What is the Location list under the Apple menu and how do I use it?

Q: What is the Location list under the Apple menu and how do I use it?

Answer

In Mac OS X, you can set up multiple network Locations—multiple network configurations--that can reflect the different networks in which you may want to use your Mac. For example, you can have one location called WORK configured for the MIT network and another location called HOME configured for your home ISP. That way you don't have to change your network settings every time your Mac moves to a new network. You can also switch networks using the Location menu without having to restart your Mac.

In order to create new Locations:

1. Open your Network settings from within the System Preferences (Open System Preferences found on the Apple menu and click on the Network icon).
2. From the Location list, choose New Location.
3. Name your new location appropriately. If it isn't already chosen, select your new location from the list.
4. Edit the network settings appropriately for your new location.

In order to edit location names, choose Edit from the Location list. You can choose to duplicate, edit, or delete existing locations.

These instructions assume you are using Mac OS version 10.1.2. Locations, labels, and behaviors may differ in other versions of the OS.