

About This Book

This book, *Inside Macintosh: Macintosh Toolbox Essentials*, describes the essential elements of a Macintosh application and the system software routines that you can use to implement them.

If you are new to programming on the Macintosh computer, you should also read *Inside Macintosh: Overview* for an introduction to general concepts of Macintosh programming and *Macintosh Human Interface Guidelines* for a complete discussion of user interface guidelines and principles that every Macintosh application should follow.

This book describes events, windows, menus, controls, alert boxes, and dialog boxes. It also discusses how your application interacts with the Finder.

Macintosh applications respond to user actions and to other hardware- and software-related events. To design your application so that it can respond to events (such as keyboard input, mouse input, changes in the appearance of windows on the screen, and changes in your application's processing status), see the chapter "Event Manager" in this book.

To create menus and set up your application's menu bar, see the chapter "Menu Manager." This chapter describes how to define the items in your menus, how to enable and disable menus, how to allow the user to choose a menu item, and how to respond once the user chooses a menu item.

To create windows in which the user can view or edit information, see the chapter "Window Manager." This chapter describes the basic types of windows and discusses how your application can work together with the Window Manager to support the standard user interface conventions associated with manipulating a window, such as moving a window, zooming a window, and resizing a window.

To create controls in your application's windows—such as scroll bars—or to create controls in dialog boxes—such as buttons or checkboxes—see the chapter "Control Manager."

To create dialog boxes or alert boxes—windows that your application uses to communicate with or solicit information from the user—see the chapter "Dialog Manager."

To create icons for your applications and the documents it creates, see the chapter "Finder Interface." This chapter also introduces file types and creators and describes the various kinds of resources (icons, file references, and bundles) that the Finder needs to display your application and the documents it creates.

After implementing the basic elements of a Macintosh application as described in this book, you can add additional features, such as help balloons

and support for copy and paste, as described in *Inside Macintosh: More Macintosh Toolbox*. You can also find detailed information about the Resource Manager in *Inside Macintosh: More Macintosh Toolbox*.

Once you understand how to create menus, windows, and dialog boxes, you can save information that the user enters in a window by writing the data to a file. You can also open a previously saved file and read the information from the file into a window. You use the File Manager to open, read, write, and close files. See the chapter “Introduction to File Management” in *Inside Macintosh: Files* for information on how to read and write files.

For information about drawing into a window or other graphics port, see *Inside Macintosh: Imaging*.

For information on handling text in your application, see *Inside Macintosh: Text*.

For information on communicating with other applications, see *Inside Macintosh: Interapplication Communication*.

Format of a Typical Chapter

Almost all chapters in this book follow a standard structure. For example, the Event Manager chapter contains these sections:

- “Introduction to Events.” This section presents a general introduction to the types of events that your application can receive.
- “About the Event Manager.” This section provides an overview of the features provided by the Event Manager.
- “Using the Event Manager.” This section describes the tasks you can accomplish using the Event Manager. It describes how to use the most common routines, gives related user interface information, provides code samples, and supplies additional information.
- “Event Manager Reference.” This section provides a complete reference to the Event Manager by describing the data structures, routines, and resources it uses. Each routine description also follows a standard format, which presents the routine declaration followed by a description of every parameter of the routine. Some routine descriptions also give additional descriptive information, such as assembly-language information or result codes.
- “Summary of the Event Manager.” This section provides the Pascal and C interfaces for the constants, data structures, routines, and result codes associated with the Event Manager. It also includes relevant assembly-language interface information.

Conventions Used in This Book

Inside Macintosh uses various conventions to present information. Words that require special treatment appear in specific fonts or font styles. Certain information, such as the contents of registers, use special formats so that you can scan them quickly.

Special Fonts

All code listings, reserved words, and names of actual data structures, fields, constants, parameters, and routines are shown in Courier (`this is Courier`).

Words that appear in **boldface** are key terms or concepts and are defined in the Glossary.

Types of Notes

There are several types of notes used in this book.

Note

A note like this contains information that is interesting but possibly not essential to an understanding of the main text. (An example appears on page 2-7.) ♦

IMPORTANT

A note like this contains information that is essential for an understanding of the main text. (An example appears on page 5-27.) ▲

▲ WARNING

Warnings like this indicate potential problems that you should be aware of as you design your application. Failure to heed these warnings could result in system crashes or loss of data. (An example appears on page 2-106.) ▲

Empty Strings

This book occasionally instructs you to provide an empty string in routine parameters and resources. How you specify an empty string depends on what language and development environment you are using. In Rez input files and in C code, for example, you specify an empty string by using two double quotation marks (""), and in Pascal you specify an empty string by using two single quotation marks ('').

Assembly-Language Information

Inside Macintosh provides information about the registers for specific routines like this:

Registers on entry

A0 Contents of register A0 on entry

Registers on exit

D0 Contents of register D0 on exit

In the “Assembly-Language Summary” section at the end of each chapter, *Inside Macintosh* presents information about the fields of data structures in this format:

0	what	word	event code
2	message	long	event message
6	when	long	ticks since startup

The left column indicates the byte offset of the field from the beginning of the data structure. The second column shows the field name as defined in the MPW Pascal interface files; the third column indicates the size of that field. The fourth column provides a brief description of the use of the field. For a complete description of each field, see the discussion of the data structure in the reference section of the chapter.

The Development Environment

The system software routines described in this book are available using Pascal, C, or assembly-language interfaces. How you access these routines depends on the development environment you are using. When showing system software routines, this book uses the Pascal interface available with the Macintosh Programmer’s Workshop (MPW).

All code listings in this book are shown in Pascal (except for listings that describe resources, which are shown in Rez-input format). They show methods of using various routines and illustrate techniques for accomplishing particular tasks. All code listings have been compiled and, in many cases, tested. However, Apple Computer, Inc., does not intend for you to use these code samples in your application. You can find the location of code listings in the list of figures, tables, and listings. If you know the name of a particular routine (such as `DoEvent` or `MyAdjustMenus`) shown in a code listing, you can find the page on which the routine occurs by looking under the entry “sample routines” in the index of this book.

In order to make the code listings in this book more readable, they show only limited error handling. You need to develop your own techniques for handling errors.

This book occasionally illustrates concepts by reference to a sample application called *SurfWriter*; this is not an actual product of Apple Computer, Inc.

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If you provide commercial products and services, call 408-974-4897 for information on the developer support programs available from Apple.

For information on registering signatures, file types, Apple events, and other technical information, contact

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