RUNNING TSI'S AEROSOL INSTRUMENT MANAGER® SOFTWARE ON A MACINTOSH® COMPUTER

Recommended Computer and Operating System

TSI's Aerosol Instrument Manager software assumes you have a personal computer running Microsoft® Windows® XP, Windows Vista®, or Windows 7 (32-bit or 64-bit) operating systems.

If instead of a Windows-based computer you use an Apple® Macintosh (Mac) computer, you may be wondering if you can you use Aerosol Instrument Manager software on your computer. TSI's software does not directly support Apple operating system. TSI does development tests for multiple versions of Windows but not for Macintosh computers.

Testing Aerosol Instrument Manager Software on a Mac Computer

At this time TSI does not give direct support for operating Aerosol Instrument Manager software on a Mac computer, but it may be possible. Limited testing has been done on several Mac computers (a laptop and a desktop) using several different environments that successfully operated TSI's software. These tests are just provided as examples and do not guarantee that your computer will be able to load and operate Aerosol Instrument Manager software on a Mac computer. But the three methods that were tested were all successful.

Virtual Environments

The first test was with a Mac program called VMware Fusion. This program creates an environment where the Microsoft Windows operating system can be installed. After installing VMware Fusion and the Windows operating system you now have an environment where programs such as Aerosol Instrument Manager software can be installed.

During our test, the VMware Fusion environment with Windows XP system existed on a MacBook® Pro laptop. The Aerosol Instrument Manager software was installed. The instrument that was used during our test was the Model 3330 Optical Particle Sizer (OPS). Connecting the OPS with a USB cable to the computer caused the computer to look for and install drivers for the OPS. In this case the Windows operating system ran fairly slowly but successfully. The Aerosol Instrument Manager software connected to the OPS, was able to collect data from the instrument, and was able to import data that was transferred with a flash drive (a second method used with the OPS to get data into TSI's Aerosol Instrument Manager software).

The second approach that was tried was another virtual environment called Parallels Desktop® for Mac. Again this program requires a Windows operating system installation. In this instance, Windows 7 was installed and the computer was a fairly new Mac Pro desktop computer. The Aerosol Instrument Manager software was installed and initially a communication problem existed. Restarting the OPS was needed before the instrument drivers would install. After that was done the Aerosol Instrument Manager software detected the OPS, data was collected through the USB cable, and data was imported from a flash drive.

Dual Boot Method

Finally a dual boot capacity was used with the same desktop computer. The Mac program Boot Camp® was used to allow the computer to boot directly into an operating system (other than Mac OS® operating system software). Again a version of Windows is needed and the Windows 7 operating system was used. The computer was rebooted in the Windows operating system and the Aerosol Instrument Manager software was installed. Again the USB cable was used to connect the OPS to the computer, data was collected, and data was also imported from a flash drive.

> ***Note***: *Boot Camp is included with Apple's Mac OS X v10.5 "Leopard®", v10.6 "Snow Leopard®", and v10.7 "Lion" operating systems.*

Summary

This limited testing does not guarantee that all Macintosh computers will be able to run TSI's Aerosol Instrument Manager Software or that the three programs that were used to create Windows operating environments will work in all cases. The computer hardware, operating system, and other factors may create problems that were not observed during this testing.

The two virtual environment programs have been available as trial versions so they may be tried before purchasing. For all these programs, a version of Microsoft Windows operating system needs to be purchased and installed before the Aerosol Instrument Manager software can be installed and used.

Other similar programs undoubtedly exist and may work successfully but have not been tested by TSI. Because testing hasn't been done on other programs, it is recommended that a trial version be used (if possible) to verify that the Aerosol Instrument Manager software will function properly.