



# Remotely control your Mac with LogMeIn Free

Save yourself the cost of a MobileMe subscription and get direct and easy access to your Mac from afar with this amazing free software

**M**ac OS X and MobileMe provides a feature called Back to My Mac that lets you log into any of your Macs over the Internet, so long as you've configured them to use your MobileMe account. Even without a MobileMe account, you can share your Desktop with others using iChat, the free instant messaging application that comes with every Mac. However, you might find that these features – particularly Back to My Mac – are unavailable at some locations, such as your workplace, because the necessary ports for communication are blocked.

LogMeIn Free offers a similar set of features that work in a slightly different manner – and you don't have to pay the annual subscription fee for Apple's services just to connect to your Mac at home when

you've forgotten to copy a file to a USB flash drive or some other storage.

Even better, you needn't install any additional software such as VNC, another popular alternative for this type of activity. In fact, all you need to connect to your Mac is a web browser, even one on a Windows PC.

The free version's features are a valuable trick to have up your sleeve. You could use it to monitor a video encoding job or a download that you've left running while you're at work, so you can shut down your Mac and save power once it's done. Or you might use it to log into a Mac mini equipped with a TV tuner so you can add a programme to its recording schedule. Here's how to install it LogMeIn Free on your Mac and, importantly, how to check the connection is working.



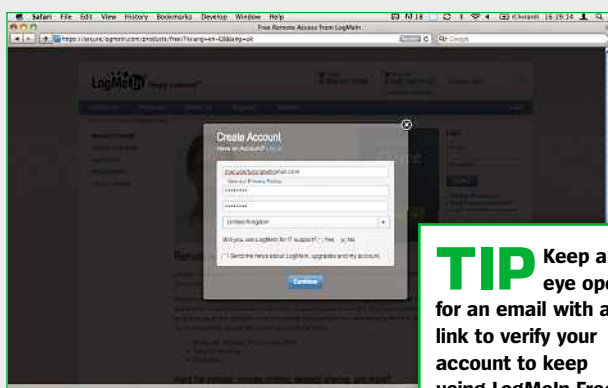
**Alan Stonebridge** spends his working life in front of Macs – and they've taken over his free time, too.

**Kit required**  
LogMeIn Free



► LogMeIn lets you use your Mac from another one, a PC, and even an iPad or iPhone.

## Set up the Mac you want to access remotely



**TIP** Keep an eye open for an email with a link to verify your account to keep using LogMeIn Free.

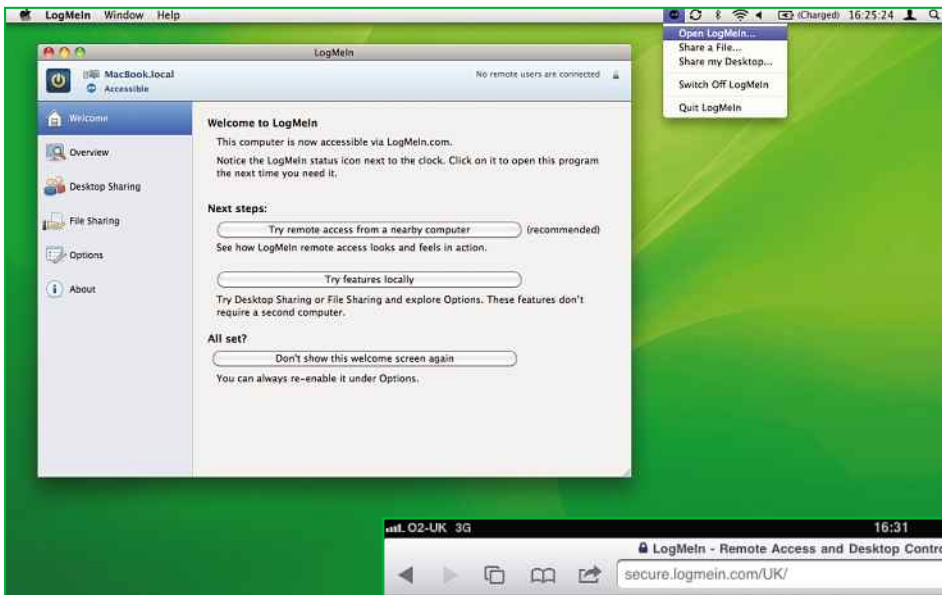
### 1. Download LogMeIn Free

To access your Mac from another computer or a mobile phone, you'll need to install the LogMeIn Free software, which you can download from [bit.ly/9IUKuk](http://bit.ly/9IUKuk). Because LogMeIn's website acts as an intermediary between your Mac and whatever device you use to access it, you'll be asked to create an account before the download commences.



### 2. Install the software and identify your Mac

Unpack the Zip file and run the installer. During installation, you'll be asked for a name for the Mac. By default, it's set to the one that's shown in System Preferences' Sharing pane, but if you've got two machines with the same name (such as Alan's iMac), you'll need to append a name so you can tell them apart. When prompted, enter the account details you supplied in Step 1.

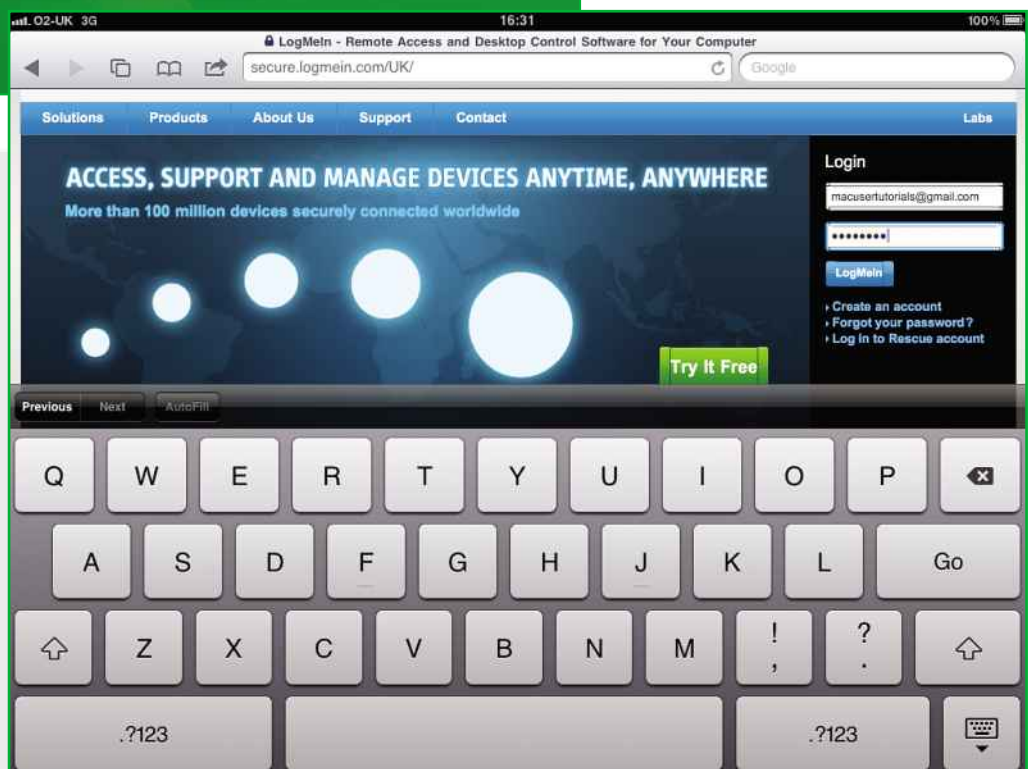


### 3. Access LogMeIn features on the Mac you're using

Once the installer has done its job, this summary will appear, detailing the Mac you're using. You'll also receive an email at your account address to confirm that it has been added to the list of computers available for remote access. Once you've closed this window, you can reopen it from the LogMeIn icon in the menu bar, which is also the quickest route to other LogMeIn features we'll talk about in a moment.

### 4. Check that you can establish a connection

The application will offer you some options for testing that everything is working from your local network. You can either use these, or your iPhone or iPad's 3G connection. Even though a mobile device's connection speed will mean screen updates are slow, it's still a useful way to check you can reach your Mac from a different network and that the connection doesn't get blocked by overzealous network security. Go to [logmein.com](http://logmein.com) in a web browser on your other device. When asked, provide your account details to log in.





### 5. Start a remote control session

The next page lists your remotely accessible computers and your Mac as online. Click on the Remote Control button beneath its name and you'll be taken to a login form. Here, it's asking for the username and password for an account on the Mac.



### 6. Ignore the plug-in warning

You may be prompted to install a LogMeIn plug-in, even if you're connecting from an iPad. This isn't absolutely necessary, though. The page says that if you skip installation of the plug-in, you can use Java-based software to establish a connection. You'll still be able to connect from your iPad or iPhone.

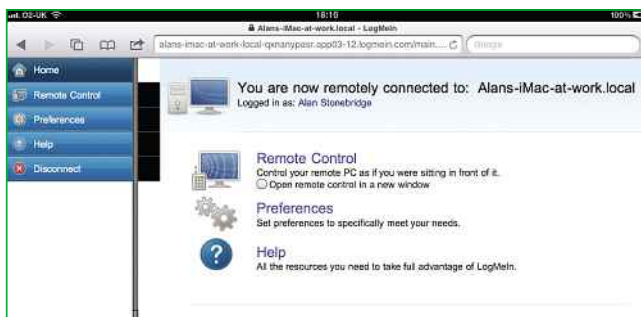


### 7. Log into your Mac account

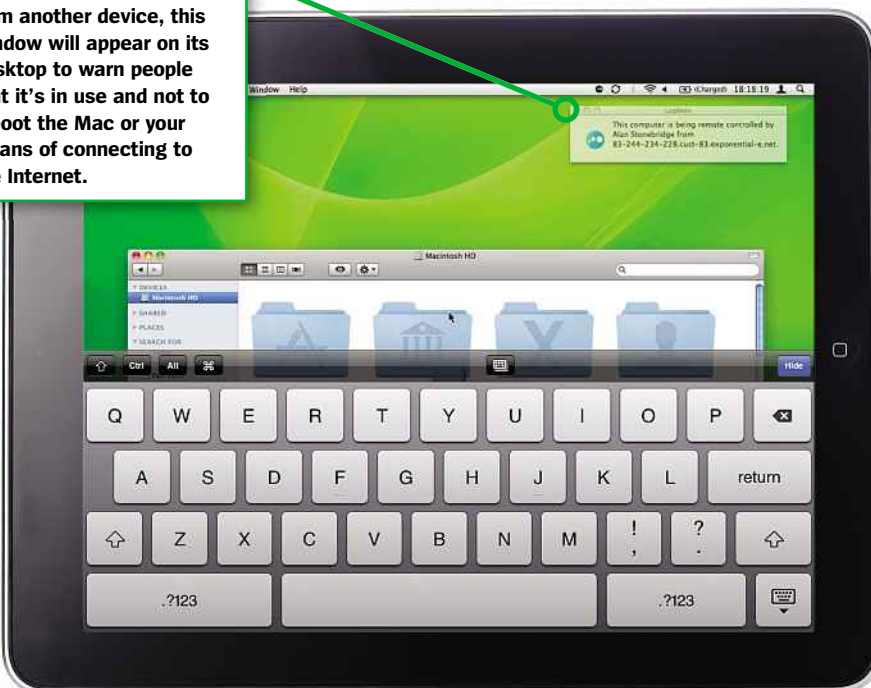
You'll then be prompted for a username and password. These are the details of the user account on the Mac into which you're trying to log in.

### 8. Still a step away

You still won't have access to your Mac's Desktop. Instead, you'll arrive at a page like this one. To get there, click on Remote Control in the left pane or, if you want to open the Desktop in a new browser window, tick the box in the right pane and click on Remote Control.



**TIP** When a Mac is being controlled from another device, this window will appear on its Desktop to warn people that it's in use and not to reboot the Mac or your means of connecting to the Internet.



### 9 Wake up an idle Mac

Finally, you're at your Mac's Desktop. If a screen saver is set to kick in or the display is set to go to sleep, you may not see anything. From a PC or Mac, click the mouse in the window or tap a key to nudge the Mac to wake up. If that doesn't work or you're testing the connection from an iOS device, tap in the box next to Send Keys in the bar above the Desktop, type something and hit the Send button to prompt your Mac into action.

### 10. Improved mobile access to your Mac

Accessing your Mac from an iOS device in this way is fine for testing that everything works, but isn't ideal on a regular basis. Instead, try LogMeIn Ignition. Unfortunately, this isn't free like the Mac application, but it provides a custom keyboard layout, with special keys equivalent to the Mac's modifier keys, and an experience that's overall more refined.