TattleTale™

Application V1.6.3

• *PURPOSE:*

TattleTale provides very complete information about your computer and its system related software. The information can be viewed on screen by category, printed, written to a standard text file in standard or a special Bug Report format, or output in database readable format. As such, it also provides a record of your system configuration that can be used for reporting problems to software and hardware manufacturers, to compare configurations across multiple computers, or to simply learn about your machine. Information categories covered are: General Hardware Configuration, Volumes + Drives, Monitors, Nubus Devices, SCSI Devices, ADB Devices, Serial Ports,Startup Environment (Boot Blocks, INITs which loaded, Other System Files (System, Finder, cdevs, etc.)), General System Software Configuration, Active Processes, DAs, Fonts, Drivers, Applications, Open Files, and Traps and their Patches. In addition, it enables you to Mount Volumes, Close Files that were left open, and examine and set File and Folder Attributes. The information provided varies greatly among these categories and is best understood simply by going to the dialog window and browsing through the above categories.

NOTE: The Traps Patched by INITs information is valuable for helping to resolve INIT conflicts. The other Trap information is valuable for programmers who need to determine if a particular combination of system software and hardware implements a certain Trap.

• *SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS and INSTALLATION:*

TattleTale is compatible with the Mac+ and newer machines and requires System 6.4 or higher. It is also compatible with System 7 and takes advantage of some of its enhanced system information features as well as balloon help.

TattleTale is available in two versions. This document describes the Application version. As now configured, the DA version operates without problems under all known configurations. This Application version of TattleTale with identical features was created for those who prefer applications or who experience problems with the DA version.

TattleINIT supplies information to TattleTale regarding other INITs that have loaded and the Traps which they have patched. If TattleTale is run without TattleINIT installed it simply does not make the dependent reports available or displays the last report which was generated when TattleINIT was present at boot time. TattleINIT must be in the System Folder on 6.X systems and in the Extensions Folder on 7.X systems. It should be placed alphabetically at the beginning of the folder so it can gather information on all the INITs which load. Its name is preceded by a non-printing character to facilitate this. When TattleINIT runs at startup, it creates two files in your system folder: "TTINIT.TRecs" and "TTINIT.FRecs". When you subsequently run TattleTale, it converts these two files into "TTINIT.TDB" and "TTINIT.FDB" and deletes the originals. These files contain information related to the INITs which ran after TTINIT and the traps which they patched. TattleINIT is not required to run TattleTale. If you choose not to install it, the "INITs" menu item will show the data gathered the last time it was installed or will be unavailable if the INIT was never installed.

TattleTale.Traps contains the database of Official Traps. If TattleTale is run without it, the Trap related reports (other than the Traps Patched by INITS report) will not run. It expects to be found in the System Folder, but you can rename it or put it anywhere you want. However, you must describe this change for TattleTale as described under Trap Related Features below.

If you have an accelerator card in your Mac and it has a feature which copies ROM to RAM, you may need to disable this feature to run TattleTale. This problem occurs primarily on a Mac+/SE, but may also be experienced with other configurations.

• *BUG REPORTS:*

Bug Reports, comments, suggestions, etc. are welcome and encouraged regarding any matter whatsoever. Given the nature of TattleTale, however, please follow these guidelines in submitting a bug report: use the "Write Bug Reports to Text File" option explained below, include ONLY the General Hardware and General Software reports with your first message, compress the file, and then email it to me. Alternatively, if you want to include these two reports in the text of a regular message (by selecting, copying, and pasting), please make sure that you also include an adequate description of your problem and the actions that lead to it. After reviewing your report, I will get back to you for any additional information required. I am making this request due to the number of "very complete" reports which I have received. Given the total amount of information that TattleTale can generate, this can amount to considerable cost in time and money both for you to upload and for me to download. If we just start with the basics, I think it will work best for all concerned. Addresses for contacting me are shown at the bottom of this document.

• *GENERAL OPERATION:*

TattleTale consists primarily of a menu and a modeless dialog window. When you initially run it, the dialog window is visible and the first category of information is already displayed in a scrolling list. Subsequent categories are selected from the **Pop-up Menu** above the list. Categories which are not available for a given computer and system software combination (e.g. Nubus on a Mac+ or Processes under Uni-Finder in System 6.X or lower) are dimmed and cannot be selected. The **Close** button and the Close Box both close the window but leave TattleTale active. **Get System Info** in the TattleTale Menu will reopen the window. You can **Quit** completely from the File Menu. Definitions and help related to each report are available by pressing the **Definitions** button in the main dialog.   Lines in the listing can be selected and copied to other documents.

Printing is also controlled from the TattleTale Menu. From here you access **Page Setup** and two printing choices. You may print the list which is currently displayed (**Print Current**) or you may select **Reports**, which prints the reports which you select.

Selecting **Reports** invokes a dialog box. To print a selection of reports in screen format, select the reports which you want to print, select the "Print Std Reports" button, and select "OK".

Reports also provides the capability of writing the reports to a standard text file or a tab-delimited Text File. Selecting "Write Std Reports to Text File" simply combines and directs chosen reports in screen format to one standard text file for subsequent editing. This feature also enables you to print reports too long for a list window by sending them to a text file for final printing.

Similar to this is the "Write Bug Report to Text File" option. Associated with this option is the "Basic Bug Reports" button which chooses the standard reports that would be helpful to the person to whom you are reporting a bug. Other reports can be added to the selection as conditions warrant. Another button, "Bug Explanation..." accesses a dialog which allows you to describe the problem with the program and also allows you to save and load the specific text which you have created for future reference.   A third related button, "Bug Reported By", allows you to specify standard information related to you, the reporting individual. Your personal information remains permanent across invocations to TattleTale.

"Write to Tab-Delimited Text File" is used for creating a database readable file. The default format is a Field Name line followed by a line of associated Data, all separated by tabs and ending in a carriage return. All lines are preceded by two additional columns: 1) the name of the report from which the data originated, and 2) the Chooser name of the reporting computer. In the case of reports which include multiple items which are the same (e.g. Drives, Fonts, DAs, etc.), there is a Header line and a Data line for each member of the group. Where there is preliminary information for a group (e.g. in the Serial Ports report), the name of the preliminary report has a "-H" appended to it so that you know what set of fields will be following. You may eliminate Field Name lines completely by checking the "Data Only" box and you may eliminate data interpretations (items enclosed in parentheses) by checking "Remove (Data Interpretations)". Also note that the Screen, Printed, and Normal Text File reports include only those items of data which are appropriate in a given situation as opposed to the tab-delimited Text File reports which include all possible fields for consistency in reading the data into a database. It is suggested that you experiment with the generated Tab-delimited Text File before designing any reports which might use this data.

The **Specify Volume** menu item applies only to the Applications reports available from the Pop-up menu. Specify Volume allows you to restrict the volumes for which the applications will be reported.

There are times when you will want to refresh the information in your window. Obvious refreshes happen automatically, but you can do it manually simply by reselecting the menu item from the **Pop-up Menu**.

Help, consisting of this text, is available from the Apple menu.

• *TRAP RELATED FEATURES:*

TattleTale provides information regarding Traps in four different formats. **Traps Patched by INITs** lists those trap patches which were recorded by the TattleINIT during the boot process. The INIT monitors all code which was executed during the startup process and the traps which were patched. This information is useful for helping to resolve INIT conflicts. Detailed information on the INITs themselves can be found in the **Traps Patched by INITs** listing.

Traps UnAvailable lists those "official" Apple Traps (as listed in the MPW Traps.p file) that are not available on your particular combination of computer and system software according to A-Trap Number and Name. **Traps Available (Named)** lists all those "official" A-Traps which are available on your computer according to A-Trap Number, Name, and Address. **Traps Available (UnNamed)** list all other Traps which, through testing each Trap, are shown to be "active" - that is, they do not have the _Unimplemented Trap address assigned to them. As can be seen from this list, there are many implemented "unofficial Traps". The primary reason for this is that many of them are used by internal routines which Apple reserves the right to change in the future or they represent routines which can be accessed through more than one Trap designation. More information on this is provided in the Traps on-line definitions.

To allow for changes in the Trap list over time, Commands to manipulate this file are located under the Main Menu . The "official" Traps are included with TattleTale as TattleTale.Traps. If you simply wish to change the name or location of

TattleTale.Traps, rename it and/or put it where you want, and then select **Change Database File** and you will be prompted to find the file. The new name and/or location will be used until you decide to change it.

       In regard to changing the contents of the file, they are originally derived from MPW's Traps.p file which TattleTale converts into it's own database format. If you want to see the format of the original file, **Database to Text File** will prompt you to convert the database file to a text file which you can then view and/or modify on any text editor. If you wish to merge a modified Traps text file with the database, select **Merge Text File**. This will incorporate any additions included in the file and ignore any duplications. If you have direct access to an up-to-date Traps list, you can use **New Database File** to completely regenerate the database.

• _MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES_:

       If you are running System 7 and the finder does not automatically update the icons for you, TattleTale can do it for you. As you start up TattleTale, simply hold down the "<option> d" key combination until a dialog comes up which asks if you wish update the desktop database. If you hear a "beep" during updating, the updating was not performed for various possible reasons. In this event, your desktop database will be left in its original state and the program will continue. If updated, the new icons will appear after a subsequent machine restart. This method avoids having to rebuild your desktop (which is very time consuming on a large disk) just to update icons.

       On another subject, I am considering removing the ability to write reports to a tab-delimited text file due to the considerable size that it adds to the program. If no one is using this feature, it makes no sense to pay extra to download it. If anyone depends on the tab file capability, please let me know. In the three months since I made this request, I have had only one person who says they are
using it. If I don't get a response soon, it goes on the next update.

       Also, if you have a machine with a PDS slot and the Nubus/PDS menu item is not available to you, please let me know your Machine type **and** ID# (first item in the CPU Related report).

• _CHANGE HISTORY_:

1.3
- First Application version.
- Fixed problem with Help Balloons flashing when the cursor was in a non-TattleTale item.
- Added item to Driver list to reflect not only the original status of flags but the status as of the time that the report is generated. (Idea courtesy of Miles Waldron)
- Changed the Serial Port report to better reflect situations when AppleTalk is connected. (Suggestion courtesy of Don Paul)
- Improved ability to more accurately reflect the status of the Nubus/PDS Slots.
- Changed method and report format for identifying devices connected to the ADB port.
- Fixed bug in the SCSI report which sometimes duplicated device information from one device to the next. The SCSI report also now reports the SCSI #0 drive as internal. (Bugs reported by Don Paul)
- Updated the Traps file to reflect Traps missing from MPW's Traps.p file. (Information courtesy of Allan Muluf)
- Updated information to correctly identify PowerBooks, Quadras, and Mac Classic II.
- Fixed bug in Font report by gathered both BitMap and TrueType fonts into a combined family and altered the format to accommodate this change.

1.3.1
- Fixed problem with menus not appearing under certain situations. (Bug reported by Bob Seaver)
- Minor bug fixes

1.3.2
- Fixed bug related to more than 20-25 members of a font family freezing program. (Bug reported by Dave Lamkins)

1.4
- Added report of Applications which are High Level Event Aware that are located on any mounted volumes.
- Changed method of reporting Traps to both supply actual addresses and better differentiate between official and unofficial Traps. (Based upon query related to Trap discrepancies from Bruce Hobson)
- Fixed Nubus listing related to the reporting of slots in the IIci. Also changed method of reporting slot designations. (Bug reported by numerous people)
- Updated machine recognition to include the LC II and Quadra 950. Also fixed bug related to reporting the IIsi and LC.
- Clarified the SCSI attributes portion of the Miscellaneous Attributes section in the CPU Related report to better describe

the type of SCSI which is implemented. Also clarified the SCC attribute in this same section.
- Expanded Volume and Drive report to include various Volume Specific attributes available under System 7.
- Updated TattleTale.Traps file.

1.4.1
- Fixed bug which caused crash in 32 bit mode. (Bug reported by Frank Braun, Fixed (with much appreciation from me) via keen eye of Bill Monk!)

1.5
- Changed Help Button to Definition button which provides definitions for each category of data items. General Help, as contained in this document, is available from the menu and, to a limited extent, from help balloons (under system 7). (Requested by Ulf Wostner)
- Added capability to list Applications, their version numbers, and their location. Both the Applications and the HL Applications choices are now in a submenu in the popup menu. (Requested by Steve Stearns)
- In conjunction with the "Applications" category, an additional main menu item was added called "Specify Volume", explained above.
- The Traps reports were all moved to a submenu in the popup menu.
- The screen position and size of the TattleTale dialog is now remembered across invocations.
- The CPU information category has been somewhat reorganized and additional sound related information is available.
- The Volumes+Drives information has been reworked to show removable media drives that are connected but that don't currently have a volume mounted in them and are also not entered in the drive queue. Some device drivers omit themselves from the drive queue when no volume is mounted and this attempts to bypass that shortcoming.
- Numerous problems with the Nubus report were corrected. Most problems revolved around a bug in the universal ROM which shows that built-in monitor SResources are active on machines that don't even have Nubus slots. This was worked around and the presentation of slots contents was improved. The listing also now shows the active SResources for each card. (Powerbook bug reported by Jeff Harrow)
- The System Related report was reorganized to better reflect manager organization.
- The System Files report was improved to better reflect files which are currently affecting the operation of the operating system.
- Fixed problem with LC II designation. (Bug reported by Thayer Healy, Bob Bezilla,Chuck Freeman)
- Fixed bug related to cutting and pasting in the "Bug Reported By" dialog. (Bug reported by John Culp)
- Fixed bug which caused the Traps report to hang when a trap was patched in a particular fashion. (Bug reported by John Culp)
- Fixed bug related to and end of file error during the HL Applications report. (Bug reported by Bob Wiseman)
- Updated Traps file to reflect new System 7.1 Traps.

1.5.1
- Some of the problems that I thought 1.5 corrected in the Nubus/PDS report were not. They are hopefully corrected now. If you run into problems that are inconsistent with the information in the Nubus/PDS Definitions, please let me know. (Bugs reported by Bob Nichols and John Thatcher)
- The driver number was added to the Monitor report
- ROM Base was added to the CPU Related report
- Category and Type translations for various Nubus Boards were added. If you have a board that only shows a number for the sResource Category or Type, please let me know the numbers and what the board does so that I can update the interpretations.
- The CPU Report now checks for the presence of a built-in modem in the portables
- A bug was fixed that could have caused a crash while closing an open file.
- A bug was fixed that caused a crash while closing and then opening the TattleTale window several times, then accessing the popup. (Bug reported by Mate Gross)
- The ROM version number was corrected.
- The Chooser name was moved from the CPU report to the System Related report.
- A bug which caused certain SCSI devices to drop off the bus when SCSI was selected was fixed. (Bug reported by Keith Bumgarner)
- The icon set was changed again based upon icons sent to me by John Thatcher. Thanks, John!
- Added Extended ISO ADB Keyboard (ID=5), to ADB Report. Code reported by ARI Kontiainen
- Added WACOM Tablet ID to ADB Report. Code reported by Bruce Hobson
- Several other minor modifications

- Thanks to Keith Brenner, John Thatcher, and Keith Bumgarner for testing this version

1.5.2
- Once again, there was a problem with the Nubus/PDS listing. A bug was fixed which prevented the listing from occurring on machines with a system less than 7.01 and no PDS slot.   (Problem reported by Paul Amon)
- The DA listing was reactivated under system 7. (Requested by Paul Amon)
- The Heap and Application requests for memory were accidentally commented out in version 1.4.1. They are reactivated under 1.5.2 (Problem reported by Lorca)
- Fixed incorrect report of current address in the ADB listing (Reported by Bruce Hobson)
- Several other minor modifications

1.5.3
- Changes to allow incremental updating of TattleTale via an updater (Coming soon!)
- Updates for current machines
- More minor bug fixes which appeared in 1.5.2
- Cosmetic fixes

1.5.4
- Added "real" expanded version Numbers to drivers when known, particularly in relation to AppleTalk (Requested by Tom Evans)
- TT no longer crashes on the SE with a Mobius '030. Turn OFF the "Copy ROM to 32-bit RAM" setting. (Fix thanks to Dan Delamatta, a.k.a. Ezwal)
- Fixed bug with Mount button

1.5.5
- Fixed reporting of expanded version numbers related to older AppleTalk related drivers.
- Minor bug fix related to Help text.

1.5.6
- Fixed out of memory problem with Processes list for processes under 6.x without a corresponding code file (Reported by: Rick Spiegel)

1.5.6a
- Fixed problem with path names>255 characters corrupting listings (Reported by Earl on AOL)

1.6
{---Additions---}
- Report categories were changed and regrouped
- The loading of INITs and patched traps is now reported on through the use of the TattleINIT
- A Find capability was added to each listing screen for finding text within that listing
- Listings which run out of room on a screen list can now be sent to a text file in their entirety from the Reports Dialog
- Applications are now listed alphabetically unless the <option> key is held down while making the selection from the menu. In this case, the applications are listed by volume.
- DAs are now gathered from all volumes with the same features as the Applications listing.
- Compressed Applications and DAs are now recognized and listed. Information internal to them is gathered if decompression software is present on the system.
- User specified files and folders can now be accessed for information and to set various attributes
- If the <cmd> key is held down while make a selection from the PU Menu, the listing occurs as the listing is compiled to help pinpoint problems
- List items can now be selected and copied directly from the list and pasted into other documents (Requested by Richard Kittell)
- Under 7.01, a System Tuner installed appears next to the System Version if installed
- Driver Software and Hardware IDs were added to the sResource section of the Nubus listing
- Driver location/address information was added to the Driver listing
- The highest usable RAM address was added to the General Hardware category
- TattleTale is now restricted to Systems 6.04 and greater
- TattleTale now recognizes alias for Trap,Trap.Text and BugInfo files

- Some ADB device information was added for a Global Village modem (Provided by Richard Kittell)
- Some additional traps were added to the TattleTale.Traps file

{--Bug fixes --}
- BTree File now closed if cancel from Text File selection box
- Mac LC does not now indicate that it has software power-off
- Open File listing should not have been aborted on a File Not Found
- Fixed ROM version number in General Hardware report
- Fixed failure to use resolved alias file name in Other System/Loaded Files listing
- Fixed problem with pathnames exceeding 255 char (Reported by Earl on AOL)
- General Hardware listing no longer aborts if designated printed not found
- Fixed WACOM Tablet designation (Reported by Nick Lenz)

1.6.1
- A very old bug was fixed which, upon exiting, destroyed various cursor images under certain circumstances. (Reported by David Lamkins and others, diagnosed by David)
- An error involving the RAM/ROM location of the Driver was corrected in the Open Driver report. (Reported by David Lamkins)
- The INIT patch list was corrected to filter out variations of the same trap in order to properly identify it. This had been done in the other Trap categories but was unintentionally omitted here. (Reported by David Lamkins)
- The version of TattleINIT which was included in 1.6 was not prefixed as mentioned in the documentation. The INIT should now appear first in your INIT list. (Reported by David Lamkins)
- The full ROM version is once again reported in hexadecimal. Sorry about the flip-flops but I think I finally have Apple's varying definition of this value straight. (Credit to Ric Ford in MacWeek)
- The TattleINIT file now works properly with Dialog View 1.02 and a MO driver from Germany called Prep-4.19L. (Reported by Mark Nagata and Frank Braun respectively)
- Some cosmetic changes. (Inspired by, you guessed it, David Lamkins)

1.6.2 (Not Released)
- TattleTale INIT's name was changed to TattleINIT
- TattleINIT 1.03 - Fixed problem causing munged INIT names in certain circumstances (Reported by Tom Ng (OriolesFan))
- Fixed bug encountered when no printer was chosen
- Fixed problem under 7.1 with font listing missing font families that also are in the ROM. Under 7.1, TT now shows families both in the Font Folder and the ROM. (Reported by Tom Ng (OriolesFan))
- Fixed cosmetic problem with double word in INIT report. (Reported by Mark Masatsugu)
- If there is no 'vers' resource, TT now also check the 'BNDL' resource for version information
- Fixed potentially fatal bug involving the main dialog when a particular series of actions were taken.

1.6.3
- Fixed problem with INIT Patch report incorrectly displaying some Traps (Reported by David Lamkins and Greg (SatzG))
- Added System Tuner version number next to System Version if Tuner install under 7.0-7.01
- Added Duo keyboard and trackball id's to ADB report
- Added workaround for crash with Radius 16 accelerator (Reported by David Whitehead, diagnosed by Jon Hueras at Radius)
- Fixed problem with main dialog not updating properly under certain interactions with the find dialog
- The Other System/Loaded Files now also searches the Preferences and Startup folders under system 7. It also now reports on System Enablers present in the Extensions Folder
- Fixed bug involving the Open Files report after canceling from the reports dialog
- Fixed bug involving the creation and listing of the Traps File. TT should now be able to properly generate/display the Traps file info from any version, but the best bet is to use the version which came with TT. TattleTale.Traps now has a version to facilitate this. (Reported by Larry Bavry)
- I succumbed to the ugly color police and removed all colors but those involved in logos and on the splash screen.
- Other minor bug fixes.

Miscellaneous
- I have had several reports of TT not running on Mac SE with a Mobius '030 accelerator. The problem has been largely

solved through the efforts of Dan Delamatta who did some detective work on his Mobius '030 SE. It turns out that if you turn OFF the "Copy ROM to 32-bit RAM" setting, all works fine. Also, as mentioned above, the Radius 16 problem is also fixed.

• There is a problem with the reporting of Nubus devices installed in the Duo-Dock. Since this is handled somewhat differently on the Duo, it will take me a bit of time to come up with a fix, particularly since I don't have a Duo to test on. IF ANYONE HAS a DUO, and would be willing to do some beta testing for me, please let me know!

• **_NOTICE:_**

This software is free to individuals for their own personal use to the extent that I do not expect any direct remuneration. However, there are many worthwhile non-profit organizations that really need your help, whether in the form of time or money. I ask you, if you find TattleTale of use, to please give to an organization of your own choosing in an amount greater than you might normally. If you use TattleTale frequently over a long period of time, please consider giving more than once.

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• A special thanks also to Onset Computer Corporation which has granted permission for the use of their "TattleTale" Trademark.

Please send questions, comments, suggestions, problems, inquiries, etc. to:

John Mancino
Decision Maker's Software, Inc.
1910 Joslyn Place
Boulder, CO 80304

FAX: 303-449-6207
CIS: 70337,2143
AppleLink: D0391
America OnLine: JGCMan