

Software + OS

Operating systems, optimization, applications and games.



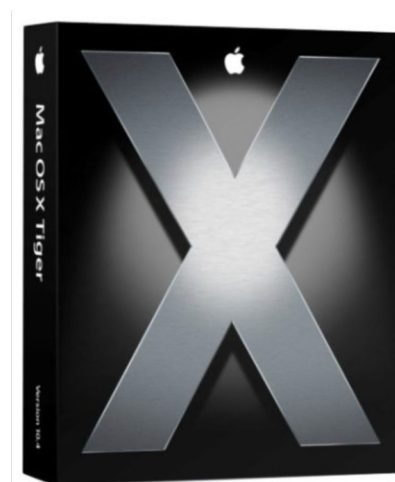
Source MacWorld October 2001

Choose the software world - match the Cube to the job.

The Cube can live in several very different software worlds. The choice of operating system changes how the machine feels, what software it can run, how much control the user has, and how far the hardware can be pushed.

WORKING MAP

- Mac OS 9 - the classic PowerPC environment. Cube-era systems begin with 9.0.4, while later revisions through 9.2.2 expand compatibility and refine the Classic environment.
- Mac OS X - Cheetah, Puma, Jaguar, Panther, Tiger and Leopard move the Cube into the UNIX-based Mac environment.
- Classic - OS 9 software running from within compatible versions of OS X.
- Sorbet Leopard 10.5.9 - an unofficial community-modified Leopard build focused on PowerPC usability and optimization.
- Snow Leopard PowerPC developer material, Linux distributions and alternative systems belong on the experimental shelf.

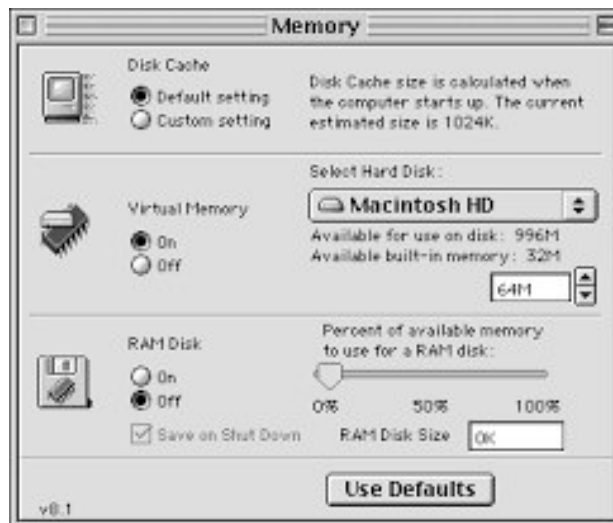
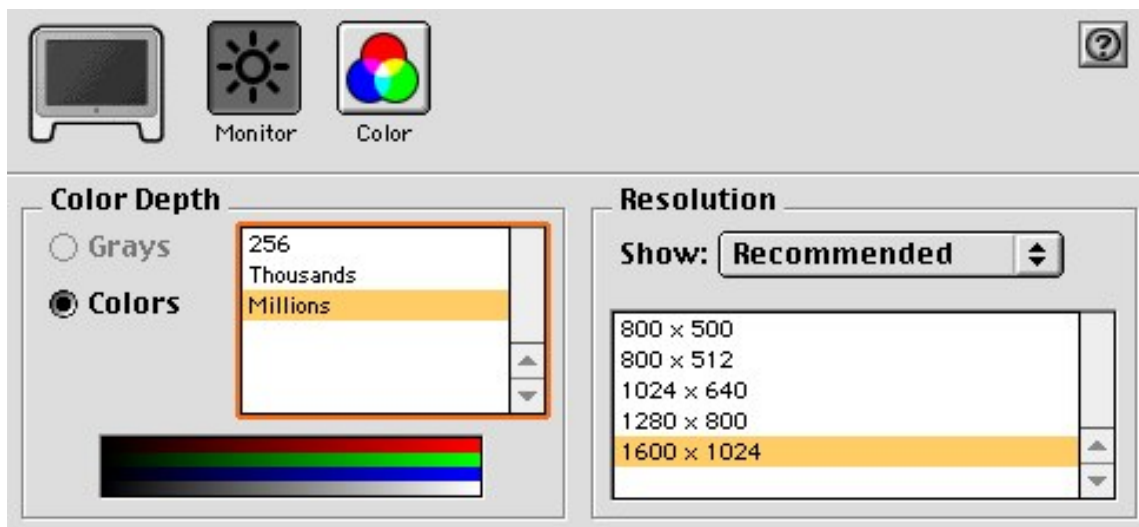


Mac OS 9 - direct on the drive or inside Tiger Classic.

OS 9 is where the Cube feels most purely of its period: compact software, direct control over extensions and control panels, and very little standing between the user and the machine.

MAC OS 9 ON THE CUBE

- The Cube shipped in the OS 9 era, with Cube-specific 9.0.4 media followed by later 9.1, 9.2.1 and 9.2.2 installers or updates.
- OS 9 was built for the PowerPC era. Its small files, simple hierarchy and direct access to system resources make it feel unusually immediate on a G4.
- Extensions Manager is central to tuning the system: fewer unnecessary resources can mean a cleaner and faster startup.
- RAM Disk is a useful classic feature for temporary high-speed work. Save-on-shutdown behavior and available memory should be understood before relying on it.



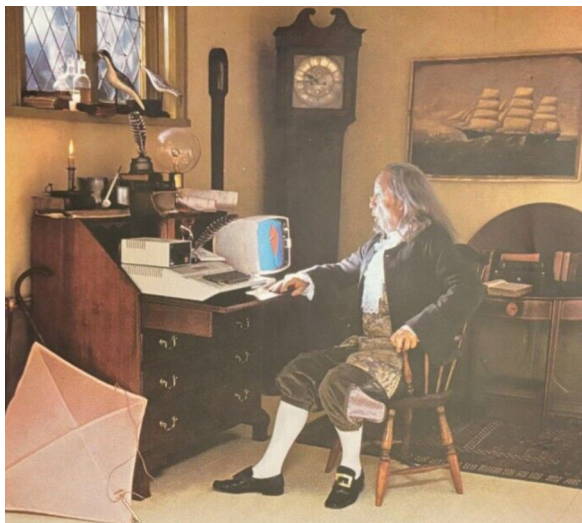
Optimize OS 9 - trim carefully and keep a known-good set.

OS 9 optimization is a practical workshop exercise, not a single universal recipe. Disable only what the machine does not need, test after each change, and keep a known-good Extensions Manager set to return to.

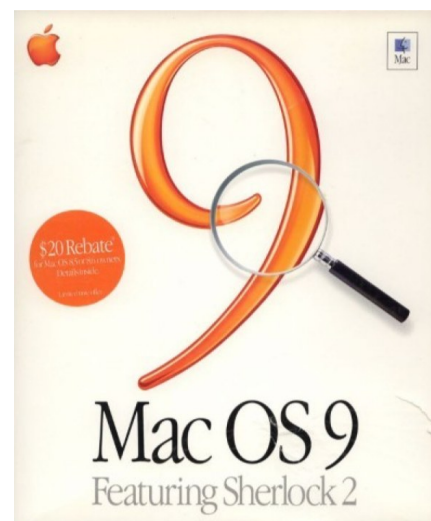
USEFUL AREAS TO REVIEW

- Energy Saver: disable sleep-related behavior while testing or running demanding jobs.
- Keyboard: short key-repeat delay and fast repeat rate are part of the preferred setup.
- Memory: Virtual Memory off, default disk cache, and RAM Disk only when it has a purpose.
- TCP/IP: DHCP is the normal starting point when Ethernet or another network connection is present.
- Extensions and Control Panels: remove unneeded language, modem, infrared, PowerBook, sharing or other components only when their function is understood.

LAB NOTE: Some optimization choices are aggressive. Test them individually rather than disabling unfamiliar system components in batches.



Despite this, Mac OS 9 continued to live on as the operating system of choice on millions of existing PowerPC-based Macintosh computers, and as of June of 2004, was even still being shipped as a stand-alone operating system (along with OS X) on the Power Macintosh G4, only available directly from Apple as a custom to order (CTO) model (which was eventually discontinued in late 2004). The modernized successor, Mac OS X, provided a compatibility layer called the Classic environment for applications and hardware that needed to run under OS 9, until Mac OS X 10.4.11. Apple also provided Carbon, an API for allowing PowerPC applications that ran natively on OS 9 to also run on versions of OS X, until Mac OS X 10.6.8.



Mac OS X - the Cube steps into the modern Mac architecture.

OS X changes the personality of the Cube. It adds protected memory, preemptive multitasking, a UNIX foundation and a more modern application environment, but asks more of the hardware than OS 9.

GENERAL SETTINGS WORTH REVIEWING

- Appearance and Dock effects can be simplified when speed matters more than animation.
- Energy Saver behavior is worth reviewing for long transfers, restores or production tasks.
- Login Items should stay lean when troubleshooting startup performance.
- Software Update behavior in these legacy systems should not be assumed to work as it once did.
- Security and account settings need to be chosen for the way the Cube is actually being used today.

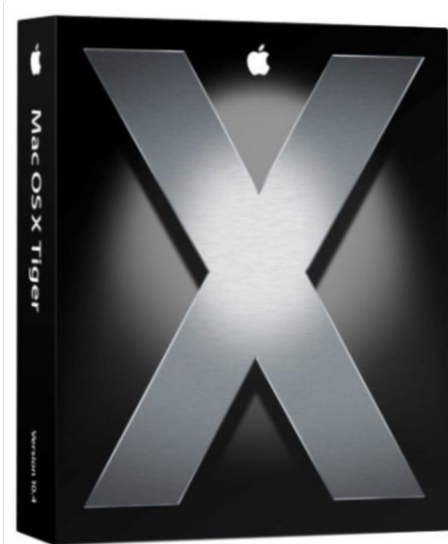


The OS X shelf - Cheetah through Leopard, six personalities.

Each OS X release changes the balance between period authenticity, application compatibility, visual polish and the amount of work expected from the Cube.

VERSION SHELF

- 10.0 Cheetah - historically fascinating, visually distinctive and much less mature than later releases.
- 10.1 Puma - better responsiveness and a more usable everyday environment than 10.0.
- 10.2 Jaguar - a major early PowerPC checkpoint with a broader period-software environment.
- 10.3 Panther - light on G4 hardware while supporting a useful range of later applications.
- 10.4 Tiger - one of the broadest PowerPC software environments, with mature OS X features.
- 10.5.8 Leopard - Apple's final official PowerPC Mac OS X release; feature-rich but heavier on Cube hardware.

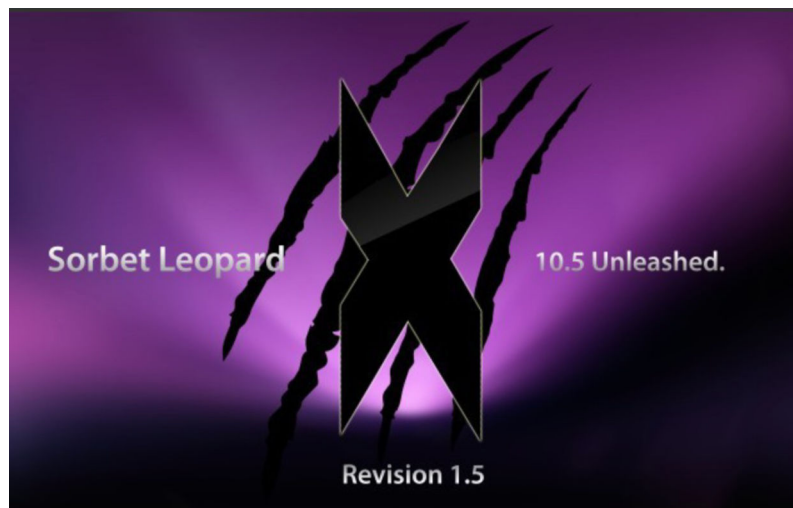


Leopard + Sorbet - official finish line, unofficial experiment.

Leopard is the official end of Apple's PowerPC Mac OS X road. Sorbet Leopard sits beside it as a community experiment: an unofficial 10.5.9 build combining the Leopard environment with extensive PowerPC-focused optimization.

SORBET IN PRACTICE

- Sorbet Leopard is unofficial. It should never be presented as an Apple release.
- Sorbet includes alternate interface options and a separate community software-download environment sometimes called the Sorbet App Store; it is not Apple's App Store.
- Sorbet is normally deployed by restoring its prepared system image to a suitable partition rather than by running a conventional Apple installer.
- A USB restore can take hours on period hardware. Keep the machine cool and avoid interrupting the restore.
- Storage-driver and Hi-Cap material intersects with the Upgrades chapter and requires exact procedures to be confirmed.



The laboratory shelf - experiments live beside a working system.

Beyond the dependable OS 9 and PowerPC OS X paths is a laboratory shelf. These systems are interesting precisely because they push beyond the ordinary Cube setup - not because every experiment belongs in a finished customer machine.

EXPERIMENTAL SHELF

- Snow Leopard developer-preview material represents an unfinished PowerPC experiment, not a normal Cube installation path.
- Linux distributions listed for investigation include Debian, Fedora, Ubuntu, Mint, Adelie and others, along with additional alternative-system experiments.
- Boot media, USB restoration, optical installation and multi-boot behavior can vary with firmware, drive hardware and the exact operating system. Confirm each experiment on the actual Cube.

LAB RULE: Preserve a working system, change one major thing at a time, and keep recovery media nearby.



INTERNET
ARCHIVE



Fun + gem + quote + trivia - movement, words and TextEdit.

QUOTE

The body says what words cannot.

– Martha Graham

source [Google](#)

TRIVIA

Martha Graham lived to the tender age of

67

78

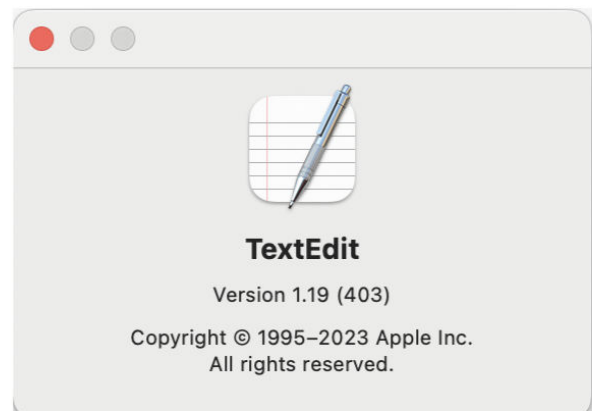
85

96

Trivia answer: 96 - the largest number.



GEM



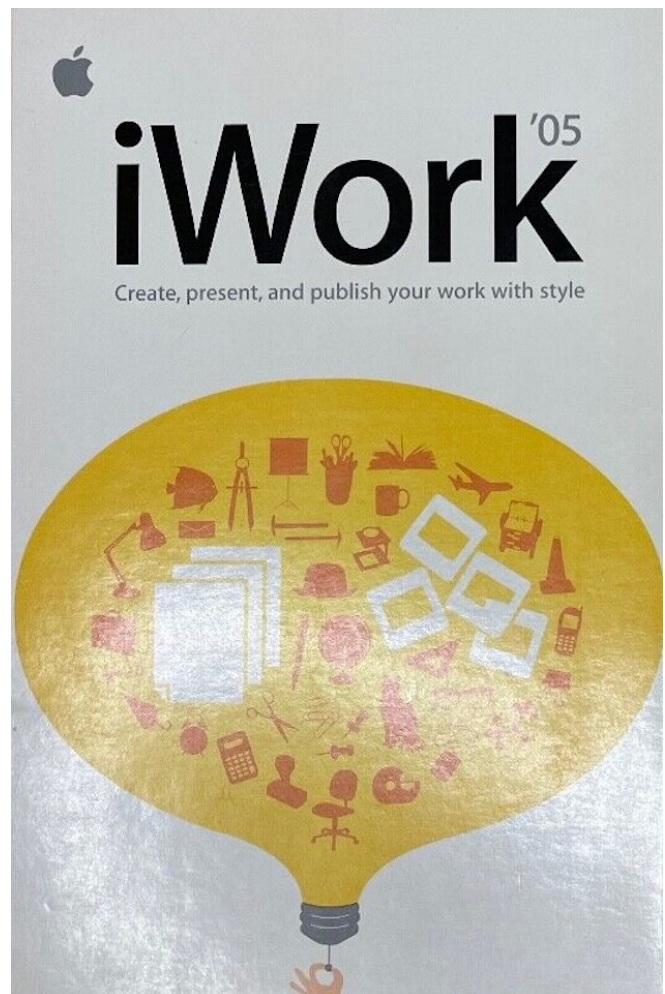
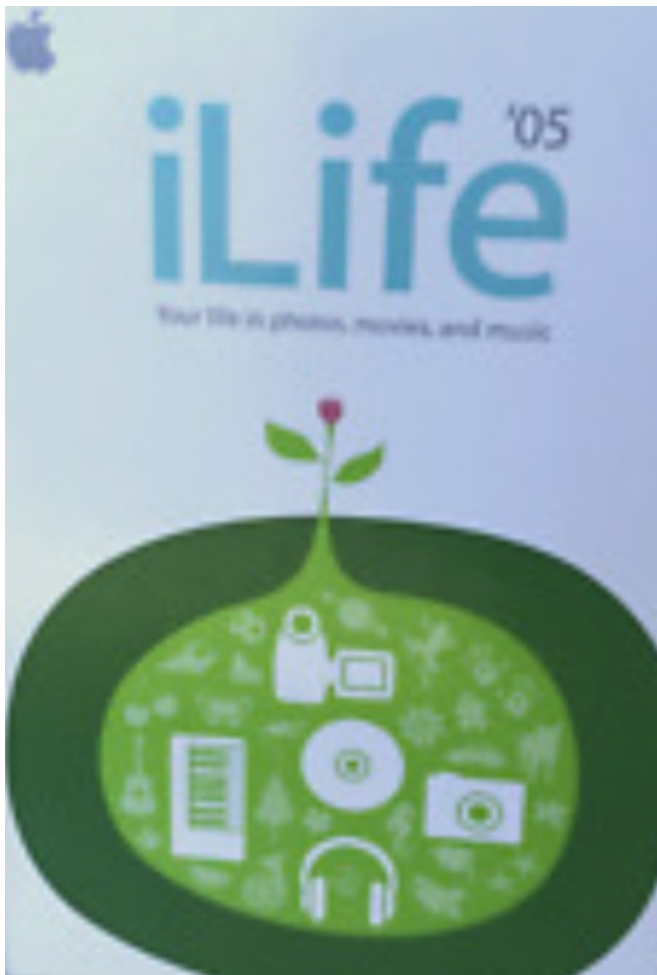
Applications + games - give the Cube a job or a joystick.

An operating system is only the stage. The fun begins when the Cube has something to do. There is no single perfect application bundle; the useful mix depends on the operating system, the hardware and the job.

A USEFUL SOFTWARE SHELF

- Creative and productivity material includes Adobe, Painter, QuarkXPress, FileMaker and other period software or trials.
- Apple software includes iMovie and the evolving iLife / iWork families, with compatibility varying by OS version.
- Game experiments include Age of Empires, Diablo, Doom, Quake, Wolfenstein and other titles or downloads listed for testing.
- A curated bonus-software disc can make a restored Cube immediately useful, while a USB game controller opens another period-correct direction for titles that support it.

SOFTWARE NOTE: Availability, licensing, registration keys and redistribution rights vary. Distinguish owned media, freeware, shareware, demos, community downloads and software the reader must obtain independently.



Review map - choose, tune, preserve, then enjoy.

The Cube software story is broad enough to reward experimentation but simple enough to organize: choose the operating-system family, tune it carefully, preserve recovery media, then build the application library around what the machine is meant to do.

SOFTWARE + OS REVIEW NOTES

- OS 9 offers the most direct classic-Mac experience; OS X trades some speed for modern architecture, features and later software.
- Tiger and Leopard extend the useful PowerPC software shelf; Sorbet and Linux belong to the enthusiast and experimental side of the map.
- Classic mode can bridge some OS 9 applications into compatible OS X installations, but native OS 9 remains cleaner for software that depends heavily on the classic system.
- Match every application to its required OS revision, CPU features, memory and graphics needs rather than assuming all PowerPC software is interchangeable.
- Keep experimental Snow Leopard, Linux and storage-driver procedures visibly separated from ordinary recommended use.

Source note: [Apple Retro Guide v3](#) remains the deeper workshop notebook behind this condensed chapter.



Vintage Macs, Restored With Care.