ShortFinder

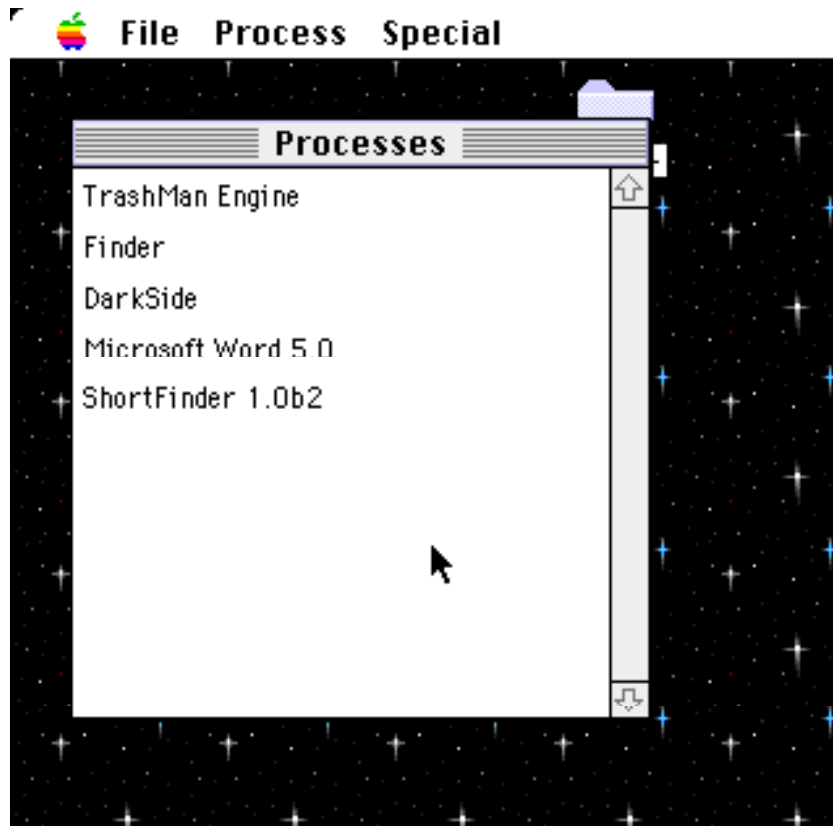*a simple process launcher/manipulator*

by Brian Gaeke
version 1.0ß2—August 19, 1992

What is it?

ShortFinder is a simple process launching and terminating program. It's really simple to use, but it doesn't have many features. It's definitely not superior to the Finder, but it uses less memory, and is faster.

How do I use it?

Double click ShortFinder in the Finder. It will put up its Processes window listing all of the 'processes' (that is, desk accessories, applications, and faceless background applications, or "daemons") running on your system.
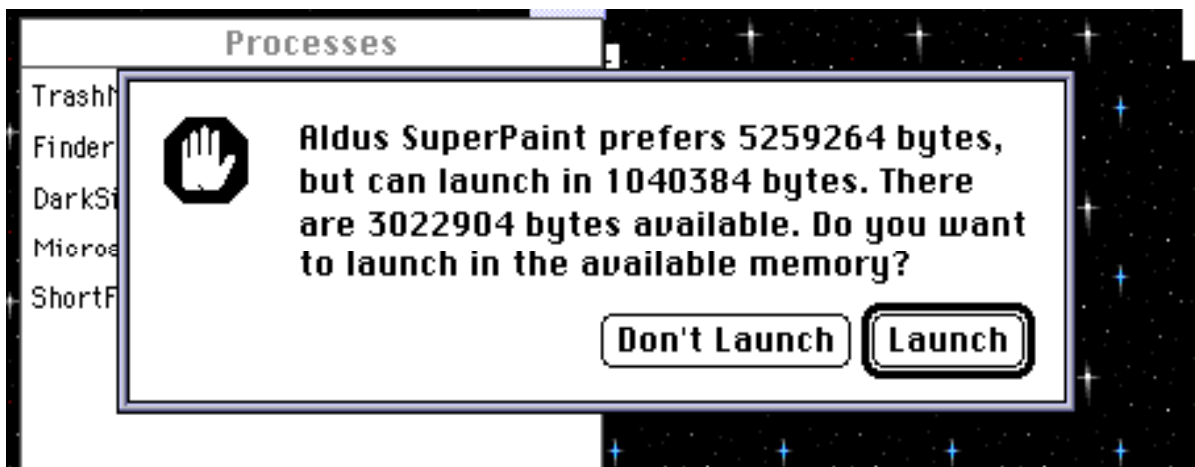
The most straightforward thing you can do is switch to a different process-- to do this, simply double-click on its name in the Processes window. If for some reason or another ShortFinder is unable to switch to the selected process (say, you double-click on a faceless background application), ShortFinder will emit a beep and keep on merrily running. Otherwise, you will be instantly transported into that program. Dramatic, isn't it?

The Apple Menu

In the Apple menu, there resides only one item of interest, the About ShortFinder item. It will tell you who the author is, when this version was completed, and where you can stick those bug reports. :-)

The File Menu

In the File menu are two items: Launch… and Quit. Launch brings up the Standard File dialog and prompts you to select an application or faceless background application to launch. If you select a faceless background app, then you will notice very little after you click OK, other than the added entry in the Processes window. Otherwise, the application will be launched and brought to the front. If there is insufficient memory to launch the application in its full partition, you will see a dialog like this:

The Process Menu

The Process menu contains several items, listed here.

Show Process Information: Puts up a simple dialog showing the selected process's name, type, and creator.

Terminate This Process: Attempts (and mostly succeeds) to terminate the selected process. If it can't, it puts up an error dialog.
Terminate BigFinder: Terminates the big Finder (as opposed to ShortFinder.)
Terminate All Except Me...: Terminates every process except for ShortFinder.
ReLaunch BigFinder: Relaunches the big Finder after it has been terminated.

The Special Menu
The Special menu contains the two most used items from the Finder's Special menu, Shut Down and Restart. They are included for convenience if you've quit the Finder and don't want to have to restart it just to shut down or restart.

If You Like ShortFinder, or If You Don't...
All you need to do is send me a mail message at one of my many mailing addresses.
GEnie: `BRG`
AppleLink: `BRIAN.GAEKE`
Internet: `brian.gaeke@applelink.apple.com`
If you like it, EMail me and tell me why you like it. If you don't like it, EMail me and tell me why you don't like it. If you find a bug, first disable each and every extension you own and then re-run it. If it is still there, and you are running System 7.0 or 7.0.1 with any version of TuneUp installed, then EMail me, and I will try to reproduce it, and if I can, I will attempt (!) to fix it.

Upgrades
I will try to produce upgrades as necessary or to add cool new features (say, QuickTime support) and upload them to GEnie and AppleLink at regular intervals. If you'd like to post it to comp.binaries.mac, sure, just look and see if it's already there first.

Caveats
This is Beta quality software. It usually behaves pretty well, but I am offering no guarantees. If it crashes and you break into MacsBug, log the results of the "ir :", "td", "how", and "sc7" commands, and send them to me along with how you got it to crash. ShortFinder is a little bit flaky in places, but usually it's good enough for everyday usage.

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