

10 troubleshooting tips for Mac OS X

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Although it is appreciated for stability, but like other operating systems, Mac OS X is not entirely "immune" to problems - especially when users install many other applications. This article covers 10 handy tips that can quickly help you handle most of the problems that OS X users encounter.

1. Force the application to exit



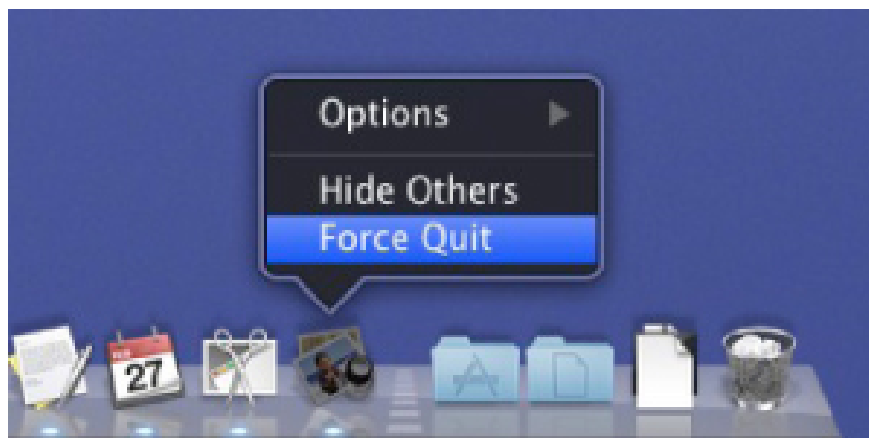
In the event that an application crashes, it is almost impossible to receive control commands in the window. Then you have only one option to force it to exit and then turn it back on. To do so, you can press **Command + Alt + Esc** to open the **Force Quit** window (almost Windows Task Manager) and then select the application and press *Force Quit* . Alternatively, you can hold **Alt** , right-click on the app's icon that hangs on the Dock and select **Force Quit** .

After the application has exited, run again to check the stability. If the device still crashes, the possibility of this software is not compatible with the version of OS X you are using. Especially, Mac OS X's Force Quit feature is much more stable and efficient than Windows and also causes less trouble for you to restart the computer.

2. Fix errors related to Software Update

Mac OS X includes Software Update tool that allows automatic updating of supported applications. You can run Software Update from the Apple icon on the toolbar or access **System Preferences** . If this important tool of OS X gives an error message, you most likely have to check for and correct access-related errors (Permission). OS X itself has a system of permissions that regulates which files users can access. If the system fails, it will cause a

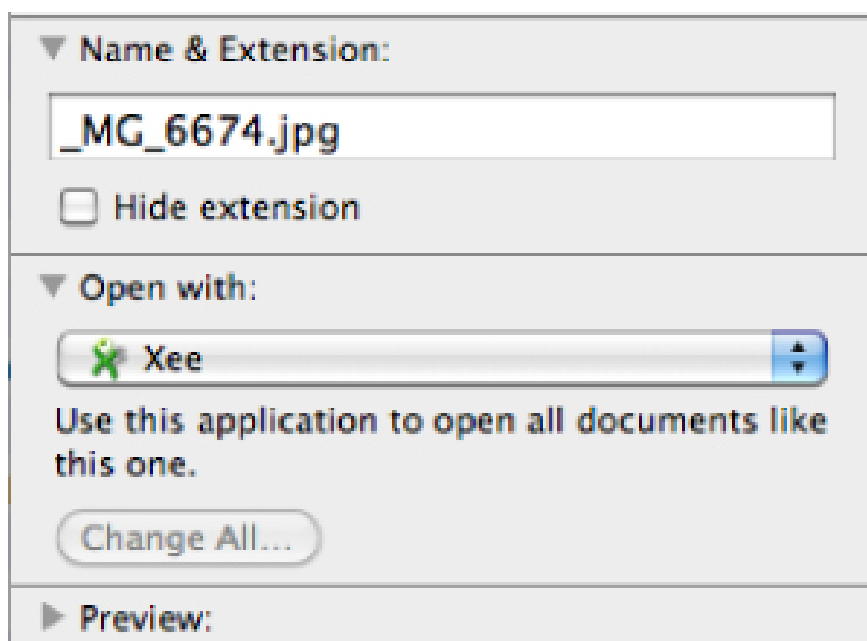
chain malfunction for OS X applications - starting with Software Update, because it cannot run or install a new application.



To perform the check / edit Permission, open **Applications > Utilities > Disk Utility** and select the system drive (default name Macintosh HD), click the **Repair Disk Permission** button. After the test is complete, try running Software Update again. In most situations, this process helps correct errors. In fact, during the use of Mac, Permission fixes can also be viewed as system maintenance operations and should be done periodically.

3. Open the file using the specified application

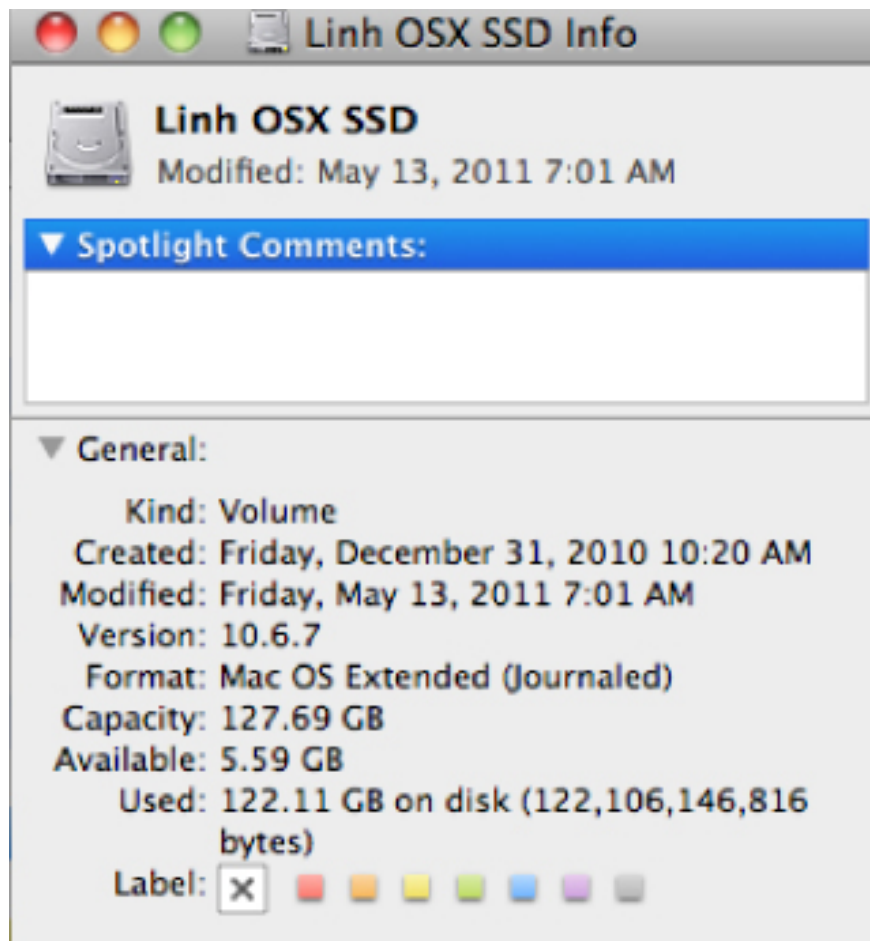
If you get an error message that cannot open a file, but know that another application can open the file, hold **Command + Alt** and drag the drop file into the corresponding icon of the application (can be dragged into icons both on the Dock or in the Finder at will. This forces the application you choose to open the file; You can even force any application to try to open certain files even if they are not '*friends*'.



Another option is to click on the file you want to open, right-click and select **Get Info** (or use **Command + I**), then select **Open With** and specify the application from the drop-down menu. You can set the application to be the default to open files of the same type by clicking the **Change All** button.

4. Empty the hard drive and increase RAM

After a while of using it, if you feel that your Mac is slow and requires more time to complete basic tasks, try checking your hard drive for available space (open the Get Info window as mentioned in section 3). If the space is less than 20%, you should conduct cleanup.



First, check the trash bin of OS X (Trash). In fact, many users switch from Windows to Mac, accidentally ignoring the fact that **OS X can only transfer files to the trash when you delete in the Finder**, but not completely like Windows Explorer. Many people are surprised that after a few months of use, the hard drive only has 0 bytes left and thinks that Mac has a problem.

Besides cleaning up Trash, common tricks like burning optical disc, replacing the hard drive, buying an external drive . should also be done. IPhoto, iTunes applications themselves also have a large database. In addition to moving objects out, you can even transfer the library to an external drive (of course some small tricks).

Finally, consider upgrading RAM as much as possible. With the current OS X, the 4GB level is quite enough (not to say redundancy) with applications. If you regularly handle movies or 3D designs, you may need 8GB or

more.

5. Release the optical disc stuck in the SuperDrive

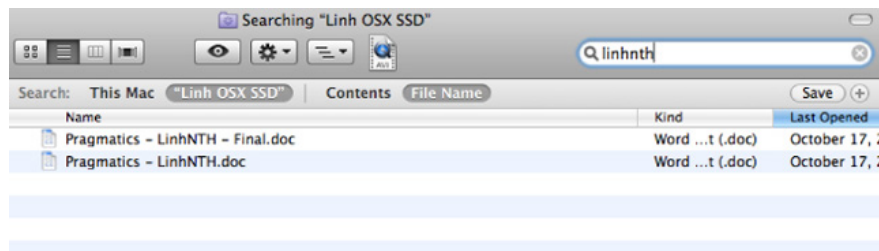
If your optical disc is not removed from the SuperDrive by the Mac, try restarting the device and holding down the left mouse button to force all optical drives to release the disc. Alternatively, you can open Terminal (**Applications > Utilities > Terminal**) and then enter the command: **drutil tray open** , then press **Enter** .



Another situation is that external drives (both hard drives, memory cards, iPhone, iPods) cannot disconnect to allow you to unplug from USB, Firewire or Thunderbolt. In this case, it is best to turn off the computer, remove the device and then restart. This process helps the system to return to normal operation.

6. Find the lost file

Most users tend to organize documents into different folders on the Mac. However, after a while, when the number of files as well as folders has exceeded the threshold of a few thousand, finding an object located somewhere becomes . impossible. Fortunately, OS X's **Spotlight** search feature is effective. Its icon is present in many locations in OS X (usually in the upper right corner of the screen). You click on it and enter the information (can be part of the file name or content inside) and then use the filter (limit the search area, file type .).



In the Finder, you can use **Command + F** to activate a search, while **Command + Spacebar** will open Spotlight from anywhere. In addition to searching, Spotlight is handy in other tasks like quick launch of apps, calculations, and overall search. It can even look up the dictionary by executing search commands in the application's databases .

7. Restore admin password



Due to the high security features, OS X requires users to re-enter the admin password whenever software is installed on the system or updating applications. If you forget . trouble will happen. Of course, groping to enter 'similar' passwords to recall the correct password may work, but Apple has provided a utility that allows recovering administrator passwords. The process is as follows:

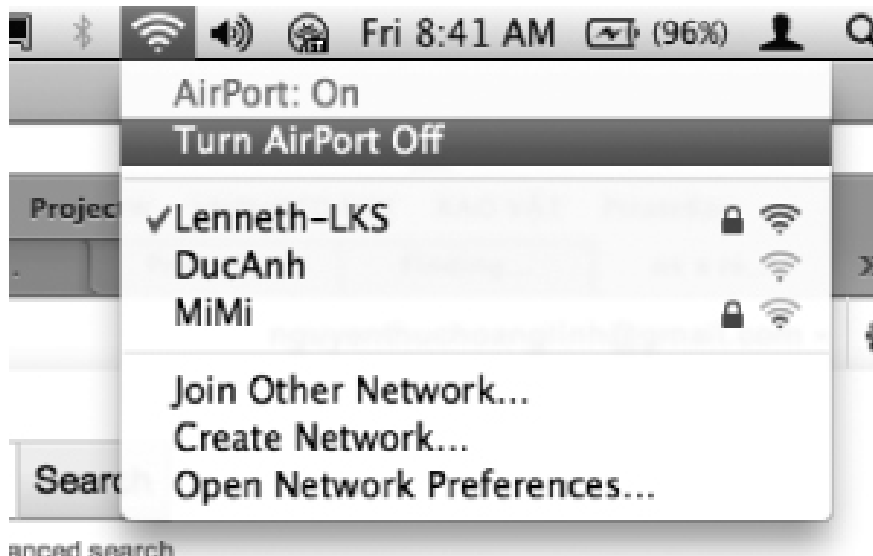
- You put the OS X installation disc in the optical drive of the computer and then reboot.
- Hold **Alt** key when the machine restarts to open the boot menu, select the corresponding optical drive.
- In the OS X installation environment, select **Utilities** > **Reset Password** from the toolbar and enter a new password.
- Restart the computer from the hard disk as usual and the new password will start working.

8. Request to recognize external monitor



In many cases, users plug in additional screens to the Mac, but OS X has no response. If you also fall into this situation, try using the **Detect Displays** button (in **System Preferences** > **Displays**) to force Mac to find a way to identify the new screen. If it still doesn't work, restart the computer while holding down the key combination **Command + Alt + P + R** and until the typical Mac boot sound appears. This action disables the PRAM battery to restore default parameters - including monitor connection parameters. In addition to helping to recognize the external monitor, the default PRAM recovery can also be used to handle many other problems - especially peripherals related issues.

9. Restore disconnected Wifi connection



Nothing is annoying because you cannot access the wireless network even though you have tried everything. If the WiFi connection is suddenly disconnected, check if the device's AirPort is turned off accidentally. Also, go to **System Preferences** > **Network**, open **AirPort** > **TCP / IP** and click **Renew DHCP Lease** to see if the error is gone. Of course, you always make sure that you are in a WiFi range that is strong enough to use. The *Airport*

icon on OS X's toolbar will signal this with notification bars. Sometimes, turning off the Internet and turning it on again can also solve the connection problem because many applications at the time of connection or even OS X's Airport itself may have problems.

10. View WMV files

Currently, you may encounter numerous movie formats when accessing the Internet. Of course, like Windows, not all formats can be viewed comfortably on the Mac. A common example is files .



WMV - which is Microsoft's own. To solve this problem, download the free Flip4Mac 'codec' and install it on your device. Flip4Mac allows QuickTime Player to view WMV files well. In addition, a more efficient way is to download VLC Player for Mac, which helps you see even more 'strange' files. VLC is also something that should be available on all Mac users.

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