

# TinkerTool: Jaguar Release Notes

This technical note lists a few of the defects in Mac OS X 10.2 that users might mistakenly think to be caused by TinkerTool.

**Problem:** I installed or deleted a preference pane after TinkerTool has been installed on my system. Now the icons in System Preferences appear in chaotic order. Some are missing, some appear multiple times.

**Discussion:** This is a known problem of the System Preferences application. TinkerTool is not responsible for this, the problem can even appear if you don't have any third-party preference panes installed. We informed Apple in October 2001 and again in August 2002 about this problem and hope they will fix it in future releases of Mac OS X.

The problem is caused by internal corruption of the icon and title cache used by System Preferences. It is likely to appear if you use System Preferences very often, switch between different languages, or install/deinstall third-party preference panes. Typical symptoms are:

- \* loss of preference pane icons
- \* multiplication of preference pane icons
- \* preference pane icons appear in the wrong sections
- \* preference pane titles appear in different languages
- \* preference pane titles appear as their Globally Unique Name
- \* the System Preferences window is displayed with a wrong height

As a temporary solution, use the following steps:

1. Quit System Preferences
2. Open your private folder in the Finder, open the *Library* folder that is inside, then open the *Caches* folder inside. You should see a file with the name *com.apple.preferencepanes.cache*. Drag this file into the trash. It will be automatically recreated the next time you

start System Preferences.

3. Open System Preferences.

The problem should be temporarily fixed. Note that it can reappear anytime.

## JagBugSysPref.png ``

**Problem:** On a PowerMac that is equipped with more than 1 GByte of main memory and two graphics cards, the operating system can crash with a kernel panic when you change the Dock's position by using TinkerTool.

**Discussion:** This is a known problem in the Nvidia graphics drivers for Jaguar. TinkerTool is not responsible for it, the problem also appears if you change the Dock's position with Apple's original Dock preference pane. We informed Apple about this problem and hope they will fix it in future versions of Mac OS X.

**Problem:** If screenshots are taken using shortcut keys (Apple-Shift-3 / 4) the resulting graphics files are always saved as PDF images. The file format option in TinkerTool is disabled.

**Discussion:** This is a feature of Mac OS X Jaguar. Apple has replaced the internal software for taking pictures of the screen by a completely new program. The new software is no longer capable of producing different file types. The resulting images will always be saved as PDF files.

As a workaround you can open the PDF file with the Preview application and select the menu item "File - Export...". The screenshot can then be saved to a variety of file formats. You can select between all file types for which QuickTime plug-ins are available in the system.

Some users are confused by the fact that this Jaguar feature is advertized differently in the help files of exactly identical system versions. In the original release of Jaguar, the documentation

defines TIFF to be the format for screenshots. After the system has been connected to the Internet (not using software update), the Help Viewer will replace the documentation page by a new page which defines PDF to be the correct format (see image below).

We think it's a really bad idea to silently replace parts of the system documentation by new versions each time you launch the Help Viewer. Not only that this feature can slow down the Help Viewer to a crawl, and it shows how immature the documentation must have been when the system was originally shipping, it might even raise legal concerns: The user is not notified about this silent change in the operating system and its specifications. This might be considered illegal in some jurisdictions.

### JagScreenshots.png ``

**Problem:** I upgraded my system from Mac OS X 10.1 to Jaguar and used TinkerTool to change some font settings. Now some controls in the user interface appear with cut-off labels.

### JagBugText.png ``

**Discussion:** This is a known problem in Jaguar. The problem is independent of TinkerTool and not caused by it. The user interface of applications that worked fine in Mac OS X 10.1 might be displayed incorrectly by Mac OS X 10.2. There is no workaround. We informed Apple about this problem and hope they will fix it in future versions of Mac OS X. Note that the likelihood to be affected by this bug is higher when you use a language that uses long words and hyphens. So you might seldom see this in English and Japanese but often in German and Finnish.

**Problem:** I double-clicked the DMG file you are distributing and dragged the TinkerTool installer to another folder. All my running applications crashed! After that I could no longer use the mouse to click or drag any icons. I had to reboot the system.

**Discussion:** This is a known problem in Jaguar. The problem is independent of TinkerTool's DMG file. You might see the same effect when working with many other DMG software packages distributed via Internet. The problem is caused by a spontaneous crash of Mac

OS X Launch Services which causes a cascading failure of Mac OS X CoreServices and all running applications. We informed Apple about this problem and hope they will fix it in future versions of Mac OS X.

**Problem:** I changed my system's font settings using TinkerTool. Now when I try to print a PDF file with Acrobat Reader, I get incomplete output or the printing stops after some pages. Sometimes nothing is printed at all!

**Discussion:** This is a known problem in Jaguar. The problem is independent of TinkerTool and not caused by it. Apple is aware of the problem and recommends to use Mac OS 9 (!) in Classic to print PDF files using Acrobat Reader. See the following page from the Jaguar documentation:

JagPDF.png "

**Problem:** When I use TinkerTool to place the Dock at the right screen border, the Desktop icons appear behind the Dock. In Mac OS X 10.1 this worked correctly and there was always a distance between the Dock and the Finder's Desktop icons.

**Discussion:** This is a known problem in Jaguar. TinkerTool is not responsible for it, the problem also appears if you change the Dock's position with Apple's original Dock preference pane. We informed Apple about this problem and hope they will fix it in future versions of Mac OS X.

JagBugDesktop.png "

**Problem:** I changed the font-smoothing settings using TinkerTool. My fonts look strange and there appear to be some colored smudges around all letters.

**Discussion:** This is a feature of Jaguar. It has nothing to do with TinkerTool. You should reset the font smoothing-style in Apple's General preference pane to the standard setting. The following picture shows the effects of "standard" smoothing compared with

the "strong" font-smoothing setting.

JagSmoothing.png "