

File Adopter 1.0 Manual

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1 Introduction

File Adopter uses your Internet Config preferences to add type and creator codes to files that lack them. Typeless files are common on Mac OS X, and are a source of numerous frustrations. For example:

- Files without these codes may not have the proper icon or open in the proper application under Mac OS 9.
- Many applications filter their **Open** dialogs by file type. If a file lacks a type, the application may not let you open it.
- Applications like Interarchy use file types to determine how to upload files. Incorrect or absent types can make them do the wrong thing.

2 Requirements and Installation

File Adopter has been developed and tested on Mac OS X 10.1.5. I do not have the resources to test it on older systems, although I suspect it will work fine on Mac OS X 10.1 or later.

To install, copy the File Adopter application to your hard disk, e.g. into `/Applications`. There's no need to copy this manual to your hard disk. A copy of it is built-into File Adopter, and you can access it by choosing File Adopter Help from the **Help** menu.

3 Using File Adopter

3.1 Adopting Files

Drag and drop files or folders onto the File Adopter icon. The files can be of mixed types, and File Adopter will ignore any files that already have type and creator codes. After it processes a file, File Adopter will show the file in its status window. A bold entry in the type or creator column indicates that File Adopter has changed that value.

If File Adopter's icon does not highlight when you try to drop files onto it, try holding down the Command and Option keys.

3.2 Orphaning Files

To orphan a file, that is remove its type and creator codes, hold down Shift when you drag and drop it onto File Adopter. This is useful if you know that the file has incorrect codes but that File Adopter cannot add the correct ones because they aren't in Internet Config. Deleting the codes causes Mac OS X to use its Launch Services database instead.

3.3 Revealing Files

Double-click a file or folder in the status window to reveal it in the Finder. You can select more than one item at a time by holding down Shift or Command when clicking. To reveal all the items when more than one are selected, hold down Shift and double-click.

3.4 Setting the Preferences

3.4.1 Add File Type Codes

Mark this checkbox to have File Adopter add type codes to files that have none.

3.4.2 Replace File Type Codes

Mark this checkbox to have File Adopter replace type codes that differ from those in the Internet Config database.

3.4.3 Add File Creator Codes

Mark this checkbox to have File Adopter add creator codes to files that have none.

3.4.4 Replace File Creator Codes

Mark this checkbox to have File Adopter replace creator codes that differ from those in the Internet Config database.

3.4.5 Ignore Package Contents

Some files on Mac OS X, such as applications, are stored as folders containing files that are not visible to the user. If this checkbox is marked, File Adopter will not adopt or orphan these hidden files.

3.4.6 Changing the Mappings

File Adopter uses Internet Config to map file extensions to type and creator codes. To edit this mapping, use the File Helpers panel of Internet Explorer's Preferences window. Note that you may have to quit Internet Explorer and File Adopter to make the changes take effect.

4 Contact Information

The File Adopter Web site is located at <http://www.c-command.com/file-adopter/>. Questions about File Adopter may be sent to <mailto:support@c-command.com>. I'm always looking to improve File Adopter, so please feel free to send any feature requests to that address.

To make sure that you have the latest version of File Adopter, you may wish to subscribe to the File Adopter Announcements mailing list. The traffic on this list is very low, only one message per new version of File Adopter. You may sign up using the form at <http://www.c-command.com/file-adopter/support.shtml>.

5 Version History

1.0—June 25, 2002

- First public release.

6 Legal Stuff

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