

# Students weigh PC versus Mac

BY ALLY SUMMERS  
Staff Reporter

The longtime debate between Macs and PCs has yet to be resolved.

Junior Garrison Frick said he brought his sister's old HP desktop to use in his room his freshman year.

"It wasn't fast, but it was all I really needed at Truman," Frick said.

Now Frick is the owner of a 2006 Apple MacBook Pro. Frick said he started using Macs after his father bought one for his mother about five years ago.

He said he decided to go with a laptop because it is more convenient to use when he is on campus.

Frick said he chose a Mac because he found that it is easy to be creative on Macs, with applications such as iLife, iTunes, iMovie, Photo Booth, Tuna Pitch and iCal.

"What most people don't know is that you don't have to

download Norton Antivirus software or Cisco Clean Access if you use a Mac at Truman," Frick said. "People just don't write viruses for Macs."

Sophomore John Robert Mohr is the owner of an HP desktop Pavilion.

"Anyone who can right click can use a PC," Mohr said. "The software for PCs is more universal, and most of the computers on campus are PCs."

Mohr said his computer came with a three-year warranty. HP was having a sale and the computer package came with a 19-inch widescreen monitor, Mohr said.

Mohr's roommate owns a Mac, but when it comes to which computer he prefers, Mohr said he would rather use his PC because of the ability to right click.

Communication professor Rosemary Jergens also is an avid PC user.

"My preference is PC because it's what I know," she said. "It's what I learned on."

Jergens said she considered buying a Mac because of the multimedia applications that come standard with each Mac. But after comparing prices and discovering that a Mac costs more than the standard PC, she said she decided that the PC would be enough to meet her needs.

The issue of Macs versus PCs extends beyond personal use, Jergens said. If schools switch to only using Macs or PCs then students are faced with the dilemma of which one to own, she said.

The problem that faces students today is that most classrooms at the University come equipped with a PC for student use, Jergens said.

"When a student uses a Mac to create a PowerPoint presentation, it isn't always formatted for the PC," she said.

This is one dilemma that many Truman students face when deciding which type of computer to buy.



Andrew Maxwell/Index

PC user Adam Hartman and Mac user Danny Lewis display their preference in systems.

Geek Squad technician Laquanda Martin said it's hard to say which computer will last longer when dealing with technology because it's a machine and machines break.

"Apple has been around for a while, and it is the future of the world," she said.

Martin said Macs are geared toward people with more advanced computer needs.

"Most people don't use Macs unless they have previous expe-

rience with them," she said.

PCs, such as Dell and HP, are more simplified and most commonly used in homes or by schools, Martin said.

"No matter which one you choose, where one may slack in one area, they make it up in another area," she said. "The choice in computers is based more on individual needs more than on the brand of the computer."

Frick said he hopes his computer lasts long after he has finished

graduate school.

Mac laptops now come with a tiny sensor inside of them that senses when the computer is moving at a rapid speed, like when it is being dropped, Frick said. Once the computer senses this movement, the hard drive shuts down to protect the computer on impact, he said.

"I've never heard of a Mac just giving out," Frick said. "So as long as I can keep from dropping it, it should last."

# Redesigned Web site allows easier navigation

BY LAURA PRATHER  
Features Editor

Truman has a new look: its Web site.

Information Technology Services Webmaster Todd Kuhns said the redesigned Web site premiered the Friday before Truman Week.

Kuhns, a Truman alumnus who has had his position since November, said redesign meetings began in January.

The seven-member committee held meetings, conducted research and designed the Web page template throughout the spring semester and converted the pages during the summer, he said.

"Our number one concern was the usability of the Web site," Kuhns said. "The Web site is no good if you can't find the information that [you] need to find."

First, the committee's task was to read a book about Web site redesign and to identify all the audiences that Truman's Web site serves, he said.

The six main audiences are prospective students, current students, parents, alumni, faculty and staff, Kuhns said.

"One of our first steps was we took five people from each of those six audiences into a room," he said. "We set them up with a computer,

and we had a list of tasks that they had to accomplish, like make a reservation at the [Student] Union, find the menu this week at the residence hall, find the finals schedule, see what's going on at the SUB and that sort of thing."

During this process, Kuhns said the committee observed the volunteers to see which paths they took to get to certain destinations, which tasks were simple and which tasks introduced glitches in the old Web site.

In January, the committee also administered a survey to the same audiences, Kuhns said.

According to the survey results, 248 of 406 people who responded said they often found what they were looking for on the old Web site. The majority of those surveyed said the level of difficulty in finding information was average. Almost 67 percent of people surveyed said they have been frustrated or gotten lost looking for something on the old Web site.

Teresa Wheeler, manager of publications and senior graphic designer, said this research helped the committee decide which features could carry over to the new Web site and which features

needed to change.

"I think in the past the home page was more, 'This is Truman State University, now where do you want to go?'" she said. "I think the home page now is a little more functional. ... The search is a little more prominent [and] you can log into TruView right from the home page."

Wheeler said this is the second time an organized committee has been appointed by the University president to direct and oversee the redesign process. In the past, each department was in charge of its individual Web site's design, but this time everyone was accepting of a consistent theme that could still be managed individually, she said.

Lou Ann Gilchrist, dean of student affairs, said that because the Web site premiered to users about three weeks ago, the redesign committee has been working with ITS to respond to users' comments and concerns.

"We've had a few people frustrated because they were used to the old [Web site] and not really used to the change," Gilchrist said. "But for the most part the feedback has been pretty positive."

Gilchrist said the committee plans to conduct more usability testing soon to get additional feedback on the new Web site.

Junior Amanda Hamilton said she thought the new Web site took a little getting used to at first. It is hard to adjust to changes right away after being so comfortable with how things used to be, she said.

"That adjustment is kind of a negative because you have to change," Hamilton said. "You have to re-look, reinvestigate the page to find out where to go and how to get to the page that you used to know how to get to before."

Hamilton said she prefers the new Web site because the old one wasn't visually pleasing.

"As an incoming freshman or prospective student, looking at the new one would be like, 'Wow, this is a really nice school. This is pretty, this is organized,'" she said. "It just gives a better visual representation of the Truman I go to."

The redesigned Web site is more visual, explains things better and makes more sense, Hamilton said.

Kuhns said users can post feedback on the new Web site by visiting redesign.truman.edu.

"We really view as a living document - it's something that is going to change over time," he said. "... So instead of trying to run to catch up every time, we are going to try to follow the pace of technology, follow the pace of expectations that the Web users have."

"[The Web site] just gives a better visual representation of the Truman I go to."

Amanda Hamilton  
Junior

## Departments add to redesign

Now that departmental Web sites share the same template, they have the option to pick and choose which applications they want to include on their individual Web site.

Check out these new applications:

- Alumni Information
- Faculty bio
- Colloquia
- Career options

Source: Todd Kuhns, ITS

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