About Ambrosia
The food of the gods in Greek mythology, Ambrosia epitomizes our commitment to supplying superlative products through an idealistic distribution method known as shareware.   Thus we bear Ambrosia as our crest, a symbol of quality and a herald of our philosophy.

Please read the shareware section below for more information, and remember only you can make it work.

About Big Cheese Key
If life were perfect, people would be able to work nonstop all day, typing away at their computers happily without a break.   Unfortunately, that just isn't the way things work; people in fact tend to work better if they take breaks every once in a while to space out their work.   But most bosses tend to not see things that way, so I offer you a tool for maintaining sanity in the Macintosh office: Big Cheese Key.

Big Cheese Key is a Control Panel which provides you with a quick and dirty way to make it look like you are hard at work if your boss decides to stop in and see you when you are in the middle of saving the planet Earth from invading aliens.

The idea behind the Big Cheese Key is simple; if the boss pops in unexpected while you are doing something that he might not be too happy about on your Mac, hit Big Cheese Key's "hot key."   When you type this keystroke (initially Shift-Option-Tab, but you can change it to be anything you like), Big Cheese Key puts up a phony Mac screen, freezing whatever you were doing.   Therefore, you look extremely innocent.   Then once the boss is gone, click the mouse button and you'll be right back where you started!

Why Would I Use Big Cheese Key?
Big Cheese Key can of course be used to cover up game playing on company time, but it also is quite handy at keeping prying eyes away from your confidential work.

Requirements
Big Cheese Key works on any Macintosh running System 6 or later.

Installation
To install Big Cheese Key, simply drag the Big Cheese Key icon onto your System Folder icon.   Under System 6, this will place Big Cheese Key into the System Folder proper; under System 7, Big Cheese Key will be placed in the Control Panels folder.

To activate Big Cheese Key after you have placed it onto the System Folder icon, restart your Macintosh.   You will see Big Cheese Key's icon appear along the bottom of your monitor to indicate that it loaded successfully.

Once installed, Big Cheese Key uses up 3K of memory.

Configuring
Under System 6, choose the Control Panel Desk Accessory from the Apple menu, scroll down to the Big Cheese Key icon and click on it.

Under System 7, choose the Control Panels item from the Apple Menu, scroll down to the Big Cheese Key icon and double-click on it.

Under either System, configuring Big Cheese Key is identical:

The Show Startup Icon checkbox controls whether or not Big Cheese Key should display its icon at startup time after it loads.   Big Cheese Key will still load regardless of this setting, but some people prefer to not have this icon displayed.

The Question Mark icon brings up this on-line help.

The Keys icon brings up a dialog box that allows you to choose the "hot key" that will cause Big Cheese Key to

invoke.

The On/Off icon allows you to turn Big Cheese Key on or off.   This does not take effect until you restart your Macintosh.

Using Big Cheese Key
Once you have installed Big Cheese Key and configured it to suit your taste, simply type Big Cheese Key's "hot key" to bring up the phony Mac screen.   The screen that comes up is designed to look identical to Apple's TeachText application, complete with the blinking I-Beam cursor and a screen full of text.   The text that is displayed is chosen randomly each time you restart your computer from a library of eight different readings.   After the coast is clear, simply click the mouse button and you'll be right back where you left off.

Big Cheese Key tries to save the contents of the screen by copying it into a memory buffer; if there isn't enough memory available to do this, Big Cheese Key tells the underlying program to update the screen itself.   Some games don't expect anything to interrupt gameplay, and therefore won't update the screen properly when Big Cheese Key tells them to.   In these cases, try to make sure you have a good deal of free memory before playing.

Problems?
If Big Cheese Key does not work, check to see if it displays an X-ed out icon at startup time.   Big Cheese Key will display this icon if it cannot load.   Check the system requirements under the Requirements heading above to make sure you have an acceptable configuration for Big Cheese Key to operate in.

A Story
On the island of Tomoka, a tribe of Indians called the Komanci dwelled.   They were planning a huge celebration to commemorate the new year's dawning, setting up a huge cauldron to hold the sacred wine used in the celebration. The tribal shaman Arekba asked each participant to bring a cup of the wine and contribute it to the cause, so that they would have a bountiful supply of the wine.   Many of the Indians, however, did not bring their cup to the cauldron, believing that there would be plenty and that their withholding would go unnoticed.

Come the day of the celebration, the Indians were shocked to discover that the cauldron of sacred wine was bone-dry, the festival canceled.

Shareware
Big Cheese Key is shareware; this means that you may use it without paying for it for a reasonable period of time (about 30 days) to ensure that it works for you and is worth keeping.   If you do decide to keep Big Cheese Key, we ask that you send us $10.   Please note that you need to send $10 for every Macintosh Big Cheese Key is used on.

You may also freely copy Big Cheese Key, passing it on to anyone you feel might benefit from it.   I simply ask that you do not distribute modified copies of Big Cheese Key to ensure that everyone gets a complete, unadulterated package.

We spent a great deal of time developing and perfecting Big Cheese Key.   In return we appeal to your integrity, asking you to pay for Big Cheese Key if you decide to keep it and use it.   The only way you can ensure that we will continue to support Big Cheese Key and develop new products is by sending in the $10 we ask.

Simply click on the Print Registration Form button to print out the registration form, fill it out, and send it in to us with a check payable to Andrew Welch for $10.   We here at Ambrosia have written several other useful programs as well; if you'd like us to send them to you, send us a self-addressed, stamped disk mailer and an 800K disk.

Andrew Welch
Ambrosia
PO Box 23140
Rochester, NY   14692

Credits
Many thanks to the following people for their contributions in making Big Cheese Key what it is today:
Derek Chee, Randy Padawer, Michael J. Gibson, Larry Beck, Paul H. Ting M.D., Bruce Shanker, J. V. Beaupre, Gene Steinberg, Joe Vantaggi, J. Marcus Ziegler, Anthony D. Saxton, Mark Elpers, Harry Davis, Eric Hustvedt

Advanced Users

The text that Big Cheese Key displays is editable if you are familiar with ResEdit and have the ambition:

1. Open up Big Cheese Key with ResEdit
2. Double-click on the "TEXT" icon
3. Double-click on any "TEXT" resource, IDs 128 through 135
4. Edit the text in the resulting window to suit your fancy
5. Close all the open windows and click "Yes" when ResEdit asks if you want to save the changes
6. DO NOT DISTRIBUTE MODIFIED COPIES OF BIG CHEESE KEY