

# Aladdin FlashBack™ User's Guide

February 1998

Aladdin Systems, Inc.  
165 Westridge Drive  
Watsonville, California 95076

Creators:	Eric Soldan, Tantek Çelik
Engineers:	Eric Soldan, Tantek Çelik, Ryoji Watanabe, Jorge Gustavson
Product Manager:	Peter Thomas
Test Lead:	Jody Clifton, Walt Darson
Support Lead:	Peter Tempel
Documentation:	Christina Hembree
Press and Public Relations:	Jennifer Lyng, Nicole Rowland
Marketing:	Brad Peppard
Sales:	Mark Leitch
Agency:	After Hours
Artist:	Bert Monroy

Aladdin FlashBack and the Aladdin Logo are trademarks of Aladdin Systems, Inc.  
Aladdin FlashBack copyright © 1997 - 1998, portions © 1996 - 1997 6prime  
corporation. All other product names and logos are trademarks or registered  
trademarks of their respective holders.

Product Registration Number \_\_\_\_\_

# Table of Contents

## 1 Introduction

Welcome. . . . .	1
How to Use This Manual . . . . .	1
Contacting Aladdin . . . . .	2
Comments and Suggestions. . . . .	2
Technical Support . . . . .	2

## 2 Getting Started

Requirements . . . . .	3
Hard Disk Requirements . . . . .	3
Installation . . . . .	3
Windows . . . . .	3
Mac OS . . . . .	8
Uninstallation . . . . .	11
Registration . . . . .	12

## 3 Working with FlashBack

First Launch . . . . .	13
Auto-launch . . . . .	14
File Tracking . . . . .	14
Adding Files . . . . .	14
Removing Items. . . . .	15
Now What? . . . . .	17
Accessing Revisions . . . . .	17
Using Drag and Drop. . . . .	17
Double-Clicking . . . . .	18
Using the File Menu . . . . .	18
Status Icons . . . . .	18

Trash . . . . .	18
Warning . . . . .	19
<b>4 FlashBack Reference</b>	
The Buttons . . . . .	21
Help . . . . .	21
Delete. . . . .	21
Settings . . . . .	22
The Settings . . . . .	22
Save Trigger . . . . .	23
Maximum Number Saved . . . . .	24
Save Frequency . . . . .	25
Settings Priority . . . . .	25
Advanced. . . . .	26
The Menus . . . . .	27
File . . . . .	27
Edit . . . . .	27
View . . . . .	27
Help . . . . .	28
Apple . . . . .	28
<b>5 FlashBack Tips</b>	
Windows. . . . .	29
Mac OS . . . . .	30
Questions & Answers. . . . .	31
<b>Index. . . . .</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Software License Agreement . . . . .</b>	<b>35</b>



# Introduction

## Welcome

Aladdin FlashBack allows you to recreate or recover any file (picture, document, animation, spreadsheet, database, etc.) from any revision you have saved. You can reproduce an exact copy of a file as it was at each save. You can recover these revisions even if the file has been deleted or corrupted. Each time you save a file, FlashBack creates a permanent record that you can instantly access at any time in the future. Your ability to 'undo' your changes is nearly limitless.

## How to Use This Manual



This manual applies to both the Windows™ and Mac OS™ versions. There are a few differences between platforms which are detailed throughout the manual. A section pertaining to only one platform will display the appropriate icon next to it, as shown at the left.

Chapter 1, **Introduction**, is a Welcome and Overview of FlashBack. It also contains information on contacting Aladdin Systems for comments and technical support.

Chapter 2, **Getting Started**, covers the requirements of the program and how to install. The installation is divided into a Windows section and Mac OS section.

Chapter 3, **Working with FlashBack**, includes how to start and stop tracking files, how to access the revisions, and a 'key' to the icons in the FlashBack window.

Chapter 4, **FlashBack Reference**, goes over the buttons, menus, and settings that allow you to customize FlashBack.

Chapter 5, **FlashBack Tips**, contains tips on utilizing FlashBack and a question and answer section.

# Contacting Aladdin

## Comments and Suggestions

Aladdin Systems is open to any suggestions that can enhance the usability and features of FlashBack. Please address your correspondence to Product Manager - FlashBack, and use any address listed below.

## Technical Support

If you cannot find an answer to your questions in this User's Guide, be sure to check the Read Me file in the FlashBack folder on your computer. You can also visit our online Frequently Asked Questions (Customer Support) web pages at:

<http://www.aladdinsys.com/>

Technical Support is available to all registered users via email, phone, fax, or mail. Please be sure to have the following information available prior to calling, or include it in your email, fax, or letter. It is very helpful if you can be in front of the computer if you are calling.

- Write down your question or have a clear idea of the problem.
- Be prepared to duplicate the problem. Write down the steps you took that caused the problem.
- Note any error messages.
- Note your computer model.
- Note your system version.
- Note the amount of RAM.
- Note your FlashBack version number.

E-mail (Windows):      [win.support@aladdinsys.com](mailto:win.support@aladdinsys.com)

E-mail (Mac OS):      [support@aladdinsys.com](mailto:support@aladdinsys.com)

Fax:      408/761-6206

Phone: 408/761-6200

Mail: Aladdin Systems, Inc.

165 Westridge Drive

Watsonville, CA 95076



# Getting Started

## Requirements



### Windows

FlashBack operates on any 386, 486, or Pentium class computer running Windows 3.1 or 95, with a hard drive and CD-ROM drive.



### Mac OS

FlashBack operates on any computer running Mac OS 7.1. or later with at least 2 MB of RAM, a hard drive, and a CD-ROM drive.

---

*Note: If you do not own a CD-ROM drive, contact Aladdin Systems to request FlashBack on diskette(s).*

---

## Hard Disk Requirements

The amount of hard disk space FlashBack requires will vary. Every computer, regardless of platform, will have a different need. The amount needed depends upon the number of files you are tracking and the number of revisions you keep per file. The more revisions and files you are tracking, the more disk space you'll need.

While you'll need more disk space as you save more revisions, the revisions are kept to a minimum size. FlashBack incorporates sophisticated version-differencing technology. This is a method of storing only the changes that are made to a file, rather than a new copy of the entire file. This allows you to store far more revisions of a file than you could otherwise.

It is important to keep in mind that more revisions equals more hard disk space. It is recommended that you periodically check your hard disk space to ensure availability.

# Installation



## Windows

### Setup

If you are running Windows 95, you can skip this section and begin with the Installation section below. Some setup may be necessary if you are running Windows 3.1. Once you have completed the setup as described below, continue with the Windows installation instructions immediately following.

FlashBack requires an up-to-date version of the Win32s system in order to run. The FlashBack installer comes equipped to install these items if necessary. When you run the FlashBack installer, you may be requested to install the Win32s system. Follow the directions on screen. If you have difficulties, contact Microsoft Technical Support. If you do not install the Win32s system when requested, the installer will not run.

If you are not prompted to install the Win32s system, you can proceed directly to the installation instructions below.

### Installation

If you are running Windows 3.1 read through the setup section above.

#### **1. Insert the FlashBack CD into your computer.**

The installer may automatically begin once you insert the CD. If so, skip to step 5 below. If not, continue with step 2.

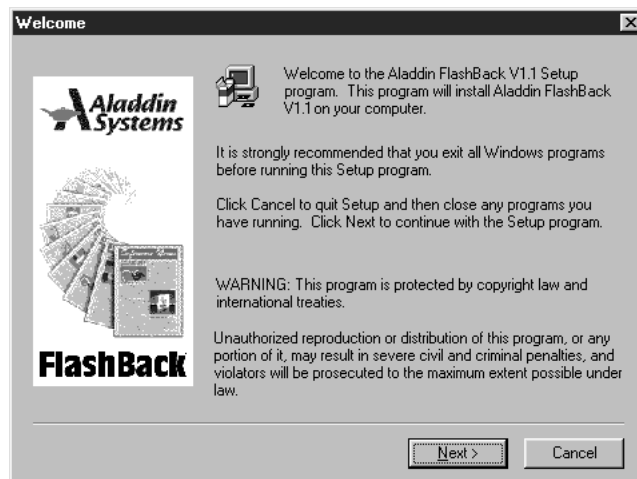
#### **2. Go to your CD-ROM drive.**

Using Windows Explorer (Windows 95) or File Manager (Windows 3.1), go to and open your CD-ROM drive.

**3. Double-click the 'Install.exe' icon.**

If you are running Windows 3.1, you may be requested to install the Win32s system at this time. Follow the directions on screen. If you have difficulties, contact Microsoft Technical Support. If you do not install the Win32s system when requested, the installer will not run.

If you do not need to install the Win32s system, the Welcome screen will appear. To continue with installation, click "Next."



**4. Click "Next."**

The Software License Agreement screen appears. Once you have read the agreement, click "Yes" to agree to the terms and continue.

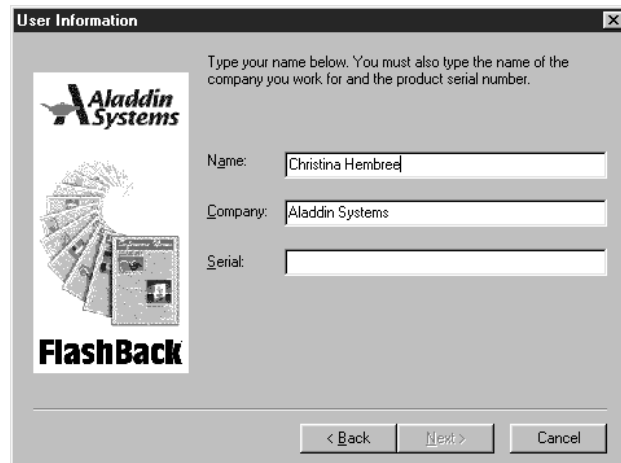
**5. Click "Yes" when you have read the Software License Agreement.**

The Registration window appears asking you to register your copy of FlashBack.



**6. Enter your name, company name, and registration number.**

A company name is required, however you can type “none” if this is your personal copy. The registration number can be found on the first page of this User’s Guide and on the Registration card. Make sure to enter it exactly as it appears.



The image shows a Windows-style dialog box titled "User Information". On the left side, there is a logo for "Aladdin Systems" with a stylized 'A' and a graphic of several CD-ROMs below it, with the word "FlashBack" in bold text at the bottom. On the right side, there is instructional text: "Type your name below. You must also type the name of the company you work for and the product serial number." Below this text are three input fields. The first is labeled "Name:" and contains the text "Christina Hembree". The second is labeled "Company:" and contains the text "Aladdin Systems". The third is labeled "Serial:" and is currently empty. At the bottom right of the dialog box, there are three buttons: "< Back", "Next >", and "Cancel".

**7. Click “Next” when you have finished entering the information.**

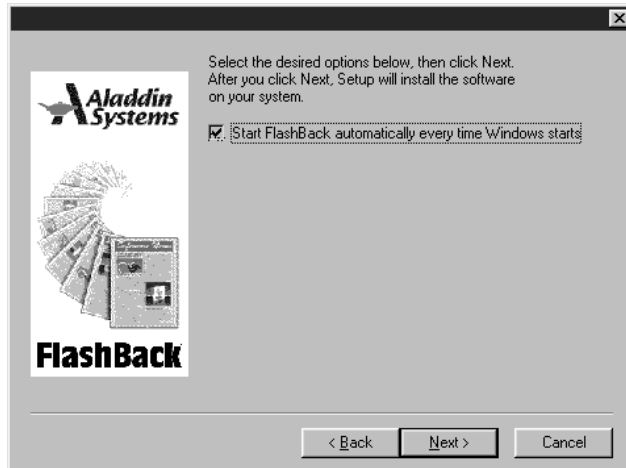
A screen appears to select the destination folder for FlashBack. You can use the default or click the “Browse” button to navigate to a different location.

**8-. Click “Next” to install the software into the specified folder.**

The next screen allows you to select the name of the FlashBack program group. It is recommended that you leave the default.

**9. Click “Next.”**

The next window allows you to set whether FlashBack will launch automatically at startup. FlashBack is required to be open to track your files, thus it is recommended that you leave the default setting.



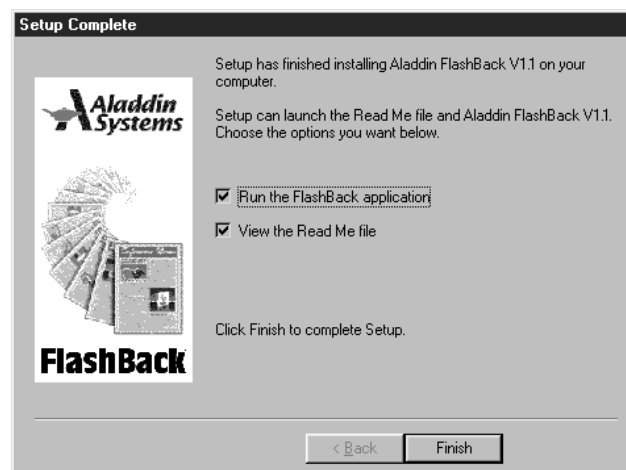
#### 10. Click “Next.”

If you want to change any setting, click the “Back” button until you see the item you want to change.

Once you click “Next” setup will install the necessary files onto your computer.

#### 11. Click “Finish” to complete installation.

To begin selecting files to track, leave the “Run the FlashBack application” checkbox checked. To read the Read Me for important last minute information leave the “View the Read Me file” checkbox checked.



You have now finished installation and can immediately begin tracking your files.



## Mac OS

### Setup

It is recommended that you install FlashBack while all unnecessary extensions are disabled. Use one of the methods described below to do this.

- Copy the FlashBack installer onto your hard drive. Then restart your computer with extensions off by holding down the Shift key as you restart. Once you have completed installation, simply restart without holding down any keys and your extensions will be automatically enabled.
- If you are running system 7.5 or later, you can use the Extensions Manager control panel to disable all unnecessary extensions.

If you have an internal CD-ROM drive, simply select the Mac OS base extensions. If you have an external CD-ROM drive, select the Mac OS base extension and your CD-ROM extensions. Then restart your computer.

Once you have completed installation, simply restore the settings in the Extensions Manager control panel and restart your computer.

If you are unsure which extensions are necessary to read your CD-ROM drive, you can use the first method above. Alternatively, you can contact the manufacturer of your CD-ROM drive for a list of the necessary extensions.

### Installation

#### **1. Restart your computer with only the extensions necessary for reading a CD-ROM.**

Use one of the methods described in the Setup section above to do this. This is important to avoid any extension conflicts during installation. You should re-enable your extensions and restart your computer after you install FlashBack.

**2. Insert the FlashBack CD into your computer.**

**3. Double-click the installer icon on the disk.**

A splash screen appears.

**4. Click “Continue.”**

A Welcome window appears. This dialog contains last-minute changes and other important information. You can save this information by clicking the “Save” button.

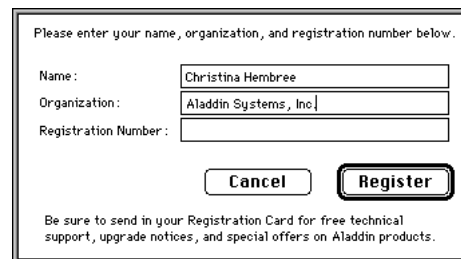
**5. Click “Continue” when you have finished reading the information.**

The Software License Agreement appears.

**6. Click “Agree” when you have finished reading the agreement and agree to the terms.**

The registration dialog appears, asking you to register your copy of FlashBack.

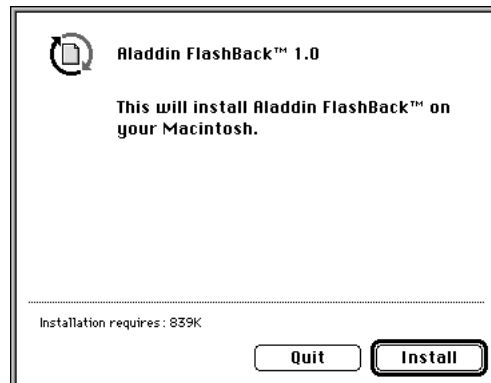
**7. Enter your name, organization (if applicable), and registration number.**

A registration dialog box with a title bar. The text inside reads: "Please enter your name, organization, and registration number below." There are three input fields: "Name:" with the text "Christina Hembree", "Organization:" with the text "Aladdin Systems, Inc.", and "Registration Number:" which is empty. Below the fields are two buttons: "Cancel" and "Register". At the bottom, there is a small note: "Be sure to send in your Registration Card for free technical support, upgrade notices, and special offers on Aladdin products."

The registration number can be found on the Registration card and on the title page of this User’s Guide. Make sure to enter it exactly as it appears.

**8. Click “Register” when you have finished entering the information.**

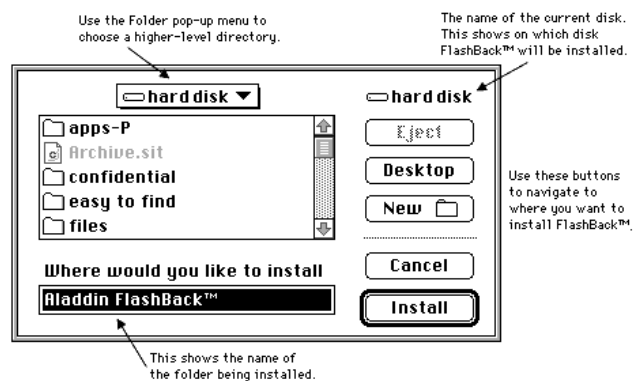
The installation dialog appears next.



**9. Click “Install” to continue.**

A dialog box appears that lets you choose where to install the software.

**10. Use this dialog to point to the place on your hard disk where you want to install the FlashBack folder, then click “Install.”**



Once you have chosen where you want to install FlashBack and clicked the “Install” button, a dialog displays the progress of the installation.

**11. Click “Quit” to complete the installation process.**

You will need to enable the extensions that were disabled at the beginning of installation and restart your computer.

You have now finished the installation process.

# Uninstallation



## Windows 3.1

1. **Open Program Manager.**
2. **Double-click the Uninstall icon in the FlashBack group.**

## Windows 95

1. **Select 'Start Menu' -> 'Settings' -> 'Control Panel' -> 'Add/Remove Programs.'**
2. **Choose 'Aladdin FlashBack' from the list.**
3. **Click the "Add/Remove" button.**

Follow the directions that appear on the screen.



## Mac OS

FlashBack does not come with its own uninstallation program, however, you can easily remove the program from the machine.

1. **Locate and select the FlashBack folder.**
2. **Drag the folder to the Trash.**
3. **Select the FlashBack Preferences folder in the Preferences folder in the System Folder.**
4. **Drag it to the Trash.**
5. **Select the FlashBack Alias in the Startup Items folder in the System Folder.**
6. **Drag it to the Trash.**

Once you have emptied the Trash, FlashBack will no longer be on the machine.

# Registration

When you register, you will be notified of upgrades, new products, and special offers. You will also be eligible for technical support. There are three ways to register your copy of FlashBack.

- Complete the form at our web site registration:  
<http://www.aladdinsys.com/registration/index.html>
- Fill out the Registration card and send it to Aladdin Systems (it's postage paid).
- If you have a modem, or fax line you can register electronically. Double-click the Register FlashBack icon in the FlashBack folder and follow the steps on your screen.





# Working with FlashBack

## First Launch



On Windows the FlashBack installation, by default, automatically creates a shortcut in the StartUp folder. This allows FlashBack to launch at startup and be available to track your files.

FlashBack needs to be open in order to track your files. The first time you launch FlashBack, a dialog appears asking if you want FlashBack to open automatically when you start up your computer. If FlashBack automatically launches at startup, it will always be tracking your files as long as you do not close the application.



If you'd like FlashBack to launch at startup, click the “Yes, please” button. From this point on, FlashBack will open every time you turn on your computer.

If FlashBack is not running when you save a file, that revision will not be stored in FlashBack and you will not be able to access it later. It is recommended that you choose to have FlashBack open at startup. This allows you to save your files without having to remember if FlashBack is open or taking the time to open it.

If you click the “No thanks” button, you will need to launch FlashBack each time you want to track the files with which you are working. At any time in the future, you can setup FlashBack to open when you startup your computer. The next section describes how to do this.





## Auto-launch

If you selected the “Yes, please” button when FlashBack was first opened, this section is not relevant. However, if you selected the “No thanks” button, use these directions to have FlashBack open when you startup your computer.

1. **Select the FlashBack application icon in the Aladdin FlashBack folder.**
2. **Choose “Make Alias” from the File menu.**
3. **Open your System Folder.**
4. **Drag the newly created alias into the Startup Items folder in your System Folder.**

## File Tracking

### Adding Files

FlashBack can track revisions of any file. To keep revisions of a file, you must add the file to the FlashBack window. Click and hold the file you want to track and drag it into the FlashBack window. You can hold down the Shift key to select multiple items to drag into the FlashBack window. (On Windows use the Control key to select multiple items not in a row.)

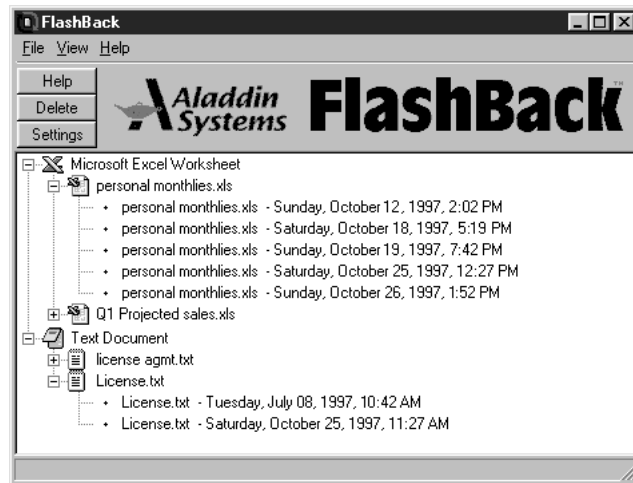
The FlashBack window stores items categorically. There are three main categories – applications, files, and revisions. When you add a file to the FlashBack window, if there is no category for the application, one is created. A file category is created for each item made by an application and is stored alphabetically within the application category.



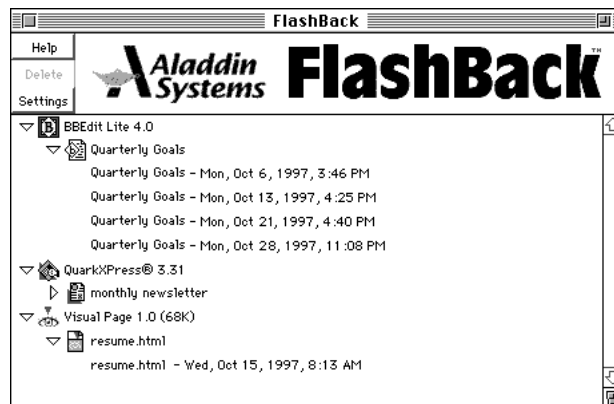
---

*Note: On Windows, there are categories for each application and document type. Thus applications that can create different document types, may have more than one category.*

The revisions are sorted chronologically within the file category. The oldest is at the top and the newest is at the bottom. See the pictures below for a visual representation of the FlashBack window categories.



FlashBack for Windows main screen with sample files.



FlashBack for the Mac OS main screen with sample files.

When FlashBack is open, revisions of the files that you add to the window are recorded based on your Settings (see chapter 4, FlashBack Reference).

## Removing Items

You can choose to remove a single revision, a file and all its revisions, or an application category (and all its related items). When

you use the “Delete” button to remove an application category or file from the FlashBack window, it still exists on your hard drive. You can add it to the FlashBack window again later. When you delete a revision, however, it is no longer accessible.

### **An Individual Revision**

Select the revision you want to remove. Click the “Delete” button. If you are sure you want to remove that revision of the document, click “OK” in the confirmation dialog that appears. Otherwise, click “Cancel.”

### **A File and All Its Revisions**

Select the file you want to stop tracking. Click the “Delete” button. If you are sure you want to remove this document and all its revisions, click “OK” in the confirmation dialog that appears. Otherwise, click “Cancel.”



Alternatively on the Mac OS, you can drag items directly from the FlashBack window to the Trash to remove them. You will still need to confirm your actions by clicking “OK.”

---

*Note: You cannot remove the most current revision of a file. This revision represents the current version of the file. If there is only one revision of a file, you must delete the entire file and all its revisions from the FlashBack window. Once you remove the file, however, you will not have access to any past revisions of it. Deleting the file from the FlashBack window does not delete the original from your computer.*

---

### **An Application Category**



On Windows, you can choose to remove an entire application category. However, note that this will cause all the files you are tracking that were created by that application to also be removed. You should be very cautious when doing this.



On the Mac OS, you can only remove an application category if you are not tracking any files created by that application.

## Now What?

When FlashBack is open it will track all revisions of any documents you have added to the FlashBack window. You can continue to use your document in normal fashion. When you choose to save (or close) a document, FlashBack will compare the newly saved file to the previous version and only save the changes. There is nothing different you need to do.

## Accessing Revisions

Now that FlashBack has been saving revisions of your documents, how do you access a particular one? You can access files through drag and drop, double-clicking, or using the File menu (Windows only). Each method is explained below.

---

*Note: When you resurrect a revision to work with, a new file is created. If you decide to work with that file and you want to begin tracking it, you will need to add it to the FlashBack window as a new document.*

---

In the FlashBack window, locate the file whose revisions you want to access. To display the revisions, click the symbol next to the icon of the file. The symbol on Windows is a plus sign (+) if the revisions are hidden; a minus (-) sign they are visible. The symbol on a Mac OS computer is a disclosure triangle. The triangle points to the right if revisions are hidden; down if they are visible. The revisions for each file are listed in date-time order.

## Using Drag and Drop

Drag and drop is not available under Windows 3.1. As an alternative, utilize the File menu as described below.

Click and hold on the name of the revision you want to access. Drag it to the desktop or a folder of your choice and let go of the mouse button. FlashBack will create that revision as a new file (with the time and date appended to its name). You can simply double-click the file to open and begin using it.

## Double-Clicking

Double-click the name of the revision you want to access. FlashBack will create that revision as a new file (with the time and date appended to its name). This file will be created in the same folder as the original document and will be automatically opened.



## Using the File Menu

On Windows 3.1, users must utilize this method instead of drag and drop, which is not supported in those versions of Windows. Windows 95 users can utilize the File menu as an alternative to drag and drop.

Select the revision you want to access. Choose “Copy to...” from the File menu. A dialog is displayed in which you can select any folder in which to save the selected revision.

## Status Icons

FlashBack provides additional feedback so you know the status of the files you are tracking. When a file is first added to the FlashBack window, a category is created for the application and the icon of the application is displayed next to its name. A category for the file is also created and the icon for the file is displayed next to its name.

When the file icon changes, it indicates a change in the status of the original file you are tracking. Although the status may change, you still have access to the revisions already stored.

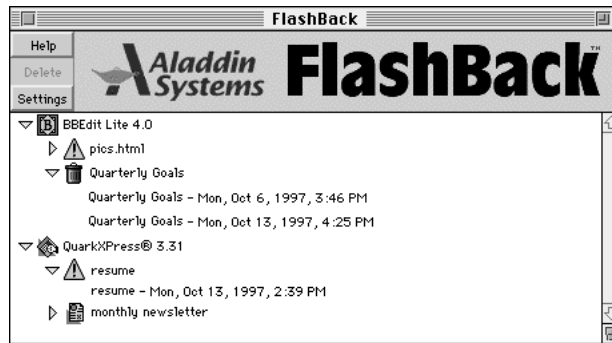


## Trash



FlashBack will display the Trash icon next to a file if it has been moved from its location to the Trash. While you can still access the revisions already saved, FlashBack will no longer be able to track further modifications to the file.

This icon does not appear on Windows. Under the same circumstances, the Warning icon appears (see the next section).



## Warning



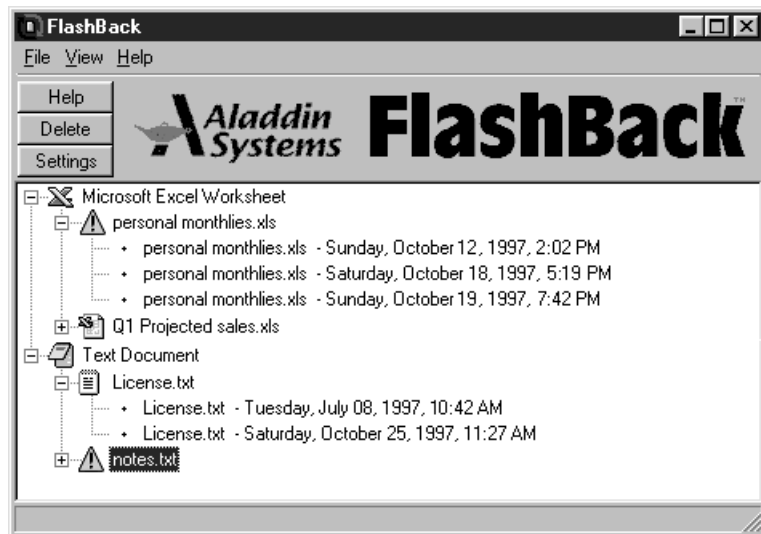
When this icon appears you still have access to the saved revisions, but FlashBack will no longer be able to track further modifications to the file.



## Windows

The Warning icon is displayed for one of several reasons. If you move a file, change part of its path name, or delete it, the icon in the FlashBack window will change to a Warning icon. To track the file again, you will need to add it to the FlashBack window.

If the file you are tracking is on a removable or remote disk, FlashBack will display the Warning icon if you unmount the disk or eject the media.





Once you have access to those disks again, you can immediately update the FlashBack window by selecting the Refresh command from the View menu (or press the F5 key). This will update FlashBack to correctly display the status of your documents.

It is not necessary to manually choose to refresh the screen. At ten-minute intervals, FlashBack scans all disks to determine if a remote or removable one is attached. It will then update the FlashBack window as necessary and begin tracking revisions to the files.

### **Mac OS**

The Warning icon is displayed for one of two reasons. If you have moved a file you are tracking from the Finder to the Trash *and* emptied the Trash, the icon will change to a Warning icon.

If the file you are tracking is on a removable or remote disk, FlashBack will display the Warning icon if you eject the media or unmount the volume.

Once you can access those disks again, FlashBack will automatically update to reflect the status of your documents and begin tracking revisions to the files.



# FlashBack Reference

## The Buttons



### Help

Help

The “Help” button displays the online Help Contents page. This allows you to view the help file online, see a topic list by keyword, or do a text search of the entire help file.



The “Help” button brings up an online version of the manual. It provides easy access to every part of the printed manual.



### Delete

Delete

You can select a file for deletion which will remove the file and all revisions of that file or you can select a single revision of a file to remove. To delete an item from the FlashBack window, select it and press the “Delete” button.



To remove multiple revisions of a file, select the file and choose ‘Delete Versions’ from the File menu. A dialog appears in which you can select which revisions to remove. Hold down the appropriate modifier key to select multiple items. The Shift key allows you to select multiple items in a row. The Control key allows you to select multiple items, not in a row. Once the items are selected, press the “Delete” button. You will be asked to confirm the deletion of those items.

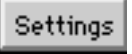
To remove multiple items at a time, hold down the appropriate modifier key to select them. The Shift key allows you to select multiple items in a row. The Command key allows you to select a disjunct set of items. Once the items are selected, press the “Delete” button. You will be asked to confirm the deletion of those items.



*Note: You cannot delete the most current revision of a file. This revision represents the current version of the file on which you are working. If there is only one revision of a file, you must delete the file, not the revision.*

---

## Settings



Click the “Settings” button to bring up a screen that allows you to customize FlashBack. See the next section, The Settings, for information on each specific setting and how the settings affect one another.

In the FlashBack window, if you have no item selected or an individual revision selected, you can indicate the ‘global’ settings. These settings will be the default for any file added to FlashBack.

If you have a file or an application selected, you can indicate ‘item’ settings. These will apply to the selected file or all files for the selected application.

On Windows, there are three separate tabs – Item, Global, and Advanced – in the Settings screen. Each tab is described in the Settings section below

On the Mac OS, only one panel appears. The title text changes slightly, however, to indicate whether you are changing global settings (*Default settings for new document types*) or item-specific settings (*Settings for selected item(s)*).



## The Settings

The Settings allow you to customize FlashBack. To access the settings, open FlashBack, click the “Settings” button in the upper left corner of the application. The screen that appears is where you customize FlashBack.

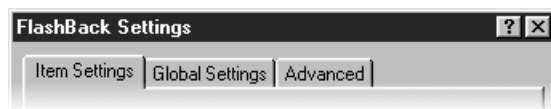
It is important to read about all of the settings as some settings take precedence over others. This precedence (or priority) is described at the end of the Settings section.

Once you have chosen your settings, click 'OK' to accept them. If you do not want to save changes you have made, click 'Cancel.'

To choose settings that apply to the FlashBack application and every new file added (**Global Settings**), you must have nothing selected or only a revision selected in the FlashBack window when you click the "Settings" button. To choose settings that apply to every file created by a specific application (**Application Settings**), the application must be selected in the FlashBack window when you click the "Settings" button. To choose settings that apply to a specific file (**Item Settings**), the file must be selected in the FlashBack window when you click the "Settings" button.



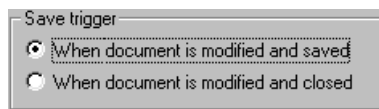
All three panels – Item, Global, and Advanced – appear in the Windows settings only when you have a document or application selected in the FlashBack window. If a revision or nothing is selected, only the Global and Advanced panels appear. The Advanced setting is described at the end of this section.



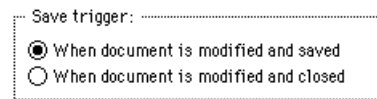
## Save Trigger

The 'Save Trigger' determines when FlashBack saves a revision of your files. To select the appropriate setting, consider how often you revise or save a file and how many revisions of a file you want to keep.

Select 'When document is modified and saved' to save a revision each time you modify and save the document. This will save more revisions, give you more flexibility in finding the 'right' document, but will also take up more disk space.



Windows



Mac OS

Select 'When document is modified and closed' to save a revision only when you modify and close the document. This will save fewer revisions and let you access only the last revision prior to each close,

but take up less hard disk space. This setting is independent of the number of times you save a document prior to closing.

The default setting is ‘When document is modified and saved.’

---

*Note: Some simple applications (i.e. Note Pad and Simple Text) will always follow the “When document is modified and saved” setting. Alternatively, some applications (i.e. ClarisWorks 4) will always follow the “When document is modified and closed” setting. This is a limitation of the program. You should experiment with the settings if you are concerned about this.*

---

## Maximum Number Saved

FlashBack lets you set the number of revisions of each file to be saved. The maximum number you can set is 999. It is recommended that you keep this number at a level you can manage.



If the revision that is being saved is over the limit set, the oldest revision is removed to make room. For instance, if you have selected a maximum of 35 revisions and you are saving the 36th, the oldest (or first) will be removed to allow room for the newest revision.

The default setting is 50. Keep in mind that the more files and more revisions you are saving, the more hard disk space FlashBack will require. It is recommended that you periodically check your hard disk to ensure the availability of disk space.

When you are accessing revisions, the older the revision is, the more time it will take to ‘resurrect’ it. If you double-click the fifth revision out of 50 (i.e. the fifth one from the top, an old one), it will take more time than double-clicking the 45th revision out of 50 (i.e. the fifth one from the bottom, a more recent one). Be patient as FlashBack recreates the document. Keep in mind that it must go through all the revisions up to the one you are selecting.

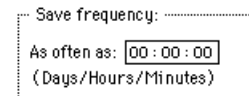
## Save Frequency

This setting determines how often FlashBack will save a revision. You can change the number of days, hours, and minutes in between each revision.

If you want a revision to be saved every time you save the file, select the time to be 0 minutes (or 00:00:00). A setting of one hour (00:01:00) will only save one revision in a one hour period.



Windows



Mac OS

## Settings Priority

To help you choose the settings that will work best for you, below are three possible setting scenarios. Each one details what happens when the settings are chosen as specified. Some settings have priority over others. It is important to understand these priorities to be sure FlashBack is working exactly as you want. For additional information and examples, see the Question & Answer section in chapter 5, FlashBack Tips.

### Scenario 1

The *Save Trigger* is set to 'When document is modified and saved' and the *Save Frequency* is set to five minutes (00:00:05). If you save once per minute, only one revision will be saved (the first one) during each five minute interval.

This is because the *Save Frequency* overrides the *Save Trigger*. With the above settings, FlashBack will only save a revision once every five minutes, regardless of how many times you save in that period. The *Save Frequency* has priority over the *Save Trigger*.

The same applies if the *Save Trigger* is set to 'When a document is modified and closed.'

### Scenario 2

The *Save Trigger* is set to 'When document is modified and closed' and the *Save Frequency* is set to one day (01:00:00). If you open a document, modify it and close it, one revision will be saved.

However, if you open that document, change it, and close it fewer than 24 hours (one day) later, no revision will be saved.

The same applies if the *Save Trigger* is set to ‘When a document is modified and saved.’

### Scenario 3

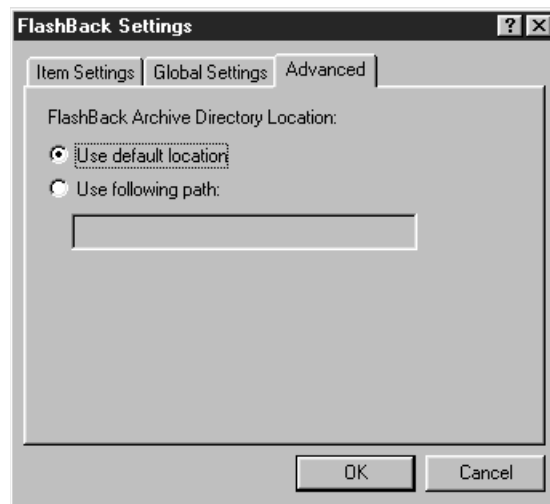
The *Max # of versions to be saved* is set to ‘20.’ If there are already 20 revisions of a document saved, the next time you save, the oldest revision will be removed to make room for the new one.

This is important to determine how many revisions you want to save. You can choose to delete any intermediate revisions in order to allow for future revisions, or you can increase the maximum number allowed at any time.

## Advanced

The Advanced settings are only available on Windows. This lets you select the location in which FlashBack stores its revisions. The default is in the Archive folder in the FlashBack folder.

To change the location, select the “Use following path:” radio button and type in the desired location.



See chapter 5, FlashBack tips for information on how to do this on the Mac OS.

# The Menus



## File

The File menu contains standard options such as *Page Setup*, *Print*, *Print Window*, *Close*, and *Exit*. *Close* and *Exit* function the same.

*Open* will open the item that is selected in the FlashBack window.

*Open Containing Folder* will open the folder in which the selected application or file is located.

*Copy to* saves a copy of any file or revision to another folder or drive.

*Delete* functions the same as the “Delete” button.

*Delete Versions* allows you to delete multiple revisions of a file in one action.

The File menu contains standard options such as *Page Setup*, *Print*, *Print Window*, *Close* and, *Quit*. *Close*, and *Quit* serve the same purpose.

File
Open
Open Containing Folder
Copy To...
Delete
Delete Versions...
Page Setup...
Print...
Print Window...
Close
Exit



File	
Close	⌘W
Page Setup...	
Print...	⌘P
Print Window...	
Quit	⌘Q



## Edit

*Select All* will select every item in the FlashBack window.

*Hide Window* will hide the FlashBack window. If the FlashBack window is hidden, the menu will have the option to *Show Window* which will show the hidden window. This setting is saved when you quit the application.

Edit	
Cut	⌘H
Copy	⌘C
Paste	⌘V
Clear	
Select All	⌘A
Hide Window	



## View

*Refresh* will scan all drives (remote and removable) connected to your computer to resume tracking files that were temporarily unavailable. You can select this menu item to immediately update the FlashBack window after you have mounted a disk. Alternatively, FlashBack will automatically scan every ten minutes for these files.

View
Refresh F5



## Help

The Help menu is a Windows convention that allows you to get additional information about FlashBack and how to use it.

You can also select *About FlashBack* from the Help menu. This displays a screen which contains information on the development team and your registration number.



## Apple

When FlashBack is the active application you can select *About FlashBack* from the Apple menu. Your registration number and information on the development team can be found in the window that appears.





# FlashBack Tips

This chapter contains tips and hints for using FlashBack as well as commonly asked questions and their answers.



## Windows

- If you use the right mouse button to click in the FlashBack window a contextual menu will be available.
- To get additional information on the settings, you can right-click while in the settings window to get contextual help.
- If you double-click an application in the FlashBack window, the application will launch.
- If you double-click a file in the FlashBack window, it will open.
- You can use the Find command in Windows Explorer to locate a set of files. Drag them from the Items found window to the FlashBack application window to track them. For example you find all documents made by a particular application and drag them right from the Find File window into the FlashBack window to track them.
- FlashBack can be a potential recovery tool. You can use FlashBack to recover files in case of a hard drive crash, disk problems, file corruption, or a virus.



**1. Open FlashBack. Depending on what has happened, you may see nothing in the FlashBack window.**

**2. Open the Archive folder.**

In Windows 3.1, the Archive folder, by default, is located in `C:\ALADDIN\FLASHBK`.

In Windows 95, the Archive folder, by default, is located in `C:\Program Files\Aladdin Systems\FlashBack`.

If you have changed the default setting for the location of the revision, go to the folder you specified. See the section on Advanced settings in chapter 4.

**3. Drag the files from the Archive folder into the FlashBack window.**

A new set of the files you were tracking and their revisions should appear in the window. You now have full access to all these files.

Some of the files may have a Warning icon in place of the file icon. This would indicate that the file is either on a removable or remote disk that is not currently available or the original file has been deleted. You can still access the revisions.



## Mac OS

- If you hold down the Command key while double-clicking on a file, it will open the folder in which that file resides. This is the same as the *Open Containing Folder* menu item on Windows.

- To store the revisions of a file in a folder other than the Preferences folder, move the “FlashBack Prefs folder” to the location you want to store it. Then create an alias to this folder and place it in the Preferences folder. The alias **must** have the exact name to be used (i.e. remove ‘*alias*’ from the name).

This can be especially helpful if you want to store your revisions on a disk other than your startup disk.

- You can use the Find command from the File menu to locate a set of files that you want to track. Then drag them from the Items Found window (under system 7.5.5 or later) to the FlashBack application window to track them. For example you find all documents made by a particular application and drag them right from the Items Found window into the FlashBack window to track them

## Questions & Answers

**Q:** Flashback does not save a revision of my document every time I save it. The document is in the Flashback window and I have set the *Save Trigger* setting to 'When document is modified and saved.' How can I get Flashback to save every time I do?

**A:** This situation can result when you change the default settings for Flashback. If you change the *Save Frequency* to anything greater than zero (00:00:00), Flashback will save only one revision during the clock time interval stated.

For example, changing the *Save Frequency* setting to one hour (00:01:00) will only allow FlashBack to save a revision of your document once every hour, regardless of how many times you actually "Save" the document.

In order to make Flashback save every time you do, set the *Save Frequency* to zero (00:00:00).

Also, be sure that FlashBack is actually open when you are working on a document.



**Q:** Flashback has created two or more revisions in the Flashback window with exactly the same date and time stamp (i.e. the same name). No matter which one I double click I can only see the oldest one. When I try to drag (or copy) them all to a folder, only one is created there and it is the oldest of the group. How can I see all of these revisions?

**A:** This situation can result when you save more than one revision during one minute and you have the *Save Frequency* set to zero (00:00:00).

In order to see all the revisions saved in the same minute as they actually were saved, you must drag (or copy) them one at a time into separate folders; one for each revision.

This is only a problem if you are recovering different revisions of the same document that FlashBack has saved within the same minute. This occurs because the files have the same name and thus cannot be located in the same folder.

# Index

---

## A

adding files	14
Advanced settings	26
auto launch	14

---

## B

buttons	
Delete	21
Help	21
Settings	21

---

## D

Delete button	21
double-clicking	20
drag and drop	17

---

## E

Edit menu	27
-----------	----

---

## F

File menu	27
files	
adding	14
removing	15

---

## H

hard disk requirements	3
------------------------	---

Help	
button	21
menu	28

---

## I

icons	
Trash	18
Warning	19
installation	4

---

## M

Maximum Number Saved setting	24
menu	
Apple	28
Edit	27
File	27
Help	28
View	27

---

## Q

Question & Answer	31
-------------------	----

---

## R

RAM requirements	3
registration	12
removing files	15
requirements	
hard disk	3
RAM	3
system	3
revisions	
accessing	17

## S

Save Frequency setting	25
Save Trigger setting	23
Settings	
Advanced	26
button	22
Maximum Number Saved	21
priority	22
Save Frequency	22
Save Trigger	23
status icons	18
suggestions	2
support	
phone number	2
email address	2
system requirements	3

---

## T

technical support	
phone number	2
email address	2
tips	29
Trash icon	18

---

## U

uninstallation	11
----------------	----

---

## V

View menu	27
-----------	----

---

## V

Warning icon	19
--------------	----

# Software License Agreement

This is a legal agreement between you and Aladdin Systems, Inc. covering your use of Aladdin FlashBack (the “Software”). Be sure to read the following agreement before using the Software. BY USING THE SOFTWARE (REGARDLESS IF YOU HAVE REGISTERED THE SOFTWARE OR NOT), YOU ARE AGREEING TO BE BOUND BY THE TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT. IF YOU DO NOT AGREE TO THE TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT, DO NOT USE THE SOFTWARE AND DESTROY ALL COPIES OF IT.

The Software is owned by Aladdin Systems and is protected by United States copyright laws and international treaty provisions. Therefore, you must treat the Software like any other copyrighted material (e.g. a book or musical recording). Paying the license fee allows you the right to use one copy of the Software on a single computer. You may not network the Software or otherwise use it or make it available for use on more than one computer at the same time. You may not rent or lease the Software, nor may you not modify, adapt, translate, reverse engineer, decompile, or disassemble the Software. If you violate any part of this agreement, your right to use this Software terminates automatically and you must then destroy all copies of this Software in your possession.

The Software and related documentation are provided “AS IS” and without warranty of any kind and Aladdin Systems expressly disclaims all other warranties, express or implied, including, but not limited to, the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. Under no circumstances shall Aladdin Systems be liable for any incidental, special or consequential damages that result from the use or inability to use the software or related documentation, even if Aladdin Systems has been advised of the possibility of such damages. In no event shall Aladdin Systems’ liability exceed the license fee paid, if any.

This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of California. If for any reason a court of competent jurisdiction finds any provision of this Agreement, or portion thereof, to be unenforceable, that provision of the Agreement shall be enforced to the maximum extent permissible so as to effect the intent of the parties, and the remainder of this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect.

The Software and documentation is provided with RESTRICTED RIGHTS. Use, duplication, or disclosure by the Government is subject to restrictions as set forth in subdivision (b)(3)(ii) of The Rights in Technical Data and Computer Software clause at 252.227-7013. Manufacturer is Aladdin Systems, Inc., 165 Westridge Drive, Watsonville, California 95076.

Aladdin Systems, Inc., 165 Westridge Dr., Watsonville, California, 95076, United States of America, (408) 761-6200 phone, (408) 761-6206 fax.

