

# NETWORK BASED MACINTOSH DEPLOYMENT IN EDUCATION/ENTERPRISE ENVIRONMENTS

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## Introduction

This project was developed by the IT Department of the School of Art, Design, and Art History at San Diego State University, and it started out of our sheer need for greater efficiency, as our computing needs and facilities nearly doubled within the last two years. As we developed our own integrated mass deployment systems, we decided to document our processes to share with others. This guide is intended to help other educational departments get started in the process of managing some level of automation in their Mac labs and teaching facilities. While much of the language in this resource is geared toward educational IT administrators, anyone can use it.

### Is This Guide For You?

Developing a Macintosh NetBoot server will be worth your time and energy if any of the following apply to your administration responsibilities for Macs:

- Managing one or more computer labs (locally or remotely)
- Managing remote Macs in teaching facilities
- Managing Faculty and Staff computers remotely
- Managing Mac diskless-booting terminals (e.g. web browsing terminals)

The greatest advantage of maintaining a NetBoot server in heavy Mac environments is in time savings. It previously took us more than a week to re-image roughly 125 computers, while accomplishing very little else; now it takes about one day, and we can now do it while we work on other projects. Another important advantage is that if a student machine becomes unstable for any reason (related to software), it is often faster to re-image it rather than to troubleshoot problems. We have increased our own efficiency dramatically using this system.

### Credits

Most university IT departments rely heavily on its student staff to get things done. We are fortunate to have an excellent staff here. This guide was authored by Trevor Carlson, who helped streamline our imaging process by researching and testing these deployment systems discussed in this guide. Our department has implemented these unicast and multicast deployment methods as part of our normal operations. Daniel DiCarlo designed this manual and created its layout.

### Closing

For more information on NetBoot technology, you can go to Apple's website (<http://apple.com/server/resources/>) or Mike Bombich's site <http://bombich.com>. You can also check <http://rogue.sdsu.edu/netboot> for future forums on NetBooting and ASR Multicasting. Enjoy!

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