MacTools Deluxe
Central Point Software Inc.

Summary: *MacTools Deluxe* is one of the finest utilities available for the Mac! It supplies a variety of powerful disk and file management programs in an easy to use format. Without a doubt, an absolute must have for all Macintosh users. On my scale of 1 to 10, *MacTools Deluxe* glides in at an easy 10.

I'll attempt to give the reader an overview of each utility in this collection. There are so many features to this program that it would be impossible to cover them all in this review.

MacTools Deluxe comes on three 800k floppies and works with the Mac Plus or higher. System 4.2 and Finder 6.0 or higher are required (these are supplied in the event you don't already have them). A nicely written 341 page manual completes the package.

Installation: You have 2 choices; automatic or manual. The automatic installation is simplicity in action. Insert disk 1 and double click the installer. You select the programs you want installed and where to put them on your hard drive. It will install the DA's into the system file and prompt you for the other disks. If you choose to remove the programs later it will do that for you automatically too. The manual method allows you to copy the program with the usual copy method. (Illustration 1)

Launcher: This is a "desktop" that you may use to launch all of the applications in MacTools. It also allows you to add other programs for your convenience. You may start any of the applications by the usual Mac method of double clicking if you prefer not to use the *Launcher*.

Rescue: This is a file recovery utility. It works by itself or in conjunction with an INIT/CDEV called *Mirror* . *Rescue* will recover deleted files, repair damaged files, help you restore your hard disk or floppy (and your sanity) after a crash and will diagnose and treat disks that don't work properly. It checks 6 vital functions and will offer to repair any damage it finds (Illustration 4). *Rescue* takes you step-by-step through all of these procedures.

Mirror: *Mirror* resides in you system folder as an INIT/CDEV and keeps a record of your disk contents (called critical directory) and any files you throw in the trash. A very handy feature of *Mirror* is its ability to recover a deleted file directly from the control panel. You may

configure *Mirror* to your needs via the control panel.

    Backup: Doing a backup of your hard drive has always been one of the necessary evils of owning a computer. Central Point's *Backup* makes it about as painless as possible. An almost endless list of options makes this utility perfect for personal configuration and needs. You may backup to 800k or 1.44MB floppies, another hard drive or to tape. The program will compress files to save space, tell you how many disks will be needed and how long the backup process will take. You may backup the entire disk, just a few folders/files or do an incremental backup (backup just the files that have changed since your last backup). Restoring your hard drive from the backup is just as flexible and easy. (Illustration 2)

    Optimizer: This sweet application will keep your data in order and insure that you have the cleanest hard disk in town. Fragmentation of applications and documents occurs over time on any hard drive. As fragmentation increases hard disk efficiency decreases. *Optimizer* helps to keep your hard drive running at peak efficiency. First it checks for bad blocks, next it unfragments the files, consolidates the free space and prioritizes the applications and finally will erase the free space. Again it is yours to decide just how much it will or will not do depending on the options you select. If you deal with confidential information you will be happy to know that the erasing procedure meets with the Defense Investigation Service (DIS) erasure requirements for confidential data.

    Note: I ran another program that "cleans up" the hard drive. That program indicated that everything was now in good order. I checked the drive out with *Rescue* and *Optimizer* and found that things were NOT even close to being in order. Several files and applications were still fragmented, a couple of programs were occupying the same blocks (a real disaster waiting to happen), one file was damaged and needed to be removed from the drive, the volume bitmap had been damaged and needed repair and 11 invisible and protected files (written there by a poorly programed application I had run and discarded months earlier) were taking up space and conflicting with other applications.
    Rescue and *Optimizer* are <u>very thorough</u> in dealing with your hard drive.

    Secure: If you want to keep prying eyes out of your personal stuff then this utility will protect it for you. *Secure* is provided in an application and desk accessory form. It uses a randomizing

algorithm to encrypt files, allows multi-level password protection and will encrypt multiple files in one folder. Encrypted files may be invisible and /or protected from erasure. Passwords may be alphanumeric (5 to 32 characters in length) or hexadecimal(16 characters in length).

Partition: This is a combination INIT and desk accessory. It will divide your hard drive into sections called partitions. Partitioning is a method of dividing a large storage device into smaller, separate areas. In the workplace, this means that several people can have access to one drive but each gets his/her own (private if need be) work space on the hard drive. In the home, your household files and data can be separated from the kid's stuff. Among the options available are automounting, password protection and encryption.

Locate: A nifty DA that searches for files or information within files. In the illustration, I entered my name "O'Boyle" as the text string to find. After coming up with the files that contained the string, I selected the file "AMUG Library", a hypercard stack. *Locate* showed me what it found <u>within that stack</u> and let me view it without having to quit what I was doing and open the stack to get to the information I wanted. (Illustration 3)

FastCopy: This utility will initialize or copy disks. *FastCopy* will not copy protected software (use Central Point's Copy II for that). In addition to several options for the copy process, there is a Track Editor that will allow you to edit blocks on a disk (for the hacker who enjoys serious disk surgery).

FileEdit: A file and disk utility. It provides a variety of functions from simple folder organization to block editing capabilities (not recommended unless you know what you are doing).

Help: 1) There is on screen help. At the bottom of Illustration 1,2 & 4 is a help box. To use it simply hold down the option key and move the mouse. A brief help message will appear in the box explaining the area under the mouse pointer.
2) In *Optimizer* there is an additional help file under the apple menu or by pressing Command-?.
3) You may call technical support.
4) You may send a fax.
5) You may contact technical support via Central Point's Bulletin Board. The BBS also supplies updates to registered owners.
I called the technical support people at Central Point and found them to be very helpful, patient and courteous.

I enjoyed using and reviewing *MacTools Deluxe*. I spent many hours with it and did not find any problems or errors to report.

MacTools Deluxe suggested retail price is $129.00 but you can find it for under $80.00.

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