

UTILITIES

CARBON COPY CLONER

WHO ?

BOMBICH SOFTWARE

WHAT ?

VOLUME CLONER

WHERE ?

WWW.BOMBICH.COM/SOFTWARE/INDEX.HTML

HOW MUCH ?

DONATIONS ACCEPTED

WHAT ELSE ?

Carbon Copy Cloner lets you clone a volume to another partition. What makes Carbon Copy Cloner great is that you can backup your entire Mac OS X installation to another drive (just copying the volume in the Finder doesn't work because it misses files belonging to the root user).

To run Carbon Copy Cloner, you select a Source Disk and Target Disk in the Cloning Console window (make sure there is enough room on the target disk, as the program doesn't check for this). Selecting a source will list all of the files and folders at the root level. If you don't want to copy all of the items, you can delete them from the list. You can choose whether to remove any items with the same name on both disks, or leave files on the target disk alone. If you want to synchronize items, then you'll need to use a backup utility like ChronoSync (see page 131).

The program will run in the background, and can clone a volume in a matter of minutes, depending on the size of the volume and whether you are copying to a separate disk or to a different volume on the same disk.

Carbon Copy Cloner is a solid program, but be sure to read the readme file.

SO WHAT ?

Carbon Copy Cloner is a great way to copy your System disk. If you have a separate hard disk, cloning your System can be a lifesaver if something on your System volume goes haywire.

CHRONOSYNC

WHO ?

ECON TECHNOLOGIES

WHAT ?

BACKUP & SYNCHRONIZATION

WHERE ?

WWW.ECONTECHNOLOGIES.COM

HOW MUCH ?

\$19.95

WHAT ELSE ?

ChronoSync has some powerful features at a great price, and the polished Cocoa interface makes it easy to use. It can synchronize files and folders on a local volume, a network volume, laptop, or on removable media, and it's fast.

You start by creating a document specifying the file and folders to synchronize, and your synchronization settings. You can synchronize upstream (backup), downstream (restore), or bi-directional (synchronize). ChronoSync offers numerous settings to customize your operation. For example, you can choose to ignore invisible files, resolve aliases (synchronize the targets), preserve file attributes (access permissions), and synchronize deletions (remove destination files when they've been removed from the source). ChronoSync also lets you create custom rules based on the name, size, extension, modification date, and type and creator codes. After choosing your settings, you can run a trial synchronization to see which files will be affected, and you can check the status of individual files by browsing a Finder-like window. If you're satisfied with your setup, you can create a schedule to run your synchronization automatically when you launch or terminate ChronoSync, or at any interval you choose.

SO WHAT ?

Scheduling and filtering features, and a low price, make ChronoSync a standout among backup utilities.

CLASSIC SPY

WHO ?

BRAKES OFF

WHAT ?

CLASSIC MONITOR

WHERE ?

HOMEPAGE.MAC.COM/COSTIQUE/

HOW MUCH ?

FREE

WHAT ELSE ?

Classic Spy is a menu extra. The icon on the menu bar indicates whether Classic is running. Now you don't have to open System Preferences or Force Quit to see whether you forgot to shut it down after running that holdout program that doesn't run under OS X.

I stumbled across several different Classic monitors, but most of them did their thing from the Dock. Classic Spy is the ideal Classic monitor because there's no Dock icon, which saves space. It's always there, even when you choose to hide your Dock. It consumes little in the way of resources, and no CPU cycles unless Classic is running. And Classic Spy isn't merely a Classic monitor: Classic Spy is actually a menu. You can start Classic, quit Classic if it's running or open the Classic System Preferences.

Of course, there's no harm in letting Classic run all the time, since it takes relatively little to keep it going in the background. But if you use it only very occasionally, there's no good reason to leave it running, either. Classic Spy will make it easier to remember to shut Classic down.

SO WHAT ?

Still find yourself lapsing into Classic mode? Until we can all make the switch completely to OS X, Classic Spy is an essential utility.

DOCTOR

WHO ?

STONE DESIGN

WHAT ?

WORD TO PDF CONVERTER

WHERE ?

WWW.STONE.COM

HOW MUCH ?

FREE

WHAT ELSE ?

Maybe you have no need for Microsoft Office, but would like to be able to read the Word files people send you without having to shell out a small fortune. Now you can.

DOctor is a utility for converting Microsoft Word files into PostScript files. If you have PStill, one of the excellent applications included with Stone Studio (see page 120), you can then convert the PostScript file to PDF. To convert a file, just drag and drop it into the DOctor window. The only options are for setting the page orientation and size, and how to view the converted file. If you have Create (also part of Stone Studio), you can choose to view the document in Create or any PDF viewer.

To use PStill to convert to PDF, you'll need some Type 1 PostScript fonts. If you don't have any, you can use the GNU Font Installer to install some. It's a collection of free fonts provided by Stone Design. You can also use Stone Design's free TrueBlue, an application for converting TrueType fonts to PostScript. The enclosed CD-ROM includes both applications.

SO WHAT ?

If you need to view Word files without Word, DOctor is an indispensable tool.

DUALITY

WHO ?

CONUNDRUM SOFTWARE

WHAT ?

THEME CHANGER

WHERE ?

CONUNDRUMSOFT.COM

HOW MUCH ?

FREE

WHAT ELSE ?

Duality allows you to load themes, which change the look and feel of many interface elements, including title bars, buttons, sliders, colors, and fonts. Duality also supports icon sets, so you can also automatically change the icons on your computer to match your new theme.

Switching to a new theme is easy. When you first run Duality, the program leads you through a few simple setup screens. You can then select from a list of installed themes (Duality installs three themes automatically: Sosumi, Silverfox, and Glass). You can preview the theme before applying it, and Duality takes precautions to keep things from being corrupted from an older or defective theme. After applying your theme, newly opened applications display the new theme, but to reset the entire desktop, you need to log out and log in again.

To add new themes, Duality includes a LiveThemes service that downloads new themes from several different sites directly into Duality, so you don't have to open your Web browser and go surfing in search of them.

SO WHAT ?

Aqua is gorgeous, but if you still want to think different, Duality allows you to change the look and feel of your computer quickly and easily.

EASYFIND

WHO ?

CHRISTIAN GRUNENBERG

WHAT ?

SEARCH TOOL

WHERE ?

HOME.ARCOR-ONLINE.DE/GRUNENBERG/

HOW MUCH ?

FREE

WHAT ELSE ?

EasyFind is a freeware alternative to Sherlock. It offers some advanced features, including the ability to search for the contents of a file without indexing, and the ability to search for items within packages. You can search files and folders, files only, or the contents of files. There are options for Boolean (AND/OR) searches, and searching for an exact phrase. A drop-down menu lets you quickly select any folder from your Home directory or Favorite Places, or any drive attached to your computer (including network drives).

If you've ever tried to delete multiple files that have the same name from Sherlock (you'll get a message that they can't be moved to the Trash because they have the same name), you'll appreciate EasyFind's Destroy command, which moves files to the Trash and deletes them in one easy step.

SO WHAT ?

While Sherlock is fine for most searches, EasyFind is a capable and fast Sherlock alternative with some advanced features.

FLURRY

WHO ?

CALUM ROBINSON

WHAT ?

SCREEN SAVER

WHERE ?

HOMEPAGE.MAC.COM/CALUMR/

HOW MUCH ?

FREE

WHAT ELSE ?

Flurry is a gorgeous screen saver that looks like neon smoke tentacles shimmering in a black sea. The colors are radiant, like flames, and the trails are soft and sensuous.

Okay, I'm not a poet. But Flurry is a wondrously beautiful and hypnotic screen saver. A black and white screen shot wouldn't do it justice, and no description can capture it. You have to see it for yourself.

There are few options available for Flurry. You can adjust the number of streams with a slider from Few to Some to Many or points in between. You can adjust the stream thickness from Thin to Thick. There are several color modes to choose from, including selecting a single color, adjusting the cycle speed, or adjusting the cycle brightness. All are spectacular to look at.

SO WHAT ?

Among the countless eye candy screen savers that are available, Flurry is sensuously sweet.

FONTBOOK

WHO ?

LEMKE SOFTWARE

WHAT ?

FONTVIEWER

WHERE ?

WWW.LEMKESOFT.COM/US_INDEX.HTML

HOW MUCH ?

\$10.00

WHAT ELSE ?

FontBook is a utility for viewing fonts. It will find and display all fonts on your drive, not just those in your System or Library folders. You can select fonts from a WYSIWYG font menu and display all of the characters in a font (and their keyboard shortcuts). Or choose any of over twenty different layouts, including sizes, styles, ASCII Table, black boxes, multiple text samples per page, and multiple lines. FontBook includes several text samples. Life's Little Instructions is my favorite—it's full of good advice like, "Sing in the shower." After selecting a layout, you can print a font book.

FontBook comes bundled with Extensis Suitcase (see page 153), but at only \$10, it makes a nice companion to X Font Manager (see page 161).

SO WHAT ?

There are numerous freeware and shareware font viewers available for OS X, but FontBook's layout flexibility makes it one of the best.

FREE RULER

WHO ?

PASCAL BALTHROP

WHAT ?

FLOATING SCREEN RULER

WHERE ?

WWW.PASCAL.COM

HOW MUCH ?

FREE

WHAT ELSE ?

Free Ruler is a handy utility for taking measurements on screen. Free Ruler is actually two rulers: one horizontal, and one vertical. You can display one or both rulers at a time and move and size them independently (from 200 to 2000 pixels in length), or group them and move them around together. When Free Ruler is the active application, your cursor displays a crosshair. An Align Rulers at Mouse Location option quickly aligns both rulers with the "0" marker at the crosshair.

Interactive tick marks give you accurate measurements without squinting, and Free Ruler supports measurements in pixels, inches, picas, and centimeters. A Unit Converter will quickly tell you how many pixels there are to an inch (72). Most shortcuts require only a single keystroke, so changing units, or toggling any of a handful of settings, is quick and easy.

SO WHAT ?

If you're a graphic or Web designer, you'll find Free Ruler a useful utility, and the price is right.

GET INFO

WHO ?

GIDEON SOFTWARES

WHAT ?

INFO & ATTRIBUTE EDITOR

WHERE ?

WWW.GIDEONSOFTWARES.COM

HOW MUCH ?

\$10.00

WHAT ELSE ?

Get Info is the ultimate Show info utility and attribute editor. Like the Info window in the Finder, Get Info displays information about the selected file or folder, including the name, path, size (of the data and resource forks), the created and modified dates, the file type and creator, and privileges. But Get Info goes far beyond the Info window, giving you more control over attributes and offering a number of features that make it fast and easy to use.

The Info window in Get Info has a toolbar that let's you show the file in the Finder, open a Hex editor (if you have one configured in the preferences—see HexEdit on page 12), copy the path, or recalculate the size. A drop menu lets you select General Information, Privileges, Type/Creator, Advanced settings, and Preview. The Privileges pane lets you change the owner, group, and permissions, and a drop menu lets you select from several presets. You can edit the Type and Creator manually, or drag a file with the desired Type and Creator into the Get Info window. A Favorites menu provides another shortcut to frequently used codes. Get Info also supports batch mode, so you can change a number of files quickly.

If you leave Get Info running, you can use hot keys to Get Info on a Finder selection, or use the Dock icon menu. Get Info also lets you group a Finder selection into a new folder (handy for organizing a cluttered downloads folder), copy paths of a Finder selection to the Clipboard, and force empty the Trash.

SO WHAT ?

Type/Creator favorites, hot keys, Dock icon menu, and batch mode give you control over your files and save you time, making Get Info the ideal Info utility.

HOTAPP

WHO ?

TRUFSOFT.COM

WHAT ?

APPLICATION LAUNCHER

WHERE ?

WWW.TRUFSOFT.COM

HOW MUCH ?

\$15.00

WHAT ELSE ?

HotApp is an application switcher and launcher. It allows you to assign hot keys (including Function keys) to open applications, add system actions (like opening Classic, or switching to the Finder while hiding all other applications), open a System Preferences panel, add pasted text (any text saved to an RTF, RTFD, or TXT file), open a file or directory, open a URL, paste dynamic information (dates and times), or remap a shortcut key. In addition, there are a couple of preset shortcuts for switching between the current and previous applications, and for opening a list of all active applications (you can customize both shortcuts). You can use HotApp to assign a shortcut key to an AppleScript. You can create hot keys from a simple menu, or drag applications into HotApp directly from the Finder.

HotApp has a simple, straightforward interface that really needs no instruction. It's a Preference Pane that's added to your System Preferences, so there is no icon to clutter your Dock. It runs in the background, using little memory, and "listens" for your keyboard.

SO WHAT ?

There are more expensive keyboard utilities, and a few shareware alternatives, but HotApp does the most critical things simply at a reasonable price.

LAUNCHBAR

WHO ?

OBJECTIVE DEVELOPMENT

WHAT ?

LAUNCHER

WHERE ?

WWW.OBDEV.AT

HOW MUCH ?

\$39 COMMERCIAL, \$19.95 PERSONAL

WHAT ELSE ?

LaunchBar is a unique utility that lets you control everything on your computer by entering just a few keystrokes. LaunchBar works in the background, requires no configuration of keyboard shortcuts, and is amazingly fast.

To activate LaunchBar you press a hotkey or select LaunchBar from the menu bar. Then just type a few letters of the item you want to open (they don't have to be the first few letters of the item). A list of items with those letters will appear in a drop-down menu. Select the item and hit return. With LaunchBar; you can type a few letters from any bookmark and launch your browser; LaunchBar can also read email addresses from Outlook and Entourage (you have to export the contacts to a file first), from ASCII or RTF formatted lists (which can be exported from almost any email program), or from HTML files with mailto: URLs.

LaunchBar takes a little time to get used to...you. The more you use it the more it intelligently learns your favorite shortcuts. You don't have to type "Text" to open TextEdit, for example. Maybe you'd just like to type "T." If so, LaunchBar will learn from you, and typing "T" will display TextEdit at the top of the list.

SO WHAT ?

There are lots of utilities for giving you quicker access to your files, but LaunchBar's sleek design, simplicity, comprehensiveness, and responsiveness make it a standout.

LIFE CLOCK

WHO ?

TRAVIS MCLESKEY

WHAT ?

SCREEN SAVER

WHERE ?

WWW.HERESME.COM

HOW MUCH ?

FREE

WHAT ELSE ?

Life Clock is a screen saver that shows a dual-display clock. It displays the current time in odometer-style, luminous digits. It also displays how many minutes you have left to live (or at least a statistical calculation of your life expectancy, based on data from the National Center for Health Statistics).

There are very few options to set in the configuration dialog: you enter your birth date and gender, and what mode to run it in. There are three modes: clock, life clock, or "normal," which switches between the two modes. You can set the delay before switching.

Life Clock is thought-provoking and Zen-like in its simplicity. It makes you wonder, as you watch the seconds of your life rolling by, if this is how you want to spend your life. Why wait? Maybe you *should* splurge on that fast new PowerPC.

SO WHAT ?

The choice of screen savers is a very personal thing. If you want something that makes you pause and ponder, and doesn't just dazzle you with eye candy, Life Clock is a provocative choice.

MACJANITOR

WHO ?

BRIAN HILL

WHAT ?

SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

WHERE ?

PERSONALPAGES.TDS.NET/~BRIAN_HILL/INDEX.HTML

HOW MUCH ?

FREE

WHAT ELSE ?

Macjanitor is a simple utility, but essential for anyone who uses a laptop or shuts down their computer at night. OS X is based on Unix, an operating system which traditionally has been designed to be left up and running at all times. It runs several regular system maintenance routines, either daily, weekly, or monthly. These tasks usually run between 3:00 am and 5:00 am, but if your computer is powered off during these times, the scripts fail to run. The consequences are not that serious—primarily the unnecessary accumulation and inflation of certain files (like old system messages and your /tmp directory)—but running them regularly will save you disk space and make sure you have the proper backups.

Macjanitor is a stable little utility. When you run it the first time, it may churn away for several minutes (especially if your system hasn't run the maintenance tasks for a few weeks). After that, the routines run pretty quickly.

Macjanitor is easy to use, and a Help file gives you more information than you probably want to know about what it does when it runs the routines.

SO WHAT ?

Macjanitor may become unnecessary as OS X becomes more fully featured, but in the meantime, it's a good idea to run this free application now and then to minimize System bloat.

MOUSEZOOM

WHO ?

BEN HINES

WHAT ?

MOUSE ACCELERATOR

WHERE ?

HOMEPAGE.MAC.COM/BHINES/

HOW MUCH ?

FREE

WHAT ELSE ?

MouseZoom is a Preference Pane that gives you greater control over your mouse cursor movement in OS X. The standard preferences limit the tracking speed and can seem painfully slow, especially if you have a large monitor. MouseZoom greatly increases the scale, so you can make your cursor move much faster than the default range. You could hack around in Terminal, but MouseZoom makes it easy, and updates your settings dynamically.

To change your mouse tracking speed, slide the MouseZoom slider. As you move up the scale, your speed updates to several decimal places. The scale goes from Windows Slow to Not Very Fast to OK Fast to Nice and Fast to Extremely Fast to Über Fast! to Wild Fast! to Ridiculously Fast! to G6 Fast!! to OS X Crazy Fast!!! For most users, this is more than enough mouse speed (I get dizzy if I go above Extremely Fast).

SO WHAT ?

Unless (and until) OS X offers finer control and greater range over mouse tracking speed, MouseZoom is an essential utility.

NORTON ANTIVIRUS

WHO ?

SYMANTEC

WHAT ?

VIRUS PROTECTION

WHERE ?

WWW.SYMANTEC.COM

HOW MUCH ?

\$69.95

WHAT ELSE ?

Norton AntiVirus keeps your computer safe from unwanted intruders like computer viruses, macro viruses, Trojan horses, and worms. AntiVirus scans for known viruses by referring to virus definition files, which are regularly updated through the LiveUpdate feature. But Norton AntiVirus also makes use of *Bloodhound* technology to protect against new and unknown viruses detecting suspect files by analyzing various properties.

In previous versions you could specify individual folders as Safe Zones, but under OS X your entire computer is a designated a Universal Safe Zone (all files written to disk are scanned for viruses). Auto-Protect scans email attachments and file transfers automatically as they are downloaded, and can repair them as needed. A Scheduler allows you to schedule virus scans or updates of virus definitions. New virus definitions are released monthly, or more frequently when necessary.

AntiVirus can't scan files that require root access under OS X, but that shouldn't be a problem unless you regularly use your computer as root. You can also run AntiVirus from the CD-ROM to clean up a computer that has already been infected. Be aware that AntiVirus doesn't check for Windows viruses. It can scan archives, but it has to open them first. Scanning lots of archived files can cause StuffIt windows to flash annoyingly as the archives are unstuffed and scanned.

SO WHAT ?

It's a dangerous world (wide web) out there. No computer should be without some protection, and Norton AntiVirus provides a comprehensive solution.

OMNIDISKSWEeper

WHO ?

THE OMNI GROUP

WHAT ?

DRIVE SPACE ANALYZER

WHERE ?

WWW.OMNIGROUP.COM

HOW MUCH ?

\$14.92

WHAT ELSE ?

OmniDiskSweeper is a utility for analyzing your drive to see how you're using the space. A startup window lists all available drives. Double-clicking on one opens a Finder-like browser (in column view) that lists files and ranks them by size. As you move through the columns, each column is sorted from the largest to the smallest file. Just browse until you find the hogs, preview them if necessary (just double click or drag them to an application in the Dock), and delete the ones you no longer need. OmniDiskSweeper recalculates the sizes automatically, and it's fast.

OmniDiskSweeper lists hidden files, so using it requires some care. And clicking the Delete button destroys the file, so you can't just drag it out of the Trash if you make a mistake. But if you know what you're doing, OmniDiskSweeper can be a real time—and space—saver.

SO WHAT ?

OmniDiskSweeper is a great utility for ridding your hard drive of space hogging applications that are gathering dust.

PREFEDIT

WHO ?

MARCEL BRESINK SOFTWARE-SYSTEME

WHAT ?

PREFERENCE FILE EDITOR

WHERE ?

WWW.BRESINK.DE/OSX/

HOW MUCH ?

FREE

WHAT ELSE ?

PrefEdit is a preference file browser and editor. When you launch PrefEdit, it searches for your preference files (PLIST files) and lists them in a browser with a column view. You can do a full text search of all listed files. PrefEdit will work only with Cocoa and Carbon applications, and will ignore any Classic applications you have on your computer.

You can edit preference files in any good text editor (like TextEdit), but PrefEdit's browser lets you browse quickly to different settings and make changes by point-and-click (which leads to fewer errors and fewer unexpected results).

You should always be very careful when editing preference files on your computer since entering the wrong value can cause things to go haywire or even wreak havoc with your documents. PrefEdit can help you avoid mistakes.

SO WHAT ?

PrefEdit is a quick and easy way to access and edit preference files.

PROCESS WIZARD

WHO ?

LA CHOSE INTERACTIVE

WHAT ?

PROCESS VIEWER & RENICER

WHERE ?

WWW.THEINTERACTIVETHING.COM

HOW MUCH ?

FREE

WHAT ELSE ?

Process Wizard is a Menu Addition that enables you to view all of the processes running on your system, to change their priority, or to kill them.

Of course, OS X comes with a utility called ProcessViewer, which lets you list and kill processes. But Process Wizard has the convenience of always being ready in your menu, and adjusting the priority of an application (like your Finder), can boost performance.

Process Wizard groups processes by Applications, Background Apps, Other user processes, and Non user processes. Icons in the Applications and Background Apps listings make them easy to identify, and Process Wizard displays the paths in the other lists, which make decoding a hidden process less daunting. If you've ever tried to delete something and got the message that you couldn't because some part of it was still in use, Process Wizard will make it a little easier to find the offending hanger-on. Killing a process is as easy as Control-Click.

Process Wizard also lets you adjust the Unix "nice" value by moving a slider (sliding to the right increases the priority for the application). Use it to boost performance of active applications, or lower the priority of background applications.

SO WHAT ?

Process Wizard is a handy utility, particularly useful for identifying hidden processes that you might want to kill (but be careful).

SKELETON KEY

WHO ?

SPECTRAL CLASS

WHAT ?

OPEN FILES AS ROOT

WHERE ?

WWW.SPECTRALCLASS.COM

HOW MUCH ?

FREE

WHAT ELSE ?

Skeleton Key is a handy utility that gives you drag and drop access to the Terminal `sudo` command, which allows you to open files as root, or System Administrator.

Skeleton Key couldn't be simpler to use. When you launch the program, a small Drop Zone window opens in the bottom right corner of your screen. Drag applications into the Drop Zone. After prompting you for your Administrator password, Skeleton Key opens the files as root. You can choose to have Skeleton Key quit after opening the files, or leave the Drop Zone open (if you leave it open, you can type a custom message into the Drop Zone).

Using Skeleton Key requires a measure of caution, since opening files as root gives you the power to alter files that are critical to your system.

SO WHAT ?

If you know enough to use Skeleton Key, you probably already know how to do what it does by using Terminal, but Skeleton Key is a great little shortcut.

SNAX

WHO ?

COCOATECH

WHAT ?

FILE BROWSER

WHERE ?

WWW.COCOATECH.COM

HOW MUCH ?

\$32.00

WHAT ELSE ?

Snax is a file browser, kind of like the Finder on steroids. The SNAX window is similar to a Finder window. You've got a toolbar, and you can display files in list or column view. But you'll also notice some differences right away. There are a few extra buttons to aid navigation (which show you the path of the current directory), and rows are alternately shaded to make long lists more readable.

SNAX has some powerful features that make it an attractive Finder replacement. For example, it has hotspots—a little shaded bar that can be placed to the right of files or over their icons—that allow you to click once to send a double click. In other words, you can navigate quickly or open files with a single click instead of two. Snax also allows you to display invisible files and packages, and displays previews in a preview drawer. There's an Applications menu that displays running applications, and lists all of your applications—not all of the extra files that fill up your applications folder, but just the applications—that makes launching apps a snap.

The list goes on: a fast Find panel, compression, decompression, editable menu keys, contextual menus, graphic conversion, threaded file copying, the ability to open files as root, to touch a file (set the modification date to the current time), secure delete, and much more.

SO WHAT ?

Snax is a Finder alternative that's packed with useful features that add power and speed to file browsing.

STAMPINSTONE

WHO ?

STONE DESIGN

WHAT ?

PDF WATERMARKING

WHERE ?

WWW.STONE.COM

HOW MUCH ?

\$49

WHAT ELSE ?

StampInStone lets you add a watermark to a PDF document. This is a great way to prevent unwanted copying, to get attention, or to prevent confusion (mistaking a draft for a final document, for example).

The watermark can be a line of text or an image. You can enter any line of text or select from a drop menu that includes common watermarks (like Confidential, Date, or Draft). You can freely drag the watermark to anywhere on the page and place it above or below the text in your file. StampInStone also lets you do bulk stamping and unstamp. Just drag a folder into the Bulk Stamping window.

SO WHAT ?

StampInStone makes watermarking as easy as applying a stamp, and it will never run out of ink.

STUFFIT DELUXE

WHO ?

ALADDIN SYSTEMS

WHAT ?

ARCHIVING UTILITY

WHERE ?

WWW.ALADDINSYS.COM

HOW MUCH ?

\$79.95, FREE FOR STUFFIT LITE

WHAT ELSE ?

Stuffit Deluxe is a file access and compression utility. If you've downloaded software from the Web, you've used Stuffit Expander, the *decompression* utility that comes with OS X. Stuffit Deluxe is an indispensable tool for anyone who needs to work with compressed files, supporting a number of different file formats for different platforms (making it easy to share files between Mac, Windows, and Unix systems), including Palm file support.

Stuffit Deluxe actually consists of several applications: Stuffit Deluxe, Archive Search (which can search the contents of an archive), several drag and drop applications (for compression and expansion, file conversion and secure deletion), and Stuffit Express Personal Edition (which allows you to create your own custom drag and drop applications composed of selected actions, like compressing files and automatically sending them to your email program). Archives can be password protected for added security, and a return receipt option will generate an email notification when an archive you've sent is received and opened.

Stuffit Deluxe integrates with the Finder, so most commands are available from a context menu or Magic Menu, which can optionally be added to the menu bar.

SO WHAT ?

If you need to compress, as well as expand files for archiving, networking, or exchange between platforms, Stuffit Deluxe's extensive and versatile toolset is essential.

SUITCASE

WHO ?

EXTENSIS

WHAT ?

FONT MANAGER

WHERE ?

WWW.EXTENSIS.COM

HOW MUCH ?

\$99.95

WHAT ELSE ?

If you use your Mac for graphic design or desktop publishing, there's a good chance you have hundreds, if not thousands of fonts on your computer. But installing lots of fonts on your system can cause undesirable side effects, like slower performance and stability problems (and corrupt fonts can create problems that are difficult to troubleshoot when there are so many possible culprits).

Suitcase makes it easy to organize, preview, and manage your fonts. You can selectively activate and deactivate fonts to make it easier on your system, remove clutter from your font menus, and organize your fonts into sets (font collections) so you can find the right fonts when you need them.

You can preview your fonts in several ways, including waterfall, ABC 123, paragraph (which displays a quote from Mark Twain, "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do," or any text of your choice), or QuickType (which lets you enter a quick, short phrase to preview). Suitcase also comes bundled with FontBook (see page 137).

In addition to managing sets, Suitcase monitors your fonts for conflicts or corruption. If a corrupt font crashes your system, Suitcase will mark the font so you can replace it with the original. If you're part of a workgroup, you can use Suitcase with Suitcase Server, which can manage fonts via a network.

SO WHAT ?

Suitcase is your best choice for industrial strength font management.

SYNK

WHO ?

RANDALL VOTH

WHAT ?

BACKUP & SYNCHRONIZATION

WHERE ?

MYPAGE.UNISERVE.CA/~RVOTH/

HOW MUCH ?

\$15.00

WHAT ELSE ?

Synk is a simple backup and synchronization program. Setup is easy: just drag source and destination folders into the setup window, then select Synchronize, Backup, or Reverse Backup (or restore) from a drop-down menu. For backups, Synk can automatically remove files from the destination folder than are no longer in the source folder, and there's an option for archiving any files that are removed in the process. You can preview a backup before running, which will show you the changes that are about to be made.

Synchronizing files (copying files both ways) works the same easy way. Synchronizing compares the modification dates of files in both source folders, then replaces the older files in one folder with the newer files from the other folder. Synk also allows you to perform "intelligent synchronization," which allows Synk to determine whether an item has been added or removed since the last synchronization by referring to a catalog file.

Synk also gives you the option to replace newer files during a backup (which is useful for restoring files to a previous state), or to compare ownership and posix permissions. If you run Synk as a System Administrator (or root—see Skeleton Key on page 149 for an easy way to do this), you can backup multiple user directories, and Synk will preserve ownership and permissions.

SO WHAT ?

Synk doesn't have some of the features found in some backup utilities (see ChronoSync on page 131), but simplicity and speed make it a solid choice at a bargain price.

TINKERTOOL

WHO ?

MARCEL BRESINK SOFTWARE-SYSTEME

WHAT ?

HIDDEN SYSTEM PREFERENCES

WHERE ?

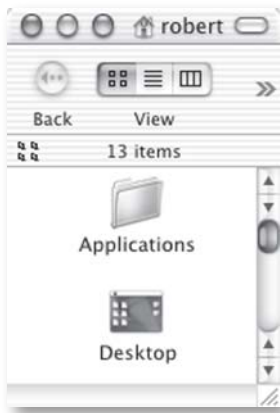
WWW.BRESINK.DE/OSX/

HOW MUCH ?

FREE

WHAT ELSE ?

TinkerTool installs as a preference pane, and picks up where System Preferences leaves off. It adds several options—some cosmetic, some frivolous, and some truly useful (my favorite is the option to place scroll arrows together at both ends).



You can turn off the Mac Desktop (hiding the icons and background image), center or title the image on your Desktop Background, show hidden and system files in the Finder (but be careful if you turn this option on), position the Dock on any side of the screen—including the top, change the Dock pinning (place the Dock at the start, center or ending edge), or change the Minimizer Effect to Suck In (Dock Preferences only lets you choose Scale or Genie). You can set audio and video disks to play automatically, change your system fonts, adjust the font smoothing settings, and—insignificant, but cool-looking—make Terminal windows transparent.

SO WHAT ?

If you like to tinker, TinkerTool puts numerous additional options at your disposal and saves you from having to tinker with Terminal, which can lead to unexpected—and sometimes dangerous—results.

VISAGE

WHO ?

SANITY SOFTWARE

WHAT ?

CUSTOMIZE APPEARANCE

WHERE ?

WWW.STANFORD.EDU/~KEAKA/SANITY.HTML

HOW MUCH ?

\$10.00

WHAT ELSE ?

Visage is a utility that lets you customize the appearance of your Mac in several ways. It installs as a System Preferences pane, so it's simple and safe to use. You don't have to resort to using Terminal or booting into OS 9, and Visage lets you preview changes without rebooting.

The Visage System Preferences pane consists of five tabs, which let you customize your Boot Panel, Boot Strings, Login Panel, Login Background, and Dock Poof. Visage can also manage your collection of Panels (it comes with a few samples, and countless more are available on the Net—try ResExcellence at www.resexcellence.com, which has a large selection). Importing them into Visage adds them to a convenient drop menu.

Probably the most interesting feature is the Boot Strings tab, which lets you customize the text that's displayed under the Boot Panel progress bar. Instead of saying "Configuring Network," you can change the text to "Warp speed ahead!" or anything you want. Visage lets you restore everything to the defaults with a click of the mouse, so you don't have to worry about playing around.

The Dock Poof panel lets you change the animation you see when you drag something from the Dock. It also has an option to make the Dock background translucent or transparent (though it retains the background outline).

SO WHAT ?

Visage is an easy way to personalize your Mac, and it's easy to use. The possibilities for practical jokes are endless...

WORKSTRIP

WHO ?

SOFTCHAOS

WHAT ?

LAUNCHER

WHERE ?

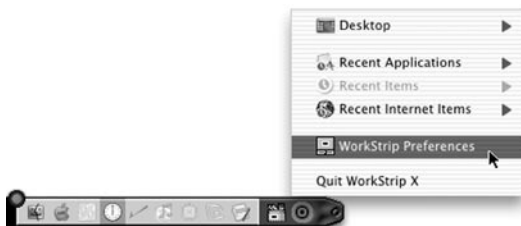
WWW.SOFTCHAOS.COM

HOW MUCH ?

\$39.00

WHAT ELSE ?

If you liked the Control Strip in earlier versions of the Mac OS, you'll love WorkStrip. WorkStrip is a launcher, organizer, and switcher. It takes up very little of your desktop (and shrinks to a tiny tab when not in use) and offers some timesaving features.



WorkStrip shows running applications as icons, making it a kind of micro version of your Dock. It also adds an application menu, allowing you to quit or hide the application, access other shortcuts (like bookmarks), and preview documents. If you want to keep the icon in WorkStrip after you quit an application, you can "tag" it to appear at all times, or only when you are in a specific workspace. A workspace is a group of documents. When you create a custom workspace, it's added to WorkStrip. Select the workspace to display it in the strip, and the workspace menu displays all the documents for the workspace.

SO WHAT ?

WorkStrip is one of many application launch pads, but it's reminiscent of the Control Strip, which will be welcomed by long-time Mac fans. Its inconspicuous design and flexible features may be perfect for your way of working.

X³

WHO ?

I0K

WHAT ?

SYSTEM MONITOR

WHERE ?

WWW.I0K.ORG/JAKE/SOFT.HTML

HOW MUCH ?

FREE

WHAT ELSE ?

X³ is a tiny application that sits in your dock and displays a 3D icon representing your system's performance, updating in real time. As the load on your system increases, the icon will spin faster or more slowly (depending on your selection in the preferences). You can select from several 3D icons and display them as solids or wireframes, including several cubes, crosses, a heart, an X, stars, pyramids, a jeep, a space shuttle, and many more. You can change the icon and background color, or make the background transparent.



X³ reflects your system's performance as a whole (including a second processor, if you have one), so it doesn't provide any really useful detail. It does have a handy Dock menu to open Top or the Process Viewer. If you want something that gives you a quick, general indication of your system—and looks great in your Dock—X³ does the trick in style. And

because X³ places so little demand on your system (you can adjust the refresh rate of the display so X³ uses less processor cycles, but you probably won't want to), you can leave it running all the time.

SO WHAT ?

There are other utilities that provide more information, but X³ wins out over other system monitors on the cool factor. It's one small—but good—reason to unhide your Dock.

XOPTIMIZE

WHO ?

CODEFAB

WHAT ?

SYSTEM OPTIMIZATION

WHERE ?

WWW.CODEFAB.COM/UNSUPPORTED/

HOW MUCH ?

FREE

WHAT ELSE ?

Xoptimize allows you to optimize your system by performing prebinding, helping your applications to launch faster. You might have noticed that when you install a System update, the last step usually tells you that your System is being optimized. Prebinding helps applications launch faster because they don't have to spend as much time looking for libraries and frameworks. Xoptimize is really just a front-end for an Apple command that you would normally use in a Terminal window. But most of us would rather not mess around in Terminal, and Xoptimize makes optimizing your system as easy as point-and-click.

You'll need an administrator password to run Xoptimize. The only options are to run Xoptimize with more or less memory. If you have enough memory, you can run Xoptimize in the background while you continue to work (I'm running it right now as I write this). Selecting more memory will help Xoptimize run pretty quickly, even while running in the background. If you don't have enough memory, you can select the Use less memory option, which can take considerably more time.

Xoptimize should be completely safe (I've used it many times without any problems), but be sure you have enough extra hard drive space available (read the readme file carefully, which recommends 500 MB of free space), or you could run into problems.

SO WHAT ?

Xoptimize is a simple way to help your System feel a bit more responsive. Run it whenever you install new software.

X FONT INFO

WHO ?

VINCENT JALBY

WHAT ?

FONTVIEWER

WHERE ?

HOMEPAGE.MAC.COM/MJALBY/

HOW MUCH ?

FREE

WHAT ELSE ?

X Font Info is a simple font viewer, displaying one font at a time. Drop menus let you select any styles (bold, italic) that are available for the font, and to change the size (from nine to 90 points). The view window displays the font in ABC 123 style, and you can add any custom text you desire.

That's nice, as far as it goes, but there are numerous font utilities that offer the same and more (see FrontBook, page 142). What makes X Font Info great is that you can use it with the Open With option to double-click on a font file and get a quick preview of that font. Just highlight a font in your font folder and open the Get Info window (press Command-I). Select Open with application from the drop-down menu. Select X Font Info from the application menu (you may have to select Other first), then click on the Change All button. Now double-clicking a font in the Finder will open X Font Info.

SO WHAT ?

X Font Info is a great shortcut to previewing your fonts quickly in the Finder.

X FONT MANAGER

WHO ?

VINCENT JALBY

WHAT ?

FONT MANAGER

WHERE ?

HOME PAGE.MAC.COM/MJALBY/

HOW MUCH ?

\$12.00

WHAT ELSE ?

X Font Manager is a utility for enabling and disabling fonts. It works by moving fonts in and out of the Fonts folder. X Font Manger allows you to create sets of fonts, and quickly activate or deactivate them (fonts move immediately, but because applications rebuild the font database each time you launch them, you may have to quit and launch an application again before changes take effect).

Creating font sets is simple. X Font Manager displays a list of fonts in the directories you specify (OS X can put fonts in several different locations on your computer). Each font has a checkbox, which activates or deactivates it. To switch from one set to another, just select the set from a drop-down menu.

X Font Manager is also a font viewer; so you can preview your fonts as you go through your list. The viewer displays the font in ABC 123 style, or you can enter custom text.

In you work with lots of fonts, or share fonts in a workgroup, you'll want to spring for Extensis Suitcase (see page 153). For casual use, combine X Font Manager with X Font Info and Lemke Software's FontBook (the same font viewer that comes with Extensis Suitcase), and you'll have an attractive budget alternative.

SO WHAT ?

X Font Manager is a budget font manager for the tightfisted font fanatic.

YOUPI KEY

WHO ?

PHILIPPE HUPE

WHAT ?

AUTOMATION UTILITY

WHERE ?

PERSO.CLUB-INTERNET.FR/PHUPE/ENGLISH/INDEX.HTML

HOW MUCH ?

FREE

WHAT ELSE ?

Youpi Key is a utility for automating different actions. In this respect, it's similar to other application launchers (like HotApp, see page 140). But it works a bit differently, and has some interesting options.

The program installs as a menu bar item, so it doesn't take up space in the Dock. It's actually two applications: Youpi Editor, which lets you create and manage shortcuts, and Youpi Key, which manages the shortcuts you create. Shortcuts are stored in different sets. The default set, the Universal set, is available at all times. You can also create different sets of actions for different applications, which are only available when that particular application is running.

Youpi Key lets you automate a number of different actions and you can access them with keyboard shortcuts, from the Youpi Key menu, or by setting a specific time in the Youpi Editor for them to run. You can also add shortcuts to run automatically before or after an application is launched, or after you quit an application (for example, you could attach shortcuts to an application that automatically open several documents after launch). You can create shortcuts to open files or folders, switch applications, run sequences of shortcuts, paste text, open a URL, play a sound, run a UNIX command, open a System Preferences pane, and run a System action (shutdown, restart, or sleep).

SO WHAT ?

Youpi Key is a handy automation utility, and it's free.

YOUPI OPTIMIZER

WHO ?

PHILIPPE HUPE

WHAT ?

DELETE LANGUAGE RESOURCES

WHERE ?

PERSO.CLUB-INTERNET.FR/PHUPE/ENGLISH/INDEX.HTML

HOW MUCH ?

FREE

WHAT ELSE ?

Youpi Optimizer searches out language resources on your computer and lets you safely delete those languages that are not being used. Most programs install more than one language, and the extra language files can take up a lot of unnecessary space. When I ran Youpi Optimizer on my own computer, it found nearly 500 megabytes of language resources that—regrettably—I couldn't use even if I wanted to.

You can search a volume or a specific directory. After scanning for localized resources, Youpi Optimizer displays all of the resources in a window, grouped by language. Select the checkbox in the Delete column for any languages you want to delete. You can select individual languages, specific files, or all of the languages that can be safely deleted. The total size of any files selected is shown at the bottom of the window. To delete the files, just click on the Trash icon. After deleting your files, you can display a report showing the details for the changes that have been made.

You should always be careful when deleting files, but Youpi Optimizer should be completely safe to use. It won't allow you to delete all of the language resources in an application, and you can specify which languages to retain in the Preferences pane.

SO WHAT ?

Even if you have a large hard drive, why waste disk space on unnecessary resources? Youpi Optimizer lets you delete unneeded languages easily and safely.

ZINGG!

WHO ?

RAINER BROCKERHOFF

WHAT ?

FILE LAUNCHER

WHERE ?

WWW.BROCKERHOFF.NET

HOW MUCH ?

FREE, DONATIONS ENCOURAGED

WHAT ELSE ?

Zingg! adds a submenu to the Finder's Contextual Menu that lets you choose the application to open any file. You can always change the Type and Creator for a file, but sometimes (like when a file surprises you by trying to launch Classic) you just want a quick shortcut. That's where the aptly named Zingg! comes in.

Highlight a file in the Finder and Option-Click (or Right-Click) to bring up the Contextual Menu. Zingg! lists all of the applications that can be associated with that file (you can also choose to show the pathnames for the listed applications—just turn on Caps Lock before launching the Zingg! submenu). If you select more than one item, Zingg! adds all of the applications that can open *any* of the selected items to the list.

You can fine tune Zingg! in its Configuration window, choosing whether or not to show Classic applications, or to show them only when Classic is running. You can also set applications always to appear in the Zingg! submenu, or block specific applications from appearing.

SO WHAT ?

Zingg! is a great shortcut to opening files with the application you want. It's so essential, it should be built in to OS X. In fact, the rumor as I write this is that something like it is planned for a future update—but why wait?!