



GEOSTRATSYS DESKTOP FOR MAC USERS

WHAT ARE OUR GOALS?

A core objective of the GeoStratSys team is to develop a cross-platform data system that is free to the public. We recognize that many who will use the GeoStratSys Desktop employ Macs as their primary computer. Mac use has been increasing in both academic and business circles in recent years, so it is more important than ever for programs like ours to function in both operating systems. To achieve this, we plan to utilize Microsoft Silverlight and Expression Blend in future versions of our desktop application. Learning and implementing these new technologies takes time and money, resources that are in limited supply. In the interim, we have been working on a Windows-compatible alpha version of the desktop to be released to the sedimentary geology and paleontology community this fall. Feedback from the first version will inform us as to whether the functionality we are providing is what is needed and guide us toward user-inspired enhancements. Getting feedback as soon as possible will ensure that our first Mac-friendly client application will offer all of the database and workspace capabilities geoscientists need.

MAC USERS CAN USE THE WINDOWS VERSION OF GEOSTRATSYS DESKTOP!

Many Mac users are aware of and already use a Boot Camp hard-drive partition to install a full version of Windows XP or Vista on their Macs. This allows them to boot up the Windows operating system and use it the same way they would on a PC. The GeoStratSys client application can then be installed and used while running Windows. This is one option for Mac users, but many find it burdensome to have to reboot when they need access to programs installed on the other operating system. To eliminate this hassle there are several software packages available which create a Windows virtual machine that you can access while running OS X. The xVM VirtualBox virtualization software is free, but lacks some of the features in the Parallels Desktop (~\$100) and the VMware Fusion (~\$80). All of these programs require the separate purchase of a full version of Windows unless you have previously installed one on your machine.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT

We hope this information and the websites below will get you started on the path to becoming a GeoStratSys Desktop user. Please browse to our site frequently for updates on the current version of the client application and for information on how to contact us with questions or comments. We are interested in hearing about any of your experiences with our client application especially through any of the virtualization software packages mentioned above.

Kim Kurz and the GeoStratSys Team

www.geostratsys.org

WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Boot Camp	http://www.apple.com/macosx/features/bootcamp.html
Parallels Desktop	http://store.apple.com/us/product/TQ172LL/A?mco=MTIxODk3Mw
VMware Fusion	http://www.vmware.com/products/fusion/
xVM VirtualBox	http://www.sun.com/software/products/virtualbox/index.jsp
Microsoft Silverlight	http://silverlight.net/default.aspx