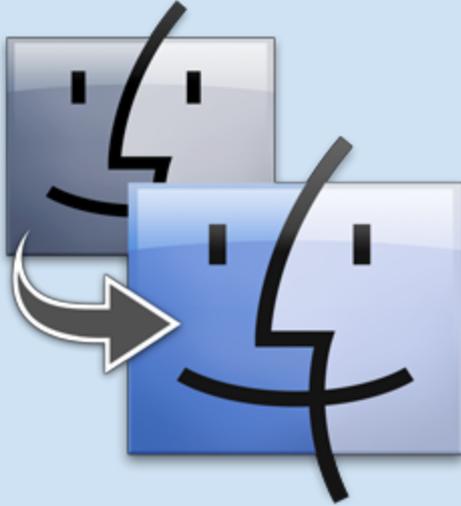


Apple Migration Assistant

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What is Migration Assistant?

Migration Assistant is OS X's built-in utility to transfer user accounts, files and applications, and system-level configurations from one Mac to another, or from a Time Machine backup to a Mac. It is found in the Utilities folder inside the Applications folder on your Mac.

Pros and Cons

Migration Assistant does a very good job of transferring everything from the old computer, and in most cases keeps all your applications intact, complete with your personal preferences and customizations. That's the advantage, but naturally it also means if your old computer is an overloaded mess, Migration Assistant will set up your new computer the same way. That's the drawback.

Even if your old computer is not full or slow, there are always some undesirable legacy glitches from the past that you should not import into your new computer. That's why we don't recommend using Migration Assistant when teachers receive their new computers.

The Other Problem

Migration Assistant is designed to be used to import user accounts from an old computer to a brand-new computer just out of the box. If you have already started using your new computer, the old account on your previous computer can only be imported as a separate login account on your new computer. If your current login account is named the same as your old one, you need to give it a different name when importing it.

You cannot import files directly into your current login account. This is the part that puzzles many people if they use Migration Assistant on a computer they have already started using.

The Workaround

You still have to use Migration Assistant to import files from your previous computer. Make it a new separate login account if it has to be. Give it a different name (e.g., just add “2” at the end).

What you need

To use Migration Assistant, you either connect the two computers with a cable, or use a Time Machine backup of the old computer on a USB drive. If both the old and new computers have the same FireWire, Thunderbolt, or Ethernet connector, and you have the cable, then you should use it. If hard-wiring is not an option, you should use a Time Machine backup on a USB hard drive.

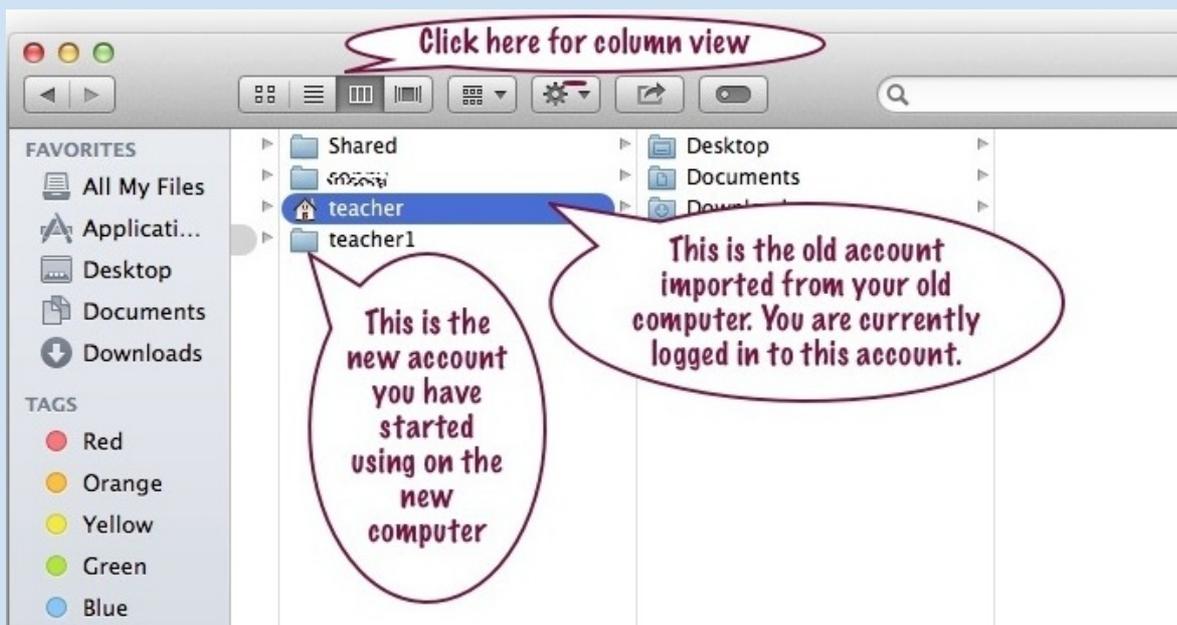
Read this Apple Support article carefully before you use Migration Assistant. Depending on how much data is stored in your old user account, your migration may take up to several hours. Request Tech Support if you need assistance.

Apple > Support > OS X: How to migrate data from another Mac using Mavericks

<http://support.apple.com/kb/HT5872>

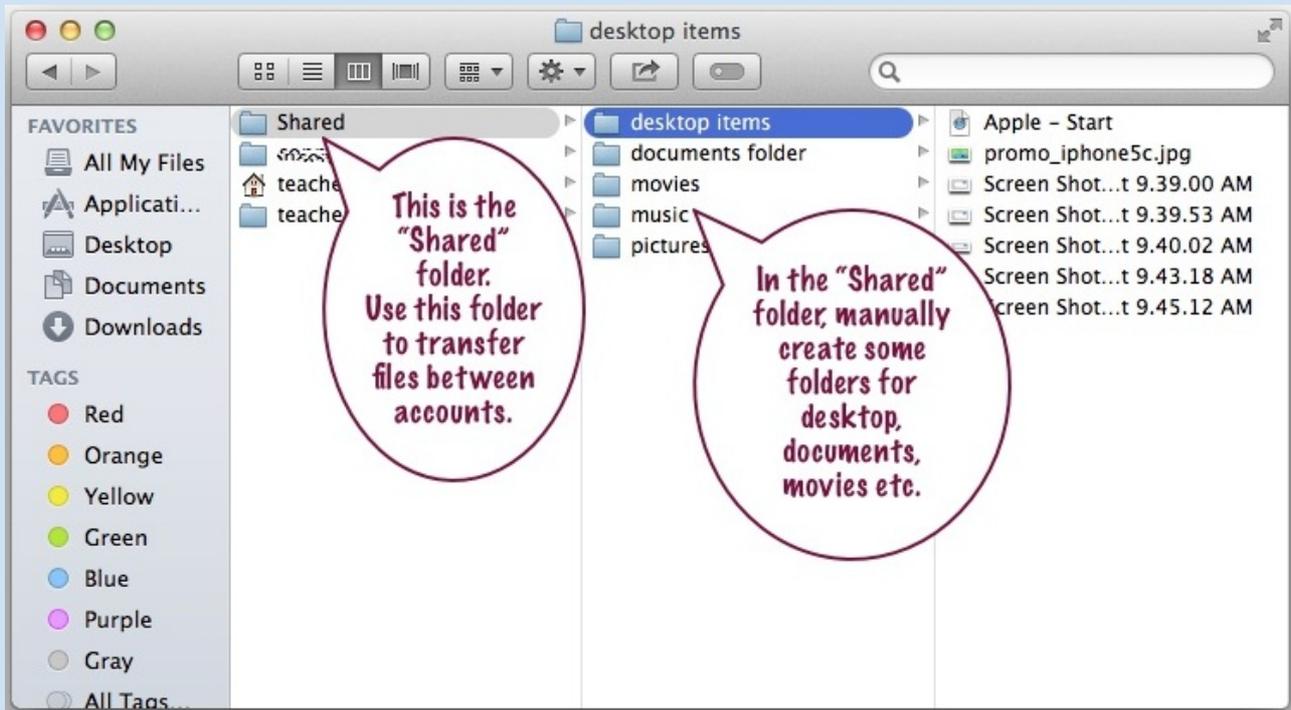
After Migration is done...

After the migration is complete, log in to the imported old account on the new computer. Go to the home folder (In Finder, pull down Go menu, select Home, or press shift-command-H), and it will look like this.



In the same folder where your home folder is, you will see a folder named “Shared.” This is a special folder to be used for sharing or transferring files between the users of this computer.

Normally, files of one user in OS X are not accessible or readable by other users. But this folder named “Shared” works in a special way. All users can access this folder, and any file one user puts in this folder becomes readable to others.



Now you get the idea.

Using this Shared folder, you can move or copy files from one user to another. In this example, you would want to move the files of your imported old account "teacher" and give them to your new account "teacher1."

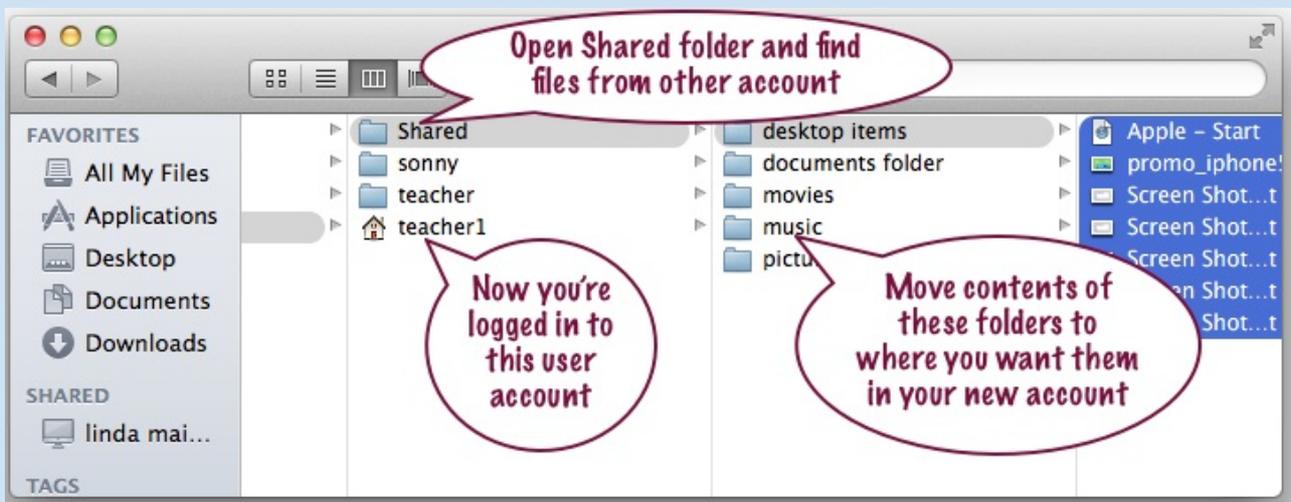
But there's still one special rule you need to know.

You cannot put the folders of your user home (Documents, Documents, Movies, Music, etc.) directly in "Shared" and hand them over to another user. These folders are used by OS X, and they cannot be moved from your home folder. You can share with another user the contents of these folders by placing them in "Shared."

So, in order to transfer the contents of your Desktop folder, you cannot place the whole folder in "Shared." You can only put the contents of your Desktop folder in the Shared folder. If you don't want to mix them up with other documents and folders from your other folders, then manually make a folder for items from the desktop. Likewise, make folders for the items from your Documents, Music, etc. folders.

Then log out of that account and log back in to the new account you want to use on the new computer.

Navigate to the Shared folder and find the files you put there from the other account. Now you can copy or move the contents of this folder to where you want to place them.



Delete Imported Old Account

When all is done, go to System Preferences > Users & Groups, and delete the imported old account that you no longer need on your new computer.



Recommended reading

How to use the Shared Folder in OS X

<http://www.macobserver.com/tmo/article/how-to-use-the-shared-folder-in-os-x>

Apple Support > What are the Shared and Public folders?

<http://support.apple.com/kb/PH13957>