

Macintosh DiscPassage

This document contains the following information:

- System Requirements for running DiscPassage
- Installing and Using DiscPassage
- Features
- Troubleshooting
- Some commonly encountered problems

System Requirements for the Macintosh

DiscPassage requires:

- A Macintosh Plus, SE, SE/30, II (any model), Classic, LC, or IIsi with CD-ROM drive.
- 400K of available space on your hard drive.
- System software 6.0.7 or greater, 32 Bit QuickDraw, Foreign File Access and ISO 9660 File Access in your System folder and driver software for your CD-ROM drive in your System folder.

For instance, if you have an AppleCD SC drive, the init is named "Apple CD-ROM."

- A minimum of 2 MB of RAM (2.5 MB for System 7).
- Color images require a color monitor; they are displayed in 640x480 resolution in 256 colors. You need to have 32-bit QuickDraw in your System Folder. Images automatically convert to black and white for the SE, Plus, and Classic.
- DiscPassage operates under Finder or Multi-Finder environments, as well as System 7.

Installing & Using DiscPassage

To install the DiscPassage application, insert the floppy diskette (or CD-ROM), and open the Desktop. Drag the icon labeled "DiscPassage" to the area on your hard drive where you wish to install it.

- Launch DiscPassage by getting to the hard drive, then double click on its icon.
- DiscPassage first presents you with a database selection menu representing databases on the disc.
- Selecting a database by double-clicking will display the contents for this database. You can navigate the disc by searching or browsing from the menu bar or traversing the hierarchically structured contents windows.
- An item with a folder icon to the left of the entry indicates that there are levels beneath this. Individual entries which can be called up directly will be labeled by one of these types of icons:

T: text file

Pict Icon: image

audio speaker: audio selection

About DiscPassage

DiscPassage is a program which provides a menu-driven user interface for accessing the information on your CD-ROM. DiscPassage provides various means of accessing CD-ROM data, including a hierarchical "Contents" menu and "Search" and "Browse" facilities. In addition, DiscPassage offers facilities for displaying graphic images, printing text and images, playing sounds (if the CD-ROM has audio content) and copying text to user-named files.

DiscPassage will run properly only if there is a DiscPassage CD-ROM in the CD drive. DiscPassage CD-ROMs have the word "DiscPassage" or the word "CMC" printed on the CD-ROM or the CD-ROM jewel box.

Features

DiscPassage offers powerful search and retrieval features, including:

- The File menu allows you to Save text and images, Print text or images, get comprehensive on-line Help, Eject the DiscPassage disc, see which Discs are available, or Quit.
- The Edit menu provides basic text editing functions including Cut, Copy, Paste, Clear and Select All.
- The Format menu on the main menu bar supports various operations on text files. Once a region of text has been highlighted, you can change its font, point-size, and style. Text files are saved in Microsoft Word format. Format does not affect files on the CD.
- The Related Items menu shows you the entries for images, audio, or text files related to the file you are viewing.
- The Search menu lets you perform on-line searching on various indexes: Words, Authors, Titles and Subjects. You may search for phrases, wild cards, proximity and combine search terms with the AND, OR, or NOT Boolean operators. See on-line Help for more information. Click on the Titles button to see the titles of the documents matching your search criteria.
- Browse lists every word of every document on the disc and the number of documents that contain the word. Click on the Titles button to see the titles of these documents. You may cut and copy a word found in browse to the Search template, and build phrases this way.
- The Find menu allows you to search a document for a search or browse term or any word or phrase you are looking for.

Troubleshooting

Installation of the DiscPassage software should be easy. Problems may arise, however, with installation of the CD-ROM unit and its drivers. Be sure you have the proper inits in your System folder (they have to be inside the System folder or they will not get installed at system startup).

You need to have the following:

- System Software 6.0.7 or greater, Foreign File Access and ISO 9660 File Access inits
- An init supporting the type of CD-ROM you have, for example: AppleCD-ROM init
- 32-bit QuickDraw
- You should see an icon for the CD-ROM disc on the desktop. If you don't, the system is not mounting the drive properly. Check to be sure your SCSI cable is securely connected and there are not multiple devices assigned to the same SCSI address. If trouble persists, check the SCSI termination.

Some commonly encountered problems

- An Apple CD-ROM drive requires the Apple CD-ROM init version 2.0 or greater to properly mount ISO-formatted CD-ROMs.
- If your CD-ROM disc is not mounting on the desktop consistently, you may have an init conflict. Be sure to only install the init for the CD-ROM drive you are using, and hide the others (create a folder inside your System Folder to save them).
- Other inits besides drivers may conflict with your CD-ROM inits.
- "The selected index is not available on this Disc" You must be in a text database to access indexes. Some discs, as well as some databases, do not have indexes associated with them.

DiscPassage for DOS

Introduction and Troubleshooting Guide

Version 1.5 July 1993

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1 - Before You Call Technical Support

Creative Multimedia maintains a Technical Support staff to help customers with problems which occur, and to answer questions about our products.

Before calling for Technical Support, please be sure to read this document. Many of the most common problems can be solved using the information provided here. If you do need technical help, please make a note of the version of DiscPassage and the title of the CD-ROM(s) which you are using. Also please note any details about your system which might be relevant to the problem. For example, if the problem is that graphics will not display properly, the manufacturer and model of your video controller card will be helpful. Your DOS version number, available memory, microprocessor type and whether you are using third party memory management, file compression or operating system software (for example QEMM, Stacker or DR DOS) all may be relevant to problems which occur.

DiscPassage is licensed for use by various CD-ROM producers. If your CD-ROM is the product of a company other than Creative Multimedia, please call that company first for technical support.

1.1 - System Problems

If the problem you are experiencing is caused by a component of your system that is not a Creative Multimedia product, we recommend that you call the manufacturer or vendor of that product for Technical Support. CD-ROM Drive installation or malfunction, installation of DiscPassage under various menuing or windowing interfaces, and CD-ROM network implementation are some examples.

2 - Printing or Viewing This Document

There are two ways to print this document. If you are viewing it under DiscPassage, simply press "F7" while the text is displayed. If you are in DOS, change to the "DiscPass" directory and enter the command "printme". The document is printed to the default printer.

To view this document while in DOS, change to the "DiscPass" directory and enter the command "readme".

3 - About DiscPassage

DiscPassage is a program which provides a menu-driven user interface for accessing the information on your CD-ROM. DiscPassage provides various means of accessing CD-ROM data, including a hierarchical "Contents" menu and "Search" and "Browse" facilities. In addition, DiscPassage offers facilities for displaying graphic images, printing text and images, playing sounds (if the CD-ROM has audio content) and copying text to user-named files.

DiscPassage will run properly only if there is a DiscPassage CD-ROM in the CD drive. DiscPassage CD-ROMs have the word "DiscPassage" or the word "CMC" printed on the CD-ROM or the CD-ROM jewel box.

Once DiscPassage has been installed on your hard drive, you can access any DiscPassage CD-ROMs using the command "DP".

4 - System Requirements

IBM PC or compatible with MS-DOS version 3.1 or later.

CD-ROM drive with appropriate drivers.

Microsoft CD-ROM extensions version 2.0 or later.

512K available free conventional memory.

1 Megabyte free space available on hard drive.

VGA video card and monitor. Super VGA card with VESA driver recommended.

For CD-ROMs which contain audio content, headphones or amplified external speakers which connect to the CD-ROM audio jack or external speaker outputs.

The "files" command in the CONFIG.SYS file should be set to at least 20 ("files=20").

5 - Installing DiscPassage

Log onto the CD-ROM drive (type the letter of your CD-ROM drive, followed by ":", then press "Enter"). Type "setup" and press "Enter". The setup program will prompt you through the installation procedure. Setup creates a directory on your hard drive which contains the DiscPassage files. No changes are made to your AUTOEXEC.BAT or CONFIG.SYS files.

The DiscPassage Setup program installs two versions of DiscPassage: Version 1.5 and Version 2.0. This document refers primarily to Version 1.5. Version 2.0 is a major upgrade to DiscPassage which is still in the BETA Testing Phase. See Section 9 - DiscPassage Version 2.0 for more information.

6 - Starting DiscPassage

Once DiscPassage has been installed, any DiscPassage CD-ROM can be accessed by placing the disc into the drive and entering the command "DP" at the DOS prompt. Any new version of DiscPassage which you install will be compatible with earlier DiscPassage CD-ROMs.

7 - Using DiscPassage

After the "DP" command has been entered, a license agreement is displayed. Press enter to accept the agreement. A title page illustration is displayed. When you press enter a Database Menu is displayed. The Database Menu lists the main sections which are contained in the CD-ROM. When you select an item from the Database Menu, the DiscPassage Main Menu is displayed.

7.1 - Using Help

The best way to learn about DiscPassage is to use it in conjunction with the help feature. "Help" is available from any location in the program, beginning with the opening license agreement screen. To display context-related Help, press the "F1" key. A window on the screen will provide information related to the DiscPassage function currently in use. "Help" provides much valuable information which can help you learn to use the DiscPassage features more effectively. The "Search" feature in particular is extensively documented.

7.2 - Using The Main Menu

DiscPassage displays a menu bar at the top of your screen. The menu includes the selections "Search", "Browse", "Contents", "Database", "Printer" and "Change/Exit".

"Search" helps you search the database for specific words, authors, subjects and titles, to identify related documents.

"Browse" helps you review lists of words, authors, subjects, or titles, then select corresponding documents.

"Contents" lists the table of contents contained in the database, and allows you to select a document.

"Database" identifies information available on the CD and helps you select a database. "Printer" lets you specify a printer type for printing graphic images, and specify a default printer port.

"Change/Exit" lets you change to another DiscPassage CD-ROM disc or drive letter, or exit DiscPassage.

Use the right/left arrow keys to highlight different selections. Press "enter" to select the highlighted title.

7.3 - Using The Function Keys

While using DiscPassage, the descriptions of any applicable function keys are displayed at the bottom of the screen. Here is a summary of the function keys used in DiscPassage:

F1 provides on-line Help. A Help screen which is relevant to the current context is displayed.

F2 clears the search template so the user can start a new search process.

F3 displays the next text article from a search list, when the user is viewing an article from that list.

F4 toggles the graphics display between VGA and high resolution monochrome when the graphics mode is standard VGA. F4 also can be used to jump directly from the opening license agreement to the main DiscPassage menu, bypassing the title page graphic.

F7 prints the currently displayed text file or graphic image. Before printing images, select "Print" from the main DiscPassage menu to specify "Epson" or "HP Laser Jet". Your printer must be compatible with one of these two standard printer types in order to print images under DiscPassage.

When printing a graphic, there will be no message on-screen while the printing is taking place. When the printing is successfully completed, three quick beeps (low - high - low) will sound. If a problem is detected, two beeps (high - low) are sounded.

F8 copies the currently displayed text file to a user-named file.

F9 displays a menu of tables, images or audio selections related to the current selection.

F10 displays the titles found during a search, or moves to the next highlighted search term in the text.

7.4 - Using the Special Function Keys

"Enter" selects the currently highlighted menu choice.

"Escape" exits the current menu, document, image, or audio selection and returns to the previous menu or document.

"Home" goes to the beginning of the document or top of the menu.

"Page up" scrolls up one page in the document or one menu screen.

"Page down" scrolls down one page in the document or one menu screen.

8 - Problem-Solving

If you experience problems while installing or running DiscPassage, the information which follows may be helpful. You will also find useful information in your CD-ROM drive manual, the DOS manual or your computer system manual.

8.1 - CD-ROM Drive Problems

If you are unable to log onto the CD-ROM drive, just as you would a floppy drive (by typing "D:<enter>", for example), the CD-ROM drive is not working properly. Some possible reasons are (1) the CD-ROM installation process was not successfully completed, (2) the system was not rebooted following the CD-ROM installation, (3) the CD-ROM drive was not turned on prior to booting the system, (4) the cables have been disconnected or damaged or (5) files on your system have been lost or changed. If there is a problem with the CD-ROM Drive, check for these possibilities and, if necessary, contact the CD-ROM Drive manufacturer for Technical Support.

8.2 - MSCDEX

MSCDEX.EXE (Microsoft CD-ROM Extensions) is an extension to DOS which allows the system to recognize the CD-ROM drive as another disk drive, assigning a drive letter to the CD-ROM. MSCDEX.EXE is included in the software supplied with the CD-ROM drive, and is added to the system by running the CD-ROM drive installation program. If you suspect that MSCDEX has not been properly installed, run the CD-ROM drive install program or contact the CD-ROM drive manufacturer.

Beginning with version 6.0, MSCDEX.EXE is supplied with MS-DOS. If you install DOS 6 or 6.2, you may need to edit the line in your Autoexec.Bat file in which MSCDEX is loaded to show the correct path name for MSCDEX. For example:
C:\CDROM\MSCDEX.EXE would be changed to
C:\DOS\MSCDEX.EXE

8.3 - Memory Requirements

DiscPassage requires 500K RAM free to run properly. Use the command "chkdsk" to check the amount of memory which is free. The last line in the display shows the amount of free memory in your system. If your system does not have enough free memory, consult the DOS manual for help in optimizing your system's memory handling and increasing conventional memory.

8.4 - Command Line Options

Under some circumstances it is helpful to enter some extra information when typing "DP" to start DiscPassage. DiscPassage provides two command line options which can be used to specify (1) the CD-ROM drive letter or (2) a video card type other than the one which is auto-detected.

8.5 - Specifying the CD-ROM Drive

DiscPassage will normally select the first available CD-ROM drive letter. If there are multiple CD-ROM drives in the system, use the "-d<drive letter>" option to specify the drive to be accessed. For example, a multiple CD-ROM player might have six drives, with the letters D through I assigned to them. If the DiscPassage CD-ROM to be accessed is in the second drive, then the command to start DiscPassage would be "dp -de".

8.6 - Specifying the Video Card Type

DiscPassage will try to detect the type of video card in the system and supply the appropriate video driver for displaying graphic images. Use the "-v<video card type>" option to override the card which is detected and substitute one from the list below. For example, if the graphics are not displaying properly, and the user knew that a Trident video card was installed in the system, the command "dp -vtrident" would start DiscPassage, overriding the autodetected card, and supply instead a video driver for the Trident card.

The video card types which can be used as command line options are listed below:

vesa	
tseng	(STB, Orchid, Genoa)
tseng4	(Orchid)
paradise	(Western Digital, AST)
video7	(Video 7, Headland, VRAM, Fastwrite)
trident	
everex	
ati	(ViewPerfect, ViewSonic)
chipstech	(Chips and Technologies, Cardinal)
aheada	
aheadb	
genoa	
zymos	
oak	
tecmar	
stdvga	(standard vga, 360 x 480 x 256 color)
mode12	(monochrome)
mode13	(standard vga, 320 x 200 x 256 color)
textonly	(no graphic display - may help with EGA)

8.7 - Adding Command Line Options To DP.BAT

If it is necessary to use a certain command line option each time DiscPassage is run, use the DOS EDIT utility to insert the option into the DP.BAT file. Go to the root directory (or whatever directory the file DP.BAT is in. Enter the command "edit dp.bat". Move the cursor to the line in the file which starts with "dpsg.exe". Move the cursor to the first "%" and insert the exact command line option (such as "-vtrident "). The line will now read, for example, "dpsg.exe -vtrident %1 %2 %3". Save the file. Test the change by running DiscPassage.

8.8 - Graphics Display - VGATEST

If graphics images do not display properly, there are two test programs in the DiscPass directory which may help. To run VGATEST, enter the command "vgatest" while in the DiscPass directory. VGATEST displays a message which tells which video card type is detected. If a DiscPassage CD-ROM is in the CD-ROM drive, pressing "enter" will display a graphic from that disc. Use the video card command line option (see explanation above) to try out different video graphics drivers. (The -v option can be used with both the "dp" and the "vgatest" commands.)

8.9 - Graphics Display - VESATEST

If none of the video drivers in DiscPassage work correctly with your video card, you may want to use a VESA video driver. VESA is a standard which has been created for interfacing with super VGA video cards. A Super VGA card may have a VESA driver built into the ROM (read only memory) of the video card. Older cards may require a TSR (terminate and stay resident - a program which, once executed, resides in your computer's memory) driver to be loaded in order to provide VESA support. This TSR may be found on the distribution disks from the video card manufacturer, or may be obtained directly from the video card vendor or manufacturer.

To determine if a VESA driver is currently available in your system, run VESATEST from the DiscPassage directory. This program will tell you if VESA video extensions are loaded, whether or not DiscPassage will use VESA for image display, and if not, why DiscPassage will not use VESA. DiscPassage requires that VESA mode 101H is supported in order to display 640 by 480 by 256 colors.

8.10 - Audio

Some DiscPassage CD-ROM titles contain audio information. The audio from these discs will come through the CD-ROM drive's audio outputs. If your system is equipped with a sound card, the DiscPassage CD-ROM audio will not be heard through the sound card unless the CD-ROM's audio outputs are connected to inputs to the sound card. Consult the sound card vendor for information regarding hardware which may be available to make the connection.

8.11 - Program Crash

If DiscPassage fails to start properly, exits to DOS prematurely or "freezes" your system at some point, there are a number of possible causes to look for.

The first item to check is free memory (see MEMORY REQUIREMENTS above).

Another possible cause of problems is the interaction between DiscPassage and your graphics card. Try running DP with the "-vtextonly" option (see COMMAND LINE OPTIONS above). If the crash no longer occurs, experiment further with the various video card options.

A third area to check is conflicts between DiscPassage and other software already loaded in memory (device drivers or TSR programs). One way to test for such conflicts is to insert the word "rem" before each line of the Config.Sys and Autoexec.Bat files which installs drivers and TSRs which are not needed to run the CD-ROM unit. The "rem" negates the line so that when the system is booted, that line has no effect. If DiscPassage then runs properly, the "remmed out" lines can be brought back in one at a time, until the conflicting line is identified. Sometimes changing the order that these lines appear in the files can eliminate a conflict.

A common conflict which causes DiscPassage to crash is between some mouse drivers and the VESA video driver. If you press enter to continue from the license agreement and the system goes immediately back to DOS, displaying the CD-ROM drive, or if after the first graphic is displayed the system freezes and an error message "memory allocation error..." is displayed, there probably is a mouse driver/vesa driver conflict. Test for this by "remming" out the MOUSE.COM line in the autoexec.bat file. After rebooting the system, run DiscPassage. If DiscPassage runs properly, the conflict has been identified. The solution is to obtain an updated driver from the manufacturer of the mouse, or a different mouse driver.

9 - Installing DiscPassage 1.5 to Run Under Windows 3.1

To install DiscPassage to run under Windows, first install under DOS, as explained under Installing DiscPassage.

While in Windows, set up DiscPassage as an application:
From your application window (or any window of your choice) select FILE from the program manager menu, then select NEW. Click on the circle next to ADD A PROGRAM ITEM, then click OK.

In the box which appears, enter the following properties:

Description: DiscPassage

Command line: C:\DP.BAT

Working directory: C:\DISCPASS

Select an icon for the application, then click OK.

Next, a PIF FILE needs to be created. From the MAIN window, select PIF Editor. From the menu, select FILE/NEW. Enter the following settings:

Program filename: DP.BAT

Window title: DiscPassage

Startup directory: C:\.

Video memory: text

KB required: 536K

Display usage: full screen

Execution: exclusive

(No advanced settings).

Otherwise, leave the default settings as they are. Select FILE/SAVE AS and enter the name of the file as DP.PIF. Save changes and exit the PIF Editor.

The path names used in this example assume you used the default DiscPassage setup. If you did not take the default DiscPassage directories, your directory names here will need to reflect that.

DiscPassage should run properly under Windows using these settings. For more information about PIF files and running DOS applications under Windows, consult your Windows manual. Some systems may not support DiscPassage in the Windows environment.