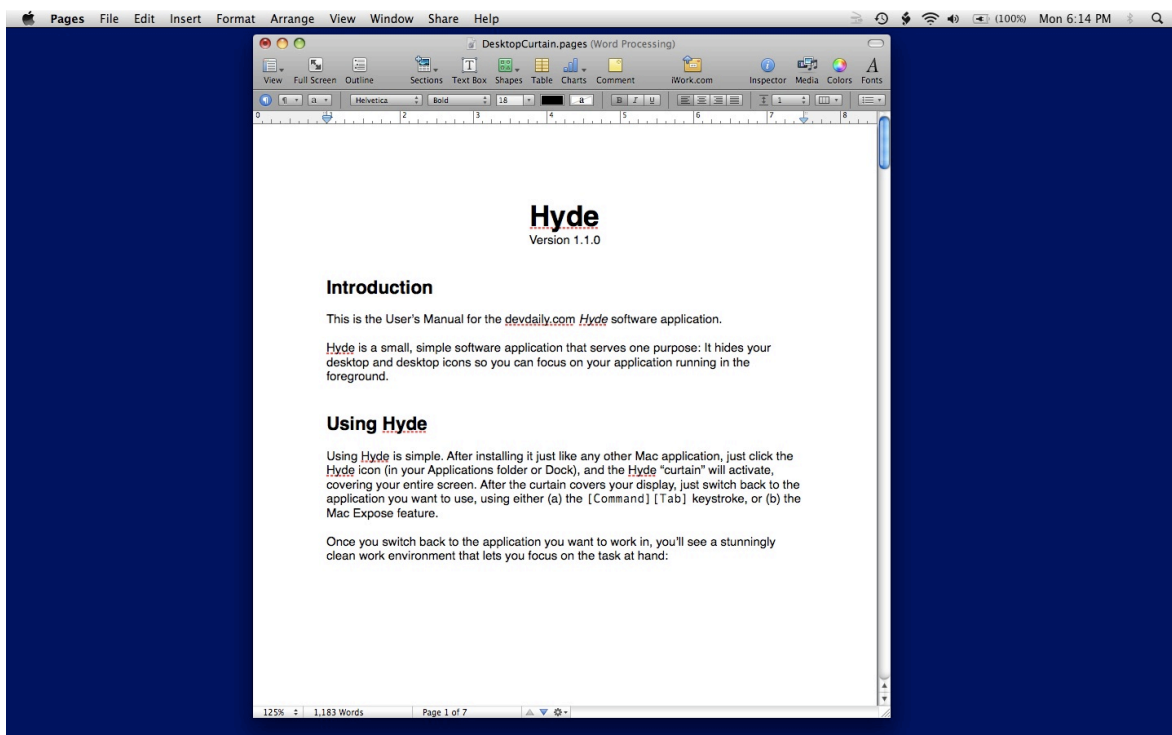# Hyde

Version 1.1.0

Introduction

This is the User's Manual for the devdaily.com **Hyde** software application.

Hyde is a small, simple software application that serves one purpose: It hides your desktop and desktop icons so you can focus on your application running in the foreground.

Using Hyde

Using Hyde is simple. After installing it just like any other Mac application, just click the Hyde icon (in your Applications folder or Dock), and the Hyde "curtain" will activate, covering your entire screen. After the curtain covers your display, just switch back to the application you want to use, using either (a) the `[Command] [Tab]` keystroke, or (b) the Mac Expose feature.

Once you switch back to the application you want to work in, you'll see a stunningly clean work environment that lets you focus on the task at hand:

Note: We might be just a little biased, but we use Hyde a lot, so we keep it in the Dock, as shown here:

Moving the Hyde curtain between Spaces

You can also move the Hyde curtain between Spaces on your Mac OS X system. You can move the curtain by simply clicking it and dragging it to another Space, or you can again use Expose to spread out all your Spaces, and then drag the curtain to another Space.

When you move the curtain to a new Space, if it doesn't line up correctly in the upper-left corner of the screen, fear not. Just press the `[Command] [F]` keystroke to get the current to re-fill the screen. This option is also available from the Hyde "Actions" menu.

Hiding the curtain

If you want to keep Hyde active, but hide it temporarily, you can hide it just like any other Mac application. Just press the `[Command] [H]` keystroke to hide it, and it will disappear. (It's still running, but it is hidden.)

To show the Hyde curtain again, just click on its icon in the Dock, and it will once again come to the foreground.

Closing the Hyde curtain

To quit the Hyde application, just press the `[Command] [Q]` keystroke like you would with any other Mac application, or click the Hyde menu, and then select the "Quit Hyde" menu item.
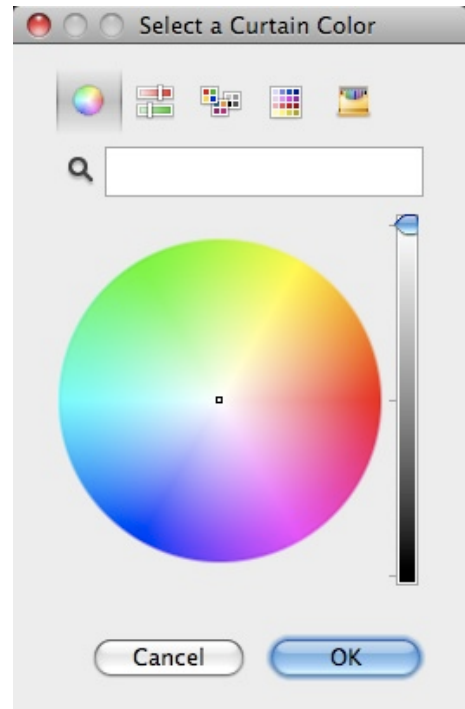
Choosing a different color

To choose a different color for your Hyde curtain, just press the [Command] [R] keystroke (for "coloR"), or select the "Choose Color" menu item from the Actions menu.

(Note that [Command] [C] may seem like a more logical keystroke, but that is typically used for a *copy* action in an application, so we intentionally avoided using it here.)

A color chooser will be displayed, letting you choose any color you desire.
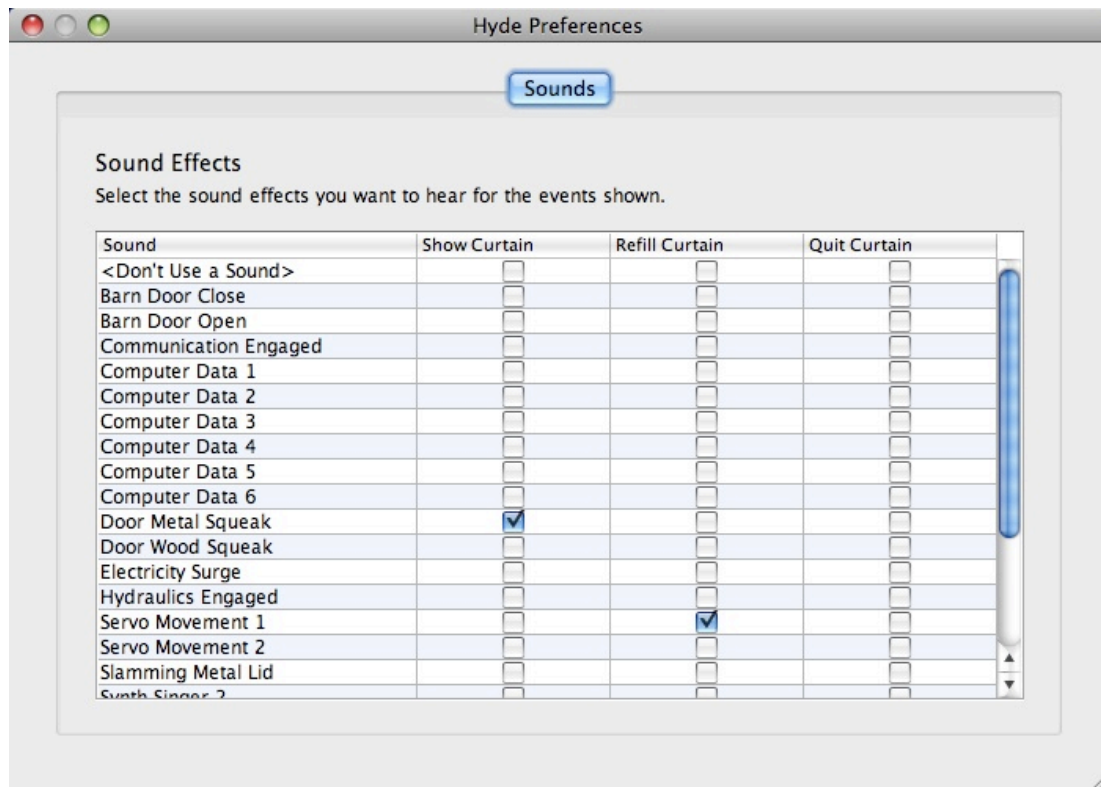
When you select a color, the curtain will change to that color. The curtain also remembers your color selection, and will use it the next time it is started.

Sound Effects

Sound effects make Hyde more fun, and have even been known to make you laugh. So we added the ability to play sound effects into Hyde.

Once you've installed sound effects, you access them through the Hyde Preferences dialog, which you can access from the Hyde menu, or by pressing the `[Command] [ , ]` key combination. Here's what the Sound Effects Chooser looks like:

Sound	Show Curtain	Refill Curtain	Quit Curtain
<Don't Use a Sound>	☐	☐	☐
Barn Door Close	☐	☐	☐
Barn Door Open	☐	☐	☐
Communication Engaged	☐	☐	☐
Computer Data 1	☐	☐	☐
Computer Data 2	☐	☐	☐
Computer Data 3	☐	☐	☐
Computer Data 4	☐	☐	☐
Computer Data 5	☐	☐	☐
Computer Data 6	☐	☐	☐
Door Metal Squeak	☑	☐	☐
Door Wood Squeak	☐	☐	☐
Electricity Surge	☐	☐	☐
Hydraulics Engaged	☐	☐	☐
Servo Movement 1	☐	☑	☐
Servo Movement 2	☐	☐	☐
Slamming Metal Lid	☐	☐	☐
Synth Singer 2	☐	☐	☐

Hyde Preferences — Sounds

Sound Effects
Select the sound effects you want to hear for the events shown.

We don't ship the curtain with sound effects, but we do two things to help you get started.

1) Import iLife sound effects

First, if you have *iLife* installed on your Mac (i.e., GarageBand, or iMovie), we automate the ability to import iLife sound effects into the Hyde workspace so we can use them in our application. (We can't legally ship these sound effects to you, but if you have them on your system already we can certainly use them.)

NOTE: We just learned that with Snow Leopard (or possibly the most recent version of iLife), Apple has changed their sound effects files to a new format named "CAF". Unfortunately we can't work with these sound clips, but we'll try to demonstrated how to work around this problem in the near future.

To import a short list of iLife sound effects into your curtain workspace (we automatically import about twenty of our favorite short clips), just go to the curtain preferences (`[Command][,]`, or just choose Preferences from the Hyde menu), and then select *Sounds*. There will be an option there to let the curtain search for and import iLife sound effects. Just choose that option, and in a few seconds these great sound effects will be available to you.

You're welcome to import more iLife sound effects into the Hyde workspace, but we've tried to choose the best ones we know that are about two seconds long, or shorter. (You'll see how to do this in the next section.)

2) Use other sound effects

Second, you can add other sound effects to Hyde by manually adding them to our workspace.

There are just three things you need to know to make this work. First, your sound effects files should be named in a standard format so we can understand them. We expect files to be named with words separated by hyphens, like these examples:

```
tape-rewinding-1.aif
electricity-surge.aif
punch-in-face.au
```

If you'll name your sound effects files according to this naming convention, we'll turn those filenames into descriptions in the application that let you easily choose your sound effects files.

The other thing to know is that we look for sound effects files in a special folder in your home directory. For instance, my home directory is /Users/alvin, and this folder on my system is named:

```
/Users/alvin/Library/Application Data/DevDaily/Hyde/Sounds
```

If your username is Mary on your system, your folder will be named

```
/Users/mary/Library/Application Data/DevDaily/Hyde/Sounds/
```

Again, just place your sound files in that folder with the proper naming convention, and Hyde will find them automatically.

The third thing to know is that we currently work with AIF (AIFC and AIFF), AU, and WAV sound effects. (Adding support for MP3 files is high on our "To Do" list.)

Sound effects duration

We try to keep our animations short, so we recommend that your sound effects be about 1-2 seconds. That being said, just play with them, and see what you like.

Common Keystrokes

As mentioned in this document, Hyde supports the following keyboard commands:

Keystroke	Action
[Command][F]	Tells the curtain to re-fill the screen. Most useful after moving the curtain to a new space.
[Command][R]	Show the Color Chooser.
[Command][,]	Show the Preferences Dialog, which currently lets you choose sound effects.
[Command][H]	Hide the Hyde application.
[Command][Q]	Quit the Hyde application.

Additional information

For additional information, just visit our Hyde web page at this URL:

http://www.devdaily.com/hide-your-desktop

Or, if you have other questions, comments, or suggestions, please use our contact form on the website, at this URL:

http://www.devdaily.com/contact

We hope you enjoy using Hyde as much as we do!

Attributions

The wonderful icon used for our Hyde application was provided by www.MouseRunner.com. We think this icon fit perfectly for our application, and we're grateful to MouseRunner.com for it!