File Scan Panel

Data Rescue supports different modes of scanning your media (e.g. a disk device or volume) for files. On this panel, you choose the mode you want to use, and click the Start button. The scan modes are described below.

Preliminaries

Before starting a scan, make sure you have a spare disk drive (separate from the drive you are scanning) available for Data Rescue to use for temporary storage and to recover files to. If that disk has at least as much free space as 5% of the size of the media you're scanning, plus room for all the files you wish to recover, then that should be adequate.

Quick Catalog Scan

For most cases, we recommend that you try a Quick Scan first. If Data Rescue can find your files in this mode, it is the best way for you to recover them. Many times you will need to do a more thorough scan, but since the Quick Scan doesn't take nearly as much time to do as the more thorough ones, it still pays to try it first. In certain situations, Quick Scan may not be available; if this is the case, the Quick Scan button will be disabled.

Quick Scans typically take only a few minutes to perform, unless your device is having hardware problems, in which case it can be considerably longer.

Thorough Catalog Scan

If the Quick Scan can't find your files, you will want to try a Thorough Scan. If the media you're scanning contained a Macintosh file system (e.g. HFS), then this mode will be your best bet for recovery of general directories and files of all types. If the media contained some other file system, such as the FAT file system used for flash camera cards, etc. then this mode won't be able to find files. The same comment applies to the Quick Scan mode.

If you don't know what kind of file system you had, and the media is on a hard disk drive, then chances are it was a Macintosh file system. It doesn't hurt anything to do these scans on a non-Macintosh file system (other than waste your time!).

Content Scan

If neither of the Catalog Scans are capable of finding your files, you should try a Content Scan. This mode is independent of the type of file system on the media, and looks for the file contents directly. It supports only a specific set of file types, which you can see by looking in the Expert->Content-Scan Control menu. Files recovered in this mode will not have their original names or directory structure, but may be the only way to recover files that can't be found by the Catalog Scans.

Please see the User's Manual for a more thorough explanation of the scan modes.

Thorough and Content Scans typically take something on the order of 5 to 10 minutes per gigabyte, unless the device is having hardware trouble, in which case it can take much

longer. We have had customers who have successfully recovered files after several days of scanning.

Scan File

After doing one of the above scans, it is possible to save the results of the scan in a file. This makes it possible to restart Data Rescue and recover other files from the scanned disk without having to repeat the entire scan process. If you have such a saved scan file you wish to use, select this option, then click Start. When you are prompted for the scan file, navigate to the location where you saved it, and choose that file.

Advanced Options

Clicking the Advanced… button will bring up a dialog which will allow some special flags and values to be set. In most circumstances you will not need to concern yourself with the Advanced Options, but in rare cases, they may make the difference between being able to recover files or not. Refer to the manual for more details.

Stopping a Scan

Once you start a scan, the Start button will change to a Stop button. If you change your mind, you may stop the scan by clicking that. The scan may not be resumed once it is stopped; that is, you would need to start a new scan.