

Phone Free v0.5

yet another **Lazyware** product
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INTRODUCTION

Phone Free exists for the sole purpose of convenience (or the lack thereof). It gives the Macintosh™ user with a modem hooked up to the Mac's *modem port* the ability to quickly test to see if anyone else is on the phone. It basically checks to see if the phone is free

"Why would anybody need an application to accomplish what I can do by picking up the phone?", you ask. Well the application comes in handy when you have multiple phones and/or modems hanging off one physical phone line in different rooms throughout the house. If somebody else is using the phone for voice communications, they'll get an annoying *click*, they'll know you're on the phone, you'll be embarrassed, have to apologize and then hang-up. Additionally, if somebody else is using a modem and you pick up the phone, the current user will get all sorts of nice garbage on the line... not at all good for long downloads. Using the modem to check the line doesn't introduce *clicking noise*, so it doesn't disrupt voice or data communications. Plus it's a great way of eavesdropping on conversations, etc.

USAGE

Phone Free v0.5beta is very simple to use. **Open** the application. A dialog box will appear with two buttons, **Probe**, and **Preferences**.

Probe button starts the probe of the modem and the phone line.

If the probe is **successful**, you'll hear one of four possible things

effect	reason
(1) a dial-tone	phone is free to use
(2) peoples' voices	people are talking
(3) weird noises	modem data transmissions
(4) nothing at all	you forgot to pay your phone bill or your modem is not connected to the phone line.

If you hear a dial-tone, you can use your favorite communications package to do what ever you like over your modem. To **Exit** the application, simply click the mouse button once, or hit any key.

If the probe is **unsuccessful**, you'll get a **Modem Doesn't Respond** alert box, which could be caused by

Possible causes of Failure

- (1) modem is powered-off
- (2) modem is not properly connected to the Macintosh

- (3) modem is not Hayes compatible
- (4) yourself, Venus and Juptier are in line with one another.

Pressing **Quit** in the alert boxes causes the application to do just that, quit.

Preference button is **NOT IMPLEMENTED YET.**

Quit button quits the application immediately.

WHY ISN'T IT A DA?

There are two very good reasons why *Phone Free* v0.5 isn't a desk accessory.

(1) System 7.0 makes DA's obsolete

(2) I didn't feel like going through the coding hassles associated with DA's

IF (notice a big if) *PF* is liked by people, AND System 6.0.x is still widely used in the future, I MIGHT be persuaded to port it to a DA.

If you have previous versions of Phone Free

Phone Free v0.5 sports a set of icons that are new from previous versions. If you have previous versions of *Phone Free* on your system, it is best to throw them away. Afterwards, you should re-build the desktop so that the Finder recognizes the new icons. To rebuild the desktop, during boot time, hold down the command (clover-leaf) and option keys simultaneously after your inits/cdev's have all shown up, but before the Finder's desktop appears on the screen. The mac will ask you if you're sure you want to rebuild the desktop...you click "OK".

WHAT IS Lazyware

Lazyware is a name I came up with just at this moment. No doubt you're impressed. **Lazyware** reflects software created for lazy people. It works along the same premise as an automatic garage door opener or television remote control, except in software instead of hardware. At this point every **Lazyware** product ever produced is classified as Freeware, in that the authors of the product retain all rights to the program, but you can distribute it freely. I won't go into any other legal mumbo-jumbo because you wouldn't read it anyway.

ASSUMPTIONS and PROBLEM SOLVING

Phone Free v0.5 makes the following assumptions in order to work

- (1) you have a properly functioning Hayes-compatible modem (300-baud or greater) properly connected to the *modem port* of your Macintosh™, AND you've properly connected your modem to the phone line
- (2) your Mac is powered up and running System 6.0.x or higher
- (3) you aren't currently running another communications package that's using the *modem port*
- (4) you don't have viruses

- (5) your modem's internal speaker volume is greater than 0 (check the ATLn command).. it's greater then 0 if you can hear something when you dial-up
- (6) you've paid you phone bill

If you encounter problems, check the obvious, e.g., the list above. I expect problems to arise because I've tried *PF* only under the most pristine of conditions. In any case, I and my cohort will appreciate any feedback. Please don't use four-lettered words if you can avoid it. You can reach the authors by e-mailing your comments to the following addresses

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RELEASES NOTES

v0.5

- fixed the problems with 0.4b. It should work properly with the device manager under Systems 6.0.x & 7.x
- updated documentation (only slightly)
- updated icons
- to do all of the stuff I mentioned in the v0.2b to do list

v0.4b

- fixed to work under Systems 6.0.7 and 7.0 (hopefully via a kludge)
- updated documentation (only slightly)
- to do eliminate kludge
- to do all of the stuff I mentioned in the v0.2b to do list

v0.3b

- fixed documentation
- updated Button, dlog, and alert appearances
- added Quit button on main modal dialog box

v0.2b

- fixed icon discrepancies
- fixed documentation
- added Quick-and-dirty modal dialog box for probing and status
- added Timeout checking for no response on the modem port
- added System 6.0 or higher validity checking
- to do get appropriate icon.. (note under System 7.0 you can change the icon to whatever you like)
- to do preferences abilities.. different ports, different speeds,etc.
- to do check if modem port is currently in use by another program.

v0.1b

- fixed version 0.0b was communicating with modem at 9600 baud, not 300 baud - some modems can't handle this
- fixed some documentation typos.
- to do get better icons
- to do preferences abilities.. different ports, different speeds,etc.
- to do lots

v0.0b

- initial release