



PopChar™ X

Read Me

Version 2.3
November 2005

PopChar™ X is a macility® product

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Welcome to PopChar X

PopChar X is a utility application that lets you insert characters from all installed fonts into your documents. You never need to search for and remember keystrokes any longer. Just pop up the PopChar X window, click the desired character, and the character will appear in your current document.

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Note: If you use PopChar X under the terms of a site license, the following statements do not apply for you. Please ask your system administrator about the terms and conditions of the site license agreement.

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System Requirements

PopChar X requires Mac OS X 10.1.2 or newer.

Installation

If you already have a previous version of PopChar X installed, you may wish to check the version history (in the "PopChar X" folder) for a list of changes. Before you install the new version, you should first:

- Open the PopChar X window and select Quit from the PopChar X menu.
- Delete the old version.

To install PopChar X:

- Copy the "PopChar X" application from the disk image to your Applications folder.
- Unmount the disk image.
- Open the Applications folder and double-click the "PopChar X" icon.

You don't need to copy the "PopChar X User's Guide" to your local disk, as you can access this information directly from PopChar X with the Help command.

To launch PopChar X automatically when you log in or start up your Mac, make sure the "Start automatically at login" option in the preferences window is enabled.

Registration

If you use PopChar X under the terms of a site license, this section does not apply for you. If PopChar X asks for a license key when you launch it, ask your system administrator about the proper installation procedure.

If you do not yet have a license key, PopChar X will run in demo mode. You can try all its features, but some special characters will be disabled.

To order a license key, please visit our online store at
www.macity.com/store/

Known Issues

- Some other utilities (notably MaxMenus) also activate in the top-left corner of the screen. To avoid such conflicts, press the command key and move the "P box" of PopChar X to a different location in the menu bar.
- When the "P box" is in the right part of the menu bar, the standard menus in this area (time, monitor, sound, Airport settings etc.) may briefly drop down over the PopChar X window. This is a harmless cosmetic effect. We hope that we will be able to avoid this flashing of the menus when menu handling changes in a future version of Mac OS X.
- Insertion of Unicode characters requires active Unicode support by applications. Applications with limited or missing Unicode support will insert wrong characters for most Unicode characters.

Version History

2.3, November 2005

New Features:

- The "P" box can now be hidden from the menu bar; it automatically appears when the mouse pointer enters the menu bar.
- Preference setting for the number of recent fonts to be shown in the font menu.
- Preference setting for the number of recently selected characters to highlight.
- It is now possible to close the PopChar window immediately after selecting a character or to keep it open until the "P" box is clicked again.

Problems fixed:

- Fixed a problem with automatic font detection under Mac OS X 10.4 (Tiger).
- Fixed a scrolling problem with Apple's Mighty Mouse.

Other improvements:

- Improved compatibility with Mac OS X 10.4 (Tiger).
- The PopChar X window now closes faster when the mouse pointer moves out of the window.
- Dialog windows now appear in more adequate locations.
- Clicking a disabled character in demo mode now displays an explanation.

2.2.1, October 2004

Problem fixed:

- In rare situations, automatic font detection could cause PopChar X to quit unexpectedly when the current font could not be found.

2.2, October 2004

New Features:

- Automatic font detection for most applications with a regular font menu (such as AppleWorks, FileMaker Pro, QuarkXpress and more).
- Easier font selection in long font menus.

Problems fixed:

- Automatic font detection did not work in Word 2004 and Excel 2004.
- The HTML item in the font menu sometimes appeared checked when HTML mode was off.
- PopChar X sometimes used much processor power even if it was not currently used.
- In rare cases, picking a character in "styled" mode inserted the clipboard instead of the selected character.
- Fixed a corrupted message in a dialog window.
- Fixed an occasional crash when PopChar X was about to quit.

Other improvements:

- Improved antialiasing for some text elements.
- PopChar X menu instead of the macility icon makes registration and adjustment of settings clearer.

2.1.2, September 2003**Problem fixed:**

- Fixed a problem where PopChar X refused to work after restarting.

2.1.1, September 2003**Problem fixed:**

- Characters that require typing a "dead key" (such as option-N) sometimes could not be inserted in Cocoa applications.
- Some characters cannot be typed with keyboard combinations on some international keyboards. PopChar X now also handles these cases properly.
- Fixed a problem with certain MacRoman characters beyond the ASCII range.
- Fixed a problem with the size pop-up menu under Mac OS X 10.3.

Other improvements:

- The PopChar X application is now smaller and faster.

2.1, March 2003**New features:**

- French localization.

Problem fixed:

- Character insertion did not work on some pre-Jaguar systems. This was caused by a conflict with the scroll wheel support that was introduced in PopChar X 2.0. Version 2.1 now disables scroll wheel support on Mac OS X versions older than 10.2.
- Fixed another problem with the "Start at Login" feature that could cause loss of items with non-ASCII characters in their names on certain non-English systems.
- Fixed a confusing button label in the registration dialog.
- Some button labels were truncated in localized versions.

Other improvements:

- PopChar X now displays a warning if it is launched directly from the distribution disk image.
- Easier update: When you start a second copy of PopChar X, it automatically quits the already running copy.

2.0.1, January 2003**Problem fixed:**

- On some configurations, PopChar X 2.0 crashed when the front application changed.

2.0, January 2003

New features:

- Automatic font detection in Word, Excel, Illustrator, InDesign and BBEdit.
- When the option key is pressed, PopChar X now inserts the HTML codes for selected Unicode symbols.
- PopChar X now supports the scroll wheel on extended mice.
- A context click (right mouse button or control-click) in the PopChar X window and the "P" box directly opens the "macility menu".
- The preferred font and the "styled insertion" mode (including the font size) are now remembered separately for each application.
- PopChar X has been prepared for localization. Version 2.0 supports English and German.

Problems fixed:

- Some preferences could be lost under certain circumstances.
- Fixed a memory leak that slowed down PopChar X after multiple uses.
- PopChar X works around a bug in Mac OS X (versions 10.2.0 up to 10.2.2) that could lead to crashes at startup or to false alerts about a duplicate license key.
- Keyboard modifiers now appear correctly for all international systems.
- When the "P" box was clicked, the PopChar X window sometimes appeared and immediately disappeared again.

Other improvements:

- The PopChar X window is now less transparent, which improves readability of characters.
- PopChar X consistently uses Quartz-based drawing of anti-aliased text.
- Scrolling of Unicode tables has been accelerated.
- PopChar X now uses significantly less CPU time when it is not in use.

1.3.1, October 2002

Problems fixed:

- Clicking the "P" in the menu bar sometimes did not open the PopChar X window.
- "Start at Login" did not work when PopChar X was located directly or indirectly in a folder with non-ASCII characters in its name.
- The Finder information within PopChar X was incorrectly specified.

1.3, September 2002

New features:

- PopChar X now recognizes Unicode fonts that have been created on and designed for Windows (including all fonts that are distributed with Microsoft Office).
- The Unicode categories menu now displays the total number of characters in all categories.

Problems fixed:

- PopChar X crashed under Mac OS X 10.2 when the "About", "Contact Us" or "Registration" window was closed.
- PopChar X now respects the space occupied by the dock. This avoids a problem under Mac OS X 10.2, where the PopChar X window could be partially covered by the dock.
- Under Mac OS X 10.2, the "P" in the menu bar sometimes jumped to the right when the dock was at the left side of the main screen.
- Fixed a cosmetic alignment problem with the Unicode category menu.

1.2, August 2002**New features:**

- PopChar X now supports Unicode.
- PopChar X now uses the Quartz technology to display the character table. This results in better anti-aliasing for most fonts.
- The character table is now partially transparent.
- The feedback for selection and recent characters now appears with different background colors.
- Control characters are now displayed in dark red.
- Entering sticky mode is now easier. It is no longer necessary to click and release the mouse button very quickly.
- In the status line, the misleading term "ASCII" has been replaced with "MacRoman".

Problems fixed:

- Snapz Pro X did not work when the PopChar X window was visible.
- The status line at the bottom of the window displayed funny characters when the mouse pointer was outside of the window.
- PopChar X crashed on some Macs when the "About" command was selected.
- Clipboard-based insertion of characters sometimes did not work properly with slow applications.

1.1, June 2002**New features:**

- It is now possible to move the "P" box in the menu bar. Press the command key and move the "P" box to the desired position. This helps avoid conflicts with other utilities that also activate in the top-left corner of the menu bar (such as MaxMenus).
- PopChar X now has an option to display and insert control characters.
- PopChar X displays the ASCII code and keyboard combination in sticky mode when you just point at a character.
- PopChar X is now more tolerant in sticky mode when you slip and move the mouse pointer out of the window. The window no longer disappears immediately.
- All characters are now drawn with antialiasing.

Problems fixed:

- The "Start at Login" option now works correctly.
- When a different keyboard was selected from the keyboard menu, PopChar X did not recognize the change. It displayed wrong keyboard equivalents and inserted wrong characters when the "styled" checkbox was off.
- Some fonts were displayed in tiny font sizes in one or two columns. PopChar X now correctly determines the best display size for these fonts.
- When a character was selected in "styled" mode, PopChar X sometimes deleted items from a DragThing palette.
- PopChar X sometimes displayed a non-existing character at the end of the table.

1.0.1, May 2002**Problems fixed:**

- The "Start at Login" option cleared the list of login items for some users. The option was temporarily disabled in version 1.0.1. The problem was fixed in version 1.1.
- PopChar X did not launch when many fonts were installed.

1.0, May 2002

- First public release