Chapter 6

Installing and Removing Applications

Mac OS X Lion comes with a wide variety of standard applications for many common computer tasks, including applications for using the Internet (including Mail and Safari), applications for viewing media (including iTunes and DVD Player), and more. If you recently bought your Mac new, then it likely included some additional bundled software, including iLife. No matter what software your computer came with, there will likely be a time when you wish to add to your collection of applications. This chapter will show you how to find and install new applications, and how to manage the applications once they are installed.

This chapter will cover

- Using the App Store application
- Installing application packages
- Removing installed applications

**NOTE:** In this chapter we’ll dig into many nuances of installing and managing the applications on your Mac. This isn’t meant to confuse or complicate the process, but to provide a solid understanding. In general, installing an app on your Mac is exceedingly easy, and the process is self-explanatory; we just want to make sure that you are prepared for the rare cases when it isn’t.

Introducing the Mac App Store

Finding software for the Mac has not always been easy. In the past, if you walked into a software-selling retailer, you might easily miss the small section of Mac software hidden among the rows of Microsoft Windows software (if there was any Mac software at all).
Seasoned Mac users did not fret, however; long ago they learned that there is an abundance of Mac software for most every need. It often required a bit of digging on the Internet to research, locate, and download or order the software you were looking for, but the software was there, much to the chagrin of many Windows user who say, “Well, a Mac can’t do this.” Only to have the savvy Mac user respond, “Well actually, this application does that quite well, even better I think.”

Even aided by web sites such as VersionTracker (which today is just another part of CNET’s download.com service) and MacUpdate, which provide a running list of new and updated applications, it hasn’t always been easy to discover the full extent of Mac software available. Prior to the release of Lion, Apple decided to help demystify Mac software with the unveiling of the Mac App Store and the App Store application (Figure 6–1).

![App Store screenshot](image)

Figure 6–1. The App Store application provides an easy way to browse and buy a wide range of applications for your Mac.

The App Store application is your window to the Mac App Store. You can access this application from Launchpad, from the Applications folder in the Finder, by Selecting App Store... from the Apple menu, or by clicking the App Store icon in the Dock or from Launchpad.

When you first launch the App Store app, you will be asked to either enter your Apple ID or create one. Not only will the account you create store payment information (App Store credit, credit card, and PayPal are all accepted), but it will also be used to register your applications to your computer.