

"Mac vs. PC"

On a recent crowded business flight, I found myself wedged between 2 passengers hunkered over their PCs, devices their owners consider the only true computers. As I started up my Mac, they looked at each other as if I had just opened up a pail of live fish bait.

The computers we carry speak volumes about who we are. Mac users, and I am still one, are universally recognized as creative, but not technically very savvy. We are thought to lack an important enzyme in our brains that allows us to understand anything technical and we generally prefer to buy items with the batteries already installed. For obvious reasons, we are also advised to stay clear of any power tools having moving blades.

Mac users typically have no the interest in the inner workings of computers, and it wouldn't surprise us to open the underside of our laptops and find a pancreas inside. So in its wisdom, Apple developed an operating system that does not require us to type difficult codes or operate anything more technical than the latch. We simply point to a cute picture icon and the computer mercifully does the rest.

PC people, on the other hand, are technologically more sophisticated, taking delight in the adventures of installing software or removing computer versions of the Ebola virus. Their windows based PCs now use picture icons too, but still rely on a more finicky operating system which requires frequent tweaking and tinkering. So it isn't surprising that PC users are often snootier and wouldn't hesitate to make the average Mac user feel like a 9 year old carrying around a Sony Playstation.

An Internet tech recently confirmed my findings as she helped me solve my weekly technical crises. PC people, the rep announced, generally don't require assistance, and even if they do, they're generally rude and take help for granted. Mac people, though clueless, are always friendlier and show gratitude more profusely.

Like many other MAC users, I'll be switching to PC sometime soon. Even so, I'll live in fear, knowing my machine will someday turn on me. This fear, by the way, is also shared by many owners of Rottweilers.

So, the upshot is, if you want a congenial seat mate on your next flight, find a Mac person. On the other hand, if both your pilot and copilot are somehow inexplicably sucked out of the plane and a passenger has to land it safely, just pray its a guy who owns a PC.

Because a Mac user will tragically waste valuable time, staring at all the cockpit screens, frantically looking for a plane icon to drag into the airport folder.