

Applet Toolkit 2.0

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Comments, questions and suggestions are welcome!

Background

The Applet Toolkit makes it simple to build new double-clickable Macintosh applications that have strong support for Apple Events and menu sharing.

If you're developing a new application specifically to be integrated with other software, the Applet Toolkit is a perfect choice.

UserLand's DocServer application is implemented using the Applet Toolkit, as are all new utilities in development at UserLand.

Two sample applications are provided. Minimal Applet is a simple multi-window text editor, BarChart is a color charting program.

Sample Apps

BarChart

The best way to learn about the Applet Toolkit is to examine an application that's built on it. BarChart is the simplest applet.

Open the BarChart.¹ project file and open barchart.c. Look at its main () routine.

You'll see that it starts by clearing the app record and then setting a few fields:

```
clearbytes (&app, longsizeof (app)); /*init all fields to 0*/
app.creator = 'BARC';
app.filetype = 'CHRT';
app.usecolor = true;
app.resizeable = true;
```

This tells the Applet Toolkit to save newly created files with 'BARC' as their creator id, and to set the file type to 'CHRT'. Because BarChart sets the usecolor field to true, when new windows are created they will be color windows. Finally it says that BarChart's windows can be resized.

There are many other fields that BarChart could have set to allow for scroll bars, a tool palette, or a status area in each window that's created. See the definition of tyappletrecord in applet.h for complete information.

Then BarChart establishes a set of callback routines that are activated when certain events operations need to be performed. For example, when a window needs updating, bcupdate is called.

Finally it calls runapplet, which processes events and calls barchart.c callback routines when necessary.

Minimal Applet

Despite its name, this program is a much more complete user of the Applet Toolkit than BarChart.

It supports horizontal and vertical scrolling, processes keystrokes and mouse events, and has real support for the clipboard.

Notes

It can't be a library

All the other Frontier SDK toolkits include a THINK C project file that can be used to build a library for inclusion in your program. Because the Applet Toolkit is larger than 32K it can't fit into a single segment and therefore can't be compiled as a library. To build on the Applet Toolkit, follow the example of BarChart and MinApp and include the source files of the Applet Toolkit in your project file.