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—— Kevin Kelly, 《Wired》杂志联合创始人

Mac OS X Snow Leopard 实战手册

(影印版)

the missing manual[®]

The book that should have been in the box[®]



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David Pogue 著

Mac OS X Snow Leopard

实战手册



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Man was this book a lot of work. Apple just could not leave well enough alone. For an OS update that supposedly “put a pause on new features,” Apple sure put a lot of effort into rejiggering, rewording, or shuffling around what was already there!

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—David Pogue

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Introduction

Introduction

Mac OS X is an impressive technical achievement; many experts call it the best personal-computer operating system on earth. But beware its name.

The X is meant to be a Roman numeral, pronounced “10.” Don’t say “oh ess ex.” You’ll get funny looks in public.

In any case, Mac OS X Snow Leopard is the seventh major version of Apple’s Unix-based operating system. It’s got very little in common with the original Mac operating system, the one that saw Apple through the 1980s and 1990s. Apple dumped that in 2001, when CEO Steve Jobs decided it was time for a change. Apple had just spent too many years piling new features onto a software foundation originally poured in 1984. Programmers and customers complained of the “spaghetti code” the Mac OS had become.

On the other hand, underneath Mac OS X’s classy translucent desktop is Unix, the industrial-strength, rock-solid OS that drives many a Web site and university. It’s not new by any means; in fact, it’s decades old and has been polished by generations of programmers.

The Snow Leopard Anomaly

Mac OS X 10.6, affectionately known as Snow Leopard, is a strange beast, for a couple of reasons.

The first has to do with the Law of Software Upgrades, which has been in place since the dawn of personal computing. And that law says: “If you don’t add new features every year, nobody will upgrade, and you won’t make money.”

And so, to keep you upgrading, the world's software companies pile on more features with every new version of their wares. Unfortunately, this can't continue forever. Sooner or later, you wind up with a bloated, complex, incoherent mess of a program.

The shocker of Snow Leopard, though, is that upping the feature count wasn't the point. In fact, Steve Jobs said, "We're hitting Pause on new features."

Instead, the point of Snow Leopard was *refinement* of the perfectly good operating system that Apple already had in the previous version, Mac OS X Leopard (10.5).

Refinement meant fixing hundreds of little annoyances, like the baffling error message that sometimes won't let you eject a disk or a flash drive because it's "busy." Refinement meant making the whole thing faster, replacing substantial chunks of its plumbing—including rewriting the Finder from scratch—to be more modern and streamlined. Refinement also meant making Snow Leopard *smaller*—if you can believe it, half the size of the previous Mac OS X, saving you at least 6 gigabytes of hard drive space right off the bat.

As though to hammer home the point, Apple priced Snow Leopard at \$30, about \$100 less than its usual new-version Mac OS X price.

So wait. Apple's not adding any new features? It's spending all its time on polish, optimization, and *making things work better*? Has Steve Jobs gone completely nuts?

If so, be grateful. Snow Leopard builds beautifully on the successes of previous Mac OS X versions. You still don't have to worry about viruses, spyware, or service pack releases that take up a Saturday afternoon to install and fine-tune. And you still enjoy stability that would make the you of 1999 positively drool.

But as it turns out, not all of Apple's programmers got the "no new features" memo. As you'll see in this book, there are *hundreds* of tiny new features and options. Maybe

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

All About "Snow Leopard"

What's this business about big cats?

Most software companies develop their wares in secret, using code names for new products to throw outsiders off the scent. Apple's code names for Mac OS X and its descendants have been named after big cats: Mac OS X was Cheetah, 10.1 was Puma, 10.2 was Jaguar, 10.3 was Panther, 10.4 was Tiger, and 10.5 was Leopard. Since 10.6 is considered "only" a refinement of the existing Leopard version, it's called Snow Leopard.

(The real snow leopard is an endangered species, native to Central Asia. It has no larynx and so it can't roar. It can kill

animals three times its size. Insert your own operating-system metaphor here.)

Usually, the code name is dropped as soon as the product is complete, whereupon the marketing department gives it a new name. In Mac OS X's case, though, Apple thinks its cat names are cool enough to retain for the finished product.

You do have to wonder what Apple plans to call future versions. Apple increases only the decimal point with each major upgrade, which means it has four big cats to go before it hits Mac OS XI.

Let's see: Bobcat, Cougar, Lion...um...Ocelot?