Mac Nurse Tech-Tip #55
Mac OS 10.15 Catalina Upgrade

Should you upgrade your computer's Operating System (OS) to Mac OS 10.15 Catalina? Yes, but with a few important details to note. Firstly, be sure to read (or re-read) Mac Nurse Tech-Tip #19.

If you are using any previous generation Applications such as Adobe Creative Suite CS3, CS4, CS5, or CS6 (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Lightroom), Microsoft Office 2008 or 2011 (Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Outlook), FileMaker Pro, Quickbooks Desktop for Mac, Quicken, and/or a host of other 3rd party Applications, be sure to do your homework about the compatibility of all of your 3rd party Applications *before* upgrading. ALL of these previously mentioned Applications will need to be upgraded after installing Mac OS 10.15 Catalina. The cost for these Application upgrades can add up quickly! You might also be perfectly comfortable with the way the current versions of your Applications work, and as we know all too well that upgrades to Applications sometimes come with a steep and less-than-satisfying learning curve.

For those who *really* want to be able to run Catalina, but don't wish to be forced to upgrade their older Applications, Mac Nurse recommends one of the following two possibilities:

1. Have your computer's current internal Hard Drive professionally partitioned into two boot partitions: One boot partition running your current "vintage" OS with all of your older Applications, and one boot partition with Apple's newest OS for general everyday use for everything else. Each time you startup your Mac, you can choose which boot partition to boot up into. It's a slight inconvenience, but can easily save you hundreds, if not perhaps, thousands of dollars in 3rd party Application upgrades.

2. Acquire a second computer. By having two computers, you can then have one computer running your currently outdated OS, dedicated to running all of your important older generation 3rd party Applications, and another newer, upgraded computer that you can use daily for email, internet access, and all of the things in general that won't really change once you upgrade to OS Catalina.

Some things you can expect to experience with Catalina are changes with how Macs handle music in iTunes. iTunes has been redesigned and is now called Music. Podcasts have their own Application called Podcasts, and iPhones and iPads are now synced through the Finder for backups, syncing, or recovery. Apple Mail has been streamlined for an updated look, too.

All in all, Catalina is a solid OS with very few bugs worth noting. Many of the newer features it offers are more positive than negative, but truth be told, most users won't notice much of a difference after upgrading, since, for the average Mac user, everything is staying pretty much the same as it has always been; a reliable and easy to use Mac OS experience.

Thank you for reading and sharing this Mac Nurse Tech-Tip.