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That's right, I packed it in. My MacBook Pro is now on the shelf. In a while, it goes on Craigslist -- not because it's been obsoleted by the latest version of Mac OS -- Mountain Lion as mine will work okay (some MacBook Pros will not). Instead, there's a cushy comfort zone that's dangerous for a product reviewer to fall into.

Apple sent some machines a long time ago to my lab. Try them, they said. They were damn seductive and had populist agendas going for them.

Day one: What to use in lieu of the Mac?

I coveted the MacBook Air. Nice machine. It's light weight if bereft of specs comparable to bigger machines. I had to keep the weight down. I needed a fat hard drive and a lot of memory. I could choose between Linux and Windows, or both with VM technology.

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