

# Medical Office Systems, LLC

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## I KILLED MY MAC COMPUTER!

**But it's all OK now... because I had a Time Machine backup disk.**

Attention-grabbing headline aside (and perhaps it was a bit dramatic) I want to tell you the tale of how I killed my brand-new Mac Mini and how it arose, Phoenix-like, from the ashes.

**It started (like all tales of woe) innocently and with good intent.** I wanted to partition my Mac Mini with a utility named Boot Camp into essentially two computers: the first being the Mac OS-X operating system it came with, and the second half would be a Windows 8 computer. **Why would I want to do such a thing?** The short answer: there is one program I need to edit my website, and several network utilities I use that are just not available for Mac.

Anyway, **I have done this many times previously**, so I had no worries as I plugged in the USB Flash Disk (you need one to do BootCamp). I proceeded to do the split, but there was a new option I had not seen before: "Create a USB ISO". What that means is the Mac can create the Windows install files on the same USB as the Boot Camp files. It eliminates one step of the Windows DVD install process.

**That was a very nice feature... if it had worked. It did not.** When the time came for Boot Camp to install Windows, it stalled with an error message that the "Windows Partition is unusable". Uh-Oh. I tried to re-start the Boot Camp process, it refused to restart. **More Uh-Oh.** I tried to remove the Boot Camp partition, no luck. **Big Uh-Oh.** I tried some Unix formatting and partitioning commands (OS-X is built on Unix) to dump all partitions and re-install OS-X. Did not work. **Really Big Uh-Oh.** Now I had a dead Mac Mini: nothing would boot up, and the built-in recovery files would not work either. I was stumped.

I made an appointment at the Apple Genius Bar (repair techs) to repair it. After a 15-minute restore process, my Mac Mini was back up and running. I took my Time Machine backup disk, and restored my files and programs, and I was back in business. Whew!

**Two Points:** #1) ALWAYS have a backup disk: in the Apple world it is called "Time Machine". #2) Apple's "Genius Bar" (support techs) are quite wonderful and efficient. I was pleased. Very Pleased.

-John Becker

### Boot Camp:

Ever since Apple switched from PowerPC processors made by IBM to Intel-made processors in June 2005, Apple users have been able to run both OS-X and Windows operating systems on one computer. This little bit of magic is done by using the Boot Camp utility.

Boot Camp is marvelous for what it does, but has one drawback: you have to reboot to switch from OS-X to Windows, and vice-versa. For people who switch infrequently, it's just fine.

For those who need to switch more frequently, there are better ways to have both Windows and OS-X on the same machine:

**Parallels:** this program is inexpensive (about \$79), very sophisticated, and allows you to run a full Windows PC or just one Windows application and OS-X simultaneously. Drawbacks? You need a really fast Mac with 16GB of RAM.

**VirtualBox, VMWare:** these two have similar features. VirtualBox is free, and VMWare is \$55. Both only allow a full Windows PC and OS-X to run simultaneously. They cannot run just one Windows Application by itself: the entire Windows environment must be loaded.

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