality.

**What do you need to do to configure the computer to use a modem?** Network Utility via Applications/Utilities, is used to config for modem or dial-up. (From the System Profile, I know that I have a 56K Motorola Modem in my computer.) Normally, my system is running on DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol), allowing me to connect to many hard-wire or wireless networks anywhere.

**Can you determine how much RAM your computer has?** Yes. Select  main menu bar, About this Mac, More Details - System Profile Details (256 MB, Type: DDR SDRAM). *See figure 1*

**How do you find out how much hard disk space is left on your computer?** Applications/Utilities/Disk Utility/Info. Select drive to see available space (e.g., 74.5 GB Toshiba MK802gGAS). Utility also shows total number of files and folders on drive. *Note:* Available space data also shows up at the bottom of the primary dialog boxes (footnote to box).

**How do you change the date for daylight savings time?** System Preferences/Date & Time. Daylight savings option can be set automatically via date/time. Time Zone is set to Detroit, USA, EST.

**What kind of system tools are included with your operating system and when do you use them?** Apple Menus, Automated set-up for networking, Custom Installers, Automated Software Update, QuickTime, Spotlight, Core/Image/Audio/Video, Sync, WebKit.

**What is a shortcut (Windows) or alias (Macintosh)? Why would you use one?** Shortcuts provide an icon-based link in a convenient location to quickly locate a folder or application. The actual folder or application typically sits in another location than the shortcut icon.

**How can you view a video on your computer? What makes it work?** RealOne or QuickTime media player software. Through browser preferences, users can select the media player software of choice to be the default (either RealOne or QuickTime). One can play, edit and create new movies via iMovie.

**What would you do if you wanted to install a clean system or start from another disk?** *Before installing:* 1. Back up all files, preferences, and software not currently elsewhere. 2. Perform a disk check to make sure the hard drive is in good shape. *Installing:* 1. Performing a clean system install is the best method of ensuring that everything will work as expected. This install method wipes the drive, checks for errors and attempts to fix any problems, if possible before installing a new system. *Steps:* A. With the Mac running, insert the OS DVD and restart the machine. A faster way to restart is to hold down the option key and use the “Apple restart” (⌘ main menu bar, select restart).

**How do you change the file view so you see a list instead of icons?** While viewing files or folders, go to the ⌘ main menu bar and select view, select list or columns. Columns view provides list plus a preview, if available, of file — very handy when sorting through photos.

**How do you know what programs are open?** Via the icon indicator arrow on the Mac DOC. An arrow next to the application Icon indicates that the application is open. To see all your windows at once, hold down the F9 key (note this did not work for me). Expose allows the user to select various options from the desktop to see what applications are open. *Note:* An active window is indicated by the buttons on the top left of the window screen (color coded with a series of three circles), along with the document title. When the screen is active, you will see a series of red, yellow and green buttons. When the window is inactive, all three buttons will appear grey. **Or close all the windows at the same time?** Hold down the F11 function key at the top of the keyboard.

**How do you create a new directory? You mean a new folder?** To create a new folder, use a combination of keys (⌘ + shift + N). Or from the main ⌘ menu bar, choose file and new folder.

**Are there recommendations for organizing files?** Yes. Managing groups of users, creating mobile accounts (setting up globally Unique IDs). *Note:* Files are central to UNIX. Commands are executable files. Devices and disks are identified as files. Finding files has improved with Tiger’s new feature, Spotlight. *Note:* A better way to find files is through the locate command – I need to explore this option that is actually a database.

**What are problems that may occur when you install new software?** Not enough memory available to run it and confusion with app icons on the desktop. *Note:* MacUpdate – <http://www.macupdate.com> and VersionTracker – <http://www.versiontracker.com> are resources for reviewing software and evaluating the best tools to use. Fastest method of drag and drop application install is: Drag it from the disk image icon (once you have downloaded the software) to the Applications folder. Then eject the disk image and run the new app by double clicking its icon, found in the Applications folder.

**How would you partition a hard disk and why would you want to?** Using the OS system disk, insert the disk and restart the machine, as if you were doing a OS install, except that you also hold down the C key. From the menu bar, select Utilities/Disk Utility. Select the hard drive to partition. (See 12-step process, page 29 of *Running Mac OS X Tiger*.) *Why:* Partitioning allows a user to run different versions of OS (OS 9 and OS X), allocate space for applications vs. space for data/files.

**Can you change the size of what you see on the screen to make it bigger?** Yes. Via monitor resolution – lower resolution allows for items on display to appear larger. Under System Preferences, select Appearance and change

**How can you open a file with a different application than the one it opens in by default?** Drag and drop onto another app.

**Can you share files if you are connected to a network?** Yes. Through several methods: FTP, HTTP. (HTTP-Apache is UNIX-based), AppleFileServer and via Email attachment. Docs in the Library/WebServer/Documents folder are served as the user requests. Mac to Mac file sharing via LAN but this is only Mac to Mac NOT Mac to PC so I'm using this less and less these days and instead using file servers/folders, email etc. More email than anything else. But I'll explore the Apache option more to see if this is more useful to us.

**What do you need to do to add a printer to your system so you can print?** Use printer wizard under Printer Setup Utility. May need a disk to install specific drivers to take advantage of all features of printer (duplexing).

**Can you change the background on your desktop?** Yes. Select photo or optional Apple images. System Pref./Desktop.

**What should you do if your system freezes?** If the computer won't respond or the pointer won't move. press the Command and period keys at the same time and, if a dialog box appears, click Cancel. If that doesn't work, hold down the Option and Command keys and then press the Esc key. If a dialog box appears, click Force Quit. Then save your work in any open applications and restart the computer to be sure the problem is entirely cleared up. If you are unable to force the application to quit, press and hold the Power button for a few seconds to shut down the computer. If the computer still doesn't respond, try to restart it by simultaneously pressing the Command and Control keys on your keyboard and the Power button. If that doesn't work, locate the reset button (see page 18) on the back panel of your computer. Carefully press the button using the tip of a pen. Then press the Power button to restart it. **Note:** You may need to reset the date and time (using the Date & Time control panel) after you use the reset button.

**What should you do if your computer won't boot?** Turn off your system extensions by starting up your computer while holding down the Shift key. If that does not work, start up your PowerBook while holding down the C key and at the same time insert your system software CD. (Make sure the Caps Lock key is not engaged.) After the computer starts up, choose Mac Help from the Help menu. Look at the section on how to prevent and solve problems. You may need to check for extension conflicts or reinstall your computer's system software. If using your system software CD is the only way you can start up your PowerBook, you need to reinstall your computer's system software.

**What are recommended procedures for maintaining your system?** Keeping up with software updates (including security and other software). Several experts recommend partitioning drives to keep working documents separate from applications. A very important thing is archiving/backing up files, preferences, including email. Though many servers can easily restore email, this is esp. important for those of us who are using email to compose letters, write cost estimates and keep track of projects.

## System Profile Details:

<p><b>Hardware Overview:</b>  Machine Model: PowerBook G4 15"  CPU Type: PowerPC G4 (1.1)  Number Of CPUs: 1  CPU Speed: 1.5 GHz  L2 Cache (per CPU): 512 KB  Memory: 256 MB  Bus Speed: 167 MHz  Boot ROM Version: 4.8.4f1  Serial Number: -----</p> <p><b>ATA-3 Bus:</b>  <b>MATSHITA DVD-R UJ-825:</b>  Manufacturer: MATSHITA  Model: MATSHITA DVD-R UJ-825  Revision: DAM5  Serial Number:  Drive Type: CD-RW/DVD-RW  Disc Burning: Apple Supported/Shipped  Removable Media: Yes  Detachable Drive: No  Protocol: ATAPI  Unit Number: 0  Socket Type: Internal</p> <p><b>AirPort Card Information:</b>  Card Type: AirPort Extreme  Card Locale: USA  Card Firmware Version: 3.3.2f3 (3.30.15.p8)  Current Wireless Network:  Wireless Channel: 6</p>	<p><b>SODIMM1/J25UPPER:</b>  Size: 256 MB  Type: DDR SDRAM  Speed: PC2700U-25330</p> <p><b>TXN,PCIXXX-00:</b>  Name: cardbus  Type: cardbus  Bus: PCI  Slot: PC Card  Vendor ID: 0x104c  Device ID: 0xac56  Revision ID: 0x0000</p> <p><b>USB Bus:</b>  Vendor Name: Apple Computer, Inc.  Product ID: 32773 (\$8005)  Speed: Up to 12 Mb/sec  Bus Power (mA): 500</p> <p><b>Bluetooth HCI:</b>  Speed: Up to 12 Mb/sec  Product ID: 33283 (\$8203)  Bus Power (mA): 500  Vendor ID: 1452</p> <p><b>FireWire Bus:</b>  Speed: 800 Mb/sec Speed</p> <p><b>Modem Information:</b>  Driver: MotorolaSM56K.kext (v1.3.1)  Hardware Version: Version 1.0  Interface Type: I2S  Country: B5 (United States, Latin America)  Modem Model: Jump  Modulation: V.92</p>
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Figure 1