What's That?

Hello everybody. Today I am going to be giving you a quick overview of your home folder. This is the place on your macbook where all of your quote unquote stuff resides. You are most certainly already using it, however, I thought we would take an episode and quickly go over where this folder is and recommend some best practices for organizing your files.

If you didn't already know, you can get to your home folder by clicking the Macintosh HD icon on your Desktop. This brings up a new window displaying the top level of your hard drive. When I say top-level, that is because you can imagine the files stored on your hard drive as a tree, with the Macintosh HD being at the top-level and everything else is "below" it.

We can find home folders in the Users folder. As you can see, there are multiple folders here. That is because each user on the system has their own home folder. This provides us with a semi-private space by default, which other users cannot access. On our MLTI device we can see folders for parent, student, and teacher. There is also a Shared folder, but we will talk about that another time.

I am currently logged in as teacher so I see the home folder icon on my home folder. You will also see this icon a few other places on your system. These are handy shortcuts to your home folder so you don't always have to click Macintosh HD.

Clicking on my home folder will show me the contents. On a newly imaged MLTI device you will have 10 folders by default. Let's go through them and see what they hold.

The Desktop folder is special in the sense that files and folders you see here also appear on the actual desktop. You can see the three files I have in this folder also appear on my Desktop. It is not uncommon for people use this folder to store all of their files, however, I find it clutters my work space.

This is what the Documents folder is for. This is the recommended spot for holding files you want to save long term. You will also find that some Applications store information here as well. Here you can see iChat logs, NoteShare backups, and Omnifocus backups. I usually create new folders here for my different needs.

The downloads folder is where Safari and Firefox are set to download files to. While you can change this location in both Safari and Firefox, I find that by having files download here, it leaves other folders uncluttered and is less confusing when trying to find where I put a downloaded file. Every

once in a while I drag the items into the trash when I know I won't be needing the files any more.

The next folder is the Library. You won't be creating any folder in here. This is where user-specific application support files, preferences, and cache files are stored.

Movies is for just that, Movies. While nothing requires you to store movies here, it is good practice. Movies tend to be on the bigger size and keeping them in one place may be easier when it comes time to back your stuff up. This is also where iMovie save its resources.

Keeping with media we come to the Music folder. You will find your iTunes and Garageband files here. Also, important when it comes time to backup or move your files.

The Pictures folder is the place for pictures and photographs. Again, you don't have to keep them here, it just provides the folder for ease of organization. This is also the folder where iPhoto keeps the images you import.

The public folder is a simple way for users on the same system to share files. For example, if I want to move a file to the parent user I can drag a file into the dropbox of that home folder. Only the parent user will be able to open it since it is in their home folder.

Don't worry about the Sites folder as you won't be using it on an MLTI device.

On my computer I also have two extra folders for Wolfquest. Sometimes Applications will keep data at the top-level of your home folder as well. In this case Wolfquest created folder for my saved games.

Remember that these are just the default folders in your home folder. You can always create new folders by control-clicking and choosing New Folder from the menu. Then you can move that to where ever you feel makes the most sense for your personal organizational style.

With that I will leave you to organize your stuff as you see fit. See you next time.