

Launching Appellate CM/ECF on an Apple Macintosh

January 12, 2009

Introduction

Starting with CM/ECF-A version 2.1.1, available to the courts in early February 2009, the Apple Macintosh platform can be used to run all parts of the Appellate case management system with no extra software. Previously, due to delays in Apple support, virtualization software such as Parallels or Fusion were required to run the application. The new version allows Macintosh users to run Appellate without installing any special software environment. Note that PACER has always worked for Mac users, and this continues to be true.

This document is designed for a judiciary audience. In particular, it should be helpful to those supporting Mac users in the Appellate courts.

Prerequisites

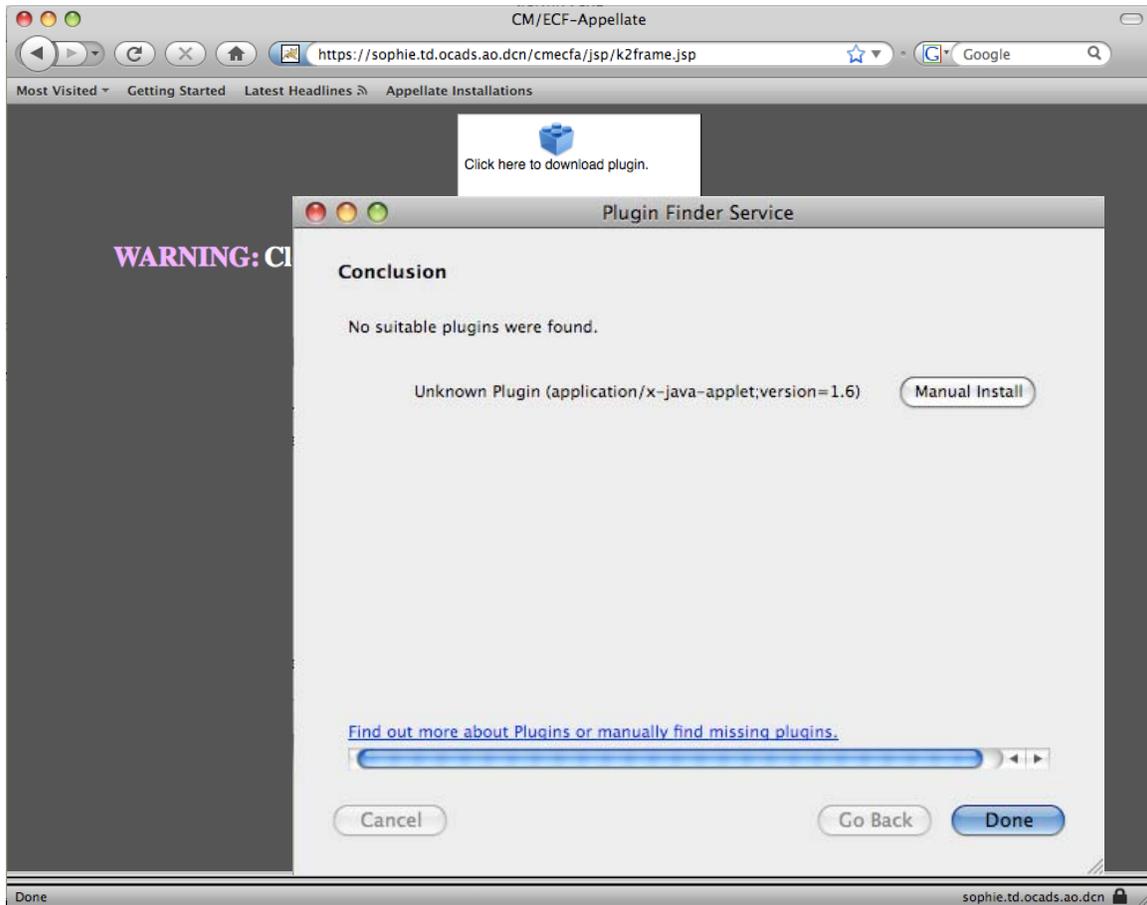
Appellate CM/ECF uses the current version of Java (1.6), which was first released in 2006. As of this writing, Apple supports Java 1.6 only on 64-bit platforms. Both the hardware and the operating system (OS X) must be 64 bits. All Macintosh computers made in about the last 18 months are 64-bit capable. The current version of OS X, Leopard (10.5) is the first version for which Apple has provided the current version of Java. So in summary you need:

- 64-bit capable Macintosh
- OS X 10.5 (or higher)

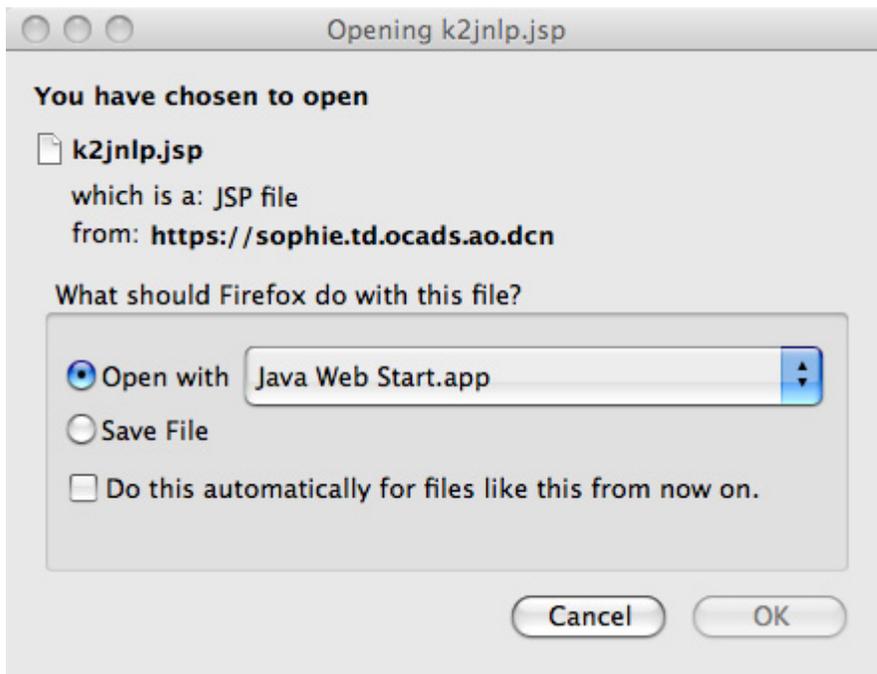
Launching Appellate CM/ECF

Behind the scenes, a different launching process was needed, because Apple does not yet have a browser that will run applets in their Java port. To make this happen, a slightly different URL is used to launch Appellate. It gives the same ID/password screen as before, but you may notice that the URL has "client=mac" appended.

Note that if the user clicks the link without the "client=mac" designation, Java will fail to find the appropriate plugin and give the following error.

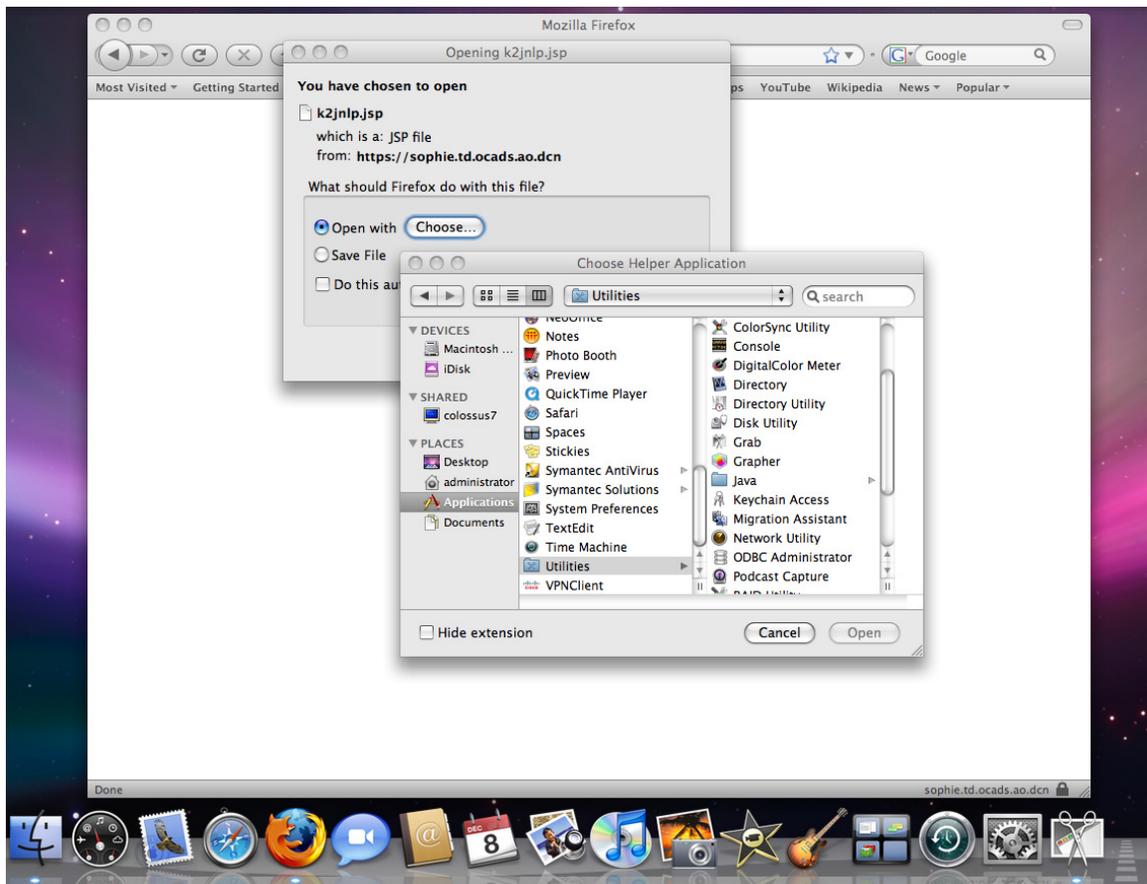


After the ID and password are provided and you press the Login button, the browser may ask what to do next. This one-time setup is to associate the Java Network Launching Protocol (JNLP) file with Java Web Start. The following dialog is shown:

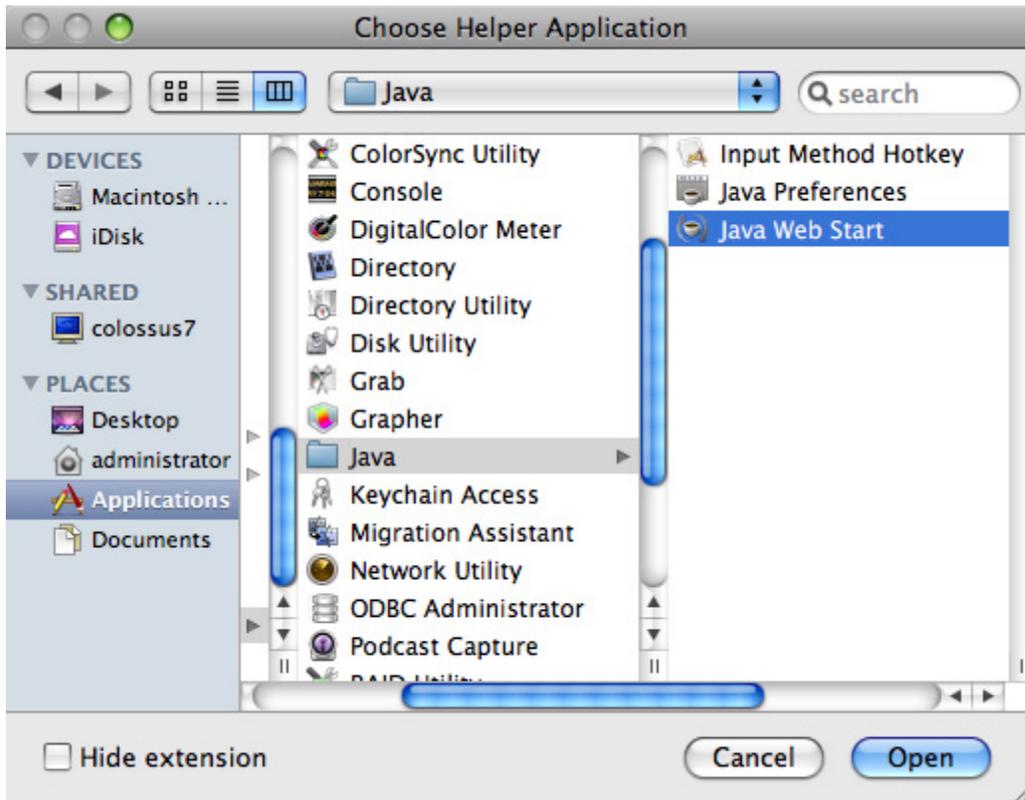


Click the option “Do this automatically for files like this from now on” so that you don’t have to do this twice. If it has the option “Open with Java Web Start” as shown above, just pick this and click

OK. It may also say “Open with” with just a Choose button. If so, press Choose, and you’ll see something like this, including a “Choose Helper Application” dialog:



Click on Utilities in the left-hand list (you’ll probably have to scroll down as shown above), then on Java in the right-hand list. This will bring up a final list:

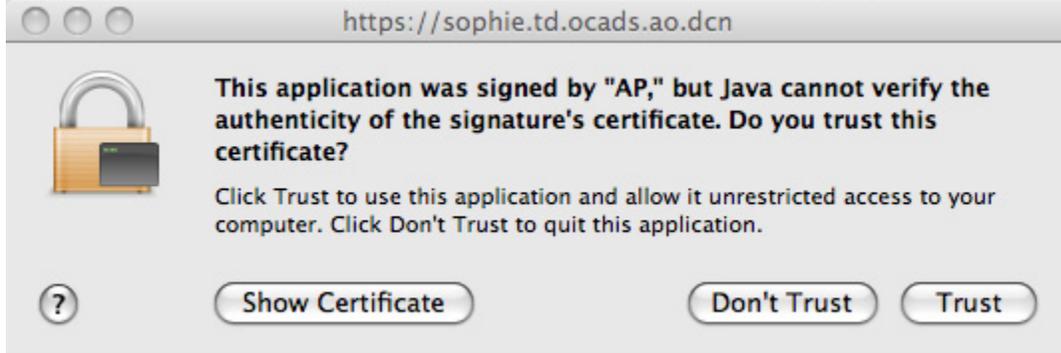


Here, pick "Java Web Start" and press the Open button. This will bring you back to the first dialog, and here press OK to go on. This will show "Java Starting" and then may ask you to authenticate the web server (Apache) certificate:



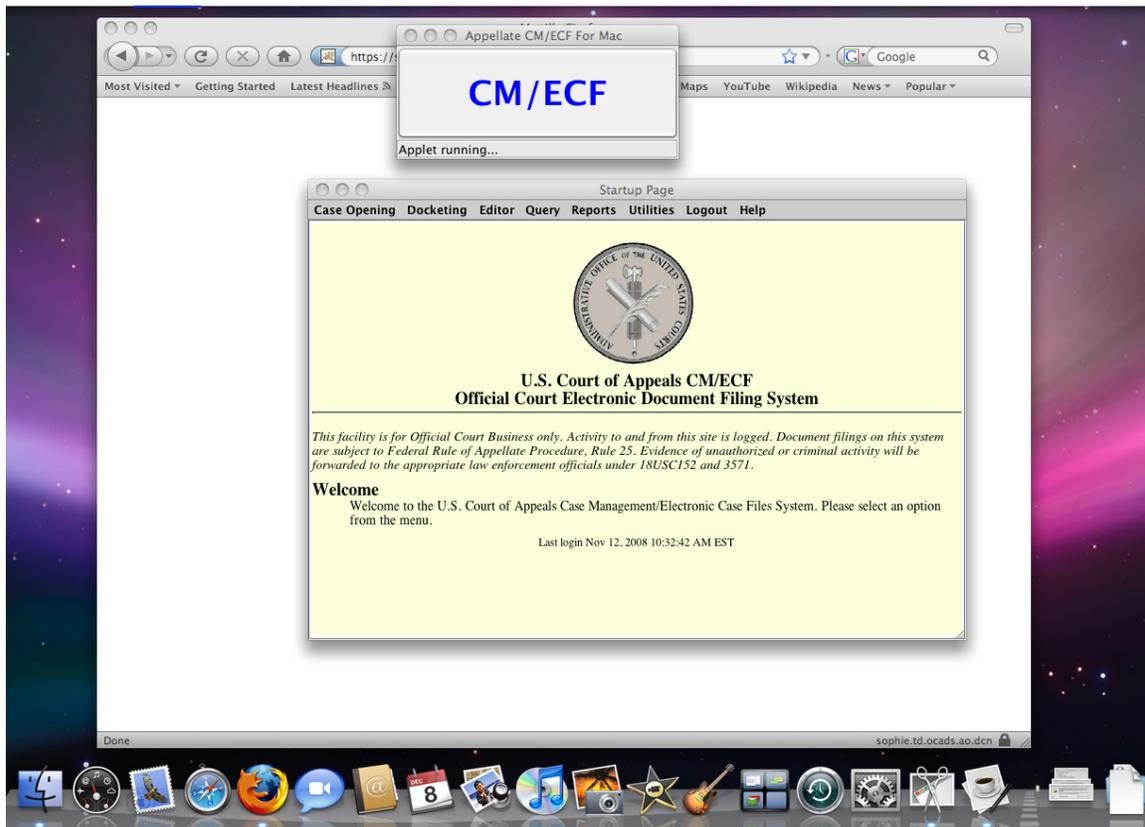
If you have a "real" certificate, you won't see this dialog. If you do see it, click Trust.

Next, you will be asked to trust the applet with the dialog below. This is necessary so that Appellate CM/ECF can read PDF files from the Macintosh in docketing. Again, click Trust.



After that, the application should launch just as it would on a PC. The box with the blue “CM/ECF” label is the program itself, so if you close this it will log you out and discard any work you have in progress.

This launching process has been tested using the Safari and the Firefox browsers. Other browsers may work, but these two are the most popular.

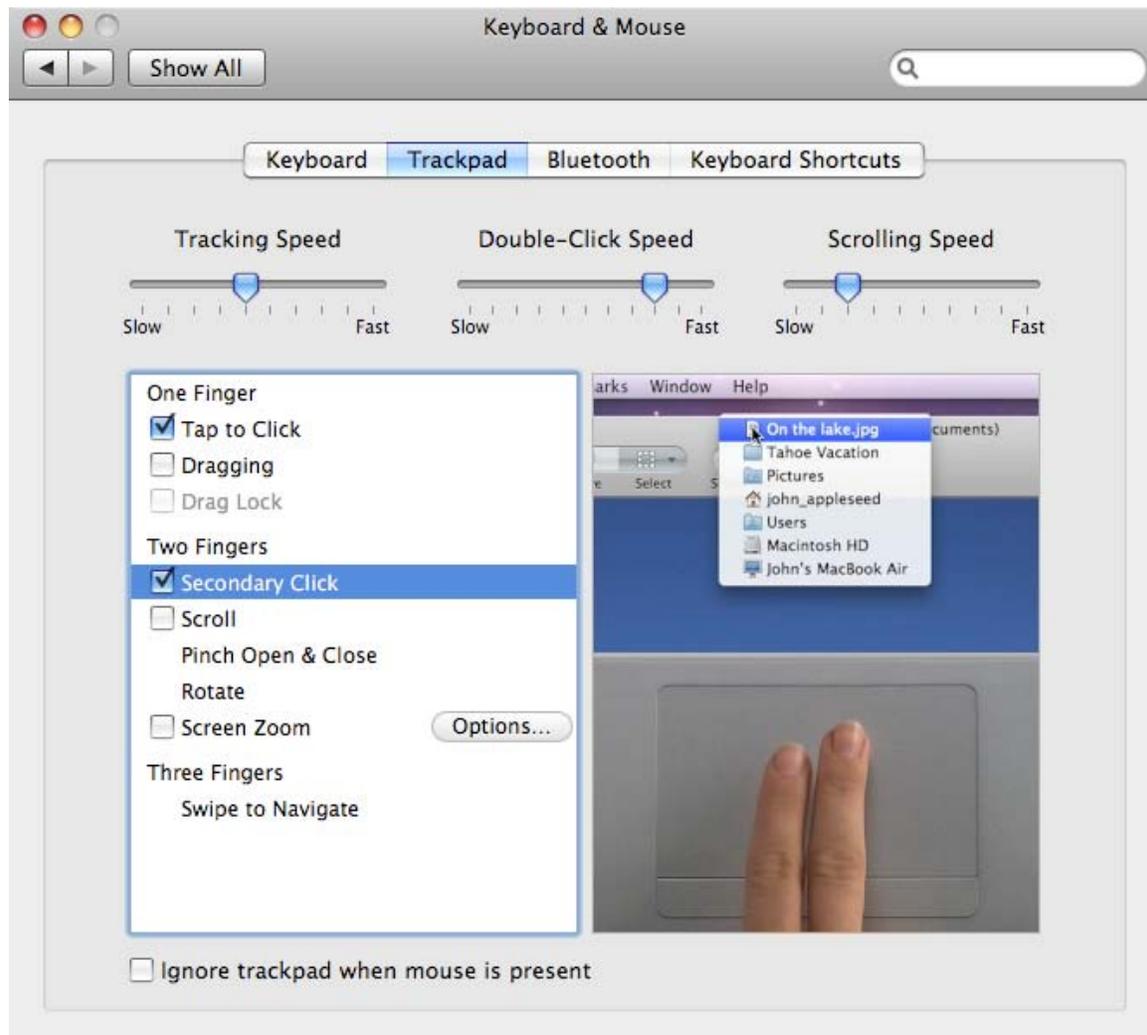


User Functionality

Generally, the Mac version of CM/ECF Appellate will have the same look & feel and functionality as the PC version. While no programs will need to be installed on the Mac to run CM/ECF Appellate, there are some minor User Preferences that the user may want to tweak to take full advantage of the program's features:

Right-Click Functionality

There are a few areas in CM/ECF Appellate which feature right-click functionality. For example, when looking at the Case Query tree, a user may right-click on a Party to launch a Person Query of that person. Mac users may access the same features by going to System Preferences > Keyboard and Mouse > Trackpad, and checking the box for "Tap trackpad using two fingers for secondary click."



Java Console

When running Java, there is an option to display a Java Console in another window, which gives the user helpful information about the Java processes running in the background of CM/ECF Appellate. To control the display of the Java Console on a Mac, go to Applications > Utilities > Java Preferences, and choose to show or hide the console. It is not necessary to display the Java Console to run the CM/ECF Appellate program.

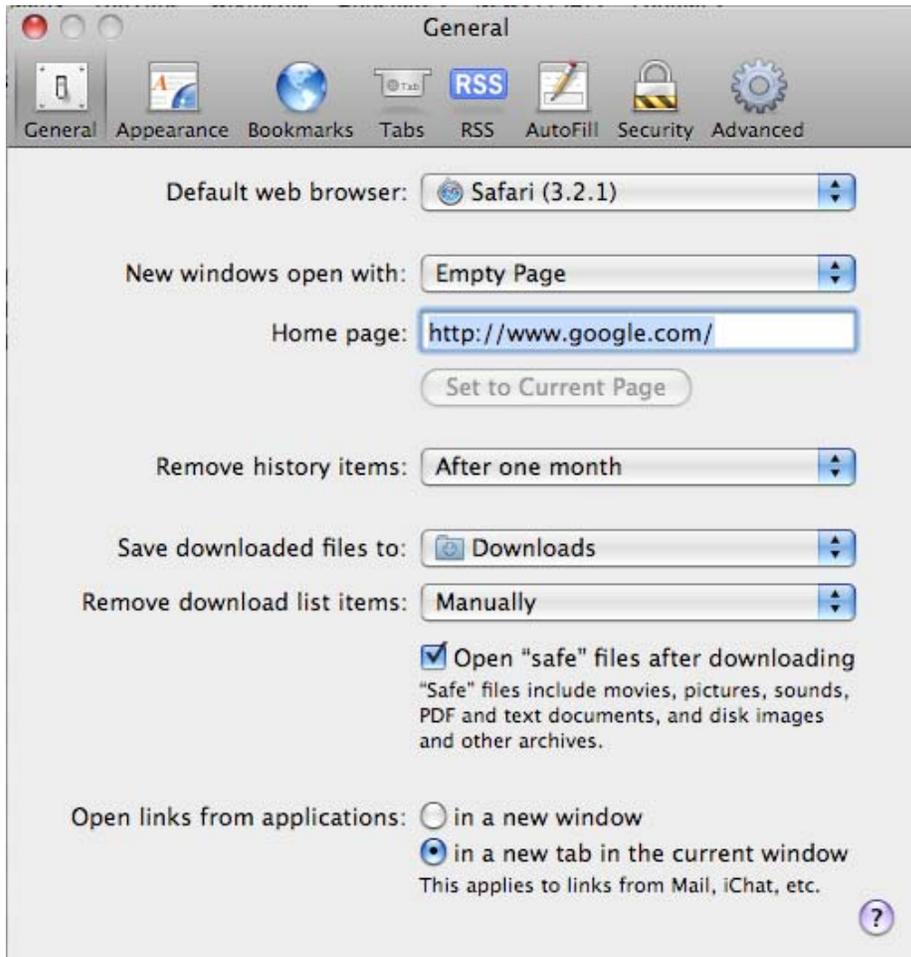


Known Differences for Mac Users

Automatic login as a PACER user when an attorney logs in as a filing user is not supported on the Mac.

If the inside server software is restarted while people are working, any Mac users logged in will not be able to run docket report and other browser-based parts of the system without logging in to CM/ECF again.

The default Mac browser must be used to log in to CM/ECF. If a secondary browser is used, it will not "know" that the user has logged in when running browser-based portions of the system. To change the default browser, go to Safari > Preferences > General. Use the Default web browser to indicate the default web browser.



In order to maintain the same security for the CM/ECF application for all users, the URL used behind the scenes for downloading the program to the Mac is different each time. This will make the startup process take longer, as it won't be cached as it is on PCs.