RuleBuilder-BioNetGen Installation Instructions

Beta version (May 9, 2006)

Windows

If you do not already have Perl installed on your machine, you will need to download and install it. The recommended version of Perl for Windows is ActivePerl, which can be found at http://aspn.activestate.com/ASPN/Downloads/ActivePerl/.

Next, download and open the install file RuleBuilder-x.xx-Beta-BioNetGen-x.x.xx.exe. You will be prompted to provide the directory in which you want the program installed. Proceed to the instructions for configuring RuleBuilder below.

Mac OS X

The distribution consists of a disk image file. Open this file to mount the disk and drag the RuleBuilder-BioNetGen folder to the location you want to run it from (Your local Applications folder is a good choice). If you have a previous version of RuleBuilder installed, you may wish to drag its folder to the Trash before installing the new version.
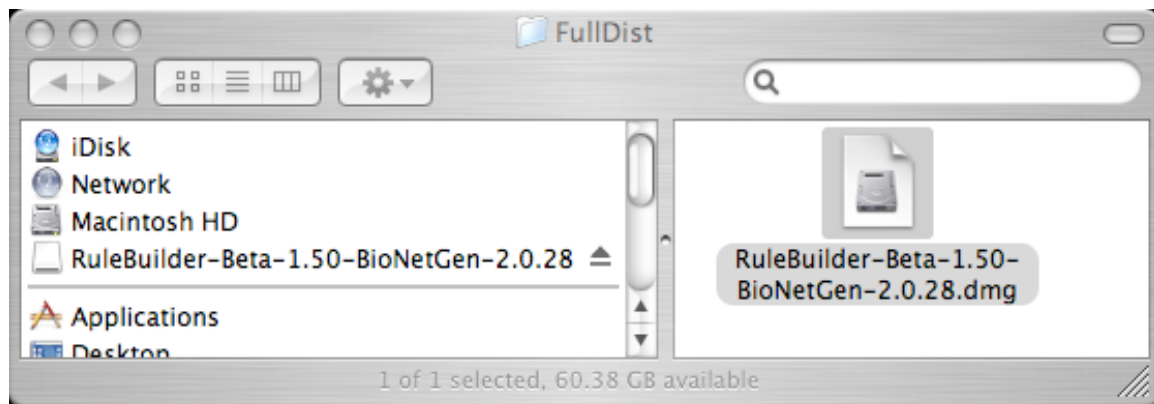

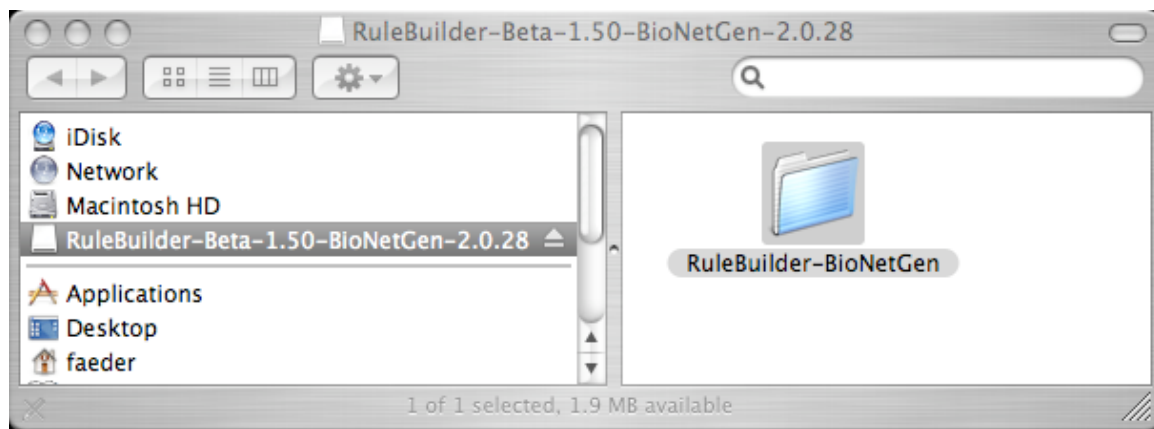**Figure 1.** The RuleBuilder-BioNetGen disk image. Double-click to mount the disk.

Figure 2. The RuleBuilder-BioNetGen Folder on the distribution disk.

Linux

Follow the instructions in the next section.

Getting the Latest RuleBuilder and BioNetGen

The RuleBuilder application is provided as a jar file, which is platform-independent. Platform-specific distributions of BioNetGen may not incorporate the latest versions of either RuleBuilder of the BioNetGen2 back end. Therefore, it is advisable to check the Source directory for the latest versions of both RuleBuilder and BioNetGen2. The RuleBuilder-x.xx.jar can be placed in any directory and can be run using the command 'java RuleBuilder-x.xx.jar', assuming a compatible version of Java is installed on the machine. You can update to the latest version of RuleBuilder by simply copying the latest jar file to the directory containing the older RuleBuilder jar file.

   BioNetGen2 is installed by unzipping the source distribution with 'tar xvzf BioNetGen_2.x.x.tgz' in the directory where you would like it, cd'ing to the BioNetGen_2.x.x directory, and typing 'make'. Instructions for using BioNetGen2 through the command line interface can be found in the Tutorial directory. To generate and simulate BioNetGen models in RuleBuilder, you must compile BioNetGen2 and configure RuleBuilder to run it, as described below.

Configuring RuleBuilder (All Platforms)

Once RuleBuilder and BioNetGen have been installed, you can start RuleBuilder either by double-clicking on the RuleBuilder-x.xx.jar file in the main RuleBuilder directory, or by typing 'java RuleBuilder-x.xx.jar' from the command line. Once RuleBuilder is running, you will need to set the path to BioNetGen by clicking on the 'Settings' option under the File menu. The dialog box that comes up is shown below. Set the correct paths by using the Browse buttons. The BNG2.pl executable will be in a subdirectory of the main RuleBuilder-BioNetGen directory.
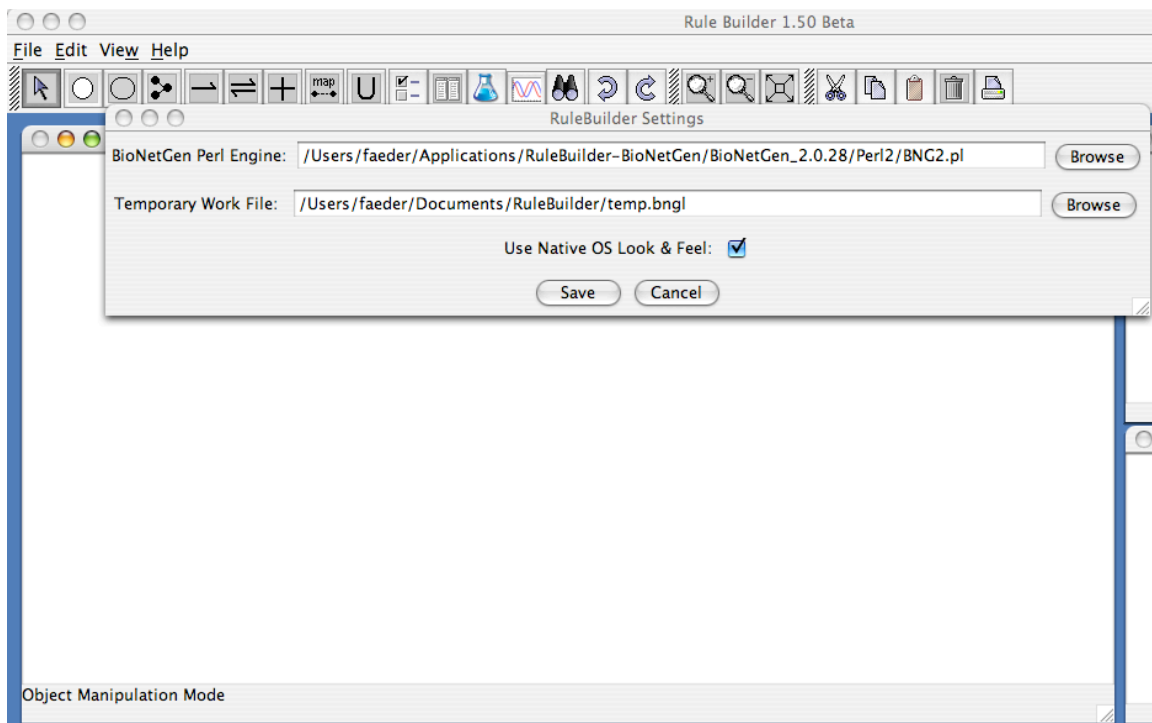
Figure 3. The RuleBuilder settings window.

Congratulations! You are now ready to begin creating a BioNetGen model. Be sure to check out GettingStarted.pdf for detailed instructions about how to use RuleBuilder and the built-in help system. Further information about BioNetGen models can also be found in the file BioNetGen_x.xx/Tutorial/tutorial.txt. Send other questions to the BioNetGen mailing list (bionetgen@bionetgen.com).