

New Tricks

v1.1.5 | user's manual

Welcome to New Tricks v1.1.5! We're glad you've downloaded the program, and hope you find it useful!

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1. What is New Tricks?

New Tricks is, at its most basic, a simple, cross-platform word processor with add-ons (similar to web browser plug-ins) . It performs mostly basic things that should ship with

many computers anyway, but New Tricks can run on pretty much any type of computer, and it saves "styled text" files as HTML files.

Also, New Tricks features an easy-to-use help file system, located at the bottom of the screen. Simply type in a question in english, and it will attempt to answer it!

As New Tricks matures, a version of it will be available for Mac OS 7.1 and above (including 8, 8.5, 9, and eventually X) , Windows 3.1, 95, NT, and above, Linux (PPC and Intel) , FreeBSD and BSDI UNIX, Solaris, SPARC SunOS, Digital UNIX, and a couple other flavors of UNIX. A complete list is available at <http://karlbecker.com/newtricks/>

2. What's New?

New Tricks v1.1 includes a number of enhancements over its previous versions. These include:

- * Sort That! - add-on that adds a feature previously unseen in word processor - sorting! Sort names, numbers, dates... whatever you can think of! Tell everyone you're "streamlining your productivity ergonomically and comfortably," and sound impressive.
- * improved spell-check functionality
- * new Add-on name display... no more short, ugly names displayed inside the program.
- * match your word processor with your computer color! All of Apple's hues are built right into New Tricks!
- * All that, and now the New Tricks dog is now keeping a watchful eye over your documents!

3. Interface

The interface may be a little different from most programs - but remember, this is to be

cross-platform, so a little deviation from the platform standard is, well, to be expected.

The text you're reading right now is inside the main document, which is where you type and edit things.

At the bottom of the window is the help system. Simply type in any question you may have, hit return (or click on "Ask question") , and New Tricks will try to provide you with an answer. If nothing happens, try to explain your question a little bit better, and make sure you spelled key words correctly.

Directly above the place to type in questions is a file path. It's displayed much like a web address, using slashes "/" to separate folders. The file path shows where the current document you're working on resides. If you can only see part of the file path, clicking on it will show you more of the file path.

To the left is the main button bar, which mainly provides a big target for your cursor to get to some of the basic functions of the program.

"New File" blanks the current open file (but asks if you want to save your current file) .

"Open File" lets you open a standard open dialog for you to select a file to open.

"Save File" saves the current file. Option-click does the same as "Save As..."

"Print file..." goes to another screen that previews what will print out on your printer.

"Check Spelling" opens up the spell checker and runs a spellcheck on your document.

Clicking on the "Add-ons" button will bring you to a screen that lists your currently installed Add-ons, where you can launch them. The arrows to the right of "Add-ons" will

pop up a menu that lists all the currently installed add-ons, and you can launch them by clicking on one.

"Preferences..." brings up the preferences menu, which will let you customize many aspects of the program.

4. Add-ons

Add-ons extend the functionality of New Tricks. Only use New-Tricks-Certified (NTC) Add-ons with New Tricks; otherwise, bad things could, possibly, happen. A list of NTC Add-ons are available from the New Tricks web site at <http://karlbecker.com/newtricks/>

Some of the add-ons that are currently planned (or available) for New Tricks include:

- * post your New Tricks files directly to the web!
- * comprehensive, user-editable spell-checker
- * games to break up long typing sessions
- * time-management utilities

If you're interested in creating your own New Tricks Add-ons, all you need is MetaCard (available from [<http://www.metacard.com>](http://www.metacard.com)) and the New Tricks SDK, available at <http://karlbecker.com/newtricks/addons/dev/>

5. Troubleshooting

Having problems with the program? If it's something you can't understand about the program, use the help system below and ask it a regular question in english. Example:

if you type in "How do I bold text?", the program will respond with a technique for bolding text

If you're having other problems, such as not being able to get this program to run, check <http://karlbecker.com/newtricks/support/> for any bug reports and solutions. Also, make sure you're running the newest version of New Tricks.

6. Uses for New Tricks

There are many, many uses for New Tricks that may not come to you at first. Here are just a couple of them:

- * keep a copy of New Tricks on your desktop, and when you get a phone call, open it up and write down any notes the caller says to you, then save it in a folder titled "Phone notes" that you can refer to later.

- * load New Tricks onto that old computer you have lying around, and give the computer to someone needy! New Tricks is a good starter program for people who haven't used computers much. Make sure they know about the help feature at the bottom so they aren't always calling you for help!

- * New Tricks doesn't use the scratch disk very much, so using it on a notebook could save battery life and extend your typing time over a bigger application!

- * use New Tricks for lightweight HTML-editing with the "Styled text" option - great for people creating web pages that don't want to learn HTML!

7. Tips

* Configure New Tricks to automatically load frequently used Add-ons of yours at startup in the "Preferences" menu

* Take frequent breaks from the computer... seriously. It's recommended to take a 15-minute break from the computer for every 45 minutes you're on. I strongly recommend it - go outside, take a walk around the neighborhood, meet some people you didn't know before, drink a Cherry Coke... do something!

8. Support

To get direct e-mail support for New Tricks from KB Productions, the author, we will have to ask you to register the program. Providing free support to everyone who has a small problem with the program would, unfortunately, just drain our time a bit too much. To register New Tricks, read below.

If you just are interesting in conversing with other people about New Tricks, check out the New Tricks web site, at <http://karlbecker.com/newtricks/> and look at our message boards to talk to others about New Tricks.

9. Registering New Tricks

New Tricks is free for personal, at-home use. If you're using New Tricks for commercial purposes, or you want e-mail support for at-home use, you will have to register New Tricks for the cost of \$15. The cost will get you a registration code for all version 1.X

releases.

You can register New Tricks a couple of different ways.

Method 1) Register on the internet, using a secure order form at:

<https://order.kagi.com/?3VW>

It's a secure order form that will let you purchase New Tricks.

Method 2) Use the enclosed Register program to print out a form that you can send in by regular mail. You can use cash, check, credit card, and other methods to pay for New Tricks.

We thank you for supporting shareware, since it currently is the best way to distribute software. Thanks!

10. Contact Us

Want to contact KB Productions, the creators of New Tricks? Here are a couple of ways to get in touch:

* download The Palace chat software, available at <http://www.thepalace.com> , then open up the address <marathon.lag.com:9998> inside The Palace software. Our username on there is "Funkboy", and we're signed on quite often.

(Note: The software "The Palace" is no longer supported by the company who makes it, but a new program is being promised to replace it soon.

* e-mail us directly at newtricks@karlbecker.com

* use the New Tricks message board (coming soon), located at <http://karlbecker.com/newtricks/>

11. User License

New Tricks version 1.1.5 (v1.1.5), © copyright 2000 KB Productions. New Tricks v1.X is free for period of twenty days, after which we request you to register the program.

KB Productions provides New Tricks as is, and does not assume responsibility for anything the program may or may not do. Of course, we'll do our darndest to try and fix any bugs, or add any features, you may think of. Read "Contact Us" above to send us your thoughts. (you don't see the word "darndest" in a user license too often, do you?)

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12. Version History

1.1.5

- * fixed many printing errors
- * added Font-o-Matic add-on with standard distribution
- * added "Custom Vertical Offset" in style menu, for certain specialized text work
- * various other bugs, including various usability features

1.1

- * heavy spell-check improvements
- * added SortThat! add-on with standard distribution
- * added New Tricks dog in top-left
- * changed Add-on name display

- * fixed numerous bugs, including printing flaws

1.0.5

- * added spell-check feature

- * added features for add-on developers

- * Navigation Services support for Mac OS

- * started builds for other platforms, including Linux Intel 2.x, Windows

1.0 - initial release