

Houdini 10 Compatibility Solution with Snow Leopard

Version: 10.0.430

Apple Product: 2009 MacBook Pro 15" Display, NVIDIA 9400M + 9600MGT Graphics, 3.06 Intel Core 2 Duo, 500 GB HDD 7200 RPM

Duration of Tutorial: Roughly 15 minutes from start the finish - on the fly video

Compatibility: Enables user to get the newest version of Houdini by Side FX to work without error

Tutorial:

1. Install **Houdini.pkg** as per usual
2. When the installation completes, Houdini will load, appear to *crash* and then the license administrator app will load, crash, and return an error (only if Houdini 9.5.241 is installed prior) stating "ERROR: Couldn't open "hkey9.5.241/hkey.ul" for reading: No such filer or directory." Ignore this, but notice how in the (/Applications/Houdini 10.0.430/Extras) directory, the "Administrative Tools", and "Extras" folder has had permissions automatically set to **NO ACCESS**. Please right click on each directory and manually adjust the permissions so that every available option can read and write to each folder.
3. Run the License Administrator App that is located in the Administrative Tools folder. Make note that the application **CAN NOT read from the license file:** (/Library/Preferences/sesi/licenses.local)
4. Go to the (/Library/Preferences/) directory, and change the permissions of the *sesi* folder to read and write for each available option (User, Wheel, Everyone).
5. Once the folder options have been set, double click on the *sesi* folder and regard the files the folder contains. Change the permissions of each file to read and write for each available option.
6. Run Houdini again, and you will be prompted by the License Administrator app to install your free apprentice license. Click NEXT, accept the software agreement, and wait. After a few moments, if you followed this tutorial correctly, a pop-up will verify that your license was installed successfully, and Houdini will work properly now.
7. Enjoy

Additional Notes:

In the video, I did things a bit differently, having written the tutorial afterwards. I first granted full permissions to the sesi folder without granting it for each of the files located in the folder. I was unaware at the time that would be required, so I made double the work for myself without realizing it. This has been tested on two Macintosh computers, one being my portable MacBook Pro, and the other the 2007 iMac. Both versions are slightly slower than the 9.5 counterpart, and for some reason REALLY lag on my MacBook Pro possibly due to driver issues. The ATi graphics card on the other hand handles it beautifully, and with the additional 64-bit support, you see a tremendous difference in GPU capabilities and hardware performance. This software works beautifully on Windows as well, so the necessity to build a "Hacked" Macintosh is non-existent. I will say that PC's do have an advantage of Quad Cores an Core i7 machines as well as top of the line ATi and NVIDIA graphic cards, with the exception of the NEW 27" iMac. (This Mac utilizes the ATi 4850 graphics card, with 512 MB of VRAM, which will work like a dream with Houdini, as well as the Quad Core i7 Machine). On the other hand, for industry professionals in the possession of a compatible Mac Pro with Quad or Oct Core, this software will run fantastically. One thing that all Mac and PC's users should realize is that your OS manages graphical computing differently, and uses different graphics processing languages to do it (OpenGL and DirectX). As well, different operating systems will organize the CPU and GPU usage differently, resulting in a different experience and either machine. I am uneducated in the compatibilities of Houdini with CUDA, but such a compatibility would result in a much more pleasurable experience, opting for more GPU calculations and rendering than CPU. In conclusion, I hope you enjoy the now functioning version of Houdini 10 and give me a shout if you have any problems.

- Just to reiterate, (/Library/Preferences/...) means ([Name of YOUR HD]/Library/Preferences/...) so that you are not accessing some nonexistent directory and yelling at me about an inaccurate guide.