

Macintosh vs Windows 95

#2 Performance

Summary

An Apple® Power Macintosh® computer was more than 50% faster than a comparable Intel Pentium processor-based PC running Windows, in independent tests using a variety of real-world applications. The Macintosh® advantage was even more substantial in graphics and technical programs. This gives a Macintosh computer the performance high ground in the industry transition toward graphical, media-intensive computing. This is part of a series of short reports on the contrasts between a Macintosh computer and a PC with Windows 95. To see other entries in the series, visit us on the Inter-net at <http://www.apple.com/whymac/>.

The Macintosh Advantage

The PowerPC™ chips used in Macintosh systems often outperform Intel Pentium chips, sometimes by a wide margin. For example, a Power Macintosh 9500/120 outperformed a 120-MHz Pentium computer by 52% overall in independent benchmarks.* The Macintosh performance advantage was even greater in some area—the scientific and technical applications tested were an average of 73% faster, and in graphics and publishing the Macintosh was 85% faster.

The tests were run on real applications, performing typical computing tasks. Programs tested included Excel, DeltaGraph, Word, Vellum, FoxPro, ClarisWorks, Freehand, Mathematica, Painter, and FrameMaker.

What others have said:

"The 132 MHz 604-based Power Mac leaves 133 MHz Pentium in the dust."—*PC Week*, June 19, 1995

"The [Power Macintosh 9500] 120-MHz beta unit we tested was so damn speedy we were forced to revamp our suite of benchmarks to accommodate it."—*InfoWorld*, June 19, 1995

What It Means For Users

First and most obviously, if you're using a Pentium processor-based computer for technical work or graphics, you may be wasting your time. But power is important to every sort of user. If you're a business user, it means business graphics programs such as DeltaGraph run faster and more efficiently on the Macintosh, making your organization more productive. If you're a home user, that extra power lets you run games like LucasArts' Dark Forces in higher resolution, and lets you try out innovative new 3D games that aren't available or aren't as effective for the PC, such as Marathon and F/A-18. If you work in education, more power means the computer can handle more complex, realistic simulations and other learning tools. It also means the computer is less likely to become obsolete, an important issue for schools that can't replace their computers frequently.

What About the Future?

Look at what Intel and Microsoft say the computers of the future will do—video, sound, 3D, etc. Macintosh does those things very well today. Apple is moving ahead to future versions of the PowerPC chip, and has shipped the new 604 chip already. Meanwhile, Intel is still trying to jump-start the P6 transition—and there are serious doubts about whether Windows 95 will see any major performance benefits from it. Intel has not been clear on its long-term plans for P7 or the processor it's developing with Hewlett-Packard, and when either one will ship. Once again, Macintosh is delivering the future of personal computing ahead of time.

Questions or Comments?

You can send e-mail to the Macintosh Platform Marketing team at competition@applelink.apple.com.





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**Benchmarks were conducted by Competitive Assessment Services, an independent testing service, on equivalently configured Power Macintosh and x86 processor-based PCs running Windows. The tests consisted of measuring the actual elapsed time required to perform various tasks. Unlike processor-only or low-level benchmarks, the test results reflect application-level performance running real applications on actual systems. The tasks involved a mix of integer, floating point, disk and graphics activities. The applications used were Excel, Word, ClarisWorks, FoxPro, Freehand, Painter, FrameMaker, DeltaGraph, Mathematica and Ashlar Vellum.*