xLibrary 1.0.1 - Read Me First.

Product Description.

xLibrary is a simple to use, library orientated communications package for the Macintosh.

The package has been designed specifically with librarians in mind to provide a simple and secure way of connecting to a variety of remote 'services'. A 'service' is defined as any process running on a local or remote computer, e.g. an **O**nline **P**ublic **A**ccess **C**atalogue (OPAC).

xLibrary allows for multiple, simultaneous services to be active at any one time. A typical session might therefore include a serial connection to your local OPAC in one window, whilst another window displays information from a **C**ampus-**W**ide **I**nformation **S**ystem (CWIS), and a third displays a remote tcp/ip network connection to a second OPAC. In addition, a fully editable text window may be activated that enables the easy accumulation of selections from any of the other windows. For instance, using the above example, the text window could be used to accumulate the results from a comparative search of the two (local and remote) OPACs. The resulting text may then be printed, saved to a file for later use or copied and pasted to your favourite word processor.

The package consists of two HyperCard™ stacks, **xLibrary** and **xLibrary Installer.**

The installer stack allows the definition, testing, storage, installation and removal of service definitions. A service definition is a set of parameters that together define the external parameters of a 'service'. Each service is defined by 14 parameters all of which are held on a single hyperCard™ card. Typical parameters are :

a. the connection method (and communication settings) required to attach to the computer upon which the service is available.
b. the terminal emulation (and configuration settings) to use to display the service output.
c. the login and logout scripts required to activate/close the service once connection has been achieved with the host computer.
d. whether or not the service should be password protected and if so, the password to use.
etc, etc.....

Once the service definition has been created and tested in **xLibrary Installer** it may then be installed into the **xLibrary** stack. Once installed the name of the service becomes another menu option in the 'Go' menu. The service may then be invoked simply by selecting its name from the menu. In this fashion an individualised **xLibrary** stack can be created for each environment.

The product utilises Apple's **Communications Toolbox** technology, consequently connectivity is only limited by the range of Connection and Terminal Emulation tools that are available for your machine.

What is Supplied.

xLibrary	This stack comes with two example services already installed, these services require the **Serial** Connection tool and the **VT102** Terminal Emulation tool.
xLibrary Installer	This stack comes with two example service definitions, these definition requires the **Serial** Connection tool and the **VT102** Terminal Emulation tool.
xLibrary User Manual	Complements the extensive online help facilities.

Cost.

The two stacks are distributed with a limited number of free activations after which they will cease to initialise correctly. Upon activation of either stack the operator is invited to enter a code that will neutralise this mechanism. The code may be purchased from the contact address below for $20.00 per copy or a $150 per site licence (this price includes both stacks).

Contact Address.

The xLibrary Team
G.P.O. Box 316d
Hobart Tasmania
Australia 7000.

Problems

We seem to have found a bug with the VT102 Terminal emulation tool. If the tool's 'Keyclick Sound' option (in the 'keyboard' panel of the tool's dialog) is selected and the tool's menu (Keys) is shown, then selecting from the menu will crash **xLibrary**. The problem goes away if the 'Keyclick' option is turned off.

Warnings

If **xLibrary** has one or more open service windows when HyperCard is terminated via the 'Quit HyperCard' option, then the services **may** not be closed correctly. That is, if a service has an associated logout script then it will **not** be executed prior to the window being closed. This problem is unavoidable due to the manner in which Hypercard handles external windows at termination time. It is therefore recommended that all services are closed manually prior to quitting Hypercard.

If **xLibrary** has one or more open windows then additional, concurrent stacks may be launched in the normal manner. When another stack becomes the active stack, xLibrary's open windows remain active and will still receive and display service output. However, they will not respond to operator input or closure attempts until xLibrary once again becomes the active stack.

Communications Toolbox Tools.

The following information (the accuracy of which cannot be guaranteed) may be of assistance in acquiring Communications Toolbox tools.

a. The Communications toolbox installer (for System 6.0.4 onwards but not required for System 7) may be retrieved by anonymous ftp from ftp.apple.com directory = dts/mac/sys.soft/netcomm.
b. The Communications. toolbox basic tool set may be retrieved by anonymous ftp from ftp.apple.com directory = dts/mac/sys.soft/netcomm. (N.B. The MacTCP tool **only** works with MacX and is not a general purpose tcp/ip tool).
c. The Hayes modem tool may be retrieved by anonymous ftp from sumex-aim.stanford.edu directory = info-mac/comm.
d. Intercon produce a tcp/ip/telnet tool as part of their TCP Toolz And Toyz package. (InterCon Systems Corporation. 950 Herndon Parkway, Herndon, VA 22070 +1 703 709 9890).
e. Advanced Software Concepts (email 'ADV.SOFT@applelink.apple.com) produce amonst others a tcp/ip/telnet tool called TCPack.
f. Synergy Software produce the VersaTerm telnet tool .
g. Pacer Software produce the PacerTCP tcp/ip tool .
h. Software Ventures produce the MPTelnet telnet tool .