

BootCamp is resident on newer Macs with Intel chips.

Parallels is software available for purchase that creates a virtual machine within a Mac.

Using either BootCamp or Parallels costs extra time and money for the Mac owner and requires purchase and installation of extra (PC) software (but not an extra computer) that doesn't normally come with a Mac.

To use BootCamp a Mac owner has to partition their hard drive and then purchase and install a Windows operating system to run PC software programs. (Macs don't normally come with a Windows operating system.)

To use Parallels the owner has to buy the Parallels program and then purchase and install a Windows operating system in the virtual machine that Parallels creates.

An analogy would be a hybrid car where the computer operating system is similar to the car engine and which engine you are running depends on what kind of fuel you have: electricity stored in batteries fuels an electric engine and gasoline fuels a combustion engine. Here it's easy to understand the a gas engine won't run on electricity and an electric engine won't run on gas and you need a switch or some other means to change between which one is operating at a particular time.