

Myrmidon

User's Guide

Chapter 1

Introduction

Welcome

Thank you for purchasing Myrmidon. Let us know what you think of it!

Register Your Copy

Please send in your registration card. By registering your copy of Myrmidon you become eligible for free technical support and automatic notification of upgrades. We've even licked the stamp for you!

Overview—Simply Powerful Web Publishing

Whether you want to create pages for the Internet's World Wide Web, or make your existing documents Web-ready, Myrmidon makes the job laughably easy.

With Myrmidon installed, any application with a Print command becomes a Web publishing program. Whether you're using a word processor, database, or even a page layout you can create Web-compatible HTML documents on demand—just by clicking Print. No learning of HTML is necessary—Myrmidon does the work, leaving you to create content for the Internet in your favorite application.

How It Works

Myrmidon shows up in the Chooser, and you choose it the same way you would any printer. But when you “print” with Myrmidon, any number of interesting things may happen. Converting documents to HTML is just the beginning. You can also configure Myrmidon to perform a variety of customized tasks triggered by one click of the Print command.

Advanced Topics—Building Meta-Printers

Your publishing with Myrmidon need not be limited to the Web. Myrmidon also handles myriad other document-analysis and printing tasks. For example, with a single Print command, Myrmidon will print the first page of your letter on letterhead stationery, send the remaining pages to a different paper tray containing blank paper, and then (get this!) analyze the letter’s content and print out a perfectly formatted envelope complete with addressee and sender addresses.

Please see Chapter 2 for instructions on installing Myrmidon. Chapter 3 details converting documents into HTML format for the Web. If you are interested in using Myrmidon’s powerful set of plug-ins for print related tasks other than HTML conversion, please refer to the electronic documentation in the Myrmidon Extras folder on your hard disk.

System Requirements

You need to have System 7 to use Myrmidon. Myrmidon is compatible with all computers that run System 7, except for the Macintosh Plus, SE, Classic and the PowerBook 100. Myrmidon does not support QuickDraw GX, so you must disable QuickDraw GX when using Myrmidon.

Chapter 2

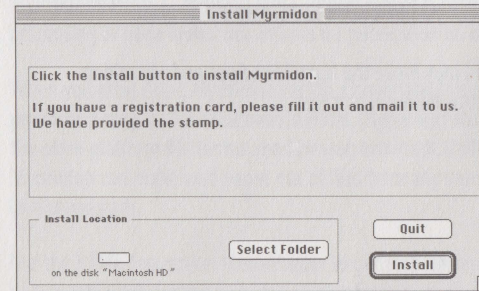
Installation

Installation Instructions



Insert the Myrmidon™ installation disk and double click the icon named *Install Myrmidon*.

The following dialog appears:



Click the Select Folder button if you want to choose a specific location to install the Myrmidon Apps folder. Otherwise, the Myrmidon Apps folder will be installed in the top level of your startup hard drive.

Click the Install button to proceed with the installation. Click the Quit button when installation is complete. If you are installing over an earlier version of Myrmidon, you must restart your computer before you can use Myrmidon again.

The installer places the following items on your hard disk:



Myrmidon Read Me

The Myrmidon Read Me file is placed on the desktop. Please double click it as it contains late-breaking information not included in the User's Guide.



Myrmidon



Myrmidon f

The Myrmidon Chooser Extension and the Myrmidon folder are placed in the Extensions folder inside your System Folder. In order for Myrmidon to work, these items should remain in the Extensions folder.



Myrmidon Apps



Myrmidon Extras

You may move the Myrmidon Apps and Myrmidon Extras folders if you wish.

Chapter 3

Converting Documents to Web Pages

Myrmidon's HTML Conversion Meta-Printer makes it easy to prepare word processing or page layout documents for publication on the World Wide Web.

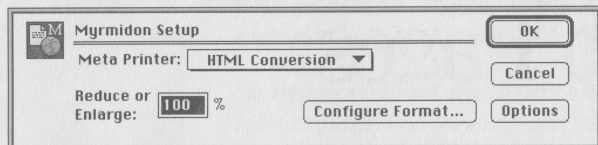
When you print using Myrmidon's HTML Conversion Meta-Printer, Myrmidon produces a copy of the document in HTML (HyperText Markup Language) format, the cross-platform file format read by web browsers. Unlike other converters, Myrmidon can make web pages out of files from any word processor or page layout program.

Use the HTML Conversion Meta-Printer to get your library of existing electronic documents ready for the web. Or use your favorite word processor to create web pages from scratch without giving a thought to HTML tags, then use Myrmidon to make them Web-compatible.

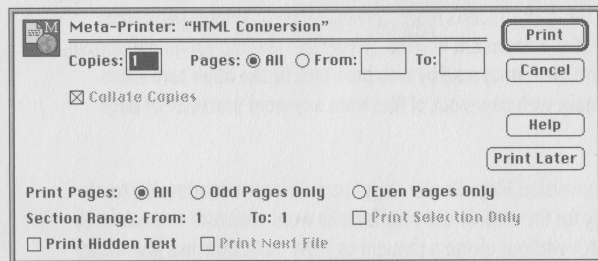
How to Convert a Document to HTML

To convert a document to HTML format, follow these steps:

1. Open the Chooser from the Apple menu and make sure Myrmidon is your current printer.
2. Choose Page Setup from the File menu of the application you are printing from. Myrmidon's Page Setup dialog appears:



3. Choose HTML Conversion from the Meta-Printer pop-up menu.
4. Click OK, then choose the Print command from the menu. A Print dialog appears:



5. Configure Print options as desired and click OK. Myrmidon processes the file and presents a standard file-selection dialog asking you where to save the new HTML file.

How Will it Look?

Myrmidon follows a number of user-configurable rules when it analyzes your document for conversion to HTML. Myrmidon compares your document against these rules and decides which parts of your document are supposed to be headings, and which to format as paragraphs, lists and tables. It also decides where to break lines and paragraphs, and how much emphasis to give different section headings.

Open your new HTML file in a web browser and see how it looks. Is there enough "white space" between the headings and paragraphs? Do the lines and paragraphs break in the right places? Do the lists and tables appear as Web-style lists and tables? Also, would you like your page to appear in certain colors, or do you need a linked table of contents at the top of the document? A set of configuration options determines how Myrmidon applies these various HTML features to your document.

If any elements of the HTML document do not appear as you wish, there are two things you can do to produce a better conversion. You can either change the rules Myrmidon goes by when it interprets your source document, or you can change your source document to fit the rules.

After using one or both of these techniques, you can run your document through Myrmidon again and check the results.

NOTE: HTML is a very simplified format that provides little typographic control. Myrmidon makes a best effort approximation of the original document's format, which is appropriate for most documents published on the Web. After all, what the viewers of your web pages see depends largely on their browser. If you are interested in exactly duplicating the layout of the printed page, try using Adobe's PDF format instead of HTML.

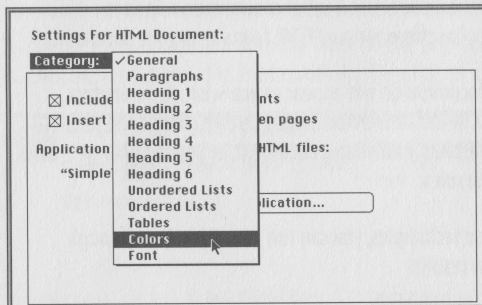
The next section explains the rules Myrmidon goes by when converting your document, and how you can amend them.

Conversion Options

Clicking the Configure Format button in the Page Setup dialog presents the HTML Configuration dialog box.

Configure Format...

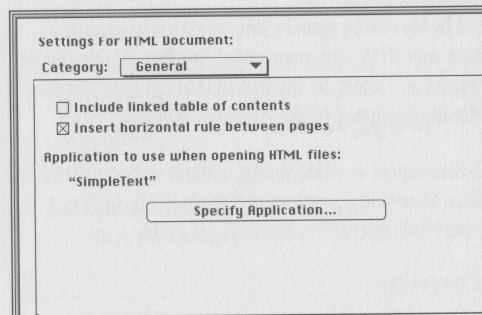
To change the way the HTML Conversion plug-in works, click the Configure Format button. The Configure Format button may also be clicked in the Page Setup dialog.



The HTML Configuration Dialog

Use the Category menu to select a category of preferences to view or configure. Use the Settings dialog boxes to tell Myrmidon how to distinguish among paragraphs, headings of different prominence, lists, and tables. The General, Colors and Font settings dialog boxes offer various options for customizing the look of your web documents.

General Settings



☒ Include linked table of contents

If **Include linked table of contents** is selected, Myrmidon will put a list of links to each detected heading at the top of the HTML document. This is a handy feature that lets you easily navigate to any section of the document. (See Heading Settings for details on what Myrmidon recognizes as a heading.)

☒ Insert horizontal rule between pages

If **Insert horizontal rule between pages** is selected, a horizontal separator line will appear at each page break.

Specify Application...

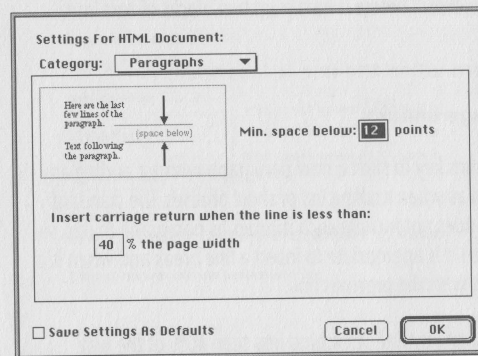
By default, HTML files converted by Myrmidon open in SimpleText when double clicked. To change the application your HTML documents open in when double clicked, click the *Specify Application* button and select an application that can read text files or HTML files (for example, Netscape Navigator, Adobe PageMill, or BBEdit).

When read as plain text, HTML files appear as HTML source, without styling or links and with visible HTML tags. When viewed in a program that reads HTML, such as a web browser, tags are hidden and HTML formatting and links are visible.

☐ Save Settings As Defaults

If Save Settings As Defaults is selected, the options set in the current Settings dialog will apply to all subsequently created Meta-Printers that use the HTML Converter Plug-In. If Save Settings As Defaults is cleared, the options will apply only to the current Meta-Printer.

Paragraph Settings



Paragraph marks, tabs and space characters are all invisible when you print a document, so Myrmidon relies instead on a set of rules to distinguish among headings, paragraphs, list items, table cells and so forth. In the Settings dialog boxes you can veto or rewrite many of the logical rules Myrmidon applies to your documents.

Min. space below: **12** points

By default, if Myrmidon sees at least 12 points of white space below a block of text that looks like a paragraph, it assumes that the paragraph ends with the white space. Accordingly, it does not join the next line of text with the previous paragraph, but leaves some white space in between.

You can type a number in the *Min. space below* field to specify the amount of white space Myrmidon needs to detect before it breaks up two blocks of text into separate paragraphs.

Insert carriage return when the line is less than:

40 % the page width

Sometimes a typist hits the Return key to start a new paragraph without adding any white space between lines, such as when making list of short phrases. The standard print data Myrmidon examines does not include such niceties as paragraph marks, so Myrmidon must determine when it is appropriate to insert a line break and when it is better to join a short line of text with the previous line.

By default, Myrmidon assumes that any line stretching less than 40% of the way across the page was typed that way intentionally. You may need to adjust this setting if you convert a document and find two lines joined that you want to keep separate. For example, let's say you wanted a web page to display the following text:

How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb
(That's the alternate title to my favorite movie.)

At the default setting, Myrmidon would see the second line spanning more than 40% of the page, and would assume that the two lines were meant to be joined like this:

How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (That's the
alternate title to my favorite movie.)

In this case, changing the setting to 75% would fix the problem, telling Myrmidon to leave the lines separate.

Heading Settings

Settings For HTML Document:

Category: **Heading 1**

Text above heading: (space above)

Heading font size

Text below heading: (space below)

Min. space above: **12** points

Min. font size: **24** points

Min. space below: **12** points

Heading text has the following styles:

☒ Bold ☐ Italic ☐ Underline ☐ Outline ☐ Shadow

☐ Insert horizontal rule before heading

☐ Save Settings As Defaults

HTML supports up to six different heading styles, with text identified as *Heading 1* displayed in the most prominent style. You don't get to choose what those styles are, of course—that's dependent on the platform and browser the document is viewed on. But you can define the styles in your source document you want Myrmidon to mark as *Heading 1*, *Heading 2* and so forth on down to *Heading 6*.

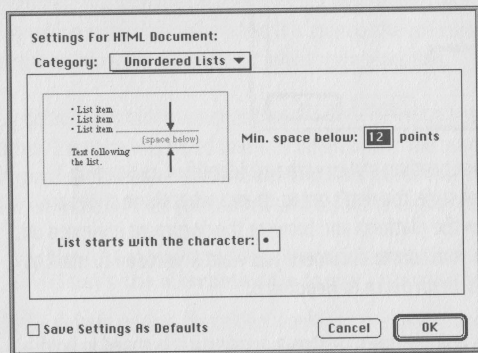
By default, Myrmidon identifies a single line of text as a *heading* if it is styled in bold and has 12 points of white space above and below it. If you are converting a document with more heavily styled headings of various sizes, you can tell Myrmidon how to tell them apart by selecting the matching check boxes for *Bold*, *Italic*, *Underline*, *Outline* and *Shadow* in each of the Heading Settings dialog boxes.

You may not want to use all of the headings available in HTML, as six heading styles are a lot. If you don't want to create a heading of a certain size, you can set the minimum font size for that heading to zero.

☐ Insert horizontal rule before heading

Selecting the *Insert horizontal rule before heading* option in a given Heading Settings dialog box places separator lines in your document above headings of that ordination.

Unordered Lists Settings



If a block of text:

- begins each line with the same character;
- and is separated from the next line of text by a certain amount of white space—

Myrmidon will treat it as an *unordered list*.

List starts with the character: •

It's up to the browser to add any indentation of the list, or add white space between the leading character and the list item text, but you can tell Myrmidon how to recognize an unordered list in your source document. Type the leading character your lists use into the *List starts with* field. Also, use the *Min. space below* field to specify the amount of white space (if any) that follows your lists.

White space between the leading character and the first letter of the list item is ignored, so your source document can contain as much or as little white space as you want between these text items.

Ordered Lists Settings

Settings For HTML Document:

Category: **Ordered Lists**

1. List item
2. List item
3. List item

↓ (space below)
Text following the list
↑

Min. space below: **12** points

List may start with:

- ☒ "A." (capital letter)
- ☒ "a." (lower case letter)
- ☒ "1." (number)
- ☒ "I." (capital roman numeral)
- ☒ "i." (lower case roman numeral)

☐ Save Settings As Defaults

A series of lines of text led by ordered numbers, letters or Roman numerals can be identified as an Ordered List. Clear the options for any of *capital letter*, *lower case letter*, *number*, *capital Roman numeral* or *lower case Roman numeral* if you do not want Myrmidon to consider lines beginning such leading characters as ordered list items. For example, if you have a paragraph that starts with a *number*, you will want to clear the number check box so Myrmidon will not make your paragraph into an ordered list.

Text following the last list item by at least the amount of white space specified in this dialog box will be separated from the list.

Tables

Settings For HTML Document:

Category: **Tables**

Min. space below: **12** points

Table must contain at least: **3** rows

50 % of the rows must contain more than one text item

Row and column headings are:

☒ Bold ☐ Italic ☐ Underline ☐ Outline ☐ Shadow

Border width: **1** points Table width: points

Cell spacing: points Cell padding: points

☐ Column widths match original table

☐ Put all text in a single row

☐ Save Settings As Defaults

When Myrmidon examines a block of text it first checks to see if it can be considered a table. If the text is not a table according to the rules defined by the user in the Table Settings dialog box, Myrmidon checks to see if it is a heading, then an unordered list, then an ordered list. If Myrmidon cannot fit the text into any of those categories as defined by the user, the text is treated as a paragraph.

A block of text that fits more than one category is likely to be treated as a table since that is the first category Myrmidon looks at. For this reason, it may be useful to adjust the settings in the Table Settings dialog box to restrict the definition of a table.

Myrmidon identifies tables by the number of columns a block of text appears to contain. Myrmidon sees two words or phrases on a line as belonging in separate columns if they are separated by two or more space characters (or the equivalent amount of white space in the form of tabs or other non-printing characters). For this reason, avoid using fully justified text in your source documents. The wide gaps that can separate words in fully justified text can cause Myrmidon to interpret the spaced out words as separate cells of a table.

If you find that a converted table has too many columns, there is a good chance that extra white space between words was the cause. Make sure that no more than one space character separates words except where you want to define a column.

Table must contain at least: rows

To specify a minimum number of rows needed before Myrmidon treats a text block as a table, type a number greater than or equal to 1 in the **Table must contain** field. Raising this number from the default setting of 3 is useful if you have a list which may look like a table to Myrmidon because of the horizontal spacing in the text.

% of the rows must contain more than one text item

Another way to narrow the definition of a table is to raise the percentage of rows which must contain at least two text items (columns). If you have a table with a lot of empty cells, you may need to lower the figure in this setting or else Myrmidon may not treat the text block as a table. But if you have a text block that has extra white space on a few lines and you don't want it to become a table, raising this percentage may keep Myrmidon from classifying the text as a table.

For example, ordered lists are particularly susceptible to looking like tables since extra white space is commonly used to separate the leading characters and the list items.

Row and column headings are:

☒ **Bold** ☐ *Italic* ☐ Underline ☐ **Outline**

Cells styled in Bold, Italic, Underline, Outline or Shadow text styles will be converted to HTML row or column headings if the corresponding check boxes are selected in the Table Settings dialog box. Most browsers display table headings in a bold style.

Border width: points Table width: points
Cell spacing: points Cell padding: points

☐ Column widths match original table

Unlike most of the settings in the HTML Meta-Printer Settings dialog boxes, the above settings do not describe attributes of the text in the source document. The width and padding settings actually determine the appearance of the table in the HTML document drawn by the browser.

- **Border width** refers to the width of the border that surrounds the entire table
- **Table width** determines the horizontal measurement of the entire table.
- **Cell spacing** refers to the width of the lines that separate each cell.
- **Cell padding** refers to the amount of empty space between the cell border and the text inside the cell.

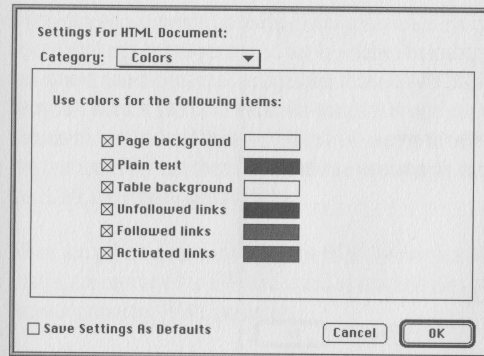
If *Column widths match the original table* is selected, the width of each column in the HTML document will be identical to that of the source document. If you select this option, remember that you cannot anticipate the font that will be used by the various browsers that display your document. Table data that fits snugly in your source document may not fit well when displayed in a table of the same width but with a different font.

☐ Convert multi-column text

This option is useful if you are converting a document with text in multiple columns. Multi-column text is always converted to a table by Myrmidon. If this option is not checked, every line of text will be in its own row. The resulting output is not very attractive. Checking this option will put all the text into a single row, thus duplicating the look of multi-column text. It will also insert an empty “gutter” column that separates the columns that contain text.

Multi-column text can contain headings, paragraphs, and lists—just like single-column text. The only thing that multi-column text cannot contain is a table.

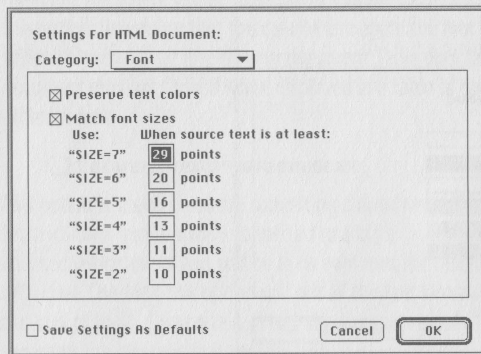
Colors



Colors picked in the Colors Settings dialog box determine the appearance of various elements of the HTML document, and do not affect Myrmidon's analysis of the source document. Myrmidon allows specification of the colors for *Page background*, *Text*, *Table background*, *Unfollowed links*, *Followed links*, and *Activated links*.

To specify a color for one of these elements, check the appropriate checkbox and click in the blank field to the right of it. Clicking the blank field opens, if installed, Apple's Color Picker.

Font



HTML supports coloring of text and up to seven different text point sizes. The Font panel allows you to match the color—and approximate the size—of the text in your source document.

The default settings in this panel will most closely match the size of the source text when viewed with the Netscape Navigator browser. You probably won't ever need to adjust the sizes in this panel, but you can if you want to.

Images

Myrmidon only converts bit mapped images, such as PICTs, JPEGs, TIFFs and GIFs. Screen captures or images copied out of Adobe Photoshop will work fine, but Myrmidon will ignore non-bit-mapped images like those drawn using Adobe Illustrator or Microsoft Word. If you have a non-bit-mapped image you want to add to your HTML document, a quick way to convert it to a bit map is to take a screen capture of it. The captured PICT can then be pasted into your source document before printing to the HTML Conversion Meta-Printer.

When you print a document using the HTML Conversion plug-in, embedded bit mapped images are converted to GIFs and saved as separate files in the same folder you specify for your converted HTML document.

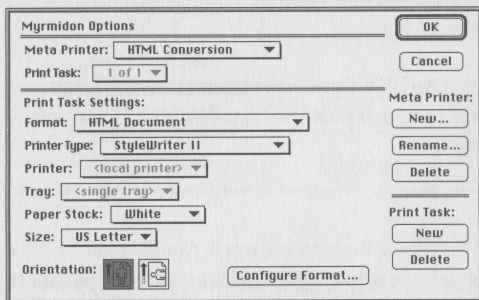
Viewing the HTML Document

To see what your converted documents will look like on the Web, open them up with a web browser. The easiest way to do this is to drag and drop your HTML file onto the browser application.

To see your HTML document as text complete with HTML tags, open it with a text editor, word processor, or HTML editor. Unlike other conversion programs, Myrmidon is designed to produce HTML source text which is easy to scan, read, and edit.

Saving Custom Configurations

You can store different HTML configuration settings for different document formats. To save a new configuration of the HTML Conversion Meta-Printer, click the Options button in the Page Setup dialog, and click the New button under the Meta-Printer headings. This will create a new configuration with default settings. You can then modify those default settings with the Configure Format button, which was described above.



real printer. When you create a new Meta-Printer that defines a new set of HTML configuration settings, you also must set the popup menus in the Options dialog to reflect the printing setup you are pretending to “print” your HTML document to. Any popup menu that contains the text “<selection required>” must be specified by you before the new HTML configuration settings may be used. After creating and naming a configuration file, click the Configure Format button and vary the settings from their default values as desired.

Details on using the settings in the Options dialog to perform tasks *other* than HTML conversion can be found in the readme document in the Myrmidon Extras folder on your hard disk.

The Myrmidon Options dialog also contains a variety of settings to control the way Myrmidon prints. Many of the settings, such as Printer Type and Paper Stock, might not seem to have anything to do with HTML. Don’t forget, however, that Myrmidon works by making your application think that it’s printing to a

Myrmidon

Myr•mi•don

A loyal follower who carries out commands without question



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