

ShortFinder

A process manipulation utility

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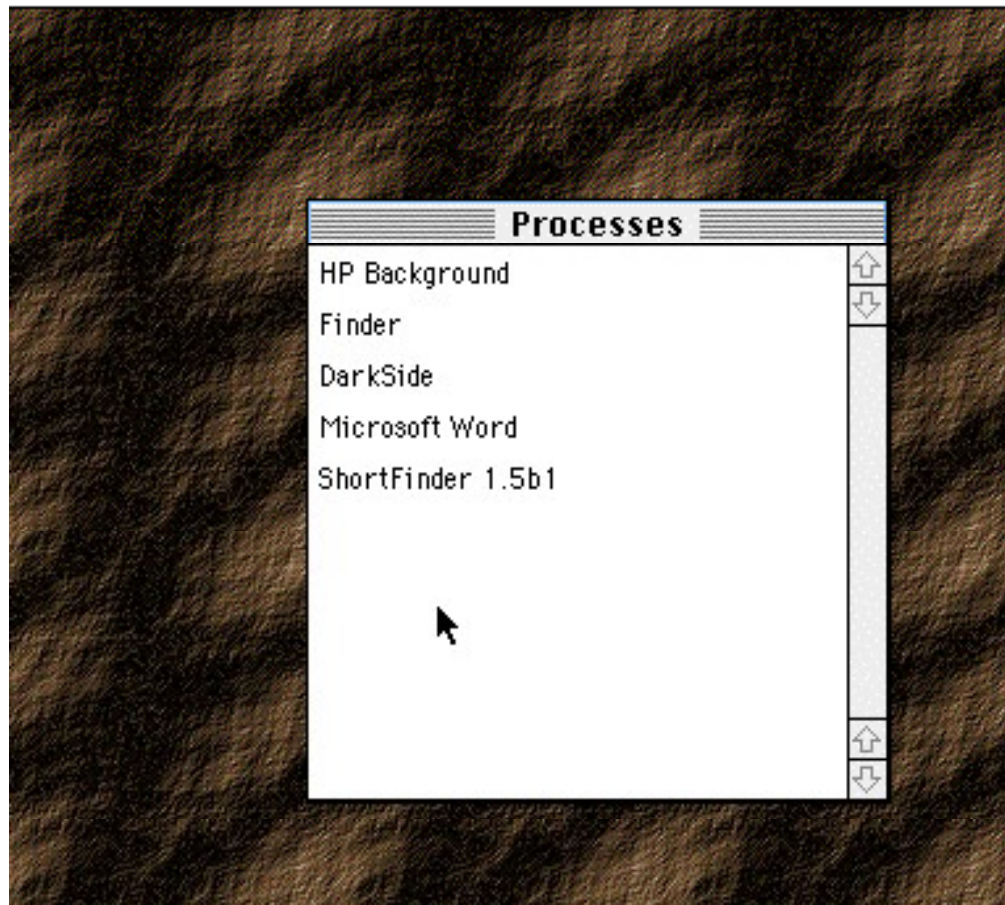
What is it?

ShortFinder is an easy-to-use program launching and terminating utility. Its main advantage over the Apple Finder is that it uses much less memory (it fits in 56K as opposed to Finder 7.0.1's 300K), 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.

File Process Special



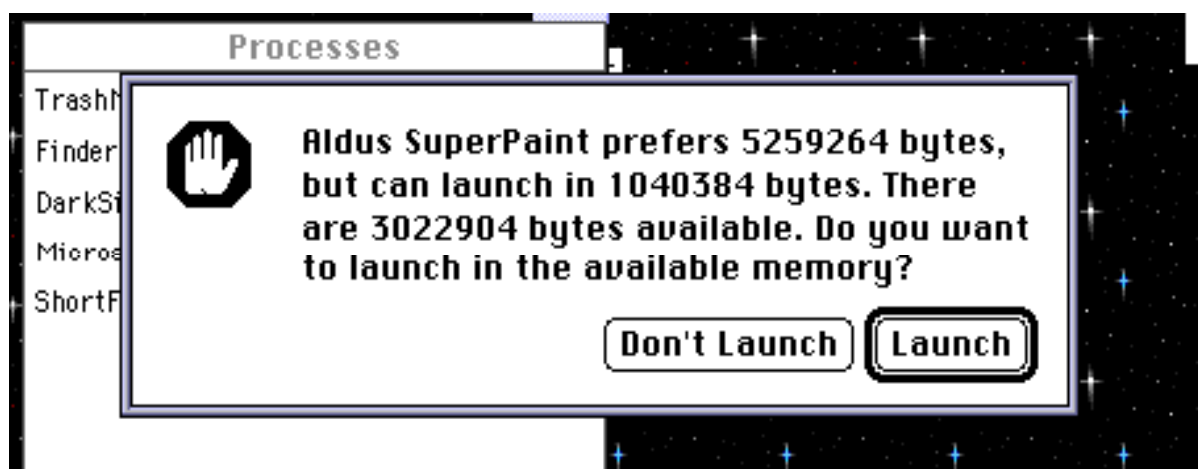
The most straightforward thing you can do is switch to a different process-- to do this, simply double-click on its name in the Processes window. If for some reason or another ShortFinder is unable to switch to the selected process (say, you double-click on a faceless background application), ShortFinder 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 several items. Launch... and Quit are the most important of these. 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 other menus in the File menu are concerned with file manipulation, and most are self-explanatory enough not to warrant much explanation. The Change File Attributes... option, however, is a little more complicated: It allows one to change

the file type, creator, or Finder flags (invisible, alias, initialized, etc.) An option to lock or unlock files will be forthcoming.

KNOWN BUGS/INCONSISTENCIES (READ ME!!!!)

Another important note: In this beta version (1.5β1) the Copy File... and Move File... options are not yet implemented. If anyone has some good Pascal procedures to copy files, including Finder flags, custom icons, and all, I would be interested in hearing

from them. Also, if you set an option on a file (say, Invisible) it will take time (possibly even a folder close & open) to see the results--can someone tell me how to fix this?

The Process Menu

The Process menu contains several items, listed here.

Show Process Information: Puts up a dialog showing the selected process's name, type, and creator, memory usage, and SIZE resource flags.

Terminate This Process: Attempts (and usually 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...: Attempts to terminate 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...

If you decide that ShortFinder is the best, neatest program you have ever seen, please send me a check for US\$25. If you decide that, well, it's OK, but it's a helpful little application, please send me a check for US\$15. Otherwise, send me whatever you wish... a postcard, \$5, even an e-mail telling me why it's not the best program out there for what it does. Here is the address to send your money & comments to:

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Updates

I will try to produce updates when necessary, or to add cool new features, and upload them to GEnie and the Info-Mac Archives (`ftp to sumex-aim.stanford.edu`) at regular intervals. Just remember—I am still a student, and my time is quite limited. I plan on incorporating in some device to give access to the Apple Menu when the Finder is gone. Beyond that, I probably won't add much—the idea is to keep this thing small.

Beta Warning!

This is normal beta-quality software. It usually behaves stellarly, 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.

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Enjoy! (1.5B1)

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