What's New in Lion

Here are the main points of what's new in Lion:

Window Changes

You'll manipulate windows a bit differently from before:

• Resize from any edge: Windows can be resized by dragging on any edge

• Scrollbars: Lion windows display their scrollbars in a new style, reminiscent of scroll indicators on the iOS platform

• Toolbar viewing: There's no button at the upper right for collapsing and expanding a window's toolbar; instead, choose View > Show/Hide Toolbar.

• Full-screen windows: Some windows in some applications give you the option to make them take over the entire screen; when you do, even the menu bar is hidden.

Finder Changes

Here are some changes you'll notice when working in the Finder:

• Finder windows: There are many changes in how Finder windows look and operate:
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  • Finder windows now by default include in the sidebar a new smart folder, called All My Files; read Trash All My Files.

  • Sidebar text size can be changed; read Set the Sidebar Text and Icon Size.

  • All views can now be grouped and sorted, according to a longer list of categories, and a new Arrange pop-up menu in the toolbar helps you do this; read Arrange and Sort.

  • In Column view, document previews are more informative.

  • Finder search windows behave in some new ways; read Jump with Spotlight.

• Copy-and-move in the Finder: You can now copy-and-move a Finder item (before, you could copy-and-paste a Finder item, but this resulted in two copies of it).

• Viewing a user Library in the Finder: By default, a user's Library is no longer displayed, but you can display it by holding Option and choosing Go > Library.

Improved Open and Save Dialogs

Open and Save dialogs are more like Finder windows. They can be displayed in any of the same four view modes as the Finder. List view can display any of the same columns as List view in the Finder. Any view can be grouped and sorted on any of the same criteria as in the Finder. Read Tweak Your Open and Save Dialogs.

Resume

When you quit an application in Lion, its windows are remembered, and are restored automatically when you launch that application again later.

Auto Save

Some applications now save documents automatically as you work. Autosaving as a user option has been built into the system for applications to implement if they see fit since 10.4 Tiger, but this is different: it isn't a user option; it's a wholesale change in how these applications work, and in how you'll work with these applications. Moreover, applications that autosave allow you to review and revert to earlier versions of a document, similar to Time Machine.

Mission Control

Exposé has been revamped once again, and it has been renamed Mission Control. Spaces are now configured from within Mission Control

Launchpad

A new application, Launchpad, gives you a way to start up any application in the Applications folder. Its interface is reminiscent of the Home screen ("springboard") in iOS

System Preferences and Dock

Here are some changes you'll notice in the System Preferences application, and when working with the Dock:

• User management: The Accounts preference pane in System Preferences is renamed once again, to Users & Groups, and the Parental Controls preference pane has gotten another makeover.

• Gesture control: The Trackpad preference pane has been given a major makeover

• Other System Preferences changes:
    • The Appearance pane is renamed to General.

- The Security pane is now called Security & Privacy and has a new Privacy view
- Print & Fax pane has dropped fax support and become the Print & Scan pane.

You can now prevent a preference pane's icon from appearing in the main view of the System Preferences window

• Dock changes: Optionally, the Dock no longer distinguishes between running and non-running applications.

And Some Other Things

You'll notice many other miscellaneous changes in Lion. Here are some:

• Better voices: Text-to-speech voices are greatly improved.

• Font management improvement: There's a new Restore Standard Fonts command in Font Book

• Miscellaneous applications: A number of Apple applications have interface changes:

- Mail has a default look reminiscent of the iPad's Mail app; if you prefer the old look, choose Mail > Preferences, open the Viewing pane, and check the "Use classic layout" box.

- Safari has a useful new feature, Reading List (choose View > Show Reading List), a pane where you can store URLs for later perusal.

- Address Book looks more like an address book; iCal looks more like a calendar.

- System Profiler is renamed System Information, and it has a new basic interface (choose Apple . > About This Mac, and click More Info) in addition to its old interface.

- Front Row is no longer present.

- There's a new application, FaceTime. FaceTime is used to make and receive video-style "phone" calls over the Internet to other devices running FaceTime, including an iPhone or iPad.

- The Time Machine backup utility now can conveniently switch to making local backups if your usual remote backup drive becomes unavailable. It also can keep your backups encrypted.

• Interface tweaks: Many interface widgets have a slightly different appearance from their incarnations in earlier systems:

- A new window-based zoom option lets you move a zoomed box around on your screen, as though you are moving a rectangular magnifying glass on top of the Apple describes this as picture-in-picture zoom.

- The enlarged cursor is smoother

- One major new interface element has been introduced, the popover, which was borrowed from the iPad. To see example is the Downloads window in Safari, which you now summon as a popover from a button that appears at the top right of the window when you download something.

- Some applications use a slightly altered Find interface; in TextEdit, for example, Edit > Find > Find (Command-F) no longer summons a dialog, but instead reveals a search bar at the top of the window.

- Some applications use a new interface for displaying spelling corrections

- There's a new way of entering accented characters

- The Character Viewer has a new interface

• Permissions changes: Some folders have altered permissions. Most notably, permissions are changed on the Applications folder in such a way as to make it more difficult for you to remove an application by dragging it elsewhere in the Finder

• Animation: Lion makes increased use of animation—when presenting windows and dialogs, for example.

Mac App Store

Rosetta is no longer supported

This means that PowerPC-only applications will not run under Lion. Some apps that no longer work are:

- Quicken 2007 or older
- AppleWorks
- FileMaker 8 or older
- Adobe CS1 or older
- Adobe (Aldus) Freehand
- Eudora
- Microsoft Office 2004 or older