Boggle

Version 1.0

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Purpose

The purpose of Boggle is to find as many words as you can from the Boggle cube within the allotted time. The computer, of course, will be doing the same just to give you a bit of a challenge.

Play

A new game is started by selecting **New Game** from the main menu or by typing **Command-n**.   The time starts running immediately.   Words may be entered by clicking on letters in the Boggle window or by typing them in the word field below the Boggle cube.   Words are completed by clicking the button **Add Word** or by typing **Return**.   If an error is made when entering a word it can be corrected by backspacing over the error or the whole word can be started over by clicking the **Clear Word** button.

After time runs out, the user can select a word from the player's word list.   It is shown in the word field below the Boggle cube.   A panel will come up asking what should be done with the word.   If the word was

entered in error, it can then be removed with an appropriate reduction in score.   Otherwise, just click the *Nothing* button or type *Return*.

Additionally, the user can also select a word from the computer's list.   This word is also shown in the word field below the Boggle cube.   If the user is unfamiliar with the computer's word, the player can type *Command-=* and send the word to Webster's Dictionary to be defined.

Legal Words

Legal words are any that can be formed from consecutive letters in the Boggle cube.   Letters from the cube may not be re-used in a word and the same word may only be entered once.   Words must be at least three characters long.   If   an attempt is made to enter an illegal word, the computer will beep and clear the word.

Levels

There are three levels of play available: Beginner, Intermediate and Expert.   These can be set by selecting the *Beginner*, *Intermediate*, or *Expert* menu items from the *Options* menu.   Selecting a particular difficulty level affects the computer ability to find words in the following ways:

Beginner: The computer does not use the center four letters of the Boggle cube within words it forms although it can start words with those letters.

Intermediate: The computer does not use the four corner letters of the Boggle cube within words it forms although it can start words with those letters.

Expert: All letters of the Boggle cube are fair game for the computer to use in forming words.

Scoring

Points are scored for each word found according to the length of the word.   The following table shows the point values associated with each word length:

Word Length	Value
3	1 point
4	2 points
5	3 points
6	5 points
7 or greater	9 points

Scores are tracked for individual games and for a running total of all games.   The running total is saved in the user's defaults database so that the running total will be available the next time the game is played. The scores can be reset to zero by selecting **Reset Scores** from the **Options** menu.

Preferences

Several aspects of Boggle can be changed through clicking on the **Preferences...** menu item to bring up the Preferences Panel.

´The time remaining in a game is shown in a floating panel.   The player can choose to hide or show this panel during the game by clicking the **Hide** or **Show** button.

´Additionally, the initial game difficulty level can be chosen by selecting either **Beginner**, **Intermediate**, or **Expert** from the Pop-Up Menu.   Setting the level here does not affect the current game level, only the level at the time of starting Boggle.

´A file other than the default dictionary can be chosen.   This is the dictionary the computer uses to find its words.   The default dictionary, **bog.dict**,   is located in the application wrapper of **Boggle.app**.   When specifying a new dictionary, a complete pathname must be given if the dictionary does not reside within the application wrapper.   See the section on the dictionary for more information.
´Finally, the amount of time a game lasts can be set from the Preferences Panel.
´These values are all saved in the user's defaults database.

Dictionary

Boggle comes with a dictionary called **bog.dict** which is located within **Boggle**'s application wrapper, **Boggle.app**.   The dictionary contains over 7,600 words and can be extended.   The format for the file is one word per line with no leading or trailing blanks and no blank lines.   The words are in alphabetical order and must remain so.   The user is encouraged to make a copy of this file and modify it according to the above format.   The dictionary to be used by the computer can be set through the Preferences Panel.   For more information, see the Preferences section.

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