

My New Mac, Lion Edition by Wallace Wang

No Starch Press.

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When Apple released its latest operating system, MacOSX 10.7 Lion, the Mac faithful couldn't wait to get their hands, or their hard drives wrapped around the new power that was churning away under the hood of their computer. As with every major update to any OS, there are features that are combined, removed, renamed, and most importantly; new! There are growing pains, and the occasional "where did they put that?" that crop up. Before you put the pedal to the metal on Lion, take time to check under the hood, and tune up your OS skills.

This reviewer hates categorizing users into ability levels, because there is no set of skills that truly define whether you are a novice or advanced user. How far away from "intermediate" are the other two options? What Wallace Wang has done with My New Mac, Lion Edition, is to give the reader a map of 10.7 Lion, and offer them the ability to take any direction that they desire, to get to their final destination. While reading the book from cover to cover will get you to a distant land, use this book more like a menu at a comfortable restaurant that has hundreds of items to indulge upon. Forget the utilitarian categorization of skill, and dig in!

Throughout the book, Wang takes the time to start each chapter with a list of the hardware and software that you will be experiencing in the chapter. No surprises mean that you won't feel like the book is getting away from you too quickly. Whether you're re-learning how to use the new scrolling on your trackpad, or securing your personal data with a firewall, there are clear steps that guide you to your final destination... success. While Apple does a great job of offering help digitally throughout the OS, sometimes finding the right terms to search for, or quickly getting lost in a scrolling list of search options, becomes more of a speed-bump, than a help.

In the Additional Ideas section at the end of each chapter, Wang talks with the reader as if he was sitting across the table in a cozy coffee shop with them, by inspiring new directions to further expand the usability of Lion with software such as: iPhoto and iTunes. Where the reader will go next, is left up to their own imagination. Page through the book, and ask yourself: What will you create when you combine the power of the apps on your desktop? What college course will you immerse yourself in today with iTunes U? My New Mac, Lion Edition lets you know it's easy, and possible.

Apple has taught us to "Think Different"... Apply those ideals to this book, and dig in wherever you open it. Page around and get lost in the new features, and while you're going from destination to destination, stop and enjoy the scenery, and explore the side roads. While color illustrations would have aided in visual recognizability, the diagrams are clean, and not overwhelming.

Whether it's your first time kicking the tires of a Mac, or if you're a hot-rod tuning pro, My New Mac, Lion Edition gives you the boost you need to explore your possibilities with MacOSX 10.7 Lion.