

DropDMG 3.3 Manual

C-Command Software
c-command.com

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1 Introduction

Disk images pack entire folders or disks into a single compressed file, either for transport across the Internet or simply for backup. They are Apple's preferred format for distributing Mac software. Disk images are also the only archive format whose contents you can directly access in the Finder, without the potentially slow and disk-consuming step of expanding the files into a folder.



DropDMG is the easiest way to create Mac OS X disk images, as well as cross-platform archives. Just drag and drop a folder or file and you're done. Or, you can drag an existing disk image or archive onto DropDMG to convert it to any of the other supported formats or to burn it to CD or DVD.

DropDMG supports advanced options such as encrypted and segmented disk images, background pictures and custom volume icons, and rich-text license agreements in multiple languages. There are many time-saving features such as configurations to keep track of your favorite combinations of settings. It can also be automated via AppleScript, the command-line, and Automator.

1.1 Feature List

The following is a partial list of DropDMG's features, so that you can quickly see what it can do and how it's unique:

Overview

- [Create](#) and [convert](#) disk images and archives with a simple drag and drop. There are also [many other](#) convenient ways to invoke DropDMG.
- DropDMG supports all the major [formats](#), including compressed `.dmg` files, `.sparsebundle` files, `.zip` and `.tar.gz` archives, and hybrid disk images. Zlib disk images and ZIP archives created by DropDMG are smaller than those created by Disk Utility and the Finder.
- [Configurations](#) let you reuse common collections of settings, and [temporary options](#) let you easily make one-off changes.
- Quickly [burn](#) files, folders, disk images, or Mac OS X installers to CD or DVD. Multi-session support lets you add files to an existing CD.

Delivering Software

- Create `.dmg` disk image files, Apple's recommended container format for deploying Mac OS X software.
- Design reusable [layouts](#) with Retina-optimized background images and pixel-perfect icon positioning. Add text boxes with custom fonts, styles, shadows, and variables.
- Apply a license agreement that Mac OS X will display before the user can install your software. [Licenses](#) support rich text and multiple languages.
- Automatically renders a [custom volume icon](#) that badges your application's icon onto the white disk image icon, with the proper 3D perspective.
- Automatically hide invisible files such as `.Trashes` and `.fsevents` that are at the root of the disk image so that they don't clutter the window even if the customer has used `AppleShowAllFiles` to make the Finder show invisible files.
- Make your disk images [Internet-enabled](#) so that Safari automatically expands them into a folder after download.
- Burn CDs and DVDs with background pictures and icon layouts that auto-open when the disc is inserted.
- Store your license agreements and layouts in [open formats](#) (RTF, XML) under version control.

Backups, Archival, and Cloning

- Disk images preserve Mac-specific metadata: resource forks, Finder labels, creation dates, ownership, extended attributes, etc.
- Save disk space and network transfer time by compressing your files. Choose faster or more efficient compression.
- Split large files or folders into multiple [segments](#) to burn them to optical discs or easily transfer them over a network.
- [Verify](#) the integrity of your backups and archives to ensure that the media is still intact and that you'll be able to restore them if needed.
- Create a device image that records the [exact contents of a data CD or DVD](#). You can then burn bootable backup copies of the disc, or double-click the disk image to access its contents as though the disc were still in your optical drive.
- In one step, create a [device image clone](#) of an entire hard drive, [optimized](#) for restoring using Apple Software Restore or Disk Utility. This is useful for backups and for setting up multiple computers in a lab.
- Optionally enter your [administrator password](#) so that DropDMG can back up all your files, with proper permissions and ownership, while unattended.

Encryption

- Encrypt files that you want to keep private. DropDMG's [encrypted, writable disk images](#) are safer than Apple's FileVault, but just as secure and searchable via Spotlight. [Compact](#) them to reclaim unused space.
- Create encrypted, compressed disk images to [securely transfer](#) files via e-mail, iDisk, or FTP or to store backups safely off-site.
- Choose from 128-bit and 256-bit AES [encryption](#), approved by the U.S. National Security Agency.
- Optionally store your passphrases in the Mac OS X keychain, so that you can quickly create and access encrypted disk images, without the hassle of double-typing or the risk of typos.
- [Mount](#) disk images at specific locations in the filesystem, so that your applications can keep their support files encrypted.

- [Change the passphrase](#) of existing encrypted disk images.
- [Mount](#) encrypted, segmented disk images without having to enter the passphrase separately for each segment.

Advanced

- Runs multiple operations simultaneously, so you that you can keep working while DropDMG processes in the background.
- Takes advantage of multiple processor cores for faster compression and encryption.
- Keeps a detailed [log](#) of all the successful operations as well as any errors, including statistics such as the throughput and how much space was saved using compression. New log entries are also reported via Notification Center and [Growl](#)¹.
- Fast disk image [mounting](#): turn off verification to quickly mount disk images, use shadow files, and mount encrypted disk images without having to re-type the passphrase for each segment.
- Get [detailed information](#) about your disk images: their formats, partitions, compression ratios, checksums, etc.
- Easily queue up bulk operations for [creating](#), [converting](#), [mounting](#), [verifying](#), [getting info](#), [burning](#), [joining](#), etc. If multiple encrypted disk images share a passphrase, you only need to enter it once.
- Make your favorite [destination](#) folders stay in the list of recent folders.
- [Process the names](#) of the output files to add the current date, add the version number of an application being imaged, or make the filename server-friendly.
- Automate via AppleScript, the [dropdmg command-line tool](#), and Automator.

2 Installing and Updating

2.1 Requirements

DropDMG requires Mac OS X 10.6.8 or later. DropDMG's Automator action requires Mac OS X 10.9 or later. For older versions of Mac OS X, [previous versions of DropDMG](#)² are available.

2.2 Installing DropDMG

1. Drag the DropDMG icon onto the **Applications** folder.
2. Double-click the **Applications** folder to open it.
3. Double-click the DropDMG icon to launch it.
4. Eject the DropDMG-3.3 icon.

The DropDMG commands in the **Services** menu will become available the next time you log in.

DropDMG includes an optional [dropdmg command-line tool](#). It can be installed as follows:

¹<http://growl.info>

²<http://c-command.com/dropdmg/support#older-versions>

If you downloaded DropDMG direct from C-Command

Go to the **Advanced** tab of the **Preferences** window and click the **Install “dropdmg” Tool** button. DropDMG will ask for an administrator password, as it needs to copy the `dropdmg` file to the protected `/usr/local/bin` or `/usr/bin` folder.

If you purchased DropDMG from Apple’s Mac App Store

Open the Terminal application. To install the command-line tool, enter these commands:

```
sudo mkdir -p /usr/local/bin/  
F=/Applications/DropDMG.app/Contents/Frameworks/DropDMGFramework.framework  
sudo ln -s "$F/Versions/A/dropdmg" /usr/local/bin/dropdmg
```

To install the manual, enter these commands:

```
sudo mkdir -p /usr/local/share/man/man1/  
F=/Applications/DropDMG.app/Contents/Frameworks/DropDMGFramework.framework  
sudo ln -s "$F/Resources/dropdmg.1" /usr/local/share/man/man1/dropdmg.1
```

2.3 Updating From a Previous Version

There are two ways to update to the latest version of DropDMG:

Automatic Updating

1. Launch your old version of DropDMG.
2. Normally, DropDMG will automatically check for updates and detect that a new version is available. If you had turned that feature off:
 - a) Choose **Software Update...** from the **DropDMG** menu.
 - b) Click the **Check Now** button.
3. Click the **Download & Install** button and follow the on-screen instructions.
4. The username and password for the automatic update are the ones for logging into your Mac. They’re not related to DropDMG. If you don’t know your password, you can [reset³ it⁴](#) or update DropDMG by following the “Manual Updating” instructions below.

Manual Updating

1. Go to the [DropDMG Web site⁵](#) and click the **Download** button.
2. Quit DropDMG.
3. Replace the old DropDMG application file with the new one. That is, if DropDMG is installed in the **Applications** folder, drag the new DropDMG application icon into the **Applications** folder and click **Replace** when the Finder asks if you want to overwrite the old version.

Note: If you get an error saying that the file is locked or you do not have sufficient privileges, drag the old DropDMG to the trash and empty it, and then drag the new one into the **Applications** folder.

³<http://support.apple.com/kb/HT6022>

⁴<http://support.apple.com/kb/HT1274>

⁵<http://c-command.com/dropdmg/>

4. Launch DropDMG.

Upgrades

DropDMG 3.3 is a paid upgrade for registered users of DropDMG 1.x and 2.x. Discounts and free updates are available depending on when you originally purchased DropDMG.

Mac App Store

If you purchased via the Mac App Store, you should update DropDMG using the **App Store** application.

2.4 Reinstalling a Fresh Copy

If your copy of DropDMG is damaged, you may need to download and install a fresh copy.

- If you are able to launch DropDMG, you can ask it to reinstall itself. To do this, follow the **Automatic Updating** instructions (in the [Updating From a Previous Version](#) section) but hold down the Option key when you click the **Check Now** button.
- If DropDMG won't launch, follow the **Manual Updating** instructions in the [Updating From a Previous Version](#) section.
- If you've uninstalled DropDMG, you can always get it back by going to the [DropDMG Web site](#)⁶ and clicking the **Download** button. After installing it, you can enter your **Serial Name** and **Serial Number** into the [Purchase...](#) window to take it out of trial mode. If you can't find your serial number, you can [look it up online](#)⁷.

2.5 Uninstalling DropDMG

Please Contact Us

If you are considering uninstalling DropDMG because you're having trouble using it or it doesn't seem to meet your needs, please contact us at dropdmg@c-command.com⁸. We're happy to help get you up and running and always looking for suggestions for how to improve DropDMG.

Removing DropDMG's Application Files

To uninstall DropDMG, drag the DropDMG.app file from your **Applications** folder to the trash.

You can uninstall the command-line tool and man page by typing these commands in Terminal:

```
# Mac OS X 10.11
sudo rm /usr/local/bin/dropdmg
sudo rm /usr/local/share/man/man1/dropdmg.1
```

⁶<http://c-command.com/dropdmg/>

⁷<http://c-command.com/sn>

⁸<mailto:dropdmg@c-command.com>

```
# Mac OS X 10.10 and earlier
sudo rm /usr/bin/dropdmg
sudo rm /usr/share/man/man1/dropdmg.1
```

Removing DropDMG's Data Files

DropDMG's data files are stored in the folder:

```
/Users/<username>/Library/Application Support/DropDMG/
```

To open the library folder, see the [How can I open the Library folder?](#) section.

If you remove these files, you will lose any configurations, layouts, and licenses that you created.

3 Using DropDMG

3.1 Basics

DropDMG automatically determines what you want it to do based on the files or folders that you give it. The goal is to create an output file that matches the [options](#) you've chosen in the preferences. For example, suppose you've set DropDMG to create compressed `.dmg` files:

- If you give DropDMG a folder, it will create a `.dmg` disk image whose contents are the contents of the folder.
- If you give DropDMG a volume, it will create a special [device image](#) (in `.dmg` format) that is an exact copy of the volume.
- If you give it a disk image file (e.g. `.dmg` or `.sparsebundle`), DropDMG will convert it into a `.dmg` disk image with the specified options.
- If you give it an archive file (e.g. `.zip` or `.tar.gz`), DropDMG will convert the archive into a `.dmg` disk image.
- If you give it a file such as `file.001`, DropDMG will look for `file.002`, `file.003`, etc. and join them into `file`.
- If you give it some other type of file, it will create a `.dmg` disk image whose contents are that file.

When given multiple files or folders, DropDMG creates a separate disk image or archive for each. To group multiple items into a single image or archive, move them into a new folder, and then drop it on DropDMG.

So how do you “give” DropDMG a file or folder to work with? There are many ways:

DropDMG Window

Drag and drop onto the [DropDMG window](#), or click the toolbar buttons. Control-click or right-click on an entry in DropDMG's log to operate on that output file.

Menu Bar

All of DropDMG's commands are available in [the File menu](#).

Dock Icon

Drag and drop onto the DropDMG icon in the Dock.

Finder Icon

Drag and drop onto the DropDMG application icon in your **Applications** folder. You can also add DropDMG's icon to the Finder's toolbar.

Services Menu

Select a file in the Finder (or [another file manager](#)⁹) and choose **DropDMG: Use Current Configuration** or **DropDMG: Ask for Options** from the **Services** menu in the applications menu.

Contextual Menu

The services menu commands are also available when you Control-click or right-click on a file.

Keyboard Shortcut

Use the **Keyboard** pane of System Preferences to assign a keyboard shortcut to **DropDMG: Use Current Configuration** or **DropDMG: Ask for Options**.

Automator

You can use [Automator](#)¹⁰ to create workflows incorporating DropDMG actions. Frequently used workflows can be accessed from a contextual menu in the Finder or saved as droplets. DropDMG includes a **Create Disk Image/Archive** action for making new images and archives, and also a **Expand Disk Image** action for converting a `.dmg` disk image back into a folder.

AppleScript

In [AppleScript Editor](#)¹¹, choose **File** > **Open Dictionary...** to see the scripting commands that DropDMG provides. [Example scripts](#)¹² are available to show how the commands work.

Command-line Tool

You can install the `dropdmg` [command-line tool](#) from the **Advanced** preferences. To see the available options, type `man dropdmg` in Terminal.

3.2 Making a Bootable Device Image of a Hard Drive

A *device image* is a special kind of disk image that is an exact, block-level copy of the source volume and its filesystem, including features such as hard links and compressed system files. You can use device images to:

- Create a complete backup of your Mac. Device images support compression, so you can make the most efficient use of your storage, perhaps keeping multiple full backups on the same drive. They also support encryption, so that you can store your backup off-site (thus protecting against fire, theft, etc.) without worrying about anyone else accessing your sensitive files.

⁹<http://www.cocoatech.com/pf.php>

¹⁰<http://www.macosxautomation.com/automator/>

¹¹<http://www.macosxautomation.com/applescript/>

¹²<http://c-command.com/scripts/dropdmg/>

- Create a reusable image of a Mac, with everything installed and configured the way you want, then clone it onto multiple Macs, e.g. in a computer lab, so that they are all set up identically.

Device images have several advantages over other formats:

- Device images are generally faster to create than non-device images containing the same files.
- You can back up a bootable hard drive, then restore the backup, and the restored drive will be bootable.
- You can restore a device image to a hard drive without any special software. Just boot from the Mac OS X installation DVD that came with your Mac and choose **Disk Utility** from the **Utilities** menu.
- Device images efficiently store linked files, so they're great for archiving old [Time Machine](#)¹³ backups.
- You can use DropDMG's [Verify Image...](#) command to check that the backup device is not damaged and that you'll be able to restore the files.

Since a device image is an exact copy of a drive, DropDMG has to make sure that the drive contents don't change while it's making the image. In order to do this, it unmounts the drive, copies the data, and then remounts the drive. The startup disk is always in use and thus cannot be unmounted. To create a device image of your startup disk there are several options:

- Boot your Mac from an external hard drive. (It's always a good idea to have a bootable backup drive, anyway.)
- Run DropDMG on another Mac and use [FireWire Target Disk Mode](#)¹⁴ to connect your Mac as a hard disk.
- Use a utility such as [SuperDuper](#)¹⁵ to clone your boot drive to backup drive, and then use DropDMG to create a device image of the backup drive. SuperDuper's Smart Update feature can quickly bring an on-site clone drive up-to-date. Then you can use DropDMG to create an encrypted device image of the clone for off-site storage.

To create a device image of a hard drive:

1. Go to the [Configurations](#) tab of DropDMG's [Preferences](#) window.
2. Select one of the compressed [.dmg formats](#).
3. For an encrypted backup, choose an [encryption](#) level and set a passphrase. Encryption is highly recommended if you will be storing your backup off-site.
4. (Optional) Make sure that [Optimize for restores](#) is checked. This can make backing up much slower, but it makes restoring faster.
5. Drag the hard drive onto the [DropDMG window](#) or use one of the other [methods](#).

The [Restoring Files and Disks](#) section describes how to restore your backup.

¹³<http://www.apple.com/macosx/what-is-macosx/time-machine.html>

¹⁴<http://support.apple.com/kb/ht1661>

¹⁵<http://www.shirt-pocket.com/SuperDuper/>

3.3 Backing Up Your Files to CD/DVD

By combining DropDMG's imaging and burning features, you can easily back up your files to CD-R/RW, DVD-R/RW, or Blu-ray. DropDMG will store the files efficiently on the discs, and you can optionally protect them using encryption.

1. Go to the [Configurations](#) tab of DropDMG's [Preferences](#) window and click the + button to make a new configuration. Set the options that you want to use for the backup. Probably you'll want one of the compressed [.dmg formats](#). For an encrypted backup, choose an [encryption](#) level and set a passphrase. Use the **Sizes** pop-down menu to set the size of the [segments](#) to match the discs you'll be using. If you will be backing up an entire disk, make sure that [Optimize for restores](#) is checked.

Note: Since you created a new configuration, you can skip this step next time; just make sure that the proper configuration is selected.

2. To back up a folder, drag it onto the [DropDMG window](#) or use one of the other [methods](#). DropDMG will create a [.dmg](#) and (if necessary) some [.dmgpart](#) files.
3. Use the [Burn...](#) command to burn the [.dmg](#) and [.dmgpart](#) files to disc, making sure that it's set to **Burn disk images as files**.
4. After the burning is complete, you can delete the [.dmg](#) and [.dmgpart](#) files.

This backup method has a variety of advantages over ultra-simple backup methods (e.g. Burn Folders in the Finder) and more specialized backup programs:

- Collecting the files onto a [.dmg](#) file is better than burning the files directly:
 - The [.dmg](#) file can be compressed (to save space) and encrypted (to keep your off-site backup private).
 - The [.dmg](#) file has an internal checksum. When you mount the disk image or use DropDMG's [Verify Image...](#) command, Mac OS X verifies that the backup disc is not damaged. This lets you ensure that your backup remains valid and that the files can be restored correctly.
 - You can easily backup large files that don't fit on a single CD or DVD because DropDMG will save them into disc-sized [.dmgpart](#) files.
 - All file ownership and permissions metadata is preserved.
- Backups created with DropDMG are stored in a standard Mac OS X format. The software needed to restore them is built into the operating system.
- The two-step process (creating the disk image files and then burning them) saves time. If you were using software such as Retrospect to back up a large folder, it would prompt you for discs as it copied the files. Then, when it was done, it would prompt you for all the discs again to verify them. During this time, you would not be able to modify the files in the folder, because the backup could be corrupted if you modified files that were in the midst of being copied. Thus, the amount of time that your Mac is "out of commission" is determined by the time it takes to do the burning and swap all the discs.

With DropDMG, the first step of creating the [.dmg](#) files can run unattended, while you're at lunch or sleeping. When you get back to your Mac, you can burn the files to disc at your leisure. Since the folder has already been "snapshotted" to the disk image, you can access and modify the folder while burning the discs. Furthermore, if you have multiple optical drives you can save time by burning multiple discs at a time. Since each disc is verified individually, right after it's burned, you don't have to swap the discs twice.

The [Restoring Files and Disks](#) section describes how to restore your backup.

3.4 Burning Backups of CDs/DVDs

You can use DropDMG to create exact copies of CDs, DVDs, and Blu-ray discs, for example:

- Your Mac OS X install discs.
- A bootable emergency CD for disk repair software such as [DiskWarrior](#)¹⁶ or [Drive Genius](#)¹⁷.
- Video discs that you've created. (In this case, use the `.cdr` format instead of the `.dmg` format.)

To do this:

1. Go to the [Configurations](#) tab of DropDMG's [Preferences](#) window and set DropDMG to create a read-only `.dmg` image.
2. Drag the CD or DVD icon onto the [DropDMG window](#) or use one of the other [methods](#). DropDMG; it will create a device image of the disc and save it as a `.dmg` file.
3. Eject the disc.
4. Use the [Burn...](#) command to burn the `.dmg` file, making sure that **Burn contents of disk images** is selected.
5. DropDMG will ask you to insert a blank disc; after doing so, click the **Burn** button.

Tip: DVDs are faster to access than CDs. If you burn a DVD copy of an emergency boot CD, your Mac will boot approximately 25% faster from the backup than from the original CD. This can be a savings of a couple minutes.

3.5 Restoring Files and Disks

Once you've [backed up](#) the contents of a hard disk or CD-ROM to a disk image, how can you restore the files?

If You Just Need to Access Specific Files

Double-click the `.dmg` file to mount it, then locate the files using the Finder. If a large disk image is split into multiple `.dmg` and `.dmgpart` files, move or copy them all into a single folder before trying to mount the `.dmg`.

If you have many `.dmg` files, you can use a utility such as [CDFinder](#)¹⁸ to catalog them so that you can easily find which `.dmg` contains the files that you're looking for.

To Restore an Entire Drive

¹⁶<http://www.alsoft.com/DiskWarrior/>

¹⁷http://www.prosofteng.com/products/drive_genius_info.php

¹⁸<http://www.cdfinder.de>

1. Open the Disk Utility program in the **Utilities** folder of the **Applications** folder.

You can also access Disk Utility by booting from your Mac OS X installation CD/DVD or [Lion recovery partition](#)¹⁹; that way, you can restore your drive without first having to install Mac OS X.

You can also restore disk images using the [asr](#) command-line tool.

2. Choose **Scan Image for Restore...** from Disk Utility's **Images** menu and select the disk image file. If you used DropDMG's [Optimize for restores](#) option when creating the backup, you can skip this step.

3. Select the target drive in the list at the left side of the main Disk Utility window.

Note: With Mac OS X 10.7 or later, the target drive must be at least as large as the source drive—the full capacity of the source drive, even if some of this is free space. This is because Disk Utility does an exact block copy, so everything has to line up (including free space). If your target drive is too small, you may be able to get around this by using DropDMG to convert your disk image to read-write format and then using Disk Utility's **Resize Image** command to make it smaller (by getting rid of the free space).

4. Click on the **Restore** tab. Drag the image file onto the **Source** field, and then drag the target disk from the list to the **Destination** field.
5. When you click the **Restore** button, Disk Utility will erase the target drive and replace its contents with an exact copy of the drive that the image was created from. If the original drive was bootable, the restored drive will be, too.

To Restore an Entire CD or DVD

Choose [Burn...](#) from the **File** menu and select the disk image file. Make sure that **Burn contents of disk images** is selected. This lets you create a copy of the original disc.

3.6 Making Images With Background Pictures

This section describes how to create a standard disk image for distributing a Mac application. The disk image will have a background picture, a single `.app` file, an **Applications** folder symlink for easy drag-installs, a volume icon, and a license agreement.

1. Click **Preferences** in the toolbar to open DropDMG's [Preferences](#) window.
2. To create the license agreement:
 - a) Click the **Licenses** button at the top of the **Preferences** window.
 - b) Click the **+** button to create a new license.
 - c) Click **New Language** to add a localization for the license.
 - d) Edit the text of the license.
3. To create the layout:
 - a) Click the **Layouts** button at the top of the **Preferences** window.

¹⁹<http://www.apple.com/macosx/recovery/>

- b) Click the + button to create a new layout.
 - c) Click the **Choose...** button and select your background picture file. It can be a PDF file, a 72dpi or 144dpi PNG or JPEG file, or a multi-resolution TIFF file.
 - d) If desired, add text boxes and adjust the icon and font sizes.
 - e) Click the **Application Placeholder** button (below **Add Icon...**, on the left) to add the icon for your application.
 - f) Click the **Application Folder** button (below **Add Icon...**, on the right) to add the **Applications** folder.
 - g) Drag the icons to position them the way you want.
4. To create the configuration:
- a) Click the **Configurations** button at the top of the **Preferences** window.
 - b) Click the + button to create a new configuration.
 - c) Select the disk image format (e.g. **.dmg** — **smallest file, slower**).
 - d) Use the pop-up menus to select the license and layout that you created.
 - e) Make sure that **Custom volume icon** is checked. This will make DropDMG render a mounted disk image icon based on the icon of your application. If you prefer to use your own icon file, click **Set Icon...**
5. The above steps only need to be done once. In the future, if you've used DropDMG for other tasks in the interim, just select the configuration from the pop-up menu to reload those settings.
6. To create the disk image, drag your application file onto the **DropDMG window** or use one of the other **methods**. DropDMG will create a **.dmg** file next to the application. You can optionally automate this step using the **dropdmg** command-line tool or AppleScript.

Multiple Files

If your disk image will have multiple files, not just an application (**.app**) and an **Applications** folder placeholder:

- In Step 3, you can position the additional icons by dragging and dropping the files into your layout or by clicking the **Add Icon...** button.
- In Step 6, instead of dragging your application file onto DropDMG, put the files in a folder and drag the folder onto DropDMG.

3.7 Protecting Your Files With Encryption

Apple's **FileVault**²⁰ encrypts your whole hard drive (Mac OS X 10.7) or home folder (Mac OS X 10.6 and earlier). This is overkill for many users, needlessly slowing access to files and increasing the risk of data corruption. Additionally, whole drive encryption does not secure your files from other user accounts on the same Mac.

DropDMG lets you use the same encryption technology to protect a select group of files from prying eyes. Each group of files is stored on an encrypted disk image. Each disk image can hold as many or as few files

²⁰<http://support.apple.com/kb/ht4790>

as you want and can have its own passphrase. The files will be secure if your hard drive is stolen or if you send the disk image across a network. The files will be searchable via Spotlight after you've entered the passphrase.

To create an encrypted disk image

Choose [New Blank Disk Image...](#) from the **File** menu. Set an encryption level and passphrase. A white volume icon will appear in the Finder. You can move existing files onto the disk image or create new ones there.

To lock your encrypted files

Click the eject button next to the white volume icon in the Finder's sidebar.

To access your encrypted files

Double-click the disk image file. Mac OS X will ask for the passphrase, and it can optionally remember it in the keychain. DropDMG's [Mount Image...](#) command provides additional options.

Tip: You can save time by creating a Login Item to make some encrypted files available whenever you log into your Mac. Choose **System Preferences...** from the Apple menu. Click on **Accounts**, and then select your account. Then click **Login Items**. Drag your `.dmg` file into the list. Now, whenever you log into your Mac, it will mount the disk image.

Tip: If you copied existing files to the encrypted disk image, you may want to remove any traces of the unencrypted files from your drive. To do this, put the originals in the trash and choose **Finder** > **Secure Empty Trash...** or use the **Erase Free Space...** button in Disk Utility.

3.8 Transferring Files Securely

You can use DropDMG to transfer files from one Mac to another, while protecting them from unauthorized access.

1. Put the files in a folder.
2. Go to the [Configurations](#) tab of DropDMG's [Preferences](#) window and set DropDMG to create a compressed `.dmg` image that's encrypted with a passphrase.
3. Drag your folder onto DropDMG. This will create an encrypted `.dmg` file.
4. You can then send this file via e-mail, upload it to an iDisk or FTP server, or transfer it physically (via a flash drive, hard disk, CD, etc.) without worrying about anyone accessing its contents.
5. An authorized person can access the files by double-clicking the `.dmg` file and entering the passphrase.

3.9 Sharing Licenses and Layouts

DropDMG automatically saves [configurations](#), [licenses](#), and [layouts](#) in its folder in **Application Support**. You may, however, wish to share your licenses and layouts with other users. This is especially useful if you want to keep them under a version control system such as [Subversion](#)²¹ or [Git](#)²².

²¹<http://subversion.tigris.org>

²²<http://git-scm.com>

Exporting

To export a configuration, drag it from the source list to the Finder. This will create a `.plist` file. If the configuration references any licenses or layouts, you will need to export them as described below.

To export a layout, drag it from the source list to the Finder. This will create a folder containing an `Info.plist`, the background image file, etc.

To export a license, drag it from the source list to the Finder. This will create a folder containing a `.plist` file and a `.rtf` file for each language.

Importing

To import a configuration, layout, or license, quit DropDMG and drag the exported file or folder into the corresponding DropDMG folder:

```
/Users/<username>/Library/Application Support/DropDMG/Configurations  
/Users/<username>/Library/Application Support/DropDMG/Layouts  
/Users/<username>/Library/Application Support/DropDMG/Licenses
```

To open the library folder, see the [How can I open the Library folder?](#) section.

Using From Scripts

When creating a disk image using the `dropdmg` [command-line tool](#), you can specify detached licenses or layouts using the `--license-folder` and `--layout-folder` parameters. The configuration options can be specified directly, without referencing an exported configuration file. Corresponding parameters are available for AppleScript.

3.10 Splitting a File or Folder Into Pieces

If you have a file or folder that's too large to easily transfer using removable storage or a network, you can use DropDMG to split it into several smaller pieces:

1. Set DropDMG's [configuration](#) to use a compressed `.dmg` [format](#).
2. Use the [Limit segments to -- MB](#) option to enter the maximum size for any piece.
3. Drag and drop the file or folder onto DropDMG. DropDMG will create files with names such as `file.dmg`, `file.002.dmgpart`, and `file.003.dmgpart`.
4. After you transfer all the pieces, make sure that they are in the same folder, then double-click the `.dmg` file to access the original file or folder.

4 Menus

4.1 The DropDMG Menu

4.1.1 About DropDMG

The **About DropDMG** window shows the credits, as well as download and support information.

You can always download the latest version of DropDMG from the [DropDMG Web site](#)²³.

Questions about DropDMG may be sent to dropdmg@c-command.com²⁴. We're always looking to improve DropDMG, so please feel free to send any feature requests to that address.

To make sure that you have the latest version of DropDMG, you can use the [Software Update...](#) command.

4.1.2 Software Update...

Checking for Updates

Click the **Check Now** button, and DropDMG will tell you whether a newer version is available for download. By default, DropDMG will automatically check for new versions each time it is launched and once per day. You can disable this feature by unchecking the **Check for updates automatically** checkbox.

Updating

If a new version is available, DropDMG will tell you what's new in that version. Click **Download** to have DropDMG download the `.dmg` file for the new version to your downloads folder. Click **Download & Install** to have it download the `.dmg` and then update the installed DropDMG application to the new version. For more information, please see [Updating From a Previous Version](#).

Installing a Fresh Copy

You can hold down the Option key when you click **Check Now** to make DropDMG always download the latest version, even if your version is already up-to-date. This is an easy way to download and re-install a fresh copy of DropDMG if your copy is damaged.

Privacy

To check for a new version, DropDMG contacts a Web server at `c-command.com` over a secure connection. DropDMG transmits the following information to the server: the name of the product (DropDMG) and its version, the version of Mac OS X, the kind of processor that the Mac has, whether DropDMG has been purchased, and the name of the current language. This information is used to guide future development. No personal information is transmitted.

Mac App Store

If you purchased DropDMG or EagleFiler via the Mac App Store, the **Software Update...** menu command

²³<http://c-command.com/dropdmg/>

²⁴<mailto:dropdmg@c-command.com>

is not present, and updates are available via the **App Store** application.

4.1.3 Purchase...

When you launch DropDMG for the first time, the **Purchase** window will automatically open. You can also open it by choosing **Purchase...** from the **DropDMG** menu.

Trial/Demo Period

DropDMG has a free trial. During the trial period, DropDMG is fully functional; the only difference in behavior is that it will periodically remind you that you are using the trial. To use DropDMG in trial mode, you can simply close the **Purchase** window.

The trial period lasts for 30 days. (After the 30 days, if you haven't had a chance to use DropDMG very much, you can continue using it for up to a total of 7 launches.) To use DropDMG beyond the trial period, you must purchase it. This entitles you to free updates and support.

Purchasing

Click the **Purchase Online** button to enter the [online store](#)²⁵.

After Purchasing

Soon after paying, you'll receive an e-mail with your serial number. Enter the name and serial number from the e-mail into the **Purchase** window and click **Personalize**. You do not have to "install the purchased version"; rather, DropDMG will then know that you have purchased and you can keep using it as before—with all the preferences that you had set and data that you had entered.

Reinstalling a Previous Purchase

If you need to re-install DropDMG, you can simply re-enter your **Serial Name** and **Serial Number** and click **Personalize**; there's no need to purchase again.

If you cannot find your serial number, click the **Look Up My Serial Number** button. This will open a form where you can enter your e-mail address and look up your order information.

License Information

A license for DropDMG is good for one person *or* one computer. This means that you can use it on your desktop Mac and your laptop, or you and your family can use it (in separate user accounts) on a shared Mac. If there are multiple users on multiple Macs, you should purchase multiple licenses. Discounts for packs of 2, 10, and 50 licenses are available above. A family (all living in the same household) can share a 2-user license. If you already have a single license, you can upgrade to a family license. To do this, purchase a new 2-user license, then e-mail your old and new order numbers to sales@c-command.com²⁶, and we'll refund the cost of the original license.

Upgrade Policy

All maintenance releases (1.0.1, 1.0.2, 1.6.1, etc.) and minor feature updates (1.1, 1.2, 1.5, etc.) are free. We

²⁵<http://c-command.com/store/>

²⁶<mailto:sales@c-command.com>

have a track record of many such updates, and they have included significant new features. Major upgrades (2.0, 3.0) are free if you purchased the previous version within the last six months. If you purchased longer ago than that, you get a 50% discount. (Note: The upgrade discounts are only available if you originally purchased direct from C-Command, since the Mac App Store does not support upgrades.)

Mac App Store

The **Purchase...** menu command is not present if you purchased via the [Mac App Store](#). In that case, there is no trial period, and licensing is based on your iTunes account rather than the number of people or computers.

4.1.4 Mac App Store

DropDMG is available from the [Mac App Store](#)²⁷ as well as [direct from C-Command](#)²⁸.

It's Your Choice

We're happy wherever you choose to purchase our software. The Mac App Store makes it very convenient to buy, download, and install, and you get updates via the store. The purchase is tied to your iTunes account. If you buy direct, you drag-and-drop to install and get updates via the application's [auto-updater](#) or the Web site. Either way, you can sign up for the [DropDMG News mailing list](#)²⁹ or the [DropDMG RSS feed](#)³⁰ to be notified about new versions and important product news.

Prices

Pricing is substantially the same, although there will be slight differences due to Apple's pricing tiers and currency conversions. All Mac App Store purchases are for single-user licenses. Purchasing direct, you can also buy family packs and get additional volume and educational discounts. Although you pay the same price, Apple's higher fees mean that direct purchases send 25+% more of your money to C-Command.

Trials

DropDMG has a fully-featured 30-day trial version that's available from the Web site. If you purchase direct, you can click a link in your order confirmation to enter your serial number and take it out of trial mode. If you purchase from the Mac App Store, you should first delete your trial version so that the store doesn't see DropDMG as already installed. Your preferences and user data will be seamlessly shared between both versions.

Updates and Upgrades

Our standard policy has been to provide customers lots of free minor updates and 50% discounts on major upgrades. The Mac App Store does not support upgrade pricing, and Apple [does not allow](#)³¹ upgrade pricing for cross-grades out of the Mac App Store, so we can only offer the discount if you originally purchased direct from C-Command.

Updates to DropDMG will be available from the Mac App Store sometime after they are available direct

²⁷<http://www.apple.com/osx/apps/app-store.html>

²⁸<http://c-command.com/store/>

²⁹<http://c-command.com/dropdmg/support>

³⁰<http://c-command.com/blog/category/dropdmg/feed>

³¹<http://www.omnigroup.com/blog/entry/update-no-upgrade-pricing-for-mac-app-store-purchases>

from C-Command. This delay is due to Apple's review process, which has historically taken [anywhere³² from³³](#) a few days to a few weeks. For example:

- Regular app review usually takes about a week.
- Mac OS X 10.9 introduced a [bug³⁴](#) that could prevent apps downloaded from the store from being signed (and, thus, launched). Therefore, we had to suspend submitting updates to Apple for several months in order to prevent customers from downloading updates that couldn't be launched.
- In [June 2015³⁵](#), there was a problem with Apple's server that was causing it to reject the EagleFiler archive that we uploaded, even though it was valid. It took a month for Apple to fix this.
- In [October 2015³⁶](#), it took 61 days for Apple to review an update.

Once an updated version of DropDMG is available, the Mac App Store does not let you download previous versions. This can make it impossible to reinstall DropDMG if you are using an older version of Mac OS X than the new version of DropDMG supports. With the direct version of DropDMG, you can always download previous versions for use with prior OS versions.

Transfers

If you purchase via the Mac App Store, the direct version will recognize your receipt from Apple. So (barring changes in the way Apple handles receipts) you'll always have the option of downloading the software yourself to get the full features and the latest updates. Apple, unfortunately, provides no way to transfer purchases in the other direction, for existing customers who would prefer to receive updates via the Mac App Store.

Feature Differences

We intend the Mac App Store and direct versions of DropDMG to be as similar as possible, however some differences are necessary in order to comply with the rules for Apple's store. Our first priority is to design the direct version as best we know how; it should not be limited by Mac App Store considerations. Secondly, if a feature cannot be accepted in the Mac App Store, we will try to adapt it or make it available in another way. This may not always be possible or practical, however. Additionally, the Mac App Store rules are subject to change, and so DropDMG will change with them. If it becomes impossible to deliver DropDMG through the Mac App Store with the level of features and quality that we consider essential, we may remove it from the store and only sell it directly.

Here are the current differences between the Mac App Store and direct versions:

- The direct version has a button in the preferences for installing the [Command-line tool](#) and man page. With the Mac App Store version, you can [install these manually via Terminal](#).
- Some files and folders have ownership or permissions such that DropDMG needs an administrator password to correctly copy them. The direct version will ask for the password as needed. The Mac App Store version will stop and report an error.
- The direct version has a checkbox in the preferences to [Always run with root access](#). This lets DropDMG run unattended and copy the aforementioned files without asking for your password each time. With the Mac App Store version, you can [enable this feature via Terminal](#).

³²<http://c-command.com/dropdmg/tweetnest/search?q=macreviewtime>

³³<http://c-command.com/eaglefiler/tweetnest/search?q=macreviewtime>

³⁴<http://furbo.org/2013/10/17/code-signing-and-mavericks/>

³⁵<http://c-command.com/blog/2015/06/02/eaglefiler-1-6-5/>

³⁶<http://c-command.com/blog/2015/09/29/eaglefiler-1-6-6/>

- The Mac App Store version defaults to **Ask Later** for the [destination](#) folder, rather than **Next to Source**.
- The Mac App Store version has a slightly different application icon.

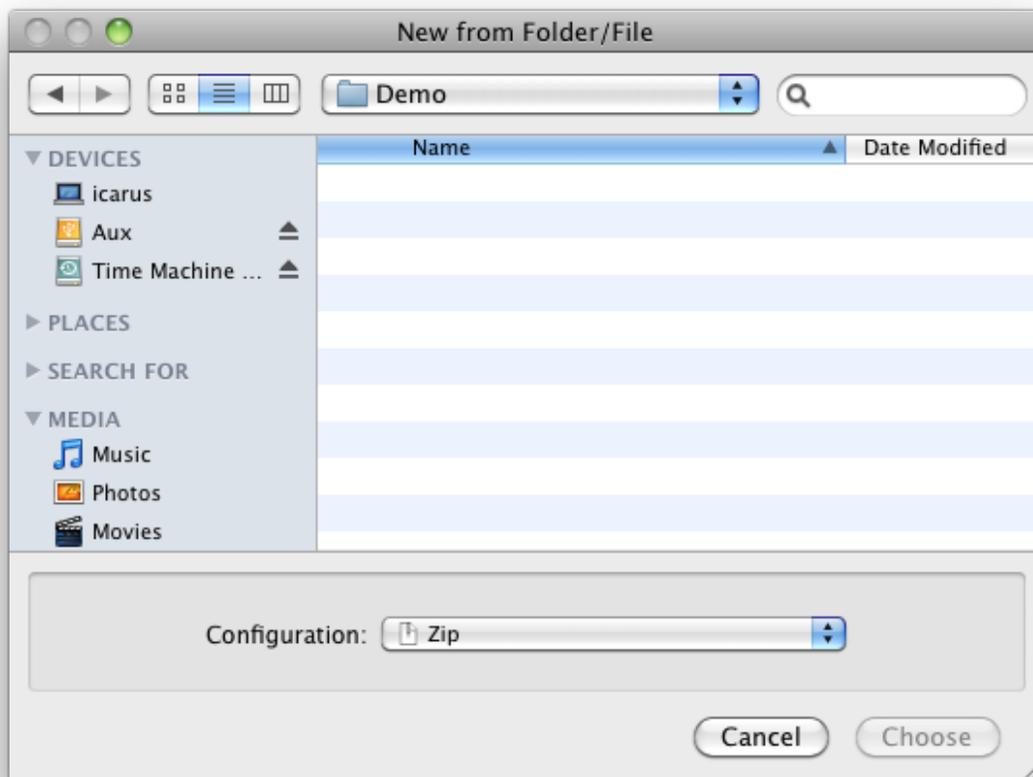
4.2 The File Menu

4.2.1 New from Folder/File...

When you choose **New from Folder/File...** from the **File** menu, DropDMG brings up a window where you can select a source file or folder. Hold down the Command or Shift key to select multiple source items. For each source item, DropDMG will create a new disk image or archive, using the options from the selected [configuration](#).

You can also choose a *volume* (e.g. a hard drive or optical disk) as the source for creating a disk image. In this case, DropDMG will create a special [device image](#) that is an exact copy of the source volume and its filesystem.

A shortcut for **New from Folder/File...** is to drag the source folder or file onto the [DropDMG window](#) or DropDMG's Dock icon.



4.2.2 New Blank Disk Image...

This creates an empty disk image with the specified format and size and mounts it in the Finder. The blank disk image acts as a virtual disk. Applications can directly read and write to files stored on the disk image, but the files disappear when you eject the disk image. Double-click the disk image file to make its contents accessible again.

By setting the disk image to be encrypted, your virtual disk can act as a mini FileVault. When using [FileVault](http://support.apple.com/kb/ht4790)³⁷, your entire drive (Mac OS X 10.7) or home folder (Mac OS X 10.6 and earlier) is encrypted. This is slow, makes your data more susceptible to corruption, and (on Mac OS X 10.6 and earlier) limits the ability to back up and recover files using [Time Machine](http://www.apple.com/macosx/what-is-macosx/time-machine.html)³⁸. Disk images created by DropDMG use the same encryption technology as FileVault, and they avoid FileVault's drawbacks by only encrypting the files that you choose.

Image Format

Blank disk images can be created in `.dmg`, `.sparseimage`, and `.sparsebundle` formats. For more information, see [Format](#) section.

³⁷<http://support.apple.com/kb/ht4790>

³⁸<http://www.apple.com/macosx/what-is-macosx/time-machine.html>

Encryption

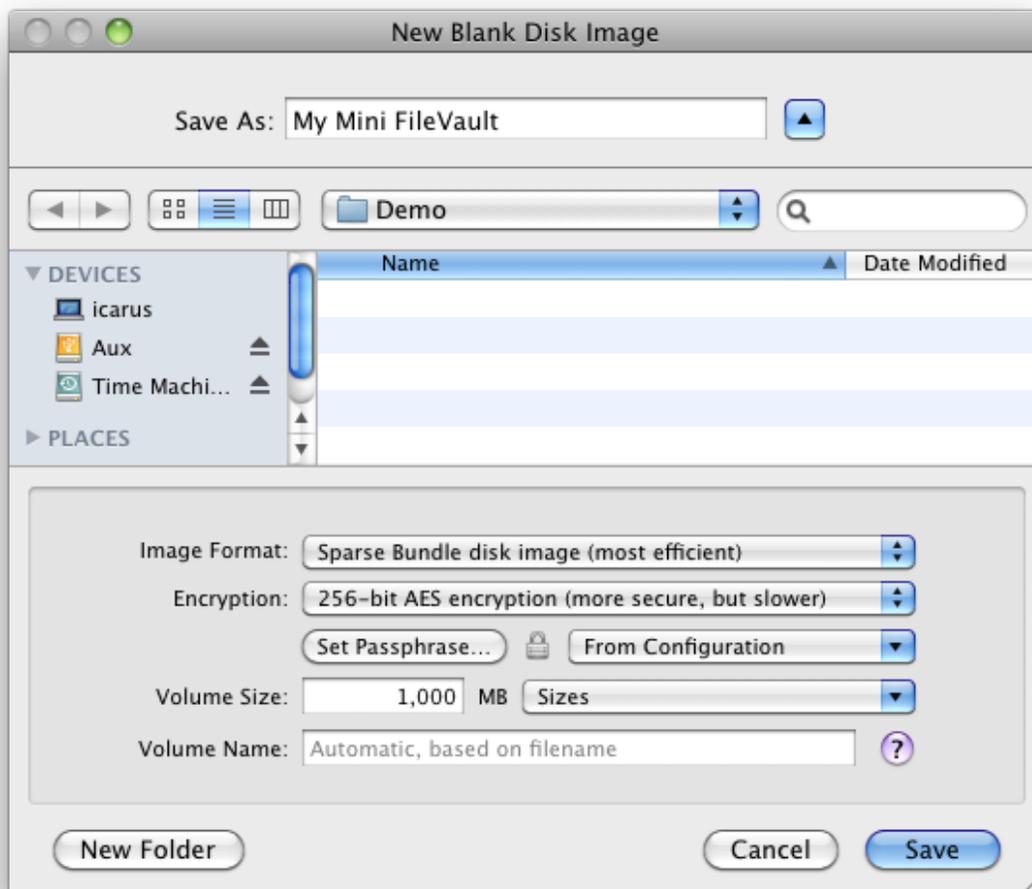
The encryption can be None, 128-bit AES, or 256-bit AES. For more information on the encryption types, see the [Encryption](#) section. You can use the **From Configuration** pop-down menu to quickly enter a passphrase saved in the keychain.

Volume Size

This is the maximum capacity of the blank disk image. For `.dmg` files, this is also how much space the disk image will take up. Sparse disk images will consume less disk space, depending on how much of the capacity you use.

Volume Name

The name of the virtual disk, as shown in the **Devices** section of the Finder's sidebar. This need not necessarily be the same as the name of the disk image file, which is set in the **Save As** field.



4.2.3 Convert Image/Archive...

When you choose **Convert Image/Archive...** from the **File** menu, DropDMG brings up a window where you can select a source disk image or archive. Hold down the Command or Shift key to select multiple source items. DropDMG will convert each source item into a new disk image or archive, using the options from the selected [configuration](#).

You can use **Convert Image/Archive...** to join a segmented disk image (a `.dmg` file and multiple `.dmgpart` files) into a single `.dmg` file. Select the desired format in the preferences, and make sure that **Limit segments to** is unchecked. Then tell DropDMG to convert the source `.dmg` file.

A shortcut for **Convert Image/Archive...** is to drag the source disk image or archive onto the [DropDMG window](#) or DropDMG's Dock icon.

4.2.4 Compact Image...

Sparse disk images, created for example using the [New Blank Disk Image...](#) command, grow in size when you add files to them. When you remove files from them and empty the trash, the space is available for adding more files, but it is still “reserved” for use by the disk image. Thus, the size of the disk image file does not automatically decrease. The **Compact Image...** command lets you reclaim the unused space, thus shrinking the disk image file.

Depending on how fragmented the contents of the sparse disk image are, it may not be possible to reclaim all of the unused space. (It may help to use a defragmentation utility such as [iDefrag](#)³⁹ or [Drive Genius](#)⁴⁰.) To shrink your sparse disk image to the minimum possible size, use the [Convert Image/Archive...](#) command to create a fresh file.

You can hold down the Command or Shift key to select multiple files for compacting.

4.2.5 Change Image Passphrase...

This command lets you change the passphrase of an encrypted disk image. This is a fast operation that does not require copying the whole file or use lots of temporary disk space. To change the passphrase *and* the format, use the [Convert Image/Archive...](#) command.

On Mac OS X 10.10, DropDMG will first prompt for the new passphrase, and then the system will prompt for the old one. On earlier versions of Mac OS X, the system will first prompt for the old passphrase and then the new one.

When choosing the file, you can hold down the Command or Shift key to change the passphrases of multiple images at once.

³⁹<http://www.coriolis-systems.com/iDefrag.php>

⁴⁰<http://www.prosofteng.com/products/drive.genius.php>

4.2.6 Get Image Info...

This command lets you get information about a disk image, such as its format, information about its partitions, how much data it contains, and the effectiveness of the compression.

You can hold down the Command or Shift key to get information about multiple disk images at once. The **Enter Passphrase...** button lets you specify the passphrase for reading an encrypted disk image. The **From Configuration** pop-down menu lets you use a passphrase that's stored in your keychain as part of a [configuration](#).

▼ Backing Store Information	
▼ Backing Store Information	
Class Name	CBSDBackingStore
Name	SpamSieve-2.8.2.dmg
URL	file://localhost/Users/mjt/Documents/Program...
Class Name	CUDIFEncoding
Name	SpamSieve-2.8.2.dmg
URL	file://localhost/Users/mjt/Documents/Program...
Checksum Type	CRC32
Checksum Value	\$95DD7642
Class Name	CUDIFDiskImage
Format	UDZO
Format Description	UDIF read-only compressed (zlib)
► Partition Information	
► partitions	
▼ Properties	
Checksummed	1
Compressed	1
Encrypted	0
Kernel Compatible	1
Partitioned	1
Software License Agreement	0
► Segments	
▼ Size Information	
Compressed Bytes	7,291,650
Compressed Ratio	0.40
CUDIFEncoding-bytes-in-use	7,291,650
CUDIFEncoding-bytes-total	7,291,650
CUDIFEncoding-bytes-wasted	0
Sector Count	59,370
Total Bytes	30,397,440
Total Empty Bytes	12,059,136
Total Non-Empty Bytes	18,338,304
udif-ordered-chunks	1

4.2.7 Mount Image...

The most straightforward way to mount a disk image is to double-click it. This works on any Mac OS X installation, even if DropDMG isn't installed.

DropDMG also provides the **Mount Image...** command in the **File** menu, for additional options and convenience.

Verify

Verification ensures that the contents of the disk image are intact, i.e. the file is not damaged. You can turn off verification to reduce the time it takes to mount the disk image. For more information on verification, see the [Verify Image...](#) section.

Enable file ownership

When you mount an image by double-clicking it, Mac OS X treats every file on the mounted image as though it were owned by you (the current user). When you mount an image using this option, the files are displayed with their actual owners, as stored on the disk image. Thus, if you use DropDMG to back up a collection of files whose ownership matters, you should also use DropDMG to mount the image when you restore from that backup.

Shadow file

This option lets you mount a read-only disk image as read-write. Any changes that you make are written to a `.shadow` file so that the original disk image file remains unchanged. One use for this feature is if you need to use Spotlight to search a read-only disk image. Spotlight requires write access (even if its index is already up-to-date), but it will work if you mount the disk image using a shadow file. To make a new disk image file that incorporates the changes from the shadow file, drag the mounted disk image onto DropDMG.

Passphrase

When you double-click an encrypted disk image, Mac OS X prompts you for the passphrase. DropDMG lets you avoid this step, which is particularly handy when bulk-mounting images with the same passphrase or when mounting segmented disk images. The **Enter Passphrase...** button lets you specify the passphrase for mounting the disk image. The **From Configuration** pop-down menu lets you use a passphrase that's stored in your keychain as part of a [configuration](#).

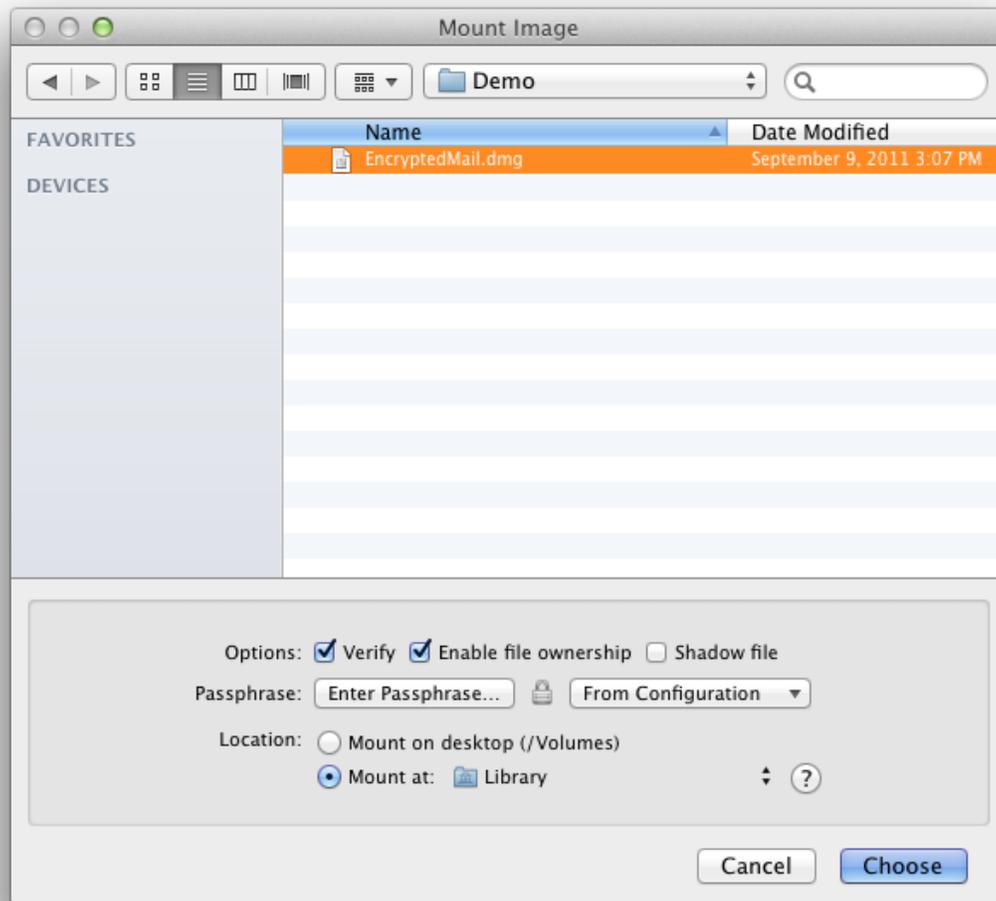
Location

Normally, disk images are mounted on the desktop. You can also specify some other location in your local filesystem. This is useful when another application looks for files in a particular folder. For example, say that you want to encrypt your mail. You could create a [New Blank Disk Image...](#) and then mount it at `/Users/<username>/Library/Mail/`, and then Apple Mail will store its files on that disk image.

One advantage of using DropDMG's **Mount Image...** command, rather than double-clicking a disk image in the Finder, is that DropDMG only makes you enter the passphrase for an encrypted, segmented disk image once. The Finder requires that you type the passphrase once *for each segment* or that you store the passphrase in the keychain, which you might not want to do.

Additionally, DropDMG's **Mount Image...** command will skip the display of any software license agreements.

You can hold down the Command or Shift key to mount multiple disk images at once using the same options.



4.2.8 Verify Image...

This command lets you verify that a disk image file is in working order (i.e. that it is not damaged) before it becomes a serious problem. You can tell DropDMG to verify a folder, and it will find all the disk images in that folder (and its subfolders) and verify them.

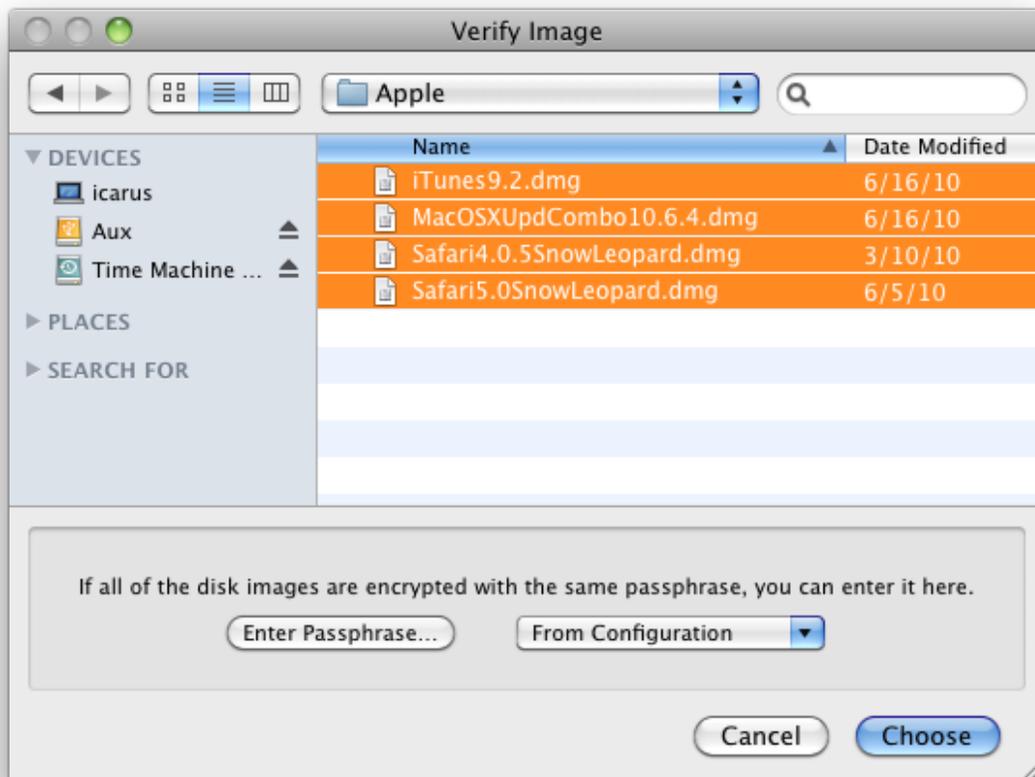
For example, if there is damage to your disk image and a file becomes corrupt, you'll learn of the problem as soon as you use the **Verify Image...** command. Without **Verify Image...**, you might only learn of the problem when you tried to access the damaged file on the disk image (perhaps a long time in the future), and perhaps not even then, because the corruption might not be readily apparent. Because you learn about the damage early, you can restore a correct version of the file from a backup, rather than filling your future backups with damaged copies of the file.

The verification works by reading the entire contents of the disk image and calculating a checksum. This is then compared with the checksum that was stored in the disk image when it was first created. Because

modifying the contents of a disk image would invalidate the checksum, only disk images in read-only formats can be verified.

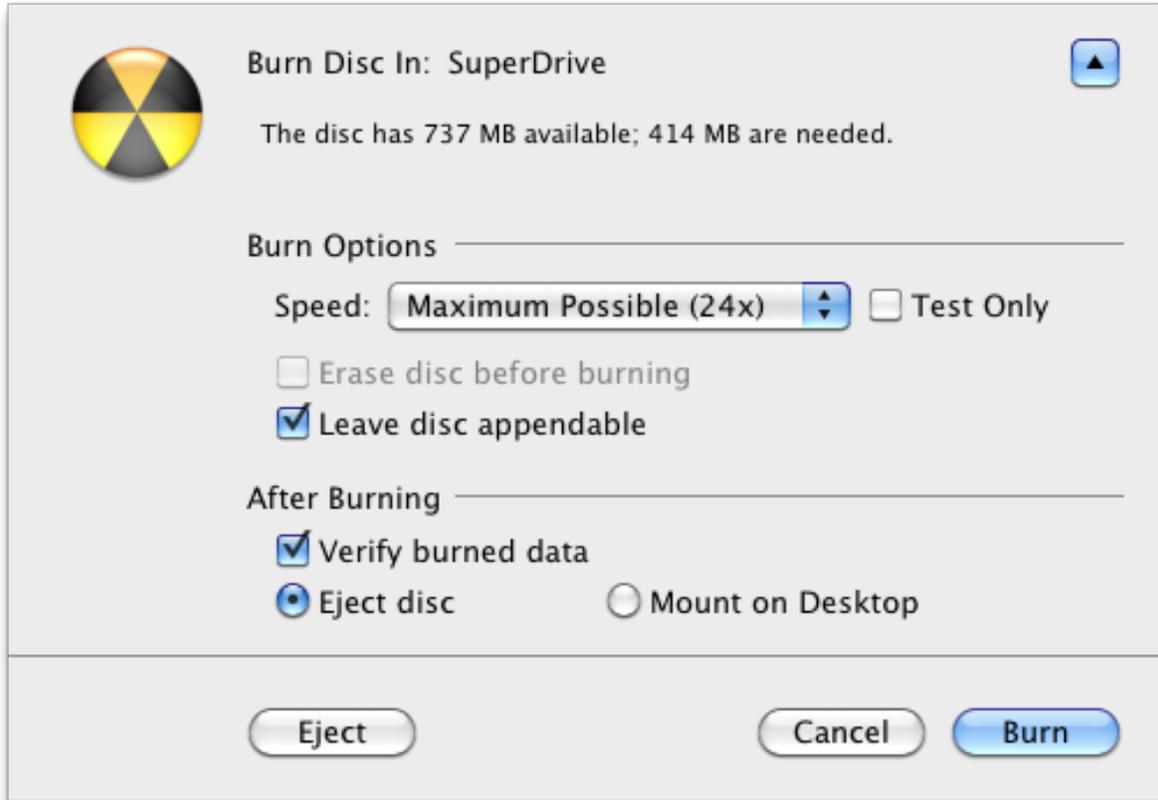
You can hold down the Command or Shift key to verify multiple disk images at once. The **Enter Passphrase...** button lets you specify the passphrase for accessing encrypted disk images. The **From Configuration** pop-down menu lets you use a passphrase that's stored in your keychain as part of a [configuration](#).

A shortcut for **Verify Image...** is to drag the source disk image onto the [DropDMG window](#) or DropDMG's Dock icon while holding down the Control key.



4.2.9 Burn...

This command lets you burn files and folders to CD, DVD, or Blu-ray. This requires an internal or external drive that supports Mac OS X disc burning. You can continue to use DropDMG to create other disk images or archives while a disc is burning, and if you have multiple optical drives you can even burn more than one disc at a time.



When you choose to burn a disk image file (rather than a regular file or a folder), you have two options:

Burn contents of disk images

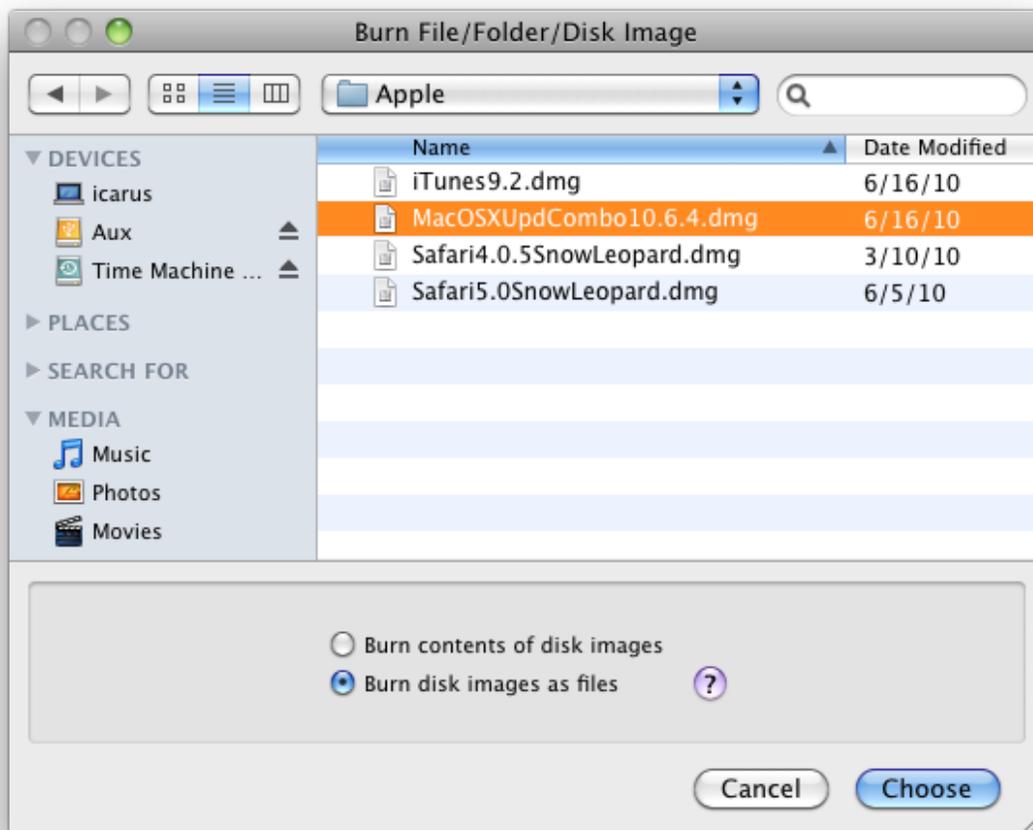
This makes the contents of the burned disc look like the contents of the disk image. The volume name of the mounted disk image becomes the name of the disc. If the disk image is a device image that contains multiple partitions, then the burned disc will have multiple partitions. This is useful when:

- You want the burned disc to contain the contents of the disk image, not the disk image file itself. The contents of the burned disc will *not* be compressed or encrypted.
- The disk image is segmented, and you want to join the segments and burn them onto a single disc.

Burn disk images as files

This burns a disc whose content is the single disk image file. The name of the disc is the file's name, without the extension. This is useful when:

- You want the burned disc to contain a single file, the disk image. If the disk image file was compressed or encrypted, so will be the burned file.
- The disk image is segmented, and you want to burn each segment to a different disc.



Keyboard Shortcuts

As a shortcut to choosing **Burn...** from the **File** menu, you can hold down the Shift key while dragging and dropping a folder onto the [DropDMG window](#) or DropDMG's Dock icon. If you want to burn an disk images as files, hold down the Shift *and* Option keys.

Command-line

You can also initiate burns from Terminal:

```
dropdmg --burn-image ~/Desktop/Image.dmg  
dropdmg --burn-file ~/Desktop/Folder
```

Appending to CDs

When burning a CD, check the **Leave disc appendable** box after inserting the blank disc. DropDMG will leave the disc “open” after burning so that you can burn additional files to the same disc under a new session, space permitting.

Custom Disc Icons

To burn a disc with a custom volume icon, see [Burning a CD or DVD-ROM With a Custom Icon](#).

4.2.10 Create OS X Install Disk

Once you've downloaded the Mac OS X installer from the Mac App Store, this command helps you to create an installation disk. This makes it possible to re-install OS X, install it in a virtual machine, or to install it on a different Mac without having to download it again. Additionally, if there are problems with a Mac's hard drive, you may not be able to boot it and access the installer or recovery partition, but you will still be able to reinstall from the install disk that you create here. You can also use it as an emergency disk to boot a Mac and repair or reformat its hard drive, or to restore from a Time Machine backup.

It is recommended that you create your install disk *before* running the OS X installer, as the installer may delete itself (which would require you to download it again).

Preparing the Install Disk

- To create an install disk using a spare hard drive, USB flash drive, or SD card, connect or insert the disk and use the Finder to rename it to **Installer**. This disk will be completely erased and replaced by the Mac OS X installer.
- You can also create an install disk image, for use with virtualization software or for later [restoration](#) to a disk. Use DropDMG's [New Blank Disk Image...](#) command to create a disk image in **Sparse Bundle** format with a **DVD+R DL** volume size. The name of the blank disk image should be **Installer.sparsebundle**. After using `createinstallmedia` below, you can optionally [convert](#) the sparse bundle to a compressed disk image format.

Then follow the instructions below for the version of Mac OS X that are you are installing:

El Capitan (10.11)

1. From the Finder's **Go** menu, choose **Utilities**, then open the Terminal application.
2. Copy and paste these two commands into Terminal and press Return.

```
cd /Applications/Install\ OS\ X\ El\ Capitan.app/Contents/Resources/  
sudo ./createinstallmedia --volume /Volumes/Installer/ --applicationpath ../../ --nointeraction
```

3. Enter your Mac OS X admin password.

Yosemite (10.10)

1. From the Finder's **Go** menu, choose **Utilities**, then open the Terminal application.
2. Copy and paste these two commands into Terminal and press Return.

```
cd /Applications/Install\ OS\ X\ Yosemite.app/Contents/Resources/  
sudo ./createinstallmedia --volume /Volumes/Installer/ --applicationpath ../../
```

3. Enter your Mac OS X admin password. You may also need to type **Y** to confirm that you want to erase the disk.

Mavericks (10.9)

2. From the Finder's **Go** menu, choose **Utilities**, then open the Terminal application.
3. Copy and paste these two commands into Terminal and press Return.

```
cd /Applications/Install\ OS\ X\ Mavericks.app/Contents/Resources/  
sudo ./createinstallmedia --volume /Volumes/Installer/ --applicationpath ../../
```

4. Enter your Mac OS X admin password. You may also need to type **Y** to confirm that you want to erase the disk.

Mountain Lion or Lion

If you purchased Mac OS X 10.7 or 10.8 from the Mac App Store, DropDMG will help you burn an OS X install DVD. A dual-layer DVD (a.k.a. DVD+R DL) is required.

4.2.11 Join Files...

Sometimes a large file is split into smaller pieces for easier transfer over the Internet or multiple CDs/DVDs. This command lets you combine `file.001`, `file.002`, `file.003`, etc. back into a single `file` file, provided that all the pieces are in the same folder.

This command is only for use with files created by other software that are named in the above manner. DropDMG's [segments](#) feature creates files such as `file.dmg`, `file.002.dmgpart`, `file.003.dmgpart`, etc. A segmented disk image can be accessed by double-clicking the `.dmg` file; it is not necessary to first join the part files. If you do need to combine a segmented disk image and its parts into a single `.dmg` file, use the [Convert Image/Archive...](#) feature.

As a shortcut for **Join Files...**, you can drag the `.001` file onto the [DropDMG window](#) or DropDMG's Dock icon.

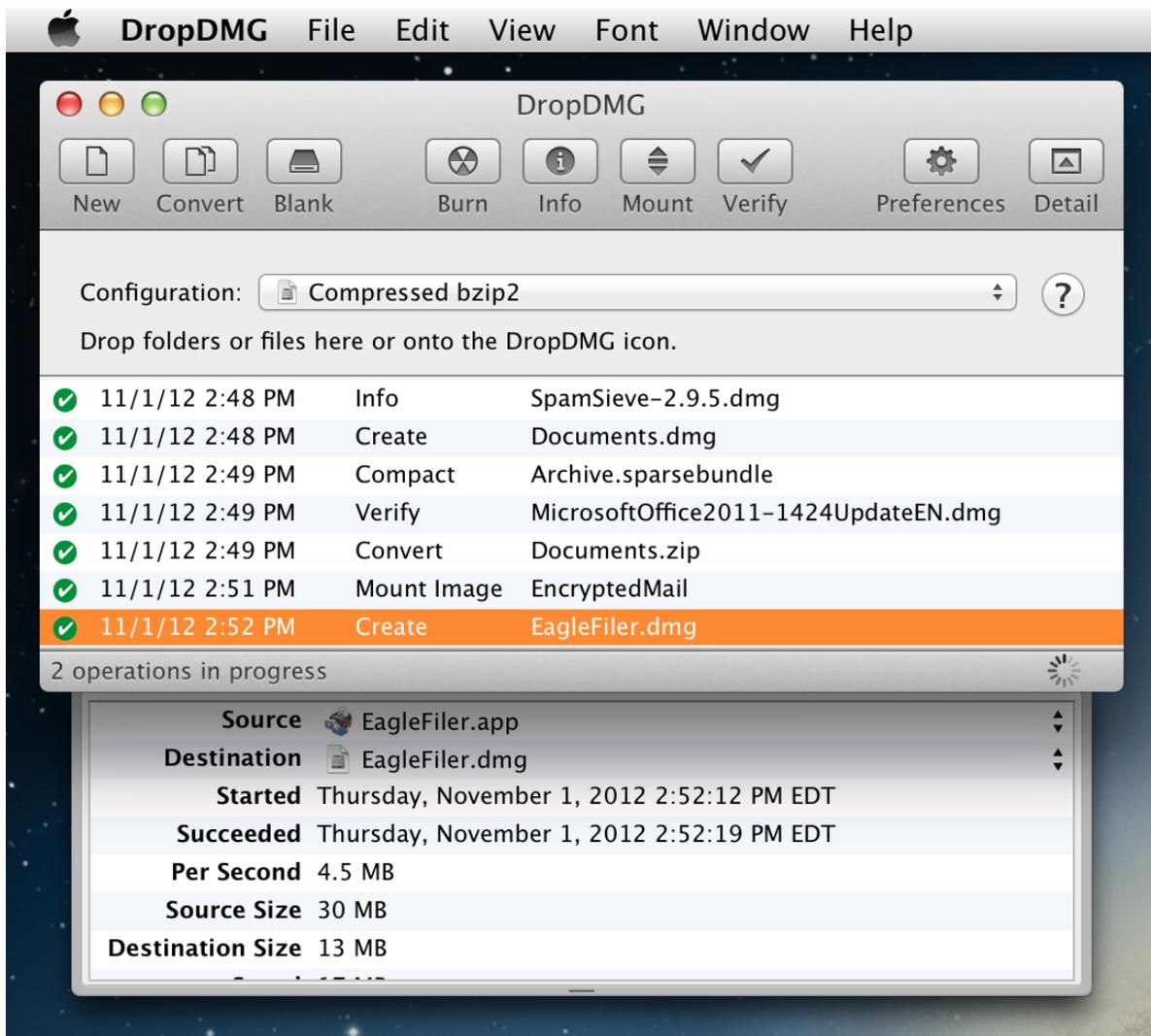
4.3 The View Menu

4.3.1 Log Detail

The **Show/Hide Log Detail** commands control whether the log detail drawer of the [DropDMG window](#) is open. The drawer shows additional information about the selected log entry, such as what the source and destination files were, how fast the data was copied, how much disk space was saved, and error information.

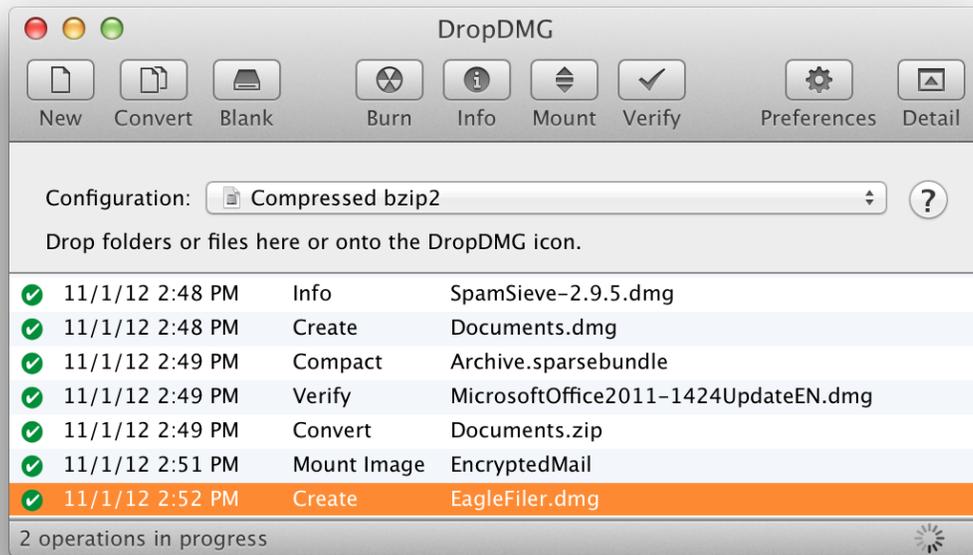
DropDMG remembers between launches whether the drawer is open.

A shortcut for **Show/Hide Log Detail** is to double-click a log entry.



4.3.2 Show All Log Entries/Errors Only

These commands control whether the log in the [DropDMG window](#) shows every log entry (including successfully completed operations) or just the log entries for operations that failed with an error or were canceled.



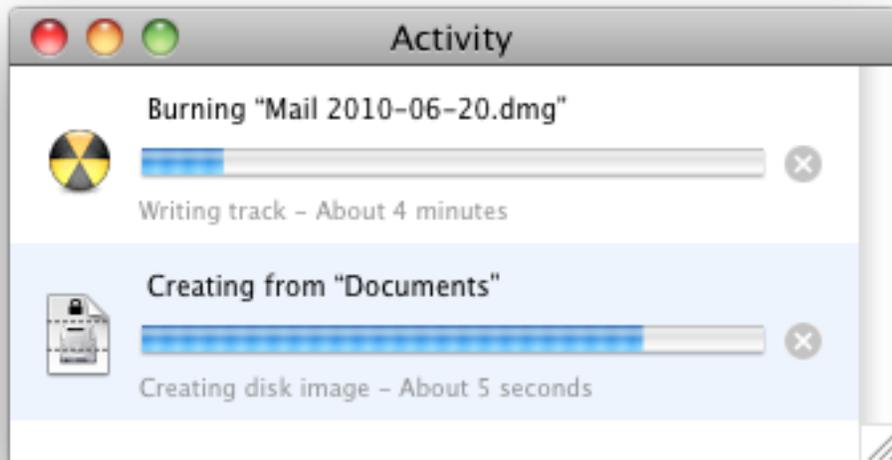
4.4 The Window Menu

4.4.1 Activity Window

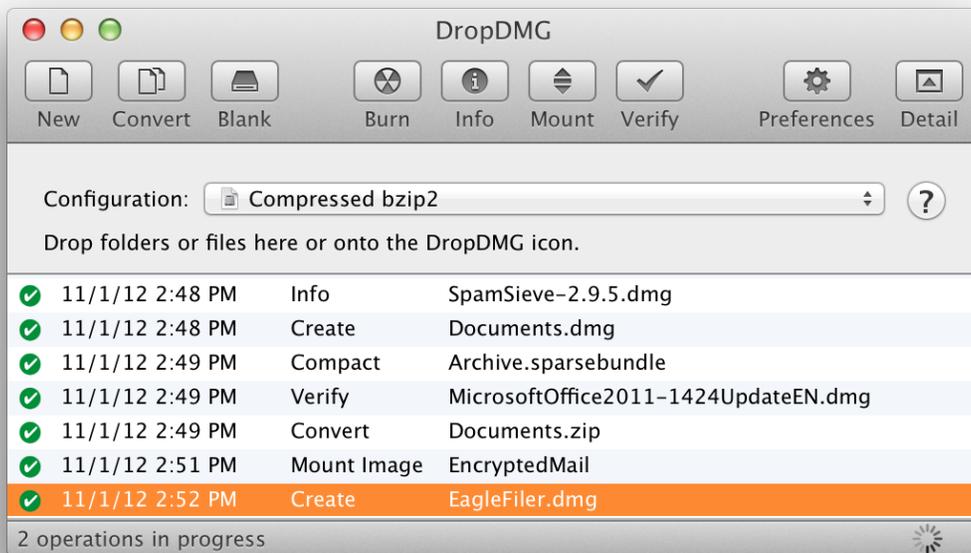
DropDMG can perform multiple operations at once, simultaneously creating disk images, burning them, verifying them, etc. This window shows the operations that are currently in progress and what states they are in. You can cancel an operation by clicking its \times button.

DropDMG remembers between launches whether the window is open.

A shortcut for opening the **Activity** window is to click the progress spinner at the bottom of the [DropDMG window](#).



4.4.2 DropDMG Window



DropDMG's main window has five parts:

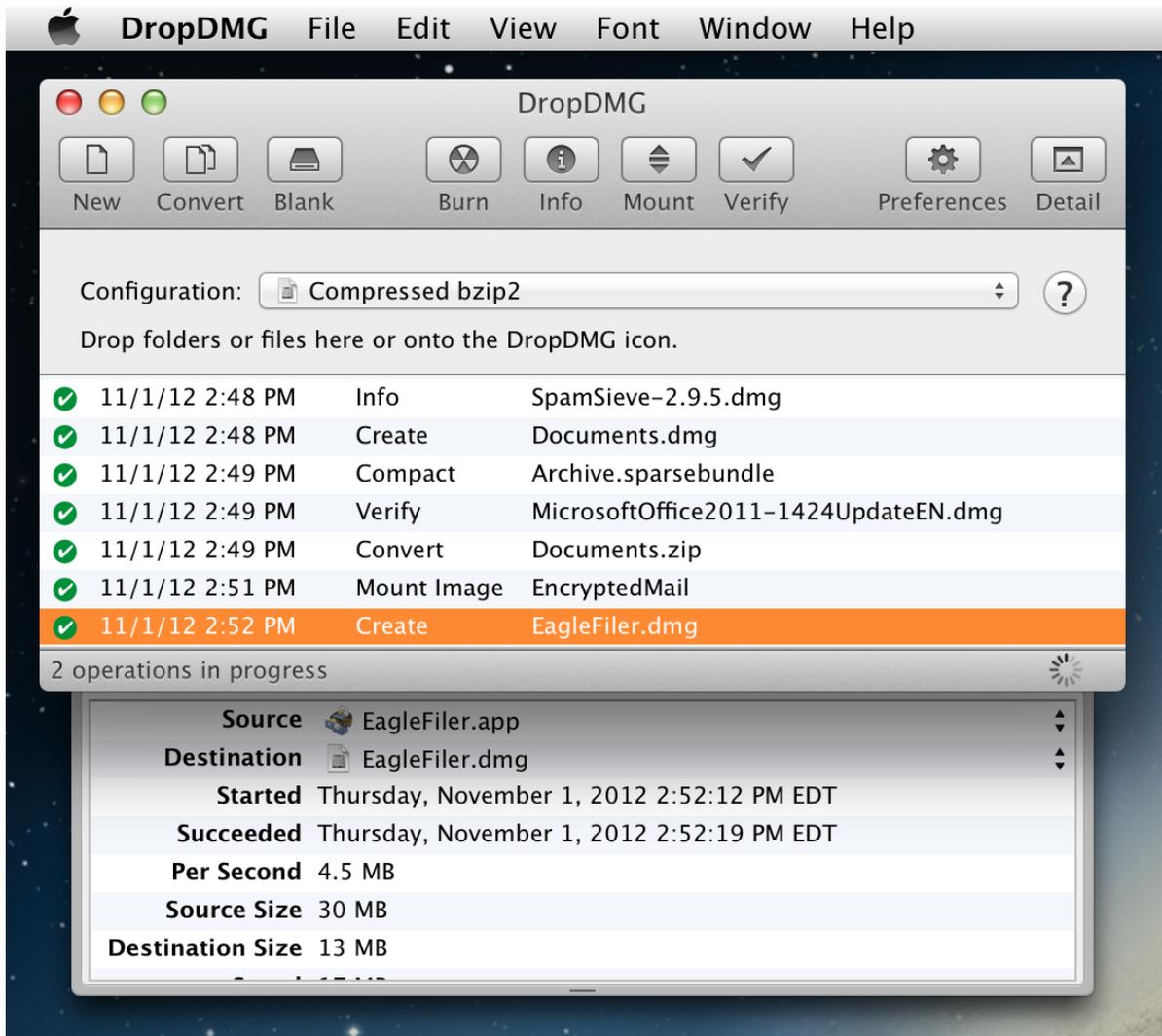
1. At the top is a toolbar with shortcut buttons for accessing frequently used commands. You can choose which commands are available by choosing **Customize Toolbar...** from the **View** menu.
2. Below the toolbar, a pop-up menu lets you pick one of the [configurations](#). This determines the options that will be used to create a disk image or archive. Hold down the Option key while choosing from the pop-up menu to open a configuration for editing.

You can drag files and folders into this area of the window to initiate the following types of operations: [New from Folder/File...](#), [Convert Image/Archive...](#), [Verify Image...](#), [Burn...](#), and [Join Files...](#) DropDMG will automatically figure out what to do, and you can hold (or not hold) the Option key to specify [temporary options](#) that override the configuration.

3. The log shows a list of the completed operations. The [Show All Log Entries/Errors Only](#) menu commands determine which log entries are shown. You can copy log entries as text using **Edit** > **Copy** or delete them by pressing the Delete key. The [Remove log entries](#) preferences lets you set DropDMG to auto-delete old log entries.

You can Control-click on a log entry to perform an operation on that entry's file. For example, if you've just created a `.dmg` file you could burn it.

4. When DropDMG is busy, the bottom bar tells how many operations are in progress. You can click the progress spinner to open the [Activity window](#) and see more detail.
5. The [Log Detail](#) drawer shows additional information about the selected log entry.

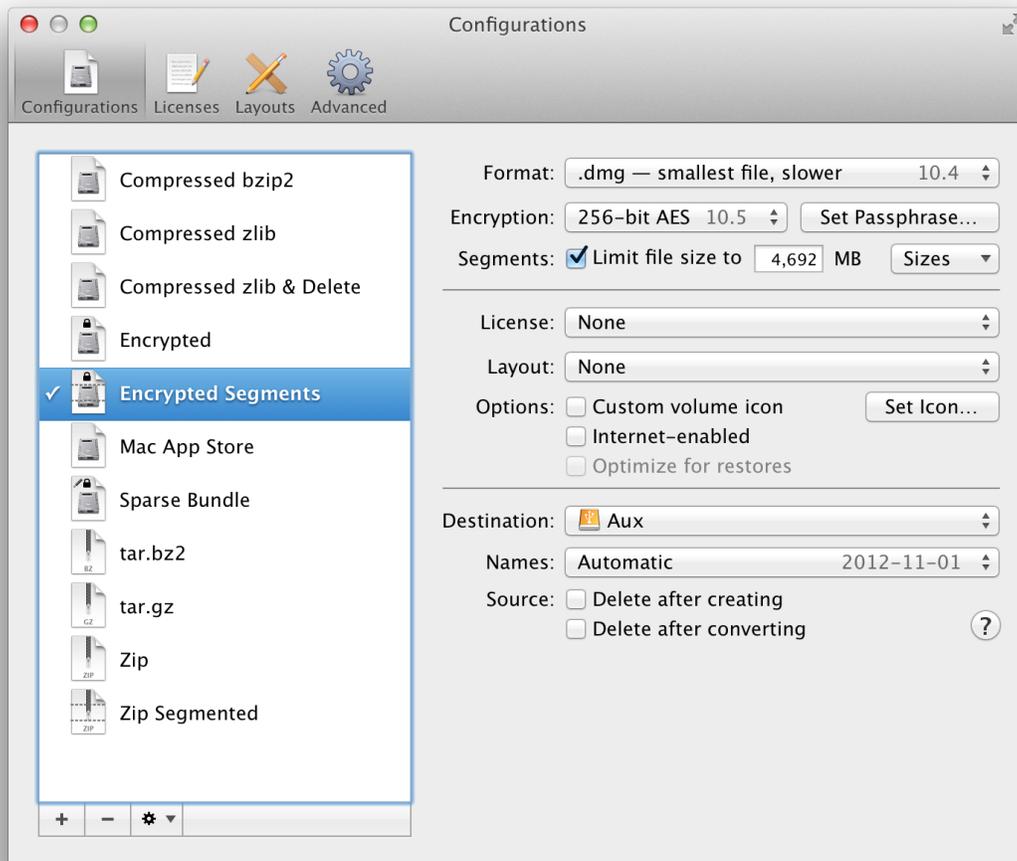


DropDMG remembers between launches whether the **DropDMG** window is open.

5 Preferences

5.1 Configurations

DropDMG provides many options for creating disk images and archives. Configurations let you create named sets of these options, so that you can quickly switch between your favorite combinations rather than re-entering all the settings each time.



Use the + button to create a new configuration and the - button or the Delete key to remove one. Several commands are available in the action menu and contextual menu:

Make Default

Change the current configuration as shown in the [DropDMG window](#). You can also double-click on a configuration in the list.

Duplicate Configuration

Create a new configuration with the same options as the selected one.

Rename Configuration

Change the name of the selected configuration. You can also click-and-hold on the name or press the Return or Enter key.

Tip: You can quickly change configurations, without first opening the [Preferences](#) window, by using the pop-up menu in the [DropDMG window](#), by Control-clicking on DropDMG's icon in the Dock, or by using [Temporary options](#).

The following options are available for each configuration:

5.1.1 Format

DropDMG supports the following disk image and archive formats:

Read-only Disk Image

The contents of a read-only disk image can be directly accessed from the Finder, but they cannot be modified. Read-only disk images support [licenses](#). They have internal checksums for use with the [Verify Image...](#) command. In order to search a read-only disk image via Spotlight, use the [Mount Image...](#) command and select the **Shadow file** option.

.dmg zlib — smaller file, faster

A disk image compressed using [zlib](#)⁴¹. The file is relatively compact and quick to access. This is DropDMG's recommended format for general use if your files need compatibility with Mac OS X 10.10 or earlier. DropDMG creates smaller zlib-compressed disk images than Disk Utility. You can control the level of compression via the `ZlibLevel` [esoteric preference](#). Compatible with Mac OS X 10.2 and later.

.dmg LZFSE — smaller file, fastest

A disk image compressed using [LZFSE](#) (Lempel-Ziv + Finite State Entropy). The files are slightly smaller than zlib-compressed disk images, with encoding that is twice as fast and decoding that is three times as fast. This is DropDMG's recommended format for general use if your files can require Mac OS X 10.11 or later. Compatible with Mac OS X 10.11 and later.

.dmg bzip2 — smallest file, slower

A disk image compressed using [bzip2](#)⁴². Depending on the type of data stored, this can be significantly smaller than a zlib-compressed disk image. It is also slower to create and access. Compatible with Mac OS X 10.4 and later.

.dmg — no compression

An uncompressed disk image will always be larger than a compressed one. However, with certain types of content (music, photos, already compressed files) the difference in size will be slight, and an uncompressed disk image will generally be faster to create and access. Compatible with Mac OS X 10.2 and later.

Read-write Disk Image

The contents of a read-write disk image can be directly accessed from the Finder, and you can add, remove, and modify files. Read-write disk images can be created from existing files/folders or by using the [New Blank Disk Image...](#) command.

.sparsebundle — most efficient

Sparse bundle disk images appear as a single file but are actually stored as a folder with many files inside. This makes it more efficient to back them up using Time Machine or other backup utilities, as only the changed parts need to be copied. Additionally, sparse bundle disk images work well with the [Compact Image...](#) command. Compatible with Mac OS X 10.5 and later.

.sparseimage — more efficient

Sparse disk images are stored as a single file. This can make backups inefficient for large disk images, because the entire file must be copied each time. The [Compact Image...](#) command

⁴¹<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zlib>

⁴²<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bzip2>

generally does not reclaim as much disk space as with sparse bundle disk images. Compatible with Mac OS X 10.3 and later.

.dmg — constant file size

The disk image is stored as a single file. This is less efficient than a sparse disk image because the file size is determined by the *capacity* of the disk image rather than by the amount of data *currently stored* on it. This can be desirable, for example if you want to reserve a certain amount of space for the disk image's use. Compatible with Mac OS X 10.2 and later.

Cross-platform Archive

Archives make your files accessible to computers running other operating systems (Windows, Linux, etc.). Archives are slower and require more disk space than disk images, as they must first be *expanded* before the contents are accessible in the Finder. DropDMG creates special archives that preserve resource forks and Mac metadata. This extra information is ignored by other operating systems.

.tar.gz — smaller file, faster

A tape archive, compressed using [gzip](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gzip)⁴³. The file is relatively compact and quick to create and expand. Compatible with Mac OS X 10.4 and later.

.tar.bz2 — smaller file, faster

A tape archive, compressed using [bzip2](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bzip2)⁴⁴. Depending on the type of data stored, this can be significantly smaller than a `.tar.gz` archive. It is also slower to create and expand. Compatible with Mac OS X 10.4 and later.

.tar — no compression

An uncompressed archive will always be larger than a compressed one. However, with certain types of content (music, photos, already compressed files) the difference in size will be slight, and an uncompressed archive will generally be faster to create and expand. Compatible with Mac OS X 10.4 and later.

.zip — smaller file, faster

A ZIP archive is similar to a `.tar.gz` archive except that this format is more common on Windows. DropDMG creates smaller ZIP archives than the Finder. ZIP archives do not preserve creation dates or Unix ownership. Compatible with Mac OS X 10.3 and later.

Cross-platform Disk Image

.cdr DVD/CD-R Master

A master disk image is an uncompressed, read-only disk image. If created from a file or folder, it will have a Mac filesystem; if created from a volume, the filesystem will be unchanged. This is mainly useful for imaging an existing volume (e.g. copying a CD, DVD, or Blu-ray disc) or creating a Mac disk image to burn using a non-Mac computer. Compatible with Mac OS X 10.0 and later.

.iso Hybrid (HFS+, ISO 9660, Joliet, UDF)

A hybrid disk image is like a master. Additionally, the image contains multiple filesystems so that the contents may be accessed using any operating system. Mac-specific files such as `.DS_Store` are hidden from the non-Mac filesystems. Compatible with Mac OS X 10.0 and later.

Legacy NDIF Disk Image

NDIF disk images are compatible with System 7, Mac OS 8–9, and Mac OS X. These can be useful for exchanging files with legacy Macs or for use with emulators such as [Sheepshaver](http://sheepshaver.cebix.net)⁴⁵ and [Basilisk](http://basilisk.cebix.net)⁴⁶.

⁴³<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gzip>

⁴⁴<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bzip2>

⁴⁵<http://sheepshaver.cebix.net>

⁴⁶<http://basilisk.cebix.net>

NDIF disk image files use resource forks, so some care must be taken in transferring them over the Internet. They are also limited to 2 GB of logical size.

Note: Microsoft Windows also uses disk image files whose names end with `.img`, but it does not read the NDIF format. To create a `.img` disk image for Windows, tell DropDMG to use the `.iso` or `.cdr` format and then rename the file to `.img`.

.img NDIF-compressed

A compressed, read-only disk image.

.img NDIF read-only

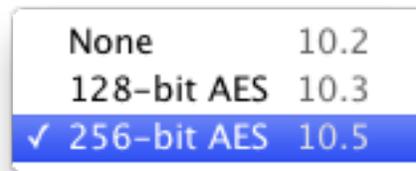
An uncompressed, read-only disk image.

.img NDIF read-write

A disk image whose contents can be modified.

5.1.2 Encryption

Encrypted images require a passphrase for access; the image contents are secure from anyone who doesn't know the passphrase. DropDMG uses Apple's implementation of the [Advanced Encryption Standard \(AES\)](#)⁴⁷ algorithm. Two different strengths of encryption are available:



128-bit AES — faster, recommended

The U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) has announced that it may be used for SECRET level documents. Compatible with Mac OS X 10.3 and later.

256-bit AES — more secure

The NSA has announced that it may be used for TOP SECRET level documents. Compatible with Mac OS X 10.5 and later.

Click the **Set Passphrase...** button to choose the passphrase that you want to use. To make sure that you've typed what you meant to type, you must enter the same passphrase twice.

You can click the **Set Passphrase...** and then **Show Passphrase** to verify that the passphrase is what you intended.

DropDMG stores the passphrase securely in the system keychain. You can use the Keychain Access application to control whether the keychain password must be entered before creating an encrypted disk image or viewing the passphrase in DropDMG. If you prefer DropDMG to prompt you for a passphrase each time you create a disk image, leave the passphrase blank.

⁴⁷http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advanced_Encryption_Standard

5.1.3 Segments

Segmented Disk Images

DropDMG lets you split large disk images into multiple pieces, to keep the size of each file below a set limit. This can be useful for transferring large files over the Internet or [burning](#) them to disc. The filenames of the pieces will end with `.dmg`, `.002.dmgpart`, `.003.dmgpart`, etc.

To access the contents of a segmented disk image, make sure the `.dmg` file and all the `.dmgpart` files are in the same folder. (If you had burned the pieces to disc you would need to copy them all back to the same folder on a hard drive.) Then double-click the `.dmg` file or use DropDMG's [Mount Image...](#) command.

To split an existing disk image into smaller pieces, set the segment size and then use the [Convert Image/Archive...](#) command.

To join multiple segments into a single disk image file, make sure that all the segments are in the same folder, uncheck **Limit segments to ___ MB**, and then use the [Convert Image/Archive...](#) command.

Segmented ZIP Archives

DropDMG can create segmented ZIP archives (e.g. `.z01`, `.z02`, `.zip`). Such archives cannot be expanded by Mac OS X's built-in Archive Utility, but there are free third-party expansion utilities such as [The Unarchiver](#)⁴⁸.

Segment Sizes

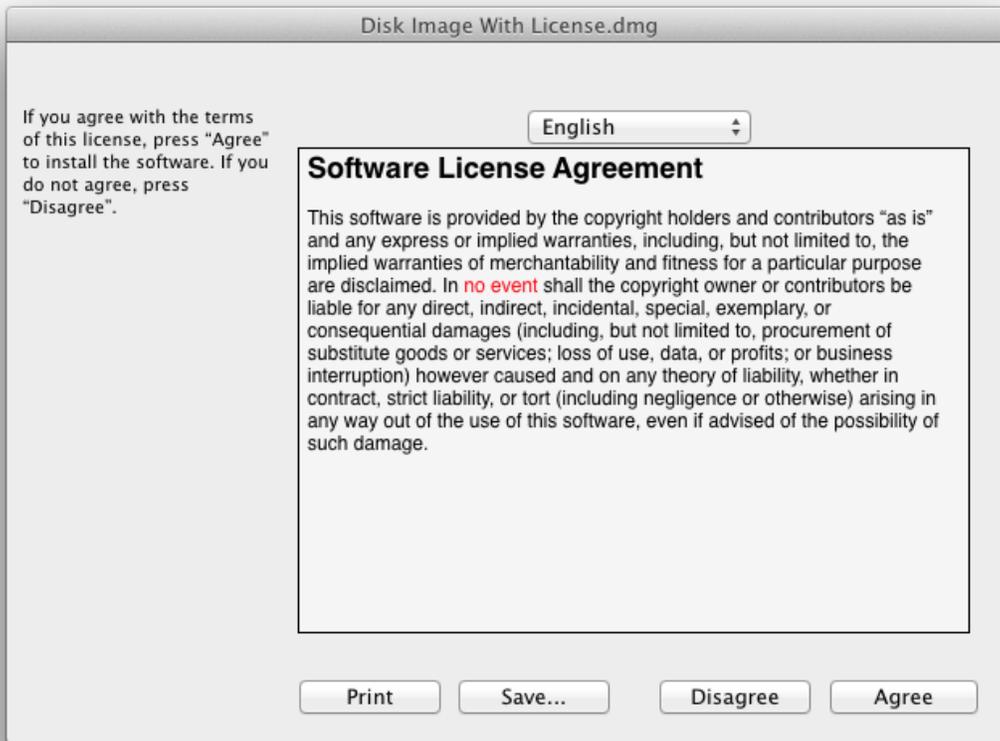
Sizes are specified in megabytes (base 10). The **Sizes** pop-down menu lets you enter common segment sizes for CDs, DVDs, and Blu-ray discs. The sizes are chosen so that a segment of that size can be burned to the disc as a file. The actual disc capacities may vary slightly, as will the sizes of the segments produced by the disk imaging engine.



5.1.4 License

If you select a license agreement, Mac OS X will display it each time the user tries to mount your disk image. The contents of the disk image will only be accessible if the user clicks the **Agree** button.

⁴⁸<http://unarchiver.c3.cx>



You can create license agreements using the [Licenses](#) tab of the [Preferences](#) window. In order to be able to choose a license, it must contain at least one language.

When converting, DropDMG adds or removes license agreements from the source image so that they match the one chosen here.

Tip: Hold down the Option key when choosing a license to open it for editing.

5.1.5 Layout

If you select a layout, DropDMG will use it to set the view options, background picture, and icon positions of the mounted disk image.

You can create layouts using the [Layouts](#) tab of the [Preferences](#) window.

DropDMG ignores the **Layout** option when creating a disk image by converting.

Tip: Hold down the Option key when choosing a layout to open it for editing.

5.1.6 Custom volume icon

Normally when a disk image is mounted, it shows up on the desktop with a plain white icon that looks like a hard drive. With this option checked, DropDMG will customize the icon in one of two modes:

Automatic

If the top level of the image contains an application, DropDMG will badge the application's icon onto the white drive icon. Or, if the disk image contains a single file, DropDMG will badge that file's icon onto the drive. DropDMG renders an optimized version of the badged icon for each size up to 512×512.



Manual

To choose your own graphic file to use as the icon:

1. Click the **Set Icon...** button.
2. Select the graphic file and click **Choose**.
3. Select the source folder (the folder that you will drop onto DropDMG when you create the disk image) and click **Choose**. DropDMG will convert your graphic file into an invisible `.VolumeIcon.icns` in the source folder.
4. Now, whenever you create a disk image from that source folder (provided that **Custom volume icon** is checked) DropDMG will use the `.icns` file to set the volume icon.

DropDMG ignores the **Custom volume icon** option when creating a disk image by converting.

Burning a CD or DVD-ROM With a Custom Icon

1. Put the files that will comprise your disc into a folder (called the source folder).
2. In the [Configurations](#) preferences, set the [Format](#) to `.cdr` and make sure that [Custom volume icon](#) is checked.
3. If you want DropDMG to automatically create the icon based on the main file in your source folder, skip this step. To use your own graphic file for the icon, click the **Set Icon...** button. Select the graphic file and click **Choose**. Then select the source folder and click **Choose**.
4. Drag your source folder onto DropDMG's icon in the Dock. This will create a `.cdr` file.
5. Choose [Burn...](#) from DropDMG's **File** menu. Make sure that **Burn contents of disk images** is checked. Then select the `.cdr` file and burn your disc.

Creating a Sparse Disk Image With a Custom Icon

DropDMG currently does not support directly creating a `.sparsebundle` or `.sparseimage` disk image with a custom icon. You can, however, create a `.dmg` disk image with a custom icon and then convert it to the desired format.

5.1.7 Internet-enabled

When an Internet-enabled disk image is downloaded by Safari (and Safari's **Open “safe” files after downloading** preference is checked), it is [automatically expanded](#)⁴⁹ into a folder and the disk image file is moved to the trash.

If the disk image has a background picture, it is not transferred to the expanded folder.

Note: Safari under Mac OS X 10.7 and later does not honor the Internet-enabled setting, although there has been no indication from Apple that the feature has been removed.

Note: On Mac OS X 10.2.2 through 10.2.8, this also happens whenever an Internet-enabled disk image is mounted (by any program). On earlier versions of Mac OS X, Internet-enabled disk images are treated just like other disk images.

5.1.8 Optimize for restores

This option is for when you plan to use Apple Software Restore or Disk Utility to copy the contents of the disk image back to a hard drive. (See, for example, the [Making a Bootable Device Image of a Hard Drive](#) section.) DropDMG performs an extra pass over the disk image, rewriting the file to provide the best performance when restoring.

5.1.9 Destination

You can choose to have disk images created in the same folder as the source folder (**Next to Source**), or specify a folder where images should be saved (by choosing **Other...** or dragging a folder onto the preferences window). The **Ask Later** option causes DropDMG to ask you, for each operation, where to save the disk image or archive.

If the destination folder that you specify ends up being invalid (e.g. you specify a destination folder that's contained by the source folder), DropDMG will revert to its default behavior of **Next to Source**.

The bottom portion of the pop-up menu lists *recent* folders and *favorite* folders. Recent folders are the last 10 folders that you've chosen. Favorite folders are always shown in the menu, even if you have not used them recently. To make a recent folder into a favorite folder, find the folder's alias in the folder:

```
/Users/<username>/Library/Application Support/DropDMG/Recent Folders
```

or:

⁴⁹<http://developer.apple.com/documentation/DeveloperTools/Conceptual/SoftwareDistribution/index.html>

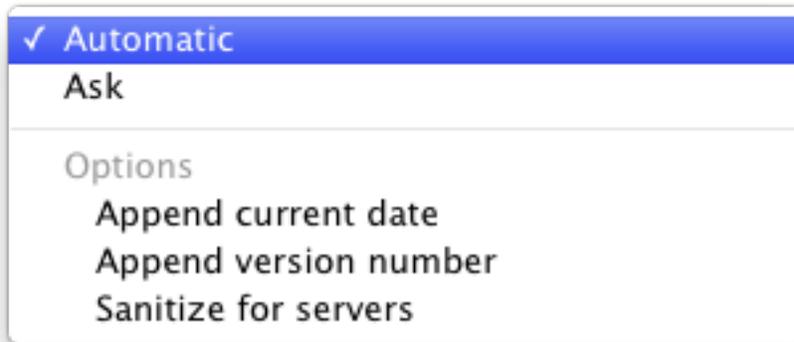
/Users/<username>/Library/Containers/com.c-command.DropDMG/Data/Library/Application Support/DropDMG/Recent Folders

To open the library folder, see the [How can I open the Library folder?](#) section.

Select the alias and open the Finder's **Get Info** window. Then click the **Locked** checkbox.

5.1.10 Names

This option controls the names of the output disk image or archive and also the mounted disk image volume.



Automatic

DropDMG chooses the filename and volume name based on the name of the source.

Ask

DropDMG asks you to enter the name of the image file it will create and the name of the volume that will appear on the desktop when you mount the image. DropDMG will automatically add the proper filename extension to the filename. It may also truncate the names you enter if they would be too long for the Mac's volume and filename limits.

Note: The volume name is not settable when creating a [device image](#), although you can use the `CreateDeviceImages` [esoteric preference](#) to tell DropDMG not to create device images.

Three additional options are available:

Append current date

Add the current date (in YYYY-MM-DD format) to the end of the filename and volume name. This option is ignored when creating a disk image by converting.

Append version number

When imaging an application or installer package (or a folder containing an application or package), add its version number to the end of the filename and volume name. This option is ignored when creating a disk image by converting.

Sanitize for servers

Process the name of the output file so that it does not contain any spaces, accented or foreign characters, or certain punctuation marks. This makes it possible to upload it to a Web or FTP server and then access it using a URL that contains no percent escape sequences.

5.1.11 Delete after creating/converting

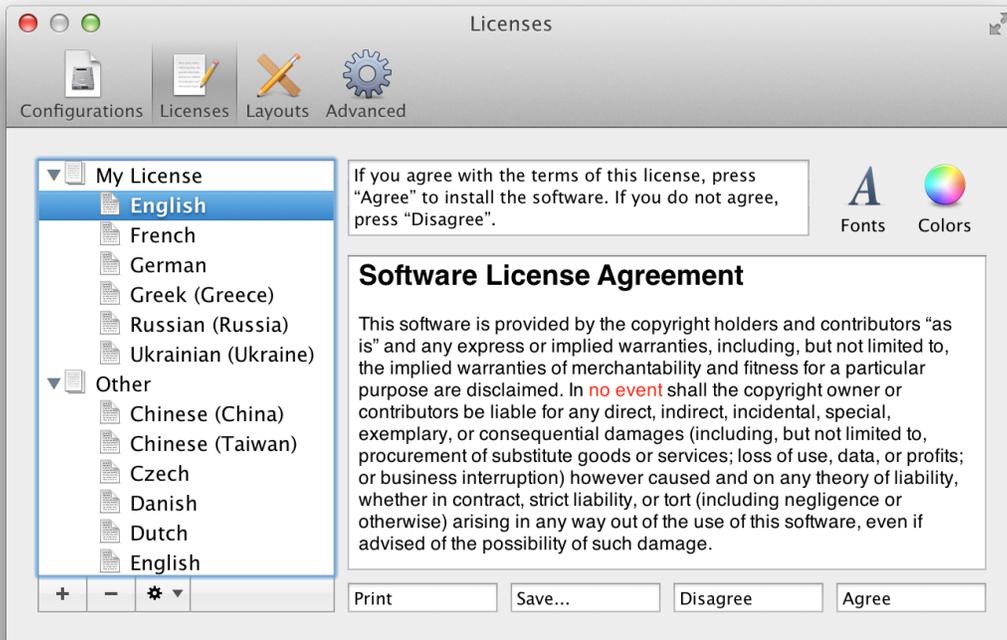
If you select one of these options, DropDMG will move the source folder, image, or archive to the trash after it has finished making the disk image. If an error occurs while creating the output file, DropDMG leaves the source untouched.

5.2 Licenses

Disk images can include [license agreements](#)⁵⁰ (also known as End-User License Agreements or EULAs), which are displayed to the user whenever the disk image is mounted. The contents of the disk image will only be accessible if the user accepts the terms of your license. DropDMG lets you define multiple license agreements ahead of time. Each agreement may be localized into multiple languages. You can choose which agreement (if any) to include with each disk image.

See the [Making Images With Background Pictures](#) section for a tutorial on creating disk images with license agreements.

⁵⁰http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Software_license_agreement





Creating and Editing Licenses

Use the + button to create a new license and the - button or the Delete key to remove a license or language. Several commands are available in the action menu and contextual menu:

New License

Create a new, empty license.

Duplicate License

Create a new license with the same languages as the selected one.

Rename License

Change the name of the selected license. You can also click-and-hold on the name or press the Return or Enter key.

New Language

Add a language to the selected license. The following languages are available: Arabic, Chinese (China/Simplified), Chinese (Taiwan/Traditional), Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese (Brazil), Russian, Slovak, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, Ukrainian.

A language consists of three elements:

Prompt

Mac OS X displays these instructions above your license agreement. It is typically something like:

If you agree with the terms of this license, press “Agree” to install the software. If you do not agree, press “Disagree”.

License Text

This is your localized license agreement. The width of the editor pane matches the width of the pane that Mac OS X uses to display the license to the end user.

The **Edit** menu contains various helpful commands: **Find**, **Replace**, spelling and grammar, etc.

The **Font** menu and the **Fonts** and **Colors** buttons allow you to customize the appearance of your license. License agreements can use multiple fonts, sizes, and styles of text.

You can also edit the license text in another application such as TextEdit. To do this, double-click the language in the source list or drag it onto the TextEdit icon in the Dock. This can be useful if you want to see multiple languages side-by-side in different windows. (When using TextEdit, do not paste in any graphics, as this would convert the file from RTF format to RTFD; DropDMG and disk images only support RTF.)

Note: Beware of using fonts that are not built into Mac OS X, for the license agreement will look different if the user does not have the fonts installed. Secondly, note that “synthetic” font traits will not be preserved. A synthetic trait is a style for which you do not have a font. For instance, Mac OS X ships with normal and bold variants of Lucida. Both of these work fine in license agreements. DropDMG will also let you create a license agreement using italic Lucida, where the operating system synthesizes Lucida Italic from regular Lucida, but the italic style will not be displayed to the end user.

Buttons

This lets you customize the names of the **Print**, **Save...**, **Disagree**, and **Agree** buttons.

Sharing Licenses

DropDMG automatically saves the licenses that you create. You can also create copies of the licenses outside DropDMG, as described in the [Sharing Licenses and Layouts](#) section.

Limitations

Mac OS X only supports license agreements for disk images, not burned discs. If you want a license agreement on a CD or DVD, put your license on a `.dmg` and then burn the `.dmg` to disk as a file or by putting the `.dmg` in a folder as described in [Burning a CD or DVD-ROM With a Custom Icon](#).

Due to limitations of the `.dmg` format, images containing an extremely large number of files cannot have license agreements.

5.3 Layouts

When you double-click a disk image, Mac OS X mounts it and opens a Finder window showing its top-level contents. Layouts let you control the appearance of this window: the window position, background picture,

view options, and icon positions. Additionally, when you create a disk image with a layout, DropDMG sets it to automatically open the window when mounting the image or inserting a disc burned from the image.

See the [Making Images With Background Pictures](#) section for a tutorial on creating disk images with background pictures and layouts.

Use the + button to create a new layout and the - button or the Delete key to remove one. Several commands are available in the action menu and contextual menu:

Duplicate Layout

Create a new layout that matches the selected one.

Rename Layout

Change the name of the selected layout. You can also click-and-hold on the name or press the Return or Enter key.

DropDMG automatically saves the layouts that you create, as you edit them. You can also create copies of the layouts outside DropDMG, as described in the [Sharing Licenses and Layouts](#) section.

Window position

This controls the position of the upper left corner of the window, relative to the upper left corner of the user's main display (i.e. the Apple menu).

Background image

Set the background image by dragging an image file onto the well or by clicking the **Choose...** button. The background image determines the size of the layout. If you do not specify a background image, DropDMG uses a plain white background with dimensions 640×480.

The background image can be a 72 or 144dpi image, a PDF file, or a multi-resolution TIFF file. DropDMG will render a multi-resolution background picture that's optimized for display on both Retina and non-Retina Macs. DropDMG looks at the background image's actual resolution (dots per inch) to determine whether to treat it as Retina; it does not, e.g., look for @2x in the filename.

To remove a background image, Control-click and choose **Delete Background Image**.

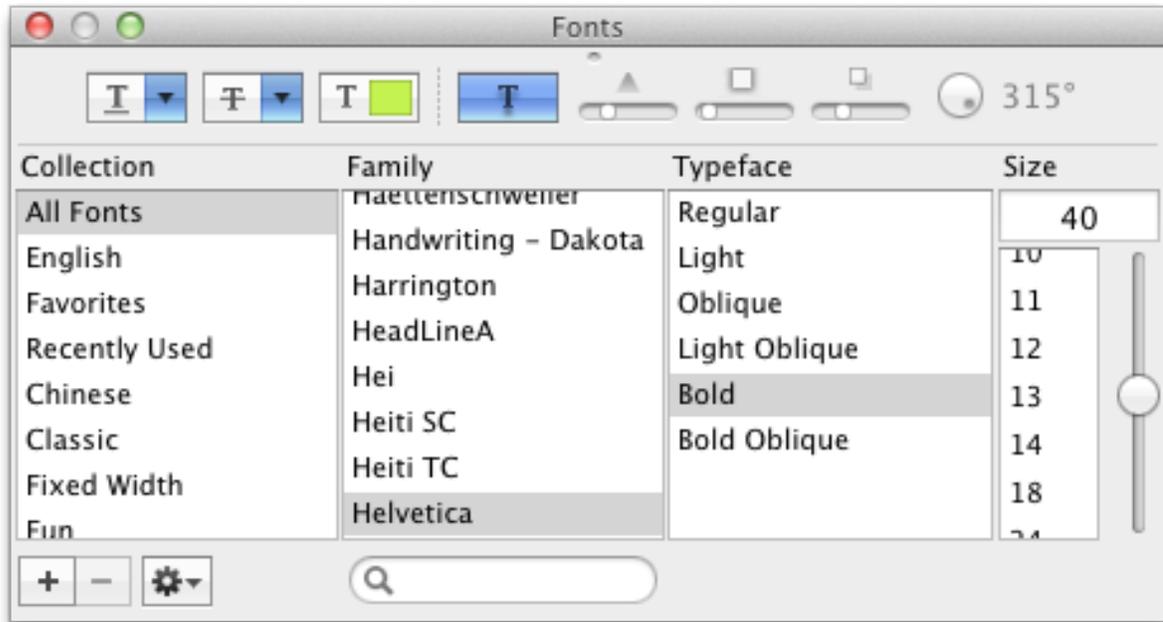
Here are some things to consider when choosing the size of your background image:

- It is recommended that you design your background image such that it looks good if the bottom 23 points are hidden. This is because the Finder does not allow the disk image to control whether the window's path bar is shown, and the bar consumes space that would otherwise be available for the window's content. DropDMG sets the window size such that, if the user has the path bar turned off, the Finder will show the full background image; if the bar is turned on, the Finder will show all but the bottom 23 points.
- It is recommended that you design your background image such that it looks good if the rightmost 1 point is hidden. This is because DropDMG sizes the mounted disk image window to exactly fit the dimensions of the background image. On Mac OS X 10.7, you will see every pixel of the image. Mac OS X 10.8 through 10.10 draw a 1-point vertical line at the left edge of the window, thus shifting the image to the right, so that the rightmost column is scrolled out of view. Because different versions of the OS display background images in different ways, it is impossible to choose a window size that always looks optimal. DropDMG decides that it is better to hide a column of pixels that most people won't notice missing than to show an extra column of white pixels that stand out as looking wrong.

- Mac OS X imposes a minimum window width, so choose a background image that's at least 437 points wide in order to avoid a white bar on the right side of the window.

Text boxes

Click **Add Text** to create text boxes that are drawn atop the background image. Click once on a text box to resize it. Double-click to edit its contents. After selecting some text, you can use the **Fonts** panel to set the font, style, color, and shadow. The ruler lets save favorite styles and adjust the spacing and alignment (left, center, full, or right) of the text.



The **Variables** pop-down menu lets you add placeholders that DropDMG will fill in when you build the disk image, so that you don't have to manually update the text in your layout. The supported variables are **Application Name** (e.g. DropDMG), **Application Short Version String** (the marketing version from `CFBundleShortVersionString`), **Application Version** (the build number from `CFBundleVersion`), and **Date (YYYY-MM-DD)** (e.g. the date the disk image was created).

Icon positions

To add an icon to the layout, drag and drop a file or folder or click the **Add Icon...** button. The files/folders that you choose here are *only* used for the purposes of designing the layout, i.e. specifying where each icon goes. The actual contents of the disk image are determined by the source folder that you drag onto DropDMG.

Click the **Application Placeholder** button to add a special icon to your layout called `${APP_BASENAME}.app`. This will set the position of whichever application (or other principal file) is in your source folder, letting you use the same layout to create disk images for multiple applications.

Click the **Application Folder** button to create a link to the **Applications** folder. This makes it possible to install an application by dragging its icon onto the **Applications** icon in the same window. When you create a disk image using the layout, DropDMG will automatically add a symlink to the **Applications** folder. (This option is not recommended for use with Internet-enabled disk images.)

You can drag and drop to rearrange the icons. By default, DropDMG uses a 16×16 grid so that the icons are aligned with one another. To drag an icon to any position, unconstrained by the grid, hold

down the Command key. You can also move the selected icons one point at a time by pressing the arrow keys.

Tip: You can reuse layouts in some interesting ways. For example, you can use the same layout to create disk images with different contents. The layout can contain more icons than are present in any given source folder.

Icon size

The icons can be displayed at 16×16, 32×32, 48×48, 64×64, 128×128, 256×256, or 512×512.

Text size

The text size can vary from 10 to 16 point.

See also:

- [Why doesn't the file I added show up on the disk image?](#)
- [Why don't the icons appear in the desired positions in the mounted disk image?](#)

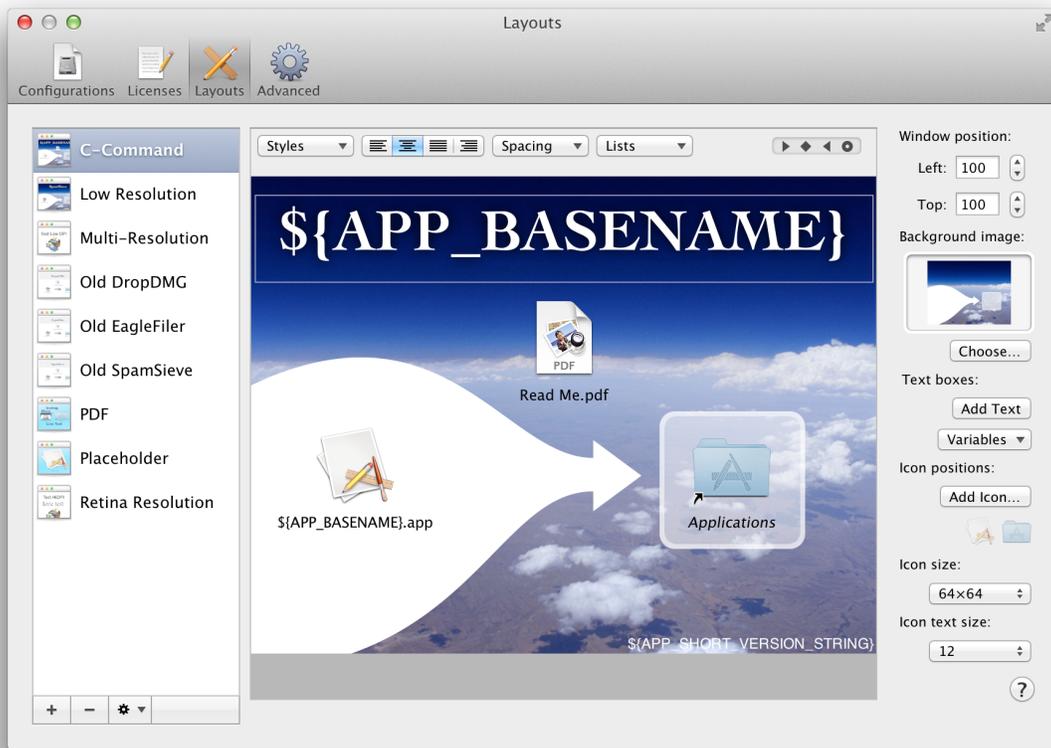
Supporting Mac OS X 10.6

Please see the documentation for the `DisableRetinaBackgroundPictures` [esoteric preference](#).

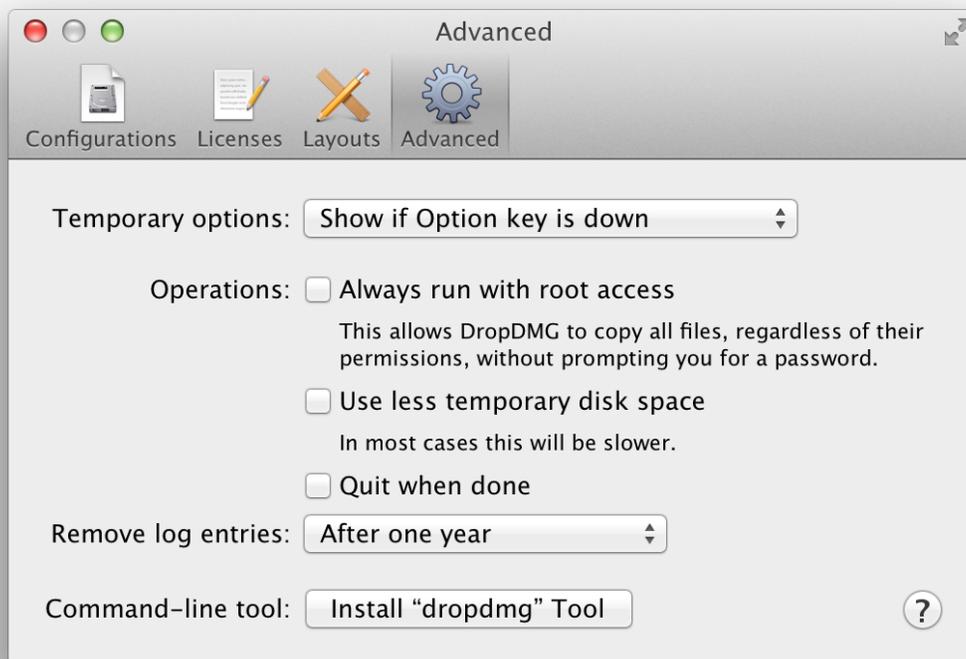
Supporting Mac OS X 10.5 and Earlier

With the Mac OS X 10.6 Finder, Apple changed the file format that it uses to save a folder's view options. Previous versions of Mac OS X do not know how to fully read the new format. This means that disk images created on Mac OS X 10.6 (using either the Finder or DropDMG) may not appear exactly as intended when using Mac OS X 10.4 or 10.5. To deploy a disk image for previous versions of Mac OS X, you may wish to create the disk image using DropDMG [on Mac OS X 10.5](#)⁵¹. Another option is to create a read-write disk image, manually tweak its view options on Mac OS X 10.5, and then use DropDMG to convert it to a final format.

⁵¹<http://c-command.com/dropdmg/support#older-versions>



5.4 Advanced



5.4.1 Temporary options

When DropDMG is creating or converting a disk image, it uses the options specified in the current configuration. If you want to use slightly different options, you could go to the [Configurations](#) preferences, duplicate the configuration, change it, make your image, and then delete the configuration. However, it's much easier to use *temporary options*. This lets you start with a configuration, make some one-off changes, and then create your disk image without altering any of the saved configurations.

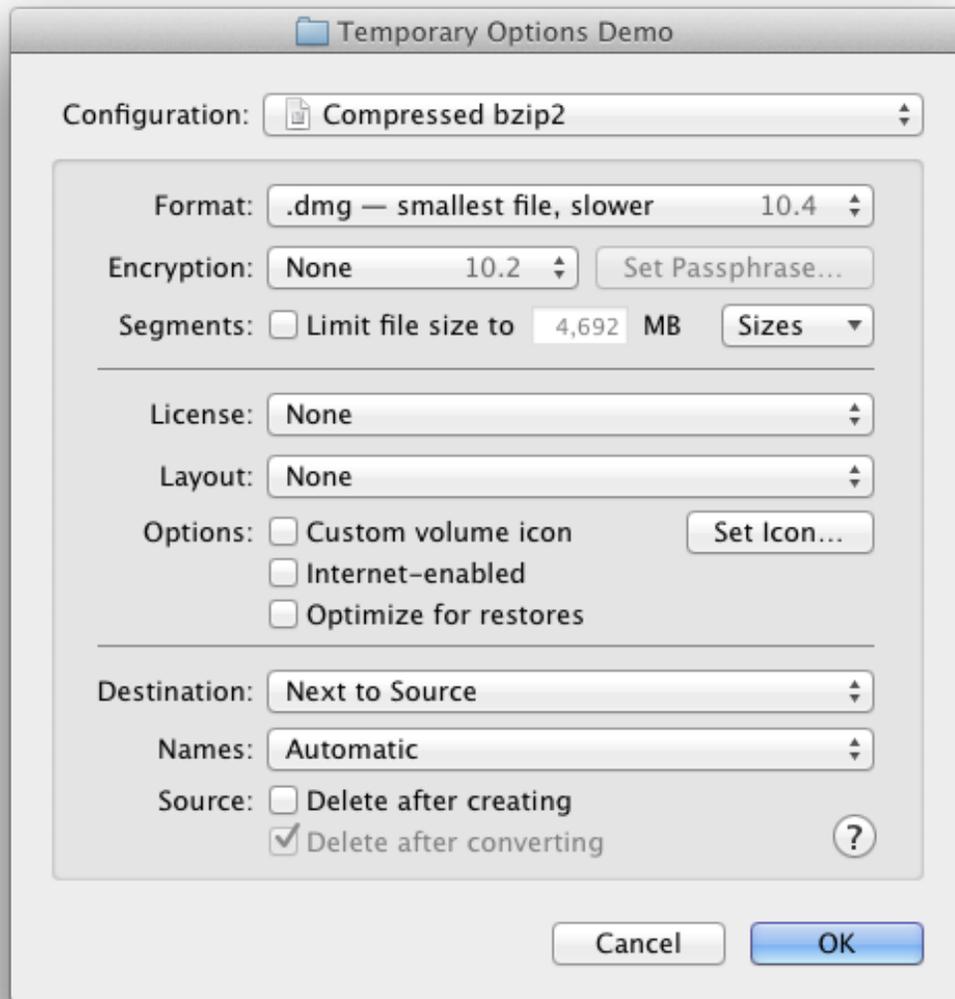
Show if Option key is down

Select this option if you normally want to use the saved configurations, using temporary options only when you drag a folder onto DropDMG while pressing the Option key.

Show unless Option key is down

Select this option if you usually make different types of disk images each time. DropDMG will always bring up the temporary options window, unless you're pressing the Option key.

You can also use the **DropDMG: Ask for Options** command in the **Services** menu to create a disk image using temporary options.



5.4.2 Always run with root access

If you downloaded DropDMG direct from C-Command

Normally, if DropDMG does not have the privileges that it needs in order to create a disk image or archive, it will prompt you to authenticate by entering an administrator password. This authentication lasts for a few minutes, or until you quit DropDMG (whichever happens first).

If **Always run with root access** is checked, DropDMG will retain administrator access—even between launches. This saves you from the trouble of having to keep entering your password, and it makes it easier to run DropDMG unattended (for example, as part of an automated, scheduled backup). However, this is a *potential security risk*. Anyone with access to your copy of DropDMG will be able to

access and modify any file on your Mac.

Note: In order to use **Always run with root access**, the DropDMG application must be installed on your Mac's startup volume.

If you purchased DropDMG from Apple's Mac App Store

In order to create a disk image or archive from certain files, DropDMG will need root access. You can give DropDMG this access by opening the Terminal application and entering these commands:

```
F=/Applications/DropDMG.app/Contents/Frameworks/MJTFoundation.framework
sudo chmod u+s "$F/Versions/A/auth-tool"
sudo chown root "$F/Versions/A/auth-tool"
```

It will ask for your administrator password. This is a *potential security risk*. Anyone with access to your copy of DropDMG will be able to access and modify any file on your Mac. You can remove the root access by entering these commands in Terminal:

```
F=/Applications/DropDMG.app/Contents/Frameworks/MJTFoundation.framework
sudo chmod u-s "$F/Versions/A/auth-tool"
```

5.4.3 Use less temporary disk space

With this option checked, DropDMG will only require free disk space on the destination volume equal to the size of the final disk image file. This can make disk image creation much slower, however. Additionally, when creating an encrypted disk image, all data written to the destination volume will be encrypted.

With this option unchecked, disk image creation will generally be much faster (and the final compressed disk image file may be slightly smaller), however DropDMG may require working space on the destination volume of up to twice the size of the source folder. When creating an encrypted disk image, the final disk image file will be encrypted, however temporary files will not. Thus, if you plan to distribute the destination hard drive itself (rather than just the final `.dmg` file), you should use Disk Utility to **Erase Free Space** securely.

Leaving **Use less temporary disk space** unchecked is generally the best choice, unless there is little free space on the destination volume.

5.4.4 Quit when done

If **Quit when done** is checked, DropDMG will quit itself when there are no more imaging or burning operations in progress. This means, for example, that you can drop a folder onto DropDMG, and it will launch, do its work, and then quit.

5.4.5 Remove log entries

You can delete individual log entries by selecting them in the [DropDMG window](#) and pressing delete. Use **Edit ▸ Select All** to quickly clear the log.

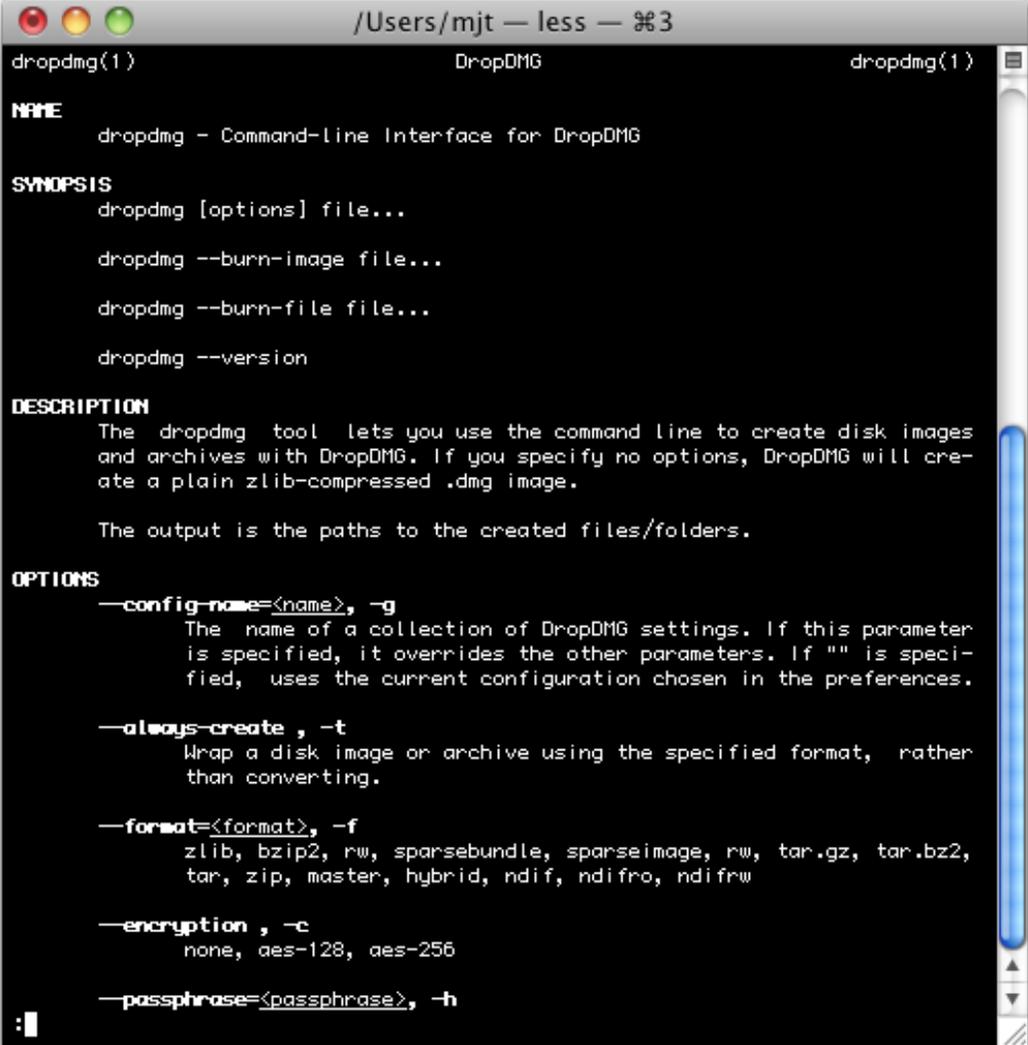
The pop-up menu lets you set DropDMG to automatically delete old log entries **When DropDMG quits**, **After one day**, **After one week**, **After two weeks**, **After one month**, or **After one year**. If you set it to **Manually**, DropDMG will keep the log entries forever (unless you delete them).

5.4.6 Command-line tool

DropDMG has a command-line tool called `dropdmg` that can create disk images and archives and burn CDs and DVDs. This lets you control DropDMG from Terminal and automate it via shell scripts.

To install the command-line tool, click the **Install “dropdmg” Tool**. Once installed, DropDMG will automatically offer to update the tool when a new version is available.

For a list of the available options, type `man dropdmg` in Terminal.



```
dropdmg(1)                                DropDMG                                dropdmg(1)

NAME
  dropdmg - Command-line Interface for DropDMG

SYNOPSIS
  dropdmg [options] file...

  dropdmg --burn-image file...

  dropdmg --burn-file file...

  dropdmg --version

DESCRIPTION
  The dropdmg tool lets you use the command line to create disk images
  and archives with DropDMG. If you specify no options, DropDMG will cre-
  ate a plain zlib-compressed .dmg image.

  The output is the paths to the created files/folders.

OPTIONS
  --config-name=<name>, -g
    The name of a collection of DropDMG settings. If this parameter
    is specified, it overrides the other parameters. If "" is speci-
    fied, uses the current configuration chosen in the preferences.

  --always-create, -t
    Wrap a disk image or archive using the specified format, rather
    than converting.

  --format=<format>, -f
    zlib, bzip2, rw, sparsebundle, sparseimage, rw, tar.gz, tar.bz2,
    tar, zip, master, hybrid, ndif, ndifro, ndifrw

  --encryption, -c
    none, aes-128, aes-256

  --passphrase=<passphrase>, -h
```

Detached Settings Files

The [Sharing Licenses and Layouts](#) section describes how you can use the `dropdmg` tool with [licenses](#) and [layouts](#) that are stored outside of DropDMG, e.g. under version control.

Full User Sessions

The `dropdmg` tool is not a freestanding utility. Rather, it controls the DropDMG application, which it will launch as needed. You must be logged into the Mac with a regular user session (not just via SSH).

Xcode Server

DropDMG is compatible with the [Xcode Server](#) build environment. Despite the fact that you can't *see* the login session for the `_xcsbuildd` user, Xcode Server does run your build scripts and UI tests in a graphical Mac OS X user environment. This means that DropDMG can run and that it can talk to the Finder to build disk images with layouts.

Because the `_xcsbuildd` session is hidden, you cannot interact with it directly. However, you can control DropDMG from an Xcode shell script build phase using the `dropdmg` command-line tool. You can use the `--layout-folder` and `--license-folder` switches to specify the layout and license that are stored in your source control repository.

Additionally, you can use these shell commands to personalize DropDMG, tell it not to show software update alerts, and tell it to quit after processing each `dropdmg` command (so that it's not visible in UI test screenshots):

```
defaults write com.c-command.DropDMG MJTOwnerName2 your-serial-name
defaults write com.c-command.DropDMG MJTSerialNumber2 your-serial-number
defaults write com.c-command.DropDMG MJTSoftwareUpdateCheckAtLaunch NO
defaults write com.c-command.DropDMG QuitWhenDone YES
```

5.5 Esoteric Preferences

You can set esoteric DropDMG preferences by clicking the links on this page. Unlike with regular preferences, you must generally quit and re-launch DropDMG in order for an esoteric preference to take effect.

AppendDateWithSeconds

When using the [Append current date](#) option, DropDMG usually uses the `YYYY-MM-DD`⁵² format. You can also set it to use the `YYYY-MM-DD-HHMMSS`⁵³ format. This is useful if you will be creating more than one dated disk image on the same day and you want the files to have unique names.

BlankBackgroundSize

When creating a disk image with a [layout](#), DropDMG normally sets the size of the mounted image window to the size of the background picture. If you don't specify a background picture, it uses `640×480`⁵⁴. You can also set it to use `800×600`⁵⁵.

CreateDeviceImages

⁵²`x-dropdmg://default?k=AppendDateWithSeconds&v=NO`

⁵³`x-dropdmg://default?k=AppendDateWithSeconds&v=YES`

⁵⁴`x-dropdmg://default?k=BlankBackgroundSize&v=%7B640,%20480%7D`

⁵⁵`x-dropdmg://default?k=BlankBackgroundSize&v=%7B800,%20600%7D`

DropDMG normally detects when you are trying to make a disk image of a volume and creates a [device image](#)⁵⁶. Device images are exact copies, and creating them is faster. You may, however, prefer that DropDMG create [regular disk images](#)⁵⁷ of volumes, as this will give you control over the volume name.

DisableRetinaBackgroundPictures

Normally DropDMG creates background pictures for your layouts that are optimized for Macs with [both Retina and non-Retina](#)⁵⁸ displays. Mac OS X 10.6 has a bug that prevents proper display of Retina background pictures (regardless of the Mac's display type). Thus, for optimal deployment on 10.6 you can optionally set DropDMG to [only create non-Retina](#)⁵⁹ background pictures.

HybridFSArgs

When creating a `.iso` disk image, DropDMG normally includes a hybrid filesystem with [HFS+](#)⁶⁰, [ISO 9660](#)⁶¹, [Joliet](#)⁶², and [UDF](#)⁶³ components. You can change which filesystems are included by entering this command in Terminal and removing the names of filesystems that you don't want:

```
defaults write com.c-command.DropDMG HybridFSArgs -array "-hfs" "-iso" "-joliet" "-udf"
```

LayoutViewGridSize

DropDMG [layouts](#) ordinarily use a grid size of 16×16 ⁶⁴ points. You can temporarily ignore the grid by holding down the Command key or change the grid size to 8×8 ⁶⁵.

MJTUpdaterDeleteDiskImage

Normally, the [Software Update...](#) feature will [clean up](#)⁶⁶ after itself after downloading a new version. You can also set it to [leave the disk image](#)⁶⁷ file in your Downloads folder.

ZlibLevel

When creating disk images using the `.dmg` — **smaller file, faster** option, DropDMG normally uses the [maximum level of compression](#)⁶⁸ to produce a smaller disk image. You can instead set DropDMG to [faster compression](#)⁶⁹. On some systems this will be almost twice as fast, but the `.dmg` files will be larger.

6 Frequently Asked Questions

6.1 Why doesn't the file I added show up on the disk image?

A common misconception is that a DropDMG layout is like a document that stores a recipe for how to build your disk image. With that line of thinking, adding a file to your layout should cause that file to be copied to the disk image whenever that layout is used. However, this is not how DropDMG works.

⁵⁶`x-dropdmg://default?k=CreateDeviceImages&v=YES`

⁵⁷`x-dropdmg://default?k=CreateDeviceImages&v=NO`

⁵⁸`x-dropdmg://default?k=DisableRetinaBackgroundPictures&v=NO`

⁵⁹`x-dropdmg://default?k=DisableRetinaBackgroundPictures&v=YES`

⁶⁰`http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HFS_Plus`

⁶¹`http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_9660`

⁶²`http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joliet_(file_system)`

⁶³`http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_Disk_Format`

⁶⁴`x-dropdmg://default?k=LayoutViewGridSize&v=16`

⁶⁵`x-dropdmg://default?k=LayoutViewGridSize&v=8`

⁶⁶`x-dropdmg://default?k=MJTUpdaterDeleteDiskImage&v=YES`

⁶⁷`x-dropdmg://default?k=MJTUpdaterDeleteDiskImage&v=NO`

⁶⁸`x-dropdmg://default?k=ZlibLevel&v=9`

⁶⁹`x-dropdmg://default?k=ZlibLevel&v=1`

Instead, the *content* and *presentation* of your disk image are specified separately. The [layout](#) controls the presentation. When you add a file to the layout, this creates an icon that you can drag around so that DropDMG knows where to position it in the mounted disk image window. Adding a file does not create a reference to that file or tell DropDMG to copy the file when creating the disk image. All it does is tell DropDMG where to put the icon for a file with that name. Because only the name matters, you do not have to re-add a source file to your layout if you move the file or modify its content.

The contents of the disk image are always determined by the [source folder](#) that you drag onto DropDMG (or pass it via script). So, to add a file to your disk image, you need to add it to the source folder. The source folder can have more or fewer files than are mentioned in your layout. You can also use different source folders with the same layout.

This separation between content and presentation lets you create different looks for disk images with the same contents, for example beta versus release versions of a software product. It also lets you use *placeholders* and *variables* to apply the same layout to multiple disk images that have different content, for example multiple products from the same company.

6.2 Why don't the icons appear in the desired positions in the mounted disk image?

For the basic instructions, please see the [Making Images With Background Pictures](#) section. If your final disk image does not have the icons in the right positions:

1. Make sure that your [configuration](#) has a [layout](#) selected.
2. Check that your [layout](#) includes all of the files whose icons you want to place.
3. When creating the disk image, make sure that the source folder you are dropping onto DropDMG includes all of the files in your layout.
4. The files in the source folder must have the same names as those in the layout. If DropDMG encounters a file that is not in the layout, it will leave that file's icon in the default position.

6.3 How can I make my disk images download properly?

Some Web servers have trouble handling plain `.dmg` files, because they don't know what kind of file they are. When people download the `.dmg` file, it can open in the Web browser instead of mounting automatically. Or, with a bzip2-compressed image, Safari will change the file extension from `.dmg` to `.dmg.bz2`, which causes the OS to think the file is damaged. In order to prevent these problems, make sure that your Web server uses the correct MIME type for `.dmg` files. If you administer an Apache-based server, you can ensure this by adding this line:

```
AddType application/x-apple-diskimage .dmg
```

to your `.htaccess` file.

6.4 Why doesn't my serial number work?

You need to enter the *serial name* and *serial number* exactly as they appear on your order confirmation e-mail. If you no longer have this e-mail, you can look up the name and number. Launch DropDMG and choose **Purchase** from the **DropDMG** menu. Then click the **Look Up My Serial Number** button.

6.5 Should I download DropDMG from this free site?

No. We only recommend downloading DropDMG from <http://c-command.com>⁷⁰ and from reputable download sites such as Apple and MacUpdate. The **C-Command Store**⁷¹ lists all the vendors that are authorized to sell DropDMG.

The following sites:

```
DropDMG.downloads4mac.com
DropDMG.install4mac.com
DropDMG.onFreeDownload.com
EagleFiler.downloads4mac.com
EagleFiler.install4mac.com
EagleFiler.onFreeDownload.com
SpamSieve.downloads4mac.com
SpamSieve.install4mac.com
SpamSieve.onFreeDownload.com
```

are *not* authorized to distribute our software. They have been a [source of confusion](#)⁷² because they often appear in ads at the top of search results for Bing, DuckDuckGo, and Yahoo. *We do not recommend downloading from these sites.* In many cases, they will say that they are offering an “official” copy of DropDMG that is anything but. In fact, the installer asks for your administrator password, installs adware, and makes other changes that may damage your Mac.

CNET's Download.com offers a **Direct Download Link**, which is valid; however it also offers a more prominent **Download Now Installer Enabled** link, which we do not recommend. The CNET installer installs toolbar adware and changes browser settings. [This page](#)⁷³ explains how you can remove the toolbar.

6.6 How can I open the Library folder?

Under Mac OS X 10.7 Lion or later, the **Library** folder is hidden. To open it, click on Finder in the Dock. Click on the **Go** menu at the top of the screen, hold down the Option key, and then choose **Library**.

Another option is to go to your home folder, choose **View** ▸ **Show View Options** and then make sure that **Show Library Folder** is checked.

Under previous versions of Mac OS X, you can click on Finder in the Dock, click on the **Go** menu, and choose **Home**. This will show your home folder, and you can open the **Library** folder directly.

⁷⁰<http://c-command.com>

⁷¹<http://c-command.com/store/>

⁷²<http://c-command.com/forums/showthread.php/4497-omg-I-feel-dirty>

⁷³http://securemac.com/cnet_adware_removal_guide.php

6.7 What information should I include when I report a problem?

It will be faster and easier to help you if your e-mail includes all of the following information:

The version of Mac OS X that you are using

Click on the Apple menu and choose **About This Mac**.

The version of DropDMG that you are using

Click on the DropDMG menu and choose **About DropDMG**. (Please do not say “the latest version,” as this is ambiguous.)

Do you have the Mac App Store version?

Click on the DropDMG menu and choose **About DropDMG**. It will say “Mac App Store” at the bottom of the window.

Does the problem pertain to a particular configuration, license, or layout?

Please see [Sending in Configuration Files](#).

Specific error information

Please see [Sending in an Error Report](#).

If something isn’t working as you expect

Please describe what you did, what happened, and what you expected to happen instead. If possible, take a screenshot or two that illustrate the problem (see [Sending in Screenshots](#)).

If DropDMG hangs or freezes

Please see [Sending in a “Sample” Report](#).

6.7.1 Sending in an Error Report

If an error window appeared on your screen, please include the exact text of the error message in your e-mail. (It may help to use **Copy** and **Paste**.)

Please also send in any errors that were reported in the system log:

1. Click on Finder in the Dock.
2. From the **Go** menu, choose **Utilities**.
3. Double-click the Console application.
4. Click on **All Messages** at the left of the window. (It may be necessary to first click the **Show Log List** toolbar button if you don’t see **All Messages** at the left.)
5. If it shows any recent error messages, select them (or choose **Edit** ▸ **Select All**).
Note: You may need to click the **Earlier** button at the bottom of the window to find errors that did not occur recently.
6. Choose **File** ▸ **Save Selection As...** and save the file as `My Log.log` on your desktop.
7. Drag this file into your e-mail message to include it as an attachment/enclosure.

6.7.2 Sending in Screenshots

To take a screenshot, hold down the Command and Shift keys and press the number 4. Then use the mouse to select the area of the screen that you want to take a picture of. This will create a file called **Screen Shot <date> at <time>.png** on your desktop. Pressing the keys again will create **Screen Shot <date> at <new time>.png**, etc. You can drag these into the e-mail window to attach them to your message. If you're using Apple Mail, be sure to set the **Image Size** pop-up menu at the bottom of the message window to **Actual Size**.

6.7.3 Sending in Configuration Files

If the problem pertains to a particular configuration, license, or layout, please send it in via e-mail so that we can try to isolate what is causing the problem. You can drag and drop from the configuration/license/layout list to export the information as a file or folder. Select it in the Finder and choose **File > Compress**. This will create a ZIP archive that you can attach to your e-mail.

6.7.4 Sending in a “Sample” Report

If a program is slow, hangs (e.g. with a spinning beachball), or freezes, a “sample” report can record what your Mac was doing in order to locate the source of the problem.

1. Click on Finder in the Dock.
2. From the **Go** menu, choose **Utilities**.
3. Double-click the Activity Monitor program.
4. Select DropDMG in the **Activity Monitor** window.
5. Do whatever it is in DropDMG that causes the slowness, hang, or freeze. *Immediately*, click on Activity Monitor in the Dock and choose **Sample Process** from the **View** menu.
6. After Activity Monitor has finished taking the sample, click the **Save...** button in the “Sample of DropDMG” window. Save the file to your desktop and then include it in your e-mail message as an attachment. (Please do not copy and paste the text from the Activity Monitor window.)

6.8 What can I do if the log database is damaged?

A damaged log database can prevent DropDMG from launching or cause it to crash or report internal errors. Database damage can be caused by crashes or disk errors.

If you have a backup from before the damage occurred, you can quit DropDMG and replace the file:

```
/Users/<username>/Library/Application Support/DropDMG/Log.dropdmglog
```

with a working copy. See the [How can I open the Library folder?](#) section for how to find this file.

Otherwise, you can delete the `Log.dropdmglog` file and DropDMG will create a new one.

7 Legal Stuff

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Components

The following open-source components are used in DropDMG:

- Regular expression support is provided by the [PCRE](http://www.pcre.org)⁷⁵ library package, which is open source software, written by Philip Hazel, and copyright by the University of Cambridge, England.
- [Core Foundation](http://www.opensource.apple.com/source/CF/CF-368.28/)⁷⁶ is available under the terms of the [Apple Public Source License](http://www.opensource.apple.com/license/aps1/)⁷⁷.
- `CwIDemangle.swift` is Copyright © 2015 Matt Gallagher and is available under the [Apache License v2.0 with Runtime Library Exception](http://swift.org/LICENSE.txt)⁷⁸.
- [Growl](http://growl.info)⁷⁹ is Copyright © The Growl Project, 2004-2007 All rights reserved.

⁷⁵<http://www.pcre.org>

⁷⁶<http://www.opensource.apple.com/source/CF/CF-368.28/>

⁷⁷<http://www.opensource.apple.com/license/aps1/>

⁷⁸<http://swift.org/LICENSE.txt>

⁷⁹<http://growl.info>

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- Thanks to Allan Odgaard for some code snippets that are used in the Software Update installer.

8 Version History

3.3—May 23, 2016

- The [Format](#) pop-up menu now makes it clearer which compression algorithm each format uses.
- Improved DropDMG’s file choosing message text to work around Mac OS X 10.11’s behavior of sometimes not showing the panel’s title.
- Improved the way tooltips show file paths when the file no longer exists.
- Improved the error reporting and debug logging for the command-line tool.
- Improved the error reporting for the [Software Update...](#) command.
- Improved the error reporting when a Mac App Store receipt cannot be found.
- Made various code modernizations.
- The [Command-line tool](#) section of the manual describes how to use DropDMG with Xcode Server.
- Updated the [Licenses](#) section of the manual.
- DropDMG now disables full screen mode for its main window to work around a drawing glitch with Mac OS X 10.11.
- Fixed a bug where creating a `.sparsebundle` or `.sparseimage` from a package didn’t work.
- Fixed a bug where Mac App Store receipts would not validate if the Mac’s language was set to Hebrew.
- Fixed a bug where if there were repeated errors saving the size of the Finder window, DropDMG would not properly clean up. Now it ejects and deletes the temporary disk image file.

- Updated the German localization.

3.2.9—December 11, 2015

- By default, Mac OS X 10.11 required you to click an **Options** push button to see the options for the [New from Folder/File...](#), [Convert Image/Archive...](#), [Get Image Info...](#), and [Mount Image...](#) commands. DropDMG now shows the options by default.
- Worked around a change in the Finder that caused disk image windows to be too short for the background picture when created using Mac OS X 10.11.
- Worked around a Finder bug in Mac OS X 10.11 that could cause the disk image's icons to be misaligned if the `AppleShowAllFiles` option was enabled.
- DropDMG will now check that the Finder saved the state of the window status bar and fix it if necessary.
- The [Activity window](#) is now shown by default.
- Added the [Why doesn't the file I added show up on the disk image?](#) section to the manual.
- Updated the [Create OS X Install Disk](#) section of the manual.
- Improved the error messages when the Finder doesn't save the proper window bounds for the mounted disk image.
- If the `LayouterCheckViewOptions` esoteric preference is set, DropDMG will now check that the icon size, text size, and background picture were correctly saved into the view options (retrying if necessary). This can work around a rare bug that was reported in Mac OS X 10.11.
- Fixed a bug where Mac App Store receipt validation used the current date rather than the receipt creation date.
- Fixed a regression (caused by an Xcode update) where various dialogs and sheets did not show the lock icon to indicate that a passphrase was set.
- Fixed the size of the distribution disk image window.
- Updated code for Xcode 7.2.
- DropDMG is now localized in Simplified Chinese.
- We need some help localizing DropDMG. If you would like to help keep DropDMG's German localization up-to-date, please contact dropdmg@c-command.com⁸⁰.

3.2.8—September 29, 2015

- DropDMG is now fully compatible with Mac OS X 10.11 El Capitan.
- Added support for [LZFSE-compressed](#) disk images, which are smaller than the standard zlib-compressed disk images yet twice as fast to encode and three times as fast to decode (requires Mac OS X 10.11).
- When you're editing a license or layout, DropDMG now adds a menu to the **Fonts** panel for choosing the system font, since there is otherwise no way of choosing San Francisco or the proper version of Helvetica Neue to match the user interface.
- Updated the [Create OS X Install Disk](#) instructions for Mac OS X 10.11.
- It is now possible to enter segment sizes larger than 50 GB in the **Preferences** window. (Previously, this was only possible via script.)
- Added segment size and blank disk image preset for 100 GB BD-R XL discs.
- Modernized code for the Xcode 7 compiler and the Mac OS X 10.11 SDK.

⁸⁰<mailto:dropdmg@c-command.com>

- The [Command-line tool](#) is now installed in a different folder on Mac OS X 10.11 for compatibility with System Integrity Protection.
- Added support for App Transport Security on Mac OS X 10.11.
- The **About**, **Software Update**, and help windows now use the San Francisco font on Mac OS X 10.11.
- Worked around an OS bug that could cause the volume to be busy when creating a device image on Mac OS X 10.11.
- Worked around a bug in Mac OS X 10.11 that could cause a crash during [Software Update...](#)
- Added some logging and esoteric preferences to work around problems hiding/showing the Finder's status bar.
- Improved the [Sharing Licenses and Layouts](#) section of the manual.
- Fixed a bug where [Software Update...](#) would continue offering updates in the same session you had held down the Option key.
- Removed inadvertent debug logging for the **Append version number** feature.
- Updated the French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish localizations.

3.2.7—June 3, 2015

- If the Finder didn't save the proper size for the mounted disk image window, DropDMG will now automatically retry several times. (DropDMG 3.2.6 would abort with an error, and you would have to retry manually.)
- The [Compact Image...](#) command is now available in the contextual menu in the log.
- Improved error reporting when a temporary folder cannot be created.
- If DropDMG detects that one of its files is missing, i.e. that the application is damaged, it now presents a better error message.
- Added the following sections to the manual:
 - [Reinstalling a Fresh Copy](#)
 - [Splitting a File or Folder Into Pieces](#)
 - [Why don't the icons appear in the desired positions in the mounted disk image?](#)
- Improved the following sections of the manual:
 - [Layouts](#)
 - [Making Images With Background Pictures](#)
 - [Restoring Files and Disks](#)
- Added accessibility label in the **Software Update** new **News** windows.
- Improved the fonts in the **About** and **Software Update** windows.
- When the trial period is over, the alert now has a **Help** button that opens the instructions for uninstalling.
- Date formatters now use the POSIX local where appropriate.

3.2.6—January 26, 2015

- In rare cases, Mac OS X 10.10 does not properly save the size of the mounted disk image window. DropDMG can now detect when this happens and report an error so that you do not inadvertently deploy a disk image that doesn't look right. Usually, simply creating the disk image again will avoid the problem.

- The [Layouts](#) section of the manual now describes a problem with the rightmost 1 point of the background picture not being displayed in the Finder. For maximum compatibility with different OS versions, it is recommended that you design your background such that these pixels are not critical.
- Added the [Mount Disk Image](#)⁸¹ sample AppleScript.
- The [About DropDMG](#) window now uses the new system font on Mac OS X 10.10.
- The [About DropDMG](#) window now uses the system language names when crediting localizers, to reduce the number of strings that localizers need to keep up-to-date.
- Increased the font size in the [Software Update...](#) window on Mac OS X 10.10.
- Worked around an OS bug that prevented bookmark files from being resolved.
- Worked around a bug in Mac OS X 10.10 that prevented the [Change Image Passphrase...](#) command from working.
- Fixed a regression that prevented editing layouts on Mac OS X 10.6 through 10.8.
- Fixed a regression where the command-line tool did not accept `none` for the encryption.
- Fixed a bug where a change in system font metrics caused some text in the [Preferences](#) window to be truncated.
- Fixed a bug where DropDMG did not show Retina-resolution 515×512 icons in the [Layouts](#) window. (This did not affect the created disk images.)
- Fixed a bug where there **Next to Source** destination didn't work in the Mac App Store version of DropDMG.
- Updated the Italian localization.

3.2.5—November 19, 2014

- DropDMG now sets the Finder icon positions for invisible files, so that if the user has the Finder set to show invisible files (e.g. using `AppleShowAllFiles`) they do not cover up the background picture or the icons in your disk image's layout.
- DropDMG now accepts background pictures with resolutions that are off by a fraction of a dot per inch, as that's how some graphics programs save them.
- DropDMG can now be told to mount disk images via AppleScript. You can control whether verification and file ownership are enabled, whether a shadow file is used, and whether the disk image is mounted at a custom location in the file system. For encrypted disk images, you can specify the passphrase directly or tell DropDMG to load it from a particular configuration in your keychain.
- DropDMG now supports making the mounted disk image window smaller than the background picture. The window is always anchored at the top-left of the background picture but can be inset a certain number of points from its bottom and right edges. There is currently no user interface for setting the insets, but you can edit them by quitting DropDMG and editing the `windowInsets` value in the layout's `Info.plist` file.
- Modernized lots of code and removed old code that's no longer needed for compatibility with legacy OS versions.
- DropDMG now uses power assertions to prevent App Nap from slowing user-initiated operations when the window is in the background or blocked by the screensaver.
- Adjusted the icon badging for Mac OS X 10.10's new mounted disk image icon.
- Updated the disk image icon for Mac OS X 10.10.

⁸¹<http://c-command.com/scripts/dropdmg/mounting>

- Improved the following sections of the manual (among others):
 - [Create OS X Install Disk](#)
 - [Custom volume icon](#)
 - [Restoring Files and Disks](#)
 - [Uninstalling DropDMG](#)
 - [Updating From a Previous Version](#)
- Esoteric preferences links are now directly clickable in the Apple Help and PDF manual.
- The log database no longer uses WAL mode.
- Worked around a bug in Mac OS X 10.10 that could cause DropDMG to freeze at launch.
- Worked around a bug in Mac OS X 10.10 that prevented the creation of encrypted disk images when the passphrase was not specified in the configuration.
- Worked around an Xcode bug that caused DropDMG to complain in Console about missing images.
- Improved DropDMG’s error handling.
- Improved the crash reporter.
- Updated the Gatekeeper signature format.
- The [Software Update...](#) feature is better at explaining what you can do if installation fails.
- Fixed a bug where the release notes in the [Software Update...](#) window were shown in the wrong font.
- Adjusted the way the [Purchase...](#) window displays the remaining demo time to try to make it clearer.
- The images in the PDF manual and Apple Help are now Retina-resolution.
- Adjusted the font sizes in the PDF manual.
- Better handling of localized strings when a bundle is missing (because the application is damaged).
- Mac OS X 10.10 no longer logs an error related to the main window’s trial button.
- Worked around an OS bug that could cause a crash when reading DropDMG’s log file.
- Fixed a bug where DropDMG would report an error if you tried to delete from the log detail drawer.
- Fixed a bug that could cause a crash when editing license agreements.
- Fixed a bug where blank disk images sometimes had the wrong internal file ownership.
- Fixed a regression where the **Preferences** window wouldn’t open when running in Japanese.
- Updated the localizations.
- We need help keeping DropDMG’s Italian and Japanese localizations up-to-date. Please contact dropdmg@c-command.com⁸² if you’re interested.
- DropDMG now requires Mac OS X 10.6.8 or later.
- DropDMG’s Automator action now requires Mac OS X 10.9 or later. This is because Xcode has dropped support for Objective-C garbage collection, but Mac OS X 10.8 and earlier only support garbage collected Automator actions. If you need to use DropDMG and Automator with Mac OS X 10.8 or earlier, you can run [DropDMG 3.2.4](#)⁸³.

3.2.4—January 28, 2014

⁸²<mailto:dropdmg@c-command.com>

⁸³<http://c-command.com/dropdmg/support#older-versions>

- DropDMG no longer posts errors to Notification Center. Instead, if DropDMG is not frontmost, it will bounce the Dock icon to alert you of an error.
- Made some code signing changes for better compatibility with Mac OS X 10.9.
- DropDMG is better at detecting errors when setting the background picture and arranging the icons.
- Fixed a bug that could cause a crash when using DropDMG's Automator action.
- Fixed a bug that could cause an internal error when creating a hybrid disk image if the layouts preferences were open.
- Fixed a bug where DropDMG could report an error when converting a disk image from `.iso` format to `.dmg` if the destination file already existed.
- Updated the [sample AppleScripts](#)⁸⁴.
- Updated the French localization.

3.2.3—October 10, 2013

- DropDMG now displays file sizes using the system standard style (requires Mac OS X 10.8 or later).
- The **Burn OS X Install DVD** command has been renamed to [Create OS X Install Disk](#). It now offers instructions for creating an installer disk (e.g. hard drive, USB stick, or SD card) for Mac OS X 10.9 Mavericks.
- Fixed a bug where changes to the [license agreement](#) text weren't saved if you created a new license or language using the action menu.
- Fixed a bug where some disk image files were incorrectly owned by root if [Always run with root access](#) was checked.
- Fixed a bug where DropDMG would use a stale [version number variable](#) when you imaged an application, updated it (e.g. via the Mac App Store), and then imaged it again in the same DropDMG session.
- Automatic software updates no longer fail if Hazel is set to move files in the `Downloads` folder.
- Fixed a typo in the man page.
- We need some help localizing DropDMG. If you would like to help keep DropDMG's French localization up-to-date, please contact dropdmg@c-command.com⁸⁵.

3.2.2—May 3, 2013

- It is now possible to set (or override) layout variables from AppleScript or the command line. This is also useful when creating a disk image of non-application files; DropDMG would be unable to intuit the `{$APP_BASENAME}`, but you can still set it to whatever you want in your script and have it rendered into the layout.
- The `HybridFSArgs` [esoteric preference](#) lets you control which filesystems DropDMG uses for hybrid `.iso` disk images.
- Fixed a bug where sometimes creating a disk image failed if it contained a very large number of small files.
- Fixed a bug where `.iso` files would sometimes be owned by root instead of the user.
- Made various minor adjustments to the toolbar icons in the main window.
- Added Japanese localization.

⁸⁴<http://c-command.com/scripts/dropdmg/>

⁸⁵<mailto:dropdmg@c-command.com>

3.2.1—January 25, 2013

- Fixed a bug where DropDMG sometimes didn't create large enough disk images for files that were stored using HFS+ compression (e.g. applications from the Mac App Store).
- Fixed a bug where the log showed the source folder's allocated size rather than its logical size.
- Fixed a bug creating a disk image with a layout that had text but no background picture.
- Fixed a bug that could cause DropDMG to create a device image with a dirty HFS+ journal. If the disk image was read-only, it would not be possible to mount the disk image. If you have such a disk image, you can fix it by converting it to a read-write format. The journal will then be replayed and saved in a clean state.
- Fixed a bug where DropDMG could hang when using the contextual menu in the log.
- Added instructions for burning a disc with a [Custom volume icon](#).
- Updated the Italian localization.

3.2—November 7, 2012

Highlights

- DropDMG's user interface is now fully optimized for Macs with Retina displays, as well as multi-display setups.
- DropDMG now renders Retina-quality background images. The source background picture can be a 72 or 144dpi image, a PDF file, or a multi-resolution TIFF file. DropDMG will render a multi-resolution background picture that's optimized for display on both Retina and non-Retina Macs.
- Rather than adding an application icon to a [layout](#), you now have the option of adding an application icon *placeholder*. This makes it easy to use the same layout to create disk images for different applications.
- Previously, you could add an **Applications** folder symlink to [layouts](#) by dragging and dropping your **Applications** folder. There's now a dedicated button for adding the symlink, to make the feature easier to use and more discoverable.
- [Layouts](#) now support a maximum icon size of 512 points (up from 128).
- DropDMG can now create segmented ZIP archives (e.g. `.z01`, `.z02`, `.zip`). Such archives cannot be expanded by Mac OS X's built-in Archive Utility, but there are free third-party expansion utilities such as [The Unarchiver](#)⁸⁶.
- Added the [Append version number](#) feature. When imaging or archiving an application or installer, this option will add its version number to the end of the filename.
- Added support for Notification Center (requires OS X 10.8).
- Added the **Burn OS X Install DVD** feature, an easier way to make your own installer or emergency DVD.
- Streamlined disk image creation by no longer optimizing images for restore that don't need such optimization.
- Added the `ZlibLevel` [esoteric preference](#), which lets you set DropDMG to create `.dmg` files more quickly but with less compression.
- Added the `DisableRetinaBackgroundPictures` [esoteric preference](#), which lets you create non-Retina background pictures in order to work around a bug in Mac OS X 10.6.

Other Improvements

- DropDMG now tells the system that it can use the integrated GPU, which should reduce battery use on newer MacBook Pros.

⁸⁶<http://unarchiver.c3.cx>

- You can now remove the background image from a layout using the contextual menu on the image view.
- DropDMG now offers advice for dealing with “Resource busy” errors.
- Expanded the [Making Images With Background Pictures](#) instructions to describe how to make a standard disk image for distributing a Mac application.
- Improved the [What information should I include when I report a problem?](#) page.
- Improved the folder name when a folder for segments already exists.
- The documentation now recommends choosing a background picture that’s at least 437 points wide, to account for the Finder’s minimum window width.
- The crash reporter can now make recommendations based on the contents of the crash log.
- Deleting a layout, license, or configuration now moves it to the trash rather than deleting it outright.
- DropDMG itself now has a Retina disk image background, and it shares the layout with other C-Command products.
- After purchasing, DropDMG used to show your user image to indicate that it had been successfully personalized. It now shows a generic checkmark to avoid prompting you for Contacts access on OS X 10.8.
- Added a link to the forum in the **Help** menu.

Fixes

- Reverted to version 1.2.3 of the Growl SDK to avoid problems with high CPU usage, internal errors, and crashes.
- Fixed a bug where sometimes the layout editor would reset the scroll position.
- Fixed a bug where the tooltips in the main window’s pop-up menu didn’t always update when a configuration was changed.
- Fixed a bug where sometimes packages weren’t wrapped.
- Fixed a bug where sometimes disk images were created without enough space for the background picture or custom icon.
- Layout thumbnail previews no longer change the aspect ratio.
- Fixed a bug where sometimes changes to the segment size in the temporary options dialog didn’t take effect.
- Fixed an issue where, when loading your recent destination folders, DropDMG would sometimes prompt you with a dialog to find folders on unmounted volumes.
- Fixed a bug where TIFF files were not allowed for background pictures.
- Fixed a bug creating images in .cdr format with custom icons or layouts.
- Fixed a bug where there was an extra gray strip next to the action button in the **Layouts** tab of the preferences.
- Fixed a bug handling errors if the software update failed; if it succeeded, the .dmg file is now deleted.

3.1.4—May 28, 2012

- Added the **Check for News...** command to the **DropDMG** menu of the Mac App Store version.
- Improved handling of localized button titles in license agreements.

3.1.3—May 9, 2012

- DropDMG is now code-signed using a [Developer ID certificate](#)⁸⁷ for Gatekeeper.

⁸⁷<http://www.apple.com/macosx/mountain-lion/security.html>

- Layouts and custom volume icons now work with hybrid (.iso) disk images.
- DropDMG’s helper tools are now 64-bit like the rest of the application.
- Improved the reporting of unexpected errors.
- DropDMG now logs more information when a layout item is missing from the source folder.
- Improved the [What information should I include when I report a problem?](#) section of the manual.
- Fixed a bug where the [Compact Image...](#) command didn’t work on Mac OS X 10.7 when the computer was running on battery power.
- Fixed a bug where **Delete after converting** didn’t work when converting to .iso format.
- Fixed a bug where DropDMG would report an error when converting a .iso disk image to the same format.
- DropDMG now requires Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later.

3.1.2—February 7, 2012

- Added support for Growl notifications via Gntp (requires Mac OS X 10.7 or later).
- When renaming a configuration, layout, or license in the preferences, you can now press the Esc key to cancel.
- Fixed a bug where DropDMG would log an error to the console when converting a ZIP archive to a disk image.

3.1.1—November 16, 2011

- Added support for [Growl 1.3⁸⁸](#).
- DropDMG is now localized in Brazilian Portuguese.
- Added 1024×1024 application icon.
- Fixed a bug where the **Add Icon...** button didn’t constrain new icons to the grid.
- Fixed a bug where the **Add Icon...** button didn’t let you add folder icons to a layout.
- Fixed a bug that could cause a crash if there was an internal error launching a helper tool.

3.1—October 4, 2011

- DropDMG is much faster at creating large disk images under most circumstances, and it now compresses disk images a bit more tightly. Added the [Use less temporary disk space](#) preference, so that you can make DropDMG operate in the older, slower mode if your destination volume is running out of space.
- Disk image [layouts](#) can now contain text boxes, with your choice of fonts, styles, colors, and shadows. Thus, it’s no longer necessary to fire up a graphics program to update the text in your background picture.
- [Layout](#) text boxes can contain placeholder variables, which DropDMG will replace when creating the disk image. For example, if your disk image contains an application (e.g. `DropDMG.app`), the text `${APP_SHORT_VERSION_STRING}` will be replaced by the marketing version of the application (e.g. `3.1`).
- The [Mount Image...](#) command now has a **Shadow file** option that lets you mount a read-only disk image as read-write. Any changes made to the mounted image will be written to the adjacent shadow file. This can be useful, e.g. if you want to use Spotlight to search a read-only disk image.
- DropDMG now supports [license](#) agreements localized in Arabic, Greek, Russian, and Ukrainian.

⁸⁸<http://growl.info>

- To ensure that background pictures display properly in the Finder, DropDMG now reports an error if you give it a picture file that's not 72dpi.
- Many operations when editing a disk image layout are now undoable.
- The license agreement editor text view now displays line breaks in the same places as the text view that the system uses when mounting the disk image.
- The [Preferences](#) window now supports full screen mode (requires Mac OS X 10.7).
- Added the **Burning a Lion Installation DVD** section to the manual.
- Fixed a bug where, when creating an encrypted disk image with no specified passphrase, DropDMG sometimes failed to prompt for one.
- Fixed a bug where creating a new language for a license agreement appeared to do nothing if the license's name was in edit mode.
- Fixed a bug where the configuration/layout/license lists didn't properly update if you added an item while you were renaming another item.
- Fixed a bug where the source size reported in the log when mounting a disk image only counted the first segment.
- Fixed a bug that could cause DropDMG to create a `.tar.bz2` archive when you requested `.tar`.
- Fixed alignment of license button text fields.
- Fixed a bug with re-personalizing the application via URL.

3.0.7—May 17, 2011

- Fixed a bug where DropDMG would fail with a permissions error when creating a disk image with a custom icon of a root-owned file, e.g. a purchase from the Mac App Store.
- Fixed a bug where, in rare cases, DropDMG could not create a disk image if a file with its preferred temporary name already existed.
- Fixed a bug creating images in `.cdr` format with custom icons or layouts.
- Clarified the description of `.cdr` disk image [format](#).
- Adjusted the help page titles to fit better in the menu and search results.

3.0.6—March 11, 2011

- Fixed a bug where the command-line tool and Automator would time out during long disk imaging operations.
- Fixed a bug where disk images with layouts sometimes ended up with too short a window.
- Fixed a bug where creating a disk image with a layout would sometimes fail if DropDMG was running with root access.
- Fixed a bug that could cause a crash when verifying a folder containing circular symlinks.
- Improved the error message when the chosen destination folder isn't writable.
- Improved the German localization.

3.0.5—February 25, 2011

- DropDMG 3.0.5 contained revisions for the Mac App Store but was not shipped directly to customers.

3.0.4—November 15, 2010

- When creating a disk image with a layout, DropDMG now sets it to auto-open. This ensures that CDs/DVDs burned from that disk image will auto-open when the disc is inserted.

- Fixed a bug where invisible version control folders could prevent [detached licenses](#) from working.
- Fixed a bug where Automator would time out during a long disk imaging operation.

3.0.3—October 5, 2010

- Fixed a bug where it didn't work to simultaneously enter `--license-folder` and `--layout-folder` from the command-line.
- Fixed a bug where some temporary folders would not be deleted if you canceled while converting a disk image.
- Fixed a bug where the German and Italian localizations showed an incorrect version number.

3.0.2—August 17, 2010

- DropDMG is now localized in French.
- Added toolbar buttons to the [DropDMG window](#) for directly opening the [Layouts](#) and [Licenses](#) tabs of the **Preferences** window.
- Added a preference to [remove log entries](#) **When DropDMG quits**.
- Creates more tightly compressed ZIP archives than previous versions of DropDMG or the Finder (requires Mac OS X 10.6).
- Added a `CreateDeviceImages` [esoteric preference](#), which lets you create regular disk images instead of device images when dragging a volume onto DropDMG. This is slower but gives the option of setting a custom volume name.
- Fixed a bug where DropDMG truncated the suggested volume and base names when using the **Ask** option.
- Fixed a bug in the layout editor where retracting a marquee selection left the icons still selected.
- Fixed a bug where DropDMG reported an error when converting encrypted `.sparsebundle` disk images.
- Fixed a bug where using a [detached license or layout](#) could cause DropDMG to create extra `Info.plist` files in nearby folders.
- When displaying an internal error, DropDMG now cleans it up and presents an abbreviated version to ensure that the window fits on screen. (The full error information is still included when you click the **Send E-mail** button.)
- Worked around an OS bug that could prevent DropDMG from being able to open its **Preferences** window.
- Tried to work around a problem where the software updater sometimes didn't ask for the permissions it needed to complete an update.
- Updated the disk image layout.

3.0.1—July 14, 2010

- If you try to enter a serial number for DropDMG 2.x, rather than just complaining that it's invalid, DropDMG now uses it to help you get a discounted or free upgrade and a 3.x serial number.
- Fixed a bug where creating a disk image from the Finder's contextual menu or keyboard shortcut sometimes didn't work.
- Fixed a bug where selecting a folder from the [New from Folder/File...](#) dialog didn't work.
- Fixed an internal error that occurred if you changed a configuration option while renaming a configuration.
- Fixed a bug that could prevent the Automator action from working.

- Fixed a regression where the `-t` argument to the `dropdmg` command-line tool wasn't recognized.
- Fixed a bug where the **Base Name** and **Volume Name** fields sometimes weren't editable when dragging and dropping onto the main window.
- Enabled undo for the **Base Name** and **Volume Name** text fields (requires Mac OS X 10.6 due to a bug in previous versions).
- Fixed a bug where DropDMG would show two **Help** menus after auto-updating the command-line tool.
- Fixed a bug where the **Names** pop-up menu text was too wide when using [YYYY-MM-DD-HHMMSS dates](#).
- Fixed the positioning of the log detail drawer.
- Fixed a small memory leak.
- The manual now recommends leaving space in a layout's background picture for the Finder window's path bar.
- Updated the tooltips in the configuration options.
- Updated the localizations.

3.0—June 29, 2010

DropDMG is \$24 for new users, \$12 for previous DropDMG owners, and free for people who bought DropDMG 2.x on or after June 20, 2008. There's a 30-day fully-featured trial for new users and upgraders.

Highlights

- The user interface and disk imaging engine have been almost completely redesigned and rewritten to make DropDMG easier to use and more robust.
- The [Layouts](#) feature gives developers a WYSIWYG editor to set the background picture, view options, and icon positions, making it easy to deploy Mac software to their users.
- The [New Blank Disk Image...](#) command lets you protect select folders using the same encryption technology as FileVault but without its drawbacks.
- Added support for the `.sparsebundle`, `.sparseimage`, and hybrid (`.iso`) disk image [formats](#).
- The [DropDMG window](#) now has a customizable toolbar for quick access to commonly used commands.
- The [Activity window](#) consolidates progress information into a single window, rather than having separate windows for each operation. Additionally, DropDMG now has progress bars for bulk operations, so that you can see the overall progress (e.g. folder 6 of 10) in addition to the progress for the current operations.
- DropDMG can now create [device images of hard drives](#).
- The [Verify Image...](#) command now works in the background and can verify a whole folder of disk images at once. You can also bulk-verify multiple encrypted disk images without having to keep re-entering the passphrase.
- The [Mount Image...](#) command now works in the background and can mount multiple disk images at once. You can also bulk-mount encrypted disk images that share the same passphrase.
- Added the [Change Image Passphrase...](#) command, which makes it much faster to change the passphrase of an encrypted disk image.
- The [Join Files...](#) command lets you recombine files that have been split into `.001`, `.002`, etc. files.

Configurations

- [Configurations](#) are now editable, and the **Configurations** window has been merged into the [Preferences](#) window.
- The [Formats](#) pop-up menu has been reorganized and provides more information about the different formats and which versions of the OS they work with.
- Added support for 256-bit AES [encryption](#), which the NSA rates as secure enough for TOP SECRET level documents.
- Added the [Optimize for restores](#) option.
- Added the **Sizes** pop-down menu, which makes it easy to select common sizes for disk image [segments](#).
- The **Show Passphrase** button lets you check the passphrase for a configuration without having to re-type it.
- The dialogs for the [New from Folder/File...](#) and [Convert Image/Archive...](#) commands now have pop-up menus to select which configuration to use.
- The destination and names prompts have been combined into a single dialog.
- If the chosen destination folder is not available (e.g. because its volume is offline) DropDMG now displays a caution icon in the pop-up menu and will report an error during the operation, rather than silently changing to **Next to Source**.
- When choosing a configuration in the [DropDMG window](#) or from the Dock menu, you can hold down the Option key to open the configuration for editing.
- Configurations are now stored as individual `.plist` files, rather than in DropDMG's preferences file, so it's easier to exchange them with other users and they work better with Time Machine.

Optimizations

- Creating encrypted disk images is faster and requires less temporary disk space.
- Other types of operations can now run while DropDMG is waiting for a blank optical disc to be inserted.
- Improved the queuing of bulk operations to reduce disk contention and increase performance.
- DropDMG now runs as a 64-bit application under Mac OS X 10.6.

Log

- The [DropDMG window](#) now has a drawer that shows detailed information about the selected log entry.
- You can Control-click on log entries to perform operations on their files.
- Log entries are now posted as [Growl](#)⁸⁹ notifications. If an operation has succeeded, clicking on the Growl notification will reveal the destination file in the Finder (or [Path Finder](#)⁹⁰). If the operation has failed, clicking on the notification reveals the log entry in DropDMG.
- The [Remove log entries](#) preference lets you set DropDMG to auto-delete old log entries after a specified amount of time.
- It is now possible to delete individual log entries manually.
- The log is now displayed as a table rather than a block of text.
- The log can now be set to only show errors.
- The log is now stored as a Core Data database rather than in DropDMG's preferences file. This makes reading and updating it faster and reduces DropDMG's memory usage.

License Agreements

⁸⁹<http://growl.info>

⁹⁰<http://www.cocoatech.com/pf.php>

- The separate windows for the license agreements list and the language editors have been combined into the new [Licenses](#) tab of the [Preferences](#) window. The steps for making a new localized license are much clearer now.
- Licenses can now customize the prompt text and button names that are presented to the end-user.
- Added additional languages for localized licenses: Czech, Hungarian, Polish, Slovak, Swedish, Turkish.
- License agreements are now stored as individual files, rather than in DropDMG's preferences file. This allows for [sharing](#), storing them under version control, editing using external applications, and better Time Machine backups.
- Added **Spelling and Grammar**, **Substitutions**, and **Transformations** to the **Edit** menu, and also added menu commands for finding and replacing.
- You can hold down the Option key when choosing a license in the [Configurations](#) tab to open it for editing.
- The license agreement editor now localizes the display of the language names.

Miscellaneous

- You can now choose whether DropDMG shows [temporary options](#) by default or only when you hold down the Option key.
- Added the [Compact Image...](#) command, which reclaims free space from `.sparseimage` and `.sparsebundle` files.
- The [Get Image Info...](#) command now displays the information in an outline rather than a block of text.
- [Custom badged icons](#) for the mounted disk image volume are of much higher quality. The icon is now rendered at up to 512x512 pixels, and there's a separate optimized version for each size (rather than scaling down the full-size rendering).
- The `dropdmg` command-line tool now has a `man` page.
- File and segment sizes are now displayed using base 10 megabytes, for consistency with the Mac OS X 10.6 Finder.
- Remembers between launches which windows were open.
- DropDMG now auto-updates its [command-line tool](#) when you first launch a new version of the application.
- The **Create Disk Image/Archive** Automator action is now compatible with Mac OS X 10.6.
- Added [Esoteric Preferences](#).
- Worked around an OS limitation that could prevent DropDMG from converting a very large disk image into segments.
- Properly handles composed characters when truncating filenames.
- Made various improvements to the [Software Update...](#) user interface and engine.
- Improved the [Purchase...](#) window to make it easier to understand how the trial period and serial numbers work.
- DropDMG now uses [Mac OS X code signing](#)⁹¹, which should reduce the number of annoying keychain dialogs.
- Fixed a bug where DropDMG would continue trying to burn an encrypted disk image after the user had failed to enter the proper passphrase.
- Fixed a bug with non-ASCII names and the command-line tool.

Removed

⁹¹<http://developer.apple.com/mac/library/documentation/Security/Conceptual/CodeSigningGuide/Introduction/Introduction.html>

- DropDMG 3.0 requires Mac OS X 10.5 or later. [Older versions](#)⁹² for Mac OS X 10.4 and 10.3 are still available.
- The **Encoding** option has been removed, since it's no longer particularly useful to create BinHex- or MacBinary-encoded disk images.
- Removed support for creating self-mounting `.smi` NDIF disk images, since all recent versions of the OS have built-in support for disk images.
- Removed the keyboard shortcut for DropDMG's command in the **Services** menu, since Command-Shift-D was appropriated by the OS. You can use the **Keyboard** pane of System Preferences to assign your own shortcut, if desired.
- Removed the option for making disk images auto-open. This is no longer necessary since Mac OS X can now auto-open disk images that do not have this option set, and this makes disk image creation much faster.
- Removed the **Copy to Others** button in the [temporary options](#) sheet, as this functionality is superseded by [configurations](#).
- Removed the contextual menu and Dock menu items for changing image formats. This functionality is superseded by [configurations](#).
- Removed support for creating and converting StuffIt archives.
- Removed support for creating ADC-compressed disk images. Zlib-compressed images are more efficient, and, due to other changes in Mac OS X's disk imaging engine, ADC images no longer provided any compatibility benefits.
- Removed the **Fix Image...** command, since Mac OS X will now mount disk images regardless of whether they have the correct type and creator codes. The Control-drag shortcut has been reassigned to the [Verify Image...](#) command.

2.8.6—September 4, 2009

- The **Use custom icon for mounted image** feature now works with Mac OS X 10.6.
- The crash reporter now works with Mac OS X 10.6.

2.8.5—February 29, 2008

- Fixed bug where saved Automator workflows didn't use the proper configuration when running on Mac OS X 10.5.2.
- Fixed bug where certain disk images of application files created on Mac OS X 10.5.2 would mount on 10.3, but the Finder would refuse to open them. (The contents were intact and accessible from other applications.)

2.8.4—January 21, 2008

- Fixed a regression in version 2.8.3 where DropDMG would delete the source file/folder if you were creating a segmented disk image next to the source and there was not enough disk space.

2.8.3—January 8, 2008

- Fixed bug where a `.dmg` file would not mount on Mac OS X 10.3 and earlier if you created it on an Intel-based Mac running Mac OS X 10.5 and the image contained just a single package file (e.g. an application).
- Fixed bug where **Append Current Date** didn't work properly when the original file/folder had a very long name.
- Fixed bug where images converted from Zip archives were owned by root.

⁹²<http://c-command.com/dropdmg/support#older-versions>

- Faster at creating images of packages when running on Mac OS X 10.5.
- Fixed bug restoring the selected row after editing a configuration name.
- Carriage returns are no longer allowed in configuration names.
- Fixed bug where some preferences items were incorrectly enabled when showing a temporary preferences sheet for a conversion operation.
- More detailed logging of burn errors.
- The software updater is better at handling invalid downloads folders.
- Updated Spanish localization.

2.8.2—November 14, 2007

- Fixed bug where the Apple Help didn't work on Mac OS X 10.5.
- Added high-resolution version of the application icon.
- Fixed bug where DropDMG could crash when canceling an operation.
- Fixed bug where DropDMG would sometimes return an incorrect destination path back to a script.

2.8.1—July 31, 2007

- If the destination folder is inside the source folder, DropDMG will now report an error and ask you to pick a different folder, rather than silently using **Next To Source**.
- Fixed bug that could cause a crash after verifying or mounting an image.
- DropDMG now accepts `.ISO` images (uppercase extension from the Windows world) and treats them as `.iso`.
- Fixed bug where DropDMG wouldn't let you quit after certain types of burn failures.
- The [Software Update...](#) feature now checks whether the updated version can run on your installed version of Mac OS X.
- Fixed bug where the [Software Update...](#) checker didn't always re-check for new updates.
- Modernized the crash reporter code.
- Updated Dutch and Italian localizations.
- Fixed help book icon.

2.8—April 4, 2007

- Improved compatibility with pre-release versions of Mac OS X 10.5.
- Passphrases are now set in a separate dialog rather than directly in the preferences window, and this has been combined with the old **Confirm Passphrase** feature. This makes it easier to verify a passphrase when you enter it.
- DropDMG now accesses the keychain only when necessary, so it won't prompt you to unlock the keychain if you're creating an image that doesn't have a passphrase.
- The [Software Update...](#) checker now works behind an HTTP proxy, and the auto-updater is compatible with FileVault.
- Reorganized the manual and added [Burning Backups of CDs/DVDs](#) and [Transferring Files Securely](#) sections.
- When creating an image of an application or installer package, DropDMG no longer includes file extension in the image name.
- Worked around -39 error from `hdiutil` when converting very large images with lots of files.

- Auto-open is now off by default, since it slows down image creation, and on Mac OS X 10.4 and later the OS will auto-mount images automatically, anyway.
- Fixed bug where **Burn Folder/File...** treated packages as folders rather than as files.
- Better recovery from -35 errors when doing image post-processing.
- Fixed bugs in enabling and disabling [Always Run With Root Access](#) menu command.
- Fixed bug where the **Services** menu commands could appear in French if you were using a British English system.
- Fixed bug remembering a recent folder that had a slash in its name.
- Fixed error when initiating a burn via AppleScript.
- Fixed small memory leak.
- Better names for temporary folders.
- Added keyboard shortcut for **Hide Others**.
- Added Spanish localization.

2.7.9—October 18, 2006

- Worked around OS bug that could cause crashes when editing license agreements.
- Fixed bug when converting multiple archives simultaneously using StuffIt Expander.
- Rewrote the [Software Update...](#) feature. When a new version is available, it can now show you the release notes. DropDMG now downloads the new version itself, rather than relying on your browser. The **Download & Install** button will cause DropDMG to auto-update itself to the latest version.
- Added recommended segment sizes to the manual and tooltip.
- If no windows are open when you click on DropDMG's icon in the Dock, it will now open the **Status** window.
- The **Volume Name** field is ignored when creating a device image, so it's now disabled in that case.
- Aliases in the **Recent Folders** folder are now created with icons.
- Dates in the log now follow the user's preferred short format.
- Fixed bug where it was possible to change the destination folder without the active configuration changing to **(custom)**.
- Fixed bug where clicking the **Confirm** button could change the configuration to **(custom)**.
- Fixed regression where DropDMG didn't set the image name based on the localized name of the source file/folder.
- Fixed a small memory leak when making custom icons.
- Fixed bug converting multiple archives from the same folder.
- The segment size field is now disabled when unchecked.
- Fixed bug with display of remaining demo time.
- Fixed bug with Purchase window sheet.
- More code modernization and bullet-proofing.
- Made various localization, documentation, and error message improvements.

2.7.8—July 13, 2006

- Fixed regression where double-clicking a license agreement sometimes wouldn't open its editor window.

2.7.7—June 29, 2006

- The **Get Image Info...** and image conversion features now support `.iso` disk images.
- Various code modernization and bullet-proofing throughout.
- Added [Protecting Your Files With Encryption](#) section to the manual.
- Made a change to prevent a rare crash when closing the license agreement editor window.
- Fixed bug that could cause a crash when closing the application-modal progress window.
- Fixed bug where editing a license agreement's contents would change the active configuration to "(custom)."
- Fixed bug where you could create an image of the destination folder inside itself.
- Fixed bug where DropDMG could crash when running in Danish.
- Fixed various localization bugs.

2.7.6—March 28, 2006

- DropDMG can now create images from files/folders/volumes whose names contain the `/` character (`:` at the Unix level).
- DropDMG can now burn images that are in `.cdr` format.
- Slightly faster at creating disk images.
- Improved the display of the demo time remaining.
- Various documentation improvements.
- Updated the localizations.

2.7.5—January 25, 2006

- DropDMG is now a [universal binary](#)⁹³.
- You can now initiate burns using the `dropdmg` command-line tool.
- Rather than typing (or copying and pasting) your name and serial number to personalize DropDMG, you can now click the `x-dropdmg://` URL that's sent to you when you [purchase](#)⁹⁴ DropDMG or get a [serial number reminder](#)⁹⁵.
- Errors encountered while preparing to create an image are no longer reported twice.
- Mounting errors are now displayed properly.
- Improved display of keychain errors.
- Added Danish localization and updated the other localizations.
- Made various improvements to the manual.

2.7.4—October 25, 2005

- Fixed bug where DropDMG would create a blank image when running on Mac OS X 10.3 and given a file or document package (i.e. not a folder or application).

2.7.3—October 25, 2005

⁹³<http://www.apple.com/universal/>

⁹⁴<http://c-command.com/store/>

⁹⁵<http://c-command.com/sn>

- You can now view and set the current configuration from DropDMG’s Dock menu.
- Added “Expand Disk Image” Automator action, which replaces a disk image with a folder containing the image’s contents. You can create an “Expand Image” contextual menu item in the Finder by creating a single-step Automator workflow with this action and saving it as a Finder plug-in.
- Problems with the destination folder are now reported using the “choose destination” sheet instead of in a separate alert.
- The software update feature now shows a sheet instead of an alert when there’s a new version, so it won’t interfere with scripted operations.
- Fixed regression where DropDMG would complain at launch if one of the configurations’ destination folders didn’t exist.
- Fixed bug where DropDMG would waste CPU time animating an off-screen progress bar after finishing an operation.
- Added **Technical Support & Feedback** item to **Help** menu.
- Updated eSellerate engine and PCRE.

2.7.2—September 22, 2005

- You can now drag and drop anywhere on DropDMG’s status window, rather than just on the top part of it.
- Fixed bug where DropDMG was incompatible with StuffIt Expander 10.
- DropDMG now reports an error if you specify a destination folder that doesn’t exist, rather than silently picking a fallback folder.
- Better error messages when DropDMG doesn’t find a file in the expected place.
- The command-line tool now treats the empty string as an invalid destination folder instead of (as with AppleScript) treating it as a flag to indicate that the user should be prompted to specify a folder. This should reduce unexpected behavior when running DropDMG via a shell script that doesn’t properly quote the command-line arguments.
- Errors during burning are now presented using a sheet, rather than just being logged.
- No longer shows an error message if you try to install the command-line tool and then cancel out of the authorization dialog.
- Updated the Italian localization.

2.7.1—August 22, 2005

- You can now erase rewritable discs before burning.
- Fixed regression where DropDMG could crash when converting an image to an archive.
- Fixed bug where DropDMG couldn’t convert images with license agreements into archives or mount them.
- Worked around `hdiutil` bug for more reliable imaging of certain non-optical volumes.
- Fixed regression where the command-line tool didn’t work on Mac OS X 10.3.

2.7—August 15, 2005

- Added commands for burning folders, files, and disk images. As a shortcut, you can initiate a burn by dragging and dropping onto the status window or the DropDMG icon while holding down the Shift key. Hold down Option *and* Shift when dropping a disk image if you want to burn the image as a file, rather than burning its contents.

- Added smooth determinate progress bars for the longer steps when creating disk images (requires Mac OS X 10.4).
- Progress windows now have a cancel button, an icon showing the kind of file that's being created, and an icon and title bar menu that show the source file or folder.
- Added [Quit When Done](#) option; if selected, DropDMG will quit when there are no longer any image, archive, or burn operations in progress.
- The status window now has a pop-up menu for displaying and changing the current configuration.
- Better creation of device images from multi-partition devices.
- Progress windows are now tiled (so they don't overlap), and DropDMG is better at remembering where you like to position them. Dragging a progress window sets the preferred location for new progress windows.
- The following **File** menu commands can now accept multiple selection, so that you can operate on more than one image at a time: **Fix Image...**, **Get Image Info...**, **Mount Image (with Owners)...**, **Verify Image Checksum...**
- Improved scriptability. You can now access DropDMG's windows, menus, and other interface elements from AppleScript. You can also access the current imaging and burning operations and cancel them. You can initiate burns from AppleScript.
- The Automator action is now a universal binary.
- The `dropdmg` command-line tool now properly communicates with the DropDMG application when running on Intel.
- Fixed bug where image creation could fail with an error when creating an image on an external volume, depending on the lengths of the source and destination paths.
- Fixed regression where file packages weren't wrapped when DropDMG was running with root access.
- Fixed bug where **Sanitize for Servers** didn't account for file names that were entirely non-ASCII characters.
- Fixed bug where DropDMG would sometimes fail to remove an extra folder layer when converting from Zip format.
- Fixed bug where the **Edit Configurations** window allowed multiple selection.
- Fixed bug that could cause a crash when creating a disk image if the OS reported an error at exactly the wrong moment.
- The **Purchase** window now makes it more clear when the serial number has been successfully entered. Merged the **Web Purchase...** and **Instant Purchase...** buttons.
- Adjusted the way the remaining demo time is displayed.
- Updated Czech, Dutch, French, and Italian localizations.

2.6.3—June 22, 2005

- Fixed regression where DropDMG would report an error when converting a `.dmg` image to read-write format.
- Fixed regression where the license agreement editor didn't work on Mac OS X 10.3.

2.6.2—June 20, 2005

- Fixed regression where DropDMG would halt with a permissions error when creating an image from a lone file and running on Mac OS X 10.3.

2.6.1—June 20, 2005

- DropDMG can now create `.dmg` disk images that are internally compressed using bzip2. These images can only be mounted on Mac OS X 10.4 and later, but they are often much smaller than zlib-compressed disk images.
- Made various optimizations for faster disk image creation.
- Added **Mount Image (with Owners)**... command. This lets you copy files off an image with their Unix ownership intact. (Normally, when you let the OS mount an image, it pretends that all the files are owned by you.)
- The **Add Agreement**... command is now enabled even when the **License Agreements** window isn't open. This should prevent people from being confused about how to create a new agreement.
- The **Append Current Date** option is now applied only when creating new images, not when converting.
- If you tell DropDMG to segment an image/archive, and it ends up being smaller than the segment size that you chose, DropDMG will no longer wrap the output files in a folder (since there's only one).
- The keyboard shortcut for **Open Configurations** is now Command-Option-,.
- Worked around some Tiger issues that could cause DropDMG to halt part way through creating an image.
- Worked around bug in Tiger where `.bz2` and `.gz` files would have `.dmg` type and creator codes, which could cause problems opening them.
- Worked around Tiger issue so that it's once again possible to remove a license agreement by converting (using **None** as the agreement).
- Better cleanup if there's an error creating the image.
- DropDMG no longer complains when there's no default keychain.
- `.mailbundle` folders are now treated as packages, even though technically they aren't.
- Filename uniquing is now smarter when there are two extensions. So, for example, you'll end up with `Foo-1.tar.bz2` instead of `Foo.tar-1.bz2`.
- Fixed bug where sometimes custom icons didn't work if you created multiple images simultaneously.
- Fixed bug where images created from volumes couldn't be Internet-enabled.
- Fixed bug where dragging a folder onto the **Preferences** window (to change the destination) didn't change the selected configuration to **(custom)**.
- Fixed bug where StuffIt X and Tar were always enabled in the contextual menu.
- Fixed bug where Tar archive creation wasn't package-savvy.
- Fixed bug where Zip archives of single files contained an extra folder layer.
- Added `--version` switch to the `dropdmg` tool.
- The license agreement editor is faster at auto-saving any changes that you make.
- The demo reminder window updates the number of days remaining if you leave DropDMG running for days or weeks at a time.
- Fixed bug where DropDMG could get into a state where it was permanently waiting for other operations to complete.
- Fixed bug that could cause a crash when using the **Instant Purchase** feature.
- Updated French and Italian localizations. Added Dutch localization.

- Works with Mac OS X 10.4 (Tiger).
- DropDMG now has an Automator action.
- Can now create Mac OS X 10.4 Tar archives (.tar, .tar.gz, .tar.bz2) that support Mac resource forks.
- Added **Append Current Date** and **Sanitize for Servers** name processing options.
- Can now create uncompressed read-only and read-write NDIF .img disk images.
- DropDMG is smarter about picking which file to use to create a custom icon.
- Added `configuration name` AppleScript parameter.
- Fixed bug where images sometimes weren't created large enough to hold all the files.
- Fixed bug where script errors were only reported in abbreviated form.
- Added **Edit Configurations** to the **DropDMG** menu.
- Added keyboard shortcuts for opening the **Edit Configurations** window and for saving the current configuration.
- Worked around the OS to prevent DropDMG from sometimes being dropped from the **Services** menu.
- Window order of the **Preferences** window is preserved when closing the **Configurations** window.
- Updated to eSellerate Engine 3.6.1.
- Improved serial number name entry.
- The Apple Help is now multiple linked pages, rather than a single page, so you can now use Help Viewer's search box.

2.5.3—February 7, 2005

- Fixed bug where some valid files weren't choosable in the open dialogs.
- Update Czech localization.
- Improved name and serial number entry.

2.5.2—January 24, 2005

- Fixed bug where the volume permissions would be incorrect when making an image directly from a file.
- Added French localization.
- Updated Czech localization.

2.5.1—January 11, 2005

- Fixed bug where the BinHex and MacBinary encoders didn't preserve non-ASCII filename characters.
- Fixed bug where special handling of file packages was sometimes disabled.
- When there are many simultaneous operations, DropDMG will queue some of them. This improves performance and works around some `hdiutil` limitations.
- Added [Always Run With Root Access](#) option.
- When prompting for file and volume names, DropDMG is smarter about when to remove the file extension in its suggested name.
- Relaxed requirement that the source item's containing path doesn't contain a slash (colon).
- Now sets the owner and permissions of the disk image root to match the source folder.

- Added help button to the preferences window.
- Added Czech and Italian localizations.

2.5—December 7, 2004

- Can now create archives in Panther’s Zip format; can convert Zip archives to images and vice-versa.
- DropDMG can now create StuffIt X archives, convert StuffIt archives to disk images, and vice-versa.
- Can now convert `.tar`, `.tgz`, `.tar.gz`, and `.tar.bz2` archives to disk images (as well as to `.zip` and `.sitx`).
- Added support for `.cdr` (DVD/CD-R master) images.
- DropDMG can create a custom icon for the mounted image.
- You can now save named configurations of DropDMG’s preferences. By switching between different configurations, you can instantly recall different combinations of options.
- When you ask DropDMG to create an image from a volume, it automatically creates a *device image*, an exact copy of the volume, which is bootable (if original volume is).
- DropDMG now has a system service, which lets you easily create images/archives from items selected in the Finder, without DropDMG being open or in the Dock.
- Added **Mount Image At...** command, which lets you mount images at arbitrary locations in the filesystem, rather than on the desktop.
- Add **Ask Later** option, which makes DropDMG prompt you for a destination folder each time it needs to save an image or archive.
- Added **Confirm** button to let you verify a passphrase after typing it.
- DropDMG can now process multiple commands from AppleScript or the command line at the same time.
- Uses much less memory when computing folder sizes.
- Launches faster.
- The license agreement editor now supports find and replace.
- The log and image info windows now support the **Find** command.
- Lots of minor interface tweaks (window zooming, folder abbreviations, checkbox and button enabling etc, keyboard shortcuts, new window manipulation menu commands.).
- When creating encrypted images, the passphrase is now sent to `hdiutil` securely using a pipe instead of on the command line.
- A **Cancel** button is now available when you’re prompted to enter image and volume names.
- When creating a segmented image or archive, the segments are now placed in a newly created folder.
- Normalizes serial number case when personalizing, to make it less error-prone.
- You can hold down the Option key when clicking **OK** to dismiss multiple temporary preferences sheets at once.
- If the chosen destination folder is read-only, DropDMG now prompts for a new destination folder rather than aborting with an error.
- When you try to delete a license agreement, DropDMG now shows an alert sheet to make sure that’s what you really meant.

- The `returning immediately` AppleScript parameter is no longer needed and has been removed. If you want the AppleScript command to return before the operation is complete, use a standard AppleScript `with timeout` block.
- The `create image` AppleScript command now returns the path of the created image/archive. The command-line tool prints the path to standard output.
- The **When Imaging a Package** option has been removed from the preferences, but is still available via AppleScript and the command line.
- When creating an image, DropDMG now preserves ownerships and permissions, rather than just permissions. (This will not be evident unless you uncheck **Ignore ownership on this volume** after mounting the image.)
- Fixed bug where you'd have to authenticate more often than necessary.
- Fixed bug where relative paths did not work with the `dropdmg` tool's `--destination` switch.
- Fixed bug where top-level symlinks were resolved instead of being copied as links.
- Fixed bug where it was possible to rename a license agreement, giving it the same name as another agreement.
- Fixed bug where DropDMG would sometimes return a "permission denied" error when calculating the space necessary to image a folder. Now, it will instead prompt for an administrator password.
- Fixed bug where sometimes you'd be prompted for a password after already entering one in the preferences sheet.
- DropDMG now requires Mac OS X 10.3 or later.

2.2—October 16, 2003

- Added `dropdmg` tool for creating images from the command-line.
- You can now create an image from a file by dropping it on DropDMG; you no longer have to "wrap" the file in a folder.
- You can now specify the passphrase for an encrypted image via AppleScript.
- Can save a passphrase in the system Keychain, so that you can encrypt multiple images using the same passphrase, without having to keep typing it.
- Lets you authenticate as an administrator to copy protected files to an image.
- Images can now be encoded with BinHex.
- You can now drag a file or folder onto the preferences to set the destination.
- License agreements can use non-roman characters.
- Added **Get Image Info...** command.
- Added **Verify Image Checksum...** command.
- Added crash reporter.
- Added software update version checker.
- Faster MacBinary encoding.
- Uses less memory when dealing with lots of files.
- The destination pop-up menu now includes icons.
- Rather than nagging when unregistered, DropDMG now has a 30-day/20-launch trial period.
- Fixed bug that caused an error when creating more than one self-mounting image simultaneously.
- Fixed bug where DropDMG never prompted for volume and image names when you used a temporary preferences sheet.

- DropDMG now requires Mac OS X 10.2 or later.

2.1.1—July 21, 2003

- Fixed bug where converting a `.dmg` file created by Disk Copy to `.img` or `.smi` caused the `.dmg` file to remain in use so that it couldn't be deleted, or its volume ejected.
- Adding license agreements to images now works on Panther.
- Fixed open/save dialog prompts to be more in line with the Aqua Human Interface Guidelines.

2.1—April 24, 2003

- Remembers recent and favorite destination folders.
- Can create [Internet-enabled](#) disk images.
- Simplified the drag modifiers, the preferences window, and the scripting interface.
- Can move the source folder to the trash after creating an image.
- Can choose the destination folder when converting.
- You can now specify preferences overrides using one sheet per image, rather than a single modal dialog.
- You can now set the volume name and image name from the scripting interface.
- Added a `returning immediately` scripting parameter. This lets you control whether the script waits for DropDMG to finish creating the image.
- You can now use tildes in paths when scripting DropDMG.
- Suggests localized image names, when possible, and omits hidden extensions, so that you don't end up with, e.g., a `.app.dmg` file.
- The license agreement editor is much more responsive.
- You can set the encoding from the **DropDMG Status** window's contextual menu.
- Can now encode `.dmg` images with MacBinary.
- Updated the MacBinary encoder for compatibility with Apple's JDK 1.4.1. (In the latest JDK, Apple removed support for JDirect, which the old MacBinary encoder relied upon.)
- Fixed bug where DropDMG couldn't image a folder with more than 100 or so top-level items.
- Worked around problem where some `.dmg` images created with Disk Copy could not be converted to `.img` or `.smi`.
- Fixed license agreement assertion failure bug.
- DropDMG will no longer let you quit while an image operation is in progress.
- The agreement editor window zooms to the width of the text field that Disk Copy will use to display the agreement when the image is mounted.
- When you drag something over the **DropDMG Status** window, its instructional text changes to tell you the meanings of the modifier keys.
- The **DropDMG Status** window is closable (if you register).
- License agreements remember their window positions across renames.
- The **License Agreements** window is printable.
- The **DropDMG Status** window zooms to a reasonable width instead of the whole screen.
- The **DropDMG Status** window summary shows more of the current preferences.
- The progress bar is finer-grained.

- The key equivalent for **Delete Selection** is Command-Delete instead of Command-D.
- Better error messages.
- DropDMG is better about picking fresh names for its temporary files.
- The **Registration** window is smarter about ignoring whitespace and control characters that can be introduced when pasting in a serial number.

2.0—October 23, 2002

- Converts dropped images to the format specified in the preferences when you hold down Control-Shift.
- Hold down Option when dropping a folder or image to specify settings to be used for that item (temporarily overriding the preferences).
- Makes self-mounting NDIF images (SMIs). This is the only kind of image that supports license agreements on both 9 and X.
- Creates smaller zlib-compressed images when running on 10.2 and later. (The images are still compatible with 10.1's Disk Copy.)
- You can now choose to post-compress with BZip2 instead of GZip. BZip2 is slower than GZip but creates smaller files.
- Improved the layout of the preferences window.
- Faster at copying files to the image when running on 10.2 and later.
- Worked around 10.2 bug that caused errors when a file or folder name contained a slash (as shown in the Finder).
- Worked around OS X bug that prevented copying files larger than about 1 GB.
- New application icon.
- Compiled with GCC 3.
- No longer calls thread-unsafe parts of Carbon from child threads.
- Prevents the user from making a read-write image with a license agreement, rather than stopping midway through with an error message saying that this wasn't possible.
- The status window no longer looks as though it will accept the drop when you try to drop a `.dmg` file that doesn't need metadata fixing.
- Changed **File** menu text and keyboard shortcuts to more closely match 10.2's Disk Copy.
- The about box and registration window now use the design first seen in SpamSieve.
- The log no longer uses the large system font under 10.2.
- Better error message if you try to image the startup volume.
- Fixed bug where images with license agreements contained duplicate `styl` resources.

1.7.3—August 17, 2002

- Fixed bug that could make DropDMG crash when you clicked the **Include license agreement** checkbox.
- The spelling commands now have the standard keyboard equivalents.
- The **Preferences...** keyboard equivalent has been changed to **Command-.**

1.7.2—August 15, 2002

- Removed spurious error message when changing the attributes of text in a license agreement.

1.7.1—August 12, 2002

- The user interface no longer gets out of sync when you modify license agreements.
- Changes to the segment size take effect immediately; you no longer have to type Tab or Return to commit them.
- The status window updates faster.

1.7—August 12, 2002

- Added support for license agreements. License agreements support rich text and may be localized.
- The image destination path is now stored abbreviated with a tilde, if possible. This should help people who have multiple boot partitions.
- The log is printable.
- Finer-grained progress bar and status text.
- If adding the requisite filename extensions would make the requested image name longer than the limit, DropDMG will now quietly truncate the name rather than stopping with an error.
- NDIF images are now created with filenames of 31 characters or less, so that there won't be any name mangling when they're viewed in Mac OS 9.
- DropDMG now truncates `.dmg` volume names to 62 characters and `.img` volume names to 27.
- Fixed bug where DropDMG could deadlock after certain kinds of errors.
- Fixed bug where DropDMG sometimes didn't detect filename collisions until after it started making the image.
- Fixed bug where DropDMG would overwrite pre-existing `.dmgpart` files if the first segment was not present and the newly created image happened to have the same name.
- Renamed some **File** menu commands.

1.6—July 15, 2002

- Option to make images auto-open. When you mount an image, its window opens in the Finder. Previously, there might have been no visual indication that the image had mounted, depending on how the user's Finder preferences were set.
- The status window has a contextual menu for quickly changing common preferences.
- You can optionally set the names of the image file and volume, instead of having them based on the name of the folder.
- Documentation is now included in Apple Help (HTML) format as well as PDF.
- Contains a menu command for clearing the log.
- No longer fails when copying files for which the user only has read privileges. Previously, DropDMG would copy the file and permissions and then report a permissions error when it tried to set the catalog information of the copy, which wasn't writable.
- The radio buttons for selecting where the image will be saved are no longer linked to the image destination text field. That is, tabbing of the text field no longer affects the radio button's selection, making the preferences more friendly for keyboard navigators.

1.5—May 2, 2002

- Multi-threading—DropDMG can create more than one image at a time, and the interface remains responsive.
- Can divide large images into multiple segments of fixed size.

- Creates uncompressed read-only images, which often compress better with GZip than internally-compressed image files do.
- Creates read-write images.
- Encodes Mac OS 9 .img images with MacBinary so that they can be transferred on the Internet.
- The status window displays a log that shows all the completed operations and errors.
- The status window now shows all the format options that are in effect.
- Faster copying of Mac metadata.
- Worked around Apple bug that sometimes caused errors when creating large images. `hdiutil` crashed when expanding sparse images.
- Fixed bug where DropDMG mistakenly resolved symlinks when copying Mac metadata. This had caused some metadata not to be copied, and also caused image creation to fail if the user didn't have write access to the original file.
- Fixed regression where DropDMG sometimes didn't complain when the destination folder was inside the source folder.
- Tries several times to eject images, rather than giving up immediately.
- More detailed reporting of file copy errors.
- More accurate reporting of what state the image creation process is in when errors occur.
- Mailing list for version announcements has a Web interface.

1.3.1—March 11, 2002

- You can now create images by dragging and dropping folders into the status window.
- The status window's indication of the progress is more accurate.
- Fixed regression in which images couldn't be created on non-boot volumes.
- Fixed regression in which images couldn't be created in `~/Desktop` if the destination folder had never been manually set.

1.3—February 25, 2002

- You can now choose whether images are saved next to the source folder, or in a user-defined folder.
- Volume images are now created in `~/Desktop` by default (instead of `/Volumes`).
- Resolved problem in which DropDMG tried to replace invisible system files on the image, if the source folder contained items with the same names.
- The `format` parameter is now optional when creating images with AppleScript.
- Notifies the system after fixing an image's type and creator.
- Fixed bug in which DropDMG would report the wrong file as the cause of a copy error.
- The keyboard loop in the Preferences window should work again.
- The status window no longer flickers when the program first opens.
- The distribution is smaller, since the manual uses fewer images.

1.2.1—February 11, 2002

- Uses Carbon to preserve Finder info (e.g. the locked, stationery, and custom icon bits) when copying files.

1.2—February 3, 2002

- All options are now available from the scripting interface.
- No longer requires Mac OS X’s optional “BSD Subsystem” installation.
- Optionally post-compresses DMGs with GZip.
- Fixes type and creator codes of DMGs.
- Preferences window is easier to use; now, enablement is only tied to the Image Format radio buttons.
- Capitalizations now follow the Aqua Human Interface Guidelines.

1.1—January 28, 2002

- Supports ADC and NDIF compression for compatibility with Mac OS 10.0.x and Mac OS 9, respectively.
- Supports encrypted compressed images in the zlib and ADC formats.
- Optionally detects packages so that you end up with a mounted image *containing* the package instead of a mounted image that the Finder thinks *is* a package.
- Copies locked files to images (instead of stopping with an access error).
- Images’ logical sizes are smaller; this should slightly reduce their physical sizes and reduce mount times.
- Accepts drops of all file types (including packages); if DropDMG doesn’t know how to handle a dropped file it will just ignore it.
- The **Make Image From Folder...** menu command lets you choose packages and subfolders of packages (instead of just vanilla folders).
- Minor UI tweaks.

1.0—January 21, 2002

- First public release.