

# ChunkIt (1.3b)

by J.M.Driear © 1991

**ChunkIt** is a program to help out with the problems of printing Postscript files generated on a Macintosh on other computers (for example, a VAX running VMS) and non-Laserwriter printers (for example, a Digital Equipment LPS40). These systems have an internal limit (often 256 characters) on the size of what they know as a “line”. Unfortunately, Postscript files generated on the Macintosh that have downloaded fonts may have “lines” of font definitions several thousand characters long. **ChunkIt** breaks up any downloaded font definitions into shorter lines that these systems, and most text editors, are happier handling.

If you're reading this, I assume you know how to generate a Postscript file on your Mac using either a check box in the Laserwriter dialog (for System 7) or Cmnd-F right after you click the OK button in earlier systems. Once you've got the file (called, for example, Postscript0) run **Chunkit**. You'll get a dialog box that looks like the one on the next page.

End of line handling is complicated by the existence of three (at least!) conventions. The Mac ends lines with a carriage return, Unix ends them with linefeeds, and IBM-compatible PCs using PC-DOS end them with a carriage return followed by a linefeed. My suggestion is to try Normal, upload the file after **ChunkIt** is done with it, and then try to look at it using a text editor on the host system. If the first few lines are relatively short and readable everything is probably OK. If not, experiment with a different setting and make sure your transfer program knows you're working with a text file.

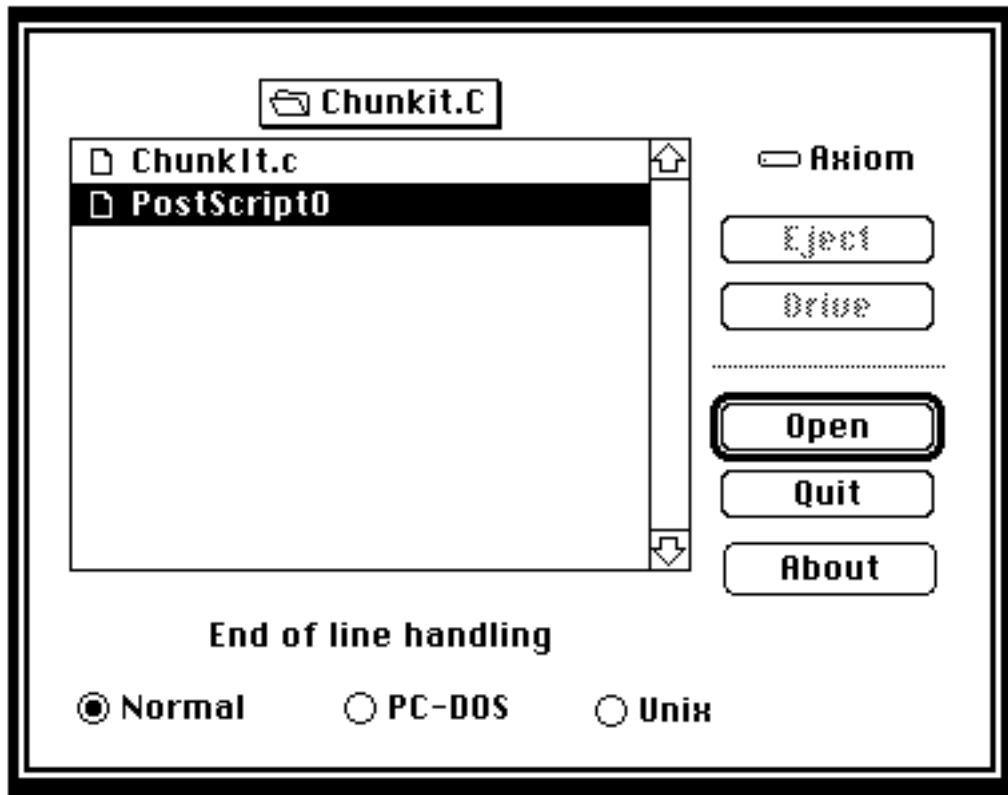


Figure 1: Input Dialog

After selecting the input file to be converted, you select the output filename for the converted file with the dialog shown on the next page. The default name of the converted file is the input name with a “c” appended to it. The conversion begins when you click Convert but can be stopped at anytime by clicking in the progress window. While the conversion is being done, desk accessories are available under the Apple menu as usual. If there are lines longer than 80 characters in the file which are not font definitions you will be warned by the dialog box shown in Figure 3. Lines about 170 characters long are often present.

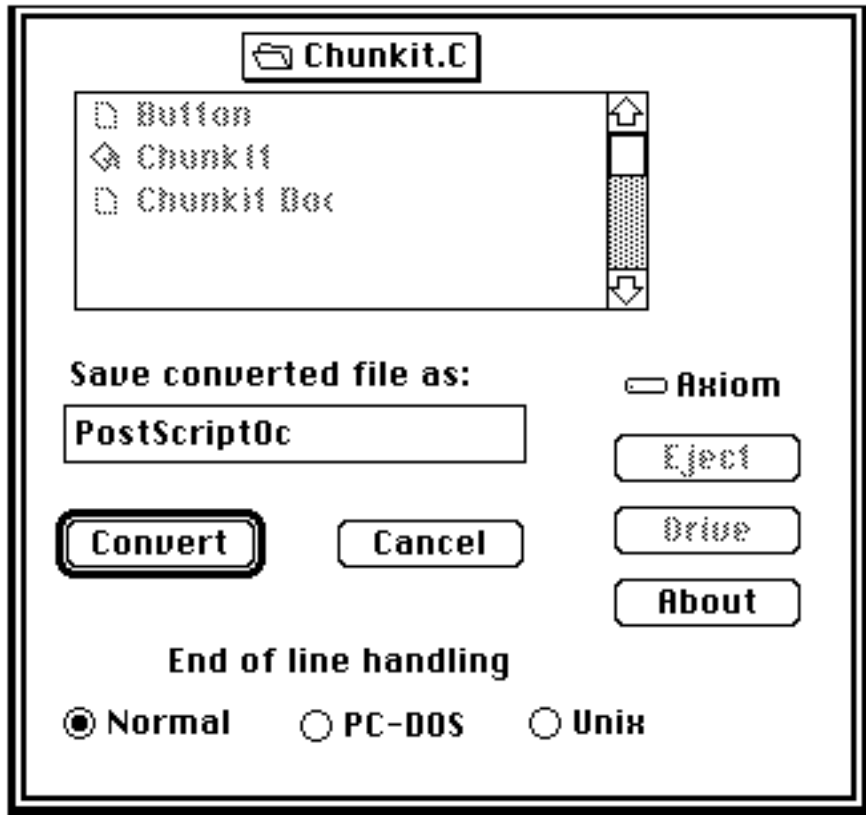


Figure 2: Conversion dialog

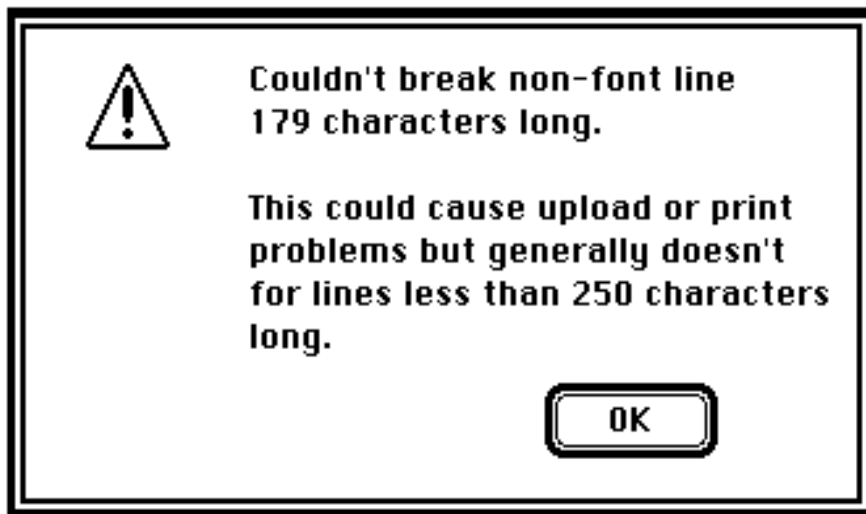


Figure 3: Line size warning

**ChunkIt** is based on a concept by Skip Gaede who developed the original ChunkIt to run under VMS on a VAX. **ChunkIt** is copyrighted © 1991 by J.M.Driear. It is not public domain but may be freely distributed as long as this documentation accompanies the program.

**Known bugs:**

**ChunkIt** is fairly smart about not breaking non-font lines of Postscript but it can be fooled and mess up the Postscript. (It checks to see that the first 79 characters in the line are hexadecimal to see if the line is "really" a font definition.) For unknown reasons, it occasionally (one reported in several hundred known conversions) refuses to break up a font definition. If you get one of these, please e-mail me the file up to the first 100 characters of the font definition and I'll try to figure out what's going wrong.

Comments, suggestions, or bug reports (we never have any of those!) may be sent to me via e-mail at [driear@hal.com](mailto:driear@hal.com) or by phone at 408/379-7000 ext. 1290 during business hours.