

Introduction

Reader is an application which allows you to read the contents of different types of documents without having the application that originally created the document. In some cases documents may contain text to be read, pictures to be viewed, or sounds to be heard. Reader is not a replacement for the application that originally created the document. You can not edit the documents that you open with Reader.

Reader can open these different types of documents by using files which are called Format Drivers and are located in the System Folder. Each Format Driver knows how to open one type of document. In some cases, if the Format Driver supports it, a document can also be printed or part of its contents can be copied to the Clipboard. Section 3 of this manual will go into greater detail about Format Drivers.

Reader comes with only a small set of Format Drivers. The author hopes that in the future more Format Drivers will be available from third parties.

A separate developer's manual is available which goes into detail about how to create Format Drivers.

Getting Started

To install Reader, just copy Reader and the folder named Reader FD's to your hard drive. Reader and the standard set of Format Drivers take up approximately 50K of disk space. Place the Reader FD's folder inside of the System Folder. The Format Drivers can be placed directly in the System Folder or within another folder in the System Folder. You can also rename the folder if you wish. Reader will search the entire System Folder until it finds all of the Format Drivers.

Reader can be run from a floppy disk as well, however, the Format Drivers MUST be located in the System Folder of the disk the Macintosh starts up from. If you do run Reader from a floppy disk, make sure that the disk is not locked because Reader needs to create a temporary file on the same disk that Reader is on.

Reader is in constant communication with the Format Drivers. Don't run Reader on a Macintosh where the System Folder is located on a remote machine. This will greatly increase the amount of network traffic and slow down the system.

Reader will create a visible temporary file called "Reader Temp XXX" while it is running, where XXX is a random number. The file will have a generic icon.

Needless to say, don't delete this file while Reader is running. Reader will delete the file before it quits.

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In the case that Reader crashes, you may have to delete the temporary file yourself. Reader will make an attempt to delete the file, but it may fail.

Reader works best if the Macintosh's cache is on. The cache can be turned on using the General control device in the control panel. See your Macintosh System Software manual for more information.

Reader comes set with a suggested memory size of 512K for running under MultiFinder. This should allow you to open several small documents. Reader will warn you when a document can not be opened because of insufficient memory. In this case, quit Reader and increase the amount of application memory size. See your Macintosh System Software manual on how to do this. The documentation for each Format Driver has more information about their memory requirements.

Format Drivers

Reader comes with a small set of five Format Drivers. This includes Format Drivers for MacPaint, PICT, SoundEdit, and Text. Also included is a Format Driver for 'snd' resources which are small packages of sound information that programs use.

Each Format Driver has its own documentation which should be referred to for more information.

Every time that you launch Reader, there will be a delay while Reader searches the System Folder for all of the available Format Drivers. During this process each Format Driver will be asked if it can run on your Macintosh. Some may require certain functionality and will report this to you. These Format Drivers will show up in the list of available Format Drivers but their name and icon will be disabled and you will not be able to select them. When Reader finds all of the Format Drivers it will turn control of the program over to you.

There is also the case where a Format Driver requires additional hardware which your Macintosh might not have, such as a floating point co-processor. If your Macintosh does not have this type of required functionality, then the Format Driver will not show up in the list of available Format Drivers. The documentation for each Format Driver will list any special requirements.

Overview of Menus

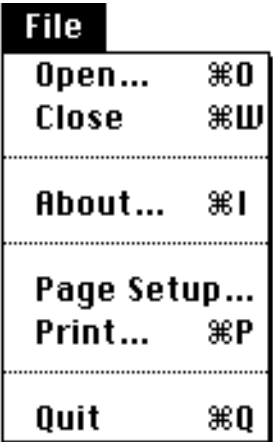
This section will go through each of Reader’s menu items and how the Format Drivers might affect them.

Apple Menu



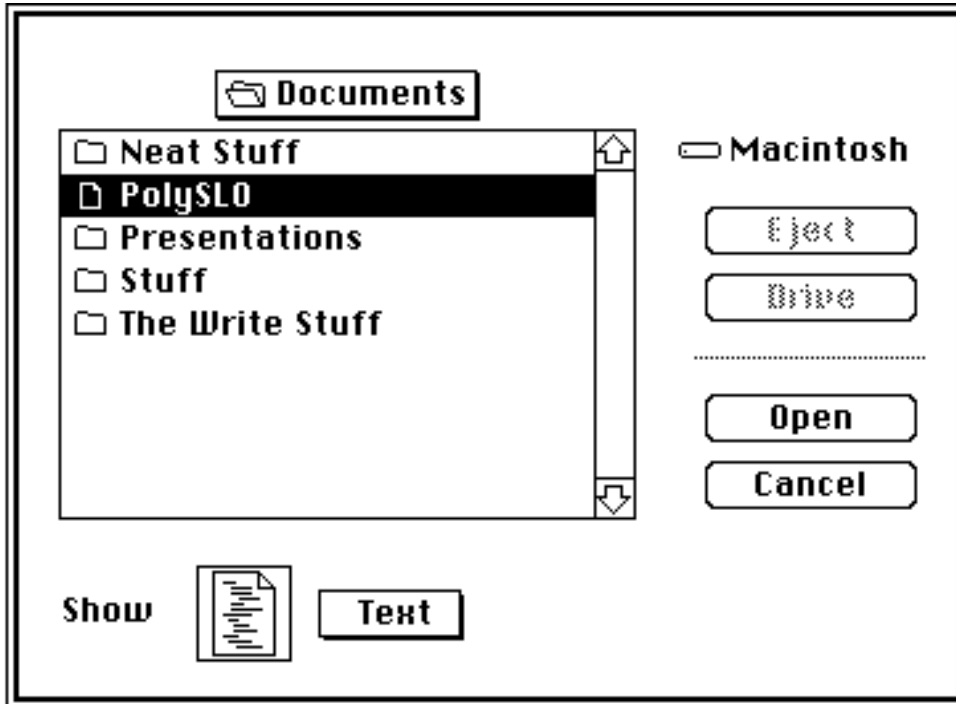
The standard Apple menu which gives you access to the Desk Accessories in your System Folder. The About Reader item lists the current version number of Reader along with copyright information.

File Menu



Open...

Allows you to open a document of a specific type.



Above is what the open dialog looks like. The pop-up menu located at the bottom of the dialog let's you select what type of file to display. In this case, only text files would be displayed. You can also click on the icon to the left of the menu and get a list of icons which represent the different types. Be careful though since different Format Drivers may be able to open the same type of file. Make sure you have the right file type selected before opening a file.

Close

Closes the front-most document or Desk Accessory.

About...

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Displays information about the Format Driver that is associated with the front-most document. The name of this menu item changes to reflect the name of the Format Driver.

Page Setup...

Displays the standard Page Setup dialog corresponding to your selected printer.

See your Macintosh manual for more information.

The Page Setup item may be enabled or disabled depending upon whether or not the front-most document supports printing.

Print...

Displays the standard Print dialog corresponding to your selected printer. See your Macintosh manual for more information.

The Print item may be enabled or disabled depending upon whether or not the front-most document supports printing.

Printing can be canceled by pressing the command key and the period key simultaneously.

Quit

Closes all of the open documents and Desk Accessories and quits the application.

Edit Menu

Edit	
Undo	⌘Z
<hr/>	
Cut	⌘H
Copy	⌘C
Paste	⌘V
Clear	
<hr/>	
Select All	⌘A

The entire Edit menu is only available when a Desk Accessory is the front-most window.

The Copy and Select All items may be enabled or disabled depending upon whether or not the front-most document supports those features.

Windows Menu

Windows
Document 1
Document 2

This menu lists all of the open documents in the order that they were opened. Selecting an item from this menu makes the corresponding window the front window.

All document windows have a number attached to the end of their name. This is to allow for documents which share the same name.