ZapIcon

A Utility Program Which Removes Bundles from the Desktop

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In other words, ZapIcon works down in the basement where all the pipes and wires are exposed, and if in the course of swinging it around, you start a leak or blow a fuse or burn the building down, you should have better understood what you were doing. Always make your backups *before* you zap.

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Users of ZapIcon are asked to send $10 to

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ZapIcon is a utility program which can remove the icon information for selected, individual applications from a volume's Desktop file. This capability is useful to developers and others who wish to modify the icons which the Finder displays to represent application programs and their data files. ZapIcon requires System 3.0 or later.

The Finder, the Desktop, and ZapIcon

When the Finder needs to display an icon to represent an application program, it refers to a set of resources, called the application's *bundle*, kept in the invisible Desktop file on the application's volume. The bundle consists of a signature resource whose type is the same as the creator id of the application, a BNDL resource, and ICN# and FREF resources. The BNDL contains a reference to the signature type of the application, and it contains the resource id's of pairs of ICN# and FREF resources. Each FREF identifies the file type for which an icon from the associated ICN# should be displayed.
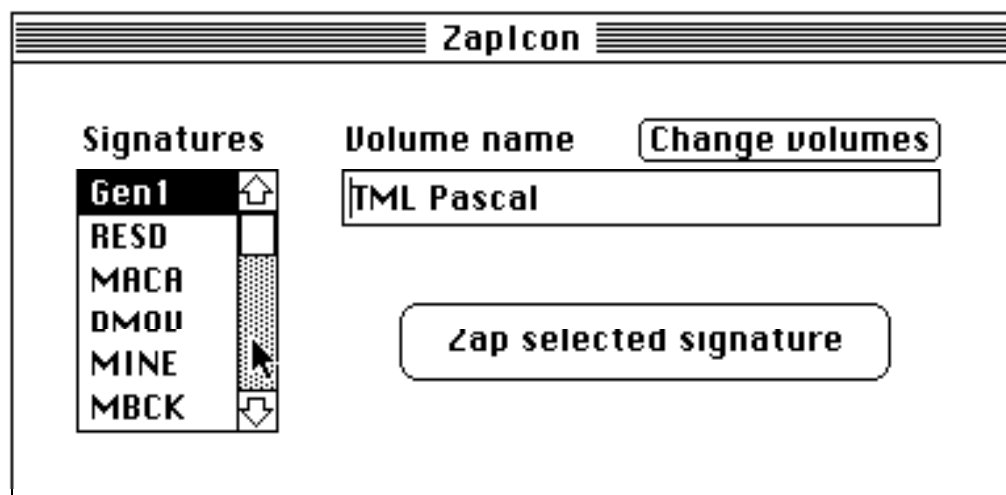
When the Finder first sees an application on a volume, it copies the application's bundle resources to the Desktop. (Actually, the Finder makes changes to the resources id's and the contents of the signature.) If the bundle resources in the application file are changed later, the Finder does not notice and continues to display the original icons.

One way to force the Finder to notice is to completely rebuild the Desktop file by holding down the Command and Option keys while the volume is mounting or booting. However, the Get Info comments for each file and folder are also kept in the Desktop and are lost by rebuilding.

Another way is to use ResEdit to remove an application's signature, BNDL, ICN#, and FREF resources from the Desktop. Still another way is to use ZapIcon to remove the bundle resources. When the Finder sees the application, it can't find an appropriate bundle in the Desktop, so it gets a new one and puts it in the Desktop.

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How to Zap an Icon

When ZapIcon starts up, it displays a window like the one shown below.

Initially, the current default volume will displayed in the Volume name box, and the Signatures list will contain its signature id's.

If you want to work with another mounted volume, enter the new volume's and and click the Change volumes button to display its signatures. Pressing the Enter or the Return key has the same effect as clicking Change volumes. If you do a Change volumes with a null name, ZapIcon will display the current default volume name and show its signature list.

To remove a signature, select it from the list and click the Zap selected signature button. Signature id's disappear from the list as they are removed.

When the Finder sees a zapped application it will rebuild the application's bundle resources in the Desktop. Notice that if you are using ZapIcon or ResEdit to look at bundle resources, they won't reappear until the Finder has actually opened the folder containing a zapped application.
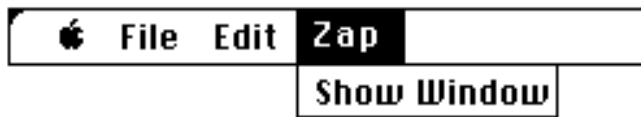
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ZapIcon's Menus

ZapIcon displays the menu bar shown below.   When ZapIcon's window is visible, the Zap menu will display the Hide Window option.

When the window is not visible, the ZapIcon menu will display the Show Window option.

Because most hard disk drivers support a volume management desk accessory, desk accessories are fully supported in ZapIcon with appropriate enabling and disabling in the File and Edit menus.