“Dual Boot” is the term for having two operating systems running on one computer. In 380, you might have to write a manual on Windows-specific products like Word 2010, or later in the PWTC specialization, you might have to use Windows-specific products like FrameMaker and RoboHelp. If you’re a mac user and would rather not continually return to school or the PWTC lab to do homework, you can install a Windows OS right on your Mac computer with these steps. This process requires a legal, physical copy of your preferred Windows OS, (which can be obtained for free at msdnaa.oit.umass.edu), that your computer meets certain requirements, and a bit of patience and bravery.

CHECKING REQUIREMENTS
Before you can install a Windows OS on your Mac, make sure your computer can handle it. These steps will guide you through checking your system’s specs to see if they meet the requirements. If you find that your computer does not have the minimum requirements, do not continue with the dual boot.

1. From the Apple in the menu bar, choose About This Mac.

   ![Mac OS X Version 10.6](image)

   The operating system should be Mac OS X Version 10.5 or higher, though 10.6 is recommended.

   The processor must be Intel.

2. Check to see that the computer meets minimum operating system and processor requirements.

3. Select the Finder by clicking on the desktop or choosing it from the dock and open a new Finder window. Check that there are at least 10GB of free hard drive space.

   ![Determine free hard drive space from the bottom of a Finder window.](image)

BURNING WINDOWS TO A DISC
If you downloaded your copy of Windows (i.e. through the school, through MSDN-AA), you need to burn it to a disk to properly install it. You may skip these instructions if you already have a disk copy of Windows.

1. Double click the .iso to mount the disk image to your desktop.

2. Insert a blank DVD into your disc drive.
Dual Boot Your Mac [Continued]

3. Right-click (or press control and click) on the disk image.

4. Select Burn “[file name]” to disc…

5. Eject disc when it has finished writing.

GETTING READY

Now that you know your computer can handle the process, it’s time to get ready. Follow these key steps to make sure nothing goes wrong in the process.

1. Back up important files using Time Machine or other backup assistant, or copy them to an external hard drive.

2. Log in as administrative user and log out all other users.

3. From the Apple in the menu bar, choose Software Update. Install all available updates. After re-start (if required), install any additional updates that remain.

4. Quit all running applications.

5. Plug in the power adapter if the computer is a laptop.

PARTITIONING YOUR HARD DRIVE

Now that you’re all ready to go, you’ll need to partition your hard drive. Partitioning a hard drive is when you break it up into sections to be allocated to different tasks. If this sounds scary, it kind of is – that’s why you backed up your important files. With a partitioned hard drive, you can run any operating system you want – Linux, Windows, Mac OS 9 – and still run your current operating system that you know and love. But don’t be nervous, we’re here to help.

1. From the Utilities folder in the Applications folder, open Boot Camp Assistant.

2. SUGGESTED: Click Print Installation & Set Up Guide.

   NOTE: This is a thorough guide to installing Windows on the computer, and provides helpful troubleshooting tips.

3. Click Continue.

4. Make sure the Download the Windows support software for this Mac bubble is selected.


6. Click Continue.
Dual Boot Your Mac [Continued]

7. Drag the divider to allocate hard drive space for Mac OS X and Windows. Click **Partition**.

![Create a Partition for Windows](image)

**NOTE:** Your Windows partition can either be FAT or NTFS format. FAT allows you to read and write files on the Windows partition from the Mac Partition, but must be 32 GB or smaller. NTFS can be any size and provides better security, but it is not readable and writable from your Mac partition. Windows Vista and Windows 7 require NTFS.

8. Leave Boot Camp running once the partitioning is complete.

**INSTALLING WINDOWS VISTA OR 7 (IGNORE IF INSTALLING XP)**

Your hard drive is partitioned, you have your Windows OS CD in hand, what next? Time to install it onto your computer. It is imperative that you follow the instructions exactly or you could lose everything on your Mac. Still not worried? Good. Let’s keep going.

1. Insert your Windows installation disk.

2. Click **Start Installation** in Boot Camp Assistant. The computer reboots.

3. Follow the installer instructions.

   **NOTE:** If asked to choose between upgrade or custom installation, choose **custom installation**.

4. Select **Disk 0 Partition 3 BOOTCAMP** from the prompt.

   **NOTE:** Do NOT delete any partitions or make any changes in this screen. Do NOT Select any other partition other than the one noted or you risk losing all data on your computer.
7. Click Drive options (advanced).

8. Click Format. Click OK.

9. Click Next. The Windows partition is formatted using the NTFS file system.

10. Reboot the computer.

**INSTALLING WINDOWS XP (IGNORE IF INSTALLING VISTA OR WINDOWS 7)**

Don’t have Windows Vista or 7? No problem. Follow these steps instead. It is imperative you follow these instructions exactly to avoid losing everything on your Mac.

1. Insert the Windows XP installation disc.

2. Click Start Installation in Boot Camp Assistant. The computer reboots.

3. Follow the installer instructions.

   NOTE: If asked to choose between upgrade or custom installation, choose custom installation.


   NOTE: Do NOT select any partition other than the one noted or you risk losing all data on your computer.

5. Use the arrow keys on the keyboard to select NTFS or FAT format. See note above or printed guide for additional information on each. Press return on the keyboard.

6. Reboot the computer.