

New Mac OS in July has social-network integration

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Apple CEO Tim Cook speaks at the Apple Developers Conference in San Francisco, Monday, June 11, 2012. Cook kicked off the company's annual conference for software developers on Monday. He is expected to show off new iPhone software and updated Mac computers and provide more details on future releases of Mac software. (AP Photo/Paul Sakuma)

(AP) — Next month, Apple will release its new operating system for Mac computers.

Dubbed Mountain Lion, [Mac](#) OS X 10.8 will cost \$19.99 — \$10 cheaper

than what the current [system](#), Lion, costs. Those buying Mac computers starting on Monday will get the upgrade for free when it's available.

Apple Inc. already demonstrated many of the Mountain Lion features in February. The new software narrows the gap between the PC and phone software packages, making Mac personal computers work more like iPhones.

It's similar to what Microsoft Corp. is doing with its forthcoming Windows 8 system. That system, expected this fall, will bring the look and user interface of Windows Phone to PCs.



An attendee looks at the new MacBook Pro on display at the Apple Developers Conference in San Francisco, Monday, June 11, 2012. New iPhone and Mac software and updated Mac computers were among the highlights Monday at Apple Inc.'s annual conference for software developers. (AP Photo/Paul

Sakuma)

Among the features of Mountain Lion:

— The new software will have better integration with social networks such as Facebook Inc.'s. It will have built-in features to facilitate sharing on Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and other services. For instance, you'll get notifications when you get a message or a mention in a Facebook or Twitter post. You need to sign in only once, and you can share directly from other apps you are using.

— Power Nap keeps your Mac updated even while it's in power-saving "sleep" mode. It will get your email messages, back up your files and download software updates automatically. It will work with recent MacBook Air computers and the higher-end MacBook Pro model, the one with the sharper, "Retina" display.

— A new Messages app, copied from Apple's mobile operating system, will replace iChat. It will allow you to send messages to other Apple users, whether that person is on a Mac or an Apple mobile device.

— Mountain Lion will be integrated with iCloud, the new Internet storage service designed for the mobile devices.

— The software will bring dictation to Macs, essentially allowing the computer to type as you talk.

— Game Center will store high game scores and help users find opponents on both Macs and Apple mobile devices.

Apple said the Facebook integration features won't be available right

away. The company did not say exactly when in July the [Mountain Lion software](#) will be available, nor did it say when the Facebook [features](#) will be ready.

Upgrades will be available as a download through Apple's Mac App Store. Those upgrading must already have either the Lion or Snow Leopard operating systems on their Macs.

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