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System Software: Why All Apple Products Don't Use Same Version

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Various Apple products, even though they leave the factory at the same time, may contain different versions of system software. Here are some reasons why:

- The product may be shipped with the version of system software under which the product was tested. With many Apple products, there is a long test cycle, and it is difficult to re-test the product and change the system software version just before the product's release.
- When new system software is released, it takes time, due to build schedules, for the new software version to be incorporated into the product's packaging.
- Sometimes, a specific modification to the system software is required for a new product. For example, the LaserWriter IISC, which required modifications to the System file and was shipped with System 4.3, which was not a general release.

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