

MAC – System Optimizations

Beside a fast processor and a good amount of memory, there are many changes and modifications that can be applied to MAC OS X to improve performances when using your computer for audio applications.

Hard drive partition and power management

It is usually recommended to have multiple hard drives when working with audio and video, one affected to the operating system and software, while others will be used for the files being recorded and storage/backup.

Hard drives can also be partitioned easily, using Apple **Disk Utility** (**Application > Utilities**). Consult the help file for more details.

You also want to disable the power management options related to your hard drive(s):

- Open **System Preferences > Energy Saver**.
- Uncheck **Put the hard disk(s) to sleep when possible**.

Dashboard

With MAC OS 10.4, Apple introduced the **Dashboard**, an application that gives access to various utilities (called Widgets). Unfortunately, a lot of memory is required to run this application. The Dashboard can however be disabled easily using **Terminal** (**Application > Utilities**)

- Open Terminal, and then type this command, followed by the Return key:

defaults write com.apple.dashboard mcx-disabled -boolean YES

- For the changes take effect, you need to restart the Dock. The easiest way to do that is to type this command into the Terminal (and press Return when done):

killall Dock

If you need or want to restart Dashboard, simply enter this command in **Terminal**

defaults write com.apple.dashboard mcx-disabled -boolean NO

Graphic enhancements

Some of MAC OS visual options may interfere with the operation of your audio software:

1- Make the Desktop Static

- Open **System Preferences** > **Desktop & Screen Saver**.
- Choose the **Desktop** tab.
- Choose an image for your background,
- Uncheck **Change Picture**.

2- Turn off the Screen Saver

- Still in **Desktop & Screen Saver**, choose the **Screen Saver** tab.
- Set the slider for Start Screen Saver to **Never**.

3- Lock The Dock

- In **System Preferences** > open **Dock**.
- From the menu **Minimizing Using**, select **Scale Effect**.
- Uncheck **Animate opening applications and Automatically hide and show the Dock**.

Other modifications

A few others changes can improve the performances of your computer

1- Shut Down all other Applications

Only open the applications necessary. Running any other programs at the same time as you audio application will use precious processor and memory resources.

2- Log off Additional Users

If you have set up multiple user accounts on your computer, make sure your user account is the only one logged in by logging off any additional users.

3- Turn Off Sharing

- Open **System Preferences** > **Sharing**.
- Click on the **Services** tab.
- Uncheck **Personal File Sharing** and **Personal Web Sharing**.