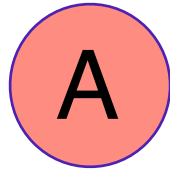


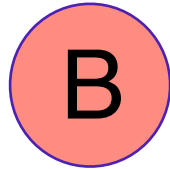
# OS X Server

A simple guide to the most common setup configurations for Macs in a Mac or PC environment where server based authentication is required.

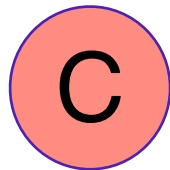
## Setup Guide



This is the Gold Standard for a complete OD/AD environment setup. This is most suitable in Schools and business where centralised authentication is needed and file transfer between platforms is required.



This is also a “Gold Standard” setup where communication between PC + Mac environments are not the utmost priority. Possibly there is no real PC presence in the installation environment or there is no need for centralised AD authentication.



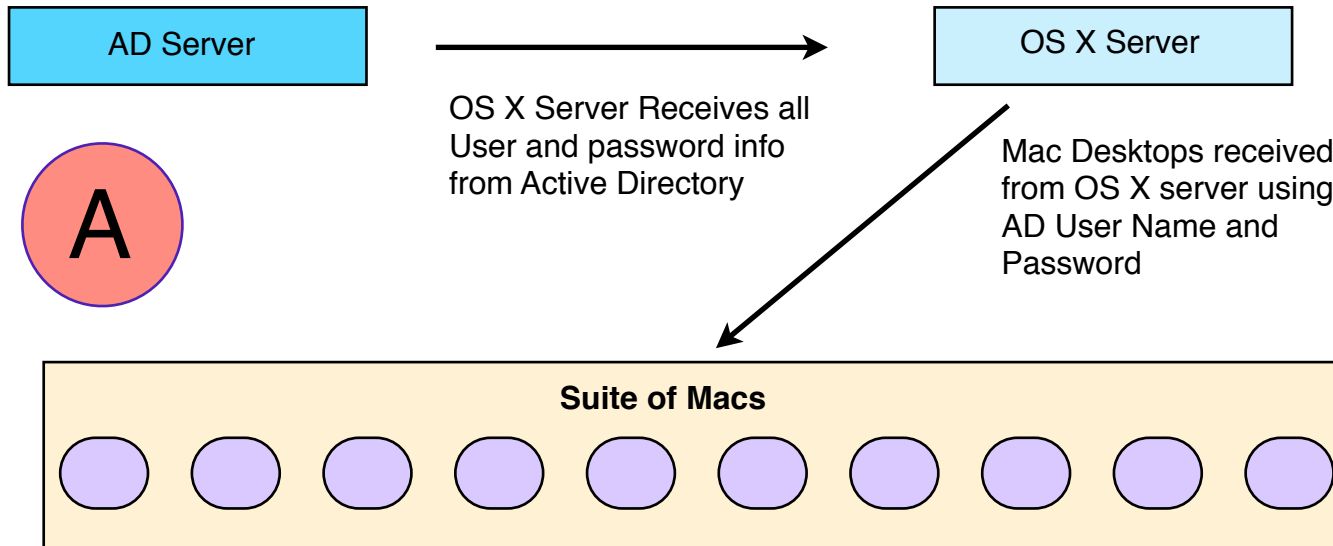
The last set up is not suitable for large Media Suites or design departments where a Mac server is really required to administer the Mac Desktops. This is the “Default” install that many Mac companies will set up in school media suites and in such an environment this setup is totally unsuitable. Management of desktop not possible without rather useless 3rd party software. File corruption is also common as is very slow application and file transfer operation.

Simply put either all user accounts must be kept on the local machine meaning each user has to use the same machine each session, and you can end up with 100's of user accounts held locally, or you can hold the account on the server only but with this setup performance is hit so badly that the machines become unuseable.

# Complete AD / OD Integration

Suitable for School and Large Design Departments

## Setup Description



This shows a complete integration of Mac & PC environments, work from PC home folder can be copied to the mac environment and visa versa.

All User desktops are held on the Mac server, this enables hot desking and no data is held locally. Any user can log in from any machine, all files are in sync.

Internet, and network access is handled by single login, the user authenticates once and gains access to all areas they have permissions for.

Advantages;- single login, fast, no file corruption, audio and media apps work great, user details automatically update from AD.

In the event of a computer failure the user can simply switch machines login and continue.

## Sample Mac Desktop



User PC Home  
Auto Mounted on OS X Home Desktop

Group PC Share  
Auto Mounted from PC Server

Group Mac Share  
Auto Mounted from Mac OS X Server

# Standalone OS X Server Setup

Suitable for School and Large Design Departments

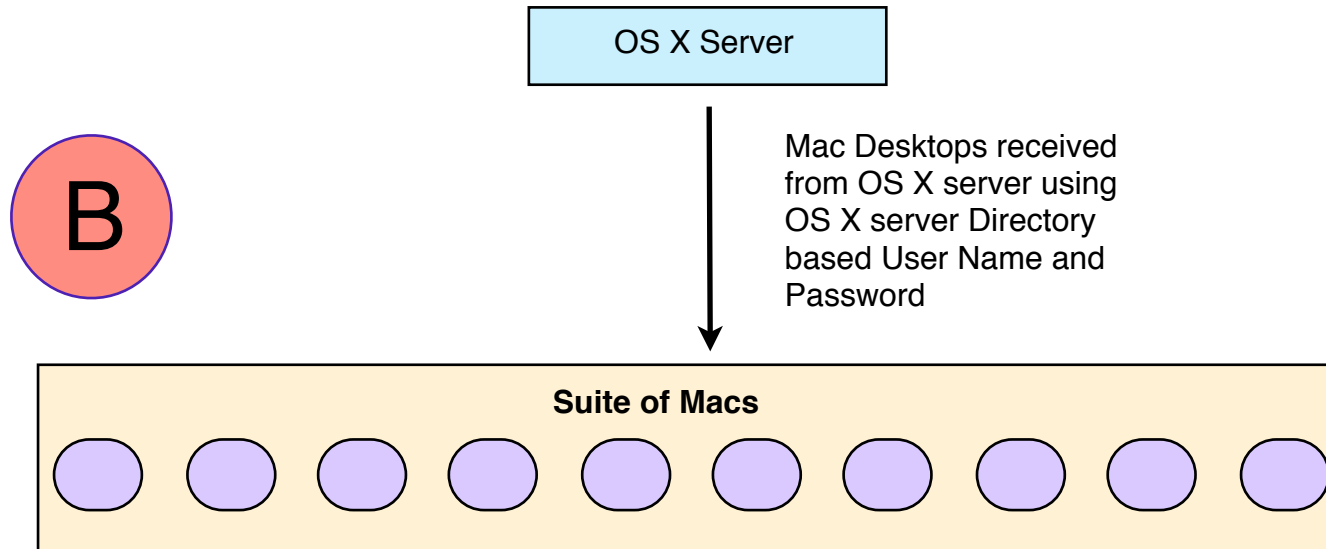
## Setup Description

All User desktops are held on the Mac server, this enables hot desking and no data is held locally. Any user can log in from any machine, all files are in sync.

Internet, and network access is handled by single login, the user authenticates once and gains access to all areas they have permissions for.

Advantages;- single login, fast, no file corruption, audio and media apps work great, user details automatically update from OD.

In the event of a computer failure the user can simply switch machines login and continue.



Sample Mac Desktop

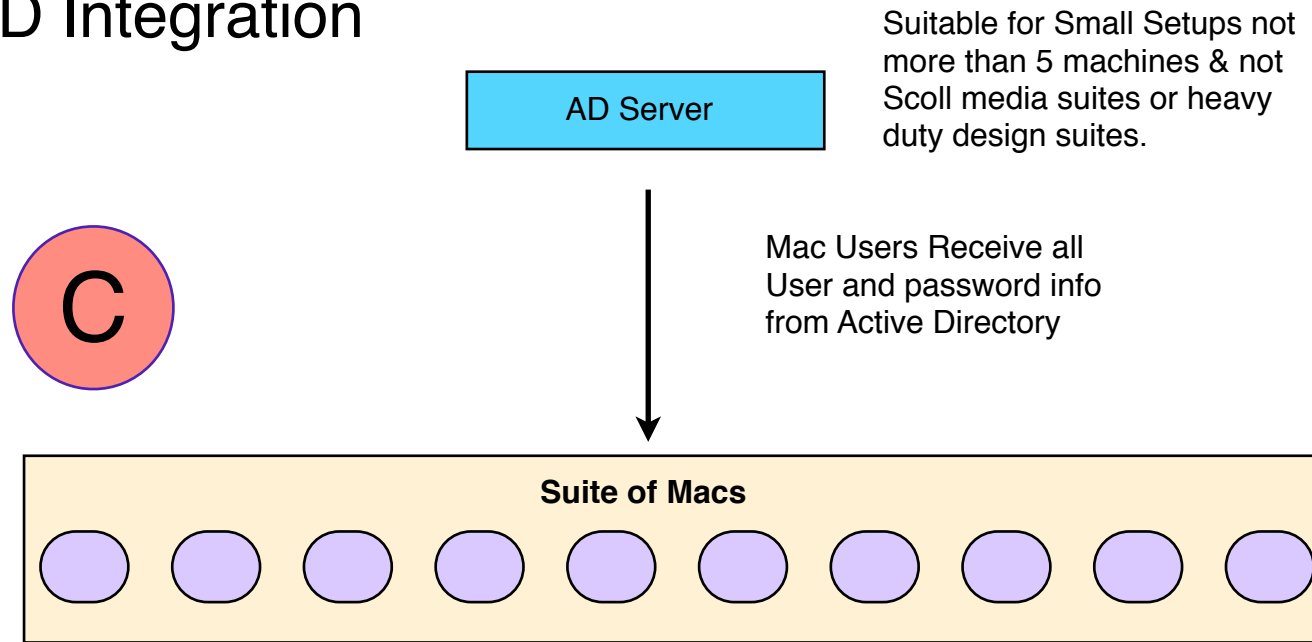


← Group Mac Share  
Auto Mounted from Mac OS X Server

← User PC Home (if there is one)  
Auto Mounted on OS X Home Desktop

← Group PC Share (if there is one)  
Auto Mounted from PC Server

# AD Integration



Suitable for Small Setups not more than 5 machines & not Scoll media suites or heavy duty design suites.

## Setup Description

All User desktops are held on the PC server, this enables hot desking but all data is either held locally or on server or both Any logged in user should have a local copy of their PC desktop downloaded and kept in sync.

Any user can log in from any machine, all files are in sync.

Internet, and network access is handled by single login, the user authenticates once and gains access to all areas they have permissions for.

Advantages;- single login.

Disadvantages;- There are many, media apps will possibly have files corrupted, user desktops are not configurable without 3rd party software.

Our experience is that such software is buggy at best. If the User Account is held on the PC Server only, massive delays in data result in poor performace making some tasks impossible. Or User account is held locally which can end up with 100's of user accounts.Possible backup issues and also network access problems.

Sample Mac Desktop



Group PC Share  
Auto Mounted from PC Server



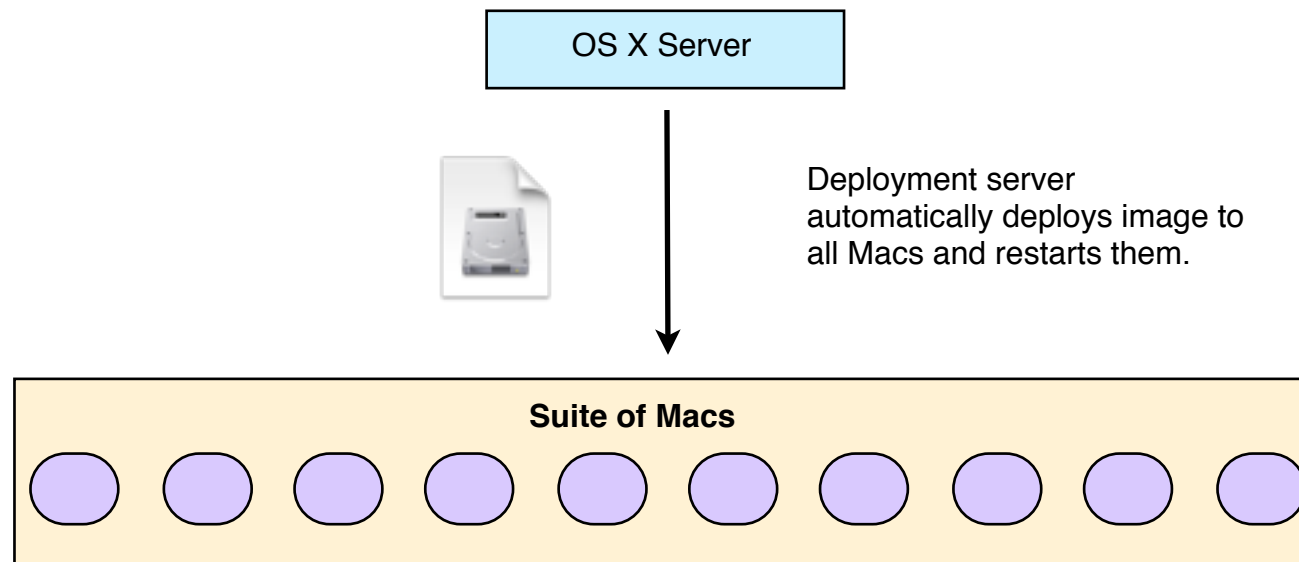
PC\_Share

# Image Deployment

Normally we would prepare a perfect disk image on one mac and then we would deploy that image across the network.

The image and deployment system would be left in place on the OS X Server and it would enable the on site staff to simply re image a troublesome machine. Alternatively a new image can easily be uploaded with very little knowledge by on site staff. We would give he small amount of training needed to be able to use the system.

The deployment should take no more than 30 - 40 minutes to image all machines at the same time.



# Testimonials

## Client - Production Studio

### Testimonial

We had been stumbling through taking care of our own Macs and Mac servers but sudden growth and new equipment meant we needed help fast.

Orbital solutions came out the same week and fully configured our new Xserve & Xserve Raid, Macs & iPhones. It was made easy and questions asked in an uncomplicated manner, none of our strange setups and ways of working were laughed at and the whole system was set up with more services than we had imagined possible. Any minor tweaks were dealt with very quickly & remotely thus saving time & money.

We are now looking into asking Orbital to configure and install a full VoIP system with in our office and integrating a remote on site solution when our team are working away on events.

Guy Ferguson - Director

## Client - Harrold Middle School

### Situation

Harrold Middle School suffered from no less than 3 seperate companies going on site and messing up the mac systems before we got there.

### Testimonial

We chose Orbital systems to install a Xserve server and setup, connect and install 40 Apple computers in a busy middle school.

Choosing Orbital Systems made so much sense.

A fast, reliable service I can recommend.

No matter what was asked, they delivered with extreme competence and to high standard.

I wouldn't hesitate to use their expert service again.

Ray Lloyd Head IT

## Client - Blueprint Collections

### Testimonial

Orbital Systems gave our design studio set-up a complete overhaul, resulting in our output being dramatically improved. Our network was optimised and we now have the assurance of a bullet-proof back up. They are always on hand to troubleshoot quickly and effectively when we need them.

Jessica Taylor, Senior Designer, Blueprint Collections

## Client - Tate Rail

### Testimonial

I would highly recommend Orbital Systems, their engineers made the transition from PC to MAC environment seamless, our server was configured, iMacs set up in a day, all with the confidence of a complete after sales package.

Simon Carlton-Crisp MD

## Client - The Bridge

### Testimonial

The guys at Orbital Systems were very knowledgeable and helpful and were able to sort out our server even though we were half way round the world and on completely different time zones...

Alex Althorpe - Director

## Client - Kingston Grammar School

### Testimonial

We are pleased that Orbital Systems has rectified the problems that emerged on our discrete Music Macintosh network. A school needs a robust and reliable system in order to deliver the curriculum effectively, so that teachers and pupils can be engaged solely in the matter of high-quality teaching and learning, not spending valuable time sorting out minor irritations.

Mr Carl Jackson  
Head Music Dept  
Kingston Grammar School.

# Contacts

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email [helpdesk@orbitalsystems.co.uk](mailto:helpdesk@orbitalsystems.co.uk)