

Macworld SUPERGUIDES

Mac Gems SUPRGUIDE



Our Favorite Inexpensive Mac Software

Mac Gems Superguide

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Foreword

While most people are aware of the big-name software titles—Microsoft Office, Adobe Photoshop, and the like—some of the best Mac software is, like so many precious gems, hidden. Many great products out there don't get the recognition, or even the awareness, that they deserve. And when that happens, Mac users miss out.

That's where *Macworld* comes in. We mine the Web, looking for inexpensive software (roughly \$35 or less) that makes your Mac run better, helps you work more efficiently, and lets your Mac do the little things—and some pretty big ones—you always wished it could do. We call these programs *Mac Gems*, and we highlight them twice a week on Macworld.com and every month in the pages of *Macworld*. We've covered nearly 1300 products since the *Mac Gems* column started back in 2003, and given how many new software titles are released for Mac OS X every day, we don't plan on stopping there.



But even among the gems we've unearthed over the years, some deserve special recognition, and highlighting the very best of Mac Gems is the purpose of this book. We've picked our favorite Lion-compatible products, and we present them here. For each program, we give you a brief description of what it does, as well as links to the developer's website and our full review.

Some of the products in these pages are ones we've recently discovered; others are oldies but goodies. The one thing they all have in common is that each is a standout product that won't break the bank.

If you enjoy this collection, don't forget to visit [Mac Gems online](#) to keep up with our latest discoveries.

—Dan Frakes
San Francisco, April 2012

A Guide to This Book

Here are a few tips and guidelines for perusing this collection.

Understanding Prices

The software presented in this book follows various pricing schemes.

Paid Software

Unless a program is listed as “free” or “payment requested” (see below), you’re expected to pay for it to use it. For these programs, we’ve listed each app’s price.

You can download and try some of these paid Gems without spending a dime—you pay only if you decide you like the app and want to keep using it. However, some developers require you to purchase their program before downloading it. For example, this is the case for all software you obtain through Apple’s Mac App Store.

Freeware and Donationware

Many programs don’t have an official price. Some of these come from small developers who ask users to pay whatever the user feels the application is worth (some developers prefer to describe this as a donation). Other programs are really, truly free. We’ve labeled software that doesn’t come with a specific price tag as follows:

Free These programs are completely free to download and use, no strings attached. In some cases, the developers do accept payment or donations should you be interested in thanking them for their efforts, but it’s not required or requested.

Payment Requested Although you can use these programs without paying, the developer explicitly requests a payment. (Sometimes the developer suggests a set amount; other times the amount is left to the user’s discretion.) We encourage you to pay for such software, as doing so allows those developers to keep up the good work.

OS X Compatibility

At the time of publication, all the software included in this book works with Lion (OS X 10.7). If your Mac is running an older version of OS X, be sure to check the developer's website to see if the program is compatible with your system or if an older, compatible version is available.

Keep Up-to-Date

Although we've tested all of the software reviewed in this book, versions change quickly, as do features and prices. Be sure to check the developer's website for the most recent version, price, and features.

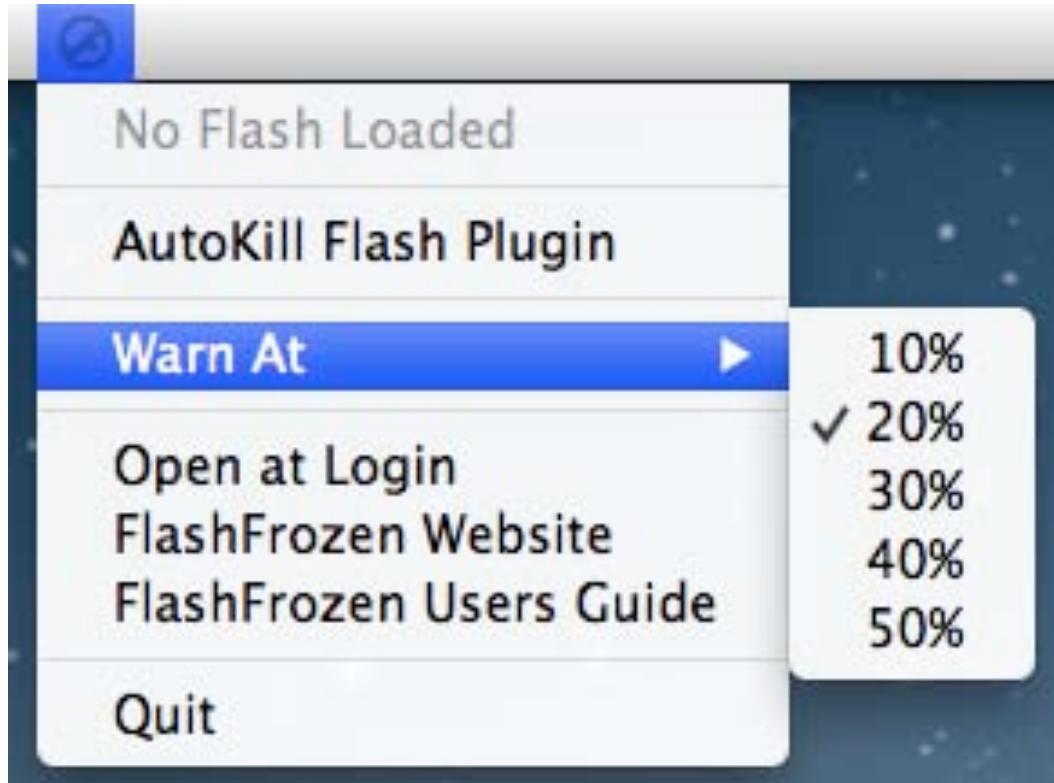
CHAPTER 1

Master the Web, Email & Social Networking

Between email, blogs, social networking sites and services, instant messaging, videoconferencing, and so on, you've never had more options for keeping in touch with far-flung friends and family—even strangers are no more than a few clicks away. But with all of that chatter comes the sometimes daunting task of dealing with the deluge of information, as well as the various forms of communication. Thankfully, there are plenty of tools that can help.

ClickToFlash & FlashFrozen

Manage Flash content—or block it altogether

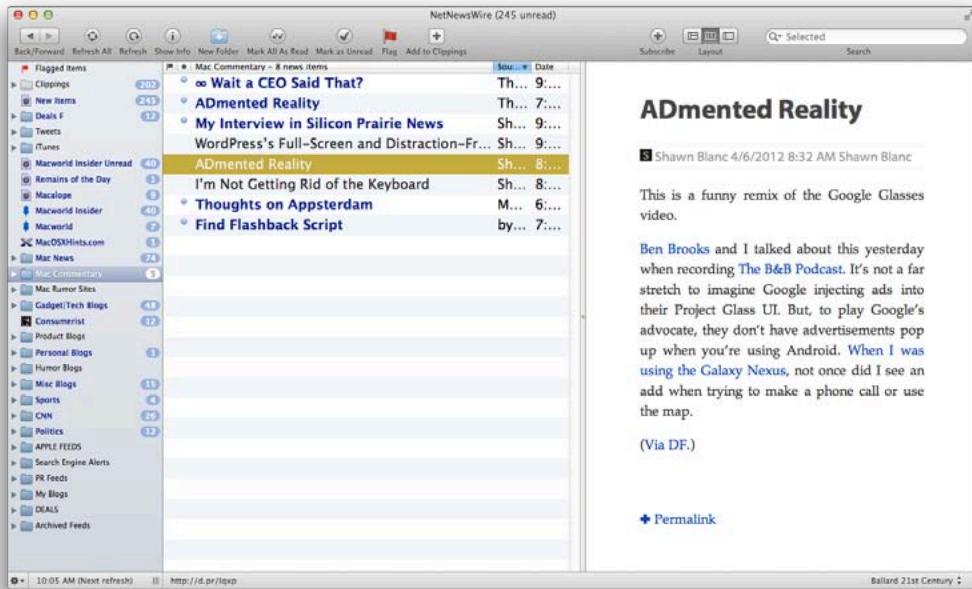


Adobe's Flash technology has a reputation for slowing down your Mac and crashing your browser—not to mention that it's often used to serve up countless annoying animated ads. [ClickToFlash](#) (free; [review](#)) makes browsing the Web a much more pleasant experience by letting *you* decide what Flash content to view on each website. Each bit of Flash content is replaced by a generic box; to view a particular piece, just click its box. ClickToFlash can also automatically load the H.264 version of YouTube videos.

[FlashFrozen](#) (formerly BashFlash; \$1; [review](#)) alerts you whenever Flash content begins to hog your processor; you can then quickly kill the Flash plug-in across all Safari windows and tabs without otherwise disturbing those webpages. You can also use FlashFrozen to block Flash completely.

NetNewsWire

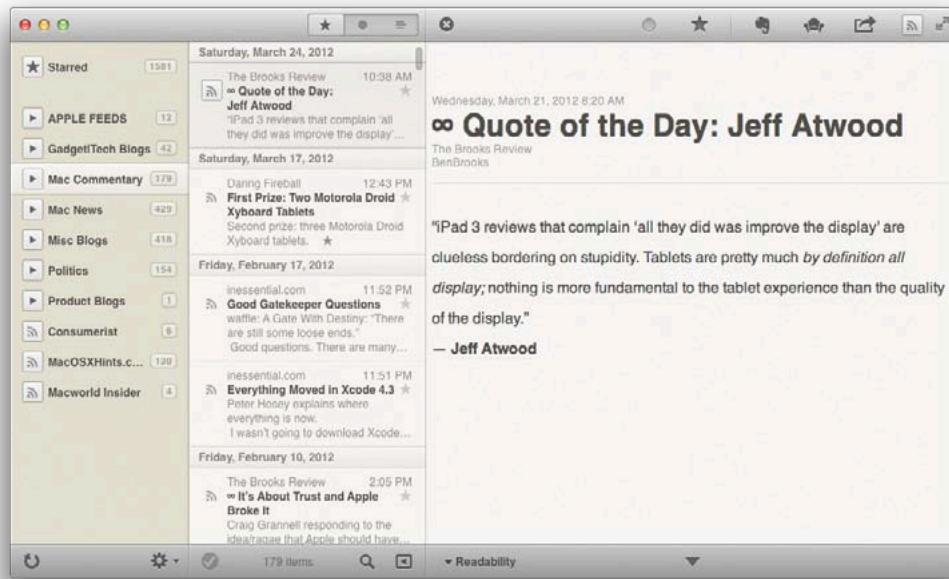
For RSS (newsfeed) power users



Despite the popularity of [Twitter](#), [News.me](#), [Flipboard](#), and other social media platforms you can use to keep up on the latest news and information, RSS feeds—which let you monitor sites' newly published articles—are alive and well. And [NetNewsWire](#) (free; [review](#)), the old Mac standby, remains a stellar RSS reader thanks to an extensive feature set that heavy users of RSS love, including Smart Lists (saved article searches) and stellar keyboard navigation. NetNewsWire is easy to use and syncs your feeds and their read or unread status across Macs and other devices and apps that support Google Reader.

Reeder

Read and share the latest news, Lion style



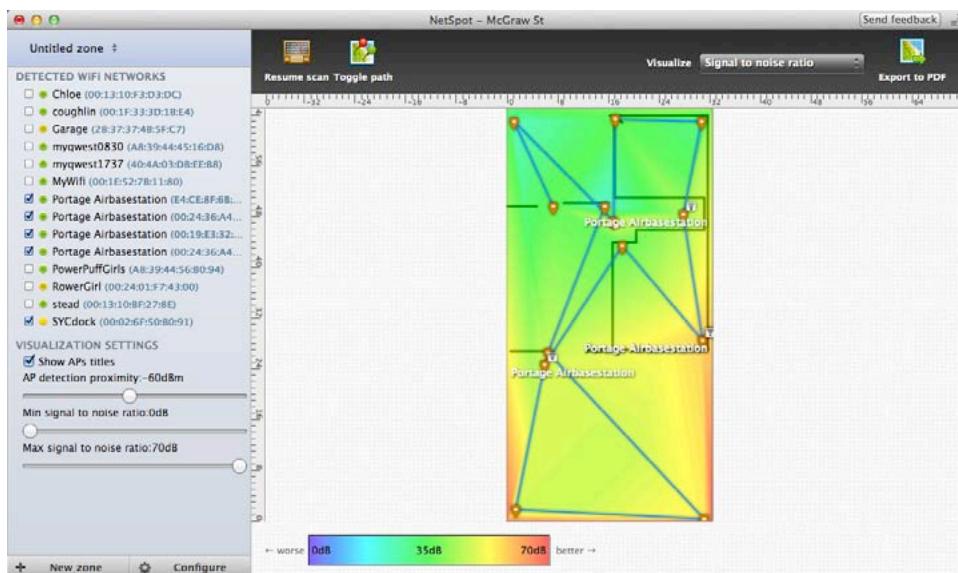
Like NetNewsWire, [Reeder](#) (\$10; [review](#)) is a standout RSS feed reader that syncs with the Google Reader platform. But while Reeder can't match the advanced features of NetNewsWire, what it does offer is an iOS-inspired interface and nifty gesture controls that make it a natural fit for Lion and for Apple's [Magic Trackpad](#) (or, of course, a MacBook's trackpad), along with enough features and options to satisfy all but the most hard-core newsfeed junkies. And it bests NetNewsWire when it comes to social media support, letting you share stories to [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Evernote](#), [Pinboard](#), [Zootool](#), [Instapaper](#), and [Readability](#).

Special Gems: iNet and NetSpot

[iNet](#) (\$6; [review](#)) and [NetSpot](#) (free; [review](#)) are both designed to help you get the most out of your network.

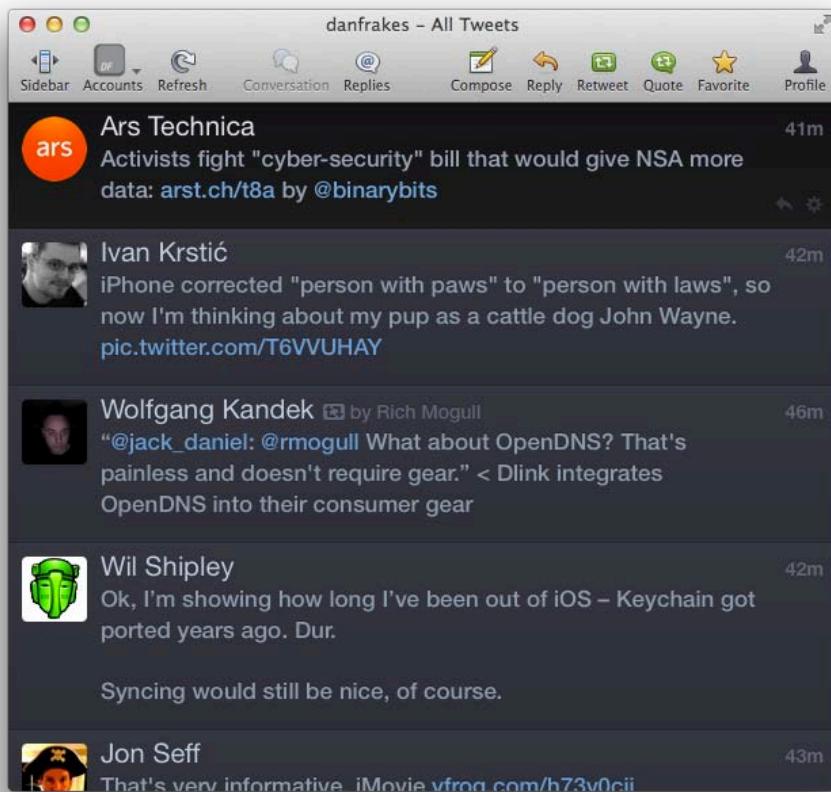


iNet, shown above, is a beautiful app that offers an easy-to-use summary of information about your network and the devices on it. NetSpot, shown below, is an amazing little utility that uses your MacBook to map out your Wi-Fi network, helping you optimize your coverage area and minimize dead spots. The two programs complement each other well and cost a whopping \$6 all told.



Twitterrific

Read Twitter with ease



Many people use Twitter, the popular social networking service, via its website. But if you have anything more than a passing interest in Twitter, you need a dedicated Mac client, and you can't go wrong with [Twitterrific](#) (\$10; [review](#)). It displays a live-updated stream of messages from people you follow, as well as direct replies and messages sent to you by other people. You can show and hide Twitterrific using a keyboard shortcut for quick checks, and the clean interface makes it easy to keep up with your timelines. The app also makes it easy to reply to a message or see the entire conversation containing that message. You can use Growl (covered [later in this book](#)) to get notifications of new messages when Twitterrific isn't visible, and Twitterrific supports the excellent Tweet Marker service, which syncs your timeline position between your favorite Twitter clients on your Macs and iOS devices.

YoruFukurou

A Twitter client for power tweeters



For Twitter users with more-advanced needs, [YoruFukurou](#) (free; [review](#)) offers all the features you'd expect, along with a slew of clever additions. For example, click a message from a particular person, and all messages from that person are instantly highlighted. If the selected message is part of a conversation, all the messages in that conversation are similarly highlighted, though each participant gets a different color. You can quickly filter the message list to view only a conversation, only tweets from a particular user, or only tweets containing a particular keyword or username. You also get tabs for different types of content; custom searches and rules; built-in image previews; autocomplete of usernames and hashtags; a slew of keyboard shortcuts; and myriad alert and notification options. Nifty buttons let you tweet the current Safari website or iTunes track, or upload at tweet the link to a screenshot.

MailFollowUp

Follow up on emails



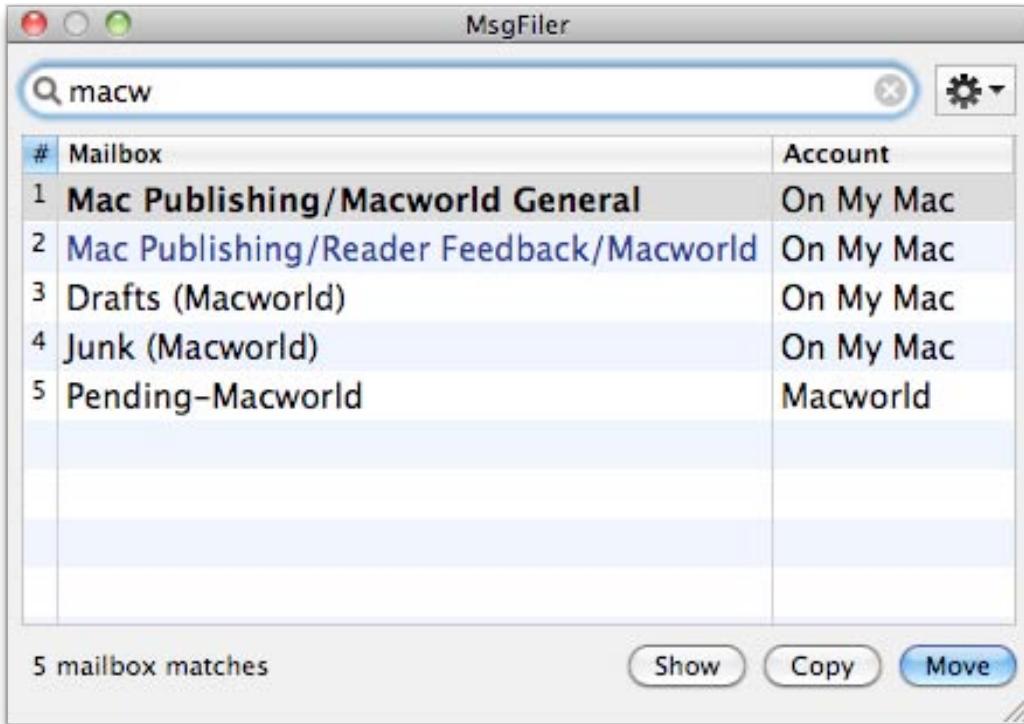
A common email task is to resend a message to a recipient with a comment or additional information—in other words, following up. Mail lets you resend a message, but if you want to make it clear that a message is a follow-up to a previous message, [MailFollowUp](#) (free; [review](#)), a plug-in for OS X’s Mail app, is the way to go. It adds Follow Up and Follow Up All commands to Mail’s Message menu, as well as similar buttons to Mail’s toolbar. Select a sent message and choose Follow Up, and a copy of the sent message opens with the original email text in quoted form with the original date and time, making it clear that you’re following up on a previous email; the subject is also edited to read ‘Re: original subject.’ Follow Up All sends the follow-up message to all of the original recipients.

TIP: A NOTE ABOUT MAIL PLUG-INS

Mail plug-ins—including MailFollowUp and several other Mail-related Gems in this chapter—are third-party add-ons for OS X’s Mail app. Most come with their own installer, although a few require that you manually place the plug-in in *youruserfolder/Library/Mail/Bundles*. Apple doesn’t officially support Mail plug-ins, which means that each time the Mail app gets an update, your plug-ins may stop working. If this happens, check the website of each plug-in’s developer for an updated version that’s compatible with the updated version of Mail.

MsgFiler

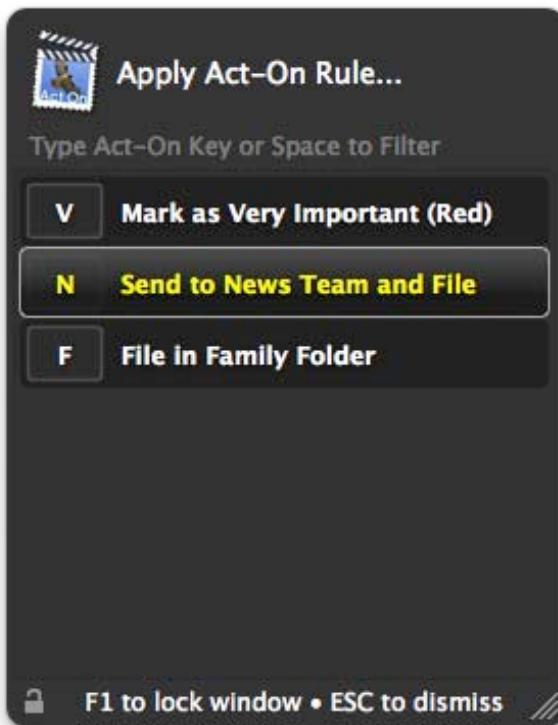
File email messages using the keyboard



[MsgFiler](#) (\$10; [review](#)), another plug-in for Mail, is aimed at those of us who'd rather file messages using the keyboard than using a mouse or trackpad. Select one or more messages, press MsgFiler's shortcut and type a few letters of the destination mailbox's name to select it, and press Return. The filing process is lightning fast, and it saves quite a bit of clicking and dragging. MsgFiler also makes it easy to switch between mailboxes, copy messages instead of moving them, add labels to messages, and create new mailboxes.

Mail Act-On

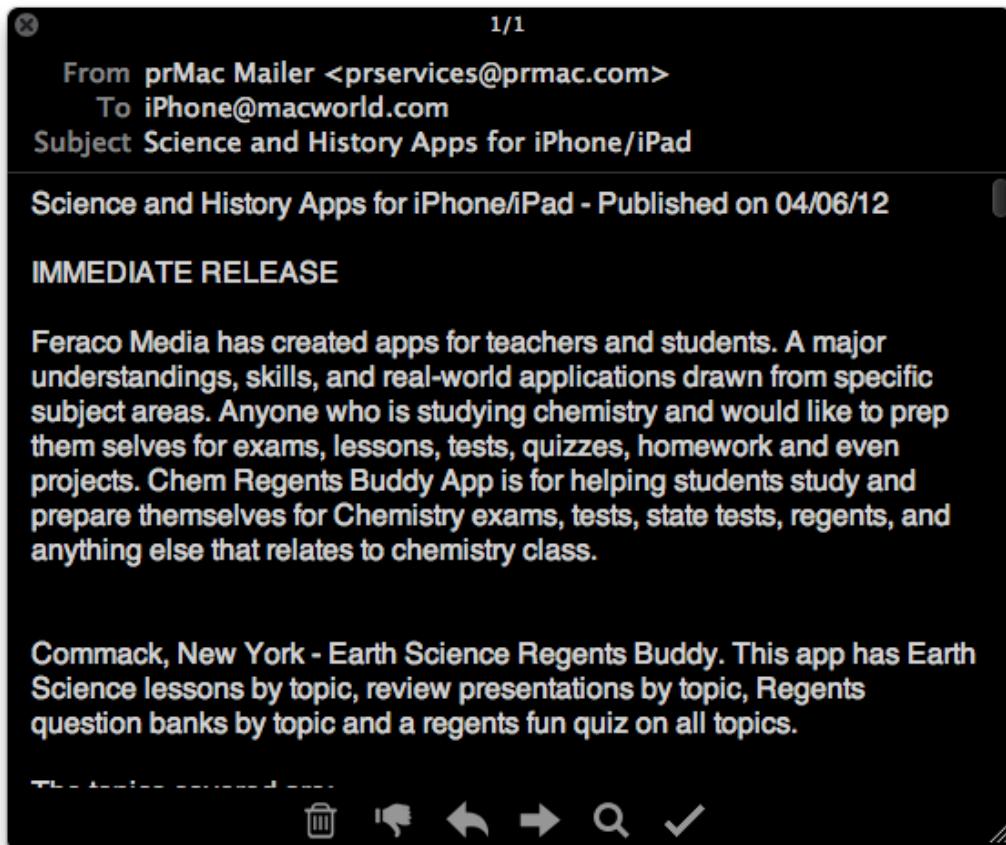
Automate repetitive email tasks



Mail's Rules feature makes it easy to process, and perform actions on, all incoming email messages, but sometimes you want to apply rules only to particular messages, or apply them after you've received and read a message. [Mail Act-On](#) (\$25; [review](#)) lets you invoke mail rules on selected messages using the keyboard. Anything you can do with a rule in Mail—move, copy, forward, redirect, reply to, or delete a message; set a message's color and read or flagged status; or even run an AppleScript—you can do via the keyboard using Mail Act-On. Mail Act-On also adds Outbox Rules, which are rules applied to messages as they are sent. And like MsgFiler, above, Mail Act-On lets you file messages using the keyboard.

Herald

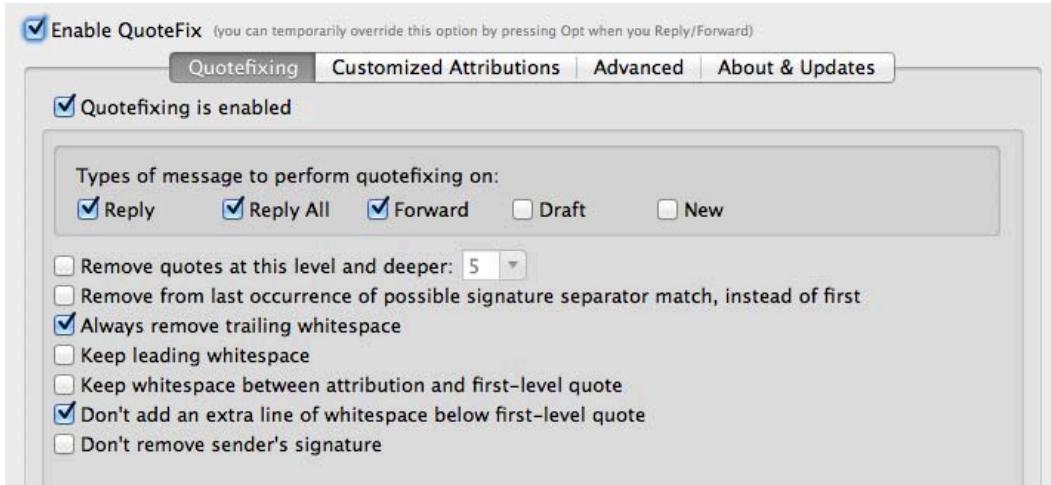
Monitor incoming email without opening Mail



If you get a lot of email, you know how disruptive it can be to constantly switch in and out of Mail. [Herald](#) (free; [review](#)) lets you keep an eye on incoming mail by briefly displaying a subtle floating preview of each message as it comes in, regardless of what app you're currently using. You can ignore (or quickly dismiss) messages you want to handle later, but Herald also lets you perform some basic email triage—delete a message, mark it as read, mark it as junk, or reply to it in Mail. You can tweak Herald to display messages for only a particular account, or even just for particular mailboxes in an account. You can also customize the appearance of Herald's window.

QuoteFix

Customize email replies



[QuoteFix](#) (free; [review](#)) lets you tweak the way OS X's Mail app handles email replies and forwarded messages. For starters, it puts quoted text at the top of the message, with the cursor and your signature at the bottom—the opposite of Mail's behavior. But it can also remove signatures and extraneous blank lines from quoted text, as well as remove all quoted text above the level you choose (from 1 to 10), so you don't have to wade through text quoted from seven replies ago. QuoteFix also lets you create customized attributions ('On 4/15/2012, Jeff wrote:').

Attachment Tamer

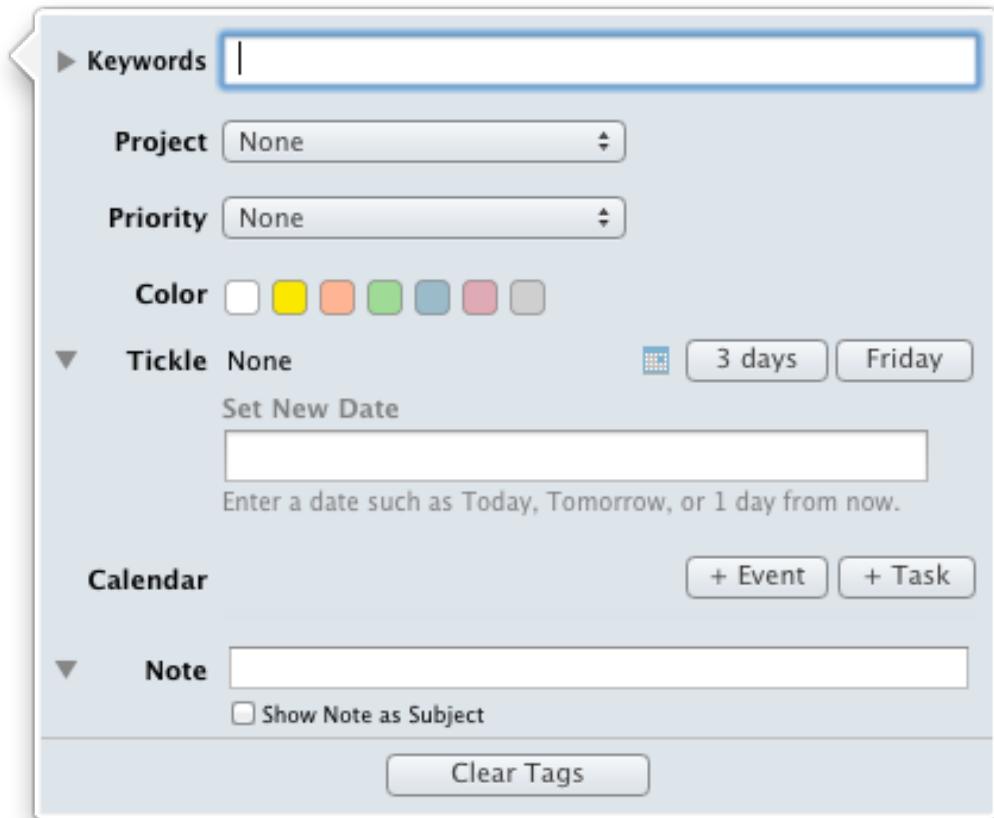
Improve Mail's attachment handling



Unlike most email clients, Mail attempts to display all message attachments in the message window, regardless of the size of each attachment or how the sender wanted it displayed. This can be a hassle with huge images and PDFs, and it also means that printed messages include those attachment previews. [Attachment Tamer](#) (formerly Mail Attachments Iconizer; \$15; [review](#)) is a Mail plug-in that gives you extensive control over how Mail displays attachments. For example, you can force particular types of files to always display as icons, or just when they're larger than a particular size. You can also configure Attachment Tamer to always display the full name of each attachment and to force Mail to omit attachment previews when printing. The add-on also lets you tweak how you send messages to other people—for example, whether files are sent inline or as attachments, and whether or not images are resized.

MailTags

Organize and tag your email



[MailTags](#) (\$30; [review](#)), another Mail plug-in, lets you assign keywords to email for easier search and retrieval instead of just moving messages to folders. The advantage here is that you can assign multiple keywords to a given message, giving you more flexibility when performing searches or when creating smart mailboxes that automatically group related messages. You can also use MailTags to organize messages by project, add notes to messages, set and view a message's priority, and set due dates for responding to messages. You can even assign tags to messages you send, and you can create Mail rules to tag messages automatically.

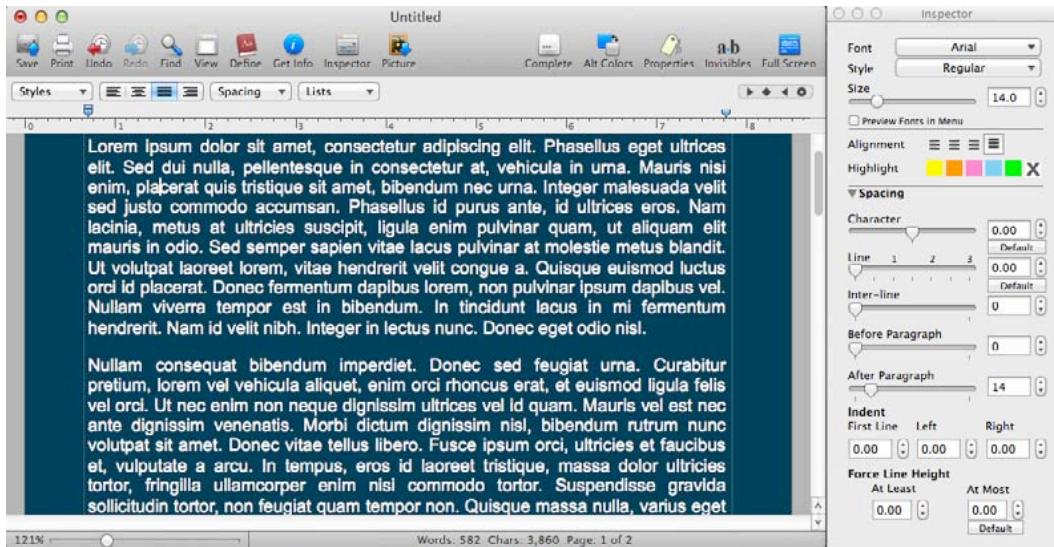
CHAPTER 2

Work with Text

Copy. Cut. Paste. Repeat. Working with text can involve dozens of little repetitive tasks. Some have easy-to-remember keyboard shortcuts, but others—like changing formatting or eliminating line breaks—usually don’t. If you’re tired of the more tedious aspects of working with the written word or if you’re just looking for a great writing app, these text-focused utilities can help. Whether you’re taking notes at a meeting, writing HTML code, or doing some creative writing, let these tools take care of the heavy lifting and help you focus on what matters—your words.

Bean

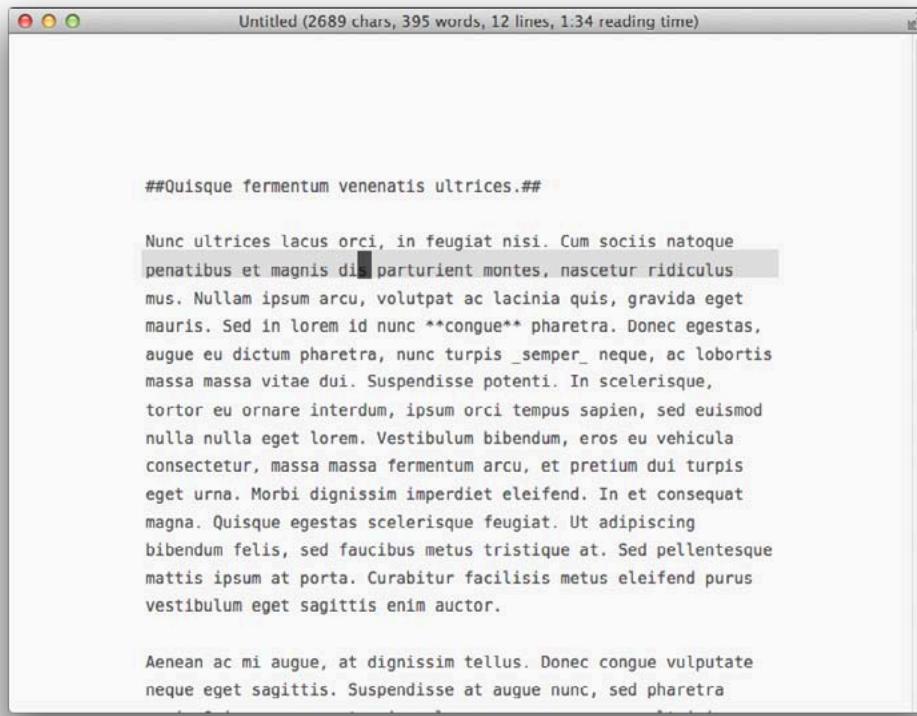
More than TextEdit, less than Word



OS X's built-in text editor-cum-word processor,TextEdit, is capable, but [Bean](#) (free; [review](#)) bests it in a number of ways without requiring you to spend another penny. Based on the same underlying text engine as TextEdit, Beans offers a better interface and useful features such as a live word count and document statistics, templates, headers and footers, a full-screen mode, split-window editing, [regular expressions \(regex\)](#) matching in its Find panel, and the capability to select—and replace—text by style. Bean also has useful viewing options such as a page-layout view and an alternate-color mode for low-light editing, and an Inspector palette makes formatting and settings more accessible than in TextEdit.

WriteRoom

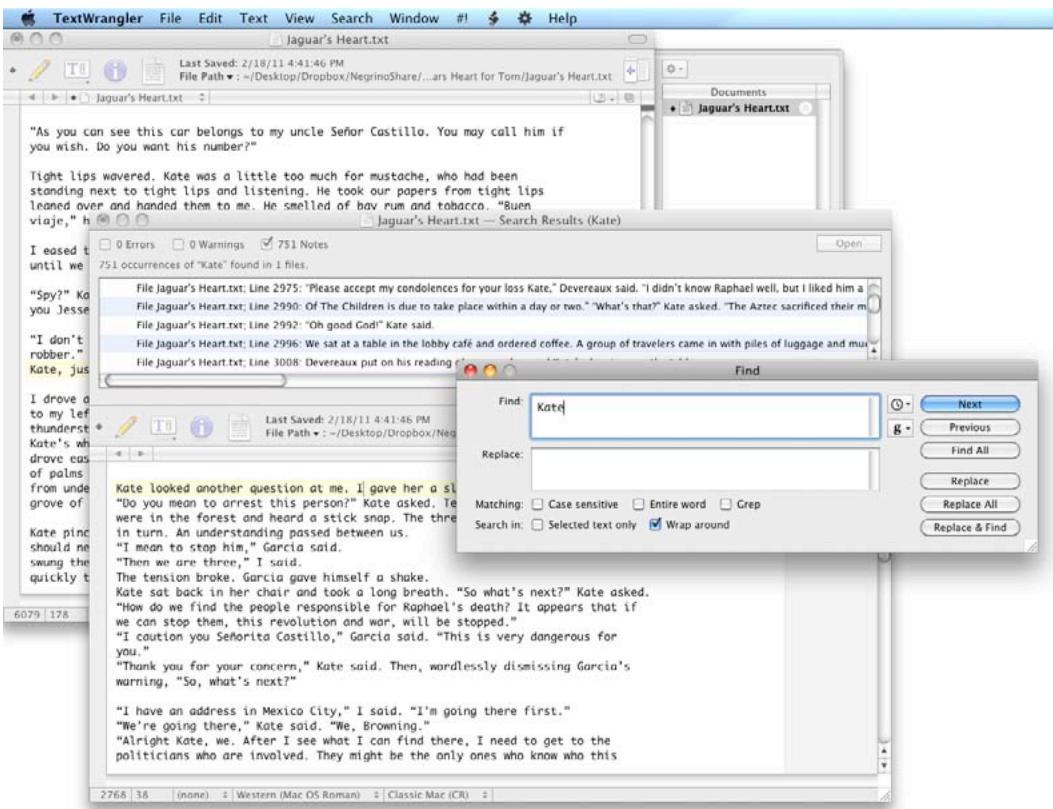
Focus on your writing



If your most pressing writing need isn't features and formatting options, but focus, look to [WriteRoom](#) (\$10; [review](#)). You get basic options for choosing a font, size, and so on—the app also offers visual themes—but the aim of WriteRoom is to create a distraction-free writing environment. It doesn't have any toolbars or other visual clutter, and a Lion-optimized full-screen mode blocks everything but your document. You can write in either plain text (.txt) or Rich Text Format (.rtf), and the program provides document statistics—word, line, and page count; reading time; and more—in the title bar. It also syncs (using Dropbox) with the iOS versions of WriteRoom.

TextWrangler

Powerful text editing, coding, and processing



Unlike a word processor, a text editor is designed for writing code and processing text. The Mac standout is BBEdit, but its little sibling [TextWrangler](#) (free; [review](#)) offers much of the same functionality, including syntax coloring, code folding, integrated FTP and SFTP support, and a slew of text-manipulation tools. The single- and multiple-file find-and-replace features let you use plain text or regular expressions, and there's essentially no limit to the size of files it can work with.

Jumpcut

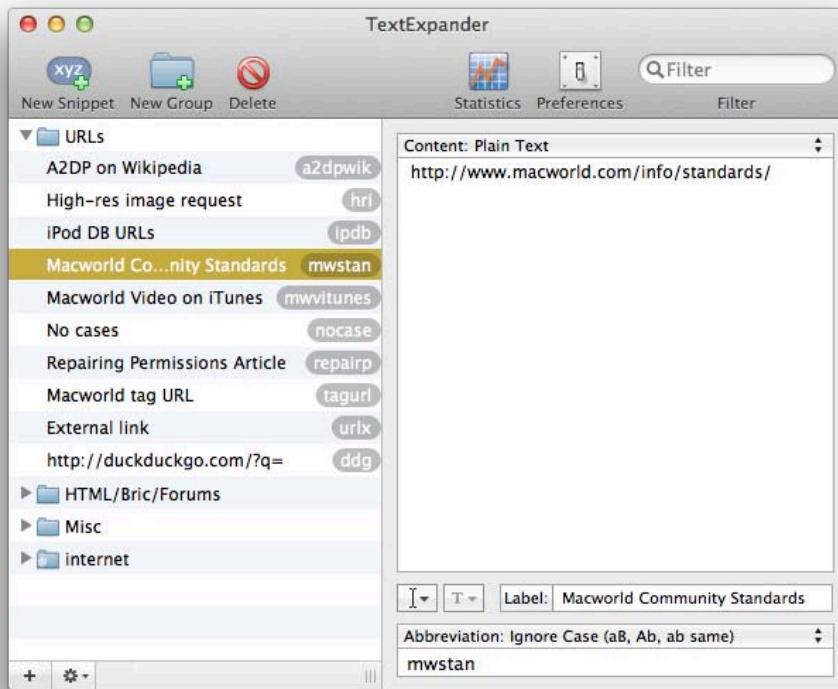
Easy-to-use multiple clipboards



One of the most useful utilities for a writer—or anyone who works with text, for that matter—is a multiple-clipboard utility. These utilities store multiple recent clipboard contents (things you've copied or cut), making it easy to retrieve any of those contents, in any order, for pasting elsewhere. [Jumpcut](#) (free; [review](#)) doesn't have the most features, but it's perhaps the most elegant and the simplest to use: Just press a keyboard shortcut to bring up Jumpcut's display, use the arrow keys to find the clipping you want, and then press Return to paste it. Alternatively, you can choose a clipping from Jumpcut's systemwide menu.

TextExpander

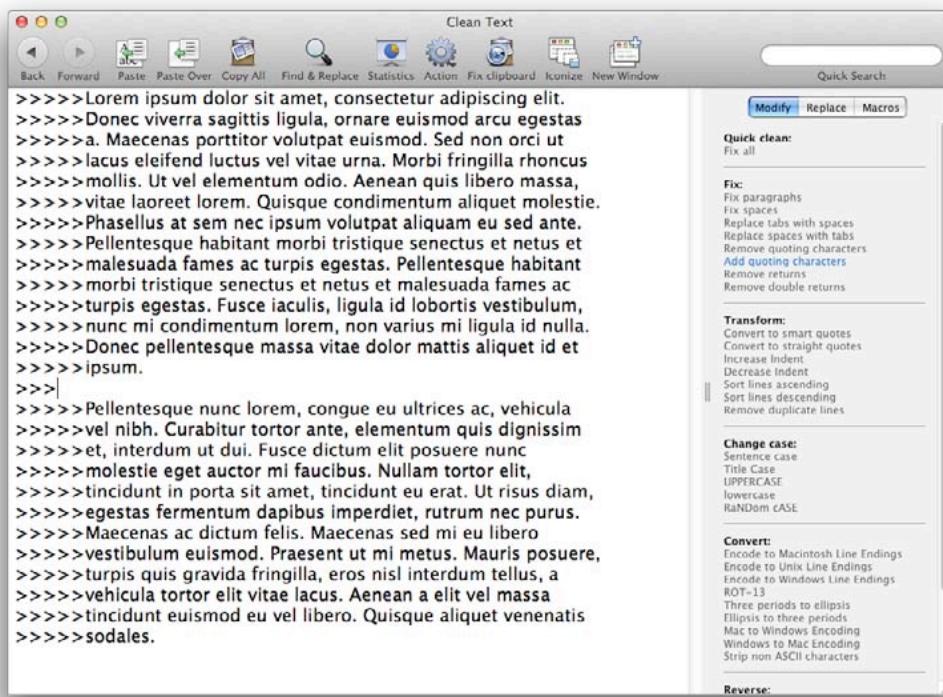
Access and insert frequently used text



Text-expansion utilities let you assign abbreviations to frequently used text (snippets), automatically substituting the appropriate snippet when you type an abbreviation—for example, type **addy** and the utility replaces those four letters with your full mailing address. [TextExpander](#) (\$35; [review](#)) is our favorite for its ease of use and flexibility. You can include keystrokes within snippets; include variables such as the current date and time or the contents of the clipboard; create snippet groups that are available only in particular applications; and even run AppleScripts and shell scripts. There's even a \$5 [iOS version](#), and you can sync your snippets between all your Macs and iOS devices.

Clean Text

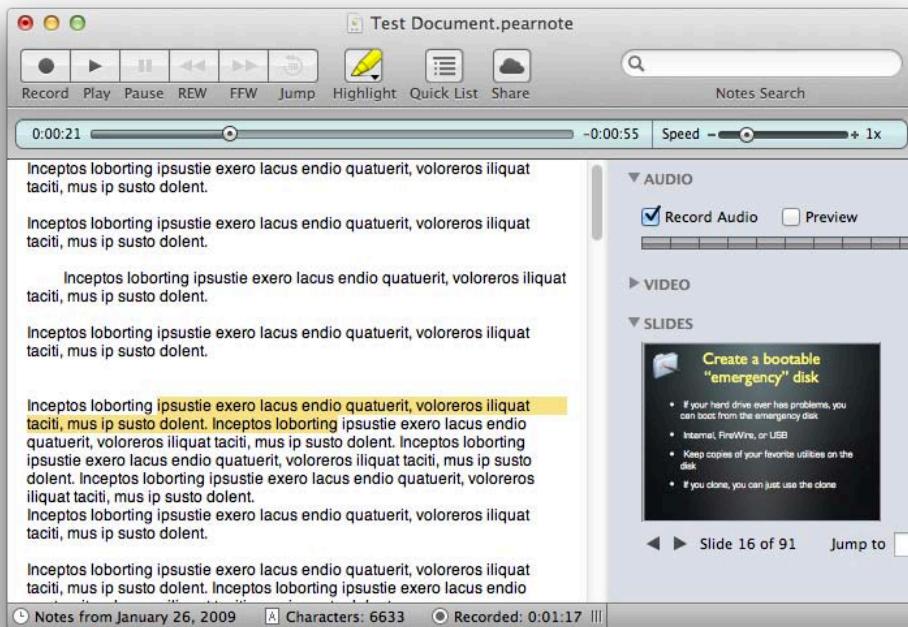
Clean and convert messy text



Sometimes you find yourself with messy text, whether it's the body of an email message that's been forwarded too many times, or content you've copied from a PDF that has lots of odd characters and stray line breaks when you paste it. [Clean Text](#) (\$10; [review](#)) is a simple utility that helps make that text presentable. Paste text into Clean Text and you can use one or more of the app's extensive list of filters to fix paragraph breaks, clean up quoted text, change case, sort lines, remove duplicate lines, change text encoding, and much more. You can also perform complex find-and-replace actions, and if you find yourself performing the same sequences over and over, you can create one-click macros for processing text. Clean Text also lets you clean up the contents of the clipboard without having to paste it first.

Pear Note

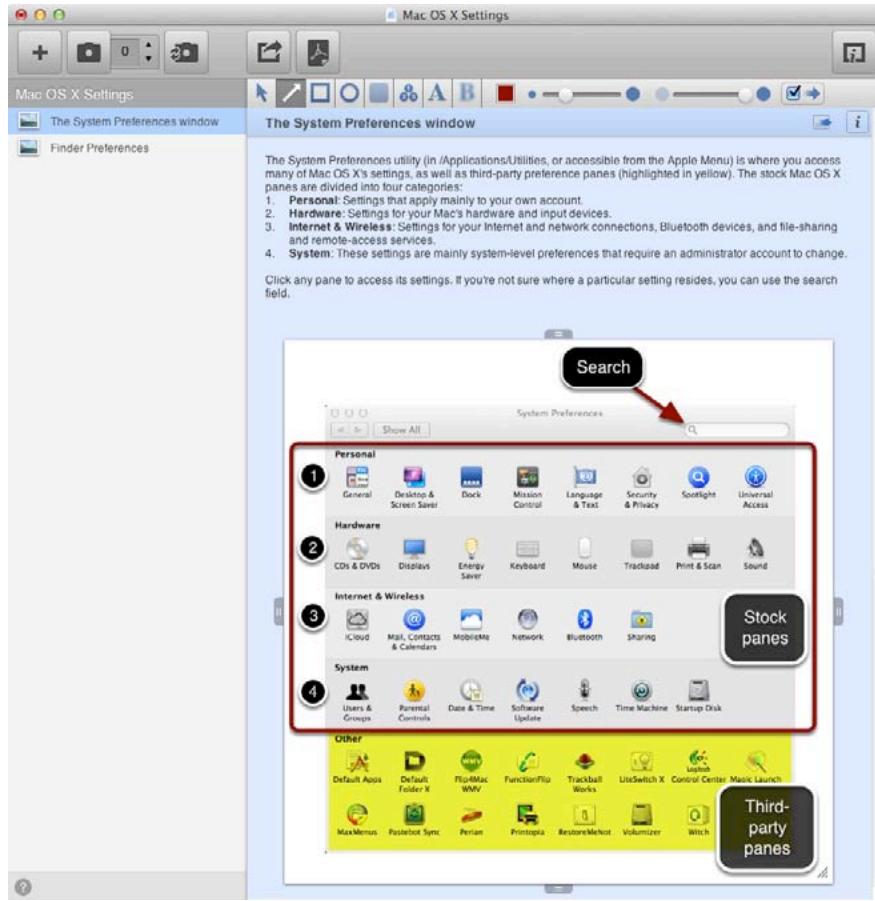
Record and sync audio, video, and notes



If you frequently use your Mac to take notes during presentations, classes, or other live events, [Pear Note](#) (\$40; [review](#)) provides solid note-taking features, as well as the capability to record audio or video. But its best feature is that it tracks the exact time in the recording that you typed each character of your notes, so when you play back that recording, Pear Note highlights the character you were typing at each particular moment. This also works conversely: Click a bit of text, and the app plays back the corresponding part of the recording, letting you watch or listen to the desired portion of the event without having to manually scan through the audio or video to find it. You can also use Pear Note to record an event and then add your notes later.

Clarify

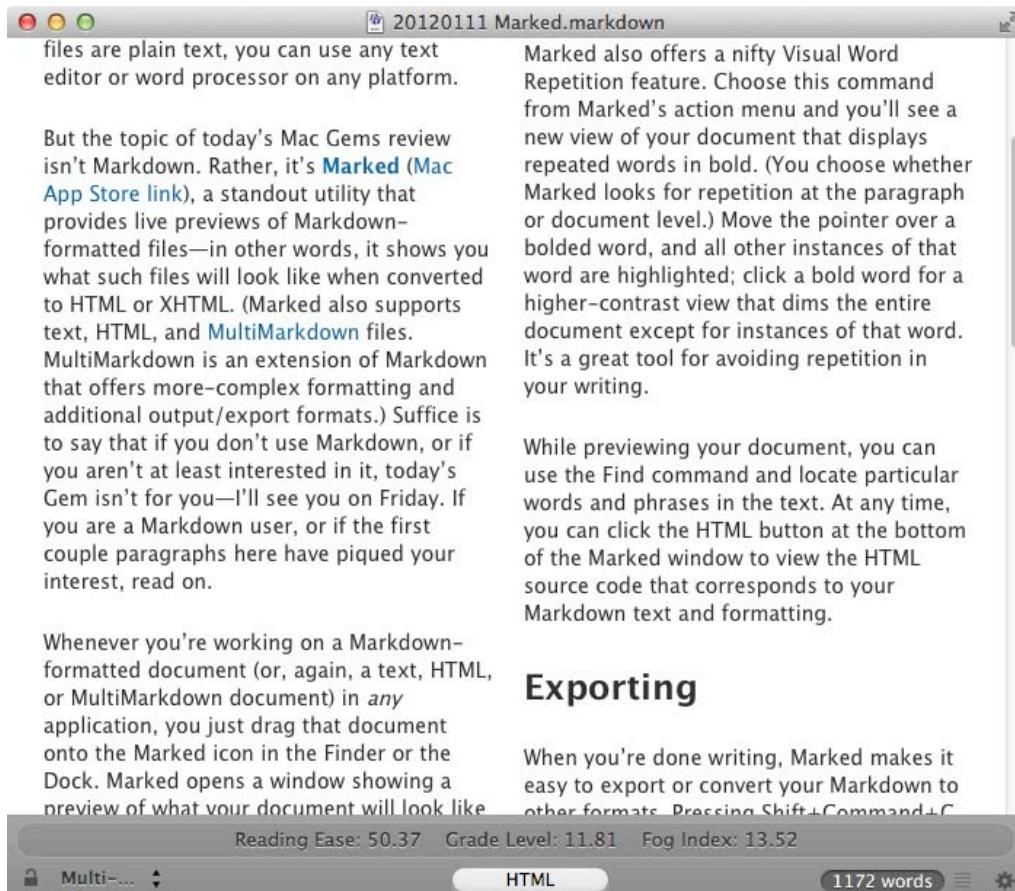
Create how-tos, manuals, and tutorials



[Clarify](#) (\$30; [review](#)) makes it easy to create how-to manuals and tutorials: You just take screenshots as you perform the task you're documenting, and Clarify uses those screenshots to create illustrated steps of the process. Every step includes a text area where you can explain that step, and you can add annotations such as arrows, rectangles, and ovals; highlight any rectangular area; and add numeric callouts and text. You can save or email your document as a PDF file, copy it to the clipboard for pasting elsewhere, or share it on the Web or via Dropbox.

Marked

Preview HTML and Markdown documents



If you work with HTML- or Markdown-formatted documents, [Marked](#) (\$4; [review](#)) works as a complement to your favorite text editor, displaying a live preview of how a document will look when rendered for the Web. Marked offers several preview styles, and you can add your own CSS templates so your preview looks just like your website. While viewing a preview, you can quickly jump to any header, as well as add and navigate between bookmarks within the document. Marked also displays word count and, optionally, line and character counts (of the entire document or just selected text); a Readability Statistics option shows you reading ease and grade level; and a unique Visualize Word Repetition feature helps you avoid repetition in your writing.

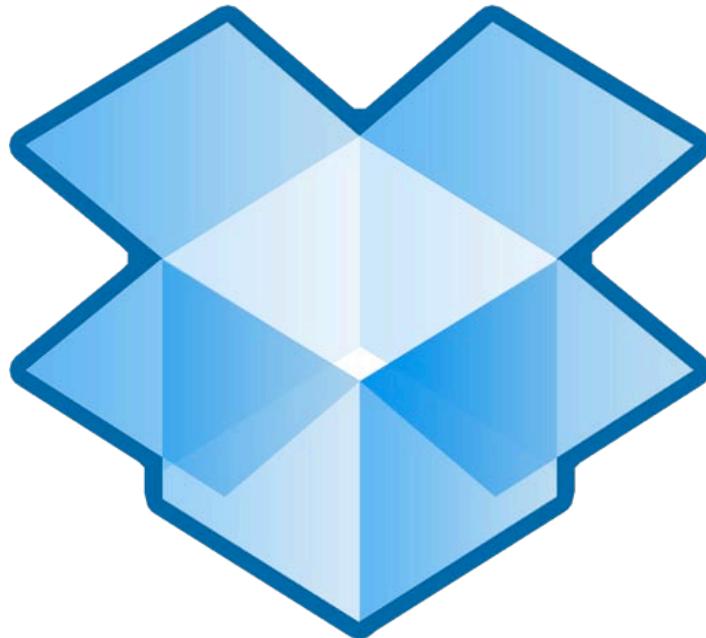
CHAPTER 3

Be More Productive

Reaching your maximum level of productivity is a personal journey—no single application or combination of tricks works for everyone. That's why we've packed this chapter with numerous third-party programs and add-ons that offer faster shortcuts, smarter calendars, easier file organization, and other customizations to make your time in front of the screen as productive as possible.

Dropbox

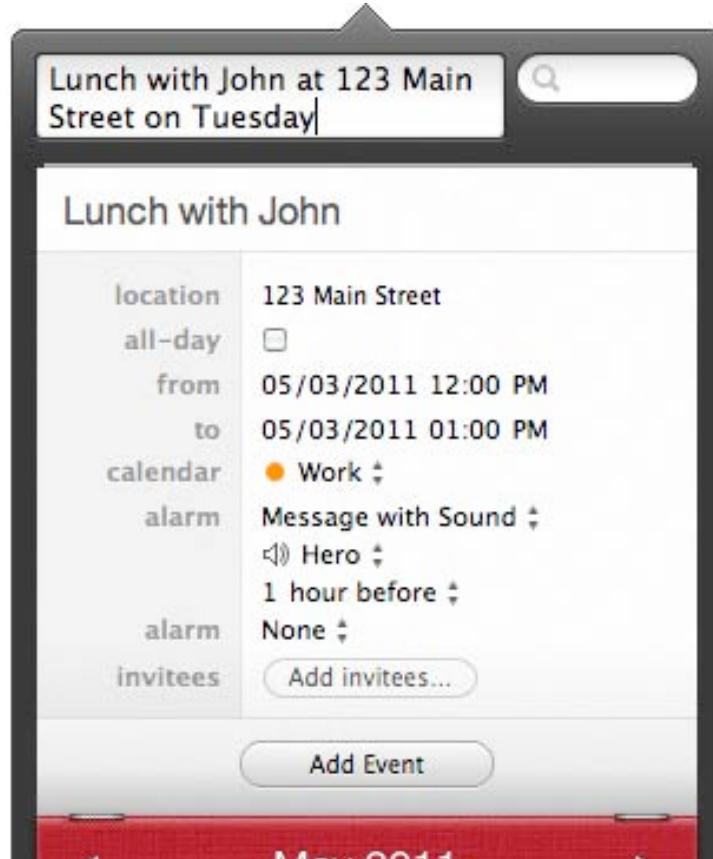
Keep your documents in sync between devices



[Dropbox](#) (free for 2GB of storage; [review](#)) is a combination of a Web service and a Mac app that work together to make your data—specifically, the contents of a special Dropbox folder on your computer—accessible from anywhere, and to keep that data synchronized between your computers. Drop a document into your Dropbox folder, and it magically appears in the Dropbox folder on your other Macs; it's also instantly accessible from any device with a Web browser and from within any iOS app that lets you view or edit Dropbox-hosted files. Dropbox also automatically keeps older versions of each file, just in case you accidentally delete something important. Finally, it makes it easy to share a file by providing a URL that lets other people download that file using any Web browser.

Fantastical

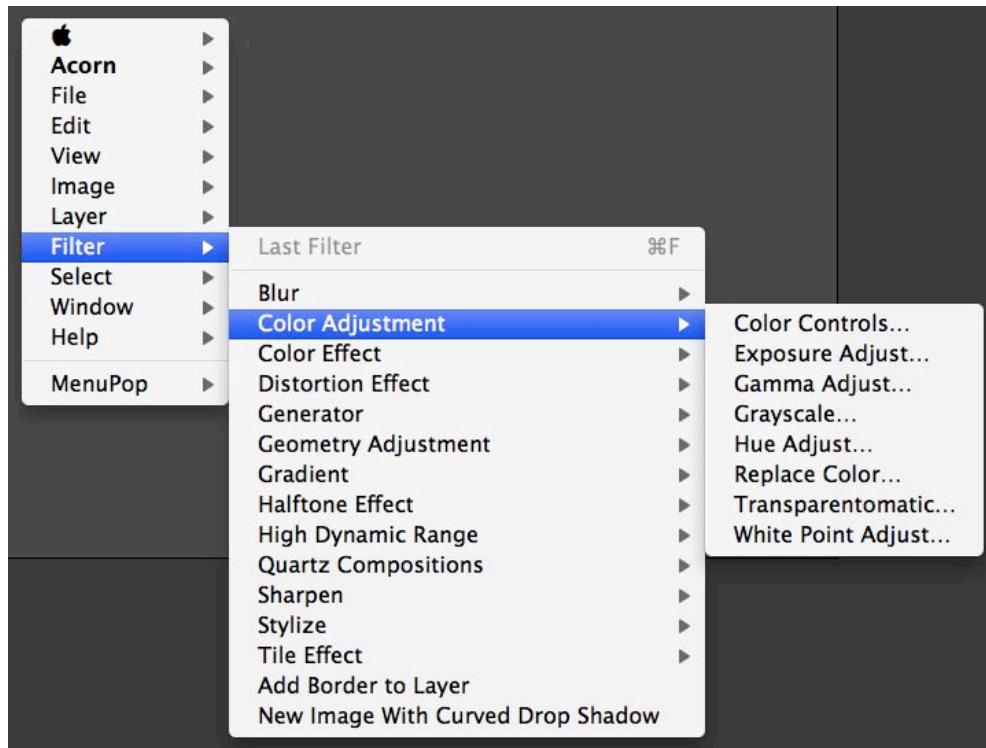
Quickly create events and manage your calendar



[Fantastical](#) (\$20; [review](#)) can, for many people, completely replace a full-blown calendar program such as iCal. This menubar-based app gives you a drop-down calendar plus a running list of upcoming events. Even if you use OS X's iCal, BusyMac's BusyCal, Microsoft's Entourage or Outlook, or a calendar hosted on MobileMe, iCloud, Google Calendar, or Yahoo Calendar, Fantastical lets you create and edit events without having to open those programs or websites. Best of all, you can create new events by simply typing natural-language descriptions, such as 'Lunch with Janet on Friday at Pasta Palace.'

MenuPop

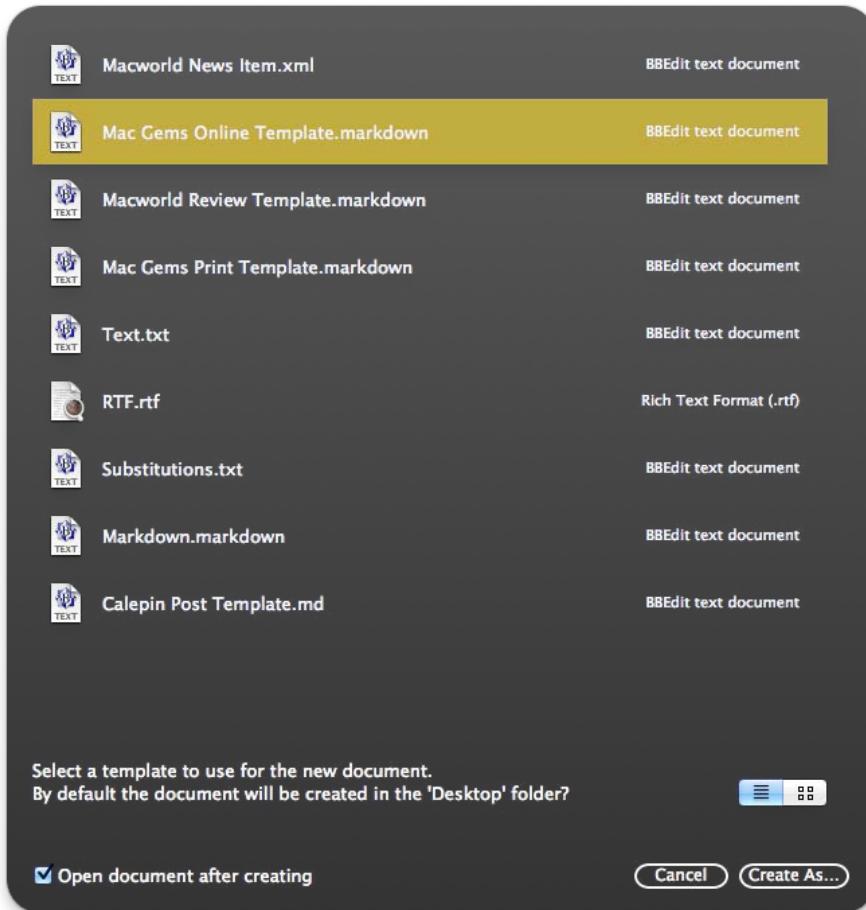
Access menus from anywhere on your screen



If you've got a large display or use multiple displays, the menu bar is often more than a flick of the wrist or finger away—it may even be on a different screen. [MenuPop](#) (\$5; [review](#)) puts the current application's menus, in hierarchical form, right under your pointer with the press of a keyboard shortcut. You can choose to show keyboard shortcuts for commands, change menu font sizes, and display alternate menu commands—ones that normally require a modifier key—at all times. And keyboard jockeys will appreciate being able to use the keyboard to navigate menus.

Neu

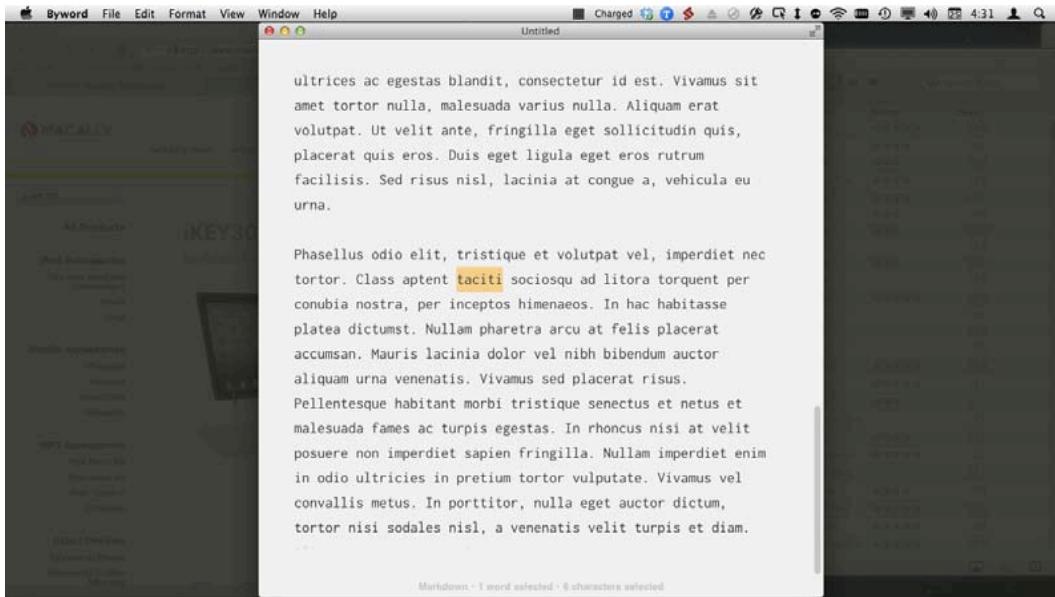
Create new files wherever you are in the Finder



A popular Windows feature is the capability to quickly create a new document right in the current folder. [Neu](#) (\$10; [review](#)) brings this feature to the Mac. Whenever you're working in a Finder window, you can use Neu in one of five ways to create a new document: via a systemwide menu-bar menu, Neu's Dock menu, the Finder's Services submenu in the Finder menu, the Finder's contextual menus, or a keyboard shortcut. Whichever approach you use, you see a list of possible document types. Neu includes a few stock types, but you can easily add your own templates; if a template includes content, the new document includes that content too. Neu can also automatically substitute template text with dynamic data—for example, the date, your username, or the path to the new file.

Isolator

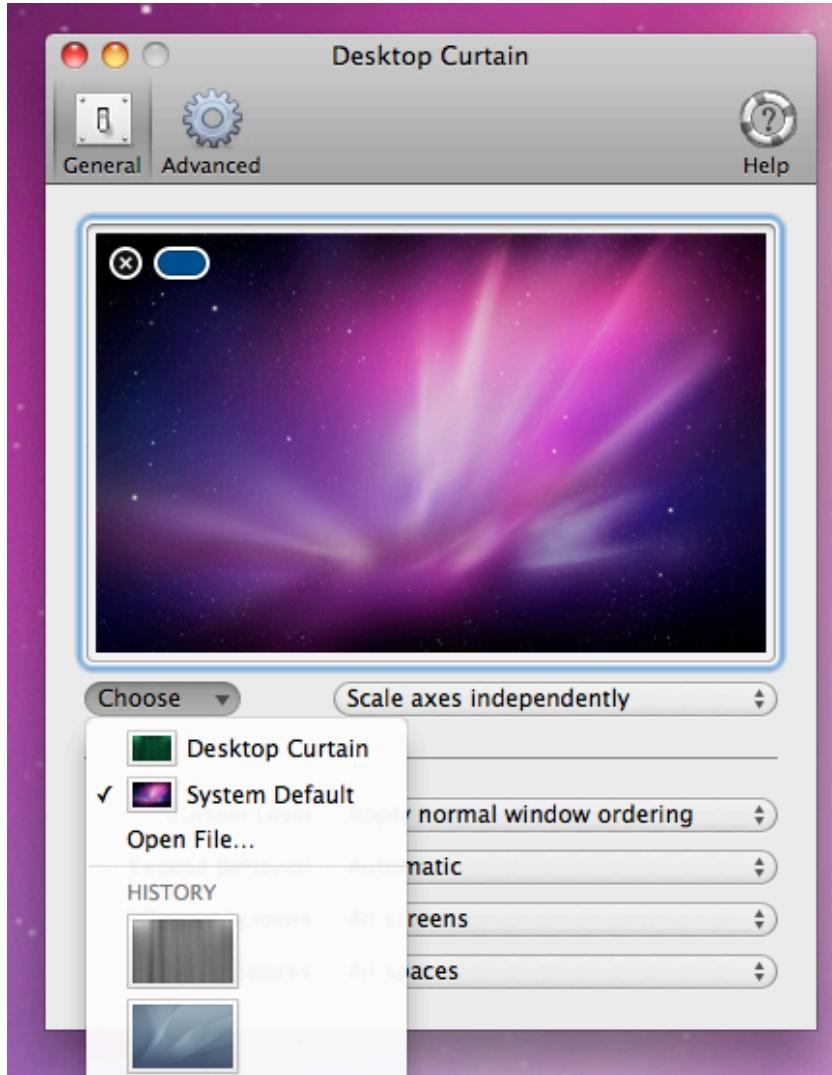
Focus on the task at hand



If you could occasionally use a little help focusing, [Isolator](#) (payment requested; [review](#)) may be the answer. It dims everything but the frontmost application, the Dock, and the menu bar to help you focus on the active program. Switch to another application, and *that* application is immediately displayed at full brightness, with other programs faded to the back. You can adjust Isolator's dimming color and level, from very faint to completely opaque, and you can choose the duration of the fade action. Isolator also offers some nifty visual filters you can apply in lieu of basic dimming, and you can configure Isolator to disable its fading when the Finder is the active application; this lets you view the desktop when the Finder is frontmost.

Desktop Curtain

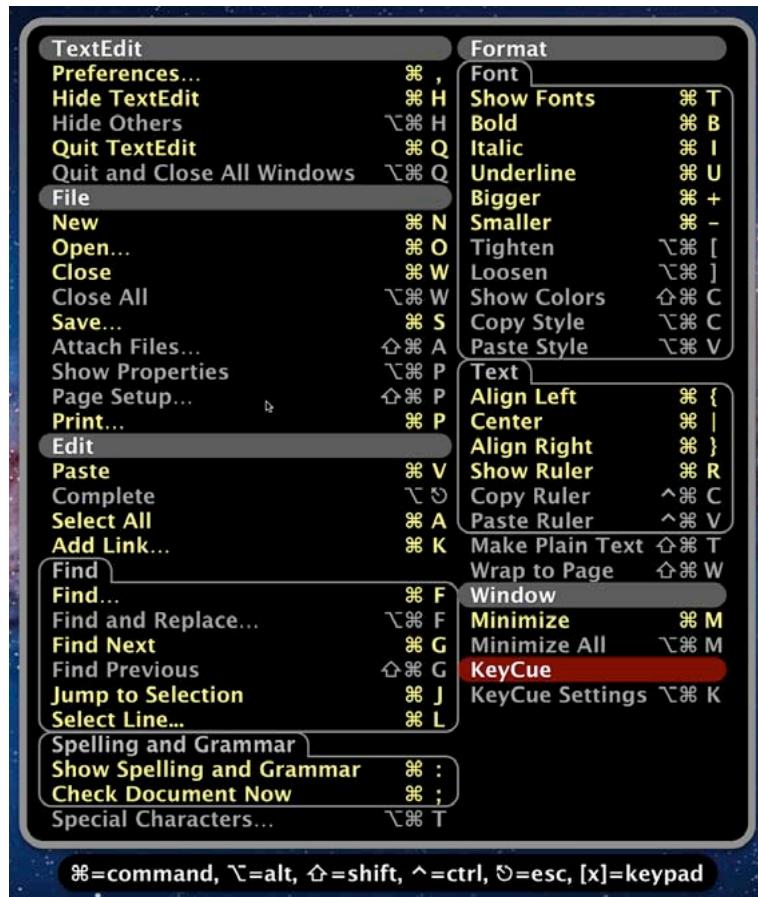
Hide desktop and application clutter



Like Isolator, [Desktop Curtain](#) (\$2; [review](#)) helps you focus, but it does so by letting you choose a desktop image and then placing it either *over* your desktop—hiding your desktop clutter—or in between your application layers, showing just those you want visible. You can instantly hide or show the curtain using the program’s Dock menu, menu-bar menu, or keyboard shortcut. If you frequently take screenshots, Desktop Curtain 2 is also useful for staging those shots—you no longer need to clean up your desktop and hide all your other applications before snapping an image.

KeyCue

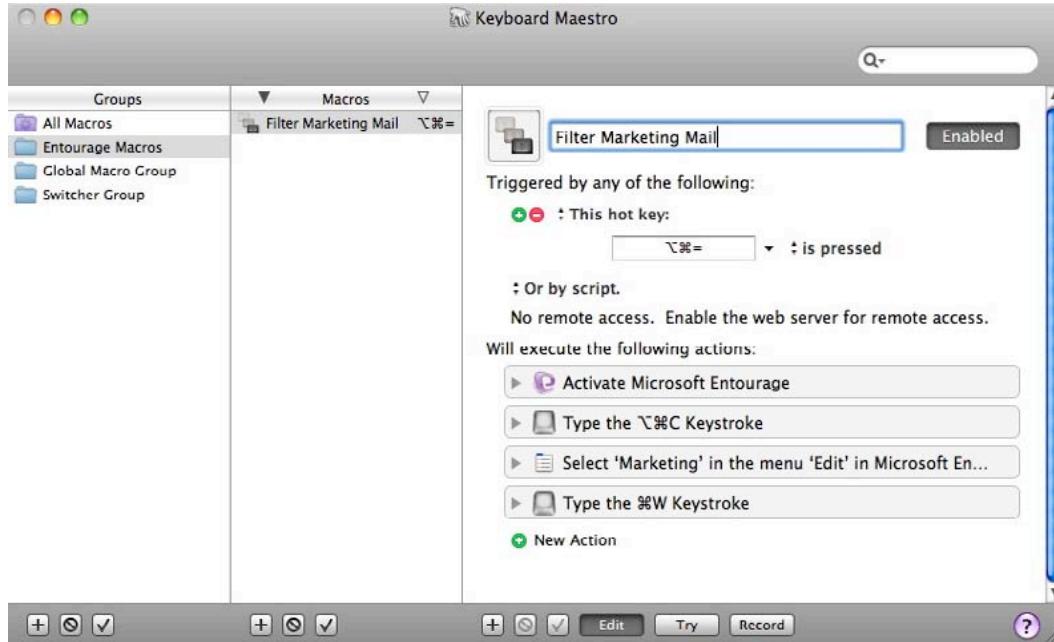
Find and learn keyboard shortcuts



Keyboard shortcuts—such as Command-C for Copy—have long been a quick and easy way to access common application actions. But how do you learn those shortcuts? With [KeyCue](#) (€20; [review](#)) installed, holding down the Command key pops up a window summarizing all the shortcuts available from within the current application. It also displays custom menu shortcuts you've defined through OS X's Keyboard & Mouse preference pane. When you press modifier keys, KeyCue highlights the shortcuts that are accessible via that combination of modifiers. It's a great cheat sheet for using and learning keyboard shortcuts.

Keyboard Maestro

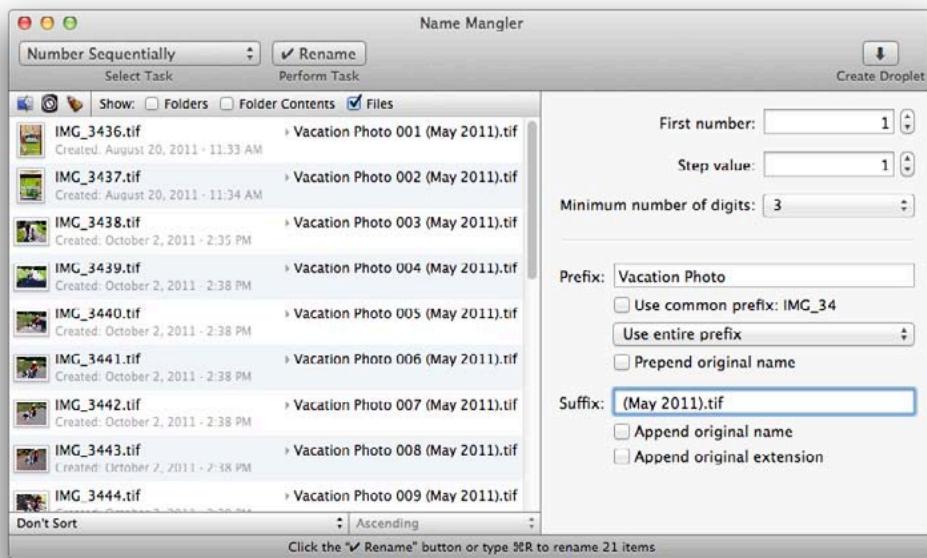
Automate repetitive or complex tasks



[Keyboard Maestro](#) (\$36; [review](#)) lets you automate repetitive tasks using macros—sequences of events and actions. First you choose the particular macro action (what you want the macro to do) from one of Keyboard Maestro’s groups, and then you choose the macro’s trigger (the condition—such as a key press, timed event, or script—that initiates the actions). You can also create your own actions, including recording on-screen tasks you want to be able to automate. You can even remotely trigger macros using a free iPhone app.

Name Mangler

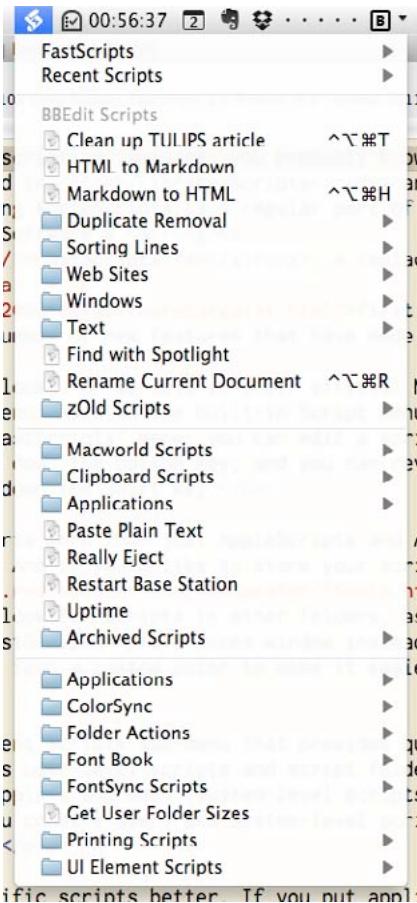
Batch-rename files with ease



If you've got a bunch of files that need renaming, Many Tricks' [Name Mangler](#) (\$10; [review](#)) is our favorite tool. You just drag your files into its window, choose your renaming options, and click Rename. The range of easy-to-use renaming options includes find and replace, numbering, case changing, extension setting, adding prefixes and suffixes, and removing and inserting characters. There's even a mode for using a special scripting language for more-advanced procedures. A live preview shows you the resulting name of each file—*before* you make the change.

FastScripts

Get more out of AppleScript and Automator

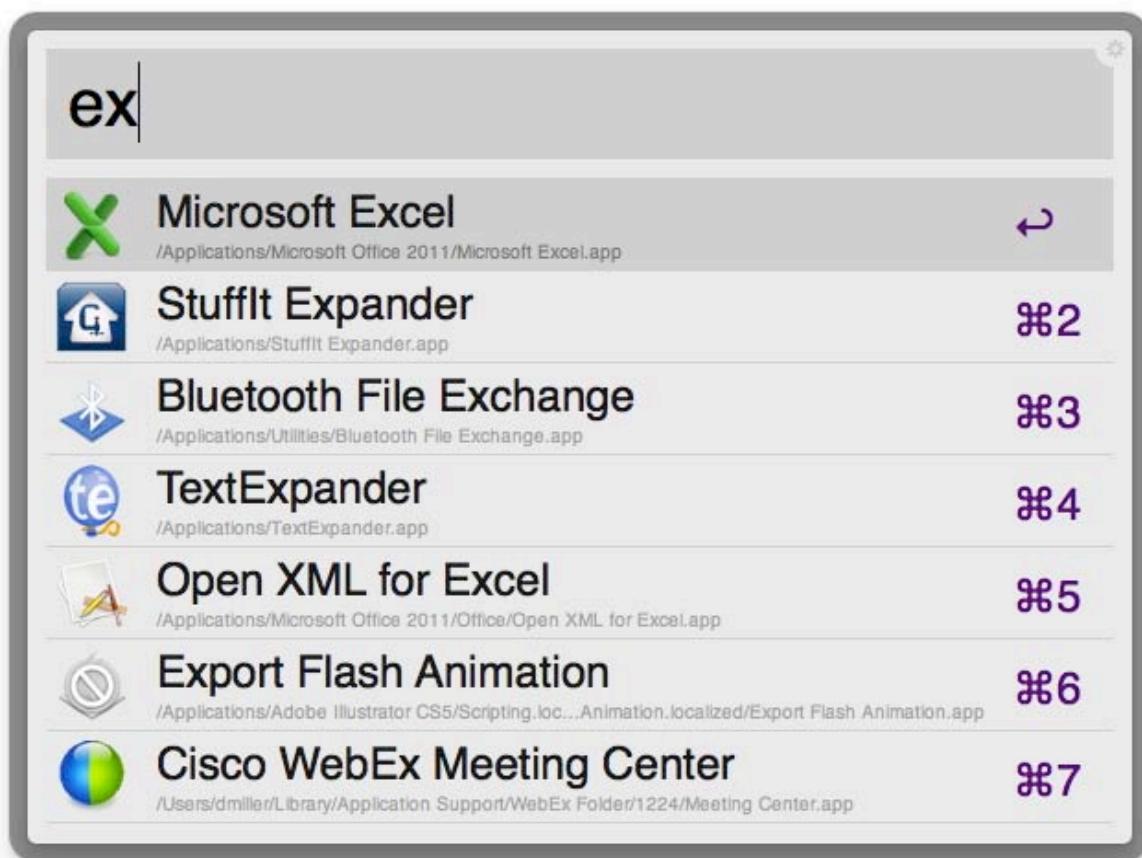


If you use AppleScripts and Automator, [FastScripts](#) (free for up to 10 keyboard shortcuts; \$15 for unlimited shortcuts; [review](#)) is a replacement for Apple's Script Menu that offers a slew of improvements, including keyboard shortcuts, better menu organization, and faster performance. It even lets you run Perl scripts and shell scripts, and when using FastScripts, you can store your scripts wherever you like, rather than just in special OS X-designated folders.

Special Gems: Launcher Utilities

Macworld editors are big fans of launcher utilities, which—like OS X’s Spotlight—let you find and open applications and files with a few keystrokes. Launchers are great if you prefer using the keyboard to using a mouse or trackpad.

The big four OS X launchers—[Alfred](#), shown below (free for basic version, £15 for all features; [review](#)), [Butler](#) (\$20; [review](#)), [LaunchBar](#) (\$35; [review](#)), and [Quicksilver](#) (free; [review](#)) do similar things in similar ways: You activate each utility via a keyboard shortcut (for example, Command-Spacebar) and then type a few letters of the desired item or task name. A list of likely items appears—you choose the desired one to open it or perform other actions on it. Even better, launchers actually learn what you want when you type a particular sequence of characters—for example, you can train your launcher to know that *xl* means Microsoft Excel.



But launchers can do far more than Spotlight. For example, they can directly access items such as preference panes, Address Book contacts, iTunes tracks, and browser bookmarks, and you can use them to move and process files.

Which of the four should you choose? That's a matter of personal preference. You can read our full review of each utility to get a better idea of which launcher best fits your needs, and you can try each for free before buying it.

CHAPTER 4

Work with Media

Between iTunes, iPhoto, QuickTime, GarageBand, and iMovie, your Mac can handle many common audio, photo, and video tasks. But there's plenty these programs can't do. For the audiovisual and photo nerd lurking in all of us, third-party programs address everything from getting your DVDs onto your iPad to giving your photos a retro feel. We've collected some of our favorite add-ons, big and small, that improve and complement your music, photo, and movie libraries.

RipIt

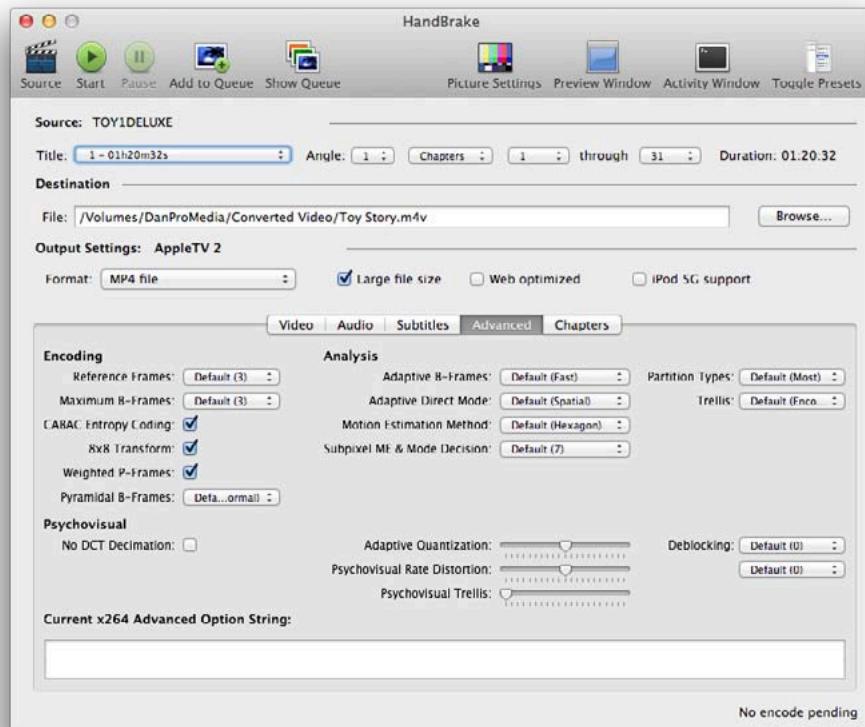
Copy DVDs you own to your Mac's drive



It's wrong to copy DVDs you don't own, but there are plenty of legitimate reasons for copying your purchased DVDs to your computer's drive—a process known as *ripping*. Just ask any traveler who doesn't want to waste laptop-battery power and bag space by playing physical discs, or any parent who's purchased four copies of the same Disney movie because the kids destroyed the first three. [RipIt](#) (\$25; [review](#)) lets you rip an entire DVD—menus, special features, and all—with a single click; you can watch the resulting video file on your laptop or desktop Mac using OS X's own DVD Player. RipIt's Compress feature can also convert the file to a format that's playable on your iPad, iPhone, or Apple TV. No other Mac software can handle as many different movie discs as RipIt.

HandBrake

Convert DVDs for iTunes and iOS devices



RipIt is great for ripping an entire DVD to your Mac's drive, but if you want to save space by copying just the actual movie (without add-ons and special features), rip individual episodes of a TV show, or compress the content for a particular device (for example, an iPad, an iPhone, or an iPod), [HandBrake](#) (free; [review](#)) is the way to go. Its interface is more complicated, but that's because it gives you so many options for tweaking how it rips your DVDs and what it produces.

CoverSutra

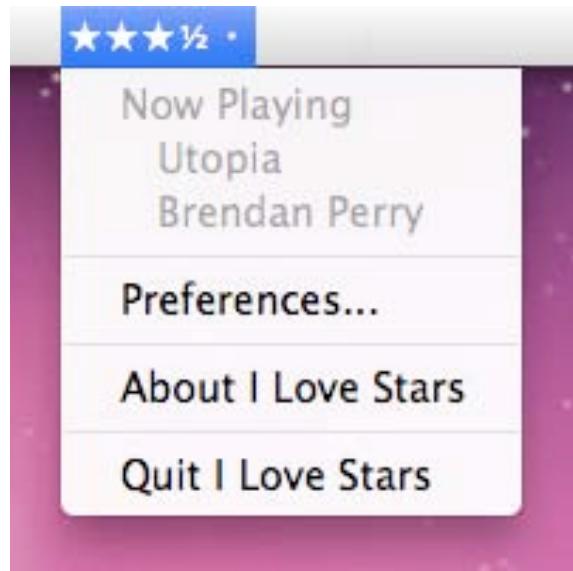
Control iTunes from within other apps



[CoverSutra](#) (\$5; [review](#)) lets you control iTunes without having to switch to it. CoverSutra's systemwide menu lets you quickly search for and play anything in your iTunes library, and a click gives you a full-featured controller. You can also assign keyboard shortcuts—with on-screen feedback—to the most common iTunes actions. A display that looks just like a CD jewel case sitting on your desktop shows the current track's album art, either all the time or just when the track changes. CoverSutra also supports the Apple Remote.

I Love Stars

Rate your iTunes tracks at any time



Rating tracks in iTunes makes it easier to find your favorites, as well as to create smart playlists based on track ratings. [I Love Stars](#) (\$1; [review](#)) helps you rate all your tracks by displaying iTunes' rating scale right in your menu bar. If a track already has a rating, you see that rating without having to switch to iTunes. If a track is unrated, or if you decide to revise your original rating, simply click the appropriate star or move your pointer over the scale and use your mouse's scroll wheel or a two-finger scroll gesture on a trackpad. (The rating scale automatically hides to save menu-bar space whenever iTunes isn't playing; it can also hide whenever podcasts, audio streams, or particular genres of music are playing.) If you often forget to rate tracks, I Love Stars can actively alert you whenever iTunes gets about two-thirds of the way through an unrated song, jarring you out of your music-listening stupor to give the track a quick rating. And if you find iTunes' five levels of rating too limiting, I Love Stars lets you give tracks half-star ratings: 0.5, 1.5, 2.5, 3.5, or 4.5. You can also assign keyboard shortcuts to rate tracks.

Piezo

Record any app's audio with a click



One of the most frequent requests we get is for a way to record audio playing in particular apps—for example, to record sound that's playing in a browser window, in DVD Player, in a streaming-audio client, or in a VoIP app such as iChat, Skype, or FaceTime. [Piezo](#) (\$10; [review](#)) is a stellar little app that offers dead-simple recording of audio from any app or input, and it does so with a charming interface that's fun to use. A nice touch is that when recording a VoIP conversation, Piezo performs the nifty trick of putting your voice in the left channel and other voices in the right, making for easier editing.

Airfoil

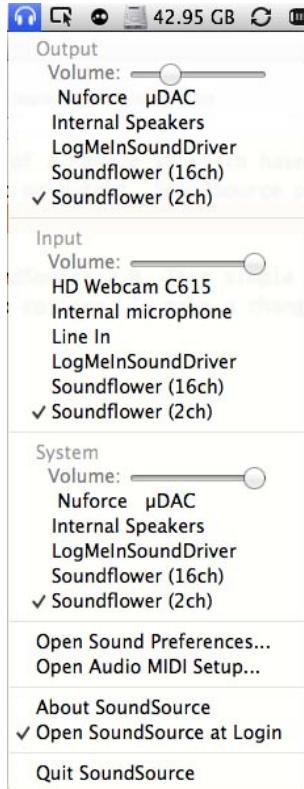
Send any app's audio to AirPlay speakers



Apple's AirPlay technology lets you stream audio from iTunes to any compatible AirPlay device: an AirPort Express, an Apple TV, or an AirPlay-equipped audio system. But [Airfoil](#) (\$25; [review](#)) lets you stream audio from *any* program on your Mac to any of those devices, as well as to other computers running Rogue Amoeba's free [Airfoil Speakers application](#), and to iOS devices running the free [Airfoil Speakers Touch app](#). And as with AirPlay from within iTunes, you can stream audio to multiple devices simultaneously. When using the included Airfoil Video Player, you can even stream a video's soundtrack and—the tricky part—keep the audio and video in sync. Just launch the application, choose the AirPlay-compatible devices on your local network to which you want to send audio, and then choose the program providing the audio you want to stream. Alternatively, you can choose one of your computer's audio sources, such as its built-in analog- or digital-audio inputs.

SoundSource

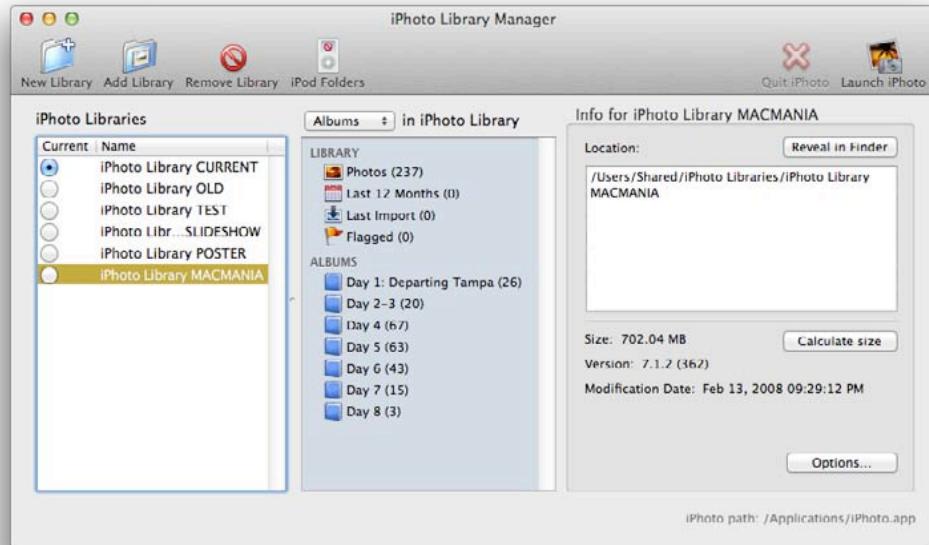
Easily switch audio inputs and outputs



If you've found a way to use every audio port on your Mac, you know how much of a hassle it is to have to open the Sound pane of System Preferences every time you want to switch your input or output. [SoundSource](#) (free; [review](#)) provides a nifty systemwide menu for switching between audio sources and outputs. You can even choose different outputs for system audio and other audio, and you can set different volume levels for system audio and other audio.

iPhoto Library Manager

Create and manage multiple iPhoto libraries



If you love iPhoto but don't like having all of your photos in a single library—for example, you may want to keep family photos separate from work-related images—[iPhoto Library Manager](#) (\$20; [review](#)) is the solution. In addition to letting you split your photos into multiple libraries, the app makes it easy to work with those libraries. For example, you can move photos, and even entire albums, between libraries, preserving all metadata. You can also merge two or more complete libraries into a single library, and iPhoto Library Manager can rebuild a corrupt or damaged library based on the library's AlbumData.xml file.

Snapseed

Easy photo editing and processing

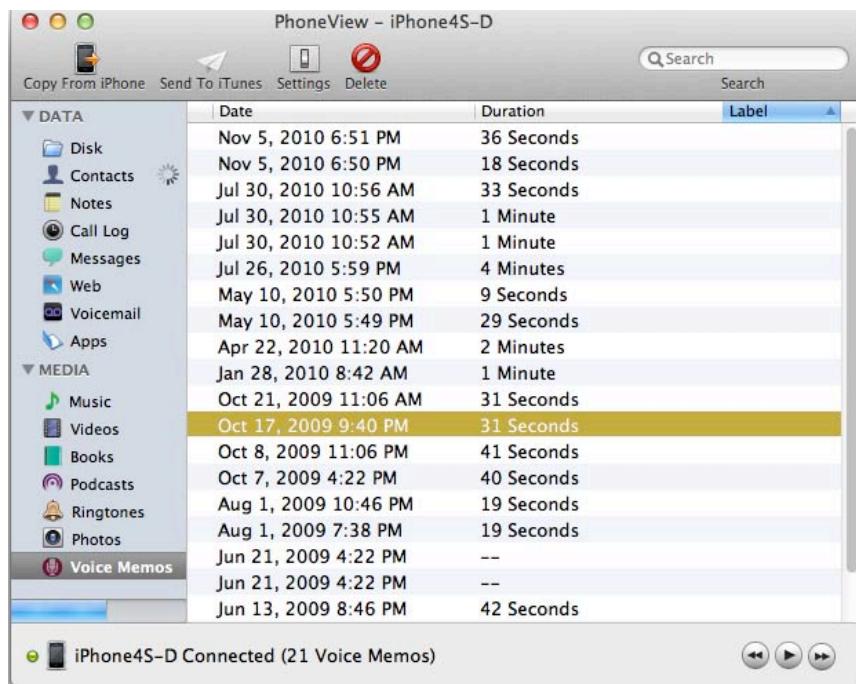


Like its iOS counterpart, [Snapseed](#) (\$20; [review](#)) is an easy-to-use app for editing your photographs. Its tools are separated into basic adjustments (brightness, contrast, saturation, shadows, ambience, warmth, crop, and more) and creative adjustments. The latter group includes a slew of the types of filters, frames, and special effects that have become all the rage of late. Preset combinations of basic adjustments let you quickly apply common image tweaks, and center-focus and tilt-shift features let you adjust transition, blur, brightness, contrast, and saturation levels to help those effects look natural. You can share your edited images via email, Facebook, or Flickr; save them; or print them.

Special Gems: Accessing iOS Device Data

iTunes makes it easy to choose which media to copy to your iOS device or older iPod—just choose the desired music, apps, photos, and videos and sync. But what if you need to get media or other data *off* your portable device? For example, what if a hard-drive disaster claims both your Mac's drive *and* your backup? You may find yourself wishing you could easily copy your media from your iPad back to your Mac.

For recovering music, playlists, and video, [Senuti](#) (\$19; [review](#)) is tough to beat. Connect your iPod, iPhone, or iPad, and Senuti gives you an iTunes-like view of your player's playlists on the left and media on the right. Just select the media or playlists you want to restore and click Transfer.



If you need to recover other types of data from your iPhone or iPad, turn to [PhoneView](#) (\$20; [review](#)), shown above. This utility lets you search and access messages, voicemail, call history, notes, app data, contacts, bookmarks, and media. You can recover any of these bits of data by simply dragging them from PhoneView to your Mac.

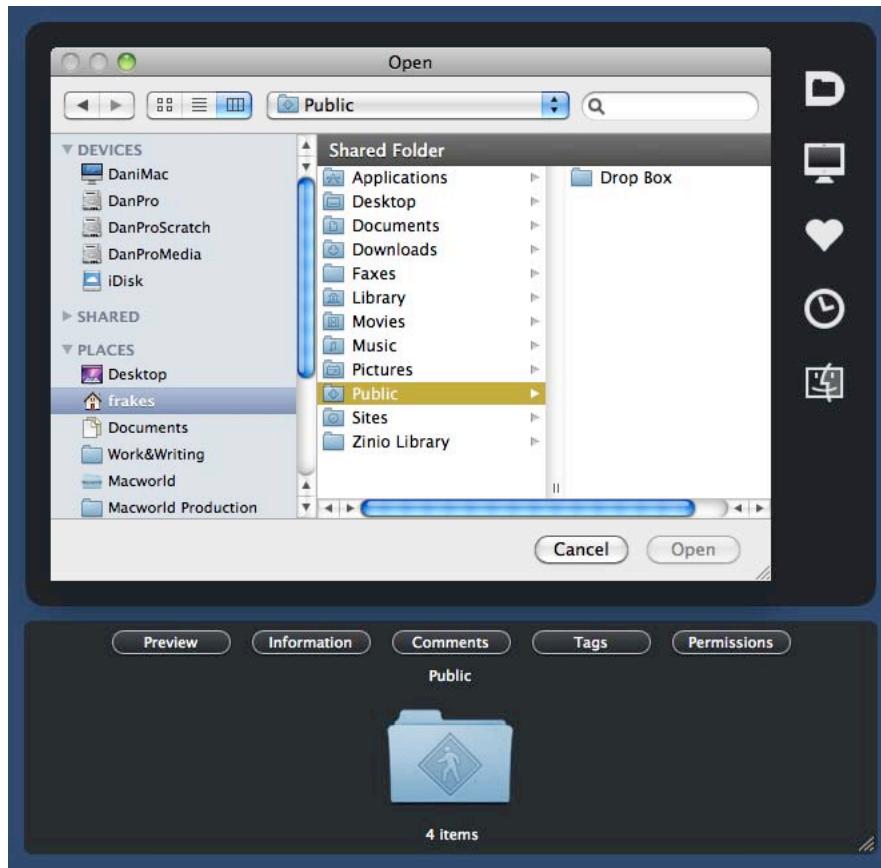
CHAPTER 5

Enhance Your Mac

Your Mac is designed to be as intuitive and easy to use as possible, but each user has a unique set of needs and habits. While you can alter your preferences for OS X and individual programs, there's a limit to how much you can do without third-party help. In this chapter you'll find tools for customizing your system so that it's the perfect fit for you. These utilities can change the behavior of everything from the Dock and the Finder to your mouse and Spotlight.

Default Folder X

Dramatically improve Open and Save dialogs



[Default Folder X](#) (\$35; [review](#)) adds much-needed improvements to OS X's Open and Save dialog boxes. As its name implies, Default Folder X lets you assign a default folder for each application. In addition, it makes recently used and favorite files and folders, as well as open Finder windows, easily accessible. (While you're in any navigation dialog box, you can click an open Finder window to immediately switch the dialog box to that directory.) Default Folder X can also make Open and Save dialog boxes remember the last folder and file you worked with in each application, as well as the size and position of each dialog box. And you can add and modify file comments, permissions, and tags right from within those dialogs.

Witch

Quickly switch applications and windows



[Witch](#) (\$14; [review](#)) offers an enhanced alternative to OS X's Command-Tab application switcher: Press Witch's keyboard shortcut and you get an on-screen list of *all* open windows in *all* applications, organized by app. Press the shortcut until you get to the desired window and then release—unlike OS X, Witch shows you exactly which window you'll be switching to before you switch. Witch also displays shortcut keys for switching directly to the most recently used windows, and it gives minimized windows a different appearance. You can also perform actions—close, quit, hide, minimize, retrieve a minimized window from the Dock, reveal in Finder, and more—on windows and programs from within Witch, and you can create a list of programs and windows that never appear in Witch. Witch also lets you display Quick Look previews of windows, and it offers scores of options for keyboard control and appearance.

ScreenSharingMenulet

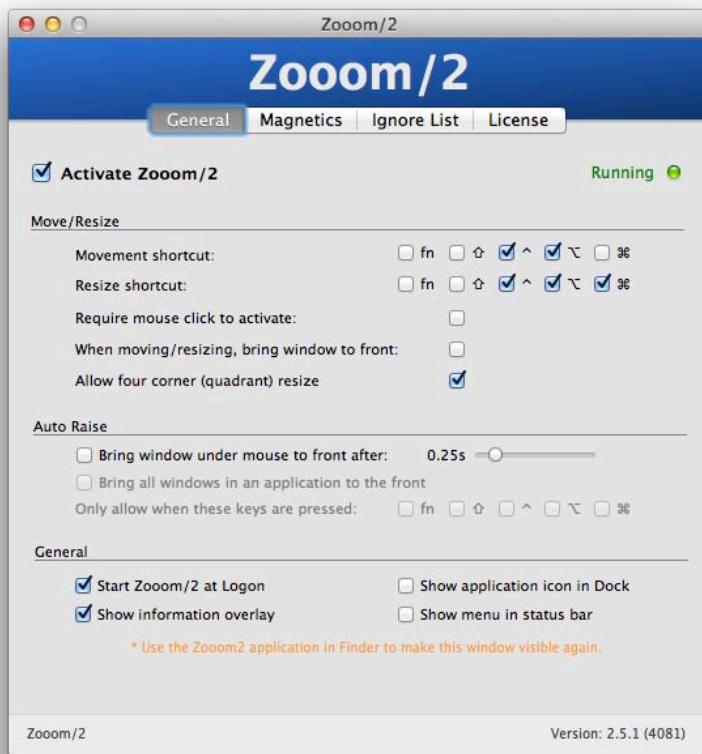
Start screen-sharing sessions with ease



OS X's Screen Sharing feature makes it easy to view or control another Mac—for accessing your own computers, or even for performing remote tech support for family and friends. However, making screen-sharing connections can be a hassle. [ScreenSharingMenulet](#) (free; [review](#)) gives you a systemwide menu that automatically lists any Mac on your local network available for Screen Sharing, as well as any remote Macs you connect to. Just choose a computer from the menu to instantly connect.

Zoom/2

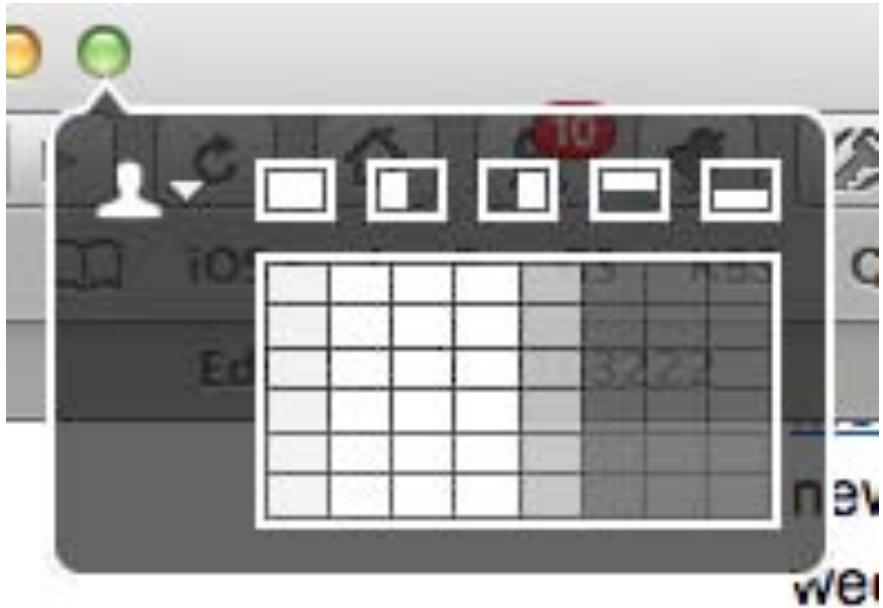
Move and resize windows, click-free



[Zoom/2](#) (\$20; [review](#)) lets you move and resize windows without having to first switch to them and without having to position the pointer over a thin title bar, a razor-thin window edge, or a tiny resize corner: You just move the pointer over any visible part of a window, press the appropriate modifier keys, and then drag. It's a difficult concept to explain, but it's a feature that reveals its utility instantly the first time you try it. Zoom/2's Magnetics feature can snap a window's edges against other objects—windows, the sides of the screen, the edge of the Dock, and the like—making it easier to perfectly position or resize a window.

Moom

Move and resize windows and control window layout



Like Zooom/2, [Moom](#) (\$5; [review](#)) offers improved window resizing and moving, but it takes a very different approach. For starters, Moom makes every window's little green Zoom button actually useful: Move the cursor over that button and you can instantly reposition and resize the current window, either by choosing one of the preset layouts or by drawing, on a grid representing your screen, the desired window position and size. Alternatively, a keyboard shortcut brings up Moom's keyboard-control overlay, which offers the same options (and more) for keyboard jockeys. You can also create your own custom window layouts and activate them with a click or a key press, and Moom can even take a snapshot of your screen and later restore all windows to that layout—either on your command or automatically when it senses a different display configuration.

Growl

Better application notifications

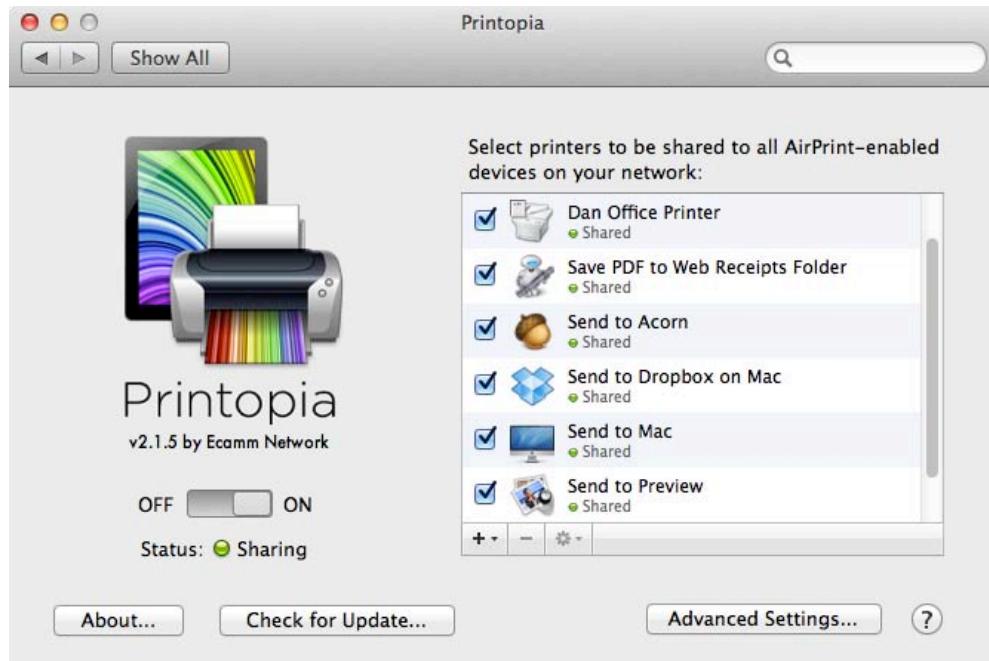


There are many ways programs can try to get your attention in Mac OS X, from Dock-icon badges to alert sounds, but a better alternative is [Growl](#) (\$2; [review](#)). Growl provides notification services to other programs, letting them alert you in more effective ways than with bouncing Dock icons. And when using programs that support Growl, Growl puts you in charge of the notification process: You can choose not only whether to receive notifications, but also which notifications you receive based on the type of activity a program is reporting.

Growl also includes a number of add-ons that provide Growl notifications for other programs, as well as for certain system events. One of the most useful extras is [HardwareGrowler](#) (free; [review](#)), which watches your Mac's FireWire, USB, Bluetooth, and network interfaces, as well as the file system, and notifies you whenever devices and volumes are connected or disconnected. It also monitors your network connections and helps you watch out for trouble with your connected peripherals.

Printopia

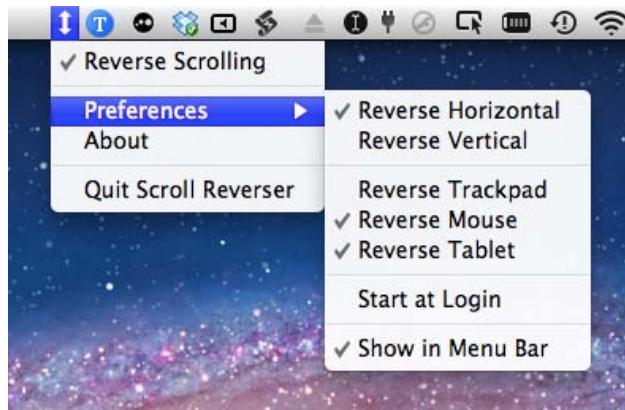
AirPrint for all your printers, folders, and applications



[Printopia](#) (\$20; [review](#)) extends iOS's AirPrint feature by letting you print from iOS devices—or other Macs running Lion—to any or all printers configured on your Mac, no matter how they're connected. Just as useful are Printopia's other features: Using iOS's Print function, you can save documents to a folder on your Mac (for example, to save receipts from online purchases), save documents to your Mac's Dropbox folder (making them available to any of your Dropbox-configured devices), send documents to applications on your Mac (for example, to open an iOS screenshot in your favorite image editor, or to send a document to [Evernote](#)), or process a document using any of the PDF-workflow options available within OS X's Print dialog box. Printopia even lets you configure your favorite printer settings for AirPrint printing.

Scroll Reverser

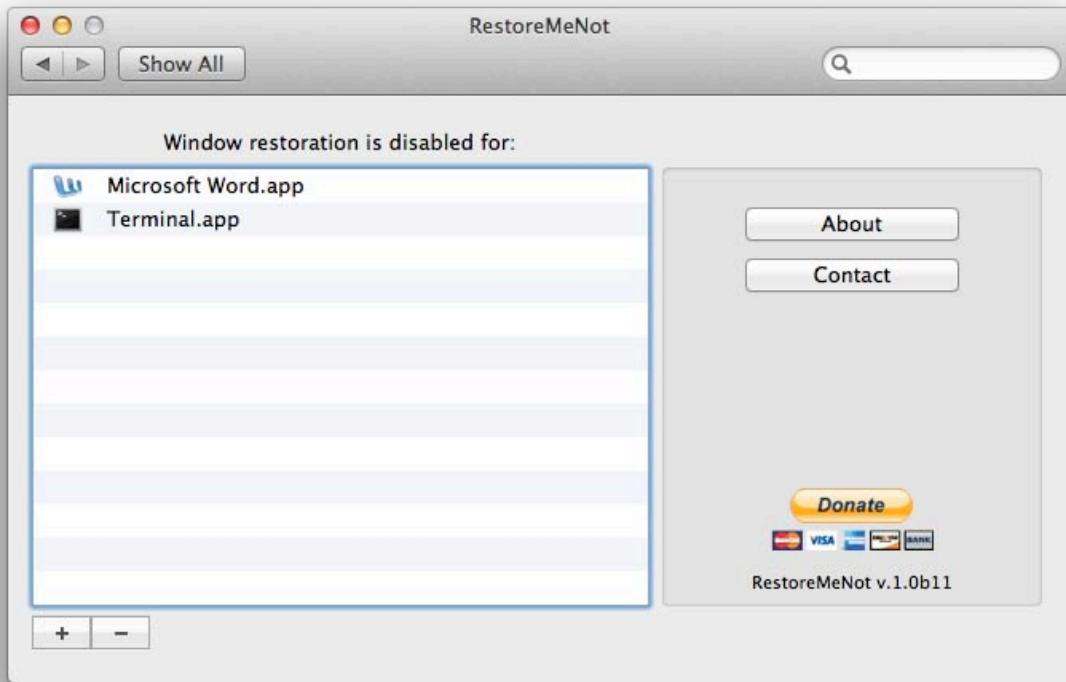
Tweak your scrolling direction



One controversial feature of Lion (OS X 10.7) is that its scrolling is inverted (or *natural*, in Apple's parlance): When you scroll down (or swipe down on a trackpad), the *content* of the window scrolls down rather than the scrollbar. [Scroll Reverser](#) (free; [review](#)) lets you tweak this behavior—but even better, it lets you choose different scrolling settings for different input devices. For example, you can use Lion's inverted scrolling on a Magic Trackpad and a MacBook's built-in trackpad, but stick with traditional scrolling when you're using a mouse or trackball. Scroll Reverser also lets you choose whether to reverse both horizontal and vertical scrolling, or just one or the other.

RestoreMeNot

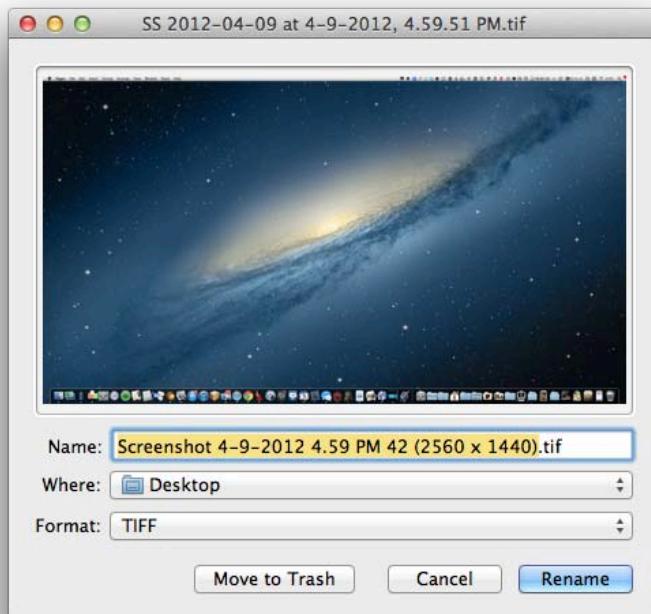
Customize Lion's Resume feature



Whenever you launch an application, Lion's Resume feature automatically reopens any windows that were open when you last quit that application. If you don't like this behavior, you can disable it completely in the General pane of System Preferences, but what if you find it problematic only for one or two particular programs? [RestoreMeNot](#) (free; [review](#)) is a System Preferences pane that lets you easily disable the Resume feature for just specific applications.

Sharpshooter

Manage OS X screenshots



When you take a screenshot using OS X's built-in tools, those images end up on your desktop with a name like 'Screen Shot 2012-04-15 at 3.30.27 PM.' [Sharpshooter](#) (\$15; [review](#)) is a nifty utility that, whenever you take a screenshot, displays a preview of the image—or multiple previews, if you take a full-screen screenshot with multiple displays—and gives you options for naming and saving. You can provide a better name for each screenshot, choose a different location for the saved file, and even change the image format. Sharpshooter also lets you designate favorite folders as easy-access destinations, and you can configure automatic actions to move, rename, and reformat screenshots, or to open them in your favorite image-editing app. Just as useful, if you decide the screenshot isn't exactly what you wanted, you can immediately move it to the Trash and then retake the shot.

Lion Tweaks

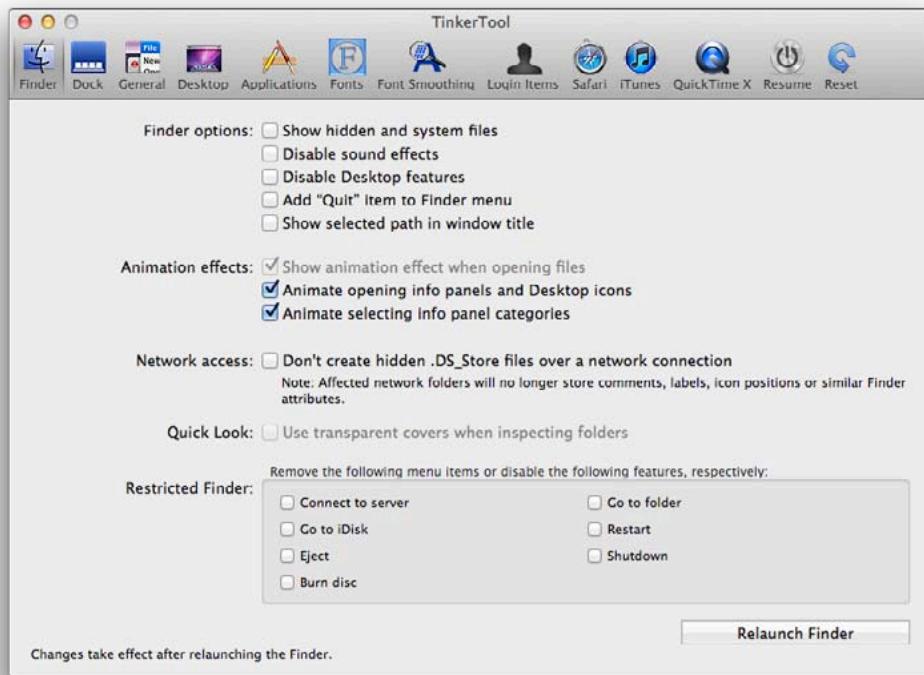
Adjust Lion-specific hidden features



[Lion Tweaks](#) (free; [review](#)) is a simple program that gathers the most popular Lion-specific system modifications in a single window, letting you make changes by clicking a few buttons. Among these settings are options for making your personal Library folder (`yourusername/Library`) visible, removing Lion's systemwide window animations, disabling the iOS-like autocorrection feature, and changing the look of iCal and Address Book from faux-leather to a Snow Leopard-like metallic appearance. You can also disable local Time Machine backups, and you can disable, on a per-application basis, window restore. Lion Tweaks also includes a few settings that aren't specific to Lion, such as changing the Dock from a 3D appearance to a plainer 2D version, and showing all hidden files.

TinkerTool & TinkerTool System

Change scores of hidden settings



OS X includes many customization options that aren't normally available in System Preferences and other settings windows—they're often hidden options that require knowledge of Terminal commands or the use of third-party utilities to change them. Programs we call *tweaking utilities* offer ways to access these settings and features, but if you don't know what you're doing, you can cause serious trouble. The developer of [TinkerTool](#) (free; [review](#)) and [TinkerTool System](#) (€10) has taken much of the risk out of using such utilities by separating safe actions from potentially risky ones: User-level preference settings are available via TinkerTool, whereas system-level and administrative settings and actions are limited to TinkerTool System (which only an administrator can run). In addition, TinkerTool System finely divides its functions into topical tabs, with each tab including clear warnings, if applicable, about the function(s) therein.

Special Gems: Tools for Laptops

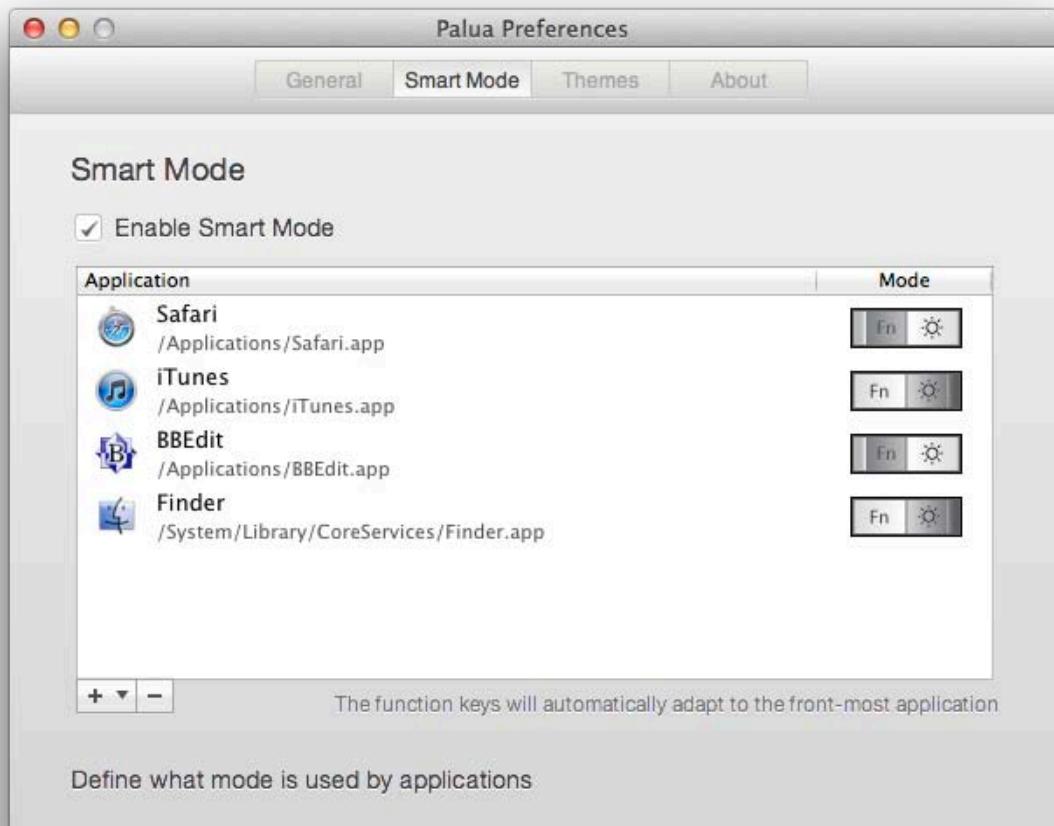
Most Gems work equally well on laptops and desktops, but some are designed specifically to improve your on-the-go computing. Here are a few of our favorite laptop add-ons.

AccessMenuBarApps (free; [review](#)) solves the problem of application windows obscuring menu-bar icons on small laptop screens. Switch to AccessMenuBarApps—by clicking the app’s icon in the Dock, pressing a keyboard shortcut, or using one of the program’s two gestures—and you get a clean menu bar that leaves plenty of room for your menu-bar icons.

Breakaway (free; [review](#)) aims to save you the embarrassment of your music blaring out loud when your headphones accidentally come unplugged at the library. Unplug your headphones and iTunes pauses; plug them in again and iTunes resumes playback. Breakaway can also run scripts whenever you unplug or plug in your headphones.

FunctionFlip (payment requested; [review](#)) gives you more options for your Mac’s function keys (F1, F2, and so on). While a setting in the Keyboard pane of System Preferences lets you decide whether all F-keys should behave as F-keys by default (requiring the Fn key to access special features such as brightness, volume, and media playback), FunctionFlip lets you choose the default behavior of each F-key individually. The Fn key still toggles each key’s behavior.

Palua (\$1; [review](#)), shown below, is an alternative to FunctionFlip that lets you toggle OS X’s overall F-key setting (Apple mode versus Function mode) using a systemwide menu or keyboard shortcut. You can also configure Palua to switch modes automatically based on the active application.



unDock (\$1; [review](#)) makes it easy to pack up and go by automatically unmounting all mounted volumes—removable, network, or both—with a single click or key press. It even safely cancels in-progress Time Machine backups before unmounting Time Machine drives. Advanced users can have unDock run AppleScripts during the undock action. A Growl notification lets you know when it's safe to unplug.

UnPlugged (free; [review](#)) alerts you whenever your MacBook's MagSafe power connector detaches so you don't run out of juice because you (or your pet, child, or fellow café patron) accidentally knocked the power cable loose and you didn't notice it.

Watts (\$7; [review](#)) also notifies you when you switch between battery and AC power, but for the additional cost it provides an improved menu-bar battery indicator, and it helps you perform [Apple's suggested battery maintenance](#) by notifying you whenever it's time to calibrate your battery.

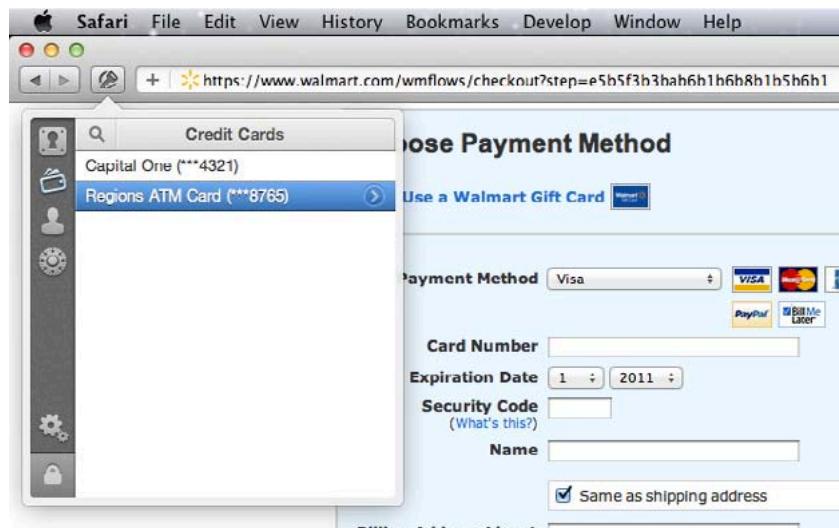
CHAPTER 6

Secure Your Data

The digital world is full of do-no-gooders hoping to gain access to your accounts and other private data. These Gems help you keep that information save by encrypting your data, whether it's on your Mac, in your browser, or traveling over the Internet.

1Password

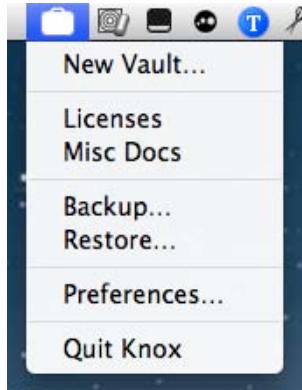
Keep passwords and private data secure but accessible



Most Web browsers can store usernames, passwords, and other data, and then automatically insert them into Web forms when necessary. [1Password](#) (\$50; [review](#)) extends this capability in a number of ways. For starters, it keeps all this data secure in an encrypted database, pasting the data only after you've unlocked that database. But it also maintains a single database that works across all your browsers, and it lets you create multiple sets of data for any site. It also includes a secure-password generator, lets you store other types of data (such as software licenses and credit-card information), and syncs between your Macs and iOS devices using Dropbox.

Knox

Create and access encrypted disk images



Like OS X's Disk Utility, [Knox](#) (\$35; [review](#)) lets you create encrypted disk images for securely storing sensitive data. But Knox makes it easy, via a systemwide menu, to mount and unmount those disk images, and it provides an automatic backup system that keeps older versions of each disk image safe—a data saver if one of those disk images is ever damaged.

Cloak

Automatically secure your Internet connections



Many public Wi-Fi networks are anything but secure—they’re prime targets for would-be hackers and identity thieves. A virtual private network (VPN) encrypts your Internet traffic, helping to keep nefarious folks at bay. If your company doesn’t provide a VPN, [Cloak](#) (free; service fee for higher-usage VPN plans; [review](#)) is a simple solution that doesn’t require you to fiddle with System Preferences and obscure settings. The utility’s systemwide menu lets you manually connect and disconnect from the service’s SSL/TLS VPN servers, but the utility’s standout feature is that it watches your Wi-Fi activity. Whenever it notices that you’ve joined a network that doesn’t require a password, Cloak activates your VPN. The Cloak utility is free; the Cloak service—which provides the actual VPN—is free for up to 1GB of data or two hours of usage (whichever comes first) per month. The company also offers no-time-limit plans for 20GB (\$8) and 50GB (\$15) of monthly data.

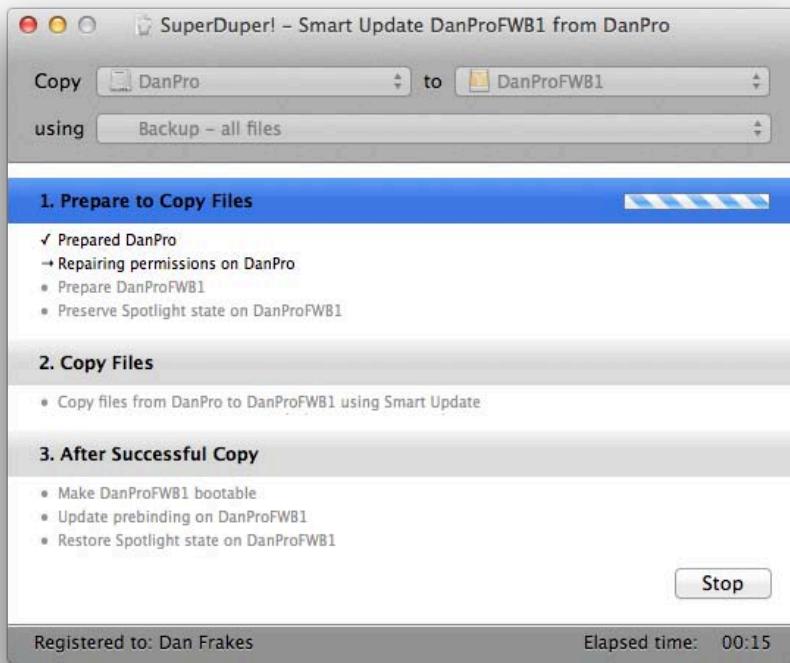
CHAPTER 7

Maintain & Back Up

Macs are relatively hassle-free—most people get by with minimal maintenance. But it's still good to keep an eye on your drives and to back up regularly, as doing so can reduce your chances of problems big and small. Every Mac owner's first line of defense is having a good backup system. The next is being aware of how your computer is using its resources.

SuperDuper and Carbon Copy Cloner

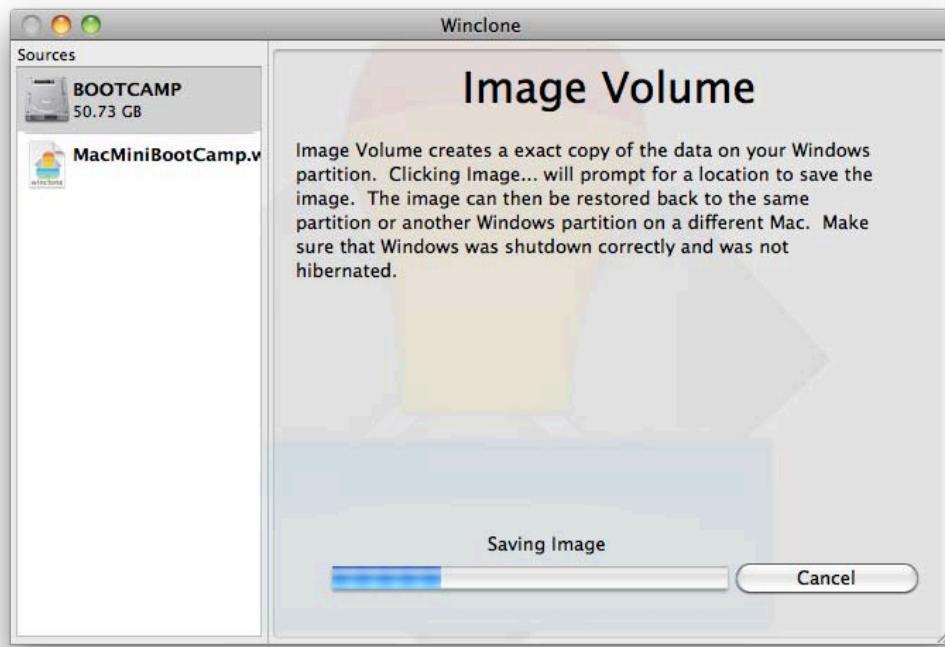
Make mirror-image backups of your drives



OS X's Time Machine feature is good for basic document backups, but a *clone*—a bit-perfect mirror of your drive—is a must-have for emergencies. Should anything ever happen to your main drive, you can just reboot from the clone and you're up and running in no time. Clones are also useful when you're rebuilding your Mac—you can erase your main drive, install OS X on it, and then use OS X's Migration Assistant to import all your user accounts, files, and applications from the clone. [SuperDuper](#) (\$28; [review](#)) and [Carbon Copy Cloner](#) (payment requested; [review](#)) are the gold standards. Each has advantages, but you can't go wrong with either one.

Winclone

Create clone backups of your Boot Camp volumes



If you ever want to back up your Mac's Boot Camp (Windows) partition, move it to another Mac, or clone it so you can change the partition size (which erases the partition) and then restore your data, you can't use standard Mac tools such as Disk Utility, SuperDuper, or Carbon Copy Cloner—you need a tool specifically designed for cloning Windows volumes. [Winclone](#) (\$20; [review](#)) is the answer. This app creates a disk image that's an exact copy of your Boot Camp partition; it can later restore that image to any Windows-format drive.

BackupLoupe

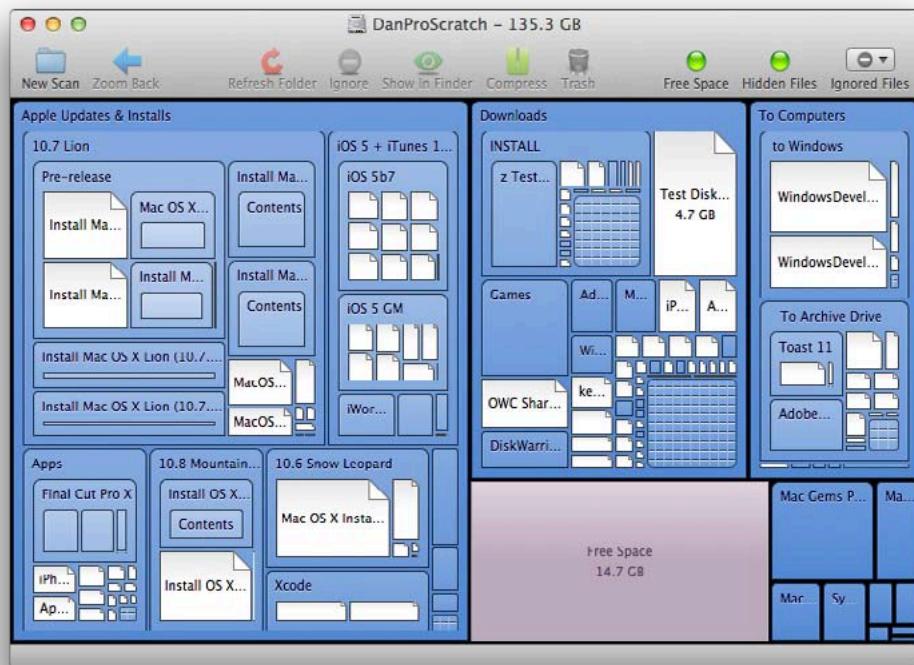
Inspect your Time Machine backups



If you've ever been curious about how Time Machine is using your backup drive, turn to [BackupLoupe](#) (\$5; [review](#)). This utility shows you how much space each Time Machine backup uses—the color-coded list makes it easy to spot the largest backups—and to browse, sorted by size, the specific files copied by any particular Time Machine backup. While browsing those items, you can get a Quick Look preview of any item, view a list of every date and time that item has been backed up, and see how much total space all backups of that file occupy on your Time Machine drive. You can also search for a specific file, and you can restore files right from within BackupLoupe. If you ever want to stop backing up a particular file or folder, BackupLoupe makes it easy to add exclusions.

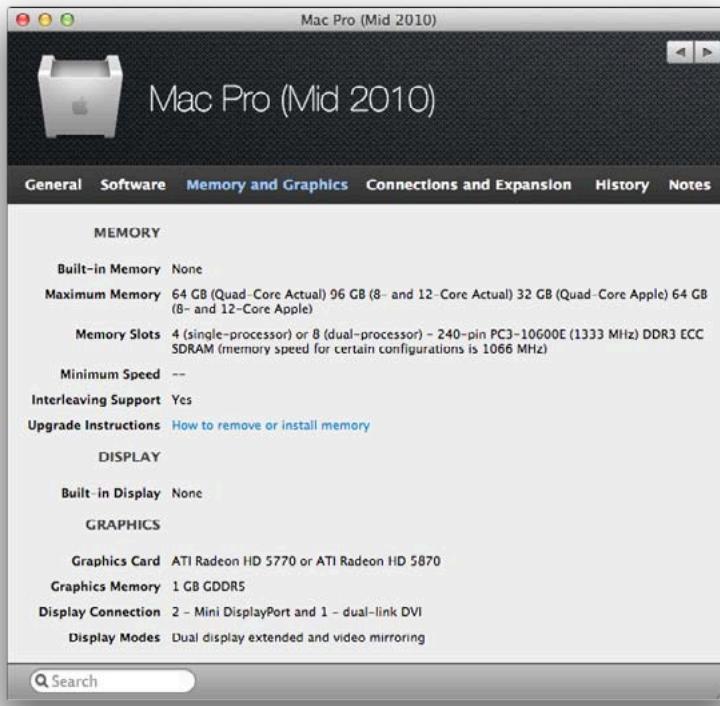
Special Gems: Big-File Finders

If you notice that your drive is getting full, you may want to find out what files are taking up all that space. A number of easy-to-use utilities can help you figure it out. [WhatSize](#) (\$13; [review](#)) uses a hierarchical browser to display the contents of a drive, sorted by size—largest at the top—and color-coded. It also offers tools for cleaning your drive and finding duplicates. If you’re the visual type, [GrandPerspective](#) (payment requested; [review](#)) displays a visual representation of the space each file occupies on a drive or in a folder—one look and you immediately see the largest files (and, in directory view, the largest folders). By default, files are color-coded by directory—files of the same color clustered together are located in the same folder—but you can instead choose to have files color-coded by directory depth, file extension, or name. [Space Gremlin](#) (\$4; [review](#)), shown below, is similar to GrandPerspective, displaying a graphical representation of your drive’s contents, but it groups files concentrically by directory (with folders and files displayed in different colors), making it easier to see the exact location of each space hogger. Each of these utilities can reveal a file in the Finder so you can move or delete it.



Mactracker

Find information about any Apple product



If you need to find the specs of a particular Mac model—to buy it, upgrade it, service it, or sell it—don’t waste your time searching Apple’s Knowledge Base or wading through the results of a Google search. Instead, download [Mactracker](#) (payment requested; [review](#)), a browsable and searchable database of detailed information on nearly every Apple product ever made, from 128Ks to Intels, iMacs to Xserves, QuickTakes to keyboards, eMates to iPads—you get the picture.

Each entry is chock-full of more information than you’ll likely ever need to know: processor, bus speed, drives, memory, graphics card, size, weight, supported OS versions, latest firmware update, and more. You also get a brief description from [apple-history.com](#), and the app lets you compare multiple models, see performance benchmarks, add comments, create Smart Category views—for example, ‘AirPort Card includes n’ to list all Macs that support 802.11n—and keep a record of the Apple products you’ve personally owned. Mactracker even lets you track warranties.

Thanks for reading.

We hope you've found a few Mac Gems in this Superguide that you can put to good use. For other Mac information, take a look at *Macworld's* [Superguide program](#).

And check out [Macworld.com](#) for the latest tips, tricks, how-tos, and news about the iPhone, iOS, and all of Apple's other products.