

Computer Bits by Mark Eggert of Raad One Network Solutions, Inc.

Welcome to Computer Bits, a series of articles on computers and network information. In this month's article I'll share some of my thoughts on my new MacBook Pro notebook.

I've had my MacBook Pro notebook for just over 5 weeks now and I'm getting use to it. As far as a notebook computer goes, it's a great little machine! It did take me a little while to get use to the special Mac keys and the new trackpad, which is really neat once you know how to use it. My first experience and problem with the trackpad occurred as I was trying to set up the notebook for the first time. The little book that came with the notebook said I could tap anywhere on the trackpad and that would be like clicking with a mouse. Well, let me tell you, I tapped all over the trackpad and I couldn't get it to click. So I had to resort to using keyboard commands to get the notebook setup. Once it was setup I was able to use the help system that Apple provides and I found that the trackpad is a mechanical device, that's here, if you push down on the trackpad it depresses and click! Apple has graciously added in the mouse preferences settings that allow you to just tap on the trackpad for clicking, but it's not the default setting.

As far as using the MacBook Pro, I have it networked with my PCs and I can share files. And since I purchased a copy of Office 2008 for Mac, I can edit Office files on both my Mac and my PCs. The new Intel-based Macs (those made since 2006) can be set to dual boot so that you can install Windows and use Windows only programs on the Mac. While this is a good thing, there are few drawbacks. One is that you have to reboot the computer when you want to switch between the Mac OS and Windows. Another is that the two OSes can't see the other partition. So you need to have an external device if you wanted to share files between the two OSes. Of course, you'll need to buy the Windows OS that you're going to install and you'll need to have anti-virus protection too. There is software available that allows you to run Windows as a virtual machine within the Mac OS, but you take a big performance hit on OSes.

One last thing to note: on Dec. 1st, 2008 Apple released a statement suggesting that owner of Macs to install multiple anti-virus applications to keep their computers safe. This is a complete turnaround for them and something they really hit Microsoft on.

So if anyone would like a demo of Macs or wish to discuss them further, please contact me.

If you have a computer or network question you'd like answered and you think others would like to know the answer too, please forward them to me. My email address is meggert@wi.rr.com, my phone number is 262-679-7704 and my fax number is 262-679-7664.