

ARACommander™

User's Guide

 Tribbyte Software
6982 Devon Drive
Middletown, OH 45044

Contents

3	System Requirements
3	Customer Support
3	Getting Started
4	Installation
4	A Quick Tryout
4	What Are Connectors?
4	Why Are Connectors Useful?
4	Using The Control Panel
5	ARACommander Features
5	Host Database
6	Choosing a Serial Port
6	Choosing a modem CCL script
7	Modem Speaker On/Off Switch
7	User Name
7	Password
7	Phone Number Features
8	Phone Number Strategies
10	User Connection Privileges
10	Connection Time Limits
10	Redial Features
11	Status
11	Hot Connect/Disconnect
11	Making Connectors
12	Connector Options
12	Bypass Host Database
12	Security Protection
13	Quit Connector during connection
13	Prefix/Credit Card Prompt
14	After Connection
14	Playing Sounds
15	Opening Things
16	To ConnectNot

ARACommander™

by Ron Duritsch

Copyright notice

This manual and the software described in it are copyrighted. Under the U.S. copyright laws, neither this manual nor this software may be copied, reproduced, translated, or reduced to any electronic medium or machine readable form unless the written permission of Trilobyte Software is first obtained. However, registered users may make a copy of the program for archival purposes. In order to use the software on more than one computer owned by the purchaser, interested parties should contact Trilobyte Software about acquiring a multi-use site license.

Disclaimer of liability

Trilobyte Software and the author of the program are in no event liable for direct, indirect, consequential, incidental, special, or any other damages resulting from any mistake or omission in the software, manual, or other information provided in this package. The user assumes all responsibility in the use of this software.

Limited Warranty on Media and Replacement

Although Trilobyte Software has tested the material enclosed within this package, it makes no warranty, express or implied, other than a limited warranty on media and replacement. If the registered owner discovers physical defects in the media enclosed in this package within 90 days of purchase, the defective media may be returned to Trilobyte Software for replacement at no extra cost to the owner.

Trilobyte reserves the right to make changes to the software or the manual at any time, without notice. The warranty and remedies set forth above are exclusive and in lieu of all others, oral or written, express or implied. Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of implied warranties or liability for incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you. This warranty also gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

Macintosh®, the Finder®, and AppleTalk® are registered trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. All other product names mentioned are trademarks of their respective holders.

ARACommander Copyright © 1993 Trilobyte Software

ARACommander User's Guide Copyright © 1993 Trilobyte Software

System Requirements

ARACommander may be used on any Apple® Macintosh™ computer which is running System 7 or a newer System version.

Customer Support

As a registered user of ARACommander you're entitled to customer support. If you have any questions or comments please call customer support at:

513-777-6641

You may also contact us via electronic mail:

CompuServe™ 73740,2472
America Online Trylobyte

Getting Started

You'll need to already have installed AppleTalk Remote Access and have set the initial port and modem CCL settings in the "Remote Access Setup" control panel.

Installation

To install ARACommander copy it to the Control Panels folder in the System Folder. Make certain that AppleTalk is turned on in the Chooser. Copy the "ConnectNot" application to any convenient place on your hard disk. Now restart your Macintosh.

A Quick Tryout

It's easy to use ARACommander the very first time. Open ARACommander. Your default user name appears in the "Name:" field. The cursor is blinking in the password field, so type in your ARA password. Hit the tab key to move the cursor to the "phone" field. Type in the phone number of the answering ARA server. Hit the return key and watch the progress of the call in the "Status:" area of the window. In moments you're connected to the AppleTalk network that the ARA server resides on.

You can now proceed to use network services. You can keep the control panel open if you like, or close it. The connection remains preserved.

What Are Connectors?



Office Server

Connectors are small applications produced by the ARACommander control panel. They simply get you connected when launched. They store all of the feature settings you made in the control panel before you pressed the "Save Connector..." button.

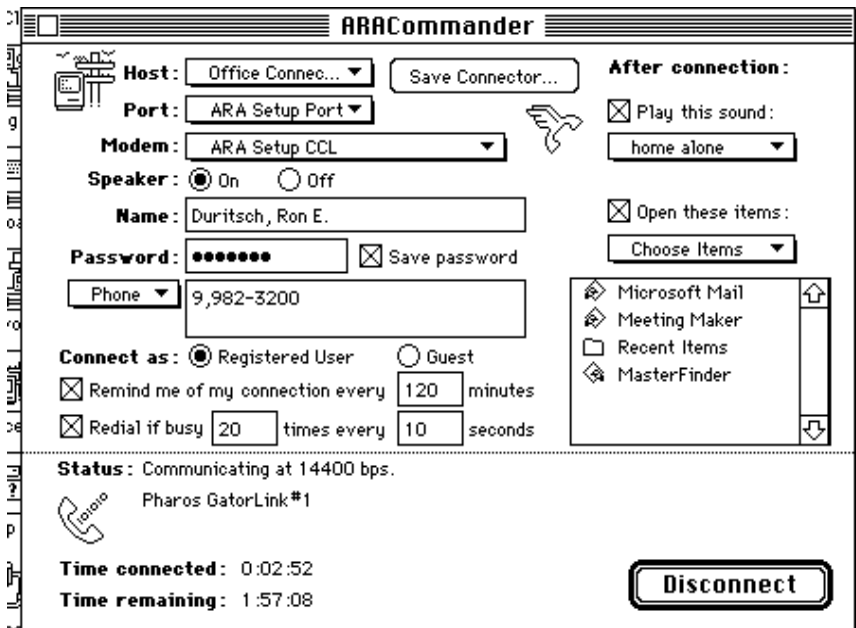
Why Are Connectors Useful?

Connectors automate the connection process, getting you there quicker, with less effort and more features - what a utility is all about. They differ from Remote Access connection documents in that they need no one to push the "Connect" button. You can place them in your Apple Menu or on your Desktop for easy access. For an automatic call at startup place a connector in your "Startup Folder". They use a miserly 48K bytes of RAM compared to that of 230k for Apple's Remote Access application.

Using The Control Panel



ARACommander



The ARACommander control panel serves two main purposes:

- Connecting to a host ARA server
- Making Connectors

It's uses approximately 60K bytes of RAM while open. Most users will find that once all the details of connection are worked out they will prefer to save a Connector to handle those connection chores for subsequent calls to the same host.

ARACommander Features

Host Database

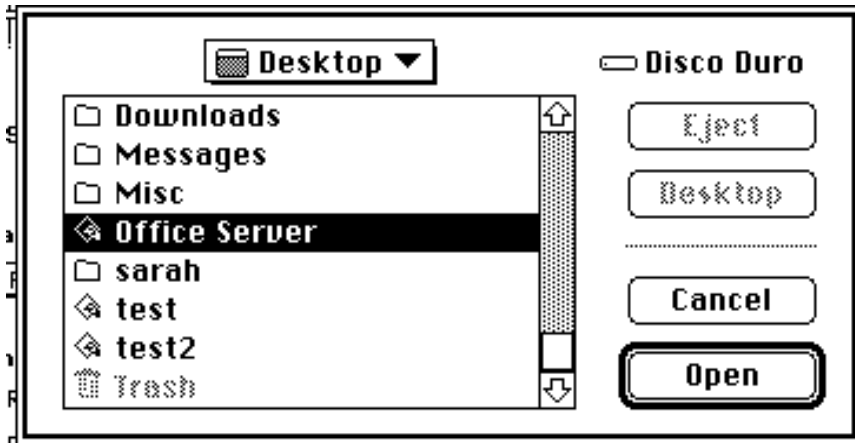
ARACommander provides an easy way to access the information you have stored in your Connectors. Each time you save a Connector the name and location are stored for easy access by the control panel. There is no need to remember where you've placed the Connector or to search to find it. ARACommander knows where to find it. These names appear in the "Host:" popup menu.



To access one simply use the menu to choose a Connector. The information for that Connector will appear in the fields of the control panel.

Choosing the "New" menu item will cause all fields in the control panel to assume their default values, ready for you to supply new information.

Choosing "Other..." will allow you to open a Connector that is not in your Host Database. This choice will provide you with a standard file dialog window.



The act of choosing a Connector that is not yet in your Host Database automatically adds it to your Host Database.

To remove a Connector from the Host Database first delete the Connector, then reopen ARACommander. The Connector will no longer appear in the menu since ARACommander looks for all of the members of the Host Database when it starts up. If it can't find a member it deletes it from the list.

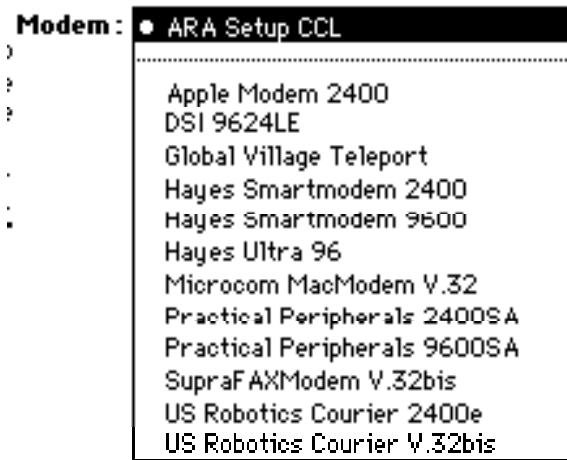
Choosing a Serial Port



A serial communications port can be chosen in ARACommander. This feature is provided so that Connectors may have a different port associated with them other than the one chosen in the "Remote Access Setup" control panel. This selection will override the choice made with the "Remote Access Setup" control panel. If "ARA Setup Port" is chosen, the port choice defaults to the one chosen in the "Remote Access Setup" control panel.

If you never have to change your port, simply use "ARA Setup Port".

Choosing a modem CCL script



A serial modem CCL script can be chosen in ARACommander. This feature is provided so that Connectors may have a different modem CCL script associated with them other than the one chosen in the "Remote Access Setup" control panel. This selection will override the choice made with the "Remote Access Setup" control panel. If "ARA Setup CCL" is chosen, the modem CCL script choice defaults to the one chosen in the "Remote

Access Setup" control panel.

If you never need to change your modem CCL script, simply use "ARA Setup CCL".

Modem Speaker On/Off Switch

Speaker : ☐ On ☒ Off

An On/Off switch for your modem speaker can be controlled from the ARACommander control panel or any Connector.

User Name

Name :

A field is provided for the input of the user name. This name must be one recognized in the "Users and Groups" of the ARA server.

Password

Password : ☒ Save password

A field is provided for input of a user password. This password must be one recognized in the "Users and Groups" of the ARA server. The password may be saved in a Connector by checking the "Save password" checkbox. The password is stored in an encrypted form.

Phone Number Features

A field is provided for entering a phone number for ARA to call. This field may be typed into directly. This number will also be stored with a saved Connector.

A Phone Book for storing phone numbers and phone prefixes is provided with the "Phone" popup menu.



Choosing a named dialing string from the phone menu will pop that string into the phone field at the insertion point. If the cursor is not in the phone field when a string is chosen, the string will prefix any text already in the field. If a range of text is selected in the field, the string will replace the selected text. Thus, the menu becomes an easy way to build a dialing string to use or to save in a Connector.


To add to the Phone Book string list choose the "Edit Dialing Strings..." menu item. You can add named strings to this list.

String	String characters
Office Se	982-2020
San Jose	1-415-222-6677
Credit	855-061-4570-6672
Dial out	9,

Cancel OK

Special situations sometimes make it difficult to use a saved string in a Connector. You may be in need of a prefix that was not saved with the string. Or worse, you may find yourself in a long-distance situation where you need a prefix, an area code, and perhaps a Credit Card number. No problem.

In this case hold down the "option" or "ctrl" key when the Connector is launched and you will be presented with a dialog to modify and/or add dialing information on-the-fly. In the case where a credit card number is added, there is an option to choose the delay character(s) to be put into the string to wait for the long distance tone. The default is the "Normal tone" wait character, or "W".


Edit dial strings

Phone prefix: (e.g. 9, or 8, etc.)

Phone number:

Wait for tone: Normal tone ... ▼

Credit Card number:

Cancel OK

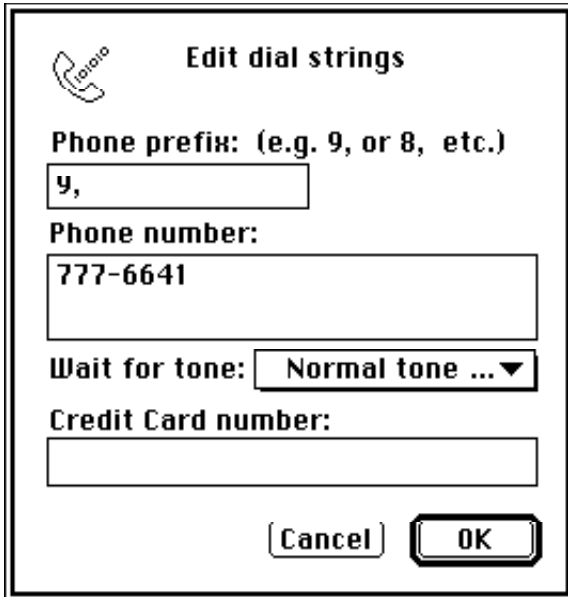
After the "OK" button is pressed the Connector will commence dialing with the added information.

Phone Number Strategies

In making Connectors to meet your needs it makes sense to determine beforehand the most likely dialing circumstances - whether a server will be called locally most of the time, or whether the user will normally be

in a long distance situation. Connectors should be made for common connection situations. After all, the name of the game is to automate actions - to reduce the need for user actions. At some point, however, the user will need the flexibility to change or add to the common Connector.

A common strategy would be to build a Connector with a regular local server phone number, say "233-7879". If you find yourself in a uncommon situation where you need to add a prefix, say "9," to dial out, just hold the "option" or "ctrl" key down when launching the Connector to get prompted to input the prefix.



Edit dial strings

Phone prefix: (e.g. 9, or 8, etc.)
9,

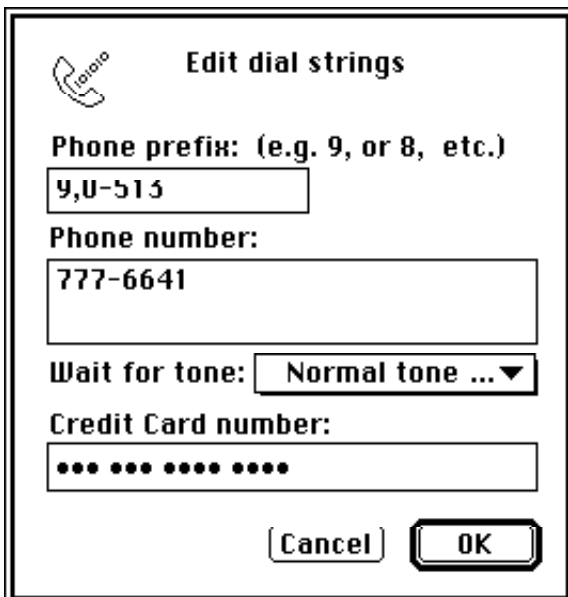
Phone number:
777-6641

Wait for tone: Normal tone ... ▼

Credit Card number:

Cancel OK

For frequent travel it makes sense to build Connectors with all the necessary information saved right into the phone number, including a Credit Card number. For infrequent trips, however, you may find you need to add your Credit Card number on-the-fly.



Edit dial strings

Phone prefix: (e.g. 9, or 8, etc.)
9,U-515

Phone number:
777-6641

Wait for tone: Normal tone ... ▼

Credit Card number:
●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●

Cancel OK

A Credit Card number will always be disguised with "bullet" characters in place of the real number to safeguard your private Credit Card number. A "Wait for tone" popup menu enables you to choose the wait character(s) for the long distance service tone. Normally, the modem will recognize the long distance tone with the use of the "W" character. This choice is the default choice. If this fails to work, then the user must choose to select a pause of a few seconds duration.

Wait for tone:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Normal tone (W)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Express Modem (:)
	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 seconds (,)
	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 seconds (,,)
	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 seconds (,,,)
	<input type="checkbox"/> 8 seconds (,,,,)
	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 seconds (,,,,,)
	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 seconds (,,,,,)

For Apple Express Modem™ users, the default choice will be the "Express Modem (:)" choice if the modem CCL saved with the Connector is an Express Modem™ CCL, such as "Express Modem 14400". In this case the Express Modem accepts a ":" character to wait for a wide variety of long distance carrier tones.

It may be helpful to view the entire phone number text as a sum of three parts. These three parts are, in precise order, prefix + phone number + credit card number. This is the same order you enter them in a manual call (you know, using your fingers).

Since modifying or adding to the dialing strings on-the-fly can be a trial and error process the modem speaker is always turned on to aid in audio feedback.

You can arrange pieces of the numbers just about any way you want but remember that ARACommander adds the chosen "wait" for the long distance tone (you know, the tone you get before the recorded voice tells you what long distance service you're using) between the phone number and the credit card number. What this means is that you could put the area code at the end of the prefix, or the beginning of the phone number. But don't add a "W" or a bunch of commas after the phone number or before the credit card number, since this is unnecessary and may cause the attempt to fail.

User Connection Privileges

Connect as : ☒ Registered User ☐ Guest

Connections to an ARA Host can be made as a registered user or as a "Guest". If guests are accepted by the ARA server then no name or password needs to be specified, since they are ignored.

Connection Time Limits

A user may limit their time on a server by specifying that they be reminded of their connection after a period of time.

☒ Remind me of my connection every minutes

If the user fails to respond to the reminder, disconnection will occur shortly afterward. This feature serves to keep costs down on long distance connections. If the user get pulled away from their session by circumstances, they need not fear running up an exorbitant long distance phone bill since disconnection is assured by their unresponsiveness.

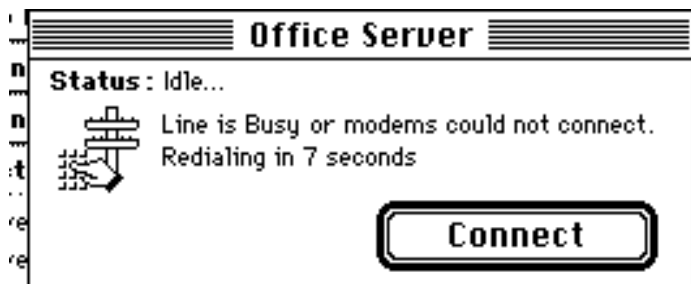
Redial Features

An automatic redial feature is provided for both Connectors and the ARACommander control panel.

☒ Redial if busy times every seconds

Redial will occur if the phone you are calling is busy. Redial will also occur if the modems could not connect. Redialing attempts can occur in the background while the user is working on other tasks in another application. So while you're waiting your turn to connect you can be getting some work done.

You can also temporarily suspend redialing by clicking off the redial checkbox in the ARACommander control panel. When you wish that redialing attempts continue, simply click the checkbox again and redialing will resume where it left off. Also, the number of redial times and seconds between redials can be modified on-the-fly, while a redial operation is in progress.



Status

The bottom section of the control panel, as well as a Connector window, displays current connection status information. Error messages to the user are also displayed in this area.

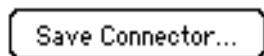


Hot Connect/Disconnect

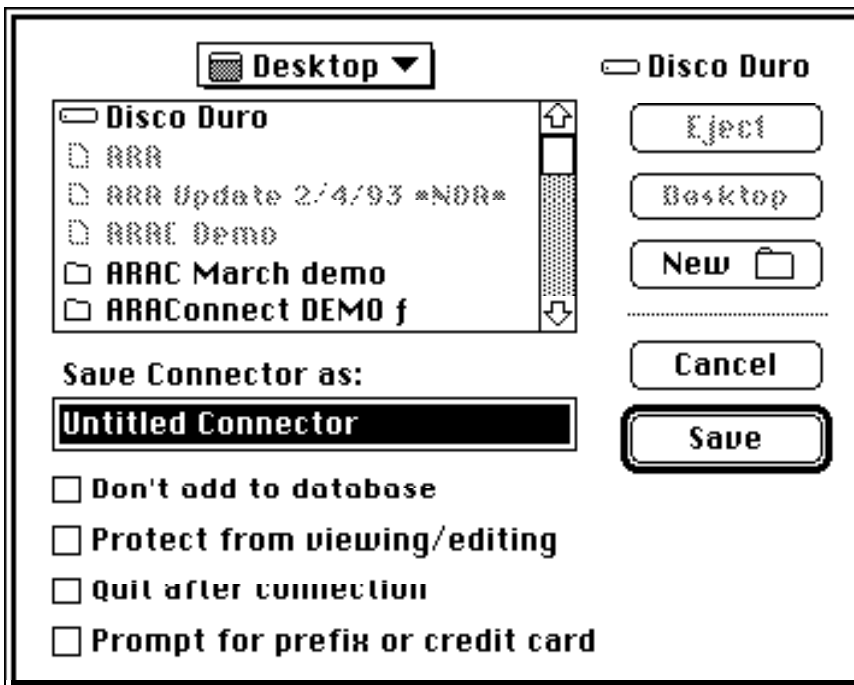
The "Connect" and "Disconnect" buttons always respond to a carriage return or the "enter" key to accomplish the task, whether in the ARACommander control panel or in any Connector.

Making Connectors

The "Save Connector..." button in the ARACommander control panel is used for making Connectors. It is most useful to place Connectors in the Apple Menu or on the Desktop for quick, easy access.



A press of this button will bring up a custom dialog window for choosing Connector options, and naming and placing the Connector on a disk.



Connector Options

Bypass Host Database

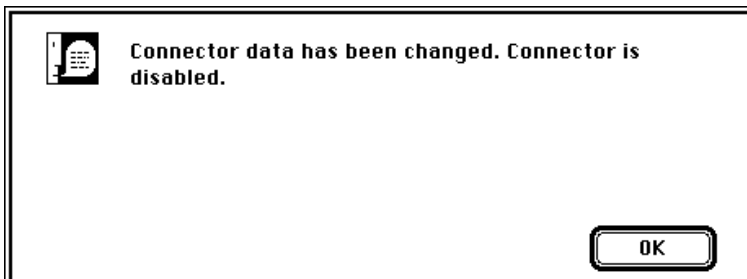
☐ **Don't add to database**

This choice prevents the connector from being placed in the Host Database. Check this feature if you don't want this Connector's name and location accounted for.

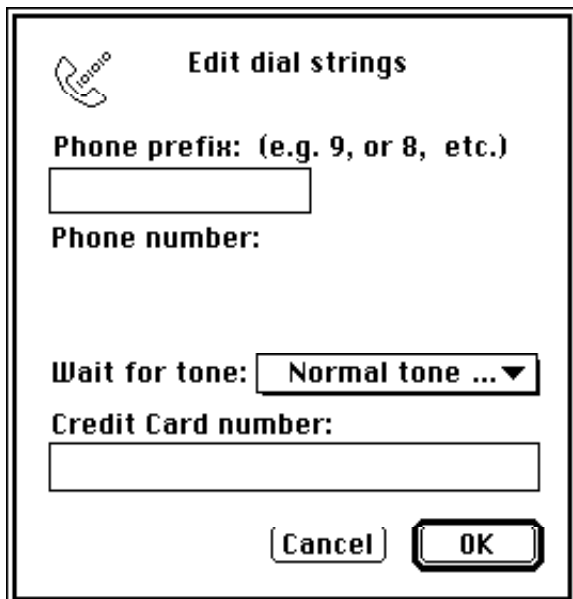
Security Protection

☐ **Protect from viewing/editing**

There are security and protection features available in Connectors. Checking this item prevents Connectors from being viewed or tampered with. A Connector protected in this manner cannot be viewed from the ARAC Commander control panel by anyone, including the creator control panel. If any important name, password, or phone number information is modified, subsequent use will result in the following dialog:



This feature enables Network Administrators to distribute Connectors to users that can't be viewed or modified by the recipients. In the event that a user needs to add a prefix or add a credit card number the dialog will not display the stored phone number but will allow the additions.



Edit dial strings

Phone prefix: (e.g. 9, or 8, etc.)

Phone number:

Wait for tone: Normal tone ... ▼

Credit Card number:

Cancel OK

Quit Connector During Connection

Another useful choice is one to quit the Connector after connection has been made.

☐ Quit after connection

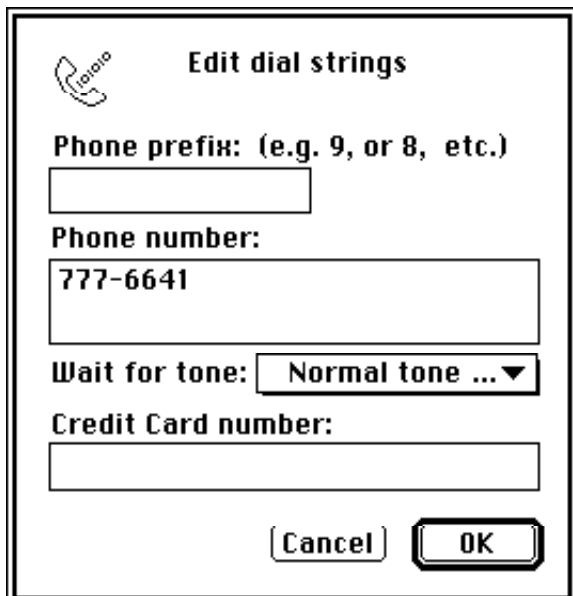
This feature "Quits" the Connector application immediately after connect time but leaves the Connection preserved. To eventually disconnect the user can launch the Connector again and hit the "Disconnect" button, or open the ARACommander control panel and hit the same button, or simply use the "ConnectNot" application for a quick disconnect.

Prefix/Credit Card Prompt

Connectors for use on the road may be saved with a choice to always prompt for a phone number prefix, like "9," to dial out.

☐ Prompt for prefix or credit card

While it's easy to know and store whatever target phone number you will be calling, it's not easy to predict what added dialing information you may need from any given location. If this feature is checked, the user will always be prompted to add or modify dialing information just after the Connector is launched. A "Cancel" leaves the stored phone number as it is and the connection attempt continues unmodified.



Edit dial strings

Phone prefix: (e.g. 9, or 8, etc.)

Phone number: 777-6641

Wait for tone: Normal tone ... ▼

Credit Card number:

Cancel OK

As mentioned above, this feature is present in any Connector, regardless of the "Prompt for prefix or credit card" choice if the "option" or "ctrl" key is held down during the launch of a Connector.

After Connection

Much of the added value of ARACommander is involved with what the user wants to occur AFTER a connection is accomplished. Two main features are available after connection.

After connection:

☐ Play this sound:

batman ▼

☐ Open these items:

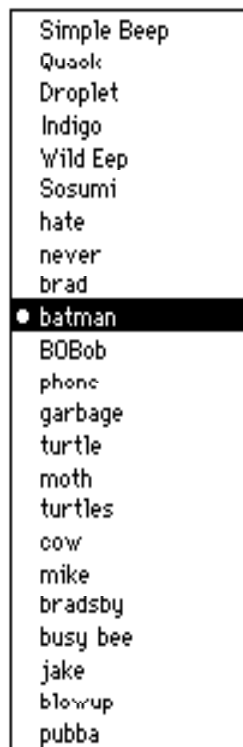
Choose Items ▼



Playing Sounds

Any sound resource ('snd' resource) in the system can be chosen to be played at connect time.

☒ Play this sound:

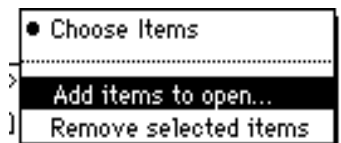


Opening Things

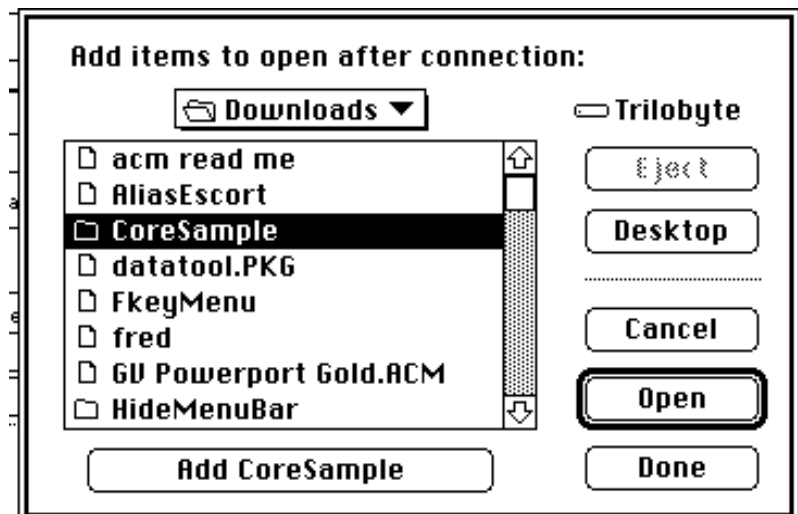
ANY item and any number of items can be opened by ARACommander and Connectors at connect time including:

- applications
- documents
- volumes
- servers
- folder windows in the Finder
- desk accessories
- control panels
- sound files

To choose these multiple items use the "Choose Items" popup menu and select the "Add Items to Open..." menu item.



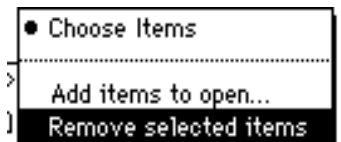
You will be presented with a dialog to select multiple items.



As you select items a list accumulates in the ARACommander control panel.



To remove items that have been previously chosen, select the items in the list and choose the "Remove selected Items" menu item.



These features enable a user to, for example, connect to their office server, open their Network mailbox, open their calendar, open a couple of remote Finder windows on their desktop, mount a server volume, and run a file synchronization program. This can all be accomplished in one automated Connector.

To ConnectNot



ConnectNot

To disconnect from an ARA connection the user can hit a "Disconnect" button or, if no window with a button is available, simply use the "ConnectNot" application.

Users attempting to conserve RAM may elect not to keep a Status window or the Control panel open. In these cases a quick disconnect method is needed. ConnectNot does only one thing - disconnect. Most users will find it handy to use from the Apple Menu.