

FREEDOMISM

Randomly generated opinions

There are many things I'm annoyed by, but one of the top-ten is Apple, Inc. Yes, the company that produces underperforming, overpriced, "shiny" products that the populous simply loves to buy. It disgusts me — it really does — that people can be as ignorant to blindly believe the stereotypes of the hated "personal computer", the slow, virus-ridden Microsoft Windows machine that can be found on every street. Instead of simply learning how to tweak and fix their computers to make them functional (like my PC), they happily dump almost \$2,000 on a fancy aluminum-clad all-in-one computer that has specifications that are equivalent to a \$500 Windows computer. I really do believe that Apple is a leading cause of debt in the United States, Americans simply buy their products like sheep, not worrying about the cost-efficiency of it all.

There are only a couple of major arguments in the Mac vs. PC debate, the leading one being that PCs are full of security holes and prone to viruses. There is one reason for this: Windows, mainly XP, holds control of a whopping 90% of the operating system market^[1]. The competition is so far behind it's amusing. It's this fact that leads hackers to put all their effort into exploiting Windows in every way possible, to the point where Microsoft is forced to release security patches every month. I wouldn't say Microsoft's to blame for the spread of viruses, it's instead the incompetence of millions of Windows users who are dull enough to actually click on the corny, suspicious looking spam emails and banner advertisements that clog the Internet. A majority of virus protection comes from your own common sense. Any good, free antivirus (you don't have to and *should not* pay for McAfee or Norton) will help you block the more sophisticated scams, but a majority of the time virus-infected tricks are blatantly obvious. Any decent user would know that they have not won the lottery through an email, and that there isn't an urgent virus scan going on in your browser window. Overall, it's definitely better to learn a few more computing tips and skills than dump \$1,200 on a Mac. And, ironically, Mac OS X is becoming more and more prone to malware and the like as its market share slowly grows.

Another argument is that PCs are slow and crash an obscene amount of times (note: the Blue Screen of Death). This does not apply to every Windows computer — I would say it doesn't even apply to a majority of PCs. Every PC has different specifications, if your computer crashes it may be time to buy some new parts. Hardware is cheap and there's plenty of it, upgrading your computer will only cost a couple hundred dollars at the most. If it's not the computer — let's say it's Windows — just reinstall it. Backup your data and simply reinstall Windows from scratch. It doesn't cost anything, and I'm sure you wouldn't want to let Apple eat a chunk of your paycheck for a new computer that, in a few years, will be completely obsolete and worth a fraction of its original price. There's another advantage PCs have: their value doesn't decrease over time; *every* part of a PC can be upgraded as technology progresses. Macs, however, have been prone to becoming completely out-of-date within as little as 2 years, unable to keep up with the progression of computer hardware. When it comes to cost-efficiency, PCs win by a landslide.

If there's one area where Apple does succeed, it's marketing. Microsoft is simply terrible at advertising, Apple's smartass Mac vs. PC ads are popular and, for many people, convincing. Apple also has the power to create amazing amounts of hype over their products by presenting a glimpse of them at their first and third quarter conventions, making people excited and curious, and then not releasing any other details besides the shipping date. This is how products such as the iPhone (which is one of the two good products that Apple has produced) and the iPad (which, on the other hand, is simply terrible for the price) became so popular. However, popular does not equal good. The truth is that Apple is essentially ripping off its customers by charging disturbing prices for underrated products. If you're like the average customer and worry about money and efficiency, a PC and a beginner's guide on how to maintain one is the best choice.

1. "Usage share of operating systems - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia." *Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, n.d. Web. 2 May 2010. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Usage_share_of_operating_systems>