

ImageCatatlog

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ABSTRACT

ImageCatatlog is an image cataloging program for the Macintosh™. **ImageCatatlog** does for computer images what a contact sheet does for photography—it shows a catalog of dozens of images arranged on the same page. **ImageCatatlog** will take a collection of image files and organize them as high-quality reduced image cells in a single window. Double-clicking on a cell opens the corresponding file. Cells can be set to either display the image locally or launch it with a different application. **ImageCatatlog** knows MacPaint, PICT, JPEG, JFIF, TIFF, and GIF formats, though with a little work any image format can be used. Requires Color QuickDraw and System 7. QuickTime™ preferred, but not required.

Quick Start...

- Drag and drop some image files onto **ImageCatatlog**.
 - Sit back and watch the catalog build itself.
- OR
- Follow one of the examples at the end of this document.

Business

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ImageCatatlog

Introduction

ImageCatatlog grew out of the need to once-and-for-all-organize-that-clip-art-collection. On a 13-inch color monitor a single **ImageCatatlog** catalog will display 32 MacPaint pictures, nicely reduced, and in greyscale so they are recognizable. Double-clicking on one of the reduced pictures opens a new full-size window of the picture. The picture can be copied to the clipboard for pasting into other applications.

ImageCatatlog is designed along the *tool* concept: it does a small number of things well and doesn't try to do too much. **ImageCatatlog** is not an image converter, it is not an image processing package, nor is it a paint program. **ImageCatatlog** should be thought of as a tool which works in conjunction with other image programs.

Possible uses:

- the aforementioned clip art selector.
- Draw/CAD program browser. Most drawing and CAD programs can frazzle nerves with the amount of time they take to display complicated drawings, especially when all you are doing is hunting for a specific picture.
- Pictorial side of a photograph database.

Windows

There are three types of windows: Image windows, Catalog windows, and Text Listing windows. **ImageCatatlog** windows make full use of the 256 colors available; this means that when a **ImageCatatlog** window is open it will have priority over the available colors, frequently making the desktop colors or colors in other windows appear *wrong*.

Image Window

An image window is a standard scrollable view of an image. An image window is created when an image file is opened from the main menu or when a cell in a catalog window is opened.

- The contents of an image window may be copied to the clipboard.

Catalog Window

A catalog window is a window divided into cells where each cell contains a reduced view of a larger image. This multi-cell window acts as a catalog for images. A typical window will show 30-40 images at the same time. By default **ImageCatatlog** uses a high quality averaging technique to reduce the images, which maintains most of the image detail. For many low-resolution images, this technique produces reductions superior in appearance to the original. The title of a catalog window is always bracketed by '◊' characters, to distinguish it from image windows.

Each cell is associated with a file on disk. Each cell is divided into two parts: the top part contains the reduced image; the bottom part shows the name of the disk file and related image information.

- Double-clicking in a cell will open the disk file associated with the cell. If the cell specifies "Open with Finder", then the Finder will be used to launch the disk file as though you had double-clicked on it from the Finder.
- Double-clicking on the title of an image will open the title-edit dialog.
- Swap cells by dragging one onto the other
- Insert cell by dragging onto grid line, or by Shift-dragging to cell you wish to place it after.
- adjust position of cell in row by dragging to new position (variable spacing only).
- A cell can be removed by single-clicking on it, then hitting the delete-key or selecting **Clear** from the Edit menu.

ImageCatatlog

- A catalog can be saved either compressed or uncompressed. Compressing a catalog saves disk space, but it takes longer to save and open. Compression is set from the Preferences dialog of the Edit menu.

Text Listing window

A Text Listing window is an alternate way to view catalog windows. A catalog window must currently be open before the **List as text** command may be issued. The listing has one line per cell that shows the attributes of the file associated with the cell.

- Double-clicking on a line opens the file, exactly the same as double-clicking on the cell in the catalog window.
- Copying a Text Listing using the Edit menu **Copy** command will copy all the text in the Text Listing to the clipboard. By default the text is copied separated by spaces. Hold down the *Shift-key* to copy the text as tab-delimited fields.

Using ImageCatatlog

System Requirements

ImageCatatlog requires system 7.0 or later, and at least two megabytes of RAM.

Internal Image Viewer

ImageCatatlog can read images of MacPaint, PICT, JFIF, JPEG, TIFF, and GIF formats. These formats cover most of the standard formats likely to be found on a Mac. **ImageCatatlog** has an internal image viewer which will read and display entire full-size images.

Creating a new catalog

Creating a new catalog from a folder of image files is a largely automatic process:

- 1) create the catalog with the **New Catalog...** command.
- 2) fill the catalog. This can be done in one of three ways:
 - a) drag-and-drop files onto **ImageCatatlog** using the Finder.
 - b) use the multi-file Open dialog
 - c) open a file in the Internal Image Viewer, then issue the **Add image** command.

Opening a cell with a different application

When a catalog is created, the Custom sub-dialog of the New Catalog dialog, can be used to specify that all cells should be opened with the Finder rather than the internal image view. This setting may be changed on a per-cell basis from the title-edit dialog accessed by double-clicking on the title of a cell. When a cell specifies "Open with Finder", the Finder will be used to launch the disk file as though you had double-clicked on it from the Finder. If the Finder does not know how to open the file associated with the cell the Finder will display an error dialog.

Reading image types unknown to ImageCatatlog

ImageCatatlog can be used to catalog images of any type. Copy an image from your application to the clipboard as a PICT then paste it into **ImageCatatlog**. After pasting you are asked to attach a file. Once a file is attached it is as though the file itself had been read.

Even if your application cannot paste PICTs to the clipboard there is always some other way. There are many suites of conversion programs (e.g. PhotoShop™ on the Mac or pbmplus under UNIX™). As a last resort, for the extremely dedicated, you could do a screen dump while your file is open to get a MacPaint file.

ImageCatatlog

Prefs file

ImageCatatlog creates a file called *ImageCatatlog Prefs* in the preferences directory. This file saves the preferences between invocations of **ImageCatatlog**.

Dialogs

New Catalog/Reconfigure Catalog

Used to configure a new catalog or to reconfigure an existing catalog. Options are:

Cell Horiz & Vert

size of catalog image cells in pixels

Window Horiz & Vert

number of rows & columns of cells

8-bit - 32-bit RGB

select between catalog depths

Monochrome

catalog is monochrome

Dither

dither images as they are added. Everything looks better with this set except for narrow-line drawings.

Open all images 8-bit

Open deep images as 8-bit (doesn't require as much memory)

Custom

present Custom catalog dialog.

Custom

Used to customize the appearance of a catalog.

Fixed width - Variable width

These select the type of scaling which occurs to fit the image to a cell. Fixed width makes every cell the same size; the image is scaled so that it fills the cell as fully as possible while maintaining the same image proportions. Variable width uses the specified cell width as a maximum width. Wide images will be scaled to fit within the maximum width. Narrow images will take only as much width as they need when scaled to the height of the cell. Variable width generally makes better use of available space.

grid width

specify the width of the cell grid in pixels.

text lines

number of lines of text to display below cell.

Colors

frame	- 1-pixel frame around image
grid	- grid which divides window into cells
background	- everything which isn't one of the other three in this group.
text	- text below cell
text background	- background behind text

To select a new color, click on the box to the left of the name. To disable a color item option-click the box. A disabled item appears with a dim 'X' in the box. Only frame, grid, and text

ImageCatatlog

background may be disabled. When text background is disabled the text background is the same as main background.

Comment Format

Sets the default format of text beneath an image cell. Uses a 'mail-merge'-style format where special keywords, indicated by angle-brackets, are replaced with image-specific data. Other characters are treated as literal strings, except for the combination \n, which is treated as a newline character. Keywords are:

<fname> - file name
<type> - file type (e.g. PICT)
<dims> - image dimensions (e.g. 640 x 480)
<fsize> - file size in bytes
<depth> - image depth in bits

Open with Finder

Sets the default behavior when a cell is double-clicked. If TRUE, a cell will be opened using the finder; if FALSE, a cell will be opened using a built-in image window. The finder opens the image just as if you had double-clicked on the image icon in a finder window.

Preferences

Used to select persistent preferences

General:

No startup window

don't display startup splash screen

Open on best monitor

open windows on deepest, most colorful monitor

Open all images 8-bit

Open all images greater than 8-bit in 8-bit windows (this will lose color information, but saves memory).

Open menu item does:

Open image to catalog - (see FILE/Open below)

Open image in window - (see FILE/Open below)

Image windows:

Dither

dither all image windows by default (makes up for color loss if 'Open all images 8-bit' is set).

Automatic Start:

Open default catalog

just create a new catalog when program is started by a drag-and-drop operation, rather than display dialog.

Catalogs:

Save compressed

enable compression when saving catalogs. Choose the level compression with "Set Compression" button. JPEG/Normal is recommended. QuickTime™ must be installed.

ImageCatatlog

Dither windows

dither catalog windows by default

Menus

File Menu

New

create a new catalog using the New Catalog dialog.

Open, Close

open, close images or catalogs. The default is to open images into catalog, rather than separate window. This so that drag and drop does the right thing. Behavior can be changed in "Preferences" so that default is to open a window. When opening to a window you will always see the standard open dialog, when opening to a catalog you will always see a multi-file open dialog.

Open to Window

open image in a separate window. Changes to "Open to catalog" if behavior is changed in "Preferences" (see Open).

Save, Save as...

For catalogs, saves to disk.

Page Setup..., Print

Print catalog. Only works with laser writers: for best results select 'Dither' from edit menu and from Page Setup unselect 'bitmap smoothing'.

Quit

quit program.

Edit Menu

Undo

not implemented—always greyed out.

Copy,Cut,Paste

Copy/Paste cell to clipboard. Pasting an image can be used to import alien images.

Clear

In a catalog window deletes the selected cell.

Dither

Selects dithering during image display, usually improves image appearance.

Preferences...

Presents a dialog for setting user preferences.

Catalog Menu

Add image

adds the currently opened image to the top catalog (top is the top one as shown in the Windows menu).
NOTE: If the target catalog is of type *Map to monochrome*, then, as a side effect, the displayed image will be converted to monochrome. The associated file on disk is not changed.

Reconfigure

Redisplays the **New Catalog** dialog. Some fields cannot be changed.

List as Text

displays a new window with a scrolling list of textual descriptions of the images in a catalog.

Clean up cells

in a variable-spacing catalog, space cells evenly along row

Sort cells by

ImageCatatlog

sorts cells in a catalog by either name, type, or file size.

Examples

Example 1 - building a catalog of MacPaint files

This is so easy it's almost intuitive:

- 1) Locate the folder containing the MacPaint files you wish to catalog.
- 2) Select **New** from the File Menu to create a new catalog.
- 3) Drag-and-drop all your MacPaint files onto **ImageCatatlog**.

Example 3 - The unknown file type: building a catalog of Cricket Graph™ files

This example explains how to build a catalog of images alien to **ImageCatatlog**, in this case, Cricket Graph™ files. The steps below apply equally well to any program which can copy its images to the clipboard in PICT format.

1) Create a Scrapbook File of your images

- a) Locate the folder(s) containing the files you wish to catalog.
- b) Empty the Scrapbook desk accessory. If you want to save the current scrapbook you can do so by renaming the file *Scrapbook File* in your system folder to something else then changing its name back once you are done with this exercise.
- c) Open the first of your files with Cricket Graph™.
- d) Select Copy (or Copy Graph) from the Edit menu.
- e) Open the Scrapbook and paste in the graph.
- f) Repeat the steps c)-e) until you have all your files in the scrapbook.

2) Copy Scrapbook to Catalog

- a) Open **ImageCatatlog**
- b) Select **New** from the File Menu to create a new catalog. From the Custom sub-dialog select "Open with Finder".
- c) Open the Scrapbook and Copy your first image to the clipboard
- d) from **ImageCatatlog** paste the image from the clipboard. You will be asked whether you wish to associate the image with a disk file. Say "yes" then select the associated disk file in the standard file dialog.
- e) Repeat the steps c)-d) until all your images have been pasted from the scrapbook.

3) Done.

Try it out: double-click on a cell, this will launch Cricket Graph™ which will open the file corresponding to the cell. You will also probably want to throw away your Scrapbook File; it will be quite large if you have processed many files.

Bugs

Known bugs are:

- printing does not work on ImageWriters.
- when SuperBoomerang is in use you cannot type capital letters in the save dialog box.

Other bugs, suggestions

Send email to: twb@tivoli.com (usenet).

ImageCatatlog

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