

# The Academy of Plumbing 49

## Hello Lion, Part Two

## The Digital Plumber

by Paul Ellis

I have a confession to make. At the time of writing I still haven't upgraded to Lion. I had fully intended to spend a day tonking around with my Mac mini, installing Lion on an external disk and playing with it, but in the nature of things, plumbing duties, family duties and having to write yet *another* document on orphan works to try to stop the Government stealing our photographs from us got in the way and I simply didn't get around to it.

That doesn't stop deadlines coming up, though, and so here's what I've managed to glean in the interim.

### CLEAN INSTALL

I've set up a couple of brand new MacBook Airs that came with Lion and won't happily run Snow Leopard. Both are for general office use. I found Lion's UI to be very sleek and the operating system very quick. I found the reversed scrolling direction from the trackpad unsettling and immediately turned it off. In the new General Preference Pane I made the scrollbars remain visible, and showed the Status Bar at the bottom of Finder windows. This was largely because both users would continue to use other pre-Lion Macs and I didn't want the new behaviour to confuse them.

On the other hand, if you have an iPad

the new scrolling behaviour makes sense. Leave the defaults as they are and get an Apple Magic Trackpad. Nick Wilcox-Brown reckons that the combination of Magic Trackpad for gestures and Wacom tablet for fine work is unbeatable. Watch the video in the Trackpad Preference Pane and learn the gestures.



Lion's Trackpad Preference Pane settings

If ever there was an occasion **not** to use Migration Assistant to move your old software and data to a new computer, upgrading to Lion is it. If you want Lion to behave well your best bet is a clean install, followed by copying selected data and preferences from your backup disk to your new user account, and installing your critical apps from scratch. This procedure is tiresome but prevents you from yet again migrating OS9 System Folders and Photoshop 3.0

that you installed on your Mac 12 years ago and have migrated across the three or four Macs you've had since. To do this, of course, you have to have recent versions of those apps so that their Installers will actually run in Lion.

You also need access to your user Library folder, which Apple has hidden by default in Lion. There are two ways to do this:

1. Hold down Alt and choose Go from the Finder's Go/Go To Folder... menu. Your Library folder will appear in the list.
2. Launch Terminal (in the Application/Utilities folder) and type the following:

```
Sudo chflags nohidden ~/Library/
```

– and then put in your password, when asked, and hit Return. This will make the Library folder permanently visible.

Then, you can drag preference files, the contents of your Keychains folder, your entire Mail and Mail Downloads folders, etc. from your old Mac into Lion's user Library folder. This will import all of your old preferences, email and passwords without problems.

### ROSETTA

I've seen a couple of reports of people who have successfully installed Rosetta into Lion and continue to use their PowerPC software. It makes sense, but I have no idea for how long Apple will allow this loophole to persist. It seems that all they did was to insert a Snow Leopard Install DVD, run the Optional Installs package, and click through the screens until Rosetta could be selected for install. Sounds too easy.

### VIRTUALISERS

After reading reports of success I spent a few hours trying to install and run older versions of Mac OS X in Virtualbox emulation software. I discovered that as with Mac OS X itself, Virtualbox cannot run a version of OS X that your Mac's CPU can't run. So, if your Mac can run Leopard, with some fiddling it's possible to get Leopard to run in Virtualbox under Lion. My MacBook Pro, requiring Snow Leopard 10.6.7 as a minimum, simply won't run Leopard in any way. I'd get away with installing Snow Leopard and then Rosetta, but if I were to get a new Lion-only Mac such as a MacBook Air or Mac mini I'd lose access to my data.

So, attempting to run PowerPC code via Rosetta or emulation, if it works for you, will only be a temporary fix.

At some point you're going to have to migrate this stuff. I wrote up the list of options, and their limitations, last time. This time, let's get serious.

If you use Filemaker Pro for your accounting and invoicing, you're laughing, more or less. The current version runs in Lion and will open your accounting files. If you're running a stand-alone app based on a Filemaker runtime it will need updating. If the publisher won't do it, a savvy Filemaker consultant will know how to decompile the runtime and recompile it to the latest version. You know how to search.

MYOB has been replaced by AccountEdge. The current version is sort of Lion compatible and will import older data files, but the process can be fiddly and clunky. If you feel it's time to move on, MoneyWorks has had good reviews, will import MYOB data, and is fully Lion compatible.

If you're using accounting software that is not longer supported or updated for the Mac, your best bet is probably to install Windows under emulation in Virtualbox, VMWare or Parallels and migrate your data to the Windows version, because there almost always is an up-to-date Windows version.

Finally, you can always make a clean break with your old accounts package and move either to a modern, supported Mac application, or run Sage in Windows under emulation. Or give up, do your figures in Excel and pay a proper accountant to do the hard stuff, as I do.

### LINKS

- Virtualbox: <http://bit.ly/i3MkIf>
- Filemaker Pro: <http://www.filemaker.com>
- AccountEdge: <http://bit.ly/eNHjny>
- MoneyWorks: <http://www.cognito.co.nz>
- VMWare: <http://bit.ly/eLcTad>
- Parallels: <http://bit.ly/iffhws0>
- Sage: <http://www.sage.co.uk>

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