

# TCDBx 2003

## By Ilan Szekely

Programming: Ilan Szekely  
Much of the data: Nikolas Kovalenko

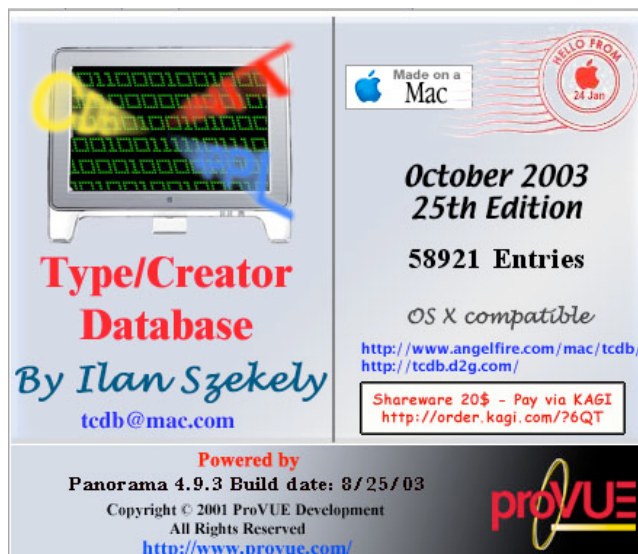
October 2003

### What is Type/Creator Database (TCDBx)

Every Macintosh file has two four character codes associated with it - its type and creator. The Creator code is unique to each application and enables the Finder to attach documents to their parent applications. This way you can "double click" on the Icon of a document and Mac OS will open it with its correct application. The Type code lets each application differentiate among its files.

Type/Creator Database is a collection of those codes.

Apple does not provide such a database; they only allow you to see if a certain code is already registered (A registered code must not actually be in use).



### NEW

This is the 25th version of the Database!

Now OS X compatible.

**TCDB 2003.10 for OS X includes 58,921 entries of Type/Creator codes and 19,737 entries with PC file extensions** (October 2003)

Disclaimer:

The PC extension codes are mostly from free sources over the Internet.

These sources are not official, and the data validity is not certain.

### URL Pointers to my sites:

Apple .Mac MAIN SITE

# TCDBx 2003

## Disclaimer:

I do my best to check the data, but I can take no responsibility to the accuracy of the data.

This list of file types was compiled and edited with a lot of effort. The original list was based on the contents of MAC disks I use at home and at work. New versions are mostly additions sent in by people who downloaded the list and sent me updates. I did my best to make the list as accurate and full as possible, but can assume no responsibility for errors in the list.

The "official" list is in the hands of Apple, and is not in the public domain.

# TCDBx 2003

## Using the Program

TCDBx is built around Provue Panorama for OS X. This tool has versions for PC and older Macintosh systems.

Many features are built into Panorama itself:

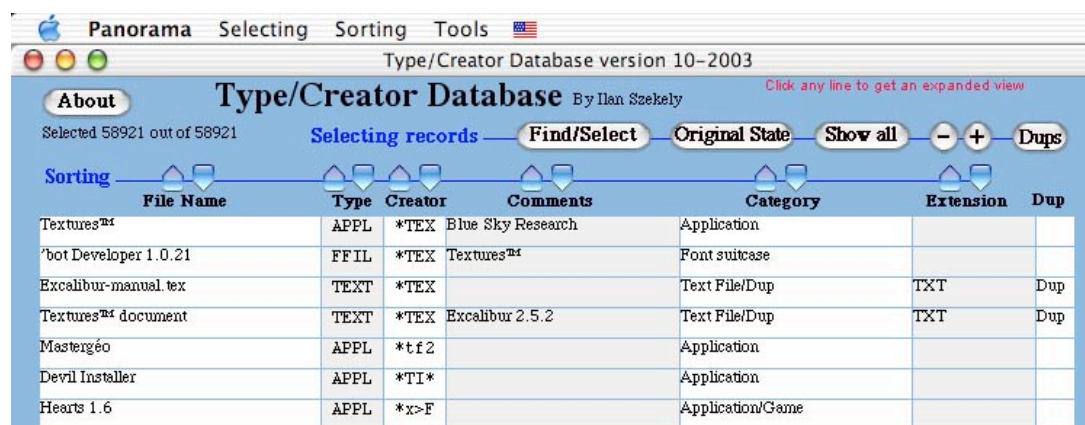
1. "Moving around" in the database window.

You can use the scroll bars of the window, or the Keyboard keys: up arrow / down arrow /, Page-up / Page-down / Home / End.

2. Sorting and finding records.

For more information please see Panorama documentation.

TCDBx main window includes some buttons and four menus.



### Menu entries:

**Panorama** menu - includes "About Type/Creator Database", "Help..." [OS X], Quit, and other entries - depending on the Operating System.

**Selecting** menu - includes entries for pre-defined selections and for a Find dialog.

**Sorting** menu - includes entries for sorting by any field (up or down) and some extra sorting options.

**Tools** Menu - includes an entry for a "Preferences" dialog. This allows for setting field fonts.

Most menu functions are available via buttons (see picture above).

### 1. Selecting by any criterion

You can select any group by a criterion you define with the Find entry of the Selecting Menu.

The "Show all" button restores the original state.

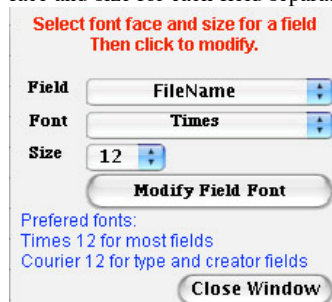
### 2. Sorting by field

You can sort the table by any title. Just click on the blue arrow buttons above the field title.

Or use the Sorting menu.

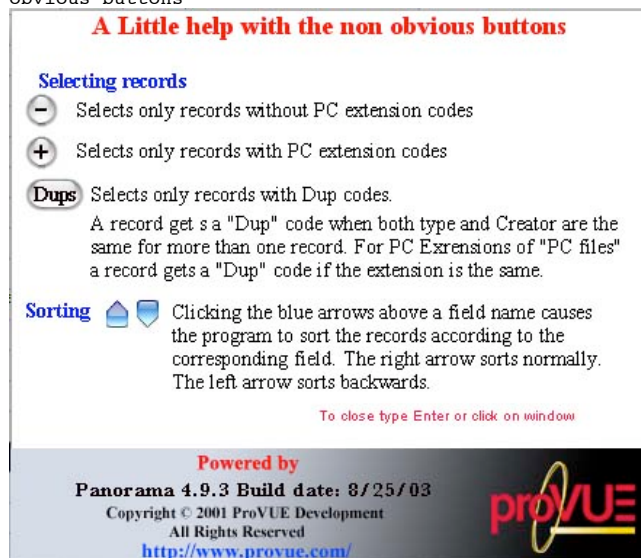
### 3. Tools

**Preferences** - opens a dialog that allows setting the font face and size for each field separately.



Comment: The Help menu entry location depends on the system used (OS X, OS 9, Windows)

**Help** - opens a help dialog explaining the non obvious buttons



#### Buttons:

**"+" button** - shows only records with PC Extension codes.

**"-" button** - shows only records without PC Extension codes.

**"Dup" button** - shows only records that have Dup field set to Dup.

**"Show all" button** - restores the view to normal.

**"Find/Select" button** - invokes the Panorama standard Find/Select dialog.

**"Original state" button** - resets the program to its initial state - window location, field selection (all), initial sort order.

**"About" button** - show the "About Type/Creator Database" box.



Database

By Ilan Szekely

tcd@mac.com

OS X compatible

<http://www.angelfire.com/mac/tcdb/>  
<http://tcdb.d2g.com/>

Shareware 20\$ - Pay via KAGI  
<http://order.kagi.com/?6QT>

Powered by

Panorama 4.9.3 Build date: 8/25/03

Copyright © 2001 ProVUE Development  
All Rights Reserved  
<http://www.provue.com/>

Records with "overloaded" fields:  
Some records have fields with very long descriptions. To see the full contents just click anywhere on the record.  
A small window will appear having more space for textual fields. Click anywhere to close.  
See picture below.

About

## Type/Creator Database

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Click any line to get an expanded view

Selected 58921 out of 58921
Selecting records

Find/Select
Original State
Show all
-
+
Dups

Sorting

File Name	Type	Creator	Comments	Category	Extension	Dup
AliasCat 1.0	APPL	Acat		Application/Dup		Dup
Make Adopt	APPL	Acat	PF.Magic	Application/Dup		Dup
Account Buddy—Users File	ABct	AcBd	Account Buddy			
Account Buddy—Notepad File	ABnp	AcBd	Account Buddy			
Account Buddy—Server File	ABpr	AcBd	Account Buddy			
Account Buddy—Document	AcBd	AcBd	Account Buddy			

**File Name** ACDSee™—Silicon Graphics Format Graphics File

**Comments** ACDSee™

**Category** Graphics SGI

SN# 2067

To close type Enter or click on window

ACDSee™—Silicon Graphics Format Graphics File	.SGI	ACDS	ACDSee™	Graphics SGI	SGI	
ACDSee™—????	.SMI	ACDS	ACDSee™			
ACDSee™—Windows WAVE Format Sound File	.WAV	ACDS	ACDSee™	Sound WAV	WAV	
ACDSee™—PhotoShop 2.0 Format Graphics File	8BIM	ACDS	ACDSee™	Graphics Photoshop	PSD	
ACDSee™—PhotoShop Format Graphics File	8BPS	ACDS	ACDSee™	Graphics Photoshop	PSD	
ACDSee™—Compressed AIFF Format Sound File	AIFF	ACDS	ACDSee™	Sound AIFF-C		
ACDSee™—AIFF Format Sound File	AIFF	ACDS	ACDSee™	Sound AIFF	AIF	

## TCDBx 2003

## Using the DATA

7 fields are available in the Type/Creator Database:

1. Name of file or application
2. Type code
3. Creator code
4. Comments

Here can be either a general typing comment (DA, cdev, application) or a name of a related file - mostly the creating application.

5. Category - a comment further qualifying the entry.
6. Extension - Where available this field contains the PC equivalent extension. For "pure PC" records this is the code.
7. Dup code - when 2 records or more have the same Type/Creator codes they are all marked as "Dup"

Same for "pure PC" entries where the extensions are similar.

For 2 and 3, Codes with "\*\*\*\*\*" mean "anything goes here."  
Some Creator codes are "?????". Either the code was

unknown to me, or (in some cases) it IS the code.  
This happens usually with shareware and games, and  
sometimes with demo files for various compilers.

Some tools have the same codes (by nature of their function)  
and different names. Some codes are "pirated" - i.e. not  
authorized by Apple. I can't verify that.

## Errors in data

The data was collected by many people peeking into the files  
on their disks. On the way to me the codes may get  
corrupted. Some errors escape my eyes, and some I have no  
chance of finding out myself - I do not have access to all of  
the programs listed here...

Many of the entries are for Shareware programs. The codes  
these Shareware programs use may contradict with codes  
"registered" at Apple. So be careful. There sure are many  
errors in such a big, voluntary list.

A typical error - some codes consist of lower/upper case  
letters. In the long way from the sender to me the "case"  
might change and be wrong.

Please send corrections and comments by E-mail to the  
address mentioned above.  
(preferred method)



## Apple code registration service

Apple has a code registration service which supplies more  
data if you know a code,  
but does not list codes. Here is an extract from Apple's FAQ:  
Q Will Apple give developers a list of Creator and File types  
that have already been registered?

A Unfortunately, no. We don't make the information in the  
Creator/File Type Registration database available. You  
should be aware, however, that you can use the search form  
to search the database to see if a Creator type has been  
claimed.

... And here they point to my Home Page :-)

Look at their sites

<http://devworld.apple.com/dev/cftype/>

(Please watch my WW1 sites, as these URLs may change. It  
is not in my hands :-)

PS - Apple DID change the URL. Please look at my home  
page for the latest URL .

Comment - WHY does Apple "hide" this information?  
I assume that their database includes thousands of UNUSED  
codes -  
because companies Pre Register codes for future use.



## In Case of Problems

The program was tested on OS 10.2.8

The program is built with ProVUEs Panorama database



engine.  
This sites includes downloads of the Panorama engine.  
The latest version of the Panorama database engine can be found at  
<http://www.provue.com/>

### **Errors in data**

The data was collected by many people peeking into the files on their disks. On the way to me the codes may get corrupted. Some errors escape my eyes, and some I have no chance of finding out myself - I do not have access to all of the programs listed here...

Many of the entries are for Shareware programs. The codes these Shareware programs use may contradict with codes "registered" at Apple. So be careful. There sure are many errors in such a big, voluntary list.

A typical error - some codes consist of lower/upper case letters. In the long way from the sender to me the "case" might change and be wrong.

See also the paragraph ["Some problems with Type/Creator codes"](#) below.

Please send corrections and comments by E-mail to [tcd@mac.com](mailto:tcd@mac.com).  
(preferred method)



### **Contact Information**

#### **KAGI**

Shareware fee is payable via KAGI.

#### **[Register via KAGI](#)**

<http://order.kagi.com/?6QT>

#### **URL Pointers to my sites:**



#### **Author's address**

Ilan Szekely  
P.O.B 3942  
Jerusalem 91039  
ISRAEL

E-mail: [tcd@mac.com](mailto:tcd@mac.com)



### **Comment about Shareware fee:**

This database is a result of years of work.  
It is unique and is the only extensive collection available anywhere.  
Apple company at their web site point (only) to this database as a source for type/creator information

This database was mentioned and/or included on CD-ROMs of many Mac magazines among them MacAddict, MacUser, MacWorld, MacFormat (UK) and in Japan and Germany. There are others I don't know about - yet. My site (URL above) is pointed to by many other Mac related sites. Even Apple point to my site on its Type/Creator registration site !

Previous versions of this database appear on dozens of FTP sites:  
Info-Mac and all of its images - including their CD-ROMs.  
Umich - ditto.  
Other FTP sites.

This database appears on many CD-ROMs:  
It was published on CD-ROMs by PHT, appeared twice on MacAddict's CD-ROM,  
MacFormat (UK) CD-ROM, on a Japanese MAC magazine CD-ROM and others.

Thousands downloaded it from my own site (address above).

I must conclude that many thousands of people are using this work of mine.  
The number of people who actually paid cash until now can be counted on my fingers.

To change that sad state I had to change my shareware policy.

All database versions since v3.2 are all locked by password. Only registered users will get the password via KAGI or by E-mail from me.

### **Register via KAGI**

<http://order.kagi.com/?6QT>

The last unlocked version is Type/Creator Database v3.1. This serves now as a "free" Demo.

### **Permission to transfer to others:**

Type/Creator Database may be included in any BBS or CD-ROM, as long as it is presented in its original and complete form, with documentation.  
I request to be notified by E-mail [tcdb@mac.com](mailto:tcdb@mac.com) of any such inclusion.



## **Some problems with Type/Creator codes**

### **Error in my database**

Due to the long way codes move from my sources (by E-mail and various word-proc files) some of the codes may be modified on the way. Example - lower case letter converts to upper case, a code with a blank gets wrong justification.

### **Codes with "x" may be wrong**

There are utilities that "manage" extensions by modifying their Type code - example some older "extension managers." These put an "x" in the

Type code converting cdev to xdev,  
thus hiding it from the system.

### **APPL and INIT share CREATOR**

There are some codes in my database where the application (APPL) and INIT or CDEV share the same Creator code. If the files are from the same originator we can assume that she knows what she is doing. But if they are completely different (judging by the file name) they may cause conflicts.

### **Name ? means it is a guess**

Some file names are followed by question mark(s). There ARE codes with question marks, but usually this means I do not know what the name or code is.

### **Why duplicates may be legit**

Some duplicate code may be legitimate: It may be a different version of the same program by the same vendor - that does the same.

Example - a company buys a product and sells it under a new name.

Another common case - a "read me" self executing document. Example: DocMaker creates stand alone applications for every document. All these have the same codes.

Compression programs do the same. A "self expanding application" just does that - expands into something else. So there are many different files with the same creator - and all of type "APPL".

### **Never given a creator code**

Some programs create temporary files with a dummy or blank creator code. Every compiler creates programs that do not have a creator code assigned - so it assigns some "general" code.

