

Mac OS X Mountain Lion

Getting Started with OS X Mountain Lion

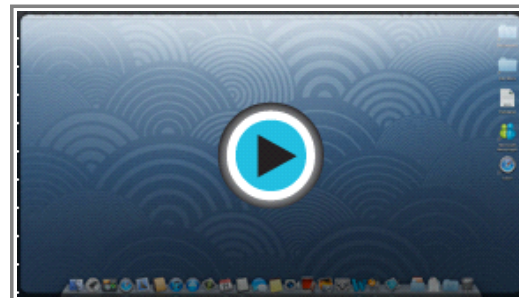


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Getting Started with OS X Mountain Lion

After installing Mountain Lion, you should spend some time getting comfortable with the interface. If you've never used OS X before, you'll need to learn the basics about getting around the desktop. In this lesson, you'll learn about the **Dock**, the **menu bar**, opening **files** and **apps**, **Launchpad**, and **multi-touch gestures**. If you're familiar with earlier versions of OS X, you'll probably find that the Mountain Lion's interface will be fairly easy to learn.

➡ Watch the video to learn the basics of using Mountain Lion.

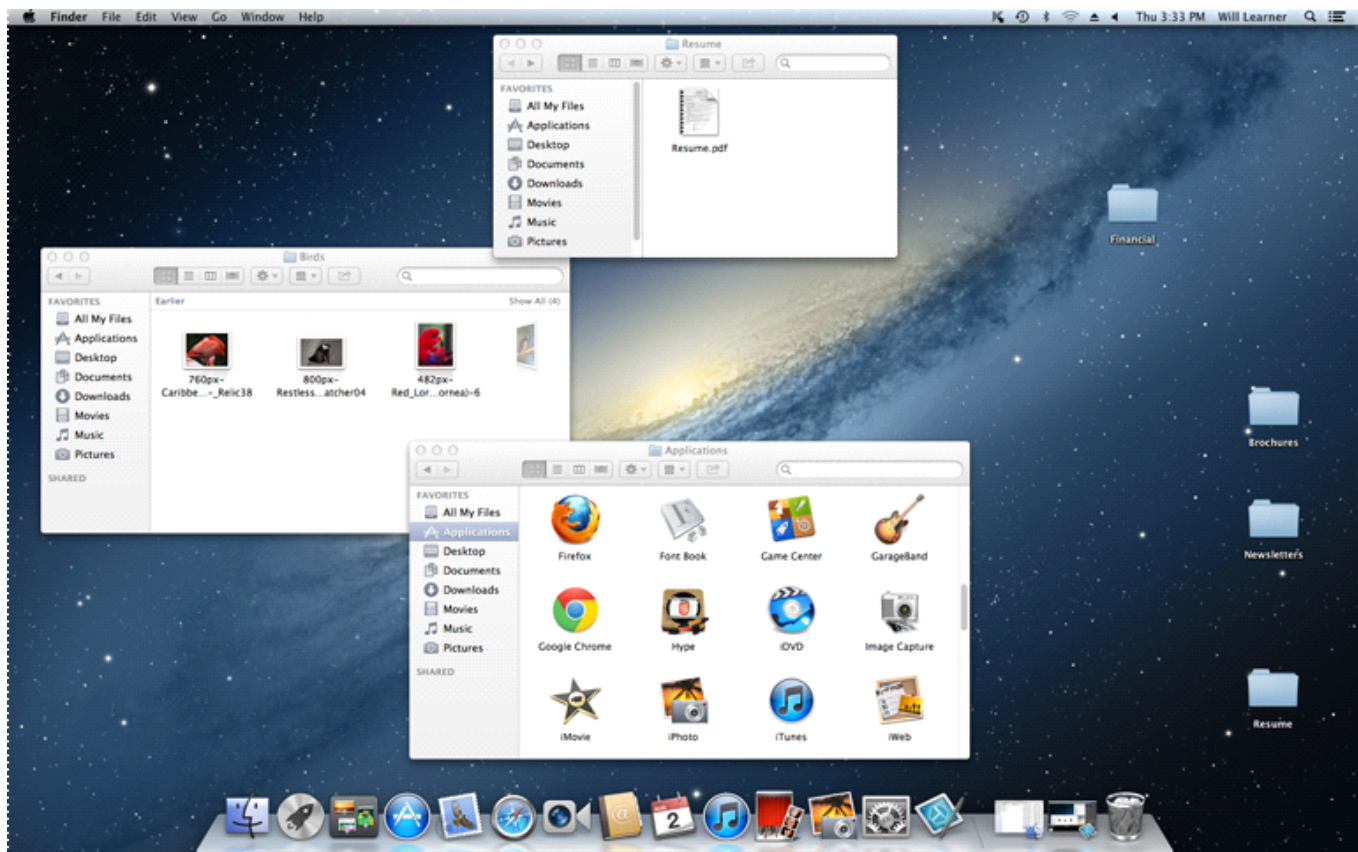


Watch the video (4:25). [Need help?](#)

The Desktop

The screen that you see when your computer has finished starting up is called the **desktop**. The OS X Mountain Lion desktop includes a **desktop background** (or **wallpaper**), the **Dock**, and the **menu bar**. You can open files or applications from the **Dock** or **Launchpad**. You can also display **files**, **folders**, or **shortcuts** on the desktop background area.

➡ Click the buttons in the interactive below to learn about the Mountain Lion desktop.

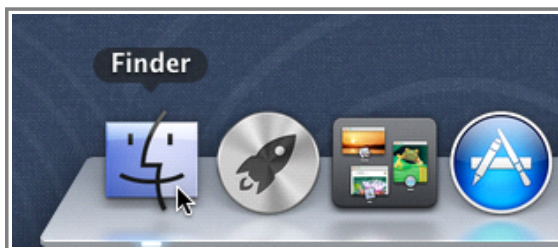


Opening Files, Folders, and Apps in Lion

When you use any operating system, you'll need to know how to open **files**, **folders**, and **apps**. In Mountain Lion, you can open something by clicking it in the **Dock** or **Launchpad**, or by **double-clicking** it if it's on the desktop or inside a folder.

If you're new to Mountain Lion, you may want to practice by doing the following steps:

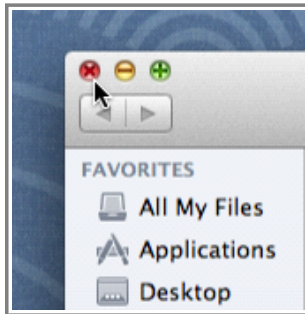
1. Open **Finder** by clicking the Finder icon on the left side of the **Dock**.



Opening Finder

2. Close Finder by clicking the **button** in the top-left corner of the Finder window. Later on, we'll talk more

about how to use Finder.



Closing Finder

3. Open **Launchpad** by clicking the Launchpad icon on the Dock.



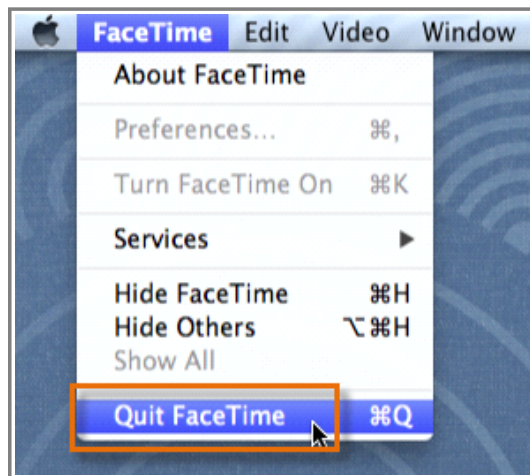
Opening Launchpad

4. While Launchpad is open, click on any **app** to open it.



Clicking an app

5. Quit the app you just opened by clicking the app name in the top-left corner of the screen and selecting **Quit**.



Quitting an app

6. If you have any icons on your desktop, **double-click** one of them to open it, and then **close** or **quit** it.



Double-clicking a file to open it

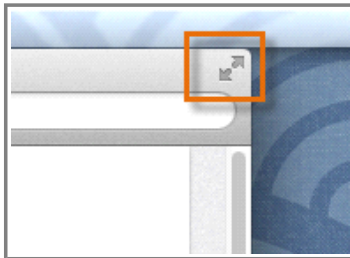
When an app is open, the icon on the Dock will have a **light** under it. You may notice that the **Finder** icon always has a light under it - that's because it's **always running**, even if there are no Finder windows open.



Lights indicating which apps are open

Full-Screen Apps

Some apps in Mountain Lion have a **full-screen mode** that lets you just focus on one app, with no distractions. These apps have a **double-arrow** icon in the top-right corner. When you click the icon, the app will zoom to fill the entire screen, and everything else will be hidden. You can then use the keyboard shortcut **Control-Command-F** to return to the normal view. Not all apps currently support this feature. However, it is used by many of the pre-installed apps such as **Calendar**, **Safari**, and **iPhoto**.



The double-arrow icon

The Menu Bar

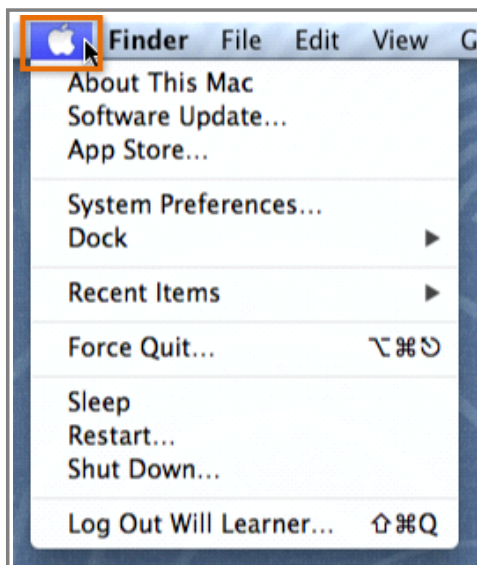
The **menu bar** is located at the top of the screen. It is always visible except when you're running a full-screen app. The options on the menu bar will vary depending on which app you're currently using. The **name** of the app will appear in bold near the left side of the menu bar, and the options to the right of the name allow you to perform various tasks within the app.



The menu bar, while using FaceTime

The Apple Icon

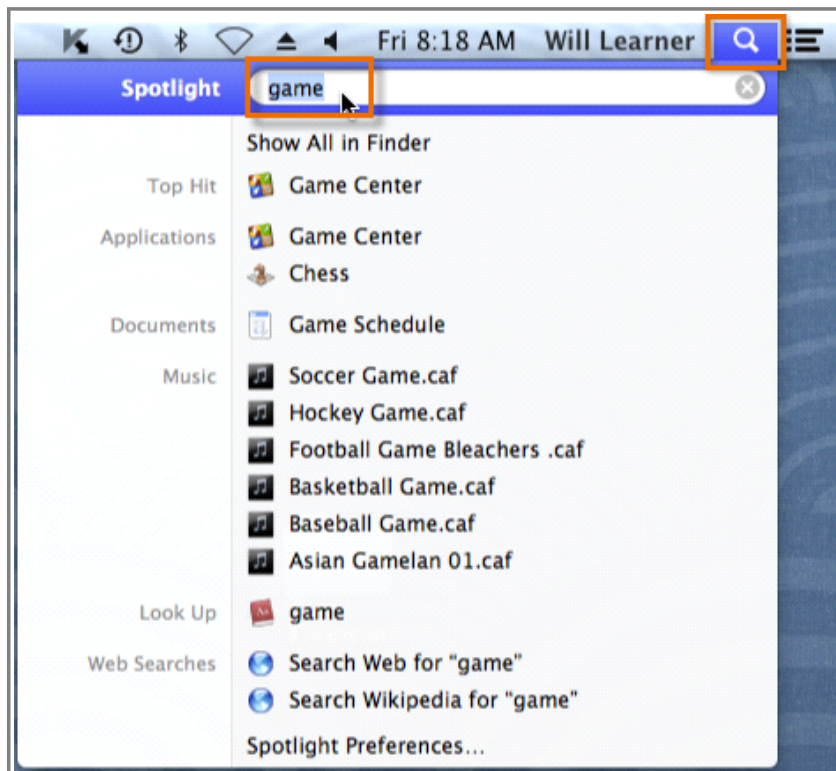
On the left side of the menu bar is the **Apple icon**, which you can use to access your **System Preferences**, **recent documents**, and **more**. You'll also use the Apple icon to **shut down** or **restart** your computer.



The Apple icon

Spotlight

On the right side of the menu bar is a **magnifying glass icon**. When you click it, it will open **Spotlight**, which is a tool you can use to **search your computer**. If you're having trouble finding a **file**, **app**, or **folder**, you can just type the name in Spotlight, and it will show you a list of results.



Using Spotlight to search for an app

Notification Center

The **Notification Center icon** is located on the far right of the menu bar. When you click it, the Notification Center will appear on your desktop. It keeps track of all of the **alerts** you receive for upcoming calendar appointments, tweets, news feeds, and other application events. The Notification Center can be customized to show as many or as few app alerts as you desire.



Notification Center

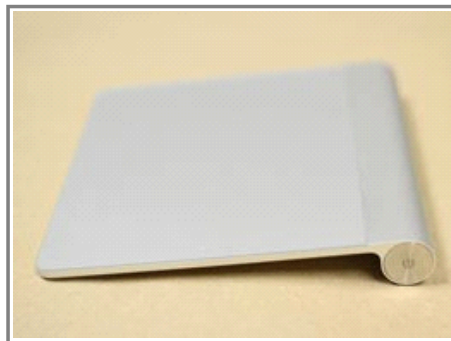
Multi-Touch Gestures

Mountain Lion allows you to use many different **multi-touch gestures** with your mouse or trackpad. These include **pinches**, **taps**, **double-taps**, and **swipes**. Each gesture performs a specific task, and by learning different gestures you can increase your productivity.

In order to use multi-touch gestures, you will need the right equipment. If you have a laptop, the built-in trackpad can be used. For desktop computers, you can either use the **Magic Trackpad** or the **Magic Mouse**. One of these may have been included with your computer; if not, they can be purchased separately. Most mice are not touch-sensitive and cannot be used for multi-touch gestures.



A laptop trackpad



The Magic Trackpad



The Magic Mouse

➤➤ To see gestures in action, watch the following video from Apple.



Examples of Gestures

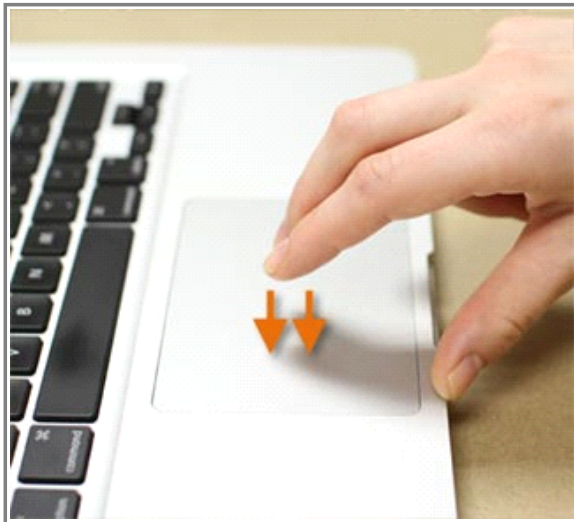
Some gestures will vary depending on whether you're using a trackpad or a Magic Mouse, and there are a few that only work with trackpads. Some apps may not support all gestures, but apps made by Apple (such as **Safari**) tend to use them more. Therefore, you may want to practice the following gestures with **Safari** before you try them with other apps.

- ▮ **Pinch to Zoom (trackpad only):** Place your **thumb** and **forefinger** on the trackpad and **move them apart** to zoom in, or **move them together** to zoom out.



Pinching to zoom

- Smart Zoom:** Tap the trackpad twice (**double-tap**) with **two fingers**. If you are using a Magic Mouse, double-tap the mouse with **one finger** (make sure you are just tapping the mouse, and not clicking). The app will zoom in to the area where the mouse pointer is.

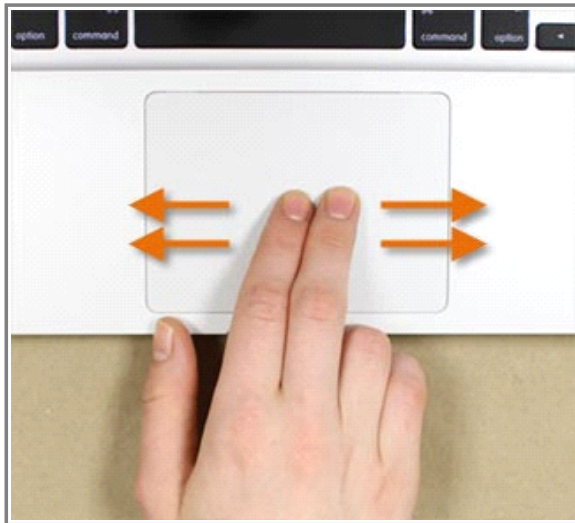


Double-tapping with two fingers

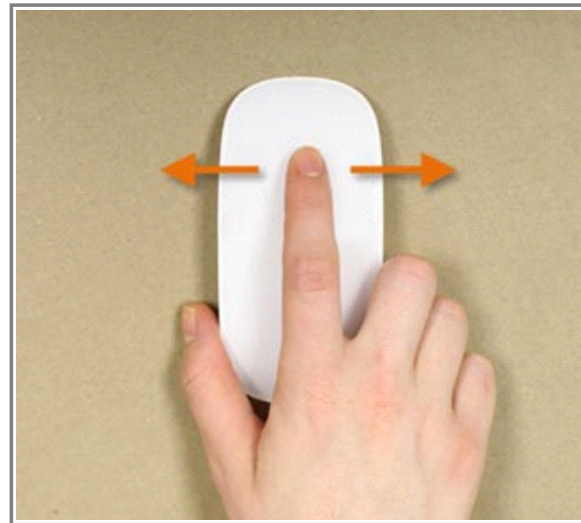


Double-tapping with one finger

- Swipe to Navigate:** Instead of using your web browser's **back** and **forward** buttons, you can **swipe to the left or right** with **two fingers** (on a trackpad) or **one finger** (on a Magic Mouse). You can also do this to scroll through different screens in Launchpad.



Swiping with two fingers




Swiping with one finger

- View Launchpad (trackpad only):** Place your **thumb** and **three fingers** on the trackpad and **move them together** to open Launchpad.



Pinching with three fingers and thumb


 There are many more gestures that you can use. To learn more, check out the [About Multi-Touch Gestures](#) page on the Apple website.

Natural Scrolling

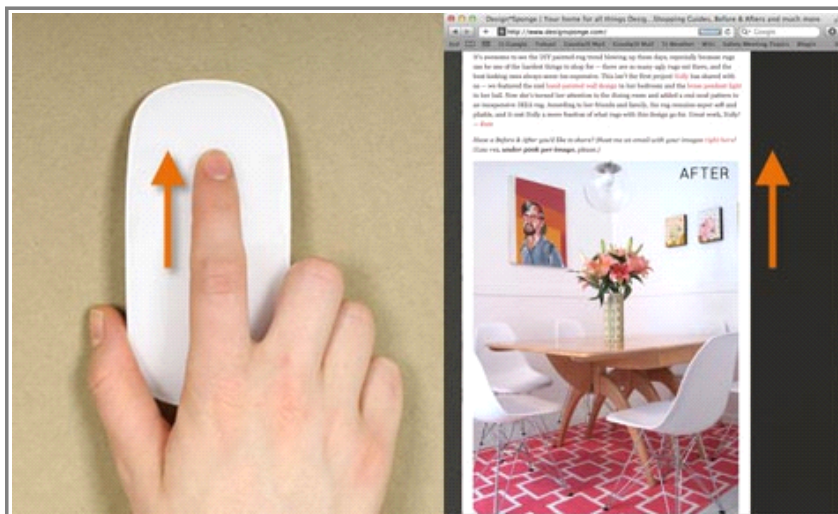
By default, Mountain Lion uses **natural scrolling**, which means that things move in the **opposite direction** from "traditional" scrolling. To understand this, let's compare traditional and natural scrolling.

- ❖ **Traditional scrolling:** When you're viewing a web page, you can scroll down by using a **downward** swipe on your trackpad (using two fingers), Magic Mouse, or the scroll wheel on a more traditional mouse. Your web browser's scroll bar moves down, but the **content on the page moves up**. This is the way that most computers handle scrolling.



Traditional scrolling

- ❖ **Natural scrolling:** With natural scrolling, you will use an **upward** swipe, and the content on the page moves up, almost like you are **pushing the content up**. This is the way that scrolling usually works on touchscreen devices like the **iPad** and **iPhone**, and it's the default option in Mountain Lion.

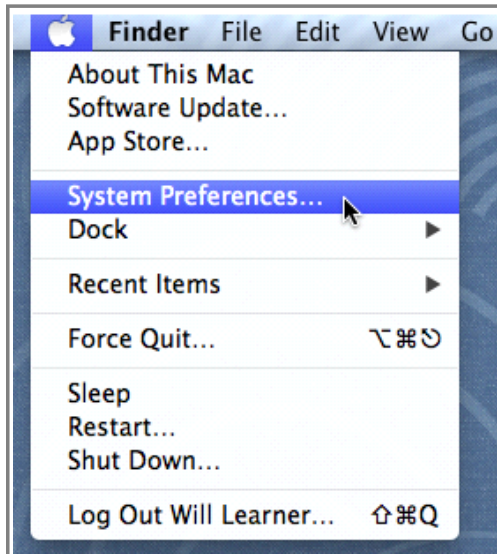


Natural scrolling

To Change the Scrolling Type:

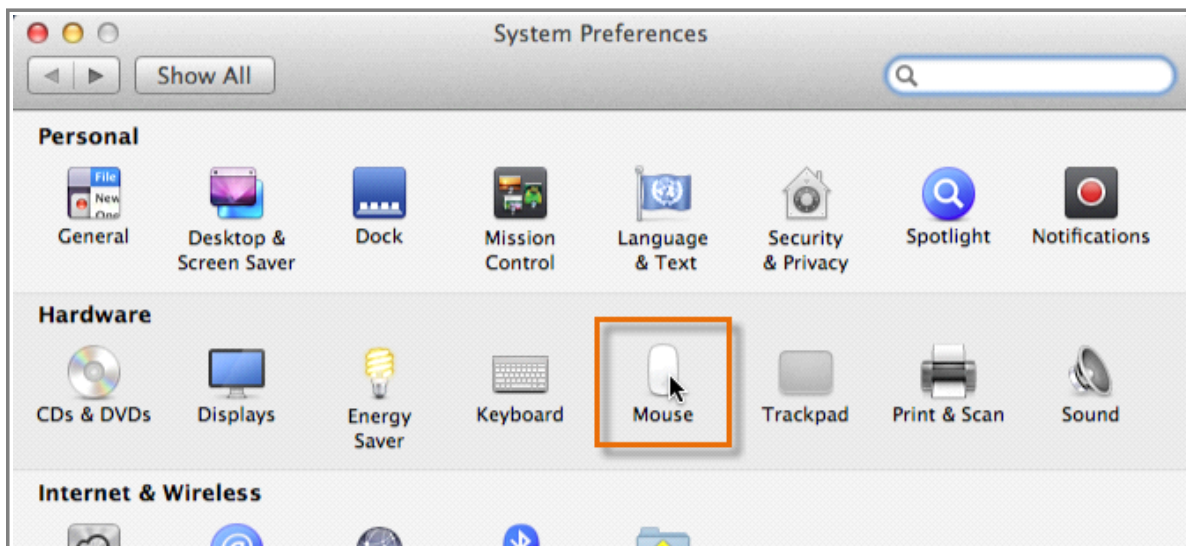
If you've never used Lion before, natural scrolling may seem awkward at first. However, since it mimics the way that mobile devices work, it may not take long to get used to it. You can switch between natural and traditional scrolling in your **mouse settings**, to see which one you prefer.

1. Click the **Apple icon** and select **System Preferences**.



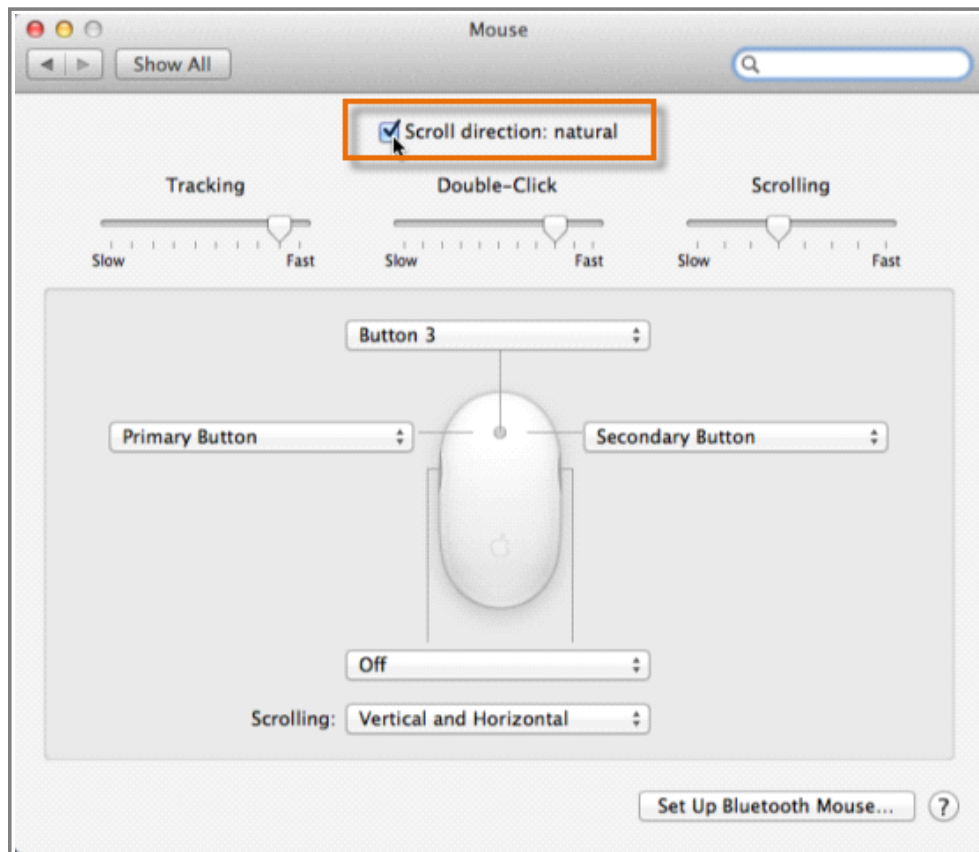
Opening System Preferences

2. Select the **Mouse** icon to go to your mouse settings.



Going to Mouse settings

3. Next to **Scroll direction**, **uncheck** the check box to use traditional scrolling, or **check** it to use natural scrolling.



Changing the scroll direction