

Setting Up a New Mac

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1. Turn the Mac on to boot up the Setup Assistant.
 - Select language and region preferences.
 - Create a user account with password and other user details. Record the password. I recommend keeping this short since it is needed a lot. If you use the Migration Assistant (#8) the info you enter here will be over-written. Option: create your backup admin account in this step and then your primary account will transfer cleanly in step #8.
 - Connect to a WiFi network.
 - Sign in with Apple ID.
 - Customize privacy and analytics settings.
2. Set up iCloud settings for storage, keychain passwords, and syncing of photos, docs, contacts etc.
 - Disable the option to store your Documents and Desktop folders to iCloud unless you don't have enough internal storage. (System Settings > General > Storage).
 - Turn off Optimize Storage unless you don't have enough internal storage. (System Settings > General > Storage).
3. Customize System Settings
 - Customize displays, trackpad, mouse.
 - Customize Wallpaper.
 - Appearance: Set show scroll bars = always.
 - Desktop & Dock: Minimize windows into application icon = on. Show suggested & recent apps in Dock = off.
 - Users & Groups: Create a backup admin account (see Step #1)
 - Lock Screen: Require Password = Never (optional).
 - Install your printer.
4. Connect the Mail app to your email accounts.
5. Activate security protections like Find My.
6. Activate backups to external drives and cloud services.
7. Install critical software updates through System Preferences.
8. Migrate existing apps, files, and settings using Migration Assistant app.