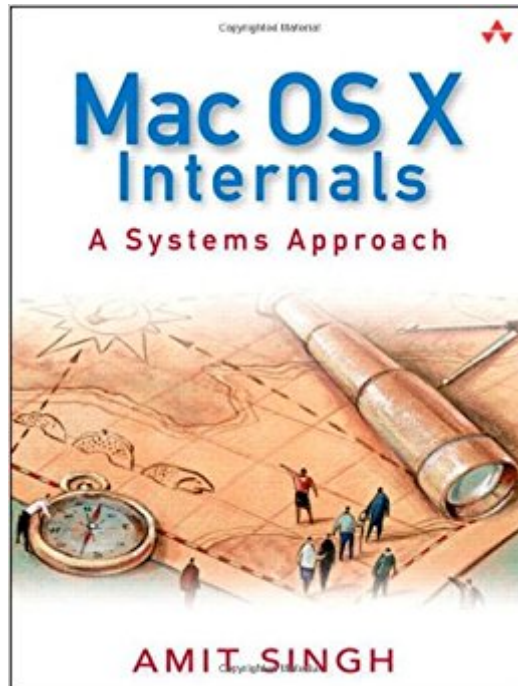




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# Mac OS X Internals: A Systems Approach



## Synopsis

Mac OS X was released in March 2001, but many components, such as Mach and BSD, are considerably older. Understanding the design, implementation, and workings of Mac OS X requires examination of several technologies that differ in their age, origins, philosophies, and roles. *Mac OS X Internals: A Systems Approach* is the first book that dissects the internals of the system, presenting a detailed picture that grows incrementally as you read. For example, you will learn the roles of the firmware, the bootloader, the Mach and BSD kernel components (including the process, virtual memory, IPC, and file system layers), the object-oriented I/O Kit driver framework, user libraries, and other core pieces of software. You will learn how these pieces connect and work internally, where they originated, and how they evolved. The book also covers several key areas of the Intel-based Macintosh computers. A solid understanding of system internals is immensely useful in design, development, and debugging for programmers of various skill levels. System programmers can use the book as a reference and to construct a better picture of how the core system works. Application programmers can gain a deeper understanding of how their applications interact with the system. System administrators and power users can use the book to harness the power of the rich environment offered by Mac OS X. Finally, members of the Windows, Linux, BSD, and other Unix communities will find the book valuable in comparing and contrasting Mac OS X with their respective systems. *Mac OS X Internals* focuses on the technical aspects of OS X and is so full of extremely useful information and programming examples that it will definitely become a mandatory tool for every Mac OS X programmer.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ã Å "Overall, I recommend this book to anyone that wants a deeper understanding of the internals of the Macintosh. If you are a developer, this is a must-have book."--Justin Williams, Founder, Maczealots.com  
Ã Å "It's a book that every administrator and developer of almost any kind of hardware and software would want to own. It explains the how as opposed to the what of OS X more clearly, thoroughly and intelligently than any other book on the market."--Mark Sealey, Contributing Editor, ThinkSecret.com

Amit Singh is an operating systems researcher, programmer, and author. He manages the Macintosh engineering team at Google. Previously, Amit has worked on operating systems at IBM Research, Bell Laboratories, and a Silicon Valley startup doing cutting-edge work in the area of virtualization. He also created and maintains osxbook.com and kernelthread.com. Amit often writes and releases open source software, such as MacFUSE, a Mac OS X implementation of the FUSE (File System in USEr Space) mechanism.

Its great book, but keep in mind it is out of date. I am sure that most of book still applies. I just don't know what applies and what doesn't in current Yosemite release. I hope they will update it one day.

Seems like a good book. Learned some useful stuff. Only one problem: pages 127-190 are missing and now I need them! Um, what...? Unfortunately, I ordered this in 2014 and now I can't return it. Glad to revise my review once I can get a replacement.UPDATE 9/30/2015:The author got in touch with me and sent me the missing pages--thank you! I got some much needed information on OS X's keychain storage.In other news, I just want to say that this book is top notch in terms of the breadth and depth of technical information on OS X. I originally purchased it for information on OS X's boot sequence and crypto facilities. It has detailed information on all this an much more.Kudos to Mr. Singh who went out of his way to help and on having written an excellent guide to OS X internals.

When I ordered the book from , I didn't look at page count, so when I picked up the box from my front porch I thought it couldn't possibly contain just one book. Wow, what a monster!(Full disclosure: Back in Feb. 2004 I reviewed Singh's proposal to Addison-Wesley for this book, gave it an enthusiastic recommendation, and was paid a small sum.)I have a bunch of OS internals books,

but this one at 1600 pages is more than twice as big as the next biggest. There are two reasons: Mac OS X is the most functionally rich of any OS I know of, and Singh covers it in amazing detail. I'm only up to page 50, but I've already learned a lot about Mac OS X's fascinating history, which goes back to NextStep and Mach (mid-1980s), and includes parts from the original Mac OS (now represented in Classic and Carbon) and BSD, as well as newer subsystems developed entirely at Apple. The UNIX-like part is called Darwin, and I discussed its API in my own book, *Advanced UNIX Programming* (available from ). But Darwin is only a fragment of what Singh takes on.

It reads pretty well for a technical textbook. Must read for software enthusiasts especially for those wanting insight into the history and makings of the current Apple Mac/iOS environment and probably is the only text that I know of that does a good job.

It's enormous! And every page has information useful to someone who develops on the Mac. This book is the ultimate tome of reference for the serious Mac developer. It's also a significant contender as a tome of reference for IT support for the Mac. Finally, it is the best reference for someone with a Windows background who's wondering if Mac OS might be superior technically (leaving aside user interface). (it is.) All the gory details of how a Mac OS is put together from Mach to Cocoa are covered and then some. The author is a hard-core expert who put a lot into this book. Well worth the price!

Very out-dated at this point, and doesn't reflect the reality of how many OS X services have been architected since 10.7. It can still be useful reading material if you run into intricacies of OS X where it becomes essential to know the history and evolution of the OS.

I enjoyed the writing style of the author, well presented information with bits of humor to keep it interesting. I enjoyed reading the history of OS X and learning how all the parts were brought together to create the most enjoyable computing experience I have ever had. The technical information and programming examples are extremely helpful in better understanding how things work under the elegant aqua interface.

Wow. This book is amazing. If you are a Mac developer, Operating system fan, or Macintosh lover then buy this book. I'm reading it cover to cover and loving it! Great job!

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