

Ram Preserves v0.5.1 (for Quadra/Powerbook 140/170 users)

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Practice safe sex. Make backups. Use prophylactic programs.

Whew!

Welcome to Ram Preserves.

As you may have noticed, The RAM disk of the Powerbook can extend the life of a battery charge if you can limit your processing exclusively to the RAM disk. Unfortunately, I have found it to be a major pain to reconstruct the files I want on the HD every time I switch out a battery (4 times on a recent trip.) Tracking down the individual apps and files takes time, and it keeps that HD spinning which sucks those precious electrons that otherwise could give me an extra 10-20 minutes (?) per battery. For Quadras, it's merely convenient.

This utility has two functions: copy the file structure desired to the RD at startup, and copy files which have been modified back to the HD at shutdown. (The copyback function is not ready yet.)

Operationally, it's very simple.

Step 0. Create a source folder. Put the files/folder (or aliases of same) to be copied to the RD in this folder.

Step 1. Select the source folder. Do this by holding down the option key and double clicking on the application icon. RAM Preserves will put up a dialog, save your selection in its preferences file, then exit. (The option key is not necessary if the prefs file or the source folder doesn't exist.)

Step 2. Drag Ram Preserves to the Startup Folder.

Step 3. Switch on the RAM Disk in the Memory control panel.

Step 4. Restart.

Step 5. Salvage any changed files before you shutdown. (Future versions will do this for you.)

Neat things you should know:

RP assumes that the RAM Disk is named RAM Disk (what a surprise.) If it isn't present, RP exits quickly.

Ram Preserves will chase only the top level alias chains. If there is an alias file buried in a subfolder of the source folder, the alias file will be copied to the RD.

RP is somewhat intelligent about the file transfer. It selects top level items alphabetically until the RD is full. If any given icon won't fit in the remaining space, it is skipped and the succeeding files are checked. Folders are treated as a single file: either it all fits or it doesn't.

RP runs mostly on AppleEvents. Many of its limitations are based on the Finder's AE implementation (which I can overload & crash in a heartbeat if I push it too hard.) Icons are moved to the desktop, copied, and then put away. Although this may lead to a momentary icon flash on the desktop, it is preferable to using the Trash (the only other option for the PutAway Event.) Further, since no result code is available from the Finder, I have no way of aborting a shutdown should the copyback phase fail. Since I'm not up for taking the heat of even one person losing their work this way, the copyback section is on hold pending a proper AE rewrite for the Finder. (Unless I get enough shareware fees to make me change my mind and optimize this puppy to avoid AE. Registered users get dibs on the copyback version 1.0)

If you have any complaints, criticisms, bug reports, ideas, and/or praise, send it to me please:

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