

TattleTech®

V2.56

TattleTech Manual

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Preface

This Manual describes the TattleTech software, explains how to use its menus, and lists the Categories it reports.

General

What is TattleTech?

TattleTech is a Macintosh™ utility that provides complete information about your computer, peripherals, and software. This information can be selected by Category and output to the screen, printer, text file, or tab-delimited text file. Additional "bug" and "unit" information can be appended to these reports. (see *Generating Reports*) These various reports are useful for learning about your Mac, verifying the features of a particular machine prior to purchase, or for reporting bugs to various vendors.

On a commercial level, TattleTech can be a useful tool in a technical support capacity. It can also be used in conducting surveys where configuration information is needed. In support of these functions, TattleTech can also be specifically configured to specific requirements. Among others, it can be configured to run faceless, support only specified categories and fields, report on special files or resources and, in certain cases, can be made smaller. If you require special configuration, please email me.

TattleTech also includes an optional INIT, TattleINIT, which collects information on other active INIT's. The use of TattleINIT supplies TattleTech with more complete information than TattleTech's built-in INIT routines.

Shareware and Distribution

TattleTech is available from standard on-line shareware sources. Please refer to the "Registration/Pricing" document for more information related to Registration Levels, costs and procedures. You will also find information in that document regarding Distribution guidelines.

Credits

My sincerest thanks to the following people who have provided much valued Moral support and feedback both in terms of quality and quantity :

- Rene Ros (Publisher: "Gestalt Selector List" [gestalt-selectors-list-request@bio.vu.nl])
- Julian Lewis-Booth
- David Lamkins
- Bob Seaver
- Michael Leahy
- Ric Ford
- Henry Norr

- Greg Satz
- George Franklin
- Bob Bevilacqua
- and all those to whom I appologize for not mentioning.....

Using This Manual

This manual describes how to install and use **TattleTech**. The manual is divided into four chapters:

- *Chapter 1, Getting Started* describes what the **TattleTech** software is and how to install it.
- *Chapter 2, Using TattleTech* describes how to start-up **TattleTech** use its main menus.
- *Chapter 3, Generating Reports* describes how to setup and output reports.
- *Appendix B- Data Field Chart* lists the Field Names and Data Fields on which **TattleTech** reports in its "Tab-Delimited Text File Reports" Use *Appendix B* as a reference when designing a database using **TattleTech**'s Data Fields. This appendix is available as a separate document at the ftp site.

Chapter 1

Getting Started

Categories

TattleTech collects and organizes similar elements of information into logical groupings called Categories. Detailed information about these Categories is provided in *Appendix A, Category and Data Field Definitions*. The following is a list of TattleTech's Categories:

- **General Hardware**
- **ADB Devices**
- **ATA/IDE Devices**
- **CPUs**
- **Displays**
- **Floppy Drives**
- **Network**
- **Nubus/PDS Slots**
- **PC (PCMCIA) Cards**
- **PCI Cards**
- **Powerbook**
- **SCSI Devices**
- **Serial Ports**
- **General Software**
- **Applications**
- **Control Panels**
- **DAs**
- **Drivers**
- **Extensions**
- **Fonts**
- **Processes**
- **Traps**
- **Boot Blocks**
- **INIT Files**
- **System Files (Other)**
- **Gestalts**
- **Parameter RAM**
- **Open Files**
- **Volumes**
- **Special Files**
- **Special System Resources**
- **File/Folder Info...**

Installation and System Requirements

This section describes system requirements for TattleTech, explains conflicts with other software, and explains how to install TattleTech and TattleINIT.

System Requirements

TattleTech is compatible with the Mac+ and newer machines running System 7 or higher.

Installing TattleTech

The TattleTech archive contains these files/folders:

- !Please Read ME!
- Registration Instructions
- Register TattleTech
- Register TattleTech Online
- TattleTech
- TattleINIT
- Tattle.Traps
- TattleTech Manual
- Customization Questionnaire

TattleINIT is not required for normal operation of TattleTech. TattleTech defaults to using internal INITinformation-generating routines if the generated files are not found. TattleINIT, if used, must be in the Extensions folder. TattleINIT should be placed alphabetically at the beginning of the folder so the program can gather information on all subsequently loaded INITs. Its name is preceded by two non-printing characters to facilitate this. These two non-printing characters may be changed to other non-printing characters to accommodate INIT ordering requirements. (see *Conflicts and Limitations* below)

When TattleINIT runs at startup, it creates two files in the System Folder: TTINIT.TRecs and TTINIT.FRecs. These files contain information about the INITs that run after TattleINIT, and are used by TattleTech in subsequent reports. The first time TattleTech is run after start-up it converts these two files to TTINIT.TDB and TTINIT.FDB respectively.

Tattle.Traps, is required for all of the Trap-related reports except the **Traps Patched by INITs** report. Tattle.Traps if used, should be located either in the same folder as TattleTech or in the System Folder. It's location can be changed by following the directions under **Trap Database** in Chapter 2.

Conflicts and Limitations

This section describes conflicts with other software and system limitations that affect TattleTech.

Accelerator Cards

If your Macintosh has an accelerator card installed that copies ROM to RAM, you may need to disable this feature to run TattleTech. This problem occurs primarily on the Mac+/SE, but may occur with other configurations.

Extension Manager

If you are running Extension Manager, EM Extension must be placed before TattleINIT in the Extensions folder.

List Manager

TattleTech uses the standard List Manager for both "Screen Reports" or "Printed Reports" and is therefore limited to 32K characters. Normally this is sufficient to handle the various lists within each Category. If a list runs out of space, however, a message is posted at the bottom of the list window. In this case, a full listing of the Category can be obtained by writing the Category report to the various forms of text files as described in *Writing Reports to a Text File*.

Bug Reports

Bug Reports, comments, suggestions, etc. are welcome and encouraged regarding any matter whatsoever. Given the nature of TattleTech, however, please follow these guidelines in submitting a bug report: use the **Write Bug Report to Text File** option explained below, include **ONLY** the default reports with your first message, compress the file, and then email it to one of our addresses. Alternatively, if you want to include these two reports in the text of a regular message (by selecting, copying, and pasting), please make sure that you also include an adequate description of your problem and the actions that lead to it.

Chapter 2

Using TattleTech

The following Chapter describe how to use the TattleTech main menus.

Starting TattleTech the First Time

When TattleTech is run initially, a dialog appears to allow the entry of three lines of licensee information. This information is presented to users in a splash screen whenever they launch their copy of TattleTech. The prompts in this dialog are not displayed in the splash screen, and therefore any type of information may be entered into these lines. However, please keep in mind that the contents of the first line will be used as the default name for Registration purposes.

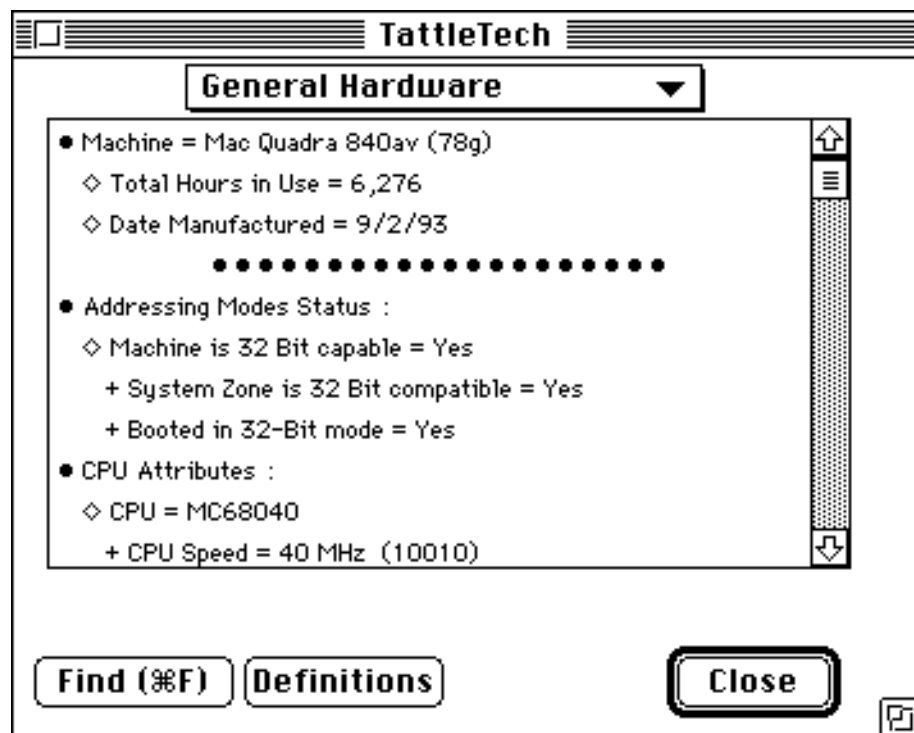


Figure 1

Main Dialog Window

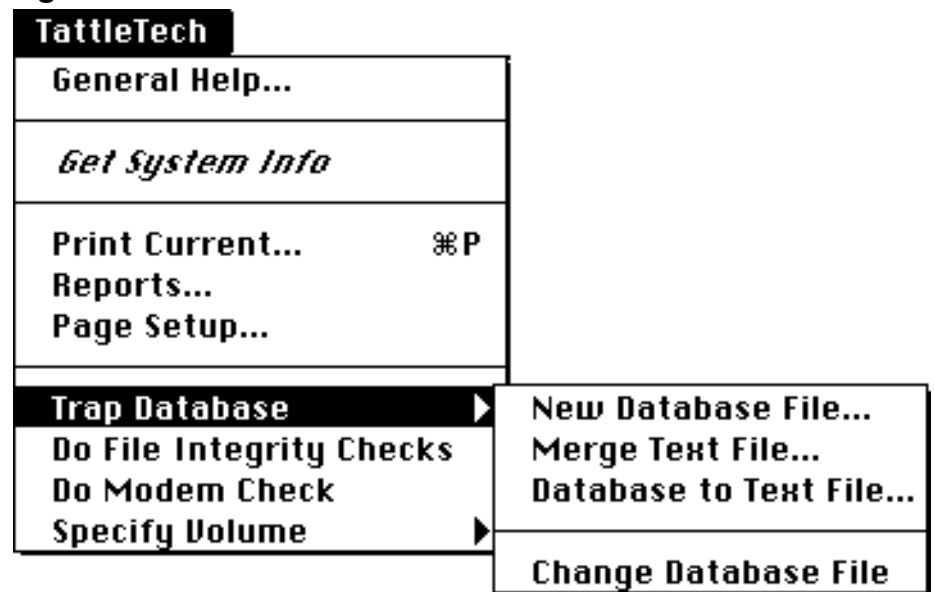
Using the Main Dialog Window

TattleTech consists primarily of the TattleTech dialog window, shown in Figure 1 and the **TattleTech** menu, shown in Figure 2.

Figure 3



Figure 2



TattleTech Menus and Pop-ups.

Selecting Categories From the Main Dialog Window

Upon launch, the Main dialog window is visible and the first Category of information, **General Hardware**, is displayed in a scrolling "Screen Report" in the window. Users can select other Categories from the pop-up menu above the list as shown in Figure 3. Categories that are not available for a given computer and system

software combination (for example, **Slots** on a Mac+ or **Processes** under Uni-Finder in System 6.X) are disabled and cannot be selected.

The Categories, listed in the menu shown above, are largely self-explanatory. If you experiment listing each report, you will soon become familiar with the general contents of each report.

Definitions

The **Definitions** button at the bottom of the dialog displays definitions for the fields contained in the displayed Category.

Other Buttons

Other buttons appear at the bottom of the dialog when certain Categories are displayed. When **Volumess** is displayed, the **Mount** button appears. This button attempts to mount any unmounted volumes. In the case of the **Open Files** Category, the **Close...** button appears. This button invokes another dialog which allows you to close any open file in the list. Finally, when **File/Folder Info...** is displayed, the **Set...** button appears. This button invokes a dialog which allows you to set various attributes related to the file or folder currently displayed. Finally, the **Nubus/PDS Slots** Category provides the **All Slots** checkbox for listing any non-physical slot(s) which may have a particular device or function mapped to it.

Copying Data Fields to Other Applications

Data Field lines in the "Screen Report" can be selected and copied to other documents.

Closing and Quitting

Click the **Close** button or the Close box to close the window but leave TattleTech active (Fig 1). **Get System Info** in the **TattleTech** menu reopens the window (Fig 2).

Select **Quit** from the **File** menu to quit completely.

Getting Help

Selecting **General Help...** from the **TattleTech** menu activates an abbreviated on-line version of the TattleTech manual. (Fig 2)

Printing the Current Category

Select **Print Current...** from the **TattleTech** menu to print the Category that is currently displayed in the dialog. (Fig 2)

Page Setup

Select **Page Setup...** to set parameters for printing report pages. (Fig 2)

Trap Database

The Traps listings under the **Traps** menu (Fig 2) depend upon the **Tattle.Traps** file. To allow for changes in the “official” trap list in this file over time, commands to manipulate this file are located in the TattleTech Menu (Fig 3) under the **Traps** .menu item. If you simply wish to change the name or location of **Tattle.Traps**, rename it and/or put it where you want, and then select **Change Database File** and you will be prompted to find the file. The new name and/or location will be used until you decide to change it.

In regard to changing the contents of the file, they are originally derived from MPW's Traps.p file which TattleTech converts into it's own database format. If you want to see the format of the original file, **Database to Text File** will prompt you to convert the database file to a text file which you can then view and/or modify on any text editor. If you wish to merge a modified Traps text file with the database, select **Merge Text File** . This will incorporate any additions included in the file and ignore any duplications. If you have direct access to an up-to-date traps list, you can use **New Database File** to completely regenerate the database.

File Integrity

Do File Integrity Checks activates the examination of files to detect damage in the following Categories: **INIT Files**, **System Files (Other)**, **General Software**, **DAs**, **Fonts**, and **Special Files**. The feature is selectable because it adds significant time to that ordinarily required to report on the Category.

Modem Check

Do Modem Check activates the check for modems connected to the serial ports in the **Serial Ports** Category. This is selectable because infrequently TattleTech cannot reliably detect if the port is already in use. If the test is made while it is, the user could lose their connection.

Specifying Volumes

Specify Volume allows you to restrict the volumes for which files are reported. (Fig 2) The **Specify Volume** menu item applies only to the **Special Files**, **Applications**, and **DAs** (System 7) reports available in the pop-up menu.

Hidden Features

The **Applications** and **DAs** Categories have a special feature under System 7.X. If you hold down the **<option>** key before selecting these menu items, the listing will be sorted across specified volumes as opposed to an unsorted listing by volume. The sorted listing takes considerably more time but can be useful in locating duplicate files. In versions prior to 2.0, the sense of the key was reversed.

The **System Files (Other)** Category has two special listing features. If you hold down the **<option>** key before selecting this menu item, only Special Files in the System Folder specified as the result of a custom configuration will be listed. If you hold down the **<shift>** key before selecting this menu item, all other system files will be listed. This feature is usually implemented by developers who want to determine if special files which their software requires is in the System Folder.

The **Open Files** Category also has a special listing feature. If you hold down the **<option>** key before

selecting this menu item, any open Font files will not be listed. This is made available since open Font files under System 7 can result in a very long listing.

The **Network** Category also has a special listing feature. If you hold down the **<cmd>** key before selecting this menu item, it will force Open Transport TCP to load. If you hold down the **<option>** key before selecting this menu item, TattleTech's routines will not attempt to access the actual information from the network.

Chapter 3

Generating Reports

Select **Reports...** from the **TattleTech** pull down menu.(Fig 2) A dialog box appears, as shown in Figure 4.

The dialog box is titled "Generating Reports" and contains the following sections:

- Hardware:**
 - ☒ General Hardware
 - ☐ ADB Devices
 - ☐ CPUs
 - ☐ Displays
 - ☐ Floppy Drives
 - ☐ Network
 - ☐ Nubus/PDS Slots
 - ☐ PCI Cards
 - ☐ SCSI Devices
 - ☐ Serial Ports
- Startup:**
 - ☐ Boot Blocks
 - ☐ INIT Files
 - ☐ Other System Files
- Software:**
 - ☒ General Software
 - ☐ Applications
 - ☐ Control Panels
 - ☐ DAs
 - ☐ Drivers
 - ☐ Extensions
 - ☐ Fonts
 - ☐ Processes
 - ☐ Traps Unavailable
 - ☐ Traps Avail (Named)
 - ☐ Traps Avail (UnNamed)

Below the Hardware section, there are radio buttons for:

- ☒ Print Standard Rpts
- ☐ Write Standard Rpts to Text File
- ☐ Write Standard Rpts to Tab File
- ☐ Write Bug Rpts to Text File

At the bottom right, there are buttons for:

- All
- None
- Default Reports
- Cancel
- OK

Figure 4

Selecting Categories for Printed and Text File Reports

Select the Categories you want to report by selecting their checkboxes. Click the **All** button to select all Categories. Click the **None** button to deselect the Categories. Select **Default Reports** to choose the standard pre-set Categories.

TattleTech Reports

TattleTech provides several options for reporting the different Categories of information. The following is a list of available reports:

- "Screen Report" (See *Using the Main Dialog Window* above.)
- "Printed Report"

- "Standard Text File Report"
- "Bug Report"
- "Tab-Delimited Text File Report"

"Printed Report"

To print the selected Categories to a printer, select the Categories that you want to print, click the **Print Std Reports** radio button, and then click **OK**.

Writing Reports to a Text File

Writing reports to text files offers the user flexibility in communicating and using the information that TattleTech provides. In addition, TattleTech uses the standard List Manager for both "Screen Reports" or "Printed Reports" and is therefore limited to 32K characters. Normally this is sufficient to handle the various lists within each Category. If a list runs out of space, however, a message is posted at the bottom of the list window. In this case, a full listing of the Category can be obtained by writing the Category report to the various forms of text files as described below.

Writing a "Standard Text File Report"

To write the selected Categories to the "Standard Text File Report", click the **Write Std Reports to Text File** radio button. This option enables the user to print reports too long for "Screen Reports" or "Printed Reports", which are limited to 32K characters, by sending them to a text file for editing and final printing.

Writing a "Bug Report" to a Text File

Click the **Write Bug Report to Text File** radio button to add "bug report" information to the "Standard Text File Report".

Clicking the **Bug Explanation...** button accesses a dialog that allows the user to describe their problem and to **Save** and **Load** the text that they have created for future reference.

The **User Info...** button allows you to input standard personal information. This information is read at program startup and is retained until changed by you.

Note: Generally, in cases where a particular Data Field is not an appropriate or possible attribute of a particular machine configuration, that attribute is not included in any report other than the "Tab-Delimited Text File Report". (Please refer to *Writing the "Tab-Delimited Text File Report"*.) An example of this would be the reporting of DuoDock attributes for a Quadra, which cannot possibly have a DuoDock.

Writing the "Tab-Delimited Text File Report"

To write the selected Categories to the "Tab-Delimited Text File Report" and thereby create a database-readable file, click the **Write to Tab-Delimited Text File** radio button.

All selected Categories are written to one Tab-delimited file. The standard format for each category is a Field Name Row followed by its associated Data Row. This format is illustrated as follows:

Field Name Row	Category Name	Chooser Name	Field Name 1	Field Name 2	Field Name	...
Data Row	Category Name	Chooser Name	Data 1	Data 2	Data 3	...

Chapter 3

Each Field Name Row and Data Row begin with the "Category Name" and "Chooser Name" Data Fields. The remaining Field Names and specifications for the data in their associated Data Row can be found in the Field Change Summary in *Appendix B*. If a Category consists of multiple items involving the same set of Data Fields (e.g. Volumes or Displays), the above Field Name and Data rows repeat for each item in the Category being described (e.g. for each Display). Definitions of the Data Fields contained in each category may be found in *Appendix A, Category and Data Field Definitions*. Please note that the *Appendix A* listing contains the descriptions for some Data Fields which do not appear in the "Tab-Delimited Text File Report". *Appendix B* is the definitive list for determining the Data Fields which will be output for the "Tab-Delimited Text File Report" for a particular Category.

There are three major variations to this format.

- 1) Certain Categories (e.g. Slots) containing repeating Data Fields also have fields at the beginning of the Category which do not repeat. These fields are indicated in the "Field Repeats" column of *Appendix B*. If there is no entry in this column for a particular field, it indicates that the field occurs only once in that Category's report. In this case, the Field Names which appear only once in a Category containing other repeating fields are all included in an additional Field Name and Data row set. In this case, the Category Name is the standard name with a "-H" appended to it. An example of this follows.

Slots Report Example

Field Name Row	Category Name	Chooser Name	Total Physical PDS Slots Present	Total Physical Nubus Slots Present	
Data Row	Slots-H	Fred Flintstone	1	6	
Field Name Row	Category Name	Chooser Name	Volume Name	File Count	Folder Count
Data Row	Slots	Fred Flintstone	BamBam 80	1200	85
Field Name Row	Category Name	Chooser Name	Volume Name	File Count	Folder Count
Data Row	Slots	Fred Flintstone	BamBam 120	4200	165
...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...

- 2) Unlike other report types, all Data Fields which appear in *Appendix B* for a particular category are output to the Tab-Delimited Text File whether or not they are applicable to a particular configuration. When a particular data item is not applicable, there is an "NA" in the Data Field. This convention can be over-ridden in certain instances, however.
- 3) It is possible to eliminate the Field Name Row from the file. This is accomplished by selecting the **Data Only** checkbox and reduces the size of the resulting file by approximately 50%. In cases where the Tab-Delimited Text File is being used to load a database, you will most likely want to select this option since the Field Name Row will probably cause problems.-

A somewhat unrelated option allows you to remove the data interpretations enclosed in parentheses that are appended to the data for certain Data Fields. This is accomplished by selecting the **Remove (Data Interpretations)** checkbox.

Within the other report formats, dividing lines using various demarcation characters have been used to help better understand how the Tab-Delimited Text File is constructed. Lines composed of the following characters have the indicated meanings:

- Separates records consisting of repeating information related to similar items.
- = Indicate that the first section is a Header (-H) section and contains miscellaneous, non-repeating Data Fields.
- Indicates that the first section has been separated from subsequent sections for visual highlighting purposes only.
- + Indicates that the first section is a Summary section only and does not contain any true Data Fields.

Note: The "Screen Report", "Printed Report", and "Standard Text File Report" include only those Data

Fields that are appropriate to a given system. Within each Category selected, the "Tab-Delimited Text File Report" includes all possible fields as summarized in the *Appendix B, Data Field Chart*. All possible fields are included to insure consistency in reading data in that is collected from a variety of different systems. Also refer to the field descriptions in *Appendix A, Category and Data Field Definitions*, and experiment with the generated Tab-delimited Text File before designing any reports that use this data.

Set Unit Info

Click the **Set Unit Info...** button in the same dialog to enter information related to the owner of the system. Click the **Unit Info** checkbox to place this information at the beginning of the three text file reports. ("Standard Text File Report", "Bug Report", and "Tab-Delimited Text File Report") The information is preserved the next time TattleTech is launched.

Miscellaneous

If the <option> key is held down while selecting **Reports...** from the **TattleTech** pull down menu, the **Applications** and **DAs** Categories will be sorted assuming that the database routines are present. Similarly, if the <cmd> key is held down, the **Nubus/PDS Slots** Category list will include slots with assigned functionality but no physical slot card.

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