Using Migration Assistant in Mac OSX

Migration assistant is a Mac application that allows the user to copy all of their documents, apps, user accounts, settings, etc. to one Mac from another. The steps below are optimal for OS X Mavericks (10.9) or later on the new Mac, and OS X Snow Leopard (10.3.8) or later on the old Mac. Make sure that both Macs have computer names and are connected to AC power.

Connect the Mac Computers to Each Other

- If both computers are using MacOS Sierra or later, make sure they are near each other and have wifi turned on. If either is using OS X El Capitan or earlier, connect them both to the same network via wifi or Ethernet, as the Migration Assistant steps below are for this connection option.
- Or, connect the new Mac to a Time Machine backup of the old Mac.
- Or, connect them using target disk mode and the appropriate cable or adapter. Then start up the old computer in target disk mode.

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Step 1. On the new Mac:
1. Open Migration Assistant, which is in the Utilities folder of the Applications folder
2. Click continue
3. When asked how you want to transfer your information, select the option to transfer from a Mac, Time Machine, or startup disk (as described above).
4. Click continue

Step 2. On the old Mac:
1. Open Migration Assistant
2. Click continue
3. When asked how you want to transfer your information, select the option to transfer to another Mac.
4. Click continue

Step 3. On the new Mac:
1. When asked to select a Mac, Time Machine backup, or other startup disk, click the appropriate icon.
2. Click continue; you might see a security code

Step 4. On the old Mac:
1. If you see a security code, make sure it's the same code as on the new Mac.
2. Click continue

Step 5. On the new Mac:
1. You should see a list of backups by date and time. Choose the backup that you want to use.
2. Click continue
3. Select the information to transfer.
4. Click continue to start the transfer. If you have a lot of content, the transfer might take several hours to finish.
5. After Migration Assistant is done, log in to the migrated account on the new Mac to see its files.

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