

Hi! This is the documentation file for the **Simple Page Processor**.

The Simple Page Processor (SPP) is a Mac-only tool designed for people who have to publish a lot of information on AOL using only a few different forms. SPP is a HyperCard stack, which will run with the HyperCard Player that comes with your Macintosh system software. It allows you to set default forms to use and lets you quickly link up text and image files to produce scripts using those default forms. If you want it to, SPP will process your pages using the RM Grinder and send your pages to Rainman automatically. You can have SPP log the pages that it creates, along with their page ID's and links. Using these logs, SPP lets you add or remove links from logged pages, and you can also delete logged pages. These logs are simple, tab-delimited text files which can be imported into word processors or spreadsheets for editing.

SPP is the product of a new effort by AOL's IP Tools Mac developers. In addition to our more sophisticated tools, we're trying to provide simpler building blocks for Information Providers to use in their publishing process. Since SPP is an editable HyperCard stack, it can be easily extended and modified by IP's to suit their own unique processes. If you come up with cool ways to extend SPP that you'd like to share with other SPP users, please let us know!

### **How to use the Simple Page Processor**

When you run SPP, it will take a little while to finish initializing. When it is done, you'll see a screen that looks like this:

**Simple Page Processor**

Group ID:  Plus Group:  Password:

**Default Forms:**

Text Only:	1	Caption Field ID
Image Only:	214	11 12
Both:	49	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>

Link Pages To:

**Page Script Customization:**

```
\Release Now
\Remove Now + 1 Hour
```

**Page ID:**

Prefix:	MY22
Counter:	0057

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**Page Headline:**

Post Pages Automatically

**Set Headline**

As Entered

Image File Name

Text File Name

Note that the page has two halves; the top part is relatively constant, while the bottom part changes with each page.

### Filling in the top half:

You'll need to put your group ID, plus group, and password (if any) into the fields that are provided for them. *(Note that the password field is for your Rainman password; do **NOT** put your AOL password here!)*

Default forms are provided for text, image, and text and image forms. If you have forms that you'd rather use, you may enter them in the appropriate fields. *(Note, however, that SPP assigns text to field ID 1, and the image to field ID 5. Captions will be assigned to EITHER field 11 or 12, as you indicate.)*

In the Page ID box, put a unique **4-character** identifier into the **Prefix** field. This should be different from any other publisher in your organization. Use random letter and numbers to make up the 4 characters. You should avoid using four letter words, as they are most likely to be used by others. You should set the **Counter** to "0000" (zeroes, not the letter "O"). This counter will be incremented by one for each script created. Together, these fields make up your page's unique Rainman ID. When you find the counter approaching "9999", set it back to "0000" and change your Prefix to a new unique 4-character combination.

The Link Pages To field contains the links that your pages will be linked to. You may change the contents of this field at any time, but do not leave empty lines between your links!

The Page Script Customization field is used for snippets of Rainman script that you want included with your page. This is an excellent place to put your \Release and \Remove commands: just type them in as they would appear in Rainman. (E.g. \Remove Now + 1 month)

### **In the bottom portion of the window:**

The Post Pages Automatically check box, when checked, will cause your scripts to be ground by the RM Grinder program and sent to RainmanSys. Otherwise the “.SCR” scripts are produced, but not ground or sent. Please note that you must have the RM Grinder application installed on your disk, and be signed on to AOL with your client to use this capability. When you check this box, SPP will ask you to locate three helper programs that it needs, one at a time. The first helper is the RM Grinder itself; use the dialog to tell SPP where the Grinder is. The second helper is an AppleScript applet called “AddFileToMail”, it comes with SPP and should be in the same folder as SPP. Find it with the dialog and select it. The final helper is another AppleScript applet called “FlushMail”, and should be in the same folder as “AddFileToMail”. Select it as well. ***Sneaky Trick: If you tell SPP where the Grinder is, but cancel when it asks you where the two applets are, your scripts will be ground but not posted to the client.***

### **Publishing a Page:**

After everything is set up according to the instructions above, publishing a page is easy. You may select a text file by clicking on the “Choose Text File” button, and an image file (JPEG, GIF, ART, or PICT) using the “Choose Image File”. If you **do** choose to add an image file, SPP will reveal a field that you can type an image caption into. There is no automatic way to select a caption file. When you have made your selection, click the Generate Script button. If the Post Pages Automatically box is not checked, then a “.SCR” script will be generated and put in the same folder as the input text file, or with the image file if no text file was provided. If the Post Pages Automatically box is checked, then the Grinder will be launched to grind the script, a “.RMP” file will be created next to the “.SCR” file, and will be mailed to the host (if you are currently logged on).

### **Publishing a Whole Mess of Pages:**

Underneath the Batch Ops menu, there are options for batch processing folders full of text or image files. These options will let you select a single folder to be processed. Each file in the selected folder, of the appropriate type, will be automatically processed as if you had loaded it and clicked Generate Script. The title of the files will become the page headlines, and

there will be no captions for graphics pages.

### **Logging Pages:**

If you want to move or delete pages after posting them, or just need a record of what you've posted and where, you'll want to create a log file when your generating scripts. The first step is to select "Start Page Log" under the "Page Log" menu. This will prompt you to name the log file and select a location to save it in. Every page that you generate a script for will be logged in this file, along with its ID and links, until you close the log (by quitting, by selecting "Close Log", or by moving to another card). You may only have one log open at a time.

### **Moving Published Pages on the Service:**

If you've got a log for a set of files, you may add or remove links for them by selecting "Move Pages..." under the "Page Log" menu. You will be taken to a new screen. When you select a log file the pages and their current links will appear in a field to the left. Enter new links in the box on the right

#### **INCLUDING ANY OF THE OLD LINKS THAT YOU WANT TO KEEP!!!!**

When you click the Move Pages button a ".SCR" script is generated to move the files. If you have the Post Pages Automatically button checked on the main screen, the script will be processed and sent to the host.

### **Deleting Published Pages on the Service:**

If you've got a log for a set of files, you may delete them by selecting "Delete Pages..." under the "Page Log" menu. You will be taken to a new screen. When you select a log file the pages and their current links will appear in a field to the left. When you click the Delete Pages button a ".SCR" script to kill the files is generated. If you have the Post Pages Automatically button checked on the main screen, the script will be generated and sent to the host. You will be asked to confirm, before the script flies off to the host.

### **Some Warnings:**

As a simple, rapid turn-around prototype, SPP is not as robust as other IP Tools. Please use with caution until you learn its limitations.

SPP is an informal product. We believe that many IP's will be able to use it in their publishing process, but this is not an official AOL tool. For this reason, we ask that you return feedback and bug reports to JohnWillo@aol.com. The ARC does not currently support SPP, and they will not be able to help you.

SPP doesn't like long path names. Where possible, please keep SPP on or near your desktop, not nested thirteen folders deep on your hard disk. The same holds true for SPP's input files.

The Mac 2.7 client becomes unreliable when mailing large numbers of pages (200+, I believe). We recommend that you limit batch processing of folders to those containing no more than 100-125 files.

SPP doesn't handle errors in the Grinder well, especially if they concern the Johnson Grace compressors. If you have an image that you suspect may cause problems, compress it manually in the JG Tools and include the resulting ART file in SPP.

### **Technical Notes**

The Simple Page Processor is a HyperCard stack, and can be modified with the full version of Apple's HyperCard. (Around \$100, mail order.) If you know HyperTalk, we encourage you to modify the stack to better meet your needs. If you modify the stack, please don't pass it on without clearly noting the nature of the changes that you've made.

Most of the "guts" of SPP are in the Stack script, although the code for generating a page script is in the Card script of the opening card.

Input text is truncated at 25,000 characters. Sorry.

There are some Speech Manager commands commented out around the project; they would be really annoying to your co-workers if you commented them back in. This could be a Good Thing or a Bad Thing.