

Raven vs. Canary

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This document addresses the differences between Raven and Canary, and provides guidelines for choosing which program to purchase.

System requirements

Canary runs only on computers that have been booted under Mac OS 9.2 or older. It does not run properly in Classic mode under Mac OS X (the program will start in Classic mode, but some features do not work properly). Apple discontinued the option of booting under OS 9.2 on Macs delivered after 1 January 2003. This means that Canary cannot be used on these newer Macs.

Raven runs on computers running Mac OS X (v10.2 or newer) or Windows (98, NT, 2000, and XP).

Features

The table below shows the major features implemented in Canary and Raven 1.1, and planned for Raven 1.2 and 1.3. A beta version of Raven 1.2 with partial functionality is presently available to licensed Raven users.

	Canary	Raven 1.1	Raven 1.2	Raven 1.3
Signal acquisition w/built-in Mac audio input device	x	x	x	x
Signal acquisition w/audio input devices w/Mac CoreAudio or Windows audio drivers		x	x	x
Real-time spectrogram display during signal acquisition		x	x	x
Acquire to and open file sequences		x	x	x
Open files saved in Canary file format	x		x	x
Open signals larger than available memory		x	x	x
Unlimited support for multi-channel signals		x	x	x
Cut, copy, paste, delete, amplify, filter selected section of a signal	x	x	x	x
Waveform view	x	x	x	x
Spectrogram view	x	x	x	x
Spectrogram slice view		x	x	x
Average spectrum view	x		x	x
Extensive control of spectrogram parameters	x	x	x	x
Multiple simultaneous views of one type w/ different parameters or scales		x	x	x
Multi-line views		x	x	x
Color spectrograms		x	x	x
Editable color schemes		x	x	x
Multiple selections		x	x	x
Configurable measurement display	x	x	x	x
Selection and measurement table exportable and retrievable		x	x	x
Signal correlation	x		?	x
Amplitude calibration	x		?	x
Batch processing	x			x
Export images as EPS files		x	x	x
Configuration presets	partial	x	x	x
Saved workspaces		x	x	x
Hardcopy-only User's Manual	x			
Printable electronic User's Manual		x	x	x

(more)

Future development plans

Canary 1.2.4 (released in 1995) will be the last version of Canary. We expect to discontinue sales of Canary once all remaining Canary features have been implemented in Raven.

Raven 1.2 will be released in mid-to-late 2004.

It is our intention to continue developing and supporting Raven for the indefinite future. For a list of additional features that will be implemented in free upgrades to Raven 1.x, please see the Raven website (<http://birds.cornell.edu/raven>). Click on the Features button and scroll down to "Coming in Future Versions".

Pricing

A license for Canary costs \$250, and entitles the user to install the program on up to five individual machines. A standard Raven license costs \$400, and covers a single concurrent user. Under this license, the user can install Raven on any number of machines, provided that the program is used on only one machine at any one time. Special instructional and limited-time student license are also available for Raven—see the Raven website for details.

Users who have purchased a license for Canary after 1 June 2002 receive a discount of \$230 on the purchase of a Raven license. Users who purchased a Canary license between 1 June 2001 and 31 May 2002 receive a sliding discount depending on the date of purchase of the Canary license. Canary users licensed before 1 June 2001 do not receive any discount when licensing Raven.

Which program to choose

If you are working on an older Mac computer that cannot run Mac OS X, you cannot use Raven, and may want to consider Canary. If you are using a newer Mac that cannot boot in OS 9.2, you cannot use Canary, and may want to consider using Raven. If you are using a Mac that can boot either in OS X or OS 9.2, we recommend Raven over Canary because (1) for most users, Raven provides a much more powerful and flexible set of features, (2) Canary will not run on newer computers, and (3) there are no plans for future development of Canary. If you specifically require one of the features in Canary that has not yet been implemented in Raven (*e.g.*, average spectrum display or signal calibration), and have a Mac that can run either program, you may want to consider purchasing Canary now, and upgrading to Raven later, using the discount described above.