escapade

Documentation and release notes
Version 1.3.2 — 26 October 1991
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Introduction

Escapade is a Control Panel ("cdev") designed for people who prefer to keep their hands on the keyboard while using a Macintosh. Escapade provides:

• **Keyboard shortcuts for buttons and check boxes in dialogs.**
With Escapade, you can select the Cancel button in a dialog box by pressing Escape, ⌘-Period or ⌘-Delete. You can also select any button or check box by pressing the first letter of the control's title. In addition, with Escapade you can move through all the buttons and check boxes in a dialog box and "press" any of them via the keyboard.

• **Support for the standard ⌘-key equivalents for Cut, Copy, Paste and Select All**.
In dialog boxes with editable text fields, Escapade allows you to use the standard ⌘-key equivalents (X, C, V and A) for Cut, Copy, Paste and Select All, respectively. If you have an extended keyboard (one with a row of function keys across the top), Escapade will recognize and handle F2, F3 and F4 as Cut, Copy and Paste, respectively.

• **Support for "smart" quotes in dialog boxes.**

When you enter a regular quotation mark into a text entry field in a dialog, Escapade can automatically convert it to the appropriate "curly" quotation mark, if so desired.

• **Support for the standard text-editing cursor in dialog boxes.**
With Escapade, the cursor will automatically change to the standard text-editing ("i-beam") cursor when the cursor is positioned over an editable text field, enabling you to accurately select text and position the insertion point.

Installing Escapade

Escapade requires System version 4.2 or later and at least the 128k ROMs (Macintosh 512ke/Plus or later). To install Escapade, simply drag it to the System Folder on your startup disk (usually your hard disk.)

Escapade has been tested and is fully compatible with System 7.0. If you are running System 7.0, Escapade should be placed in the Control Panels folder within the System Folder. If you drag the Escapade icon to the System Folder icon, you will be presented with an alert asking if you want to place Escapade in the Control Panels folder; you should click the OK button in response to this alert.

Using and Configuring Escapade

You can configure Escapade to suit your particular preferences via its control panel. To do this, first select either the Control Panel (if you are running System 6.0) or the Controls Panels folder (if you are running System 7.0) from the □ menu. If you are running System 6.0, when the Control Panel window appears, scroll through the icon list until the Escapade icon is visible. Clicking on the Escapade icon will bring up the Escapade panel. With System 7.0, double-clicking on the Escapade icon in the Control Panels folder will bring up the Escapade control panel.

The "On" and "Off" buttons in the lower left corner allow you to enable or disable Escapade. If you should turn Escapade off, please remember that it is not turned back on unless you explicitly do so.

The check boxes under "Cancel is" allow you to specify which key(s) among Escape, ⌘-Period, and ⌘-Delete are equivalent to a click on the Cancel button of a dialog or alert box. This provides you with an easy, consistent way to select the Cancel button, in the same manner that Return or Enter can be used to select the OK button.

Under "Move with", you can select which pair(s) of keys to use to move through buttons or check boxes in a dialog or alert box. You may choose among ⌘-Up Arrow/⌘-Down Arrow, ⌘-Right Arrow/⌘-Left Arrow, and ⌘-Tab/⌘-Shift-Tab. Pressing the first key in one of these pairs will move you forward one button/check box, while pressing the second key in a pair will move you backward one button/check box.

When the desired button is blinking, you can press any of the key combinations that are checked under "Click with" to "press" the button. This has the same effect as clicking the highlighted button or check box with the mouse button.

If "First character selects button" is checked, you can press the key corresponding to the first letter of a pushbutton's title in conjunction with the ⌘ key and Escapade will "press" the appropriate button for you. If a dialog has more than one button whose title begins with a particular character, pressing that character the first time will highlight one of the buttons. Subsequent presses of the same key will cycle you through the buttons beginning with that character. When the desired button is highlighted, press any of the "Click with" key combinations and Escapade will "press" the button. For example, suppose that a dialog box contains four pushbuttons—"Down", "Duplicate", "Delete" and "Done" You wish to select "Duplicate", so you press ⌘-D once and the "Down" button begins to blink. Since this is not the button that you want, you press ⌘-D a second time. The "Down" stops blinking and "Duplicate" starts to blink. "Duplicate" is the button that you want, so you press ⌘-Space (assuming that ⌘-Space is a "Click with" key combination) and the button is selected. (Please note that the exact order in which buttons are highlighted depends on the layout of the particular dialog box and therefore cannot be predicted. This also applies to the selection of buttons and check boxes via ⌘-Tab/⌘-*arrow key*.)

Both "⌘ key is optional" and "Select check boxes and radio buttons" apply only if "First character selects button" is selected. If "⌘ key is optional" is checked, you do not need to hold down the ⌘ key to "press" a button in the manner described in the preceding paragraph. This applies only if there are no text entry fields in the dialog box; if any text entry fields are present, the ⌘ key is mandatory regardless of this setting. Also, please note that this option applies only to the selection of buttons as described in the preceding paragraph; it does not apply to the "Select with" or "Click with" key combinations. "Select check boxes and radio buttons", if enabled, allows you to select radio button and check boxes, in addition to pushbuttons, by pressing the first character of the control's label.
If "Cancel key selects OK if no other buttons" is checked and there is only a single button in a dialog or alert, pressing any Cancel key (Escape, ⌘-Period or ⌘-Delete) will select the lone button.

The remaining options pertain to dialogs with text entry fields. "Show i-beam cursor" determines whether or not the cursor will be changed to the standard text-selection cursor when it is positioned over a text entry field. If "Use "smart" quotes" is checked, Escapade will convert any quotation marks that you type to the appropriate "curly" quotation mark. Should you wish to enter a standard quotation mark (" or ') when this option is checked, hold down the ⌘ key when you press the quotation mark key.

If selected, "Enable ⌘-X/C/V" allows you to use the standard ⌘-key equivalents for Cut, Copy and Paste. Similarly, if "Enable ⌘-A" is checked, you can press ⌘-A to select all of the text that has been entered in the field. If you have an extended keyboard, the "Enable F2/F3/F4" option, if checked, allows you to use these keys in a dialog box for Cut, Copy and Paste, respectively.

Clicking on the "Highlight Delay…" button will present you with a dialog box that allows you to set the duration for which a selected button is highlighted after it is "pressed." Select "None" if you do not wish to have Escapade blink a button after you select it using the keyboard. Similarly, clicking on the "Blinking Rate…" button allows you to adjust the rate at which a blinking button or check box blinks. The three rates correspond to the blinking rates available for the text insertion point in the standard General control panel.

The setting of "Show icon at startup" determines whether or not the Escapade icon is displayed at the bottom of the screen when the Macintosh is powered up or restarted.

Configuring Escapade for Specific Applications

If you find that Escapade conflicts with the normal operation of a particular application, Escapade permits you to set up a custom Escapade configuration for the application. To do this, select "Add Application…" from the "Settings" pop-up menu at the top of the Escapade pane in the Control Panel window. You will be presented with a standard "open" dialog box, which you should use find the application for which you wish to set up a custom configuration. After you select the "Add" button, you will be returned to the Control Panel, where you can then select or deselect the appropriate options for the application. To disable Escapade completely within the application, uncheck all of the check boxes; do not select the "Off" button, as this will disable Escapade in all applications.

After you have added one or more application configurations, the "Settings" pop-up menu can be used to select a particular application configuration so that the settings for the application can be changed. If a custom configuration is not present for an application, Escapade uses the settings that are displayed when "Default" is selected from the pop-up menu.

If you should wish to remove a custom Escapade configuration that you have added, select "Remove Application…" from the pop-up menu. You will be presented with dialog box containing a list of the applications in the "Settings" menu; to remove an application, select its name from the list and click OK.

Known Problems and Incompatibilities

Unfortunately, Escapade is not compatible with all Macintosh applications. Certain applications handle dialog boxes in a manner that circumvents Escapade. Two popular applications that do not work with Escapade are Microsoft Word and Excel, and there are probably others. (Please note that using Escapade along with such applications will not cause any problems; the features of Escapade will simply not be available. This should not be a major concern in either Word or Excel, as both offer keyboard shortcuts that are similar to those provided by Escapade.)

Tips, Tricks and Shortcuts

Assuming that it is located in the System Folder (or in the Control Panels folder, with System 7.0) of your startup disk, Escapade will be installed automatically at startup. If for some reason you do not wish to install Escapade, you may hold down either the Shift key or the mouse button while your Macintosh is starting up. However, if Escapade is not installed at startup, it will be unavailable until the next time that you restart your Macintosh. If you wish to disable Escapade temporarily after it has been installed, you may turn it off via its control panel.

If you find that Escapade conflicts with another dialog enhancement utility (such as Boomerang), you can use the Shift key to instruct Escapade to ignore a particular ⌘ key combination. For example, if "⌘-A is Select All" is enabled, pressing ⌘-A in a "Save As" dialog box will select the entire file name. If you also use Boomerang and have set ⌘-A to move you to a particular folder, you will find that you won't be able to use this key combination, since Escapade will treat the ⌘-A as a "Select All". The solution here is to hold down the Shift key while pressing ⌘-A, so that Escapade will ignore the ⌘-A and pass it along for Boomerang to handle.

Differences From Previous Versions

Escapade version 1.3.2 fixes several minor bugs that were present in previous versions; specifically:

• Escapade no longer crashes at startup when running in 32-bit mode with more than 8 megs of RAM. (Fixed in version 1.3.2)

• Escapade now works properly with the Teleport/Fax software from Global Village Communications. (Fixed in version 1.3.1)

• The Escapade icon now shows up in a QuicKeys 2 QuickPanel. (Fixed in version 1.3.1)

• The labels on the "⌘-Return" and "⌘-Enter" check boxes in the Escapade control panel are now correct; they were incorrectly reversed in previous versions. (Fixed in version 1.3.1)

• Escapade should now function in 32-bit mode under System 7. (Fixed in version 1.3)

• Escapade will no longer arbitrarily select check boxes and radio buttons when you press the first letter of the control's title in conjunction with the ⌘ key. (Fixed in version 1.3)

• The Escapade Control Panel device (cdev) will no longer crash at random when the Control Panel is redrawn while in the background. (Fixed in version 1.2.2)

• You can now enter a space in an editable text field if ⌘-Space is selected as a "Click with" key combination and "⌘ key is optional" is also selected. (Fixed in version 1.2.2)

• If a ⌘-key combination is pressed and there are more than two buttons whose titles begins with the character pressed, Escapade will now properly cycle through all the buttons. (Fixed in version 1.2.1)

• You no longer need to have "⌘-X/C/V are Cut/Copy/Paste" enabled in order to have "⌘-A is Select All" work properly. (Fixed in version 1.2.1)

• If you Cut or Copy in a dialog (via ⌘-X or ⌘-C), Escapade will no longer dispose of the contents of the Clipboard if a range of text is not selected. (Fixed in version 1.2.1)

• If a ⌘-key combination is pressed and there is more than one button whose title begins with the character pressed, Escapade will no longer arbitrarily "press" one of them. (Fixed in version 1.2)

• If there is an editable text field in a dialog box, Escapade will not blindly select the OK button if Return is pressed. This fixes a reported problem when editing a text QuicKey. (Fixed in version 1.1.1)

• If the first item in a dialog or alert box is not a button, Escapade will no longer cause a system error if Enter or Return is pressed. (Fixed in version 1.1.1)

Comments, suggestions, enhancement requests, bug reports, etc.

The author welcomes feedback concerning Escapade and can be reached at the following electronic addresses:

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