

The **BIG** debate

## Are you Mac mad or PC friendly?



**COMPUTER CHOICE** Macs and PCs can divide the computer-file savvy community – Milton Haworth, left, and Allan Robertson, right, share their opposing views

**For Mac**

THE PC may well be the most widely used computer platform in the world, writes *Furness freelance photographer MILTON HAWORTH*, but that's like saying *The Sun* has more readers than a real newspaper.

There are still lots of reasons to choose a Mac running Mac OS X over a Windows PC – not least of which is the fact that Macs can leave you happier and feeling you got more bang for your buck.

Macs are aesthetically pleasing, they have the "Wow" factor in spades, even though I admit a Mac is never the cheapest option. I would rather have a secondhand Mac than a brand new PC.

OS X's logical, operating system, OS, involves far fewer things to be digested and relearned, and Apple stays with it in new releases such as Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard.

Ergo: it's easier to get stuff done.

Macs don't crash so frequently and suffer from fewer, inexplicable slowdowns. Macs deal better with heavy memory situations. Macs boot up and shut down faster. Probably because Apple is the only company in the business that writes its own operating system and designs its own hardware.

If hackers ever target OS X as fervently as they have on Windows for years, the free ride for Mac fans may end. But for the present and this fact is indisputable: I'm a Mac owner who uses no security software at all, and I run less risk of being infected by spyware or a virus than a Windows user who obsessively protects their PC.

Windows is also plagued by the demoware, adware, and all sorts of unwelcomeware that so many PC manufacturers drop on to the Start menu, the desktop, even the system tray.

An indication of how intuitive the Macs are is the lack of written instruction when you buy them – you open the box and, well, you just start using them.

I have two MacBook Pros an iMac, an iPad, and iPhone.

My next purchase is going to be for my partner... I'm getting her an iPhone.

Get a Mac, you won't go back!

SINCE Macs first began challenging PCs in the computing market, the craving for the Apple product has taken off with amazing momentum – and both makes have established loyalists who firmly believe in the superiority of one of the other. Here, two technology whizzkids go head-to-head.

chise on both systems will more than likely set you back double if not more if you opted for a Mac.

The issue of design is often a big selling point for gadgets like the Mac, iPad or iPhone – yes, Apple's products do look nice but I don't buy a computer purely just to look at it and I certainly wouldn't pay a premium for that. PCs are made by a number of manufacturers and therefore designs can be even more varied.

You also have to consider the option of tailor-made systems. There are dozens of different configurations that a PC can have, whereas a Mac is a Mac. Full stop.

A PC can be anything you want it to be and built to your specification. Also, the Mac is generally seen to be behind the PC when it comes to releasing the latest cutting-edge hardware. You can also buy numerous accessories and upgrade your computer when needed, but a Mac won't let you do this.

One of the main reasons why I like the PC is because of its gaming potential – the power and graphical capabilities cannot be bettered on any platform or console. Software developers only offer a very limited selection of games for the Mac.

I also do freelance web design and the PC is superb at being able to handle all of my design and developer requirements. It's much more versatile and I'm able to show a whole range of results to clients on my own website.

Overall, there are plenty of reasons why I prefer the PC over the Mac: The price, the power, the versatility, the software capability, the web design, the ability to have a custom-made system which you want – and not what Apple wants – and the fact you can upgrade it when needed.

The Apple brand has brainwashed many people into believing the PC is old and the Mac is better, but I guess it's amazing what some well-placed advertising can do.

**For PC**

THERE are many reasons why the PC rules the roost over the Mac, writes *ALLAN ROBERTSON*, *Barrow-based web designer*.

For many years the PC versus Mac debate has been going on, and can be covered by talking about a few points.

When it comes to buying a computer, price plays a big part and most people will ask themselves: "How much does it cost?"

And in terms of the PC versus Mac debate, the PC is much cheaper and is a better computer. The equivalent ma-

## Your views: Mac vs PC/laptop... what are your thoughts? Which do you prefer, and why?

**Patrick Godbert** Mac. I like making music, films and graphics and a Mac is by far the best computer for this.

**Paul Robinson** Mac is great for music and design but it's a PC/laptop every time for me.

However those people who like "fashion statements" and extensions of

their ego are more likely to get an iPad.

**Ange Rybak** I don't have a Mac or a laptop. Wish I did!

**Elizabeth Armstrong** I have a laptop, I love my laptop.

**Sarah Steward** Well I have a fashion statement and an extension to my ego apparently as I have an iPad ha!

**Martin Cairns** Macbook all the way, I wouldn't go back to laptop/PC.

**Matthew Newnham** Mac is better all round.

**Aidan Jones** Many of us have only ever tried one type. So we don't or can't have any particular opinion one way or the other.

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