Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION TO MAC OS X PANTHER: THE NEW FEATURES

What we’ll cover in this chapter:

■ All change
■ OS 9 vs. OS X
■ Web development
■ Internet connectivity
■ Web development applications
■ Useful shortcuts
■ Accessibility
CHAPTER 1

Let's go back . . .

Walk with me a moment. Anyone remember the Commodore PET? I saw one on the cover of a magazine in my father's newspaper shop. Wow. I instantly wanted one. No, wait . . . what's that inside? An Apple II? Sign me up for one of those things! I don't know why (and am still not really sure), but that Apple machine just sang to me. I never really forgot that song.

In 1981, my friend acquired a kit-form Sinclair ZX 81 (www.old-computers.com), and we both sat putting it together with huge grins on our faces—okay, his grin was bigger than mine because it was his computer. I seem to remember having to be asked to leave and go home so that my friend could do his homework in peace. The walk home seemed twice as long that day.

I managed to get a Commodore VIC-20 a few weeks later, and I was officially a nerd. I spent more time programming that thing than playing games. I dived straight in, learning all I could about BASIC (CBM BASIC V2, to give it its full title). Like everyone else, I started (of course) with the obligatory lines, as you can see in Figures 1-1 and 1-2.

```
10 PRINT "PHIL IS BOSS! ";
20 GOTO 10
RUN
```

It was around 1991 when I had my first encounter with Redmond (MS-DOS 5.0 to be precise) on an IBM 286, which led to Windows 3.1 (I still have the nightmares occasionally), Windows 95, and so on. Something was wrong though; I still wasn't happy. I started teaching myself some HTML and threw a few basic sites together. Eventually, I had a few clients, things were going okay in that department, but I still wasn't happy. The Windows environment was, simply put, driving me crazy.

**All change**

My life changed in 1998: My Nan bought me my first Mac—a 266MHz iMac (which I used for the screenshots in this book)—and I finally left the world of Windows behind me. Mac OS 8.5 was my first taste of the Macintosh operating system and I liked it . . . at first. For a start, it wasn't Windows. Everything just looked cool and things felt . . . different.

Then, as I began actually using my Mac for web development, I realized that the honeymoon period was over. Sure, I could use all of the same applications that I was using on Windows, but having to wait for one application to boot up before you could switch to another? Random freezes and crashes? Software that was seemingly unstable? Wait a moment, what was happening? Was this the same OS that I'd previously