

please send in your letters to letters@macman.prestel.co.uk

Nothing like a good stereotype.

'I am a Mac fanatic now, forever and until I die', - therefore I am a nerd?

Strong words strong feelings. Some people believe that Mac people are sad, thick rimmed underclass with a one- percent market share. We are not, we just love our Mac's! I bare the symptoms of this in many ways. I name my hard drive, I can't help but check my email when I walk past the office door at 3am then find myself leaving the office at 5am, and the one thing that swings it all is I even dream about the next days work on my Mac's. To all that view my life from the outside, including my girlfriend, I am a Mac nut. So there comes the stigma of this 'nut' feeling from others.

You see I don't really fit into this 'computer nerd' category. I think a nerd is someone who can't understand computers. When some one is frightened or embarrassed they retaliate in many ways, one being the old name-calling. I read an article in a national newspaper a few months ago, which told you how to spot a computer nerd, this is what it said.

'.....to spot a Computer nerd this is what you should look for:

Itchy mouse finger - The nerd will play with their fingers and may smoke to over come this.

Hunched - Will always lean over a table, when not at the computer.

Desk potato - Just like their couch potato friends, will be unfit and square eyed, from constant screen glare.

Boring - Only topical conversation is computers, computers and computers...'

I could go on and should mention the newspapers name but the thought of any impending law suits for your ezine make me rethink my wording. So from this I take it I'm fat, boring, a smoker,

unfit and as blind as a bat! Well, well what a life I must live,and so the spanner flies into the works. I am twenty three, I have passed three NVQ levels one, two and above for physical education, a BTEC ND in leisure and tourism, I have been a basketball coach, a badminton coach, played rugby for my local area teams, I don't smoke (I do drink) and I now train regularly at the gym while play football at weekends. They got one thing right though, I need glasses for reading.

Christian Whaine via email, Leeds, UK

Why a Mac - A short journey

I have to say I was glad when a friend of mine recently found that what ever brand of coffee you buy it's never going to be compatible with your computer's CPU. He was unlucky and told me over the phone 'I've turned a perfectly good computer into a coffee percolator'. He did, it smelt and was dead, it apparently made the bangs associated with liquids and electricity, he was also lucky that he did not end up as a medium to well done PC user.

So why am I glad. My friend had been waiting for the excuse to buy a Mac and now indeed got one. The home accident insurance was going to cover the damage, so what the hell.

He was not going to buy new so the G3's and 21st anniversary Mac's were out of the running but there are more quality second-hand Mac's around than PC's. We spent the first week looking in second hand mart magazines and went to see a few Windoze PC's, but they all came from an age when manufacturers believed that if your computer did not take up ninety five percent of your total desk space it was not doing you justice. A lot of them also had all the design features of a doorstep.

We were into the second week and now looking at Mac's. To cut to the sharp end my friend bought an absolute second-hand dream. £550 pounds bought a 1994 Performa 630 DOS CD/TV 32/1Gig, with 14.000 Mac and Fax modem and a stylewriter 1200, it even had the remote control. It had a 15" Apple monitor, keyboard and mouse. Everything had a little Apple logo on it and all the original manuals. The software made it too, Claris 4 and HomePage 2 bundle, PageMaker 5, System 7.6, and the Doom collection all boxed.

I have to refresh you that my friend only ever used Wintel lumps, so one week on I went around to find he had linked up his spare video to the Mac, he was online, had changed most of his files with a little help from the DOS card — I was shocked. He had started designing a web site with his five free Megs, all this from a guy who thought the internet was a glorified shopping channel and only used his computer to play games. I can now see what others had to put up with in the early days of my first Mac. He has now started to make the spare room an office, (it was called the play room) he's subscribed to a Mac magazine, Apple's own online info email facilities and to top it off is thinking of buying another Mac so he has a 'pair'!

I have yet to see his Mac bring him his slippers or the newspaper, so his dog is safe, but his girlfriend is jealous. You see he's got a new addition to the family.

Henry Simmons via email, Notts, UK

Why a Mac - A short journey Part II

I have used everything the otherside has to offer over the years and never really understood the reason for all the fuss. PC's are great at what they 'do', but they do nothing for me! If the Mac market disappeared there would be a great void that may never be filled again. Choice is what our society is built on, we have a choice and it breeds innovation, take the choice away and you narrow the innovation.

I am all for innovation because it spells Macintosh to me, to PC users innovation spells the latest games release.

Support 1984. I am, you should.

Anthony Johnsen, DK

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