

Mac OS X at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional HS

Logging into the LS Network:

By now everyone should have noticed that when you sit down at a new computer you are presented with a login screen like this:

When you type your username and password and click Log In, you will be connected to the correct server and your Home folder will automatically be mounted across the network.

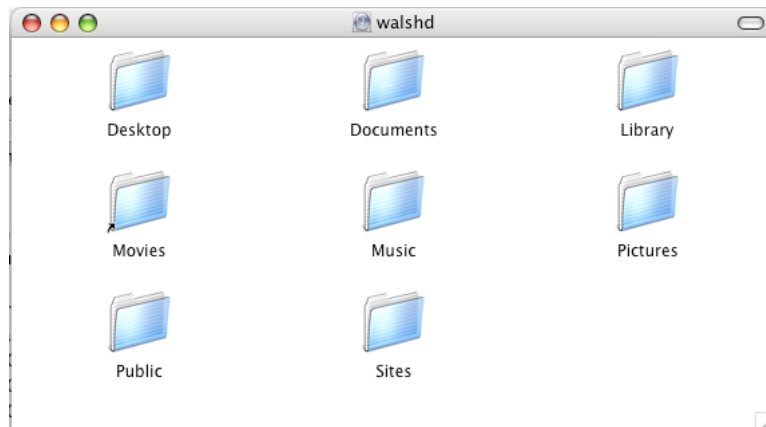
This is a major change from previous years, since all data will be stored on the servers, not on the local hard drive with one minor exception: movies. Any movie files you create and store in your account, actually don't get saved on the server. Movie files will be saved on the local hard drive of the machine you used during its creation. While you can move it off to an external hard drive, please do not save it up on the file server since iMovie and other movie editing programs do not work well with files on the network.



Mac OS X Home Folders:

Once you have logged in, if you open up your home folder you will probably see a folder a lot like mine with a Desktop, Documents, Library, Music, Pictures, Public and Sites folders and an alias called Movies (which points to the local hard drive.)

Let's examine each one of these folders one at a time.



Desktop: This folder used to be hidden under OS 9, but with OS X it is quite visible. Anything you drop on the desktop while you are using your account is stored in this folder.

Documents: Normally this is where you will save all your private files.

Library: This is a special folder used by OS X to store various settings and preferences. While you can peek in here, please don't change anything without being sure since you can do a bit of damage to your account (nothing horrendous, but it's better to be safe than sorry.)

Movies: This isn't a really folder, but rather an alias that points to the Shared folder on the local hard drive. Any movies you create in iMovie or Final Cut would be stored here. Just remember to sit at the same machine each time you need to work on your movie.

Music: iTunes will automatically store any music here along with your music preferences.

You can use this folder to store anything you want, but it doesn't make a lot of sense to store word processing documents in a folder called Music....

Pictures: This is the best place to store pictures because you can use files here for desktop patterns or screen savers (assuming you have permission to change those on your account.)

Public: This is a special folder that is actually visible to anyone who can connect to the server your home folder is on. Given the way our network is set up, this means that everyone can see files you put in this folder. By default there is a folder inside Public called Drop Box, which is a place people can copy files into, but they can't look at what is inside. Think of the Drop Box folder as a mailbox without resorting to email.

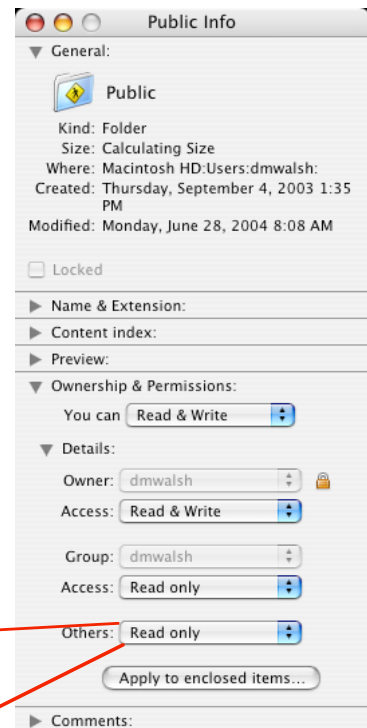
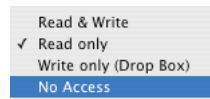
Sites: Another special folder, but this one is only visible using a web browser and only on the teacher's server. The webserver is turned off on the student servers, but the Sites folder can still be used to create websites for testing purposes before copying it up to either the main LS website or some external website.

File and Folder Privileges:

By default only the Public and Sites folder in your account can be accessed by other users. However, if you create new folders in your account outside of the standard folders you need to check the privileges to make sure things are set up the way you expect. To do this:

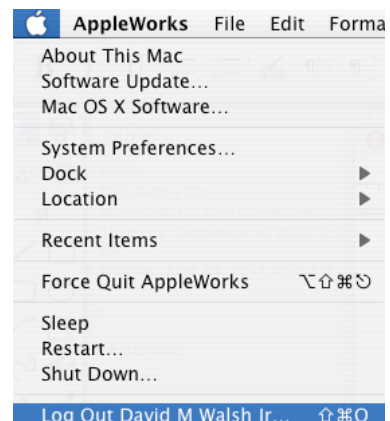
- 1) Highlight the file or folder to check.
- 2) Under File select Get Info
- 3) Under Ownership & Permissions, turn down the triangle next to Details.
- 4) You can now see the privileges for you, for the default group you belong to, and everyone else (Others.)

To make sure nobody else can access the item, change the group and Others to No Access



Securing your account:

The most important thing you can do to secure your account is to simply log off when you're finished! Go under the Apple menu to Log Out <your name here> Once you've done that and clicked Log Out in the confirmation dialog, nobody can get at your private files without knowing your password.



Changing server passwords:

Since all the passwords were created by the LS TechTeam there is a list of everyone's password. This means your password isn't as private as it could be and should be changed as soon as possible for good security, but if you do change it please make sure it's something you can remember otherwise you will be locked out of your account until a member of the LS TechTeam can reset your password.

To change your password:

1) Go out to the Finder by clicking on the desktop or the Finder icon in the dock



2) Under the Go menu, select Connect to Server

3) Type in the name of your server such as `afp://staff.lsrhs.net/` or `afp://gy05.lsrhs.net/` and click Connect

4) Type your username and password, then click Options.

5) You can now see the option for Change Password...

6) Click on that button and change away!

Again, I can't warn you too strongly:

Please make sure that you choose a secure password that you can remember! If you can't remember your password you will be unable to use any of the new machines until the LS Tech Team has a chance to reset your password.

