



## *Move2Mac*

Detto Technologies

<http://www.detto.com/>

\$49.95 (1 license pack)

\$200 (5 license pack)

**Reviewed by Andrew Jones**

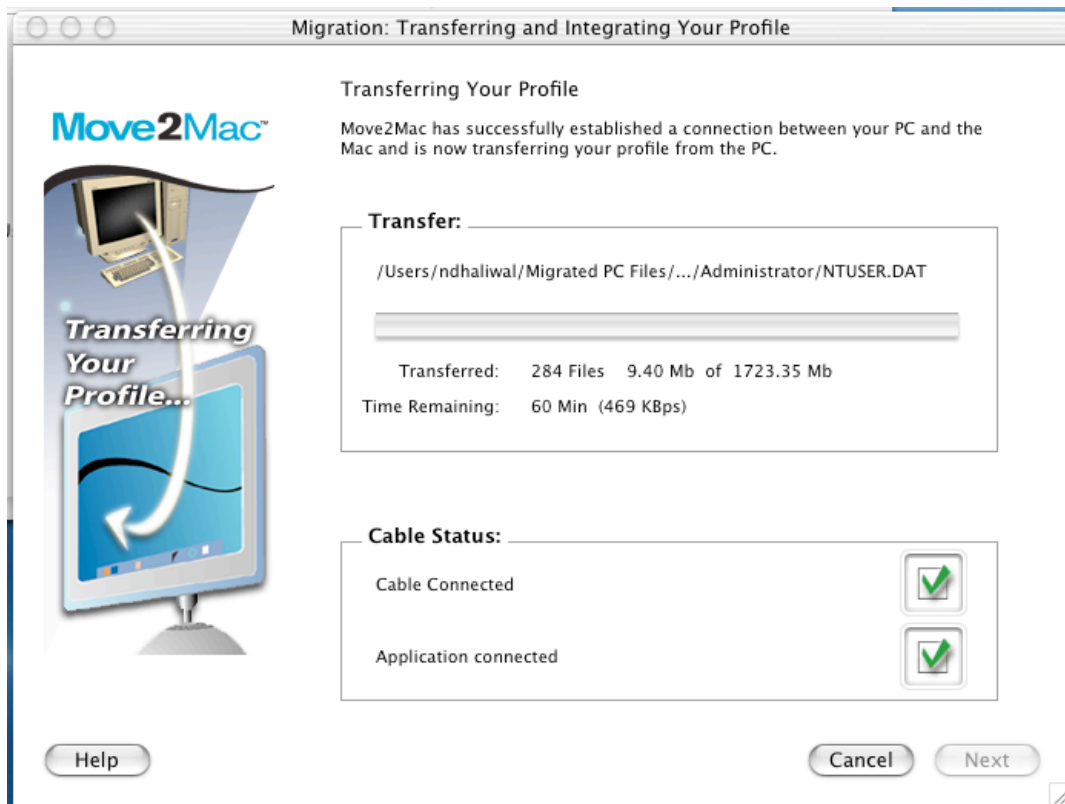
Over the course of using a computer, we create thousands of files and modify hundreds of settings to mold the computer into our own environment for work and play. However, moving that environment to another computer, let alone another platform, can be daunting. You must locate the relevant files and settings spread throughout the computer's hard drive, transfer the files from the old machine to the new machine, and then import, and in some cases convert, the files to the corresponding programs on the new machine. Billed as software to "transfer your data quickly and easily from your PC to the Mac," Move2Mac is the perfect companion for the switcher and can tackle two of the three major conversion steps. While it does have some shortcomings, Move2Mac lives up to its name and can save the user switching from a PC to a Mac a great deal of time.

Move2Mac supports the transfer of hundreds of file formats commonly used by Windows based systems (Windows 98, 98SE, ME, 2000, XP) that have corresponding programs on Mac OS X. Both machines must have USB ports, although Detto now sells a USB-to-Parallel conversion system for older PCs. Among the formats supported are:

- Text format: plain text, rich text, html files, and many other common text formats
- Graphic file formats: jpeg, gif, png, eps, psd
- Popular applications formats: Microsoft Office, Quicken, Microsoft Money, Word Perfect, Act!, Photoshop
- Email: Microsoft Outlook, Eudora, mbox
- Media file formats: mp3, mov, avi, wav, wmp, rm

Note that Move2Mac only transfers files, not applications. Applications installed on Windows based systems will not run on Macintosh system unless a piece of emulation software, such as Connectix's VirtualPC, is used. However nearly all major software developers create Macintosh versions of the same software. In many cases, such as with Microsoft Office, the file formats are completely platform independent and will open up on Macintosh without any conversion. There are cases where the same program does not exist on the Macintosh platform. In such cases, a conversion process may need to take place to bring your data into a similar program. For instance, Microsoft does not produce Outlook for Mac OS X, but you can import mail from Outlook into any of the many email programs available on Mac OS X with some easy to use conversion software (see notes below). In my experience with Move2Mac, only one file format had to move through a conversion utility (Microsoft Outlook), while the rest of the files opened fine in their Mac counterparts.

The Move2Mac package includes three essential items to conduct the transfer process: migration software, a handy quick reference guide, and a proprietary USB cable. You begin the transfer process by installing the included software on the PC first. The PC software requires you to go through a authentication process to ensure that you do not go over the migration licenses included with the package (1, 5, and 20 license packs available). The migration process is fairly painless if you have a Internet connection, as the software will contact Detto and perform the necessary steps automatically. However, if your PC does not have access to the Internet, then you must call Detto's and request an access key. Once you have authenticated, the Move2Mac software immediately fetches any software updates from the web that provide file format compatibility. After update have been installed, you are then asked to select which files types to transfer from an exhaustive list of file formats Move2Mac recognizes and can locate on your PC. I found the list to be a little daunting, including arcane file formats that I've never heard of despite my extensive background with both Macs and PCs (MSMap, datainst.8, .gst, PKCS#7 certificates). The next step involves installing the receiving Move2Mac software on your new Macintosh. The installation was painless and immediately instructs the user on connecting the proprietary USB cable to both the Mac and PC. Once the connection is made, the transfer process begins, moving all of the file formats selected in the earlier step to the Documents folder on the Macintosh (~~/Documents). Your mileage may vary on the transfer speed, but I found Detto's claim of 500 MB in 15 minutes to be slightly optimistic.



**Move2Mac Migration screen**

Upon completion of the file transfer from the PC to the Mac, you now must sort through all the files and identify the “keepers.” Move2Mac does its best to identify what is useful and what is garbage, but I still found that it copied many redundant files that a user would never touch. For instance, I found many text files that seem to have been Windows system files commonly found in the Win32 directory on a Windows box. While Move2Mac was following my initial preferences to copy over all text files, it didn’t seem smart enough to avoid locations that a user would never save a file. In all, about 25% of the files transferred during my two tests of Move2Mac were “keepers.” Again, your mileage may vary in this respect as well.

Among the files I transferred correctly were Microsoft Office files, Outlook email files, and several graphics files. All but the Outlook files opened flawlessly on the Mac without any conversion. The Outlook files proved to be a problem since Apple’s Mail, Eudora, and Entourage do not provide importers for Outlook for Windows. As a result, I was forced to do a little searching on the web for a solution. I ended up locating a program called “Outlook2Mac” from a small software company called Little Machines, that did the trick (<http://www.littlemachines.com/>, \$10). After using this program, I was able to read the emails in Apple’s Mail program.

All in all, I have to give Detto’s Move2Mac high marks for easy of use. Migrating from one platform to another is not always as easy a task. Move2Mac does its best to ease the pain and speed the process by locating the files spread throughout the PC’s and moving them to the Mac. It does this well, but is slightly hampered by a annoying authentication process, a searching mechanism that lacks simple artificial intelligence to weed out unnecessary system files, and the inability to convert some of the major PC file formats to Mac equivalents. I think with some additional work on the artificial intelligence side of the transfer process and an easy to use “conversion program” that leverages many conversion AppleScripts available from Apple, Move2Mac could become an even more invaluable tool for switchers.

Additional Information:

<http://www.detto.com/move2mac/>

<http://www.detto.com/learningcenter/index.html>

**Rating: 3.5 out of 5 stars**

+easy to use, locates files automatically by type, saves time

-authentication process, artificial intelligence selecting files, no conversion option

SIGMAC would like to thank Detto Technologies for providing a review copy of Move2Mac for this review. You can learn more about Detto Technologies full line of products at <http://www.detto.com>.