

TypeShuffler 1.0.4 for Mac OS

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Introduction

TypeShuffler is a drag and drop utility that allows you to change the file type and creator codes of files that are dropped on top of it. TypeShuffler provides you with a configurable database of creator codes so that you can easily change files to a common file type and creator.

Background

Each file in the Mac OS file system has two four-character codes associated with it. One is the creator code which identifies the application, control panel, or other system entity which created the file. The second is the file type which, as you might guess, is the actual type of the file, such as 'TEXT' for text files and 'PICT' for picture files. The Finder uses this information to display the proper icon for the file and to know which application to open if the file is double clicked on. Changing this information allows you to change this behavior. For example, you could change the creator code of a picture file so that it's opened by SimpleText instead of ClarisWorks.

Be careful. This can obviously lead to some problems if you change files to inappropriate types. For example, if you were to change a text file into a picture file, any application trying to open this "picture" file may crash because it would clearly be an invalid picture.

Features

You can drop any number of files onto the TypeShuffler application to change their file type and creator codes. In addition, you can also drop any number of folders containing files onto the application.

When TypeShuffler is first opened, it will display the file type and creator codes of the first file that it finds among the files that were dropped onto it. In the top right corner of the dialog you will also see the icon that is associated with the current file type and creator. This icon will be updated whenever the file type and creators codes are changed.

TypeShuffler can also make use of Internet Config for dropped files which are of a generic type or are text files, and have a file extension, such as ".SIT". It will ask Internet Config to find a corresponding file type and creator for the file extension in its file mappings. If found, TypeShuffler will display these values in its window.

To change the file type and / or creator codes of the dropped files, type the codes that you want into the appropriate edit fields in the dialog. You can also use the pop-up menus to change the file type and creator codes. The codes are changed only after the "OK" button is clicked.

Under Mac OS 8.0 and later, once the TypeShuffler window is open, you can drag files onto the open window to set the file type and creator code instead of using the pop-up menus.

The pop-up menu of file types comes from the desktop database of the computer. The desktop database stores information about applications, control panels, and other system entities which create files. If the "Mac OS Easy Open" control panel is installed, a brief description of the file type is used instead of just the plain four-character code values.

For versions of the Mac OS before Mac OS 8, you can use the "Refresh icons in Finder" check box to force the Finder to immediately update the icons of the files. Sometimes there will be a delay between the time the file information is updated and the Finder displays a new icon for the file. Turning on this option will force the Finder to update the icon immediately by changing the modification date of the folder containing the file. This feature is disabled under Mac OS 8 because it contains a modified version of the Finder which is more likely to update a file's icon and the check box has no effect.

Adding & Removing Creator Codes

The creator code pop-up menu is created from an internal database of creator codes. The first time you open TypeShuffler it creates this database and by default adds the creator codes for SimpleText and MoviePlayer.

You can add additional creator codes by typing in a new creator code into it's edit field and clicking the "Add" button. You can also hold down the command key and click the "Add..." button which will then allow you to select any file and add its creator code to the database.

To remove a creator code from TypeShuffler's database, select the creator code from the pop-up menu, hold down the option key, and then click the "Remove" button.

When you hold down the option key, the "Add" button temporarily changes to "Remove".

Changes Since 1.0.3

- Disable "Add" button if preferences file is locked.
- Look in application's folder for local version of preferences file.

Changes Since 1.0.2

- Added support for Internet Config.
- Fixed bug which prevented "Refresh icons in Finder" check box from properly displaying.

Changes Since 1.0.1

- Fixed crashing bug related to applications which can open a large number of files types.

Changes Since 1.0

- Hide "Refresh icons in Finder" check box under Mac OS 8 or later.
- Add MoviePlayer creator code on creation of database.
- Drag and drop support.
- Better selection of file type when opened with multiple documents.
- Always prompt for name of creator codes.
- Miscellaneous bug fixes.

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