



About This Archive (Version 1.0a17)

This is an archive of the PREP Editor, a collaborative writing environment. PREP is a Macintosh application, compatible with System 6.0 and higher, including System 7.

About PREP

The PREP project is funded by the National Science Foundation and Apple Computer (ATG/ER). Our goal is to develop a system that encourages and facilitates collaboration in writing, without imposing requirements on connectivity and concurrency. Therefore, PREP requires no central server, and is not a synchronous "shared-screen" word processor. PREP provides a column based interface where related information is linked across columns. To some degree, PREP provides an unlimited amount of "virtual margins" to take notes in.

Installing PREP

If you have gotten this far, you have unpacked the archive and correctly launched the PREP Editor application. PREP requires no special folder or files. It will create a preferences file in your system folder or preferences folder.

Comments about the speed of PREP

It is common for first-time users of PREP to feel that PREP is very slow because of the amount of time it takes to open the tutorial files. The PREP Editor is a research prototype, and thus we have concentrated on speed issues to the best of our ability. However, large files, such as the tutorial files, can take up to 60 seconds to open on slower machines such as the Macintosh Classic or SE. Please note that once they are open, these large files can be edited and viewed with a quick response time. We have chosen to optimize the incremental editing behavior at some price at "document open" time (We also realize, of course, that PREP will never be "fast enough", by definition).

About Claris XTND

The latest versions of PREP use the Claris XTND technology to make it easy to import documents for annotation in PREP (and export them afterwards with the annotations stored as footnotes).

How to tell if the XTND system is installed

You can tell if the XTND technology was installed correctly if, when you start up the PREP editor, there is an expanded dialog box when you use the **Open**, **Insert File**, and **Save a Copy In** menu commands. The new dialog box includes a pop-up menu showing the kinds of translators available to use.

Installing Claris XTND

This archive also contains (in the Claris XTND 1.3.1 folder) the files needed to install the Claris XTND system. You should install these files only if:

- 1) You want to be able to import and export from other documents more easily (using the **Open**, **Insert File**, and **Save a Copy In** menu commands).

- 2) You do not have the XTND package installed already. You can check for this by seeing if you have a folder named "Claris" in your system folder, and if you see a file called "Claris XTND System".



The Claris folder

If you do not have a Claris folder in your system folder, then create one using the **New Folder** command in the Finder. Be sure to name the new folder **Claris**.

If you already have a Claris folder, or have just finished making one, open the Claris folder and proceed to the next step **-Installing the “Claris XTND System”**.

Installing the “Claris XTND System”

You can tell if you already have XTND installed (from installing MacWrite™ or other products) by seeing if the file **Claris XTND System** exists in the **Claris** folder. If it does, then you should check to make sure you have the current version of the package. Do this by selecting the **Claris XTND System** file and using the **Get Info** command in the Finder. If you do not have version 1.3.1, you should install the newer version from this archive.

If you need to install the **Claris XTND System** because it doesn't exist or is an old version, copy the file from the PREP release into your **Claris** folder.

About Translators

The Claris XTND technology uses separate translator files for each kind of document you can read and write using XTND. These translators are stored inside the **Claris** folder, in a folder called **Claris Translators**.

The PREP Project is currently licensed to distribute a small set of translators that are supplied by Claris. They include translators for MacWrite, MacPaint, PICT, and Plain Text files. Translators for other format files (such as Microsoft Word or WordPerfect) are distributed with other products that use XTND (such as MacWrite II).

Installing the Claris Translators

If you do not have a **Claris Translators** folder inside your **Claris** folder, then copy the one from the PREP release. If you already have a **Claris Translators** folder, you might want to check the versions of the translators you have, and update them from the PREP release if they appear to be older versions.

You will have to restart the PREP Editor to use the XTND system. Check if the XTND system was installed correctly using the method described previously.

If you have questions or comments

Please send comments and questions via email to **prep-project+@andrew.cmu.edu** on the internet.

Acknowledgements

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